



# BURNLEY PENDLESIDE NEWSLETTER

ROTARY CLUB OF BURNLEY PENDLESIDE

## Kidz Away 2024



**Wow!!! What a week we had at Whitehough Kidz Away this year!!**

I know that's not just my personal somewhat biased view but it also reflects the opinion of my fellow Rotarians, the Burnley Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services (BPRCVS) team, Sania, Sammi and Sue plus the TEAM RISE leadership CEO Sharon and Sonya.

It certainly helps to make the planning process easier when the

team at Whitehough, Lorna and Danusza know exactly what we need and even more importantly how to deliver it seamlessly over the week. The team behind them Andy and all the Outdoor Instructors always seem so pleased to see us all again and just exude patience and enthusiasm. Each year for the walk we are very lucky to have the help of local qualified expedition leader Ken Simmons, he brings an absolute

abundance of experience of leading outdoor ventures such as the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Award expeditions.

Behind the scenes at Whitehough, BPRCVS, TEAM RISE and Burnley Pendleside Rotary Club are involved in lots of detailed planning. For instance on the optimistic side what are the good weather activities for the week? whilst on the opposite end of the spectrum what are the 'Wet Weather' alternatives? The lunch time meal has always been a major feature of the course, we strongly believe it is important to give all the attendees a very wholesome simple nutritious good meal. This creates its own issues with allergies, special diets, food intolerances and similar problems. As long as we communicate them properly to Whitehough with plenty of time they have always managed to satisfy any demand or need for specialist diets or allergies.

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### Upcoming Meetings:

- **11<sup>th</sup> September 2024:**  
**Business Meeting.**
- **18<sup>th</sup> September 2024:**  
**Speaker:**  
**Retired Pharmacist**  
**Barry Pearson.**
- **25<sup>th</sup> September 2024:**  
**Speaker:**  
**Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services (BPRCVS) CEO**  
**Christine Blythe.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024:**  
**Town Hall Visit, 5pm.**  
**Meeting at Hare & Hounds Afterwards.**
- **9<sup>th</sup> October 2024:**  
**Business Meeting.**
- **16<sup>th</sup> October 2024:**  
**Speaker: TBC.**

## Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday 13th November 2024.**

**Burnley Light Opera Society - Annie The Musical.**

**Friday 29th November 2024.**

**Senior's Christmas Party.**



## Kidz Away 2024



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Final pre course discussions with myself, Sania and Sharon indicate that their expectations are that the take up of places for every day of the week is 100%. In fact I think we will probably have a few extras on some days! BUT who would like to be put in the situation where you have to select two or three out of the groups to bring the numbers down to twenty or thirty- if you'd seen the attendees faces on the course you would not want to be the one making the choice I can assure you.

How blessed our two groups were with the weather this year. Whitehough is brilliantly inviting when you are incredibly familiar with it but when you are thrust there as part of a group of up to twenty new people it's not quite so great. However, the supremely professional very well experienced specialist instructors are able to manage these difficult situations for the young people and subtly encourage them to mix with each other whilst participating in exciting tasks such as climbing Jacob's Ladder or the good old fashioned tree climb, both of which are protected by safety ropes and sophisticated belay (anchor) systems. Without directly instructing the young people to work as teams the instructors encouraged lots of team work from all members of the group.

The second day of the young carers Whitehough trip has always been "EXPEDITION DAY", previous years have seen the group ascend the local hilly icon "PENDLE HILL" but after discussion between Whitehough,

BPRCVS, Rotary and the walk leader Ken Simmons, it was decided to explore the Pendle Sculpture Trail instead. Pendle will still be there for them to explore for the rest of their lives.

So after meeting at Whitehough Outdoor Centre the attendees congregated in the dining hall to get their rucksacks for the day containing their packed lunches, additional snacks and crisps plus drinks for the day. All the young people were briefed in great detail about all the do's and don'ts when out in the countryside. What a pity more newcomers to our beautiful countryside do not receive similar briefings we would see far less litter in the hedgerows and more basic respect for what is other people's property.

The group made its way from Whitehough to Barley village at a fairly relaxed pace, the objective for the day was for all members of the group to complete the walk and no one drop out. Whilst walking past the lower Black Moss reservoir the walk leaders were able to point out the paths up Pendle Hill and how in previous years that had been the days expedition.

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The sculpture trail is hidden from general view by the trees of Aiken Wood, some of the young people were far from impressed that the last couple of hundred metres to the Sculpture Trail were the steepest of the whole walk! Quite a few of the young people were totally bemused when they saw that for some reason people had somehow pushed or knocked coins into various bits of logs and wooden forestry furniture. They wondered why anyone would bash money into wood in such a way! and some of them started to try and recover some of these very rusty bent and battered coins.

Although the young guys had not climbed Pendle the Rotary team felt that for their efforts and excellent behaviour they all deserved either an ice cream or ice lolly when they got back to Barley. After enjoying their rest at the Cabin Cafe all that remained of the walk was for them all to walk the relatively short flat section back to the Outdoor Centre.

