

Vision

Beacon Authority
2006-2007
Positive Youth Engagement
(in the community and
democratic process)
2007-2008
Healthy Schools
2008-2009
Improving Accessibility

Lancashire
County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk

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

November 2008

FYLDE / WYRE • CHORLEY / WEST LANCASHIRE • PRESTON / SOUTH RIBBLE • HYNDBURN / ROSSENDALE • LANCASTER / RIBBLE VALLEY • PENDLE / BURNLEY - see p5

 <h2>HAPPY DAYS</h2> <p>Help others and help yourself</p> <p>Page 8</p>	<h2>IT'S PLAYTIME</h2> <p>£1m will boost play-grounds in your area</p> <p>Page 3</p>	 <h2>TRUE GRIT</h2> <p>While you sleep, we're on the road</p> <p>Page 10</p>
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AXE

pollution and waste with us

I will support Lancashire County Council in reducing the number of plastic bags I use at home.

I would like to receive emails giving me more useful tips on climate change and discounts on environmentally-friendly products by becoming a Friend of Lancashire.

My name is

My email address is

Please return to: Environment Policy Team, Lancashire County Council, Environment Directorate, PO Box 9, Guild House, Cross St, Preston PR1 8RD
Alternatively, sign up at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/climatechange

From time to time "Friends of Lancashire" may wish to forward details of offers and discounts available to its members. If you agree to receiving information about offers and discounts from

☐ "Friends of Lancashire" please tick here

From time to time "Friends of Lancashire" may wish to forward your details to other organisations who may contact you with details of their offers or services. If you agree to

☐ Receiving information about offers and discounts from these organisations please tick here.

All personal data is stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act. For details visit:
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision/>

LET'S BIN THE BAGS

By Mike Warren

LANCASHIRE County Council has pledged to banish carrier-bags from its services in the latest step of its fight against pollution.

From April the council will ban plastic carrier-bags - a move that will reinforce earlier steps to power streetlights by "green" electricity and to award climate-change grants to a range of community groups.

A plan of action has been promised to help residents seek alternatives to bags.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet member for Sustainable Development, said: "I'm determined that, as one of the county's biggest organisations, we need to take a lead in getting rid of plastic bags from our services."

"An audit is now underway to see precisely where we are using

MATTHEW Tomlinson:
ban on bags.

CHEAP
lightbulbs and renewable energy for streetlights will also help.



bags - and then we will look for alternatives. We are all sick of seeing plastic bags littering the streets and hedges of our county.

"We are already leading a fight against climate change. Doing away with plastic bags is a vital part of this bigger picture."

Libraries will lead the way this month by launching new reusable bags - a step currently being mirrored in supermarkets.

About 50,000 plastic bags were, until now, given to book borrowers each year.

County councillors will each be able to give away re-usable

bags to residents.

As well as banning bags and using only renewable electricity in streetlights, the county council is having a renewed drive to economise and increase recycling in its own offices.

A special deal has also been negotiated to give all members of the Lancashire public a 21 per cent discount on energy-saving lightbulbs.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, county council leader, said: "Banning plastic bags is an important part of our fight against climate change."

"It is a fight we are determined to win."

■ SAVE MONEY NOW - find out how to order your discounted energy-saving lightbulbs by logging on to www.lancashire.gov.uk/climatechange

You can support the new move by signing the form (left) to become a Friend of Lancashire. By registering, you will receive regular email updates, tips and special offers on things such as low-energy lighting and home composters.

Audit plan to weed out tax cheats

A NEW anti-fraud drive is being launched to keep down Council Tax bills.

People who cheat the system add to the bills paid by honest people.

So Lancashire County Council will help check that information given by people applying for things such as NoWcards and Blue Badges actually tallies with that held by other agencies.

The Audit Commission exercise is part of a national initiative to stamp out fraud.

NoWcard holders from neighbouring councils will also be checked.

Previous fraud checks have related to pensions, payroll, creditors, and private care homes. Insurance claims will now also be checked.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet member for Resources and Performance, said: "People who cheat things such as Single Person's Discount on Council Tax only add to everyone else's bill."

