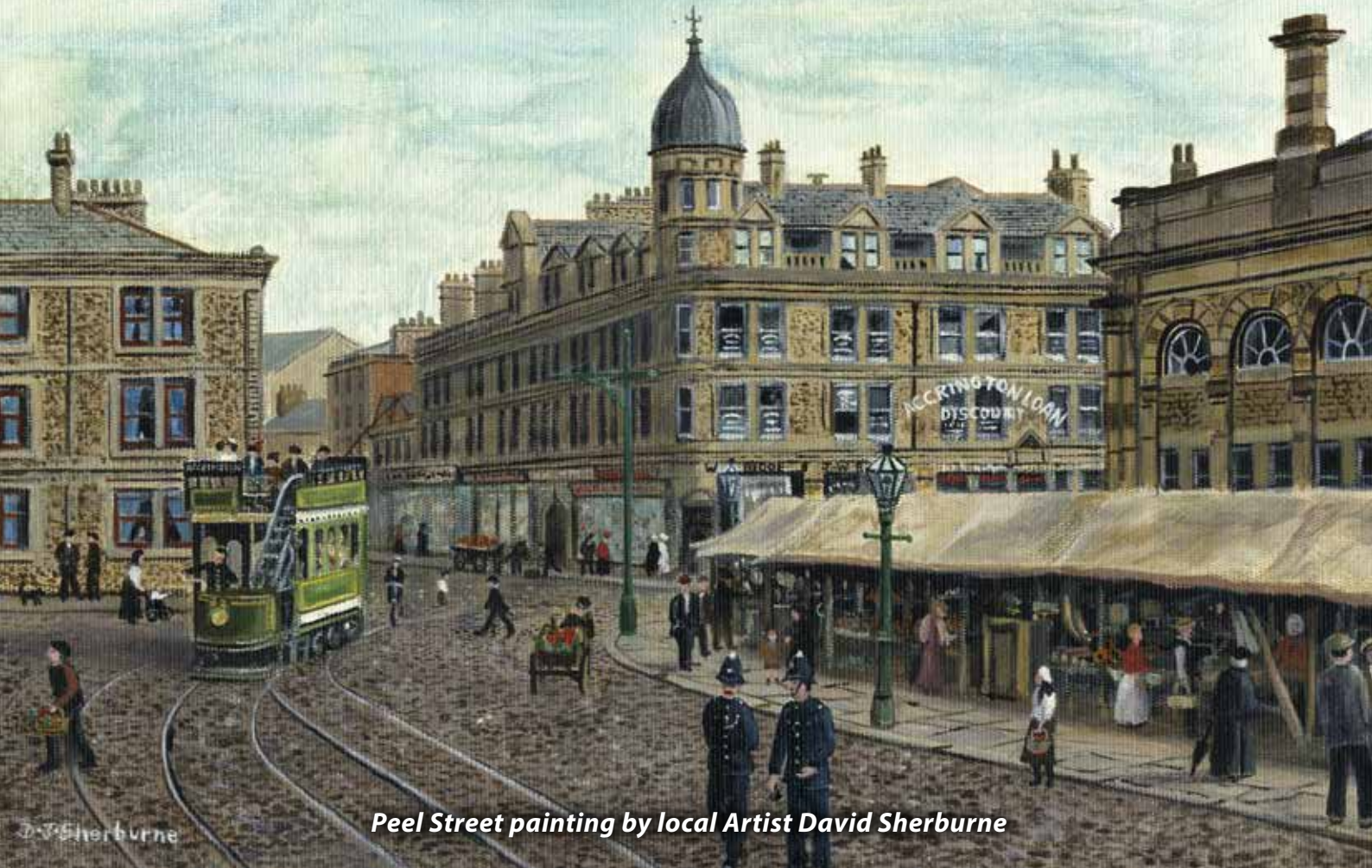




ACORN

COMMUNITY NEWS

October 2023 Edition



Peel Street painting by local Artist David Sherburne

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The Stanhill Take a Bow Heritage Festival, held over the weekend of September 15th – 17th at Stanhill Methodist Church, was a resounding success. The Festival, held as part of the UK Heritage Open Days festival, focussed on music, and in particular, the violin donated to the church many years ago by Leonard Briggs. The violin's condition had deteriorated over time, but with the help of a generous donation was restored to performance standard.

