



## Red Rose

Pride of place  
for 'ordinary'  
people

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## SOCCER TEAMS UTD

Football teams join together  
to back a £23m scheme to buy  
a new future for entrepreneurs

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## Top marks

Read why our  
carers are winning  
full marks at work

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# SAVE THE TOWN HALLS

A PROPOSAL to avoid disruptive local government reorganisation – and possible abolition of small district councils – is to be posted to Whitehall by Lancashire County Council.

The government's recent White Paper invited councils to submit plans either for formation of new and possibly larger unitary councils, or for improving the present two-tier system of county council and district councils.

Lancashire County Council, with support from both of its major parties, backs retention of existing district councils and the county council.

The county council's plan, if accepted, will end talk of new "super councils".

But district councils and the county council will have to develop new means of working flexibly and cost-effectively with each other.

Councillor Hazel Harding, Lancashire County Council leader, said: "Members of the public are very clear on this – they relate very strongly to their own district and their own community."

"But above that they relate to Lancashire. We don't want to see their focus on Lancashire or their district disappear. This model will allow us all to work on existing council borders at the level of districts, towns and even villages."

"Lancashire Local committees in each area show we are well ahead of other county councils. There is still more we want to do."

"We can work well with district councils. The people of Lancashire want the different levels of local government to work together."

Some district councils in Lancashire have considered merging with other councils to form larger, unitary authorities. Some have subsequently rejected



● UNITED in saving district councils. County council leader Hazel Harding and Conservative leader Michael Welsh say that people want to keep the councils they know.

their plan. All councils have until 25 January to submit their proposals.

Some councils want to retain their small, localised nature. They are being asked to back Lancashire Council's plans.

Supporters of unitary forms of local government, which involve one council running all services in the area, say their services would be more flexible than present service provision.

Supporters of the "enhanced" two-tier system say it is more cost-effective to have large-scale services – such as social service provision – done on a county-wide basis while small-scale provision, such as leisure and parks, is best done at district level.

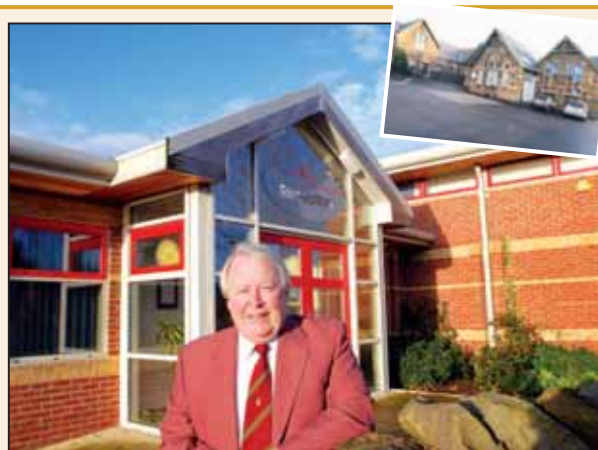
County Councillor Michael Welsh, Conservative leader, said: "We support seeking talks with districts and working together with districts."

"This proposal will work if we have all-round support."

"Councils must find a new way of working together. Conservatives are wholeheartedly for this initiative."

The government will make a final announcement about the future shape of local government in July.

## Our Whitehall plea seeks to keep local government small by saving district councils



● COUNCILLOR Alan Whittaker is pictured in front of the recently built Brindle Gregson Lane Primary School in Houghton. Inset picture shows one of the county's many tired and dated old schools.

## New schools for old

EVERY primary and special school in Lancashire is to be assessed with a view to either replacement or refurbishment.

Work has already started on the 15-year programme that will result in at least 50 per cent of

primary and special schools being made fit for the 21st century.

It will be for primary schools what Building Schools for the Future already is for secondary schools.

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## Shelter probe aims to boost safety

VANDALISED bus shelters could be preventing more people from using buses according to the county council's watchdog.

Overview and Scrutiny councillors are asking people for their views.

A task group of county and district councillors has been launched to look into concerns that poor shelters discourage people from getting on board.

County Councillor Keith Young, task group chair, said: "There is much to be done to improve shelters."

"One challenge is the number of different bus shelter owners in Lancashire – it is not clear to people who is responsible for repairs."

"I am keen to hear from people who use bus shelters or who live near a shelter."

The task group will also investigate how timetable information on bus shelters can be improved and consider the impact of run-down shelters on safety in surrounding areas.

Complete our  
SPEAK YOUR MIND

simple online  
questionnaire at  
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation/>  
OR write to The  
Editor, Vision,  
County Hall,  
Preston PR1 8XJ.



# Ask Shirley

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

*If you are having problems getting hold of someone to help, Lancashire County Council has many staff trained and willing to assist.*

*Sometimes you just can't think who to ask - and this is where Vision's Shirley comes in.*

*Shirley answers all the letters she receives and some will feature on this page. Others may take a while as Shirley will seek responses from other council teams.*

*Shirley is not able to offer legal advice.*

## Born again?

Mrs C from Garstang writes:

**I** am going abroad in a couple of months' time and have just filled in my application form for a passport.

**I** have just realised I have lost my birth certificate. How do I replace it and what will it cost?

**L**ancashire County Council's Registration Service will be able to provide a copy of your birth certificate.

The cost of a replacement certificate will depend on the type you require. The standard birth certificate, which gives a complete copy, is £7 and a short birth certificate is £5.50.

You can order by telephone on **01772 326881** and pay by credit or debit card, in person at Quayside Court, Chain Caul Way, Docklands Preston or online at **www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/birthsmarriagesdeaths**

You will need to provide your name at birth, place of birth and your mother's (maiden) and father's name at the time of your birth.

## You dial, we deliver

Miss B from Woodplumpton:

**D**oes Lancashire County Council have a mobile phone number to which I can send texts with feedback on their services and other aspects of council business?

**L**ancashire County Council has monthly SMS consultations.

Each month a question is sent to your mobile phone asking for your views on a public-sector issue.

You then reply to the text with your views and thus help to shape and direct your own council. Costs for return texts will depend on your own particular tariff.

To find out more and for details on how to register, please visit **www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/sms**

## A taxing question

Ms K from Penwortham writes:

**I** have recently moved to Penwortham and would like to register for Council Tax



● ONLINE school applications. Parents should hear of allocations soon (see "...to those who wait").

and arrange for some household goods to be removed. Who do I contact?

