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



July 2007

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The new old

Masterplan for an ageing population

Lancashire's 1.2m population and demographic make-up is changing dramatically. Fact. *But what does it mean?*

FIRSTLY, as a society we are living longer. Today a healthy old age and long life is not the exception. The number of older people is increasing, particularly those living into advanced old age (over 85), with figures showing that over the next 20 years those aged 50-plus in Lancashire will increase from 36 per cent to 44 per cent.

By 2025 the working age population (16-64 years) will make up 64 per cent of the population and over 65 year olds will make up 23 per cent. And even by next year, there will be more people aged over 60 than under 19 for the first time ever.

Secondly, the "baby boomer" generation are healthier, wealthier, more active, more mobile and have a greater desire to live life to the full than ever before.

Old age is no longer a burden full of fear. The 50-plus generation are our future – contributing to Lancashire's economy as employees, consumers, grandparents and carers, and volunteers working in their communities.

The consequence of the

changing lifestyles of this generation means a need to re-define the meaning of "old", challenge the myths of older people and, most importantly, plan for an ageing population and its impact on society.

"The current generation enjoys a longer lifespan than people 50 years ago," says County Councillor Dorothy Westell, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People. "The next generation of older people will have different needs and expectations. The fact that we are living longer is great. But the benefit of us living longer will only be real if we recognise and respond to the challenges and opportunities an ageing society will bring."

Everything from Lancashire's future workforce, housing, transport, health and social care, shopping, banking, lifelong learning and leisure services will be affected.

Employers, public services, politicians and communities will all, therefore, need to plan for the services that older people will need and expect in the future. This includes the NHS, police, district and town/parish councils, leisure providers, the voluntary and faith sector - not just the public services provided by the county council.

It is for this reason that the Lancashire Partnership - bringing together all agencies - will this month be unveiling its "Strategy for an Ageing Population".

Following a year of public

and inter-agency consultation, the "future proof" blueprint sets out the future needs and aspirations of Lancashire's older people and ways to develop and improve services over the next twenty years.

"This strategy is about how public services and the private sector must adapt for an increasingly large and active section of society. It's about the future economy of Lancashire," explains Dorothy.

"Services must not only concentrate on supporting older people in ill-health and frailty, but on their quality of life and well-being. Long life is a real opportunity for Lancashire to celebrate this new population of older people who are full of skills and talents. We must plan for the new old."

Frank Hayden, chair of the Lancashire Partnership and operations director of BAE Systems, added "Predicting the future is difficult. But if we want Lancashire to be a place where old age is enjoyed rather than endured, we need to take action now."

"By working together and mapping out a future direction for Lancashire, the main agencies in the county can collectively focus on developing and planning services to meet the varied needs and expectations of our older people in the future."

For more information visit: www.lancashirepartnership.co.uk

"By next year, more people will be aged over 60 than under 19 for the first time ever."

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.

Help for students

Mrs T from Longridge writes:

My son is due to start university in Durham in September. Can you give me some information regarding applying for student loans and what other benefits may be available to him?

Lancashire Student Services provides information advice and guidance on the financial assistance available to young people and adults wanting to participate in further and higher education.

For more information, please go to the Lancashire Student Services website: **lancashirestudentservices@ed.lancscc.gov.uk**, or contact them on **01772 530304**.

Behave on the buses

Mr R from Chorley writes:

Yesterday my daughter was on the school bus. A group of children at the back of the bus were throwing items out of the window and at other children on the bus.

My daughter doesn't want me to inform the school as she knows the children involved, but I feel I should inform someone as the behaviour of these children could have injured either someone on the bus or a pedestrian.

The Safer Travel Unit has been set up to improve the confidence of passengers on buses and waiting at stops and stations.

The unit has played an important role in developing strategies for making school transport safe and enjoyable, including education programmes, reporting procedures and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

To report an incident of anti-social behaviour please telephone **0845 053 0040**. The Safer Travel Unit will investigate the contents of the report, and attempt to identify those responsible for the anti-social behaviour.

You don't need to leave your name when reporting a specific incident.

Hearing worries

Mrs R from Ormskirk writes:

As I have got older my hearing has deteriorated greatly and I now have to wear a hearing aid all the time. I live on my own and my daughter is



● **HARMONY** on the buses: Joe Hegarty and Pauline Thompson of the Safer Travel Unit, which has reduced anti-social incidents on the buses by 21 per cent in a year (see Behave on the buses).

worried that I may not hear the smoke alarm go off especially if there is a fire during the night.

Is there any equipment available to the hard of hearing that may overcome this problem and put my daughters' mind at rest?

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service offers a home fire safety check, and as a result of this if the person has a hearing impairment they may refer you to social care services for the provision of a hard-of-hearing smoke detector/alarm.

Smoke alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing will flash, as well as emitting a sound.

Adult social care services can offer assessments to people who are deaf or hard of hearing which may result in entering you on the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Register, providing specialist equipment to help you and offering specialist advice or information.

Please contact Lancashire County Council's Customer Service Centre on **0845 053 0000**.

Passport documents

Mrs C from Accrington writes:

I have just booked to go on holiday with my two children during their summer holidays from school. When they were born, we only got a short birth certificate but I have been told that to get a passport for both of them I will need to get full birth certificates.

Please could you tell me how I get these and how much it will cost?

Copy birth, death and marriage certificates can be ordered from the Lancashire Certificate Centre if they occurred in Lancashire.

Copy certificates can be ordered over the

phone or in person at the Certificate Centre. The cost of a standard certificate is £7 and the cost of a short certificate is £5.50.

If the certificate you require is a copy of a recently issued certificate listed in a register still being used by the registrar, the cost of a copy will be £3.50. These fees are statutory and set by the Registrar General.

