



ACORN COMMUNITY NEWS

April 2024 Edition

See Pages 7 - 11 Clayton Le Moors Past to Present



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Old Boys' president and treasurer Linden Charnley presents a £500 cheque to Annabel Parsons, with AGSOB chairman Geoff Snape (right) and a host of young boxers at Fairfield Boxing Club.



Linden Charnley (second from right), president and treasurer of AGSOB, with Scouts' treasurer Matthew Walmsley, chairman Mark Shackleton, group lead volunteer Craig Fishwick and old boys' chairman Geoff Snape.

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Police	101
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

Hold your hand out! Grammar school 'old boys' whack out the cheques

Two youth groups in Hyndburn have each received a £500 boost from a school ex-pupils' fund for good causes.

Accrington Grammar School Old Boys' Association made the donations to Fairfield Boxing Club, Accrington, for new gloves and head guards for junior boxers, and 1st St Paul's Scout Group, Oswaldtwistle, to improve disabled access at its headquarters in Straits.

Although Accrington Grammar School's last intake of pupils was in 1975 before it went comprehensive as Moorhead High, ex-pupils still meet and hold events to top up the group's charity fund. The group invited applications for grants in its latest round of donations.

Fairfield Boxing Club began life in 2020 as a free outdoor fitness group led by husband-and-wife Scott and Annabel Parsons, from Clayton-le-Moors. They found premises at a former factory in Charter Street, Accrington, and created a gym using mainly donated second-hand equipment.

Both qualified boxing coaches, they run training sessions for more than 20 boys and girls aged from just under six to 14 and some over-14s, ladies' boxing-for-fitness, and family fitness sessions.

St Paul's Cub and Scout group has upgraded its HQ at Straits, Oswaldtwistle, with new windows and roof insulation, and now aims to install a wider door and outside ramp to make it more disabled-friendly and useful for other community groups.

The group has more than 20 Cubs and Beaver Scouts and is the venue for regular first-aid training for East Lancashire Scouting, as well as playing host to Guides and Brownies.

The AGSOB committee has also agreed a £500 grant for equipment for schools' American Flag Football, a non-contact version of American football based at Mount Carmel High School, to be presented later.

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Look who's reading The Acorn!



Playing for kicks

It was my great pleasure to be present at the Annual Sportsman's Dinner, which this year celebrated Whinney Hill Football Club's 60th Anniversary, where the guest speaker was former England, Manchester United and Newcastle United striker, Peter Beardsley. It was held at Poplar Working men's Club in Accrington on March 28th.

Peter talked about his life and career in an interview with Andy Ashworth. He started at Carlisle United and progressed to enjoy a prolific career with Newcastle United, Liverpool and Everton, earning 59 England caps along the way and scoring 9 times for England in the process. He also represented England in two World Cups and the 1988 European Championships. After he finished playing, he became Assistant Coach for England before coaching the reserve team back at Newcastle, stepping in as first team caretaker in 2010.

He was awarded an MBE in 1995 for his services to football.

I was chuffed to meet him also for a photo opportunity and to take this picture.

In the picture you can see, left to right: Whinney Hill Chairman, Purves Ali, Vice Chairman Mark Heys, Peter Beardsley MBE, MC Andy Ashworth and comedian Austin Knight.

Watch out in the May edition where we will explore the history of Whinney Hill FC.