**B**oth your queries are dealt with by your district council.

For Penwortham that is South Ribble Council and there are, of course, 12 district councils across Lancashire.

You will find the telephone number for your district council in your telephone directory.

## Child's play

Ms Peel from Colne writes:

**I** have a three year-old child and I would like more information about the new children's centres. Please can you tell me more about them and where I can find my nearest centre?

**S**ure Start Children's Centres are places where children under 5 years-old and their families can receive a number of integrated services.

They can get professional help and advice on a range of subjects including early learning combined with full daycare, child and health services (for example antenatal, family support services, support for children and parents with special needs, and links with JobCentre Plus) to support parents who want training or work.

To find your nearest children's centre, contact Childcare Information services on free-phone **0800 1950137**.

## Good things come...

Mr T from Staining writes:

**M**y son's season ticket for the school bus is up for renewal. How do I renew the pass?

**R**enewal forms for season tickets are automatically sent when the pass is due to expire.

If you have any further queries

please contact the school transport team on **01772 534588**.

## ...to those who wait

Mrs P from Ingol writes:

**I** filled in my secondary school preferences online for my son. When will I hear which school he has been allocated to?

**R**esults for secondary school applications are out on 1 March with results for primary school applications on 13 March.

For more information please contact your area education office. If you are not sure of the correct telephone number then please contact Lancashire County Council's Customer Service Centre on **0845 053 0000**.

## Child's play

Mr D from Longridge writes:

**E**very day on my way to work I drive over a pothole in the road. It is now getting so big that I can feel a bump every time I go over it. I am concerned as before long someone's car may get damaged.

Who should I contact?

**L**ancashire Highways is responsible for dealing with potholes on adopted highways. Staff can be contacted on **0845 053 0011** or you can email them at **highways@lancashire.gov.uk**

You will need to advise them of the exact location and if possible provide your contact details. They will ensure that your query is dealt with as soon as possible.

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**.

## Use this chance to 'meet your ancestors'

FAMILY historians can now view Ancestry, the online genealogy service, for free on computers in Lancashire libraries.

The site **www.ancestrylibrary.com** provides access to a whole range of family history resources with particularly extensive information being available for the United Kingdom and America. No personal subscription is needed when seen on computers that are part of the free-to-use People's Network in libraries.

The decennial England and Wales censuses are available from 1841-1901 and the Scottish 1841 census has also been added.

These are particularly useful as they provide information on whole households on the date the census was taken - including age, place of birth, occupation and relationship to the head of the house.

There is also access to the birth, death and marriage indexes for England and Wales from 1837-2004. Using these civil registers you can find information which will enable you to send off for a copy of the full certificate for any event.

A recent addition to Ancestry has been some British phone books from 1880-1984.

Ancestry is part of Lancashire's Online Reference Library (**www.lancashire.gov.uk/onrl**) which also guides people to other family history sites and provides access from home PCs to a range of subscription sites such as Britannica and the Oxford English Dictionary.

Take a free look at: **www.lancashire.gov.uk/onrl**

## County school leads campaign

● PUPIL Charlotte Hulme and a hedgehog prepare for the Be Safe, Be Seen campaign.



CHILDREN at a Lancashire school have been chosen to spearhead a national campaign to keep children safe in the dark winter months.

The Department for Transport wanted promotional material to encourage children using roads to wear fluorescent clothing by day and reflective clothing by night.

Lancashire County Council's Road Safety Group directed them to Queen's Drive Primary School in Preston - a school with a good record on promoting road safety.

The pupils are now fronting the "be safe, be seen" campaign which uses the well-known hedgehogs to remind children of what they need to do to stay safe on dark roads. Real-life hedgehogs were brought along for the picture sessions.

Advice for parents includes:

● Make sure children wear bright clothing in the day and reflective material at night.

● Ensure that cycling lights, front and back, are working.

● Use safe places to cross roads such as pedestrian crossings.

● Remember the Green Cross Code: stop, look, listen, live.

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



NEWS IN  
BRIEFSports  
coaching  
for youth

A DEDICATED group of volunteers in Burnley is making a real difference to the future of young people in the area.

And with the help of a grant from Lancashire County Council's economic development company, Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL), even more work is being done to keep young people off the streets, give them skills and boost their confidence.

The ESDL Grants for Growth cash has been used to buy a new computer for Burnley Wood Community Action Group and to pay for sports coaching for young people to increase their confidence and skills.

Silver  
screen  
classics

A CINEMA club in east Lancashire is reeling in the punters thanks to a grant from Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People.

The Church and West Accrington Cinema Club regularly draws audiences of around 50 from the surrounding area with a varied programme including classics such as The Sound of Music and modern hits like Calendar Girls.

County Councillor Dorothy Westell has given the group £300 from her budget towards running costs and licensing films.

Carers  
united

CARERS across Lancashire are being invited to join a forum that represents their needs and views to social services bosses.

The Lancashire Carers' Forum is formed of unpaid carers but is attended by people from Lancashire County Council and other agencies – giving carers a direct line to the top.

Major carers' issues, such as the health and welfare of carers themselves, are addressed in the hope of finding solutions.

For further details, contact any of the following carers' centres: Preston and district, 01772 200173; Wyre and Fylde, 01253 783150; Morecambe, 01524 833456; Chorley and South Ribbles, 01772 455459; Skelmersdale, 01695 737777; Burnley, 01282 704604; Accrington, 01254 387444; Clitheroe, 01200 444899. Details are also available from Mary Duggan on 01772 532371.

## Budding tycoons on £23m jobs trail

A MAJOR scheme to boost jobs and enterprise is to start this spring in Pennine Lancashire.

The £23m Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) programme will unite district councils, Lancashire County Council, and Burnley, Blackburn Rovers and Accrington Stanley football

clubs in tackling low rates of economic activity, low ambition and pockets of high unemployment.

Targets within three years include the establishment of 1,273 small businesses, foundation of five "enterprise havens" and creation of 50 new construction businesses. Ten-year targets include the foundation of 3,937 new businesses, an extra 2,835 self-

employed people and assisted growth for 5,000 businesses.

Other partner organisations are Blackburn with Darwen Council, Hyndburn Council, Burnley Council and Pendle Council.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, county council leader, said: "These are largely former textile towns whose economic base eroded in recent decades –

leaving a legacy of economic decay and low pay.

