



Staying alive

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County pride for four in five, says poll

RED Rose pride is alive and well with a solid four out of five Lancashire people saying they feel good about living in the county.

More than 1,400 people returned questionnaires to Lancashire County Council, painting a fascinating picture of how people see life in the county.

Almost nine out of 10 say it is important that Lancashire has a strong identity, while 54 per cent say their own identity is strongly influenced by living in the county.

Of particular interest to local government policy-makers, almost eight out of 10 (77 per cent) say that different local councils and other agencies should work more closely together to provide services.

In Lancashire, of course, the county council has recently offered real power to district councils – in the Lancashire Local initiative – to make different areas of local government work more effectively together.

The questionnaires are sent out routinely to help policy-makers provide the services that people want.

Almost two in three (64 per cent) describe Lancashire as "traditional" and 33 per cent say it is forward-looking".

Meet and think

DECISION-makers will be on the spot at two Cabinet Question Time events within the next month.

Leader Hazel Harding, deputy leader Doreen Pollitt, finance chief Anne Brown, adult and community boss Chris Cheetham and schools' chief Alan Whittaker will be open to public question at 7.15pm on Wednesday 11 October at Kingsfold Methodist Church, Hawksbury Drive, Penwortham.

Christ Church on Carr Road, Nelson, is the venue for Cabinet Question Time at 7.15pm on Wednesday 1 November. Open to question will be county councillors Hazel Harding, Jean Battle, Marcus Johnstone, Tony Martin and Alan Whittaker.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS GO ONLINE

New project will simplify the process of choosing a school

PARENTS now have a new, fast and simple way to apply for their child's place at Lancashire schools.

The existing paper-based admissions system will continue. But the ever-growing number of computer-literate parents can now make applications online.

And that means less time spent form-filling, an instant "drop-down" list of available schools – and the opportunity to change your preferred school right up until the closure deadline.

"It's a great thing for parents", said Paul Bainbridge, Lancashire County Council admissions policy officer.

"There used to be lots of paperwork for parents and education staff and not all parents – or carers – were fully aware of which schools were in their area.

"This new system offers a drop-down menu of all the schools available in the area.

"Changing your preference under the old system used to involve lots of paperwork and filling forms out all over again. Electronically it just takes a few minutes and can be done at any time right up to the deadline."

The first two weeks of operation – it started in September – saw more than 900 parents registering online.

Those applying for secondary school first-year places starting in September 2007 have to work to a deadline of 20 October 2006 while those applying for primary school first-year places have until 24 November 2006.

Approximately half of Lancashire homes now have computers. People without computers can use

Save time with www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions



● PLANNING a school future together: mum Louise Kerr and daughters Abigail and Lauren go online with e-admission to make their choice.

the internet for free at Lancashire libraries.

The system gives an email acknowledgement of applications and incorporates a variety of search fields to help parents identify their school preferences.

Paul added: "The system also gives parents the opportunity to give feedback about the process itself. It is feedback that we will use to improve the system even further for the benefit of all customers.

"The paper-based system will continue because many people prefer traditional methods – but the new method will offer a simpler, speedier service for those who want it."

Development of the system has involved schools, parents, diocesan/church authorities and education officers.

Why not save time? Visit: www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions



Ask Shirley

Don't know who to contact when you need help? Are you baffled by a long list of names? Ring Shirley on 0845 0530000. 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.

Take a look at me, NoW

Mrs B from Rossendale writes:

I enclose a map which I received with my NoWcard. My problem is that I often go to stay with my sister who lives in Horwich but my card is not accepted and I have to pay full fare. Could you please help?

The leaflet that you enclosed with your letter is dated April 2003 and is now out of date. I have sent you the new leaflet that was produced to reflect the changes that took effect from 1st April 2006 following the announcement by the Government in the 2005 budget.

When travelling within Rossendale you will now be entitled to travel for free rather than paying half fare. When travelling to a destination outside Lancashire you will be charged a flat fare of 50p after 9.30am weekdays, all day Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays.

Journeys wholly outside of Lancashire will be charged at full fare. Ring the NoWcard Helpline on 0845 058 1096.

Last chance saloon

Mrs P from Carnforth writes:

Before my daughter broke up for the summer holidays she brought home the school holiday list for 2006 to 2007. I have mislaid it yet again! Is there anywhere that I can view term times for my child's school on the internet?

Yes, Lancashire school holiday dates can be viewed via the Lancashire County Council website at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/school_holidays/

Here you will find term dates right up to July 2008 so you don't need to worry about losing further lists.

River deep, mountain high

Mr C from Lancaster writes:

I have just turned 60 and have received my NoWcard bus pass. I recently retired and now have



●MUM and dad to more than 200 children (see Be My Baby): Pat and Mick Green are two of Lancashire's top foster carers. The Bamber Bridge couple love children so much that they had two daughters of their own - and then went on to foster more than 200 other children.

lots of free time on my hands. I would quite like to take a trip on the Waterbus Service that operates along Lancaster Canal. Can I use my NoWcard on this service?

Yes you can use your NoWcard on this service and will be charged half the normal fare. The same applies to all Lancashire and Cumbria NoWcard holders.

The Waterbus service runs like a regular bus and passengers may board or depart at scheduled stops. A Waterbus trip is a great way to enjoy a relaxing unique mode of passenger transportation while enjoying beautiful scenery and wildlife.

For more information, please contact the operators, Budgie Bikes, on 01524 389410.

Times and route information can be obtained from Traveline on 0870 6082608.

Be my baby

Mrs W from Fleetwood writes:

My husband and I have two young children of our own aged 11 and 7. We have been thinking about becoming foster carers and would like to know where to find information on fostering and to find out if we will be eligible?

The fostering service arranges the temporary placement of children with foster carers when they are unable to live at home for a variety of reasons.

There is an ongoing need to recruit foster carers to look after these children.

Carers need to be able to show commitment to children and work as part of a team.

Foster carers do not need academic qualifications, be married, own their own home or be employed.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a foster carer should contact their local placement team based in local social services offices.

Primary colours

Miss F from Edenfield writes:

My youngest daughter will be starting school in September next year and I have heard that you can now apply on-line for a primary school place. Is this true and which website should I visit to do this?

