



# ACORN

## COMMUNITY NEWS

July 2024 Edition

*Gatty Park 100 Years old*



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## Acorn Community News Team

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<b>Hyndburn Borough Council (Emerg)</b>	0800 587 5273
<b>Hyndburn Dog Warden</b>	01254 388111
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## 80th Anniversary D Day Commemorations

On Thursday 6th June 2024 at the cenotaph in Oakhill Park, Accrington. D Day commemorated the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944, which saw the start of the final Second World War campaign to liberate Western Europe and defeat the Nazis.

Town Crier Rawden Kerr read The D-Day Proclamation and students from Hollins Technology College read a D-DAY HEROES Poem for schools. In order to both, pay respects to those who gave their lives, and to give strength to those listening.

Tributes were laid in order to commemorate the fallen soldiers. The service was led by the Mayor, Councillor Mike Booth and other Councillors and dignitaries.

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Plants for all Seasons





# Challenge No.1!

In June at the Hyndburn Business Awards I thanked Threlfall's Farm Dairies for giving me a challenge of Milking a Cow which I did last year with Sara Britcliffe in September. This year I asked if anyone wanted to give me a new challenge.

After the awards I was approached by Anna from MEG Training Solutions to ask if I wanted to learn to drive an HGV Vehicle and reverse it, how could I refuse what a challenge.

I had 2 options of size of vehicle well I was going to this once so the bigger the better. I spent a couple of hours up at their yard in Oswaldtwistle driving and reversing and then I did it all by myself in the cab with onlookers watching. So Challenge 1 completed.

Thank You to Anna & Mark at MEG Training Solutions in Oswaldtwistle and a big Thanks to Mick for his patience in teaching me to drive this big beast on my own. I have another 7 to do shortly so watch this space.

*Have you got a challenge for me give me a call Tracy on 07971 772168*



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## Mayors viewpoint: Councillor Mike Booth

It is my pleasure to accept the mayoral duty for this coming year and I am already enjoying it immensely! Thank you to all for this privilege and I would like to say a big congratulations to my predecessor, Terry Hurn, for the fantastic example he set this past year. Terry and his wife, Jean Hurn, raised an admirable amount of money for their chosen, very worthy charities and he has set some big shoes to fill this year.

We kickstarted the year with an invitation to the Great Harwood Agricultural Show and the Accrington Food and Drink Festival this past week, both of which proved great successes.

Well done to all the people involved in the organisation of the Great Harwood Agricultural Show on Bank Holiday Monday, who put on another fantastic show and were undoubtedly a shining example of not letting a bit of challenging weather dampen a day! This was our first engagement as the Mayor and Mayoress of Hyndburn and we thoroughly enjoyed the event in our wellies. It was brilliant to see that the mud didn't stop the crowds from showing up and it was a good day for dogs, proved well by my loyal companion, Mr Darcy.

There were some brilliant stalls, including local traders, charities, organisations, and community groups. We learnt a lot more about the charity-funded Air Ambulance Service, along with chatting to other voluntary organisations doing brilliant work to tackle health issues, such as Fibromyalgia. I also got a chance to talk to the leader of the Police Cadet Force, who was organising security and mentioned the ACT Street Angels (we are always looking for new volunteers!). Of course, there was a range of locally produced goods, including handmade jewellery, and the Mayoress was especially pleased to come away from one stall with some amber earrings.

It was another spectacular year for the Accrington Food and Drink festival, which was the next engagement I had the pleasure of being invited to. I might be biased, but I thought this was the best one ever! There was plenty of activities going on throughout the day and so many people ventured to Accrington Town Centre for the event - I know the stallholders were happy to see so many faces. Thank you to the Amazing Accrington team for creating this fabulous event and once more putting our food and drink festival out into the wider media. It keeps on getting better and better, and Accrington's Food and Drink festival is most certainly on the map in Lancashire for events to go to in June.