An exhibition at the chapel showcased the hymns of Charles Wesley and other hymn writers, past and present. There were also displays of Sunday School Anniversary photographs and hymn sheets, together with a 100-year-old printing press that was used to print the hymn sheets. Photographs were projected onto the big screen and offered the chance to reminisce about "days gone by" whilst enjoying a delicious slice of cake.

On the afternoon of the 16th, the Stories, Songs and Strings Recital took place in the chapel, with over 100 people attending, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Hyndburn, Councillor and Mrs Hurn. The minister, Rev Matt Smith welcomed everyone to the recital, and the audience heard songs from the Red Rose Singers and Richard Hooper, whilst Kate Prescott spoke of the humble beginnings of the village chapel and Charlotte Rumble explained the connection between Methodism and the Industrial Revolution.

The restored violin will be loaned annually to a young person who wishes to embark on a career in music but lacks a suitable instrument on which to play, and the successful applicant will be chosen through a competitive process in partnership with the Lancashire Schools Music Service. The violin was then played for the first time in public by Alex Stemp, who performs regularly with leading orchestras including the Hallé. She was partnered on viola by David Aspin, a 'local lad' and Principal Viola with Orchestra of Opera North, who has performed and recorded with many of our top national orchestras. Alex and David played the Mozart Duets and were given a well-deserved standing ovation at the end of their performance.

The weekend came to a conclusion with a "Born in Song" Heritage Service on the Sunday afternoon, led by Revd. Phil Gough, Chair of the Lancashire Methodist District, and attended by around 40 people.

Useful numbers

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Electricity Emergency	101
Gas Emergency	0800 195 4141
United Utilities (Water)	0800 111 999
Hyndburn Borough Council (Emerg)	03456 723723
Hyndburn Dog Warden	0800 587 5273
Homewise	01254 388111
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Up for a Challenge!

So back in June at the Hyndburn Business Awards I was asked by the Threlfall family of Threlfall's Farm Dairies did I want to go and Milk a Cow! Obviously I accepted who wouldn't, not everyday you get asked to do this. I asked if I could bring along Sara Britcliffe our Local MP for Hyndburn and Haslingden

Sara nominated me for a Local media champions Award at No.10 Downing Street so I thought I would invite her for something different.

An early start at 6.30 am on a Friday morning we were shown around the farm and had turns in milking the Cows what an experience, we even saw a baby Calf that had just been born 10 minutes earlier. A lovely morning watching the experts at their work on the farm that we just take for granted having our milk every day.

So Thank You to the Threlfall family for a fantastic opportunity.

Have you got something different for me to have a try?

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In the UK clocks go back 1 hour at 2am on Sunday 29th October when British Summer Time (BST) ends.

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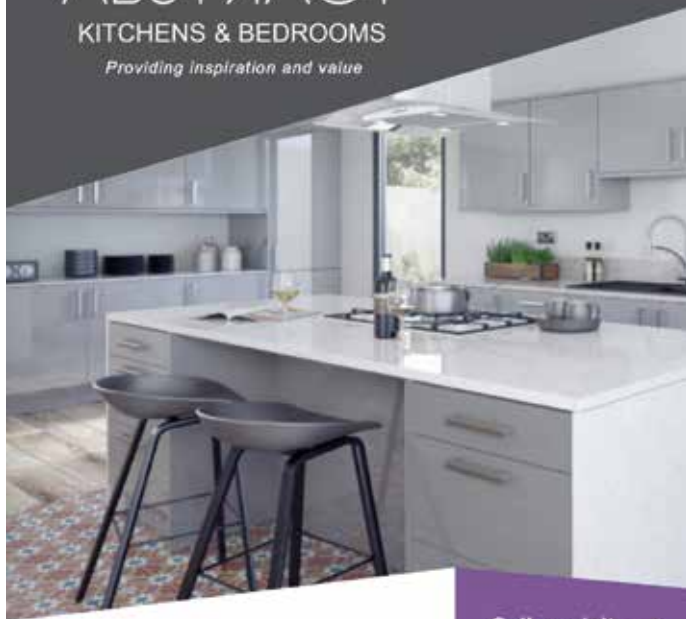
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Local Rotary Club help out on the international stage