Contact Lancashire Certificate Service, Quayside Court, Chain Caul Way, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, Lancashire PR2 2ZP or telephone **01772 326881** 09.30-16.30hrs

Healthy trips

Mr H from Clitheroe writes:

The long period of the six-week school holidays will soon be upon us. Each year my children get bored after about two weeks.

Does Lancashire County Council have a list of school holiday schemes in the local area and any other activities taking place?

During school holiday periods throughout the year, the borough councils within Lancashire organise a range of activities, courses, play schemes and pay and play sessions.

Please look at your borough council website for further details or contact Ribbles Valley Council on **01200 425111**.

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**.

Inspectors urged to check pupil health

CLASSROOM inspectors should ensure that teachers and governors are making efforts to keep children healthy, according to county councillors.

Members of Lancashire County Council will be writing to Whitehall as part of a wide-ranging programme of change designed to tackle childhood obesity.

Other steps to be backed by Lancashire County Council include support for a ban on advertising junk food and also a drive to encourage more physical activity in schools.

"Overview and scrutiny" councillors spoke to teachers, parents, children, primary care trusts, school dinner providers and district councils before producing their report.

"There is evidence that fat children grow into fat adults, with disastrous long-term health consequences," said County Councillor Tim Ormrod, chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

"Schools in Lancashire have made huge strides in recent years and are a nationwide beacon in providing children with a healthy future: the lesson learned here is that sustained investment is necessary.

"We believe Ofsted inspectors should ensure that money for healthy eating is actually spent in that area.

"Our recommendation is for additional healthy-eating projects and physical activity in the extended schools programme and pre-school settings."

Councillors are still looking at transport and health.

Visits to schools showed good standards of school dinners, but councillors recommended increased availability of water.

Councillor Ormrod added: "The good news is that childhood obesity is less of a problem in Lancashire than elsewhere in the country - only 11-12 per cent of our children are obese. There is still much to do, however.

"It can only be tackled effectively if it is addressed in situations such as nurseries, schools and at home. Children are directly influenced by the adults who educate or care for them, so we must really look at tackling obesity in the population as a whole."

Spikey's Roadlife safety message

THE latest Roadlife magazine is now available in a new and compact format.

This year's edition features a hilarious interview with Lancashire's own TV funnyman Dave Spikey, who recalls his advice to Peter Kay on taking his driving test.

Dave's joined by fellow celebrities Anna Friel, Atomic Kitten's Natasha Hamilton and there's also a whole host of articles and fun features, including the chance to win a digital camera.

There's also a Fun Zone for children and a quiz designed to reveal whether your employer is taking your safety on the road seriously.

Roadlife is available free from Lancashire libraries, GP surgeries, leisure centres, schools, car and motorcycle dealers and a growing list of other outlets.

If you are unable to pick up a copy while you are out and about, you can place an order by ringing **0800 328 1635** or by emailing: **roadsafety@env.lancscc.gov.uk**

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



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

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

Lancashire
County Council

Opportunity knocks

Cash for schools to aid learning and boost health

SCHOOLS across Lancashire are set to benefit from a multi-million pound boost to give them better facilities for learning and healthy living.

Projects as diverse as school kitchens, sports pitches, new classrooms and even the humble school loo have been approved in Lancashire County Council's Opportunity Fund Programme.

The improvements are part of a drive to support science, design and technology, outdoor facilities, learning areas - especially when they can be combined with community use - and healthier eating.

Schools were invited to put in bids of between £10,000 and £100,000 for a share of the county's £1.5m Opportunity Fund. They were then required to at least match the amount with funding of their own, resulting in over £5m of investments.

County Councillor Alan Whittaker, former Cabinet member for Schools, who has responsibility for the fund, said: "The beauty of this fund is that it encourages schools themselves to prioritise

In your neighbourhood

Projects include:

- Kitchen at Flakefleet Primary in **Fleetwood**.
- Lifelong learning facility at Archbishop Hutton's Primary, **Warton**, near Carnforth.
- New block with dining rooms, over-16s accommodation and teaching areas at Carr Hill High School, **Kirkham**.
- Toilets at Queen's Drive Primary, **Preston**.
- Changing rooms and showers at **Walton-le-Dale Arts College**.
- Establishment of a "Foundation Stage Unit" at **Bickerstaffe CE VC Primary** near Ormskirk.

- A learning resource centre at Southlands Technology College in **Chorley**.
- Field drainage at St Augustine's RC High, **Billington**.
- Secure play area at White Ash Special School in **Accrington**.
- Improved drama studio and media rooms at **Colne Primet High School**.
- Dining and healthy meals facilities at Farns Community Sports College, **Bacup**.
- Extension to entrance for disabled access and offices at **Hapton CE/Methodist Primary** near Burnley.

what is important under a number of broad headings.

"They can decide what they most need to improve their school in the areas of healthy living, primary enrichment, better access and so on. The match-funding formula means they can take on much bigger projects than they would normally be able to.

"I am very pleased to see

the range of these projects which will make substantial improvements to our schools and the opportunities they can offer to children and their local communities."

This is the second successive year that Lancashire County Council has allocated £1.5m schools towards match-funding Opportunity Fund bids.

£156,000 to water the grassroots

PLAY equipment, disco equipment, street furniture and sports activities have all gained in a county council "devolution" bid to support public-spirited activities.

More than £56,000 was given to 158 grassroots organisations last year by members of Lancashire Local committees across Lancashire - with grant cash going to every single area of the county.

The Lancashire Local initiative "shares" power over services such as highways, education and libraries between the county council and district councils, with each county councillor being given cash to boost projects in their own areas.

County Councillor

Doreen Pollitt, deputy leader, said: "Voluntary grassroots projects are vital to the health of every society.

"They are all about people taking responsibility and helping others as well as themselves.

"It is exactly the same thinking that underpins our wider Lancashire Local committees which pass real power on public services to elected members in each part of the county.

