

## NEWS

### Volunteers given country's highest honour for community organisations



Leigh Film Society CIC celebrating its awards at last year's national Cinema For All prize-giving

# Film group gets royal approval with award

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**A Leigh film organisation is celebrating its biggest success to date after being awarded the country's highest honour for voluntary groups.**

Leigh Film Society CIC has spoken of its honour and delight at being named for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The accolade is the equivalent of the MBE for voluntary groups and recognises excellence in providing services and meeting the needs of communities across the UK.

Now five years old, the Leigh Film Society runs two dementia-friendly classic cin-

ema clubs, puts on autism-friendly screenings and stages one-off events to support a wide variety of good causes and local campaigns.

The group is no stranger to success after scooping three prizes in last year's awards given out by Cinema For All, including the honour of the country's best community film organisation.

However, the Queen's Award represents another significant milestone in the society's history.

Chair Paul Costello said: "On behalf of all Leigh Film Society volunteers we are honoured to receive this prestigious award."

"We had such an amazing 2017 winning three national Cinema for All awards. We thought that nothing could ever top this: how wrong we

were.

"Leigh Film Society believes in being accessible to everyone in our community, with many different film projects that offer something for everyone."

"We are proud to have formed relations across the borough and have film screening that bring the community together, fighting social isolation and championing good causes."

"We will not go quiet after winning these awards and we're already planning film screenings and event around heritage and film education."

"Our recent work with students from Edge Hill University has enabled us to reach out and engage with a young people and this will continue in our film programming and special events."

The society recently marked its fifth birthday with a special evening at The Turnpike recognising the volunteers.

The night was attended by two of the group's patrons, Leigh MP Jo Platt and borough actor Ben Batt who has picked up rave reviews for his work on both stage and screen.

Leigh Film Society representatives get to attend a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace and will also be presented with a certificate of the award by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

The group also receives a crystal and the right to use the Queen's Award logo. The honour was set up in 2002 to mark the monarch's golden anniversary.

Find out more at [www.leighfilmsociety.com](http://www.leighfilmsociety.com)

### Carnival to bring fun to town centre

Leigh Carnival is taking place on Sunday June 10 from 11am. The fun-filled event will be taking place at the Spinning Gate car park and includes live music, entertainment and circus acts. It is free to attend.



Leigh Carnival returns

### Hospice skydiving event

A borough hospice is to organise a charity skydiving challenge to boost funds and raise awareness. Wigan and Leigh Hospice is to host the event on Sunday June 10, and all residents are welcome to take on the 14,000ft drop. Contact [fundraising@wlh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@wlh.org.uk) for more

### Venue granted extended hours

The Snug Coffee House in Atherton has been granted a license to extend its alcohol serving times from 8am to midnight every day and for live and recorded music between the same hours.

### Police warn against use of nitrous oxide

Neighbourhood police teams are warning residents of the dangers of nitrous oxide after a spate of "cream charger" canisters were found littering the streets of Hindley. The hazardous substance should not be consumed.

### Charity

## MP offers support to NSPCC's Childline call

Leigh's MP has supported the NSPCC's calls for the Government to increase its funding for Childline.

Jo Platt is among 130 MPs and peers to sign an open letter to the Secretary of State for

Health Jeremy Hunt backing the child protection charity's Are You There? campaign.

She signed the letter after the helpline saw a rise in demand from children struggling with suicidal thoughts.

The MPs and the NSPCC are asking that a slice of a £300m pledge set out in the recently-published Government green paper Transforming Children And Young People's Mental Health

Provision be used to fund the service.

Latest figures show that in 2015-16 Childline counsellors had to alert emergency services on average six times a day.



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