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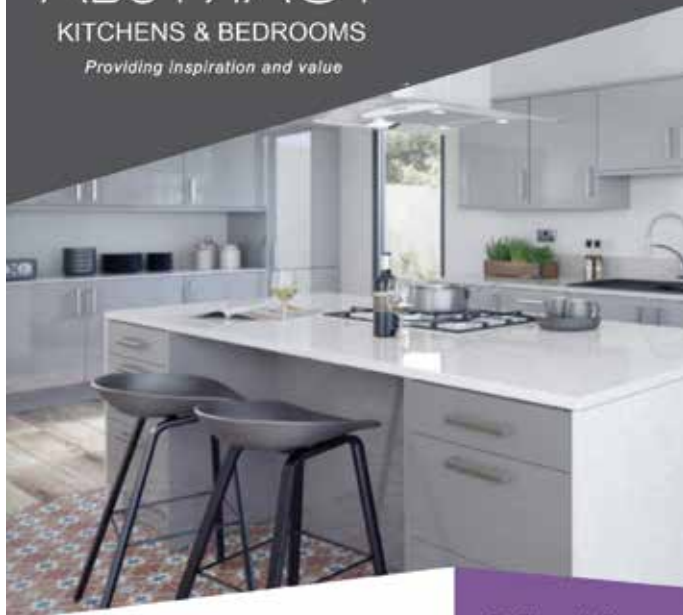
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Mayors viewpoint: Councillor Terry Hurn

As your Mayor, I'm incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to connect with so many wonderful people across Hyndburn. These last few weeks have been a whirlwind of inspirational events, and I wanted to share some highlights with you all.

First up, the joyous sounds of "Let's Go Sing!" filled King George's Hall on the 5th of March. Seeing the energy and enthusiasm from St Anne's and St Joseph's, Hippings Methodist, St Mary's RC, and Baxenden St John's Primary Schools was truly heartwarming. These young voices reminded me of the incredible talent within our borough. It was great to see so many local schools involved in the night. Over 20 Hyndburn based primary schools take part in this programme, with the rest performing on other dates.

As part of their International Women's Day celebrations, The Mayoress had the privilege of attending AAWAZ, a fantastic local organisation who support Asian women across Lancashire to learn English and other skills to help themselves and their families. There, she presented certificates to a brilliant group of women who had completed a recent educational programme. Their dedication to learning and personal growth is truly inspiring, and AAWAZ themselves are an exceptional charity to have in our borough.

Looking towards the future, I hosted a Local Government careers taster day at the Council offices. Year 10 pupils from Accrington Academy spent the day learning about the diverse range of roles available within Local Government. It's vital to inspire the next generation of public servants, and I was impressed by their curiosity and engagement.

Speaking of endings and new beginnings, my final meeting Chaining Full Council took place this month. This role has been an immense honour, and I want to express my sincere thanks to all the Councillors and officers who have supported me throughout the year. Their dedication and hard work are fundamental to the smooth running of the Council and the well-being of Hyndburn.

Finally, let's end on a high note! My Mayoral Charity Ball was a resounding success. The night was filled with fantastic food, wonderful company, and of course, brilliant dancing. Most importantly, we managed to raise a staggering total of £14,339.65! These vital funds will be distributed to three deserving local causes: Milly's Smiles, Jeffrey's Battle with Battens Disease, and Accrington Stanley Women. I'd like to extend a huge thank you too that attended and made the night so special, and to the sponsors and organisers of the event, without whom we would not have raised such a significant amount of money for such good causes.

Once again, it has been a privilege to be your Mayor.



Street Angels secure £3,000 Community Chest Grant

Accrington Christians Together have been awarded £3,000 from Hyndburn Borough Council's Community Chest Fund to support their town centre Street Angels project. Street Angels is a relatively new project to Accrington, and operates to reduce crime in the night time economy of and to help the police and emergency services to aid the vulnerable. They provide support by their presence in the town centre and helping people in need. This may be by providing a safe place for people to come to, a place to charge a phone, help to get home, find lost friends or provide basic first aid.