For the past 20 years Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary have been very involved in humanitarian aid for under developed countries. The first project started in 2002 when the late Fred Pickering who through his daughter (who was working in Uganda) identified an area in Uganda who were sorely short of medical equipment.

At the time the old Queen's Park hospital was closing down and wanted to off load very many items ranging from beds to all sorts of medical equipment, they just wanted it shifting quickly. With around 20 volunteers from Rotary over a matter of 2 weeks 2 x 40 foot trailers were loaded up and delivered direct to Uganda.

The next project was in Nepal when President George Blenkinsip became involved in a village in Nepal where drinking water had to be carried by hand from the lower reaches from the mountain area to where they were living. After getting funds from many Rotary clubs in Lancashire and Cumbria sufficient finance had been raised to install a pumping system to raise the water direct to the village. In addition a toilet block was built for the local school. The project took 3 years to complete.

The present project headed up by Rotary International Chairman Harun Miah identified an area in Bangladesh who were in a desperate need for many people to have eye treatment so they could see again and also the need for Low Cost Housing. Harun knew well the poorest area in the town of Syhlet and together with the local Rotary in the Syhlet club, plans were put in place for Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary to organise and finance the low cost housing and provide eye camps where they could be treated by eye specialists.

Over the last 3 years over 3,000 people were treated in a total of 6 eye camps which gave people the ability to see again, and also where needed, supply them with reading glasses which Harun had arranged to be sent to Syhlet from Hyndburn.

Harun, visited Syhlet many times during the past 3 years in connection with the building of 3 low cost houses, and the eye camps which recently both were completed. Syhlet Rotary and the local media have very much highlighted the work that Harun has done and he is very much valued by the people of Syhlet.

A very impressive project, and Harun deserves the highest praise. Furthermore Harun has also arranged to send to Syhlet educational material to the local schools and has provided wheelchairs to the disabled.

The photos show the appreciation of the people of Syhlet in respect of what Harun has done for them.

Acorn Tax



The Family Research Centre at 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle is on your doorstep - and it's FREE.

The volunteers that run the Centre are ready and willing to help with your family history research. If you think you have come to an end and don't know where to turn, then the family history detectives might have the answer. Why not give it a go? The Centre is open each Thursday and the first Saturday of every month from 1pm - 5pm. There is also a family history group which meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Accrington Sea Cadets, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LT. The meeting commences at 7pm. There is also a group that meet at Blackburn on the first Thursday on each month at 7.30pm at Ewood Park Working Men's Club 318 Bolton Road Blackburn BB2 4HY.

When researching our family histories there are a great range of different types of records to consider. Have you thought of checking tax records? Benjamin Franklin famously did say that in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes. He was not thinking of family historians, but have you looked at the following tax records?

Land tax, Hearth tax, Poll tax, Window Tax

You may remember the recent Poll Tax we had to pay, but this type of taxation was not new. In 1660 a married couple had to pay 6d each and single people aged 16 and over 1/- each. Depending on your social status and the value of your estate, you may have had to pay more but there were exceptions for the very poor. A copy of the 1660 Poll Tax for this area is available to examine at the Research Centre.

The Window Tax also reminds us of the Revd Peter Walkden who, on 2nd Aug 1729 recorded in his diary, that the window assessor (who was referred to as the window peeper) was in the area and had informed him that as he had 10 windows he must brick up one of them or otherwise pay 6s per year (equivalent to £3.500). This tax was only abolished in 1851.