"No longer can people say that decisions are made from afar and no longer can people say that local government can't respond to local need."

Each Lancashire Local member is given £1,000 to support local projects. Strict controls guarantee that money is spent for the wider public good.



●CELEBRATION: Father David Lupton meeting Tony Blair.

LANCASHIRE Local cash helped to pay for a trip to Downing Street. Father Lupton, dean of Rossendale and Hyndburn and parish priest at St James the Less in Rawtenstall went with his parishioners to meet Tony Blair - and to take Mass at Westminster Cathedral - as part of celebrations of his 40 years as a priest.

Lancaster - trips for housebound pensioners; bikes and toys for families.

Pendle - projection screen for Barnoldswick pensioners; broadband equipment for adult learners in Kelbrook.

Preston - football coaching; coach hire for residents' association.

Ribble Valley - helmets for cricketers; renovation of community kitchen.

Rossendale - transport help for pensioner seaside trip; play facilities for Whitaker Park.

South Ribble - fishing tackle for community use; mountain bikes for air training corps.

West Lancashire - equipment for amateur boxers; ramp for village hall.

Wyre - equipment for drama group; Christmas meal for volunteers.

Projects in your neighbourhood:

A TOTAL of 158 projects have been supported by Lancashire Local. Here are just some of the examples:

Burnley - school holiday activities; catering training for young people.

Chorley - flags for Guide groups; punchbag for sporting group.

Fylde - help for sea cadets; street furniture and plants.

Hyndburn - Support for Beaver group; park improvements.

A treat for the senses



●LIGHT fantastic: Year eight pupils Charlene Garner (front), Ryan Canavan and Annie Wordley relax in the light room.

CHILDREN with learning difficulties in West Lancashire are enjoying the benefits of a million-pound development at their school.

West Lancashire Community High School has been remodelled and given new accommodation containing the latest sensory awareness technology.

Headteacher Sue Reynolds said: "Simply reading a poem about spring,

for example, may not mean very much to many of our pupils. But in the sensory room, we can produce the sound of lambs bleating, the smell of flowers or the patter of rain, which brings it to life for them."

The building has been paid for by the county council with a contribution from the school's own funds.

There is also a therapeutic light room, as well as a classroom, a hygiene area and changing rooms.

New for old: School changes

COUNCILLORS in every part of Lancashire will soon discuss plans to rebuild or refurbish at least half of all the county's 500 primary schools.

The huge Primary Capital Programme will start in 2009.

Work is already underway to agree guidelines to determine what criteria

should be used in deciding which schools should be modernised. The guidelines will guarantee fairness in allocating the money.

Members of Lancashire Local committees - comprising elected county councillors and district councillors - in each part of the county are expected to consider the guidelines some time this summer.

A SURE START, EARLY YEARS & CHILDCARE SERVICE

Important information for all parents, carers & childcare workers in Lancashire

Are you aware of the new Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a comprehensive framework which sets the standards for learning, development and care of children from birth to 5. It builds on and will replace the existing statutory Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, the nonstatutory Birth to Three Matters framework, and the regulatory frameworks in the National Standards for Under 8s Day Care and Childminding. All registered early years providers and schools will be required to use the EYFS from September 2008.

To find out more or to attend one of our briefing sessions please call: The Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare Service 0800 195 0137

The Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare Service offers information and guidance to childcare workers, parents and carers in Lancashire on a range of services including:

- Access to grants and funding for anyone interested in working in childcare
- Children's Centres
- Training opportunities
- Quality accessible childcare and much more

If you require this information in another format please contact us on: 0800 195 0137

Lancashire County Council

You're telling us!

Send your letters to:

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

The past shapes the present...

MY mother was born in 1905 and did, from age 12, half a day in school and half a day in the mill to learn to be a weaver. I still have her exemption certificate.

My eldest sister, who was disabled, went into textile engineering at Chorley's Talbot Mill, working in the yarn-testing laboratory. Theresa was one of only two women to gain a textile engineering degree, winning a scholarship at Blackburn College to study at Manchester's Shirley Institute.

I believe it was the first time such a degree had been awarded to a Lancashire woman.

My elder sister also worked in the mill for a time before starting a successful career in nursing.

My aunt and uncle met in Talbot Mill and both were weavers. I have old photographs showing the factory's

decorations to celebrate the end of the First World War.

I also hold a considerable amount of Theresa's work from her college days - fabric samples, yarn samples, and information about various machines as well as her written notes. I feel they ought to be in a museum or similar.

MRS A FAIRHURST
Whittle-le-Woods

THE article on Lancashire's textile industry (Died with a whimper - Vision, May) was very interesting indeed.

I remember how let down people felt when the mills were closing down. At the end of the Second World War, or perhaps soon after.

There were billboards proclaiming "Britain's bread hangs on (or by) Lancashire's thread".

How proud I felt to be helping our country, and what happened?

Looms were sold to our foreign competitors and the engineering firms making looms were closed after their machinery was exported



- Butterworth and Dickens, on Liverpool Road in Burnley and another across the road from them, Harling and Todd.

MRS A MORELAND
Padiham

THERE has been no decline in tex-

tiles, coal or steel (Vision, May). It has simply gone elsewhere.

Governments of yesterday gave mill owners money to break up their machinery or ship it overseas. We now import our textiles from those countries.

We also now import two-thirds of all the coal and steel we need and have sold off our power generating stations.

Not all the idiots are in institutions.

J J CRAVEN

LLEFT school at 14 and learned to spin cotton. I loved it - the wage was 24 shillings per week.

I went to evening class but not for long. It was not thought worthwhile as cotton was falling down and, with it, the mills.

I believe Gandhi played a part in that as he visited the area.

I always felt fit with the constant moving up and down steps - even more so if a weft carrier was off work.

