

<h2>ON THE HILLS</h2> <p>Lancashire's beautiful hills are open to all</p> <p>Page 9</p>	<h2>VALUE FOR MONEY</h2> <p>£48m of savings will benefit tax-payers</p> <p>Page 3</p>	<h2>LIBRARY OF HORRORS</h2> <p>Archive reveals real-life grisly endings</p> <p>Page 8</p>
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5

days to justice

Peer courts will speed offenders' day of reckoning



A NEW way to steer young people away from trouble before they get into more serious offending is being piloted in Lancashire.

Preston has been chosen as the venue for Europe's first restorative justice (RJ) peer panels, which encourage young people to face up to the consequences of their actions and make amends.

What makes the process a more powerful tool is that it is run by young people themselves, with back-up from police and professionals.

Lancashire County Council's Youth Offending Team (YOT) has used restorative theory for some time now and has employed victim liaison officers in its area teams, which helped make Preston the first choice for the new scheme.

It is a multi-agency approach, being led by Nacro, with YOT, Preston City Council, health, and the police all involved.

RJ panels are based on a concept widely used in the USA, where victims and offenders are brought together in a semi-formal setting with the aim that the offender will accept responsibility and make amends. It also engages community representatives and offenders' families.

The RJ panels are taking place in two venues to begin with - on the Brookfield estate in the east of the city and a bigger office in Winckley Square, city centre.

There are plans for a third centre in Lancaster next year.

The initiative was launched at a conference at police HQ in Hutton last month, where top-level justice representatives from the US joined UK local and national delegates, and young people themselves, in explaining and promoting the process.

Simon Evans, Lancashire area manager for Nacro, who has first-hand experience of seeing peer panels work in the US, said: "This is an innovative project that enables young people and the community to become directly involved in tackling anti-social behaviour and low-level offending before it becomes serious."

The pilot project will involve young people being trained in running panels and drawing up Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs).

The first young people to be trained for the panel will be drawn from Preston high schools but future panelists will be youngsters who have been through the system themselves.

Young people will be seen quickly by an RJ panel - ideally within five days - as opposed to the months it can take to get to court. The panel will have a range of outcomes at its disposal such as writing letters, attending the "peer education programme", carrying out remedial or repair work, community work, behaviour contracts and input from partner agencies in areas such as alcohol and drug education and parenting programmes.



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**
Shirley can't help with purely personal problems, such as romance!

IF you are having problems getting hold of someone to help, Lancashire County Council has 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

Mr P from Chorley writes:

I have heard a number of rumours recently that there is going to be free travel for over-60s and disabled people from next year, as mentioned in the 2006 Budget.

Is this correct and, if so, do you have any more details?

From April 2008 there will be free local bus travel for those eligible from 9.30am until 11pm Monday to Friday, and all day Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays, across England. Local authorities may choose to offer additional local concessions.

NoWcard is making the necessary arrangements to issue National Concession travel passes to existing NoWcard holders.

However, if you currently have a NoWcard and have changed address since the card was issued you should contact the NoWcard helpline on **0845 0581096** to ensure that your National Concession travel pass will be sent to the right address. New applicants should apply to their district council.

Childminder career help

Mrs K from Ormskirk writes:

I have two young children and as I am at home all day I am quite interested in becoming a childminder.

Do all childminders have to register or does it depend how many children you take in? Please could you give me some more details.

Any person rewarded for looking after children under eight for more than two hours a day must register with OFSTED inspectors. Those working in their own homes must register as childminders.

You can get a booklet explaining the whole process from our Childcare Information Service on **0800 195 0137** or you can find details online at

www.childcarecareers.gov.uk

A series of countywide day care briefing meetings are being held at the moment.

Fly-tipping help

Mr G from Leyland writes:

Across the road from my house there is a small grassed area that leads down to a brook. It would be really



●FREE bus travel is to be better than ever from April - with the NoWcard (see Take a Look at me NoW, left).

nice to look at apart from all the rubbish, and unwanted items that people dump here.

Someone has even left a mattress before today. Is it Lancashire County Council that would clear this? I also think it needs fencing off to make access more difficult.

Fly-tipping is a local district council function. The council has responsibility for acting on reports of fly-tipping to both remove the waste and to locate and prosecute offenders.

Where the waste is hazardous the council has a responsibility to ensure public safety until such time as the waste can be removed. Please contact South Ribble Council on **01772 625625**.

Be a volunteer friend

Mrs C from Fleetwood writes:

I have recently retired but am still in very good health. I now have more time and was wondering if you have details of groups that need voluntary staff as it would get me out of the house and also make good use of my time.

The Volunteers' Service recruits and trains volunteers to support people who access social care services.

Volunteers can provide "befriending" support and assist service users and carers with day-to-day living activities. Volunteers can provide vital support to vulnerable people and reduce feelings of loneliness.

This can be as simple as a coffee and chat with an older person, to more intensive support, for example taking an adult with a learning disability to the cinema or shops.

Volunteers do not provide personal care.

For more information, visit our email **volunteer.services@ssd.lancscc.gov.uk** or contact Volunteer Services on **01257 248118**.

Make your school choice

Mrs C from Burnley writes:

My three-year-old daughter is due to start school next September and I was wondering if you had any details on how to apply and the date I

need to apply by.

I have visited a few schools in the area but as we have not lived here long I don't know which schools have a good reputation.

To make the process of applying for a place as easy as possible, parents are required to either apply online or complete a paper application form. Completed paper applications should be returned to your first-preference primary school.

All applications must be submitted by Friday 9 November 2007. Offers of primary school places will be issued to arrive in March 2008.

You can find more information on school admissions on **www.lancashire.gov.uk** or contact your local Area Pupil Access Team through the Customer Service Centre on **0845 0530000**.

Stay warm in winter

Mr P from Rossendale writes:

I have heard you talk before about help for the elderly during winter.

My central heating system is very old and not very reliable and is always breaking down, these repairs can be very expensive.

As a pensioner do you think I may be eligible for some help towards the costs of a new heating system as I am very worried with winter fast approaching.

Information and advice is available for older people and their carers about keeping warm in winter, and financial assistance may be available from your district council to contribute towards the cost of winter supplies. This information varies by area so contact Rossendale Council on **01706 217777** or the Winter Fuel Helpline on **0845 9151515**.

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**.

1,000-plus pledge loyalty to Britain

PEOPLE applying for British citizenship in Lancashire are increasing with latest figures showing that the county council's Registration Service has conducted 1,078 citizenship ceremonies (including 203 minors) between April 2006 to end of July 2007.

The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act (2002) requires all successful applicants for naturalisation or registration as a British citizen, who are aged 18 or over, must swear or affirm the oath of allegiance to the Queen followed by the new pledge to uphold democratic values at a citizenship ceremony. These provisions came into force on 1 January 2004 with the first ceremony taking place in April 2004 in Lancashire.

The citizenship ceremony is intended to celebrate the significance of becoming a British citizen and welcome the new citizen into his or her community. It must take place within three months of the applicant being informed that the application has been successful.

If you have any questions regarding an application to become a British citizen - telephone the Home Office on **0845 010 5200** or visit **www.homeoffice.gov.uk**. If you have any questions regarding attending a ceremony in Lancashire - telephone Lancashire County Council's Citizenship Ceremonies' Office on **01772 326890** or email: **citizen@lancashire.gov.uk**

Weighbridge takes to the road



A NEW piece of equipment will be helping Trading Standards officers to get to grips with a particularly weighty issue in Lancashire.

The county council's consumer champions are responsible for checking that weighbridges are accurate and up to scratch. And, to help ensure that all is in order, a new test trailer will be taking to the highways.

Roy Acomb, senior Trading Standards technical assistant, said: "Weighbridges are there to check the weight of vehicles - something that is particularly crucial if you want to know if your HGV, trailer or caravan is safely loaded."

For information on how to hire test equipment from Lancashire County Council please telephone **01772 533923**; fax **01772 532853** or email: **calibration@ts.lancscc.gov.uk**. Further information at **www.weightsandmeasures.co.uk**

Don't forget - your county councillor can help. Contact details are available on **0845 0530000** or at: **www.lancashire.gov.uk**
You can also try your area's County Information Centre where staff are trained to help the public



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

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies



NEWS IN BRIEF

Revamp for Whalley centre

THE Adult Centre at Whalley has undergone extensive building and refurbishment work to ensure facilities are fully accessible for disabled and older people with mobility problems.

