



Providing • education • highways • trading standards • social services

## TRUE GRIT

Gritters' new 'dome from dome' will help keep roads ice-free

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## QUALITY OF LIFE

£2m boost will tackle litter and criminal damage - and improve job prospects

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## COMPETITION

Win a weekend break for two in beautiful North Lancashire

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# CHILDREN SAFE IN OUR HANDS

Huge shake-up  
will put *your* child  
and family first

**A NEW deal is on the cards for children after public consultations started on a proposed Lancashire Children's Trust.**

Designed in response to the Victoria Climbié disaster – in which Victoria died after a variety of staff failed to work together – the proposed trust will bring professionals together to put children first.

It will mean the biggest reform of children's services since the creation of the welfare state.

A trust will support all who work with children and families, including social workers, teachers, police and health staff. Changes will affect education, health, leisure and child care as well as child protection.

Victoria died in London. Lancashire's proposed trust will minimise such risks here.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone said: "Children's Trusts will bring services together to help ensure that all children and young people across the county are safe, healthy, achieving and contributing positively to the community."

"Our aim is to secure better futures for all our children."

"This consultation is a major step forward in our journey to reform children's services and in changing the way we meet the needs of children and deliver services in Lancashire."

The consultation runs until 9 February 2007.

It was launched at Preston's Moor Nook Primary School.

Pupils were asked what they wanted for their futures. Unsurprisingly they wanted to pass exams, land a good job and ... buy a big house!

Councillor Johnstone, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for children and young people, added: "This trust will put children first."

"There are many agencies working for children. This trust will promote effective links between their services, including those provided by schools and other specialist services."

"This is a major step forward."

It is expected the trust will start in January 2008.

For more information or to give your views on the future of children's services in Lancashire visit



[www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation), email [everychildmatters@ed.lancsec.gov.uk](mailto:everychildmatters@ed.lancsec.gov.uk) or contact Bren Cook on 01772 530482.

● A SECURE future: County Councillor Marcus Johnstone with pupils Laura Cook and Ryan Ainsworth.

## Grisly Roman carving to stay in Lancashire



● LANCASTER City Museum's Heather Dowler with the tombstone. Inset shows the severed head.

A ROMAN cavalryman has a new home 2,000 years after his death in Lancaster.

A carved frieze on Insus Vodullus's six-foot tombstone depicts him grasping the severed head of a barbarian.

It was discovered by builders during works to develop a Lancaster site into flats and could have been sold abroad - until Lancashire County Council museums bought it for the county.

It will now be restored in Preston before going to Lancaster City Museum next summer.

Stephen Bull, curator of military history and archaeology at the county council-owned Museum of Lancashire, said: "We know he was a cavalry unit curator. A curator in those days was the equivalent to a quartermaster in a modern army."

"When the works are complete and it goes on display it will be one of the most complete Roman tombstones ever discovered. It will be of international significance."

"We can date it from between 75AD and 125AD as we know his unit was in Lancaster at that time."

The tombstone is in three large pieces. A number of smaller pieces have been recovered from the site by archaeologists from Manchester University.

Money has come from Lancashire County Council's Museum Service, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Haverfield Bequest Fund and the Museums' and Libraries' Archives Council and the Victoria and Albert Museum.



# Ask Shirley

Don't know who to contact when you need help? Are you baffled by bureaucracy? Ring Shirley on **0845 0530000** or email Shirley on **enquiries@css.lancscc.gov.uk**

*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.*

## Wet, wet, wet

Mr M from Lancaster writes: Last week my road was flooded due to the amount of rainfall that we had. The grids at the side of the road didn't seem to be of much help. I think they may be blocked. Who do I report this to?

Lancashire County Council's highways department is responsible for clearing blocked rainwater gullies on adopted roads.

The highways department can be contacted on **0845 053 0011** or by email at **highways@lancashire.gov.uk**

Once reported the gullies will be inspected and any necessary action taken.

## Park life

Mrs S from St Annes writes: I have a substantial disability that makes walking very difficult.

I would like to know how to apply for a Disabled Parking Badge so that it would be easier for me to park near shops, stations and other facilities.

To apply for a Blue Badge, contact Lancashire County Council's Customer Service Centre on **0845 053 0049**.

They will go through the application with you and answer any of your questions.

They will then either fill in an application online for you, or if you prefer send you an application form through the post.

