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THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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*News from Whittle & Clayton Brook*

# PARISH GAZETTE

Please accept this  
FREE copy  
donations welcome  
**SEPTEMBER  
2025**

*Speak out, Reach out, Gather in for Christ*



## VICAR

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Dear Friends

While we wouldn't have chosen (not in 1000 years) to lose one of our church-family so tragically, it has been moving and beautiful to share this journey of grief together. Some of the comments I have heard over the past two weeks have wonderfully expressed what is so difficult to express. I am reminded of Ray Ortlund's lovely description of church life, heard a few years ago at Keswick, 'stumbling together towards Jesus, one step at a time.' That is what we are doing right now.

A dear colleague of mine has been a useful sounding board and source of helpful tips at this time, as well as a deeply caring friend. One suggestion he made was that I could write a prayer for us all to pray, as a means of expressing our collective grief. I have never written a prayer for my congregation before, and I don't know whether it is 'my thing', but here is my first stab. If you find it helpful, please use it. If you don't, please move on and pray your own prayer.

Thank you all for this time of shared sorrow, love and support.

Your brother in Christ

Philip

*Heavenly Father*

*As we remember our brother in Christ, Lyndon, and hold before you in prayer Carol, his wider family and our own church-family, we echo the words of Peter to Jesus: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*

*And so we come to you, in faith, to express our grief. While we do not grieve like others do who have no hope, nevertheless we do grieve. Our sense of loss is acute and we feel so deeply what the apostle named 'sorrow upon sorrow'. We are experiencing the brokenness of this fallen world and the pain caused by our great and last enemy, death.*

*But it is yours, Lord, to give and to take away, and we bow before your mysterious sovereign goodness. We do not like this, we would not choose this, but we know that you reign, you are good and you love.*

*And though our grief is real and sometimes feels constant, yet at the same time we are rejoicing because our Saviour has conquered death, and those who die in the Lord are blessed, for now they rest from their labours. It is our confidence and our joy that our brother Lyndon has now entered that rest.*

*As we look forward now, we ask for a growing faith in the risen Lord, a growing unity and love, and a growing eagerness to labour in the Lord, as we wait for that day when faith shall become sight and in seeing him as he really is we shall be transformed into his likeness for ever.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# LYNDON

"I have many memories of Lyndon over the years as our children were at Sunday school together. I'm sure others will talk about his faith and service to God and the church and quite rightly. I also used to bump into Lyndon at golf and I know the men's section at Leyland Golf Club are feeling his loss deeply. But the memory I want to particularly mention was Lyndon being at the church the night before my daughter, Laura's, wedding making sure it was spic and span. A lovely man and a tragic loss to so many. - *Helen Curtis*

"A polite and friendly man who always made you feel welcome. Rest in peace xx - *Joanne Hardwick*

Having known Carol and Lyndon for many years and always referring to them together, it is strange to think of Carol alone. Over the years and especially when meeting in Church or in our Growth Group Lyndon was always a source of encouragement with his infectious laugh and sense of humour. A constant presence in a time of change, a man with a servant's heart who simply wanted to serve His Lord in the best way possible, whatever was needed. I am sure that Lyndon will have been received into Jesus' presence with the words "Welcome Lyndon, My true and faithful servant". With thanks giving to God for Lyndon and Carol and prayers that the Holy Spirit will surround Carol, James, Lucy and the family with the peace of Christ.—*David & Marion Barlow*

Lyndon was the friendly face that greeted us when we first moved to the area and attended St John's. Gill joined their Growth Group and over the years we became friends with Lyndon and Carol, and that remained so until his sad and tragic death. In recent years in retirement he was an active member of the Whittle Wanderers enjoying days out walking followed by a well earned lunch at a local cafe or pub. A recent highlight was his first ever walk up to Darwen Tower, and pictured here at the RAF Wellington memorial on Anglezarke Moor! He was much loved and will be sorely missed by Gill and I, but we know he is in a good place now in heaven .—*Robin and Gill Lancaster xxx*