Family History Societies

- Family History Societies have been in existence for many years now – we ourselves celebrated our 50th Anniversary last year and, like everything else in life, has changed drastically from how we were in 1973.
- Originally the Society was known as the Rossendale Society for Genealogy and Heraldry and had 10 founders. Members began running courses in various towns to show people how to research their Family history and interest was such that other Branches were formed throughout the County.
- In the early days it was necessary to actually visit Churches, record offices and Archives to search records and the Branches would organise outings to places of interest and to visit Family History Fairs in neighbouring counties. As numbers and branches grew an Annual Conference was arranged so that members could meet up together and hear visiting speakers. Later an Annual Dinner was also arranged, the Branches taking it in turn to arrange the meal and a speaker. A journal, with contributions from members, was published 4 times each year.
- As popularity increased and the internet was developed we were able to access records on line via the various websites. Lancashire also opened 2 Research centres – in Chorley and Oswaldtwistle where, in addition to free on line access to available resources, members are on hand to help both beginners and seasoned researchers who have hit a "brick wall" and appreciate a helping hand. We also have many members living in other parts of Britain and further afield such as Australia, Canada and USA, who we are always available to help.
- Then Covid arrived. No longer were branches able to meet or individuals pay visits and much greater use of the internet took place. Zoom enabled us to keep in touch and the Society arranged monthly meetings where we could continue to meet up, not only with local members but those in faraway places who would never otherwise be able to join in. This became so popular that it has now become a feature of our Society. In fact some branches are also following suit. It has opened up opportunities for us to hear speakers from all over the Country (and world) from the comfort of our own homes.
- Branches continue to meet in person but so much more is now available to our members than could ever have been dreamt of in 1973.
- Hyndburn Branch meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.45 for a 7pm start at the Sea Scout HQ, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle. Details of the Speaker and other Branch and Society events can be found on our Society website www.lfhs.org

The scheme is volunteer led and operates on Friday and Saturday nights in Accrington town centre. Over 50 people have been supported by the Street Angels over the last few months.

Bev Wood, Volunteer Street Angel said, "This latest grant is fantastic news! It will enable us to extend our patrols and reach even more people in need. We rely on funding like this to continue our vital work, and we're grateful to the council for their support"

The initiative started in December following discussions with the local police. Seeing the impact Street Angels and similar projects make in towns and cities across the UK helped garner support for an Accrington scheme, which has attracted over 20 volunteers who help with weekend patrols.

The funding will be used to provide volunteers with uniform, equipment and first aid training.

Councillor Steven Smithson, Deputy Leader of the Council said, "The Council is committed to supporting community projects like Street Angels that play a vital role in promoting safety in our night time economy. This grant shows our dedication to investing in small projects that can have a positive impact for our residents."

For more information or to sign up as a Street Angel volunteer visit www.actstreetangels.co.uk or email actstreetangels@outlook.com

Hyndburn Business Awards 2024 is open for nominations!

2024

HYNDBURN
BUSINESS AWARDS

Hyndburn Business Awards will again help celebrate the wonderful businesses, people and organisations that make Hyndburn a fantastic place to live and do business. Nominations opened on 4 April and will close on 18 April – just head to <https://hyndburnbusinessawards.co.uk/nominate> to nominate your favourite local businesses!

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The 2024 Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday 13 June at The Dunkenhagh Hotel. It will be full black tie, with a three course meal plus coffee and entertainment. The hotel are kindly sponsoring a sparkling reception too for all guests.

There will be an exciting new award to enter in 2024 too... The Green Business Award will celebrate Hyndburn businesses looking to reduce their impact on the planet and the community by embracing sustainable practices.

NORI HR & Employment Law will again be the Headline Sponsors for Hyndburn Awards 2024. For regular HR updates and tips, do follow their FB page <https://www.facebook.com/norihrandemploymentlaw>

Category Sponsors are currently being sought for 2024 too.

Sponsorship is a fantastic way to raise your profile locally and get great benefits, plus it represents a super opportunity to help sustain and support the awards, and celebrate local businesses. There are a host of exciting Award Categories available where Sponsors join the judging panels and present the awards, as well as Ceremony and Programme Sponsorship too.

Interested businesses can find out more at <https://hyndburnbusinessawards.co.uk/> and can contact Rachel Kay on rachel@hyndburnbusinessawards.co.uk or call on 07920 775457.

