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Going into care home is greatest fear for older age, says survey

But there is another way...



High-tech home scheme provides solution: support and peace of mind

GOING into a care home and losing your independence is the greatest fear for people's old age, according to new research by the county council.

Following a survey of over 1,700 people, aged over 45 years, from an independent panel, 67 per cent of people aged over 65 said that having to move into a residential or nursing care home was the most important aspect they wanted to avoid in older age.

Sixty-two per cent cited not being able to get about was something they wanted to avoid, 52 per cent said they did not want to have to depend on others, while 48 per cent feared having to leave their home.

The survey found that while financial fears are most prevalent for people aged under 55, those older are more likely to be concerned about losing their independence. The research shows that as age increases so does fear of losing your independence which is the top concern for the over-65s.

Apart from good health and being

financially comfortable, being able to live independently was the most important aspect for all respondents in older age.

Sixty-nine per cent of over-65s stated that being able to stay in their own home is top priority in older age, with 68 per cent citing being able to live independently as most important.

The survey, which is a cross-section sample of Lancashire, has been published as part the county council's official launch of its Lancashire Telecare Service this month.

The findings, however, are not surprising says County Councillor Chris Cheetham, county council cabinet member for Adult and Community Services.

"Most people naturally want to stay in their own home and remain independent for as long as possible", says Councillor Cheetham. "As a local authority, we are rising to the challenge and working closely with partner agencies in developing and providing services that support people in their own homes – whether they are older people, people with disabilities, or those with mental

health problems.

"For older people, in particular, sometimes there comes a time when you need extra support at home. This could be a consequence of a bad fall, recent discharge from hospital after an illness and a resulting lack of confidence to manage on your own."

Vulnerable older people will always be supported and able to choose residential or nursing care through an assessment undertaken by local health and adult social care teams. But for most older people with lower level needs, there are a range of rehabilitation, reablement and support services that can help people remain independent and safe in their own home and thus avoid unnecessary admission to a care home.

Telecare Services is a case in point. Speaking at the launch of the Lancashire Telecare Service, Councillor Cheetham said: "Advances in technology mean we are now able to install a variety of electronic devices and sensors designed to provide constant monitoring of the home and the well-

being of the person living there."

Using high-tech gadgets the service can detect if a person has fallen and needs assistance, whether taps have been left on or if there is a build up of carbon monoxide, if the house is too cold, and can also assist residents in reminding them to take their medicine.

Every sensor is linked to a home hub unit which sends an emergency call through to a 24/7 monitoring centre if the sensors are activated. Trained operators are then on hand to assess the situation and send out appropriate help if necessary.

"This is an exciting development embracing new technology to support older people at home", added Councillor Cheetham. "Telecare Services help provide support, reassurance and activate an early response if someone needs urgent assistance. It can also be a relief for relatives who care from someone."

Lancashire Telecare Service has been developed in partnership with district councils, housing associations and the NHS following a government grant of £1.7m.

For more information contact your local social services office for details - or Telecare Service provider:

Lancaster district
Lancaster City Council
tel 01524 582929
Fylde, Wyre, Preston, South Ribble and Chorley
New Progress Housing
tel 01772 436756
Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn and Rossendale
Housing Pendle
tel 01282 873767
West Lancashire
West Lancashire District Council
tel 0800 566 666
or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/telecare

A cassette version of Vision is now available for visually impaired people from Galloway's Society for the Blind by calling 01772 744148

The presence of promotional leaflets delivered inside Vision does not imply Lancashire County Council endorsement.

YOUR LANCASHIRE: A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE MATTERS



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.

Tax-free childcare

Mrs R Wood from Skelmersdale writes: My son doesn't start school until he's nearly four. Is there a way I could put him into a nursery for free till he goes to school.

Someone said that you have to have some vouchers to do this. Where and how do you do this?

You should ask your employer if they provide a Childcare Voucher Scheme for staff.

The vouchers are offered in place of part of a parent's salary. The first £55 per week of any voucher received is exempt from tax and National Insurance Contributions provided it is used to pay for registered or approved childcare.

You may also be interested to know that all three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 12 and a half hours of free part-time early education per week.

Children become eligible from the term following their third birthday.

For further information you should contact the Childcare Information Service on: **0800 1950137**.

No smoke without fire

Anonymous from Penwortham writes: My daughter catches the school bus home each day and when she gets in she absolutely stinks of cigarette smoke.

I want to make a complaint about the children that are smoking on the bus but understandably my daughter doesn't want to be named.

Is it possible to complain about this but to remain anonymous?

Lancashire County Council's Safer Travel Unit is committed to monitoring and trying to prevent unacceptable behaviour on buses.

To report an incident such as the one you have mentioned, please contact the Anti-Social Behaviour on Buses (ASBOB) Customer Service Helpline on **0845 053 0040**.

You don't need to worry about giving your name as you can report this problem anonymously.



● HELP is available for childcare costs (see Tax-free childcare).

Free school travel

Mr Pilling from Rossendale writes: I have been told by a friend that there have been changes to the criteria for free travel to school for primary school children. Is this true?

She told me that as I am on benefits that I may now qualify. I have an eight-year-old son who goes to the local primary school and I am struggling on a low income.

Until now eligibility for free travel to school has not been income-based.

However, from September 2007, primary school pupils aged eight and over who live more than two miles from their nearest suitable school will qualify for free travel if they are eligible for free school meals or their parents receive the maximum amount of working tax credit.

If you think that your son may qualify you should contact the School Transport Helpline on **01772 534588**.

Books on the move

Mr T from Chorley writes:

I have just moved to Chorley from Manchester and have seen the yellow mobile libraries in the area. Please could you tell me if anyone can use the mobile libraries and if there is a cost involved?

Could you also help me find out what times they would be in my local area?

Anyone can use this service providing they are a member of a Lancashire library. If you are not a member you can join at a mobile library by completing an application form and providing one proof of your signature.

If you are under 16 years of age you will

need your parent/carer to provide their signature in order for you to join.

This is a free service to all library members.

However, if items are overdue then overdue charges will apply.

Please contact your local library for locations and a timetable or search under mobile library stops at - **www.lancashire.gov.uk**

Caravan nuisance

Mrs R from Accrington writes:

I live on quite a small residential estate and for at least three days now there has been a caravan parked on the road close to my house.

I don't know who owns the caravan but I was wondering if they are able to do this and who do I contact to get this looked in to?

Caravans are not licensed vehicles and therefore not taxed. You cannot deliberately leave something on an adopted highway that will cause an obstruction.

The Highways Authority has the power to serve notice on the owner to remove it and if it is considered to be causing imminent danger including obstructing visibility they can remove it forthwith and charge the owner reasonable costs for doing so.

Any reports regarding such issues need to be reported to Lancashire Highways on **0845 053 0011** or emailed to **highways@lancashire.gov.uk**

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**.

Academies: what all parents need to know

Academies have been in the headlines as one option for resolving the urgent issues facing some schools in Lancaster and Preston.

Decisions on whether to close one or more schools and establish academies are still a matter for consultation. But action needs to be taken to deal with the problem of rapidly falling pupil numbers.

A full consultation will take place in the autumn term.

A separate proposal for an academy in Accrington has now reached the feasibility stage.

Q What are academies?

Academies are a new type of school introduced by the government, with the support of a sponsor. Academies do not charge fees or make a profit.

Sponsors come from a wide range of backgrounds including the business, faith and voluntary sectors, universities and educational foundations.

Sponsors are expected to be committed to providing the best possible education for pupils, and to bring innovative ideas to the running of schools.

Q Why does Lancashire County Council want to develop academies?

Secondary school rolls are falling and the future viability of some secondary schools is in serious doubt.

Government funding for Building Schools for the Future can be spent early to develop an academy, and this could allow scope for investment and regeneration.

Academies would increase the diversity of school provision available.

Q What is being proposed for Lancaster and Preston?

In Lancaster, the council is considering the future of Skerton and Hornby High Schools.

One option could involve the closure of Skerton, Hornby and Central Lancaster High Schools and the opening of an academy to replace all three schools.

In Preston, it is considering the future Tulketh High School. One option could involve closing Tulketh and Fulwood High Schools and establishing an academy to replace them.