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle and www.lfhhs.org





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Autumn is a delightful season with colourful leaves, crisp air, and exciting festivities. As a responsible dog owner, it's essential to be aware of potential dangers that arise during this time of year, particularly during Halloween and Bonfire Night. Let's explore some tips to ensure the safety and well-being of our dogs

Halloween Precautions: Dressing Up and Dog Body Language

While it may seem adorable to dress up our four-legged pals in Halloween costumes, it's important to understand that not all dogs appreciate or tolerate fancy dress. Pay close attention to your dog's body language to gauge their comfort level. Signs of distress can include lip licking, yawning, tense body posture, or attempts to remove the costume. In such cases, it's best to skip the costume and opt for alternative ways to celebrate.

Halloween Hazards: Sweets and Decorations

Keep a watchful eye to prevent your dog from getting hold of any Halloween treats. Chocolate, sweets, and some artificial sweeteners are toxic to dogs. Additionally, decorations such as candles, string lights, and dangling Halloween props can pose choking hazards or cause burns if accidentally knocked over. Keep these items out of your dog's reach or opt for pet-friendly decorations.

Bonfire Night: Prepare Your Pooch

Remember, Bonfire Night celebrations can be quite unsettling for our dogs. Loud noises, fireworks, and crowded places can make them anxious and distressed. Create a safe and cosy space in your home where your dog can retreat to during the festivities.

Secure Your Dog on Bonfire Night

During Bonfire Night, ensure that all windows and doors are securely closed to prevent your dog from escaping. Draw curtains or blinds to minimize the noise and flashes from the fireworks. If your dog is particularly fearful, consider using white noise, calming music, or soundproofing techniques to create a tranquil environment.

Consult Your Vet

If you anticipate that your dog may struggle with the noise and excitement of Bonfire Night, consult your vet. They may recommend using calming products, pheromone diffusers, or even medications to alleviate anxiety. Never medicate your dog without proper guidance from a qualified professional.

By being prepared and considerate, you can ensure a safe and enjoyable autumn for both you and your furry companion. Pay attention to your dog's needs, read their body language, and take the necessary precautions to keep them safe during Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Remember, your furry friend relies on you for their care and well-being. With a little extra effort, we can all enjoy the autumn festivities while keeping our dogs happy, healthy, and out of harm's way. Stay safe, and have a woof-tastic autumn!

Good luck

Marcia Ashworth, BA (Hons) IMDT




Hello everyone, I'd like to introduce myself & my business for everyone that may need my services. My name is Tamsin and I run a business called 'Paws & Ponies' where I offer house/pet sitting services. I've been working at 'Oswaldtwistle Doggy Daycare' for 7 yrs. I am a qualified animal carer & have a genuine love and understanding of dogs & ponies.

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- Your house will be cleaned and tidied.

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Moffats Photographers and The Bay Horse Hotel c1910



