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## COMMUNITY NEWS

September 2024 Edition

# 13

# ANNIVERSARY



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Please visit our website at [www.acornnews.co.uk](http://www.acornnews.co.uk) for more news items and more in depth coverage of some of the items in the magazine.

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# 13 years anniversary Acorn Community News



Wow! Where has the time gone?

Over the past 12 months since we celebrated our 12th anniversary i have had a lovely time looking through the archives and have seen so many wonderful pictures of old in Accrington Library. My Acorn Editions saw 7 wonderful paintings being featured on the front cover, from Local artist David Sherburne.

I have featured all our townships showing pictures from 100 years ago to the present day. The pictures shown in my recent editions of owners standing outside their businesses were from 1906/1907, so I have added my own pictures of current business owners, which, I am going to collate and donate to the library so they have the pictures for their archive.

Over the past 12 months i have had the pleasure of meeting a few celebrities such as Steve Davies, Peter Beardsley and Michelle Hardwick who plays Vanessa in Emmerdale. Thank you also to Julie Hesmondhalgh who kindly wrote an article which was featured in our August edition.

Watch this space for our next Celebrity Interview.

After the Hyndburn Business Awards in June, I thanked Threlfall Farm Dairies for giving me the challenge/opportunity to milk a few cows last year. I then asked if anyone had any challenges for me. I have already driven a 40 foot Wagon and reversed it, courtesy of MEG Training Solutions and last month i made my own Limited Edition Tracy's Acorn Sausages at Ye Olde Sausage shop. I have a further 16 challenges to do over the coming weeks, so watch this space; as part of my 60 things to do before i am 60 in April.

I would personally like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone involved in making the Acorn a great success; from my printers, graphic designer Carl Wagstaff, my distribution team, and the invaluable support from Peter Jones. He has been a contributor from the beginning with the 'Oswaldtwistle Writers Group' and has also interviewed so many people, helped me greatly and has kept our website going.

I would also like to thank my advertisers, without whom I wouldn't have a magazine to produce, and of course, you the reader; your contributions and positive comments make this all worthwhile. I feel very humbled with the positive testimonials that we have received.

I would be very grateful If you would like to send me details of what you like about the Acorn and how we can improve; either by email or post.

Are you a local Organisation? If you would like me to attend with a presentation to talk about the journey of the Acorn give me a call.

The Acorn has sponsored Accrington Stanley Community Trust for several years now and we have a 'Charity of the month' column. Please give me a call if you would like me to publicise your charity for you.

I am very grateful for the advertisers who keep me going, enabling me to deliver around 11,000 copies throughout Hyndburn. My advertisers tell me the response they get from advertising with Acorn helps to keep their businesses afloat.

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Tracy Simmonds Editor  
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# Acorn News

## in Party Mood

We're part of Hyndburn like Nori Bricks  
And now we are enjoying teenage kicks.  
For this month we have turned thirteen.

And for all those years, we have been  
Keeping you in touch with local news.

From positive stories to our reviews.  
We hope this year to achieve much more  
So when our mag comes through your door

You'll pick it up and crack a smile,  
Or someone's story will beguile.

Then, of course, our Tracy's game  
Accepting challenges; never the same.  
From creating a sausage to driving a truck.  
A skydive next year? We'll wish her luck.

And as in the past we're looking out  
For upbeat tales to write about;

To celebrate the culture of our town  
To help pick you up when you are down  
If we can achieve all this, then indeed,  
Our birthday celebrations can proceed.

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# Oswaldtwistle carnival returns

Like many of you, we were saddened to hear that Oswaldtwistle Carnival was coming to an end. This incredible event has always brought our community together and created memories for everyone involved.

But we have some exciting news— Oswaldtwistle Carnival will live on!

We're thrilled to announce that we'll be taking on the challenge of organizing Oswaldtwistle Carnival 2026!

As the team behind Accrington Carnival, we understand the task ahead won't be easy but we will do our best to keep the Carnival going!

We know we have BIG shoes to fill, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Oswaldtwistle Carnival Committee. You've done an amazing job over the years.

And a massive thank you to those in the both ours and Oswaldtwistle Carnival Committee who will be staying on to help.

What's next?

We have several events coming up (including one at the Accrington Stanley Hub), so things might be a bit quiet for a while.

But don't worry... you can stay updated by joining our mailing list.

<https://linktr.ee/accringtoncommunityevents>

Email: [aceaccrington@gmail.com](mailto:aceaccrington@gmail.com)

In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled and watch this space!

If you would like to help organise Oswaldtwistle Carnival, please get in touch.

