CONCOURSE DUO SAVE SHOPPER’S LIFE

Centre security officers use first aid skills and defibrillator to resuscitate member of public after cardiac arrest

Two members of the security team at the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale have been praised after using their first aid training to help save a member of the public’s life.

Security officers Paul Pritchard and Colin Marshall dashed to the aid of a shopper who suffered a cardiac arrest outside Cash Generator just after 4.45pm on Friday, December 27.

They not only performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), but also used one of the two defibrillator machines located in the Concourse to help resuscitate the shopper before paramedics arrived on the scene.

Centre manager, Gary Mitchell, said: “Paul and Colin, security manager Alex Wilkins, who was in the control room, calling out to the ambulance and the team on the ground, and other officers, did a superb job in what were very upsetting and challenging circumstances.

“They bravely saved this individual’s life in a calm and professional way, using all their first aid training and expertise.

“There’s no doubt that having the defibrillators on site helped to save their life and I’m grateful for the fact that we had two installed in the centre in April last year.

“We’ve not had to use either defibrillator before, but this incident brings home just how essential they are.”

Gary also praised the actions of fellow shoppers, after a young girl called the emergency services on a mobile phone before passing it to the security officers so they could speak to the operators; while another shopper paid for a blanket from Wilko’s to help keep the patient warm.

Nurses from the nearby walk-in centre also assisted the security officers by undertaking further life-saving treatments.

Security manager, Alex Wilkins, added: “The security officers underwent regular training to ensure their first aid and defibrillator knowledge are up-to-date and while they said they were just doing their job, I’m proud that they put all their training into action.”

A spokesperson for North West Ambulance Service said: “In the event of a cardiac arrest, there are only a vital few minutes in which there’s a chance to save their life as every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces chances of survival by up to 10 per cent.

“This is why it is so important for people in the community to learn simple life-saving skills as starting CPR as soon as possible, even before an ambulance is able to get there, can dramatically improve a patient’s chance of survival.

“It’s important for people to remember that they cannot make someone in cardiac arrest any worse and not to be afraid to start CPR should they need to.

“Anyone willing to take action to help someone in a life-threatening emergency should be commended.

“The more life-saving defibrillators that are accessible to the public and registered with the ambulance service, the better as our emergency medical dispatchers can supply information on their whereabouts and how to access them when needed.”

Man accused of Rosie Cooper death threats makes court videolink ‘appearance’

A man accused of sending letters threatening to kill West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has “appeared” in court via a prison videolink.

Rakeem Malik is also accused of sending threatening letters to MP Jess Phillips, who is a candidate in the forthcoming Labour Party leadership contest and to former Conservative leader, Theresa May, when she was Prime Minister.

During the five-minute hearing at Birmingham Magistrates’ Court on Monday (January 6) Malik did not plea to four counts of making threats to kill and two charges brought under the Malicious Communications Act.

Charged

The 53-year-old, who is currently detained in Birmingham's Winson Green prison, had been instructed by his solicitor not to enter any pleas.

He is charged with three counts of making threats to kill Ms Cooper in May 2019, and a fourth relating to Ms Phillips.

During the hearing Malik spoke only to confirm his name and that he could hear and see the proceedings.

He also faces two counts relating to letters allegedly sent to former PM Mrs May “which conveyed a threat for the purpose of causing distress or anxiety” in September 2018.

Magistrates ordered Malik to appear at Birmingham Crown Court on February 3 for another videolink hearing.

MP denies ‘betraying’ voters over EU withdrawal bill - Page 5
Campaigners welcome council plan to phase out single-use plastic

Report by Kenny Parker

WEST Lancs Council has come in for praise from environmental groups after members voted to phase out the use of single-use plastic (SUP).

At a recent full council meeting councillors voted unanimously to pass a motion put forward by independent group, Our West Lancashire, which proposed developing a robust strategy to make the council a ‘single-use plastic free’ authority by the end of 2020.

This would include an end to the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the council’s supply chain and the transition to the use of compostable bags for litter collection.

It would also entail the authority working with tenants and operators in commercial properties owned by the council to encourage the phasing out of SUP cups, bottles, cutlery and straws.

Now environment campaign group Greenpeace has commended the council’s actions.

Louise Edge, head of Greenpeace UK’s ocean plastics campaign, said: “Banning single-use plastic is what all councils, organisations and businesses should be doing and we applaud West Lancashire for committing to do this.

“In seeking to ditch single-use plastic it’s important to ditch the throwaway culture altogether and take care to avoid swapping to other single-use items that harm the environment in other ways. Prioritising reusable cups, bottles, containers and cutlery is the best way forward.”

Also welcoming the move is influential campaign group, Environmental Investigation Agency.

However, it added that compostable bags should only be adopted where there are waste management facilities available to deal with these, as without them, they are not necessarily any better for the environment than conventional plastic bags.

A statement from EIA said: “We welcome this announcement from West Lancashire council to become single-use plastic free. It’s essential that our administrations lead by example in implementing initiatives to reduce single-use plastics and encourage efforts to repair, re-use and refill rather than create more pointless plastic.

“We note that substituting one single-use material for another is a false solution to the pollution crisis as all materials - including paper and aluminium - have an environmental footprint. Therefore we encourage the council to move beyond single-use altogether and focus on long term system change to encourage a truly circular economy for all materials.”

West Lancs Council has been asked to comment on EIA’s recommendations.
Application for residential development on former playing fields goes back to planning committee

Report by Henry James

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to build 60 two-storey residential properties at the former playing fields at Barnes Road, Skelmersdale are set to be heard by West Lancashire Borough Council’s planning committee again tomorrow (Thursday, January 9).

The application was deferred when it was last heard by the committee on October 17. Following that meeting officers were asked to look again at vehicular and pedestrian access to the site.

Since then there has been a letter of support from the manager of the nursery at Park Children’s Centre. However, concerns were raised about the increase in HGVs and more traffic to Barnes Road.

At the October meeting councillors also voiced concerns that a pedestrian access should be provided to Lime Grove.

An amended proposed site plan has now been submitted.

Heidi McDougall, corporate director of place and community at West Lancs Council, has written in a report for the planning committee that she wants to see “further details agreed” in respect of works to and delivery of this pedestrian route before the start of development.

The applicant submitted the amended proposed site plan following comments from Lancashire County Council, the highways authority and Ms McDougall believes this “fully addresses their remaining highway concerns in respect of the internal road layout, parking and manoeuvring of vehicles although these areas are not to be adopted.”

Officers believe the development should be granted subject to conditions.

Under the proposals most of the site will be used for the building of the 60 two-storey dwellings with allotments, land for a replacement Scout hut and a communal car park with 12 spaces.

As part of the development there will be 21 two-bed homes; 28 three-bed properties and 11 four-bed dwellings.

There will also be a new site access to Barnes Road close to its junction with High Street.

Technical issues

Objections have been made from the occupants of 10 nearby properties, raising concerns that this is the wrong area for housing; the lack of infrastructure/facilities; disruption which will be caused by the building work; affordability of the housing and the project; problems with access, traffic and parking; danger to heritage; drainage issues; destruction of habitat and the effect on property values.

The objections also include technical highway issues including that the Barnes Road access is not offset, which will increase the risk of collisions; there is not any vehicle swept path analysis of the site access junction; that the junction priority has not been shown correctly and that the refuse vehicle would have to reverse over distances of a maximum of 12m, which would be dangerous for collection workers and the public.

The council has received five letters of support for the proposals.

Heidi McDougall is in favour of the proposals.

She believes that residential development on the site “is acceptable.” She also points out that 20% of all units are to be used by the elderly. She adds as well that the “layout, scale, proportions and design of the proposed dwellings” are an “acceptable addition to this part of Skelmersdale.”

‘Don’t let your dogs dig up our pitches!’

Junior football league chairman says damage caused by uncontrolled pets is putting young players at risk

Report by Henry James

AN official of a junior football league is urging dog owners to exercise greater control of their pets when walking them on local playing fields.

Joe Nelson, chairman of Skelmersdale Junior Football League, says dogs have been digging large holes on the playing surfaces at White Moss Road making them “very dangerous.”

Thousands of youngsters in the town take part in JFL, each week during the winter months playing regular fixtures.

And officials from the league say they have had to constantly go around filling in the holes left behind by pets.

Unfortunately some are not discovered and recently one child sprained an ankle because of damage to a pitch.

Now Joe Nelson fears other youngsters could suffer more serious injuries unless owners show more responsibility.

He said: “As chairman of the Skelmersdale Junior Football League, I am rather concerned for the safety of our children and indeed all the users of our facilities at White Moss Road playing fields.

“Some local children exercising their

League groundsman Peter Briely points out some of the damage which the dogs have caused.

“Prior to the start of last Sunday’s games during our routine inspection we had to fill in five such holes.

“But unfortunately we missed one and one young child injured himself.

“Fortunately this was not serious, but he did suffer some discomfort and next time someone might get off so lightly.

“Unnecessary

“We appreciate that these are public grounds and are ideal for exercising dogs on, but we urge all dog owners to take greater control over their animals and don’t allow them to cause unnecessary damage to the fields.

“It is sheer vandalism. I am told that a resident approached the youngsters, who were of a mixed aged group, but they just sniggered and ran off.

“We had to abandon some of the pitches, which caused the children to be downhearted. Most of the residents walk their dogs around the fields, it is just the odd exception.

“Whoever is doing this should stop and leave us alone.

“I have spoken to the parents of the child who twisted his leg and they said he was shaken but OK.

“West Lancashire Borough Council has been contacted for comment.

AN appeal by management at a Skelmersdale care home for people to send Christmas cards to residents to make them feel loved during the festive season brought an incredible response - including one from a former England football superstar.

Staff at Elm House in Lime Grove were inundated with more than 500 cards in total.

And among those who responded to the appeal were former England and Liverpool striker, Michael Owen and fellow ex-Anfield players, Chris Kirkland and Neil Mellor.

The home’s registered manager, Angela Finnigan, said: “We just couldn’t believe the number of cards that we were receiving!”

The messages inside were genuinely heart-warming and have made everybody feel so special and loved.

The residents have been reading the cards to each other over Christmas and there have been tears of joy.

“Beautiful cards came in from schools, businesses and caring individuals across the North West and the owners of the home have kindly promised to make a donation to Dementia UK for every card we received, so as well as making our residents so happy, it has also been a great fundraiser for a very important charity.

“We would like to thank every single person who sent a card to us.”

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Go-ahead recommended for hotel application to expand on Green Belt

Council director says benefits of development will outweigh harm

PLANS to extend a West Lancs hotel using Green Belt land have been recommended for approval.

Although conceding that the proposals for the development of Briars Hall Hotel in Lathom will cause "significant harm" to the Green Belt, the borough council's corporate director of place and community, Heidi McDougall, believes they will also bring "significant benefits" to outweigh this.

The hotel in Briars Lane, has applied to build an L-shaped extension on undeveloped grass land to the west of the main hotel and to the edge of the woodland and brook, creating 22 extra bedrooms to add to its existing 25 rooms.

The planning application states that all the current bedrooms are on the first floor and only accessible by stairs. As a result disabled guests cannot be catered for.

It is claimed the proposed development will overcome the accessibility issue and improve the hotel's capacity to accommodate larger weddings and events, which are now its main business.

Currently employing around 25 full-time staff and an additional 15 or more part-time for large functions, hotel bosses say go-ahead for the proposals could create a further 10 full-time and 20 part-time posts.

The hotel has also applied to build a single-storey addition to the existing kitchen and a single-storey, flat-roofed events space linking to the existing function facilities.

In her report to the council’s planning committee meeting tomorrow (Thursday, January 9) Ms McDougall writes that the new accommodation will cause "significant harm" and be an inappropriate use of Green Belt.

But she adds: "However, the applicants have put forward very special circumstances to justify this development. I do regard the economic case put forward to ensure the viability of the hotel and protect/boost local employment to bring significant benefits in which I consider in this instance outweigh this harm to the Green Belt."

Briars Hall Hotel was made into a hotel in 1972 and has since had substantial alterations with modern extensions in differing designs. The core of the building is an old hall dating from around 1745.

