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May 2024 Edition

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Acorn Community News Team

Editor: Tracy Simmonds
Photographs by: Tracy Simmonds and Peter Jones
Interviews and Website: Peter Jones
Printing by: PrintWorthy.co.uk
Artwork by: Brands Inside Out
Email: acornnewsinfo@gmail.com
Contact: Tracy Simmonds, Acorn Community News
 Oswaldtwistle Mills Business Centre,
 Clifton Mills, Pickup Street,
 Oswaldtwistle, BB5 0EY
Tel: 01254 304079 **Mob:** 07971 772168



Spring Parade on Broadway

Accrington's Spring Parade, a free new community event for 2024, took place on Saturday 13th April on Broadway. Celebrating Accrington's rich history

Local artist Louise Duxbury was chosen as one of three artist assistants to work with creative geniuses Handmade Productions in delivering workshops to local community groups taking part in the parade prep.

During the preparation for this parade, the creative team has worked closely with several community groups including AAWAZ, Accrington and Rossendale College, Adventure Hyndburn, Spring into Action, Community Solutions, Lancashire Women's Centre, Peel Park Primary School and Prospects Foundation, sharing their skills to be transferred to future projects.

Visitors supported the local groups and volunteers who had created one-of-a-kind pieces that was displayed. The parade with colourful costumes, and mesmerising performances from Accrington Pipe Band, Dance Syndrome, Suco Samba and Katumba making unforgettable moments for all ages to enjoy.

Handmade Productions are hosting four free public workshops offering attendees the chance to create their own costumes and props ahead of the parade. The workshops take place at Accrington Town Hall on 6th & 11th April, spaces are limited and must be booked in advance.

Useful numbers

Accrington Victoria Hospital	01254 263555
Royal Blackburn Hospital	01254 263555
Urgent Care	111
Citizen Advice Bureau	0808 2787 975
Care Direct	0845 053 0009
Noisy Neighbours	01254 353447
Age UK	0808 800 6565
Careline	02085 14 1177
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Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
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Electricity Emergency	0800 195 4141
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
United Utilities (Water)	03456 723723
Hyndburn Borough Council (Emerg)	0800 587 5273
Hyndburn Dog Warden	01254 388111
Homewise	01254 232249



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Mayors viewpoint: Councillor Terry Hurn

As the weather begins to warm up and the days stay a little lighter for longer, this past month of engagements has certainly provided the Mayoress and I with a wonderful, memorable close to our Mayoral duties.

The Mayoress and I were especially proud to host the Mayor's Big Thank You event last week – an evening dedicated to recognising the admirable dedication and hard-work of those individuals who do so much for our local community groups, charitable groups and organisations. We have both been keen throughout the year to extend our warmest thanks to all of the groups and more who invited us to be a part of their special celebrations and events, and we hope that this evening helped to convey what a privilege it has been to witness their ongoing contributions to Hyndburn.

We had a fantastic afternoon most recently at St Paul's C of E Primary School for their penalty shoot-out event, held in partnership with Accrington Stanley. This charity afternoon was designed to raise funds and awareness for The British Heart Foundation, and it was heartwarming to see the children come together with an afternoon of fun and laughter for such a worthy cause.

Along with several other mayoral parties, the Mayoress and I also had the pleasure of attending a civic tour of the borough of Blackburn. It was wonderful to learn more about the heritage of our neighbouring borough (a story that isn't unrecognisable for many towns in the area). The tour included the chance to explore several of the iconic historic buildings around Blackburn and Darwen, such as Turton Tower and Blackburn Cathedral, which prompted us to reflect on the proud heritage right on our doorsteps here in Hyndburn.

Unfortunately, I cannot write in the great detail I would like to about every recent engagement but please know that the Mayoress and I have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at all that we have attended. Thank you to all – Veterans in Communities, East Lancashire Hospice, Hyndburn Food Pantry, Active Cycles, Trinity Methodist Church, the Mayor of Ribbles Valley, and the Mayor of Burnley – for making us so welcome at your affairs throughout April.

As the Mayoral year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect upon what has been a truly memorable year for the Mayoress and I. We have had a fantastic year filled with community, light, and laughter, attending countless engagements and seeing parts of the borough we have never seen before – even after residing here for so many years!