I would like to end by revealing the Mayoress and I's chosen charities for this year, all of which are brilliant and well-worthy causes that I know many will come together to help us support them over the next year. The Mayoress and I will be fundraising for a variety of local causes, including: Accrington Stanley Ladies FC, Hyndburn Crossroads, Carers Link, East Lancashire Hospice, ACT Street Angels, and the MacMillan nurses. It is important to us that the charities this year focus on young people, people with disabilities, and people who contribute to the well-being of the people of Hyndburn, so it is our pleasure to support these charities in every way that we can.

## Campaign Medals



The evolution of medals struck to commemorate, and later to reward participants in, a battle or campaigns was a very gradual process. The first medal awarded to all ranks of the Army was the Waterloo Medal, issued in 1816 shortly after the battle which brought the Napoleonic Wars to an end. Following the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 and the vast number of digital records online has gone a long way to encourage more and more people to find out about their ancestor's military service.

There are several medals associated with The Great War, and one of these was the Memorial Plaque (commonly known as the Death Penny). The plaque shows Britannia bestowing a laurel crown over a rectangle tablet bearing the full name of the dead in raised lettering. In front stands the British Lion, with two dolphins in the upper field (representing British sea power), an oak branch lower right and at the bottom is a second cub tearing apart the German eagle. The inscription round the circumference reads HE (SHE) DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR. A parchment scroll was issued with each plaque giving the deceased's name and unit.

The design of the plaque was the result of a national competition that was won by Edward Carter Preston, of Liverpool. His initials appear above the front paw of the lion. The plaques were initially made at the Plaque Factory at Acton, but they could not keep up with the demand and the production was moved in December 1920 to the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. The Woolwich plaques can be identified by a small circle containing WA on the back and by a number stamped between the tail and a number stamped between the leg and tail of the lion. This illustration shows number 9.

If you need help with researching your military ancestors then the Family Tree Detectives at 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU are willing to help, FREE OF CHARGE. We are open each Thursday and the first Saturday of each month 1pm - 5pm.

For more information see [www.lfhhs.org](http://www.lfhhs.org)

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Over the next 2 months the Acorn will be showcasing 100 years Past to Present  
August - Part 2 on Clayton Le Moors and Altham.  
September - Gatty Park & Elmfield Hall - Frederick Gatty  
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# CHURCH & OSWALDTWISTLE

## 100 years Past to Present

A Big Thank You to Lancashire County Council Red Rose Collection Archive  
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Old Police Station c1900




A Family Affair. Paul & Sarah Barton with Son Matthew, Est 2012.





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## Commemoration Oswaldtwistle D Day Concert 6th June 2024

On Thursday 6th June Church and Oswaldtwistle Branch Royal British Legion was supported in fundraising for the Poppy Appeal by East Lancs. Concert Band when a concert at Immanuel Church, Oswaldtwistle to commemorate the 80 year anniversary of the D Day landings in Normandy.

The evening commenced at 6:30pm when the church bells were rung out for International peace as the audience arrived. East Lancs. Concert Band, led by bandmaster Dale Grindrod, alongside Accrington Pipe Band and The Hyndburn Singers treated the audience to an evening of patriotic and stirring musical pieces paying tribute to all who fell during the Normandy landings 1944 or were affected by the conflict of WW2. Accrington & District Sea Cadets read out the International Tribute and provided lanterns as a symbol of hope and peace wherever there is conflict.

Honoured guests included Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire Mrs Louise Copper, Worshipful Mayor of Hyndburn Cllr Booth and many other civic guests from across East Lancashire.

Over £1,329.00 was raised during the event and this money was donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, money from which is used all year round to support past and current members of our UK Armed Forces Community. Thank you to all who supported the event.



## Raising of the flag Oswaldtwistle War Memorial Monday 24th June

Royal British Legion, Church & Oswaldtwistle

Would like to thank all that attended with a special acknowledgement Remembering Kosovo 25 years on



## 100 years young Alvin Ansell!

I first met Alvin on June 6th at the Oakhill Park Monument for the 80th Anniversary D Day Service. A 99-year-old war hero who played a significant role in the 1944 landings marked D-Day with a concert featuring wartime music.

