

February 2015
Issue 7

Our sponsors



South Ribble staff (pictured) raised £615 for local Children's Hospice Derian House by organising Raffles, Selling Cakes and holding an auction on it's annual fund raising day.

If you have an event which you wish to publicise in future editions please contact mfisher@southribble.gov.uk

Lancashire & Cheshire Annual Dinner Dance

Saturday 21st March 2015

The Annual Dinner Dance is again being held at the excellent Haydock Thistle Hotel. Our flagship Black Tie event mixes great food and great company to make this a must attend evening. Further information including booking details can be found on the Association Website - irrassociations.org.uk/index.asp?AId=3

Insolvency - Past, Present and Future - Half Day Seminar Shaw Hill Golf and Country Club - Wednesday 18th March 2015

This event will focus on Insolvency and is to be delivered by Horsfields Financial Consultants and Insolvency Practitioners. John Lee & Hemal Mistry will take you through the various changes and amendments to the Insolvency legislation which have taken place in recent years, what the reasons were and the Government's objectives in implementing new provisions to the law.

The event will cover such areas as the roles of the Insolvency Service, provide an update on recent case law and cover the changes to Insolvency Law.

If you have any difficult cases you would like to discuss then please bring them with you on the day.

This is a free seminar and places are limited -As this event also includes lunch it is an excellent opportunity to catch up with colleagues and representatives from other Authorities and Organisations.

full details are available on our website

Your Association Events		
Event	Date	Venue
Insolvency Seminar	18th March 2015	Shaw Hill
Dinner Dance	Saturday 21st March 2015	Haydock Thistle Hotel
L & C Association AGM	Friday 17th April 2015	Burnley Town Hall

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The Association and Executive Committee wish to thank our sponsors for their continuing support during 2014/15

Further information can be found on our Association's website:
<http://www.irrvassociations.org.uk> or www.irrv.org

The association would like to wish Caroline Lee every success in her new role with CIPFA as their Benefits & Revenues Network Advisor. Caroline has worked in Local Government for 25 years and was Head of Revenues and Benefits at Burnley BC, she also worked for Hyndburn BC, she starts her new job in February



You can't get blood out of a stone or can you? - Horsfields Sponsors Update

Council Tax

Recovery Managers are familiar with Bankruptcy Action for appropriate cases. In house protocols and debt recovery policies in most cases will provide sufficient protection from LGO adverse findings. The objective of recovering the debt from those who can pay but won't pay is the main driver for using insolvency action in the collection process albeit as a "last resort".

Improvements in enforcement measures internally and externally should ensure that this process should only be used selectively and effectively as a mechanism for Council Tax recovery.

Business Rates

Since the localisation of Business Rates was introduced we have seen a change in focus and emphasis in debt recovery strategies. Vulnerability issues are less likely to arise when pursuing business related debt and we have seen an increase in activity in both in respect of Bankruptcy Action and Winding Up Action over the last twelve/eighteen months.

Focus is shifting towards issues of Director misconduct. An independent review will be aimed at establishing the possibility of recovering monies from Directors, and from a Compliance perspective it should serve to act as a deterrent in respect of future corporate abuse.

We continue to support and advise our clients in reviewing debt recovery policies and procedures where our independent recommendation assists with the decision making process. Collections are being made where normal recovery methods have failed or where Enforcement Agents have been unable to make suitable payment arrangements or levy against goods of value.

We have recently seen collaboration amongst interest groups towards joint initiatives in this area. In theory this should prevent us all doing the same thing 300 times over!

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HORSFIELDS
FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS
INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONERS



If you want any items included in future newsletters please contact MFisher@southribble.gov.uk

<http://www.irrvassociations.org.uk>

Lancashire & Cheshire Association