Albert Wilson asked if I fancied being an over-looker and my wage jumped to £7 11s 6d. I occasionally did two



● Photograph above and left courtesy of Mr H D Talbot from Arnside. They show Edward Dyson's Mill in Nelson.

floors and my wage jumped, but did not double.

The mules were 90ft long and, altogether, ran 1,400 spindles. Cotton ends were constantly breaking, but the mule didn't stop and we had to keep up with them. If the mule did stop then wages also stopped. You had to go as fast as you could and spinners would watch each others' clocks.

Back and forth went the mules relentlessly.

You used to get more heat from the pulley belts than from the factory heating. If the belt stretched, we had to cut a piece from it and rejoin it.

Oil was everywhere. It was in your interests to wash down regularly as oil caused spots.

I also worked in the card room where they made bobbins to feed the mule and in the warehouse on plating machines and on loading wagons and packing.

I also worked on ring frames - a different principle to that of the mule. I worked at Candlewick as a 300-needle machinist, a cobbler, a 12-needle machinist and a veenor.

At one period I was doing an 11-hour night-shift - I wouldn't recommend a dual shift.

I was made redundant seven times and later taught driving. My favourite work was on the mule. I will never forget being 15.

G HODSON
Helmshore

I WAS very interested to read your article on the demise of the Lancashire textile industry.

I have been trying to source stretch cotton (with 3 per cent Lycra) for my company for a number of months. Ideally we would like to source textiles locally to support local businesses. However, we are sorry to say that it has been easier to get this from China.

I have spent hours on the phone contacting British textile manufacturers and many have been very unhelpful and some downright rude. It has been rare for any company to recommend another when I have asked if they knew anyone else that could help.

Is it any wonder that the industry is at risk?

I haven't lost hope and will still try and source my fabric from

the UK. However, in the meantime, it will have to come from overseas.

The contact we have in China has worked very hard to source the fabric we need and has put a lot of time and effort into helping us. I only wish that we had had the same experience in the UK.

We are also very pleased to say that we have a Preston manufacturer who will be making our products, despite the fact that we know we can get them made more cheaply abroad.

Should Vision readers know of any UK manufacturer who is willing to help, please let me know!

LOUISE DAY

Director, The Harlie Company Ltd



I ENCLOSE a photograph of our mill trip in 1963. At the time I was 16 and we were on our way to Lake

Windermere and then on to Morecambe.

I went to work at Gill Stansfield's in Nelson when I was 15 where I was trained to weave on Lancashire looms. Once trained, I worked on six looms weaving cotton. I worked there for a year and then I left to work at William Reed in Nelson where I did further training to learn how to weave silk. Having trained there I had 12 Lancashire looms. I used to weave linings for suits for shops like Burton's and John Collier.

I was made redundant in 1975 because we changed from Lancashire looms to Ruti looms which were automatic and needed fewer weavers. I have now been back at William Reed for 17 years where I am still weaving running 23 air jet and water jet looms. I am due to retire in October when I am 60.

MRS J MATTHEWS
Nelson

Backyard pride

I WONDER when the Backyard Project is spreading across Lancashire (Vision, June)?

My small backyard is an oasis of tranquillity, with a water feature, tasteful Buddha, and trees that provide fruit each year.

I also have a robin's nest. My neighbours also try to make use of these backyard spaces - but a bit of local authority assistance would not go amiss.

S FAGEN
Rawtenstall

■ It sounds like you've got your own Backyard Project already! There's a great deal of pride in

Lancashire's heritage and the project is a way of increasing that still further.

The backyard in Accrington is a showcase to demonstrate exactly what can be done and we hope that the publicity will inspire others.

We eventually hope to see beautiful backyards across Lancashire.

Why not send us a picture of your little oasis so we can show Vision readers - editor.

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

Dentist at work

I READ the article about NHS dentistry in May's Vision, and believe my Chorley dentist may be the only one in the area taking NHS patients.

I used to go to one in Coppull but he has now gone private. Unfortunately, my dentist is extremely busy so it takes a long time to get treatment. I only need to wait half an hour and the nurse comes to me as I am deaf and cannot hear the announcer.

I live on benefits so it is impossible for me to go private.

MRS R MAXWELL
Coppull

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



Entering a different age

With a little help from our local communities...

WITH the changing age profile of Lancashire, and increasing numbers of people with disabilities wishing to retain their independence, the pressures facing our health and social care services will be greater than ever in the future.

Lancashire County Council currently spends over £381m per year providing social services for over 38,300 adults across the county. Of this, 27,370 older people receive support from the council - representing nearly 14 per cent of the population over 65.

But to ensure the council can continue supporting the most vulnerable people in Lancashire with high-quality care, the council is reviewing the way people receive and access the kind of support they need in the future.

According to a report published by the council's Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, changing the way some people receive practical support could actually help them become more independent; could reduce bureaucracy; reduce unnecessary visits by social workers and enable publicly-funded social services to focus on supporting people with more complex needs.

People, for example, who may have lost a partner; who may be

lonely or socially excluded from their local community; have some difficulties with tasks at home and need that little bit of extra help to stay independent - shouldn't need to depend on social services but should be able to receive information about local services and access them directly.

Help them retain their independence and sustain a high quality of life.

- County Councillor
Chris Cheetham

The report confirms that the majority of these people could be better supported by local groups - including luncheon clubs, good neighbour schemes, care and repair services, advocacy groups, and safe trader schemes - but at the same time protecting vulnerable people who have more complex and critical conditions through social care services.

The council is working with district councils, health services and the voluntary sector to plan and develop alternative community and practical support.

County Councillor Chris Cheetham, Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services, said: "Many people with disabilities and older people, in particu-

lar, tell us they do not want to be dependent on social services. They don't want to be scrutinised by social workers, put into care homes or be institutionalised unnecessarily. We must therefore give people choice, opportunities and information to access community services and practical support to help them retain their independence and sustain a high quality of life."