"The area has already begun to move forward again and this programme will help it along that road.

"We already have some excellent examples of thriving young companies. LEGI will be stimulating that development further."

New school  
for your child

AT LEAST half of Lancashire's 500 primary schools are to be rebuilt, refurbished or remodelled.

Lancashire's school chief expects the huge programme to start in 2009 with the aim of providing 21st century facilities,

extending parental choice and putting primary schools at the heart of local communities.

Work on the scheme started last month with the establishment of procedures and advisory bodies – including schools and churches – to plan strategically for school needs in the next 15 years.

The scale of the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) work will be the primary school equivalent of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project in secondary schools.

Every primary school in Lancashire will be assessed and:

- at least 50 per cent of primary schools rebuilt, refurbished or remodelled.

- 20 per cent of worst-condition school buildings serving the most deprived communities will be brought up to standard or closed.

- School buildings will be planned to minimise expensive and wasteful

Half of all primary schools will be rebuilt or revamped in 15 years

empty desks.

County Councillor Alan Whittaker, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for schools, said: "We will be rigorous and comprehensive to ensure we meet the needs of children, families and communities across Lancashire.

"We still have schools not only from the last century, but the century before that. In addition we have a large number of schools from the 50s, 60s and 70s that are also

getting tired and beyond their expected lifespan.

"This extra investment will be in addition to the money already available for school maintenance and building."

Funding will come from traditional capital allocations – unlike money for Building Schools for the Future which comes through the Public Finance Initiative.

Whitehall cash will be allocated annually and is expected to last for 15 years.

Lancashire's Local

Education Authority will decide which schools are prioritised.

Councillor Whittaker added: "In some parts of Lancashire we may find we can even run PCP and BSF together which will make a great deal of sense.

"We now have to work on a business case and get all the right people in place."

A series of seminars for headteachers and governors will be held across the county in January and February.

## Ofsted's top schools are here

SCHOOLS in Lancashire are heading a national roll of honour.

Thirteen county schools have been listed in Ofsted's annual report as being "outstanding providers of education" – the highest number in any local authority area in the country.

The "outstanding" tag applies only to schools in which "children are achieving very well".

The schools are:  
 ■ Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Stacksteads  
 ■ Bowland High School, Clitheroe  
 ■ Lancaster Central High School

■ Duke Street Nursery School, Chorley  
 ■ Edisford Primary School, Clitheroe  
 ■ St Michael's CE Primary School, Grimsargh  
 ■ Hodgson High School Technology College, Poulton  
 ■ Kirkland and Catterall St Helen's CE Primary School, Garstang  
 ■ Lancaster Girls' Grammar School  
 ■ Moss Side Primary School, Leyland  
 ■ Shakespeare Primary School, Fleetwood  
 ■ Stag Hills Nursery School, Rawtenstall  
 ■ Tor View School, Haslingden.

## Pride of place for Spitfires

A PLAQUE commemorating Lancashire's role in buying Spitfire fighters has been mounted on the wall of Lancashire County Council's chairman.

People in 65 towns across Lancashire bought Spitfires – and even adopted battleships – to help win World War Two. The evidence is still there in missing gates and railings!

The plaque was presented to the Lancashire Association of Urban District Councils in 1942 by the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

The people of Lancashire, it said, had "earned the gratitude of the British nation, sustaining the valour of the Royal Air Force and fortifying the cause of freedom".

The plaque was handed to County Councillor Terry Burns by John Marsden, a former gunner on a bomber.



●FROM left, John Marsden, County Councillor Terry Burns, county council chairman, former mayor Tom Isherwood and Mrs Eileen Marsden.



● CONSERVATION specialist Heather Davies gets to work on a sword discovered off the Cumbrian coast.

Experts land  
museum deal

MORE than 400 museum exhibits ranging from an 18th century sedan chair to military flags and ancient footwear are being sent from Cumbria to Lancashire County Council's museum experts.

The county council's staff have won a contract to maintain and repair artefacts from a museum in Whitehaven.

Work by the county council's specialist will include cleaning, patching and veneering.

Red Cross card  
guarantees help

THE British Red Cross Society is calling on carers who look after sick or elderly relatives to carry an emergency card in case of accidents or sudden illness.

The Carers' Emergency Card is carried by carers and is used as an instant source of identification. The registration number and telephone number on the card are linked to a Red Cross database.

In the case of an emergency the card instantly identifies the holder as a carer and the Red Cross quickly co-ordinates help for the dependant person while the carer receives attention.

Jane Carroll, Carers' Emergency Card co-ordinator, said: "We offer a service to carers which provides peace of mind when they are out and about and have to leave the person they care for unattended.

"Completion of the enrolment form will store information about the carer, the person they care for and action to be taken in the event of emergency.

"The service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and because Lancashire County Council funds the scheme, it is completely free of charge."

For more information, contact: British Red Cross on 01772 707313 or 01772 709555 or write to: Carer's Emergency Card Service, British Red Cross Society, Lancashire Branch, FREEPOST NWW 153A, Preston, Lancashire PR2 9BR; or email: carerscard@redcross.org.uk



# a fab lakeland break

A SUPERB three-night South Lakes break and relaxing cruise on Lake Windermere is the prize for the lucky winner of this edition's competition.

We are offering a three-night bed and breakfast break at the three-star AA rated Clarke's Hotel, situated in the Rumpside overlooking picturesque Morecambe Bay. Staying in luxurious en-suite accommodation, you'll be assured of warm and friendly service as you relax in these peaceful surroundings. The hotel's high-quality brasserie is open all day, giving you freedom to eat at a time to suit you.

Take your partner away for a refreshing short break or bring the children along for a fun family break. Up to two children are welcome and would share the room with the adults.

Barrow-in-Furness and other South Lakes attractions are close by, giving you the perfect base to explore this spectacular area.

Two lucky runners-up will receive 24-hour Freedom of the Lake family tickets for Lake Windermere, England's largest lake.



The passes give unlimited travel for 24 hours on scheduled services between Lakeside, Bowness and Windermere, as well as the Enchanting Islands cruise and the Hiker's Ferry Service from Bowness.

The passes are valid for two adults and up to three children. Accompanied children under 5 go free.

Simply answer the following question: **Which lake is the largest in England?** Entries, containing names and address should be sent to: Lakes Competition, Mersey, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 8XJ. Entries must be received by 15 January.