The refurbishment is costing around £60,000 and includes a ramp, fully fitted reception area on the ground floor, new IT suite and a new toilet with disabled access.

The centre is a Listed building and currently held in a trust for use for educational purposes by the residents of Whalley and surrounding areas, principally for adult education classes, but also used as a pre-school nursery centre and by other local community groups.

Lancashire Adult Learning is the county council's adult education service which runs day and evening courses for adults of all ages at local venues across the county.

Sport aids learning

PUPILS from schools in Lancashire have been "Playing for Success" at Preston North End.

This national initiative provides out-of-school study support for pupils aged 9-14, using sport and its environment as a curriculum tool.

The focus is to raise achievement in literacy, numeracy and ICT, develop self-esteem and independent learning.

The learning centre is the first nationally to have learning mentors obtain a qualification with the support from Lancashire County Council.

£300 clean-up just champion

THE county council's Champion for Parishes has approved £300 to tidy up an unkempt part of Forton.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson's decision will also result in a new seat for the village.

The parish "champion" role at Lancashire County Council involves supporting parishes – and ensuring their voice is heard at the highest level.

Look out London, Lancashire's children are coming



LONDON'S Albert Hall will ring to the sound of Lancashire children's voices when the infant choir from Shakespeare Primary School in Fleetwood sing at the School Proms on 12 November.

Teachers, mums and dads will be there to cheer them on when the young group sings a medley of songs including Lancashire Leads the Way, When I'm Cleaning Windows, and Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye.

Forty five children aged between six and eight have been coached by drama teacher Joanna Newson to such a high standard that they beat off competition from hundreds of other schools to be the only infant group at the Proms.

Services go under Audit probe

Value for money and quality is the target

A SERIES of inspections is underway at Lancashire County Council to ensure value for money and quality of service.

Whitehall expected the council to make £45m of efficiency savings between 2005 and 2008 – and the council is on target to save £48m.

The savings, expected from almost all public-sector organisations, are meant to guarantee cost-effectiveness by encouraging organisations to think about how to provide or even improve services at the same or lower cost.

The independent Audit Commission will award councils "star rat-

ings" next year – and Lancashire County Council will be hoping to retain its maximum four-star rating for service quality.

The process involves a close look at children's services, adult services, use of resources, environmental and cultural services.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, county council leader, said: "Members of the public need to know that their money is being well spent.

"They also depend on public services, so we have to ensure that the services we provide are tailored to actual need. The days of 'one size fits all' are gone for ever.

"Lancashire County

Council sees this as part of a continuing drive to improve performance in local government by putting people first. It means we can never stand still.

"We have already made £10m of efficiency savings in the current financial year and are looking at saving more. We were asked to save a total of £45m by 2008 and we aim to beat that."

Also in 2008, separate but related inspections will look closely at the council's corporate management and at services for children in Lancashire – services also provided by police, probation staff, the NHS and voluntary bodies.

This Ofsted probe will look at how good services

are and also at how well the various agencies work together in providing those services.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS IN LANCASHIRE SEPTEMBER 2008

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

If your child has a 5th birthday on or between 01/09/08 and 31/08/09 then he/she will start school in September 2008.

You must either apply on-line or complete Lancashire's primary application form if you want a place for your child at a Lancashire primary school. You must apply even if an elder sibling is already attending the school which you prefer.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 9/11/07

APPLY ON-LINE:
www.lancashire.gov.uk/e-admissions

LATE APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE INITIAL ALLOCATION PROCESS FOR SCHOOL PLACES.

Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools also require a supplementary form to be completed. Parents must obtain this from the school for which they have expressed a preference.

Advice/information is available from:	
North Lancashire	01524 581112
South Lancashire	01772 532191
East Lancashire	01254 220718

Directorate for Children and Young People

Young get busy to give new look to club

YOUNG people got busy when their youth centre needed a new look.

Not only did youngsters at Whitworth's 515 Centre make plans for new facilities, they also submitted their own cash bid to lottery bosses – and then rolled up their sleeves and redecorated the centre themselves.

New paint, new wallpaper, new games, new opportunities ... the centre can claim to offer everything from homework clubs to outdoor endeavours, from the internet to after-school clubs as well as advice on work, housing and health.

Hazel Parkinson, senior youth worker at the Market Street centre, said: "They have made the centre like new.

"They submitted the funding bid and have made the centre into something the whole community can be proud of.

"People in Whitworth know there is something here for everyone. If there is something we can't help with directly, we can point them in the direction of someone who can help."

Local adult ed is free

ADULTS wishing to improve their literacy and numeracy skills are taking advantage of the range of free courses available at local venues across the county.

Lancashire Adult Learning, the county council's adult education service, runs a range of skills for life courses and day and evening literacy and numeracy courses for adults of all ages and abilities.

Courses include basic introductory and taster sessions, inter-generational courses for families and more formal courses geared towards gaining nationally recog-

nised qualifications.

Peter Garrod, head of Lancashire Adult Learning, said: "Being able to read and write are fundamental life skills.

"We provide a wide range of courses to support individuals with the development of literacy and numeracy skills. All classes are free and are held in local community venues, adult colleges or in libraries and are friendly, enjoyable and at a pace that suits the individual."

A lack of literacy, language and numeracy skills can often trap people into low-skilled, poorly paid jobs and affect their physical

and moral well-being.

For more information about courses and enrolment contact your local adult college or adult learning service, or visit online at www.lal.lancashire.gov.uk

YOU CAN DO IT

Lancaster, Fylde and Wyre
01524 581269

Preston, Chorley, West Lancashire and South Ribble
0845 6001331

Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribbles Valley and Rossendale
0845 0561886

Combine the seaside with the countryside and win a holiday at Ribby Hall Village, 10 minutes from Blackpool in the quiet countryside.

Take time out at the fabulous Ribby Hall Village – which has a choice of accommodation including private cottages, unique pine lodges and a luxury hotel.

The competition is to win a mid-week break in a standard self-catering cottage for six people and can be taken any time before April 2008 – subject to availability, excluding school and bank holidays.

The cottages have a comfortable living room and kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and two separate bedrooms and family bathroom. They also feature facilities such as DVD players, dishwashers and BBQ's with private parking and patio areas. Ribby Hall Village also offers the latest in luxury holidays in their Pine Lodges, which include outdoor hot tubs and private balconies.

To win this Monday-Friday break, simply answer the following question:
Ribby Hall Village is set within how many acres of countryside?

Return entries, by Friday 19 October, to: Ribby Hall competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.

Visit www.ribbyhall.co.uk for a virtual tour or to check availability and book on-line. Alternatively call 0800 085 1717 8.00am-8.00pm, seven days a week quoting RHV 169

VOUCHER:
WIN A RIBBY HALL
VILLAGE BREAK

Ribby Hall Village is set within how many acres of countryside?

Answer Name

Address

Email

Entry to be returned by Friday 19 October. Tick box if you do not want to be sent Ribby Hall Village details ☐



Ribby Hall Village is only 10 minutes from Blackpool but set within 100 acres of countryside offering you the best of both worlds with activities such as:

- Adult pool and family fun pool
- A choice of restaurants and bars
- Horse riding
- Racquet sports
- A health and beauty spa and hairdressers
- Nine-hole and mini golf courses
- Children's holiday club and crèche



Objections delay school programme

THE county council is pressing on with plans to build two new schools in east Lancashire – despite objections slowing the process.

Legal procedures mean that the completion date for Marsden Heights Community College in Brierfield, and Unity College in Burnley is likely to be put back a year to September 2010.

Both schools are part of Lancashire's £250m Building Schools for the Future programme.

Nine sites are involved with Marsden Heights and Unity originally scheduled for the second wave.

But some local people have objected to the proposed sites of the schools – leading to a public inquiry about Towneley playing fields in Burnley and delays at Bent Head in Brierfield.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "It is a shame that campaign groups opposing the scheme are holding up these new schools are delaying the provision of state-of-the-art facilities for local children.

"Whatever the outcome of these legal processes we will find sites for the new schools and we will keep our promises to provide the best possible learning environment.

"As things stand it is likely Marsden Heights and Unity will have to be moved into the third wave of our building programme."