"By checking records in this way, we can make sure that honest people are not cheated."

The council is required by law to protect its public funds.

It may share information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds.

For more information, visit: www.lancashire.gov.uk/nfi or www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi

FREE STICKERS FOR CHILDREN

PARENTS worried about their children's safety are being offered free reflective stickers to help them "Be Safe Be Seen" in the dark. As the nights and mornings get darker, Lancashire County Council's Road Safety Group is giving away free Think! Hedgehog stickers for children's bags and bikes. The fluorescent stickers will reflect light from drivers' lights - so your child will be visible.

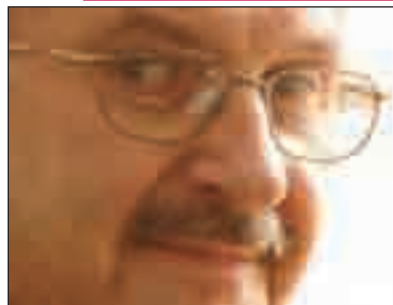
To get your free hedgehog stickers call 0800 3281635 or email: anna.worthington@lancashire.gov.uk



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



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

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies



Ask Shirley

ASK THE EXPERT

Questions
answered
by your
friend in
the know

Parking fine

I am an elderly gentleman and I am very cross as I feel that I have been issued with a parking ticket for the wrong reasons. If possible I would like to appeal against the ticket or at least be given the chance to put my opinion forward. Although I think it will be inevitable that I will end up paying the fine, I need to know who to go to and if it can be done through the council please.

Mr P Robson, Scarisbrick

You can challenge your Penalty Charge Notice by writing to the ParkWise office. All appeals are considered on their own merits and there is also the option to take your case to an independent adjudicator. For more advice please contact the ParkWise office on **0800 1952774** or visit **www.parkwise.org.uk**

Give away

Please could you tell me if there is a centre where they keep household items, furniture etc. to give to the needy? I have a number of quality items I could give, but they would have to be collected as I don't drive. I would be most grateful if you could give me an address or phone number.

Mrs D Walton, Rawtenstall



● **PARKING** patrol: A ParkWise civil enforcement officer on the streets. See "Parking fine".

Your district council should offer a collection service for household items and pieces of furniture. This has to be pre-arranged with the district council and involves a fee. For more information contact your district council - in this case **Rosendale Council** on **01706 217777**. Other district council numbers can be found on the county council's website: **www.lancashire.gov.uk**

Out and about

I recently received my first Blue Badge which is making life so much easier. I can now park closer to buildings and accompany my wife on day trips that I used to avoid. I just have one question. Am I able to use my Blue Badge all over the UK or is it only within Lancashire?

Mr K Harrison, Penwortham

I am very pleased to hear that you are enjoying the benefits of the Blue Badge, and that it is making an impact on your life. You are able to use the Blue Badge throughout the whole of the UK and also throughout Europe. For more information on the Blue Badge scheme and to apply for a Blue Badge you can contact the team on **0845 053 0049**.

Unruly pupils

Last week I got on a bus at around 3.45pm with my three-year-old daughter. Unfortunately at this time of the day there are many school children on the bus. There were several children on the bus swearing, being abusive, standing up and throwing bits of rubbish. I'd like to know who to speak to, as that par-

ticular journey was very daunting for my daughter and incidents like these need to stop.

Miss S Glover, Lytham St Annes

Lancashire County Council's Safer Travel Unit is very dedicated and passionate about stopping unpleasant journeys. Contact the ASBOB team (Anti Social Behavior on Buses) on **0845 0530040**. A customer service officer will be happy to help. The Safer Travel Unit is appreciative of all calls that they receive, as this helps them to make bus journeys in Lancashire pleasant for everyone.

On the cards

I have recently turned 60 and am interested in the bus cards which can be obtained from the council. The only problem is that I am also registered disabled and have a Blue Badge, am I still able to apply for the bus pass with having the badge as well?

