



# Vision

www.lancashire.gov.uk

A 4-star council Awarded top marks by the Audit Commission

2004-2005  
Transforming the School Workforce  
2006-2007  
Positive Youth Engagement  
(in the community and  
Democratic Process)  
2007-2008  
Healthy Schools

Beacon  
Authority

Lancashire  
County Council

August 2007

## DOG DAY SUMMERS

Children rise to Kipper the dog's challenge

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## STUDENT FINANCE

Visit our helpful roadshow this month

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## UP YOUR STREET

Detectives' hit and run case

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# £1.6bn

50,000 jobs • support for a high-tech future  
• transforming East Lancashire • tourism and  
rural development • new business parks

## Good news for you and your family

A NEW blueprint for Lancashire has been unveiled which aims to create 50,000 jobs in just three years.

The plan aims to make Preston into the North West's third city, while building business parks and other enterprises across Lancashire.

By 2010, the Lancashire Economic Partnership (LEP) plans to boost the economy by securing an investment of around £1.6bn in tourism, business and leisure.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, leader of the county council and chair of the Partnership Forum, said: "This plan will provide a strong base for economic development in the county."

"Across Lancashire we already have many world-beating companies and through this plan, we will see the development of many more businesses."

"By supporting the existing industries and encouraging the creation of new ones, we can help the future

economy of our area to grow even further."

The Lancashire Economic Strategy aims to regenerate deprived areas, establish new business parks, boost higher education and training, and attract new businesses to the county.

The LEP is a strategic body which brings together Lancashire County Council, district councils, business support organisations and education representatives.

This new blueprint aims to promote economic growth and prosperity across Lancashire.

It is based on the most extensive research ever undertaken into the state of the county's economy and after widespread consultation with more than 250 organisations.

The plan is not just about creating new jobs and industry; it also aims to achieve a more sustainable economic environment for existing jobs.

The Lancashire Economic Partnership has

identified six key priorities:

- The redevelopment of Preston as the North West's third city
- Transforming East Lancashire
- Transforming Blackpool into a world-class resort
- Improving skills across the workforce to increase employment
- Support for aerospace and advanced manufacturing to ensure global competitiveness
- Tourism and rural development supported – to boost the economy, promote quality of place and maximise opportunities for residents and businesses in rural areas.

Over 100 specific projects have been identified and fully costed. They add up to an investment of £1.6bn in Lancashire's future. Funding will come from the private sector, the Northwest Regional Development Agency and other public sources.



## County steps up to new fight

LANCASHIRE County Council has welcomed moves to extend economic opportunity for all.

New responsibilities for councils were announced by Whitehall recently.

Future prosperity depends on a reinvigoration of the area's economy. And that means there must be an effective way of working with business to better support future business growth.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, Lancashire County Council leader, said: "We believe that Lancashire's local authorities have the working knowledge to empower businesses and communities in regeneration from a grassroots level."

"The county council has this theme at the heart of its Corporate Strategy and its role in the Lancashire Partnerships' Local Area Agreement."

The review will require all councils in Lancashire to look at the way they work together to support economic growth.

The county council will also play a leading role in developing future economic and regeneration policy.

The county council already has its own economic development company – Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL).

The company has supported more than 300 organisations in the last two years alone. Each of the organisations is committed to getting people back into the labour market.

County Councillor Niki Penney, LCDL chair, said: "Getting people back into work is a gateway for them to a brighter future."

"People don't want hand-outs. They want the chance to build a better future for themselves."

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.

## Bringing up baby

Mrs P from Singleton writes:

**M**y youngest daughter is starting school this September. Until now my husband has gone out to work in the daytime and I have gone out to work in the evenings so that we could both spend as much time as possible with her.

However, I will now be able to work during the day while she is at school but the only problem would be the school holidays.

I have been considering becoming a childminder as this would obviously fit around my lifestyle but I haven't a clue where to start. Do you need qualifications? Would I have to be registered?

I would appreciate any information that you could give me.

**Y**ou should ring the Childcare Information Service on **0800 195 0137** and they will send you a pack containing a leaflet and two booklets to help you decide whether or not childminding is for you.

If you decide to go ahead they will book you a place on a pre-registration briefing session. At the end of the session you will be given an application pack.

Registration usually takes approximately three months.

For further information on a career in childcare you could visit:

**www.childcarecareers.gov.uk**

## These butts were made. . .

Mr C from Preston writes:

**I**am on a water meter and with all the rain we have been getting I think it would be both cost-effective and environmentally friendly to get a water butt.

Where can I get one from? Does Lancashire County Council provide them?

**L**ancashire County Council does not provide water butts but United Utilities customers can find information on purchasing one of them on their website:



●HAPPINESS at school is essential - but how do you choose a school at which your child will excel? (see "Choose a school").

**www.unitedutilities.com.**

There are two different sizes, a space saving mini butt kit will cost you £34.95 and a complete water butt kit is priced at £39.95.

To place an order you should visit:

**www.uu2u.com** or telephone: **0845 6588686.**

## . . . for walking

Mrs C from Preesall writes:

**A**s summer is now eventually here I would like to get out and get some exercise while enjoying the Lancashire countryside.

Where I can get information on planned walking routes and maybe some walking clubs in the area?

**Y**ou can find information about walking routes on the Lancashire County Council website

**www.lancashire.gov.uk**

There are routes included with different degrees of difficulty and safe ways to plan your walk.

Also on this website there is an events program where there are lots of guided walks that have been organised for throughout the year.

If you do not have access to the internet please contact the Countryside Service and staff will be happy to give you more information. You can contact them on **01772 534709.**

Vision also occasionally includes a "listings" guide.