Church Street c1900



Church Street shops

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100 years Past to Present



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Peel Street present



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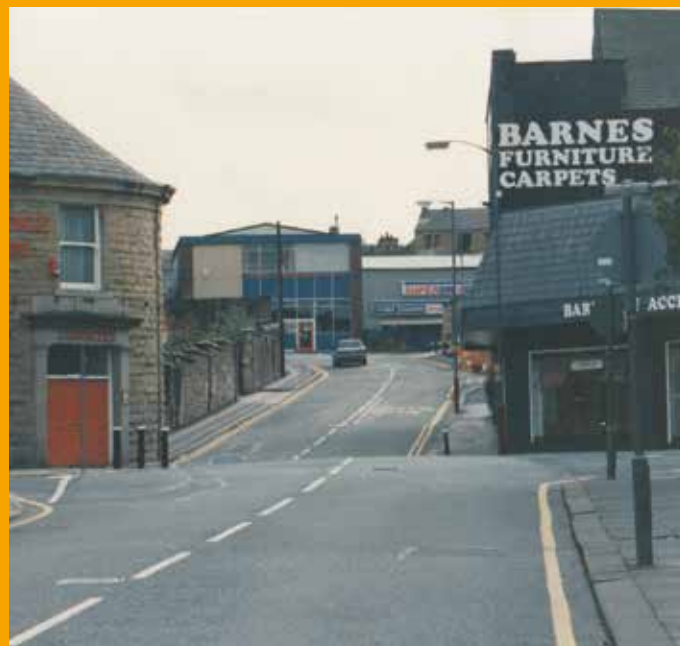
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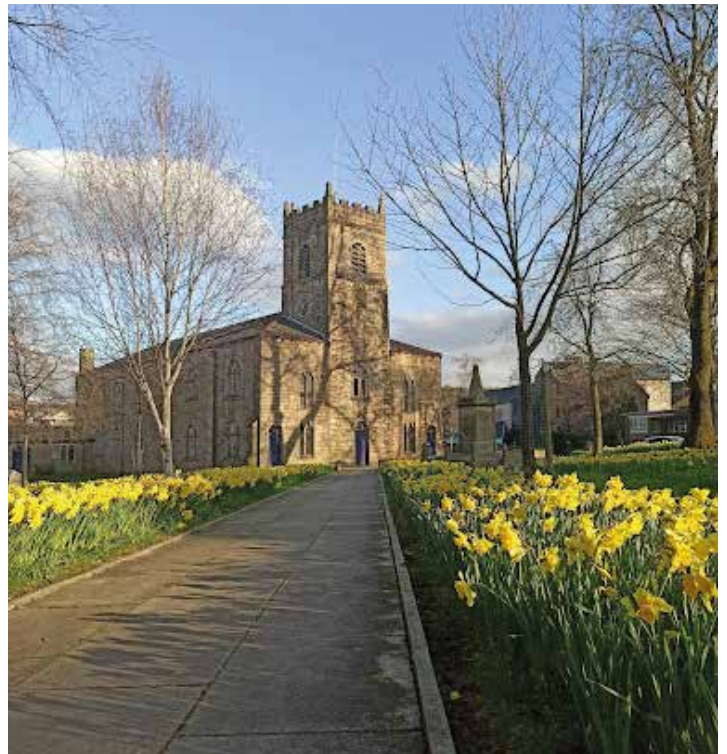


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Enterprising Accrington

— Ellison Street

When Accrington's electric tramcars were withdrawn as the system closed in stages, those not sold to other operators or dismantled by Accrington Corporation were disposed of for 'other' uses. Put to good purpose some bodies were sold to local people, the asking price being as little as £5 each. They were utilised by their new owners in several ways, on allotments as greenhouses or henhouses, with others used by local sporting teams as temporary changing rooms. Some survived up until the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the depression of the early 1930s, Howard & Bullough whose buildings dominated the skyline of Accrington, had placed its large workforce on short-time. A couple of enterprising engineers decided to put the factory foundry to use and produced some metal setts to be laid in the manner of cobbles along the surface of a road. In October 1931 at a meeting of the General Works Committee they discussed the proposals for the reconstruction of 5 square yards of roadway on Abbey Street. This experiment would involve the laying of these cast-iron blocks onto a concrete foundation. A quotation for the manufacture and delivery from the works of H&B was considered. It was resolved the Borough Surveyor should oversee their laying at the length and width agreed for the price quoted, and that the permission of the County Council's Highways Department should be gained before this work was undertaken. Having received the go-ahead from the County's Highways Committee, a section of these blocks was laid along a central strip on Abbey Street from its junction with Plantation Street/Oak Street to beyond Black Abbey Street, as part of the replacement of the double tram track.

Unfortunately, despite having a serrated upper surface, they proved to be too slick when wet for an application of the brakes to be totally effective. How long they would have remained in use if successful cannot be established, as they were quickly lifted when the experiment proved unsuccessful. This strip was known colloquially as the 'Iron Road'.

In February 1952 the General Manager reported that two fitters working in the Transport Department, E. Pilkington and J. Hartley, had suggested modifications to the brake adjusters on the Leyland buses purchased by Accrington. This he had forwarded to Leyland Motors for their approval. Later he received from that Company an acknowledgement for forwarding this information, along with an expression of their sincere appreciation. It was resolved to add the Transport Committee's congratulations to these men for the initiative they had displayed in highlighting this matter.

