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GREEN LIGHT FOR CHILDREN

Maps aim to ease traffic

A NEW route planning system designed specifically for HGV drivers has been introduced by Lancashire County Council in the hope of reducing congestion on county roads.

The free-to-use Lancashire County Council website highlights the location of low-headroom bridges and other bridges with width or weight restrictions.

Until now, hauliers have found it difficult to plan routes without knowledge of these restrictions.

Coming across such a bridge can mean that the lorry driver has to reverse and find an alternative route – causing nuisance for everyone else.

The maps can be viewed by going to www.lancashire.gov.uk and opening the "Maps of Lancashire" option. Select the map category TRANSPORTATION and click on "hauliers' information".

Taste of success

SCHOOL catering staff in Lancashire have landed contracts to provide dinners to 24 Blackburn schools.

The schools had contracts with an alternative provider – but switched to Lancashire County Catering Services (LCCS).

Roger Eakhurst, LCCS assistant director, said: "We have been introducing new menus, training staff and improving on merchandising to get children to eat healthier dinners."

"The schools know we offer value and quality. We will be busy in the coming months improving the service so that customers in Blackburn enjoy the same standards that other Lancashire schools have enjoyed for years now."



●DECISION: County Councillor Marcus Johnstone is pictured with Karrie Hudson at Whitegate Children's Centre in Padiham. More than 30 new children's centres will soon be open.

Children's centre go-ahead will take county's total to 61 - the most in the entire nation

Children's centres in your area

Burnley - has four. To gain two.
Chorley - has one. To gain four.
Fylde - will soon have three.
Hyndburn - has three. To gain four.
Lancaster and Morecambe - has two and will gain six more.
Pendle - has four. To gain one.
Preston - has six. To gain one.
Ribble Valley - has one and will gain one more.
Rossendale - has three. To gain two.
South Ribble - has one and will gain three more.
West Lancashire - has three and will gain two more.
Wyre - has two. To gain two more.

Childcare Information Service
0800 1950137

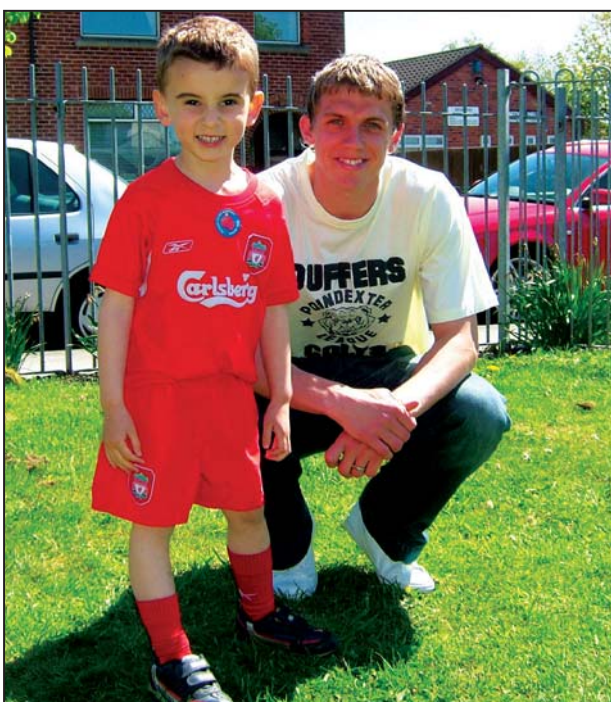
PARENTS and young children are to benefit from 31 new Children's Centres across Lancashire.

Within two years, each part of the county will see the development of new centres to provide a range of facilities including family support and health services, and links with local early education and childcare provision, Childcare Information Service, Job Centre Plus, local schools and voluntary organisations.

A massive £20m is being invested in the programme which will give Lancashire more children's centres than any other area in the country.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "I'm very pleased that the funding has been secured to create these new centres."

"We've seen some great successes from



●LIVERPOOL footballer Stephen Warnock was guest of honour when he called in to his old nursery school.

He came at the right time ...the announcement has just been made that Moorgate Nursery School in Ormskirk is to become one of the county's newest children's centres.

The school was celebrating its 60th birthday when Stephen was pictured here with pupil Connor Hennessy.

the first wave of centres and with the second group now beginning, we're very positive that similar success will follow.

"These new centres are being created to complement existing provision. The aim is for centres to link in with other services and offer increased opportunities to access important services within local areas."

The county already has 30 centres - built as Phase One - including two at primary schools, seven at nursery schools, seven-

teen based on Sure Start Local programmes, one at a voluntary organisation and three in new settings.

The 31 new centres - to be known as Phase Two - will see the creation of centres at 15 primary schools, three nursery schools, two "campus models" involving both primary and nursery schools, two Family Support Resource Centres and four at other locations.

By March 2008 it is expected that 48,500 out of Lancashire's under-fives will have access to a centre.

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Ask Shirley

Are you having difficulties knowing who to contact when you need help? Are you baffled when you open the phone book to ring for assistance? Shirley is here to help you.

If you are having problems getting hold of someone to help, Lancashire County Council has many staff trained and willing to assist.

Sometimes you just can't think who to ask - and this is where Vision's Shirley comes in.

Shirley answers all the letters she receives and some will feature on this page. Others may take a while as Shirley will seek responses from other council teams.

Shirley is not able to offer legal advice.

Drive me crazy

Mr D from Preston writes:

I live alone in a terraced house with no off-street parking available, so I am considering having a driveway laid in my garden at the front of my property. I am not disabled but I would like to make it easy to get in by having a dropped kerb installed. How do I arrange for this to be done and will I need planning permission?

Whether you can have a dropped kerb will depend on a number of factors relating to where you live.

If you live on an A, B or C road, you will require planning permission and you should contact your local authority planning office to find out how much planning permission will cost.

If you are then granted the planning permission you will also have to pay to have the work actually done.

If your road is not an A, B or C road you should ring 0845 053 0011 and normally a highways inspector will come to look at the location and then contact you with a quotation.

Why does it always rain on me?

Mr C from Tarleton writes:

I am enquiring about obtaining some water butts to collect rain-water from the downspouts of our property in order to conserve it.

Would you please give me the information needed to acquire some.

Lancashire County Council does not provide water butts but information on purchasing one can be found on the United Utilities

website: www.unitedutilities.com.

There are a few different sizes and prices start at £24.95 plus £5 postage and packing for a space-saving mini-butt.

To place an order you should ring 0845 6588686 and quote ref UU15.



●JUST ask - we're here to help. Household Waste Recycling Centre staff - one is pictured here at Whinney Hill, Hyndburn - are keen to help whenever you need them at any of Lancashire's 23 recycling sites. See letter "Help me if you (tin) can", below.