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MP denies ‘betraying’ Labour voters over EU withdrawal bill

“My position and record on Brexit is clear - to support the majority of West Lancashire residents who voted to leave”

Report by Kenny Parker

NEWLY re-elected West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has rejected claims that she had “betrayed” Labour voters by supporting the Government’s EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill.

Ms Cooper, who secured her fifth victory in the December General Election, was one of six Labour MPs to defy the party whip and vote for the second reading of the bill which passed by a majority of 124 (358 to 234).

As a result, the Government will be able to take the UK out of the EU on January 31, after which there will be a transition period running until the end of 2020.

Officials of the local Liberal Democrat party though have criticised Ms Cooper, claiming that she was re-elected on a Labour manifesto which “rejected the damaging Tory withdrawal deal” and promised the people a Final Say Referendum.

They also pointed out that more than half of votes cast in the borough at the election were for parties which favoured a second referendum.

The bill was a revised version of one passed in October of last year, again with Rosie Cooper’s support. At the time the Government failed to get support for a swift timetable to turn it into law, however, with opponents saying they wanted more time to scrutinise the bill in detail.

That led Prime Minister Boris Johnson to call the General Election with the mantra of wanting more time to scrutinise the bill in detail.

“My position and voting record on Brexit is clear – to support the delivery of a landmark project in which the authority has built homes specifically for sale on the open market for the first time at Walsmsley Drive, in Ormskirk.

The scheme was shortlisted for best development under 50 homes in the Inside Housing Development Awards and the council has also been shortlisted for Council of the Year in the UK Housing Awards.

Jacqui joined West Lancashire Borough Council’s new chief operating officer Jacques Simmott-Lacey believes “exciting times” lie ahead for the borough and its people.

Jacqui has succeeded previous chief executive Kim Webber at a time when the authority says it is working to improve services and are making significant progress on major projects, including new leisure and wellbeing hubs and the long-awaited town centre development for Skelmersdale.”

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WEST Lancashire Borough Council’s new chief operating officer Jacques Simmott-Lacey believes “exciting times” lie ahead for the borough and its people.

Jacqui has succeeded previous chief executive Kim Webber at a time when the authority says it is working to improve services and are making significant progress on major projects, including new leisure and wellbeing hubs and the long-awaited town centre development for Skelmersdale.

Jacqui joined West Lancashire Borough Council in December 2016 as director of housing and inclusion, having worked in the housing sector for 25 years.

Landmark

At West Lancashire she has overseen the delivery of a landmark project in which the authority has built homes specifically for sale on the open market for the first time at Walsmsley Drive, in Ormskirk.

The scheme was shortlisted for best development under 50 homes in the Inside Housing Development Awards and the council has also been shortlisted for Council of the Year in the UK Housing Awards.

Jacqui has also been a member of the council’s corporate management team and served as interim chief operating officer before her official appointment.

Ramblers group issue ‘come and join us’ call...

If your New Year’s resolution was to get active and enjoy the countryside - now’s your chance.

The Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association welcomes new members from the West Lancashire area to join them for Sunday rambles with walks to suit all abilities.

Open to all, the association's upcoming walks are: Grange-Cartmel, Lake District (January 12); Ingleton, Yorkshire (February 2); Arnside, Lake District (February 23); and Bowland, Lancashire (March 8).

Coaches to the destinations leave from William Brown Street in Liverpool with pick-up points at Old Roan railway station, Aintree, and Bickerstaffe near to Junction 3 of the M58. The fare is £12.

For more information or to book, call Will Harris on 0151 486 6541, or visit the group’s Facebook page or website liverpoolcatholicramblers.com.

U3A monthly meeting date

THE next monthly meeting of the Skelmersdale U3A will be held in the Ecumenical Centre opposite the Concourse, on Thursday, January 16 from 2.15pm, when David Bell will present Images of Skelmersdale New Town, Debbie Readon from Skelmersdale U3A said: “Events for 2020 started again on Tuesday, January 7 with Singing for Fun, which was a wonderful way to welcome the new programme. We also celebrated the festive period with 42 of our members at a Christmas lunch at Briar’s Hall and by singing songs and carols at the December general meeting.

“Reviewing the year, we have gained some new members and had some sad losses. For more information visit www.chesh-buidler/skelmersdale or ring 01695 729998.”

Co-op Bank workers hold bumper collection in aid of Liberty Centre

STAFF from the processing department and other employees from the Co-operative Bank in Skelmersdale have been collecting toys for children from families who are victims of domestic abuse and have to stay in the Liberty Centre.

This is the sixth year the employees have made a donation to the centre.

Karen O’Hare, who works at the Co-operative Bank in Skelmersdale, said: “Every year the processing department, along with other areas within the bank, donate toys, games, gift sets etc. for the children who have sadly had to leave the family home due to being victims of domestic violence.

“The Liberty Centre is a safe place for these families, but unfortunately they often turn up at the centre with just the clothes they are wearing.

“This is our sixth year of making a difference to these families at what should be a happy time of year.

“All the staff pulled together by holding raffles and collecting money to buy new toys and even pyjamas for each child in the centre.

“The Liberty Centre were overwhelmed by the generous donations and thanked the bank.”


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WEDDING FAYRE
Tawd Valley parkrun sees in New Year with record attendance

TAWD Valley parkrun got off to a flying start to 2020, smashing its attendance record at its New Year’s Day special run with new faces attending on the first regular Saturday of the year.

A total of 242 people, with a wide range of ages and speeds, set out from the usual starting point next to Nye Bevan swimming pool with the support of some 25 volunteers marshalling various points on the 5km course and recording times and barcodes at the end of the run.

This beat the earlier record of 188 and gives an indication of how popular this inclusive event is becoming.

Commenting on the positive start to the New Year, event director Paul Cotterill said: “It’s been great to see a lot of new faces at the parkrun as we enter the new year.

“We’ve had visitors from all over the North West, many commenting on the beauty of Tawd Valley Park – Skelmersdale’s hidden gem - but what’s really pleased the core volunteer team most is how many people who’ve never run before are starting to attend, and how many 5k walkers we’re getting.

“Parkrun is not about how fast you are, it’s about getting out there and enjoying yourself, and those who take 80 minutes around the course get four times as long to enjoy themselves as the 20-minute speedsters!”

“After a period of course adaptations to cater for the near-complete bike track development works, I am pleased to say that the whole course is now on a variety of hard surfaces, and the very muddy patches are a thing of the past.

“To sign up for parkrun, which is entirely free, just go to www.parkrun.org.uk, register with a few details, print off a barcode, and turn up for a quick briefing at 8.45am in the main square next to the library.

“If you don’t have a printer, just let the Tawd Valley team know by email or on Facebook and we’ll sort it out for you.”

Trelleborg Skelmersdale staff with just some of the presents donated.

Engineering company staff donate £400 worth of presents to Salvation Army

STAFF at Trelleborg’s offshore operation in Skelmersdale donated more than 170 presents for the local Wigan and Ormskirk Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal.

A representative from Wigan Salvation Army went along to the Trelleborg office in Skelmersdale to accept the donation from the committee and loaded up a van full of presents and delivered them to their charity shop in Wigan for local families in the Lancashire area.

The social and charitable committee at Trelleborg’s offshore operation in Skelmersdale has donated £400 worth of toys for girls and boys aged up to 16, with colleagues donating a further 70 Christmas presents to add to the collection.

A spokesperson for Trelleborg said: “The Salvation Army believes every child deserves a new gift at Christmas, and the presents we donated included dolls, teddies, games, books, colouring sets, DVDs and winter clothing.

“Enterprise Rent-a-car kindly donated a van to help us transport the presents to the Salvation Army.”

Store team sing praises of ‘generous’ townsfolk for supporting gift plea

STAFF at the Shush store in the Concourse want to thank the people who supported their Christmas gift appeal for two local causes.

The clothes store, which is located at unit 143 on the first floor of the shopping centre, collected gifts for the Liberty Centre and The Birchwood Centre to be distributed to children and mothers at a women’s refuge and to homeless teenagers.

The appeal was the idea of shop assistant Marion Flanders who has also helped organise other collections for the refuge.

She said: “I want to thank the generous people of Skelmersdale for their support.

“The boss of Skem Express Cars made a cash donation of £300, and the money is going to the Women's Refuge for a TV. Staff at the Concourse shopping centre have been very supportive too!”

The Liberty Centre is a domestic abuse charity for West Lancashire. It supports victims of domestic violence and abuse, and has a refuge for women and children.

The Birchwood Centre in Horwich provides a range of services for adults and young people, to prevent homelessness, reduce social isolation and improve health and well-being.

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Train commuters face two weekends of rail replacement services after Merseyrail announced they need to carry out engineering works. Shoppers, football supporters and anyone else who would usually use the train over the weekend can expect delays as rail replacement buses are in force across Saturday, January 11 and Sunday, January 12 and then the following weekend on Saturday, January 18 and Sunday, January 19.

A full breakdown of the changes is below:

Saturday, January 11
Rail replacement buses will be in operation between:
- Kirkby – Liverpool Central
- Aintree – Liverpool Central (trains will run between Aintree and Ormskirk)
- Hunts Cross – Seaforth & Litherland via Liverpool city centre stations (trains will run between Seaforth & Litherland and Southport)

Sunday, January 12 and Saturday, January 18
Rail replacement buses will be in operation between:
- Kirkby – Liverpool Central
- Aintree – Liverpool Central (trains will run between Ormskirk and Walton)
- Hunts Cross – Seaforth & Litherland via Liverpool city centre stations (trains will run between Seaforth & Litherland and Southport)

Sunday, January 19
Rail replacement buses will be in operation between:
- Liverpool Central - Sandhills
- Hunts Cross - Sandhills

Mental health support available through text

SUPPORT is available in Lancashire following the New Year period for people who are feeling low, worried about their mental health or concerned about someone they care about - including via text messaging. Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust’s Mental Health Helpline and Texting Service provides emotional support for people who may be feeling lonely, stressed or experiencing mental health problems and thoughts of suicide. The helpline volunteers support callers by using listening skills to enable people to make their own choices about how their health care needs may be met. A texting service is also available for those who may find it difficult talking on the phone.

The Helpline and Texting Service is open 365 days a year, Monday to Friday from 7 to 11pm and Saturday and Sunday from noon to midnight. To contact the Helpline call the freephone line on 0800 915 4640 or alternatively text ‘HELLO’ to 07860 022 846.

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Men-Aces’ new festive fundraiser hits target

OVER the last 10 years players and officials of the Skem Men-Aces Disability Football Club have organised their own Santa Dashes to help raise awareness of the homeless and the vulnerable within the community.

Following this example, other clubs have followed suit, using knowledge gained from the Men-Aces to set up their own events.

This year though the Men-Aces came up with a new idea.

Carl and Mimi Eaton from the Men-Aces said: “This year, with the weather being so bad, we decided against the run and did a Santa Scours instead - which was great fun.

Each of the players were sponsored in food items to add to the hampers, instead of money.

“In total we managed to make up more than 30 large hampers, with boats and boxes of food left over and we were helped by Cobbs Brow Primary School.

“We delivered the hampers to Digmoor Community Centre which opens its doors on Christmas Day for the lonely, vulnerable and homeless people within the community.

“The lads fully understood what it all meant and did marvellously - and as a reward they all received medals from Alan Rothwell of the British Running Club along with selection boxes.”

Sewing Rooms wins Lottery funding for restoration project

AWARD-winning Skelmersdale social enterprise The Sewing Rooms has successfully secured £9,980 from the National Lottery Community Fund to run a furniture restoration project for older men.

The project is free to attend and starts in February. It will run one day a week at their new premises in Centaur House, Gardiners Place, West Gilbrellas.

Paula Gamester, founder director of The Sewing Rooms, explained: “This project will bring together lonely isolated older men who are encountering depression and other life-changing events such as bereavement, divorce, illness and unemployment.

“We know from experience of running other similar projects that this group of older men find it difficult to connect and talk about issues and problems they face.

“By providing the right environment that is supportive and welcoming we know that this kind of project helps them to overcome their loneliness and gives them a sense of belonging, as well as opening up opportunities for them to make friends, build their own asset base and ultimately improve their resilience and wellbeing.