Without doubt, the best part of the whole year has been the ongoing chance to meet so many brilliant people who help to make this borough one that we can all be proud of. I thank everyone who continues to put their time and effort into events like the ones we have attended over the year – you remind us just how important our Hyndburn community is.



D-Day

- On 6th June, we will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day- the day on which Allied forces landed on the coast of France to begin Operation Overlord. The landings commenced at 6.30am and by midnight 75,000 British & Canadian and 57,000 US troops and their equipment were ashore. During that first day the allied casualties amounted to 2,500 killed and about 8,500 wounded. Some local lads were amongst those who made the supreme sacrifice on the first day.
- By searching the Commonwealth War Graves website, it is possible to find three Accrington lads who were killed on D-Day. Then, by using other sources, it's possible to add a bit more detail to their brief lives.
- Lance-Corporal Joseph Proud, 5th Bn East Yorkshire Regiment No 4460795, aged 24. In May 1944, he married Ethel Mildred Genevive Price in Durham. Joseph is buried at Bayeux which was the first French town of importance to be liberated.
- Private Joseph Donald McNeill, 5th Bn The King's Regiment (Liverpool) No 14402192, aged 20. He was born in Accrington in 1924, the son of Archibald McNeill & Mary (nee Morgan). Joseph is buried at Hermanville, a village just behind Sword Beach which was occupied early on 6th June.
- Private Arnold Hargreaves, The parachute Regiment AAC 13th (2/4th Bn The South Lancashire Regiment No 14422876, aged 20. He was born in Accrington in 1923, the son of Henry Hargreaves & Edith (nee Watkinson). Arnold is buried at Ranville, the first village to be liberated in France when the troops of the 6th Airborne Division landed nearby by parachute and glider.
- If you need help researching your military ancestors we might be able to help. The Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society's Research Centre is open, free-of-charge, each Thursday and the first Saturday of each month between 1pm and 5pm. If you need more information, check out our website.
- There is also a family history group that meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6.45pm at Accrington Sea Cadets HQ, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LT
- Family Research Centre, 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 3LU**
www.lfhhs.org.uk



Local RBL swear in new officials and plan for future events



On Sunday 14th April, the Church & Oswaldtwistle Branch of the Royal British Legion held their Spring quarterly Branch meeting, which was very well supported by members and friends from the community. During the meeting the new Branch Standard Bearer, Mr Harry Marsden and his two deputies from Sea Cadets Accrington and District, were officially sworn into their posts by Branch Chairperson Mrs Hilary Austin. The get together also raised £130 for Branch funds from a raffle which was held.

The Branch has a number of events coming up; the first being a concert by East Lancs Concert Band at Immanuel Church, New Lane, Oswaldtwistle on Thursday 6th June at 7:30p.m. to commemorate 80 years since D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Tickets are available by calling either Hilary on 07934024623 or Sarah on 07412647168, or online through Friends of Rhyddings Park <https://friendsofrhyddingspark.com>

To keep up to date with all of Church & Oswaldtwistle Branch RBL events and news please follow us on Facebook or email: churchoswaldtwistle.secretary@rbl.community



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EcoFest returns to Accrington town centre on Saturday 8th June

The PROSPECTS Foundation, Hyndburn's community-owned environmental charity, is excited to announce that EcoFest will be returning to Broadway in Accrington town centre on Saturday 8th June 2024, from 10am – 3pm. The festival will be even bigger and better this year as PROSPECTS celebrates its 25th anniversary of environmental action in Hyndburn.

As well as showcasing all things green and environmentally friendly, the festival will be packed full of free activities and entertainment to appeal to all ages and interests. These include a live brass band and dhol drummers, free face painting and henna tattoos, stilt walkers, clothes swap stall, spoon carving demos, smoothie bike, make your bird box workshops, plus all you need to know about getting involved with green spaces in the borough!

There will be free art workshops where you can craft a butterfly puppet, try out weaving using recycled materials, make a suncatcher from recycled plastic and make flowers from recycled cardboard.

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Ribble Rivers Trust, Active Lancashire, Woody (Hyndburn) CIC, Soil Association, Cosy Homes in Lancashire and more will have stalls, and the PROSPECTS Foundation will have their own stalls with giveaways, demonstrations, and fun activities on how people can reduce their impact on the climate and environment. Plus, there's lots more entertainment and activities still to be confirmed!

Save the date in your diaries and don't miss out on this free and family-friendly event!