You can also apply online by visiting **www.lancashire.gov.uk**

## Baby, one more time

Mrs L from Skelmersdale writes:

My son is 11 months old and I am due to return to work after my maternity leave.

I need to arrange some childcare for him.



● Gullies must be kept clear if you want to avoid scenes like this (see "Wet, wet, wet").

Can you please let me know how I can find a suitable childminder or nursery?

You can get all the information you need from Lancashire Childcare Information Service. Staff provide accessible and impartial information on childcare services, resources and issues.

They provide information and advice on choosing the right childcare for your child. You can contact them on **0800 1950137**.

You can also search online for local childcare at **www.childcarelink.gov.uk/lancashire**.

## Take a look at me, NoW

Mrs T from Cliviger writes:

Please can you quote the bus fare that should be paid for the following journey?

We moor our narrowboat at Galgate and sometimes take the bus into Lancaster.

We live in Lancashire and we are NoWcard bus pass holders.

Sometimes we are charged 50p and other times we are charged half fare. It would be great if you could explain the correct fare.

You don't mention whether you hold a disabled or an over-60's pass.

As this particular journey does not begin in your home district of Burnley a disabled pass would entitle you to travel for a flat fare of 50p.

However, with an over-60's pass you would need to pay half fare.

Contact the NoWcard Helpline on **0845 0581096** for further help.

## Up in the roof

Mr D from Rossendale writes: I recently cleared out my loft and now have a load of junk that needs to go to my local

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). I have difficulty getting about and I may have problems getting the larger items into the skips. Can anyone help?

All the HWRC's staff will be there to help and some have special "here to help" badges. They help loading and unloading cars, carrying heavy items and putting stuff in the correct skips.

We also have five "split-level" HWRCs in which the top of the skip is level with the ground, so that disabled people can use them themselves. They are Keer Bridge in Carnforth, Salt Ayre in Lancaster, Ingol in Preston, Whinney Hill in Altham and Lower Burgh in Chorley.

## It's oh, so quiet

Mrs A from Walton Le Dale writes:

I have seen mobile libraries at various locations. Is there a timetable available to advise me of dates and times that they will be in my local area?

Do I need to be a member or can I use my normal library card?

On Lancashire County Council's website -

**www.lancashire.gov.uk** - you will find a mobile library search facility. Select the area of your choice and the timetable, complete with a list of locations, will be shown. You can contact your local library which will have all the details.

Anyone who is a member of a library can use the mobile service free of charge. Normal fines apply for overdue books.

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**.

# Brand new library 'to double user numbers'

A BRAND new library, promising greater choice, café, crèche and exhibition space is expected to open in Burnley in 2008.

The 345sq m library will be on the site of the new Burnley Sixth Form Campus and be open to students and members of the public.

It is intended that older and smaller libraries at Barbon Street, Briercliffe and Colne Road will close to partly fund the move into what will be a rapidly improving part of town. Total expenditure on the area's library facilities will increase.

The proposed modern library will open from 8am to 8pm and, it is expected, attract more customers than the libraries it will replace.

County Councillor Chris Cheetham, cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "The public library on the Burnley campus will be unique in Lancashire as it will serve local communities and visitors to the campus itself."

"This part of Burnley will be transformed over the next few years with improved transport links and housing stock, better retail outlets and the opening of the canal corridor. "The campus and library will be at the heart of this development."

"This campus library offers a real opportunity to improve and rationalise library facilities in this part of town."

Better stocking levels and improved technology are expected to push visitor figures to 100,000 per year - compared to 46,500 visiting the existing libraries in the area.



● LIBRARY chief Chris Cheetham: 100,000 visitors expected at new site.

# Seek and ye shall FIND

PARENTS and families can now find online information about a range of services for children with disabilities or special needs thanks to the launch of a new web directory.

The new online Family Information Network Directory (FIND) has been launched by Lancashire County Council's Lancashire Disability Database Service.

It gives details of services provided by health, education, and social care agencies, voluntary organisations and support groups.

There is information on what, where, when and how services are available.

The website runs alongside the already popular FIND newsletter which has an exciting new Young Reporters feature that is being developed in connection with Lancashire Youth and Community Service.

