



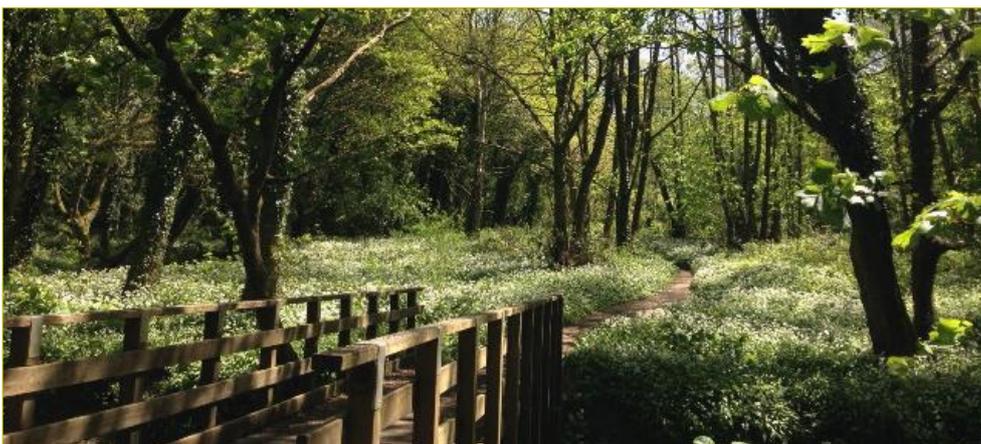
A fresh look at Tawd Valley Park - the green heart of Skelmersdale

A new project is being launched to look at how the Tawd Valley, often described as the 'jewel in the crown of Skelmersdale' could be developed to improve its appeal and accessibility to local people. A wide ranging consultation will take place between now and October culminating in a Master Plan to guide future development and look at how the park can be sustainable.

The lush wooded Tawd valley runs for 2km through the heart of Skelmersdale and as well as being a beautiful and restful country escape in the heart of the town, the valley is a haven for wildlife. It is an underutilised local resource with huge potential to provide recreational opportunities for local people as well as fishing, bird watching and wildlife protection.

The project, which is funded by West Lancashire Borough Council, is being supported by a Project Steering group with reps from the Environment Agency, the Borough and County Councils, the River Douglas Catchment Partnership, the Ranger Service, Groundwork CLM, West Lancs CVS and SHARES.

For more information or to get involved, contact the CVS on 01695 733737.



One West Lancs is a partnership of the local voluntary, public and business sectors which aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in West Lancashire

This One West Lancs quarterly e-newsletter is sent to over 500 people. It is circulated to all One West Lancs Forum members, the One West Lancs Board, our elected representatives as well as members of the wider VCFS community.

If you no longer wish to receive the One West Lancs e-newsletter, please let us know and we will take you off the circulation list.

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Happy 50th to the Light Railway!

The West Lancashire Light Railway is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and it's a real milestone for the railway and for the railway preservation in general.

50 years ago in 1967 there were a few preserved railways in the UK such as Tallylyn, Ffestiniog, and others but unlike them, West Lancs Light Railway didn't have an existing line to operate and preserve, or experienced adults who would understand the complexities of operating a railway. It had instead a group of school boys from Southport - railway enthusiasts, who liked model railways and who thought it would be fun to preserve a narrow gauge diesel locomotive from the closing Burscough Brick and Tile Company and operate it on a bit of redundant land at the back of one of the schoolboy's garden in an old brickwork.

It's an incredible story that through their enthusiasm, determination, tenacity and gained knowledge the West Lancashire Light Railway developed into what we know today. Even more incredibly, nearly all of those school boys are still involved with the railway today, fifty years on!

The Railway will be celebrating the anniversary with two 50th galas – a 'Nearly Fifty' Gala on Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th August, and a Fiftieth Anniversary Gala on Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th September. It promises to be an exciting year!

Full details can be found on their website [here](http://www.wlcvr.org).

www.onewestlancs.org

CVS Health Network

The recent CVS Health Network event was attended by 81 representatives from community, voluntary and statutory organisations as well as the public and private sectors.

The event was opened by the Mayor's Consort, and also incorporated the CVS AGM. Greg Mitten, CVS Chief Officer, outlined the ongoing struggles faced by the VCFS in the current climate and outlined the role of the CVS as an umbrella body. He highlighted the five core areas of CVS work: Volunteering, Funding Advice, Information, Training, and Partnership.

The day also included contributions from:

Gareth Dowling - West Lancs Dementia Action Alliance
Paul Fairweather - Lancashire LGBT
Paul Kingan - West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group
Dianne Gardner - Public Health, Lancashire County Council
Guy Simpson - West Lancs Citizens' Advice Bureau
Caroline Flynn and Jen Burns - Macmillan
Mary Whitby - Pancreatic Cancer Awareness
Rebecca Mason - Heritage Lottery Fund

All presentations: www.wlcvr.org/health-network-3/#tab-id-8



Fundraising success

Before stepping down as West Lancashire Borough Council Mayor, Councillor Liz Savage recently presented £21,518 to the worthy causes she has supported during her Mayoral year.

The funds were raised by Councillor Savage and her Consort Councillor Noel Delaney with the support of the Mayor's Charity Committee, through a number of events - including a sportsmen's dinner which raised more than £5,000.

To further boost funds a competition was organised for local schools. Trophies were presented to the school that raised the most money, the school that raised the most per pupil, and the school that came up with the most innovative fundraising idea.