“We want to build on the success of our other projects by providing opportunities and building lasting and meaningful connections.”

For more details contact Martin on 01695 550772 or visit www.the-sewing-rooms.co.uk.

Bufffs Club is venue for Veterans’ Association annual meeting

THE Skelmersdale Veterans’ Association are holding their annual general meeting at The Buffs Community Club, Quarry Bank, Ormskirk Road, on Sunday, January 12 starting at 1pm.

The association were involved with the Skelmersdale Ex Services Association in organising the Poppy Appeal in the town this year, which raised £21,000.

Veterans collected at the Concourse shopping centre and at the Asda.

Alan Lewis, chairman of the Skelmersdale Veterans’ Association, said: “Skelmersdale is a town with strong links to the military. We are very proud of our military history. We want to thank all the veterans who turned out over the five weeks running up to and after the Poppy Appeal.

“We also want to say a very big thank-you to all the local shops, companies, primary and high schools and mobile cafes who took collection boxes. Also thank-you to the public and the young people who supported the appeal.

“I’m particularly thrilled to have been able to support this event for the last two years with the veterans who give up their family time over the weekday and weekend to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

“The event also carried a strong message. It is an opportunity for the public to say thank-you and show their support to the armed forces - from those currently serving, to reservists, veterans, and cadets.”

For more information on the Skelmersdale Veterans’ Association email Alan Lewis at chair.sva@outlook.com.

Got a story? Ring the New Desk on 01704 392400
Packed church for fundraising carol service

THE Rotary Club of Ormskirk’s annual Christmas carol service at a packed Ormskirk Parish Church raised £350 for Derian House Children’s Hospice.

The event saw a record five schools taking part - Burscough Village Primary, Ormskirk CE Primary, Newburgh CE Primary, Aughton Christ Church Primary and St Anne’s RC Primary.

There was also a special performance by the Ormskirk Chamber Choir.

John McCormick, former recent president of the Rotary Club, said: “The evening was fantastically well attended and all of the schools were brilliant, performing Christmas carols and songs both traditional and new.

“On the way out of the church donations were requested towards Derian House Children’s Hospice and a total of £350 was raised which will be presented to them in the new year.”

Derian House, based in Chorley, provides respite and end-of-life care to more than 400 children and young people from across the North West.

A packed parish church for the Rotary Club of Ormskirk annual carol service.
Enterprise chair sings praises of borough after ‘rewarding’ visit

Business chief “extremely impressed” by regeneration work and potential for growth

Report by Henry James

NEW chair of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, Steve Fogg, spent an afternoon in West Lancashire with representatives from the council, key business leaders and leading academics. The Lancashire LEP is a strategic collaboration between businesses, universities and local councils which aims to direct economic growth and drive job creation in the county.

At a lunch hosted by West Lancashire College, Mr Fogg, who is managing director of corporate shared services at BAE Systems, was welcomed by West Lancs Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran and was given a presentation on the “exciting” developments taking place and prospects for further investment in the borough.

Mark Whittorn, chair of the Skelmersdale Ambassadors, also emphasised the close working relationship between the private and public sectors and the common agenda to secure funding for key projects, including the proposed railway station in Skelmersdale.

Mr Fogg also visited Skelmersdale town centre where construction of the new retail scheme is due to start this month before a tour of Edge Hill University with vice chancellor John Cater and deputy vice chancellor Steve Iggo.

Describing his visit as “really rewarding” he said: “Lancashire has a wealth of great businesses and academic centres of excellence and West Lancashire is a shining example of this. We need to showcase the amazing things that are going on here and make sure that we secure our fair share of investment.

“I was extremely impressed by the range of economic regeneration work being undertaken by the local council and by the potential for growth in Skelmersdale.

“The range of courses and superb working environment of Edge Hill are incredible and Lancashire as a whole should be proud to have such an outstanding institution located within it.”

Councillor Ian Moran commented: “I was extremely pleased to be able to welcome Steve to West Lancashire. It is a great time for Steve to visit Skelmersdale, given we have so many successful businesses, exciting new housing developments underway and the town centre scheme finally due to start early in the New Year. The council and local businesses will be campaigning hard in the New Year for the new rail link and station that will ultimately transform the town even further.”
RAIL travellers have been hit with yet more fare increases with Merseyrail announcing an average 2.8% hike, while elsewhere across the region, an average rise of 2.7% has been implemented.

Confirmation of the January 2 price rises came as the Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, announced he is to strip beleaguered Northern Rail of its franchise.

Mr Shapps said a process was now underway to rid Northern of its operating licence after years of poor performance.

The minister said he intends to remove Northern from the franchise, saying:

“It’s partially a legal process but frustrated commuters will not have to wait long.

“It’s been really bad. Since 2016 people have had a nightmare on that line.

“I was up there a lot during the election. I saw it first hand.

“I already announced to Parliament in the autumn that I have started the process called a request for proposals.

“That means it either will go to a direct award contract or to the Operator of Last Resort (OLR) to run.”

German-based Arriva holds the Northern franchise, which is due to run until March 2025.

Mick Cash, general secretary of transport union RMT was sceptical of the announcement made by Mr Shapps:

“Grant Shapps is big on talk about Northern Rail but short on detail and this has all the hallmarks of a dead cat being slung on the table to distract from the fare rise scandal. If Grant Shapps was serious he would set out a timetable for removing the Northern Rail franchise from Arriva and their replacement with the public sector operator. I am seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Shapps to pin down the detail and how it affects RMT members and the services they provide.”

Steve Rotherham, Mayor of Liverpool City Region commented that Grant Shapps’s announcement is unclear:

“For 18 months Andy Burnham and I have been calling on the Government to get to grips with the chaos on the railways of the North and remove the franchise from Northern. Action

“The announcement from the Transport Secretary that he is belatedly going to take some action will be welcomed by passengers – however it is still unclear what this means in practice.”

Merseyrail say its ticket fares are still some of the lowest in the country.

Suzanne Grant, commercial director at Merseyrail, said:

“While there is a rise in ticket prices, 98 per cent of fares are reinvested back into the railway, which allows us to improve the network and continue to provide our passengers with a reliable, high quality service.”

Rail passengers are hit with more price increases

Report by Henry James

But Northern will be stripped of its franchise, promises Transport Secretary Grant Shapps
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TRIBUTES have been paid to TV psychic Derek Acorah, who died last weekend.

The 69-year-old, who was ori-ginally from Bootle but latterly lived in Scarisbrick, passed away after a very brief illness, accord-ing to a statement released by his wife, Gwen on Saturday, (January 4).

Posting on Facebook, she wrote: “Farewell my love! I will miss you forever! I’m devastated to announce that my beloved husband Derek has passed away after a very brief illness.”

Other tributes came from friends and former colleagues. Acorah was born Derek John-son in Bootle, to Frederick Johnson, a merchant sailor, and his wife, Elizabeth (nee Court-ney). He said his psychic

Boys and signed as an appren-tice-professional with Liverpool, but never managed to break into the first team squad.

He also played for teams in Australia before retiring and changing his surname to Acora - he said it came from a Dutch ancestor - and beginning to work as a medium.

He started to feature in regular segments on 1996 Granada TV’s The Psychic Zone and became a contributor on spin-off show Psychic Livetime, where he made a name for himself by making psychic predictions.

However, his big break came in 2002, when he appeared on Liv-ing TV’s Most Haunted, and he featured on the show for six sea-sons. He left the show in 2005 over accusations of fakery.

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The generosity of our caring community helped to bring some much-needed Christmas cheer to town’s food bank users

ONCE again, the volunteers at Ormskirk food bank would like to thank all those members of the community who donated so generously this Christmas. Beginning in late November, we had a tremendous response to our collection at Tesco in Burscough.

This was followed by numerous donations from local schools, churches, workplaces, the university and very many private individuals who came to New Church House with bags full of carefully chosen items. During December alone we prepared food parcels for around 70 clients, many of those representing families with children.

Due to your generosity we were able to provide seasonal extras and gifts for both adults and children. From all our clients, and from the volunteers, a huge thank you to our caring community. Ormskirk foodbank is open at New Church House on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am to 2pm. Claimants require a voucher from one of our issuing agencies.

For further information please phone 07748 951274 or go to www.ormskirk.foodbank.org.uk.

Katharine MacKenzie, by email.

Thanks for a wonderful afternoon . . .

ONCE again could I ask you to publish this thank-you, on behalf of the committee and members of the West Lancashire Pensioners Forum who enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of festive fayre in O’Briens Tea Rooms on December 3 with entertainment from Fast Eddy.

Free hospital parking for ‘night staff and certain groups’ welcome - but what about day and weekend workers?

WITH regards to the story about new proposals for hospital car parking (Champion, January 1).

I am relieved to hear that hospital car parking will become free for certain groups and hospital night staff from April 2020.

But why only night staff? This is unfair to those paying in the day.

As a full-time NHS worker I pay £30 a month to have the privilege to park at work!

Will day staff get a reduced rate? And will weekend workers get free parking when the car park is mostly empty?

NHS worker, by email.

Health trust listed in ‘Top 50 UK Employers’ fourth year in a row

THE UK’s Top 50 Employers has listed Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (LSCFT) within the top three NHS trusts for its work in demonstrating a diverse and inclusive workplace.

For the fourth year in a row the trust has been listed within The Inclusive Top 50 UK Employers.

This year the trust has risen another place and ranked number 19 out of 50 organisations in the UK for its outstanding efforts and commitment to attracting and retaining a truly diverse workforce. Compiled by a dedicated panel of judges, the list has been collated based on organisations’ performance on a range of areas within the diversity arena including recruitment procedures, training and other diversity related initiatives.

‘Positive reflection’

Emma Allen, Equality and Diversity Lead at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: “I am so pleased that the trust’s position has improved again this year and that we are now in the top three NHS trusts in the whole country.

“Our presence on the list is a really positive reflection of the hard work we’ve been doing to make our organisation as inclusive and accessible as possible for a wide range of people.

“There’s still a long way for us to go and we know that we don’t always get it right but being on the list allows us to benchmark ourselves against other inclusive companies so we can learn from them and bring new innovative approaches to equality, diversity and inclusion back to our own areas of work.”

Drop us a line...

IF you’ve got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page. They should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and include the sender’s name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.
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Liverpool Implant & Aesthetic Dental Spa

Dr Mark McGovern, clinical director at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa
AN animal rescue centre is once again appealing to members of the public to buy bales of hay and straw to help keep its animals dry, warm and fed throughout the winter.

Woodlands Animal Sanctuary, based at Sandy Lane, Holmeswood, says that during the winter months the animals spend more time in their homes, stables and hutches which means that it spends more money on hay and straw for feeding and bedding than at other times of the year.

As a consequence it has again launched its ‘Buy A Bale’ scheme to help cover this increased cost.

Each year the charity says it spends approximately £3,400 on hay and straw for the animals in their care, which include donkeys, goats, sheep, rabbits and guinea pigs.

It adds that the cost of a bale can vary dramatically depending on what prices farmers have set, so despite their best efforts at being economical with supplies, its costs can increase.

With opportunities for supporters to buy bales from £5 or larger bales at £30, Woodlands says the scheme “caters for everyone’s pocket.”

For more information about supporting the Woodlands appeal, visit their website www.woodlandsanimalsanctuary.org.uk and search under ‘Get Involved’ to ‘Buy A Bale.’

Donkeys Beannie and Dolly being kept warm and fed at Woodlands Animal Sanctuary.

Builder’s boost for bowling club

TRUNDLERS at a village club are set to benefit from improved groundkeeping equipment - courtesy of a £1,000 donation by a Lancashire housebuilder.

Mere Brow Bowling Club were handed the four-figure boost as part of Persimmon Homes Lancashire’s Community Champions scheme which invites local groups and charities to bid for cash, with two donations of up to £1,000 being made locally each month.

The club, which is located behind the village hall on The Gravel, has 55 members and the money will fund a new mowing machine as the existing equipment has become financially difficult to repair.

Diane Finch, sales and marketing director at Persimmon Homes Lancashire, said: “We are so pleased to support a local sporting group which encourages participation in sport and a positive neighbourhood environment.