Alvin Ansell, who is a resident of Braeside Home For The Elderly in Oswaldtwistle, commemorated the day of remembrance with a concert at the home, taking him back to his war days. Alvin, who will turn 100 on July 17th, worked as an office-boy for his first job in a large printing press, Henderson and Spalding in Peckham.

He used to cycle to work through the chaos of the previous night's bombing raid to reach the office by 8.30am. One day he was told to deliver some proofs to Camberwell Town Hall and as he was returning to the office through the back streets, he arrived in the Asylum Road area just in time to meet a lone, low-flying German bomber on its escape route after having just bombed Buckingham Palace.

The plane dropped an oil-filled incendiary bomb which landed in the front garden of a terraced house. He said: "I watched helplessly as the little dwelling began to go up in flames.

"I had to get back to the office on time and I remember feeling surprised when no-one there asked why my face and clothes were all sooty. It was not long after this that I arrived at work one morning to find that the presses and office had received a direct hit in the raid overnight.

"Father decided it was getting too dangerous in London so he moved us out to the comparative safety of Chelmsford in Essex."

He joined the Home Guard battalion and was issued with a khaki uniform and an old Lee Enfield .303 rifle with a clip of five bullets, to be used only in case of invasion, which was at that time considered imminent.

The battalion were trained to man and operate the new anti-aircraft rocket firing installations which were being put up to defend London. Alvin volunteered for the Royal Navy and, at the start of 1943, he completed his training at the famous old stone frigate HMS Ganges near Harwich and then went on a specialist training course in radar, which was at that time a new and secret weapon.

He was directed to HMS Victory at Portsmouth and from there was sent on to become the then Lieutenant Commander Peter Scott's radar operator on his flotilla leading Alvin remembers the Grey Goose lying in the harbour at Newhaven from where the steam gunboats operated, attacking German coastal convoys off the coast of Occupied France.

He continued: "We had several aggressive encounters with the German convoys and their well-armed escorts and our crews began to feel that it would not be long before something really nasty occurred.

"This event duly arrived on a balmy night in late September and we on Grey Goose were extremely lucky to get home again. When the time came for the invasion of Europe we were allocated to the United States sector and helped protect the Normandy bridgehead from D-Day onwards.

"This gave me a good view of the colossal battle to get ashore, especially at Omaha Beach. An abiding memory from that time is of the bodies of dead soldiers rolling in the Channel swell, surprisingly accompanied by a huge drift of little sachets of Nescafe floating among them."

After a couple of brushes with the gallant German E-Boat squadron, still operating against overwhelming odds from their base in Cherbourg, they were so badly damaged in the Great Storm that they had to leave the beachhead invasion.

On their journey back to Southampton in mountainous seas, they had the misfortune to have one of their gunners washed overboard. Despite searching for an hour or more he was never seen again.

At Southampton they were sent on leave and paid off.

Alvin then was drafted to the Mediterranean to become radar operator on a brand new Motor Torpedo Boat which had just arrived in Malta from the United States on a liberty ship.

Alvin said: "This superb little British-designed craft also provided me with the very latest type of radar set and its efficiency and accuracy gave us a great advantage over the German convoy defence vessels as we attacked at night and sank them off the Yugoslav coast and the Istrian Peninsula.

"Although still dangerous, this was a much more comfortable sort of war than that which I had left in the English Channel. I was, in a way, sad when it ended in May 1945 with the surrender of all German forces in Europe.

"Before I was sent home for demobilisation I had to endure an unpleasant and boring month or two on a Fleet minesweeper, ploughing up and down off the North African coast clearing up some of the dangerous areas we and the Germans and Italians had left behind."

When the war ended Alvin became a farm labourer on an Agricultural farm he later married and has a daughter Stephanie & 2 Grandchildren.