Mrs K Martin, Chorley

Yes, you can have both. The bus pass for Lancashire residents is the NoW Card. Each district has different ways to apply. In your case you will need to go to the **Chorley Council** offices with proof of age - such as a passport or driver's licence - and proof of address, such as a utility bill. To apply for the disabled pass you will also need to take along proof of disability. Not all districts have these facilities and therefore an application will need to be sent from the county council. This will need to be checked beforehand and can be done by contacting the NoW Card team on **0845 053 1096** or visiting: **www.lancashire.gov.uk**

Let's party like it's 1899

Celebration as historic records enter the digital era on the internet

VOLUNTEERS are being invited to a thank-you party after they published details of a massive 2.5m births, marriages and deaths.

Their database is a boon to people tracing their family trees. But despite the two years work so far, it is still less than half way done.

The helpers have spent hundreds of thousands of hours inputting old paper records onto a county council website.

Manager Steve Lloyd said: "We have paper documents going back to 1837 - a fascinating insight into the Lancashire of yesteryear.

"Paper, however, does deteriorate and having the details entered onto computer saves them, as well as making it easier for people to use.

"You can now check such family records from anywhere in the country. These volunteers have done a fantastic job - we could never have

done such a thorough job ourselves."

Lancashire County Council's Record Office has a legal duty to preserve such records which must be made available to the public.

Previously, such public inspections meant a trip to the Lancashire Record Office in **Preston**.

Steve added: "We did a similar project with old wills a few years ago. That was one of the largest such projects in the country.

"We now have 70 volunteers on this new project which is going to be just as important."

FIND OUT MORE

Details of births, deaths and marriages can be seen on the website at: **www.lancashirebmd.org.uk**

Searches are free, but people have to pay for certificates.

Anne tries her hand at signing

A NEW service to support deaf people has been launched.

Lancashire Deaf Services will provide community services, including advice and support for deaf people across the county, on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

The main focus of the service will be to assist deaf people to access health and leisure services, education and work opportunities; and become more actively involved in the wider community.

County Councillor Anne Brown, Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services,



● **ON HAND:** Councillor Anne Brown learns to sign her name with Celia Hulme, director of resources and development at East Lancashire Deaf Society.

said: "This is a new era for deaf services in Lancashire. This service will make it easier for us to improve services for deaf people and ensure that deaf people have equal access to information, advice and services."

FESTIVE TRAVEL



Your transport questions answered, by transport expert Andrew Varley

I want to catch the bus to do my Christmas shopping, as it's often a problem driving in town and finding a car parking space. I'm not sure where to get information about services - can you help?

Call Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** (calls cost 10p a minute, plus network extras) to receive information from our Lancashire-based call centre.

If you are coming into **Preston** city centre for shopping, why not use the Park and Ride services at Portway and **Walton-le-Dale**? Bus services run during the late night shopping events and the Park and Ride is also open on Sundays.

You can also pick up timetables at your local County Information Centre, library, interchange or download timetables from **www.transportforlancashire.com**

The new text service provides bus times from any stop in Lancashire direct to your phone. Just text the bus-stop code you want to leave from to **84268** - see the webpage for more details: **www.transportforlancashire.com/bustxt**



Back our fight for the economy, MPs told

LANCASHIRE needs the freedom to pursue its economic goals, county council experts have told MPs.

Councils are soon expected to be given a greater say in economic, transport and planning issues.

County council officials want to ensure the county's priorities are treated the same as those in other parts of the region.

"We must ensure that local issues are built into the process right at the start," Sean McGrath, the

county council's head of external relations, told MPs "People need the flexibility to make decisions for their own area. Only that way can we create jobs, improve skills and support Lancashire's economy."

Lancashire is working with the North West Development Agency (NWDA), which is responsible for co-ordinating the region's overall economic plan.

Sean added: "We look forward to more devolved funding from the NWDA in line with the Government's current proposals."

Child's play

£1m project will bring new play areas to a town near you

THE first locations for new outdoor play areas promised by Lancashire County Council have been named.

The county has over £1m to spend over the next three years on new play spaces close to where children live, including equipped adventure playgrounds.

And children themselves will have a say in what the new fun areas should look like.

The plans are part of the government's £235m national Play Fair programme aimed at developing play facilities for children aged 8-13.