Q How do academies operate?

Academies have to follow the same code of practice for admissions as all other schools, including admitting pupils with special educational needs.

The sponsor appoints most governors, and determines the ethos and leadership of the academy; there must be a parent governor, a local authority-appointed governor, and the academy principal is entitled to be a governor. Academies may also have a teacher governor, a staff governor and community representatives.

Q What will happen to pupils and staff in schools that are replaced by academies?

Pupils will be offered places at the academy. Staff affected by such changes have their rights protected under TUPE legislation.

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

Learning disability day

THIS year's West Lancashire Learning Disability Awareness Day will be held on Friday 14 September at Ormskirk Market.

Agencies and voluntary organisations will be offering information and advice about local support services for people with learning disabilities, their families and carers.

The event will be a mixture of information and fun, with entertainment from the West Lancashire Mosaic drama group, a town crier competition, free give-aways and a stand-up performance by Elvis (Elvin Priestly). The BBC Radio Lancashire bus will also be present.

The county council is arranging the free event on behalf of the West Lancashire Learning Disability Partnership Board, West Lancashire District Council and Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust.

For more information, contact Joanne Miller on 07747840014.

Champ signs loo deal

THE interests of young people and rural people alike are being promoted with cash support from Lancashire County Council's "champions".

Whalley Parish Council has been awarded £1,000 for new toilets while Penwortham Annual Gala has been supported with £1,000 by County Councillor Albert Atkinson, the county council's Champion for Parishes.

County Councillor Sean Serridge, Champion for Young People, has given £1,000 to pay for an educational trip to London by Burnley students.

The "champion" system was established by the county council to ensure that no-one's interests are forgotten.

Rural winner

STAFF at Rawtenstall's information centre won first prize at Rossendale Rural Fair's scarecrow competition.

The county council-run information centre, based in Rawtenstall Library, offers advice on a wide range of council services, including transport and tourism. Staff can also help people apply for a range of other services online.

Slave display

A TRAVELLING exhibition about slavery – and its Lancashire links – will visit Fylde in September.

The display will be in St Anne's library from 3 to 14 September and in Kirkham youth centre from 14 to 25 September.

Help needed

PEOPLE in the Garstang, Longridge and Preston areas wishing to volunteer for Cancer Help should telephone 01772 793344 for more information.

The wrong phone number was supplied to Vision in last month's edition.

Book NHS date at your library

By Andrew Lynn

PATIENTS will soon be able to choose where and when to have their hospital appointment with the click of a button under new plans by the NHS in partnership with local libraries.

The new Patient Choice initiative will mean the public will be able to visit their local library where trained librarians will be on hand to support them as they choose and book hospital appointments online.

The belief is that public libraries and the internet are an ideal way to support patients, families and carers with information - offering convenience and flexibility.

Lancashire County Council is already planning for the roll-out and promoting the service through libraries.

Library staff are being trained and a range of information and awareness materials have been distributed across Lancashire libraries including posters, booklets, business cards, badges and book-marks.

The booklets contain information about Patient Choice, a list of local hospital and clinics specific to each Primary Care Trust area, information on where patients can receive their specific treatment, and how each hospital scores against a number of measures.

The present role of library staff is to promote the scheme and assist individuals, if required, using library computers to find information on the NHS website where they can research, choose and book appointments online.

The scheme is being promoted in partnership with the national Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk or telephone 0845 6088888.

'Dr Who' backing for £250m schools

AN INTERNET site set up to give information about Lancashire's Building Schools for the Future programme has signed up more than 300 friends – mainly young people from Burnley and Pendle.

The website – on the giant Myspace social networking system – carries the latest news about the school building projects, up-to-date pictures of the sites under construction, and comments and questions from readers.

The signed-up "friends" include a fan club for Pendle actor John Simm, who stars in *Life on Mars* and *Doctor Who*, legendary Burnley punk band the Not Sensibles, and a heavy metal band

from Australia called "Burnley".

Building Schools for the Future is a £250m investment by Lancashire County Council in new education facilities on nine sites in Burnley and Pendle.

Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "Our aim is to build a more prosperous, better-educated, and happier community in Burnley and Pendle."

"We want everyone to be involved, especially school students, other young people, and those who don't consume the main stream media."

"We answer questions and comments wherever possible. We are happy to put opposing viewpoints on the site – as long as they do not contain swear words."

Help for 1,000 families

MORE than 1,000 families with young children are benefiting from a new children's centre in the heart of Colne.

The £1.25m centre is one of 42 now operational in Lancashire – there will be 61 by March 2008.

Services include ante-natal help, baby massage, dad's groups, family cookery, a host of play sessions and also dental and health visitor facilities.

Backed by East Lancashire Primary Care Trust and a variety of other organisations, including Lancashire County Council, the purpose-built centre is aimed at families with children under five.



● SHARED deal for keen readers and students: university library chief Kevin Ellard and county libraries chief David Lightfoot launch the LancaShare scheme.

Libraries' student book deal

STUDENTS at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) now have easier access to all libraries in Lancashire thanks to a new partnership agreement.

The LancaShare scheme will also benefit ordinary public library members across the county.

The scheme gives students and staff at UCLan free automatic full

membership of the county council's Library and Information Service, giving them access to more than four million books and audio-visual items for loan or reference through 90 service points.

As part of the scheme, public library users will be able to swipe their barcoded library cards and access the university library resources for reference and research, including access "24/7" during term-time.

Help on the bus with our new



FROM April 2008 there will be a new National Concessionary Travel Card. NoWcard will be issuing the new cards next year on behalf of your local authority.

You will automatically receive a National Concession Card if:

- You already hold an over-60s NoWcard and have used your card on a bus with a smart enabled ticket machine and the photograph we have on file is of suitable quality.

NoWcard will send you information on how to apply if:

- You hold a Disabled NoWcard, or
- You haven't used your NoWcard on a bus with a smart enabled ticket machine, or

- Your photograph on file is of unsuitable quality.

To ensure NoWcard can issue your new card, if you have changed address and haven't advised NoWcard of this change please telephone the NoWcard Helpline on 0845 058 1096.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS IN LANCASHIRE SEPTEMBER 2008

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

If your child is currently in his/her final year at primary school (Year 6) then you must apply for a secondary school place for September 2008 during September and early October 2007.

If you are a Lancashire resident you must apply on-line or complete Lancashire's secondary application form (even if you prefer a secondary school situated in another Local Authority).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 19/10/07

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

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.

Late applications may not be included in the initial allocation process for school places.

If you do not receive information about secondary school admissions for September 2008 during early September 2007, then you must urgently contact your child's current primary school or your Area Education Office (see below).

You must apply for a secondary school place for September 2008 even if you will already have an older child attending your preferred school.

Advice/information is available from:

North Lancashire	01524 581163
South Lancashire	01772 531813 / 531819
East Lancashire	01254 220708

Directorate for Children and Young People



● HELP for families: County Councillor Tim Ormrod and the NHS's Kath Reade.

NEWS IN BRIEF

●**HOWZAT:** County Councillor Tim Ashton heads to the crease to test his own cricket skills.

Young Flintoffs?

YOUNG cricketers in Fylde are striking for the boundary thanks to new funding.

The group of juniors from Lytham Cricket Club received £1,500 from the Lancashire Youth Capital Fund towards their cricket skills clinics.

The money will be spent on specialist coaching from professional players and new equipment.

Winner

WINNER of last month's Capital Cruise competition is Mrs R Larmour, of Morecambe. Mrs Larmour wins train travel to London, two nights in the Britannia International Hotel and a River Thames Cruise.

FUMING? Why not tell other Vision readers what you think. Write to: You're Telling Us! Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.

£600,000 scheme gives park a boost

A £600,000 project is underway to transform Fullede Recreation Ground in Burnley.

The scheme will create an enhanced park, playing field and wetland area and significantly improve the appearance of the site which is an important gateway into Towneley Park.

Work recently started on site and is expected to take four months to complete. It is one of four projects currently being carried out by Lancashire County Council's REMADE initiative to reclaim derelict land.

The scheme was designed with Burnley Council and follows consultation over the last two years with residents and other stakeholders.

