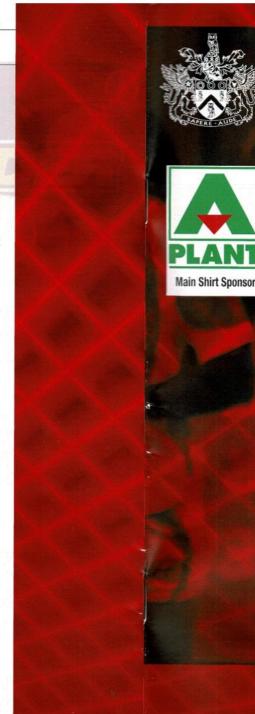
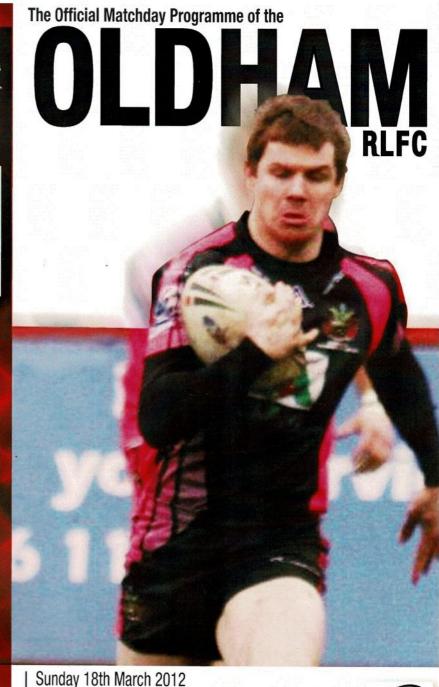


### **Oldham**

**Gateshead** Miles Greenwood **Robin Peers** John Gillam **Ashley Thackeray Mark McCulley** Mike Mitchell **Matthew Fogarty** Josh Neilson **Paul Ballard Ashley Williams Neil Roden** Sam Walsh **Jamie Dallimore** Ryan Clarke **Jason Boults** Stephen Wellen John Clough **Tom Hodgson Bruce Johnson Brett Waller Chris Clarke Matt Barron Paul Smith** Joe Brown Valu Bentley Ryan Steen **Danny Whitmore Paul Stamp Liam Gilchrist Chris Parker Dave Ellison** Dan O'Sullivan **Paul Noone** Josh Stoker Mark Brocklehurst **Jason Payne** Lucas Onyango Will Bate **Shaun Robinson** Michael Ward Martin Roden **Matty Syron David Cookson** 

> Referee G Stokes TJs S Barrie N Aspey - Sponsored by H Mullaney & son Skip Hire and Recycling





**Price** £2.50

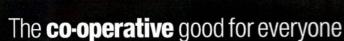
## **Gateshead Thunder**

Co-Op Championship 1 Kick-Off 3:00pm





Good for every pass, every tackle, every feint, every grubber, every up and under, every play the ball, every restart, every dropout, every scrum, every turnover, every hooter, every player, every fan.



food | bank | travel | pharmacy | funeralcare

co-operative.co.uk



## **BOARDROOM** with Chris Hamilton

Our opponents today, Gateshead, will arrive feeling they should have also started the season with a winafter losing in the dving seconds to South Wales. They, like all the other sides, have strengthened in the off season and will be eager today to show that their performance last week was no fluke. We have spoken at length about our mental attitude to the game and the need to improve our own performance week on week.

By the time we play this match we will know our opponents in the Carnegie Challenge Cup tie to be played on 25th March so please keep a look out for details of this match on the various media sources. We will also be looking at ways to promote attendance at this game too!

The Reserves also have started their season and we wish them and Paul Ashton, in particular, every success as they strive hard on behalf of the club.

As we have made clear recently the work to improve the ground continues albeit, at this stage, not all in the public eye. It has been a real eye opener as to how much time and work needs to go into such a project. Given that we have never before been fortunate enough to be in the position of having our own ground it has added to an already heavy workload but everybody connected with it has embraced it as a very positive step forward. We will continue to keep you updated as soon as we are able and the clubs continued thanks go to those companies and people who are assisting us in this very specialist and costly(!) programme. The local authority. Oldham Council, has a very important part to play in this and last week we again held very positive discussions with officers and

the Leader Jim McMahon as we strive to move forward.