Mrs L of Morecambe writes:

## Choose a school

**M**y husband and I are planning on moving into Preston and we are looking into which schools our daughter could attend when she starts school next year.

Is it possible to access information on school league tables and also OFSTED reports to help us with our choice?

**S**chool performance tables can be viewed on the Department for Education and Skills website **www.dfes.gov.uk** and all OFSTED inspection reports on the OFSTED website: **www.ofsted.gov.uk**

If you do not have access to the internet or have any further questions please contact Lancashire County Council's Professional Support Team **01772 531555** who will be happy to help you further.

Mrs G from Carnforth writes:

## Happy families

**M**y partner and I have been together for five years and we have six grown-up children between us. We have been thinking about becoming foster carers but we are not sure if we would meet the criteria.

Where can we find information on fostering and also find out if we are eligible?

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

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

Foster carers need to be able to show a commitment to children and work as part of a caring team.

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

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

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.**

## Musical Gemma's high note



**TALENTED** Gemma Wild has been named winner of this year's Christopher Brooks Memorial Prize of "Lancashire Young Composer of the Year".

The prize, awarded by the Lancashire Sinfonietta and supported by Lancashire County Council, is an annual award open to composers in the North West aged 16-25 who are trying to develop their skills in writing for orchestras.

Gemma (24) has won a commission worth £1,000 for her new work - "Butterfly Effect" - and will also become Young Composer in Residence for the orchestral season 2007-08, working on further commissions and within the orchestra's vibrant community and education programme.

For further details about the Lancashire Sinfonietta visit **www.bluefroguk.com**, or contact Fiona Sinclair on **07967 091 327**

## Investment puts staff on track for public service

**LANCASHIRE'S** largest employer has proved its commitment to providing good services to the public by being one of the fastest organisations of its size to achieve Investors in People status.

The council, which has more than 40,000 staff, took less than two years to win its corporate Investor in People (IIP) award.

Assessors gave high praise to the passion and "outstanding commitment" amongst employees for delivering high-quality services.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, council leader, said: "It is such a huge achievement for an organisation of this size to dance to the tune of such a complex but worthwhile accreditation system."

"We all know that everyone has to perform well for an organisation to succeed and to achieve this, people need the right knowledge, skills and motivation to work efficiently."

"This award shows that although we are large, we are very light on our feet when it comes to delivering quality outcomes."



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

**www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies**





## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New centre for Barlick



●DALE Frankland, West Craven Together chair, with County Councillor Niki Penney at the opening of the new enterprise centre.

**MEETING**, greeting and viewing are three of the purposes of the newly opened Barnoldswick Enterprise and Resource Centre.

The resource centre, formerly Rainhall Road School, was developed by West Craven Together and has been turned from a school into a community facility capable of holding conferences, exhibitions, theatres and a community cinema as well as house creative and new businesses.

County Councillor Niki Penney, Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL) chair, said: "It is wonderful to have worked with West Craven Together to bring this to fruition. "Lancashire County Council and LCDL have been pivotal in making the centre a place to be proud of."

### Win royal recognition

PUBLIC-spirited groups are being given the chance to win recognition from the queen.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service began in the 2002 Golden Jubilee year and 15 Lancashire groups have won awards so far.

Voluntary groups of all sizes can be nominated or can nominate themselves in a range of categories – groups involved in the environment; community safety; sports and youth clubs; heritage; disability; play schemes.

Deadline for nominations is 30 September. More information from [www.goldenjubileeaward.gov.uk](http://www.goldenjubileeaward.gov.uk) or from Ian Johnston, Lancashire Lieutenantcy Office, 01772 533364 or [ian.johnston@css.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.johnston@css.lancscc.gov.uk)

### Great day out

**HISTORIC** Borwick Hall will be opening its doors to the public from 9 to 24 August.

The Tudor hall, near Carnforth, will open its terrace bar for meals and drinks. Visitors will have the chance to see its beautiful gardens and baronial hall.

There has been a building on the site since Domesday times. The current hall is used for outdoor education.

Ring 01524 732508 for information and bookings or visit:

[www.borwick-hall.co.uk](http://www.borwick-hall.co.uk)

### Good service

COMPUTER staff at Lancashire County Council have beaten off competitors to win a national award.

A 10-year programme of continual improvement led to the Compass Reference Group Award on the basis of customer satisfaction, cost and personnel efficiency.

# Give us a ring to book a bus

COMMUNITY groups and schools are being reminded that the county council's Travelcare minibuses and Travelcare drivers are available for hire.

More than 150 minibuses, complete with drivers and passenger assistants, daily take adults and children to

care facilities and special schools.

But the frequently updated vehicles, complete with wheelchair lifts, handrails and seatbelts for all passengers, are also available for other charitable and community groups.

Travelcare's Andrew Gill said: "It is not a conventional bus service and we can't take booking from individuals, but

there are many community and voluntary groups that need minibuses and drivers for trips around Lancashire. We can help.

"For many of Travelcare's passengers, a journey of any sort can be difficult and stressful, so staff take great care to provide a service that reflects passengers' individual needs."

Travelcare has recently

received three national awards for safety and quality of service.

Thirty bases across Lancashire mean that nowhere is far from a Travelcare base.

To check eligibility, availability and price, telephone Travelcare on 01772 534395.

# Lancashire to Africa, fuelled by tea

A QUEST for the ultimate cuppa is starting in Lancashire – and will end in South Africa after 15,000 miles on a motorbike.

Lytham's Alan Whelan will drink tea in England, France, Spain, Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Congo ... anywhere he can find someone with a kettle and 10 minutes to spare.

Journalist Alan and his Triumph Tiger motorbike will depart for Africa in autumn. But Alan's ultimate Brew Ha-Ha has already begun by sharing a cup of tea with county council leader Hazel Harding and Preston soccer legend Sir Tom Finney.