Work will include containment of an area of contaminated land, land drainage improvements, the creation of a kickabout area, improved access and footpath links, new bulbs, shrub- and tree-planting, and grassland improvements.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet member for Planning and Environment, said: "I am always pleased to see work

that brings derelict land back into public use, especially a project that creates both leisure and sporting facilities.

"Green spaces really contribute to the quality of life. "The REMADE programme is now beginning to bring improvements to more and more derelict sites across the county. This gives people in those areas a better environment and new opportunities for recreation, as well as improving the image of Lancashire as a whole."

Peter White, Executive Director of Infrastructure and Development at the Northwest Regional Develop-

ment Agency (NWDA), said: "The REMADE programme represents a major investment by the NWDA in derelict land reclamation for public use in Lancashire.

"I am delighted that work is now under way at Fullede to create a high-quality new facility for people to enjoy. It complements the major regeneration activity currently being carried out in Burnley, including the Elevate Housing Market Renewal programme."

Further information is on the REMADE website at www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/remade

New bid to tackle crime

PRESTON has been chosen to pilot a new approach to youth justice.

Restorative justice (RJ) panels are based on the American idea of peer courts, which are well established in the US and use peer pressure to bring about changes in behaviour.

The panels are an alternative to court and help offenders to accept responsibility for their actions and make amends.

The process also involves family members.

There are to be two RJ centres in the city – in east Preston on the Brookfield Estate and in Winkley Square in the city centre.

A third is to be opened in Lancaster next year.

Lancashire County Council's Youth Offending Team has used restorative theory in its work for some time now which made Preston a natural choice as the location for Europe's first RJ centres.

The scheme will be launched in September when a contingent of high-profile guests, including the US deputy Attorney General, the head of the US Justice Department and the UK Attorney General Baroness Scotland, will come to Preston to visit the new centres and attend a conference.

Top bikers at Adrenaline Gateway

BRITAIN'S top mountainbike trial riders headed to Rossendale for the fourth round of the British Mountain Bikes Trial Championship.

It was the first event to be

hosted as part of a project to develop an Adrenaline Sport and Leisure Gateway centred on Rossendale.

Over 40 of the nation's top riders competed at Lee Quarry, with more than 200 people spectating.

Lee Quarry, in Stacksteads, is a key site for the Adrenaline Gateway programme and has also been identified as a place where further mountain bike trails will be developed.

County Councillor Doreen

Pollitt, deputy leader of Lancashire County Council said: "Events like this help to change people's perception of the area and help put Adrenaline Gateway onto the map.

"We hope to get more people to visit and experience what Lancashire has to offer."

Taking part couldn't be easier

We have put **Vision** online to save you time.

- Enter readers competitions online — no need for stamps or envelopes
- Let Shirley solve your council problems online
- You tell us! Readers letter goes live
- See our picture galleries and download for free.

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision/>

All at the click of a button



a family leisure break in Edinburgh



EDINBURGH is seen as one of the world's most beautiful capital cities.

Here's your chance to win a great family day out there soon by entering our competition.

Included are first-class return tickets and an Edinburgh Pass for two adults or two adults and two children between the ages of five and 15.

Should you prefer to stay longer than a day, VisitScotland Edinburgh and Lothians can send accommodation details to suit every budget.

Check out www.visitScotland.com or call 0845 2255121 for information.

Your train journey to Scotland begins in comfort from a choice of Lancashire mainline stations.

Meals are served at your seat by friendly staff as you speed to Waverley station, Edinburgh's main rail terminal situated in the city centre.

Your one-day Edinburgh Family Pass gives free entry to a choice of 30 top attractions,

free bus travel and exclusive offers. Check out www.edinburghpass.com for details.

From world-famous festivals to one of the most beautiful cityscapes in the world, Edinburgh is the ideal city break. Its streets are steeped in history and it has a thriving cultural scene.

For information about Virgin Trains, including online bookings visit www.virgintrains.com — telephone 08457 222333 or visit any staffed railway station, rail-appointed travel agent or website.

For a chance to win this great prize, answer the following and send us your entry by e-mail or post before the closing date:

What is the name of Edinburgh's main train station?



Please note: Edinburgh Passes give FREE entrance, not "two for one" or "children go free". They are on sale in the UK, America and other countries.



Send entries, by Monday 17 September, to Edinburgh competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ; or email to: http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision/

■ The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Employees of Lancashire County Council, their families and anyone connected with this competition are not eligible. Usual newspaper competition rules apply. Transport to/from mainline stations, incidental expenses and accommodation are not included. The prize is for mid-week travel within a time limit.

ENTRY FORM

Q: What is the name of Edinburgh's main train station?

Name

Address

Postcode Tel

NEWS IN
BRIEFAsk me a
question

MEMBERS of the public can give councillors a grilling at two Cabinet Question Times.

The Dukes Youth Theatre on Moor Lane, Lancaster, is the venue for a Question Time at 7.15pm on Tuesday 18 September. Leading councillors present will include leader Hazel Harding, children and young children chief Marcus Johnstone, highways and environment boss Tony Martin and planning chief Matthew Tomlinson.

Kirkham Community Centre is the venue at 7.15pm on Tuesday 2 October when councillors present will include Hazel Harding, deputy leader Doreen Pollitt, adult and community services boss Chris Cheetham, Tony Martin and Matthew Tomlinson.

Champagne
and black ties

PEOPLE from across Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale will be getting together in September for their black-tie Grand Ball.

About 175 users of learning disability services in the area will meet up for the party at Padham Town Hall when there will be dancing, a champagne reception, a buffet and live entertainment by artist Paul Rowlands.

The evening is being organised by the area's four day centres which aim to help people live independent lives.

A number of organisations across the area, including police, have helped raise money for the evening.

Young at heart

TENANTS at a Bacup sheltered housing scheme for people aged 55 years and over are proving you're never too old to learn new tricks.

Nine tenants at Springfield Court on South Street are seven weeks into a Computers for Beginners course run by Lancashire County Council Adult Learning.

So far the nine tenants have learnt basics such as using a mouse and rudimentary word processing.

GPs aid pensioners in
£12m benefits scoop

THOUSANDS of pensioners across the county have benefited by more than £12m through pension credits and social security benefits thanks to the county council's Welfare Rights Service.

More than 3,400 new awards and 450 increased awards for income support and pension credits have been made in just three years - a major boost to individuals and to Lancashire's economy.

The service has also secured more than 1,600 new awards for pensioners eligible for Attendance Allowance - a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who have an illness or disability and need

help with personal care.

Sylvia Saxton, welfare rights officer at Lancashire County Council, said: "We carried out a variety of projects aimed at older residents to raise awareness of benefit entitlements.

"This included a mail-shot to encourage pension credit take-up and an Attendance Allowance poster campaign to care homes."

The focus of the campaign was offering free benefit checks to pensioners through doctors' surgeries by writing to elderly patients advising them to complete a coupon asking the Welfare Rights Service to contact them.

"Staff then contacted the pensioners and helped them identify

and process any unclaimed benefit entitlement," said Sylvia.

"Some people gained only a few extra pounds per week, but many saw a £100 weekly increase.

"In many cases, pensioners who had already been assessed for benefit by the Department for Work and Pensions were found to be receiving the wrong amount of benefit and lump sums arrears were paid out to many. A total of £233,594 was paid out in lump sums, with the highest payment of £23,000 going to one pensioner."

■ Can we help? Write to: Lancashire Welfare Rights Service, Freepost, Preston PR1 8BR; telephone 01772 533504 or visit: www.lancashire.gov.uk

CAPS off to
beat the booze

By Martin Crabtree

A NEW drive against anti-social behaviour is to target adults who buy booze for teenagers.

Fines of up to £5,000 await people who fuel anti-social behaviour by buying alcohol for under-age drinkers.

Trading standards officers will start their campaign in Preston and then take it countywide if it is a success.

A Trading Standards North West survey showed nearly four in 10 youngsters (age 14-17) claimed to binge-drink (drink five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion).

Three in 10 claimed to drink twice or more in a week - much of it on the streets, in parks or close to shops.

Jim Potts, Lancashire County Council's Chief Trading Standards officer, said: "Although we are being very up front about the fines people could face, we also know that many adults can feel under



pressure or threatened when approached by young people to 'do them a favour'.