Do follow the Hyndburn Awards Facebook page at if you don't already at <https://facebook.com/hyndburnbusinessawards> That's where you can keep up with all the latest HBA news, and meet the 2024 sponsors.

Our Beacon Award winners – the award for most inspiring entry – for 2023 was Brie Mine (in photo). Well done again to Lauren and the whole team! We wonder who'll be nominated this year, who'll be shortlisted, and who our winners will be (and our Beacon!) – follow us on Facebook to find out!



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Acorn Top Garden Tips

APRIL

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

1. Protect New Spring Shoots from Slugs
2. Plant Shallots, onion sets & early potatoes
3. Plant Summer flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrow clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
7. Cut back cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
8. Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control
9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain, remove pond heaters
10. Prune bush and climbing roses.
11. Continue to deadhead winter-flowering pansies and other winter bedding. Pansies will carry on into the spring and even to early summer, if attended to frequently.
12. Remove dirt and algae from walls, paving and patios. Pressure washers can be rented if necessary.

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Welcome to **CLAYTON-LE-MOORS** Part 1

100 years Past to Present

Over the last 100 years there have been many changes to the types of transport used from Horse and carts, trams, buses, cars, vans and lorries. In the pictures showcased you can see the evidence of change from road surfaces & traffic systems . This month I am featuring a selection of businesses which indicate retail and services. A big Thank you to Lancashire County Council/Red Rose Archive Collection. Watch out for part 2 coming in July.



Did you know that Eric Morecambe lived on Barnes Street in Clayton Le Moors? He was conscripted and worked in the coal mines in Accrington from 1944.



The Front Cover Past Picture. The crossroads at the Hare and Hounds corner. Miss O Leary's drapers shop, which later became Nat West Bank, currently since 1986 is now occupied by L. Champs Funeral Service. The chimney of the Wellfield Mill is prominent in the background



Load of Mischief once stood at the corner now the Motorway bridge where the lights are now.



Present Carl Taylor with Lianna Champ of Champ Funeral Services, Champs trading since 1986

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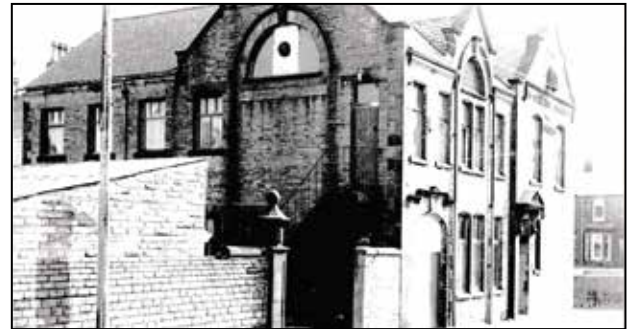
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Heather Greenwood The Hive Hair & Beauty pictured as 1 of the 3 businesses now in the Co-op building



Barnes Square. Eric Morecambe lived in the top house on the left hand side opposite the Post Office.



The old Co-operative Society Bakery 1911



Barnes Square with gates to Westleyan Chapel



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Sean Foster owner of Mattress World



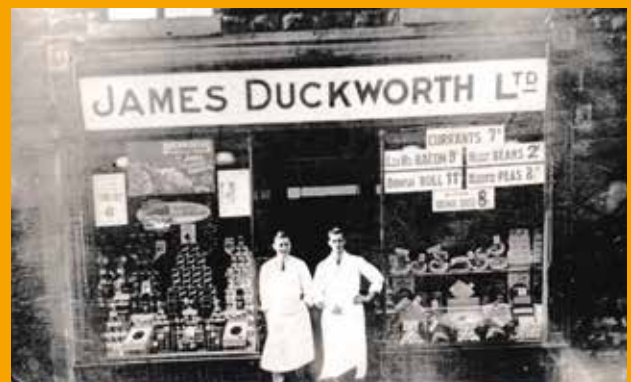
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NATIONAL PET MONTH 2024:

CHALLENGING TIMES, PRACTICAL SUPPORT

National Pet Month – April 1 – May 1, 2024



With studies showing that pandemic pet owners are more likely to face challenges with their pet's behaviour, this year's National Pet Month will focus even more heavily on education and support.