Building at Burnley Campus, Shuttleworth College in Padiham, and Pendle Vale College and Pendle Community High School in Nelson is underway and on target for September 2008.

Work at Sir John Thursby Community College and Ridgewood Community High School in Burnley has started and is on schedule for September 2009.

The third wave schools are Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic College, Hameldon Community College, and The Rose School, all in Burnley.

Don't forget: you can enter Vision competitions online at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision/>

LANCASHIRE County Council's Road Safety Group is promoting a new fact sheet to dispel some myths about their pioneering Speed Awareness course.

The course, which has

been running since June 2001, has helped over 91,000 people drive more safely. It aims to educate drivers and riders caught marginally over the speed limit in the county and is an alternative to penalty points and a fine.

You're telling us!

Send your letters to:
The Editor, Vision, Corporate Communications Group,
County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.
neil.graham@ccsl.lancashire.gov.uk

Fighting talk

HOW pleased I am to see some recognition in official circles of the waywardness and lawlessness seen on our streets.

What a tragedy that it has taken the death young Rhys Jones to really bring the point home – the point being that adults are now afraid of young people.

Where are the authority figures? Where are the park wardens? Where are the bus conductors?

The point was brought home to me two years ago when I and a friend saw three or four teenagers standing at the side of the road throwing beer bottles at passing cars. Upon challenging them, we ourselves were challenged to a fight!

Needless to say, feeling deeply ashamed and morally uneasy, we went away – we both knew the police would have arrested us if we had risen to the provocation.

I wonder if that is right – and suspect that there would be less talk of "children's rights" if the people who espouse such "rights" actually had to live in the more blighted areas of our towns,

E MELOY
Ribble Valley

New road: we must go forward

CONGRATULATIONS to Lancashire County Council for an informative display and helpful officers at the public consultations held in Ormskirk regarding the proposed new bypass.

Ormskirk has always been an important crossroads for traffic across West Lancashire since stage-coach days but life for residents has been made progressively worse over the last 40 years due to air pollution and the traffic accident rates affect everyone.

The situation is worse now than when the previous plans were cancelled and we look forward to a positive result this time.

ED DICKINSON
Ormskirk

Letters containing a name and address will be given priority in publication. Letters may be edited.

Beautiful Bowland



THE Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will become an area of outstanding and beautiful art from 22 October.

A new exhibition of specially commissioned original artworks inspired by the spectacular Bowland fells will go on show at the Maiden Bridge Arts Centre, Tatham, Lancaster.

The exhibition will be open from September 22 until October 14, from 11am to 5pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and other times by appointment.

This unique project, supported

by the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), features 50 professional artists from the region.

Each has been commissioned to produce a self-portrait plus an example of their work on a Bowland theme.

A full-colour book has also been produced to celebrate the artists' talent will also be for sale, giving the public a wonderful opportunity to view and collect the work from the region's prominent artists.

Mike Pugh, from the Forest of Bowland AONB, said: "The artworks are fantastic and represent a range of different styles.

All capture the beauty and character of the area in their own way.

"This is an event not to be missed and we are sure that the exhibition at the Maiden Bridge Arts Centre will be very popular. It is planned that the works will also form the nucleus of a potential travelling exhibition together with the full colour book."

In addition to the professional artist project the children from Tatham Fells Primary School, Lowgill, are participating. Each child has produced a self-portrait and landscape painting to show the young emerging talent in the area.

'Eco' rail station plan on track

By Martin Crabtree

A BLUEPRINT for a new train station in Accrington could mean a greener future for Lancashire.

The county council's public transport officers have been busy putting together plans for our first "eco-station" which will result in an environmentally friendly building that meets the county council's climate change agenda.

Richard Watts, rail projects manager, said: "Accrington railway station is in urgent need of refurbishment and we are looking closely at the opportunities to create something totally new and exciting."

"The station is well used but difficult to access as one of the approaches is up a very steep hill.

"The buildings are also past their use-by date, so we are looking at plans that could provide a template

for the future.

"Train and bus stations have the potential to become focal points for communities and we hope that Accrington could become somewhere where people can travel from, where businesses can set up and visitors can get a good impression of the town when they arrive.

Among the eco-friendly measures on the timetable for Accrington are wind turbines, rainwater recycling, a ground-source heat pump, environmentally friendly building materials, improved access for all, cycle parking and better information and security.

Richard added: "It is still early days, but we have planning permission and are investing £150,000 in detailed design work.

"We are working closely with Hyndburn planners, Northern Rail, Network Rail and the East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership on this project."



● WIND turbines and heating from the ground: Accrington's proposed "eco" train station.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roadworks to begin

WORK to improve the M65 Junction 6 slip roads and Whitebirk roundabout are set to begin on 8 October.

The 13-week project, costing in excess of £2m, will see the busy roundabout expanded to four lanes with a traffic signal control system introduced.

A new outbound bus lane between Red Lion and Whitebirk roundabouts in the Blackburn area is part of the scheme to provide additional priority for public transport.

Slip roads off the M65 will also be widened in order to reduce queuing traffic at peak times.

Bin the ID-fraudsters

KEEN recyclers are being helped to beat the fraudsters by a new county council initiative.

Lancashire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and doorstep recycling collections help thousands of residents reduce the waste they send to landfill.

But some items, such as bank statements, receipts, bills and computer equipment could be useful to unscrupulous individuals if not dealt with properly.

The county council will be carrying out a series of initiatives at HWRCs during National Identity Fraud Prevention Week in October to advise people on how to maximise their recycling whilst ensuring that their personal details are protected.

Tracie Croasdale, from the county council's waste management team, explained: "The chances of someone actually taking your details from one of our sites is very low. But you can reduce the chances of your

personal information being misused to zero by removing personal details from correspondence and ensuring that old computers have a clean hard drive."

A leaflet will be available at the county council's 23 HWRCs from 8 October providing details of how to protect yourself and what types of information the fraudsters are looking out for in your rubbish.

For further information contact the Waste Management Group on 0845 0500957.

Grab a free road safety guide

PROSPECTIVE parents and young children are learning about road safety issues in a new way thanks to an innovative guide.

Lancashire County Council's Road Safety Group has launched Small Journeys - a handy A5 booklet for health visitors and a guide aimed at

pre-school care providers.

The information-packed road safety guide for playschools, childminders and nurseries includes information on pedestrian safety, safer outings with children, child car seats, being seen and much more.

For a copy, ring 01772 531048.

S U R E S T A R T , E A R L Y Y E A R S S C H I L D C A R E S E R V I C E

Would you like to work in childcare but don't have any qualifications then Making Choices could be the course for you!

To find out more about this FREE course or to book a place please contact either Francesca Walker or Laura Nicholson on 0800 195 0137.



Lancashire
County Council

We will be running courses as follows:

East Lancashire

Date: 29th October 2007
Time: 09.30-12.00
Venue: **Haslingden Community Link**
Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG
How long: 6 Weeks (2.5 hours per week)

Date: 9th October 2007
Time: 09.30-12.00
Venue: **Walton Lane Children's Centre**
Walton Lane, Nelson BB9 8BP
How long: 6 Weeks (2.5 hours per week)

North Lancashire

Date: 11th October 2007
Time: 09.30-12.00
Venue: **Gregson Community Centre**
33-35 Moorgate
Lancaster LA1 3PY
How long: 6 Weeks (2.5 hours per week)

Central Lancashire

Date: 16th October 2007
Time: 09.30-12.00
Venue: **Preston West Childrens Centre**
Ashton Primary School, Ainsdale Drive
Ashton, Preston PR2 1TU
How long: 6 Weeks (2.5 hours per week)

Date: 29 November 2007
Time: 6:00-8:30 pm
Venue: **Preston College**
Fulwood Campus
St Vincents Rd, Fulwood, Preston PR2 4UR
How long: 6 Weeks (2.5 hours per week)



Lancashire County Council Annual Report 2006/07

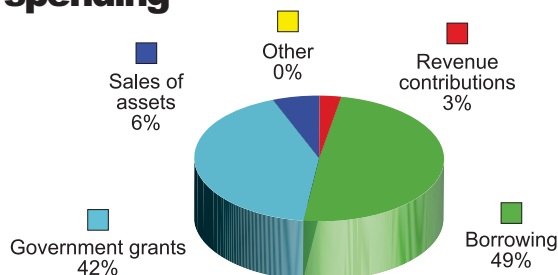
Introduction

Lancashire County Council has continued to work hard to make Lancashire a place where everyone matters. In the past year the council has made significant strides towards achieving its goals of providing the best possible services, yet again achieving the top rating from the Audit Commission 'four star' status and been given an 'improving well' rating for its potential for future improvement.