In Retirement Alvin came to Lancashire to visit his Brother Colin where a meal had been arranged where he met Joan, love blossomed and he later married for the 2nd time and gained 4 step children Lesley, Maureen, Sandra and John.

Alvin loved to sing in the choir at St Paul's Church, Accrington and also sang with the Hyndburn Singers and the Conchord singers and loved visiting the Civic Theatre and other concert halls.

Alvin settled down in Braeside Home for the Elderly in Oswaldtwistle in 2022 and now enjoys relaxing writing and reading.

July 17th Alvin celebrates his 100 years Birthday if anyone wants to send him a card to the home.



# ELMFIELD HALL & GATTY PARK

## 100 years Past to Present

### Gattys Gift

In September 1919 Victor Herbert Gatty, a textile dyeing industrialist based near Preston, wrote to Church Urban District Council on the occasion of the centenary of his late father's birth. He made an offer of his former family home, Elmfield Hall, Hyndburn Road, Church and its extensive grounds as a gift to the community along with £500 for its upkeep. This, he and his family hoped, would be of 'permanent benefit to the township'.

On 26th June 1920 Gatty Memorial Park and Elmfield Hall Museum and Reading Room opened to the public. The Accrington Observer described the celebrations as 'A Great Day for Church' with processions along the surrounding streets, displays of 'girl Morris dancers in pink and yellow', the local Fire Brigade on parade and speeches from local dignitaries.

The museum featured diverse objects from Frederick Albert Gatty's own collections including textile prints from his and other local textile business archives, taxidermy, fossils and family photographs.

A century later a community project, Gatty's Gift: A Centenary of Colour and Community, based at Elmfield Hall and now home to Community Solutions North West was supported with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the generosity of National Lottery players. Project volunteers took part in online sessions between June 2020 and April 2021. As part of this process, they engaged in a programme of skills-based learning in research, oral history interviewing and recording and exhibition interpretation and design. They also co-curated an exhibition at the Haworth Art Gallery, which due to Covid-19 restrictions was initially shown online.

*Watch out in the September Edition we will be focusing on Elmfield Hall & Frederick Gatty!*



### Community Solutions Northwest Summer Fair Success

Hyndburn based charity Community Solutions Northwest hosted their annual summer fair on Saturday 22nd June with huge success, the day aimed at raising money for the charity included funfair rides, charity stalls, circus workshops, entertainment from local dance groups and school choirs, food, drinks, and ice cream van.

The event, which was attended by approximately 1500 people, including The Mayor and Mayoress of Hyndburn the local police, fire, and ambulance services, other local charities, and local companies.

The raffle gave visitors the chance to win a fantastic range of prizes with the star prize of an Electric Bike.

Chris Emmerson, Enterprise Development Manager for Community Solutions Northwest, said, the day was a huge success, thank you to all the people who supported the event, and all the visitors on the day, together we raised over £5000 for our charity, which will help support our community.

*For more information on the support Community Solutions offer please visit [csnw.co.uk](http://csnw.co.uk), email [info@csnw.co.uk](mailto:info@csnw.co.uk), or call 01254 460080.*



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# Oswaldtwistle Carnival

The rain came but it didn't dampen the spirits of the folk of Oswaldtwistle!

Around 5000 people attended the parade which started with Town Crier Rawden Kerr and Accrington Pipe Band leading the parade which started on Harvey Street, travelled along Thwaites Road, down Union Road and then back to Harvey Street for a fun packed family fun day on White Ash Playing fields. There was music from Suco Samba, Community Groups and Huncoat United. On the field there was the Imperial Storm Troopers which the crowd loved, Dinosaurs greeted guests, and families got to play free mini golf. Over 60 stalls attended and they all had a great day despite the weather.

Historia Normandis had re-enactment shows & Local business IMEP International sponsored the stage with performances from Morgan Halliwell, Lucy Hinchcliffe, A princess and pirate show, React Academy, Emma Louise Cheerleaders and 1980's Band Radio Active.