I am so very very sad that we have lost our dear friend Lyndon. A man always with a happy smile and a laugh. He and I worked together as governors at Clayton le Woods primary school for several years and his contribution was always welcome. His presence was supportive and sound. I know that he loved the school and the children. He took his role seriously and always wanted to learn more about the governor role so that he could contribute to the management of a successful caring establishment. As a Christian man I saw Lyndon as a genuinely kind and supportive person, always there to help and encourage. he was a special person who I shall miss and I will never forget his kindness and goodwill which spilled out of him for everyone. - *Jane Ogle*

"I would like to give thanks for Lyndon's dedicated service to St John's church, his friendly welcome each Sunday and that he knew everyone on a first name basis. Whilst the music group were rehearsing before the service on any Sunday, you always knew when a song chosen was a hit with Lyndon, as he would then continue singing it when we had finished it as he was going about pre service duties. The church now feels emptier each Sunday when I walk in because he is not there. I will miss his laugh which really did fill the church with a tremendous sound. I got to know Lyndon well when we were members of the many Christmas choirs formed to support the church's Christmas carols service. He made this event really fun. As a family we were devastated and heartbroken to hear Lyndon had died and offer all our love, prayers and support to Carol in her recovery and with James and Lyndon's family and friends. God bless you Lyndon. - *Melanie, Marc, Ryan and Isla Amphlett*

**LYNDON** There are many, many things about Lyndon I will miss. His Sunday welcomes, his big heart, his rock solid faith, his earth trembling laugh, his loyalty to church, family and Preston North End. But I know that as we get closer to Christmas, I will especially miss the schoolboy laughs we shared as a result of our ‘just about adequate’ singing voices in the festive choir. Church won’t be the same without him, but I take comfort in the knowledge that he is with our Lord in heaven.—*Chris Dawson.*

Hi everyone, well the Friday gang has lost our leader on Friday mornings cleaning church or work outside. We have several laughs over many years and Lyndon was always at church first hoovering the carpets etc. One of our laughs would be looking for something and not being able to find it and the answer would be that Lyndon had skipped it. This was just one of many laughs we shared with a kind and smiling human being with a loveable laugh that he shared with everyone at church. If anyone wants to come along on Friday mornings 9.30 to 10.50 ish you are more than welcome and I'm sure our dear friend will still be with us all, the Friday morning gang, Amen.

— *Bill Yates*

I first got to know Lyndon through PCC then later as we served as Churchwardens in the parish. He was a great support and sounding board over the years. I over think everything but Lyndon's advice was always clear - problem/situation – discuss & agree a solution – move on! His texts and emails always made me laugh. Mine (and others) are wordy. I'm happy to use 20 words instead of one, wherever possible. Not Lyndon. His responses were sparse and to the point! My overriding memory of Lyndon at Clayton Brook church are of him in the kitchen. His speciality was washing up and he didn't like any interference! I once suggested I'd take all the glasses home and put them in the dishwasher. Lyndon wasn't having that – he'd wash them so everything was done and dusted before we left. Carol was always beside him drying dishes smiling patiently at his instructions. He would do whatever needed to be done to serve the Lord and our community. If that was manning the sponge splat at the festival or staying till the very end of events to tidy up and restore order then that's what he'd do, always with a smile. He served the Lord in many ways and I thank the Lord that he was and always will be part of our church family.

Amen - *Gill Menhennet*

When I think of Lyndon I think of the practical Lyndon always getting stuck in with all the various jobs around church. I think of the serving Lyndon who gave his time for others not only in church but also in the community as a school governor. I think of the sociable Lyndon who had a gift of being able to talk to old and young and the way he was interested in people. I think of the sound of Lyndon, his whistling in the quiet and his laugh that could fill the church. I think of the spiritual Lyndon his prayers and insights into God's word shared many times in a gentle unassuming way. But most of all I think and give thanks for his friendship over the years, someone who I could always turn to and who would be there to support and encourage.—*Deborah Green*

*Philippians 1 v 3-6: I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Many years ago, Carol and I used to work at the Pines Hotel in the Banqueting Suite. I remember Carol nipping out to see her policeman boyfriend: Lyndon. - *Julie Summers*

Lyndon will be sadly missed by us all. Not only a cherished member of our church family but a valued and respected member of our community. Thinking of his family at this sad time.

