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*February 2022 Edition*

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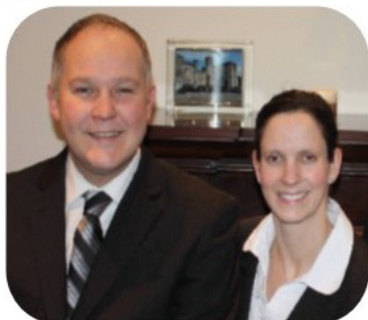
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## Acorn Community News



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## Happy New Year 2022!

As the Acorn enters into our 11th Year and a new decade we would like to say a big THANK YOU to all our readers, advertisers and contributors as without you this would not be possible.

A Big Thank You To **Peter Jones** for all his time in helping me with reports that feature in the Acorn and looking after my website for me, **Carl Wagstaff** from **Brands Inside Out** for creating my Magazine for me and local Printers **Printworthy** in Dale Street in printing my editions and my **distribution team** for going out in all weathers to deliver my **11,000** copies monthly around the **Hyndburn Area**.

Acorn Exclusive Highlights of 2021

In April the Acorn returned after our 3rd lock down with many of our residents over the age of 50 having had received their 2nd jabs.

In September the Acorn celebrated its 10 years anniversary, I am very grateful and humble for all my testimonials I received from my advertisers, community groups, representatives from Hyndburn Borough Council and our local past & present MP's and lovely messages from Julie Hesmondhalgh and Mina Anwar whom Peter has interviewed in the past, I am very grateful for Julie taking the time out to write her own personal columns in between her busy schedule.

As of going to print we have a country are getting back to normal with the news that we don't need to wear face masks anymore in the community although many still want to do so as Covid is something we have to live with, most of us have now been fully vaccinated.

We can now look forward to events taking place once again especially on the Town Square and also look forward to Oswaltdtwistle Carnival on June 19th. Watch out in the Acorn for what is going on in our local area's where we celebrate our Queens platinum jubilee for 70 years of service with a 4 day Bank Holiday Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th June.

Businesses if you are Celebrating an anniversary this year please don't hesitate to contact me to showcase in the Acorn. Please don't forget to inform me of any news stories or sports clubs that you would like the Acorn to cover.

Give me a **call on 07971 772168** and I will try my best to attend and report on any event. **Keep Local - Shop Local**

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Please visit our website at [www.acornnews.co.uk](http://www.acornnews.co.uk) for more news items and more in depth coverage of some of the items in the magazine. If you have any stories you think worthy of inclusion or news items you want us to know about first, please contact Peter Jones at [editorial@acornnews.co.uk](mailto:editorial@acornnews.co.uk)

We will read each submission and publish or follow up with an interview, if we deem it warrants inclusion.

2021 turned out to be an exciting year for Stacy Walsh. Stacy, who grew up in Oswaldtwistle and works at the Valuation Office Agency as a Local Authority Relationship Manager, not only received the honour of being awarded Freedom of the Borough at last year's Mayor-making Ceremony, but also learned that she was to receive an MBE in Her Majesty's New Year Honours list.

Stacy told me: "I cover 39 councils from The Wirral to Cumbria. When I learned that my employers had suggested me for this honour I could hardly believe it"

Stacy doesn't have a date and a venue yet for her presentation, and of course, Covid has meant quite a large backlog recently, but at least she knows she will get it someday in the not too distant future.

I must say though, that it is nothing less than she deserves. Stacy has worked tirelessly during the pandemic and along with Kimberly Whitehead and Jodi Clements, was instrumental in setting up the wonderful Hyndburn Hub back in April 2021. She explained: "The Hyndburn Hub was part of the third sector, whereby we supported the vulnerable in the community with food parcels and making sure they got their medications by collecting prescriptions and delivering medicines where necessary. To do that, we had to train volunteers and although Kimberly was shielding herself, she made sure that the policy we had devised was correct and did a lot of the background work. We also did shop and drop as well and Jodi helped with that amongst other things."

In October 2021 came The Pantry. This was an initiative of Stacy's born out of the food bank idea, but with certain important changes. Because it was set up on a premises with the availability to provide fresh food, participants who were accepted in the scheme could actually choose the foods that they wanted, and rather than relying on canned goods and instant meals, they could buy vegetables and ingredients to make their own, healthier food. All this was available for a payment of £2.50.

Stacy told me that since The Pantry opened, they have now converted the area at the back of the shop into a little coffee shop where they encourage people to have a coffee and a biscuit and chat to one another. She says it seems to be very popular and a wonderful place for people who may feel a little lonely, to meet. It can also be way to signpost areas where people can obtain external support as they need it.

Stacy now lives in West Altham with her husband. The couple have two children: Hayley who is now 31 and son Charlie who is just 21 years old.

Speaking to Stacy I was impressed by how much she really cares about the community and am certain that her recent recognition is richly deserved.