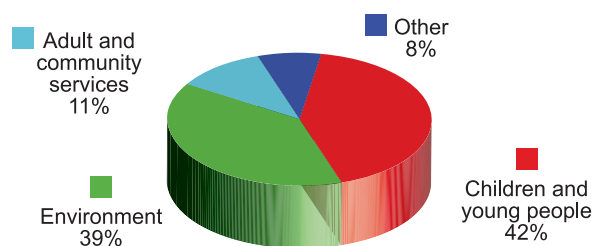
To help us meet the challenges we face as a council, we have restructured our services and introduced more measures as part of our Locality Focus Programme.

The report describes how we performed over the last 12 months giving details of our results against a range of local and national targets. This leaflet is also a summary of the full statement of accounts. It gives a brief overview of the council's financial position at 31 March 2007.

Sources of funding for capital spending

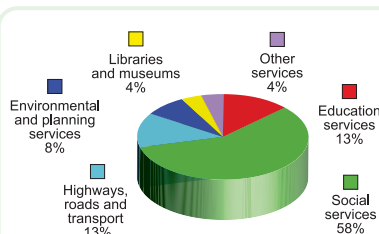


Capital spending by directorate



What the money was spent on across services

The chart shows how the council spent money across the county to deliver services such as adult education, libraries, maintaining and improving roads and bridges, public protection, promoting learning, access to care and support for young people.



Financial Review

The county council's budget for 2006/07 was £601m. We actually spent slightly less than the budget: £599m. During the year we made efficiency savings of £17.5m.

The under-spend of £2 million has been added to the County Fund. This is money we keep in reserve to meet future spending pressures and unexpected demands. The financial figures included in this document are pre audit.

Capital spending

In 2006/07 we invested £92 million in assets such as buildings, roads and other items that will have a long-term benefit for the residents of Lancashire.

Projects this year included:

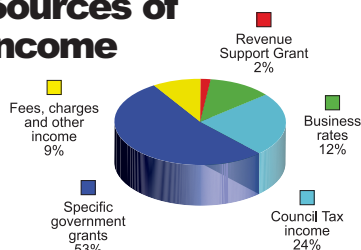
- continued upgrading of school buildings;
- new childcare centres;
- road and bridge maintenance;
- a new waste management and recycling site; and
- upgrading residential homes for older people.

The money for this spending comes from several sources, including government grants, borrowing, income from selling other assets, and contributions from the revenue account.

Where the money comes from

In 2006/07 our service income was £1,584m. This was made up of fees and charges of £145m, funding of £601m shown in the "What we spent" table and specific government grants of £838m (a specific grant must be spent on a particular service).

Sources of income



What we spent in 2006-07

The figures below show how much we spent on services during the year and where the money came from to finance these services. The net cost of services and funding in 2006/07 has significantly reduced. This is because of the government's new arrangement to fund schools by a specific grant. The other services line includes a change in assessment of pension costs.

	2006/07 £ million	2005/06 £ million
Spending on services		
Education	74	643
Social services	315	307
Highways, roads and transport	75	70
Environmental and planning services	46	46
Libraries and museums	25	24
Other services	22	-4
Net cost of services	557	1,086
Other costs and income	42	53
Total cost to be funded	599	1,139
Funding		
Revenue Support Grant from Government	35	430
Business rates	187	348
Council Tax income	379	358
Total funding	601	1,136
Net surplus	2	3

Balance sheet

The balance sheet shows our financial position at the end of the year. It shows:

- the value of land, buildings and other assets we own;
- the value of our debts; and
- how these are funded.

	2006/07 £ million	2005/06 £ million
Assets and borrowings:		
Fixed assets	1,335	1,262
Stocks	3	3
Cash and investments	251	155
Debtors (money owed to the council)	202	159
Creditors (money owed by the council)	-271	-196
Borrowing	-509	-468
Deferred Liabilities	-277	-234
Pension liability	-503	-572
Total assets and borrowings	231	109
Financed by:		
Capital reserves	596	577
Pension reserve	-503	-572
Earmarked reserves	119	87
County Fund	19	17
Total financed	231	109

Fixed assets are items that we own and will benefit from over several years – for example land, buildings and vehicles.

Capital reserves are amounts set aside to fund and revalue fixed assets.

The pension liability and pension reserve show the difference between the amount invested in the pension fund and the amount it is estimated we will have to pay out in future years. This shortfall will be made good by increasing contributions

(payments) to the pension fund in future years.

Earmarked reserves are funds set aside for specific purposes in the future. They include unspent school balances (controlled by individual schools, rather than the council).

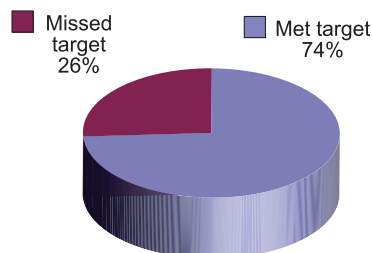
The County Fund is money set aside to cover unexpected future demands or spending pressures. This helps us to make sure we are always in a secure financial position.

Summary of performance in 2006/07

We aim to continuously improve our services. One of the ways in which we measure our performance is through performance indicators. The following pie charts give a brief overview of our performance in 2006/07 using our local key performance indicators (KPIs) and best value performance indicators (BVPIs). LCC Corporate Objectives are the seven areas used to report performance below. These translate the Corporate Strategy. More details of this can be found in the Annual Delivery Plan.

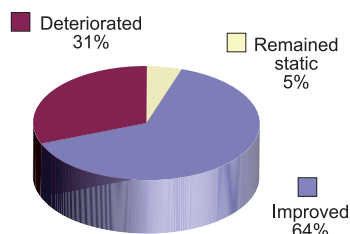
Key performance indicators

The pie chart below shows our performance in 2006/07 compared to the targets which we set for ourselves.



Best value performance indicators

The pie chart below shows our performance in 2006/07 compared to 2005/06 based on BVPIs.



Further information

A complete Statement of Accounts 2006/07 is available on our website at www.lancashire.gov.uk/budget/publications/index.asp or at your local library.

If you have any questions, or suggestions on how we could improve this summary, please contact Phil Maynard at: PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston PR1 0LD Phone: 0845 053 0000 Email: phil.maynard@fin.lancsc.gov.uk If you would like this information in large print or Braille, or a summary in another language, please phone 01772 532690



A place where people can get help if they need it

Help to people in need comes in many guises. It can be an emergency response to a flooded road or to someone needing a social care service, or it can simply be providing some routine information at a library. Between these extremes our staff provide practical help every day – support care for an older person to live safely at home, support for a parent needing advice on a school place for their child, or welfare rights advice for someone on a low income. Our contribution to the health and wellbeing of the county is significant given the wide range of services we provide for some of our most vulnerable individuals and communities.

Get help	2006/07	2005/06
Percentage of equipment and adaptations delivered within 7 working days	83.90%	84.70%
Adults and older people receiving direct payments (Number per 100,000 population)	97	80

A place where people can feel safe

Lancashire is a relatively safe place to live and has strong, diverse and vibrant communities.

Feel safe	Target	Actual
Average number of days taken in 2006/07 to repair a street lighting fault, which is under the control of the local authority.	6.28	10.38

A place where people can enjoy a high quality environment

Our vision for Lancashire is of a clean, safe and healthy county, where waste is minimised and recycling has reduced dependency on scarce resources and costly landfill: an area of attractive communities and open spaces where residents feel confident in and proud of their environment. We provided a waste transfer station for Ribbles Valley Borough Council in August 2006 as planned.

High quality environment	2006/07	2005/06
Percentage of household waste which has been composted or recycled.	39.5%	35.15%
Percentage of household waste arisings which have been landfilled.	60.80%	64%

A place where people can work and prosper

Lancashire's economy continues to grow, unemployment has fallen and the property market is improving.