"We want to help everyone to solve this problem by raising awareness of the issue through posters and notices and by working with the police.

"If anyone feels there is a problem of any sort relating to

proxy sales in their local area they can contact the police or Crimestoppers."

The CAPS (Campaign Against Proxy Sales) campaign includes a range of new posters for shops to make customers more aware of the law.

Support will be available for retailers to deter young people from congregating outside premises and approaching adults to buy on their behalf.

County Councillor Alan Whittaker, Lancashire County Council vice-chair added: "Proxy selling is also a health issue for the young people involved.

"There are very good reasons for the legal age for buying alcohol being set at 18.

"By working with the police and the schools and communities' partnership team we will hopefully be able to raise the profile of proxy selling to the point where it is regarded in the same light as shops selling directly to young people."

New bridge
caps huge
road project

Picture courtesy of Chorley Guardian

IT was a case of "beam me up" on a major Lancashire road scheme recently as a brand new bridge was constructed.

Engineers brought in specialist crane equipment to hoist 32 concrete and steel beams, weighing between 19 and 30 tonnes, into place.

The bridge is part of the £8m Eaves Green Link Road project in Chorley and spans the River Yarrow. The beams were specially made and were transported from Nottingham with a police escort.

Project manager Wai Kee Leung explained: "This is the biggest road scheme in Lancashire at the moment and shows engineering at its best.

"You can't buy bridges from a catalogue - each one has to be designed and built individually. This one costs £800,000 and our contractors, Birse, have been doing a good job throughout the scheme."

The first traffic is expected to use the 1.4km road between Eaves Green and the A6 before Christmas.

County welcome for returning soldiers



HUNDREDS of Lancashire's brave soldiers were welcomed back to the county with a march through the streets of Preston.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment had just returned from a seven-month tour of duty in Iraq.

Battalion members have the Freedom of Preston and also took part in Freedom Parades in Manchester and Tameside.

The regiment was formed in 2006 from an amalgamation of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, the King's Lancashire Regiment and the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

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.



SureStart

Lancashire
County Council

Flagging up slavery past

Young generation draw their own image about Lancaster's historic slave trade

ARTISTS and schoolchildren have been working together to highlight the uncomfortable truth of Lancaster's involvement in the slave trade.

During the 18th century, Lancaster was the UK's fourth largest transatlantic slave trading port.

Around 200 journeys carried almost 25,000 Africans to the West Indies and America to be sold as slaves.

Abolished? is a community arts and education programme run by Lancashire County Council's museums service.

A series of exhibitions are currently taking place to commemorate the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807.

At the heart of the project are two contemporary art exhibitions, led by nationally acclaimed artists Lubaina Himid and Sue Flowers, displayed at the Maritime

Museum and Judges' Lodgings.

Over the last year, both artists have studied the city's role in the slave trade and their work represents their creative and artistic response to the legacy that has been left.

Sue Flowers, from Carnforth, also worked with the Slave Trade Arts Memorial Project (STAMP) and pupils from Ripley St Thomas CE High School, Lancaster, to design freedom flags.

They looked at Fante flags from Ghana and students designed their own flags echoing this tradition. One of the flags, designed by pupil Sammy Faulkner, is currently being flown over the Maritime Museum. The students explored aspects of African identity and the creativity of art in Ghana using proverbs, integral to Ghana's creative culture. In turn, students wrote their own proverbs based on their understanding of this history and its relevance today.

The Museums Service has also

worked with students from Central High School in Lancaster, Morecambe High School, Our Lady's Catholic College and Skerton High School to produce works, which are also on display.

County Councillor Wendy Dwyer, chair of the county council, said: "This is a fascinating exhibition demonstrating Lancaster's history in a fresh and innovative way. I'm sure visitors will find the work interesting and informative, and I would urge them to visit both museums during the summer."

Located on St George's Quay, the Maritime Museum is set within two fine Georgian buildings and uses sounds, smells and reconstructions to tell the story of the port of Lancaster.

Admission is just £3 for adults, concessions £2, and accompanied children are free.

For more information telephone 01524 382 264 or visit Lancashire Museums online at www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk



Photograph supplied by the Lancaster Guardian

● **FLYING high:** Pupils present their flag designs, produced as part of the project.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Music to their ears

YOUNG musicians from Lancashire are heading for the Albert Hall in November to perform at the highly acclaimed Schools Proms.

Proud mums, dads and friends will be cheering on the Lancashire Youth Concert Band, who received a Highly Commended Certificate at the finals of the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham this summer.

They will join about 30 other bands from around the UK to perform in the School Proms on November 12, which is the highest accolade a youth ensemble can gain.

About 50 young people aged between 13 and 20 from all over Lancashire will be taking part.

Plan ahead

LANCASHIRE'S Emergency Planning chief has visited Romania to help establish better services within the local authority of Comanesti.

Bernard Kershaw said: "We rely on voluntary organisations such as the Salvation Army to help us during evacuations, but there isn't a culture of volunteering in Romania."

"The authorities in Comanesti are still at an early stage in developing these services and exchanging ways of working is one of the best ways to help."

Romanian dignitaries have visited Lancashire and another meeting is to be held later this year.

Go back to school safely

YOUNG people making the move from primary to secondary school are being given advice on how to stay safe when term starts.

Many pupils who are starting a new school will be walking or cycling to school on their own for the first time.

Lancashire County Council's Road Safety Group is offering advice on how to ensure these journeys are stress free.

Clare Farrer, deputy group manager, said: "Making the move to secondary school is an exciting time with lots of new things to try, including a new journey."

"Careful planning and a good understanding of road safety will help your child make the journey to school safely."



"Our advice would be to have a practice journey, perhaps during the holidays, so that your child knows exactly what to do and where to go. This way you can spot any hazards along the way and help them plan the best and safest route."

The Road Safety Group has also arranged 20 Theatre in Education performances of "The Price", based on the move from primary to second-

ary school.

The performance is aimed at 11 and 12 year olds and will run in secondary schools across Lancashire to raise pupils' awareness of road safety on the journey to and from school.

To find out more about Theatre in Education contact the education team on 01772 533466 or alternatively email: roadsafety@env.lancsc.gov.uk

Parents' guide is top FIND

PARENTS of children with disabilities can find their way through the maze of specialist services thanks to a new online directory.

The county council's FIND directory, packed with information about services for a wide variety of disabilities and conditions, is now available at www.lancashire.gov.uk/find

Dawn Helm looks after the directory as well as collating information about the needs of the county's 1,000-plus disabled children, who have conditions

ranging from sensory impairments to learning difficulties, autism and chronic illness.

She explained: "Parents often swap information at the school gates, but many disabled children are transported to school so their parents miss out on these informal networks. We're trying to bridge that gap."

For a copy of the newsletter or the FIND directory, parents should contact their school, social worker or health professional, or ring Dawn on 01772 532509.

Focus on county's carers

THE Lancashire Carers Conference will take place on 11 September at the Woodlands Centre in Chorley.

There are an estimated 125,000 carers across the county who provide unpaid care and support for relatives, friends or neighbours.

There are also around 1,200 young carers who look after parents, siblings or older relatives.

The theme for this year's event is "well-being for carers" and will be opened by Jacqueline Dewhurst, the Chair of the Lancashire Carers Forum. The event is open to anyone who is a carer in Lancashire or cares for someone living in Lancashire, and professionals who work with carers.

For more information or to apply for a place at the conference contact Mary Duggan on 01772 532371 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/carers

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Lancashire County Council

Sinfonietta Strings

Performances by Lancshires Professional Orchestra

<p>Director - Lyn Fletcher</p> <p>Parish Church, ORMSKIRK Friday 12th October 2007, 7.30pm</p> <p>Minster Church, PRESTON Saturday 13th October 2007, 7.30pm</p> <p>Tickets: £8.50 (£5.00 conc.) Box Office: 01772 531794 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)</p>	<p>SIBELIUS Presto</p> <p>MENDELSSOHN Sinfonia No.9 "Swiss"</p> <p>GRIEG Two Melodies, Op.53</p> <p>DVORAK Nocturne in B major, Op.40</p> <p>SUK Serenade in E flat major, Op.6</p>
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Lancashire

Sinfonietta

Lancashire

County Council

Spikey's safety message



STAND-up comedy star and Phoenix Nights TV celebrity Dave Spikey has given a lighthearted exclusive interview to RoadLife, Lancashire County Council's free road safety magazine.

