

Have you heard?

>Whatever! project

- Phone Lisa Wroe, 466052

If you are an employer who appreciates that getting a job can be hard if you have no experience, then talk to Lisa who arranges short term real life work placements for young residents. This is a very successful programme which has won a national award as lots young residents secure employment very quickly on completion.

>Westlearn ...& more

- Phone Julie Bielby, 466054

Want to learn something new? Westlearn offers residents various learning opportunities and can explore new courses if a number of residents all want to do the same thing! Did you know you can access FREE computer training on an individual basis through eCalne? Residents have also taken part in cooking, talking with confidence and exercise classes to

name but a few... We want to help Westlearn take off in Calne! Apart from Coleman's Farm Learning and Community Centre we can also book other spaces to increase the range of course available to you. If you can't cook but would like to cook, if you would like to gain a Food Hygiene certificate or if you would like learn new recipes etc. we want to hear from you. Of course, you may want to help your kids with homework or brush up on your maths and English – whatever you would like to learn, give us a ring and we can see what we can do. Don't forget, help towards travel and childcare are available to Westlea residents.

>Resident forums

- Phone Esther Lim, 466163

Our Disability, Older Persons' (for over-50's) and the new Lone Parent Forum, provide lots of opportunities for you to find out what Westlea is doing and for you to get involved in shaping services. If you want to know more, ring Esther who will be happy to help.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Coleman's Farm is covered by Calne Town Neighbourhood Policing Team, consisting of PC Steve Dixon and PC Tony Boardman who are assisted by two PCSOs – Gaynor Bake and Mark Braithwaite.

Despite concern from some that crime and disorder is growing, the team are pleased to inform residents that overall crime in Calne is down 14.8%. Violent crime is down 24.4% and criminal damage is down 17.7%.

The team recently sent out a survey to ask: 'What matters most in your community? What is important to you?' They need to know your views and concerns, so please get in touch: phone 0845 408 7000 ext 732 817 or email calnetownpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood news

>Coleman's Farm



Contact your neighbourhood worker

to find out more about anything in this newsletter – and with any other questions or ideas!



Denise Cooper
at Westlea Housing
Phone 01249 466052
denise.cooper@westlea.co.uk

Calne Community Children's Centre.
Through neighbourhood involvement, I hope you will become more involved in shaping and managing your local community groups, events and services. If you fancy getting involved, fill in the postcard and let me know what you are interested in!

Did you know...

- Crime levels are lower than people think? (See article on back page.)
- Approximately half the homes on Coleman's Farm are privately owned?
- Westlea is NOT the council?
- Ownership of the area is mixed and land, building, lights, footpaths can be owned by Wiltshire County Council, North Wilts District Council, the Town Council or Westlea, confusing eh?

As your new neighbourhood worker, I have been busy talking to residents, arranging activities and working with other local organisations to help make Coleman's Farm a great place to live.

Over the last 12 months, there have been more opportunities for young people, continued improvements to the appearance of the area and increased opportunities for you to get involved in shaping services. You should be able to see some of the more noticeable changes now as you walk through the area. More recently, the area has seen the completion of the new



Need a bit of support ...or looking for activities?

Calne Community Children's Centre is a much welcome resource for families with at least one child under 5 years. Katie Sims (Family Support Worker, phone 463907) has been very busy planning different events, activities and offering individual family support. Appletree Nursery has blossomed ('scuse the pun!) enabling babies and young children to learn through play (8-6pm) 51 weeks of the year! Did you know Appletree even offers childcare after school and in the school holidays. Contact Rachel on 819082 for more information. (Join the official opening on March 15th from 11am.)

Barnardo's 'Believe in Children' – The Jigsaw Project

Westlea is proud of its partnership work with Barnardo's Jigsaw Project and throughout the year, Niki offers children's activities and individual family support to Westlea residents. If you have a child aged between 5 – 13 years and are interested in finding out more, ring Niki on 816983.



B&Q FREE DIY COURSES



This new set of courses covers:

- How To Use Power Tools • Energy Efficiency
- How To Lay Laminate Flooring • Soft Furnishings
- Gardening And Recycling • What's In Your Toolbox?

The courses run on Wednesdays from 19th March to 2nd April – so hurry, phone Sarah Offord on 01249 466062 or email sarah.offord@westlea.co.uk to find out more and book your place!

Here's your chance to take part in DIY courses free of charge.

Westlea is working in partnership with B&Q at Cribbs Causeway, Bristol.

Everyone attending the course will get free lunch, free transport and an opportunity to look around the store PLUS a 10% discount at B&Q in store on the day of the training. The B&Q store includes a cafe area and several showrooms featuring practical kitchen and bathroom layouts to help customers visualise their DIY dreams!

If you would like to have any part of this document explained or translated, or in a different format such as in larger print, in braille or on audio tape, please contact Westlea on 01249 465465 to discuss your needs.



“Are we Dreaming?”