Alan said: "I'm fundraising for a Cape Town project that employs 20 people – but it is really about exploring people's lives.

"Wherever people get together to drink tea, they discover similarities in their lives.

"I'll try to drink tea

## FOLLOW THE TRAIL

Alan will be writing a blog as he goes. It can be seen at [www.abhaha.com](http://www.abhaha.com)

Anyone wishing to sponsor Alan can contact him on 01253 739285.



●THE power of tea: Alan starts his African quest for understanding with County Councillor Hazel Harding.

wherever I stop. The trip will be like a Sunday morning bike ride – only more so."

Alan will seek to drink tea with high-profile and "curious" people in order to ascertain their views

on the significance of having tea with a stranger.

Sponsorship money raised – he will be sponsored by the mile – will go towards Original Tea Bag Designs, a Cape

Town project that provides work for 18 people who make works of art out of used teabags.

All Alan's teabags will be saved, dried, and made into artwork.

Alan added: "I expect to finish the trip early in the New Year and will be giving talks along the way.

"It really will be a search for the ultimate cuppa."

# Student cash: take our advice

**FINANCIAL** advice is on hand for budding academics considering higher or further education at college or university, and those applying for places through "clearing" this month.

Lancashire County Council's Student Services provides information advice and guidance on the financial assistance available to students, young people and adults wishing to further their education.

A series of information drop-in sessions for prospective students will also be held across the county through libraries and information centres between 20 and 24 August.

The sessions will offer one-to-one advice on all aspects of higher education student finance to help students through the maze of paperwork to ensure their finances are in order before they start their first term.

Information is available on every-

thing from tuition fees, maintenance loans, grants, special support grants, help with living costs to bursaries.

This also includes advice on how to apply for finance. A computer will be available at each venue for students to apply online. Forms will also be available for students wishing to change course or university because of their grades to enable them to receive their money when they start university.

The service also provides advice for students wishing to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance and Childcare Grant/Parents' Learning Allowance.

For more information contact Lancashire Student Services on 01772 530430 or visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/student\\_services](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/student_services). The service counter at County Hall, Preston is also open 9am to 4.30pm from Monday to Friday.

For online applications for higher education student finance visit [www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk)

## Student roadshows

Lancaster library, 20 Aug am  
Morecambe library, 20 Aug pm  
Preston Urban Exchange, 20 Aug all day

Accrington library, 20 Aug am  
Clitheroe library, 20 Aug am  
Fleetwood library, 21 Aug am  
Poulton library, 21 Aug pm  
Chorley library, 21 Aug am

Leyland library, 21 Aug pm

Nelson library, 21 Aug pm  
Burnley library, 21 Aug pm  
Lytham CIC, 23 Aug am

Rawtenstall library, 23 Aug am  
Ormskirk library, 23 Aug am  
Skimrodale library, 23 Aug pm  
Darwen Access, 23 Aug pm  
Brookhouse (Whalley) 24/8 am

## 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.**





**WIN**

## a capital break and River Thames cruise



**YOU could be heading for London soon by winning our Capital Cruise competition.**

Our prize includes first-class mid-week train travel for two, River Thames citycruise passes and two nights' accommodation for a couple at Britannia International Hotel in the renowned Dockland area of London city.

Your journey begins in comfort or listen to a choice of music as you speed towards the heart of London.

On arrival at Euston station, make your way to Westminster Pier or other departure point for your River Thames cruise.

Check-in at the Britannia International Hotel for your two-night stay which includes breakfast. Your hotel is situated three minutes' walk from Canary Wharf in a peaceful setting near the water's edge.

To be in with a chance of winning this prize, answer the following and send us your entry before 17 August. Name the London train station



at which you will arrive.

Return entries to: Capital Cruise competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.

For information about London, check out [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com)

For Virgin Trains, including online bookings, visit

[www.virgintrains.com](http://www.virgintrains.com) - phone 08457 222333 or visit any staffed railway station, rail-appointed agent or website.

Check [www.citycruises.com](http://www.citycruises.com) for information about River Thames sailings; and see Britannia Hotels on [www.britanniahotels.com](http://www.britanniahotels.com) for leisure and business travel at the Britannia International Hotel and 32 other locations in Britain.

**The winner of last month's Vision competition was Mrs Berry from Kelbrook, who wins a two-night summer break in Bournemouth.**

# Bosses take aim at bad behaviour

**PUBLIC transport operators from around Lancashire have joined forces with the county council and the police in a bid to make travel extra safe over the summer months.**

As part of the annual Operation Summer Nights, a series of posters will be appearing on buses and in bus stations throughout the county warning people about the severe consequences of anti-social behaviour on public transport.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, county council cabinet member for planning and environment, joined the police and bus operators at the launch.

He said: "The message of the posters is simple - 'bad behaviour gets you nowhere.'"

"Our Safer Travel Unit has a great partnership with Lancashire Police, which has seen anti-social behaviour on buses



● **BEHAVE on the buses:** County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and Pc Mark Douthwaite at the launch of the bus campaign.

reduced by 33 per cent over the past two years.

"By joining in with Operation Summer Nights the public trans-

port companies are sending a very clear message to those who are intent on causing problems for other passengers."

## School prayers

IMAM Sajid-ul-Hashemi is pictured leading collective prayers at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre during celebrations to mark the end of the school year.

The multi-religion Faith Centre has been established as part of Lancashire County Council's £250m Building Schools for the Future programme and will move onto the new Burnley Campus on Barden Lane in September 2008.



# 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



**Send your letters to:**

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

## Pupils bring history to life

**M**OOHEAD Sports College is very fortunate in having site supervisor David Clark - a man with amazing knowledge of the textile industry.