When Stacy does actually receive her medal, we will cover it here with another interview and pictures but for now, all we can say to her is: Well Done Stacy. Keep up the good work!!

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## Aspen Fold Christmas extravaganza

Linda and Tony Jenkinson would like to thank everyone who helped raise money for Marie Curie End Of Life Care,

Especially our neighbours on Aspen fold, Oswaldtwistle for all their efforts and patience. The total amount was £1549 60p. Thanks to the Church & Oswaldtwistle Rotary Club for bringing Santa on the night and also to Hyndburn Press for printing our leaflets and all the local businesses for their help.



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## Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition 2021

The quality of the window displays this year was excellent throughout the Borough of Hyndburn.

A Big Thank you to the sponsors TR Stabilisation, Eafield & Maple, Barbara Kay Shoes & Accessories,

Acorn Community News & Croppers Butchers & Deli for their kind gifts and donations.

The Hyndburn Chamber of Trade would also like to Thank The Mayor of Hyndburn Councillor Kath Pratt along with her daughter whom visited each township to narrow down this year's winners.

A Chamber of trade member Tracy Simmonds went alongside the Mayor on the 3 surprise visits to present the winners with their awards.



### 1st Place

*Brie Mine Cheeses of Queen Street, Great Harwood won £200 Cash and a quarter page advert within Acorn Community News worth £150*



### 2nd Place

*Garlands Florists, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle, Accrington*

*Won £100 cash and a £50 Christmas meat hamper courtesy of Croppers Butchers & Deli.*



### 3rd Place

*Boutique 23 Fashion, Warner Street, Accrington*

*Won £50 Cash*

**Interested in becoming a member of the Chamber of Trade sign up on line at [www.hcot.co.uk](http://www.hcot.co.uk) or email [info@hcot.co.uk](mailto:info@hcot.co.uk) An affiliation membership is only £20 per year.**



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## Mayors viewpoint: Councillor Kath Pratt

### Happy New Year!

Hopefully your 2022 is looking like being more positive and prosperous than last year.

As my scheduled mayoral engagements were less frequent over the festive period, I had more free time to enjoy the borough in an 'unofficial' capacity. It was wonderful to see so many local shops that had made so much effort putting on wonderful displays for Christmas.

All the businesses that took time to create welcoming festive scenes for seasonal shoppers and visitors deserve a lot of credit after such an uncertain year.

#### Community causes

As well as supporting Hyndburn's businesses, I was privileged to attend some of the borough and wider region's cultural events.

At the Great Harwood Civic carol service, myself and my Consort saw the Salvation Army band, who were excellent in spite of the freezing weather.

We also represented the borough at St. Walberg's Church in Preston for a carol service in aid of the roof restoration.

And we were in attendance at Fleetwood's Marine Hall for the Fylde Council charity ball.

I'm also looking forward to being the official starter for the 10K and 2K charity fun runs this weekend in aid of East Lancashire Hospice.

Taking part in such events both close to home and further afield makes me immensely proud of both our region and its residents.

#### Keeping us safe

Finally, I'd like to thank and congratulate the thousands of Hyndburn people and families who have taken the time to get their booster jabs in recent weeks. By doing so, you've helped slow the spread of Covid-19 infections in our townships and eased pressure on our wonderful NHS workers.

And with everyone pulling together in this way, we can continue to contribute to the easing of restrictions in Hyndburn and nationally.

If you've not yet had your booster vaccine, you can easily find out how to get yours by visiting [hyndburnbc.gov.uk/covid19](http://hyndburnbc.gov.uk/covid19).



## 1921 Census

The long awaited and much hailed '1921 Census' is now available. Digitised at huge expense, this latest record of life in our towns is set to yield all sorts of new information about our families and where they lived.

Access to the 1921 Census is free at three locations throughout the UK, including Manchester Central Library. You can browse the records and indexes online free, but there is a small charge of £3.50 for a downloadable PDF copy of the entry or £2.50 for a transcript. Interestingly, the address and residents of a property come on two separate pages and therefore at two costs!

A quick reveal of my Grandmother's early years as a 'Domestic Servant' at a large house in St Annes on Sea revealed that the house was not numbered but it was named. More complications - the house number on the entry shows no. 156, however the current 156 is a new house! Further investigation shows the road was renumbered in the 1930's. A look at Google Maps for No 156 shows a house at No 356! I'll need to walk the road and try and find the house on foot.

There are also errors in the Transcription too. My Gran is shown as age 2 and born in 1919 but she was 22 and d born in 1899. So... the answer is as always, double check any information you come across. In the Family History trade it's called 'Triangulation', that is find 3 sources to confirm what you have found.

The 1921 Census can be accessed at:

**[www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census)**

Information about the Census can be found at: The 1921 Census

You can register at Find My Past for free.