The county council is leading the initiative as a "Playbuilder" authority and will be working in partnership with district councils to establish at least 20-25 play areas across the county.

By Sue Becker

Local voluntary sector organisations can also get involved.

The new play areas – which will cost up to £50,000 each – will be designed with help from children, mums and dads, local people and councillors.

They will be sited so that children can reach them on safe walking and cycling routes.

County Councillor Jennifer Mein, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "These sites are just the beginning of a process that will see a network of adventurous play areas created across the whole county."

"Through this initiative we and our partners want to provide exciting places where children will want to go to meet their friends and feel confident and safe."

PLAYTIME BONANZA

The first play areas will be at:

- Astley Climbing Forest in Chorley.
- Marine Hall Gardens in Fleetwood.
- Hove Road Park in St Annes.
- Clitheroe Castle's creative play

area in Ribble Valley.

- Lowerfold Park in Great Harwood.
- Heyhead Park in Brierfield.
- Greenfield Memorial Gardens in Haslingden.



●YOUNGSTERS take uneaten food, put it in the composter and - months later - spread it on their vegetable patch to grow ...yet more food.

Cabbage patch kids' war on waste

CHILDREN from a Lancashire school are leading the way on recycling.

Pupils and teachers at St Mary's RC Primary School, **Osbaldeston**, are making recycling fun...by recycling food scraps for their vegetable patch.

The scraps from their school dinners go into a composter and get mixed with wood pellets.

Six weeks later, children have rich compost to nourish their vegetables.

Parent Karen Smith said: "We have appointed four eco-champions

and they aim to make sure that the school reduces its environmental footprint.

"The composter is all about reducing what we send to landfill as well as growing our own potatoes, broccoli and onions – and reducing food miles."

The revolving composter was bought with one of the county council's Global Renewable Waste Action Grants.

The four pupils chosen to be eco-champions ensure that pupils and teachers put their food waste into the composter.

tick tock

If you plan to run a
Childcare Holiday Club
for the likes of little ol' me
in 2009, you'd better
get a move on!

There's a lot of planning involved and it takes a few months for the j's to be dotted and all that. In fact, if you haven't officially attended a holiday club Daycare Briefing by January 2009, you'll be up the creek without a boat never mind a paddle! And you could miss out on possible funding! So come on step on it!

To find out about the next Sure Start Early Years and Childcare service Daycare Briefing visit Lancashire.gov.uk/childcare or call

0800
195 0137

time
is
of the
essence
you
know!

January
2009

SureStart

Keep cool about fuel

I RECENTLY heard an interview with Eddie Shah, the former newspaper owner and now a house-builder.

He had fascinating views on saving energy. Put simply, he plans to heat homes using the principle of a fridge. That is, we have all noticed that the grill at the back of the fridge gets hotter as the temperature inside the fridge gets colder.

What it does is extract the small amount of heat within the fridge, concentrating it - and then disposing of it through the grill.

Mr Shah's idea was to extract heat from the soil in the garden, concentrate it - and then pump it into the radiators in the house. Genius. The system has a minimal need for gas or electricity.

I wonder why more people aren't using such free heat.

B GORDON
Rossendale

■ *It is used widely in Norway and Sweden, so it must work. There is grant assistance for such technology for some businesses from Lancashire County Developments Ltd on 01772 536600.*

Do other readers have any energy-saving ideas? - editor.

Yes to free bus travel

FREE bus travel is certainly a good idea, but not so good for those of us with no bus service.

You're telling us

With my old West Lancashire bus pass I used to catch the Ormskirk/Southport bus at my nearest bus stop one and a half miles from home.

Now I can't, because the bus is nearly always full with St Helens (Merseyside) residents. There are only four buses a day, so I can't just wait for the next one.

So, yes, free bus travel is a great idea - if you have a bus in the area.

MRS J D BAKER
Bickerstaffe

Critics 'should think ahead'

IN REPLY to the letters (Vision, October), my critics are short-sighted.

Yes, it would be sensible if we all travelled by bus.

Possibly in the future free travel for all will be the norm.

However, councils all over the country expect that the cost of this "free" travel will exceed the money allocated.