I took Vision into school after reading about the decline of Lancashire's textile trade and David spotted the paper. He had already read it and said: "If you want to know about the textile industry, I'll tell you".

Half an hour later, David had given a very full account of life and work in this near-extinct part of our heritage.

He provided many amusing anecdotes taken directly from the lives of people who worked in the textile industry.

David also spoke of his experiences in India when his employer (Bullough's of Accrington) sent him to work there.

Students recorded his memories for posterity by making a special textile-industry "podcast" for GossFM, our radio station.

We are also getting pupils of all ethnic backgrounds to ask their parents and grandparents to recall their memories of life and work in textiles.

These will be recorded and used bring Asian and white communities together.

Our radio station can be heard on our school website:

[www.moorhead.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.moorhead.lancs.sch.uk) and follow links to "school radio".  
**MARTYN LANGAN**  
Accrington

## Cycle query

**N**OW that the cycle track along the north bank of the River Lune is fully operational to the coast, are you making any progress with planning a similar track along the north bank of the River Ribble?

Such a route would avoid the fast and busy A584 from docklands to Lytham, to help make family cycling safer.

**STAN ANDERTON**  
Preston

■ We have the long-term aim of creating a cycle path along the Ribble from the east to the west of Preston. Much of the main road from there to Lytham already has a cycle path. There also may be the circular "guild wheel" cycle route to celebrate Preston Guild in 2012. It will depend on outside funding. If it goes ahead it will follow the Ribble — editor.

## Staff thanks

WRITE to thank you for your excellent staff team at Burscough Bridge interchange.

Deborah and Phil provide a first-rate service all round — but especially in the booking of rail tickets. An organisation is only as good as its front-line staff and they are a credit to Lancashire County Council.

With thanks from me and the many members of the public in Burscough who use the station.

**M GLOVER**

## Help needed

WONDER if Vision readers would be able to help with support for cancer patients.

New volunteers are needed for Cancer Help in a variety of roles in the Preston, Garstang and Longridge areas.

We need volunteers for our reception desks, volunteers to help with fund-raising, drivers to take people to appointments and also helpers for charity shops.

Our cause is hugely important and volunteers play a vital role.

Anyone interested should contact me on 01772 79334 for a chat or to arrange a visit.

**ANNE JOHNSON**  
Preston

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



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CLEO puts broadband in the classroom

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Lancashire are celebrating how well connected they are.

All schools across the county are now fully connected to CLEO, the regional specialist broadband network for education, which means pupils can benefit from the massive resources available on the internet.

CLEO is Cumbria and Lancashire Education Online, a partnership between Lancashire and Cumbria county councils and funded by the DFES.

Since 1998 the CLEO broadband network has been working towards high-speed broadband provision for all schools across both counties to support the use of ICT in the classroom.

County Councillor Alan Whittaker, deputy chairman of Lancashire County Council, said: "By connecting to CLEO, teachers and pupils now have fast, reliable internet access which can bring a host of additional means to enhance learning."

### Trams lure thousands



●Tram-tastic! Wendy Dwyer and one of the famous Blackpool trams.

FLEETWOOD'S Transport Festival was just the ticket according to Lancashire County Council chairman Wendy Dwyer.

Councillor Dwyer joined local county councillors Penny Martin and Clive Grunshaw on board the county council's mobile unit, which rolled into Fleetwood as part of the festival.

Hundreds of people visited the mobile unit to ask about council services, find out more about issues that concern them and meet county councillors face to face.

### Going to the shops

THE Marsden Resource Centre in Nelson has upgraded its Shopmobility Scheme with a new fleet of seven motorised vehicles.

Shopmobility is a national scheme encouraging independence of people with disabilities.

The county council-run Marsden Centre now has 20 Shopmobility "customers".

Scoters are loaned to people at the centre as part of their social care support package.

# County schools lead fight for child health



SCHOOLS in Lancashire are leading a nationwide fight-back against a tide of poor health and low achievement.

National statistics show that today's teenagers have worse health than their parents and that teenage mental health is a growing problem.

But Lancashire has one of the best records in promoting childhood health – and that is official.

Almost eight in 10 Lancashire schools have won "healthy school" status, nearly three times the proportion nationally.

And the county council's role in developing the programme has resulted in it winning Beacon status.

County Councillor Vali Patel,

Lancashire County Council Cabinet member for schools, said: "Teenage pregnancy and rates of youthful smoking and drinking are a concern.

"There are big increases in both drinking and smoking at age 14.

"Lancashire's Beacon status for tackling these problems puts us ahead of almost everywhere in the country and schools elsewhere are told to study Lancashire's example.

"We are throwing out unhealthy vending machines while encouraging activities that ensuring children eat and drink well.

"There are literally dozens of schemes including tackling bullying, encouraging exercise and boosting information about health generally."

## Landowners told to put public first

LANDOWNERS are being warned to put the public first and keep rights of way clear.

A rural bridleway will now be free from obstruction following a successful legal case by Lancashire County Council.

Highways chiefs felt forced to take court action against a Chipping landowner over a Ribblesdale Valley bridleway - known as Bridleway number 10 - which has been obstructed over many years.

These included fenced or secured gateways and a blocked drainage ditch which resulted in making the route impassable. Bridleway signs were also repeatedly removed.

County council officers had been trying for a number of years to resolve the matter, but were left with no option but to take the legal route after all efforts to allow the public to use the right of way were frustrated.

The case resulted in a substantial bill for the landowner in fines and costs, plus legal fees.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet member for planning and environment, said: "Public rights of way are highly valued by people and play an important role in the success of many rural areas.

"This applies to residents and visitors alike, but particularly to their use by visitors and their impact on the local economy."