Yes. From 1 September 2006 parents in Lancashire with children that are due to start a new primary or secondary school in September 2007 for the 2007-08 academic year, can apply on-line for a place at the primary or secondary school of their choice.

By applying on-line you have the opportunity to amend your application right up to the deadline date. You also receive an email acknowledgement of your submitted application and also an on-line notification of the outcome.

You can find more information by visiting our website www.lancashire.gov.uk and you can submit your application at www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions

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.

Money waiting for your project

Lancashire Local - action where you live

A NEW grant scheme run by the county council has already resulted in a number of local projects receiving funding.

All county councillors have each been allocated £1,000 to distribute in their local area to help improve the wellbeing of the community. This is done through the groundbreaking Lancashire Local project.

So far a number of small grants have been made for things such as a local scout group, a town festival and to provide a community noticeboard. But money is still available from some county councillors who have not yet allocated all their cash.

Each councillor is able to receive requests for part of their allocation and put it before their council colleagues at a meeting of Lancashire Local. Even though some councillors may have given out all their money there will be more available next year.

County Councillor Hazel Harding said: "Although the amount of money is relatively small compared to some of the other funding 'pots' we have, the potential for real 'grass roots' involvement is excellent.

"Lancashire Local is all about bringing democracy to communities.

"I would urge groups with an idea for a community project to find out more about the grants available."

For more information, or to receive an application form, contact: Misbah Bhatti, 01772 530818 or misbah.bhatti@css.lancscc.gov.uk

You can also approach your county councillor - ring 0845 0530000 for details.

Local action - around and about

FYLDE: Members of Lancashire Local - Fylde heard that county council officers had acted after changes made by a commercial bus operator to a route meant that the link between Peel and Kirkham was severed.

Money is now in place to provide a link between Kirkham and Peel at least until March 2007.

The route also includes a link between Staining and Poulton - something that has been called for by Staining Parish Council.

County Councillor Bernard Whittle, chairman of Lancashire Local - Fylde, said: "This is proof that the county council is working well with the district and parish councils through Lancashire Local."

ROSSENDALE: Members of Lancashire Local - Rossendale will consider imposing a lorry ban on Hud Hey Road and Roundhey Road after hearing of friction problems between Haslingden and the Blackburn area.

SOUTH RIBBLE - a traffic and speed survey is to be carried out on West Paddock to see whether the area meets the criteria for traffic calming after the matter was raised by a local resident.

Councillors also agreed that £10,900 of county council cash should be used on footpath repairs. The priorities for where the money will be spent are to be set soon.

WEST LANCASHIRE: SAFETY will be improved on a Skelmersdale road after Lancashire Local West Lancashire approved traffic calming measures and a 20mph zone.

Road humps and 20mph signs will be added to Clayton Street, Marchbank Road, Witham Road and Sandy Lane and a set of bus cushions placed on Ormskirk Road and Witham Road. The scheme has been designed to address the poor record of traffic accidents in the area.



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

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

Lancashire
County Council



NEWS IN
BRIEF

Don't be a
'Spanish
lotto' loser

CONSUMERS are being warned about a new scam aimed at helping crooks to empty their bank accounts.

Trading Standards officers are urging people not to respond to unsolicited phone calls or letters informing them they have won a massive prize on a Spanish Lottery.

The so-called lottery goes under the name of La Loteria Primitiva a name similar to the official Spanish Lottery. However the message is very simple – if you have not entered you can not win!

Lancashire's Chief Trading Standards Officer, Jim Potts, explained: "This is a complete fraud."

"Our advice is to bin any letter. On no account give out any bank details – these will only be used to steal your money."

Market
support

INFORMATION and advice for people with learning disabilities, their families and carers, were freely available as part of the West Lancashire Learning Disability Awareness Day.

The purpose of the Ormskirk market event, arranged by Lancashire County Council and partners, was to promote and raise awareness about the range of support services available.

A variety of agencies and voluntary organisations took part, including Lancashire County Council Social Services, Mencap, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Connexions, West Lancashire Primary Care Trust, West Lancs Peer Support Group, and Lancashire Library Services.

Let's work
together

STAFF and organisations working on behalf of children and families came together for a 'partnership day' ahead of the opening of a new children's centre.

Each children's centre – Lancashire already has more than any other local authority in the country – brings together public services from a variety of organisations such as education and the NHS.

September's partnership day in Preston was an opportunity for staff to get to know each other ahead of the opening of Riverbank Children's centre in Preston.

Family plea

WHERE Did Your Ancestors Come From is the title of an exhibition at Colne Library. Members of the public are invited to take photographs and maps to the library.

The exhibition will run until December.

Probe turns new page for libraries

'Scrutiny' task group aims to point libraries down road to the future

COUNCILLORS have come up with an ambitious plan to improve Lancashire's top-rated libraries and make sure the service is fit for the 21st century.

The findings of a review into libraries have been published by councillors on Lancashire County Council's Communities and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee – an internal watchdog that investigates services to ensure they are tailored to public need.

The task group looked into all aspects of the service and has now published 36 recommendations on everything from opening hours to services to rural communities and future investment.

County Councillor Kevin Ellard, task group chairman, said: "The purpose of this review was to look at what the library service should be doing over the next three to five years to meet and even exceed people's expectations."

"We've had it confirmed that Lancashire's libraries are providing an excellent service but we're also aware that the way people use libraries is rapidly changing and there are huge challenges ahead if we are to continue meeting the needs of the public."

"One of the main positives we've found is that people really value their libraries and use them not only to access a good book, but to make the most of a wide range of opportunities by attending courses and using the internet."

"But there are also things which need improving, particularly many of our older buildings which need repair."

"Most library buildings also need to be upgraded to make them more attractive



and have the extra features that people want, such as toilets and refreshment facilities.

"There are also issues to be addressed about how we provide an equally good service to rural communities throughout the county. We have some innovative ideas to explore here."

"The good news is that we now have a clear plan to address these challenges. The next step is to consult the people of Lancashire on our proposals to see if they agree with the priorities we have identified."