Healthy Pets, Healthy Behaviours, the positive effects of pets on our mental and physical health and easing the financial cost of caring for a pet will feature in this year's National Pet Month (April 1-May 1): an annual celebration of the incredible bond we have with our animal companions.

Pet fans can look forward to a month of practical support as leading vet and pet professionals provide advice and tips for those caring for animals across the UK.

With a focus on the five key welfare needs of our pets – Companionship, Behaviour, Diet, Health and Environment – NPM will take a close look at everything from financial obstacles to pet health, cat behaviour and the importance of pet vaccination to the growing dog park, trend, healthy pet nutrition and the latest pet population figures showing just how our pets are positively impacting our physical and mental health.

National Pet Month kicks off on Thursday, March 28 with a livestream across social media introducing the NPM team and revealing what the month has in store.

Look out for weekly live broadcasts during April. These include features on the benefits of pets for people living on the streets with charity, StreetVet, a chat on cat behaviour and how to interpret feline body language, advice on navigating the array of pet food options, and tips on how to give your pet its medication, as well as the importance of following labelling and packaging instructions, plus lots more.

There'll also be advice for those of us that might be struggling, including finding pet food banks and what to do if you can't afford to see a vet, with links to organisations who can help you and your pet during challenging times.

Check out our regular #PetPawsitivity stories and pics from pet owners across the UK, as well as #VetPawsitivity tales and images celebrating the incredible work of our UK veterinary teams caring for our pets 24/7, 365 days a year.

"In 2024, National Pet Month is once again celebrating the special bond between people and the animals that share their lives. We are working alongside a variety of leading pet and vet professionals to offer the very latest practical support and advice to pet owners, some of whom may be struggling in this challenging environment," says Nicole Paley, Deputy Chief Executive at UK Pet Food, one of the co-ordinating organisations of National Pet Month, along with NOAH.

"Throughout the month we'll be promoting responsible pet ownership with a variety of blogs, live broadcasts, graphics and social posts. We'd love to hear from pet owners on why they love sharing their homes with their animal companions and if they'd like to pay tribute to a veterinary team who has shown immense care for their pet.

"Please drop us a line on our social channels using the #PetPawsitivity and #VetPawsitivity hashtags and let's celebrate the positive power of pets together. Happy National Pet Month!"

To get involved in #NationalPetMonth – April 1-May 1, follow NPM social channels and share your pet stories.

• Facebook [fb.com/NationalPetMonth](https://www.facebook.com/NationalPetMonth)

X Twitter.com/NatPetMonthUK

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/11668521/admin/>

Instagram @nationalpetmonth

• Follow www.facebook.com/joinscratchingpost (for cat lovers) and www.facebook.com/joinparkbench (for dog lovers).

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Aims and objectives

- Promote responsible pet ownership
- Make people aware of the mutual benefits of living with pets
- Increase public awareness of the role of pet care specialists
- Raise awareness of the value of working and assistance companion animals
- Encourage fundraising for UK pet welfare charities and organisations




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WHY RECALL
TRAINING MATTERS



Lancashire Canine Academy

As a responsible dog owner, it's essential to understand the significance of recall training and the implications of allowing our dogs to approach others without invitation. While it may be tempting to brush off our dog's exuberant greetings with a casual "he's friendly," it's crucial to recognise the potential risks and take proactive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of both our dogs and those they encounter.

Recall training, in essence, teaches our dogs to respond promptly to our calls, even in distracting or stimulating environments. Without this fundamental skill, our dogs may impulsively dart towards other dogs or people, potentially causing distress, fear, or even harm. Additionally, uncontrolled interactions between dogs can lead to injuries, transmission of diseases, or exacerbation of behavioural issues.