Public rights of way are highways with restrictions on who can use them. There is no general right of access but you are allowed to pass and re-pass along the line of the path.

### CHECK FOR YOURSELF

Public rights of way can be checked on the county council's map system at <http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk>

SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Vision competitions, letters and stories are online at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision)

## Witamy w Lancashire\*



●WELCOME: from left, firefighter Magdalena Boklaho, Anna Sosnowska-Armbruster and mum Ewa Armbruster.

MORECAMBE'S Kite Festival provided a colourful and lively backdrop for the launch of an information guide for new arrivals into the Lancaster district.

Moving into a new area can be a stressful experience, but will now be much easier thanks to a new residents' and workers' guide.

The guide, entitled "Living and working in the Lancaster district", has been written in English, Polish and Mandarin Chinese.

It features handy hints and tips about local services in the area.

Funding for the pack came from a variety of public-sector bodies.

Copies can be picked up at libraries and the town hall in Lancaster and Morecambe.

Spoken versions of the document are also available from Morecambe Library.

\*Polish for 'Welcome to Lancashire!'

## Free motorbike check

MOTORCYCLISTS are being offered the chance of a free assessment of their riding ability.

County council road safety advisers run the assessments in daylight hours, seven days a week – and at convenient locations across the county.

For details, contact Rob Winn on 01772 533086 or email: [roadsafety@env.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafety@env.lancscc.gov.uk)

Lancashire County Developments Ltd

Wishes to congratulate

**Lancaster Grammar School**

On its triumph at the 2007 Maths Challenge.

LCDL would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the schools, teachers, pupils and their families who helped make this year's challenge such a huge success.

**LCDL:**  
Investment and regeneration for individuals, communities and businesses.

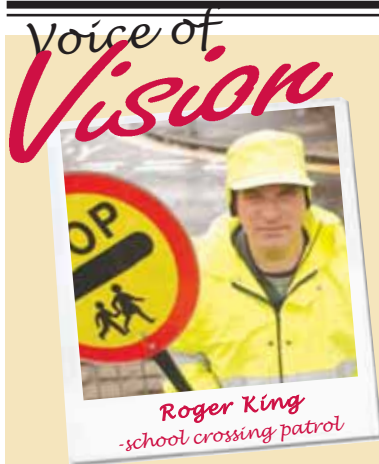
Find out how we can help you, call us on  
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Lancashire  
County Council

**We change lives**



# LOOK LIVELY



**Roger King**  
- school crossing patrol

Everyone used to envy "lollipop" men and women – they didn't work until they were 65!

But more and more people are realising it is an ideal job for parents as well as those who no longer want a full-time job.

Roger, from Brierfield, is only 45 but loves his work at Stoneyholme School in Burnley. It leaves him lots of time for football – he is spending part of his time in America this summer as a referee at one of the world's largest soccer tournaments.

## How did you become a school crossing patrol?

I was a lorry driver for many years and then a fleet manager, but the firm I worked for was cutting hours. I realised I could make more money lollipoping.

Also, a relative fell ill and I needed time to care for him. School crossing patrol work offers ideal hours for carers or parents.

## What do you enjoy about the job?

The hours are good – but you also need to enjoy meeting all the children and their parents.

I like to be outside, even when it is raining. You get a nice, warm jacket and you are only there for a short time.

It's far better than an office job. Even when I was a fleet manager I liked to get out and about.

## What don't you like about it?

Some car drivers don't stop. They are few in number.

It's not a dangerous job though.

## What qualities do you need to do the job?

You need a helpful nature and patience – you can't be seen to shout at drivers.

It is a people job. It is nice to talk to the children – although the nature of the job means there are only short bursts of conversation.

## Do the hours tie you down?

The hours have never been a drawback for me. I am a referee in my spare time and always need time off in April and May for the English Schools' Finals.

I referee games across Lancashire – all good training for the annual USA Cup which I refereed last summer and will do again this summer. There are more than 100 pitches in Minneapolis and teams come from all over the world.

You could say that when I'm not stopping traffic I'm stopping trouble on the pitch as I sent off a Brazilian player last year for kicking an opponent in the head.

I'm also an assistant cub scout leader – lollipoping gives me time for these hobbies.

■ There are 25 school crossing patrol vacancies in Lancashire. There may be one in your area. For more details, ring Ken Speak on 01772 646810 or visit [www.serving.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.serving.lancashire.gov.uk). There is also a recruitment line on 01772 538999.

## National honour for artist Lorraine

LORRAINE Preisner from Preston has been named Deafblind Person of the Year at this year's national Sense Awards in London.

The top award was presented by actor Richard Wilson OBE who plays TV's cantankerous favourite, Victor Meldrew from BBC's *One Foot In The Grave*, at a special ceremony held in London.

There are approximately 23,000 people in the UK who are deaf and blind and 250,000 people with some degree of combined sight and hearing loss.

It is estimated that there are 520 deaf and blind people in Lancashire. Over 52,000 people aged over 60 in Lancashire are also likely to have both a sight and hearing loss.

An accomplished paint and ceramic artist, Lorraine also has Usher Syndrome –

a genetic condition whereby a person's hearing loss is combined with tunnel-like vision and night blindness.

She also works voluntarily in local schools including Hillside Specialist School in Longridge – a school for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder – assisting pupils with artwork.

Lorraine has had regular contact with the county council where she has received a range of support and now assists the council in training staff and helping other people with the same condition.

The county council's Sensory Impairment Team supports people with a variety of communication needs.

For more information about Sense, visit [www.sense.org.uk/](http://www.sense.org.uk/) or contact Lancashire County Council on 01772 533689 (voice) or 01772 533660 (minicom).