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2024

HYNDBURN  
BUSINESS AWARDS

# HBA24 a huge hit!



We are delighted to announce that you can now meet our Hyndburn Business Awards 2024 Winners on our website and on our Facebook page too. It was absolutely wonderful to celebrate with all our Finalists and Guests on 13 June at the Mercure Dunkenhalgh Hotel, huge thanks to everyone that attended and well done to all Finalists.

Massive congratulations to all our Winners, especially to Rebecca Hodgson and the fantastic team of staff and volunteers at Carers Link Lancashire who took home the Beacon Award for most inspiring entry across the whole awards competition!

*All photos were taken by the Liz Henson Photography team.*

We'd like to say a Hyndburn sized thank you to everyone who was part of the awards this year. Whether you shared our posts, nominated businesses, entered, got shortlisted, attended the ceremony, won, judged, volunteered, sponsored the awards, or supported us in any other way, we are grateful to each and every one of you for helping make HBA24 a success. We do hope you've enjoyed the Nomination Stories on Facebook too, we love knowing the reason behind your nominations.

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# Accrington's Ambulance Service - part 2

— by Ellison Street

During 1933 it was resolved that ambulance stock held should be transferred from the Tramway's accounts to the Omnibus Department's account, to be shown as an asset without liability, including the Motor Ambulance at £8/5s/0p. In February a communication was received from the local St. John Ambulance Association, thanking the Council for concessions granted for using the ambulance, but stating they were no longer able to meet any increased charges for people resident outside the Borough. They gave notice to the Council that their agreement would be terminated on February 28th. It was resolved that having received notice of this termination they would approach the Watch, Public Lighting and Fire Brigade Committees, to ascertain whether they would consider taking over the ambulance service at a convenient date. In May the Town Clerk submitted correspondence to the Council from Rishton UDC asking if the Watch Committee would be willing to enter an agreement for use of the ambulance when required. In July it was resolved the Corporation would enter into an agreement for use of the ambulance when it was available, at a charge of 7s/6p per journey between Accrington and Rishton, or from Accrington to Blackburn with a return to Rishton. They also considered an application from Accrington & District Workpeople's Fund on this issue, together with a report from the Chief Constable on the subject of providing ambulance services. It was ultimately resolved that before going any further, the Borough Treasurer, the GM and the Chief Constable should prepare a financial statement of the costs of running the service during the past year, whilst taking into account the possibility of having additional ambulances in the future.

At a meeting of the Watch Committee in November, the Town Clerk produced a letter from the Ministry of Health, deploring the exchanging of patients between ambulances at the Borough's boundaries due to a lack of reciprocal arrangements between neighbouring authorities, instead of one ambulance carrying patients on a through journey to and from any hospital. He replied, "That this practice was not in operation in Accrington and they already had agreements with neighbouring authorities that worked quite satisfactorily". The Chief Constable reported in his opinion, a new ambulance was required and he was authorised to obtain quotations from manufacturers for presenting to future meetings, so that the costs might be included in estimates for the coming year. In December he reported in accordance with instructions, he had now obtained quotations for the supply of a new ambulance for inclusion in the budget for 1934/35.

Incomes from the ambulance service were in 1920/21 £278, 1921/22, £239, 1922/23 £179, 1923/24, £166. But losses were in 1927/28 -£8, 1928/29 -£30. 1929/30 -£34, 1930/31 -£55, 1931/32 -£51

The Watch Committee met in January 1934 to examine tenders for the supply of this new vehicle. A Sub-Committee inspected a number of vehicles, before the Chairman and Vice-Chair made the final choice by resolving to purchase a Du Cros. The GM reported that as a consequence of relocating the ambulance to the Fire Station on Saturday May 19th, it would be necessary to consider the position of its driver. After the Chief Constable voiced his views it was resolved that driver Williams would be released from the Transport Department, with a view to being re-employed in this capacity at the Fire Station at a wage of 3 guineas per week. This coincided with the

transferring of the vehicle.