Did you know that a baby hedgehog is called a hoglet? Did you know that hedgehogs are born without bristles? The bristles begin to appear within a couple of hours after birth and are white at first. Thanks to Donna from "Willow top Hedgehog Rescue" Great Harwood District WI know a lot more about hedgehogs after her talk at the April Monthly Meeting.

Donna's enthusiasm and love for hedgehogs was apparent. Over half of hedgehogs have been lost from our countryside since the millennium and hedgehogs have disappeared from a third of sites in towns and cities. One of the biggest causes is the lack of natural food (insects) due to the large-scale use of pesticides by farmers.

Hedgehogs usually hibernate between November to mid-March, but they can sometimes be seen out and about during this period changing nesting sites. They are nocturnal creatures and if you see one out and, in the daytime, please do not pick it up unless it is in imminent danger. Hedgehogs are wild animals, so being handled is a stressful experience. If you are unsure, contact a specialist group such as The Wildlife Trust before trying to help

Our gardens provide a space for wildlife larger than all our National Nature Reserves, so by gardening in a wildlife-friendly way, we can help hedgehogs to survive. Hedgehogs eat insects, so try to leave an area where logs, twigs etc can be stored and insects thrive. Stop using slug pellets problem as the slugs eat the pellets and the hedgehog eats the slug!



Cadet Careers Day Showcases Hands-On Learning Experience at Accrington & Rossendale College

A number of army cadets from across East Lancashire gathered at Accrington & Rossendale College (ARC) for an immersive Cadet Careers Day, offering a diverse range of hands-on activities and insights into various career pathways.

The event, organised as part of the college's ongoing partnership with the Armed Forces and in line with its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, provided cadets with the opportunity to explore career options and gain practical experience in fields such as Sport, Construction, Science, Criminology, Digital, Horticulture, and Railway Maintenance.

Throughout the day, cadets engaged in interactive sessions led by college staff, showcasing their respective disciplines. From fitness testing and crime scene investigation, to planting herbs and vegetables, cadets delved into a range of practical activities aimed at honing their skills and exploring potential career paths.

The college prides itself on links with local businesses a number of whom were there on the day in the Curriculum and Employer marketplace including Sundown Solutions, Expleo and Community Rail with information about apprenticeships and work experience.

Major Mustard, speaking on behalf of the cadets said: "Today has been a great experience for our cadets. We can't thank the college enough. The enthusiasm of the college tutors and the professionalism of the teams involved has been fantastic. Events like this are invaluable in helping our cadets' future career decisions and we will be looking at further collaboration with Accrington & Rossendale College to expand and enhance future events."

Andy Parkin, Assistant Principal at Accrington & Rossendale College, highlighted the significance of the Cadet Careers Day in fostering mutual understanding and support between the college and the cadets:

"We are pleased the day went so well. It's important to recognise and nurture the skills and talents they develop during their time in the Cadets and demonstrate how they can take these skills further with us at Accrington & Rossendale College.

"The Cadet Careers Day exemplifies our dedication to providing immersive learning experiences and supporting the career aspirations of our students and partners."

Lucy White, a former ARC student and Second in Command of the cadet company, said: "It has been great coming back here with the young cadets. It's changed a bit since I was here but only for the better. I really enjoyed my time here, it's great place to study and I'm glad my cadets have had a taster of that today."

Through collaborative initiatives like these, the college continues to empower individuals to reach their full potential and contribute positively to their communities.

For more information about courses available at Accrington & Rossendale College please visit <https://bit.ly/Accross1>

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Before joining Harold in his venture, Anne had been running a very successful Hair Salon.

In 1994, their daughter Sue joined the company followed by her husband Steve in 2001.

Fifty years on, Harold and Anne have no immediate plans for retirement and still play an active role in its running. A family concern indeed!

They added this message to all clients past and present:

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Welcome to **BLACKBURN ROAD**

100 years Past to Present

Blackburn Road was built in 1827 to alleviate the unemployment and distress caused by the power loom riots of 1826.

The Main Route through to Blackburn has always been a main shopping street. In recent years changes to the road system making it a one way system with the reopening of St James Street to traffic and the Bus Station which relocated from Peel Street in June 2016.

The Town Hall was built to commemorate Sir Robert Peel and was opened in 1858 and is now a fully functional Venue for you to get married there. The Market Hall was opened in 1869 and is one of the few Victorian market buildings in the country which is undergoing renovation with the Levelling up fund and is due to be completed in Summer 2025.

