

COMPASSION IN ACTION NEWS

Leigh veteran receives war medals after
75 - Year wait - read more on page 4



Summer 2016

"I've made many friends at the veterans' brunch, which I look forward to every week" - Ken Preter

COMPASSION IN ACTION

WHAT'S ON?



'Meeting the needs of people in crisis and giving hope to the most vulnerable in our Society'



June - July 2016

Friendship Friday- Patrick House

Eat our daily special with a friend any Friday and get one meal free!

Veteran's Brunch- Patrick House

Every Thursday, 11am-1pm (Free of charge)

Autism Support Group- Patrick House

Every Wednesday, 2pm-4pm (Free of charge)

Autistic Wigan Games Night-Patrick House

Every Monday, 6.30pm-8.30pm (Free of charge)

Card Making & Mandala Art- Patrick House

Every Wednesday, 1pm-3pm (Free of charge)

Beacon Trust Gambling Counselling- Patrick House

Every Wednesday, all day

Reading Group-Patrick House

Every Thursday, 3pm-4pm (Free of charge)

Winston's Wish Drop in- Patrick House

Every Tuesday, 11am-1pm

**Compassion in Action
Patrick House, 58 Leigh
Road, Leigh, WN71QR**

**Compassion in Action
Haven House Wellbeing
centre,
66-68 Leigh Road, Leigh,
WN71RX
(Rear entrance of Patrick House)**

**For more information on our
services and latest news updates
please visit our website or
contact us on 01942 418 830.**

**Web:
www.compassioninaction.info
Twitter: @Compassion_uk**

Charity Patrons Honoured with Civic Reception

A special congratulations to our Patrons, who have built Compassion in Action's multi-million-pound accommodation for local people in crisis and have now been nominated for an All-Party Parliamentary Corporate Social Responsibility Group Award.



The announcement was made by Andy Burnham MP at Leigh Town Hall on Friday 20th May at a special reception hosted by Compassion in Action, held in honour of David and John Patrick, Directors at Patrick Joinery Ltd – and attended by Lady Joy Smith, the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester.

Having purchased Boardman House in 2011, the brothers worked with CIA to transform it into a residential and community hub (named 'Patrick House') at their own expense. They then built our neighbouring well-being centre, Haven House, as well as Duva Mews (a row of smart new houses for people with learning disabilities), which opened this year.

"None of us can be sure what life will throw at us," said Mr Burnham. "You need a place like Compassion in Action, which – in a non-judgemental way – helps people who have experienced crisis to put the pieces of their lives back together and move on to the next phase. The level at which CIA is operating is thanks to you; it is changing peoples' lives fundamentally. Leigh is the most giving place – and long may it be so!"

Pam added her personal thanks to the 'utterly remarkable' Patrick Brothers.

"David and John's belief, dedication and hard work turned a once derelict building into a first-class facility, with accommodation for our Recovery Academy residents, a community café, function room and offices," she said. "They have since expanded the beautifully-renovated site further for us – resulting in a community village and mental well-being suite, which the whole town is proud to see. We are honoured to have them as valued patrons of our charity."

Regency Glass Believe!

On behalf of the trustees, staff and tenants we would like say a heartfelt thank you to Wayne and Darren of local business Regency Glass Ltd, for their belief in our Recovery Academy.

From a time in their lives with no hope and no support, our Academy embraces each person who has the desire to change and become a valued member of the community.

After following a 12-month whole-person care individual programme the members achieve goals and aspirations along the way.

"Our main goal is employment and a life changing chance to be believed in and an opportunity to prove themselves.

"We are so honoured to have the support and belief of Wayne and Darren which is valued beyond measure and key to each person's life." - Pam Gilligan, Chief Executive Officer.

regency | glass
the difference is clear



Leigh Veteran Receives war medals after 75-Year Wait



HIS luck held out at D-Day and Hiroshima – and now, 75 years after signing up for the Royal Marines on Friday the 13th of August 1942, West Leigh veteran Ken Preter finally received his service medals at a surprise party on Saturday 14th May.

The 92-year-old (pictured above) was greeted at Patrick House by a Guard of Honour comprising local veterans and also by dignitaries Andy Burnham MP; the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Lady Joy Smith DL; the Mayor of Wigan, Councillor Susan Loudon; and the Leader of the Council, Lord Peter Smith.

“Mr Preter began attending our weekly veterans’ brunch late last year,” says Pam Gilligan, our Chief Executive Officer. “He told us that he had never received his service medals which, frankly speaking, is just not right. It’s been our pleasure to work with Keith Stott from the Tyldesley branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), who is officiating today, and Andy Burnham’s office to apply for them on Mr Preter’s behalf; to obtain his signature on the relevant form; and then arrange this surprise party. He did his service for King and Country, and came home safe; we are honoured to thank him and recognise his contribution to the war effort.”

Mr Preter was anticipating a small service attended only by close family members – including his son Kenneth Holman, aged 73, who had travelled from Colwyn Bay with his partner Evelyn. “He does not suspect anything about today’s surprise; I hope he has a strong heart!” said Kenneth.

Shadow Home Secretary Mr Burnham had the honour of pinning the 1939-45 War Medal and Defence Medal to Mr Preter’s smart shirt in a ceremony attended by more than 50 people. “Our generation should not forget the contribution made by Ken and all the servicemen and women who sacrificed so much, but with a purpose: to bring us peace in Europe for 70 years and prosperity for generations to come,” said Mr Burnham. Paying tribute to Pam and our veterans’ brunch, he also praised the Council’s veterans’ hub. “Leigh, Atherton, Wigan and Tyldesley were huge recruiting areas – and it is only right that our veterans are properly supported,” he added.