The implications extend beyond physical safety. Encounters with unrestrained dogs can evoke anxiety or discomfort in individuals, particularly those with a fear of dogs or children who may not understand how to interact safely.

Recognising the importance of recall training, it's crucial for us, as dog owners, to invest time and effort in training sessions and reinforce recall reliability consistently throughout our dog's life. By employing positive reinforcement techniques and gradually exposing our dogs to various environments, we can enhance their responsiveness and ensure safer interactions.

However, we acknowledge that training can sometimes be challenging, and setbacks may occur. In such instances, seeking guidance from an Accredited Dog Trainer can be invaluable. Professionals like us, possess the expertise to assess individual situations, tailor training methods to suit specific needs, and provide ongoing support and guidance.

Prioritising recall training is a crucial aspect of responsible dog ownership. By instilling reliable recall behaviour in our dogs and being mindful of their interactions with others, we can foster safer and more enjoyable experiences for everyone involved. Let's commit to proactive training and responsible behaviour to ensure that our furry friends can enjoy the world around them while respecting the boundaries of others.

Marcia Ashworth, BA (Hons) IMDT



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East Lancashire Hospice celebrates 40 years of caring for the community!

East Lancashire Hospice has worked with the local community for four decades to care for those with life-limiting illnesses in Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.

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Annually, it costs East Lancashire Hospice more than £4 Million to provide their services free of charge.

Each year, more than two-thirds of their funding is dependent on fundraising efforts from local businesses, community fundraising and events.

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There are various ways you can contribute to your local hospice, through volunteering, attending events, fundraising, making a donation, participating in the hospice lottery, or leaving a lasting legacy in your Will.

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To find out how you can help, visit their website www.eastlancshospice.org.uk

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 June - Part 2 on Oswaldtwistle
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A Tale Of Two Bridges

— by Ellison Street

On its climb south out of Accrington, the railway had to pass through the Woodnook suburbs a highly industrialised area of town. Constructed in 1846, the Nuttall Street Railway Bridge was one obstacle. The width of the existing passage was 15 feet including a footpath 3 feet 6 inches wide, leaving only 11 feet and 6 inches for the passage of single line traffic to go through. It was also very low in height. This became more and more of an inconvenience as public and private road transport grew. In October 1927 at a meeting of the General Works Committee, Cllr Ellis raised the subject previously discussed at the meeting of the Town Council. It was resolved the Town Clerk was to communicate with the London Midland & Scottish Railway in the first instance to ascertain whether and on what terms, they would be prepared to collaborate with the Corporation in effecting the desired improvements.

In January 1929 the Council received a letter from the LMS, stating they had no objections to the remodelling of the Woodnook Railway arch and would consider any scheme put forward by the Council, whilst requesting that the 'plan and sections' be submitted to them for approval. However, they would not be prepared to meet any of the costs of these works. In June the Borough Surveyor was asked to draw up plans along with estimates for the total cost of this scheme and submit them when completed. In July the General Works Committee met, when the Surveyor submitted schemes for the improvements to the roadway. It was then resolved that a deputation of four officials would meet with the County Surveyor and the Ministry of Transport, with regard to these proposals. In August the Committee met again, when the Town Clerk reported on correspondence with the Minister of Transport, Hore Belisha, approving plans for the widening of the bridge under the railway on Nuttall Street close to its junction with Mount Street. In it the Minister had now intimated that a grant of £9,902 equal to 75% of the estimated cost of this work would be made to the Council.

The new bridge would have a span of 36 feet with a footpath 6 feet wide on either side, leaving a 24 feet clear two-way road passage. It was also proposed that the Corporation would construct new state-of-the-art public conveniences in the vicinity of this structure as part of the scheme estimated at £13,000. Accrington brick would face the concrete abutments with a steel girder bridge to support the permanent way 23 feet above street level. This subject to the conditions set down in the Ministry's stipulations and on condition that this was completed no later than August 13th 1936. It was resolved to accept these terms and conditions, with the Town Clerk completing the necessary agreement with the Railway Company.