Work and prosper	Target	Actual
Number of jobs created through Lancashire County Development Limited activity in 2006/07	300	441

A place where people can learn and develop

The children and young people of Lancashire are the future of our county. We do everything we can to improve their quality of life and chances of success. The aim is for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to achieve wellbeing based on five positive outcomes set out in Every Child Matters. Organisations involved in providing services to children, from hospitals and schools to police and voluntary groups, will be teaming up in new ways, sharing information and working together to protect children and young people from harm and help improve their lives.

Learn and develop	2006/07	2005/06
The percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in key stage 2: English	32.30%	27%
Percentage of half days missed in secondary schools	7.78%	7.87%
Percentage of 15-year-old pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C	58.5%	56.4%

A place where people can travel easily and safely

Safe and improved transport remains key to protecting the local environment and improving the economy and prosperity of the county. We will continue to work with our partners to provide an effective and safe transport system that serves the needs of everyone and offers good access for business, social and leisure opportunities. Last year we promised to deliver the NoW Card project by 2007. The project is now up and running with Blackpool Transport.

Travel easily and safely	2006/07	2005/06
Percentage of the local authority principal road network where structural maintenance should be considered.	5%	5%
Temporary traffic controls or road closure on traffic sensitive roads closed by roadworks	0.05%	0.25%

A place where people can lead healthy lives

We regard health as a positive mental and social state and more than just the absence of illness. It is the basis of everyone having an equal chance to live an active, enjoyable and fulfilling life. We are working with our partners towards the overall goal of good health and wellbeing for the people of Lancashire.

Lead healthy lives	2006/07	2005/06
Percentage of Lancashire schools with National Healthy Schools Status (secondary, primary and special) across the four themes of healthy eating, physical activity, emotional health and well being and personal, social and health education.	66%	n/a

The lighter side of death

Senior reference librarian **Susan Halstead** explains why hers is the best job in the world - bizarre deaths notwithstanding

THE reason I love being a reference librarian is that I learn something new every day.

A recent letter to Burnley Reference Library requested details of unusual deaths in church registers. Our research for this enquiry, aided by local historian Ken Spencer, revealed some intriguing causes of death (for us and not for the unfortunate individual involved!).

It is a paradox that the way someone died can tell us so much about how they lived.

We find poor Ellen Cunliffe of four days "Dying from its birth" in 1797 and the sad entry in 1794 for James of four days who was "a monster unable to take my nutrient."

Life was no less difficult for children as they grew a little older: Harry "died at 2 1/2 burnt to death by being clothed in cotton" and helping out on the family farm proved dangerous for Benjamin of 12 years who was "killed by a cow to which he had fastened himself by a rope".

On attaining adulthood, there were many ailments to be avoided which the unfortunate John Chadwick did not do and, at the age of 20 years in 1807, he died of "quinsy caught by sleeping on the grass".

Outdoor pursuits also caused the untimely death of John Faber, a pauper of 26 years in 1793, from "scrofula and consumption caught by night hunting".

Work on the farm was, however, unrelenting and this contributed to the death of John Smith in 1808, "overheated by mowing", and Ellen in the same year who "drowned in a

(Above) ↑
The secrets of the past: Susan and Ken take a macabre trip down memory lane.

well the water only nine inches deep".

Amazing stories, indeed – stories that I could not have compiled without the meticulous research assistance of historian Ken. I need more volunteers like Ken!

There were many deaths in middle age from "mortification of the bowels" and "stoppage of the intestines" but, surely, the fate of John Howarth in 1800 must have been unique – "indigestion after a plentiful meal upon a famished stomach at the last funeral".

Although living conditions were very harsh, it is surprising how many people lived into their 70s and 80s, dying at last of "gradual decay", some even dying of "old age" at 84 years and others lucky enough to be "found dead in bed" at 74 years of age.

However, some suffered a harsher end and the pauper, John Schofield, died in 1799 at 70 years from "want of food, cloaths and bedding in this hard winter, alas!"

Next time we grumble about anything! – maybe we should appreciate our comfortable lives a little more.

■ All these examples have been extracted from the registers for the parish church of Holme in Cliviger 1742-1841, published by the Lancashire Parish Register Society in volume 124, which may be found in many reference libraries in Lancashire.

COULD YOU HELP?

KEN and Susan, pictured above, work hard to index and record Burnley's history – but more volunteer help is needed.

They need help to index newspapers, books, pamphlets and photographs. Anyone interested, contact Susan on 01282 463757.



Why not take a look?

LIBRARIES are an Aladdin's cave of interesting material. Reference libraries in particular offer a fascinating insight into how people lived in each area of Lancashire – and can even help with tracking your family history.

Now there is even an online reference library, providing free access to a wide range of online subscription publications:

- encyclopaedia
- community legal service
- local history
- ancestry library edition – and many more!

Private individuals would have to pay hundreds of pounds in subscriptions to see this material – but library staff have negotiated deals for Lancashire library members to use them for free.

With providers like Oxford and Credo Reference providing access to thousands of books online, the online library is perfect for homework, serious study, curiosity and pub quizzes.

All you need is a library card and an internet connection. Remember, free internet access is available in every branch of our libraries.

You can even JOIN online, browse and reserve books, and view picture collections.

The online library can be visited at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/onrl>



● **ONLINE winner:** Stephen Booth won a radio in a recent online library competition. He is pictured with senior librarian Andrew Walmsley.

Summer listings



Saturday 6 October

10.30-5.30pm. Bronte discovery walk – minibus (£3.50) for part. Enjoy magnificent moorland scenery en-route to Haworth. Literary exploration with guide Peter Short. Tea break at Ponden Mill. Must be booked on 01772 534709. Meet: Trawden Road car park, Wycolter.

Until end October. The Big Draw family workshop. Create your own masterpiece with help from professional artist. Lancaster City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster.

Sunday 7 October

11am. Bike ride, Barnoldswick to Gargrave and back, canal banks and quiet lanes. 20 miles. Meet Greenberfield Locks, Barnoldswick. Ride led by Fred Higson.

2pm. 9-mile bike ride, Lea to Treales and back. Meet junction of Darkinson Lane and Sidgreaves Lane, Lea. Ride led by Don McQueen.

In The Shadow of Trees, play about abandoned girl who grows up nurtured only by nature. Horse and

Bamboo Centre, Waterfoot. Tel 01706 242945.

Friday 12 October

In The Shadow of Trees, play about abandoned girl who grows up nurtured only by nature. The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster. Tel 01706 242945.

Saturday 13 October

10.30am-3.30pm. Beacon Fell Conservation Crew. Aged 14-18? Want to gain experience of work of countryside rangers? Meet Carwags, Beacon Fell Country Park. Bring packed lunch. Details and booking on 01995 640557.

In The Shadow of Trees, play about abandoned girl who grows up nurtured only by nature. The Dukes Theatre, Lancaster. Tel 01706 242945.

Sunday 14 October

10.30am-4.30pm. World of wood day. Tree planting and discovery walk. Crafts associated with wood. Special willow workshop course (Sat and Sun: £30 per person). Aisled barn, Wycolter Country Park. Details and booking on 01772 534709.

Saturday 20 October

11am-4pm. Eid extravaganza. Join Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations. Children's activities, henna painting, displays etc. Aisled barn, Wycolter.

Wednesday 24 October

1-3.30pm. Build your own birdbox and learn about birds – family fun. Bowland visitor centre.

Until 17 October. Jamboree; history of scouting. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.

Until 28 October.

Rossendale Artists' Exhibition. Rossendale Museum, Whitaker Park, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall.

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

Useful phone numbers

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

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

If you have a child born on or between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2004 your child is entitled to a free part-time pre-school nursery education place from the start of the Autumn Term 2007 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.

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 a list of eligible providers within your area may be obtained from the Childcare Information Service on Freephone 0800 195 0137.



Life in Lancashire

So much to do

Terrific trail of the trampers

Lancastrians love visiting their local countryside. Electric 'tramper' vehicles at Wycoller allow disabled people to explore previously inaccessible hills, explains countryside ranger **Peter Short...**

WYCOLLER'S Bronte scenery has delighted walkers for years - and now everyone can join in the fun.

Located near Colne, Wycoller Country Park nestles in a valley bottom and is famous for its association with Charlotte Bronte who referred to many nearby landmarks in books such as "Jane Eyre". Until recently these views and landmarks were only accessible by able-bodied walkers. Lancashire County Council's Trampler mobility buggies are now available to give the same chance to everyone.