Nothing is free; these "free" trips have to be paid for from your taxes.

Over-indulgence will kill off this benefit, so people should not be greedy. I suggested a limit to longer trips, so the disabled pensioner doing their shopping would not be limited.

Don't kill off a golden goose by making too many demands!

L WILLAN
Great Harwood

Barking idea?

I HAVE recently read of a person being tormented by barking dogs all day in the house next door while the owners were out at work.

I think the ill-advised act of abolishing the annual dog licence is the issue.

I have heard of dogs barking so much that neighbours have to go out for some quiet.

I suggest a money-making idea for the council. In order to keep Council Tax at a reasonable level, then why not add a surcharge of, say, £10 per month, plus an extra £5 for any other dogs?

Council staff have the unpleasant task of emptying dog bins.

Dogs still foul footpaths, despite dog warden, and these selfish owners still allow their dogs to make as much noise as they like.

I support a council dog tax. Think of the extra revenue to be made.

J A HURLEY
Clitheroe

■ *What do readers think of nuisance dogs? Should the dog licence return - or a Council Tax be introduced for dogs? - editor.*

Raspberry!

IF ONLY the standards of literacy in adverts could match that of Lancashire County Council services in general

and of school dinners in particular.

I refer to an advert I saw for school meals that featured a menu apparently boasting a single raspberry!

Wrongly placed apostrophes and other grammatical errors should have no place in the educational context of school meals.

The menu referred to "pudding with raspberry's" - that is, a singular and possessive raspberry.

I hope the children enjoyed the raspberries.

A PROUDFOOT
Silverdale

■ *Oops, time for some egg on face. Miss Proudfoot makes the important point about the need for good grammar. Poor grammar can change the meaning of a sentence. I must try harder - editor.*

Thank you very much!

WHAT good manners many young people have today.

I run a group at Anchorsholme Methodist Church called Friday Friends. All 52 of us were invited to Anchorsholme Primary School.

On arrival I was met by four young boys who informed me they were our escorts and took each member personally to their table. Another set of children gave us refreshments.

A marvellous concert by 25/30 children followed. Our members were overwhelmed by the children's hospitality and good manners.

On 28 November the children will join us for a concert and afternoon tea.

Anyone wishing to join us will be very welcome to come along and meet Friday Friends and the children from Anchorsholme Primary School.

M RAWLINSON
Thornton Cleveleys

Rose query

I WONDER if Vision readers know how the Lancashire rose should be displayed.

It has been bothering me for some time.

I have asked many people who wear the county rose, but they do not know.

When I was a Girl Guide I was told that when it was on display it should always have the three petals at the top.

Everywhere I look it is now displayed with two petals at the top. I would love to be right. Does anyone really know?

Maybe our historical societies and museums have the answer.

If I am right, I hope I don't prompt a lot of expensive redesigning!

JILL FIELDING

Child centre is 'knock out'



● I DECLARE this centre open: Alex Catterall and boxer Michael Jennings cut the ribbon.

YOUNG children and their families are the winners with the opening of Lancashire's newest children's centre.

The Duke Street centre in Chorley was officially opened by boxing champ Michael Jennings.

The centre is now open to families with babies and children up to five years old - and offers family support as well as child support.

It is one of more than 60 recently opened similar centres in Lancashire.

Access to day care and early educa-

tion is available in partnership with Pipers and Doodles nurseries, and Tatton pre-school centre, supported by the centre's own qualified teacher.

Other services offered across Lancashire include early education and childcare, child and family health services, antenatal advice for pregnant women, support for fathers, drop-in sessions and other activities for children, help with job hunting and information on all aspects of bringing up a family.

The intention is that, by 2010, every family in the county will have access to a centre in their community.

You're wanted

VOLUNTEERS are needed to sit on the appeal panels that decide whether children get the school

of their choice.

Training will be provided and members must be able to travel throughout Lancashire.

■ Further details from 01772 531656; or

shamim.javed@lancashire.gov.uk; or by writing to: Pupil Access (Central), Directorate for Children and Young People, County Hall, Pitt Street, Preston, LANCS PR1 8XJ.