Geraldine Moore, chief officer at Age Concern Lancashire, added: "We are committed to working with the county council to help ensure that older people in the county receive the type of support they need to continue to lead independent lives and to take part in community activities. We know from our work in local communities that this support varies tremendously and that older people are often unaware of what is already available."

The council is carrying out a public consultation programme on what support can be developed to help older people, people with disabilities and carers stay independent and enjoy a good quality of life. The consultation pack is being widely distributed among carer groups and advocacy groups. Let us know your views.

For more information contact **01772 530099** or visit **www.lancashire.gov.uk/wellbeing** to complete the consultation online.

Pupils' National Theatre stage

TOMORROW'S stage stars from Tarleton High School are to tread the boards of London's prestigious National Theatre.

The group beat off tough competition to win a place in the theatre's Connections Festival, in which 10 specially created new plays showcase young people's talents.

The school will head to the capital to perform Judith Johnson's *Scary Play* on 16 July.

Scary Play is a comedy, which tells the story of a sleepover which goes horribly wrong when ghost-story-telling leads to a visit to a haunted house.

National Theatre Connections is one of the world's largest festivals of youth theatre.

Established 14 years ago, the programme commissions new plays from leading contemporary playwrights, and enables schools and youth theatres from all over the UK to produce and perform them.



●**SCARY play:** Tarleton pupils practising for their big day at the National Theatre.

Student rural tourism training programme

ARE you a tourism boss that's looking for bright young things to push your business forward?

The Rural Tourism Undergraduate scheme places students with tourism organisations so that they can put their skills into practice.

The initiative, part-funded by Lancashire County Council's eco-

nomic regeneration department, Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL), is open to students who are studying for degrees in either tourism, business studies, management, PR or events.

Eleven students have been taken on for the scheme and are now looking for placements within tourism organi-

sations throughout Lancashire for the second year of their degrees.

For three months the students are placed with larger tourism organisations to develop their marketing skills and build contacts. They will then work for a smaller organisation where they will put their skills and experience into practice.

The students are paid for by LCDL, but a contribution is requested from the company where the student is placed. The contribution

is a minimal £30 per week for 40 weeks.

County Councillor Sean Serridge, LCDL board member and Champion for Younger People, said: "This type of scheme enables Lancashire's talented young people to bring energy and skills to one of our prime industries."

Businesses interested in offering a placement scheme should be located within Lancashire. Contact Louise Kite at LCDL on **01772 536600** for more information.

Rosebud



Help your business bloom with a Rosebud loan.

Any business in Lancashire can apply for a Rosebud loan for any amount from £5,000 upwards. The loans are offered at a competitive rate and full business advice and support is available to help you make your business blossom.

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

The Rosebud Fund offers help by way of loan, equity or a combination of the two. The repayment term is usually up to five years. Joint funding packages are preferred, whereby a proportion of the total funding needed has already been secured or applied for. The interest rate payable on a Rosebud loan is 2% over Base Rate, with an arrangement fee of 2.5%.

The Rosebud Fund has invested millions of pounds in more than 250 Lancashire businesses, helping create thousands of local jobs.

Whether you are an established business or want to start a business talk to us at Rosebud and see how we can help make your business grow.

Call us now to plant the seeds of success.

**Contact us on
01772
538989**

Lancashire
County Council

Lancashire County Developments Ltd.

LOOK LIVELY

Voice of Vision



Marilyn Ashton
foster carer

Vision recently highlighted the county council's recruitment campaign for new foster parents who are willing to take children into their homes and hearts.

Marilyn is a foster carer from Leyland and in her 14 years' experience has given a loving start in life to more than 80 babies before handing them on to their adoptive parents.

What does fostering involve?

It's taking a child into your home, treating them like your own and trying your best to love and care for them before they move on to the next stage.

I only foster babies, who mostly go for adoption. It is a wrench when they leave, but the adoptive parents often keep in touch and send Christmas cards and photographs. And their joy at adopting a baby is so great that it softens the parting.

What do you enjoy most about fostering?

I think my fondest memories are of looking after babies who are quite sick when they come to me – for example, the ones who are suffering from drugs withdrawal if the mother used drugs – and watching them recover and turn into a happy healthy baby.

What qualities do you need to be a foster carer?

Patience! And not being judgmental – you meet birth parents during access sessions at the local children's centre and you have to push any feelings about them to the back of your mind and remember you are there just to look after that child.

You also need to be friendly and get on with a variety of people.

Would you recommend fostering?

Yes, definitely. It's very rewarding but it's hard work and you have to know what you're going into and take your own children's needs into account.

Would you do it all again?

Yes!

HELP with mental health is now available at the other end of the phone.

Lancashire Care NHS Trust's mental health helpline is open evenings and weekends to help with worries as diverse as loneliness, depression, schizophrenia and others.

Good listeners with four hours per fortnight to spare can volunteer by contacting Emma on 01253 303699.

The helpline number – 0500 639000 – will not appear on callers' bills. The service also has a website – www.Lancs-mentalhealthhelpline.nhs.uk

Sign up now as a school governor

School Report



Anne Bhatt

parent governor,
Carnforth High School

WHEN my sons started attending Carnforth High School I decided to make an active contribution to the school as a parent, so I took the plunge and became a parent governor.

Initially there was a lot to learn about the school and about what it means to be a governor, and how the school works with the local education authority, in this case the county council.

Being a governor is more hands-on than I envisaged, which is rewarding.

We have the full governors' meetings regularly throughout the year and can also volunteer for being part of the various sub-committees dealing with subjects such as the curriculum, staffing, finance, and community.

What I've discovered is that the school has a committed team of governors with a diverse set of skills and experiences gathered from various walks of life.