The first correct answer drawn will win the hotel break and a cruise. The next two

correct answers selected will win Lake Windermere tickets.

Lancashire County Council employees are not allowed to enter. If you'd like to know more about Clarke's Hotel or if you'd like to request a brochure, call the hotel on 01229 820303 mentioning this article.

For more information about Windermere's ferry services call 015395 31188.

## ENTRY FORM

Q: Which lake is the largest in England?

A: .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

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

## Tell us what to probe

WATCHDOG councillors are asking members of the public to suggest subjects that they think need further scrutiny.

Members of overview and scrutiny task groups have looked at vet care, Post Office closures, Parkwise, adoption and a wide range of other issues in recent years – a process that keeps public services on their toes.

County councillors now want to know what the public wants them to investigate – and they will put decision-makers on the mat.

The probes can be into anything that affects the people of Lancashire. They need not be into Lancashire County Council services. Such probes are similar to the parliamentary select committees we all see on TV.

Suggestions should be made by 31 January to scrutiny@lancsc.gov.uk, to 01772 534580 or to Overview and Scrutiny, Christ Church precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.

Visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/overview-scrutiny](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/overview-scrutiny) for more details on overview and scrutiny.

## Mobile home

UNWANTED mobile phones are wanted for a South Ribble housing charity that finds homes for young people.

The phones are recycled and reused to raise money for Lancashire County Council-supported South Ribble KEY.

More details from 01772 623893.

## Drinks probe

I THINK alcohol is too easily purchased and is too cheap (You're Telling Us, December).

Society today is a lot to blame and, as a result, young people are being admitted to hospital with drink-related diseases. I dare say it will get worse.

Young people rampaging through towns on Friday and Saturday nights stop elderly people going out.

I am tired of listening to people in their 70s and 80s having to look their doors at answering the door for the rest of the night.

Do we need off-licences when you can buy drink at supermarkets? We need to carefully consider who is applying for drinks licences in the future.

B MCCARTAN  
Barnoldswick



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

I WONDER if the problem of young people and alcohol is deeper than anyone realises (Vision November, December).

I recently told three 12-year-olds to stop throwing their discarded beer bottles at passing cars. For my troubles I was challenged to a fight.

I feel the problem goes much further than the availability of drink. These children had no respect for the law as they were drinking underage; they had no respect for other people as they were throwing bottles at cars; they had no respect for property as they were pulling up plants from the public garden in which they were sitting; and they had no respect for any figure of authority.

I had, of course, to decline the offer of a fight and let them continue their anti-social activities.

To have done otherwise would have been to invite police attention

and a possible prosecution – of me, that is.

Good luck, however, to Susan Shorrocks in her investigation into the easy availability of drink. I look forward to reading its results.

E MELOY

## Litter disgrace

ONE of the saddest things about living in this beautiful country is the amount of litter wherever you go.

I have just returned from a visit to Arizona where I grew up. I was reminded that people there take pride in their city and countryside.

Highways and city streets had signs posted thanking various groups and individuals for keeping that street or stretch of road clear of rubbish. Could we not do that here?

K TERRELL  
Lancaster

# County heroes wear the crown



Community Champion of Year: FAZ PATEL

## Royal honour for community champ

THE week of the awards was doubly momentous for Community Champion of the Year Faz Patel – only two days after scooping his Red Rose Award, he travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen.

"It's been an honour and a privilege to receive these awards," said Faz. "Can you imagine – getting the Red Rose award and then meeting the Queen? I was amazed at how tiny she is!"

"She was very complimentary about what I'm doing and told me to keep up the good work."

When not working full-time as a fire safety officer for Lancashire's Fire and Rescue Service, Faz devotes his time to improving the environment where he lives and working to improve community relations.

Faz lives in Blackburn which has witnessed an increase in community tension since the events of 11 September and 7 July. He has become a spokesman for his community, having acted as a police volunteer and an interpreter before becoming an official police liaison officer.

The 30-year-old says he is happy to talk to white groups about his life as a British Muslim, often finding that ordinary people are understanding and accepting when they can discuss issues with him at a personal level.

He adds: "I just talk about my life and give people the chance to ask questions. We live in a very political world so it is better to sit down with people and talk on a personal level."

Faz has also helped with schemes such as litter collections to Neighbourhood Watch and arranging Groundwork Trust grants for people to improve security.

Amateur Sports Person: SHELLY WOODS



SHELLY (20), from Blackpool, is British record-holder for the wheelchair half-marathon and 5,000m.

Her honours include European 5,000m bronze medalist and second in the 2005 London Marathon.

Teacher of Year: TIM DONNELLY



TIM Donnelly, a music teacher at Bishop Rawthorne School, Croston, runs two after-school bands as well as the school band, jazz band and a Saturday music centre.

He was described by a pupil as, "the most devoted music teacher you will ever come across".

## Annual Red Rose Awards honour those who make Lancashire great

A GALA evening, complete with enough glamour and celebrity to rival the Oscars, was held in Lancashire to celebrate the people who make our county so special.

Courageous heroes, selfless volunteers, dedicated workers and gifted entrepreneurs emerged from their often unassuming lives to become the toast of the town at a glittering evening with an audience of guests and celebrities.

The finalists came from a host of different backgrounds and cultures, ranging from 15-year-old James Lawson who rescued passengers from a burning car, to Preston mum Sian Dodd who has adopted three sons with devastating illnesses and Shelly Woods from Blackpool, British record-holder for the wheelchair half-marathon and 5,000m.

The annual awards, backed by Lancashire County Council, Rock FM, Radio Lancashire and the Lancashire Evening Post, saw 10 Lancastrians lift awards in categories including Lancashire Hero, Lancastrian of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Parent of the Year.

Held on Lancashire Day at Park Hall Hotel, Charnock Richard, the ceremony was hosted by television and radio's Ted Robbins and Rock FM presenter Rick Vaughn while entertainment was by top singers Lucie Silvas and Simon Webbe.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "Lancashire is a special place to live and work. We have honoured 10 very special people, but Lancashire actually has thousands of people who put other people and their neighbours first."

"Lancashire people are famously modest people who always try to use their qualities for the good of themselves and others. These are the heroes and heroines who make our county special. They show what can be achieved through grit and determination or who, in a moment of tremendous courage, have saved lives."