*From, Accrington Community Events Team*



## A Community in mourning

- Family and friends wear blue as Jay Slater is laid to rest
- The Local Community Came out in Oswaldtwistle and lined the streets for the cortege to Accrington Crematorium for the Service of Jay, where then he was laid to rest.
- Throughout the weeks from when Jay went missing Oswaldtwistle had Blue Ribbons on gates and lamp posts in the hope of finding Jay.
- The 19 year old went missing after partying on his first holiday in Tenerife with friends.
- After the 4 week hunt on finding Jay, his body was discovered and was found in a ravine in the Rural de Tempo National Park.
- His body was flown back to the UK. On Saturday (August 10) a celebration of Jay's life was held at Accrington Crematorium. Around 500 mourners dressed in blue to bid farewell to the apprentice bricklayer.
- Funeral director Sarah Barton officiated at the service and told the congregation: "We know that Jay touched the lives of so many people, and on behalf of the family I would like to thank all those who have sent heartfelt messages and cards to them to help them get through this incredibly hard and sad time.
- "I would also like to thank all those who have helped bring Jay safely back to us, family, friends, the kind offers from people in Tenerife, the police here back home and all of you for coming here today to show your love and care."
- An inquest has been opened into the death of Jay Slater, who died on holiday in Tenerife.
- Our thoughts are with the Slater family at this sad time.

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## Mayors viewpoint: Councillor Mike Booth

One of the delights of being the Mayor of Hyndburn is witnessing the contributions of so many people who help enrich our borough through their selfless voluntary work.

So far, the Mayoress and I have had the pleasure of meeting an increasing number of leaders in our community who create opportunities for young people to get involved in joining organisations, such as the Sea Cadets, the Police Cadets and the Army Cadets. In July, we were invited to give achievement awards to young people who took part in the Prince's Trust scheme. This wonderful scheme, operated by the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service in Hyndburn, is a great example of community action with young people that challenges them and encourages them to consider their future aspirations. The voluntary sector is a large part of our society and there are many voluntary activities in our towns to engage in, from litter picking, community artwork, music, dance and drama festivals, and tree planting to name just a few!

Since Hyndburn Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, there has been an increasing effort by the Council and many individuals, organisations and community groups to work toward combatting climate change in and around the borough. The launch event of the Brookside Restoration project made you realise that with the partnerships between the Council, Prospects Foundation and other key local groups, great strides are being taken in our borough towards net zero by 2030. Brookside and Bury Meadow, as a biodiverse vast expanse of open moorland, woodlands and marshland, is an initiative for generations of Hyndburn residents to be proud of and enjoy.

Another testament to our fantastic green spaces and the hard work of community groups could be found at the 'Picnic in the Park' event, held at Great Harwood's Memorial Park (which received a green flag this year and has undergone upgrade works over the last 12 months). The event was well attended by residents, and it was a pleasure to hear such positive feedback for an event that had community at its heart. Thank you to all involved in organising it and I would encourage all to take a trip to see the park in all its glory.

The Mayoress and I had the pleasure of attending the Soapbox Challenge this bank holiday weekend, a popular annual event that is always guaranteed to attract the crowds. There were some formidable entries, and the organisation of the event was superb. Thank you to the Amazing Accrington team, and I'd like to extend a big congratulations to the winning entry from the Senator Group.

Finally, after chatting with many residents across events, the Mayoress and I have been highly impressed by the talents, knowledge, expertise and skills exemplified in the people of our community. As a borough, we are a forward-thinking community of good people building a better future for all of us, not to be distracted by those who would seek to create divisions in our society. We all recognise that we depend on one another in times of adversity, and it is because we have a strong sense of community that we work together.



## Every stone has a story to tell



The cemetery has been described as the best "classroom" we have for studying the local or family history of a community. A walk around Burnley Road Cemetery, Accrington, supports this view as it contains the final resting place of those people who, in one way or another, helped to develop it.

Facing the entrance to the crematorium is the memorial of Joseph Walker who was Accrington first Chief-Constable. 17 applications were received and Joseph, who was a police inspector at Bradford, was appointed on Thursday, August 11, 1881. Accrington's Borough Police Force took charge of the town from the county's police on New Year's Eve, 1881. On Wednesday, November 7, 1883, Chief Constable Walker attended the Moorfield Pit Disaster. He died a month later from erysipelas in the head. Was his cause of death connected to the pit disaster? Although Joseph Walker was only at Accrington for a short time, he was well respected and thousands attended his funeral. The Mayor established a public fund to support Walker's widow and his 7 children.

Another memorial records the death of James Henry Hargreaves, who died at St. Petersburg, Russia on September 28, 1910. He was born in 1871 and married Elizabeth Pilkington at St James, Accrington in 1902. Shortly afterwards, like other Lancashire men, he left England to work in textile mills in St Petersburg. Their son, Harold, was born in St Petersburg on 20 April 1903. Following James' death his widow and son return to England, but she did not live too long, dying in 1914 and Harold went to live with his uncle, William Kay.

These are just two stories that the memorials can tell. The Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society has transcribed the gravestones in Burnley Road Cemetery and many others from other parts of the county. These are available to search at the Research Centre, 2 Straits, Oswaldtwistle BB5 2LU. The centre is open free of charge – Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month 1pm – 5pm. Why not come along and discover your family's stories.

The Hyndburn Branch meet every first Wednesday of the month at the Sea Scout HQ on Harvey St Oswaldtwistle at 7.45. There is usually a speaker on related topics.