**If you join the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society, here will be a presentation on the 1921 Census by Find My Past at our annual Conference on 14 May 2022 in Oswaldtwistle. See our website for details - search 'LFHHS.org'**



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# INTERIORS

## Planning a new kitchen?



Picture courtesy of Abstract Kitchen & Bedrooms

Look at what you already have, what you like and don't like, and what you want to move, remove or keep. If the kitchen layout works, only change it if you can see it will bring a real, tangible benefit. Bear in mind that if you are thinking of moving, totally updating your kitchen might not add value, many buyers want to put their own stamp on a place so may not want to replace a new kitchen. See our tips for making cost effective updates to kitchens.

### Kitchen design ideas

If you want an entirely new kitchen, think about the layout and how you can use your current kitchen.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What elements do you want to be close together? Such as the fridge and cooking area, so you don't have to make too many trips around the kitchen
- Where will you want most worktop space, next to the hob and oven perhaps?
- How much storage do you need? Think about whether you need more than you currently have and what you need to store.
- Do you use your kitchen for dinner parties or have you got kids to accommodate?
- Therefore do you need space for a table or for someone to sit and talk while you cook.
- Where do you want to keep your utensils and dinnerware that you use the most.
- Do you have a lot of gadgets that you use regularly or do you want to store them away.
- What appliances do you want and will there be room for them.
- Thinking about how you use your current kitchen now and how you want to use the new one, will help with the design ensure you have your dream kitchen that suits your needs.
- Make sure on design that you take into account the plug sockets, radiators, windows and doors.

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## Budget kitchen ideas

If your budget is tight and you don't need an entirely new kitchen, there are simple changes you can make that could transform your current kitchen without costing too much.

Update worktops and doors, local kitchen manufacturers, specialist companies and builders merchants can supply new kitchen unit doors, drawer fronts and worktops for a fraction of the cost.

**Paint** - Refreshing your walls and kitchen doors with a lick of paint is less expensive than replacing the whole kitchen, and a great way to add more colour. You can do this yourself, although make sure you use oil based or latex (water based) paints and prepare the surfaces, such as with a primer, as instructed for the type of surface.

**Create a feature wall** - This is an ideal way to add character to your kitchen and make a statement. Use colourful or patterned wallpaper (Specially designed for kitchens), tiles or a distinctive splash back to create a focal point.

**Lighting** - Careful lighting can change the feel of your kitchen, especially if it's a small room. Spotlights or lights under the counter can add a modern touch, whilst pendant lights bring a country element to a kitchen. If you are rearranging your lights speak to a qualified electrician to find out what is possible.

**Flooring** - If your floor is old, replacing it can lift your kitchen. Your choice of flooring can effect the feel of the room. Vinyl flooring is generally the cheaper option, with natural materials such as stone and wood being more expensive.

**Tiles** - Inexpensive tiles as a splashback behind the cooker or around the entire kitchen could lift an old look. Be savvy with price – you can get cheap tiles for less than £15 per square metre and using bold or colourful ones sparingly will create a striking look.

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# NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

## Health matters



## Spotting this condition early can help recovery

Peripheral artery disease (PAD) can affect anyone with poor circulation. The people most at risk are those with diabetes, but you are also more likely to experience it if you are overweight or smoke. It occurs when arteries narrow and some blood supply to the extremities, particularly the feet, but not exclusively, is compromised.

Signs to look for are numbness or pins and needles in the feet and toes, sores that take longer to heal and tightness in some muscles, particularly the calf. This tightness will often occur after walking and will go away once you rest.

If these symptoms keep occurring a visit to the doctor is advised, and they will refer you to a relevant specialist to have it checked out. Diabetics usually have their feet checked as part of their annual check-up and this condition should never be taken lightly.

Please don't despair though. In most cases of PAD there are steps you can take to help reverse the symptoms or at least stop it from getting worse.

NHS guidelines suggest the following:

1. Get plenty of exercise.
2. Eat a heart-healthy diet.
3. Maintain a healthy body weight.
4. Don't smoke.
5. Control your blood sugar if you have diabetes.

PAD can also occur as one gets older as exercise isn't something that comes naturally when suffering for other age related conditions such as severe arthritis, so a good diet and some form of exercise is all the more important. There are exercises for everyone online and they are usually accompanied by diagrams. Cycling is another good way to keep fit if you are no longer able to run or even walk any distance. If you follow these healthy options you will help to stave off this condition, but if you have any of the above symptoms, don't ignore them.

Please get them checked out, as early detection is very important.

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Carol Morris was born in Accrington, then went on to live in Oswaldtwistle, Haslingden and now lives in Accrington again, so when we say she's a local girl, it couldn't be more true.

After a short stint as a carer Carol became a fully qualified nurse and worked in several care homes and hospitals before deciding to set up her own business providing micro suction ear wax removal. In order to do that she had to do a course at Aston University in Birmingham, passed the exam and is now fully certified. Then she bought all the equipment she needed and now goes into nursing homes, care homes and people's homes to offer the treatment.

