

Cash for the grassroots

Active citizenship is what keeps society healthy.

We would all be worse off without the county's many voluntary groups. Lancashire Local committees in all 12 parts of the county work hard to devolve power downwards. Each county councillor member also has a small pot of money to water the 'grassroots' in his or her area.

HYNDBURN: bog garden



●MARSH garden: County Councillor Jean Battle with pupils at Huncoast Primary School.

A SMALL sum of money amounted to a big step forward for a planned bog garden at Huncoast Primary School.

Huncoast Prospects Forum wanted £150 to buy plants for the marshy area of the school's playing field - and County Councillor Jean Battle helped out with a Lancashire Local grant.

The bog garden was planted earlier this year and, as well as the environmental improvement, can now be incorporated into school lessons.



●NOW we're cooking: Lutfur Miah, left, and Jwell Miam with County Councillor John Cavanagh.

WEST LANCS: boxing

THE local grants scheme has proved a knockout with Skelmersdale Police Amateur Boxing Club which recently received £250.

County Councillor Terry Aldridge, said: "The youngsters are always in need of funds as they constantly wear out kit and have to host boxing tournaments as well as pay for travel to box at other clubs.

"Boxing teaches self-discipline and instils a sense of team-spirit.

"The club gives young people a sense of community and provides them with strong role models.

"I used to box myself - if you start thinking you are good and get too big for your boots, there is always someone just around the corner who is better and can knock you back into line.

"It's a great club that does a lot for the local youth of Skelmersdale and I'm very happy to be able to help them."

Skelmersdale Police Amateur Boxing Club meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6pm to 9pm at the Old Toby Inn, Ashurst.

BURNLEY: let's cook

THINGS have been hotting-up in the kitchen of Stoneholme and Daneshouse Community Association since receiving funding from the grants scheme.

Six councillors on the Burnley committee combined to put £2,350 towards setting up a basic catering training course.

The course, run by Nelson and Colne College, is helping young people improve their job prospects by gaining a qualification and practical skills.

County Councillor John Cavanagh said: "There is concern about the future of young people who are not in any kind of job, education or training.

"This scheme makes a real contribution to social well-being in the area and is exactly the sort of thing these grants are intended to support."

A further £1,800 grant to the scheme was made by County Councillor Sean Serridge, county council Champion for Young People.



●TEAM spirit: County Councillor Terry Aldridge holds the punchbag.

PENDLE: martial arts



●DOWN you go: blue belt Steven John Stokes (9) unbalances County Councillor Nawwaz Ahmed.

FIGHTING is bringing people together in the Pendle town of Brierfield.

A grant of £600 from County Councillor Nawwaz Ahmed's Lancashire Local fund was used by Pendle Martial Arts Academy to buy equipment so that people could learn fighting skills.

Entirely run by volunteers, the club attracts stars of the martial arts world - a number of world champions have attended - and local enthusiasts from all sections of the community.

Organiser Ray Stokes said: "More than almost anywhere else we get people working together in this area.

"Martial arts are hugely attractive for young people and our club treats everyone equally. It is a great boost for social harmony in the area to get everyone together."