Take a look at me, NoW

Mr T from Lytham writes:

I regularly use my NoWcard bus pass when travelling to Blackpool. Can I also use my pass on the trams?

Yes, your NoWcard can be used on the trams and the same concessions will apply. For more information on the NoWcard please contact the NoWcard Helpline on 0845 058 1096.

Loansome tonight?

Miss C from Garstang writes:

I am 19 years of age and I am interested in doing a course at college but I am unable to receive any funding from my Local Education Authority. In fact I am unable to find any sort of funding anywhere.

Can you suggest any options?

Yes. Career Development Loans are available to students aged 18 or over and help to fund up to two years vocational education, plus up to a further 12 months if the course includes practical work experience.

You would not have to make any repayments dur-

ing the period of learning covered by the loan. The Department for Education and Skills pay interest on the loan during the period of learning and up to one month afterwards.

The loan is then repaid to the bank over an agreed period at a fixed rate of interest.

If you require further details you can contact Lancashire Student Services on 01772 530430.

Help me if you (tin) can

Mr P from Ingol writes:

I would like to take a car load of household rubbish to my local tip. What are the opening hours and will there be any help available once I get there as I am disabled?

Dedicated staff at all sites help visitors to recycle their rubbish.

They wear the "here to help" logo and are willing to give assistance as required eg. help to unload a car, or carry a heavy item.

All of Lancashire's 23 Household Waste Recycling Centres are open daily between the hours of 8am - 7pm.

The centres are closed only on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.

Email: enquiries@css.lancscc.gov.uk or write to: Ask Shirley, Customer Service Centre, The Red Rose Hub, Bluebell Way, Preston PR2 5PZ. Telephone 0845 0530000.

Trampers ease way at former quarries

TWO Rossendale quarries have been given a new lease of life following a million-pound restoration project.

Landgate and Moss Quarries, in Shawforth, have been restored by Lancashire County Council and were officially opened by County Councillor Hazel Harding CBE, leader of the county council.

The event also saw the official launch of the Rossendale Quarries Trumper Initiative by County Councillor Clive Grunshaw.

The Rossendale Quarry Trampers Initiative allows people with limited mobility to experience the rugged beauty of the Rossendale quarries.



●COUNTRY pleasures: County Councillor Clive Grunshaw and Access Lancashire's Denise Baker try the Trampers at the two converted quarries.

With support from the Aggregates Levy Fund, which is administered by the county council on behalf of DEFRA, three Trumper vehicles have been purchased to encourage access to Landgate and Moss quarries.

A new addition to East Lancashire, similar battery powered buggies have proved very popular at Beacon Fell Country Park, near Longridge.

As part of the project a large box trailer has been adapted to provide on site toilet facilities, ensuring that people out enjoying the countryside on a Trumper aren't caught short.

County Councillor Harding said: "Rossendale is surrounded by beautiful countryside and these restored quarries provide another good reason to get out and experience it."

"Before work started the quarries were derelict and dangerous so I'm very pleased that, after lying unused for decades, we've been able to make this area attractive again."

"Quarries are fascinating places - Landgate and Moss are home to all kinds of wildlife - they will also be a great resource for schools to teach children about the environment."

"This restoration is the result of 10 years effort and I'd like to thank all those who have helped create another Rossendale beautyspot."

Both sites, in close proximity to each other, were abandoned in the early 20th century after they became economically unviable.

Supported by a grant of almost £1million from the North West Development Agency, the quarry sites now offer members of the public an exciting recreational opportunity. New well-surfaced and barrier-free trails form two circular routes around the quarries.

For further information on how to book a Trumper contact on 01995 640 557.

Don't forget - your county councillor can help. Contact details are available on 0845 0530000 or at: www.lancashire.gov.uk



A full job description of all vacancies is available on our website

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

Lancashire
County Council

NEWS IN BRIEF

Older people at the wheel

RESIDENTS aged 55 and over across West Lancashire now have a greater say in how local services are provided following the launch of the new West Lancashire District Partnership Board for Older People.

The board was launched by County Councillor Chris Cheetham, Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services and Councillor May Blake, chairman of West Lancashire District Council.

The event brought together over 150 older people and representatives of organisations which provide services such as health and social care, public transport, leisure, housing and community support services.

The board will give older people the opportunity to express their views about services currently provided in West Lancashire, to advise planners and organisations to develop new services where such services do not exist, and to help shape and establish new services.

Green fingers

FOLKS at a Lancaster day centre celebrated a blooming marvellous result after Prince's Trust volunteers spruced up their garden.

The project saw Prince's Trust Morecambe Team 14 transform an overgrown patch of land behind Lancashire County Council's Vale View Day Centre into a sensory garden bursting with bright flowers and plants.

Team Leader Joanne Cruxton said: "The garden which was completely overgrown, but it now has flagged paths for the benefit of wheelchair users as well as wind chimes, a water feature and a mural which will appeal to people with sensory disabilities."

Steamed up

A TREAT is in store for history lovers when a Barnoldswick steam engine, complete with rope drive, is started on Sunday 20 August.

The Bancroft Mill, Gillians Lane, engine is one of the last engines to remain in steaming condition. Further details from Bancroft Mill Museum on 01282 865626.

Dire straits

THE story of the treatment given to debtors will be retold at 7.30pm on Friday 18 August at Lancaster Castle.

The latest in the castle's series of Hidden History talks is titled *Hansbrow's Hotel - The Debtors' Prison*. Tickets cost £3 (£2.50 concessions) on 01524 64998.

Apply now for new Lease of Life

CASH help is available for groups of older people following a deal between Lancashire County Council and Help the Aged.

The £10,000 Lease of Life Fund is backed financially by the charity and the council with the aim of improving quality of life for older people.

Twenty five grants, of up to £300 each, have been awarded so far this year. The grants have included equipment for a computer club and other projects dedicated to improving quality of life for over-55s. Awards cannot be for purely social purposes.

County Councillor Dorothy Westell, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older

People, said: "About £4,000 is left, so we can still make a real difference to people's lives."

"The grants are easy to apply for. One thing we will be looking for is value for money as these groups can often make a small amount go a long way."

"We deliberately make the application form as simple as possible to encourage lots of groups to apply."

Other previous awards have included grants to improve men's literacy, a grant for a karaoke machine and help with an internal garden in a sheltered housing scheme.

Application packs are available from Janet Gray at Lancashire County Council's Better Government for Older People project on 01772 532433.