This is a relatively new treatment and although it helps if the wax is softer, putting olive oil in for three weeks is not usually necessary.

Well they say 'write about what you know,' don't they? I am someone who is plagued by ear wax and on average I have them irrigated about three times a year. Of course that wasn't possible at the height of the pandemic and I had to wait around a year at that time. Although I had them done around four months ago I thought they were getting a little clogged again, so I asked Carol for a demonstration. When she looked in she informed me that both ears were absolutely full and she couldn't see past the wax.

Before she starts doing anything, Carol does a complete health check and explains what she is going to do.

Having been a recipient of much water based irrigation, I know very well the feeling of being able to hear better and it is always special. After my micro suction ear wax removal, the feeling was more enhanced than ever before. The reason for that is that after irrigation there is always some residual water inside and that usually doesn't clear until later. With the micro suction method the only water used is to clean the suction tube and the improvement is instant and dramatic.

Carol left my house around 6 p.m. and after I made my tea, I sat down to watch my usual programmes. I have been using subtitles a lot lately and as soon as I turned my telly on, I noticed that it was far too loud. I could listen to it tonight at half the normal volume and subtitles are back to being necessary only for foreign films. I have been writing for this magazine for almost ten years now and anyone who knows me can vouch for the fact that I always tell the truth. I even double check the facts before I publish anything, so when I say this method of wax removal is painless and better than any I have previously experienced, I don't say it lightly.

If anyone would like more information about micro suction ear wax removal, you can get in touch with Carol on 07598 766314 and she will tell you the cost and talk you through the procedure.

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# Great Harwood Civic Society

Formed 1968



## A great year for the Civic Society - 2021

After falling foul to the COVID lockdowns in 2020 the Great Harwood Civic Society managed to organise all its traditional events in 2021 – a great achievement.

The Boundary Walk took place in early June and attracted a large number of walkers, young and old alike, and, with it being a great summer's day, everyone was able to enjoy the magnificent scenery that surrounds the town.

In August the Town Crier "Cried the Fair" and a Charity Fair was held on the Town Hall Square. Local voluntary, faith and community groups raised money for their organisations and were able to publicise the good work they do in our area.

In September the Horticultural and Craft Show was held at the Bank Mill Centre for the very first time and this proved a very popular venue for the town's many growers, bakers, knitters and handcraft enthusiasts to display their many skills. Maureen Douglas, a well-known character around the town, was awarded the special prize for her money raising exploits for charities during this COVID affected period.

In November the Town Crier proclaimed Lancashire Day with a toast to the Queen, the Duke of Lancaster. Churchfield House provided a traditional local snack for all those witnessing the occasion.

On the Sunday before Christmas the band of the Salvation Army provided the music for almost one hundred residents, including several young families, for the traditional Carols around the Tree – a great start to the festive week which was enjoyed by everyone.

The Society would like to thank everyone who took part in these traditional events and would also like to take the opportunity to wish everyone all the best for 2022.

2022 - Date for your diary – Sunday, June 5th - a big Street Party and Charter Fair is planned to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. More details in the February edition.



Hyndburn  
u3a  
learn, laugh, live



After a long and difficult 2 years Hyndburn U3A Christmas Party, on December 10th 2021 was an informal get together which gave some groups the chance to show others some of the skills they had acquired since joining the U3A. It gave everyone the opportunity for a good old sing song to the music of the 2 Ukulele Bands, the French version of "12 Days of Christmas" and finished with carols led by members of the Trinity Choir, Great Harwood.

Everyone there took part and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. It was like the light at the end of a long dark tunnel!! A hope that normality would soon resume!

The quilting group displayed their work which was greatly admired. The quilting group was started by the late Sue McLoughlin and the Xmas quilts were donated to Hope House Nursing Home in memory of Sue fondly called "Patchwork Suzy". You can find our website, with details of the existing groups, at [u3asites.org.uk/hyndburn](http://u3asites.org.uk/hyndburn). You will be very welcome to meet us on Friday 12th November, at our usual venue, Trinity Church, King St (off James St) Great Harwood. The meeting starts at 2pm, with a guest speaker, followed by coffee/tea and biscuits and the chance for a natter, from about 3pm. If you are attending for the first time, be sure to introduce yourself to one of the members at the door and we look forward to meeting you.