“We hope that the club will be able to benefit from the improved equipment for many years to come.”

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Heart charity appeal for those unwanted Christmas gifts

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is appealing to people left disappointed by Santa’s offerings to donate unwanted gifts to them - to help beat the heartbreak caused by heart and circulatory diseases.

While it’s the thought that counts, it wouldn’t be Christmas without some gifts that miss the mark. But, rather than throwing these items away, the BHF is appealing for quality donations to help support the charity’s vital work and save unwanted items from landfill.

“We love the gifts you don’t!” said Allison Swaine-Hughes, retail director at the BHF. “This year, our shops were open from December 27 following Christmas. We welcome everything from good-quality clothes, shoes, handbags and jewellery to DVDs, CDs, books and children’s toys. Electrical items can also be donated to one of our 180 furniture and electrical stores, so think of us when re-gifting that blender or coffee machine.

“If you want to donate a gift or cut down the clutter after the festive season, then just drop your donations in at your local BHF shop or take advantage of our free collection service. Your quality items will be saved from landfill and help us raise funds for vital research into heart and circulatory diseases.

As the UK’s largest charity retailer, each year the BHF’s 740 shops help raise £30m for lifesaving research. Without the public’s generous support the BHF could not continue to turn bargains into scientific breakthroughs.

From the clothes and shoes that don’t fit to the accessories not to your taste, and the books you’ve already read, BHF volunteers and shop staff can transform unwanted gifts into money for heart and circulatory research and help the environment.

If you’ve had an upgrade, the BHF can also take old speakers, clothes or anything that’s been replaced by Christmas gifts.

Last year alone, the BHF claimed it saved more than 74,000 tonnes of items from landfill, which helped prevent 53,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from being released into the atmosphere. This included 15,000 tonnes of pre-loved clothes and an incredible 180,000 sofas.

Each year, 20,000 people in the North West lose their life to heart and circulatory diseases and currently 930,000 people are living with these devastating conditions across the region. Donating unwanted items is an easy way to help support the charity’s vital work, so it can accelerate research into new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat heart and circulatory diseases.

To donate head down to the local shop or go online to arrange a home collection free of charge. To find out more about how to donate to their shops or to arrange a free collection, visit: bhf.org.uk/donate.
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County council’s New Year campaign to recruit potential adoptive parents

PEOPLE considering becoming an adoptive parent are being encouraged to make that first step as part of Lancashire County Council’s ‘New Year, New You’ campaign.

The council is always looking for people to come forward who can offer children a loving home and a forever family.

And this month there is an added focus on people coming forward who were reflecting on taking this step over the New Year period.

County Councillor Philippa Williamson, Lancashire’s cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: “New Year is traditionally a time when people decide to make a change in their lives - give something up, or start something new - and is generally a period of reflection.

“I’d like to take advantage of that new-year, determined frame of mind to especially encourage people to think about a change they could make not just to their own life, but to that of a Lancashire child.

“Our adoption team has a lot of experience in helping find parents for children who need a loving, stable and permanent home.

Streamlined

“We have children of all ages who need adopting. Some are looking for homes they can share with brothers or sisters, and we keep siblings together whenever we can.

“We’ve also streamlined the process as much as we can by making changes to the adoption process, which should help speed things up both for children and adoptive parents. Potential adopters can now expect to be approved within six months of applying, if they meet the criteria.

Lancashire County Council is encouraging would-be adoptive parents to take the first step to changing their lives and the lives of children in need of loving, stable homes.

“We want to hear from people irrespective of their race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status. You can adopt as long as you are over 21, and live in Lancashire or close by.”

Meanwhile a special event for people considering adoption to also being held at County Hall, Preston, to help people find out about the process involved. This information evening will take place tomorrow (Thursday, January 9) between 6 and 7.30pm. There’s no need to book, you can just turn up, but early arrival is recommended so that the presentation can start promptly at 6pm. People attending are also asked to stay for the whole session.

Anyone interested in finding out more about adoption can call the council’s adoption team on 0300 123 6723 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption.
Project highlights impact of lives lost on county’s roads

LANCASHIRE Road Safety Partnership and Lancashire Constabulary are highlighting the impact of lives lost on the county’s roads in an exhibition which will tour the county. The 59 pairs of shoes project highlights the number of children who have died on Lancashire’s roads in just one year, using a mixture of pairs of shoes, including bike boots, cycle shoes and children’s shoes, to represent each victim. The 59 pairs of shoes represent 14 pedestrians; four cyclists; 13 riders; 17 drivers and 11 passengers - of which two were children.

Some of the fatalities could have been prevented.

The five main contributory factors that cause serious road traffic collisions are known as the Fatal Five. They are mobile phone use; drink/drug driving; not using a seat belt; speeding; and careless driving.

Unique approach

Sue Bushell, Chief Inspector of Lancashire Constabulary’s Roads Policing Team, said: “We have worked together with the victims’ families to create this project with some of the shoes used in the exhibition having once belonged to the family members of those who died on the county’s roads.

“Lancashire Road Safety Partnership works with bereaved families across the county who wish to raise awareness of the fatal five to ensure that no other families have to unnecessarily lose loved ones on the county’s roads.

“The 59 shoes exhibition is a stark visual demonstration of the number of lives lost needlessly on roads in Lancashire in one year and we hope that through this unique approach, we will be able to educate people as to the danger and impact of the fatal five."

LANCASHIRE Road Safety Partnership and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust is the first NHS organisation in the country to receive a City of Sanctuary Award for supporting people seeking asylum and refuge to access the health services they need.

The trust provides a range of services, including secondary mental health care, and specialises in inpatient child and adolescent mental health services, perinatal mental health and forensic services including low and medium secure care. City of Sanctuary is a national charity which works to make the UK a welcoming place for safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

The trust has also supported staff to deal with the complex and sensitive issues people fleeing war and conflict face.

Trust’s award ‘first’ for support of asylum seekers and refugees

A group of Slimming World Consultants from Ormskirk celebrated their groups’ successes by meeting chat show host and comedian, Alan Carr.

Alan, a well-loved TV personality, co-hosted the annual Slimming World Awards with the organisation’s founder and chair Margaret Miles-Bramwell OBE. Margaret opened her first group in 1969 and over the last 50 years Slimming World has become the nation’s favourite way to lose weight*, supporting almost one million slimmers.

The team, who run Slimming World groups in Ormskirk, were delighted to get a chance to meet Alan. Sue Allt said it was the perfect end to a fantastic year for the Ormskirk Slimming World groups. “The members at our group make me burst with pride, not only have they seen big changes on the scales, many have improved their health and completely changed their lives too. “Many people, taking that first step into a Slimming World group takes a huge amount of courage. But they’re always certain of a warm welcome and to take on things that they didn’t think possible before losing weight and feeling great.

Ormskirk Slimming World Consultants celebrate in style with Chatty Man Alan Carr
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This new, high-end, development offers the best of both worlds. Homeowners can enjoy the privacy of their own peaceful and spacious apartment, spend time in the leafy gardens (which are maintained by an expert team of gardeners), relax in the hair salon, therapy room or lounge and then invite their friends over to enjoy the table service restaurant, without having to think about cooking or washing up.

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Adlington’s real point of difference is being able to offer round the clock, 24-hour on-site support, and tailored care should it ever be needed, in the future. By offering optional and flexible care, homeowners and their families have peace of mind, which is cited as one of the key reasons why so many people choose to invest in an Adlington apartment.

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AWARD-WINNING EXPERTISE

Adlington recently picked up the much coveted WhatHouse? Silver Award for Best Retirement Development in 2019 for their Macclesfield development in Cheshire. Alexandra Johnson, Adlington Sales and Marketing Director comments: “Adlington’s vision is to empower our older generation to live a long, happy and healthy life. By creating spacious homes in safe and secure environments with active communities - we are responding to the changing needs of retirees and helping individuals live an independent life.”

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My mum had one answer to the mystery of the ‘hum’

FUNNY isn’t it how one thing can so often lead to another?

Having finished a library book the other day I came across a book I didn’t even realise I had entitled ‘Mysteries of the Mersey Valley’

I was not overly impressed by many of the tales of ghostly appearances or odd UFO sightings, but one story did ring a bell from way back. The story concerned a ‘hum’ that started in a woman’s home at about 2am each night and became so bad she could not sleep because of it.

Eventually it went away but apparently the hum, or buzz, dates back to the early 18th century when it featured in the Manchester papers and named ‘hummadruzz’ apparently because it seemed to be a combination of humming, droning and other terms.

And more recently another outbreak of the ‘hum’ in Britain led to a Government investigation into it in 1960 and there was even a job in Alabama in the USA.

My interest in the hum though was the memory of my dad in the early 60s, who was at the time working a three-shift job, complaining that trying to sleep during the day he was being kept awake by a ‘hum’.

My mother though soon set him straight – because there was a sewage farm about a quarter of a mile away from where we lived and she said the noise must come from there, and I think dad accepted this, though reluctantly.

So now I wonder. As far as I know there were never any complaints about a humming noise from the sewage works – only about the kind of ‘hum’ you get if the wind happened to be in the wrong direction – and it could be a trifle whiffy, if you know what I mean.

At that time mum and dad shared the front ‘mas’-term’ bedroom – the room now occupied by myself. And I can honestly say that from time to time I have thought there was a humming noise – though since my hearing isn’t perhaps as sharp as once it was I put it down to mild tinnitus, which it could well be.

But perhaps not. Perhaps (and I mean this sincerely) folks there really is a ‘hum’ of some sort that affects different areas at different times and to which no-one has as yet found the cause.

After all, ‘There are more things in Heaven and Earth’, as the immortal Bard once put it.

In my case, this very laptop upon which I am composing this piece, has a mind of its own - and an evil one at that.

Now I am, as you know, computer illiterate and it’s far more likely that whatever odd things the laptop does are all the result of me inadvertently pressing a wrong key.

On the other hand, maybe not. A very good friend of mine, now unhappily no longer with us, pressing a wrong key.

So now I wonder. As far as I know there were no complaints about a humming noise from the sewage works – only about the kind of ‘hum’ you get if the wind happened to be in the wrong direction – and it could be a trifle whiffy, if you know what I mean.

Anyway, life would be that much less interesting if we suppressed the capacity of gadgets to give us the creeps.

Footwear retailer opens new store in Burscough

UK footwear retailer Shoe Zone has opened a new ‘big-box’ store in Burscough

Big-box stores are characterised by a large amount of floor space. Shoe Zone says to Burscough branch will have a wider variety of products than its city centre stores.

Situated at Ringtall Retail Park the new store has created eight new jobs.

Hannah Tomlinson, head of store marketing at Shoe Zone, said: “We are very excited to have opened our 43rd big-box store in Burscough. This is our 25th big-box store opening within the last 12 months, taking our total number of stores in the UK to 505.”
Christine hopes to inspire others to follow her path to a healthier lifestyle.

LOSING weight and getting in shape is a popular New Year’s resolution with many people and a ‘super slimmer’ from West Lancashire is hoping her story could prove an inspiration to others.

When Christine Dagnall decided last January that it was finally time to shed the pounds after struggling with weight issues for much of her life, little did she know just how successful she would be.

Now, thanks to the support of her local Slimming World group, the 54-year-old has lost five stone and feels “fantastic”.

Christine had tried to slim before but gave up, often being left feeling hungry and regaining any weight she had lost - and more! At her heaviest, she had severe breathing problems and struggled with stairs.

Then she decided to join her local Slimming World group.

“I was so nervous when I first joined but I didn’t need to worry - everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I was instantly at home. It really is a little community, everyone is so supportive, even when you have had a difficult week. And it’s nice to be around people who genuinely want you to succeed.”

And she couldn’t believe it when her consultant explained how Slimming World’s Food Optimising healthy eating plan worked and she discovered that she could eat lots of everyday foods without weighing and measuring, as well as still enjoy her favourite treats in moderation.

After starting to slim down, Christine also felt confident enough to start being more active and now she likes to get out walking whenever she can.