Building on the success of Trampler mobility buggies at Beacon Fell Country Park, Wycoller Country Park now has two buggies.

Not only will people be able to use the Trampers to look around Wycoller hamlet and the ruins of Wycoller Hall - associated with Jane Eyre - but also the surrounding farm-land and moors.



For more information and to book a Trampler, telephone 01995 640557. Book and go!

A map of the route can be found on the Lancashire Countryside Service web site. www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside

The robust buggies can handle rough ground, mud and grass. A new route has been designed with Trampers in mind, taking their passengers over farm tracks and fields to be rewarded with superb views of Wycoller Valley, Boulsworth Hill and "Atom", one of east Lancashire's panopticons.

The new route is way marked with a "T" and directional arrows, starting from the Aisled Barn (visitor centre) and heading up a tree-lined stream.

On the route visitors will pass through a landscape that has been managed by people for thousands of years, as made evident by a large stone bridge spanning the stream, called the Clam Bridge, thought to be more than 1,000 years old.

The new route is part of the ongoing improvements in access for all to the countryside: Wycoller's main footpaths will have ladder stiles replaced by kissing gates, allowing easier access around the area.

"The use of electric buggies has opened up the countryside to people who do not walk well and thought they would not be rambling again.

"Helping people to discover or rediscover their enjoyment of the countryside has been wonderful," said Andrew Greenwood, head ranger of Lancashire Countryside Service.

Volunteer ranger Bill Purcell is also able to use the Trampers to patrol the Country Park.

Loss of mobility meant that Bill formerly had to spend most of his time in and around the visitor centre - the Trampler allows him to roam wider.

The Trampers are available free of charge for use by people with limited mobility.

Training is available for first-timers. Numbers of trampers are limited so booking is essential.

■ Wycoller Country Park is located between Trawden and Laneshawbridge off the A56 and is well signposted from both of these villages.

Win Walking boots worth £100

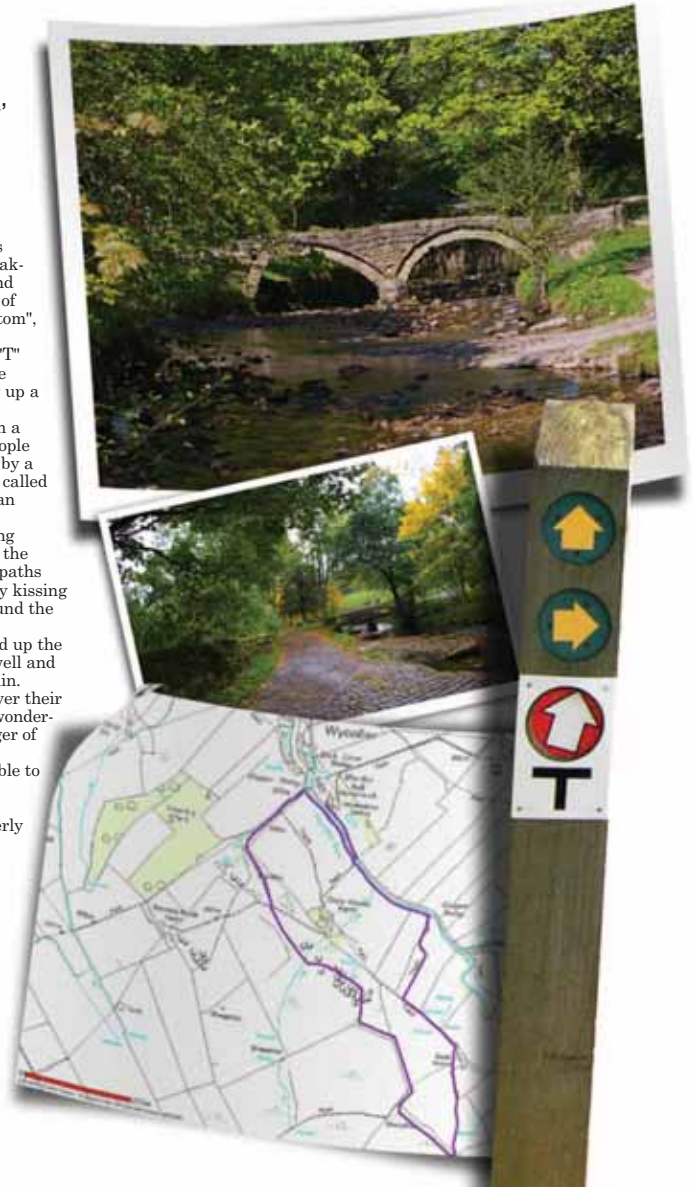
Preston's newest outdoor and travel superstore is offering Vision readers the chance to win a pair of walking boots up to the value of £100 with a personal consultation and fitting advice.



Simply answer the following question and return, by Wednesday 17 October, to Cotswold competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ: **How old is the Clam Bridge at Wycoller thought to be?**

Present this voucher for 15% discount at Cotswold Outdoor Preston 135 Fishergate, Preston (opposite Waterstones) Tel: 01772 270910 www.cotswoldoutdoor.com

*Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers or discounts.



'I've been virtually clamped' – you need to know your rights, says trading standards officer Julian Edwards

PARKING is something that generates debate and complaint. And never more so than when clamps or fines are involved.

Clamping has nothing to do with the council-run ParkWise scheme – that only applies to the highways and council run car-parks.

But you have to remember that

if you park on someone else's land the owner can reasonably impose a charge or impose restrictions.

If you ignore these restrictions you are trespassing which can mean being clamped, towed away or a parking charge. Trespass is a civil matter which gives the owner right to remedies which include the payment of damages for loss suffered.

Car Clamping

This is regulated under the Securities Industries Act 2001. Companies, or individuals, who use clamping must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

It is a criminal offence to work as a vehicle immobiliser (clammer) in England and Wales without an SIA licence, and is punishable by a fine of up to £5,000 or six months

imprisonment or both.

Parking Charge Notice

Parking Charge Notices are placed on an illegally parked vehicle and, if not paid within a relatively short time, are mailed to the vehicle's keeper. Some operators make no immediate indication and the notice is simply posted to the registered keeper.

There are no official regulators or regulations covering the use of a Parking Charge Notice and there is considerable scope for misuse. While there are businesses using this method perfectly correctly, some use tactics and procedures which cause problems by failing to make the restriction on parking clear and using methods which

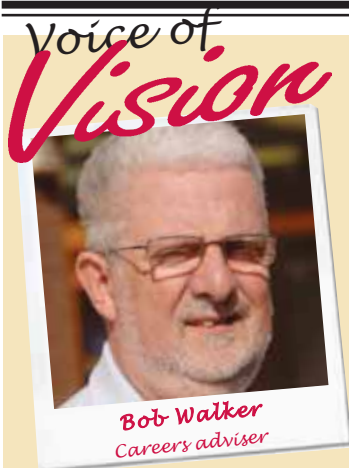
confuse the official statutory enforcement with their purely private contractual arrangement.

If parking has occurred improperly it is the person who has parked who is liable not the keeper of the vehicle. The onus is on the person demanding payment, under the contract, to show that the party to it has "agreed" due to clear signs being on display. If the keeper was not using the vehicle, they can not be held liable.

So, if you have been clamped or ticketed on private land you can take the case as a contractual dispute through the County Court.

But the best advice is always to watch where you park your car!

LOOK LIVELY



Bob has been a careers adviser for 27 years and is based at Connexions Lancashire County Council in Burnley. As well as the "day job", he regularly works on TV and radio helplines.

How did you get involved with helplines?

I was working at Rawtenstall careers office in the early 1980s when Granada TV requested careers advisers to work on a programme about option choices for year 9 pupils.

We worked alongside the researchers phoning back callers with information. For me, this opened up a whole new world in media.

What qualities do you need to work as a helpline adviser?

You need to be a good listener and have empathy towards the caller's situation.

You should be objective and not be easily offended. Another important quality is time-keeping, because of tight broadcasting time schedules.

What programmes have you worked on?

I have worked for Granada and BBC TV, Radio 1 and Radio 5 live, BBC Asian Network, Channel 4, and many local radio stations.

I was the voice of Connexions Lancashire on Rock FM (apparently I have a face for radio).

One of the funniest was for the BBC when I was an adviser on the Eleventh Hour programme – a bit like Blue Peter for adults – and we had a load of queries about worm farming.