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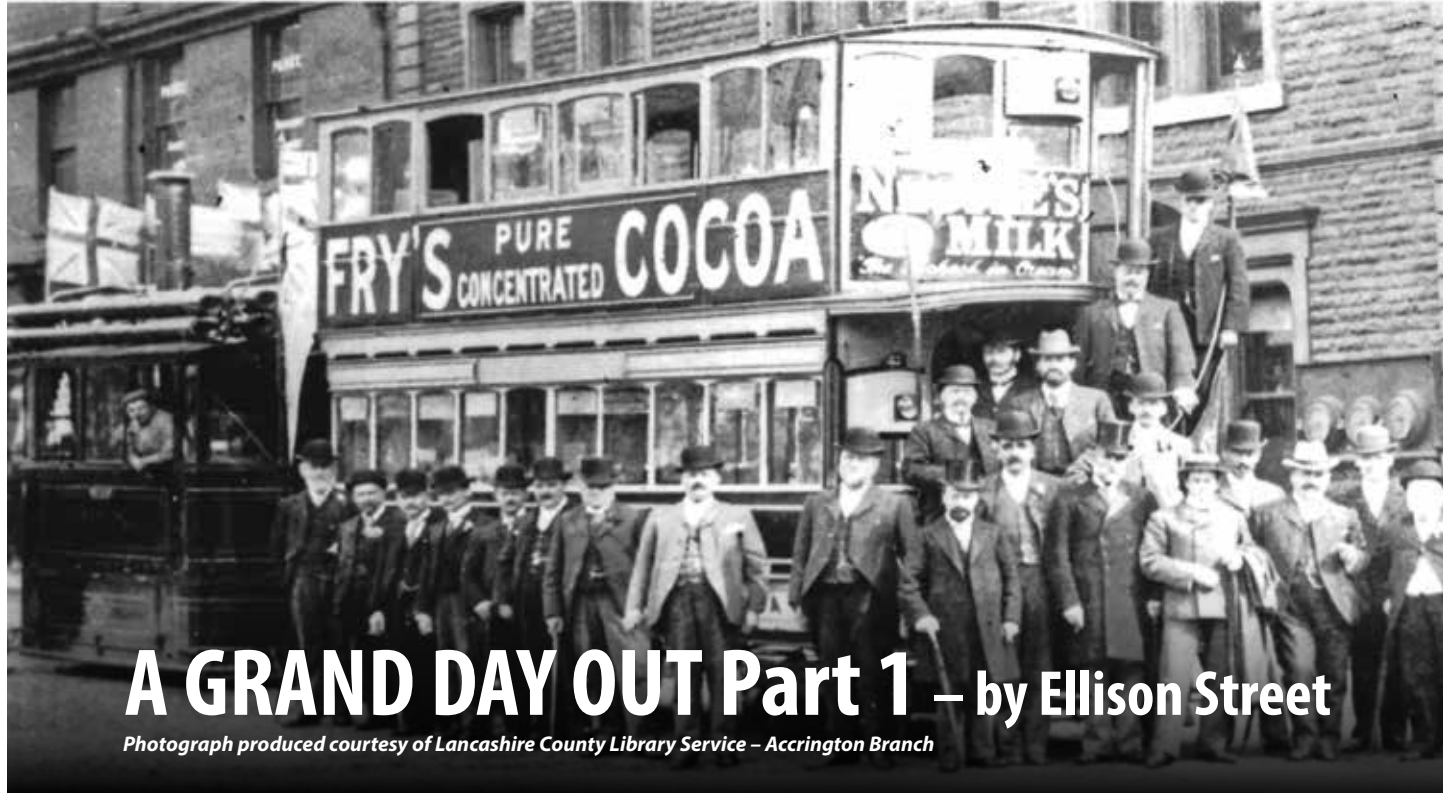


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# A GRAND DAY OUT Part 1 – by Ellison Street

*Photograph produced courtesy of Lancashire County Library Service – Accrington Branch*

It was on Thursday June 28th 1900 (some record the date as July 5th), that a unique excursion was arranged to mark the imminent closing of Blackburn Corporation's Steam Tramways, (although operations did not cease until August 9th 1901 within the town itself).

To commemorate this passing, a Blackburn double-deck, enclosed trailer car (number 6), liberally covered in the advertisements of the day, was coupled to an Accrington Thomas Green engine bedecked with Union flags. This was to convey a party of between thirty and forty dignitaries starting from Bull Hill in Whitehall Darwen at 11:15am, to Bacup and return. In total this would be a journey of over twenty-one miles covering the systems of four tramway operators Darwen, Blackburn, Accrington and Rawtenstall and over the tracks of six corporations Haslingden and Bacup being the other two. (This was the longest possible unbroken distance for a journey behind a steam operated tramway in the entire country). The time quoted for this turn of the century odyssey was four and a half hours, including a stop in Accrington for luncheon at the Commercial Hotel a former coaching inn, although the actual running time was two and a half hours.

Alderman Lee of Accrington presided over the celebratory luncheon, with Alderman Oddie of Blackburn as his deputy. The representatives

from Blackburn were Alderman Law, Councillor Meadowcroft of the Tramway Committee, A. S. Giles the Tramway Manager, Mr Cowell his assistant and E. Greek the Chief Inspector. Darwen was represented by its Town Clerk, W. P. Halliwell. Representatives from all the other undertakings involved were also in attendance.