In August 1933 the General Works Committee met when the Borough Engineer reported he had spoken with the Divisional Road Engineer, when it emerged it would be 'some time' before grants would be available for bridge improvements, including the one carrying the lines over Nuttall Street. However, he confirmed that the scheme had been approved by the Ministry of Transport in June 1931; therefore it would be progressed as soon as was practical.

In February 1936 whilst Nuttall Street was closed for the reconstruction of the railway arch, it required the closing of the footpaths, thus causing a great inconvenience to workpeople who would have to make considerable detours to get to their employment. So an omnibus service was put on for their convenience whilst the work was underway.



With complete disregard to safety, the new bridge functioning to the point where trains could pass over



Seen from the Mount Street side following completion, now double deck-buses could pass through

Another landmark on the North Lancashire Avoiding Line was the railway bridge, which crossed Whalley Road on a steel plate bridge at Harwood Bar just above Hyndburn Bridge. This was too low for a double deck bus to pass beneath it, meaning most services running direct between Accrington, Whalley and Clitheroe, had to be operated by saloon buses, whilst most other services avoided this obstacle by diverting around Great Harwood to regain Whalley Road on the other side of the bridge. This structure was known locally as the 'Ferodo' bridge, due to the advertisement it carried for that company over a good number of years for their 'anti-fade brake linings'. It was removed in 1968 after the line closed.



Hyndburn Bridge at a time when the associated stonework was being removed

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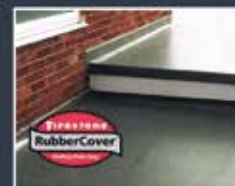
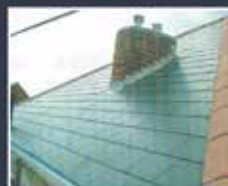
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Students display their skills at Lancashire competition

Nelson and Colne College Group students are celebrating top table results in the first ever Lancashire College Skills Competition.

- Students from a number of industry areas, across Nelson and Colne College and Accrington and Rossendale College, went head-to-head with other colleges from across the county to test their knowledge and technical skills in a number of scenarios.
- Held over two weeks, students were given the opportunity to showcase the excellent technical skills they have learnt across different specialisms.
- Michael Milligan, Head of Division for Health and Social Care and Education and Childcare at Nelson and Colne College Group, said: "The competition was fantastic display of technical skills, and we are incredibly proud of each and every student who took part. They each performed to an exceptionally high standard and should be incredibly proud of themselves."
- The competitions also leverage links with employers to showcase the talent of students seeking opportunities in these key sectors.
- Shakoora Ghafoor, Digital Curriculum Leader at Nelson and Colne College Group, said: "I'm thrilled that Nelson and Colne College Group took part in this competition. It offers students not only an opportunity to develop and demonstrate technical excellence, but also develop other employability skills like teamwork and resilience."
- Students from across the Nelson and Colne College Group, the only Ofsted rated Outstanding College in Lancashire, triumphed in the Health and Social Care, Foundations and Digital sections, and achieved Silver in Hair and Beauty, Sport, and Construction.
- For the digital section, Danyal Yaqoob, Abdul Rehman Ali, Alfie Collis, and Tom Hepworth-Harvey – who are all studying a T Level in Digital production, Design and Development – were asked to carry out a range of digital tasks involving games design and coding.
- The judges, who are all industry experts, named Alfie Collis as a 'Rising Star' due to his attention to detail and commitment to sticking to the brief.
- Will Bater and Holly Williams were also commended by the judges for their carpentry and joinery, and bricklaying skills in the construction heat.
- The Health and Social Care team consisted of Olivia Henry Savage, Cleo Earnshaw and Chloe Andrews, who are all studying a T Level in Health. Activities included providing healthcare provision in a hospital setting, practised on dummy patients.
- Michael Milligan added: "It was an incredibly opportunity to put our skills to the test and to demonstrate what we have learnt on our course to both our peers and prospective employers."
- **This year's Lancashire Colleges' Skills Competition Programme was sponsored by the Lancashire Skills Hub and Future U.**

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They call football the global game, and in this issue, we're highlighting three members of the OASST have certainly taken this to heart with their Across The Pitch (ATP) podcast. Across the Pitch is both the Official International Podcast of Accrington Stanley, and also the longest running Accrington Stanley centric podcast currently on the web with a commitment to spread the word of the club and growing supporters groups around all corners of the globe whilst chronicling the team's history, both past and present.