**For more details about the Society, see [www.lfhhs.org](http://www.lfhhs.org)**



## Hyndburn Council welcomes Ukrainian Delegates to Progress Town Twinning Arrangements

In August the Mayor, the Leader of the Council and other members and officers from Hyndburn Council were delighted to welcome a delegation of Ukrainian representatives, including Professor Mykhaylo Oros and Mrs Liudmyla Varha, who had made the journey from Ukraine to Accrington. The purpose of the meeting was to take forward the proposal, agreed last year to set up a twinning arrangement with the town of Khust in the west of Ukraine.

A number of Ukrainian residents also attended and spoke warmly of the welcome and friendly support they have received from the people of Hyndburn. Professor Oros reflected that this local support mirrored the considerable support offered by the UK Government since the start of the war.

The Mayor of Hyndburn, Cllr Mike Booth, said of the visit: "It was wonderful to meet our Ukrainian guests, those visiting and those who have been resident in our Borough. I was proud – and not at all surprised - to hear from them about the warmth they have experienced from our Hyndburn community. I look forward to plans for the twinning arrangement progressing."

Leader of the Council, Cllr Munsif Dad, said: "Twinning arrangements are not only an expression of solidarity and friendship, but an opportunity to explore mutual benefits such as around economic development and trade, education, and cultural engagement. I was pleased to confirm the Council's ongoing commitment to this initiative and look forward to a report coming to our September Council meeting for us to formalise the agreement to take forward twinning between our towns, and to bring people together to work on future plans."

A formal twinning arrangement is expected to be approved later this year.



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- Know the six main symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning – headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse, and loss of consciousness.
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm and make sure your friends and relatives have one too. Check they are marked EN50291 and display the British Standards' Kitemark.
- Make sure you have your annual safety check. Gas appliances should be safety checked once a year and serviced regularly by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Tenants – make sure your landlord arranges this. Set a reminder so you don't forget at [StayGasSafe.co.uk](http://StayGasSafe.co.uk).

- Look out for your local community. You may have a friend, relative or neighbour who is unable to arrange their own gas safety check or are unaware of what they need to do to keep safe. Help them stay safe by ensuring that they have their appliances checked and serviced regularly, if they are able to do so.
- Check your engineer is qualified for the type of gas work you need doing e.g., natural gas, domestic boiler. You can find this information on the back of their Gas Safe ID card and on the Gas Safe Register website.

**For gas safety advice and to find or check an engineer visit the Gas Safe Register website at [GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://GasSafeRegister.co.uk). Alternatively call the free helpline on 0800 408 5500.**



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# Nursery End Fuchsia Festival

After months of preparation Chris has, once again, managed to put together a stunning display of over 270 show quality fuchsias. Many of the fuchsias which were displayed are his own cultivars and the older varieties which are rarely seen in the big shows such as Chelsea and Southport. As always one of the fuchsias which always draws a lot of interest is quite a common one called Dollar Princess. The Dollar Princes which we display is the first fuchsia Chris owned. Having seen it back in 1966 in Darwen Woolworths as an eight year old child and, being absolutely fascinated by its beauty and its form, his mum bought it for him on condition that he looked after it. He's been looking after it after since.

From that first fuchsia, Chris's collection has grown significantly and accommodating it has been a main consideration when moving house. Through his fascination with the genus he has met many interesting and dedicated horticulturalists and so, in turn, Chris has also enjoyed sharing his experience and knowledge of the history of the fuchsia as a species as well as the hybridisation, propagation and cultivation of this beautiful flowering plant.



# Soap box challenge 2024

- Thousands Turn out for the Soapbox Challenge Wacky Races
- From the Maundy Relief Nuns on the Run, One in a Minion, Thunderbirds, Batman, BBC Radio Lancashire and many others 28 competitors in total and an afternoon of fun for all the family.
- Hosted by Stephen Lowe from BBC Radio Lancashire, Blackburn Road, Accrington was the setting for the start of the Soapbox challenge which saw 28 homemade non motorised soapboxes competing to become the champion for 2024. This started setting off on a ramp and making their way along the course to another ramp before being squirted with water entering the chicane to the finish line on Church Street.
- With everyone cheering each competitor on it was a fantastic occasion organised by the #Amazing Accrington Team.
- More pictures on page 26

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## 100 years Past to Present

*In the past 13 months I have been searching through archives to find old pictures of all the different areas in our townships, I noticed that the majority of the pictures are from 1906/7 of business owners stood outside their businesses. I have been taking current pictures of the businesses here now and i will be donating soon to the library all the pictures I have taken for future generations to look at.*

*Here are just a few from Abbey Street, Warner Street, Infant Street & Little Blackburn Road.*

### The history of Abbey Street, Accrington

You will be familiar with this area but did you know that over Twenty Five years ago the area consisting of Abbey Street, Black Abbey, Oak Street, Warner Street, Little Blackburn Road, Bank Street, Grange Lane, Cross Street & Church Street was named THE ABBEY GRANGE SHOPPING AREA as the sign suggests on the railings outside The Arden Pub. Much of this is a Conservation Area with many wonderful Buildings & Victorian Arcade with businesses ranging from Various Independent Retail shops, Hair & Beauty salons, Fashion, Jewellers, Tea Rooms/Coffee shops, Restaurants, Estate Agents, Employment & Training providers, Charity shops, carpet, kitchen & furniture suppliers plus much much more Here is an example of some of the businesses and what they have to offer.