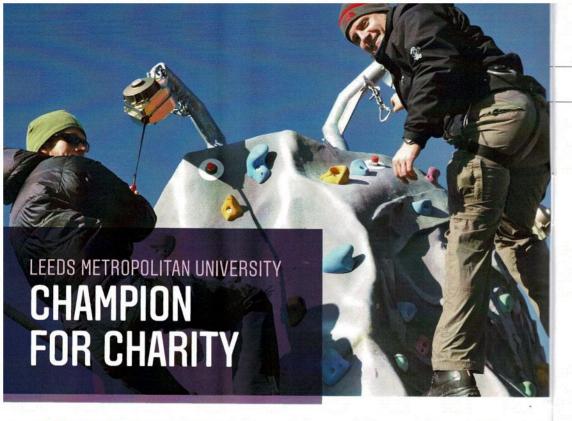
Since the deal to secure the purchase of Whitebank was completed in September 2011 there has also been a massive amount of work going on by the club in the local community. This is another very important component of the life of a modern day professional sports club and the ground situation has given us the opportunity to substantially develop this side of the club. This is something to which we are very committed as I am sure some of the agencies and organisations we are working with would be only too delighted to confirm. There is not enough space in this column to go into detail but the website and local media will have lots of stories to tell over the coming weeks!

Last but not least thank you to all of the fans who made the long trip to support the team last week. As ever the support the lads got from you was immense and we do all very much appreciate it - no doubt the win (and for some the chance to have a drink with the lads after the game whilst Cull and Smithy tried to produce for the drug testers!!) made it all very worthwhile!

Please get behind the team today as we try to provide you with another win. Enjoy the game!



Chris Hamilton



## SATURDAY 12TH MAY **HEADINGLEY CARNEGIE STADIUM**

### Zip-wire across Headingley Carnegie Stadium at over 30mph!

Take the plunge and raise money to help disadvantaged young people. The zip-wire will feature at our community carnival where there will be lots of activites throughout the day for the whole family.

- Zip-wire across the Headingley Carneige Stadium
- Help break two Guinness World Records
- Assail the climbing wall
- Play target archery
- Enjoy the community carnival
- Win tickets, rugby memorabilia and much more

For further information please see www.leedsmet.ac.uk/giving





## OLDHAM RL ANOUNCES sponsorship deal with A-PLANT



OLDHAM RL Club is proud to announce that it has landed a five-figure kit sponsorship deal with national plant hire company A-Plant.

The A-Plant logo features prominently on the club's home and away shirts.

Club chairman Chris Hamilton said the deal involved a "substantial financial package".

He added: "A-Plant are a huge national company so we regard this as a major coup.

"It's the first time they've been involved with us and as far as I am aware it's also a first for rugby league.

"We are thrilled to welcome them on board and we hope it will be the start of a long-term relationship.

"The nature of their business, of course, means they will be able to help us as the Whitebank ground development takes place. "We are looking forward to working with them across what we hope will be a big season for the club."

A-Plant are one of the UK's leading equipment hire companies, employing 1,800 at 106 depots across the country.

The nearest is at Pilsworth Industrial Estate, Bury where the deal was launched. Speaking for the company, depot general manager Wayne Maddocks said: "We've never been involved with rugby league before, but we used to have a depot in Oldham and we know what the sport means to the town.

"We are backing the club in a season when promotion is a must. We would love to help them to achieve it."

Wayne, who lives in Eccles, is a Liverpool FC supporter, but he has watched rugby league live on several occasions, notably at Salford and St Helens. Now, he is planning to make his first visit to Whitebank. A-Plant was strongly represented in our hospitality suite at the Dewsbury game, but on that occasion Wayne was committed elsewhere.



# Try the train



**M**orthern

Side-step traffic and high fuel costs with Northern Rail

Proud sponsor of Rugby League.