All nine of the War-time Guy Utility buses operated by Accrington went through a programme of refurbishment during the early 1950s. Their engines were overhauled and re-fitted, whilst various other repairs were made to the bodywork with whatever else was required. The programme cost in the region of £1,500 per bus. This was all undertaken by a firm based in Blackburn, Salmesbury Engineering Ltd. The company had been involved in the construction of aircraft during the Second World War, but in peacetime adapted some spare works capacity to carry out repairs to buses, including the modifying of 'Utilities'. These included the replacement of their wooden slatted seating with leather upholstered seats. A quantity of the displaced wooden seats was purchased by Accrington Cricket Club for further use by spectators at their Thorneyholme Ground. Salmesbury Engineering (1961) Ltd closed in April 1971, and is now a site occupied by BAE Systems. (It was at the Salmesbury Factory that Donald Campbell's record-breaking Bluebird was constructed).



The changing room a tram body on bricks, with a team ready for the match



All Leyland number 42 passes over the glistening 'iron road' during testing



Five of the donor wartime Guy 'Utilities' stand on Ellison's Tenement



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Accrington and district Helping Hands Fund (formerly and still officially the 'Accrington Sick Poor Fund')

What is it? Just over 100 years ago, a poor very young Accrington girl called Agnes had both her hands chopped off by her drunken father, in a rage. I personally knew Agnes by visiting her at a care home on Whalley Road, when she was in her later years. She described how she staunched her seriously bleeding arm stumps by forcing them into the carpet until help arrived. This tragedy so caught the popular imagination in Accrington in 1923 that the then mayor opened a fund designed to help with medical treatment, recuperation and food for others locally who might need helping in those days well before the NHS, when any medical treatment had to be paid for. That fund still exists today and is available now for those who are in need- physically

through disability or financially. The aim is to offer a 'Helping Hand' appropriate to the need. It cannot solve all someone's problems- especially not debts.

Who can be helped? This is a very local charity and any beneficiaries must reside within the Borough of Hyndburn. Through the years, the fund has helped towards special wheelchairs, mobility scooters, domestic appliances like fridges, washing machines, cookers, carpets, beds, cupboards, school clothing, and towards respite holidays. The trustees are flexible. Applicants must show they have a need usually for one item /activity that they would have difficulty buying outright themselves but would greatly assist them and their family. Decisions are made by the trustees who meet about every two to three months.

How to apply? Application forms are available from the Administrator- that's me- Mrs Mary-Ann Renton, by telephoning 01200 422062 or by email to maryann.renton2@btinternet.com. Sometimes, when say, a previously homeless person receives accommodation, it comes as an empty 'shell'. In such exceptional situations more than one item may be granted and quickly. Applicants also come through CAB, Homewise, Maundy Relief, Aawaz and through social workers assisting people leaving hospital.



Great Harwood District WI Meeting September 12th 2023

A talk on "Tops and Bottoms" by Karen Livesy, the Manager of Burnley Hospital's Gynaecology team, was very informative about breast and ovarian cancers.

Eight thousand cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed annually in the U K mainly affecting those at least 55 – 60 years old. It is "A silent killer" with symptoms similar to IBS. The symptoms are, or may include, vaginal bleeding after the menopause, abdominal swelling, infections when passing urine; the bowels may be looser or constipated, feeling fuller than normal after eating, acid reflux and fluid in the tummy. The GP should be visited without delay if symptoms occur; there is no screening for this cancer but a ultra scan and the blood test CA125 that detects any cancer cells will be used. Those with a family history of cancer may get it younger and also anyone who has had breast cancer is at higher risk.

Breast Cancers can affect men as well as women particularly if there is a family history.

There is a screening programme for up to the age of 70 though older people can ask their GP or ring the Breast Clinic if they want a screening.