● LORRAINE with grumpy Victor Meldrew at the ceremony.

## Everyone a winner in park success

COMMUNITY-minded volunteers have spruced up a park – with a little help from Lancashire County Council.

In just four years, members of Lytham's Park View 4U group have transformed their local park with improved soccer pitches, cycle paths, BMX bike facilities, a car park, traffic-calming on adjoining roads and a multi-use games area.

Cath Pownall, Park View 4U chairman, said: "We have introduced a new concept – an area containing play equipment for old people."

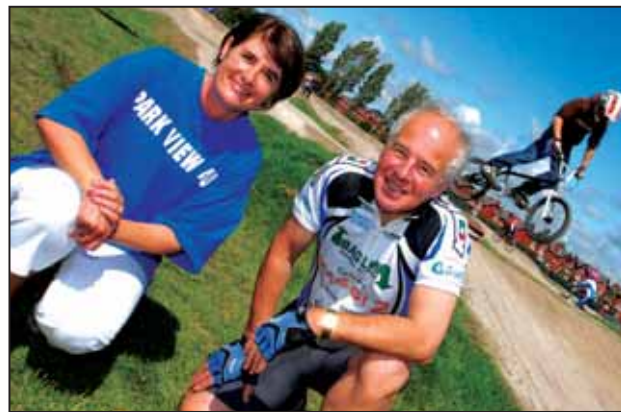
"It will contain something for every age group so that three generations can play together."

"There will be play equipment for teenagers and also tai chi for older people. The family that plays together stays together."

The inter-generational park was first done in a park in Berlin. So far as is known, Lytham's version is the first in Britain.

Money from Lancashire County Council has helped with design and also with improving woodland walks.

Other support has come from a variety of other sources, including Fylde Council and the national lottery.



● FUND-RAISING supreme Cath Pownall and MP Michael Jack in the revamped park.

## Civic thank-you for foster mums

FOUR foster carers who between them have clocked up over 130 years of looking after children were honoured by West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper during the recent Fostering Fortnight.

The MP gave a flower for each year of fostering to Sylvia Thomas,

Margaret Phelan and Ann Hansen from Skelmersdale, and Wendy Arthur from Ormskirk, who between them have cared for a staggering 450 children – and all of whom have adopted as well.

For more information about fostering in Lancashire contact freephone 0800 195 1183 or visit [www.fosteringinlancashire.co.uk](http://www.fosteringinlancashire.co.uk)

## Take the plunge into teaching



Teacher and former trainee on the Graduate Teacher Programme

I ALWAYS intended to teach, but somehow found myself working for ICI in a variety of roles. I enjoyed it, but as time passed, I married and started a family and became more involved in the education system, working with children in a wider capacity through church youth groups and holiday projects.

Gradually, I realised that I was enjoying working with children more than my part-time paid job. I became conscious that if I wanted to be a teacher, I needed to do it now – so I started the Graduate Teacher Programme at St Andrew's CE Infant School in Leyland in 2001.

Completing the Graduate

Teacher Programme was the hardest year of my life, working full-time in school, combined with study that engaged all my waking moments.

I gave the programme my all, pushing myself hard throughout the year, finding motivation in the blend of classroom practice and independent research and reflection that the programme offers.

I stayed at St Andrew's for four years once I had qualified. My induction year was a breeze, as I was already so accustomed to managing my time and juggling teaching with assessment, report writing, parents' evenings, sports days and assemblies.

I even found that I began to reclaim some of my life

back in the evening!

Initially, I never considered a leadership role within a school, but over time, I realised that I already had relevant management experience from my days at ICI. One thing led to another and with my headteacher's support and encouragement, I embarked upon a headship qualification.

The Graduate Teacher Programme requires real passion and effort to complete and people changing careers can bring a different outlook to a school, able to see solutions drawn from outside the world of education.

Early in 2006, I took up the deputy headship at Leyland Methodist Infant School, which is brilliant and challenging – I'm loving it!

For more about teacher recruitment and training, ring 01772 531885

## Life in Lancashire

So much  
to do

# Time up for highway robbers

## County council sleuths are on the trail of hit-and-run drivers

**HIGHWAY robbery is becoming a thing of the past in Lancashire thanks to a team of dedicated "claims detectives".**

Slips, trips and crashes have traditionally been seen as fair game for unscrupulous individuals seeking to make a claim.

The cost to the taxpayer for payouts for injuries were soaring just a few years ago as the "no-win, no-fee" culture took hold.

But now, thanks to the work of a dedicated team at Lancashire County Council, the number of cases is in decline.

The Claims and Damages team, part of the Environment Directorate, puts each claim under the microscope and puts together a dossier of evidence and challenges the claimant whenever the facts don't seem to add up.

Glynn Pearson said: "The council regularly inspects the highway, so we have information on file about the condition of the road and when defects have been sorted out.

"We never accept that a claim is true unless we have looked at the evidence. Someone always goes out on site to double check.

"Each time someone makes a claim it is public money that is at stake, and residents expect us to be diligent."

Also in the team is Ken Winstanley, a former police officer who uses skills gained on the beat to find out who the mystery motorists are that knock down lamp posts, demolish walls and

dent safety barriers. Ken explained: "I look at all the forms that are filled in when damage is reported by our highways engineers.

"If we can't find out who caused the damage it is the county council's ratepayers who have to foot the bill for the cost of repairs. However we are now more diligent and successful in tracking down the culprits and presenting them with the bill instead.

"If you have had an accident and decided to just drive off, there is a fair chance that I'll be

(Below) ↓  
**DAMAGE:**  
Glynn Pearson  
gets to work  
tracking down  
the driver who  
did this

investigating at some point."