Pupils sign up to 007 mission to learn



●Reading mission: back, librarian Shaun Carter and County Councillor Chris Cheetham; front, from left, Aidan Bennett, Nehreen Ayub, Fatima Bax and Chelsea Pinnock.

IT'S no secret to these young agents. The most enjoyable way to boost your reading skills this summer is by taking on Lancashire Libraries' Reading Mission.

Thousands of Lancashire children will become Reading Agents by joining the national summer reading challenge.

Children have to read any six books over the summer to complete the challenge and become a fully

fledged Reading Agent.

The Reading Mission aims to boost children's enjoyment of reading by rewarding their efforts with challenges, puzzles and small prizes.

Pupils from St Ignatius RC Primary School in Preston received advice on their mission from librarian Shaun Carter, dressed as secret agent James Bond, as they launched the Reading Mission at Preston's Harris Library.

County Councillor Chris

Cheetham, Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services, said: "The Reading Mission has proven very effective in encouraging children to read - last year 12,000 children took part in Lancashire."

"Children of all ages and abilities can take part - even those who cannot yet read by themselves can join in by sharing books with their families."

"The scheme really emphasises the fun of reading. Summer is the perfect time for families to visit

their library to pick up books for their holidays and get involved in the many activities on offer."

Children can ask for a Reading Mission pack at any Lancashire library and will receive a sheet of stickers or a puzzle card for each book they read. As they work their way through the missions there are also codes to crack, puzzles to solve, fridge magnets and secret message pens to win.

Preston Bowker BMW provided a BMW Z4 Roadster for the launch.



●HUNDREDS of summer activities for Burnley and Pendle's long summer break

Events to keep youngsters busy

FOOTBALL, baking, crafts and even an ugly bug ball - children in Burnley and Pendle have had plenty to do over the long summer holiday.

Changes to the school year have resulted in a nine-week break.

But Lancashire County Council has teamed up with public and private partner organisations to produce a 44-page booklet detailing hundreds of activities for children.

Vision photographed children at Sacred Heart RC Primary School's holiday club in Colne which has been running for five days a week, morning and afternoon.

"Summer Fun" - a 44-page booklet detailing activities - has been sent to parents. An up-to-date website can also be seen at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/summerholidays2006 while telephone hotlines have been established on 0800 1950137 (primary children) and 0800 511111 (secondary).

Sleuths on the track of tax swindlers

COUNCIL Tax cheats who cause honest people to pay more are to be tracked down in a major exercise to stamp out fraud.

More than £40,000 has been put aside in Lancashire to employ specialist contractors to match databases on people who claim to be living alone.

Single occupancy attracts a 25 per cent discount - approximately 31 per cent of all households are entitled to the reduction - and incorrect claims mean everyone else has to pay more.

County Councillor Anne Brown, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet member for Resources and Performance, said: "No one actually knows how many people wrongly

Probe starts into cheats who add to your council tax bill

claim the single person discount.

"However, if only 1 per cent are incorrect it would amount to many hundreds of thousands of pounds - money that has to be found elsewhere to pay for public services."

"In reality that shortfall is made up by increasing other people's bills. It is an unfair imposition that this zero tolerance approach will minimise."

About 70,000 households claim the discount across Lancashire. Data will be looked at closely to check the single person claim.

People caught swindling the system will face £1,000 fines.

A number of Lancashire district councils have teamed up with the county council to launch the anti-fraud drive.

Councillor Brown added: "We suspect that not all wrong claims are fraudulent. Many people have simply had changed circumstances and forgotten to tell their town hall."

"People genuinely living on their own have nothing to fear while fraudsters no longer have anywhere to hide."

County plans ahead in EU

COUNTY councilors are ensuring Lancashire's voice is heard in Europe after receiving a briefing on how the county can influence European Union (EU) decision-makers.

Lancashire County Council created a Brussels office in 1990 to try to swing policy and spending decisions Lancashire's way.

The county's European Strategy is now being updated and councillors were recently briefed on opportunities.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Cabinet member for Sustainable Development, said: "It's essential we know the latest developments in Europe and do all we can to influence decisions made in Brussels that directly affect people here."

"The county council also receives hundreds of thousands of pounds in grants from Europe every year for everything from environmental and transport projects to youth participation."

"The county council's new European Strategy is currently being developed and will set out how the county council intends to maintain its network of contacts in Europe to influence policy and funding."

It will also address opportunities provided by the internal market, how Lancashire is represented in the EU and how the county can benefit from EU enlargement.

Bored kids (or adults)? Summer help is here

From seashore safari to woodland treasure trails, Lancashire County Council has lots to offer

LET'S make the most of the summer before the black clouds chase away the sun. It never seems to last long enough.

But while children are forming happy memories to last a lifetime, mums and dads are wracking their brains to think of ways to keep their young busy.

But you don't have to be young to enjoy many of the events Lancashire County Council is organising.

Museums are places where you can explore, touch, learn and discover. They bring out the child in all of us.

The Countryside Service has something for everyone in the great, green spaces. Why not check out our country parks.

Even bike rides are organised for the more energetic... while bus and train services open entire new horizons for people willing to travel.

Summer listings

Thursday 3 August
12.30pm and 2.30pm. Bug safari and woodland trail. Secret life of woodland. Turton Tower, Edgworth, near Bolton. Tel 01204 852203.
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Scrapbooks. Lancaster City Museum has displays which cover Lancaster history since the Roman age through to the modern day. We will be looking at a different period each week to make up a scrapbook which covers it all. Tel 01524 64637.

Friday 4 August
10.30am and 1.30pm. Craft activity workshops, Suitable ages 6-12. Fleetwood Museum. Tel 01253 876621.
11am-1pm and 2-4pm. Medieval Madness – activity Fridays linked to medieval theme. Activities may include pottery, jewellery, stained glass, costume and clay gargoyles. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Tel 01772 534075.

Monday 7 August
11am-1pm and 2-4pm. A Soldier's Life – series of craft and activity days. Activities may include designing flags, making peg soldiers, designing coats of arms. Museum of Lancashire. 01772 534075.



Tuesday 8 August
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Viking Invasion – the chance to make items such as your own shields or jewellery or just to learn about Viking life. Lancaster Maritime Museum. Contact 01524 64637.
1.30-4pm. Minibeast hunt. No need to book, all children to be accompanied by adult. Aisled barn, Wycoler Country Park.

Wednesday 9 August
2-4pm. Design your own coat of arms. Birds, keys, griffins – what will you put on your own coat of arms? Turton Tower. **11am to 3pm.** Irish Sea Marine Week – whales and dolphins. Suitable ages 4-10. Fleetwood Museum. Tel 01253 876621.