We have a newly appointed head who has established a strong vision for Carnforth High.

So it's an exciting time ahead of us... we have already achieved Eco and national Healthy School status, and the number of parents putting Carnforth High as their first choice for entry to high school in 2007 has risen for the second consecutive year.

The governing body, together with the school's head, management and teaching team, worked hard and are proud to have achieved specialist science status and this, together with the recent opening of our new

£2m building, has had a big impact in the school and provides an excellent learning environment for all the students.

Committing the time and effort as a parent governor is proving to be an interesting and very rewarding experience, and I would recommend the role to parents as a way of understanding more about your child's school and being part of a team responsible for making a difference to the school's success.

For more information on becoming a governor, contact Amanda O'Connor on 01772 531698 or email amanda.oconnor@ed.lancscc.gov.uk; or ring freephone 0800 181 832, or visit website www.lancashire.gov.uk, and look under G for governors in the A-Z.

Medal marks century of change

A CENTURY of educational change was highlighted when a Lancashire school celebrated its 100th birthday.

For when Preston's Roebuck School started work in 1907 it had 648 pupils, compared with 407 today, different age groups had separate entrances – and it was hit with an immediate cash shortage.

Times change but children remain the same. Last month's celebrations involved pupils entertaining about 200 guests with singing, readings and presentations.

"We now have a sports hall, a breakfast club and a computer suite," said Ann Thompson, a former pupil and current governor.

"The old toilets were made into a computer suite five years ago and class sizes are far smaller than they used to be – they are a maximum of 30 these days."

The old days, however, were always fun. Ann met her husband-to-be at school and her school involvement continues in a wide variety of school activities.

Last month's guests included neighbours, former pupils, parents and civic dignitaries including County Councillor Terry Burns, former Lancashire County Council chairman, and Councillor William Tyson, of Preston City Council.

Pupils were each given a Roebuck School centenary medal, designed by Class 5s pupil Eleanor Cross.



● DESIGN Eleanor Cross, winner of Roebuck's design competition, shows the winning medal to County Councillor Terry Burns. The medal is pictured inset.

WIN holiday **WIN** a holiday **WIN** a holiday **WIN** a holiday

WIN



THE winner's prize could be taken at this hotel or another Britannia Hotel in the resort, subject to availability at the time of booking.



All Britannia Hotel bookings are strictly subject to availability and may not be available at some hotels at peak times or when there is an event in the area. Cannot be used in conjunction with any offer. Cancellations must be made at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

Offer based on standard room, including breakfast, on two consecutive nights. Any additional costs must be paid prior to departure directly to the hotel. No changes can be made once the booking has been confirmed. The prize is as stated and non-transferable. It must be taken mid-week within

a time limit. Transport to and from mainline stations is the winners' responsibility. A seat reservation form will be sent for completion. The prize is non-transferable with no cash alternative. The editor's decision is final.

Bournemouth – where the continent blends with everything British...

VISION has teamed up with Bournemouth Tourism, Britannia Hotels and Virgin Trains to offer you the chance of a two-night mid-week summer break for two.

Britannia Hotels offer the leisure or business traveller modern facilities including health and leisure clubs, restaurants, bars and nightclubs at many of its 33 hotels. There are three Britannia hotels in Bournemouth.

Your journey to Bournemouth, Dorset, begins in style and comfort from a choice of Lancashire mainline stations on a Virgin Cross Country train. The prize includes first-class travel with meals served by friendly staff at your seat.

On-board facilities include a choice of radio stations and a complimentary newspaper – or why not stretch your legs and see what the

onboard shop has to offer you?

To be in with a chance of winning this superb prize, answer the following question correctly and send us your entry before the closing date of 17 July. Lancashire County Council employees are not allowed to enter.

In which county is Bournemouth?

Entries to be returned to Bournemouth competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ.

For information about Bournemouth, including "What's On", visit www.bournemouth.co.uk or call 0845 0511700.

For further information about Britannia Hotels visit www.britanniahotels.com

Details of rail transport, including online bookings, can be found at www.virgintrains.com, telephone 08457 222333 or visit any staffed railway station, rail-appointed travel agent or website.

Life in Lancashire

Walk the line

FROM Pendle to West Lancashire, from Lancaster to Hyndburn, district councils have teamed up with the county council to keep the traffic flowing. The resulting Parkwise teams are rarely popular – but they are necessary to avoid chaos and danger on the roads. And, as Sue Becker reports, their work also has a side that few people even think of...

EARLY afternoon in Rawtenstall, and misty rain is greying the Rossendale hills as they rise above the town's buildings. At the borough council's offices, parking attendant Chrissy Grimes is starting her afternoon shift.

"You get used to the weather," she says as she sets off along Bacup Road, "but heavy rain is the worst. This isn't too bad." She pauses to politely ask a motorist whose Vauxhall is on double yellow lines to move on, which he does with good grace.

Chrissy (51) has been a parking attendant for two years, a job which comes with more than its fair share of abuse and recrimination.

Some motorists seem to believe that parking attendants are fair targets for the collective frustration that comes from using the congested roads of the 21st century.

Chrissy, however, is mild-mannered, amiable and careful to point out that drivers are given the benefit of any doubt over infractions of the parking rules: "If we're unsure, we don't issue a ticket," she says.

She and 28-year-old fellow attendant Jason McCourt certainly have the kit to back up any actions they take, with a hand-held computer that has built-in safeguards against human error, and cameras to provide necessary evidence.

Even so, Chrissy has had brushes with abusive drivers on several occasions, and last year Jason, unbelievably, had to leap out the way of an enraged motorist who drove at him.

These problems, however, are a small part of a job that clearly both officers enjoy and find satisfying. Chrissy points out that parking in Rossendale has become much easier for people now the regulations are being enforced, and both attendants say that they love the outdoor nature of the job and the walking it entails – luckily, as they can cover up to 15 miles a day.