The report has been presented to the Communities and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillors on the committee will have the chance to add their comments before the report is presented to County Councillor Chris Cheetham, Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services.

County Councillor Cheetham, said: "I look forward to the result of public consultation on these proposals as I'm keen to know more about what people want from their libraries."

"In the meantime, I will consider the report in more detail and look at the potential costs which have to be balanced against other pressures on the budget."

Volunteers sought to join court bench

THE hunt is on for people to play their part in the local community and help administer justice.

Ordinary people who want to become magistrates are being invited to find out more and possibly apply for this important role.

Lorraine Edgar, deputy secretary to the Lancashire Advisory Committee said: "We welcome applications from people throughout the community as the 'benches' should reflect the community it serves in terms of things like gender, ethnic origin, age, disability and occupation."

"Broadly speaking, anyone who lives in Lancashire aged between 18 and 65 is eligible to serve as a magistrate. There is

no requirement for any formal qualifications."

"Many areas in the county have a shortage of magistrates who are younger, in work, disabled or from ethnic minorities so we are particularly keen to hear from anyone in those groups."

Lay magistrates are not paid for their duties, but they may claim expenses for travelling, subsistence and financial loss.

For further information write to: The Secretary, Lancashire Advisory Committee, Her Majesty's Courts Service, Sessions House, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 2PD, or telephone (01772) 272834 or email lancs.advisorycommittee@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk

Library opens gateway to tomorrow

ONE library that is already a hub for the community is to be found in Accrington.

The library mixes the best of the traditional with up-to-date services and activities for local people.

Many people know the building for being home to the Accrington Pals' collection – one of the country's finest WW1 collections. Regular visitors will have noticed the once-quiet place buzzing with a range of opportunities.

Divisional librarian Julie Bell said: "Visitor numbers have gone through the roof recently. We think this is due to the way we have been moving with the times."

"We now have young people coming in for innovative 'cyber learning' schemes alongside others borrowing books or doing internet research."

With the library also playing host to concerts from new pop bands as well as classical recitals, it really is becoming a place for the future with one eye on the past.

●TASTE of Asia: libraries are centres of information as well as being repositories of books. Accrington Library, above, recently held a Taste of Asia day.

Primary School Admissions in Lancashire

September 2007

From September 2006 (for September 2007 places)
Apply online: www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions

PRIMARY SCHOOLS (Applying for places)

If your child has a 5th birthday on or between 01/09/07 and 31/08/08 then he/she will start primary school in September 2007

YOU MUST APPLY FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE BETWEEN 01/09/06 AND 24/11/06

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- If you have a child who is due to start at primary school in September 2007 and have not received school admission information, contact your child's primary school or the local education office immediately.
- You must apply either on-line (www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions) or using the paper application form (in the area insert of the admission booklet).
- Voluntary Aided (Church) and Foundation (Grammar) Schools also require you to complete their own supplementary form – please contact the school direct.
- You must apply even if you already have an elder child attending the school which you prefer.
- You must apply by the relevant closing date – late applications may not be included in the initial allocation process.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR PRIMARY APPLICATIONS IS 24/11/06

Advice/information is available from:

North Lancashire	01524 581112
South Lancashire	01772 532191
East Lancashire	01254 220742

Directorate for Children and Young People

Lancashire
County Council

Another great readers' competition

WIN

Complete with luxury travel on



LOOKING for a destination with a difference: a city in the English Countryside?

Enjoy a mid-week rail and hotel break in Milton Keynes by winning this month's exclusive Vision competition.

We have first-class Virgin Train tickets on offer, including mid-week hotel accommodation for two.

Milton Keynes, in Buckinghamshire, is the fastest growing city in Europe and the home of the Open University. It boasts the largest under-cover shopping centre in Europe and has an array of extreme activities for the daring plus entertainments to suit all tastes and ages.

It is set amidst beautifully cared-for parks, woods and lakes.

Your journey begins in style and comfort from a choice of Lancashire mainline stations.

Meals or snacks, depending on the time of day, are included. You can listen to a choice of radio stations or read a complimentary newspaper.

The award-winning onboard shop offers a range of useful merchandise. Friendly rail staff are there to help you during your journey and on arrival at your destination.

There are three hotels at which you can enjoy a two-night stay - Holiday Inn,

a 'city break in the country'

Jury's Inn or Ramada Encore, all based in central Milton Keynes.

Destination Milton Keynes, the city's official tourist agency, will arrange for hotel details to be sent to our winners and will also include a suggested itinerary. All Vision readers contacting Destination Milton Keynes will also be offered special hotel discount rates of up to 50 per cent - as well as special rail offers and information about the city's hotels.

To be in with a chance, simply answer the following and send us your entry before the closing date.

In which county is Milton Keynes?

Send your entries to: Virgin Trains-Milton Keynes, Vision, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ.

For Virgin Train information and bookings, including special offers, visit virgin.com/trains or ring 08457 222 333. Lines open 8am-10pm.

For more information about Milton Keynes, check out www.destination-miltonkeynes.co.uk or phone 01908 677010 (office hours).

Usual competition rules apply and the editor's decision is final. County council employees are not allowed to enter. Midweek accommodation for two is included, subject to availability. Transport to/from mainline stations is the responsibility of the winners.

ENTRY FORM

Q: In which county is Milton Keynes?

A:

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Tel:

Floral pride sets Lytham on UK road to glory

THOUSANDS of bulbs and flowers, scores of volunteers - and huge amounts of civic pride - have taken Lytham to the top of the Britain in Bloom awards.

Members of Lytham in Bloom, the charity established 15 years ago to put pride back into the town, were rewarded last month when Lytham won the North West section as best small coastal town.

With a little help from a £500 Lancashire County Council Green Partnership Award, almost the whole town took part - with the Clifton Arms Hotel winning the Best Small Hotel section and two local schools jointly winning their sections.

County Councillor Tim Ashton, a founder member of Lytham in Bloom, said: "Winning the North West section means we will be entered into the national finals for



●PROUD: from left, Tim Ashton, Jim Leak, Lytham in Bloom chairman, and Clifton Arms Hotel gardener Mike Harrison celebrate Lytham's success.

next year. That could really put Lytham on the map.