"They are a seam of talent that improves our lives and adds to the rich culture that Lancashire has to offer."

## Community Team: ONE VOICE



ONE Voice, a neighbourhood management partnership in Preston, has been at the centre of efforts to improve the Brookfield area.

Works have included community clean-ups, improved street-lighting and mobile CCT, and the partnership has been credited with a 24 per cent drop in crime.

Parent of Year: SIAN DODD



SIAN Dodd, from Preston, adopted three boys, each born with incurable and devastating medical conditions.

She has brought them up as a single parent and has helped them to surpass all medical expectations.

Celebrity of Year: DAVE SPIKEY



DAVE Spikey from Chorley. This category was decided by public vote.

Dave is well-known as a stand-up comedian and star of Phoenix Nights and Eight Out of Ten Cats.

## Lancastrian of Year: TREVOR HEMMINGS

TREVOR Hemmings started his working life as a builder and built himself a business empire.

Trevor, from Chorley, now owns Blackpool Tower and circus, Madame Tussaud's Waxworks, the Sea Life Centre and the Winter Gardens Conference Centre.

Young Person: RACHEL SIMPSON



RACHEL Simpson (16), from Penwortham, is a registered carer and helps look after her dad who has multiple sclerosis.

She also helps run the 5th Penwortham Guides and is working towards gaining her Baden-Powell Award. Pictured here with Simon Webbe.



● GEORGINA and Niki Penney at the awards ceremony.

## House agent's key to future

Business Person of Year: GEORGINA COX

A BUSINESSWOMAN who says she loves going to work has scooped the Red Rose Lancashire Business Person of the Year award.

Georgina Cox, founder managing director of Moving Works estate agents, set up the chain in

2000 with a single branch linked to an Internet website. She now has 13 offices, with a further 10 under offer, and two opening soon.

County Councillor Niki Penney, chair of Lancashire County Council, said: "Our county is proud of entrepreneurs like Georgina who approach their work not only with skill and dedication but with passion, energy and a real enjoyment."

"We believe Lancashire is an excellent location to develop new businesses and what Georgina has achieved over the past five years is living proof of that. She has shown that combining an original idea with business flair, determination and sheer hard work can lead to enormous success, not just for herself but for many others."

Georgina's business has already created 60 jobs, a figure she hopes will increase as she adds further branches through a unique franchising arrangement.

"The businesses are individually owned which means that each manager has a drive to succeed, but at the same time they have the back-up of being part of a larger organisation," she said.

"I know it's a bit of a cliché but I have a real passion for business, and I love property. I love what I do, and going into work – I'm quite boring I'm afraid!"

Her advice to would-be entrepreneurs? "Never give up. There will be times when you want an ordinary job and a salary cheque but you need to have courage and go for it."

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



If you have a child born on or between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2003 your child is entitled to a free part-time pre-school nursery education place from the start of the Spring Term 2007 commencing in January.

A free place consists of a maximum of five sessions per week and no more than fifty five sessions for the Spring Term. A free session is for a period of 2.5 hours in length. There are three terms in the year, covering a total of 38 weeks per year.

Places are available from any of Lancashire County Council's eligible providers of pre-school nursery education.

These can be Local Authority (LA) maintained nursery schools and nursery classes, providers in the independent, private and voluntary sectors or accredited childminders (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.





# LOOK LIVELY



WE all remember happily crossing the road under the careful watch of a school traffic patrol.

The lollipop ladies and men – as many of us still call them – play a vital role in getting children to school safely.

But there is more to it than just that. Some go into school to help with lessons and many get pleasure getting to know children and parents...

Sylvia has more experience than most. She has worked outside Cardinal Allen RC High School and Larkholme Primary School for 29 years.

## Why did you become a lollipop lady?

I started because, as a mother of young children, the hours were good for me in getting them to and from school.

They are still good for any parent who wants to combine work with looking after their children.

I didn't realise I'd still be here 29 years later.

## What do you like about the job?

I like the children. Some are real characters.

Some don't recognise me out of uniform, while others remember me years later. A man stopped me last week and said I probably wouldn't recognise him. I did – he was a pupil from about 15 years earlier.

Some of the pupils I help across the roads now are the children of the children I used to help when I started the job.

## What about the hours?

The hours suited me when I had young children and they still suit me now. They are ideal for parents because of the start and finish time and the holidays are identical to the school holidays.

They can be a bit restricting in terms of things like going on days out.

## What do you dislike about the job?

I don't like it when it rains and blows, but it's nothing when the sun shines.

I dislike a number of things that I see, such as drivers using mobile phones. I've seen some people shaving and even reading while driving.

## What is the satisfaction in the job?

I like to know that children are being kept safe. You also meet lots of really nice people as well. As well as the children you often get to know the parents and even grandparents.

The children often offer me sweets and give me a hug.

## Do you get involved in teaching children?

Some lollipop people add to their hours by also working inside the school.

Teachers sometimes ask me to go into school and help teach road safety to younger children.

They use pedal cars and make-believe roads to make the lessons more lifelike.

There are usually about 30 vacancies across Lancashire and Blackburn for "lollipop" men and women.

Anyone wanting further details should ring either the 24-hour recruitment hotline on 01772 538999 or Ken Speak on 01772 646810.

## This brilliant profession - head

School Report



Andy Squires, head, Tor View, Rawtenstall

I HAVE recently been nominated for the Red Rose Teacher of the Year award (staff, stop laughing please), very flattering but I must confess that immediately after ruling out a hoax (we have a healthily cynical staff), my reaction was that I disapproved of such stuff.

We do, after all, get paid for what we do in school (and in my case get paid handsomely) and I believe in doing my job well and am lucky to enjoy my work immensely.

After a little more time and research however, I was forced to modify my view. How churlish would I be if I were to reject the nomination or fail to turn up at the awards night?

What sort of thanks would it

be to turn an appreciative parent's gesture down? Even more, and this is the most important thing, the award of course, is not for me, it is for the school – the wonderful staff at Tor View who have achieved so much in the recent past.

Successive very successful Ofsted inspections, the first school to achieve all Healthy School Award standards (a Lancashire Flagship school), a Creative Partnerships Hub school and a thriving extended school and a staff who dare to think creatively and share a vision for what our pupils can achieve.