The toasts proposed after the meal were, 'The Queen', 'The Army and Navy' (the Boer War was still ongoing), and all of the tramway undertakings involved. The party departed on their car at 3:30pm after posing in front of the Commercial Hotel to have their photograph taken, by which time the party had swelled to almost 60 persons. The invited guests and dignitaries are seen posed for this photograph, wearing a splendid selection of headgear including many bowler hats, two homburgs, two top hats and a straw boater, whilst the motorman and others looked on.

There would have been a full service operating on this route, so the tour would have had to give way to scheduled services. On their arrival in Bacup at five and having had a 'comfort stop', they commenced their return journey, stopping in Rawtenstall where tea was taken in the Queens Hotel. Later on they returned to Accrington where the party dispersed to allow the procession to continue homeward.



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## Inheritance and blended families: How can I ensure my stepfamily is catered for in my will?

**So-called 'blended families' - or step-families - are increasingly common, however inheritance law isn't reflective of these modern-day family norms, and as a result, inheritance issues can arise following the death of a stepparent or stepsibling during what is already a difficult time.**

Here, Clare Rogers, an associate solicitor at WHN Solicitors who specialises in wills, trusts and probate matters, offers inheritance guidance for those in a blended family.

### **Inheritance issues when there is a will**

Keep in mind that a will that leaves assets to 'my children' or to 'my brothers and sisters' does not automatically include stepchildren and stepsiblings, unless it specifies that they are to be included, so if you would like your stepchildren or step siblings to inherit from your estate, it is important that your will specifically names them as beneficiaries.

Another typical issue is where a deceased person has left all their estate to their spouse, whom is not

the parent of their children, believing the spouse will leave their estate to the deceased's children upon their death.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee this would happen. The spouse may meet somebody else and remarry, or simply choose to leave their estate to somebody else.

It is therefore vital to take expert advice when writing a will to ensure those that you want to benefit from your estate, ultimately do benefit.

### **How a stepchild can make a claim when a stepparent has died intestate**

If a person dies without leaving a will, their estate will fall under the intestacy rules, which make no provision for stepchildren of the deceased.

There is only one option available to stepchildren who have either been left out of a will, or their stepparent died intestate, which is to bring a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975.

To be eligible to bring a successful claim under the act, a stepchild must be able to demonstrate that they have been treated as a child of the family by a married stepparent or was financially dependent upon the stepparent, and that either no or

inadequate provision has been made in the will of the deceased (or there is no will).

Whether a claim is likely to be successful will depend upon many factors including the age of the stepchild, the size of the estate, the financial needs of any other beneficiaries/claimants, the needs of the stepchild including any special needs, any future needs of the stepchild and the level of dependency the stepchild had on the deceased.

Do keep in mind that a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 must be brought within six months of the date the grant of probate was obtained, so time is very much of the essence in these claims and it is urged you seek the advice of a solicitor without delay.

**Clare Rogers is an associate solicitor based at WHN's Accrington office. Clare specialises in the preparation of wills, powers of attorney, Court of Protection applications, probate and all aspects relating to the administration of estates. To contact Clare, call her on 01254 236221 or email [clare.rogers@whnsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:clare.rogers@whnsolicitors.co.uk)**

## If you need help on a business, personal or family law matter, speak to WHN Solicitors.

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Saturday 12th February  
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Sunday 13th February 6.30  
Stevie J Kramer - Son of Billy J

Friday 18th February  
The Inciders

Saturday 10th February  
The Stories

Friday 25th February  
Revolver

Saturday 26th February  
The Haze

Sunday 27th February 6.30  
Someplace Outside Memphis  
Full Elvis Show Band

## Hyndburn Ramblers

### January & February

Hyndburn Ramblers are an active group of people who enjoy walking and who organise regular walks throughout the year. We walk on Sundays and Wednesdays with walks of various lengths mainly in Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley sometimes into Yorkshire, Bowland and the Lake District. You are very welcome to join us.

Walks in January include Read Heights and Barley & Pendle Sculpture. Walks in February include Waugh's Well & Cowpe and Lothersdale

Visit our website for more information :- [www.ramblers.org.uk/hyndburn](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/hyndburn) and find us on facebook.

If you would like any further information please contact our Walk Coordinator Dawn Taylor 01254 388390

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## Oswaldtwistle Writers

Is there a writer within you? Why not join us when Oswaldtwistle Writers hold their first meeting since the pandemic.

The meeting will be at Oswaldtwistle Library at 2 p.m. on February 14th

Everyone is welcome from complete beginner to novelist, so we hope to see you there

**For more details contact: Peter Jones on 07763 822540**

We will be happy to see you there.