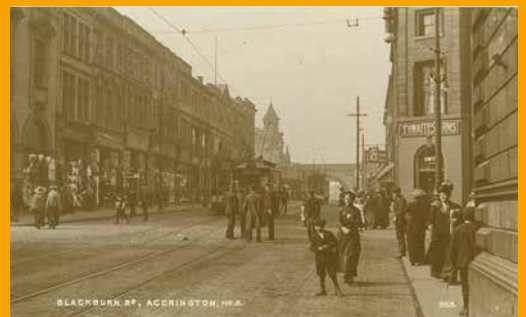
A big Thank You to Lancashire County Council- Red Rose Collection archive.



1930 Corner of Peel Street and Church Street



1911 Piccadilly opposite the Town Hall



1910 Blackburn Road outside the Town Hall

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BY ORDER of the Mayor & Mayoress



Mobile Carpets and Flooring Services

A New Carpet and Flooring Store is now open for Business.

Sadaq Khan (pictured) and his brother Hawaar opened the doors of Mobile Carpets and Flooring Services on Blackburn Road, Accrington in April. They got the keys to the shop in September and Sadaq says he is pleased they have finally opened their doors.

Sadaq said: "We had a really good response and everyone came down to have a look. People were very happy with the shop and they said it looks nice and is a great addition to the town centre.

"They also liked the wide selection of stock we have."

The brothers from Accrington were inspired to join the flooring industry after helping their father, Naveed cut carpets and assist fitters for his business. The store offers a range of materials for customers to choose from including vinyl flooring, carpets, laminate flooring and artificial grass.

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Welcome to ACCRINGTON MARKET

100 years Past to Present

Accrington Market Hall is a grade II listed building and was built in 1868 by John F Doyle with many classical architectural features.

Market Hall is benefiting from a further redevelopment as part of a 70 million levelling up fund that was awarded to Hyndburn Borough Council in 2023 the money will also be used to redevelop the Market Chambers and Burtons Chambers.

Whilst this is being done the market traders are operating in temporary cabins on the Town Square, with businesses also in Victorian Arcade and Broadway.

Please continue to support your market traders as if you don't use them you will lose them.



1900 Market Hall



c1900 view Little Blackburn Road, Town Square and Church Street



Looking at Town Square May 2024



Blackburn Road 1950's



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Welcome to

BLACKBURN ROAD

100 years Past to Present



c1900 Thwaites Arms



Carers Link Lancashire May 2024



Coronation Celebrations 1953



Nags Head looking down to the Town Hall



Blackburn Road towards the Town Hall



Old Yorkshire Bank may 2024 see front cover 1920



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Welcome to

BLACKBURN ROAD

100 years Past to Present



Railway Arch Blackburn Road c1920s



The old Asda Blackburn Road top of Oxford Street



Present picture May 2024



Blackburn Road Looking towards the Viaduct where top of Kings Street Junction is now



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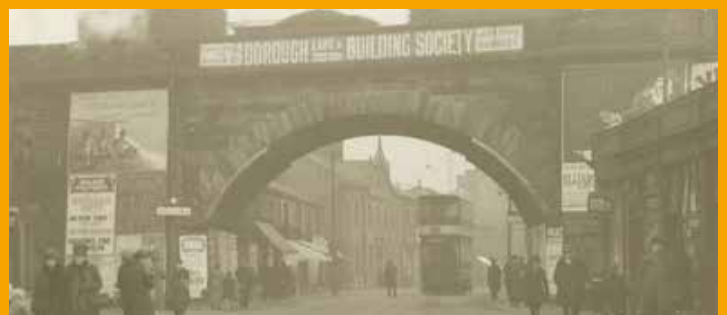
Novice Adult classes

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Taken outside railway pub



1921 Blackburn Rd to the left J2a and Central Gym resides there now



1905 Blackburn Road opposite Domestic Appliance Repairs and the Doctors Surgery



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current picture May 2024 Blackburn Road



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Local Lions Club commits to ongoing support for Hyndburn Helpers Food Bank

The local lions club Hyndburn Centennial has committed to give ongoing support to the local charity Hyndburn Helpers Food Bank.