Over the last couple of years the Thursday and Friday activities of the Kidz Away Project at Whitehough has been handed over to the guys from TEAM RISE.

TEAM RISE is a local charity which supports adults who have a learning disability, autism and those who are vulnerable, lonely or socially isolated. TEAM RISE's objective is to give individuals the opportunity to develop, socialise and explore their ideals and goals.

All the members at the Rotary Club of Burnley

Pendleside I am sure are totally convinced that everyone we sponsor for the trip to Whitehough gets a huge benefit from attending. One only needs to observe the people when they first arrive and then again when they are leaving to see how they have enjoyed it!

For the TEAM RISE gang the fun starts even before they get to Barley. Andy one of the Whitehough staff in addition to his normal duties becomes driver for the day bringing them to the centre and taking them back home, to add to the fun he gets all the passengers on his mini bus singing their hearts out. They all love singing!

All the attendees from TEAM RISE no matter what the activity enter into it totally, be it crate stacking, problem solving, archery or whatever. Fortunately as for the BPRCVS Young Cares we were absolutely blessed with good sunny weather.

A big plus that we feel all the attendees get is a good wholesome meal at lunchtime, the catering teams work is much appreciated. As well as enjoying the food, meal time is the opportunity to make new friends.

No article on Kidz Away can end without expressing our huge thanks to the instructors: Elliot L, Jonathan C, Craig D & Sophie F whose skills, knowledge and patience make the week a huge success.

John Osborn  
Community Team



## Rotary Young Leaders Awards Course 2024



Rotarian John Osborn, Olivia, Former District Governor Pam Holgate & Rotarian Mukhtar Mirza.



The process for identifying and selecting a suitable nominee to attend the Rotary Young Leaders Award (RYLA) Course at the Castle Head Field Studies Centre, Grange-over-Sands is now well honed and has worked well over quite a few years now.

As in previous years Burnley Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Services (BPRCVS) Families and Children's section did a search through their catchment age group who were within their jurisdiction and then came up with an appropriate nomination to submit to the Rotary Club of Burnley Pendleside.

A key factor in the candidate selection process is that the nominee must be a young person who would not normally get the opportunity to attend such an incredible outdoor based course and would also significantly gain personally by attending the course. To facilitate attendance on the course we often have to provide some clothing and we are indebted to Rotary member, Mukhtar Mirza local Tesco Community Champion for his very generous clothing donation to help this young person's attendance. As usual all Rotary events or tasks are team efforts involving various different members highlighting the truly great spirit of our club.

So an early Sunday morning pick up by Rotarians

Allan Clifford and Alan Armstrong saw nominee Olivia en-route for Grange-over-Sands to the Field Study Centre. Quite often at this stage nervousness and fear of the unknown creep in, but feedback from the two Alan's said she was very talkative and couldn't wait to get there. BPRCVS were later to tell us that her mum had visions of her no sooner having got up to the Lakes than she would be receiving a call to go and pick her up and bring her back home. Big Alan reported back later the same morning that very soon after getting her to the centre than she was tucking into a substantial breakfast and making new friends with her fellow course members.

The RYLA course content has been established for quite a while now so the timings and content are almost fixed year on year. The principle objective of the course is to give attendees some important life training and skills, such as; leadership, values, communication and team working. The staff at Castle Head use a variety of techniques and methods to conduct the training including course lecture room, fund raising event, outdoor expedition and public speaking.

Once again at the end of the course presentations and buffet meal the feedback from Burnley Pendleside Rotary's attendee was excellent. Our young person thought she had had a great time at RYLA and has taken away new skills, new friendships and good memories from the experience. Definitely another successful RYLA Course!!!

John Osborn  
Community Team

## Burnley Youth Theatre Edinburgh

### Fringe Festival Preview Performance

It's always a privilege to be invited to attend any of the performances at Burnley Youth Theatre (BYT). The Rotary Club of Burnley Pendleside have an excellent relationship with BYT and take pride in supporting the excellent work they do within the Burnley Borough and surrounding areas.

The programme for the Edinburgh preview not only included the latest version of their Edinburgh production but also a production from the Theatre Factory Company based in Barrow in Furness.

The Theatre Group production was billed as "A Chocolate Box of Delights - Voices of Generation Z" - comprising 9 Micro Plays. Normally I am very enthusiastic about anything associated with BYT, but in reality this was only linked to the BYT because it was performed on the same stage.

Whilst the acting was okay and the cast managed their lines with obvious ease it definitely was not one for me. I appreciate that I am quite long in the tooth but the gratuitous bad language is not for me nor were some of the themes addressed. I can't honestly believe the Burnley born Knight of the Realm Sir Ian McKellan had to resort to these levels in his formative years on the stage. I definitely found the nine vignettes very difficult to follow and even more so understand.