10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. "Childhood" – make your own collection of toys to take home. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster. To book sessions, contact Lancaster City Museum on 01524 64637.

10am. Age Concern drop-in, chat, advice with hot drink and biscuits. Knott End Library.

Thursday 10 August
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Scrapbooks. Lancaster City Museum has displays which cover Lancaster history since the Roman age through to today. We will look at a different period each week and make a scrapbook. Tel 01524 64637.

12-4pm. Storytelling. Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacons Fell Country Park. Children to be accompanied by adult. 01995 640557.

Friday 11 August
10.30am and 1.30pm. Grin Up North – music hall props. Craft activity workshops. Suitable age 6-12. Fleetwood Museum.
11am-1pm and 2-4pm. Medieval Madness – activity Fridays linked to medieval theme. Activities may include pottery, jewellery, stained glass, costume and clay gargoyles. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Tel 01772 534075.
Saturday 12 August
11am. Guided bike ride – Longridge to Chipping. Leisurely ride. Lunch in

Chipping before return to Longridge. Tel 01772 534609 for further details.

Monday 14 August
11am-1pm and 2-4pm. A Soldier's Life – series of craft and activity Mondays. Activities may include designing flags, making peg soldiers, designing coats of arms. Museum of Lancashire. 01772 534075.

Tuesday 15 August
1.30-4pm. Craft activities. No need to book, all children to be accompanied by adult. Aisled barn, Wycoler Country Park, near Colne. Irish Sea Marine Week – birds of the seashore. Suitable ages 6-12. Fleetwood Museum.



10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Viking Invasion – the chance to make items such as your own shields or jewellery or just to learn about Viking life. Lancaster Maritime Museum. Contact 01524 64637.
7pm. Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society. Chorley Library.

Wednesday 16 August
All About Badgers – Britain's favourite mammal. Slide presentation and walk. Pepper Hill Barn, Wycoler Country Park, near Colne. Booking essential. Tel 01995 640557.



2pm and 3pm. Tales From the Tower: Little Red Riding Hood and other stories. Paintings and readings of traditional stories. Suitable for up to age 8. Turton Tower. **Irish Sea Marine Week** – seashore safari. Beach Walk

with Ron Crosby. Suitable 6-14. £1.00. Fleetwood Museum.

10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. "Childhood" – make your own collection of toys to take home. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster. To book, contact Lancaster City Museum on 01524 64637.

Thursday 17 August
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Scrapbooks. Lancaster City Museum has displays which cover Lancaster history since the Roman age through to the modern day. We will be looking at a different period each week to make up a scrapbook which covers it all. Tel 01524 64637.

12-4pm. Willow workshop. Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacons Fell Country Park. Children to be accompanied by adult. Tel 01995 640557.
7pm. Kingsfold Library Reading Group.
Friday 18 August
10.30am and 1.30pm. Grin Up North – puppets. Craft activity workshops. Suitable ages 6-12. Fleetwood Museum.

11am-1pm and 2-4pm. Medieval Madness – activity Fridays linked to medieval theme. Activities may include pottery, jewellery, stained glass, costume and clay gargoyles. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Tel 01772 534075.

7.15pm. Reading group. Ormskirk Library.

Sunday 20 August
11am-4pm. Countryside Day – family activities, country crafts, birds of prey and more in the setting of Wycoler's ancient aisled barn. Wycoler Country Park, near Colne. **11am.** 7-mile guided bike ride from Colne to Salford along canal path and quiet roads. Suitable for novices and children – who must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Pendle Leisure Centre car park, by Colne railway station. Prebooking needed and £2 to cover costs of picnic. Tel 07968 952180 or email: enquiries@colnecycling.org.uk

Monday 21 August
11am-1pm and 2-4pm. A Soldier's Life – a series of craft and activity Mondays. Activities may include designing flags, making peg soldiers, and also designing various coats of arms. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Tel 01772 534075.



Tuesday 22 August
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Viking Invasion – the chance to make items such as your own shields or jewellery or just to learn about Viking life. Lancaster Maritime Museum. Contact 01524 64637.
1.30-4pm. Autumn activities. No need to book, all children to be accompanied by adult. Aisled barn, Wycoler Country Park, near Colne.

Wednesday 23 August
2-4pm. Children's activities. Contact Turton Tower for details.

11am to 3.30pm. Grin Up North – clown masks. Suitable ages 6-12. Fleetwood Museum.

10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. "Childhood" – make your own collection of toys to take home. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster. To book sessions, contact Lancaster City Museum on 01524 64637.
2pm. Absolute Beginners' Guide to Creepy Crawlies – explore and have fun. Scorton picnic site (former gravel pit, north of Garstang, off A6). Tel 01995 640557.

10am. Age Concern drop-in, chat, advice with hot drink and biscuits. Knott End Library.

Thursday 24 August
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Scrapbooks. Lancaster City Museum has displays which cover Lancaster history since the Roman age through to the modern day. We will be looking at a different period each week to make up a scrapbook which covers it all. Tel 01524 64637 for details.

12-4pm. Art activities. Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacons Fell Country Park. Children to be accompanied by adult. Tel 01995 640557.

Friday 25 August
10.30am and 1.30pm. Grin

11am to 3.30pm. Pop-up cards – craft activity workshops. Suitable ages 6-12. Fleetwood Museum.
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. "Childhood" – make your own collection of toys to take home. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster. To book sessions, contact Lancaster City Museum on 01524 64637.

Thursday 31 August
10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Scrapbooks. Lancaster City Museum has displays which cover Lancaster history since the Roman age through to the modern day. We will be looking at a different period each week to make up a scrapbook which covers it all. Tel 01524 64637.
12-4pm. Corn dollies. Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacons Fell Country Park. Children to be accompanied by adult. Tel 01995 640557.

Ongoing until 2 September
1.30-3.30pm. Tues to Sat. Summer Fun at the Mill, includes weaving, puppet making, archaeology. Queen Street Mill Textile Museum, Burnley. Tel 01282 412555.

All month
Activity Trolleys. Call in anytime to discover how fibres become fabrics. Visit our wardrobe to try on clothes from 100 years ago. Queen Street Mill Textile Museum, Burnley.
Earth: Grand Designs. Keep the children entertained with

Find out more

You can find lots of information about events on: www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk and at www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside

Useful phone numbers

Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacons Fell Country Park 01995 640557
Wycoler Country Park 01282 870253
Spring Wood Picnic Site 01254 825187
Lancashire Countryside Service main office 01772 534709
Museums' main office 01772 534061

hands-on interactive exhibition. Explore rocks, minerals and fossils, millions of years old. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Tel 01772 534075.