Since parking enforcement ceased to be a police responsibility in September 2004, district councils such as Pendle, West Lancashire, Lancaster and Hyndburn have teamed up with the county council under the title of Parkwise.

Each district has a team of attendants who patrol the streets and car parks within their patch to ensure vehicles have not been parked in contravention of the traffic and parking regulations.

Chrissy is keen to explain that

Parking attendants do more than you think as they pound 15 miles of Lancashire pavements every working day



On the beat: from left, Jason McCourt, Chrissy Grimes and County Councillor Duncan Ruddick.

her work involves far more than ticketing the unwary. She and Jason work closely with the police and the council to check for and report anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping and graffiti, and regularly hold joint patrols outside schools.

They also report "vulnerable cars" which have been left with a window open or valuables on display, and on this particular afternoon they spot a Ford Focus with an expensive-looking handbag lying on the driver's seat. As Chrissy peers in at the window, the car's owner returns, initially worried that she is being booked.

When she realises that her exposed handbag has been spotted, she is embarrassed and apologetic, and thanks Chrissy for her vigilance: she was only gone for a few moments, but it's something she'll never do again, she says.

There are 90 different codes for parking violations, which attendants have to master on their week-long training. Does Chrissy know them all? She laughs and recites a few. Many local businesses welcome the parking attendants, conscious that the easy flow of traffic outside their shops leads to better shopping conditions, and have built up friendly relationships with them.

Only rarely is there hostility, like a chip shop that Chrissy often drives past: a bright orange sign in the window proclaims "No traffic warden".

"I don't let it bother me. You get used to it, or you'd be upset all the time," she says philosophically. "People are getting the idea that we do more than just parking duties, anyway."

She and Jason pull in en route to Haslingden to make sure that one of the roadside help points, which has a push-button direct connection to the police, is working properly.

The attendants are on their way to a primary school, where they meet a police constable for a joint watch to prevent a scam of cars at the school entrance which might endanger children.

By now it is raining in earnest, but the mere presence of the officers is enough to make parents park their cars at a sensible distance and walk across to collect their children.

After the last child has departed, the attendants and the police officer set off for a patrol round the town. Despite the weather, they are chatty and cheerful.

"I've been doing this for six months, and the weather was like this on my first day," says Jason, as the rain drips off his cap. "But some days are beautiful."



Parkwise is a service, not a business, and works hard to maintain high standards. Parking attendants have hand-held computers and cameras which help ensure tickets are issued correctly – and also help in the event of a dispute.

But, did you know that the scheme has never made a profit.

Parkwise is not a company but a partnership – the district councils manage the scheme in their areas and the county council handles the administration.

If you think you have received a

ticket incorrectly, you can challenge it. There is more information on www.parkwise.org.uk to help you check before you challenge.

If you have an enquiry you can call 0800 195 2774 (9am and 5pm Monday to Friday) free of charge.

'Prize wins' can be a lottery

Writes chief trading standards officer Jim Potts



If you have ever received a scratch card, letter or telephone call informing you that you have won a large cash prize or car and requesting that you phone a 090 premium rate line number to find out what your prize is, then beware. The cost of finding out what you have won may be substantially more than the value of your prize.

Scratch cards normally have terms and conditions in the "small print" on the reverse of the card and normally say that there is only one of each of the expensive prizes available to be won. However, there will be unlimited numbers of the other prizes available eg a cheap price of jewellery or a holiday voucher that has stringent terms and conditions attached to it. These prizes are usually worth less than the cost of the call that you will need to make to find out what you have won, yet most people who call will have "won" one of these unlimited gifts.

Tips to avoid premium rate scams:

■ Remember that premium-rate telephone numbers attract charges by the minute, usually well above the cost of a local or standard call;

■ Don't dial a premium rate number unless you are absolutely sure how much you will be charged and you are willing to pay for it;

■ Be on your guard if, after calling one 090 number you hear a message asking you to dial a second 090 number;

■ Always read the small print of any promotions so that you know any hidden catches and costs and exactly what you are likely to get;

■ Check the reverse of the scratch card to see if there is an alternative postal address that you can write to, to claim your prize – this will only cost you the cost of a stamp.

Consumer Direct can be contacted on 08454 04 05 06.

Recipe 4 Health

VISITORS to Chorley town centre were given a tasty treat when the Recipe 4 Health roadshow rolled into town.

Staff from the county council's Trading Standards team and Chorley's environmental health officers met members of the public to offer free healthy treats and advice to shoppers and also to promote the pioneering Recipe 4 Health scheme.

The scheme has been successfully piloted in Chorley borough area and it is now expected to expand throughout Lancashire with Trading Standards working in partnership with each of the 12 Environmental Health services in Lancashire and other bodies such as the Northwest Food and Health Task force and Envirowise.

Aamena Kapasi, Senior Trading Standards Officer, explained: "The five-a-day message is a very important one and events like this help remind people of the benefits of a balanced diet."

"When eating out people are increasingly looking for places that can provide healthy options."

"Recipe 4 Health recognises the efforts that some local restaurants go to in order to protect their customers health and the environment. Those who take part have to meet standards for cleanliness, environment, allergens and healthy eating."

MPs' back to school lunches

County cook serves up tasty treats at Westminster as the cream of her profession

FEEDING hundreds of hungry schoolchildren is all part of a day's work for Kirsty Anderson.

But the school cook and former pupil from Ribblesdale High School in Clitheroe faced a very different challenge when she travelled to London to cook a school dinner for 150 Members of Parliament.

Kirsty, 26, is one of the new breed of school cooks who have a passion for real food and healthy meals, a far cry from the over-processed school dinners highlighted by TV chef Jamie Oliver.