The best thing to do if you have an accident resulting in damage to something on the highway is to report it.

Ken said: "It's quite simple to report and, as drivers are required to be insured, the cost will be covered.

"But, if we have to come and find you, the chances are that you will be facing more than just a bill."



## It all adds up to career success

LANCASTER Royal Grammar school has added the Maths Challenge champion's trophy to its triumphs.

No one was divided in their opinion that the best team won after the school, based at East Road, Lancaster, beat off tough competition from eight other schools at the final

held at the Woodlands Centre, Chorley.

Sponsored by Lancashire County Council's economic development department Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL), the finals were the culmination of nine district heats.

County Councillor Niki Penney, LCDL chair, who presented the winning school with a trophy, £500 and a certificate, said: "Congratulations to Lancaster Grammar School for their victory. I think this year's challenge has seen some of the toughest competitors yet. It is fantastic to

see students put so much effort into the event."

"The commitment and enthusiasm shown by the schools and students for the challenges this year has made them a great success and I would like to thank all of the schools that took part." Nine schools took part in the final all of whom had won their district finals. The six runner-up schools, who were awarded

certificates of achievement, were:

- Ashton Community Science College, Preston.
- Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School.
- Holy Cross RC High School, Sports and Science College, Chorley.
- Lytham St Annes High Technology College.
- Our Lady Queen of Peace RC High School, Skelmersdale.



## Summer listings



### Wednesday 8 August

1-4. Woodland Wednesday children's activities, Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.  
10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Abolished? Family art workshops, Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.  
11-1, 2-4. Cats: family activities. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.  
2pm. Children's activity tours. Lancaster Castle.

### Wednesday 8 August

1-4. Fun activities for all the family. Bowland visitor centre, Beacon Fell.

### Thursday 9 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Viva Mexico! Family craft workshops. Lancaster City Museum.

### Friday 10 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Fabulous Fleetwood children's activities. Fleetwood Museum.  
11-1, 2-4. Dib, dib, dib. Family activities. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.  
1-4. School's Out. Activities. Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.

### Saturday 11 August

10.30-3.30. Conservation Crew, Beacon Fell. Gain experience of the work of a countryside ranger. Age 14-18. Suitable clothing needed. Bring packed lunch, Meet Carwags, Beacon Fell Country Park - details and booking on 01995 640557.

### Sunday 12 August

11-4. Community Festival. Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.

### Monday 13 August

11-1, 2-4. Roman Invasion! Museum of Lancashire, Preston.

### Tuesday 14 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Collage and creative writing. Maritime Museum, Lancaster.

### Wednesday 15 August

1-4. Woodland Wednesday children's activities, Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.  
10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Abolished? Family art workshops, Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.  
11-1, 2-4. Cats: family activities. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.  
2. Children's activity tours. Lancaster Castle.  
1-4. Fun activities for all the family. Bowland visitor centre, Beacon Fell.

### Thursday 16 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Viva Mexico! Family craft workshops. Lancaster City Museum.

### Friday 17 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Fabulous Fleetwood children's activities. Fleetwood Museum.  
11-1, 2-4. Dib, dib, dib. Family activities. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.  
1-4. School's Out. Activities. Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.

### Saturday 20 August

11am. Abolished? Town trail. Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.

### Sunday 21 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Portraits, textiles of abolitionists and self-portraits. Maritime Museum, Lancaster.

### Monday 22 August

1-4. Woodland Wednesday children's activities, Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.  
10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Abolished? Family art workshops, Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.  
11-1, 2-4. Cats: family activities. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.  
2. Children's activity tours. Lancaster Castle.  
1-4. Fun activities for all the family. Bowland visitor centre, Beacon Fell.

### Tuesday 23 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Viva Mexico! Family craft workshops. Lancaster City Museum.

### Wednesday 24 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Fabulous Fleetwood children's activities. Fleetwood Museum.  
11-1, 2-4. Dib, dib, dib. Family activities. Museum of Lancashire, Preston.  
1-4. School's Out. Activities. Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.

### Thursday 25 August –

### Saturday 27 August

Noon-5. Special event – contact the museum for details on 01282 412555. Queen Street Textile Museum, Burnley.

### Saturday 27 August

11-1, 2-4. Roman Invasion! Museum of Lancashire, Preston.  
12.30-3.30. Abolished? Fair Trade games and activities. Judge's Lodgings, Lancaster.

### Sunday 28 August

10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Fair Trade family activities. Maritime Museum, Lancaster.

### Tuesday 29 August

1.30-4. Seasonal art and craft activities for the family. Meet Aisled Barn, Wycolle Country Park. Tel 01282 870253 for info.

### Monday 29 August

1-4. Woodland Wednesday children's activities, Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.  
2. Children's activity tours. Lancaster Castle.  
1-4. Fun activities for all the family. Bowland visitor centre, Beacon Fell.

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

### Useful phone numbers

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



# Local fund for 'green' plans

## Climate change issue is heating up

THE fight against climate change is to receive a grass-roots boost that will see community-based projects springing up across the county.

Lancashire County Council's pioneering Lancashire Locals are to receive a share of a £750,000 windfall which will help generate many more thousands over the next three years.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, the leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "Climate change is happening, and the evi-

dence is becoming increasingly clear. We have entered an age of 'climate uncertainty' and can now expect more extreme weather, flooding, summer droughts and heavy storms.

"This fund is about helping local communities to play their part in safeguarding Lancashire. It's the biggest pot of money yet for Lancashire Locals and demonstrates our commitment to tackling the menace of greenhouse gas emissions and also to democracy at the most local level.

"By putting up £750,000 over the

next three years we are virtually guaranteeing extra cash levered in from grants and government money.