From Saturday 5 August, Grin Up North. Popular travelling exhibition. Find out the world's worst jobs and the answer to questions such as, "Is laughter good for you?", "Can you tickle a monkey?" Fleetwood Museum.



Save £s Xplorer tickets

Why not take advantage of the "Family and Friends Multi-pass"

- Fantastic Value – 1 years unlimited access for 2 Adults and 2 Concessions to all Lancashire Museums
- 10% discount at Lancaster City and Rossendale Museum shops



Remember, **£18.00** at most museums*

To take advantage of the offer, pick up a ticket from the museum, visit the website: www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk or call us on 01772 534061

* except Lancaster Castle

Family and Friends Multi-pass only
£18.00
Lancashire County Council

You're telling us!

Meal rules

VISION reports that school meals are "more balanced than ever" (June edition).

They may be balanced – but in my days of eating school meals there were guidelines given to school cooks to ensure balance.

In bigger schools, the mass-produced meals were good but not always delicious. The quality was excellent and always healthy in smaller schools. This care seems to have

been abandoned when cheap schemes and junk food were substituted.

Now that improvements are coming, perhaps we will even have proper plates instead of plastic trays! Children should not learn that anything made as cheap as possible is all we want to give them.

JEAN M MILLS
Bacup

■ Having worked in the service for many years I can assure you that basic quantities and good nutrition have always been a priority

for school caterers in Lancashire.

Guidelines for menu planning and nutritional content have never been lost.

All production quantities are pre-printed on production sheets so that there is minimum chance of variation.

The plastic trays described sound terrible but I recently saw some in Padiham that looked fantastic – Roger Eakhurst, Lancashire County Catering Services.

Think again

I WAS appalled at the views expressed by Ironsides (You're Telling Us! Vision, July).

It is blinkered and self-righteous to automatically assume that unruliness in children is either due to bad parenting or because the parents are off the rails or unemployed.

Neither can you assume that parents who work have angelic children.

I am a parent to three children, one of whom has severe behavioural problems due to a form of autism.

I have to tolerate people like Ironsides muttering or giving me funny looks because my child is being bad. I am also unemployed due to poor health.

So, please Ironsides don't tar us all with the same brush.

If a child is being bad or unruly it isn't always down to the fact that the parent is off the rails or unemployed.

It may be because the child has a medical condition which affects their behaviour.

MRS J WHYTE
Morecambe

Send your letters to:

The Editor, Vision, Corporate Communications Group, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ. neil.graham@css.lancsc.gov.uk

Lancashire Local**We're doing it right****We're doing it for good****Transport**

■ 373 pedestrian crossings

Safety

■ Cycle track up to 203km in county

Adult help

■ Intensive home care for 3,802 homes

Environment

■ 31 per cent of your waste recycled

Effective

■ on target for £48m savings by 2008

Let's make people our priority

- care chief

SOCIAL care services should focus on the needs of people rather than just ticking boxes, according to Lancashire County Council's care boss

Richard Dnes, executive director of Adult and Community Services, told a Lancaster University conference that the public must always come first.

He said: "Sometimes agencies are guilty of being too preoccupied with internal structures, values and processes."

"Values are important but we must be clear about achieving real outcomes for people. We must continue to explore how agencies can make a difference to people, rather than exclusively focusing on Commission for Social Care inspections. "We must shift our thinking and focus

on developing joined-up services so people can live independently as valued members of the community."

The meeting, attended by over 200 delegates including senior managers from social and health services, was also an opportunity to assess implications for social care of Whitehall White Paper, "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say," published in February.

Local plan: a proud record so far

IT IS early days for Lancashire Local.

We aim to change the way that local government works.

But look at this list to see the sort of issues that Lancashire Locals are already tackling in every part of the county.

South Ribble - review of library opening hours. Prioritisation of 20mph schemes.

Chorley - review of 50mph zones on Wigan Road and Dawson Lane in Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley and Leyland.

A possible safety scheme the junction of Wheelton bypass and Blackburn Road will be reconsidered after information from Wheelton Parish Council.

Fylde - consideration of how to spend allocation of highway maintenance.

Lancaster - Bus route retained with slight alteration to route after Lancashire Local involvement.

Hyndburn - funding and support for the introduction of no-cold-calling zones to protect the vulnerable. The first will be in Minshaw area of Accrington.

Rosendale - a waste transfer station will be positioned elsewhere after concerns were expressed by Lancashire Local.

Ribble Valley - parking problems will be tackled around Clitheroe's new children's centre.

A new way of working with 41 town and parish councils in the area is being identified.

Pendle - Pendle Council area committees can now help identify local safety schemes, subject to a cost contribution.

Burnley - pedestrian improvements to Duke Bar roads.

Wyre - school bus services stabilised after representations, including request for promotion of School Travel Plans.

West Lancashire - problem parking tackled in the Wolverton area.

There's more to come

Councils team up to put local matters first

Lancashire Local puts local issues at top of agenda

LANCASHIRE County Council has changed. We are still changing... putting you first.

Many Lancashire residents say they don't want service decisions made miles away.

They say they want their locally elected representatives making decisions about their services.

We agree. That is why we have introduced Lancashire Local.

Lancashire Local has started working in each of the county's 12 district council areas. Locally elected district councillors and locally elected county councillors are working together.

It means decisions are made locally by YOUR representatives. They are accountable to you.

It means budgets are set centrally - and spent locally.

County Councillor Doreen Pollitt, Lancashire County Council deputy leader, said: "Power will be shared and where that is not possible we will share influence."

"Lancashire Local is a vital further step towards putting the customer first."

"We won't be able to do everything that everyone wants. No system can keep everyone happy all the time."

"But Lancashire Local will maximise

Flexibility

democracy so that services in each area are what people actually want."

Lancashire County Council is already rated a four-star council (out of a maximum four stars) by the Audit Commission.

It means that members of the public enjoy value for money. Lancashire Local will increase flexibility.

People say that councils need to be kept on their toes.

We couldn't agree more.

Our Cabinet Question Times are held frequently and regularly across the county

- and put leading councillors in the firing line from members of the public.

We have our mobile unit. It also travels the county to ease public access to council services.

Of massive importance is our recently opened Red Rose Customer Service Centre.

And our Cabinet meetings are webcast to anyone who wants to watch. Computers are free to use, allowing online access to services, in public libraries.

"Lancashire County Council is an historic institution, but far from old-fashioned in its working methods", said Councillor Pollitt.

"Lancashire Locals, which are open to members of the public, will be deciding or influencing policy on the entire range of our services."

"I believe they will transform expectations of public services in the future."



● DOREEN Pollitt: we're changing for the better.