Dave said: "I am really pleased to be involved with RoadLife - thank goodness they aren't leaving road safety to a squirrel any more!"

One lucky reader will win the chance to see Dave live as well as receiving a signed copy of his DVD.

This edition includes contributions from ex-Atomic Kitten Natasha Hamilton, David Dickinson and Anna Friel.

RoadLife is available at a wide variety of outlets or by telephoning 0800 328 1635.

Youngsters lend a hand with advice service

YOUNG people from all over Lancashire got together recently to help improve the county council's information and advice service.

What Now? offers everything that young people might need to know about - from applying for a place in college to how to claim the right benefits - from the dangers of taking drugs to the benefits of a gap year.

More than 40 young people took part in workshops at Plungington Youth and Community Centre in Preston to help write, design and take photographs for What Now?, which provides information via a telephone helpline, text messaging service, handbook and online to 11 to 25-year-olds.

What Now? can be seen online at www.whatnow.co.uk



Info bid to stamp out parking cheats

BLUE Badge motorists are to be sent extra information on how to use the badges correctly - in a bid to stamp out parking fraud.

A shocking 9,000 badges are believed to be misused regularly in Lancashire by parking frauds who deny parking spaces to genuinely disabled people.

The cheats could face fines of up to £1,000. Leaflets to be sent direct to people's homes will remind people how to correctly display their badges - leaving cheats vulnerable to ParkWise checks on misused badges.

9,000 Blue Badge frauds on county streets

Vali Birang, Lancashire County Council's head of traffic and safety, said: "Those who flout the rules affect legitimate badge holders by reducing the places they can use for parking."

"Misuse also obstructs access on roads - which is why ParkWise attendants pay particular attention to Blue Badges and how they are displayed."

Advice includes:

- Display your badge with the expiry date clearly visible.
- Protect your personal

details by having them face-down on the dashboard.

● Use the time clock when parking on double and single yellow lines, when at limited waiting disabled bays and when in time-restricted car parks.

Genuine users can be caught out if they display their badges incorrectly and they can wrongly receive Penalty Charge Notices.

People who misuse the badges can also lose them - hence the advice.

Vali added: "The badges work

really well for very many people.

"ParkWise attendants are providing a good service for genuine users by targeting rogues."

The helpful information will be issued to all new applicants and also to people applying to renew their badges over the next renewal cycle.

Badge holders can consult their Blue Badge scheme booklet for further guidance or contact the county council's Customer Service Centre on 0845 0530049.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Open to everyone

LANCASHIRE residents are contacting their county councillors more than residents in any other part of the country.

Official figures show that the number of people visiting county councillors' websites passed the 90,000 mark in July alone - about 10 times the numbers in other councils.

Seventy eight of the council's 84 elected members have websites. Each includes details of the ways that people can contact their councillor, news from the councillor and a host of other details to help people "use" their councillor.

Councillors' websites can be visited at www.lancashire.gov.uk and clicking the "C" option for councillors. You can then either telephone or email your councillor.

Maths win

BRIGHT youngsters at Lancaster Royal Grammar School beat off competitors from across Lancashire to land the annual Maths Challenge trophy.

A good grounding in maths puts people in good stead for ever - hence the Lancashire County Council's County Developments Ltd award.

The Lancaster Royal Grammar School pupils beat eight other schools at the final - each finalist school had itself beaten other schools in district heats.

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

Important information for all Holiday Club organisers

The Summer holidays may be drawing to a close, but it's not too early to be thinking about next year.

If you already run holiday clubs or are thinking of running a club in 2008 help is at hand.

Whether you are setting up a Holiday Club, After School Club, Breakfast Club or Full day care provision allowing time for planning is essential.

Before you can set up you will need to register with Ofsted, consult with your community, carry out market research, produce a business plan, secure funding and employ staff.

Please bear in mind:

Ofsted registration can take up to 25 weeks and you will need to allow plenty of time to carry out your market research, develop your business plan and recruit holiday staff.

Day Care Briefing Sessions

The Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare Service hold Day Care Briefings on a monthly basis across Lancashire. The aim of the sessions is to give you:

- An overview of the support offered by the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Service;
- Information about national and local initiatives and regulations;
- Information about the national standards;
- The steps you will need to take to become registered;
- Details of five workshops available to support you in your application.

Development Workers and Registration and Training Officers will be available to talk to you about your proposals and give advice. After the session you will be able to book onto any of the five workshops which follow up the Day Care Briefing and will take you through the process of planning your childcare.

The Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare Service

If you need help and advice on looking for childcare, working in childcare or help with training and development for childcare workers, then either give us a call on 0800 1950137 or logon to www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare

If you would like to book onto a daycare briefing or find out more please call 0800 195 0137

Lancashire
County Council

Day Care Briefing Dates

25/09/07 - Accrington

30/10/07 - Lancaster

23/11/07 - Preston

10/01/08 - Chorley

02/02/08 - Accrington

13/03/08 - Lancaster



New lease of life for crumbling mummies

Egyptian mummies, Roman coins, even collections of insects are gaining a new lease of life at the new St Mary's centre

SPECIALISTS can now better conserve Lancashire's heritage and restore a range of historic items – anything from insects, a Roman tombstone, bones of the extinct dodo or a 1950's "teddy boy" suit – thanks to a new facility.

Artefacts arrive at Lancashire County Council's conservation centre, formerly an empty Preston church, from across the nation – and the patient hands of experienced conservation experts restore and conserve them for decades to come.

Everything from Roman coins and Egyptian mummies to 19th and 20th century paintings, from embroidery and costumes through to natural history conservation involving taxidermy of new specimens and the remounting of historic or extinct animals – rare skills make them fit once more for museum display.

"The St Mary's church conversion forms seven environmentally controlled specialist studios which allow us to offer the required skills and expertise for the conservation and restoration of paintings, natural history specimens, textiles, archaeology, applied art, furniture and frames and works of art on paper," said conservation manager Heather Davis.

"This new centre provides our service with high quality and flexible premises enabling us to work on a range of historic and important items."

Careful renovation of the church means its traditional stained-glass windows have been repaired, while the new facilities and modern conference rooms have been carefully integrated.

"The conversion is a subtle blend of old with new," said Heather. "Just as we restore historic artefacts for the future, so we have restored an old building."

"It is now a landmark facility and unique development, promoting historic conservation to the public and providing enhanced facilities for collection-care training across the region."

Millions of pounds have been spent on giving the formerly redundant Victorian church a separate two-storey internal adaptation.

As with many old buildings, the 1830's grade two-listed church was suffering from major damp and dilapidation when it was earmarked for renovation. Thankfully, its Victorian stonework and cultural heritage lives on.

The facility is independent of the original church, comprising seven studios covering different disciplines, conference and training facilities, office accommodation and storage.

Conservators work in partnership with heritage organisations providing professional training courses to museums across the region including the Imperial



(Above) ↑
Before and
after pictures
of the
conservation
centre.

War Museum North at Salford.

They also are involved with 600 schools across Lancashire and Cumbria through the CLEO online education programme. As a regional resource, it also supports adult learning courses and local textile and embroidery groups.

Graham Turner, assistant director of property at Lancashire County Council, added: "There are relatively few early Victorian buildings still left standing in Preston, so it is particularly pleasing for us to be able to conserve part of our architectural heritage."

Pension Credits could change your life, writes Jim Dickson, head of Lancashire County Council's Welfare Rights Service



PENSION Credit replaced Income Support for people over 60 in 2003. Despite widespread publicity nearly one in three people who qualify for this allowance don't claim it.

Pension Credit is tax-free and you do not need to have paid National Insurance to get it.

It is more generous than Income Support and there is no upper savings limit.

How much you get depends on how much money you have coming in.

You could qualify even if you have a works pension.

If you are a carer, or claim a disability benefit like Attendance Allowance, you can get more Pension Credit.

