



Clockwise from top: HMP Hindley; a scene from new LGBTQ+ short film Spectrum; members of Leigh Film Society; film makers co-made by Wiganer Abigail Henry

New role for former CEO

Donna Hall CBE, the former Chief Executive of Wigan Council, has been appointed as the new Chair of the Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. She will succeed the Trust's current Chairman, David Wakefield, who is due to complete his term of office at the end of March 2019. The Trust's Council of Governors which includes elected representatives of the public and staff, made the appointment at its meeting on last week following a recommendation by an Appointment Panel which included four elected governors. Ms Hall, pictured, who retired from her role as Chief Executive of Wigan Council and Accountable Officer of Wigan Clinical Commissioning Group last month, will take up the position from April 1. Chief Executive Jackie Bene OBE said: "We're delighted to welcome Donna to the Trust at what is a very exciting time. We are forging strong relationships with partners in health and social



care to improve the health of our local population and ensure best value for the Bolton Pound – the money that we have collectively to spend on services. Donna's experience will be an asset to the organisation." Ms Hall lives in Bolton and she and her family have used the services provided by the Trust for several generations. She said: "I am very excited to be joining Bolton NHS Foundation Trust at what is an important time for both the Trust and for Bolton. I am a proud born and bred Boltonian who grew up in Brightmet "I love the place and I love the people."

Local film will be shown behind bars

By ANDREW NOWELL
andrew.nowell@pimedia.co.uk
@ANowellWIG

Volunteer film enthusiasts are teaming up with the prison in the borough to screen an innovative movie produced locally behind bars.

Leigh Film Society is putting together the pioneering project to screen LGBTQ+ anthology film Spectrum at HMP Hindley.

The award-winning group of cinema buffs was approached by the prison service to help launch a new film club for the offenders with a challenging, boundary-breaking work.

The film society has therefore chosen the selection of short stories exploring the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people meeting in the course of one night on Manchester's iconic Canal Street, which has Wigan writer, director and producer Abigail Henry as one half of the creative team behind it.

Leigh Film Society will then visit HMP Hindley on a

regular basis putting on a programme of cinema to engage those serving sentences with the artform and the opportunities in it.

Leigh Film Society chair Paul Costello said: "When the HM Prison Service (Novus) approached us to screen a film in Hindley Prison to offenders promoting an interest in the many genres of film and to encourage the start of a film club we saw it as a unique opportunity.

"Engaging with young and adult offenders, Novus wanted to launch the film club with a challenging film promoting inclusivity and British values.

"Leigh Film Society had recently financially supported the making of a LGBT film called Spectrum made by local film-maker Abigail Henry so it was an easy decision to select this one.

"It is important that everyone in society has access to art and culture, that is why Leigh Film Society is always looking at ways to engage hard-to-reach groups in film.

"We believe that film screenings promote many benefits from health and well-

being to learning. We have used our regular film screenings to fight against social isolation and create opportunities for young people.

"It is an exciting project and hopefully Hindley Prison Film Club will become a great success and in the future may become involved in the Wigan and Leigh Short Film Festival."

The society hopes introducing prisoners to the opportunities available in the multi-billion-pound cinema industry will potentially give them more employment chances after being released

and increase the likelihood of their rehabilitation.

Novus has also expressed the hope that the offenders may be inspired enough by the screenings to work on their own creative projects alongside learning about topics such as inclusivity and tolerance.

The screenings will be followed by discussions of the issues raised. The makers of Spectrum are expected to attend the first event.

Spectrum will be screened in HMP Hindley to launch the prison's film club on April 9.

Prison service: film can dismantle barriers and promote values

HMP Hindley head of learning and skills Lucy Clayson said: "The work being completed by Leigh Film Society is an exciting opportunity for HMP Hindley to raise awareness of LGBTQI issues. "Unfortunately a large number of issues faced by the LGBTQI community stem from ignorance, and Leigh Film Society continues to challenge and overcome such at-

titudes and promote equality and diversity. "This work supports the shared vision of our establishment and educational services in promoting inclusivity, acceptance and tolerance. This is an innovative way to foster a culture of acceptance and positive relationships and contribute to the wider vision of reducing reoffending."



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