As well transforming her on the outside, she feels like a new woman on the inside too. “Before starting Slimming World my confidence was at an all time low. Now though my life is completely different, I love buying new clothes - which is just as well as I’m shrinking out of them fast - and I can definitely be found mugging for the camera!”

Meanwhile her Slimming World consultant says she’s extremely proud of what Christine has achieved. She said: “Christine is proof that if you make small, manageable changes the way you cook and eat and get the right support it is possible to make your New Year’s resolutions a reality.

“I hope Christine inspires people in West Lancashire to choose Slimming World this New Year - everyone’s guaranteed a warm welcome at any of our local groups.”

The Champion • Wednesday 8 January 2020

Christine Dagnall before and after losing five stone.

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Library ‘drop-in’ for would-be foster carers

MEMBERS of Lancashire County Council’s fostering team will host a ‘drop-in surgery’ for potential new carers at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street from 10am to 1pm on Tuesday, January 14.

Part of an ongoing drive by the authority to find new carers, the session will offer the chance to have a face-to-face meeting with an expert in fostering recruitment and assessment who will be able to talk you through the process and offer advice.

Current foster carers will also be available to answer questions.

An advantage of attending the event is that your eligibility can be checked on the spot and an initial home visit booked immediately to fast-track you through the process.

County Councillor Philippa Williamson, cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: “Holding drop-in surgeries, attending events and being in communities are more recent approaches that we have been trying out to recruit the new foster carers that are needed. We recognise that people have very busy lives, so these could be very useful ways of being able to talk to people who are interested in finding out more when they are busy with their daily activities.

“These events really are very informal to encourage people to have a chat with us.”

With around 20 Lancashire children coming into care each week and needing urgent foster care placements, the council is keen to attract local people and families to step forward.

Some need foster care for a few days, while others need a longer period of care for up to a year or more.

Foster carers could be asked to care for children and young people across a wide age range, from birth to 18-years-old, and are encouraged to consider as many ranges of children’s needs and age groups as possible. However, new foster carers may feel more comfortable in caring for a specific age group when initially approved, whilst building up their confidence and experience with the support and guidance of the fostering team.

“Without doubt this is a well-run care home and I would certainly recommend it”

“This place is spot on! I don’t want to go anywhere else”

Lancashire County Council is once again seeking to recruit new foster carers. Photo posed by models.

Respite carers, needed to look after children and young people for short periods of time, like weekends and during school holidays, are also now encouraged to come forward. This could be for looked-after children where they need a short break or for children with disabilities.

The county council has increased the allowances payable to new foster carers to between £244 and £421 per week for each child they care for and people who have considered fostering before but weren’t sure they could afford it, are advised to go along to a drop-in surgery and find out if it could now be a viable option.

A package of support is also available 24/7 to help foster carers in their role, including local support groups, their own social worker, a dedicated helpline and flexible training.

If you’re interested but unable to go along to the drop-in event, call the fostering recruitment team on 0300 123 6723 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering.

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Student accommodation company serves up festive feast and entertainment for local senior citizens

A STUDENT accommodation provider in Ormskirk once again treated senior citizens in the town to a free Christmas dinner and entertainment. McComb Students laid on a three-course meal, festive quiz, a free raffle with prizes, live entertainment by local singers Sam Bennett and Camilla and a ‘goodie bag’ to take home. The event has grown each year from when it started on 2017 with 100 guests. This year 200 people from the local community attended. As in previous years, students who have stayed at McComb Student properties volunteered to help out, serving and keeping residents company.

A spokesperson for McComb Students said: “We thoroughly enjoyed hosting our third annual Christmas lunch for 200 Ormskirk senior citizens. It’s an event that we start planning for in the summer and has got bigger each year. A selection of our students that stay with us kindly volunteered to help out during the day and sit with our guests. We would like to thank all our guests who attended and we are already looking forward to next year’s event.”

Rose planted in memory of village stalwart Maureen

HESKETH Bank Community Centre and Becconsall U3A have planted a rose in the Hesketh Bank Queen Elizabeth II Community Garden on Station Road to remember a parish councillor who passed away last year.

Maureen Baldwin was a Hesketh Bank parish councillor for eight years and was well known in the village for her voluntary work with the community centre and U3A. She passed away in May of last year aged 75.

The rose, called ‘Ask Maureen’, was purchased by Hesketh Bank Community Centre and a commemorative plaque was donated by Jonathan Ball Signs of Chapel Road and Peter Watkinson Plumbing & Heating of Moss Lane.

Steve Kirby, chair of Hesketh Bank Community Centre and founding member of Hesketh Bank U3A along with Maureen, said: “We are very grateful to Maureen, who dedicated herself to our village, despite suffering ill health for some time, and she made Hesketh Bank a better place for us all.”

Maureen played a key role in the development of the Poor Marsh Allotments and the QEI Community Garden, and was awarded a Love Hesketh Bank pin badge for her service to the village in 2017 when she retired from those roles.

The planting ceremony was attended by Maureen’s husband Terry, who was also involved in the community centre and U3A, and her sister, Penny.
Kick-start your 2020 bird list at Martin Mere

Most birdwatchers keep an annual list of all the birds they see and Martin Mere is one of the best places in the country to kick start 2020’s bird list. Last year, 160 species of birds were seen at Martin Mere, ranging from the very common mallards to a very rare long-billed dowitcher, a type of wader that had come all the way from North America. In January, you can find around 70 different species of birds on our nature reserve.

Of course, Martin Mere is known for our whooper swans and pink-footed geese and these are easily seen, especially at the daily swan feeds, when the birds come right up to the hides. This is recognised as being one of the best wildlife watching experiences in the UK and there are more than 15 other species of duck and geese which can easily be seen at the daily feed. Also putting in an appearance in front of the hides are waders such as lapwings, black-tailed godwits and ruff. In fact, Martin Mere frequently plays host to the biggest wintering flock of Ruff in the UK.

At the Janet Kerr hide, many different species of tits and finches are coming to the bird feeders, along with great spotted woodpecker and nuthatch. This is a great place for photography. This winter, a willow tit has been regular on these feeders and this is a bird that many may struggle to see over the course of a year.

For the energetic, a walk around our reed bed and Woodend Marsh will give the chance to see some other uncommon birds. Bittern, bearded tit, water rail and Cetti’s warbler are all difficult birds to see but patience should reward birdwatchers with a couple of these species to add to their lists. A new hide, opening this month, will also give great views over Woodend Marsh.

It is also worth keeping an eye in the sky at this time of year because Martin Mere is also one of the best places in the UK to see birds of prey in the winter. Up to seven species of raptor can be seen in a typical day, including peregrine, merlin and marsh harrier. There’s also a good chance of seeing our resident barn and tawny owls.

So, if you want to get your annual bird list off to a flying start, Martin Mere is the place to be.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what’s on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Visit us @ www.ChampNews.com The Champion • Wednesday 8 January 2020
Catch British classics at Picture House this winter

ENTERTAINMENT

VOLUNTEERS at Parbold Picture House have released the film and theatre screenings for the winter months.

The venue is hosting Horus Epitaphology Society, Wigan, for a special event this Saturday (January 11) from 6 to 7pm, (including tea) for a screening of the new digitally restored version of Phantom (175 min.)

This unique presentation of the film in the UK has been negotiated by Dr. Michael Bonsall of Parbold Picture House and Horus with the Polish film company Kadr.

From January 19 to February 16, people can see the Studio Kino Series, which include three landmarks in British Cinema.

The Remains of the Day is being shown on Sunday, January 19 at 7.30pm. It is directed by James Ivory and stars Anthony Hopkins, and Emma Thompson. The film looks at a butler who sacrificed body and soul in the years leading to WWII and now realises too late his misguided loyalty to his lordly employer. The film is considered the crowning achievement of the Merchant/Ivory partnership.

On Sunday, February 2 at 7pm audiences can see Shakespeare in Love. It is directed by John Madden and stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes. In the film Will needs inspiration to turn Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter into a hit. The film was the winner of seven Oscars for Best Picture, Actress (Gwyneth Paltrow) and Supporting Actress (Judith Dench).

The Long Good Friday can be seen on Sunday, February 16 at 7pm. It is directed by John Mackenzie and stars Bob Hoskins and Helen Mirren. In a film a London gangster legitimately tried to join the 1980s enterprise culture.

On Thursday, February 20 there is the opportunity to see the National Theatre Live presentation of Cyrano de Bergerac at 7pm. This is Edmond Rostand's play about a poet and swordsman and forlorn love. It stars James McAvoy (X-Men, Split, The Last King of Scotland, and Atonement). Official Secrets will be shown on Sunday, March 1 at 7pm. It is directed by Gavin Hood and stars Reria Knightley and Ralph Fiennes. It is a political thriller based on a GCQI whistleblower who exposed the blackmailing of UN diplomats to vote in support of the 2003 Iraq Invasion.

On Sunday, March 15 at 7pm All Astra can be seen. It is directed by James Gray and stars Brad Pitt, and Tommy Lee Jones. With echoes of Apocalypse Now and 2001, this spectacularly epic dispatches Pitt on an interplanetary mission to find his missing father.

Sorry We Missed You can be seen on Sunday, March 29 at 7pm. It is directed by Ken Loach and stars Kris Hitchen and Debbie Honeywood. It is a powerful story of the contemporary world of work, the gig economy and the challenges faced by one young family trying to hold it all together.

For more information call 01257 464533, email parboldpicturehouse@gmail.com, visit www.parboldpicturehouse.org.

Jason Manford to star in Curtains at Empire theatre

THE UK tour of the Tony award winning musical Curtains which stars Jason Manford as Detective Frank Cioffi will be at the Liverpool Empire from Tuesday, January 28 until Saturday, February 1.

Joining Jason will be television presenter and Strictly Come Dancing star Ore Oduba who will play Aaron Fox in selected venues.

Completing the cast is musical theatre actress Carley Stenson as Georgia Hendren, Rebecca Lardner-Camren as Carmen, Samuel Holmes as Christopher Belling, Leah West as Niki Harris and Alan Burkitt as Bobby.

Mr Burke is best known for winning the 14th series of BBC One's Strictly Come Dancing and has now become a familiar face on primetime and daytime television.

Carley has starred as Fantine in Les Misérables, at the Queen's Theatre in London's West End. Her other West End credits include Elle Woods in Legally Blonde at The Savoy Theatre, Princess Fiona in Shrek The Musical at Theatre Royal Drury Lane and Little Shop of Horrors at The Playhouse Theatre.

Rebecca Lock most recently starred in Heartbreak at The Musical at The London Palladium in London. Her other West End credits include MAMMA MIA! at The Novello Theatre, The Phantom of the Opera at Her Majesty's Theatre, and Cats at New London Theatre. Rebecca also starred as Mrs Banks in the national tour of Mary Poppins.

Samuel Holmes most recently starred in the UK tour of The Wedding Singer. Samuel's West End credits include Mr Henderson Presents at Noel Coward Theatre and Spamatoll at Playhouse Theatre.

Leah West previously starred in Disney's Film Beauty and the Beast and TV drama Unforgotten. Her previous theatre credits include Grand Hotel and Allegro both at Southwark Playhouse and the UK tour of The Smallest Show On Earth.

Alan Burkitt was in the original West End cast of Top Hat at the Aldwych Theatre and then went on to play the lead role of Jerry in the UK national tour. Alan's other theatre credits include, We Will Rock You at the Dominion Theatre, Singin' in the Rain and 42nd Street, both at Chichester Festival Theatre.

From the Tony Award-winning creators of Cabaret and Chicago, this production tells the story of Jessica Cranshaw, star of the new Broadway-bound musical Robin Hood, who has been murdered on stage on opening night! The entire cast and crew are suspects. Time to call in the local detective, Frank Cioffi, who just happens to be a huge musical theatre fan. With a nose for crime and an ear for music, Frank has his work cut out trying to find the killer while giving the show a lifeline.

Music is by John Kander, and lyrics by Fred Ebb (Cabaret and Chicago).

LIVERPOOL's Epstein Theatre is seeing in the new year with an action-packed month of theatre entertainment, live music, tributes and classic comedy, including live acoustic music from Turin Brakes, a celebration of the musical talents of The Carpenters, The Eagles, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly and Elvis and the return of Phoenix Night's paranormal sensation Clinton Baptiste!