Robbie Hunter-Paul is an ambassador for the Northern Rail Cup.

northernrail.org

## \*\*TALK from the dug out

What a tough League we are in.

Championship 1 2012 is going to be one hell of a ride. Whether by fluke or clever planning the RFL have created a situation most clubs dread but even the most negative fan would relish: A huge opportunity for promotion with four teams going up and a horrible competition full of travel to the ones left behind. Clubs have pulled out all the stops to win the competition this season creating a situation where it's so even you would have to be very smart to predict the winners of the first round never mind trying to pick the four for promotion. You will feel the tension and excitement at every game as every point is so important. If this doesn't bring the fans out nothing will!

To say I was pleased coming home on the bus from Workington with 3 points was a massive understatement. Those were extremely valuable points and have set us off in a very positive manner. Most watching would have been unaware that we lost Robbo off the wing in the first 5 minutes and had to have a major switch around to cover it, including adding Mark McCully earlier than planned after a six week layoff, while decreasing our forwards bench against the massive Worky pack. Danny Whitmore also departed only 16 minutes into his stint after succumbing to a neck injury further depleting our backup.

To my delight, yet again, we just soldiered on with the remaining players picking up the extra work as we've shown many times in the preseason. We are forming a strong team here but what pleasedsme most is I still think we have a lot of improvement in us, in fact I'd say we are only at about 60%. The great thing is that the boys agree and are prepared to put in the hard yards to get us to where we should be.

I think we've improved and grown in character in every game we've played and that comes down to the brilliant attitude in the camp.

That was just number 1 of 18 important games and we are under no illusion, last week means nothing without a result today. We are fully aware of the threat Gateshead bring today, we need to be at our best, and offer them, their Directors and fans a warm welcome to our home Whitebank Stadium for what will be another thrilling encounter.

Enjoy your day



Tony Benson Head Coach

## Oldham Rugby League Football Club

How get in touch with us:

Phone: 0161 628 3677

Fax: 0161 627 5700

Skype: Oldham.rlfc

Email: janetorlfc@btconnect.com

Twitter - Oldham Roughyeds

Facebook Oldham RLFC-The Roughyeds



Alex Thompson Loose Forward Born 11-02-90 Sponsor: WILSCAFF



Halfback
Born 20-08-88
Sponsor: The Junction

**Jamie Dallimore** 



Matthew Fogarty Centre Born 16-02-92 Sponsor: Rob the Gardener



David Cookson
Backrow Forward Centre
Born 01-10-88
Sponsor: Oldham RLFC
Players Association



Shaun Robinson Winger/ FullBack, Born 13-07-89 Sponsor: Hillcrest Electrical Contracting Itd.



Mark Brocklehurst
Utility Back
Born 27-09-85
Sponsor: John Barratt



Danny Whitmore Hooker Born 22-12-88 Sponsor: iKreativ



Prop-Forward
Born 28-03-89
Sponsor: ORSA



Matty Syron Prop-Forward Born 24-02-1991 Sponsor:



Mark McCully Centre Born 24-10-79 Sponsor: ORSA



John Gillam Winger Born 15-10-84 Sponsor: Nigel Marland



John Clough Hooker Born 13-09-84 Sponsor: Mick Harrop



Chris Clarke
Back Row Forward
Born 29-03-89
Sponsor: Paul Whalley &
Kyle Cook



Paul Smith Back Row Forward Born 17-05-77 Sponsor: John & Lynda McAndrew



Jason Boults
Prop Forward
Born 07-09-83
Sponsor: Sue & Spanish
Roughyeds



Martin Roden Born 26-12-79 Sponsor:



David Ellison Prop Forward Born 02-04-82 Sponsor: June & Julie Hibbert



Neil Roden Half Back Born 09-04-80 Sponsor: OJT Communications



Valu Bentley
Back Row Forward
Born 09-10-82
Sponsor: Sylvia David &
Margaret



Bruce Johnson
Prop-Forward
Born 26-01-84
Sponsor:



Lucas Onyango Winger Born 112-04-81 Sponsor: Pam Taylor & TTX



Miles Greenwood FullBack, Born 30-07-87 Sponsor: AMP Wire



Jack Reid: Utility Born 24-03-91 Sponsor: ORSA



Paul Ballard Full Back Winger Born 04-09-84 Sponsor:



Luke Stenchion Prop Forward, Born 15-02-86 Sponsor: Maureen & Peter Woodhead



Paul Noone
Back row Forward
Born 22-04-81
Sponsor: Levers Fish
and Chip restaurant



Chris Murphy FullBack, Born 19-09-89 Sponsor:



Tom Rigby
Utility Back
Born 06-12-90
Sponsor:



Michael Ward
Back Row Forward
Born 10-02-91
Sponsor: Pizza Hut
Oldham



Danny Langtree Born 18-12-91 Sponsor:



Player PenPics

To sponsor any of our players please contact Janet: 01616283677



## POWER BY DE IGN Websites for less, designed by the best

DO YOU WANT TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS?

WE ARE A FRIENDLY WEB DESIGN BUSINESS THAT PRIDES OURSELVES ON HELPING YOU AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES.

- Website Design
- O Search Engine Optimisation (S.E.O)
- E-Commerce
- Hosting
- O Facebook, Twitter Social Intergration

We even offer a service to look after your website if you are struggling for time to update it independently.









Telephone: 07425 145997 Email: info@power-by-design.co.uk

Based in Grotton www.power-by-design.co.uk

## Miles Greenwood

IN it to win it . . . that's Miles Greenwood's take on Oldham's challenge for promotion this year from Co-operative Championship One.

"Promotion would be great," he said this week, "but I think we are good enough to win the league outright and that will be our aim, I'm sure."

He added: "I think we will do really well. We got off to a great start at Workington last Sunday. We've got some talented players, and I think it's going to be a terrific competition this year and an even better one to win."

The 24-year-old former St Helens, Leigh and Halifax full-back is certainly enjoying life in his first season with his hometown club.

"I've settled in well and I'm really enjoying my time here," he said. "We've got a great set of lads with a lot of ability.

"Team spirit was a big factor in our win at Workington and it was good for me on a personal note because I scored one of the four tries and sent in Clarkey (Chris Clarke) for another one. He owes me for that!"

One of the best and most experienced full-backs outside Super League, Miles has joined Roughyeds on a season-long contract after spending the last four years with Championship side Halifax.

At the time of his signing, club chairman Chris Hamilton said: "It's a hugely significant signing and we've used the Squad Strengthener fund to assist us. We are grateful to the fans who have backed it and trust that others will see what a difference such a project can make."

Despite missing most of 2010 with a knee injury, Miles scored 38 tries in 79 games for Halifax, for whom he was voted players' player

of the year in 2011. His 28 games for Fax last season included a try-scoring performance in the Northern Rail Cup final in which Matt Calland's side was pipped 20-16 by Leigh Centurions. A product of Oldham St Anne's, he signed for St Helens at the age of 15 and later had a season at Leigh, scoring 16 tries in 26 games, before starting his four-year stint at The Shay. Added Chris: "He has had a lot of Championship experience over the last five years and, more than that, he has always played for clubs at the top end of that division."

Amazingly, the Squad Strengthener fund was only launched ten days before Christmas when lifelong fan Nigel Marland, chairman of the Supporters' Association (ORSA), appealed to fans to back an independently-run fund to be used purely for signing players.

Said Nigel: "Squad Strengthener is still in its infancy. We never expected to be assisting the club so soon, but thanks to the fans who have supported us already we have been able to help.

"This is just the start of what I hope will be an on-going project as more fans and local businesses see the differences that such a fund can make to a club's ability to recruit. "The signing wouldn't have happened without Squad Strengthener's help . . simple as that. "I hope more fans will now come on board. There's no telling where this can take us if supporters rally round."



Miles Greenwood:

**Full-Back** 



## WITH THE RESERVES by Paul Ashton

DESPITE going down 38-14 to a very good Sheffield side at Whitebank in our first league game of 2012 we can take a lot of positives from the performance.

We are a young, new team and we have trained hard in the off season, particularly on the track and over the hills around Strinesdale.