"The project has been about a lot more than just putting displays in prominent places - it has involved

parks, businesses, a variety of open spaces and even a woodland.

"Judges were impressed that so many people in the community were involved."

£2m for over-80s - just what the doctor ordered

PENSIONERS in Preston are two million pounds better off thanks to Lancashire County Council and Preston Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Over 1,000 pensioners took up an offer of a free benefits check with the county council's Welfare Rights Service after the PCT sent out letters to people aged over 80 in the area. Many of these people already received benefits and thought they were not entitled to any more.

Thanks to the checks over 900 new claims were made for things such as Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit and Council Tax Benefit. One person found they had been underpaid by £23,000 although most claimants were enti-

tled to amounts ranging between a total of £265 and a weekly £1.90.

County Councillor Jean Battle, Cabinet member for community planning and partnerships, said: "People are entitled to this money but have simply been unaware of its existence."

"Without this support they would have continued to miss out."

"The letters were actually sent through local doctors' surgeries as we find that older people trust correspondence from their GP and are far more likely to act on what they are being told."

"We work hard to reach Lancashire's older residents as they can quite often be unaware of their entitlements or worry that they will not be able to fill in the forms. It would be a great shame if older

members of our communities continue to miss out."

Although the project has now moved on to other areas in Lancashire the Welfare Rights Service continues to offer free advice to all Lancashire residents. To find out more call 01772 533504.

Comp winners

WINNERS of signed copies of Anthony Horowitz's Raven's Gate book (Vision, September) are: J Shorter, Sadden; L Spevick, Harrow; A Curran, Dolphinholme; P Kelly, Walton-le-Dale. Books will be posted to winners. Entries numbered 156.

Winner of Blackpool's Join the Party ticket and discount package was C Walsley, Chorley. Pack will be posted. Entries totalled 582.



You're telling us!

Send your letters to:

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

Letters containing a name and address will be given priority in publication. Letters may be edited. We cannot provide individual replies.

Older people's future 'should involve activity'

I WAS pleased to read that the needs of future generations of older people are being looked at (Vision, September).

May I relate my own experiences?

The last 13 years of my working life was spent as a self-employed coach operator, which was very demanding in terms of time and energy.

Once a month I have been switching off my mobile and making my way to the East Lancashire Railway at Rawtenstall. We all have a great time discussing all things related to the railway. It is always changing - and expanding.

This monthly escape helped keep me sane.

I was determined to give something back when I retired and I now work there as a volunteer every Tuesday and Thursday on a wide variety of jobs that include laying track, building an inspection pit and painting.

They say variety is the spice of life! I am working now on a National Railway Museum project.

I also get involved in Thomas the

Tank Engine events and Santa Specials.

I have no regrets and fully intend continuing as long as I am physically able - then I will opt for less strenuous duties.

To everyone out there with time on their hands I say, get involved in something.

G B SPENCER
Clayton-le-Moors

TOMORROW'S older people will indeed want different services than previous generations of pensioners (Vision, September).

And what they really want is a broader approach, rather than just services to help the infirm.

In Spain, for example - a poorer country than Britain - older people get free education and subsidised holidays in the off-season.

My own mother enjoys her art classes and has also enjoyed several free trips this year. Even older people enjoy subsidised sunshine breaks. Her village also boasts free computer classes for older people.

I don't think any of this costs a great deal and younger people benefit too - not least the hotel staff who keep their jobs at quiet times of year and the lady who teaches computer skills.

Lancashire County Council is to future-proof its services for this age group. Let us hope it takes the wider approach and learns from other countries.

E LOPEZ
Preston

I WONDER when the older people of Lancashire will receive the same deal on bus passes as their counterparts in Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Our free bus pass only allows us free travel in our own borough or district, so it costs me 50 pence each way to travel from Preston to Chorley. Yet Merseyside and Greater Manchester residents can travel all over their own counties for free.

We pay our Council Tax bills for services as do the residents in neighbouring Greater Manchester and

Merseyside.

It leaves me very disappointed.

JOHN O'LEARY
(by email)

■IT may seem unfair, but the free travel is based only within what Whitehall defines as Travel Concession Areas (TCAs). These TCAs are the district council areas, such as, for example, Preston or Lancaster, and metropolitan council areas such as Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

It means that the district council areas are only required to offer free travel within their own boundaries (that is, the TCAs). However, the county council does administer a voluntary scheme on behalf of the district councils that allows half-price travel across Lancashire.

The much better news is that there will be a completely free scheme across the whole of England from April 2008. Older people will be able to travel free by bus all the way from Lancashire to the south coast if they wish - Chris Anslou, Lancashire County Council public transport policy manager.

I SAW red when I read the article "We're keeping your buses

on the road" in September's Vision.

I am a pensioner and used to go by bus to one of Accrington's clubs every Friday night. I can't do it any more.

Pensioners and others are being deprived of their nights out.

I went to the doctors at 4.45pm last night but had to pay for a taxi home as the last bus was at 5.15pm.

It is a shambles. People such as pensioners are those who served in the forces for their country.

MRS G FAWCETT
Accrington

■BUSES in Lancashire are subsidised to a greater degree than buses in most other parts of the country but, however much we wish it, not everyone's needs can be met. A recent audit revealed that some bus journeys were costing up to £26 per person in subsidies from Council Tax payers.

What happens when commercial services stop is that the county council can sometimes subsidise the service to keep it going for wider social reasons - but costs must always be reasonable.

Many areas, of course, have dial-a-ride and community car schemes for residents in a similar situation to Mrs Fawcett - Editor.

Heritage fact file

Queen Street Mill

The mill was built in 1894 by the Queen Street Manufacturing Company as a workers' co-operative with workers each owning a £5 share. The average weekly wage in the 1890s for a weaver was around £1.

At the height of its prosperity the mill employed around 300 people but was forced to close in 1982 with the loss of 95 jobs.

Soon after closure Burnley Council bought the mill and Lancashire County Council took over the museum from Burnley Council in 1992.

In 1999 Lancashire County Museum Service was successful in obtaining Designated Status for its textile industry collection. Queen Street Mill is a major component of that collection.