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# WARNER STREET

100 years  
Past to Present



Established 2014 John Dougall pictured with the Lilly's Team



Established 1998 pictured Angela Kay



Tim and Andy Whitcombe from Colin Whitcombe and sons Jewellers established 1980

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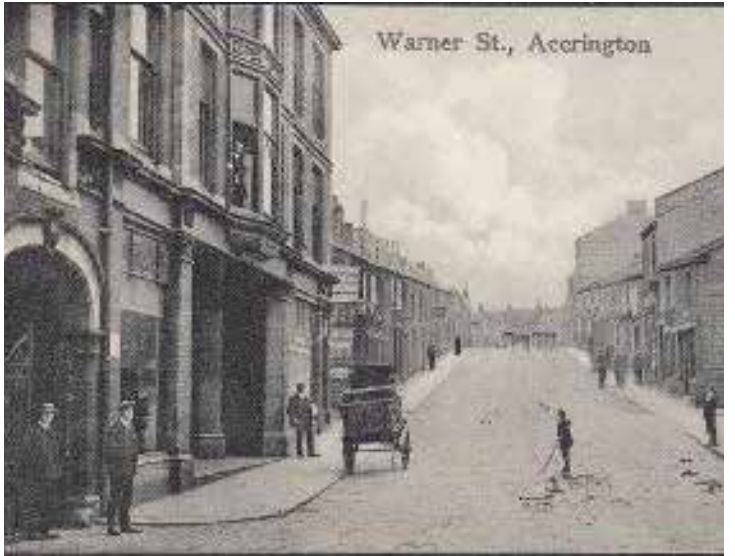
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# WARNER STREET

*100 years  
Past to Present*



Est 2008 Adele Cafferty new business on Warner street

## The history of Warner Street, Accrington

Warner Street is a Georgian street, originally built in c.1821 to house workers of the local industrialist Mr. Thomas Hargreaves and to create a safe passageway from the Abbey Street end of the town to St. James Church. The street was one of the towns earliest paved thoroughfares. Originally, the street wasn't linked to Church Street at the bottom, this came later after the River Hyndburn had been culverted. For quite a while after it was completed, the street was informally known as "New Street" but was later named Warner Street after the Lee-Warner family who owned the land it was built on. It was considered to be the best thoroughfare in the town as it was the only street properly paved. Warner Street leads from Abbey Street to Church Street and today houses a wide range of diverse and unique independent shops and businesses. Interestingly, if you look at the building numbers, they appear to have been started from the wrong end, with the low numbers at the Abbey Street end. This is because, when building work for Warner Street commenced, Abbey Street was the main market street in Accrington and so numbering started from there.





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Pictured Andy Richards with the Happy Cats Volunteers

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# The legacy of a great man

Frederick Albert Gatty was born in Alsace, France on September 14th 1819. He became a pioneer of new calico (cotton) dyeing techniques within the region. His work attracted the attention of Frederick Steiner, also born in Alsace not long after the Battle of Waterloo. He invited Gatty to Lancashire in 1842. They formed a partnership and Gatty became well known for his work in improving the dyeing technique of Turkey Red. He used garancin, a pigment made from the madder plant, in his patented method. The colour became known as Gatty Red.

In 1843 the firm now known as F A Gatty and Co. Limited was founded. And the process, which he had invented, was carried out at Hagg Works.

He married Mary Anne Wharton on February 7th 1855 at Pannal Church near Harrogate and the couple moved into the newly built Elmfield Hall in Accrington. The building was designed by a Mr Green, the architect who also created the Peel Institute (which is now Accrington Town Hall). Elmfield Hall was later extended and a new wing added and a classical facade to the front.

After painstaking research over the next few years, Gatty was shown by his Indian agents at the firm samples of a colour they called "Khaki." This simply meant dust coloured in Hindustani. He was told that if he could dye such a colour, so that it wouldn't fade due to light exposure and washing, it would sell in enormous quantities. The native dyed goods were inferior and not very durable.

This genius of a man set to work and solved the problem, and in 1884 managed to take out a patent, and khaki as we know it today was born. The invention of khaki was such a success that the firm was incorporated a Limited company in 1886. From that time the dyeing of khaki, gradually ousted the dyeing of Turkey red and the printing of calico from the work done at Hagg Works.

Gatty was to have even greater success for his improvements in dyeing army uniforms with the colour khaki. This enabled him to gain a contract supplying the whole of the British army, which changed its traditional red coloured uniform to the more camouflaged khaki around the time of the Boer War. This made both the company and himself a fortune.

Frederick Albert Gatty died on June 24th 1888 at the age of sixty-nine never having lived anywhere but Elmfield Hall since its purchase. He was survived by four sons and a daughter.