WIN A LAKES WEEKEND BREAK



Here's your chance to win a superb three-night weekend break for two in Wordsworth Country or family prizes in time for the Festive Season.

Your weekend away includes bed and breakfast at the AA-rated Clarke's Hotel, situated in Cumbria's peaceful Rampsdale village overlooking Morecambe Bay.

We'll also include optional First Class rail travel to Barrow-in-Furness from Preston or Lancaster. First TransPennine Express is the ideal way to reach your destination whether it's for the weekend or a family day out.

You're assured of a warm welcome and friendly service at Clarke's during your stay. Attractions include places associated with William Wordsworth, Lakeland's romantic poet.

Clarke's Brasserie is open all day giving you the choice of meal times. To be in with a chance of a relaxing break with the chance to enjoy outdoor walks in pleasant surroundings, simply answer the following and send your completed entry to Clarke's Hotel competition before 19 November.



Where is Wordsworth Country? a) Cumbria b) Cheshire c) Canada?

We also have a limited number of family books, CDs or DVDs as runner-up prizes. Phone 01229 820303 for details of a stay at the three-star, AA-rated Clarke's Hotel. The prize is as stated and subject to the usual competition rules. Travel to/from mainline stations to your hotel is not included. For information about First TransPennine Express, including online bookings, visit www.tpexpress.co.uk



ENTRY FORM

Entry to be returned by 19 November.

Wordsworth Country is in (please tick)?

Cumbria ☐ Cheshire ☐ Canada ☐

Name

Address

Tel

You can enter by post or electronically. Postal entries should be sent to: Clarke's Competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ. Electronic entries should be sent to the online Vision at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision

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PENDLE / BURNLEY

Down your street

Tuned-in youngsters are stars of the show

By Miles Barter

SCHOOL students starred in a live BBC broadcast as part of a four-day intensive training programme at Lancashire's City Learning Centre.

The youngsters from Burnley, Padiham, Nelson and Brierfield learned about radio, film, and photo-journalism.

Working with the BBC's outreach bus, they researched famous people, inventions and industries with a local link.

Burnley football club manager Owen Coyle was among those interviewed and the results were broadcast on BBC Radio Lancashire.

Skills

Paul Matty, manager of the learning centre in Towneley Park, said: "The students gained a lot of confidence during the exercise and they developed a very positive image of the area."

"As well as learning modern media skills they were taught about planning, Literacy, speaking, and listening skills were all improved."

The schools involved were Shuttleworth College, Unity College, Marsden Heights Community College and Sir John Thursby Community College.

The centre will move to a new building, a few hundred yards away, in 2010 as part of the county council's Building Schools for the Future project.



● RADIO WAVES: Paul Matty, manager of the City Learning Centre, with some of the students on the BBC bus. from left, Sam Chaffer, Iram Akram, Rosie Butler and Jordan Cadle from Marsden Heights Community College.

NEWS BRIEFS

Church hosts musical treat

CANDLELIGHT in church is the evocative backdrop to a selection box of musical treats from the Lancashire Sinfonietta.

Works by Handel, Bach, Vivaldi, and Purcell will feature in the concert by the county council funded orchestra on Saturday, December 13, at 7.30pm. Tickets for the festive celebration at the St Peter's Church, Church Street, Burnley, cost £8.50 or £5 from 01772 531794.

Have a say

LANCASHIRE Local committees bring together county and district councillors to take decisions over neighbourhood issues.

Anyone can attend and speak at the meetings.

Agendas and relevant documents are on Lancashire County Council's website.

The next Burnley meeting is on Monday November 17 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Manchester Road.

The next Pendle district Lancashire Local is on Wednesday November 26 at 6.30pm in Barrowford Civic Hall, Maud Street.

Party move

COUNTY Councillor Nawaz Ahmed, who represents Brierfield and Nelson North, has left the Liberal Democrats and joined the Labour group.

Desk plan backed



● SAVING school desks and chairs from the scrapheap: from left, the Rev Ed Saville, vicar of St Luke's Church, Brierfield, chair of governors of Marsden Heights Community College, and treasurer of FEW; Hazel Blears MP; County Councillor Terry Burns - represents Burnley North East and chairman of FEW; Councillor Asjad Mahmood - represents Whitefield ward on Pendle Council.