After the break then how good to be back on familiar territory with a play performed by BYT! Having been to a few of the previous BYT Edinburgh Fringe

Festival previews we are familiar with them tackling strong social issues. The production of "EVERYTHING SOMETHING NOTHING" tackles in a story of silence and power the epidemic of sexual assault in schools and hopefully the tremendous beauty of growing up. Some of the issues portrayed in the production whilst a million miles from the era we were brought up in are rather sadly all too relevant for students in today's years 11,12 & 13. As would be expected of such a project the small cast put over their performance well and without help from the prompt.

Coming up in the next few months BYT has again got a very busy programme of productions plus the team at the Heasandford Theatre site perform an incredible role locally taking all ages of young people and giving them a valuable introduction and training to the performing arts.

Keep up the brilliant work Burnley Youth Theatre.

John Osborn  
Community Team



#### Edinburgh Fringe 2024 Review Everything Something Nothing First Byte Theatre

##### Low Down

*Everything Something Nothing is a striking example of the power of youth theatre to address critical social issues with honesty and creativity. The performances are convincing and powerful, with each cast member bringing depth and authenticity to their roles. The play explores the theme of adults who don't listen when concerns are raised, and the devastating consequences that can follow.*

##### Review

Burnley Youth Theatre's Everything Something Nothing is a powerful and thought-provoking production from Firstbyte, their talented teen group. This ensemble of seven emerging artists from Burnley has crafted a show that delves into the complex and often harsh realities faced by young people in schools today. The play tackles challenging themes such as sexual assault, peer pressure, and the struggle to be heard in a world filled with constant noise, where truth is often obscured.

The performances are convincing and powerful, with each cast member bringing depth and authenticity to their roles. As the narrative progresses, the characters grow, and their relationships fracture as more is revealed about Golden. The play explores the theme of adults who don't listen when concerns are raised, and the devastating consequences that can follow.

This is an excellent piece of new work that showcases the considerable talent within Burnley Youth Theatre. The strong character development, sharp scene transitions, and the powerful exploration of important themes make it a must-see. This production tackles difficult topics with maturity and insight, leaving a lasting impact on its audience.

In conclusion, Everything Something Nothing is a striking example of the power of youth theatre to address critical social issues with honesty and creativity. Burnley Youth Theatre's Firstbyte group has created something truly special, and this production is a testament to their talent and dedication.

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## Rotary Club Of Lancaster Invitation



Rotary Club of Lancaster President June Wood, Rotarian John Osborn and TEAM RISE CEO Sharon Lees.

A chance chat at the RYLA Buffet and presentation evening lead to an invitation to go up to the Rotary Club of Lancaster to speak about the Rotary Club of Burnley Pendleside's Kidz Away project.

The Rotary District 1190 RYLA organiser Sheena Marsden was very interested in hearing about the work we do with

BPRCVS Children and Families and TEAM RISE members.

As with some other Rotary clubs they are finding recruiting new members more and more difficult and are now facing up to the prospect that the Lancaster Club will close within the next twelve months. Having met the majority of the members what a tragedy this is -

such a great group of individuals.

Having been invited to speak I thought why not invite TEAM RISE CEO Sharon Lees along as well, she could speak from a perspective that is far closer to the attendees and extol just how much they all get from the experience at Whitehough.

Sharon spoke very clearly how

much the people from TEAM RISE get from their visit to Whitehough. The experience they get is enormous trying things like: tree climbing, crate stacking, archery and even toasting marshmallows! All with specially qualified leaders.

So after the two of us had finished talking and answering questions we were overjoyed at the Lancaster Club's extremely kind gesture in giving TEAM RISE a £500 donation to carry on their much needed social work with autistic, loneliness, learning difficulties or socially isolated.

A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Lancaster for supporting TEAM RISE, we hope they can find the time to come and see the fantastic annual TEAM RISE Pantomime written, produced and performed by its members.

John Osborn  
Community Team

## Thank You From TEAM RISE



Together Everyone  
Achieves More  
Respecting Individual  
Skills & Experiences

Here's to our fabulous days at Whitehough Camp! If you have seen the photo's, you will understand just how much these days mean to the members of TEAM RISE, they had a wonderful

time, supported by fantastic staff and most importantly had a great dinner.

Sadly, some of our members

would not be able to attend these days if they had to finance them themselves, because quite simply they just do not have the money and TEAM RISE could not afford to fund their places, so it is such a big thank you, we all owe you for making our days possible.

I know more than most that there are so many worthy causes for you to support and it really does mean so much to all of us that each year you

choose to support us!!

Raising funds and getting much needed support for all charities seems to be getting more difficult, but as long as we have people like you to rely on, we know we will continue to grow and thrive, so once again THANK YOU to each and everyone of you.

Best wishes always  
Sharon Walsh  
CEO

Rotary  Club Of Burnley Pendleside

Serving Our Local Community Since 1982

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