It contains over 300 Lancashire looms. Steam from one of two Lancashire boilers feeds the two-cylinder tandem engine by Roberts of Nelson which drives the looms.

Higherford Mill

The mill was established in 1824 for cotton spinning but soon became one of the first in the area to use power looms for weaving in 1832.

Higherford finally closed in 1971 and was threatened with demolition until the county council's chief architect, Anthony Pilling, stepped in to get the building Listed.

The county council and Pendle Council have since worked as consultants for the Heritage Trust for the NW in order to preserve the building and put together bids for funds to generate long-term uses and to restore it. Plans include eventual re-instatement of the waterwheel to generate alternative energy which together with other environment friendly measures should then make the mill carbon neutral.

Helmshore Mills

This Scheduled Ancient Monument includes Higher Mill, an 18th century wool finishing mill with fully operational water wheel driven fulling stocks and other woollen machinery set in an attractive riverside location below the mill lodges.

It also comprises the adjacent 19th century Whitaker's Mill containing nearly two floors of spinning machinery together with some equipment from the start of the industrial revolution.

Whitaker's Mill was converted to condenser cotton spinning in 1925 and the original equipment is in full operational condition. The two pairs of original spinning mules produce yarn on 2,856 spindles and are immense. Some of the yarn is woven into cloth at Queen Street Mill.



Fame looms for King Cotton

by
Martin Crabtree

THERE are some new stars of the screen in Lancashire, but you are not likely to see them turning up at film premieres.

Three of Lancashire's most historic weaving mills, Queen Street of Burnley, Higherford near Nelson and Helmshore of Rossendale have become firm favourites with the media thanks to their interesting past and unique interiors.

Now there are more TV appearances in the pipeline.

The county council is helping return Higherford Mill to its former glory and the building has recently been featured on the BBC's Restoration show – a sort of X-Factor for historic buildings.

It was not voted onto the final programme, but the TV and radio coverage has generated a huge amount of local interest and raised its profile nationally.

It was only after Anthony Pilling, Lancashire County Council's chief architect, stepped in some years ago to get the building listed as the bulldozers were about to move in, that the building could be saved.

Now the plight of those working hard to return the former workplace to its former glory is well and truly in the spotlight.

Anthony Pilling explained: "Higherford Mill was built in 1824 and is a fine example of a water-powered textile mill. It started as a spinning mill, was one of the earliest to use power looms and changed in step with changing times. Its importance has been recognised by its grade II listing."

"The Higherford Mill project is being run for a charity, the Heritage Trust for the NW, and the county council is bringing its wealth of expertise to the efforts to repair and preserve the building. The exposure from this show could make all the difference to our future grant applications."

Helmshore Mills Textile Museum in Rossendale is currently undergoing a major overhaul to make this popular museum bigger and better than ever. Around £1m is to be spent to make the former East Lancashire workplace more accessible and exciting.

Preliminary excavation work with English Heritage has now revealed surviving interesting features below ground. Although this has delayed the project, it will ultimately add to the store of knowledge about the site.

What people may not realise is that the site has provided the backdrop for many historical dramas including Mrs Gaskell's North and South and the Sean Bean series Sharpe.

It is hoped that when the Museum reopens next year visitors will be able to get an even better glimpse of the past when some of the earliest surviving textile machinery in the world goes on show once more.

Also becoming a regular on the silver screen is Queen Street Mill in Burnley. This Lancashire County Museum is fitted out with a wealth of period machinery which the late engineering enthusiast Fred Dibnah fea-



●SEAN Pertwee, son of "Doctor Who" Jon Pertwee, was at Helmshore earlier this year to film children's classic Greyfriars Bobby. Picture also shows co-star Oliver Golding.

tured heavily in his programmes.

Much of the footage of weaving sheds in his shows, regularly shown on UKTV History, was shot at Queen Street Mill which still weaves cotton cloth (using yarn spun at Helmshore Mill) on power looms made in Burnley, and driven by our recently overhauled steam engine, 'Peace', which was made in Nelson.

Now, larger-than-life presenter Dick Strawbridge is to feature the mill in his exciting new show the Re-inventors. Viewers will see him try to make his own power loom and also learn a bit more about the building's fascinating past.

Glitzy TV shows 'not a good bet'

THERE are now more ways than ever before to lose your hard-earned money, according to Trading Standards bosses.

In the last year or so the infamous "big win" free scratchcards have been joined by glitzy TV shows offering the chance to win cash for just one phone call.

But, warns chief trading standards officer Jim Potts, residents should think twice before jumping at these "chances of a lifetime".

He said: "There used to be a time when life was very simple and the grand prize was always won. But these are not simple lotteries, pub quizzes or tombolas."

"The problem is that regulatory bodies have little power to stop people spending large amounts of money."

Vision readers will probably have seen some competition TV shows which require the caller to go through a "selection process" to stand a chance of getting on-air. Even then there is no guarantee of winning although the phone call costs could be escalating.

e Admissions LANCASHIRE

ON-LINE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS IN LANCASHIRE
www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions

For parents/carers who have a child or children due to start in their first year at primary or secondary school in September 2007, Lancashire County Council now offers a convenient and time saving process for applying for school places on-line. This provides:



- A quick and easy way of completing the common admission application form on a secure system
- School information that is easily accessible and up-to-date to assist parents/carers in identifying school preferences
- The opportunity to amend your application right up to the deadline date
- E-mail acknowledgement of all submitted on-line applications
- The opportunity for parents/carers to print a hard copy of on-line admission applications
- No risk that a paper application will be lost
- No need to deliver a common admission application form back to a school/office
- On-line notification of the outcome of all on-line applications



The on-line system went live on 1st September 2006 for parents and carers to apply for primary and secondary school places for September 2007 (the on-line system is for applications for children starting in their first year at primary and secondary schools in September 2007).

www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions

The closing dates for applications for places in Lancashire schools from September 2007 are:

Secondary – 20th October 2006
Primary – 24th November 2006

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



Work back to health

HELP is available to get people suffering mental health problems back into the mainstream of society.

