

COMPASSION IN ACTION NEWS



Autumn 2016

Charity Football Match Winners 2016! — Read more on page 3

COMPASSION IN ACTION

WHAT'S ON?



October/November 2016

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



Autistic Wigan Games Night - Patrick House
Every Monday, 6.30pm-8.30pm (Free of charge)

Winston's Wish Drop in - Patrick House
Every Tuesday, 11am-1pm

Autism Support Group - Patrick House
Every Wednesday, 2pm-4pm (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

Veterans' Brunch - Patrick House
Every Thursday, 11am-1pm (Free of charge)

Reading Group - Patrick House
Every Thursday, 2pm-3pm (Free of charge)

Friendship Friday - Patrick House
Eat our daily special with a friend any Friday and get one meal free!



Congratulations to our raffle winner Keith Stott, Tyldesley branch member, Royal British Legion.

We would like to say a sincere thank you to all who bought tickets. All funds raised have been donated to Lady Smith, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester's choice charities.

Rematch victory for Compassion in Action

Members of our Recovery Academy, staff and volunteers welcomed Detective Sergeant Dave Whittaker onto their side; together they won 3 – 2 at Leigh Harriers' home ground on Sunday 28th August.

"This match exemplifies exactly what Compassion in Action is all about – uniting our community and leading healthy lifestyles," says our Chief Executive, Pam Gilligan. "The lads kept their heads held high after last year's defeat and came back stronger to victory. I could not be prouder of their resilience, teamwork and sporting conduct.

'My special thanks to Dave Whittaker, who we welcomed onto our team; to all the players from Greater Manchester Police, who took time out away from their families to play on an August Bank Holiday weekend; and to all our friends and supporters.'

The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester – Lady Joy Smith – was Pam's special guest, along with the Executive Leader of the Council, Lord Peter Smith; Councillor Keith Cunliffe; Trust in Leigh's Trevor Barton; and our new Patron, Leanne Rhead, who was with her family. Monies collected on the day from a raffle will be donated to Lady Smith's choice of charities and to Cancer Research UK.

"Today's match was another great opportunity to show Pam and the charity my support, and I am delighted to see the lads playing so well!" said Leanne, who was preparing for a fashion show at The Beeches on 28 September – in aid of our charity.

Our sincere thanks to Trevor Barton MBE, Trust in Leigh and Joe at Leigh Harriers for use of the pitch and hospitality.



Detective Sergeant Dave Whittaker presented the winners' cup to CIA goal scorer Craig Gilligan and 'Man of the Match' trophies to his teammate Tom Leyland and GMP's Rob Donald.

For more details on future community events, please telephone 01942 418830 or call in at Patrick House, 58 Leigh Road, Leigh, WN7 1QR.



Charity Patron defeats Tough Mudder challenge!



A fantastic £900 was raised for Compassion in Action in sponsorship funds by our Patron Leanne Rhead and six of her close family and friends after completing the gruelling 11.1 mile Tough Mudder course at Cholmondeley Castle on 10 September.

“My younger brother Jonathan tragically took his life last Christmas,” Leanne said. “While I was coming to terms with his loss I heard about Compassion in Action’s new wellbeing centre, Haven House, that supports people struggling with their mental health. I am privileged to now be a patron of the charity, which is close to my heart.

“I would like to thank all my family and friends, and everyone who sponsored us for Tough Mudder for your amazing support.”

They completed the punishing course in 4 hours, 48 minutes and 54 seconds - a fantastic achievement!



“Everyone’s talking about the Community Outlet!”

We are very pleased that local residents have taken the time to visit and give positive feedback on our new Community Outlet, based at Oaklands Road, Lowton.

Residents have kindly left the comments below

“I never leave empty-handed; the prices are fantastic. I get the bus every week to come and have a browse and a chat,”
Mrs Wilkinson, who travels to grab our latest ‘Deals of the Week’



“I love this shop, especially the flower power. The plants are great!”
Angela, Lowton Resident

“This isn’t a charity shop! This is our shop! Everyone’s talking about it; we love it! Thank you very much Compassion in Action, Keith and all the staff!”
Mrs Harrin, Lowton Resident

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks to members of our local community churches - Lowton St Luke’s, Lowton St Mary’s and Golborne Methodist - for their kind continued support with food donations.

Helping us to help others.

“Together We Can Make A Difference”

Back

@ School

Wigan & Leigh
Young Carers



We are very proud and honoured to have hosted Wigan and Leigh Young Carers' Back at School Event at Patrick House, on 22nd September 2016.

Over 60 people attended the evening, including Simon Barber - CEO of 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, James Winterbottom - Director of Children's Services at Wigan Council, Sarah Marshall - Asst. Director of NHS Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group, and Cllr Joanne Platt - Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services.

The aim of the event was to see how young carers and young adult carers have settled back in at school, college and university.