In recent years I worked on Radio 1 Sunday Surgery with Emma B and Mark Hamilton. I had to go to London for that programme and I got to ride in the same BBC limo in which Kylie had travelled to the studio the previous day.

What was the most rewarding programme?

Without doubt it is the Granada/BBC/Independent radio Christmas Caroline, which operates over Christmas and the New Year.

The issues range from finding a plumber to helping callers with major personal and social problems.

People think that this time of year is a happy time but I can tell a different story. People are lonely, upset and often distraught.

All we offer is a listening ear; we are not trained counsellors but do receive training each year. Keep your eyes open for the adverts for this year's phone number and opening hours on the television.

Pupils' write track to county pride

JUNIOR school children across Lancashire are taking part in a major competition to tell the world about where they live.

Children in school years five and six are being asked to take a fresh look at Lancashire – and then write an article about their area.

Children's author Joseph Delaney will judge the entries, with prizes – sponsored by Random House Publishing – going to both pupils and schools.

"Children can often see what adult eyes take for granted", said County Councillor Vali Patel, Lancashire County Council Cabinet member for Schools.

"To see the world through a child's

Top author asks what people love about their area

eyes can be an inspiring thing – it helps to remind our own jaded minds of what we already have. I look forward to seeing the results.

"Literacy is a key element in the National Curriculum, but a project like this also involves subjects such as geography, the environment and citizenship.

"We have so much to be proud of in Lancashire and children can often see things better than we adults.

The best of the entries will be displayed in libraries across

the county.

Joseph Delaney, a former teacher, often chooses Lancashire places and themes for his books. He will run a writing workshop for the winner's school.

It is hoped to announce the results on Lancashire Day – 27 November.

Councillor Patel added: "Children's writing is a pleasure as it gives adults a chance to see the world as children see it.

"I expect we will get some really inspiring articles."



Claim a free hedgehog road safety sticker

PARENTS are being given advice on how to help their children stay safe on the roads when the clocks go back an hour this month.

The county council's Road Safety Group is reminding people

that as the clocks change children will find the journeys to and from school will be much darker, putting them at risk.

Advice includes ensuring your child wears fluorescent or reflective clothing, will help them be seen by other road users and, if

your child is cycling, they should never cycle at night without a white front light, a red back light and red reflector at the back.

Be Safe Be Seen hedgehog stickers are available free - tel 0800 3281635 or email road safety@env.lancsec.gov.uk

Come and join the Big Draw

THE Lancashire Sinfonietta is inviting budding artists of all ages and abilities to sketch musicians at work as part of The Big Draw national annual drawing campaign this month.

The sinfonietta is inviting local schoolchildren, students and artists to join them during their concert preparations for an afternoon of music and drawing.

The orchestra is opening its doors during live rehearsals at a special workshop on Saturday 13 October at Preston Minster, Church Street in Preston (3-5pm) as part of the Preston Arts Festival.

Paper and charcoal will be provided and the workshop is **FREE**.

The pictures will be displayed at the evening concert at 7.30pm where the string section of the

Lancashire Sinfonietta will be playing a variety of pieces directed by Lyn Fletcher, one of the most talented violinists in the UK.

Participating artists can purchase a ticket for the evening concert for just £1; normal ticket price is £8.50 and £5 for concessions.

For more information contact Rosy Williams on 07917 072132 or visit: www.bluefroguk.com



Life changes when you start school



Headteacher, Shakespeare Primary School, Fleetwood

AS another school year begins, parents and carers can relax safe in the knowledge that their little ones are benefitting from the joys of school life and, even better - out of their ear-shot!

When you are only four-years-old, the feelings you experience as you hang up your coat for the first time are phenomenal.

While the realisation that their lives have changed forever is far too sophisticated for these young minds to comprehend, as I walk through the doors on that first day back it is in full comprehension of the enormity of the year ahead.

Watching them playing happily together on their first morning, I reflect on the importance of their early days in school: learning to share toys in the sand tray, putting things back where they find them and clearing up after themselves, learning not to take things that don't belong to

them and how to say sorry when they've upset a friend.

Out in the playground, I watch them holding hands to stick together, running with the freedom to exercise their little bodies and then, back in the classroom, I see them learning that fruit and milk are good for them, helping them to stay healthy and strong.

Singing, dancing, painting, climbing, dressing up, stories to enjoy – all embarked on with the energy and enthusiasm of the very young!

In their first year at school, these children will be learning the important things in life: about how to live, what to do and how to be.

So when we ask, "What did you do at school today?" and our children's response is "NOTHING!" – we should remember that everything that really matters in life has begun to be learned on that very first day.

Charities unite for housing support

A GROUP of small voluntary organisations across the county have come together to develop housing-related support for vulnerable people.

The community based "Floating Support Service" has been commissioned by the county council and spearheaded by social inclusion charity DISC, along with 12 other charities from across the county.

Their role will be to work together to ensure people in the north west and south of the county get the best possible housing-related support they need to live independently and avoid living in care homes, hospitals or on the street.

Floating support is a free and flexible support service to enable people to live independently in rented council, housing association or private properties.

The partner charities include:

- Lancashire Young Homeless Project
- Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service
- Inward House Projects
- Lancaster and District Women's Aid
- Preston Women's Refuge
- West Lancashire Women's

The service aims to support people facing difficulties because of their age, such as teenage parents and older people, those coming out of hospital or prison, women fleeing domestic violence, and people with drug, alcohol and mental health problems.

The partnership was awarded the contract by Lancashire County Council on behalf of the Supporting People

Refuge

- Progress Care Housing Association
- Richmond Fellowship
- South Ribble KEY
- Chorley and South Ribble Mind
- Together: Working for Wellbeing
- North West Community Services

partnership, which includes all the 13 district, borough, city and county councils, the Probation Service, and the three primary care trusts in Lancashire.

Steve Gross, Lancashire County Council's director of Adult Services, said: "We are confident that DISC and their partners will make a real and positive difference to the lives of vul-

nerable people in Lancashire.

"Through partnership working we can focus on developing community-based housing related support to meet people's needs and their desire to live independently."

The new service will start this month out of a number of easily accessible offices across the county. The central office referral scheme will go by the name of "Compass" - a name chosen by service user groups in Lancashire, who are working closely with the partnership on developing the new initiative.

Anyone in need of support will be able to ring, text, email or visit outreach workers and arrange an initial assessment to agree what help they need.

The Supporting People contract for East Lancashire has been awarded to a partnership led by Burnley-based social landlord CALICO housing.

'People power' plan for parishes

PARISH councillors have given the thumbs up to plans to boost their powers which could revolutionise the way local services are delivered.

Grass cutting, cleaning road gullies and removing graffiti are just some of the things which could soon be done by parish and town councils if a proposal gets the go-ahead.

These jobs are traditionally done in Lancashire by county and district councils, but devolving more power to parishes could make services more responsive and tailored to local needs.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Parishes, said: "Parish and town councils are at the heart of their communities and ideally placed to deliver more services than they do at present."

"Their small size means they are able to respond more quickly and flexibly than larger organisations like county and district councils."

"For example, parish councils could be equipped to remove graffiti, clean road signs and cut the grass on the local green."

Success story for partnership

BETTER behaviour, raised self-confidence and improved performance at school were among the achievements of pupils who celebrated at Preston North End football ground.

The event marked the end of the first academic year of the Preston Partnership Project, which helps young people in the city's schools overcome behavioural difficulties or social disadvantage which might cause them to struggle with attendance or schoolwork.

And evaluation of the project shows that the one-to-one work the team's key workers have carried out with pupils has led to better attendance, less risk of exclusion, higher self-esteem and more enjoyment of school.

Danny Green (15), who attends Archbishop Temple CE High School, said: "I'm not really academic but if you can put



it all together, discipline and respect and commitment, you can achieve whatever you want to go on to an apprenticeship."

The project supports pupils with courses, work experience, taking part in sports, coaching and mentoring, and help

with some lessons, all tailored to each pupil's needs.

Partners in the scheme include Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council, the Learning and Skills Council, Sure Start, Signposts and the Youth Offending Team.

New drive to boost Valley jobs

A NEW Rossendale office is to cement a bid to regenerate Rossendale.