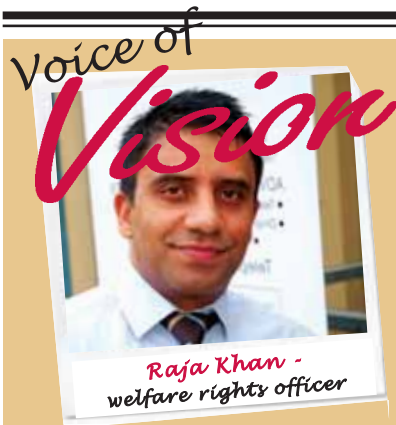
A series of courses starts in October to ease the problems related to stress and depression.

The Institute of Complementary Healthcare, Education and Research (ICHER) is receiving cash help from Lancashire County Developments Ltd to run the courses. Cash help is available for those who have to travel.

The courses are aimed at improving self-confidence, self-esteem, pain and symptom management through the use of complementary therapies and other types of support.

Further information from ICHER on 01253 620006.

LOOK LIVELY



MORE than 20 thank-you letters pinned proudly to the wall show that Raja Khan gets more than just a salary cheque from his job.

What he wants – and often gets – is the satisfaction of knowing that his job makes a difference. People in Pendle, where he works, have gained millions of pounds from the work of Raja and his colleagues.

Making a difference, for his clients, can add up to benefits payments that can make the difference between misery and balancing the books...

What is the appeal of your job?

I help people get the benefits they are entitled to. Those people may be old, disabled – or in any kind of need.

What motivates me is improving their quality of life.

I enjoy working with people as well as trying to help others and I am often, in effect, a linkman between clients and people such as occupational therapists and social workers.

Why do people need help from welfare rights advisers?

People are often not aware of their rights.

People have usually been independent all their working lives and just assume no help is available to them.

The benefits system is also very complex and that can put people off.

We meet people on very little money who are paying the full amount of Council Tax.

What is the best way to help?

We always need to know their circumstances and it is often time-consuming. It can also mean representing people at tribunals – something that gives me great pleasure when we win.

One successful method we have is working with doctors. Letters are sent from the doctor's surgery to tell them of our service – people trust their doctors more than anyone else.

We can then do a confidential analysis of people's finances and we often find they are entitled to some help.

To what degree are people missing out?

It varies. Some people in really dire straits can gain up to £150 per week.

It is money they are entitled to and for which they have paid National Insurance and tax for much of their lives. It is also money they will spend locally so the whole county benefits.

I helped one widow get £4,000 in backpay that she was owed.

Why do people get left behind?

A number of reasons. People get frustrated – and we help them.

There are many complications that are even difficult for us to understand. Thankfully we have regular training to keep us on top of changes.

Do some people try to abuse the service?

Some people are very blatant about it. We have to use our judgement.

What is the worst part of the job?

The job can be very mentally involving, such as when a tribunal decision goes against someone who really needs help.

What motivates you?

I have a strong desire to help other people.

I am a Muslim and my faith leads me to want to help anyone, of whatever background, in their lives.

At the moment I am taking part in the month-long Ramadan fast. The fasting teaches us of suffering and makes us think of others who are suffering and in need.

Let's do it our way - head



Elizabeth Kelly, head,
St Peter's RC Primary
School, Lytham

AT the mention of a new year, even a school one, my thoughts always turn to Hogmanay in Scotland.

In the days before karaoke, an uncle fortified by the wee dram would sing, "I did it my way". Emotions running high the family would join in at "the record shows, I took the blows".

As a teaching profession we have taken many a knock over the years following someone else's way. So this new academic year we are going to do it my way or, I should say, our way.

You see we've tried it the Department for Education and Skills' way and followed the prescriptive path.

Like rabbits in the headlights, we've followed their reading methods and

become mangled in the myriad methods of the numeracy strategy.

But it seems someone at the DfES has been listening. For the past year, primary schools have been planning a new approach which gives teachers more flexibility and control over the curriculum.

The Excellence and Enjoyment strategy has given teachers the green light to develop our own plans which actually work and raise standards.

We now have the flexibility to choose which periods of history to study or which methods to use in maths, based on our pupils' needs. By freeing teachers to nurture pupils' interests we will now be able to generate more enthusiasm in the classroom and get better end results.

Nobody knows the children in schools better than the teachers and parents.

We assess everything they do and track their progress; we monitor and evaluate and we even manage to find time to teach.

A constant stream of new initiatives can often lead us to think we don't know what we are doing, when we do.

Like many heads, I am hoping this new way heralds a permanent move away from the "one size fits all" approach of the recent past.

So this new academic year we are standing tall and raising a toast to the new freedom; free from the shackles of a prescriptive curriculum and imposed strategies we at last can bring excellence and enjoyment for all and do it our way.

Everyone a winner with fridges at just £15

ONE man's rubbish is another man's treasure at an innovative project in Accrington.

For while most people are content to send old furniture, fridges and cookers to landfill, helpers at Hyndburn Used Furniture Store (HUFs) prefer to patch it up, check it for safety – and then sell it cheap to people on low incomes.

It adds up to fridges from £15, cookers from £25 and computers from £30.

And volunteers also gain by acquiring skills and a work record that can help them into paid work.

Annette Barker, a volunteer at the Fairfield Street unit, said: "Huge amounts of quality goods are tipped all the time, much of it still usable."

"All we do here is get people to bring their old goods here, then we clean it up, check it for safety and then put it back into good use."

"People in need benefit, the environment benefits and the staff benefit by gaining enjoyable and satisfying work."

The minority of household goods that cannot be salvaged are carefully recycled to reduce environmental damage.

The project, part-funded by Lancashire County Developments Ltd as a contribution to the wider economic health of Lancashire, is based in Unit 1, Fairfield House, Fairfield Street, Accrington.

Small delivery charges are sometimes levied on some goods.

The range of reusable items can also be viewed at www.hufs.co.uk while staff can be contacted on 01254 393784.



CLEANING up: volunteer Annette prepares a washing machine for sale.

Libraries host rock initiative

BROWSERS amongst the bookshelves will be experiencing a new beat this month at two Lancashire libraries.

Accrington and Lancaster libraries will be playing host to up and coming band Mr Hudson and the Library as part of their next nationwide tour.