"It is an honour to support such a wonderful organisation as Wigan and Leigh Young Carers, not only at their special event but all through the year" - **Pam Gilligan, Chief Executive, Compassion in Action.**

A testimonial from Robert Muir, who has engaged with the service from the age of six, was read out. He is now a Community Safety Officer, working with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS).

An inspirational talk was also given by Tom Hacker (who was a young carer from Wakefield) who raises thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Nurses by walking, running and cycling all over the country. Tom kindly brought in his Olympic Torch from 2012, which the young people found 'pretty awesome!'

The charity supports a vulnerable group of young people whose lives are significantly affected by caring for a family member who has a physical illness, disability, mental health issues, a sensory disability or a problematic use of drugs/alcohol.



"It was a humbling experience to join the Wigan & Leigh Young Carers and hear their experiences. I was taken by how people so young have so much responsibility and therefore, how important the group is to provide a bit of respite and friendship and support to circumstances that can be very lonely" - **Simon Barber, CEO, 5 Boroughs Partnership**

"We want to encourage young carers to be confident and feel safe while also giving them the chance to fulfil their own ambitions while also looking after their loved ones in what can be a stressful and challenging situation. We recognise how important it is to make sure our young carers are well supported and, through our work with Wigan Clinical Commissioning Group and Wigan and Leigh Young Carers, we want to make sure we can look after the health and wellbeing of young carers across Wigan Borough" - **Cllr Joanne Platt, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services at Wigan Council**

For more information about **Wigan and Leigh Young Carers**, please visit www.walyc.org.uk or call **Paul Carroll, Project Manager** on 01942 679352.



Shop 2 drop fashion show raised over £600



We would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to our valued Patron Leanne Rhead and the 'Shop 2 Drop' team for organising a fashion show, which raised a total of over £600 towards the work of our charity.

More than 100 bargain hunters turned out to the event at The Beeches in Standish, which saw models parading the autumn and winter 2016 collections of leading High Street stores.

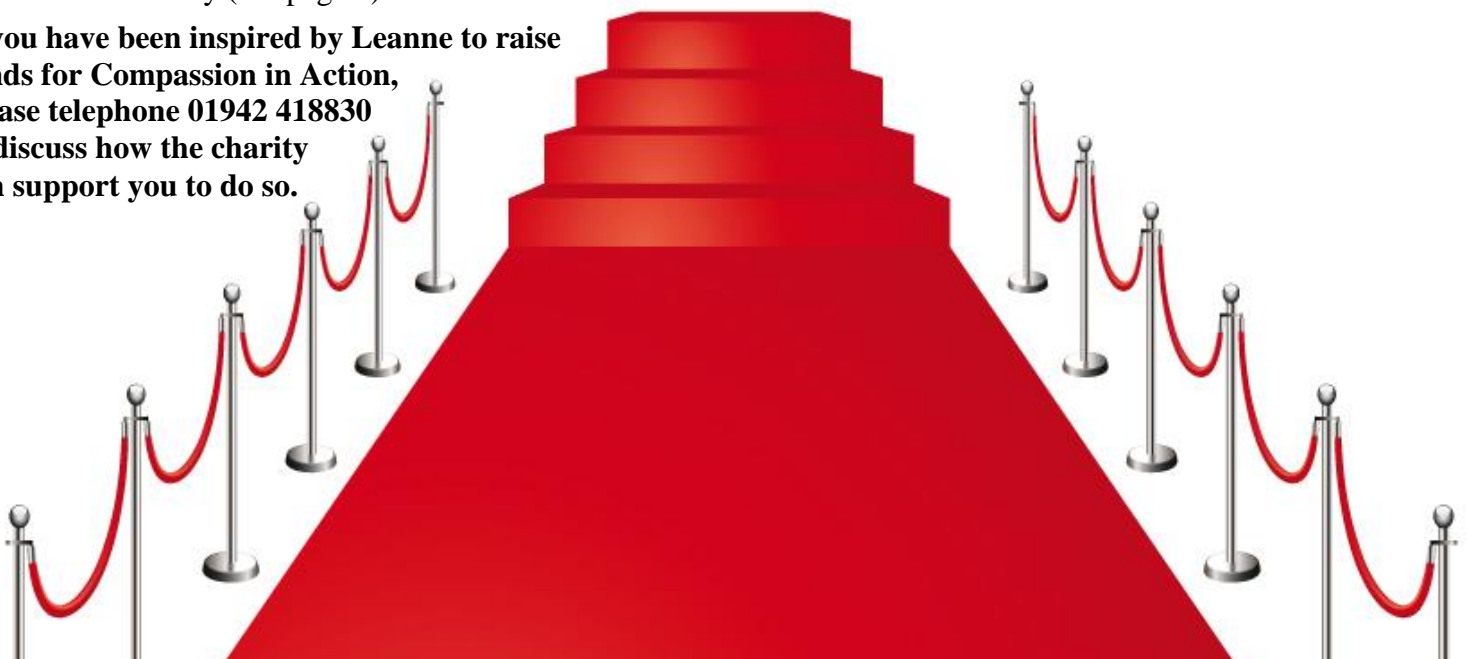
The fashion show was presented by Atherton-based Shop 2 Drop, who offered generous 50 to 70 percent discounts on all High Street clothing modelled on the night.