It can be seen at: **www.lancashire.gov.uk/social-services/find**

For more information, contact: Lancashire Disability Database Co-ordinator, Lancashire County Council, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6RP, or telephone **01772 532509** or email: **find.soc-serv@ssd.lancscc.gov.uk**

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

## Paint check

CHECKS on sales of aerosol paint cans will continue into a second year.

County councillors approved the continuation of checks – including a crackdown on sales to children – as part of a nationwide drive against anti-social behaviour.

Anyone concerned about aerosol sales to children should ring 08454 040506.

## Moor effort

A MOORLAND track is to be restored.

Severe water erosion has damaged Moor Road – linking Helmshore and Holcombe Moor to a number of villages – on previous occasions. Lancashire County Council is now to pay for restoration using techniques that are expected to last longer.

## Care forum

PEOPLE living in Preston are invited to join the area's Older People's Forum.

The forum, supported by Age Concern and social services, gives people the chance to discuss social care. Contact Bev Fox on 01772 552881.

## NEW INVESTMENT INTO GRITTING TEAMS THAT KEEP ROADS ICE-FREE

## New base to help beat winter chill

**THERE'S** no place like dome when it comes to looking after Lancashire's roads this winter.

The county council has just invested £195,000 in a brand new "salt dome" to store the grit that is vital to keeping roads ice-free in East Lancashire during the cold months.

Denis Wright, Ribbles Valley area surveyor, said: "The old building was past its use-by date and the new one is far better. There is space for 2,500 tonnes of salt – about 250 gritter loads.

"It may seem just like a large building but the design keeps the salt free of excess moisture, stops it leaching into water courses and keeps noise down for local residents.

Eight gritter trucks will use the dome to help keep roads free of ice in the Ribbles Valley and parts of Pendle, Burnley and South Ribble.

County Councillor Tony Martin, cabinet member for sustainable development, said: "We spent around £3.6m last year gritting and re-gritting 2,350km of roads in Lancashire.

"This service is run by a very dedicated team right across the county. It is what I call one of the 'Cinderella services' – nobody would realise how hard our people work unless they stopped doing it.

"Even though we spend a lot of money, and our team work hard and use great expertise to salt the roads, drivers must always drive with care when there is ice about."



●NEW snow dome: from left, Tony Hindle, managing director of Lancashire County Engineering Services, area surveyor Denis Wright and County Councillor Tony Martin.

## Relief from sat-nav plague

**THERE** is light at the end of the tunnel for people whose peace is destroyed by lorries.

HGVs, often guided by satellite navigation systems, have become a nuisance on a number of narrow roads in Lancashire.

People in various

streets have complained of private property being damaged, as delivery vehicles try to manoeuvre down narrow streets.

So now the county council is trying to help the hapless truckers and homeowners.

County council road planners say they will put up warning signs

where the problem is at its worst.

Keith Cameron, network manager for traffic and safety at Lancashire County Council, said: "We have been notified of inappropriate routes where roads are unsuitable for traffic, and will look at further signage if necessary."

Bike path  
plan for  
Guild

A NEW cycle and walking route to encircle Preston is to be constructed to help celebrate the city's 2012 Guild.

The historic Guild dates back to 1179 when King Henry II granted the town its first royal charter. Its original purpose was to demonstrate the importance of the town and its trade guilds. Guilds are held every 20 years.

The 20-mile "Guild Wheel" path will link the docks, train station, shopping centres and include a new route along Eaves Brook Valley and extension of an existing path on the old railway from Longridge and Grimsargh into Preston.

## Hotel help

**HOTELIERS** are being offered help to join the star-rating scheme.

A series of quality awareness days in January and February, organised by Lancashire County Developments Ltd, is aimed at helping Lancashire hoteliers.

More details from Rob Wilsher at LCDL on 01772 551888.

5 million tonnes of minerals  
to extract each year...

4.7 million tonnes of waste  
to manage each year...



...what are our options?

We all recognise the importance  
to our everyday lives of extracting  
minerals and managing waste

extracting minerals...

for the raw materials needed for our industries and for  
building our homes, roads, schools

managing waste...

for the safe, clean and effective collection, treatment and  
disposal of the waste we all produce

Planning for our future...

Looking ahead we need to decide how we can...

...protect our mineral resources

...cut down on the amounts we use

...increase waste awareness and recycling

...use our waste wisely

To gather your views on these and other  
issues we have published **Managing  
our Waste and Natural Resources**.