● IT'S YOU we answer to as decisions go down to local level: Lancashire County Council highways engineer Adrian McKenna and lollipop lady Sunita Solanki with County Councillor Hazel Harding, leader of Lancashire County Council.

It's part of a new way of putting you first

LANCASHIRE County Council has opened up.

We are opening up across the board.

Everything we do is about people.

We provide education, roads, social care for those needing help, and children's centres. We provide 700 services.

So it is right that you should be in charge.

We don't just put you in charge with Lancashire Locals.

We give you the chance to grill senior decision-makers at Cabinet Question Times across the county at regular intervals.

Last month alone Question Times were held in St Anne's and Carnforth.

Our mobile unit moves around the

county - giving members of the public an easy opportunity to speak direct to county council staff and councillors.

You can see it at a place somewhere near you.

And many meetings are webcast live on: www.lancashire.gov.uk

It is fair that you are in charge

Education

■ 487 primary schools
■ 86 secondary schools

Safety

■ 354 school crossing patrols
■ 4,229 miles of road maintained

Adult help

■ 21,118 adults cared for at home
■ 6,528 adults in residential homes

Waste management

■ 695,000 tonnes of waste
■ 107,000 tonnes recycled

Caring for all

■ 846 children looked after in foster care
■ Providing 159,000 streetlights

Lancashire Local - we're keeping the local in local government

LOOK LIVELY

Search starts now for all-time stars



Tony Ford, head, Stanah Primary School

Tony retires this summer after more than 30 years of teaching in Lancashire and East Sussex

'Free schools from the SATS straitjacket' - head

One of the most noticeable changes during my years as a teacher has been the curriculum.

We have gone from the loose curriculum of the late 70s and early 80s through the very prescriptive arrangement of the late 80s and 90s and now we are witnessing its freeing up - although revisions to existing strategies will once again be providing challenges for teachers.

Many teachers accepted there was a need for change because poor subject planning and a lack of accountability led to children repeating activities. The National Curriculum was therefore introduced. This was very prescriptive and had to be slavishly followed.

Tick lists had to be completed in every subject for every child.

Very few primary practitioners appeared to have been involved in its development.

Despite tinkering and modification over time, key elements still appeared to be missing. The Literacy and Numeracy Strategies were introduced in the late 90s. These were quite dictatorial and schools suffered another upheaval. These strategies are now changing again.

Other subjects remained very prescriptive - with insufficient opportunities for teachers to use creative talents to bring geography and history alive. To address this Excellence and Enjoyment was published in 2003 giving the "green light" to break free and be innovative.

Recently there has been debate about what elements of history should be included (What's happened to the study of castles?) and I am amazed that despite our proximity and strength of involvement in Europe it isn't an area of geographical study for the primary child, yet there is a national initiative to introduce a modern foreign language into our schools.

Instead of a vibrant curriculum based on current issues we are forced to have an unhealthy obsession with test results (SATs) with a strong focus on how high a percentage of children we can get to Level 4 in maths and English.

When the results didn't meet an artificial target for 11-year-olds booster classes were introduced to improve results. These classes - unless held before or after the school - involve children missing other subjects to have extra maths and English lessons just to drive up tests results.

It certainly challenges the concept of schools offering a broad and balanced curriculum when pupils miss out on other areas of learning.

Increasingly our schools are being forced into a target-driven culture with results being the only measure of success. Is it little wonder increasing numbers of children are becoming disaffected?

Shouldn't we should be equipping children with enduring life skills, developing their thinking, their sporting and artistic talents and their creative flair which enrich their lives as children and as adults in the future?

Betty Jackson



PEOPLE: Is fashion designer Betty Jackson, originally from Bacup, on your top 10 list?

THE search is on for your top 30 people, places or things that make Lancashire great.

County council museum staff want YOU to tell them of the people and things that make you proud to be Lancastrian - and THEY will open a Lancashire Greats gallery at the Museum of Lancashire.

Categories are:
Top 10 Lancashire people. From all walks of life, either historical or contemporary. We want to know.

It's your top-30 choice

We need to know who or what symbolises Lancashire, past and present. It could be top things, themes or people. It is up to you to tell us. Tell us of one - or of dozens.

Write to:
Sue Ashworth, Lancashire Museums' Service, Stanley Street, Preston PR1 4YP

Or email: susan.ashworth@mus.lanc-acc.gov.uk

Pupil 'Gate' to future with top author



●LITERARY ace Anthony Horowitz with County Councillor Hazel Harding and Kayleigh Norcross, of Burnley's Gawthorpe High School.

A CHILDREN'S writer, who often tops bestseller lists, has received the county's top literary award.

Well-known author Anthony Horowitz stopped off at County Hall, in Preston, after he was named as this year's top read by Lancashire schoolchildren.

Raven's Gate, a supernatural story which begins across the Pennines in Yorkshire, took the Lancashire Children's Book of the Year title - the county's literary answer to the Oscars.

Anthony said: "Lancashire is one of the most friendly areas I've visited. I'm delighted by how pleasant and articulate the children have been."

Many readers will be familiar with Anthony's Alex Rider series, which hit the

big-screen last month with the release of "Stormbreaker".

It is the second time that Anthony has won Lancashire Children's Book of the Year award - he last won 13 years ago.

The competition, run by Lancashire County Library and Information Service, involved young readers from across the county selecting a shortlist from 116 titles.

David Lightfoot, from Lancashire County Library and Information Service, said: "It's brilliant to see so many young people talking about the books they love. Anthony spent ages chatting to people and signing books."

Currently celebrating its 20th year, Lancashire's Children's Book of the Year is one of the country's longest running children's book competitions.

The award was sponsored by the University of Central Lancashire.

What qualities do you need?

You need to like working with people and helping people - although I have been shouted at. Most people are nice. Above all you have to be a diplomat.

Many people really appreciate it when we help them with filling in forms.

Is it satisfying?

Yes. The best part is seeing people I have helped getting on in the world and building a new life for themselves.

How do people find out about it?

Education offices and schools put them in touch - although we also advertise ourselves through leaflets. We attend school open evenings. Staff in some areas also go into local supermarkets.

Where do you work?

I work in Skelmersdale Library. Colleagues work in other libraries across the county. No one is very far from advice on the world of education.

What does your job involve?

Education information officers are the gateway to almost everything to do with schools, from school meals to special needs, from admissions to transport.

Many parents need help through the educational maze and Lancashire County Council thinks it is important to have trained employees in place across the county.

It would be quite wrong to expect people to travel or telephone some distant office. Everyone has the right to know what help is available to them and their children.

Why are you based in a library?