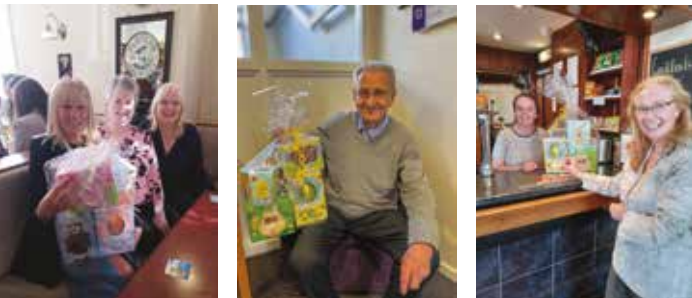
The clubs first delivery of canned goods was made recently with a trolley full of much needed trays of pea of various types, carrots, potatoes, corn, chopped tomatoes, various soups, hot dogs, peaches, tea bags and several varieties of biscuits.

These were gratefully received by the volunteers with them saying that the items would be put to good use.

The attached pictures show the goods being delivered by car by the members of Hyndburn Centennial Lions Club.

With the trolley full of items are on the left Lion Joan Clarkson on the right Lion Tony Clarkson with one of the volunteers.

This delivery is the first of many over the coming months that Hyndburn Centennial will be happy to provide to Hyndburn Helpers as and when there is a need.



Easter Activities from Church & Oswaldtwistle Rotary

Church & Oswaldtwistle Rotary have been busy in the community this Easter weekend.

Easter Egg Raffle - 7 Easter Egg Hampers have been raffled off which raised over £600 for our work in the Community.

Thanks to the following organisations who supported us with the sale of tickets - Stop and Rest Inn, Oswaldtwistle Social Club, Dance Events North West, Friends of Rhyddings Park, Balladen House NHS Foundation Trust, Anglo Recycling Technology Ltd, and CANDO Friendship Group at the Globe Bowling Club. Well done to all the winners. You can see them on Facebook.

Tinker Brook Woodland Clean up on Easter Saturday- There were 10 Rotarians and Friends who spent a total of 24 voluntary hours cleaning up our local woodland. We collected over 20 bags of rubbish and many larger items of discarded tools, fences, wire, toys. Thank you to all who supported this event run in conjunction with the Great British Spring Clean- Keep Britain Tidy. Thanks also to Hyndburn Borough Council who will be removing the rubbish soon.

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Things That Go Bump In The Night

— by Ellison Street

At twenty minutes past midnight on Tuesday 26th of September 1899, there was a thunderous crash which awoke the residents living on Lonsdale Street and the nearby dwellings. This was due to a locomotive travelling between Accrington Locomotive sidings and Church Railway Station, being put onto the wrong line, then crashing through the buffer stop. It then plunged headlong down between the two bridges carrying the line over the roadway. People flocked from their houses in darkness to see if anyone had been injured. Fortunately, there had been no one in the vicinity of the bridge at that late hour.

The luggage vans making up the stock on which this engine was rostered, had required shunting before setting off for Hellifield. Then having completed this manoeuvre, the loco had moved off to regain the adjacent running lines. When he realised the situation the driver had immediately applied the brakes, but the weight of the train had pushed through the buffers propelling it over the parapet. The tender had become detached and along with the wagons it remained upright on the track, whilst the locomotive had plummeted 15 feet down onto the road surface.

The driver stayed on the footplate so it was very lucky he did not receive any serious injuries and was able to clamber down to safety, whilst his fireman was also uninjured. He had jumped from the engine at the last second. It was extremely fortunate that the boiler of the locomotive had not exploded due to the force of the impact, after it had come to rest at a 45o angle. Both were enginemmen from Wakefield Sheds and when interviewed, the driver expressed

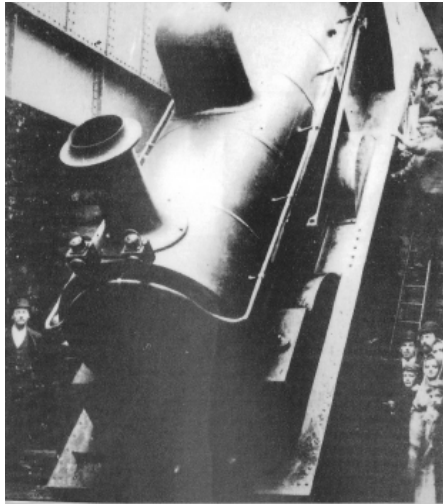
the opinion that the two bridges carrying the lines should be made into one by adding another through road. This improvement Accrington Corporation had previously refused permission for the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway to carry out.