“What I remember most about my time in the war is the friendships I made,” Mr Preter concluded. “Now I have made another group of friends at the veterans’ brunch, which I look forward to every week. I never expected anything like this today. It’s been a great day and I want to thank everyone who set it up – and my family and friends.”

Our veterans’ brunch meets every Thursday at Patrick House on Leigh Road, from 11am to 1pm. For further details, Telephone 01942 418830.

Land Girls Concert Staged for Wartime Veterans



Award-winning vocalists The Land Girls led 70 Leigh-based wartime veterans in a chorus of popular 1940s hits at Patrick House.

‘There’ll Always Be an England’, ‘God Save the Queen’ and ‘We’ll Meet Again’ wrapped up the patriotic sell-out three-hour show – staged for care home residents and members of our popular veterans’ brunch and lunch clubs.

“Our Recovery Academy members, staff and volunteers are here to help serve you, to welcome you and to love you; thank you for supporting our charity,” Pam Gilligan – our Chief Executive Officer – told guests as they sat down to a ration-themed lunch of spam butties, traditional lemonade and trifle in a room festooned with Union Jacks.

Winston Churchill’s famous ‘We shall fight on the beaches’ speech started The Land Girls’ 1940s tribute show, which featured more than 30 songs tied together with warmth and wit by best friends Lynsey Davies and Kaz Howell.

“I was only a child when the war broke out,” recalled Pennington resident Betty, who was born in 1929. “There was always air raid sirens; they dropped a bomb in Atherton! I came with my friend from the lunch club to last year’s show and we’re back again to see the girls because they’re lovely; it’s our era.”

Royal Air Force veteran Eric Pendlebury, aged 88 from Glebe Street, served on the Home Front. He enjoyed “passionately puckering up” to singer Kaz for popular standard ‘Side by Side’. “It’s been a great afternoon,” he said – posing for photos with The Land Girls.

“We’re so proud to offer servicemen and women, and all those who experienced the war years, a warm welcome at Patrick House through the various friendship groups we host,” added Pam. “The example of resilience, pride and duty of service that the veterans set is proving to be very inspirational to our Recovery Academy members, as they work to overcome their personal difficulties. Compassion is at the heart of what we do, as we strive to make Leigh a united, caring community.”

The Land Girls’ visit to Patrick House is one of a series of public events on our calendar.

Please telephone 01942 418830 or call in at Patrick House, 58 Leigh Road, Leigh WN7 1QR for details of other community events.

Recovery Academy give back to the community



Congratulations to Mike, who has completed his 12-month Recovery Programme and has now moved on into his own property within the community. Mike has recently returned to 'give back' to Compassion in Action, by volunteering with gardening projects while he excitedly awaits the start of his new work placement.

"I would like to say a huge thank you to Pam, Ali and all the staff at Compassion in Action for providing me with help, support and belief, which has enabled me to rebuild my life. Without this help my life would still be in an unmanageable state; they have taught me to live a normal independent life again."

Compassion in Action's Recovery Academy have recently been supporting Lowton Church of England High School, helping them brighten up the school grounds by planting flowerbeds throughout the site in preparation for a visit from the Bishop.

For more information about our **Recovery Academy** please email Ali.Golding@compassioninaction.info



Neil's 10K Charity Run

We are very proud of our Recovery Academy member Neil Harrison-Scott who has recently been training daily to prepare for this year's 'UKFast We Love Manchester 10K run'. So far, Neil has raised more than £260 in sponsorship money for Compassion in Action.

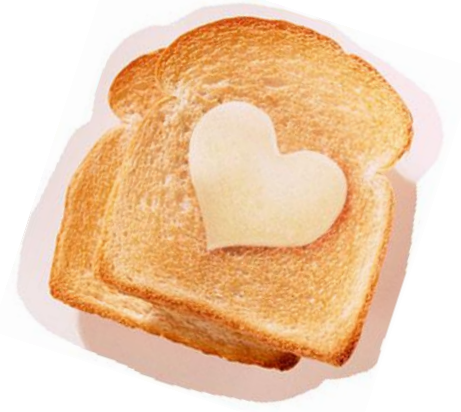
"I decided the run would be a great opportunity for me to give back to the charity and to show my appreciation for all the help and support I have received while I have been here," says Neil.

The Manchester run will take place on **Sunday 10th July**.

If you would like to sponsor Neil, please telephone **01942 418830** or call in at **Patrick House, 58 Leigh Road, Leigh WN7 1QR**.



Free cereal donations to local primary schools



Compassion in Action have been visiting primary schools throughout the Wigan Borough, donating 1000's of boxes of free cereals to help ensure every child gets a nutritious start to their school day.

The cereal donations are being used to support breakfast clubs throughout the Borough to ensure every child has a free breakfast.

1 in 7 children in the UK go to school without breakfast.

Going to school without breakfast has a direct impact on children's behaviour and concentration in lessons, making it harder for them to reach their full potential. It also means teachers spend more time dealing with the effects of hunger and less time helping kids learn.

Breakfast club managers were overwhelmed with the donations and commented on what a 'huge difference' these donations have made.

"Our breakfast clubs are free and therefore are funded through the school budget, this will make a huge difference on helping to reduce costs.

We have 49% of our pupils on free school meals and feel that offering a free breakfast is an important asset to our parents and pupils."

Local Primary School, Pastoral Manager





Half-Term Deal

One child eats **FREE**
with every paying adult

Monday 30th May – Friday 10th June

At
Compassion in Action *Community Café*,
Patrick House
58 Leigh road, Leigh,
WN71QR

Telephone Orders Welcome 01942 410 647

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