If you are looking for something to write about, well we are meeting on St Valentine's Day, so there's an idea. Even if you just want to come and listen you are very welcome.

You may find that you like it.

Oswaldtwistle Writers started in 2010, so we have been helping writers express themselves for over ten years

## Garth's Memory Corner



Accrington High School Staff 1970



Union Street toilets 1970

**A new monthly feature in Memory of Garth courtesy of the Dawson family**



Our Friendship Group- has been running for over three years now. We aim to help anyone in our Community who may be feeling lonely or in need of some fun. You may be a carer and you can bring your loved one along and meet others in a safe and welcoming environment.

This December we have enjoyed a Concert brought to us by GOontour and music from Wal and Dave. The Hyndburn Singers have entertained us with Christmas songs and Carol Service and we had fun at our Christmas Party. The picture shows Wal and Dave our brilliant singers on 9th December



Frank and Renee having fun, Frank and Renee having fun.

Renee joined us at the very beginning and says 'I really enjoy the company and don't feel alone, the best bit is the dinner'. Frank joined a few months ago and enjoys a pint with his lunch. He says 'The company is great, there are friendly people and nice surroundings. The entertainment is very good and they serve great beer'.



Sally pretended to be Father Christmas and managed to find a present for everyone at the Christmas party.

We meet at the Globe Bowling Club, Willows Lane, Accrington on Thursdays at 12.30. The charge is £4 per person which includes a light lunch and a hot drink. We organize games, activities, entertainment and days out. Please email [richard@candorotary.org.uk](mailto:richard@candorotary.org.uk) or call Richard on 07562 696099 if you would like to join us.

**If you are interested in becoming a member or joining our Rotary Group as a volunteer please contact Ken Freeman on 07935 352861 or see our Facebook page or website.**

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## Adults crying? Yes, that's right! Adults. CRYING!

But it's not what you might think. No tears involved (unless it's tears of laughter!)

The afternoon of Saturday 14th May will see a once-in-a-lifetime event in Great Harwood when around one dozen Town Criers (many of them accompanied by their escorts) will descend on the grounds of Churchfield House. This is the venue for the 2022 British Town Crier Competition and we are honoured to be chosen to host it. The contestants and their escorts will be in full, multi-coloured livery and will entertain the crowd with full-throated voices. Many of the entrants are previous winners of the competition so judging will be strict.

No entry fee to come and watch, so do come along.

More details next month. *Rawden Kerr, Civic Society Town Crier*



## Royal Horticultural Society honours Hyndburn gardener for 40 years of service

John O'Rourke, Gardener at Hyndburn Borough Council, has been presented with a prestigious gift of a silver medal, awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society for his dedication to the profession.

The award was presented by Councillor Paul Cox, Deputy Leader of Hyndburn Borough Council, in a small ceremony at Rhyddings Park.

Cllr Paul Cox said: "John started working in his role as a gardener for Hyndburn Council in January 1981 and has been a key part of the efforts to enhance and create green spaces for all to enjoy. His dedication and commitment has been inspirational to all who have worked with him and it was great to see his colleagues applauding his achievements at the ceremony."

Gordon Mason, who won gardener of the year, and Ann Warrington, who won volunteer of the year, in the National Green Flag Awards at the end of 2021 were also presented with their trophies as part of the ceremony.

Cllr Cox continued: "Hyndburn is incredibly lucky to have such a fantastic team of people in the parks department and also community volunteers like Ann who make a difference every day. As we congratulate ourselves on being awarded the most green flag parks for any local authority in Lancashire this past year, we need to remember the people that make this happen, thank you to all involved."

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## Great Harwood District WI Meeting 12th January 2022

Julie Kent gave an interesting and informative talk on "quite an extraordinary woman" – Ethel Carnie Holdsworth whom some have likened to Emily Brontë. Ethel's roots were in Great Harwood, born in Oswaldtwistle she came to the town when she was 6. It was growing exponentially at the time having twenty-two mills at the height of its prosperity. Ethel's parents were weavers, she attended the British School and at age 11 became a half timer at Delph Road Mill then at 13 worked full time at St. Lawrence Mill.

Ethel was an avid reader using the Co-op library and she wrote poetry from a very early age which she sent to the "Blackburn Times". On reading some to the Blackburn Authors' Society it was well received. She said that the rhythm of the mill helped her to write her poetry and 1907 saw the publication of "Rhymes from the factory" – her first book. Another one followed "Songs from the factory".

When she was 22, she was visited by Robert Blatchford from "The Clarion" a London newspaper, who encouraged her to leave the mill which she did moving to London to work full time as a journalist and writer. Ethel was highly politicized being influenced by her father, a member of the Social Democratic Federation. She was an ardent critic of the factory system in her writings, likening working in a factory to slavery. Unfortunately, the paper closed and Ethel returned to Lancashire and the mill.