Due to the War in July 1939 the GM was preparing plans for two single deck buses to be adapted as 'emergency ambulances', at a cost of approximately £10 each. If approved this change of use could be effected within two hours. It was resolved to accept his suggestion and resolved that these could be incorporated into one of the Civil Defence Committee's schemes. However only one, an all-Leyland LT1 with 32-seat body (number 63 registered TF 1508), was re-configured to give greater accessibility to stretchers only to be used as an 'auxiliary' ambulance in the event of sudden emergencies.

The Town Clerk reported in November 1944 the old Austin Ambulance, which had been on loan to the Civil Defence Service, was now at the bus garage for a mechanical examination. In this connection the GM reported that it was no longer suitable for further use in this capacity, suggesting that it might be put to good use as a 'staff' vehicle. It was resolved the Committee were prepared to offer the sum of £30 to purchase this vehicle. By October 1948 this and a 'considerable amount of ancillary equipment' was available for disposal at the bus garage, as this service had now passed into the hands of the newly established National Health Service.



The bus selected for use as an auxiliary ambulance on normal service (C. Carter)



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## Local Social club donates to sick childrens charity

Derian House is extremely grateful for another £2000 raised at the Stanhill Social Club in Oswaldtwistle. The children, Parents and staff at Derian House Hospice would like to Thank Angela & Roy Penswick fundraisers at the Stanhill, the Staff members, the serving DJs the hard work and diligence for their fantastic support as always.

If any members of the public would like to donate please contact the Stanhill Social Club on

01254 233939 or email [stanhillsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:stanhillsocialclub@gmail.com)

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## Hyndburn Ramblers

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 on Wednesdays are about 7 miles or 10 miles.

Walks in July include Silverdale 11 miles, Irwell Vale and Peel Tower 10 miles, Sawley 9 miles.

Walks in August include Pendle Hill from the Nick 10 miles, Linton 11 miles.

Contact Pauline Hughes 07544 516116

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

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## Garth's Memory Corner



C&O Inner Wheel Day Trip, July 1968



Accrington Conservative Club, January 1972

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# HYNDBURN SOUND

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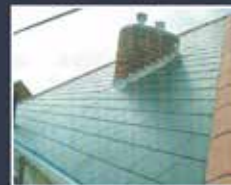
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## Oswaldtwistle Carnival

The eagerly awaited Oswaldtwistle Carnival which was held last Sunday (9th June) was hoping the weather would hold fine but sadly despite the Carnival being held in the middle of summer the start of the day could hardly have been any worse!

Because of safety precautions numerous floats had to be cancelled as indeed had Rhyddings Park as conditions under foot may have resulted in accidents.

Nevertheless conditions improved mid morning and the Carnival was resited on the fields behind Harvey Street which fortunately was not waterlogged.

A lot of hard work and planning had seen many hours spent on making this Carnival a success and the local Rotary club had many meetings with the dedicated Carnival committee made up of volunteers from various groups like Rhyddings Park, local people and Barton and Hallworth - such a shame the rain did its best to spoil the day.

On the brighter side the conditions from mid day allowed the Carnival to proceed fairly normally with all the amusements and sideshows now safely operating from Harvey Street. The human fruit machine sideshow borrowed from St Annes Rotary club was very popular and Sara Britcliffe went on the machine for an hour to help out

Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary President Dawn Taylor said "Rotarians from our club turned out in force to help man the sideshows and generally help the Carnival to have a grand afternoon, and despite the weather the event can be said was a reasonable success. Maybe in two years time when the next Carnival is planned the rains will stay away. Proceeds from the Rotary sideshow will be sent to aid the Rotary Brazil Flood Appeal"