"We expect that demand for the money will outstrip supply and so the Lancashire Locals will need to look at each bid on its merits." To stabilise the atmosphere, scientists believe that more than a 60 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions is necessary. The fund of £250,000 each year will be allocated according to carbon dioxide emissions per head of population per district.

## Kipper's Big Wild Read



CHILDREN across Lancashire are being encouraged to read during the summer, by taking part in this year's national Summer Reading Challenge - The Big Wild Read.

The campaign was officially launched by County Councillor Wendy Dwyer, chairman of the county council, with the help from pupils at Kennington Primary School in Preston - accompanied by top children's character Kipper the dog.

The Big Wild Read is aimed at 4-11 year olds and run by Lancashire County Council's Library and Information Service, between July and September.

Children visiting any Lancashire library can ask for a free colourful activity pack, in which they can record the books they read over the summer.

After reading six books, children will be awarded a certificate and a Big Wild Read medal.

The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest annual promotion of children's reading. Last year almost 13,000 children took part in Lancashire.

For more information contact your local library or visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries)

●WILD read: Chairman Wendy Dwyer (left) with Kipper and pupils from Kennington Primary School.

## New roads from old

ROADS are being recycled in a new step to minimise environmental damage while keeping motorists on the move.

Four stretches of Lancashire road are being resurfaced with recently developed Foamaster A - meaning the old and worn surface is chewed up and mixed with new material then relaid as a base for the new road surface.

Worn-out tarmac used to be dumped or sometimes used in paths.

David Rigby, contracts manager for Lancashire County Engineering Services, said: "We now 'plane' away the old surface and the tarmacadam supplier takes it away and remixes it.

"He then brings it



● PLANE and simple: Workers laying a new road surface

back and our workers lay it on the road - while the supplier takes away yet more planings.

"It's a virtuous circle that reduces material waste, reduces unnecessary transport trips and keeps down cost."

The first roads to be scheduled for the new mix are in Tarleton, Osbaldeston, Sawley Brow and Gisburn.

The over-£1m tender

was awarded to Lancashire County Engineering Services, which was involved in developing Foamaster with Tarmac.

David added: "The new material will be used as a base material layer. Foamaster A uses up to 60 per cent recycled materials, while other recycled layers use only up to 30 per cent."

## Bus users get the credit

STUDENTS travelling by bus to Preston's Fulwood High School and Arts College from September will benefit from a new fare deal.

The total cost of daily bus fares on service 663 from Brookfield via Holme Slack to Fulwood

High School for the autumn term is £146, compared with a season ticket price of £116.80 - a saving of £29.20.

Fulwood High School, working with Lancashire County Council, has linked up with the Inner Preston Credit Union (IPCU) to allow families of children who need season tickets for service 663 to buy them in advance, making considerable savings.

If bought in advance there is a 20 per cent reduction in the price of the pass.

To be eligible for the credit union scheme, parents need to contact IPCU and open an account. Over the next few weeks, up to August 22, you will need to save £30. The cost of a term-

long bus pass will then be paid to the county council, in time to receive your bus pass for the beginning of the new school year.

You will then be expected to pay back £10 per week over the next twelve weeks, with a final payment of around £4.10 to cover the interest.

A similar process will take place for the spring and summer terms.

Families can also put any extra money into their account to become a full member and benefit from low-cost loans. Contact the credit union on 01772 556738 for more details.

IPCU is a financial co-operative that offers saving and loan facilities for people who live or work in Preston.

## Children's Book of the Year is 'Divine'



●TOP readers: (left to right) Hayley Pandav (14) from Moor Park (front), Rachael Franworth (14) from Carnforth, and Jashar Masih (13) from St Christophers CE High School in Accrington.

CHILDREN'S author and real-life private investigator Robert Muchamore has been named by Lancashire schoolchildren as this year's top read.

"Divine Madness", a fast-paced fictional spy thriller, took the Lancashire Children's Book of the Year title - the county's literary answer to the Oscars.

The popular author won by just one vote after a fierce battle between the 24 young judges.

Now in its 21st year, Lancashire's Children's Book of the Year is run by Lancashire County Council's Library and Information Service and

is one of the country's longest running children's book competitions.

Twelve schools took part in the judging, representing each of the districts in Lancashire.

Two pupils from each school sat on the judging panel to discuss each of the books and choose their winner.

Robert Muchamore attended a special ceremony at County Hall hosted by county council chairman Wendy Dwyer, where he was presented with the award by the young judges.

To see this year's shortlisted titles visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries)

### SURE START, EARLY YEARS & CHILDCARE SERVICE

Congratulations were in order as the Chairman of Lancashire County Council, County Councillor, Wendy Dwyer hosted an awards ceremony for the first providers to achieve the Lancashire Quality Award.

The Lancashire Quality Award (LQA) was launched in Lancashire in 2004. This generic quality assurance scheme supports all childcare providers across Lancashire to celebrate good practice and support the development of high quality services for children and parents.

The path to full accreditation takes two years and the Chairman was delighted to congratulate the following on their successful completion of the award:

- Broughton Pre-School
- Busy Bee Pre-School
- Lisa Clifford (Childminder)
- Cottam Nursery School
- Little Acorns with Sunrise and Sunset Club
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Nursery
- Cath Palmer (Childminder)

The award was designed by Stephen and Léona Lindars of Sly Glass at Cedar Farm in Mawdesley.

0800 195 0137

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare)

Lancashire  
County Council

**Living WITH THE ROMANS**

The Museum of Lancashire Preston  
tel 01772 534075

14 July to 22 December  
[lancshismuseums.gov.uk](http://lancshismuseums.gov.uk)

NATIONAL MUSEUM, LIVERPOOL

A National Museums Liverpool touring exhibition supported by its partners in art science

Lancashire County Council