In the First World War, the house was equipped for wounded soldiers by the Gatty family and converted to a military hospital.

On June 26th 1920, the grounds were opened as a park by Miss M.C.E Gatty. Eight years later the hall and grounds were donated by the family to Church Urban District Council with the intention of it becoming a museum and art gallery, along with £500 for maintenance of the park.

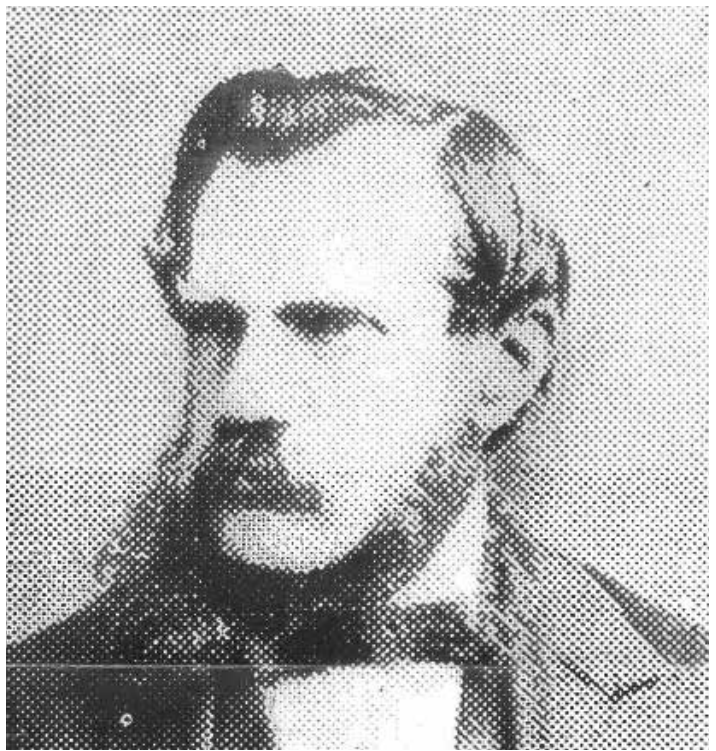
During the Second World War, the hall was used for storing civil defence equipment and in 1948 part of the building was converted into flats.

By the turn of the century, the park was plagued by anti-social behaviour and vandalism. A plan was drawn up to vastly improve the overgrown grounds. In 2007, the derelict plant nursery was partially restored by a partnership between Prospects and Incredible Edible. They brought one of the polytunnels and a greenhouse back into community use.

The bowling green was revived and an alpine rockery created. Just four years later, the hard work was recognised by the winning of the Green Apple Gold Award for sustainable regeneration. Three years after that, a Heritage Lottery Fund award of £350,000 was used to convert the front of the hall into a purpose-fashioned community use area. This is now managed by Community Solutions, a social enterprise. They run various courses (many of which are free to attend) and a very elegant community cafe that is open to all on week days.

Thank You to Gary Britland & Community Solutions Northwest for the pictures and Peter Jones for the article.

Editors notes: It was lovely meeting Rupert Gatty the great great grandson of Frederick Gatty pictured with the key alongside Maggy Moody of CSNW and local historian Gary Britland.



# What a **HYNDBURN SOUND** weekend of music!



The Accrington Community Events (ACE) team

Hyndburn Sound is an annual event in its 2nd year and was brought to you by Accrington Community Events (ACE), to support our fantastic local artists and fabulous local eateries and watering holes by bringing a weekend of FREE music to Accrington.

Held on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday ACE brought in artists to venues across Hyndburn, although many pubs decided to get more artists which meant all the pubs have been very busy. Lots of people came from out of town and even the local cafes have been busy with passing trade looking for food and drinks.

**22 venues**  
**40 bands/artists from acoustic solo artists to folk and rock bands**  
**1500 photos and videos courtesy of a volunteer photographer, Emerald Edge Photography.**  
**8 exhausted volunteers!**

Some comments received "What a weekend, well done to you all, absolutely fantastic, places buzzing, loads of folk enjoying themselves, families, groups of ladies, absolutely brilliant!" Jackie Rawstron

"It's been an amazing weekend ... Hectic but fab. Well done to you all for putting all this together for Hyndburn" Denise Townsend, Imposta coffee

"Well done guys. Busy weekend, thank you so much" The Crafty Fox

"Just want to say a MASSIVE thank you for organising this weekend. It's been an absolute blast and its sooo nice that a group like yourselves FINALLY want to try and help support local businesses in our town as we are not always included in other events organised within the town. So thank you! I am sure not just from me but other hospitality venues too!" Victoria Almond, Tippy Table

Accrington Community Events was set up by volunteers to coordinate not for profit, volunteer led events in the town such as the Accrington Carnival and the Christmas Tree festival. Our aims are to create events to provide a positive atmosphere in the town and help to attract more visitors whilst creating and developing cost effective events for the residents of Hyndburn and other visitors to the town. **If you are interested in volunteering in the future please contact us via our facebook page or email [aceaccrington@gmail.com](mailto:aceaccrington@gmail.com)**