You can also claim for help with housing costs, such as mortgage interest or a management charge in a block of flats.

If you get Pension Credit it can also open the door to other benefits, such as Community Care Grants, Council Tax Benefit, Warm Front Grants and free dental treatment.

If you would like to know more, get our leaflet 'Pension Credit' by writing to us at: Lancashire Welfare Rights Service, FREEPOST, Preston PR1 8BR.

MINISTER for Skills David Lammy recently visited the new centre. He said: "It is important that local authorities across the country recognise the power of museums, libraries, archives and other cultural institutions to strengthen their local communities, stimulate regeneration and foster community cohesion. "This development clearly achieves that aim."



Life in Lancashire

So much to do

Say 'halo' to some Pennine exercise

WALKING is healthy and such fun. Countryside ranger

Tony Lund, of Lancashire County Council's Countryside Service, starts a new series of Vision guided walks with a five-mile hike through Rossendale

THIS month's ramble is about eight km or five miles in length and takes in some quite steep gradients.

There are some stunning views on offer throughout the walk giving plenty of excuses to stop and take in the scenery.

The suggested start point for the walk is Rawtenstall railway station but it can be started from any where in the town centre.

From the centre of Rawtenstall head up St Mary's Way past Asda and the Old Fire Station. Turn left up Prospect Road and follow the road up the hill.

Join the bridleway and continue up the hill past the radio mast. Take the bridleway signed on your right up the newly stone-pitched path.

Continue past Cribden End farm along Bridleway 116 which is well signed at this point. After 100m turn left almost doubling back on yourself to join the footpath which contours around Cribden Hill.

You soon get a first glimpse of the Halo "panopticon" on the left below you.

At this point you are on Open Access Land and so are free to wander off the public right of way and pick your own route to Duckworth Clough, a small coniferous woodland.

Follow the footpath through the woodland before dropping down the hill towards Green House Farm. The footpath goes past a horse arena before joining a track. Turn left and follow

this track along until you reach the Top o' Slate which is the site of Rossendale's new panopticon.

Designed by John Kennedy of LandLab, the 18m-diameter steel lattice sculpture is supported on a truncated tripod 5m above the newly landscaped ground at Top o' Slate.

For more information, visit:
http://www.panopticons.uk.net/rossendale_news.html

Top o' Slate is an old quarry in the hills above Haslingden. There are dramatic views overlooking the Rossendale Valley, and on the horizon can be seen both Darwen Tower and Peel Tower. To the east you see Bury and Manchester and the Derbyshire Pennines.

Once you have finished exploring the

Win a Marmot waterproof jacket

Prestons new outdoor and travel superstore is offering vision readers the chance to win a mens or ladies Marmot PreCip Waterproof Jacket.



Simply answer the following question and return, by 17 September, to Cotswold competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ: Who designed Rossendale's new panopticon?

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.

OS Map OS Explorer West Pennine Moors sheet 287 and OS Explorer South Pennines sheet OL21

(Right and below): The new Halo panopticon and other scenes on the walk.

panopticon go out through the main gateway and then head steeply downhill along the footpath. Continue along the path past the top of Ski Rossendale until you find yourself back on the footpath you started on.

From here retrace your steps back down in to Rawtenstall and find somewhere for a well deserved cup of tea.

■ A walk to the Halo features in the South Pennines Heritage Festival from 8 to 30 September.

The festival has more than 75 events, including visits to heritage attractions, cycle rides and other country walks.

For details, visit: www.pennineprospects.com or ring 01274 433536.

See a full map of this walk at www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision/



Top award for countryside service

LANCASHIRE Countryside Service has been awarded a Charter Mark, the national standard for customer service excellence awarded by the Cabinet Office.

The standard is awarded for a three-year period, during which the service will be reviewed annually and must show continuous improvement.

To obtain the award the service had to undergo a two-

day assessment that included interviews with staff, partners, user groups and other organisations with an interest in the countryside, members of the public were also interviewed on our country parks.

The Charter Mark assessor

was more than satisfied that the Countryside Service is:

- Setting standards, performing well and continually improving.
- Engaging with customers, partners and staff and in doing so promotes choice and access to everyone.
- Using resources effectively and imaginatively.

● Contributing to improving opportunities and quality of life in the communities we serve.

The award recognises the hard work of countryside staff and their commitment to providing a good service and managing and creating opportunities for everyone to enjoy Lancashire's countryside.

Storm in a Teacup: a lonely lighthouse keeper's attempts to win the friendship of a rare visitor to his isolated home. 2pm and 3.30pm, Sunday 16 September. Horse and Bamboo theatre, Bacup Road, Waterfoot.



Summer listings

Saturday 8 Sept to 28 Oct
Rossendale artists' exhibition.
Rossendale Museum, Whitaker Park, Rawtenstall.

Saturday 1 Sept to 15 Sept
Wain's World, cats, facts and the art of Louis Wain. Cats riding bikes and playing cricket.
Museum of Lancashire, Preston.

Saturday 8 Sept
10.30am-3.30pm. Conservation crew. Age 14-18. Want to gain experience of the work of a countryside ranger? Bring suitable clothing and meal. Meet Carvags, Beacon Fell Country Park. Book on 01995 640557.

Sunday 16 Sept
1.30pm-4.30pm. In search of fungi, mosses and ferns. Pepper Hill Barn, Wycolter. Moderate walk.

Thursday 20 Sept
6.30pm. Evening lecture on Charlotte Brontë's relationship with Gawthorpe Hall and Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth. £6.50 inc wine - pre-book on 01282 771004. Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.

Saturday 22 Sept (and rest of month)

Secret squirrels. Craft-inspired activities inspired by squirrels. Turton Tower, Chapeltown Road, Turton. Small charge for materials.

Royal Albert Voices. Insight into life at Lancaster's Royal Albert Hospital. Lancaster City Museum.

1-3pm. Fungi with the fun guy. Family fun - search for different types of mushrooms and toadstools around Spring Wood, Whalley.

Saturday 29 Sept
9.30am-3.30pm. Beyond Boulsworth, hard 10-mile walk looking at moorland management. Bring packed meal. Book on 01995 640557.

11.30am-1.30pm. Trumper-friendly walk on Longridge Fell. Explore forestry tracks. Bring packed meal. Family fun. Book for use of Trumper on 01995 640557.

All month
From Cooler Woodlands exhibition. Plans to extend woodlands and exploration of their possible uses. Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.

Grin Up North. Famed northern comedy. Fleetwood Museum.

Jamboree! 100 years of scouting life. Bring back your childhood memories. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.

Living with the Romans. Native Britons and how their lives changed with the Roman invasion. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.

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

LOOK LIVELY

voice of
Vision



Wendy Thompson
District partnership officer

Wendy is one of the the county's district partnership officers (DPO) and works in Lancaster.

What does being a district partnership officer involve?

My job includes a number of different roles, often at the same time.

District partnership officers act as a link between the county council and district councils, parish councils and other organisations.

We know lots of people both inside and outside of the county council, and often act as a signpost to help others find the right person.

We also work with regeneration groups, such as Poulton Neighbourhood Management and the Camforth Area Regeneration Partnership.

We also help councillors respond to enquiries from local people and provide assistance when they take decisions on spending tax money, especially at the Lancashire Local committees.

How did you become a district partnership officer?

I was born in Lancashire, but moved to London after graduation, where I met my husband.

He was originally from Morecambe and when he left the army we decided to move back to the area.

It has a high quality of life and we wanted to bring up our daughter near to her grandparents. This fantastic job came up around the time we were looking to return to the county.

What's the best thing about your job?

Making a difference for local people by identifying opportunities to develop council services.

For example, at a recent Lancashire Local meeting one of the items involved a possible new cycle track in Hest Bank.

Local residents agreed with the idea but there was some concern about the overall impact.

The committee listened to local views and acted accordingly.

What qualities and skills does a DPO need?

You need an ability to talk to people, diplomacy, quick thinking and good negotiating skills.

I once got a call from Lancaster Prison saying they'd filled in a county council questionnaire.

They had a query but couldn't remember who they'd sent it to. My job was to track it down across the whole of the council. After some detective work, I found it for them.

Why is it important for the county council to work closely with the districts?