We were unable to arrange any preseason friendlies, however, so we went into the league campaign 'cold'. If anything, our defeat clearly indicated how important warm-up games are in terms of players getting to know each other and of them feeling comfortable in working towards the pattern of play that we are wanting to adopt.

Eagles, playing down the slope first half, led 22-6 at the interval and went on to add three more tries in the last 20 minutes.

Our best spell was in the first 20 minutes of the second half when we got to within 12 points of them, but we then struggled with fatigue because we were two players light on the bench.

Prop Mark Thomas, who went to hospital for checks, had to guit in the first ten minutes because of stomach cramps and breathing difficulties.

Winger Lucas Onyango, in his first game for nearly a year, felt a hamstring tightening near half time and, as was pre-planned anyway, did not return for the second half.

These injuries hit us hard in terms of our second-half substitutions. We've a lot to work on and we aim to

improve week by week, but to be honest we should have done better than we did in this one.

Oldham tries were scored by centre Chris Dean, winger Louis Jackson and second-row forward Danny Langtree, while stand-off Jack Reid converted the opening try of the game by Dean.

Team: Nield; Onyango, Hinsley, Dean, Jackson: Reid, Connick; Thomas, Mansfield, Eyres, Langtree, Bailey, Smith. Subs: Hughes, Noon, Forman, Joy.

We were due to play Keighley Cougars away last Thursday night, but programme copy deadlines dictate that news on that match will have to wait until the next match-day programme.

## RESERVES' CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

March	Thursday 8th	Sheffield Eagles	Н	L 38-14
	Saturday 17th	Keighley Cougars	Α	2.30pm
	Saturday 31st	Featherstone Rovers	Α	2.30pm
April	Thursday 5th	York City Knights	Н	7.45pm
	Thursday 19th	Sheffield Eagles	н	7.45pm



## **WELCOME Matty Syron!**



PLEASE give a big Whitebank welcome today to Matty Syron, our first-ever dual registration signing from Leeds Rhinos.

The 20-year-old prop, who has signed to the end of the season, had a superb debut in our win at Workington last Sunday and will no doubt be running out at Whitebank for the first time today.

A Leeds lad who lives in Huddersfield. Matty has come to Oldham to gain experience of open-age rugby at third-tier level.

Standing 5ft 10in and weighing 15st 10lbs, he joined Rhinos in 2010 from local amateurs Queens and went on to win junior representative honours for England and Great Britain.

Said our chairman Chris Hamilton: "Matty had a stormer up at Workington. We wish him every success here and our thanks go to Leeds and Barrie McDer-

mott for their help and co-operation."



## BACK TO SCHOOL at Richmond Primary



CHILDREN at Richmond Primary School have been learning all about scrums, goal kicks and knock-ons . . . thanks to the school's partnership our club.

First-team players have been going into school every week for more than a vear now to talk to children about our sport. Wendy May, operational head teacher, said: "Most of the children knew nothing about the sport before the players started to come in, but we now have a thriving rugby league community. It is all very positive indeed." Children in Years 3 to 6 have formed a lunch-time rugby club which the Roughyeds players help to run every Tuesday. They also split the children into different Year groups to teach them rugby league skills and to talk to them about such things as teamwork and good sportsmanship.

"We take our community work very seriously," said club chairman Chris Hamilton. "The players say it is a privilege to work with the children. I think they enjoy it as much as them."



## **WE'VE GOT TRANSPORT** COVERED



Car Hire

- Van Hire
- Flexible Contracts
- Vehicle Sales
- Professional Valeting
- Fleet Management



Call James on 0161 785 9996

www.county-rental.co.uk

**PROUD TO SPONSOR** 

**OLDHAM ROUGHYEDS** 

**EXCLUSIVE SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR SUPPORTERS** 

**JUST BRING THIS ADVERT** 



## **BECOME A SPONSOR!**

Of the four players who stepped up from the reserves to sign 2012 first-team contracts at Oldham only one --- David Cookson --- was reared on rugby locally.

