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Website is hit with Chinese students

WHEN old friends Bob Clare and John Griffiths started documenting their favourite Lancashire walks online, they never imagined it could become an international hit.

But the pair, who were forced to retire as secondary school teachers within a year of each other because of ill health, are marking a major milestone in their venture.

For the lancashire-walks.com website has proved a surprise success – with Preston's Chinese population.

They have had such a response from the city's Chinese students, it is being translated.

The idea was hatched after a flyer was put up at the university, which saw Chinese graduate students and academics join up with weekly walks and volunteer to help.

It is hoped the translation, some of which is already online, will reach out to the whole community and get them into walking.

The site, which grew to 20,000 hits a year after it was launched in October 2007, is aimed at novice walkers, with a catalogue of walks told through text and pictures. John said: "We aim to appeal to the thousands of Chinese students."

MANDARIN WANDERING: Bob Clare and John Griffiths started a website about walking in Lancashire in October 2007 and it has now grown so popular it is being translated into Chinese Picture: NEIL CROSS

NEWSBRIEF

Man admits causing abh

A MAN was given a community order after he admitted attacking a woman in Preston.

William Anthony John Cook, 35, of Basil Street in Ribbleton, was ordered to pay his victim £50 compensation after causing actual bodily harm.

He pleaded guilty to the charge at Preston Magistrates Court along with a further count of stealing a cash box from a bedroom showroom he had entered as a trespasser. He was ordered to pay £160 compensation to Kingston Fitted Bedrooms and put on a four month curfew, electronically monitored, along with 15 months probation. He must pay £100 prosecution costs.

Woman fined

A WOMAN who was drunk and disorderly in Preston bus station was fined £50. Carol Stenhouse, 53, of Leeds Old Road in Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, pleaded guilty to the charge. She was ordered to pay £15 costs.

Anger after store bans staff poppies

"It's a very insensitive thing to do at a very sensitive time...it's very difficult to understand the rationale behind this decision ...I ask them to reconsider this policy

Colonel Bernard Stam, president of the Preston and District Veterans Council

by Chris Visser
chris.visser@lep.co.uk

A LANCASHIRE-based drugs store chain has banned staff from wearing poppies.

Bodycare UK, which has a head office in Leyland, has outlawed employees wearing the emblems honouring soldiers at shops across Lancashire.

Its local branches include Chorley, Lancaster and the Grahams store in Preston's Guild Arcade.

The move has been condemned by veterans' groups who are demanding the group reverses its policy immediately ahead of Remembrance Day.

Colonel Bernard Stam, president of the Preston and District Veterans' Council, said: "It's a very insensitive thing to do at a very sensitive time.

"It's very difficult to understand the rationale behind this decision though I presume they have got a reason."

Coun John Swindells, Preston's deputy mayor, said: "It's staggering really that this is happening at this time in particular. It's putting out the wrong message.

"I doubt it is good for business as I'm sure people will use their spending power to go elsewhere."

John Hardiman, Lancashire county secretary for the Royal British Legion, said: "Obviously, we are disappointed to hear of the decision by Bodycare.

"We would ask the company that, under the circumstances, it reconsiders this to allow the poppy as an exception."

The Evening Post contacted Bodycare stores in Lancaster, Chorley and the company-owned Grahams shop in Preston.

A worker at the Preston store said: "You need to go to the head office. We are not supposed to wear anything apart from the uniform you get."

A worker in Lancaster refused to comment while the Chorley office did not respond.

A spokesman for GR and MM Blackledge, Bodycare's parent company, said: "Employees are only allowed to wear their uniform and charitable pins would not be considered part of the uniform and they would not be allowed to wear them.

"They (staff) have all be spoken to about the situation and are quite happy about the outcome."

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