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# The Arden Inn *LIVE* Music Venue

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 Saturday 7th September 3pm-6pm  
**Northern Soul DJ and Singer**  
 Saturday 7th September 9.30  
**Stonecutter rock band**  
 Sunday 8th September 7pm  
**Tombstone buzzards rockabilly band**  
 Monday 9th September 7pm  
 Open mic night a chance for you to shine



Friday 13th September  
**Pierpoint classic rock band**  
 Saturday 14th September 9.30  
**Saxum rock band**  
 Sunday 15th September 7pm  
**Stevie J kramer son of Billy J Kramer**  
 Friday 20th September  
**The Puls Classic rock band**  
 Saturday 21st September 9.30  
 Interstate band classic britpop and rock



Sunday 22nd September 7pm  
**Doctor Mantra wide range of tunes**  
 Monday 23rd September 7pm  
**Open mic night a chance for you to shine**  
 Friday 27th September  
**Northern State top indie & britpop band**  
 Saturday 28th September  
**Juicy Classic rock band**  
 Sunday 29th September 7pm  
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## Ossy Fest 2024 hailed a huge success

HUNDREDS made their way to Oswaldtwistle over the weekend to watch live acts and support the cause, FREE MUSIC LESSONS.

OSSY FEST, Lancashire's first FREE MUSIC LESSONS CHARITY pub crawl style festival, was attended in numbers this weekend with just over £10,000 raised. Originally starting in 2022, OSSY FEST returned this year with 13 venues, 39 acts, over 100 musicians and more than a dozen volunteers in total.

Set in all different parts of the town, OSSY FEST enjoyed sun filled skies for most of the weekend, providing a perfect atmosphere for locals to head to the bars, pubs and clubs, grab a cold drink and watch one of the many acts. From 16 year old 'up and coming' duos such as "BB5", to well established 18-piece "BWD BIG BAND". OSSY FEST urge musicians to contact them if interested in playing at future events.

Headlining the main stages over the weekend, at the pre show on Thursday, MATTY B had the Black Dog bouncing, on Friday MOSCOW CAT CIRCUS had all dancing on the Friday in the West End Arms on Thwaites road. Saturday and Sunday was headlined by two acts who recently performed at this year's OAK FEST- THE RUBY TUESDAYS, a bright energetic indie band playing to a packed Stanhill Club on Saturday and Sunday was finished by Burnley's "THE SOCIAL" who's joyous bouncy pop music aptly filled the Oswaldtwistle Social club on Rhyddings street.

The venues stretched all around Oswaldtwistle, including as far out as the Britannia who joined the festival for the first time. Organisers are on the look out for more potential venues, from pubs to cafe's to art spaces- please contact if you can help the festival grow.

OSSY FEST is organised and promoted by local volunteers and is supported by sponsors. The committee is headed by Matt Yates, Joanna Hunt and Joe Bamford.

Joe Bamford, chairman and organiser for FREE MUSIC LESSONS said; **"OSSY FEST started as a way to raise a bit of money for local to schools to break down a barrier to education for many families**

**For every £30' raised, we're able to get at one hour of tuition to someone who might not be able to afford it. This year we had our first band that had received free music lessons perform, and that is just the start."**

Carole, Stanhill club; **"Everyone was so polite and amazing, a real credit to ossy"**  
Danyella, West End Arms **"the night has been brilliant and I think everyone has enjoyed themselves. Moscow cat circus look like they don't want to get off our stage"**

Dawn, Ossy Social Club **"What a brilliant night, we had so much fun. Can't wait for next year"**

Tragicomics singer, Chris; **"We had a grand old time at ossyfest. Sweaty and decadent. Made some new pals too"**

Sarah, Ossy Social Club guest; **"As a passionate music lover, I thought Ossy Fest was amazing and the cause it helps is vital"**

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# Public Houses and Inquests

— by Ellison Street

It was the practice during the nineteenth century to hold inquests into fatalities in public houses, of which there were many involving transport. On March 2nd 1867 a fire broke out under the railway viaduct over Bull Bridge, which resulted in the death of children attending Burscough's school on the second floor above a textile factory. The inquest was held at the Crown Hotel on Blackburn Road, close to the scene of this tragedy. A verdict of death by burning was given.

On May 25th 1870, an inquest was held at the Woodnook Inn on Marsden Street into the death of platelayer Thomas Barnes, who was run over by wagons at Accrington Station. Doctors Gillespie and Russell amputated his leg but he died whilst this procedure was taking place. The Coroner said "that despite attention by competent physicians, the injuries were so severe he could not be saved", verdict accidental death.

Another verdict of accidental death was recorded at an inquest held at the Crown on Jeremiah Haydock, a 'Shuntsman' in Accrington. At half past midnight on Sunday May 14th 1871, he was struck in the head by the buffer of a passing locomotive.

On Friday 6th of December 1872, John Farnworth a Bury engine driver was killed at Accrington Station. His body was taken to the Crown on Blackburn Road where the inquest was held a day later. The Coroner stated, "There was a degree of carelessness on Farnworth's part". The jury recorded a verdict of accidental death. With twenty years' service on the railways, he left a widow and eight children.