*With all our love, Rachel, Warren, Jessica & Tom Eaton*

Lyndon, we'll miss your warm welcoming “morning gang” every Sunday morning; the singing/whistling as you walked down the aisle during the last song; and your joining in with the kids password games after the service. I'll miss your wise words during PCC and Standing Committee meetings, but most of all, I'll miss the encouraging pat on the back and the gentle “well done” after meetings. This small gesture meant so much as I was settling in as treasurer, or after some of our more challenging discussions. You will be deeply missed, but we know that you are at home with the Lord.—*Chris, Steph, Blake, Elspeth and Leo Woolham*

Lyndon has been the backbone of our church for many years. Almost always the first voice you heard when you entered church on a Sunday morning. He always knew where the Palm Crosses had been stored from one year to the next, when I couldn't find them. He often gave me a lift to and from church without being asked, and always ticked me off if I told him I had come on the bus! ‘Lyndon's Quiz’ at many of our events will never be forgotten. Very rarely did Lyndon miss an event in St John's or CBrook. Rest in peace, Lyndon. - *Cath Orr*



## SEPTEMBER DATES

Monday 1st, Ministry Team Meeting, Vicarage 7.30pm

Tuesday 2nd, Parish Prayer Meeting, St John's 7.30pm

Wednesday 3rd, 12.30pm, Lyndon's Funeral

Monday 8th, PCC Meeting, Clayton Brook 7.30pm

Sunday 14th, 6.00pm, Highcliffe Care Home Harvest Service

Tuesday 16th, Alex Phillips from Korea visiting, Vicarage 7.30pm

Saturday 20th, Church Day Out at Chipping Village Hall

# WARM WELCOME

## Clayton Brook Community Church

Mondays 11am-2pm

*A warm welcome*



*No charge, donations welcome*

**REFRESHMENTS, LIGHT LUNCH AND DESSERT**

Funded by **Chorley Council & Amber River True Bearing Chartered Financial Planners**



Warm Welcome reopens on 1<sup>st</sup> September after our summer break.  
The team would love to see you, join us for great food,  
friendship and fellowship. See you soon.

## EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN

The prayer chain has now moved to WhatsApp. It is always available for anyone who would like urgent, emergency prayer for themselves or their family or friends.

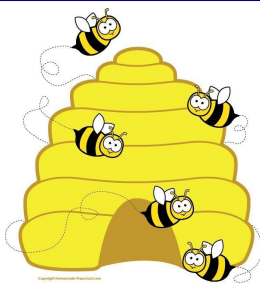
If you know someone who is a member of the prayer chain,  
please ask them to put in your prayer request.

Or telephone Gill Wright

Our prayer chain takes many calls. Do not be anxious, concerned or troubled.....

*'The Lord is near to all who call on Him' (Psalm 145v18)'*

*Cast all your anxiety onto Him, because He cares for you' (1Peter 5v7)*



**Beehive Mother and Toddler group meet  
on Monday mornings at 10.45 to 12.15  
in Whittle le Woods Village Hall  
Play, chat, stories, singing  
There's room for everyone  
See Christine Whiteside**

## **Warm Welcome at Clayton Brook**

Refreshments, Light Lunch and Dessert

Every Monday 11 - 2pm  
(sadly we're not open on Bank Holidays)

Donations welcome  
Everyone is welcome, children and babies too.  
Contact Gill Wright  
or just turn up



***Proverbs 22:9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.***

Living Waters food bank is low on everything at the moment. There is a food collection box in Clayton Brook church and in St John's. If you are in Chorley you can drop off donations at Living Waters church in Bolton Street, Tues and Fridays 10-12noon.

Or give a money donation on their website: [www.facebook.com/LWStorehouse](https://www.facebook.com/LWStorehouse),  
And most supermarkets have food bank trolleys.

***Words the Lord Jesus Himself said:***

***"It is more blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20v35***



## 150 years of the Keswick Convention



An iconic Christian convention is celebrating 150 years this year. From the humble beginnings of a vicar holding a meeting on his vicarage lawn back in 1875, the Keswick Convention now runs a year-round Christian teaching ministry and attracts 15,000 to its annual three-week summer convention.