Phil Kennedy from Phoenix, Arizona, USA, founded ATP in 2018, and since has gone on to become the OASST's "International Ambassador", and is also the founder of the Official Accrington Stanley Supporters Club of North America (OASSCNA).

Darren Woodhead is from Accrington and a long standing and well known supporter of the club, having authored many books on the club and its history. Darren is also the founder of the Accrington Stanley Memories Facebook page, which boasts over 1500 and is the largest independent Stanley specific group on Facebook.

Tony Robinson now lives in Ontario, Canada, however was born in Accrington and even lived on Stanley Street, the street after which the club is named in his youth. As a teenager, he first travelled to Ontario in 1967 with his family to visit his mum's extended family, and then emigrated with his parents in 1970, becoming a permanent resident. He became a Canadian citizenship in 2012 and has dual citizenship. He took on the running of the podcast and OASSCNA Facebook and Twitter pages in 2021, and gets back to Accrington as often as he can to catch up with old friends and watch a few games.

Between them, they recorded and released over 300 podcasts including comment on the on and off field happenings at the club, interviews with past and present players, coaching staff and regular features including Darren's 'Legends Series' which has covered many of the important figures from Stanley's history and Tony's 'The World Famous Rapid Fire' feature.

To widen the appeal of the club beyond North America, the trio have been instrumental in assisting the founding of new supporters groups in Ghana and Australia, and are committed to helping grow the brand Accrington Stanley to be a household name on a global level.

You can access ATP directly at [acrossthepitch.com](https://www.acrossthepitch.com) or via the OASST website at [onstanleyon.com](https://www.onstanleyon.com)



Accrington Stanley Community Trust Awarded £10,000 Grant from Sky Bet EFL Building Foundations Fund

- Accrington Stanley Community Trust has been awarded a £10,000 grant from the Sky Bet EFL Building Foundations Fund to go towards providing first class facilities at Stanley Sports Hub
- Over 60 EFL club community organisations have received a grant in the first phase of funding, which aims to improve the quality of life within communities through the access to, and quality of, football provisions and initiatives.
- Applications covering projects across a range of categories, such as improving local sporting facilities or promoting the physical and social benefits of the game, were considered, and rubber-stamped by a panel of industry experts including Sky Bet ambassador Jeff Stelling last month.
- The Building Foundations Fund represents the largest multi-year sponsor-backed fund dedicated solely to community activity and the process is underway to give EFL Community Club Organisations (CCOs) a chance to bid for grants of up to £100,000 to invest in ongoing programmes or to develop new initiatives.
- The EFL and Sky Bet agreed a record extension earlier this year that saw the sports betting brand continue as the League's title partner until the end of the 2028/29 campaign. The commitment to a community fund was an integral part of the extension agreement.
- To find out more about the Sky Bet EFL Building Foundations Fund with other examples of how the fund is being used, visit: <https://m.skybet.com/lp/efl-building-foundations-fund>



One step away from history

- Hyndburn and Ribble Valley District Schoolboys football team got to the semi-final in the English National Schools Under 14s Tournament on Saturday 23rd March, where they were beaten by a Manchester District Schools side led by Wayne Rooney's son Kai, by 6 goals to nil.
- Had they reached the final, they would have been the first Lancashire team to do so since Preston Schools in the 1930s.
- Despite the score this was a remarkable achievement and the lads deserve respect and credit for getting so far in the competition.
- **The match was played at Clitheroe FC.**



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