A brake-down crane and crew were immediately summoned, but due to the difficulty of the location and the fact that the engine, number 684 weighing 50 tons, had gone through the paving and embedded itself over a foot down in the substrata. The recovery would take until the following Sunday to complete, which involved separating the tender from the stricken engine. During this time road traffic was allowed to pass by on one side of the highway.

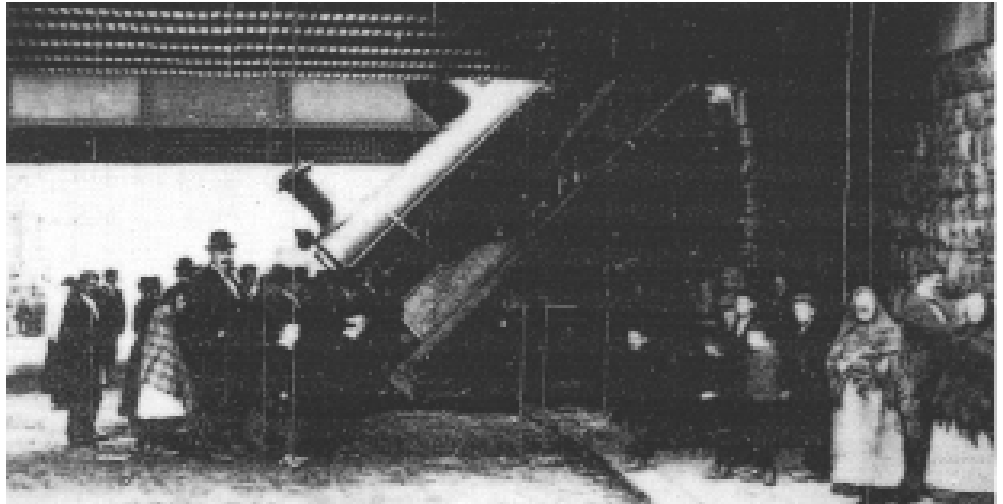
An investigation found that a new signal box was in the process of being constructed on the Church side of this bridge and this had significantly obstructed the view of the signalman on duty at Church East Box. It was concluded this was in part to blame for this accident.

The Aspinnall 0-6-0 tender locomotive was new in February 1898 and was coupled to a Barton Wright tender. It could not have suffered too much damage as it was repaired and returned to traffic, surviving until February 1956 as British Railways number 52382 when allocated to Bury Sheds.

This was the second occasion that a locomotive had come down into the road at this location. A similar incident had occurred in April 1886, when a locomotive running light engine crashed through a buffer-stop close to Lonsdale Street Bridge also finishing nose down in the road.



Even the workmen pose for their picture to be taken



Locals gather around to witness the problem





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OUR WORLD



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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 in April include :-

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Walks in May include :-

**Glasson Dock 11 miles,
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**Contact Pauline Hughes
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or visit our website for more information

www.ramblers.org.uk/hyndburn and find us on facebook.

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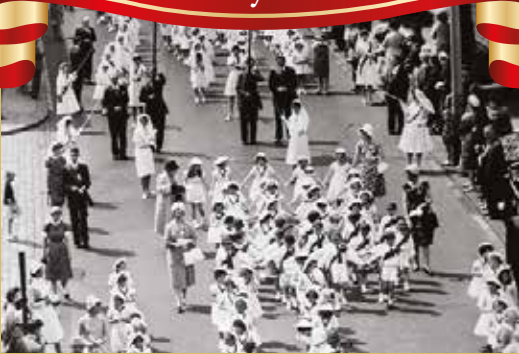
Over the next 2 months the Acorn will be showcasing
100 years Past to Present

June - Church & Oswaldtwistle part 2
July - Part 2 on Clayton Le Moors and Altham.

*If you have any interesting stories or you are
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Whinney Hill FC celebrates 60 glorious years

February this year marked the diamond anniversary of Whinney Hill FC. We caught up with a stalwart of the club, Peter Cockburn who has been their groundsman for over thirty years and their treasurer for over 40, to ask him a little about the club's history and he was only too pleased to regale us.