The Keswick Convention was the brainchild of Canon Thomas Harford-Battersby, Vicar of St John's Keswick. He had attended a Christian

conference in Oxford, and found it life changing. "Christ was revealed to me so powerfully and sweetly as the present Saviour in His all sufficiency." And later he added: "I found He was all I wanted: I shall never forget it... How it humbled me and what peace it brought."

Harford-Battersby wanted to share this joy in Christ with others. So, with the help of a friend, he erected a tent on his vicarage lawn that summer and simply invited local people to come along.

Even that first year, it was a success. Over the week, nearly 400 people attended. And in the following years, more people came. Hundreds, thousands of them, from many denominations, eager to learn more about the Bible. Within a few years of its starting, Christians all over the world were making an annual pilgrimage to the little Lake District town, to hear the best Bible teachers that were available.

Some highlights along the way:

1875 – first convention, in St John's vicarage garden in Keswick.

1901 – the first marquee was erected on the Skiddaw Street site.

1969 – the second week of convention was started, aimed more at families

1997 – the Rawnsley Hall in Keswick was bought, to extend youth ministry

2001 – the third week of the convention was launched

2015 – the Pencil Mill in Keswick was acquired, and it is now an integrated home for the Convention.

Many missionary societies and theological colleges owe their roots to the Keswick Convention: Hudson Taylor of China and Amy Carmichael of India had close ties with Keswick.

In recent times, speakers have included some of the best-known preachers in the evangelical world: John Stott, Donald English, George Duncan, David Coffey, and Anne Graham Lotz.

Today many Keswick teaching events are held around the world: in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, North America, India, Jamaica and Japan. The Convention's motto remains – 'All One in Christ Jesus'.

More at: <https://keswickministries.org>

**Many people from our church attend Keswick, in person or on line.**

The [Keswick Convention](https://keswickministries.org) dates for 2026 are from Saturday, July 18 to Friday, July 31, split into two weeks, with a third week following from Saturday, August 1 to Friday, August 7.

The theme for the 2026 convention is "Strong in his strength," with a focus on living boldly for Christ.



## Something to Make You Smile (hopefully) and Perhaps Think?

### E

#### Easter

Because of Easter, our coffins are nothing but canoes bearing us across the Jordan River to fairer worlds on High. **Heman Melville (who wrote Moby Dick).**

Because of Good Friday you can look back and not be afraid, because of Easter you can look ahead and not be afraid. Because of Ascension Day you can look up and not be afraid and because of Pentecost you can look in and not be afraid.

At Easter God weeps with us so we may someday laugh with him. **Jurgen Moltman**

I owe my Lord a morning song, for Jesus rose at dawn; He made death die and would not lie, that others might live on. **John L. Bell**

#### Education

If your plan is for a year, plant rice. If your plan is for a decade, plant trees. If your plan is for a lifetime, educate children. **Confucius.**

A young girl approached her father and asked,

"Dad, why does the wind blow?" "I don't know darling."

"Dad, where do the clouds come from?" "I'm not sure sweetheart."

"Dad, what makes a rainbow?" "No idea Cherub"

"Dad, do you mind me asking you all these questions?"

"Of course not, how else are you going to learn?"

Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't! **Pete Seeger**

*Five people who proved getting a degree isn't everything.*

Andrew Carnegie, US Industrialist and philanthropist

Charles Dickens, novelist

Claude Monet, painter

Henry Stanley, explorer and

Charles Chaplain, actor and film director.

#### Emotion

A group of film makers and sound engineers classified the ten most dramatic sounds in the movies. A baby's first cry, the blast of a siren, the thunder of breakers on rocks, the roar of a forest fire, a foghorn, the slow drip of water, the galloping of horses, a distant train whistle and the howl of a dog. The sound that they thought caused most emotional response was however the wedding march which has the power to bring forth almost every human emotion: sadness, envy, regret, sorrow, tears and supreme joy.

#### Encouragement

Notice the positive in people.

Compliment people frequently and sincerely.