For all the staff room pampering and the PPA time, reward meals and the recognition we give, the most important thing is this – that we go home regularly feeling that we have done a good job, have

taught our pupils something new and have achieved what we set out to do when we joined this brilliant profession.

The most important thing for me to do, along with the local authority and powers that be generally is to enable our teachers and support staff to teach successfully.

So I will be attending the Red Rose Award ceremony along with some colleagues and be proud that in a small way we have achieved what we set out to do.

The recognition (whether I win or not) that is afforded the staff is valid and every bit as important as any other measure of our success and as a consequence our Healthy and Well-being quotient will continue to rise

■ Andy was shortlisted but did not win. See full report on p4/5 - editor.

## Wonderful, wonderful will-flatteners

IN MAY 1988 a few volunteers started work on the Lancashire Record Office's Probate Conservation programme.

The aim was to flatten our extensive collection of probate records from the Diocese of Chester, 1545-1858. When they started out no-one envisaged how long the project would run or that they would ever reach the last box.

However after almost 19 years they have! The volunteers – popularly known as the will-flatteners – have completed work on 2,188 boxes of documents covering approximately 300,000 testators or almost 600,000 individual documents!

Will-flattening has involved everyone in the Record Office. Over the years there has been input from conservation, archivists and the public service team.

Some of our volunteers have been coming for the whole 19 years and have created a strong backbone to the



project. There have been many interesting finds along the way – a large series of mariners' wills, an 18ft inventory, wills including information about slavery, bequests of "a thing with a hole through", birds, animals and museum exhibits, inventories listing everything from

swords and muskets, bows and arrows, musical instruments, clothes to "garden mittens" and a "parratt and cage".

Helpers have identified somewhere in the region of 50 different probate documents.

It is a tremendous achievement by a very dedicated group of

about 50 people.

The task could simply not have been done without them and staff are immensely grateful to them for their hard work and perseverance.

There is always more work for the willing – there are lots more wills to do!

## Thank-you Lancashire - Romanian chief

THE plight of Romanian "street children" was brought to Lancashire when a charity organiser and a police chief paid a visit to Lancashire County Council.

Lancashire volunteers have sent much money and equipment for projects such as orphanages and hospitals to the

former communist country.

Recent floods threatened to restrict aid – until Mihai Isvoranu, police chief of Comanesti, stepped in to guarantee the flow of Lancashire aid.

Mr Isvoranu and Rossendale fund-raiser Vic Brown met County Councillor Terry Burns, county council chairman, and council leader Hazel Harding as

part of a thank-you visit of county helpers.

Vic, from Rossendale, said: "The truly alarming thing is that the situation is becoming self-perpetuating, as young people start their own families on the street."

Want to help? Ring Vic on 01706 226533 or visit: [www.streetkidsmatter.org.uk](http://www.streetkidsmatter.org.uk)

## Apply soon for walking bus cash

LANCASHIRE schools are being urged to apply for cash to set up "walking buses" for pupils.

The walking buses – that is, groups of supervised children walking to school together – reduce traffic, get children to school safely and play an important part in educating them on road-safety issues.

A new scheme means schools can now claim £1,000 per year for three years to offset costs such as fluorescent "hi-viz" jackets and supervisors' wages.

Dorothy Crane, manager of Lancashire County Council's school travel plan team, said: "Schools now have a great opportunity to increase child safety en route to school, but also to reduce congestion and pollution."

"The school journey is also a good opportunity to build healthy exercise into everyday life."

Schools getting cash will be those deemed to be likely to reduce car journeys by at least five return car trips per day.

Separate £500 grants are also available to schools for a variety of other walking initiatives – such as providing prizes for children walking to school.

More details from: [walkingbusesenquiries@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:walkingbusesenquiries@lancashire.gov.uk)  
Closing date is 31 January.

# Power to the parish

County council 'champion' puts parish interests first

**PORTABLE**  
"Smiley Miley" machines will soon be on roads in rural parts of Leyland and Chorley.

The machines from upon speeders and smile at careful drivers.

The novel approach to road safety has been requested by parish councils in the areas – and part-funded by County Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council Champion for Parishes.

Councillor Atkinson's role is to work closely with parish councils to ensure their voice is heard at senior policy-making levels. He receives £10,000 each year from Lancashire County Council to help parish councils.

He said: "These machines can be moved from one area to another and are very good at getting people to control their speed."

"Drivers might only see one every couple of months, so they notice them more than other devices."

The detectors tell people how fast they are going – without issuing speed tickets.

The two machines were requested by parish councils in each of the areas. They lacked the money themselves –



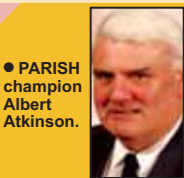
## Pride in parish

**SMALL** is beautiful when it comes to local democracy and Lancashire County Council.

Councillors want to improve working between the county council and parish councils and help to support parishes in gaining Quality Parish Status.

Whitworth Town Council, one of the largest parish councils in Lancashire, is the most recent to gain Quality Parish Status and members were invited to County Hall to receive their award.

● Pictured, from left, are Councillor Tom Aldred, Whitworth mayor, town clerk David Jackson, County Councillor Sean Serridge, County Councillor Terry Burns, county council chairman, David Dickinson of the Lancashire Association of Town and Parish Councils, County Councillor Wendy Dwyer.



● **PARISH**  
**champion**  
**Albert**  
**Atkinson.**

which is where Councillor Atkinson came in.

He said: "Part of my

role is to champion the work of parish councils. I visit as many as possible to ensure they get the support they need as the most local level of local government."

Another of Councillor Atkinson's current projects includes helping parish councils in Bolton-by-Bowland, Tosside and Sawley buy a computer which will be shared between them.

## Writing skills at college

**STUDENTS** from Lancaster, Nelson and Blackburn met writer Marian McCraith last month and produced a book to record their work.

Meeting at Lancaster's Adult College, 40 Skills for Life students applied the finishing touches to their Annual Writing Day book.

Skills learned included writing, proofreading, editing, planning advertising and arranging the book's marketing.

Planning for the book, on the theme of "different lives, different stories" started in summer.

The book is dedicated to George Coupe, a former photographer and college tutor. The book is now on sale in the college foyer for £1.

**Want to know more about the college?**

Contact Sarah McKeivitt on 01524 581254.