Local people aren't always concerned about which council is responsible for delivering which service - they just want to receive excellent services. By working together we can continue to develop and improve.

Which three terms best describe your job?

It's fun, occasionally frustrating, but mostly fulfilling!

Councillors go 'back to the floor'

LANCASHIRE is nothing if not large. With 1.2m residents - and councillors in every area - the county council is large enough to be heard in Whitehall - but small enough to be responsive to public need.

The council's Back to the Floor programme aims to ensure that every

elected member knows how the county council actually works at grass-roots level.

The programme involves every councillor spending time with frontline and backroom services. It is how the council ensures that services are tailored to people's needs...



●COUNTY Councillor
Mark Perks.

I WANTED to know about the support available for disabled people and spent time with social worker Cherry Collison, writes Mark Perks, county councillor for Chorley North.

I attended the Peter Street offices in Chorley. Cherry immediately made me feel at home.

It is important to know what staffs' jobs involve and Cherry explained thoroughly. It was clear to me that she dealt with a variety of complex and personal cases involving people's disabilities.

She had arranged for me to attend one of her meetings with a client who had undergone an extremely traumatic experience that had changed his life. The fact the young man agreed for a county councillor to be at the meeting shows what a trusting relationship Cherry had established with him.

We visited him at his home and there was clearly an excellent rapport.

It could have been a difficult meeting, but Cherry professionally talked him through a variety of options including Direct Payments - a system by which the county council gives money direct to clients to allow them to arrange their own care, rather than them having to accept what others want to give them.

The county council's frontline staff often face difficult situations - and my experience showed me just how professional and important they really are.



●CHAMPION for young people: County Councillor Sean Serridge.

understanding how the education welfare team work on a daily basis.

"We visited a school and then visited the families of absent pupils.

"Children only get one chance at education, so it is vital that they go to school.

"One absent pupil was looking after her grandma and another had had a serious family tragedy."

Some difficulties faced by children and families are seen again and again. Sometimes the main difficulty is money - and those families can be put in touch with Welfare Rights.

Other problems can be health based or may require help from social services.

Every county councillor is being given the chance to take part in similar "back to the floor" exercises, each designed to show how services are provided at grassroots level.

Councillor Serridge added: "I followed one of our staff members on her rounds - a far better approach than just sitting in an office reading about schools."

THERE is more to school absenteeism than just skipping class for an afternoon skiving off.

Family breakdown, health problems and a variety of social difficulties can be the real cause - as one county councillor discovered when he went "back to the floor".

County Councillor Sean Serridge visited schools in the Leyland area to see how the county council's education welfare officers work to keep young people in education.

Councillor Serridge, the county council's Champion for Young People, said: "The day was a real eye-opener in

Lessons reach distant shores

EDUCATION chiefs in a former Soviet bloc country are taking lessons from Lancashire.

Far-off Azerbaijan, lying on the western shores of the Caspian Sea, turned to Pat Jefferson, Lancashire County Council's Executive Director for Children and Young People, when they needed advice on education reform.

Ministers invited Pat to speak at their conference at the suggestion of the World Bank's senior education specialist Juan Manuel Moreno, who was

a speaker at the North of England Education Conference held in Preston back in January.

Pat shared the conference stage with education ministers from Spain, Croatia and Jordan, a UNESCO policy maker and a research director from Hungary, and was given half a day at the two-day conference to speak about curriculum reform, recruitment, professional development and school leadership.

Despite her packed programme Pat managed to squeeze in a quick visit to

the streets of Baku, the Azeri capital.

"It's an amazing place, very diverse with parks, beautiful old buildings, a bustling waterfront with people sitting out and silk carpet sellers.

"I was really impressed with the richness of their culture. The costumes and crafts are so colourful, and the people were so hospitable.

"I carried greetings from the chairman of the county council and I hope we may be able to welcome them to Lancashire some day."

New road safety help

PARENTS and young children are learning about road safety with a new 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 guide includes information on pedestrian safety, child car seats and much more.

A second package is designed for health visitors to share with new and prospective parents.

For more information or to request a copy of Small Journeys please call 01772 531048.

Kevin's food message is champion

ONE of the country's finest areas of culinary delights is right here in Lancashire - and the best way to get there is by bus!

Lancashire County Council has been working with local bus operator Tyrers and a host of pubs in Pendle to take visitors on the "Cask Ale Trail" - a bus service that allows passengers to sample some of the very finest beer and food without worrying about driving.

And now, one of the owners on the trail is spreading the word by showing journalists from London how sausage and mash is made up north and how to pull a proper pint.

Kevin Perkins, owner of the Fence Gate Inn and National Sausage Champion, said: "I was at an event in London and the editors of the Pubman magazine heard me talking about the Ale Trail.

"I invited them out for a night round some of the best pubs in the area, finishing off with sausage and mash back at the Fence Gate."

Kevin's sausages and black puddings have won numerous awards. He was the first non-Cumbrian to win the prestigious Cumberland Sausage award at the North West Food Awards.

Sue Buckley from Lancashire County Council explained: "The trail takes advantage of the fact that there are many great establishments in such a small area.

"The service links with train services from Nelson so you could come from far afield."

The Cask Ale Trail, part of the Pendle Wayfarer timetable, runs every Thursday night until 26 October and costs just £2.55 (child £1.55) for a whole night of travel.

For more information about the Cask Ale Trail call 01282 661394.



●SERVING up a treat: Kevin's been spreading the message about quality Lancashire food.

Lancashire LOCAL

Local priorities

Only locally elected representatives take decisions in your area

Local decisions

Meetings held in each district. Decisions are taken locally

Local winners

Lancashire Local unites your county council with your district council – so decisions meet local need. Meetings are open to the public. Further steps are planned to improve the county council's working with partners

We're putting you first

Task group to boost roads

COUNCILLOR members of Wyre's Lancashire Local are forming a task group to investigate how to spend extra highways cash.

Lancashire Local in Wyre has been given an extra £40,000 for highways improvements – and must decide which of 58 improvement schemes to back.

The money is in addition to the millions of pounds spent on Wyre roads each year. Wyre's Lancashire Local asked elected members and also parish councils to nominate improvements.

County Councillor Keith Riley, Wyre's mayor, suggested establishing a task group to investigate which schemes should get the green light.

County Councillor John Shedwick, Lancashire Local chair, said: "We don't have the money to do all the improvements, so we have to set up a task group to look at each of them in more detail."

"We need to spend the money as sensibly as possible, so the task group will look at each application and have the power to make decisions."

Nominated schemes include replacing grass verges in Cleveleys, highways maintenance in Fleetwood, a bus-stop improvement in Catterall and improved footways on Yewlands Drive, Garstang.

Local choice, local action

All the decisions below were made by Wyre Lancashire Local - but similar local decisions are being made in your area



Action plan for junction

MOTORISTS are to be given extra warnings as they approach a bend and junction in Poulton.

Members of Wyre Lancashire Local – formed of Wyre Council members and Wyre members of Lancashire County Council – approved plans for higher streetlights and extra road-markings and signs on Hardhorn Road and Highcross Road.

County Councillor John Shedwick, Lancashire Local chair, said: "There have been nine injury-accidents at the junction of these two roads in the last five years."

"People come up to the bend and find it difficult to see which way the road goes. Flashing signs and reflective hazard-marker posts will show them in the future."

"There is a problem at the junction with drivers not slowing down enough – some cars have run into the backs of other cars. Extra markings and changes to the sightline should reduce that problem."

A weight restriction on Hardhorn Road will be considered as a separate issue in the future.

Young people in charge

COUNCILLORS are to meet young people across Wyre to help decide what services they need.

Members Of Wyre Lancashire Local are "devolving" some money for young people to young people themselves – and want young people to tell them how the money should be spent.

County Councillor Penny Martin and Councillor Ramesh Gandhi have been delegated to regularly meet young people.

Nine road schemes to 'reduce deaths by 40 per cent'

ROADS are to get safer across Wyre after the area's Lancashire Local approved nine safety schemes.

Lancashire County Council is signed up to a 40 per cent reduction in people killed or seriously injured on the roads by 2010.