Ask "How can I help"

Give appropriate challenges

#### Endurance

Ten little Christians standing in a line, one disliked the preacher and then there were nine.

Nine little Christians stayed up very late, one overslept and then there were eight.

Eight little Christians on their way to heaven, one took the low road and then there were seven.

Seven little Christians chirping like chicks, one disliked the music and then there were six.

Six little Christians very much alive, one lost interest and then there were five.

Five little Christians serving those in need, one found something more interesting and then there were four.

Four little Christians each busy as a bee, one got overworked and then there were three.

Three little Christians knew not what to do, one joined the local gym and then there were two.

Two little Christians our rhyme is nearly done, differed with each other, then there were none! **Anon**

#### Evangelism

God doesn't command sinners to go to church, but He does command the church to go to sinners.

"Jesus was born in a borrowed manger. He preached from a borrowed boat. He entered Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey and He ate His Last Supper in a borrowed room. Then He was buried in a borrowed tomb. Now He asks to borrow the lives of Christians to reach the rest of the world. If we don't speak then Jesus is silent! **Dr. Leighton Ford**



### Exercise

The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk.

I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I am doing.

If you're going to try cross country skiing, start with a small country.

Aerobics: a series of strenuous exercises which help convert fats, sugars and starch into aches, pains and cramps.

### Excuses – given on insurance claim forms

The other car collided with mine without giving a warning of its intentions.

In my attempt to kill a fly I flew into a telegraph pole.

As I approached the junction a stop sign appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop the car in time to avoid an accident.

Coming home I drove into the wrong driveway and collided with a tree I don't have.

*From David Barlow*

With thanks to J. John and Mark Stibbe Monarch Press

Please continue to pray for the re-ordering of St John's church.



"Heavenly Father, we ask for your blessing on this re-ordering project. Provide us with the resources, skills, and support we need to complete it successfully. We trust in your provision and your guidance. We pray that our re-ordered church will be a place where future generations can encounter your presence and grow in their faith.



May it be a lasting testament to your love and faithfulness."  
And may our church serve mission and ministry for generations to come.

Stir up the faith in our congregation Lord,  
so that "we walk by faith and not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5v7 ESV  
Increase in our prayer, desire and longing for this re-ordering to be completed soon.

Ask God to give each member of the re-ordering team wisdom and discernment,  
ask Him to sustain them and uplift them in perseverance to overcome the  
challenges ahead.



And may there be joy in the House of the Lord.

"Unless the LORD builds the house,  
the builders labour in vain."

Psalm 127v1



**Keep in touch**  
with the family of God

## **The Suffering Church - Tearfund's Life Saving Work**

Over the last two months we read about Tearfund's vision, values, mission and impact and some of the ways they make an impact through one of their humanitarian projects, all underpinned by faith and trust in the Lord Jesus. This month we meet some of the people who have benefited from Tearfund's transforming projects.

**Chiedzo and her husband in Zimbabwe** are both orphans who grew up with the support of Tearfund's local partner ( Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe), which helps orphans through a network of local churches. The couple participated in a farming training programme and now have their own cows and chickens and access to water, enabling them to earn a living and live in a comfortable home. They have responded to the love of others by opening their home to younger orphans.

**Lord may this Tearfund training equip many more churches and drive change in their communities.**

**Rev Canon Paul Bewarang in Nepal** moved to Pok village in the mountains of Nepal and immediately felt overwhelmed and confused by the immense challenges and needs of the community, leading to many sleepless nights. Paul encountered a church fraught with grudges and disunity. Paul's situation changed when he took part in a Tearfund Transforming Communities (TTC) training programme. Paul relates how the training instilled a sense of purpose, and the belief that the community possessed all the resources it required to meet its needs and support the church. Today Paul experiences a changed situation, the church joining together to support each other and discovering resources they didn't believe that they had.