On Sun, Jan 19, Tread Theatre presents their annual family pantomime Dick Whittington, written by former Hollyoaks actor Helen Noble and directed and choreographed by former West End Star, Graham Tudor.

January brings an eclectic mix of music, starting on Thu, Jan 16 when London four-piece indie band Turin Brakes hit The Epstein Theatre as part of their UK acoustic tour, celebrating 20 years, seven top 40 singles and six top 40 albums.

The following evening – Fri, Jan 17 - Soul Train steams into Liverpool with a fine feast of soulful gems, harking back to the days when the dance floor was king.

This feel good show features classic hit songs by Stevie Wonder, the Isley Brothers, Supremes, Gladys Knight, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, The Carpenters, The Eagles, Roy Orbison, Al Green, Bob Dylan, Orbison, Buddy Holly and Elvis and many more. On Sat, Jan 18, immerse yourself in an evening featuring the musical brilliance of Richard and Karen Carpenter with Carpenter's Gold. All of their chart-topping hits are featured from Close To You, Top of the World, We Only Just Begun, Goodbye to Love, Please Mr Postman, For All We Know and Only Yesterday.

Desperado: History of The Eagles brings the musical highlights of The Eagles on Sat, Jan 25. The show features songs from their beginnings to their final album, including Long Road Out Of Eden and the classic Hotel California.

We Three Kings of Rock 'N Roll rounds out the month of music on Sun, Jan 26 with a celebration of the Music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley. Marc Robinson, Darren Page and Paul Molloy present an evening of classic hits including Peggy Sue, True Love Ways, I Drove All Night, Pretty Woman, Teddy Bear and Shake Rattle & Roll.

For comedy fans there is Phoenix Nights comedy tribute Clinton Baptiste in The Paranormalists Returns on Thu, Jan 23. Starring Alex Lowe, join paranormal sensation Clinton on a journey through his life, out the other side and beyond the Celestial Curtains. He gives readings to the audience, offers advice from beyond the grave, predicts your future and tells you about your past and all manner of spooky stuff ad infinitum.

Tickets are selling fast, due to popular demand, Clinton returns for a second show on Sunday, May 17.

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SONNETI JACKET Black with pink trim, girls jacket. Age 12-13 excellent condition. £25 Formby 01704 332936

LADIES WINTER COAT as new, size 18, white hooded with grey polar neck trim, £35, sell for £10 01704 892842

GENTS SUIT New Gents suit with all labels on bought from Next. 36 inch regular suit, good condition £50 01704 332936

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LADIES LACE UP FREESTYLE DUEL FIT SELLER boots in black, with vel- cro straps, undone. Good quality flexible £5 01704 999515

WHITE JACKET Brand new white £40 spiked three quarter length jacket with fur collar Size 10 to 12, cost £30, bargain £15 01704 482470

LACE DRESS Black lace dress, like new once, Skipped around bottom. Also in size 10. Need sell to £10 01704 21957

LADIES TROUSERS Lakeside leather trousers, size 12 in choc- olate brown, £25, never worn, like new. in lovely con- dition £20 01704 999515

MENS SLIPPER New 3 quarter black winter boot, which has never been worn £25 01704 21957

LADIES COAT New three quar- ter black winter coat, £300. 01704 21957

LADIES JACKET £300 padded M&S Per Una jacket, size medium in navy blue. £50. Phone to £50 01704 21957

LADIES DRESSES Four new M&S dresses, with labels. Ideal for special occasions. Size 30. More for sale all £25 each. 07374938004

MENS COAT New three quar- ter black winter coat, which has never been worn £25 01704 21957

LADIES TROUSERS Lakeside leather trousers, size 12 in choc- olate brown, £25, never worn, like new. in lovely con- dition £20 01704 999515

MENS SLIPPER New 3 quarter black winter boot, which has never been worn £25 01704 21957

LADIES DRESSES Four new M&S dresses, with labels. Ideal for special occasions. Size 30. More for sale all £25 each. 07374938004
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DOLLS HOUSE Gorgeous
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junior 3-6 years, £12
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Tony’s family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and for attending their Dad’s funeral and also for the many cards that were sent.

Thank you to Margaret Whittam and all at Skelmersdale Funeral Services.

Loving Dad of Debbie, Alan and Kate. A dear father in law and devoted Grandad to all his Grand and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 20th January 2020 at 1pm.

The family announce with great sadness the loss of their Father and Grandad on 15th December 2019. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 13th January at 3pm. 

Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired to Kidney Care UK.

All enquiries to Margaret Whittam, Independent Family Funeral Directors

Tel: 01704 293292 or visit champnews.com

To place a family announcement please call one of our team

01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

Family Announcement?
SHEPHERD MARGARET ELAINE
26th December 2018
Aged 89 years
Died peacefully after a short illness. Loving Wife of the late Roy. Margaret will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Service at St. John’s Parish Church, Crossens on Monday 28th January 2020 at 10.00am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium.
Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being collected for Guide Dogs. Enquiries to Howard’s Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

ROSSER PATRICIA
MARGARET 23rd December 2018
Aged 81 Years
Passed peacefully at Southport Hospital. Devoted Wife of the late Douglas and much loved Mother to Janet and Sister to Jennifer. Funeral service will be held on Wednesday 15th January at Southport Crematorium at 10.30am.
Enquiries to Howard’s Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

BIBBY FREDERICK PAUL
19th November 2018
Aged 92 years
Passed away peacefully at Royal Preston Hospital surrounded by family and friends. Devoted Father to Pauline, Paul and Steve. Grandfather to Stuart, Claire, Ian and Sarah. Much loved brother to Betty and Tony. Ashes of Paul will be scattered at a later date.
Enquiries to Cootson Park Funerals, 3, Smithy Lane, Burscough L40 5SU. Telephone 01704 811165 or 01704 877770.

GREY PETER HENRY
24th December 2018
Aged 78 years
Much loved Father of Charles and Brother of Lynne and Jill. Loving Husband of Carol (deceased) and Theresa (deceased). Family are requested to attend at St. Michaels Church, Burscough on Monday 6th January 2020 at 12.00 noon, to be followed by a private cremation.
No flowers please but donations, if desired, to Kidney Research UK or Cancer Research UK.
Telephone: 01704 500086.

SNOWSILL (nee Latham) MARY
24th December 2018
Passed away peacefully at her home on 24th December 2018 at the age of 82 years. Much loved Mother and Sister.
Enquiries to Sothern Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 4AG.
Telephone: 01704 550055.

BROMLEY ROBERT
31st December 2018
Aged 76 years
Beloved Husband of Christine. Dear Son of Carol, Susan, Dean and Rowan. Dear Grandad to Danielle, Caitlin, Ayla and Cade. Funeral service will be held at West Lancashire Crematorium Burscough on Thursday 9th January at 4.00pm.
Family flowers only, all donations to Alzheimer’s UK. Enquiries to Devorton Funeral Services. Tel: 01655 731199.

TO THE FAMILY OF
JACKSON MARGARET
5th December 2019
Age 83 years
Passed away peacefully at 26th December 2018.
Dearly loved wife of Doug. Sadly missed by his family.
Funeral service to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton on Thursday 9th January 2020 at 10.00am. Donations to Little Heart Beat Foundation (LHF).
Enquiries to David Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 4JR. Telephone: 01772 811165.

SHEPHERD MARGARET ELAINE
26th December 2018
Aged 89 years
Died peacefully after a short illness. Loving Wife of the late Roy. Margaret will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Service at St. John’s Parish Church, Crossens on Monday 28th January 2020 at 10.00am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium.
Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being collected for Guide Dogs. Enquiries to Howard’s Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

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No flowers please but donations, if desired, to Kidney Research UK or Cancer Research UK.
Telephone: 01704 500086.

SNOWSILL (nee Latham) MARY
24th December 2018
Passed away peacefully at her home on 24th December 2018 at the age of 82 years. Much loved Mother and Sister.
Enquiries to Sothern Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 4AG.
Telephone: 01704 550055.

BROMLEY ROBERT
31st December 2018
Aged 76 years
Beloved Husband of Christine. Dear Son of Carol, Susan, Dean and Rowan. Dear Grandad to Danielle, Caitlin, Ayla and Cade. Funeral service will be held at West Lancashire Crematorium Burscough on Thursday 9th January at 4.00pm.
Family flowers only, all donations to Alzheimer’s UK. Enquiries to Devorton Funeral Services. Tel: 01655 731199.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

JONES GARETH
WYNNIE GRIFFITHS
Formerly Head of Modern Languages at the Language College at Greenbank High School. Peacefully at home on 1st January 2020 after a long illness, borne with courage & dignity. Deeply loved Husband of Barbara. Devoted Father of David and Elizabeth. A loving Grandad of Rhianne, Gyn, Amy and William. Gareth will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Saturday 18th January 2020 at 11.00am. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Queenscourt Hospice. Further enquiries please to Moors Funeralcare, B Rd Stn Rd, Ainsdale PR8 3HS Tel 01704 575282.

LOUGHLIN PETER JAMES
After a short illness peacefully in Hospital on 31st December 2019, aged 87 years
Dearly loved Husband of Sheila, loving Father of Martin, Stephen and Andrew. Deeply missed by Brenda, Louise and Maureen. Much loved Grandad of Daniel, Karen, James and Sam and Great-Grandaad of Lily. Peter will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday 13th January 2020 at 12.40pm. Family flowers only by request please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for Parkinsons UK. Further enquiries please to Coop Funeralcare, 254 Liverpool Road, Southport, PR8 4PD. Telephone: 01704 550011.

FERNANDES ANGELA JUNE
After a short illness, peacefully in hospital on 25th December 2019, aged 89 years.
Dearly beloved Wife of Eddy for 46 years. Much loved and fantastic Mum to Richard, Jayne, Karen and Kim. Wonderful Mother-in-law of Sharon, Tony and Peter. Devoted Nan and Great Nan to all of her grandchildren. ‘June has left such a big hole in all of our lives, and will be missed by all who knew her.’
Funeral Service will take place at Southport Crematorium on 24th January 2020 at 2.40pm. Family flowers only by request, but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Claire House. Special thanks to the HOU at Southport Hospital for their great care and respect for June throughout her illness. Further enquiries please to: Porters Funeral Directors, 111a Blythorp Road, Southport PR9 7BJ. Tel 01704 212714.

COUTTS MARY HANNAH GORMAN
In 20th December 2019
Aged 79 years
Beloved Wife of Graham, loving Mum of David and Graham, dear Mother in law of Karen and Joanne, devoted Grandma of Eleanor and Zoe, and dear Sister of Patricia and Linda. Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 15th January at 2.30pm, followed by the committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only by request. Donations if desired so if so desired for the British Heart Foundation. All enquiries via Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Directors, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559688. Thomas: 01704 214118.

WRIGHT BRENDA
28th December 2019
Peacefully in hospital aged 85 years
Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 17th January at 2pm.
Family flowers only please. The family are gratefully receiving donations for The Alzheimer’s Society.

SHACKLADY MARY “MARY LOU”
31st December 2019
Peacefully in hospital aged 76 years
Loving Wife of the late Billy. Devoted Mum of Jimmy, Tina, Billy, Andrew and Tony. Cherished Nan and Great Nan of all her Grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
“Our amazing Mum reunited with our Dad, together again”
Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 17th January at 4pm.
Family flowers only please by request. Donations is desired for Cancer Research UK. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559688.

McWilliams LOUIE
‘BABS’
Passed away peacefully on 24th December 2019 at Penwortham Rest Home, aged 89 years
Dearly beloved Wife of the late Jim. Much loved Mum of Diane and Jeanette. Deeply Missed Mother-in-Law of Philip and Owen. Loving Grandma of Craig, Joanne and Rachael, and Great Grandma to Lily. Babs will be sadly missed by all her family and friends and all who knew her.
Funeral Service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 2pm.
Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Freshfields Animal Rescue.
Further enquiries please to Moors Funeralcare, 254 Liverpool Road, Southport, PR8 4PD. Telephone: 01704 532106.