With the help of a mannequin that had some of the characteristics of breast cancer, Karen described possible symptoms and how to find them by pressing on with the fingers to feel for lumps over the breast, neck clavicle and armpit areas monthly. Lumps may just be fibroids but other signs of possible cancer include discharge from the nipple and unusual skin appearance.

The next speaker meeting will be held from 7pm to 9 pm on Tuesday 10th October at Trinity URC Methodist Church on King Street in Great Harwood. During the meeting Judy Beeston will give a talk on "An evening with Edith Rigby, First Lady of Lancashire W.I."

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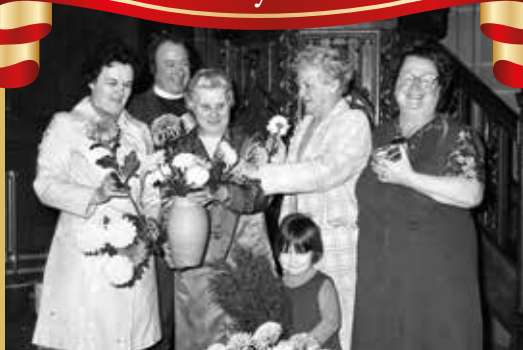
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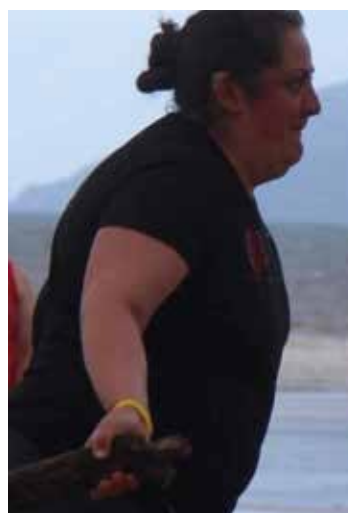
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An inspiration to all women!



Two years ago, Bex Faragher decided to come and support Scott and Annabel in their new venture at Fairfield Boxing Club in Accrington. She just wanted to get a bit fitter and lose some weight for a healthier future with her wife, Ali. As an outdoor education instructor and Team GB white water rafter, she was no stranger to hard work and activity, but this was something different. She joined the SITHI fitness circuit class (Social Interaction Through Healthy Initiatives) and absolutely loved it. She wasn't convinced she would be any good at boxing, but signed up to the Ladies only class just to give it a go. And give it a go she did! By her own admission, she wasn't the quickest, but as a new coach, Annabel quickly realised her power and potential and encouraged her to try the mixed adults classes as well, run by Scott. The rest is history. Once a week of tentatively dipping her toe into the world of fitness has gradually become a way of life for Bex, who weighed 106 kg on her first weigh in. When the opportunity arose for her to take part in a boxing bout, Scott told her that if she got down to 88kg, he would be able to match her. That was 6 fights ago - she now weighs 65 kg, is an undisputed winner and has a North West Female Area title belt to her name. The weight has gone, but the power and drive remain and she is improving by the week, now getting ready for bout number 7. Her wife Ali, also part of the Team GB rafting team, has been there every step of the way, on her own fitness journey through SITHI and the Ladies only class, and has lost over a stone in weight herself. Both feeling at their fitness best, they competed in the European Championships in the Czech Republic in August and came away with a staggering six bronze medals and two silver medals each, as a team. Not only retaining their commitment to both sports, they insist that the reason they were able to make the podium so many times was that their raft weighed nearly 8 stone less than previous years! This is not a story about weight loss, it's a continuing source of inspiration for those people who aren't sure where to start but want to be part of a club who can encourage you to love your journey. Scott and Annabel welcome people from all backgrounds, of all ages and are committed to providing a community club that can offer something for everyone, from boxing to yoga. New members are always welcome, from whole families to individuals!



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OFFICIAL ACCRINGTON STANLEY SUPPORTERS TRUST

Part of the aims of the Official Accrington Stanley Supporters Trust (OASST) is to serve and assist our local communities and this month we're highlighting two events the Trust is organising to support the people in the borough.