On Thursday December 30th 1873, 26 year old Edward Brierley a labourer at Metcalf's Chemical Works, was taking a shortcut when he was hit by a train never regaining consciousness. Presided over by Coroner Hargreaves this inquest was held at the Britannia Hotel on Nuttall Street. On hearing the evidence he recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Robert Marriott, a Line Inspector with the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway, was killed at Accrington Station on Saturday 27th of February 1875. This inquest was held at the Derby Hotel on St. James Street, where his body had been taken. Following witness statements another verdict of accidental death was recorded.

On Friday 16th of November 1877, another inquest was held at the Crown into the death of 22 year old fireman John Broadley. The Foreman of the Jury, John Royston, returning a verdict of accidental death said, "This was by no means the first accident of this kind to occur in Accrington".

On Wednesday December 18th 1878, another inquest was held at the Royal Hotel on Blackburn Road before C. H. Beck, the Deputy Coroner into the death of William Ainsworth, also a fireman on the L&Y.

In February 1880, a horrific accident took place at Rishton Station on the evening of Friday the 6th, when William Hindle was struck by the Liverpool express as he crossed the lines. His remains were recovered and taken to the nearby Rishton

Arms Hotel to await an inquest. The Coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death. Hindle left a widow and five children, but was insured in the sum of £1,000 by the Railway Accident Insurance Company.

On Friday October 19th 1883, 13-year-old Messenger John Phillips was hit by a train whilst delivering a message from the station's telegraph office to the engine sheds. On Monday 22nd at Rawson's Hope & Anchor Hotel, around the corner from Marquis Street where the deceased lived with his widowed mother, Coroner Robinson opened an Inquest into his death with Stationmaster Samuel Crossley in attendance. The driver of the 5:20pm to Rishton was running at about 20mph when he saw the boy 25 yards away walking along the line. He gave a blast on the locos whistle which was still sounding as the engine struck the deceased. Richard Frankland, signal fitter's labourer making his way from the sheds, alerted by the sound of the whistle shouted a warning and saw the whole thing unfold. He ran to him and saw he was dead. He added, "He was walking on the ends of the sleepers, when there was room away from the tracks". Crossley confirmed the only way to convey messages between the station and the sheds was by sending someone along the permanent way. He stated some days up to eight messengers made this walk, but this was the first occasion that an accident had happened. The Coroner asked, "Was the boy deaf?" to which Crossley replied, "I don't know, for he had only been on this job for eight weeks, but like all staff Phillips was warned about the dangers". In recording a verdict of 'Accidental Death', Mr Robinson said "the Railway should find a safer means of conveying messages, but in this instance it was too late". The Company sent its sincerest condolences to his mother.

By April 1895, inquests were being held in the Courtroom of Accrington Town Hall.



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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 September include **Haworth 11 miles, Grane Reservoirs 10 miles.**

Walks in October include **Hebden Bridge 10 miles, Gargrave and Flashy Fell 13 miles, local walk - Huncoat Trail - later start as clocks go back. 10 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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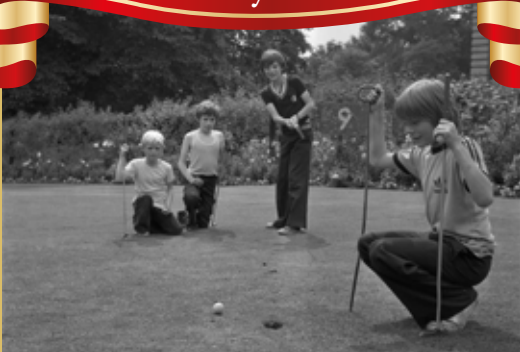
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## Council Leader Announces New £20,000 Cabinet Action Fund

On the 30th July Hyndburn Council Cabinet meeting, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Munsif Dad announced the allocation of a £20,000 budget for the Cabinet Action Fund for the financial year 2024/2025. This fund is dedicated to providing essential support to local residents and addressing various community needs across all wards within Hyndburn.

Over recent years, the Council has set aside budgets to empower the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet to react to emerging issues. The commitment to earmark £20,000 annually for this purpose will continue in future budgets, ensuring sustained support for our community.

The Cabinet Action Fund will be specifically used to:  
Support key community service providers: Assist vital service providers under pressure, ensuring the delivery of essential services and facilities for the benefit of local residents.

Enhance and encourage civic functions and events: Support the organisation and delivery of events that benefit the entire borough.

Improve local street scene: Fund additional services that enhance the local environment, making Hyndburn a more pleasant place to visit.

A report outlining the governance and accountability process for the spending of this budget will be presented at the next Cabinet meeting in September.

Councillor Munsif Dad, Leader of the Council, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "I am thrilled to announce our continued commitment to supporting vital small organisations and community groups across Hyndburn. This budget allocation will enable us to address several small pressing issues facing residents and small organisations in the borough."