GOVERNMENT ministers turned out for a Lancashire-based charity's event at the Houses of Parliament.

Ed Balls, secretary of state for children schools and families, and Hazel Blears, secretary of state for communities and local government, showed their support for Furniture for Education Worldwide.

The charity sends used equipment from Lancashire schools - which had been destined for landfill sites - to poor schools in developing countries.

Most of FEW's furniture is from schools in Burnley and Pendle that are moving to new buildings with new equipment as part of Lancashire County Council's £250m Building Schools for the Future programme.

Golden memories

A researcher is looking for memories of the north's industrial golden age.

The information is needed for a forthcoming book and a series on television.

And every piece that is collected will also be

archived for use by local libraries and museums.

People who were in their teens, twenties, and thirties during the 1950s and 1960s are being urged to tell the story of their working lives.

Memories and details of the community they

lived in will also provide valuable information.

Tales from the mills, mines, and factories of Burnley and Pendle are needed for the project.

If you want to get involved please contact Kathryn Hall on kathytvftn@yahoo.co.uk 0113 249 3001.

Lancashire Adult Learning

The county council's adult learning service

A wide range of courses are starting in your area soon.

For more info visit www.lal.lancashire.gov.uk

To enrol call now!

Preston, Lancaster, Fylde, Wyre:
01524 581269

Chorley, West Lancashire, South Ribble:
0845 600 1331

Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley, Rossendale:
0845 056 1886

alston hall
Lancashire Adult Learning

THE ADULT COLLEGE
Lancashire Adult Learning

Lancashire College
Lancashire Adult Learning



YOUR CHOICE for learning and skills

Lancashire County Council

CHORLEY / WEST LANCASHIRE

Down your street

Office plan registers a bright new future

By Miles Barter

WORK has started on Chorley's new £798,000 purpose-built register office.

The modern building, off Devonshire Road, will provide a fully accessible wedding, civil partnership and registration service.

Lancashire County Council is funding the construction of the single-storey office, designed to meet the needs of disabled people and those with mobility problems.

The building, on the former West Street car park site, will replace the current outdated office in St George's Street and will include a large ceremony room.

Investment

County councillor Marcus Johnstone, Cabinet member for community planning and partnerships, said: "This capital investment and new register office will be a great facility and asset for the residents of Chorley."

Bamber Bridge-based Conlon Construction has been appointed to develop the building. The project should be completed by June next year.

■ **To book an appointment in the current building or for information on any other services, contact the Lancashire County Council Registration Service at www.lancashire.gov.uk/registration or telephone 0845 0530021.**



● **SOMETHING NEW:** An artist's impression of how the Chorley register office will look when work is finished.

NEWS BRIEFS

Leaders on the mat

QUIZ the leaders of Lancashire County Council in Skelmersdale on Thursday 27 November.

Council leader County Councillor Hazel Harding and schools' cabinet member County Councillor Vali Patel will be two of the Question Time-style panel at the Ecumenical Centre, Northway, from 7.15pm.

Walking tall

MEMBERS of Chorley's Open Mind Services Centre took part in a walk to support the annual World Mental Health Day.

The centre, run by Chorley and South Ribble MIND, organises a variety of activities and help for adults with mental health problems.

Local voices

LANCASHIRE Local committees bring together county and district councillors to take decisions over neighbourhood issues. Anyone can attend.

Agendas are on the county council's website.

The next Chorley district Lancashire Local is on December 10 at 6.15pm in Lancashire College, Southport Road, Euxton.

The next West Lancashire meeting is on November 12 at 7pm in the district council offices, Derby Street, Omskirk.

Line up to volunteer

VOLUNTEERS are wanted to staff a new advice line for the people of Chorley.

They will help people access the services they need, like welfare rights or social services.

Based in Leyland, the mini-call centre is run by the Chorley, South Ribble and District Citizens' Advice Bureau and

will operate five days a week.