This sets out different approaches  
we could follow, and will guide  
which sites we need for extracting  
minerals and managing waste  
in the future.

Pick up a copy...

...at town halls

...at all main libraries

...county information centres

...on www.lancsmwdf.com

...by phoning (01772) 530695 or

...emailing [lmwdf@env.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:lmwdf@env.lancscc.gov.uk)

Managing our Waste  
and Natural Resources

Preferred Options for the Core Strategy

have your say!









# a weekend break for two

**HOME comforts, lovely locations, a great atmosphere, good accommodation, first-class food – there is something for everyone at Borwick Hall Outdoor Education and Conference Centre.**

And for one special couple, Vision has a two-night self-catering break to give away.

Set just north of Lancaster with easy access to the coast, the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales, the centre is ideal for special occasions in the family, work parties, a variety of activity days and conferences and meetings.

Comfortable accommodation is provided in the Old Hall, Beck Side Lodge, the Stables and bungalow and gatehouse. En-suite facilities are available and there are two licensed bars.

Magnificent grounds, two conference suites, wedding ceremonies, well-being "pamper days" and team-building sessions for adults and children – the list is endless.

## Peaceful Borwick Hall gives you the time you deserve

Visitors can enjoy aromatherapy and massage, experience a ropes course, try some stress management or try canoeing, raft-building and walking.

Conference suites and meeting rooms offer facilities to meet all business needs – and has easy parking, homely food and a great atmosphere.

Onsite facilities and activities are suitable for all ages and staff specialise in team-building, management development and corporate days.

Schoolchildren and staff have long enjoyed outdoor education and the centre offers exciting programmes that support the curriculum. Check it all out on [www.borwick-hall.co.uk](http://www.borwick-hall.co.uk)

Vision's winners need not be too busy! They will enjoy a two-night self-catering break in either the original gatehouse to the manor house or the bungalow.

### CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Book now for Borwick Hall's December celebrations. Traditionally decked, steeped in history and with roaring log fires Borwick Hall offers Christmas dinner, Christmas staff parties, opportunities for family parties and groups and also Christmas evening meals with overnight stay and breakfast. Check it out on 01524 732508 or at: [www.borwick-hall.co.uk](http://www.borwick-hall.co.uk)



●COMFORTABLE and romantic gatehouse accommodation.

### ENTRY FORM

**Q: How many licensed bars are there at Borwick Hall?**

**A:** .....

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Tel .....

Return by 22 December to: Borwick Hall competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ. Lancashire County Council employees are not allowed to enter.

## Costs cut for parking

**DISABLED people who are eligible for "Blue Badge" parking permits are to benefit following improvements to the administration system and removal of the £2 application fee.**

The scheme allows people who are registered blind, have a disability, or who find it difficult to walk to park near to shops, stations and other facilities.

The permit belongs to the disabled person who qualifies for it (who travels either as a driver or passenger in a car) rather than the car itself and so can be used in any vehicle they are travelling in.

Changes to the system - and centralisation at the council's recently opened Red Rose Hub - will mean that the current standard charge of £2 for each Blue Badge application towards the administration and processing cost will be waived.

Administrative centralisation will make the scheme more customer-focused.

The changes will also save an annual £70,000 for Council Tax payers. People can apply for a badge by contacting the council's recently opened Customer Service Centre on 0845 0530049 or visiting [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

voice of *Vision*

*Ian McSporran - language student*



**IAN McSporran is a civil servant who recently embarked on an intensive course of German tuition**

**for a long visit abroad.**

Lancashire College provided the training which took place over a four-month period. Here Ian talks about his experiences.

**Wie heißt du?**

Ich heiße Ian McSporran

**Guten Tag Ian. Why did you want to learn German?**

I got a new job recently that involves moving to Germany for four years.

As I am going to be living and working there I felt I needed to have a grasp of the language. I knew nothing of German, so language training was the natural course of action.

**How would you describe the teaching methods to somebody considering German tuition?**

My training began with very basic language survival skills such as introductions, my name and how to order food or find a hotel.

From there I moved on to explore situations I was likely to come across in my every day life and at work.

This made the training more realistic as it was tailored to my needs.

The tutor, Irene, provided lots of useful resources such as German newspapers.

As Irene is from Germany she was able to explain the cultural aspects and formalities of living in Germany.

**Have you had chance to practice your new language skills?**

As I am moving with my family to Germany I needed to find a house.