Peter played for the Reserve team and then managed them for three years before becoming the first team manager; a position he held for 22 years. Its Chairman is none other than Purves Ali, a name also synonymous with Accrington Stanley.

Peter spoke with great enthusiasm and pride as he told us about the team's rise from the Accrington Combination to the East Lancs Leagues via The Bolton Premiership and the West Lancs League.

Now playing in the first division East of the East Lancs League, Whinney Hill have already reached one final this year and the semi-final of another competition, so at the time of writing, their season is far from over.

The man currently at the helm is Aaron Jones, ably assisted by Nick McPartlan and a lot of hopes rest on their team selection and how they motivate their players.

At the time of writing, they have played their semi-final in the President's Cup, which featured all 30 teams in the East Lancs League including the Premier Division, and sadly lost by two goals to nil against Barnoldswick.

Their final, which is the Bob Little Trophy and concerns the lower leagues, will be played on May 18th at Padiham where they will play Trawden and we will try to update you on that when this article is updated for our website.

During Peter's time at the helm, whilst in Accrington Combination, he led them to 6 Championships; a proud record indeed. In 1991, they also won the Burnley Hospital Cup on Turf Moor.

On behalf of Acorn News we wish Whinney Hill success in their Cup Final and hope to get another interview should they manage to win it.

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The 2023/24 football season has drawn to a close with Accrington Stanley finishing in the lower half of League Two and securing their place in the football league next season which will be the nineteenth consecutive season back in the football league.

This season was all about stabilising after last season's relegation from League One and this has been achieved. There has been change off the field with long serving manager John Coleman and his assistant Jimmy Bell leaving the club in February, with John Doolan taking over as first team manager. John has been assessing players in training and matches as he prepares to mould his playing squad for next season as well as considering his options to appoint an assistant. The Academy continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of Duncan Fearnhead and many graduates feature in the first team match squad and line up with the club looking to grow it's reputation of giving young players good opportunities to experience first team football.

Our understanding of mental health and how it affects our lives is developing all the time and mental health professionals believe that being familiar with some facts and figures on the topic can help improve our understanding of just how many people struggle with mental health issues and specific disorders. Did you know

- Approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year
- Nearly half of adults in England think they've had a diagnosable mental health condition at some point in their lives
- Nearly 9 out of 10 people with mental health problems say that stigma and discrimination have a negative effect on their lives
- 18 million working days are lost to mental health conditions in the UK each year

Here at the OASST, we are aware of the toll mental health problems can take, and as part of our drive to help, we organise a monthly session at 1.30pm on the last Thursday of each month at the Accrington Stanley Community Trust Sports Hub on Thorneyholme Road. The sessions are entitled 'Talking Balls' and it's a chance for people to come together in a sports themed afternoon to chat about sports, take part in a quiz, maybe play a few games or just talk to people over a cup of tea and a biscuit. The sessions were initially hosted by former assistant manager Jimmy Bell, and over the past couple of months, club captain Seamus Conneally and attacking midfielder Joe Pritchard have hosted the sessions. Joe's involvement is particularly relevant as he has spoken openly in the past about mental health issues he experienced as he was recovering from a serious long term injury.

The sessions are informal, so if you are interested, just come along as the first step is often just talking to someone else can be so important and beneficial. If you are interested in finding out more about mental health in general or getting some more information on help that's available, there are some great resources at www.mind.org.uk.



**New £200,000 3G Pitch
receives planning permission
at Stanley Sports Hub**

Accrington Stanley Community Trust have been granted planning approval by Hyndburn Council for a new small sided 3G Football Pitch. The pitch will be constructed at the back of the building, on land that is currently unused space within the grounds of the sports hub due to a fire access path that had to be installed to comply with building regulations.

Following a successful building regulations application for repositioning the fire access, this proposal seeks to utilise the now available space. Current demand for pitches by local groups has meant there is now a need for a mini football pitch which would fit within the now available space.

The new pitch will be used by a number of disabled groups of both children and adults, grassroots teams, community sessions for over 50's, veterans' sessions and after school provision. The community benefits of this pitch are enormous for participation in sport, and leading a healthy lifestyle.

This is a further investment of £200,000 into providing first class facilities for our local community, bringing the total investment at Stanley Sports Hub by Accrington Stanley Community Trust to £3.7m since 2020.

The construction of the pitch is due to commence in summer 2024 and available for use in September 2024.



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