That's what young people may have thought when they were asked if they wanted to get involved with our Dreamscheme initiative. Young people aged 11 and over completed local community development projects and collected 'points' which were used to access leisure opportunities and even an outward bound weekend away! Beside the fantastic sunshine bench outside James House, young residents also worked hard to clear up the garden area of Fitzmaurice Square. Residents said it was nice to see young people involved in a community project.

If you are interested in taking part in the 2008 summer Dreamscheme – from 28 July 2008 this summer – or activities during the upcoming Easter holidays, let me know and I will add your name to the list.

Sporting Superstars, Movie Stars or Politicians?

Around this time last year, young residents expressed their views of what it is like living on Coleman's Farm by contributing to the making of a DVD with Positive Images film company. It is a fantastic DVD and educational to say the least. You may have seen groups of young people jumping off railings and perhaps thought they were just being a nuisance? Did you know that they were actually Parkhour training?

The DVD has been seen by a wide audience



The DVD project involved young people.

ranging from the Chief Executive and Board Members of Westlea Housing through to local audiences attending the Painted Veil moviola film session at the Town Hall last year. It has also been used by the youth development service and has resulted in Parkhour training sessions being offered from The Grove youth centre.

Street-based youth work and the local youth centre

Young people eh? Hanging around, doing nothing, causing trouble? Well some might, but there are a lot of motivated young people living here at Coleman's Farm. Young people's dress and behaviour may not always be to your liking – but



A craft workshop involving local children.

I am guessing there may be an age gap! With funding from Westlea, Wiltshire County Council has provided street-based youth workers for young people (aged 11–19) not wanting to use a youth centre. Call 655249 to find out more.

- If you are aged 13-19 why not contact The Grove youth centre and ask about their programme of activities; there are so many on offer (dancing, sport, trips, discos etc.) and of course, you get your chance to say what you would like to do. Sally can be contacted on 812509 or email sallywillox@wiltshire.gov.uk Groups of young people can sometimes seem frightening – but give them a chance and don't expect the worse. Saying that, if you experience large groups hanging around your home who are causing a nuisance, report it! If you don't tell someone, no one can do anything about it. Ring 0845 408 7000. Community Police Safety officers regularly tour Calne and always respond to calls. Alternatively, contact Basia, your neighbourhood housing officer, on 466181.

...and what about adults?

There are so many organisations offering help and support to those finding it hard to manage their home, it is difficult to list them all! Westlea is part of 'Community4' who offer 'floating support' for up to 2 years for residents needing individual help. You decide what support you need then staff help you find the right organisation to help you. Community4 can be contacted on 712328.

Your community centre



It's been a farm, a shop and now, a community centre – a space for hire to families, groups and local services. Ged Byrne (Chair) and Dave Roberts (Treasurer) are trying to encourage more people to use the centre and are desperate to get more people involved in running it!

Coleman's Farm Learning and Community Centre can be booked throughout the day/early evening. Westlea has already booked the rooms for resident involvement meetings, a Christmas craft session, 'living with under-8s' course and a Springwatch Craft session running in half term. Rates are reasonable and you can even ask about the 6 week free use to help you get your group off the ground. If you would like more information, please contact Dave on 07979 318504 or Ged on 07835 302858.

Healthy Living Showcase – March 29

On March 29th there will be a very special event at the Olympiad in Chippenham. The Healthy Living Showcase will celebrate the best healthy living activities that were run by Westlea and our partner agencies in 2007. Skip2Bfit, Kaya drums, mosaic making and more...

PLUS we will have FREE family swim tickets available for those with enough energy after the showcase! Activities will start at 1.30 and go on until 3.30pm. Come on down and join the fun!

Wanted:

Dads and 'father figures'!

Research shows that you are a very important person in your child's life and you can improve your child's chances in school and life, just by being interested and involved! So, if you fancy giving your other half a break, spending some 'quality' time with your child and getting together with other dads, give

me a ring and I will arrange for you all to meet up. How about a Sat morning? For a small fee, we can even let you cook the bacon butties to fill you with energy for an activity of the group's choice! Of course, it will be your group – so put your thinking caps on and get in touch.



Seeds, Buds, Flowers and Oaks

Spring is nearly here and as my favourite time of year, I am full of hope and optimism and want to encourage and support you and your children to care of our environment. If you are a budding or experienced gardener and would like to share your skills, I would like to hear from you.

- Did you know that Westlea is still working hard pressing ahead with plans to develop Abberd Brook? If you are interested in taking part Katie Scaife (phone 466015) would like to hear from you. It is a big job that needs big money and that's why we need your help; together, we can make it happen.

Neighbourhood Watch

Some residents have said they would like a neighbourhood watch scheme on Coleman's Farm. This is a national initiative that needs people to come forward to make it work. So if you would like to be part of a scheme on Coleman's Farm please contact me if you haven't done so already. I have a list of interested residents and will be making contact with the co-ordinator at the end of this month.

Calling all women!

Some of you have already talked to me about forming a new women's group. I need to know how many would be interested in coming along – so please get in touch if you would like to join!

Street representatives

Do you think there is a lack of information in your neighbourhood? Do you fancy promoting more community involvement? Why not have a chat with your neighbours and become a street rep? Contact Denise for more details.