When I first arrived in Germany I

was very nervous but began experimenting with German phrases and realised that people could understand me. I had been given the tools to survive and was able to understand directions without getting lost.

I have also had the opportunity to meet with some of my new colleagues – although they have some English skills, it is good that I can communicate with them in German as well.

**How would you sum up your experience?**

When I first came to Lancashire College in February I was full of trepidation at the prospect of learning a language.

My only previous language training was at school and I hadn't found that to be a positive experience.

My experience here has been very positive and fulfilling – any anxieties have been alleviated and I have come to the very optimistic realisation that it is possible to learn a new language.

I have undertaken very intensive learning from April to July, with a lesson taking place every day, but Irene has been extremely supportive and has helped me appreciate the progress I have made.

It has been hard but I now feel well prepared and more confident in being able to survive in Germany.

**Danke schön Ian! Viel glück!**

Lancashire College offers a wide range of weekly and weekend language courses, from beginners' French to intermediate Spanish, aimed at anyone who wants to learn a language.

The college also specialises in language training for people in business, industry and the public sector. For further details, contact Lancashire College on 0845 600 1331 or visit [www.lancashirecollege.com](http://www.lancashirecollege.com)

## You're telling us!

**Send your letters to:**  
The Editor, Vision, Corporate Communications Group,  
County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.  
[neil.graham@css.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:neil.graham@css.lancscc.gov.uk)

### Drink - blame shops

THE main reason for drink seeping into the culture of the young (Vision, November) is greedy landlords and shopkeepers.

I live in a small town and know full well that these young people are certainly being served alcohol. It causes much trouble.

Landlords won't report it as they know there may be underage drinkers in their own pubs. Many people know of shops that sell alcohol to underage people.

It needs clamping down on.

As a grandparent I am not against young people, but children should not be playing pool in pubs. I blame the parents.

**T TURNER**  
Rawtenstall

IT IS good to see that someone is listening. I refer to councillors launching an investigation into young people and booze.

It will be a gigantic task. Breweries, shops, the advertising industry and even football shirts are to blame for encouraging children to drink.

I wish there was the same drive against fireworks!

**C ROPER**  
Preston

### Schooldays clue to reformer

**I WAS interested in the article about Irish reformer Michael Davitt's Lancashire life (Vision, November).**

My great-grandfather George Poskitt was headmaster of the Wesleyan school in Haslingden and took Michael Davitt as a pupil after Michael lost his arm in an industrial accident.

**I have various press cuttings which might be of interest to Haslingden library.**

**R HOLT**  
Clitheroe

■Details have been forwarded to the organisers of the Davitt centenary year.

Davitt, of course, led the life of a rebel and reformer since moving to Haslingden from Ireland as a child. Readers may be interested to see Lancashire County Council's Christmas card (above). A linocut by Dublin's Brendan Deacy, it shows one of the happier aspects of life enjoyed by Haslingden's first Irish settlers - editor.



### Cash-driven?

THANK you for Vision. I must refer particularly to the article on the merit, or lack of merit, of Parkwise (November).

The statement that the service improves road safety, reduces congestion and reduces travel time is not without merit.

But it would be interesting to learn how imposing a penalty for incorrectly displaying a parking

card contributes in any way.

The motoring public believes that Parkwise is a money-making exercise that lacks a commonsense approach.

**S ISHERWOOD**  
Lancashire BB10

Letters containing a name and address will be given priority. Letters may be edited. We are unable to provide individual replies.



## 4,100 go for Lancashire food

VISION readers know a good thing when they see it.

And 4,100 of them entered a readers' competition in the November edition for a chance to win a hamper of food supplied by Lancashire food producers and retailers.

We wanted everyone to be a winner ... but only six could do so. County Councillors Tim Ashton and Hazel Harding, pictured, drew the winners:

A M Hogarth, Penwortham; F Townley, Frenchwood; R Hardy, Accrington; I Cameron, Preston; H M Mitchell, Walton-le-Dale; B Shannon, Leyland.

Winners will be contacted shortly and arrangements made to deliver their hamper.



## £2m on way for quality of life

LITTER, criminal damage and a better approach to apprenticeships are to be addressed by new funding agreed last month.

More than £2m will be spent across Lancashire as part of a Lancashire Partnership drive to improve life for residents.

