



Local school growers 'Show What You Grow'

Green fingered school children from across West Lancashire celebrated their growing achievements recently at the annual 'Show What You Grow' festival of school gardening. Over 60 children from 9 schools brought scarecrows, school grown produce and displays of drawings, paintings, and photos of their gardening work to the event at West Lancashire College, Skelmersdale on 11th July.

The Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire Cllr Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbart opened the day and the children enthusiastically took part in a range of activities. A Skelmersdale based business called 'All About Food' donated a prize for the Best Display of Work. The lucky winning school was Crawford Primary whose gardening club will visit All About Food's office The Tree House, to find out more about their partnership with farmers and sustainable agriculture. They will then be treated to lunch at Nando's as part of the prize package.

The event was organised by the Community Food Growing Project of West Lancs CVS (as part of the Active West Lancs programme) in conjunction with West Lancs Allotment Federation and West Lancashire College, and was funded by Upholland Tawd Vale Lions. The event was supported by the local business community – M.A Forshaw of Scarisbrick provided the vegetables and prizes were donated by Morrisons supermarket.

More photos of the day can be found on the CVS website [here](#).



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 circulated to 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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More Positive Together - improving lives, increasing prospects

More Positive Together is a new Lancashire-wide project which will help 2,250 residents of the county's most deprived neighbourhoods to improve their skills and employment prospects. It is led by Active Lancashire and supported by funding from the European Social Fund. The More Positive Together (MPT) project will initially see three West Lancs Council directorates co-working (Leisure & Environment, Housing & Inclusion and Development and Regeneration) to engage unemployed tenants and residents in West Lancashire.

Overall, the project aims to provide various support pathways to people (16-65) who are identified as unemployed or inactive from the employment market. The project is also designed to help those furthest away from the employability market and those most affected by multiple and complex barriers to their progression, such as; substance misuse, mental and physical health problems, caring responsibilities, poverty and debt. Eligible participants receive a tailored programme of 1-to-1 mentoring, physical activity sessions, training courses, employment advice and work experience opportunities – designed to boost confidence, improve wellbeing and increase employment prospects.

The team is managed by Project Leads Leon Pietrzak and Danny Crangle who along with Referral Officer, Bev Ward and Administrator Lisa Morrissey ensure the project offers tenants and residents of West Lancashire access and opportunity to benefit from this fantastic new support service.

If you are working with someone or have a family member, friend or neighbour who may be interested, or can provide opportunities for the project to network and grow please get in touch with the team: phone: 01695 712598, email: MPT@westlancs.gov.uk

**Save
the
date:**

The next One
West Lancs
Forum will be
held on

**September
10th 2018**

9.30 to 2pm

**at Edgehill
University**

details to follow





A Divine day for all at Ormskirk's 4th Annual Dance

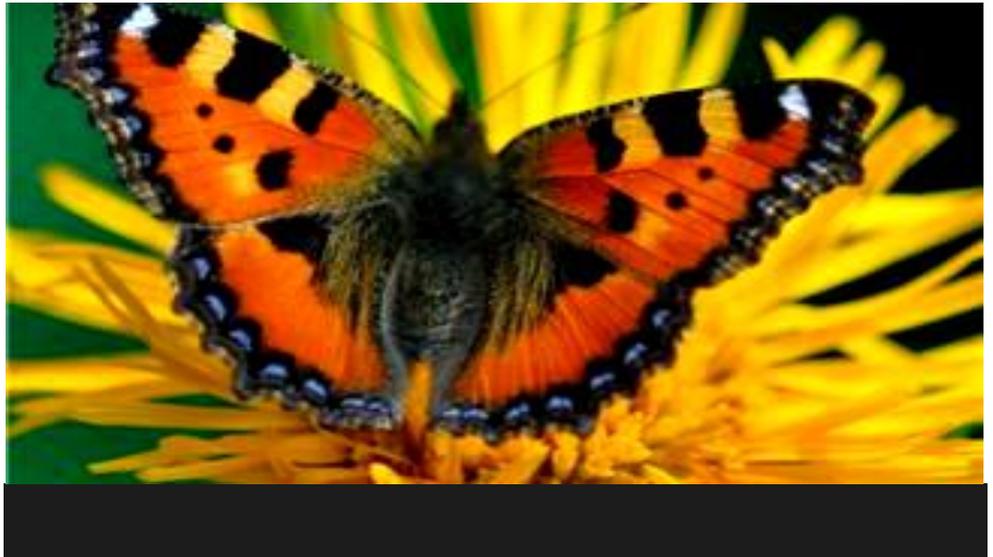
The 4th Annual Ormskirk Dance Festival took place on 23rd and 24th June 2018 with hundreds of dancers entertaining the thousand strong crowd, with performances ranging from street dance and musical theatre to contemporary dance.