Libraries are usually central to most towns and are themselves a gateway to knowledge - all libraries have access, for example, to the internet which is a great way for parents to get Ofsted

reports into schools.

Parents who come to see me are often surprised at how much libraries have changed over the years.

What help can you offer?

Many come to see about free school meals - but people ask about everything. Someone who has just moved to the area, for instance, will need to know about how to apply to schools and what each school can offer - even about how to make a complaint.

Education can seem a very mysterious and complex world. I can usually give people the help they want and even pass them on to other people, such as welfare rights helpers or social services.

Education information officers:

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Sandra Wilson, St Annes Library, 01253 643908
Warren Scholfield, Nelson Library, 01282 606361
Alison Dodgen, Fleetwood Library, 01253 775805
Sandra Schofield, Rawtenstall Library, 01706 831001

Eileen Wallwork, Burnley Library, 01282 838849
Linda Richardson, Leyland Library, 01772 453841
Elizabeth Merry, Chorley Library, 01257 266455
Janet Rowland, Skelmersdale Library, 01695 729878



THEMES: aerospace sums up Lancashire to some people.

We're proud of Lancashire



Search for a star



●FLASHBACK: Julie Morrow, last year's Red Rose Teacher of the Year with TV presenter Dave Guest.

THE search is now on to find the most public-spirited people in Lancashire. And your help is needed in finding them.

We all know such people but they have rarely received public recognition – before the Red Rose Awards.

Members of the public are asked to nominate people in 10 categories. There may be 10 headings but qualities remain constant – selflessness, dedication, a willingness to help others.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, leader of Lancashire County Council which backs the awards, said: "Lancashire people need to celebrate the values that make the county such a distinctive place. These awards offer that chance."

"We can all think of many people we respect and admire. We are asking people to put their thoughts on a nomination form to make judging decisions easier."

This year's awards are the third. Categories cover

Categories

- **Teacher of the Year**
- **Parent of the Year**
- **Community team** – for voluntary groups
- **Community champion** – building community spirit
- **Young Person of the Year**
- **Amateur Sports person**
- **Business person**

almost all areas of life. Judges will include ordinary people from across Lancashire as well as county councillors and media personalities.

Nomination forms are now available in libraries, county information centres and in the county council mobile information unit.

They are also available at the reception desks of our partners at the Lancashire Evening Post, Rock FM, BBC Radio Lancashire, Magic 999 and on the Rock FM "ThunderTruck".

Nominations close on 22 September. The award ceremony will take place on November's Lancashire Day.

Tell us who you want to win



Tell us here or on a nomination form available from the places above

Person you are nominating Category

Their address

Tel (if possible)

Have you told them of the nomination?

Your name/address

Tel

This person deserves the award because (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Return to: Lancashire Red Rose Awards, PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1

Free Nursery Education places in Lancashire for all 3 and 4 year olds



If you have a child born on or between **1 September 2001 and 31 August 2003** your child is entitled to a free part-time pre-school nursery education place from the start of the **Autumn Term 2006** commencing in September.

A free place consists of a maximum of five sessions per week and no more than seventy sessions for the Autumn term. A free session is for a period of 2.5 hours in length. There are three terms in the year, covering a total of 38 weeks per year.

Places are available from any of Lancashire County Council's eligible providers of pre-school nursery education.

These can be Local Authority (LA) maintained nursery schools and nursery classes, providers in the independent, private and voluntary sectors or accredited childminders on an approved National Childminding Association (NCMA) Children Come First Network.

Further information including a parent guide and lists of eligible providers within your area may be obtained from the Childcare Information Service on Freephone 0800 195 0137.



SureStart



LCDL update

Lancashire County Developments Ltd
The County Council's economic development department



Our Record – 774 jobs so far this year.

Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL), Lancashire County Council's economic development company, has enjoyed another successful year.

LCDL is committed to the council's core aim of making Lancashire a place where everybody matters. That means helping businesses, individuals and local communities however and whenever we can through loans, grants and practical advice and assistance.

The year ending 31st March 2006 saw the company create or safeguard 774 jobs, help 37 businesses start-up or grow and provide funding to 88 locally-based community groups to overcome barriers to employment, education, training and volunteering.

Through working in partnership with other organisations such as the North West Development Agency, English Heritage, the European Social Fund and private investors, LCDL's activities have resulted in an overall gain of £16.5m to the Lancashire economy.

More than 600 organisations have benefited from LCDL's advice and support in the last year, on a very diverse range of projects.

Activities include 15 film and TV productions being shot in the county over 35 days, 20 new creative

businesses being set up, 20 small firms benefiting from apprentices funded by LCDL and 88 community groups given grants to develop training and skills programmes.

From the manufacturing sector, ranging from liquid management projects and sign fabricators to food production and technology businesses, LCDL produced an additional £5.7m in Gross Value Added activity in Lancashire last year.



Commercial space is a crucial factor in attracting investment and LCDL operates business parks in Leyland and Lancaster as well as managing start-up units in Preston and Burnley. In 2006,

LCDL created an additional 143,740 square feet of new workspace.

In addition, the Rosebud scheme, which provides loans to new and expanding businesses, achieved an economic impact of £7.1m by attracting private investment into the county.

LCDL's focus for the future is to continue to work hard to improve economic and social wellbeing in Lancashire, with particular emphasis on raising standards for our most deprived communities.

Lancashire County Developments Ltd.



NEWS IN BRIEF

National spectacle

HUNDREDS of top racers will be speeding through Lancashire on 30 August in the Lancashire stage of the Tour of Britain cycle race.

The race – a successor to the former Milk Race – will start in Blackpool and end in Southport, taking in Poulton, Preesall, the Trough of Bowland, Clitheroe, Samlesbury, Bamber Bridge, Leyland, Tarleton and Banks.

Riders from across the world are expected to compete.

Our winners

A TOTAL of 623 people entered Vision's reader competition to win Virgin Train tickets to Scotland.

S Clarke, from Burnley, wins a pair of first-class tickets while W Dixon, of Heysham, wins a family ticket. Prizes will be posted out.



●WE DECLARE this centre open: County Councillors Marcus Johnstone and Niki Penney join staff and young people at Morecambe's new one-stop advice centre.

'Information station' a big hit

YOUNG people played the name game when a new one-stop shop opened for them in Morecambe.

Within hours they had renamed it the Information Station – and Information Station it will remain.

The idea is to provide information on a range of services under one roof. Advice is available on careers, housing, health, benefits, education and training.

County Councillor Niki Penney, member for Skerton, said "It is a vote of confidence

that they have given it such a warm name.