RODHAM JAMES GEORGE (JIM)
24th December 2019
Peacefully in hospital aged 85 years
Dear Father of Dawn, Lynne and Jane. Loving Grandad of Rachel, Daniel, Ana, Elle and Amy. Great Nan of Lewis, Samuel and Daniel Jnr. Jim will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 10th January 2020 at 11.20am. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefuly receiving donations for Dementia UK.
Further enquiries please to Brooklands Funeralcare, 73-75 Shakespeare St, Southport, PR8 5AJ. Tel: 01704 532106.

RYLANE ALAN
20th December 2019
Aged 69 years.
Passed away peacefully at Queenscourt Hospice after a long battle with cancer.
Loving Husband of Tracey, devoted Dad of Olivia and Vanessa. Alan will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. His funeral will take place at Greenacres Rainford, WA11 7HJ on the 20th January 2020 at 12 noon. No flowers please but any donations to Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Cowcock Tyres, Burscough. Telephone: 01704 887770.

POLAND BOB
2nd January 2020
Peacefully in hospital aged 78 years of Skelmersdale
The dearly loved Dad of Sharon, Ian and Tony, dear Father in law of David, Sarah and Heather, devoted Grandad of Andrew, Steve, Jordan, Isabel, Emillia and Johnny and Great Grandad to Ava, Archie, Harry and Esme.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Cancer Research UK or Macmillan Cancer Support.
Further enquiries please to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722127/722012.

Thomas SHIRLEY MAY
December 22nd 2019
Peacefully in hospital aged 94 years surrounded by her family
Much loved Wife of Ron, beloved Mum of Karen, Sloan and Jill, much loved Mum-in-law of Werner and Margot and proud Nana of Grandom’s Grandson, Shirley will be dearly missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.
Funeral service will take place on Wednesday January 15th 2020 at Old Asian Methodist Church, Allsop, Adraes Liverpool L10 2LD at 11.45am followed by a service at Thornton Crematorium. No flowers please but the family are gratefully receiving donations to AMHF, or local Cholangiocarcinoma charity.
Further enquiries c/o Graham Clegg Funeral Directors, 7 Long Row, Maghull L31 5JH. Tel 0151 520 3330.

Shaw RONALD WILLIAM
On 31st December 2019
Peacefully in a Nursing Home aged 88 years
Devoted Husband of the late Audrey. Beloved Dad of Ian (deceased) Keith (deceased) and Derek and Father-in-law to Shirley and Sue. Loving Grandad to Natalie, Keith, Derek and Alicia. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral Service will take place at St Gregory’s Church, Lydiate on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 10.30am followed by Cremation at Thornton Crematorium.
Family flowers only please donations if desired to Lakeside View Nursing Home c/o and enquiries to Coyne Bros Funeral Directors, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby, L37 3PE. Tel 01704 873899.

Barr GEORGE ALEXANDER
December 19th 2019
Peacefully in a Nursing Home aged 90 years
Devoted Husband of the late Audrey. Beloved Dad of Ian (deceased) Keith (deceased) and Derek and Father-in-law to Shirley and Sue. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

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## DEATHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DATE OF DEATH</th>
<th>CAUSE OF DEATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William H (Bill) MELLOR</td>
<td>18th Dec 2019</td>
<td>Passed away peacefully in hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Kelly</td>
<td>4th Jan 2018</td>
<td>Passed away peacefully in hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IN MEMORIAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>INTO THE HEARTS OF MANY MALE AND FEMALE FRIENDS AND FAMILY, WERE ANGELINA ANIA AND THEIR PRECIOUS DAUGHTER, SADIE.</th>
<th>FAREWELL TO A WIFE, MOTHER, AND NURSE WHO IS STILL IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William MELLOR (Bill) MELLOR</td>
<td>Passed away peacefully in hospital on 13th December 2019.</td>
<td>Dearly loved Husband of the late Ma, Much loved Father of Ann, Catrina, Janet and Neil, and Brother of Julie.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LOTTERY RESULTS

**Jospice Lottery Winners**
Friday 3rd January 2020
£1000          Mrs Harris, Litherland
£250          Mrs Bryan, Formby
£100          Miss McCauley, Crosby

Plus 15 other winners of £10 each.

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**Anonymous**
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**KAY ALBERT**
4th January 2018
Our lives go on without you, but nothing is the same, we have to hide our heartache, when someone speaks your name.

**marginLeft=3**

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**CONTACT**

**Margaret Hunter**
Dip.F.D.
01695 424888
20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, L39 6DZ

**Sally Hunter**
Dip.F.D.
01704 891555
22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP

**www.champnews.com**
Lancashire County Council
Boundary Lane, Hundred End, West Lancashire
Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic (Order 2019)
Notice is hereby given that Lancashire County Council has made an Order under Section 141(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1991, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of Boundary Lane, Hundred End from a point 410m North of the junction with Boundary Meanygate, Hundred End and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow new water connection pipes to be laid for the purpose of connecting the City of Preston Waterworks to premises on Boundary Lane and vice versa.

2. In an alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: Black Lane, Lathom - Wood Lane, Lathom - Ormskirk Road, to Ormskirk.

3. The prohibition will be operative from 0000 hours until 0600 hours on Thursday 21st January 2021 or until completion of the works within this period.

4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: Black Lane, Lathom - Wood Lane, Lathom - Ormskirk Road, to Ormskirk.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow new water connection pipes to be laid for the purpose of connecting the City of Preston Waterworks to premises on Boundary Lane.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Rachel White, Network Regulation Manager
Highways and Transport, 0300 123 9780
Tel: 0121 780 2123

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The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow new water connection pipes to be laid for the purpose of connecting the City of Preston Waterworks to premises on Boundary Lane.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
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**The Champion • Wednesday 8 January 2020**
Cygnet wasn’t an ugly duckling after all!

According to David Simister, we might have ‘laughed at the Cygnet in 2010, but it now be selling for MORE than the £30,995 it did brand new, you’d sell me to tell off the Sminoff lies.

But not only are people now asking upwards of £335 for secondhand Aston Martin Cygnets, but I’ve actually seen DB9s – as in proper, V12-engined Astons, albeit high mileage ones – being advertised for less. I suspect that’s got a little bit to do with that 007-approved badge on the bonnet and rather a lot to do with it being rare – there are nearly 18,000 Toyota IQs still on our roads, but just 137 Cygnets. Ironically, being a bit of a flop back in 2010 has virtually fast-tracked it to classic car status.

I reckon it was ahead of its time, too; the Cygnet might not have made much sense then, but then nobody had heard of Greta Thunberg either and a leather-lined city car seems a lot more on-message now than a V12-engined GT car.

So the Cygnet wasn’t such an ugly duckling after all.

In fact, it’s done alright on the 10 year challenge.

David Simister is the editor of Classiccar Weekly.

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**Kia has dropped the price of its plug-in hybrid Neo model by more than £1,600 - by adding in a new entry-level version!**

Price has been knocked down for plug-in Neo

KIA has knocked the price of its plug-in hybrid Neo model down by more than £1,600 by introducing a new entry-level version.

The new ‘2’ version of the eco-conscious five-door hatchback now starts at £24,950, which includes a touchscreen system with DAB digital radio, front and rear parking sensors and part-leather upholstery.

There are also two more generously equipped versions, the ‘3’ and ‘4’, although all use the same combination of a two-litre petrol engine and electric motors.
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Cash Price: £1,600.35
Cash Deposit: £199.00
Deposit Allowance: £1,150.00
Amount of Credit: £13,452.35
Total Charge for Credit: £1,840.18
Total Amount Payable: £15,292.53
APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 10,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

Only £199 Per Month

Specification includes:
- Multimedia - 7-inch colour touchscreen - AM/FM/DAB digital radio
- Bluetooth® audio streaming - Bluetooth® mobile phone portal
- Apple CarPlay®/Android Auto® - USB audio connection - Air conditioning
- Flat-bottomed leather-covered steering wheel - LED headlights
- Cruise control with intelligent speed limiter - Hill start assist
- Speed-sensitive power-assisted steering - Remote control central locking
- Steering wheel audio/phone/cruise controls - Electric front windows
- 16-inch alloy wheels - Speed sign recognition - Electrically adjustable/heated door mirrors - Trip computer
- Lane departure warning with lane assist - Hill start assist
- Automatic emergency city braking - ISOFIX child seat fixings on outer rear seats

Optional Final Payment: £6,305.00
Cash Price: £15,638.86
Deposit Allowance: £550.00
Cash Deposit: £499.00
Total Charge for Credit: £2,023.65
Amount of Credit: £14,589.86
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

BRAND NEW VAUXHALL
CORSA SE 1.2 100PS TURBO

PCP Duration: 48 Months
47 Monthly Payments: £219.33
Option Final Payment: £1,356.00
Cash Price: £1,575.35
Cash Deposit: £199.00
Deposit Allowance: £1,150.00
Amount of Credit: £13,425.35
Total Charge for Credit: £1,840.18
Total Amount Payable: £15,265.53
APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 10,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

Only £219 Per Month

Optional Final Payment: £6,378.00
Cash Deposit: £499.00
Cash Price: £17,786.08
Deposit Allowance: £550.00
Cash Deposit: £499.00
Total Charge for Credit: £2,292.30
Amount of Credit: £17,244.76
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

BRAND NEW VAUXHALL
ASTRA 1.2 145PS SRi SDR

PCP Duration: 48 Months
47 Monthly Payments: £279.98
Option Final Payment: £1,397.00
Cash Price: £1,676.00
Cash Deposit: £299.00
Deposit Allowance: £1,000.00
Amount of Credit: £15,374.00
Total Charge for Credit: £2,195.24
Total Amount Payable: £17,569.24
APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 10,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

Only £279 Per Month

Optional Final Payment: £5,767.00
Cash Deposit: £499.00
Cash Price: £17,786.08
Deposit Allowance: £550.00
Cash Deposit: £499.00
Total Charge for Credit: £2,023.65
Amount of Credit: £14,589.86
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

BRAND NEW VAUXHALL
CROSSLAND X 1.2 83PS SPORT

PCP Duration: 48 Months
47 Monthly Payments: £199.26
Option Final Payment: £1,397.00
Cash Price: £1,676.00
Cash Deposit: £299.00
Deposit Allowance: £1,000.00
Amount of Credit: £15,374.00
Total Charge for Credit: £2,195.24
Total Amount Payable: £17,569.24
APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 10,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

Only £199 Per Month

Optional Final Payment: £5,966.00
Cash Deposit: £999.00
Cash Price: £17,893.94
Deposit Allowance: £550.00
Cash Deposit: £999.00
Total Charge for Credit: £1,840.38
Amount of Credit: £13,052.80
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

BRAND NEW VAUXHALL
GRANDLAND X 1.2T 130PS SRI NAV

PCP Duration: 48 Months
47 Monthly Payments: £299.98
Option Final Payment: £1,397.00
Cash Price: £1,676.00
Cash Deposit: £299.00
Deposit Allowance: £1,000.00
Amount of Credit: £15,374.00
Total Charge for Credit: £2,229.47
Total Amount Payable: £17,517.47
APR: 4.9%
Annual Mileage: 10,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

Only £299 Per Month

Optional Final Payment: £7,033.00
Cash Deposit: £999.00
Cash Price: £17,893.94
Deposit Allowance: £550.00
Cash Deposit: £999.00
Total Charge for Credit: £1,845.14
Amount of Credit: £15,644.94
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

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Cash Deposit: £499.00
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Amount of Credit: £13,052.80
Annual Mileage: 5,000
Excess Mileage: £0.09p/mile

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Top marks are scored in latest crash tests

THE new VW Golf, second-generation Nissan Juke and revived Ford Puma have all scored top marks in Euro NCAP's latest round of crash tests.

The MiZ 5, MG HS and Audi Q8 also picked up the safety organisation's top five-star rating, but it was less impressed with the facelifted versions of the VW Up, Skoda Citigo and SEAT Mii, which were given three star ratings.

The all-electric Aways US, a Chinese off-roader due to go on sale here next spring, was also given three stars. Go to euroncap.com to find out how your car got on.

Right: The new VW Golf has impressed the safety experts at Euro NCAP.