She was approached by the School Food Trust, created by the government in 2005 to transform school meals, to join five other school cooks from across the UK in preparing lunch for the MPs on the average secondary school meal budget of 75p per child.

And did the MPs behave themselves and eat up?

"They were great, but they wanted to try a bit of everything and I had to be quite firm with them!" said Kirsty.

"They enjoyed themselves enormously and gave us fantastic feedback afterwards. I think they were surprised to see a group of younger women - a bit different from the traditional image of dinner ladies."

"I think some people are surprised I'm running a school kitchen at 26, but they just see the passion, that you care for the kids and want to make an improvement."

Kirsty will be attending the next open evening for prospective pupils and encouraging parents and children to find out about the delights in store for them at lunchtime if they choose Ribblesdale.

In the meantime the MPs can only look back at the memory of their school dinner - but for lucky pupils in Clitheroe, it's on offer every day.



The MPs' school dinner menu:

Main dishes: Lamb Lasagne; Sweet Potato and Lentil Korma and Rice; Fish Pie
Vegetables: Chantilly Carrots; Broccoli; Side Salad
Pudding: Pear and Rhubarb Oaty Crumble and Custard; Fresh Fruit Platter

Chairman's Caribbean carnival



● **COLOURFUL:** Wendy Dwyer, Chairman of the county council, joins in the celebrations at Preston's Caribbean Festival, her first event since being appointed as Chairman.

Albert's parish role is champion

PARISH champion Albert Atkinson has approved spending £2,200 to help parish and town councils in their work.

The Conservative deputy leader is "champion for parishes" with Labour-controlled Lancashire County Council - a role meant to guarantee a voice at the top table for small, typically rural areas.

The money will support the spring conference of the Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

The county council also has a champion for older people - it is Dorothy Westell - while Sean Serridge is champion for young people.

Councillor Atkinson has also recently approved spending £800 towards the installation of a speed indicator device in each of North Meols and Hesketh with Becconsall and £1,000 towards CCTV in Carnforth.

Councillor Serridge recently approved spending of £1,500 to support Brighter Future workshops in their aim of getting young, disabled people into work.

He has also approved spending £1,800 towards a training scheme in Burnley - part-funded by the town's Lancashire Local - and recommended £1,500 for South Ribble Key project, which helps homeless and disadvantaged young people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New social care help

A NEW set of leaflets giving information on the range of social care services available for older people aged 55 and over who need support, or may need in the future, has been produced.

Information includes support for people living at home, regaining independence following an illness or discharge from hospital and guidance for residential care.

The leaflets have been developed and designed with help from Age Concern and voluntary members of the county council's older people services reader group. Copies will be available from local adult social services offices and online at www.lancashire.gov.uk

Picnic winner

THE winner of last month's Vision garden furniture competition was Bob Nuttall from Barrowford. He wins a picnic table made out of recycled material.

The second prize went to Helen Ranger from Accrington, who wins the bird table. Congratulations to both winners.

Grants for Growth helping people to get back into work

HUNDREDS of people could be helped back to work at a series of events starting on 9 July.

The Grants for Growth (G4G) events will be held across the county. G4G helps voluntary and charitable organisations get disadvantaged people back into work. This helps them and helps Lancashire's economy.

The events have two aims, the first is to bring those already funded together to create a network of helpers whilst the second is to encourage others to apply for the grants.

G4G, which has already invested £1m over the past 12 months into local community-based groups helping people to develop and improve their job

prospects, has £400,000 available, money which is jointly funded by Lancashire County Council's economic development department Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL) and the European Social Fund, to give out in grants.

There will be five events held across the county so as many people as possible will be able to

attend.

Information packs and advisors will be available at each event so that people can gather as much information as possible on how to obtain a grant.

The first event is held at St Augustine's Centre, St Austin's Place, Preston. For more information contact the Grants for Growth Team on 01772 536600.



Handel's water music caught in online net

LANCASHIRE Sinfonietta is offering a pioneering new service for classical music-lovers.

For the first time, the orchestra's music is being offered online.

Free, high-quality tracks, including Mozart and Handel, can now be downloaded from the internet and burnt to CD, saved to mp3 players, or simply enjoyed at your computer.

Currently ten tracks performed by the Sinfonietta are available following free online registration. This is offered without obligation and you may unsubscribe at any time.

Their most recent release of Handel and Telemann on CD is also being offered online. The disc features a dream team of soloists and musicians -

Principal Viola, David Aspin; Mezzo Jane Irwin; Director, Bradley Creswick - all expertly crafted and produced by Accrington's award-winning producer, Andrew Keener.

The Lancashire Sinfonietta, supported by Lancashire County Council, has now turned to web-based music learning for schools in partnership with Lancashire Schools Music Service and Cumbria County Council. The Tuned-in website provides music resources for school teachers, including special learning software.

For more information on how to join the Friends of the Lancashire Sinfonietta or to find out how your school or group can become involved, visit www.bluefroguk.com or contact Fiona Sinclair on 0161 445 0587.

SAVE YOUR STAMPS

Vision competitions and letters are online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision

Living with the Romans

**The Museum of Lancashire, Preston
14 July until 21 December**

WE all know what a Roman legionary looked like and many of us have visited a Roman fort or villa at some point. But what about the people who were conquered by the Romans?

How did their lives change when the Romans arrived on these shores?

Until recently, we knew very little about the lives of ordinary people in this region at the time. Thanks to archaeologists, we are beginning to understand more about the lives of British tribes people.

A new exhibition pulls together much of the information uncovered to date featuring Roman items from the Lancashire Museums' collection, many of which have rarely been on display before.

Check the Lancashire Museums website or contact the museum for more details.

The Museum of Lancashire is situated on Stanley Street in Preston, opposite Homebase. The museum is open Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10.30am until 5pm. Admission prices are: Adults £3, concessions £2 and accompanied children free.