The appropriately named group will take their exciting sound, which features electric drums, steel pans and keyboards to Lancaster on 6 October and Accrington on 10 October for the county council's "Get it Loud in Libraries" initiative.

Stewart Parsons, music librarian at Lancaster library, said: "Libraries really are moving with the times to become really exciting places to be."

"These gigs are another way of introducing new people to libraries and showing that they are exciting and vibrant places to spend time."

Tickets for the concerts are free, but you must secure yours in advance. For more information call: Lancaster Library on 01524 580712 and Accrington Library on 01706 830429.

Library's own hit parade

MAEVE Binchy's Whitethorn Woods has rocketed to the top of the Lancashire library pops, according to new book-borrowing data.

Library staff gather statistics each month – statistics that show the changing reading habits of the Lancashire public.

September's figures show that Binchy topped Sam Bourne whose book "The Righteous Men" was the county's favoured book in August.

The current book hit parade is as follows (last month's figures in brackets):
1. Whitethorn Woods – Maeve Binchy (-)
2. The Righteous Men – Sam Bourne (1)
3. The Lincoln Lawyer – Michael

Connelly (-)

4. Predator – Patricia Cornwell (3)

5. The Journey – Josephine Cox (5)

6. Daughters of Fire – Barbara Erskine (-)

7. The Island – Victoria Hislop (6)

8. Honeymoon – James Patterson (9)

9. Cross Bones – Kathy Reichs (-)

10. Love and Dr Devon – Alan Titchmarsh (-)

Reading is only half the story as many people now enjoy writing their own reviews which can then be seen by others on the Lancashire Library website.

The site, at: www.lancashire.gov.uk, also details new book acquisitions.

Radio tunes in to safety on the roads



●RADIO message: from left radio presenters Sally Naden, John Gillmore, and Lancashire County Council's Neil Cunliffe, Clare Farrer and Graham Harding.

A NEW collaboration in Lancashire has signalled a boost for road safety in the county.

BBC Radio Lancashire has signed up to Lancashire County Council Road Safety Group's Together We Can Make The Difference strategy to show its commitment to help reduce road casualties.

As part of a 12-month campaign, the station will help inform individuals and organisations how they can contribute to reducing road casualties in Lancashire.

A wide range of information will be provided to all types of road users, from safety tips and new laws to road safety services and road casualty statistics.

Information about the Road Safety Group will be made available via the

BBC Lancashire website.

Neil Cunliffe, Road Safety Group manager, said: "Make the Difference recognises that education of all road users, be they motorists, passengers, pedestrians, cyclists or horse riders, is fundamental to improving road safety."

"Everyone uses the roads in one way or another, and so we all have a part to play in Making the Difference."

The Road Safety Group provides education and training for all road users across Lancashire and works to publicise road safety campaigns across the county.

For further information on Make the Difference please call 0800 328 1635 or log onto www.lancashire.gov.uk/roadsafety

Big build underway for pupils

Builders move on nations largest school programme

DIGGERS have moved in to begin work on the biggest educational revamp Lancashire has known.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) will bring eight new state-of-the-art secondary schools plus two primary and two special schools and a children's centre with a total cost of around £250m.

The first piece of turf was cut by County Councillor Alan Whittaker, Cabinet member for Schools. He said: "It is very pleasing that these massive projects are running on time."

"I am sure that everyone who attended these turf cutting events are very proud to be present at the start of such a pioneering project."

Representatives from the new schools, Lancashire County Council, project partners Catalyst and local councillors gathered at the sites at Barden campus in Burnley and Pendle Vale College in Nelson to mark the start of work.

The schools have been designed to specifications drawn up by the county council's Property Group.

All the new schools are now working in temporary accommodation based on the sites of some of the former schools. Each school has been kitted out with new computer systems, new classrooms and taken on new names.

Janet Newton, BSF project director,



●WORK begins on county's huge schools-building programme. County Councillor Alan Whittaker sets the wheels in motion.

said: "The new schools are now established and are already starting to form their new sense of community."

"We hope the work we are doing now in Burnley and Pendle will show the way for the rest of Lancashire in the future."

Building Schools for the Future in Burnley and Pendle is the largest project of its kind in the country at the moment.

LCDL update

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



County invests in the heart of Nelson

The Innovation Centre, located on Brunswick Street in Nelson, is the latest addition to LCDL's portfolio of properties providing flexible accommodation for new and small businesses and illustrating the commitment of the county council's economic development department to new jobs and a prosperous East Lancashire.

The 8,400 sq. ft. two-storey building has already attracted 10 tenants, predominantly from the advanced technology sectors. These businesses include web and computer software design, fibre optic development, the design of production systems for the oil refining industry and the development of quality control systems.

LCDL is forging a strong relationship between the Innovation Centre and the Lancashire Digital Technology Centre in Burnley. Chris Baxter, The Centre Manager at the Lancashire Digital Technology Centre, is now responsible for the day to day running of both centres. Business meetings and conference facilities are available to all tenants.

Chair of LCDL, County Councillor Niki Penney said "The acquisition of the Innovation Centre brings our economic development and business support services directly into the heart of Nelson and enables occupiers to take advantage of the facilities we have developed with our joint venture partners, Burnley Borough Council and Burnley College at the Lancashire Digital Technology Centre. The combination of offering workspace, providing business finance and directly supporting businesses to start and to grow is a proven formula. We are confident that the communities of Nelson will benefit from the investment. We can now ensure that modern accommodation to meet the needs of new and growing advanced technology businesses in Nelson is available at a competitive rate."

There are currently only 3 units to let at The Innovation Centre totalling 1,221 sq. ft. and 8 units available at the Lancashire Digital Technology Centre totalling 3,989 sq. ft. Flexible lease terms are available in accordance with LCDL's policy of supporting new and small businesses.