The "stretch targets" have been agreed by Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Partnership organisations such as district councils, police and fire and rescue.

The scourge of litter and "detritus" will be tackled in Preston, Hyndburn, Ribblesdale, Wyre, Lancaster and Rossendale. The anti-social consequences of litter and fly-tipping will be emphasised, along with associated fines!

Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour will be tackled by extra high-visibility police patrols.

The extra patrols will target known offenders, crime "hot-spots" and routes between off-licences and residential areas. Extra development of Modern Apprenticeships will, it is hoped, guide young people into skilled work.

## RELI-ABLE SUPPORT

PROSPECTIVE entrepreneurs are to receive easier access to business support.

Credit unions in Rossendale have teamed up with Lancashire County Developments Ltd and a number of other organisations to launch the Rossendale Enterprise Loan Initiative (RELI).

RELI will offer unsecured loans of up to £4,000 to people who do not have access to mainstream financial facilities. Telephone 01706 252300 for details

ROSEBUD GRANT HELPS FIRM TO MARKET

# Cash boost fuels stock market win

A BOOMING company has enjoyed a stock market success thanks, in part, to Lancashire County Council.

Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL) invested cash from its Rosebud fund in Preston-based Plant Impact Plc last year - and last month the company raised £3.85m in a stock market float.

The company, founded in 2003, has developed environmentally friendly pesticides and fertilisers.

The company saw its 38p share price at flotation climb during the first day's trading to the 55p mark - excellent news for the Lancashire economy.

County Councillor Niki Penney, LCDL chair, said: "The rate of Plant Impact's development over the past year has been phenomenal, rewarding our faith in this company."

"The county council's economic development company is all about bringing new prosperity to Lancashire's economy and I'm delighted that we have been

able to help a firm at the cutting edge of technology to become established in the county."

"Plant Impact's recent success is very promising for the future and is a further signal to new technology firms that Lancashire offers the support they need to prosper."

Peter Bleazard, chief executive of Plant Impact plc, said: "I'm encouraged by the welcome Plant Impact has received from investors as we are now achieving the extra finance we need to be able to grow."

"Consumers and food retailers increasingly demand that producers use more environmentally friendly farming methods. We are in a strong position to benefit from that."

"The market we are in is developing so rapidly that it has been necessary to seek new investment a number of times since Plant Impact began to build a strong position."

"I'm very grateful for the support that Lancashire County Council, along with other local investors, has given us."

## 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**



## Working in Lancashire

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



### Recycling Champion

**NOTHING GOES** to waste when Chris Love, Red Rose Recycling Champion 2006, gets his hands on unwanted furniture.

Chris is passionate about recycling and has scooped the prize in recognition of his tireless work at Fleetwood-based charity Refurb Ltd where he gives furniture a new lease of life.

The award - in memory of County Councillor Brian Johnson, who was a great supporter of the community and voluntary recycling - is sponsored by Lancashire County Developments Ltd. Other environmental projects supported by LCDL across the county include:

- A plastics processing and recycling venture in Hyndburn
- A business waste recycling project proposal in conjunction with Envirolink Northwest
- Projects engaged in the Community Recycling Economic Development Programme
- Research into composting in partnership with Groundwork East Lancashire

### Caring and cappuccino in Avenham

A CAFÉ with a difference has opened in Preston.



Café Augustine, based at St Augustine's Centre in St Austin's Place, Avenham, not only serves up hot drinks and good food in a relaxing atmosphere, but also helps disadvantaged people get back into work and brings the community together.

Local charity Catholic Caring Services is running the café, with backing from Lancashire County Developments Ltd.

As well as providing a comfortable and reasonably priced café for local people, Café Augustine will support people with learning difficulties and a range of needs to volunteer at the café, so they can gain qualifications such as NVQs and invaluable experience to help them find work elsewhere.

Café Augustine is open from 8am until 8pm Monday to Saturday and from 10am until 4pm on Sunday.

### Rosebuds blossom

**TWO BUSINESSES** that were given a helping hand by the Rosebud Fund are blooming.

The Rosebud Fund was set up to help small and medium sized businesses in Lancashire who can find it hard to raise all the investment they need from traditional sources such as banks.

Plant Impact plc - which, coincidentally, makes environmentally friendly pesticides and fertilisers - has recently been floated on the stock market and share prices have risen quickly. The Preston-based company was founded in 2003 to provide alternatives to avoid the problems associated with established synthetic agricultural products.