Staff from Lancashire County Council's County Developments Ltd (LCDL) and Rossendale Council have moved into one office in order to work together to attract better-paid jobs to the borough.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, county council leader, said: "It is important that we work together to improve the economy of Rossendale. We must narrow the



gap of the earnings of people who live and work in Rossendale and those elsewhere."

Councillor Duncan Ruddick, Rossendale

Council leader, said: "This new office will bring both councils closer together in working for the benefit of Rossendale."

● **INSPIRED:** Carol Ann Whittle (14), Alex Kinvin (15), Cheryl Collinge (15) and Tom Saint-Ruth meet best-selling inspirational author Richard McCann at the Preston Partnership Project celebration event.

● **REGENERATION:** Hazel Harding and Duncan Ruddick (both front) at the new office.

New Code of Conduct for County Councillors and Co-opted Members of the County Council

Notice is hereby given that the County Council on the 24 May 2007, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007, and Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000, formally adopted a revised Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members.

A copy of the Code can be inspected at the Office of the Chief Executive, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ (Ref DS/RP/J) between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm, and is available on the County Council's Website at www.lancashire.gov.uk

I M Fisher - Monitoring Officer
Lancashire County Council
County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ

Lytham on the warpath

HISTORIAN Ann Pinder will give an illustrated talk on Lytham in the war years later this month.

Her talk will cover both world wars and their impact on Lytham Hall and the Clifton family.

Volunteers have been working for months getting information, photographs and other documents together - so it should be a very thorough talk.

The talk, supported by Heritage Trust for the North West, will take place at Lytham Hall on Ballam Road, Lytham.

The talk starts at 7.30 but guests should arrive between 6.30pm and 7pm.

Tickets, costing £6.50 (including refreshments) are available on 01253 736652.

You are invited to attend the launch of an exciting new phase of Rosebud Finance.

The event will showcase three new Rosebud products for the tourism, digital and environment sectors.

Held on Thursday 18th October from 4pm onwards at GHS Enterprise Ltd, South Meadow Lane, Preston

Come along and see how your business can bloom with Rosebud.

Space is limited so please contact the Rosebud team on 01772 536600 to reserve your place.

Refreshments and food will be served.

Lancashire
County Council

Lancashire County Developments Ltd.

Rosebud relaunch aims at future jobs

A NEW look at finance is helping to build a brighter economic future for Lancashire.

Companies specialising in digital technology, the environment and tourism can now gain help after Lancashire County Council revamped its Rosebud business-support scheme.

Run by Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL), Rosebud has supported hundreds of established or start-up companies over the years.

County Councillor Niki Penney, LCDL chair, said: "Lancashire's future prosperity has to be based on innovation – and Rosebud can help with loans, advice and support."

"These three new areas of support are in addition to the traditional areas of investment."

"We are always looking at ways to improve our services and products that help investment in Lancashire."

"I have visited many of the companies that have received Rosebud funding and they have gone from strength to strength thanks to the support and advice provided by LCDL."

Rosebud's expansion into the three new sectors will be launched to Lancashire's business community at Preston's GHS Centre on 18 October.

The event will include speakers and exhibitors who will be on hand to talk about the help and support Rosebud can provide.

The launch will give details of how businesses in the three sectors can apply for the loans and what they will receive in return.

■ Rosebud is versatile - loans and equity funding is available at £5,000 upwards - no business is too small or too large.

■ Proposals are considered on their individual merits and all types of business investment are eligible for consideration.

■ The fund is only available for companies either already based in Lancashire or those re-locating to the county.

Each of the new strands offers a benefit with those receiving a Rosebud Tourism loan getting two-year's free membership of the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourism Board, those suc-

cessful with a Rosebud Digital loan receiving £1,000 worth of IT equipment and a £1,000 cashback for companies applying for the Green Rosebud loan.

Councillor Penney added: "I would urge anyone who wants to start or expand a business to come along to GHS on 18 October and find out what is on offer."

Rosebud is owned by the people of Lancashire, and profits and income are recycled, providing further investment opportunities for new clients.

The new-look Rosebud's launch will be held at GHS Enterprise Ltd, South Meadow Lane, Preston, at 4pm on Thursday 18 October. Those wishing to attend should contact the Rosebud team on 01772 536600 to reserve a place.

County crime fight beats national average

LANCASHIRE'S Crimestoppers is one of the best performing in the country according to recent figures.

The county's crime-busting charity hotline has one of the best detection rates in the UK with 16 per cent of calls leading to detections as opposed to the national average of 7 per cent.

It is a figure that delights the chair of the Lancashire Crimestoppers board Gail Porter.

She said: "The figures show that the people of Lancashire are aware of Crimestoppers and aware that it is a very powerful tool in helping the police bring offenders to justice."

"More than 50 per cent of calls received lead to positive action and that is something we can all be proud of."

"I would urge anyone in Lancashire who does have knowledge about a crime to get in touch because there is still a lot more we can do. The call is free and the information you give is anonymous."

Since April there have been hundreds of people arrested in the county because of calls to Crimestoppers for a variety of offences including drugs, theft and driving matters.

When you contact Crimestoppers, on the free phone telephone number 0800 555 111, you will be connected to the regional office at Chester-le-Street.

When passing information, the detectives will not ask your name, address, telephone number or ethnic origins. It is totally anonymous.

The information is then sent on for the relevant police district to investigate and act accordingly.

If you are interested in a cash reward you will be given a unique code number.

If the information results in a charge or caution for the offender you will be asked to nominate a bank to receive your reward.

Wonderwoman's Rosebud backing

A LEYLAND company has spread its roots thanks to a Rosebud loan.

Gibsons Domiciliary Care and Support has opened its first premises at Hough Lane in Leyland and County Councillor Niki Penney, was there to officially open the office.

The business is run by 23-year-old Sophie Gibson and since it started in February 2006 has grown to employ 12 staff.

Wonder woman Sophie is a full-time mother with five children, three of whom are fostered. She started the business because she wanted something she could do at home.

Sophie applied for a Rosebud loan from Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL) to help with her start-up costs and has seen the business go from strength to strength.

The company now offers a full home-care service, 24 hours a day with emergency call out.

Sophie added: "This has been tremendously



hard work but totally satisfying. The help I received from LCDL meant I could start the company."

Rosebud rates are competitive - the repayment interest rate is normally 2 per cent above

the Bank of England base rate and the arrangement fee is set at 2.5 per cent (plus VAT) of the total investment.

To find out more about Rosebud call 01772 538989. To contact Gibsons call 01772 493685.

Barrowford Friends reunited

NELSON Library, supported by Lancashire Museums, is hosting a reunion for students and teachers who attended Holmefield Education Centre, Barrowford in the 1960s and 1970s.

If you were a student, a teacher or involved with Holmefield Centre in any way, or require further information please contact Christine Carradice at Nelson Reference Library 01282 692511 or Nazya Khalid at Burnley Library 01282 437115.

The reunion will be held at 10.30am on 29 October.

It's no bovver when you can hover

HIGH school girls from Preston discovered their hidden talents when they built fully functioning hovercrafts from scratch – in one day.

Thirty-six girls aged 14 and 15 from secondary schools across the city competed in teams each other and staff to build the craft as part of the Aimhigher programme, which encourages young people to progress into higher education.

The event was held at Preston College's Park School Campus on Moor Park.

The day, entitled "Girls in Aerospace", was intended to show that science and engineering – a subject in which girls are currently under-represented – can be fun and exciting.

The teams battled it out wearing team T-shirts they designed themselves and finished with a race.

The event was co-organised by Manchester University and the Preston Partnership Project, whose Aimhigher co-ordinator, Steve Boardman, said: "The event was aimed at dispelling stereotypes about engineering and encouraging girls to look into engineering careers as a real option."

"Each team member was given a specific role and they really threw themselves into the task – it was a great day for all involved."

Aimhigher increases participation in higher education through raising aspirations, attainment, awareness and removing barriers to higher education.



Extra help to fight AIDS

A NEW specialist role has been established to improve the co-ordination and development of multi-agency support for people living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS across the county.

The appointment of the new post follows recommendations from a review into the existing services available in Lancashire by Lancashire County Council's adult social services.

The aim of the review was to inform the long-term planning,

development and provision of support services for people with HIV/AIDS delivered in partnership with other statutory agencies and voluntary organisations.

This new post will act in an advisory role based within the independent charity, Drugline Lancashire.