"Information Station sounds so much friendlier than one-stop shop.

"This centre brings together many agencies that help young people so they don't have to go from building to building around town.

"These young people are part of an admirable generation. They face the same challenges as everyone and yet find time to work with police on a 'stop and search' video, to stand as youth councillors and to create a garden at the local fire station."

£££s for OAPs after free check

PENDLE pensioners are three quarters of a million pounds better off thanks to a Lancashire County Council initiative.

Many people aged over 75 who live in the area have received free benefits checks from a county council Welfare Rights project worker and found that they were entitled to benefits that they were unaware of.

The Over-75s Project ran for 12 months thanks to funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. A Welfare Rights officer teamed up with local GPs, social workers, Pendle Energy and Efficiency team and the Pendle Community Home Support team to contact local people who were aged over 75 to offer them a free benefits assessment.

The checks involved visiting people at their homes and checking their entitlement to various benefits. They also got help with filling in forms and appeals if necessary.

County Councillor Jean Battle said: "This is a fantastic story for Pendle and Lancashire. The scheme has been incredibly successful thanks to the help we have received from the Neighbourhood

Renewal Fund and from local GPs.

"The three quarters of a million pounds is a fantastic amount of money and will help improve the lives of local people.

"We have been working hard with the over-75s because we know that there are so many people who are unable, or unaware, of how to claim their entitlements. But we have shown that with a little effort a great deal can be achieved.

"You have to remember that this is money that people are entitled to. It would have been a great shame if these people had continued to go without because they were simply unaware of what they should have been receiving."

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund project has now finished but the Welfare Rights Service continues to offer free advice to all residents on a range of welfare issues. They can be contacted on 01772 533504.

● Pendle is not the only area helped by the county council's welfare rights officers. Two similar projects in part of Hyndburn have raised £3.5m in the last four years.

Similar checks in Burnley generated £2.5m. Welfare rights projects are taking place across the county.

Children's centres on way

From p1

Whitehall hopes that all children should have such access by 2010.

Centres have been planned to, where possible, make use of existing Lancashire County Council sites and facilities – such as schools and community centres. Where centres are based in schools, funding will also be available from Extended Services in Schools grants.

A 4-star council

Awarded top marks by the Audit Commission



Resources

The following 3 posts are required for 37 hours a week at Building Design Unit, County Hall, Preston.

New opportunities are currently available, due to retirements, in our Building Design Unit which is a busy, multi-disciplinary office with an expanding workload covering a large range of diverse projects from historic buildings to multi-million pound programmes of work for both the public sector and private clients. All our high speed workstations operate the latest versions of AutoCAD software and the practice is currently based in our head office at County Hall, Preston.

Principal architect

Ref: RD/06/099

£34,986 to £37,476 a year.
You will demonstrate a high level of design expertise, and will also organise and coordinate staff and projects including all activities which comprise the professional services of registered architect and interior designer, on a commercial basis in accordance with our business plan. You will be responsible for coordinating the interior design function within the architectural teams, and this will be your primary role.

Essential: You must have 5 year's post-registration experience, and be able to create exciting new buildings and interiors.

Senior architectural technician

Ref: RD/06/100

£23,175 to £29,859 a year
You will work proactively, carrying out the full range of architectural technical skills on a commercial basis on all aspects of work, from outline proposals, project planning and operations on site, to completion.

Essential: You must be NVQ/B Tech or HND qualified in building construction. You must also have 5 year's post-qualification experience with a range of appropriate project experience.

Interior designer

Ref: RD/06/101

£23,175 to £26,928 a year
You will provide technical support and imaginative design on all aspects of interior and furnishing work, from outline proposals, scheme and detail design, production information for schedules/bills of quantities and tender action, project planning and installation on site to completion and hand-over of the project. The role includes the design of furniture and fittings for clients, as well as working with multi-disciplinary design teams to produce fully coordinated interiors in new and existing buildings.

Apply online for the above 3 posts at:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies or email: rd.personnel@lancsc.gov.uk. Tel: 01772 533383, 24hr answerphone.

Lancashire County Council is an equal opportunities employer welcoming applications from all sections of the community. Applications from ethnic minorities are welcome. You must be committed to equality and diversity in the workplace. Lancashire County Council are currently undergoing an equal pay review and the grades of some posts advertised may be subject to review in future months.

A full job description of all vacancies is available on our website www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

Champion! We're preparing for tomorrow's world

We will all be old one day, but our 'champion' system - and our fascinating poll - will ensure that services will change to meet your changing needs

IN-DEPTH "future-proofing" of public services will ensure that no one is left behind in tomorrow's Lancashire.

The needs of today's older people are different from those of their parents - and the next generation will be different again.

Lancashire County Council research involving more than 1,700 people has looked at tomorrow's needs and will steer services in areas such as policing, care provision and transport and even guide the private sector in providing facilities such as shops and leisure.

Top priorities of Lancashire people were revealed as living independently, being financially comfortable, and being able to stay in their own homes. Almost one in two said they looked forward to leading an active old age.

County Councillor Dorothy Westell, Lancashire County Council's Older People's Champion, said: "We have to look at changing demographics and people's expectations of the support they will need in 20 to 30 years.

"Such services have to be planned years in advance.

"Some concerns are timeless, such as health, while other concerns are relatively new.

"The pensioners of tomorrow, for example, expect to have more money than today's pensioners and many worry about how they will handle their money.

"We also found that many older people rarely venture into town centres after dark because of

POINTER TO YOUR FUTURE



●DOROTHY Westell: champion for older people. The next generation of older people will have different needs from today's so we must be ready

We asked, among many questions:

Which of the following would most allow you to remain living in your neighbourhood in your old age?

To feel safe	63%
Help caring for yourself	35%
Help getting out	30%
More social service support	31%
More money	34%
Help with household chores	28%
Aids and adaptations	26%

MONEY

Which of the following would/do you use to finance your retirement (per cent)?

State pension	93
Work pension	61
Personal pension	29
Substantial savings	22
Other	8
Property income	7
Part-time work	4

LIFE

What, if anything, do you think you will miss out on in older age (per cent)?

Being active	56
Independence	41
Keeping up with technology	32
Going on holiday	21
Social life	19
New experiences	17
Going to work	15
Friends	14

Source: Life in Lancashire. Base: adults aged 45-plus (1,706).

pions the interests of parishes while County Councillor Sean Serridge is Champion for Young People into Work and Training.

Councillor Atkinson attended 48 parish meetings last year and aims to help parish councils work together to solve shared problems.

Councillor Serridge, Britain's youngest county councillor, has just taken over his "champion" role from County Councillor Peter Wilson.