New, more powerful engines

PEUGEOT'S new 208 – and its all-electric cousin – is available to order now, with prices starting at £20,150.

For that you'll get the 1.2-litre petrol model in Active trim with a six-speed manual gearbox, although there are also more powerful versions of this engine, a turbodiesel and an eight-speed automatic available.

The zero emissions electric version of the five-door crossover, the e-208, starts at £28,150.

Visit peugeot.co.uk for more information about the full range.

Left: The new Peugeot 2008 is also available in all-electric form.

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- **Total Amount Payable:** £199.10
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- **Excess Mileage:** £0.08p/mile

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- **Total Amount Payable:** £249.61
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LIST PRICE: £27,499 + VAT

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LIST PRICE: £24,699 + VAT

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LIST PRICE: £22,999

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...........................

VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI TDi 2.0 TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi TDi 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Skem hoping for back-to-back wins over Barnoldswick

SKELMERSDALE United travel over to the Lancashire Yorkshire border country this Saturday when they take on Barnoldswick Town at their Silentnight Stadium. The hosts are probably best described as inconsistent. Last Saturday they won 1-0 at promotion chasing Rylands, but the Saturday before they lost 1-0 at bottom placed Litherland Remsya. Previous to that they lost 8-4 at home to league leaders 1874 Northwich, but had forward Ryan Shenton scoring all four goals for them.

Skelmersdale can also boast a big win against Barnoldswick, defeating them 3-0 in a midweek game at Prescott back in September. It should be an interesting match or an inform Skelmersdale.

On Tuesday, January 14 Skem entertain Congleton Town and they will be expecting a decent crowd at The JMO Stadium.

It will be Skem’s third game back at the stadium and the others have certainly been a happy homecoming - beating Burscough 4-0 on Boxing Day and Padiham 3-2 on Saturday. It will be the second time in three weeks that Paul McNally’s side have taken on Congleton.

The Bears prevailed 5-1 on Saturday, December 28 in Cheshire, however while on the subject of consistency it is worth noting that currently they are only two points ahead of Skelmersdale United’s match that was scheduled away to Whitchurch Alport on Monday night (January 6) was postponed due to the sad death of a Whitchurch supporter in a road accident.

Burscough are without a fixture for a few weeks as their season goes into a period of pause until Tuesday, January 21.

Linnets match abandoned after Lomax breaks leg

BURSCOUGHS’ match at Ashton Athletic on Saturday was abandoned after Linnets striker George Lomax suffered a broken leg.

The striker suffered the injury during the second-half of the match when Burscough were 1-0 down, Ashton taking the lead in the 13th minute through Charlie Munro. He could not be moved from the pitch and during the wait for an ambulance it was decided to call the match off.

After the match it was announced by Burscough that Lomax had broken his fibula and on Monday (January 6) he was released from hospital.

It is likely he will miss the rest of the season, but he should hopefully be fit for the beginning of 2020/21 season. Burscough FC have wished him a quick and successful recovery.

Losing George Lomax is a big blow for the Linnets, although they haven’t scored many goals this season, the former Widnes player had scored in crucial victories for his team against both Whitchurch Alport and Hanley Town.

The match against Ashton Athletic will be re-arranged by the league and the new date announced in the near future.

Super sub Brodie heads late winner for Skem to settle five goal thriller

Skelmersdale United 3
Padiham 2

IT was a superb start to 2020 for Skelmersdale United as they won a five-goal thriller against Padiham at the JMO Sports Park, writes Simon Driscoll.

Paul McNally handed first starts to Ben Stanton and Sam Byrne while newly signed Gabriel Ellis, who is on work experience from Accrington Stanley, had the chance to debut from the bench.

The visitors had the first chance of the afternoon as Ben Ashton picked out Luke Noble who found the arms of Ben Barnes in the opening minutes and United replied with Emini Adegbenro heading past the target the lead with Holmes out of position.

The hosts went in front on 28 minutes as Holmes’ clearance cannoned off Tom Croughan with the goal ahead of him just inches from the line.

United were almost gifted a chance on 28 minutes as Holmes’ clearance cannoned off Tom Croughan with the goal ahead of him but a clever recovery from Holmes denied a shot.

The opening goal of the afternoon came on the half-hour mark as a clever free-kick combo between Regan Jarrett and Byrne saw the latter cross for Daniel Murphy whose flicked on at the far post fell perfectly for Adegbenro to slot past Holmes for 1-0.

The lead could have doubled with four minutes left of the half as Jarrett forced a superb low stop from Holmes with a curling free-kick before Jack Lynch hit past the near post at the other end.

The second half began with United forced into a change as Richard Brodie replaced an injured Patrick Staunton and soon Adegbenro fired past the target from distance ahead of Croughan finding the grasp of Holmes from a similar range.

As the game reached the hour mark, Padiham equalised with Carson jinking through the United defence and crossing low for Ben Ashton to slot past Barnes for 1-1.

The response saw Jack Grimshaw pick out Adegbenro who drew a low stop from Holmes before an Adegbenro cross needed just a touch from the run of Byrne to restored the lead with Holmes out of position.

United regained the lead on 73 minutes as Adegbenro slipped the ball into the path of substitute Richard Brodie who slotted past the oncoming Holmes into the net for 2-1.

Padi looked to reply with a flick on from Harry Pratt finding Ashton to volleyed wide of the target but soon redeemed himself with a second leveller of the game on 79 minutes, a long ball forward from the Padi defence saw Ashton beat Jarrett in the air and hit past Barnes for 2-2.

United were not to denied consecutive home wins though as substituting debutant Gabriel Ellis raced down the wing and lofted a cross for fellow sub Brodie to head past Holmes for his second and United’s third at 3-2.

Murphy hit an effort past the target in the final seconds but after five minutes added time, the final whistle sounded causing a raucous celebration for United whose great start to the year moved them above Padiham and Hanley Town in the table ahead of a Monday night visit to Whitchurch Alport.
Improve your wellbeing with an adult course this New Year

Studies have shown that learning has a positive effect on our wellbeing, it can help us meet new people and develop self-confidence, as well as develop our skills to enable career progression and help us feel a sense of achievement.

Learning is good for our wellbeing, and West Lancashire College is delighted to offer a wide range of learning opportunities this New Year, so whether you want a course for relaxation or to brush up on work skills, the college has something for everyone.

Inside this publication you will find many courses to choose, from part-time short courses in Beauty Therapy, Holistics and Spa, Cookery, Computing and Creative Arts, to Languages, Hairdressing and Barbering. Many courses are free whilst others represent excellent value for money.

The college is particularly delighted to offer a second chance to join their popular Access to Higher Education course in Nursing and Midwifery for those wishing to specialise in Adult Nursing, Midwifery, Child Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Mental Health Nursing, Social Work or Paramedics. Starting this January, the course will run on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening for 18 months. You can apply for an Advanced Learner Loan for this course, and if you’re aged 19-23 and do not already hold a full Level 3 qualification this course is FREE.

If you’re looking to re-train for a new career, there is the opportunity to study one of the college’s Fast Track Beauty Therapy or Hairdressing qualifications, or if you would like to get qualified as a Teaching Assistant you may choose the Supporting Teaching & Learning Level 2 Certificate which is available free of charge and delivered at First Steps Children’s Centre in Skelmersdale.

If you need to brush up on your Maths and English skills, you can study GCSE English or functional skills in Maths and/or English, available in the day and evening across the week at various times to accommodate most people. Or, if you are unemployed, the college’s 12 week Passport to Employment course will give you the skills and confidence to get back into the workplace.

The good news is, learning is a lifelong affair, so not matter what your age or motivation, whether you want to study for leisure, gain skills and knowledge needed to fulfil a lifelong ambition, secure a promotion or change your career, West Lancashire College has something for you.

Why not have a go at something new this January? To find out more, see inside or call 01695 52300, enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk or go to www.westlancs.ac.uk

Lucy’s Midwifery dream

Lucy Sephton is a hard-working and motivated young person who excelled at high school and achieved excellent grades in her GCSEs. She has dreamed of becoming a midwife from a very early age and now her dream is set to become a reality!

In September 2018 Lucy joined West Lancashire College’s Health Careers Academy where she’s studying Health & Social Care Extended Diploma Level 3. The programme is delivered in partnership with leading employers and universities from across the North West and offers a tailored student experience connecting students with industry and professionals from the Health Care Sector.

In the first year of the programme Lucy has attended guest lectures, workshops, delivered by healthcare professionals, attended university visits and has undertaken an immersive industry placement aimed to stretch and challenge to achieve the best possible grades for progression.

Lucy said, “I chose to study Health & Social Care Extended Diploma at West Lancashire College as I knew the course would prepare me for my future career. The practical aspect of the course includes topics such as anatomy, physiology and laboratory techniques which have really benefited me when applying for a midwifery degree. The programme has also allowed me to gain clinical experience on the job due to the colleges brilliant connections with employers such as Virgin Care. On the industry placement I have been learning more about careers in healthcare and how they can make a positive difference for patients, all of which has enhanced my University application.

I received interviews at 4 out of 5 of my UCAS choices and have accepted an offer at my first choice Edge Hill University! I can’t wait to start my degree and can’t thank the college enough for all their help and support throughout the process.”

For further details on how you can join The Health Careers Academy, please contact the College’s Course Enquiries on 01695 52300 or visit www.westlancs.ac.uk

Open Events: Shape your Future
Monday 10 February 2020 / 4.30pm-7pm
College Way, Skelmersdale WN8 6LH
Call 01695 52300 / Email: enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk / www.westlancs.ac.uk
PART TIME COURSES

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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Tue-Thur</td>
<td>9.15am-7pm (Tue), 9.15am-12.30pm (Wed), 9.15am-3pm (Thu)</td>
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<td>Hairdressing Certificate Level 3 C&amp;G Fast Track</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Wed</td>
<td>11am-5pm (Mon) 9am-9pm (Wed)</td>
<td>17 wks</td>
<td>\£614.5</td>
<td>03/02/20</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH &amp; CARE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to Higher Education – Nursing and Midwifery (Healthcare)</td>
<td>Mon-Wed</td>
<td>9.30am-4pm</td>
<td>1 wk</td>
<td>\£300</td>
<td>17/02/20</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Social Care NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate (16+ only)</td>
<td>Thu &amp; Fri</td>
<td>9am-12noon Wed 10am-3pm Fri 9am-3pm</td>
<td>17 wks</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>13/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LANGUAGES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>French Beginners</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
<td>10 wks</td>
<td>\£100*</td>
<td>28/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>French Advanced</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
<td>10 wks</td>
<td>\£100*</td>
<td>29/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Beginners</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
<td>10 wks</td>
<td>\£100*</td>
<td>29/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Advanced</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
<td>10 wks</td>
<td>\£100*</td>
<td>29/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Beginners</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
<td>10 wks</td>
<td>\£100*</td>
<td>29/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Advanced</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
<td>10 wks</td>
<td>\£100*</td>
<td>29/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRINCE'S TRUST</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince’s Trust Entry Level 3-Level 2 (for young people aged 16-25)</td>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>12 wks</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>13/01/20/27/04/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TEACHING ASSISTANT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Teaching &amp; Learning Certificate NCFE CACHE Level 2 (16+ only)</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>9.30am-3pm</td>
<td>22 wks</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>07/01/20</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>FSCC</td>
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**KEY TO TABLES:**
- Telephone Enrolment for those part-time students who are NOT eligible for fee reduction (eg full fee payers only)
- Full Cost, no fee remission available
- No Fee Waiver
- First Steps Children’s Centre, Eavesdale/Tanhouse Rd, Skelmersdale WN8 6BA
- Non-refundable enrolment and course material fee, those on benefit or low wage may be eligible for fee remission

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this document is correct at time of publication. We reserve the right however, to make alterations or amendments to the details contained in this document. Courses will operate subject to sufficient numbers.
On the School of Medicine you will study a combination of the following A Levels:

- A Level Biology
- A Level Chemistry
- A Level Maths
- A Level Psychology

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- Improve productivity
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- Build the skills capacity within your business
- Possibly eligible for £1,000 VAT free grant if you employ an Apprentice
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