Lancashire County Developments Ltd responded to a request for finance from the fledgling company and are delighted to have seen their faith in the company reflected in rapid development.

The sweet smell of success has also spread to Farm House Fare, an award-winning pudding company that was spurred on by a Rosebud loan in its early days.

Now the Clitheroe-based company, which supplies delights such as sticky toffee pudding, fruit crumble and luxury sherry trifle, has been acquired by food giant Daniels

Chilled Foods, which owns the New Covent Garden Food brand, for an undisclosed multi-million pound sum.

The purchase means that the pudding firm, which began life in a converted barn using home-made recipes, is likely to expand its operations.

**Lancashire County Developments Ltd.**



# Warming up with winter wonders

## Happy Christmas from the school meals team!

**CHRISTMAS** is a time when families traditionally gather around a well-stocked table to enjoy a home cooked meal.

To mark the festive season, the county's schools will be able to tuck into their own Christmas themed meal and ensuring that pupils get something hearty and healthy as the days get colder.

Our school lunches contain plenty of vital goodness to help pupils through the busy days in the run up to the Christmas holidays as they take part in many exciting school activities including Christmas concerts, carol singing and much more.

The new autumn and winter menu has been specially designed by Lancashire County Commercial Services, the county's school lunches provider, to provide nutritionally balanced, interesting meals that appeal to youngsters.

Lots of items on the menu are freshly made on site from locally sourced ingredients.

The latest primary school menus include many exciting and delicious treats such as spicy lamb burritos, cod and salmon slices and vegetable kormas. Salads, vegetables and a bread basket are included on the menu each day.

Sugary fizzy drinks have now been off the menus for some time in favour of fruit juices, fresh milk and water.

The number of school meals served every day in Lancashire's primary schools has actually increased following the introduction of the Government's new food standards at the start of the academic year.

Meals offer fantastic value at around £1.65 per day and provide up to three

out of your five recommended portions of fruit or vegetables each day.

For more information visit Lancashire County Commercial Services' website at: [www.school lunches.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.school lunches.lancashire.gov.uk) or contact your local school.

“...Many items on the menu are also freshly made from locally sourced ingredients.”



## Eat2Learn

The Eat to Learn Partnership is a joint project between Lancashire County Commercial Services and the Lancashire Healthy Schools team to develop food and nutrition policy and encourage the use of locally sourced foods.

The group also provides advice and support to schools and develops staff training programmes. Training covers different areas from food preparation and presentation to customer service and ways to encourage healthy eating.

Parents will receive the peace of mind that their children are receiving their meals from trained and committed staff, who can offer a helping hand and will give their child a warm welcome at lunchtime.

Annette McNeil, teacher adviser for Lancashire Healthy Schools, said:

“Good nutrition is vital to good health and establishing good eating habits early in life can help to bring about both immediate and long lasting health benefits.

“The Healthy Schools team has been delighted to see how school meals have improved.”



## Samples from the new primary school menu

### Available daily

Fresh Vegetables, Freshly Made Salads, help yourself Bread Basket

Fresh Fruit Yoghurts, Medley of Fresh Fruits, Fresh Milk, Pure Fruit Juice and Chilled Water

\*Halal alternative will be served in schools where this is required.

### Menu one

Pork Steak, Apple Sauce, Gravy, Freshly Mashed Potatoes or Vegetable Korma with Rice and Naan Bread.  
Orange or Lemon Drizzle Cake.

### Menu two

Chicken Tikka Masala, Rice, Pitta Bread or Pasta Parcels and Garlic Bread.  
Peach and Pineapple Crumble and Custard.

### Menu three

Turkey Premier, Savoury Potatoes, Baked Beans, Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread  
Rice Pudding and Berries.

### Menu four

Savoury Mince with Herb Dumplings or Cheese and Broccoli, Quiche or Carrot and Coriander Grill and Jacket Potato.  
Ice Fruit Smoothie.

### Menu five

Homemade Soup, Freshly Made Hot or Cold Sandwiches or Jacket Potato with choice of fillings or Breaded Salmon Fillet, Baby Mid Potatoes.  
Harvest Crunch,

### Menu six

Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta and Rice Duo or Chip Shop Style Baked Fish and Chunky Chips.  
Fruit Cookie.



Commercial services

Lancashire  
County Council