On Saturday 7th October, we held our annual Jack Barrett Sponsored Walk with our intrepid walkers setting off from Bury FC's Gigg Lane ground at 7am to complete the 13 plus mile journey to the Wham Stadium, Accrington. Our walkers arrived back in Accrington at around 1pm, in good time for a some refreshment in Coley's before watching the game with Forest Green Rovers. This year's walk sees monies being raised for the Hyndburn Food Pantry.

Hyndburn is one of the most disadvantaged areas in the UK and food security is a serious issue for nearly 40% of the borough. Hyndburn is listed as the 34th most income-deprived in England with almost one fifth of the population listed as being out of work or on low incomes. It's these alarming figures that make the Hyndburn Food Pantry such a notable and worthy cause to support, as Stacy and the team at the Food Pantry work to help people in our borough who are struggling in some way in providing food for themselves and their families.

Since opening in October 2022, the Food Pantry has supported over 8,000 people and provided over 50,000 weekly shops. As we prepare for the colder weather and with Christmas looming, any monies raised through the walk sponsorship will go a long way in helping the Food Pantry. There is still time to donate any amount that you are able to, by emailing fundraising@onstanleyon.com.

Another important event in our calendar is the annual Remembrance Service. The service will be led by Debra Phillips, Accrington Stanley's club chaplain and will take place at 1pm on Sunday 12th November in the Memorial Garden at the Wham Stadium. All are welcome to attend, where a piper from Accrington Pipe Band will be on hand to add to the respectful atmosphere of the service.

If you'd like any more information on the OASST, please visit onstanleyon.com, where you can also find out a little more about and a link to the Hyndburn Food Pantry.



Local Companies come together to sponsor Accrington Stanley Football College Teams

Three local companies have all pitched in to sponsor Accrington Stanley Community Trust's Football College Teams for the 2023/24 Season.

Ainsworths Accountants, Readstone Construction and Thorne Fire & Security have each become a front of shirt sponsor on the three teams. The teams will represent Accrington Stanley Community Trust in the National Youth Alliance and CEFA Leagues, playing against the likes of Manchester United and Manchester City.

Martin Fearon, CEO of Accrington Stanley Community Trust said: "We are delighted to welcome three local companies as front of shirt sponsor for our college teams. They have all funded a full playing kit for each team which is very generous and enables our players to play in the new Macron replica Accrington Stanley kit."

Mick Heys, Director at Ainsworths Accountants added: "The Stanley Sports Hub is a tremendous facility for Accrington and we're delighted to be able to sponsor the college teams who play there. We wish them the best for the season and in their future careers." Simon Whittam, Director at Readstone Construction commented: "We have worked with Accrington Stanley Community Trust in the past and have built the fantastic new facilities for them, they do a great job in the community, and we just wanted to give something back to them and help in any way we could. Good luck for the season, and hope the Trust can go from strength to strength."

Tom Bradley, Business Development Manager at Thorne Fire & Security added: "We're happy to be supporting a local charity, it's something we do often at Thorne Fire & Security. We've worked with Accrington Stanley Community Trust over the past few years on their security systems at Stanley Sports Hub, and it's great to be able to give back by supporting the college teams."

For more information on the companies, please visit their websites below;

Ainsworths Accountants <https://www.ainsworths.co.uk/>

Readstone Construction <https://www.readstoneconstruction.com/>

Thorne Fire & Security <https://thorne.uk.com/>



GYM TIMETABLE

YouTube Instagram Facebook

MONDAY - JUNIORS BOXING (AGE 5+)- 6PM-7:15PM
SENIORS BOXING (AGE 14+) - 7:15PM-8:30PM

TUESDAY - SITHI FITNESS CLASS 6PM - 7:15PM

WEDNESDAY - LADIES ONLY BOXING CLASS
6:30PM-7:30PM

THURSDAY - YOGA - 6:30PM - 7:30PM

FRIDAY - JUNIOR BOXING (AGE 5+)- 5:30PM-6:45PM
SENIORS BOXING (AGE 14+) - 6:45PM - 8PM

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