More than £1.4m is to be spent on Lancashire roads – and all roads with poor safety

records are being analysed to see what dangers can be removed.

Wyre's list of local safety schemes was approved by members of Lancashire County Council, Wyre Council and also a representative of Wyre's parish councils.

Schemes approved for construction before April are:

● Signs and road markings on Lancaster Road between Pilling and Cockerham.

● Pedestrian refuges and hatched markings on Hatfield Avenue, Fleetwood.

● Traffic calming and a 20mph zone in the Chatsworth Avenue area of Fleetwood.

● Lighting improvements and signs and road markings on Hardhorn Road and Highcross Road, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The following schemes may be completed by April – but

may slip into the following financial year: signs and road markings on the A588 Presall Park to Pilling; signs and road markings on the A6 Cabus to Forton; mini-roundabout, signs and road markings on Blackpool Old Road in Poulton-le-Fylde; miscellaneous safety improvements on Fleetwood Road North between Thornton and Fleetwood.

County climate battle starts

WIND turbines, biofuel conversion for vehicles and solar panels could all be seen across Wyre as part of a £250,000 county-wide battle against climate change.

The battle will be led by community groups in each part of Lancashire – with cash support from Lancashire Local committees.

Whitehall statistics, based on domestic power use, show Wyre households have smaller "carbon footprints" than most parts of the county. Cash support will be made available on the basis of carbon footprints – meaning Wyre community groups can bid for nearly £19,000.

County Councillor Clive Grunshaw said: "Tackling climate change at the grassroots level is a great idea."

"There are scores of community groups that we can encourage with support for things such as converting minibuses to run on biofuel."

"I know of a community hall in one part

Carbon dioxide – where you stand

Figures show carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tonnes) and are based on domestic energy use:

South Ribble	2.35	Pendle	2.62
Burnley	2.38	Chorley	2.87
Hyndburn	2.39	West Lancs	3.12
Wyre	2.44	Ribble Valley	3.28
Preston	2.50	Rossendale	3.30
Lancaster	2.51	Fylde	3.34

of the county that will be heated with an underground heat pump and other buildings are run using solar panels on the roof.

"Many people fear the cost of installing this type of equipment in their own homes, and we hope a scheme like this will bring prices down as demand rises."

"It is the best way we have to make a little money go a long way."

Councillors will officially launch the Climate Change Fund in October.

Community groups will be invited to apply for cash help. They will get money if they can show their idea will encourage or directly support a green approach to the environment.

County Councillor John Shedwick, Wyre Lancashire Local chair, said: "Each project will need to demonstrate a contribution to mitigating, or adapting to, climate change in Lancashire."

"Examples could include community 'micro-renewable' energy schemes, carbon capture through trees or even peat-bog restoration. It really is up to people at the grassroots to get their thinking caps on."

■YOUNG people from across Lancashire have been putting their heads together to find ways to help prevent climate change.

More than 80 teenagers from the Lancashire Youth Council took time out from their summer holidays to attend a two-day residential conference on global warming.

A 4-star council
Rated by users by the South Commission

Lancashire County Council

Resources

The following 2 posts are required for 37 hours a week based at County Hall, Preston and working from your home. You will need to travel to locations and building sites throughout Lancashire. Required from 1 December 2007.

Essential: You must be a member of the Association for Project Safety or Institute of Construction Safety. You must have an HNC in building or equivalent, and a minimum of 5 year's supervisory experience in construction. You must also have knowledge of related professional disciplines involved in building construction projects.

Site building and CDM manager Ref: R00033MT
 £32,487 to £34,986 a year.

We invite applications for this new post to manage an active team of site building supervisors and CDM and site safety co-ordinators. Our team delivers site supervision and clerk of works quality inspection, site safety control CDM support and monitoring and design specification advice for the multi-million pound Lancashire County Council programme of building works, to meet client expectations and achieve best value. You will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the site management team under the direction of the chief architect.

Essential: You must be a member of the Institute of Clerks of Works. You must have: a minimum of 10 year's experience in construction, and 5 year's experience as clerk of works; a good level of technical knowledge and a thorough understanding of construction, including CDM regulations, building regulations, codes of practice, and be able to interpret the requirements of drawings, bills of quantities and other documents.

This is an essential car-user's post, set at band 11990c. However, we may consider you if you cannot drive because of a disability.

CDM and site safety coordinator Ref: R00034MT
 £29,859 to £32,487 a year.

The management of construction health and safety is increasingly important, and we invite applications for this new post to monitor health and safety on building projects and act as, or assist the CDM coordinators and design teams with the pre-tender health and safety information. The role will include monitoring and checking work at design stage and on-site, to ensure that appropriate standards are being met by clients, designers and contractors alike.

You will coordinate and check site safety and CDM regulatory issues across multi-disciplinary teams in Property Group under the direction of the chief architect.

Essential: You must have: a minimum of 5 year's construction H&S experience; full working and practical knowledge of CDM regulations; good working knowledge of construction detailing and design; good knowledge of H&S legislation and its application; good communication and reporting skills; a good organised approach to the management of the workload.

Interview date for both posts: 8 October 2007.

Apply online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies or tel: 0845 053 0008.

Closing date: 21 September 2007.

We are an equal opportunities employer welcoming applications from all sections of the community. Applications from ethnic minorities are welcome. You must be committed to equality and diversity in the workplace. Apply online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

School food is better than ever

WITH the start of another school year, parents' thoughts turn once again to encouraging their children to eat more healthily.

Lancashire County Commercial Services (LCCS), the county council's school caterers are constantly working to improve the nutritional content of menus.

We provide up to 50,000 lunches every day so it's important to plan properly.

To ensure that our menus meet the required standards they come under the microscope of Alison Nelson, our consultant nutritionist. LCCS also works in partnership with Lancashire Healthy Schools.

We aim to provide at least two of the recommended five portions a day, so fresh fruit, juice, vegetables and salads are a feature of every school menu. Wholemeal bread and fresh drinking water is freely available every day.



The majority of schools also have a dedicated salad bar where children can help themselves or be helped by older children.

Apart from enjoying great food, there are other benefits from having a freshly cooked school meal prepared by dedicated and helpful staff.

Many schools recognise the social skills that children develop by sitting together in small groups to enjoy a hot meal. And it's well known that a nourishing lunch sets pupils up to learn better in the afternoon.

For busy parents a school lunch also saves time and the worry of providing a suitable packed lunch each day.

Enjoy some fun

Look out for some special days over the course of the next year.

We will be celebrating the birthday of our much loved mascot Hotpot on 5 October with the biggest party in the country so if you have children at primary school look out for your child's invitation!

Express Cafe – Faster, Fresher, Fitter



As students move to secondary school, their tastes become increasingly more sophisticated. Students can choose from a selection of meal deals from our traditional, global and pasta menus. For something lighter or to take away, we offer filled jackets and grab bags with tasty baguettes and sandwiches.

Priced normally at £1.70* in primary schools and £2.00 in secondary, a freshly cooked and healthy school lunch is great value.

*check your school for details

Training for Success

Parents can be sure that lunch is prepared, cooked and served by trained and dedicated caterers.

We employ our own team of craft skills trainers and cooks attend craft skills training every six weeks.

We provide the new qualification in providing healthier school lunches

If you would like to be part of a successful team committed to making a real difference to the young people of Lancashire, please give us a call on 01772 538 999.

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



Sample from our Autumn menu

Beef Pot and Fresh Jacket Wedges with Carrots and Baby Sweet Corn followed by Toffee Apple Crumble and Custard

Pork Steak with Apple Sauce, Baby Mid Potatoes, Chunky Roasted Vegetables and Sweetcorn followed by Chocolate and Pear Sponge Pudding with Chocolate Sauce

Lasagne with Warm Crusty Bread and Crispy Salad followed by Devonshire Apple Split

Battered Cod Fillet, Chucky Chips and Baked Beans followed by Ice Cream Fruit Sundae

Sweet and Sour Chicken with Noodles and Mixed Salad followed by Banana and Gingerbread Iced Slice

Salads, Fresh Fruit Yoghurt and a Medley of Fresh Fruits are available daily together with a choice of Drinks and Fresh Chilled Water



Commercial services

Lancashire
County Council