Divine Days Community Arts ran the festival in partnership with the West Lancashire park rangers and West Lancashire Borough Council, bringing the community together for a spectacular day which celebrates the diversity of dance, promoting inclusion and acceptance, which is at the very heart of Divine Days Community Arts CIC.

Katie Whitehead, Managing Director of Divine Days said of the festival "Performing arts can be very exclusive at times but we are an inclusive festival and everyone is welcome whatever your age, ability, genre or faith. We stand together, perform together and as a result bring people together".

Divine Day's own dance troupe, Divine Dance, headlined the festival with their performance piece called 'Light', a piece that has recently been presented at the Nelson Dance Festival and at The Festival Of Ideas at Edge Hill University. Also on stage and the arena at this year's festival were: Rufford School of Dance, Delphside Talent Club, Elevation, Becci Lou's Studios, Lancashire Youth Performing Arts, Dream Makers, Inspiration Dance and New Centre Stage, along with an appearance by the Mayor of West Lancs and even the Town Crier.

The Festival sees its 5th birthday next year and Katie and team are hoping to celebrate in style with the biggest performance so far. For more information, contact Katie by email: katie@divinedays.co.uk or phone her on 07896137236.



The Eric Wright Charitable Trust Small Grants Fund

A Lancashire business is blazing a trail to show a different way of structuring a successful business. The Eric Wright construction group uses profits from its construction work to fund a broad range of charities via the Eric Wright charitable trust, which was set up in 1990 on principles of sustained employment and community regeneration. Unusually the Charitable Trust owns 100% of the shareholding in the Eric Wright Group and all profits are therefore either reinvested in the Group's business or distributed to the Trust for its charitable activities throughout the NW.

The Trust recently decided to create an additional strand of work to target small, mainly volunteer led voluntary and community groups in Lancashire. The Eric Wright Charitable Trust therefore launched its Small Pots Fund in West Lancashire in April of this year.

Groups are invited to apply for small grants of up to £500 to fund their work. The trust has a particular emphasis on young persons' wellbeing, elderly services, education and training, health, and carers' support.

Ten West Lancashire groups have already received funding

Find out more [here](#). To apply, or to request an application form, please contact Catherine Cosslett at the CVS on 01695-733737 or email: catherine@wlcvs.org



Representatives from Mawdesley Cricket Club receive the Queens' Award for Voluntary Service

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

- Do you know an exceptional volunteer group having a positive impact on others in your local community?
- Why not nominate them for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service?

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities and is regarded as the MBE for volunteer groups. Any volunteer group providing a service to the local community can be nominated for the award. Each group is assessed on the benefit it brings to the local community and its standing within that community.

This year the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was won by local group Mawdesley Cricket Club, just over the border in Chorley Borough. They beat a range of contenders to be one of only 7 winners in Lancashire, for their work with the wider community and excluded groups. They join the ranks of prestigious winners which include local group Aughton-Ormskirk U3A who won the award back in 2008 and are currently celebrating their 15 birthday. More recently, Carl Eaton from Skelmersdale's Men-Aces group received the Queen's award in 2016 for his outstanding work.

If you would like to nominate a group for the 2019, submit your nomination by midnight on 14th September 2018: <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>

www.onewestlancs.org



Volunteers rewarded for vital work

West Lancs CVS held its annual Volunteer Awards Evening recently, to celebrate Volunteers Week 2018 and to acknowledge the vital work done by hardworking volunteers across the Borough. At the evening, hosted by the Mayor of West Lancashire Councillor Noel Delaney, 26 of the volunteers who have worked with the CVS Volunteer Centre were awarded 100 hour certificates, 200 hour certificates, and Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering Awards.

The awards ceremony was followed by representatives from each organisation saying a few words about the powerful impact of volunteers on the Sector - all agreeing that the dedication and hard-work of their volunteers, makes a massive difference to many organisations.

Greg Mitten, Chief Officer of West Lancs CVS said: 'We would like to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers across West Lancashire, who work tirelessly - giving up their free time to change the lives of others'.

To find out how the CVS Volunteer Centre can help recruit volunteers for your organisation, please contact us on [01695 733737](tel:01695733737) or vc@wlcvs.org

Contact
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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](#)
- [People and Communities](#)
- [Ageing Well Partnership/Dementia Friendly Communities](#)
- [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.

www.onewestlancs.org