## Oak Fest unveils local talent stage and lineup

- Supporting musicians from the surrounding area
- The Ossy Fest Introducing Stage hosted by Ossy Fest
- Six independent, local artists will take to the stage, including local band The Ruby Tuesdays and folk singer/songwriter Maelor Hughes
- OAK FEST, Lancashire's newest music festival, has unveiled a brand new stage spotlighting local talent : The Ossy Fest Introducing Stage.
- Curated by Ossy Fest, a community festival hosted in the neighbouring Oswaldtwistle which supports Lancashire's burgeoning music scene and raises money for free music lessons, the new for 2024 second stage will spotlight a whole host of fresh, local talent from Accrington and beyond.
- The confirmed lineup includes:
  - The Ruby Tuesdays - A rock'n'roll quartet whose sound has been described as "uncompromising, dystopian blue-rock from Blackburn".**
  - Maelor Hughes - Accrington-based independent solo artist with a sound that has been coined as "an energetic twist on traditional folk".**
  - Lanterns - A trio of melodic guitars, addictive rhythmic drums, and heavenly vocals, coming together to form an indie dream pop band.**
  - The Social - Up-and-coming indie-pop quintet who formed at Burnley College and have been going from strength to strength ever since.**
  - Brother Bastion - Blackburn based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for a distinct folk-punk sound.**
  - Kayleigh Hall - Rossendale-born singer and songwriter who's latest single 'Where I Was' was recently played by BBC Music Introducing for Lancashire and Cumbria.**

Set amongst the beautiful 21.4 acre park, OAK FEST is returning for its second year. It's a full day out with admission from 11.00am and it's also easy to get to with a free shuttle bus running to the park directly from Accrington train station.

As well as the fantastic local talent, the exciting line up includes international touring artists including Kate Nash. Other acts taking to the stage include Manchester legends Bez and Rowetta, local Accrington lads BB5, Amsterdam indie pop powerhouse Pip Blom and New Orleans brass and 90s dance fusion band Mr Wilson's Second Liners.

Lucy Dugate, Head of Culture and Heritage for Hyndburn, said:

"We are delighted to announce the lineup of the Ossy Fest Introducing Stage for OAK FEST 2024. OAK FEST is part of a vision to make Hyndburn a place where guests can experience some of the best culture in the UK. As well as attracting established headliners, such as Kate Nash, to OAK FEST, it was equally important to give some of the incredible emerging local talent born here in Accrington a chance to shine. Our goal is to establish a creative eco system, where nationally recognised artists and high profile events can work together with homegrown talent that is supported by grassroots investment. Gig lovers - this stage is for you. We'll see you at the park!"

Joe Bamford, Ossy Fest organiser, added:

"We're excited to showcase some of Lancashire's best musical talent on The Ossy Fest Introducing Stage at OAK FEST this year. We help the learners in our schools who benefit from free tuition, including BB5 who will take to the main stage at OAK FEST this year. BB5 received free lessons from funds raised from Ossy Fest last year, proving how important our support for grassroots artists and venues are. We have a shared goal to help our towns become self-sustainable in the arts, creating and supporting our own acts, which encourages others and develops a scene to support local venues."

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# OFFICIAL ACCRINGTON STANLEY SUPPORTERS TRUST



In a previous edition, we mentioned how extremely proud the Official Accrington Stanley Supporters' Trust (OASST) was to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service which recognises outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. The Trust has amassed almost 7,000 hours of voluntary effort in the past 12 months.

Two recent events celebrated the achievement. The OASST received their King's Award from Mrs Helen Bingley OBE DL JP, The High Sheriff of Lancashire, dressed in full High Sheriff uniform, in a special presentation on the pitch during Accrington Stanley's final game of the 2023/24 season against Tranmere Rovers at the Wham Stadium. Peter Leatham, the OASST chairman and other board members received the honour at half time.

Mrs Bingley said "it is fantastic to see a group of people who care so much about this local community and their local football club. It has been a great privilege to represent the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire on behalf of King Charles by presenting this award to a wider group today. I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit and the wonderful hospitality here at the Wham Stadium"

Andy Holt, chairman of Accrington Stanley added "As a club we are really pleased for the OASST and it really is a great honour for all the fantastic work they do here at Accrington Stanley".