## Soap box challenge 2024





# OFFICIAL ACCRINGTON STANLEY SUPPORTERS TRUST

The new football season is up and running with games in the opening weeks of the season coming thick and fast! The start of the season coincides with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the OASST which took place on 22nd August in Coley's at the Wham Stadium. It's an important event in our calendar as part of the rules and regulations that allow us to operate as a trust mean we have to host an AGM. Rather than being a long, drawn out affair, the meeting was brief, updated members on our financial situation, summarised our year's events including some important contributions to our community and was followed by a Q&A session with 4 players - Ben Woods, local lad Connor O'Brien and new signings Kelsey Mooney and Jimmy Knowles. The lads answered the questions openly and gave an insight into the world of a professional footballer at League Two level.

Another event that's important in our calendar is our Annual Jack Barrett Memorial sponsored walk, which last year, raised an incredible £1100+ for the Hyndburn Food Pantry. This year's walk will take place on Saturday October 5th, before our home game with Morecambe. There will be two walks, one beginning at Preston North End's Deepdale ground, the other other from Blackburn Rovers' home, Ewood Park and finishing at the Wham Stadium. We are looking into the possibility of going via Hyndburn Sports Centre and walking the final leg with a group taking parts in Hyndburn Borough Council's Walk to the Match initiative. Full details, including how you can sponsor, are on our website, [www.onstanleyon.com](http://www.onstanleyon.com)

Another regular event that we host monthly is 'Talking Balls'. This is a chance to talk anything and everything sport and is hosted by our club captain Seamus Connelly. It takes place on the last Thursday each month at 1.30 in the Stanley Sports Hub on Thorneyholme Road and you can enjoy a free brew and biscuit to go with the chat. There's usually a quiz and recent guest speakers have included Mick Rathbone, the football club's new Head in the Medical Department who shared tales of his playing days with Blackburn Rovers and Preston North End, as well as the near decade he spent as Head of Medical at Everton with David Moyes, and Head Groundsman, Ben Kay, who gave a fascinating talk on just what goes into maintaining the playing surface at the Wham Stadium and training pitch at the Hub.

**Until next time, On Stanley On!**

## Hyndburn Council's Economic Development Team Boosts Business Support for Entrepreneurs and Existing Businesses

The Economic Development Team at Hyndburn Borough Council is committed to supporting a thriving local economy. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are excited to announce an enhanced Business Support Service designed to empower entrepreneurs and bolster existing businesses.

Hyndburn's Economic Development service was introduced last year to support new and existing local businesses. It provides a comprehensive range of assistance, including:

**Tailored Advice:** Whether you're a budding entrepreneur or an established business owner, the team offers expert advice to support businesses to overcome challenges and help achieve their goals

**Workshops and Training:** Businesses can benefit from specialised workshops to hone their skills.

**Signposting and Referrals:** We connect businesses to relevant programs and additional support provided by partner organisations

**Site and Premises Assistance:** Need a location to start, expand, or relocate your



## Community Trust awarded £100,000 grant from Sky Bet EFL Building Foundations Fund

The Accrington Stanley Community Trust have been awarded a £100,000 grant from the Sky Bet EFL Building Foundations Fund for the newly-constructed 3G pitch at the Stanley Sports Hub, meaning more groups of every age and ability can now use the excellent facilities!

Seven EFL club community organisations have received a grant in the second 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 decided upon by a panel of industry experts, including Sky Bet ambassador Jeff Stelling, in May.

The £6m Building Foundations Fund, which represents the largest multi-year sponsor-backed fund dedicated solely to community activity, will give all 72 EFL clubs another chance to bid for grants of up to £100,000 to invest in ongoing programmes or to develop new initiatives in the new year.

The EFL and Sky Bet agreed a record extension last 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.

business? We can help Inward Investment Support: Attracting investment to our community is a priority.

Salma Chaudhry, Economic Development Manager at Hyndburn Council, provides regular 1-2-1 support with businesses from various sectors across the borough. To help encourage businesses to sign up to this support, the Council will be creating a new social media feature on economic development featuring the businesses who receive support.

Councillor Scott Brerton, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development said, "At a time of significant capital investment into the area it is important that we as a Council do all we can to support opportunities for business growth in towns across the borough.

Hyndburn is home to hundreds of small businesses, and our offer of 1-2-1 support is available to all of them. We can provide support and guidance for new businesses to access funding or help to existing businesses looking to relocate to Hyndburn or expand.

Our commitment to local businesses remains unwavering. This enhanced Business Support Service reflects our dedication to economic growth and job creation."

Several businesses have already benefitted from the support, including Alex from Alex's Organisational Services, who said, "I met Salma from Hyndburn Council at the start of my business journey and she welcomed me with open arms, Salma introduced me to BOOST and got me on a Business Development programme which I'm still currently doing and really benefiting from. As a VA, I also work with many other businesses all wanting to develop their business, so I pass Salma's details onto them and she supports and helps them as much as possible."

For more information or to request support, visit our website at [hyndburnbc.gov.uk/business](http://hyndburnbc.gov.uk/business)

Follow us on Facebook to see the work we do with local businesses, or subscribe to our business newsletter here <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHBBC/subscriber/new/>

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