It was attended by staff and volunteers from Compassion in Action as well as Recovery Academy members including Keith Burns, who read out a note of thanks from our Chief Executive Officer Pam Gilligan: 'On behalf of all at Compassion in Action we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Leanne, our dear patron, for all her fundraising efforts and hard work for the benefit of our charity's project, Haven House.

'Ali and I cannot be with you tonight as we are currently helping vulnerable people through an imminent crisis. Members of our staff team and clients are there with you to represent Compassion in Action on this wonderful occasion'.

Members of Leanne's family and friends also attended. Her cousins Matthew and Emma Carney and Karl Hay, and friends Rob and Ste Walker, and David Leyland, completed the Tough Mudder Challenge in September to raise funds for our charity (see page 5).

If you have been inspired by Leanne to raise funds for Compassion in Action, please telephone 01942 418830 to discuss how the charity can support you to do so.



Lifetime Legion Membership Awarded to Tyldesley Veteran

TYLDESLEY veteran Jack Robinson's 44-year service to The Royal British Legion (RBL) has been celebrated with a civic reception, held at Patrick House.



Seventy-nine-year-old Jack has been Secretary and Treasurer of his local branch for the past 18 years. He was awarded lifetime membership to the Legion and received by guests of honour including the Mayor and Mayoress of Wigan Borough, Ron and Janet Conway; the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Lady Smith DL; and Lord Peter Smith of Wigan Council.

“It was a lovely surprise to see so many dignitaries as well as colleagues from the Royal British Legion, including Denise Edgar from our Board of Trustees who had travelled down from York, and David Brown, our Chairman from Greater Manchester,” says Jack, who signed up to the Royal Navy in 1955 and served for seven years overseas in Cyprus and Egypt – including throughout the Suez Crisis – and was on reserve for a further decade. “My wife Sylvia and our friends had a wonderful afternoon. I would like to thank my Tyldesley branch colleague Keith Stott who organised the event, and all those who attended.”

The reception also marked the one-year anniversary of Compassion in Action's Veterans' Brunch. “Each Thursday, these fantastic facilities give our local veterans a place to meet up and chat,” says Keith. “Drinks and a two-course meal are provided free of charge. On behalf of all those who attend, thank you very much to Compassion in Action for all you do for us. As a representative of the RBL, these weekly meetings have given us the opportunity to pass on information – linking in with the knowledge and experience already in place. By supporting and working together, all of us can see that we can make a difference.”

“Like all veterans, Mr Robinson is a great asset to our community and an inspiration to all our Recovery Academy members,” says our CEO Pam Gilligan. “We are very grateful for his service to our country, to the Legion and for his contribution to our weekly Veterans' Brunch meetings. It is our great pleasure to have been able to help celebrate his lifetime membership to the Legion. We look forward to another year of supporting our valued forces.”

To find out more about our Veterans' Brunch, held every Thursday from 11am to 1pm, please call 01942 418830.



On behalf of all at Compassion in Action, we would like to take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks for voting for our charity to win this month's green token scheme. Throughout the year we help many families with furniture, food and clothes - giving hope at a time of despair.

It is thanks to you, our community, who - throughout the year - help us to help others.

Pam Gilligan,
Chief Executive
Compassion in Action



ASDA FOUNDATION
'Supporting Your Local Community'

NVQ Qualifications for our Recovery Academy!



We are very proud of our Recovery Academy member Paul Stankus, who has now started his NVQ Level 2 training in Warehousing & Distribution.

“I am very excited about this opportunity I have been given and I’m very grateful to Pam for all of her support and most of all for believing in me.

‘Since I started my 12-month pathway I have improved on my Maths and English skills by having weekly training sessions with Lady Smith, High Sherriff of Greater Manchester, (pictured below) who has dedicated her free time - providing valued help and training to our Recovery Academy, which I have found really beneficial and enjoyed. Having an NVQ qualification is something that will help me build my future in employment, which is my main goal. With the help of Compassion in Action I know believe that I can achieve this!’

*Paul Stankus
Compassion in Action,
Recovery Academy.*



Did You Know?



Compassion in Action make more than 150 furniture collections a month

SINCE

2009

WE have furnished homes for 11,641 families and vulnerable adults in the Wigan Borough

95%

of our clients have said that engaging with Compassion in Action has improved their Mental Health and self-care, since January 2016

100%

of the clients we have supported would recommend our service



In one month Compassion in Action prevent

150,000kg of waste going to landfill... That's **1,800,000kg** a year!