

RISHTON

Volunteers spruce up canal path

VOLUNTEERS have been praised after installing a 'dead hedge' along the canal in Rishton.

The team, from the town's Prospects panel, cut back branches and put in a new hedge barrier along the Leeds and Liverpool canal, towards Whitebirk.

Local councillor Ken Moss, who provided a helping hand, said: "It is a testament to Prospects that they do so much around Rishton."

"I have been doing what I can for the group for four years now and it is amazing what a small team of people can do to an area in just a few hours. It's wonderful to see this level of pride in Rishton by residents."

The fencing along the canal has fallen into disrepair in recent years with little prospect of being repaired due to funding shortages.

The Prospects group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the People's Centre, School Street.

HYNDBURN

Mayor to visit Somme trenches

OUTGOING Hyndburn mayor, Coun Judith Addison, is to visit the trenches once occupied by Accrington Pals soldiers in the Battle of the Somme.

She will visit the First World War trenches at Serre, France, before seeing the 1990s memorial made from Accrington Nori brick, on June 1.

She said: "I will lay the Broadfield Specialist School wreath, which has been specially made by their Floristry Group, and also a wreath on behalf of the Hyndburn Rotary Clubs. On Thursday, May 29, I will lay a wreath at the Loos Memorial in honour of my father's cousin Varlow Addison from Accrington, killed in that battle in 1915."

OSWALDTWISTLE

Noise relief as cover fixed

A LOOSE manhole cover in an Oswaldtwistle street has been repaired.

Resident Stephen Keogh complained to the council about the manhole cover, in Union Road.

He said: "Every time a car goes over, it makes a loud banging noise."

"At night time it is keeping myself and my family awake." Mr Keogh said the cover was left loose following roadworks, and has since been fixed.

HUNCOAT



Ashley Whittaker and dad Nick

£1,500 insurance scam TV warning

By MICHAEL MORRISON
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■ Victim's plight is screened on 'Fake Britain' show

good deal, and it was only a few hundred quid cheaper than the other policies.

"It wasn't on a price comparison website, but some of the biggest companies aren't, and it looked real."



He even had a tape of an office environment to play down the phone
Coun Whittaker

"We have been told the documentation is so good, you could buy car tax at the Post Office with it, if that wasn't all done online now."

Ashley, who lives with his family in Vale Court and works for

Senator International, asked his dad to call the company for a quote for one of his friends.

But after he struggled to get through, Coun Whittaker did some digging, only to realise the conman had been shut down by police.

Coun Whittaker said: "It was a guy down south. He ran the scam from home and even had a tape of an office environment he would play down the phone."

"There were a few people in Accrington who were caught out too, but they paid on credit cards so could claim it back."

"Ashley paid by standing order so he's lost £1,500."

The pair have since been filmed by a crew for another BBC programme, called Claimed and Shamed, which is due to air in the near future.

@lancstelegraph

Plants for sale at school

A SCHOOL plant sale will be held at Altham St James' Church of England Primary School on Sunday, June 8.

Pupils are being asked to design and build a garden that fits on a dinner plate for a plate garden competition that will be judged on the day.

First aid class

A FREE emergency first aid for babies and young children course runs at Accrington Library, in St James' Street, on June 10. The course is first come, first served and places can be reserved by calling 01257 276719.

Crime matters

RESIDENTS in Springhill and central Accrington can talk about local crime with the policing team, from 5pm on Wednesday, May 28, at the police station in Spring Gardens.

Wedding snaps

ACCRINGTON Camera Club was treated to a talk on digital wedding snaps by Merseyside man Ian Steward on Friday. The club meets every week from 7.45pm at Rishton Primetime, Stourton Street. Call Ian Kitchin on 01254 884762.

Plan for home

SCOTT Wade has applied for permission to build a new flat-roofed single-storey extension at the back of his home in Pendle Road, Great Harwood. Officers at Hyndburn Council will scrutinise his application.

Hyndburn news?

Contact your Hyndburn reporter Michael Morrison on 01254 298209 or email michael.morrison@nqnw.co.uk



IN THE SPOTLIGHT Steve Johnson, of Accrington

Former firefighter Steve Johnson lives in Accrington and now works to increase road safety, working with the u17 Motor Club

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH ROAD SAFETY AND WHY?

It goes back more than 30 years from being involved with a motorclub. I had an indiscretion with a young motorist whose inexperience nearly put us in a crash with an HGV. I also lost my best man in a crash. Unfortunately, the trauma of road crashes has always been there.

WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY?

It's education. It's getting the right message across to the young people. It's not saying, 'no, you have not to do that', but it's saying, 'that's inappropriate and you should do it in a controlled environment', which is what we teach today in our u17 motor club.

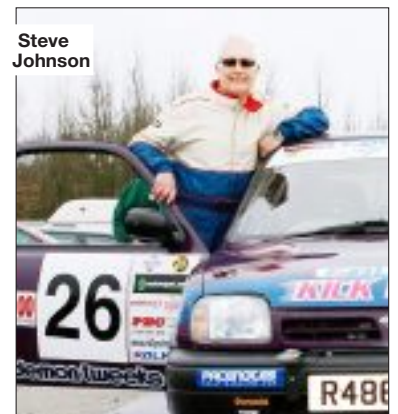
WHAT IS THE SADDEST STORY YOU CAN ENCOUNTERED?

It's the loss of any life.

They are all equally sad. The saddest part is knowing 95 per cent of them were preventable. I have been to many in my time, in and out the fire service, but I don't think any of them was any worse than the others, they are all equal.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE?

I hope schools wake up and parents wake up and realise road traffic collisions are preventable. Everybody makes mistakes, and we never stop learning as drivers. I hope everybody starts to take responsibility



Steve Johnson