**A 4-star council**

Awarded top marks by the Audit Commission



### Care services

**The following 7 posts** are based at Woodhill House Home for the Elderly, Morecambe.

We are a newly developed 44 bedded, local authority, residential home providing person-centred care for older people, including people with nursing and mental health needs. We are looking to appoint enthusiastic and well motivated individuals to join our committed team.

These posts are covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exemption) Act 1975. If successful, you will be required to apply to the Criminal Records Bureau for a 'dislosure'.

#### Registered Mental Health Nurse x 7

£18,450 to £19,614 a year plus excellent benefits package. Your starting salary depends on your experience.

Days, evenings or nights are available.

**Essential:** You must be a Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN) with experience of working with older people who suffer from dementia, preferably in a nursing or residential setting. You must also have excellent communication skills and be able to work as part of a team.

**Informal discussion for the above 7 posts:** Sue McGrath on 01524 542648.

**Apply online at:** [www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies) or email: [care.services.HRTeam@care.services.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:care.services.HRTeam@care.services.lancscc.gov.uk), Tel: 01772 530362, 24hr answerphone.  
**Closing Date:** 19 January 2007.

Lancashire County Council is an equal opportunities employer welcoming applications from all sections of the community. Applications from ethnic minorities are welcome. You must be committed to equality and diversity in the workplace. Lancashire County Council are currently undergoing an equal pay review and the grades of some posts advertised may be subject to review in future months.

A full job description of all vacancies is available on our website [www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies)

# Working in Lancashire

**Lancashire County Developments Ltd**  
The county council's economic development department

## BIGGER, BETTER, BRIGHTER – the new LCDL website

Lancashire County Developments Ltd is harnessing up-to-the-minute technology to provide a bolder and more easily used website to showcase its economic regeneration activities.

There is no change to the familiar address – [www.lcdl.co.uk](http://www.lcdl.co.uk) – but visitors will be directed to LCDL's new site, which is now part of the Lancashire County Council website.

More accessible to use, particularly for people using visual aids, the new site has a bright new look to match the rest of the county council's corporate web pages and is packed with information about LCDL's activities and how businesses, individuals and social enterprises can benefit from them.

## Flying off the shelves

**A FASCINATING** book by local author James H. Longworth detailing the complete history of aircraft produced in the region has been reprinted due to popular demand.



'Triplane to Typhoon: Aircraft Produced by Factories in Lancashire and the North West of England from 1910', published by Lancashire County Developments Ltd on behalf of Lancashire County Council with the support of BAE Systems plc, sets out the complete track record of the industry from its earliest days to the present.

The 350-page book contains over 280 striking black and white and full colour photographs, in many cases against prominent regional backdrops, with appendices detailing all the aircraft produced in factories in Lancashire and the north west.

County Councillor Terry Burns, chairman of Lancashire County Council, said: "I am delighted that there has been so much interest in the book. Triplane to Typhoon is a fascinating account of aircraft production in the area and is a tribute to all the men and women who have been a part of this industry."

'Triplane to Typhoon' costs £19.99 and is available from County Information Centres or direct from Lancashire County Council. Send a cheque for £19.99 plus £5 P&P payable to 'Lancashire County Council', with details of your address and your order, to Lancashire County Council, Policy Unit (T2T), 3rd Floor, Christ Church Precinct, PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 8XJ. See [www.lancashireprofile.com](http://www.lancashireprofile.com) for more details or phone 01772 534147.

## From little acorns...

**ONE** day's work which will leave a legacy for hundreds of years was held in Oswaldtwistle when dozens of oak



County Councillors Terry Burns and Sean Serridge dig deep to plant oaks with the help of willing volunteers at the Bury Meadows site in Oswaldtwistle.

saplings, grown from acorns collected in the area, were planted by members of the public in the town to create a new two-acre wooded area for local residents to enjoy for years to come.

The day was organised by local charity the Prospects Foundation, which is supported by Lancashire County Developments Ltd, in conjunction with East Lancashire Woodlands to mark National Tree Week. The new woodland is at Bury Meadows, off New Lane, Oswaldtwistle, which was the site of a farm and fields alongside the former Clariant chemical works.

## Technology firms switch on in Burnley

**TWO** new technology companies are set to fly after moving into Burnley's state-of-the-art business incubation units.

Chairman of Lancashire County Council and LCDL board member, County Councillor Terry Burns, visited the Lancashire Digital Technology Centre (LDTTC) to welcome the new firms to Lancashire's advanced manufacturing centre of excellence for budding technology companies.



County Councillor Terry Burns, Chairman of the County Council, welcomes PAS Partnership director Stephen Dodgson and service director Daniel Reed to the Lancashire Digital Technology Centre

"The growth in companies using LDTTC underlines the fact that in East Lancashire we have the capacity to attract new businesses in this important and growing sector – and to provide them with the accommodation they need to help them develop," he said.

The two companies are Evertech Solutions Ltd, which designs, installs and configures computer network and server systems as well as a number of other services, and PAS, a telecommunications firm that offers a bespoke voice, data design and installation service.

The Lancashire Digital Technology Centre is a joint venture between Lancashire County Developments Ltd, Burnley College and Burnley Borough Council.

The centre offers luxurious business incubation units with facilities including Cat 6 trunking, business support, applied research and development, ICT services and administration facilities. If you are interested in taking space at LDTTC, or at the Innovation Centre in Nelson, which also provides flexible accommodation for new and small businesses, contact Chris Baxter on 01282 872500.

**Lancashire County Developments Ltd.**





## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Drivers told to watch out for trouble

LANCASHIRE'S drivers are being warned they could run into unforeseen trouble if their eyesight is not good enough.

The police have announced random roadside eye tests. Those who fail could find themselves with penalty points on their licence or even losing the right to drive altogether.

The county council's Road Safety Group, which checks 1,800 motorists each month as part of its driver and rider training courses, believes that drivers should have regular sight tests.

Spokesman Clare Farrer said: "We run a number of training courses for motorists and everyone is taught that being a good driver means more than operating the pedals, gears and steering wheel.

"Any optician can test your sight and help you be safe on the road. An eye test is far cheaper than penalty points, a fine or being involved in a crash."

### Preston's stroll to glory

PRESTON has won a top European award for encouraging more people to walk, cycle and use public transport.

The Cities in Motion award was presented to Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council for providing a good role model for other cities.