A 23-year-old centre, Cookson was born in Rochdale, but he spent nearly all his years in junior and amateur rugby with Oldham St Anne's, and it was that local connection which caught the eye of the Oldham Past Players' Association when the committee decided to support the Roughyeds by sponsoring a player. Said Past Players' chairman Martin Murphy: "We felt it was appropriate for our organisation to back a local lad and one who was just starting out on his Roughyeds career. We wish the club, and David in particular, a successful 2012 season." Other Oldham players who have been sponsored so far include the following: Alex Thompson (WILSCAFF); Matthew Fogarty (Rob the Gardener): Shaun Robinson (Hillcrest Electrical Contracting): John

Whalley and Kyle Cook); Jason Boults (Sue and Spanish Roughyeds); Jamie Dallimore (The Junction). Mark Brocklehurst (John Barratt); Liam Gilchrist (ORSA); John Clough (Mick Harrop); Paul Smith (John and Lynda McAndrew); David Ellison (June and Julie Hibbert); Valu Bentley (Sylivia, David and Margaret); Lucas Onyango (Pam Taylor and TTX); Miles Greenwood (AMP Wire); Neil Roden (OJT Communications); Luke Stenchion (Maureen and Peter Woodhead); Paul Noone (Levers Fish and Chips); Michael Ward (Pizza Hut Oldham);

Gillam (Nigel Marland): Chris Clarke (Paul

That leaves Bruce Johnson, Jack Reid. Paul Ballard, Chris Murphy, Tom Rigby, Danny Langtree and Martin Roden still available for sponsorship. For further details please ring Janet at the Roughyeds office on 0161 628 3677.

Mark McCully (ORSA); Danny Whimore

(iKreativ).



## LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB.

UNITS 3-7, LADY ROAD, ST JOHN'S IND EST, LEES. OLDHAM. OL4 3DZ

TEL 0161 620 7588 MON-FRI 8AM - 9PM SAT & SUN 10AM - 4PM

PERSONAL TRAINERS AVAILABLE FROM £15 AN HOUR (MEN AND LADYS)





### Oldham RLFC Northern Rail Cup and Cooperative Championship One

FEBRUARY	NRC NRC NRC	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Featherstone South Wales Dewsbury	H A H	L 68-0 D 36-36 L 28 - 30
MARCH	NRC CC1 CC1 CC1	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b> Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Keighley Workington Gateshead Egremont	A H <b>A</b>	L 26 - 12 W 14 - 24 <b>3:00pm</b> <b>8:00pm</b>
APRIL	CC1 CC1	Sunday 1st Friday 6th Sunday 15th	Barrow Rochdale Carnegie Challenge Cup Round	H * A 4	<b>3:00pm</b> TBC
	CC1	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	London Carnegie Challenge Cup Round	$A_{\epsilon}$	3:00pm
Мау	CC1 CC1	Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	NW Crusaders Doncaster Whitehaven South Wales	H A H	3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm
JUNE	CC1	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Euro Weekend NW Crusaders Northern Rail Cup Quarter Final		2:30pm
July	CC1	Sunday 24th Sunday 1st	Rochdale Whitehaven	H	<b>3:00pm</b> 3:00pm
	CC1 CC1	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Northern Rail Cup Semi-Final London South Wales Northern Rail Cup Final	H	3:00pm 3:00pm
August	CC1 CC1 CC1	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Barrow  Doncaster  Workington  Carnegie Challenge Cup Final	A H H	3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm
SEPTEMBER	CC1	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gateshead	Α	3:00pm
		Sunday 9th	Co-Operative Championships P Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>		f Games Operative
Championsh	ips Play Of	f Games Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Co-Operative Championships P	lay Of	f Games
		Sunday 30th	Co-operative Championships Grand Final		
Остовея		Saturday 6th	Super League Grand Final		





# With you from touchline to tryline

Unrivalled coverage of the Roughyeds and local rugby

Working harder for local **businesses** 

**Your local daily** newspaper in print and online



## CINONICE extra Saddleworth extra





Telephone 0161 633 2121

Email: sport@oldham-chronicle.co.uk Website: www.oldham-chronicle.co.uk