One of Councillor Savage's last duties was to present the cheques to the worthy causes and the trophies to the winning schools. The money raised has gone to:

- Neo-Natal Unit at Ormskirk Hospital: £5,488
- The Artz Centre, Birch Green: £5,188
- The Civic in Ormskirk: £5,188
- The Birchwood Centre, Skelmersdale: £5,291

Aughton St Michael's CE Primary School raised the most money with £480, and also received the trophy for the most innovative fundraising idea with their balloon race. Bishop Martin CE Primary School raised the most money per pupil.

West Lancashire's new Mayor, Councillor Neil Furey, took over the chains of office on Wednesday 17th May, having served as Deputy Mayor last year. He said: "I have enjoyed my year as Deputy Mayor and it was excellent preparation to be Mayor. As Deputy Mayor I visited many voluntary groups and it is a great privilege to have a civic role and meet such wonderful people. These organisations are an important part of West Lancashire and do a huge amount of work ranging from supporting people in need to arranging social activities."

He is also looking forward to continuing the fundraising work and his chosen charities are 42nd Ormskirk (Skelmersdale St Paul's) Scouts, Evermoor Hub and The Sewing Rooms in Skelmersdale.



Get Buzzing with IT

A new project is being launched to help people get to grips with using digital technology in their daily lives and to encourage sharing of IT knowledge and skills within local communities in West Lancs. The Buzz IT project will offer a range of digital learning courses and IT workshops and is also looking for volunteers to work as Digital Champions.

The project is a joint initiative between West Lancs Borough Council, Lancashire West Citizens Advice, and West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Services (WLCVS)

Greg Mitten, Chief Officer of West Lancs CVS said *"Buzz IT is about the community working together to make sure no one is excluded through a lack of knowledge in using web-based services or being unable use digital tools to connect with their friends, family and local community"*.

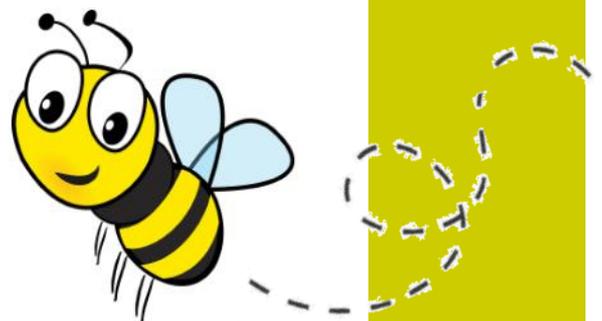
Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, Director of Housing and Inclusion, said: *"West Lancashire Borough Council is very pleased to be involved in this project. As the Council moves more services online it will give people who are unfamiliar with the internet and digital technology new ways to access the Council's services. They can also have the chance to learn new skills and see how the internet can bring new opportunities for work, leisure and their daily lives."*

Guy Simpson of Lancashire West Citizens Advice said, *"More of the services that our clients need have already been moved online at a local level, or are being moved to online by central Government as it pursues delivery of public services through 'digital by default'. We and Buzz IT are dedicated to the cause that every single government service must be available to everyone - no matter if they are online or not"*.

As part of the Buzz IT project, Lancashire West Citizens Advice has opened their first dedicated 'Digital Help Centre' in Skelmersdale at the Concourse Shopping Centre. Buzz IT is now looking for volunteers to work as Digital Champions and buddies to provide supported Digital access on the public computers within the centre. The role will encompass all aspects of assisting clients as well as passing on basic digital skills.

Buzz IT is asking for Volunteers to commit to a six month placement to assist in this exciting project. If successful it is planned to scale this across the whole of Lancashire. By being part of this initial Digital Help Centre, people have the opportunity to be part of the legacy that will be created for the Lancashire community for the foreseeable future.

If you know anyone who would be interested in volunteering for the Buzz IT project or would like to sign-up for one of the free digital learning courses being offered, please contact Sarah at West Lancs CVS on 01695-733737, email sarah@wlcvs.org or ring Lancashire West Citizens Advice on 0344 245 1294.



National recognition of local Unsung Heroes

This Spring, Clifford Owens on behalf of One West Lancs Community Safety Partnership, drafted a nomination for Julie Tweedale from Freedom Personal Safety and DC Libby Wadsworth for an Unsung Hero Award.

The aim of these awards is to recognise and reward individuals or teams who have made significant, ongoing contribution to tackling child sexual exploitation, either through direct interactions with young people, their support of staff within teams or projects or their contributions to an innovative method of working.

Julie and Libby were nominated for the collaborative Child Sexual Exploitation and Healthy Relationship project that they have delivered to all secondary schools in West Lancashire. The project was commissioned by West Lancashire CSP with OPCC funding.

Elaine Howard, Director of Freedom Personal Safety, is delighted to let us know that the project has received national recognition as 'Runners Up' at the NWG Unsung Heroes Award Evening held in March.



Julie and Libby in receipt of their award

Contact

One West Lancs

Phone us on

01695-733737

Email:

martint@wlcvs.org

C/o West Lancs CVS

Certacs House

10-12 Westgate

Skelmersdale

Lancs

WN8 8AZ

One West Lancs Thematic Groups

To date One West Lancs Thematic Groups have been set up looking at issues in the following areas:

- [Skills, Training and Employment Partnership STEP](#)
- [Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Partnership](#)
- [Children and Young People's Board](#)
- [People and Communities](#)
- [Ageing Well Partnership](#)
- [Transport](#)

These links will take you to pages on the One West Lancs website where information on the thematic groups and copies of their action plans, minutes and agendas can be found. Work is underway to set up the Environment thematic group.

www.onewestlancs.org