The second event saw Peter Leatham and vice Chairman, Peter Warburton, attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in early May to conclude the King's Award celebrations. They joined about 8,000 other guests in the ground of the palace, which saw the King and Queen in attendance, and strolled through the grounds before enjoying afternoon tea as military bands played a selection of tunes.

Guests formed two corridors as the Royal party emerged from the palace and ambled through the avenue of guests, allowing plenty of photo opportunities.



## Accrington Stanley Community Trust

This Summer we have once again teamed up with Hyndburn Borough Council to ensure that children who receive free school meals have easy access to free lunches and sports activities over the school holidays. Each delivery day will include a healthy lunch and a day of activities including, football, sports, arts & crafts, games, competitions, gardening and lots more.

The Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF) is a government funded project run through local councils and supported by local providers to provide what's needed to help the community. The project aims to make free holiday course places available for children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals during the school holidays aged 6-16.

Our HAF Programme will run Monday – Thursday between 29th July – 22nd August 9am-3pm.

Our project will take place at Stanley Sports Hub, Thorneyholme Road, BB5 6BD from 9-3PM. The children attending will have access to a healthy lunch and sports sessions led by professional coaches in a safe and fun environment.

The project is vital in supporting local families during the school holidays which, for many, is a difficult time due to increased costs and bills. The activities the children can get involved in with the HAF Programme are great for developing skills in a friendly and social environment.

Lee Walsh commented, 'it's brilliant that we are able to offer this support to local families that can find school holidays a difficult time due to increased food bills or childcare cost. HAF has allowed us to increase our offer to those that need it most. Holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children by enabling them to learn new skills, socialise and enjoy healthy food in a safe environment'.

The project follows successful HAF projects ran over the last 3 years, seeing us engage with over 250 families.

To register your child please fill out the form below that will automatically register your child for the full 4 day project (once you have filled out the form, your place is booked)

**If you have any questions please email [info@stanleytrust.co.uk](mailto:info@stanleytrust.co.uk) or call 01254 475013**

## New Play Area Opens at Mercer Park, Clayton-Le-Moors

Hyndburn Borough Council, in collaboration with the Clayton and Altham Prospects Panel and Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum announced the grand opening of the new play area at Mercer Park, Clayton-Le-Moors. This exciting new facility is the result of extensive community consultation and aims to provide a vibrant space for children in the local area and visitors to the park.

The design of the play area was heavily influenced by feedback from local residents and schools. This collaborative effort ensured the final design met the diverse needs and expectations of the community.

The new play area boasts 12 pieces of play equipment, catering to children of various ages and abilities. Key features include a trampoline for high-energy fun; extra swings to accommodate children with different abilities; three slides designed for various age groups; a wheelchair accessible roundabout and an aerial runway, offering an exciting experience for older children.

The project was made possible through generous funding and support from multiple sources. The Lancashire Environment Fund awarded £40,000 to the Clayton and Altham Prospects Panel. In addition, the Council invested a further £125,000 to ensure the community's aspirations for a new, modern play area were fully realised.

Paul Worswick from the Clayton and Altham Prospects Panel expressed his enthusiasm for the project, stating, "The new play area will be a great addition to Mercer Park, ensuring it continues to meet local people's expectations as an award-winning park. We hope that it will become a cherished destination for families, promoting physical activity, social interaction, and community cohesion."

Councillor Kimberley Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage, Parks & Open Spaces said, "The Council is grateful to all those who contributed to the successful completion of this project. We are proud of the parks and green spaces we have to offer across the borough and we want residents to continue to use these great facilities.

Councillor Melissa Fisher, Clayton Le Moors, "The new play area at Mercer Park is now open and ready for children and families to enjoy. We invite everyone to come and explore the new features and the wider facilities of Mercer Park."

Cath Holmes, Chair of Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum and long-standing member of Clayton Le Moors & Altham Prospects Panel said, "We are delighted to have been able to support the Panel and the Council's efforts for improvements at Mercer Park play area. Hyndburn is blessed with a number of Green Flag Parks and fantastic open spaces. We support any investment which improves our local parks.

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