Altogether three poetry books, numerous short stories for children and ten novels were published, one book "Helen of Four Gates" was filmed. She is thought to be the first working class woman to publish a novel and there are now efforts to publish her work again. Some is in print and the Pendle Radicals from Mid Pennine Arts are raising her profile putting five of her poems on line in the Poetry Archive where they can be heard read aloud.

Julie then played some of the poetry and displayed a banner that she made for an exhibition. It shows the words of Ethel's first poem and aspects of her life as a novelist, journalist, suffragist and socialist.

The February meeting of the Women's Institute will be at 2pm on the 9th February at Bank Mill House. Denise Robson will talk about "Tribal Belly Dancing".

Visitors and prospective members are very welcome.



## Prestigious Awards swept up by Hyndburn's Community

The 25th Annual Green Flag Awards, which invites nominations from all over the UK, saw Hyndburn take to the (virtual) stage multiple times with three finalists and two wins.

Gordon Mason, Grounds Maintenance Operative at Hyndburn Council, took home the award for Employee of the Year and Ann Warrington, Chairperson of Friends of Rhyddings Park won the award for Volunteer of the Year. Cath Holmes, Chair of the Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum was also a finalist for the Volunteer of the Year award.

Gordon Mason was one of four finalists for Employee of the Year award and has been a crucial part of Hyndburn Council's parks team for almost 50 years. Gordon has helped not only with the maintenance of the parks but has been involved in the various groups and activities throughout the borough. He was also involved in the very first green flag entry of Hyndburn in 2004!

Due to retire next summer, Gordon reflected on his time at the council and looked to the next recruits that will hopefully follow in his footsteps. For almost 50 years Gordon has enjoyed keeping Hyndburn green for everyone to enjoy: "I will miss it, I started on my 15th birthday in August 1972, I will definitely miss it. Hopefully we will fill the vacancies and get some young apprentices to carry on, if they're keen then it's a very healthy lifestyle."

Volunteers take a vital role in supporting organisations and the annual awards ceremony recognises the hard work that goes into this task. Ann and Cath were two of 15 finalists for Volunteer of the Year award at the online ceremony.

Anne Warrington took on the creation and development of Friends of Rhyddings Park, Oswaldtwistle. She has led the redevelopment activity and engagement for over three years and been the driving force that has seen the community café and network of volunteers thrive. Anne has done all this whilst working full time for the NHS. When accepting her award Ann highlighted it has been tough to achieve but very much worth it. "At times its really tough but you have to prioritise. The park was my playground as a child as there is such a community spirit, people want to work together, and we have a fantastic team to help out as well."

In addition to the café and garden there is also a range of community events that Ann helps to facilitate, "seeing these events that are so valuable to the community, that keeps me going and drives me along."

Cllr Miles Parkinson OBE, Leader of Hyndburn Council, was delighted with the news, "Earlier this year Hyndburn was awarded green flag awards for nine of our parks. These awards recognise the spaces with a mark of excellence; however, this does not happen by accident. The prestigious awards ceremony recognises the people and the teams that support, maintain and create the spaces for their local community."

"Seeing three people from Hyndburn as finalists for these awards is a testament to the hard work we see across our borough, and I hope everyone will join me in celebrating this fantastic achievement. Congratulations to Cath, Ann and Gordon, well done to you all."

**Read more about the green flag awards here:**  
[www.greenflagaward.org](http://www.greenflagaward.org)



## Accrington Stanley Community Trust: 2021 A Year in Numbers

Accrington Stanley Community Trust have once again delivered some fantastic projects in 2021, despite the global Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

An infographic has been created to showcase some of the Charity's achievements and highlight how many people have benefited from projects in areas such as sport, health, education and inclusion.

In total 14,069 people from the local community were engaged by the Charity, which also saw an average footfall of 1790 people per week at the Stanley Sports Hub. 1389 free Accrington Stanley shirts were given away to all Year 3 children in Hyndburn, an initiative sponsored by the Charity. A total of £938,775 was raised towards our Charitable objectives.

Martin Fearon, CEO of Accrington Stanley Community Trust said:

"2021 has been another great year for Accrington Stanley Community Trust. Covid-19 has disrupted most of our projects and we have had to find ways to adapt our provision so we can still deliver vital work to our community."

We saw record breaking numbers of NCS participants and education students at our Football College. The government Kickstart scheme has been heavily utilised by our Charity as we delivered over 30 placements and featured on BBC One's Football Focus programme.

I would like to thank all of our funders, partners, staff and volunteers who have enabled us to achieve our aims and objectives this year. We are actively delivering over 30 community projects which are vital to so many people in our community.

We have some exciting plans for 2022 which include a £750,000 extension of the Stanley Sports Hub building."

**To find out more about the Charity's work, visit**  
[www.stanleytrust.co.uk](http://www.stanleytrust.co.uk)

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