The award recognised the partnership of councils and private firms including Preston Bus for coming up with an ambitious plan to bring in cleaner, more sustainable and energy-efficient transport and improve the city's environment. The initiative, called Civitas, will receive 2m euros until 2009 for a range of initiatives to improve the urban environment by reducing pollution, improving conditions for pedestrians and tackling congestion.

### Training for the public

LANCASHIRE County Council's Environment Directorate has received Investors in People status.

The award is a recognition of staff training that puts the public first. The directorate's responsibilities include highways, trading standards, public transport and school travel.

## Tomorrow's car today?

FOUR car batteries, an electric motor and lots of ingenuity were the ingredients when Lancashire youngsters entered an

eco-car "grand prix".

The only missing ingredient for "Well Fast", Leyland Youth and Community Service's contraption, was ... speed. The car was flat out at 18mph and

managed to travel 82 miles before grinding to a halt.

About 120 teams entered the nationwide contest at a midlands race circuit and Leyland's team came 73rd. Team spokesman Ben Clayton said: "Every team had the same batteries and the

same electric motor. It is things such as wind resistance and gearing that makes the difference - one team got up to 40mph."

The 12 team members were helped by Wellfield High School and engineers from 4Techno.

# Auditor's top score for carers

**SUPPORT for adults and older people has resulted in top marks for Lancashire County Council's Social Care Services.**

Independent inspectors at the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) awarded the council's Adult and Community Service directorate three stars out of a possible three - one of the best marks in England.

The score marks a dramatic turnaround since the former social services department was put on "special measures" in 2000 for failure to provide good services.

Major improvements were noted this year in:

- Helping more people stay in their own homes through intensive home care support.
- Supporting more adults with a learning disability to live independently.
- Joint working with the mental health services to help people in crisis and in rehabilitating them into the community.
- Involving disabled people in planning and commissioning services.
- Developing services for people with sensory impairment.
- Supporting disabled and older people through Direct Payments, so they choose their own social care.
- Speeding installation of aids and adaptations so that 85 per cent of people receive them within seven days.

Richard Jones, executive director of Adult and Community Services, said: "We are a people business. Star ratings are a good indicator of our performance, but the most important thing is to provide services that make a real difference to people's lives.

"We are not complacent. We will continue to listen.

"We will continue developing joined-up services so that vulnerable people can lead fulfilling and independent lives."

More than 38,000 adults receive support from the county council each year. Almost 14 per cent of older people are helped in any one year.

Total expenditure per year is £386m. The CSCI also revealed that care started within four weeks of an assessment for 96 per cent of people.



● **TALENTED:** Terry lives life to the full thanks to support from Lancashire County Council.

## What top marks mean in real life

**WHEN Terry Osborn suffered a serious illness, becoming an artist was the last thing on his mind.**

Tired of watching TV all day, Terry from Cleveleys began attending the county council's Chatsworth Resource Centre in Fleetwood on a regular basis as part of his social care rehabilitation.

He was introduced to volunteer Paul, who ran an art group at the centre. Despite having no previous interest in art, Terry discovered he had a hidden talent and began painting at the centre.

One of his paintings - a river scene,

entitled "Memories" - is now being displayed at Blackpool's Grundy art gallery.

The council supports over 3,400 people with a physical disability and those with a sensory impairment across the county.

Resource centres throughout Lancashire provide rehabilitation and support facilities for adults with a disability to help overcome daily problems and increase or maintain their level of independence.

The centres can help build up individual's skills, abilities and confidence if they've been set back by illness or an accident.

# Thumbs up for schools, ASBOs and child protection

LANCASHIRE'S children's services also excelled when looked at by government inspectors.

The annual performance report into the county council's services, carried out by Ofsted and the Commission for Care Inspection, concluded that provision for young people was generally "good" with some "excellent" work being done.

Schools came out well with results in Key Stage 1 being well above national averages and improving on last year. Lancashire's children are being helped to be healthy through initiatives run through chil-

dren's centres and there has been an increase in the number of schools achieving "Healthy School" status.

The number of children achieving five GCSE grades A\* to C has improved again and remains above the national rates.

The performance of the majority of schools was found to be good with effective arrangements for controlling negative factors such as unauthorised absence and exclusions.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for Children and Young People,

said: "Lancashire is a place where everyone matters and this report recognises the good work the county council does for children and young people.

"I am particularly glad the inspectors recognised that we have responded effectively to initiatives such as Every Child Matters and the Children's Trust arrangements, which ensure that risks to vulnerable children are minimised by all agencies in Lancashire working well together.

"Reports such as this are good for councils but my main aim is to make sure that families in Lancashire continue to receive strong services that

continue to improve."

Services for vulnerable children were also praised, with inspectors recognising that Lancashire has an effective network of support for young carers and satisfactory advocacy arrangements.

The county council was noted to have strategies in place to tackle offending through cautious use of anti-social behaviour orders.

The council's previous good performance in the area of child protection was found to have been maintained and improved with social workers offering a quick and effective assessment and service.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New citizens take Pole position

LANCASHIRE'S newest citizens are picking up English quickly through language courses at Lancaster's Adult College.

The county council-run college is running ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses and many students have recently arrived here from China, Poland, Bulgaria and Greece.

The students learn English at a variety of different levels. Most courses include speaking and listening, reading, writing and grammar.

County Councillor Nikki Penney, chair of governors at the college, recently presented successful learners with their ESOL qualifications.

### Bargain hunters swell coffers

TRADING standards officers are forecast to earn more money for Lancashire County Council, thanks to the purchase of bargain equipment.

Their department has bought metrological measuring equipment from a cash-stricken Yorkshire council for less than £25,000 - about a tenth of its cost new.

Lancashire's nationally accredited measuring lab is one of the top five in the country and earns fees from organisations from the north of Scotland to the south west of England.

The extra income earned, which boosts Lancashire County Council coffers, is expected to soon be about £1,000 per week.

### Dialect marks county day

CHORLEY Central Library celebrated Lancashire day in true Lancashire style with a host of themed displays including period photographs of famous Lancashire people, and landmarks.

Displays of work by local artists and storytelling sessions for adults included a morning of Lancashire dialect-reading.

A great time was had by young children at storytime sessions which involved making hats.

Also on display was a collection of crested Victorian and Edwardian souvenir pottery, kindly donated by Ian Bagshaw for the event.