If you are interested in taking space in either Nelson or Burnley contact Chris Baxter at LCDL Burnley on 01282 872 500

Calling all new designers to Preston

Preston now has a new lifestyle store and gallery on Church Street selling distinctive and individual creative products and exhibiting challenging and innovative works of art created by Lancashire based artists and designers. PAD has been funded by Preston City Council, Lancashire County Developments

Ltd, the Avencentral Partnership and the University of Central Lancashire to support Lancashire based creative businesses by acting as a first point of sales contact for their work and enabling the artists to see how the public respond to their work whilst also providing important business support services appropriate to the creative sector. The shop and gallery has now been open for about 6 months and is already packed with locally created products to inspire and to tempt you to buy that special one-off item for your home or that unusual gift for a friend. Similarly, if you are a Lancashire artist then please pop in as the manager would be delighted to talk with you about how they can help you, either by using PAD as a point of sale for your work or more generic business support and advice. The PAD range includes furniture, ceramics, visual art, photography, jewellery, wood carvings, sculpture, fashion, books, cards and gifts.

New products are always being introduced. There is also a huge range of artists and designers on the database ready to undertake a commission so if you require a bespoke piece of work, staff at Pad will gladly arrange a meeting to discuss your requirements. There's something to suit every budget



and you can guarantee whatever you choose it will be unique!

PAD is also creating a series of creative and professional development workshops throughout the year. Details will be on the website soon. PAD is also available for corporate hire-it's a great space to hold a meeting or an event. Please call 01772 561615 to discuss your event. A new initiative called Fresh on the Market, extending the ethos of PAD, has been setup in order to provide local artists, designers and makers the opportunity to sell their work in the heart of the city. Anyone is welcome to take a stall to sell anything creative as long as you make it or produce it yourself! The market takes place on the third Sunday of every month, please contact PAD or visit the website for more details. It is hoped that PAD and Fresh on the Market will help to attract a new audience to the city, enhancing Preston's image as a creative and cultural European venue.

Contact details of PAD are as follows:
PAD 52 Church Street Preston PR1 3DH
Tel: 01772 561615 Email: pad@preston.gov.uk
Website: www.padshopandgallery.com

**Lancashire County
Developments Ltd.**

**Lancashire
County Council**

Secondary school meals are certainly not second rate!

Lunch is looking different...

INNOVATION in Lancashire's lunch halls is leading to increasing numbers of secondary school pupils swapping chips for ciabattas and many other healthier options.

Much of the food in the county's kitchens comes from local sources and is freshly prepared on site by trained catering staff.

As well as the food itself, there have also been many changes to dining areas.

A unique brand has been developed known as Express Café, which appeals to young people by providing bright and cheerful dining rooms, some with music.

Another important change in some secondary schools is the introduction of 'cashless' systems which give each pupil a prepaid smart card - similar to a

mobile phone top up card. The cards can be pre-loaded with credits which are then used to pay for lunch at the tills.

Values are assigned to all items on the menu and credits are awarded for choosing healthier options. At the end of term, credits can be counted and prizes awarded to the healthiest eaters.

An added benefit of the swipecards is that it's impossible to distinguish pupils who receive a free school meal - which removes some of the perceived stigma and encourages participation.

As part of the Express Café brand, schools also offer services at breaktimes and breakfast. A relaxed coffee shop style is encouraged offering students the more mature experience they've requested.

The service operated by Lancashire County Commercial Services are continuing to innovate in a bid to get more pupils eating healthy, good quality produce.

For more information about LCCS and school lunches visit www.servinglancashire.org.uk or contact your local school.

“...swapping
chips for
ciabattas”



EXPRESS café

Sample menu

Available daily

Jacket potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Low Fat Yoghurt, Frozen Yoghurt, Cakes, Biscuits & Pastries.

Drinks...

Mineral Water, Fruit Juices, Milk, Milk Shakes, Hot & Cold Drinks.

Menu one

Chicken Chow Mein, Vegetable Lasagne & Garlic Bread, Organic Beefburger, Vegetable Pizza, Hot Pudding, Apple Sponge & Toffee Sauce.

Menu two

Salmon Fishcakes & Tartar Sauce, Vegetable Tagine & Cous Cous, Swedish Hot Dog, Cheese & Vegetable Flan, Apricot Flapjack, Jam Roly Poly & Custard Sauce.

Menu three

Spicy Chicken Steak Flat Bread, Pepperoni Pizza, Cheese & Broccoli Slice, Peach Crumble & Custard Sauce.

Menu four

Vegetable Tortilla Wraps with Salsa & Sour Cream, Lamb Twizzler Finger Roll, Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Rice Pudding, Apple Pie.

Menu five

Spanish Paella, Cauliflower & Broccoli Mornay, Jacket Potatoes (Vegetable Balti, Bolognese), Lemon Steamed Pudding & Tangy Lemon Sauce, Chelsea Bun.

Lytham St Anne's High Technology College

A major redevelopment of dining areas and kitchen facilities has left diners loving lunches at Lytham St Anne's. Big changes were made to the schools catering arrangements by the service provider, Lancashire County Commercial Services and menus have gone through further change recently to make them even healthier.

Students and staff are delighted with the wide range on offer and the menus which include pasta, rice and traditional dishes as well as freshly made soup, pannini, baked potatoes and sandwiches. The new dishes such as Cajun Spiced Chicken, Red Pepper and Tomato Soup and Vegetable Stir Fry with Noodles have gone down really well. Chips, have not been served daily since last November and crisps and soft drinks are no longer missed by the students.

Fruit bags, seed bags and and homemade cereal

bars have also proved popular choices with students.

Craig, one of the older students said: "There's lots of choice now and lot's of different things".

Alicia is a fan of the new panninis: "There are more salads on offer now too, which is good".

An enthusiastic Leigh said: "The new menus let us try new things. There are more healthy options as well".

Different areas of the dining room have been set aside to serve different types of lunches. Pupils wanting a quick sandwich or pannini can now queue separately from hot meals and traditional fare.

Classic favourites are still available for those people looking for a more traditional lunch, but chips are only allowed once a week!

Linda, a member of the school hard-working catering team, is also very pleased with the changes:

"We got the brand new facility in November last year. The Global Express counter, where we serve different types of food, is really popular.

"We have nominated local suppliers and we're making everything freshly that we possible can.

"We're all absolutely enthusiastic about the changes. The headteacher said it's the best thing that's happened to the school in the last twenty years."

Commercial services

Lancashire
County Council