**Praise God that the church in Pok is now united and helping its local community, and pray for church leaders in Nepal (where the church is growing) facing great needs, both material and spiritual.**

**The caste system in Bangladesh** means that many communities are stigmatised and Pastor Sumon's congregation faces even more stigma because they are Christian. Thanks to TTC training Pastor Sumon has been encouraging his church to improve their lives and their facilities. They have now recently built and maintain a water station, which has benefitted the community immensely and built up a good relationship with the local people. Future plans include efforts to prevent child marriage, extend a tree planting programme and form a church committee to deal with natural disasters, of which there are many in Nepal. Many churches are getting behind the TTC programmes which have Bible studies at their heart, Bible studies which transform lives.

**Praise God for the changes in Pastor Somon's church and community and pray that more churches in Bangladesh will catch this vision.**

**We read about Maryam from Iraq in last months article, here is someone else who has benefitted from support from Tearfund.** Nisreen is 30 and due to unbearable emotional abuse from her in-laws, Nisreen, her husband and their two children were forced to go against all their cultural norms and move out of her husband's family home. Suddenly facing a huge increase in bills Nisreen was left feeling isolated and depressed. A kind relative pointed Nisreen towards a Tearfund local partner where she received counselling and support to help her process the abuse that she had experienced and also provided life skills training. Through this support and encouragement Nisreen realised that she could use her skills to start a small business and she is able to help her husband with her graphic design skills.

**Praise God for these changes in Nisreen's life and pray that more women will be reached by Tearfund programmes.**

**Marie in Chad** is a farmer who when her husband died was left to raise nine children alone. She was introduced to TTC training and received technical support in how to use organic compost and plant early maturing seed varieties because of the disruption to rainfall in the region. Despite the low rainfall Marie has harvested more sorghum, rice and groundnuts than ever before, helping her to support her children. Joseph lives in the south of Chad where the economic situation is dismal and he says medical care or enrolling the children into school is always a family crisis. In 2023 Joseph's church took part in a TTC programme and went on to introduce a local savings group. Joseph remembers that the Bible studies which were part of the programme changed his perception of poverty and strengthened his faith. The savings group has enabled people to save and then have the money when needed, one loan enabled Joseph to start his own successful business.

**Praise God for these practical solutions which help people everyday and are a testimony to His saving grace in action.**

**The situation in South Sudan** has recently, again, been brought to our attention, a country suffering conflict and mass starvation not dissimilar to Gaza, More that 2 million children are now at risk from acute malnutrition so please don't forget South Sudan in your prayers. When Yar arrived at Tearfund's nutritional and stabilisation centre in Jongle State her daughter Nyariak was critically ill. She was exhibiting a range of critical symptoms including fever, diarrhoea, vomiting and was having difficulty breathing. Thanks to a swift diagnosis and treatment by the Tearfund nutritional team Nyariak started to recover and is continuing to make good progress, much to Yar's relief.

**Give thanks for Tearfund's work in South Sudan and pray that more people will benefit from their nutritional and stabilisation centres.**

**A Prayer from Tearfund**

***"Let me be Your hands and feet among those in need of Your Divine providence. Not to be only a provider but to serve in what You have provided. Not to be seen but to cause those I serve to see You. Not to be commended, but to cause them to glorify You"***

Learn more about Barnabas Fund, Open Doors and read more inspiring stories from Tearfund by looking at their websites [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org), [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org) or [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org). [Your donations will make a real difference to lives of Christians across the world, sometime the difference between life and death.](#)

**From David Barlow**



**Chipping Day Out 20th September  
Details in both churches**

**Please remember the LOVE FUND**

**The Love Fund consists of donations of money from members of both our churches. This can be used for anyone in our church or parish who is in need of help. If you are in financial need for whatever purpose:**

**shopping, bills, essentials etc then get in touch with Philip and he will be happy to help you. tel: 01257 515141**

**email: [info@stjohnsandclaytonbrook.uk](mailto:info@stjohnsandclaytonbrook.uk)**






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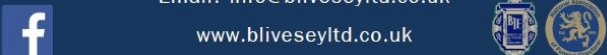
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**Thank you to everyone who has  
contributed to this month's Gazette.**

**Please send in your articles & comments  
for the OCTOBER edition  
before the end of SEPTEMBER**

**To the Editor**

*The editor would welcome comments on  
any article in this gazette*

**If you wish to contact anyone in this  
gazette please use the contact page  
on the website.**