June Leadbeater, telephone gateway supervisor at the CAB, said: "All volunteers will be offered full training in order to recognise the appropriate needs of the caller and to direct or assist them to find the level of information or advice required to resolve their problem.

This may be an appointment with an adviser or a referral to an appropriate external agency – like the county council."

The new phone line will be open from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 1pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

■ **For help, or to find out more about volunteering, please telephone 01257 279807.**

Service is a click away

TWO councils have teamed up to encourage people to contact them using free library internet access.

The six libraries in West Lancashire run by Lancashire County Council have a People's Network of computers which

are free to use for members. It also costs nothing to join the libraries in Tarleton, Burscough, Ormskirk, Parbold, Skelmersdale and Up Holland.

People are being encouraged to contact the councils on-line when they want to request a service, pay a bill, report a problem, or find some information.

West Lancashire councillor David Westley said: "If you haven't tried it already, I would encourage you to have a go."

All 76 libraries in the county are run by Lancashire County Council.

County councillor David O'Toole, chair of the Lancashire Local committee, explained: "We are working to provide residents with their preferred means of contacting us."



● **ONLINE:** Councillor David Westley, librarian Sheila Burns and county councillor David O'Toole discover the library facilities in West Lancashire.

Lancashire Adult Learning

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County Council

FYLDE / WYRE

Down your street

Putting the trust into our children's future

By Miles Barter

A NEW organisation has been launched to bring together all the bodies providing services for children and young people in Fylde.

The Fylde Children's Trust is one of 12 established across Lancashire.

The move follows a report highlighting the need for joint work and better communications between councils, health authorities, police and charities.

Families

The trust was launched at Lytham Hall with music by the Heyhouses Primary School samba band from St Annes. There was also a performance from Pear Tree School, Kirkham.

Councillor Karen Buckley, Fylde Council's champion for young people and trust vice-chair, said: "Involving young people at the centre of our action planning will ensure we focus on the right priorities."

Councillor Jennifer Mein, county council cabinet member for children and young people, said: "The key role of the trust will be bringing agencies together to deliver more integrated services that achieve better results for children, young people and their families."

Bodies on Fylde Children's Trust include county and borough councils, police, the fire brigade and further education colleges.



● HAPPY FEET: Youngsters from Fylde YMCA perform their routines at the launch of the children's trust at Lytham Hall.

NEWS BRIEFS

Time to have your say

LANCASHIRE Local committees bring together county and district councillors to take decisions over neighbourhood issues. Anyone can attend and speak at the meetings.

Agendas are on Lancashire County Council's website.

The next Fylde district Lancashire Local is on November 25 at 7pm in Fylde District Scout Headquarters, Heyhouses Lane, St Annes.

The next Wyre district Lancashire Local is on December 3 at 7pm in Inskip St Peter's school, Inskip.

The right road

WYRE'S highways are set for their largest overhaul in years following a major investment by Lancashire County Council.

An extra £306,000 was awarded to carry out additional highway resurfacing and pedestrian and road safety work on top of the £3.4 million the council already planned to invest in the area.

Safety first

TRADING standards officers are doing free fire safety checks on electric blankets.

Experts will be at the fire stations on Radcliffe Road, Fleetwood, on November 25; and St Andrews Road North, St Annes, on November 26. Call 01772 533 569 to book an appointment.

New scheme does the business

KIRKHAM businesses are being offered 50 per cent towards the cost of refurbishing their business, thanks to a new grant scheme.

Kirkham Renaissance is a new scheme offered through a partnership of Lancashire County Council and Kirkham and Wesham Business Group.

The scheme gives businesses the opportunity to apply for up to 50 per cent of the value of improvements to their premises or shop front, some internal refurbishments and extensions.

This will be accompanied by business

support from Fylde Low Waste and Energy (FLoWE), Lancashire Business Environment Association and Business Venture Group to help cut costs, increase revenues and maximise profits.

The scheme was launched at an event at Kirkham Community Centre.

County council leader Hazel Harding said: "By offering these grants businesses can make their premises more attractive and adaptable to increase trade and employment opportunities."

"I have seen the impact these types of grants can make to improving local economies."

■ To find out more, call Stephen Smith on 01253 658445.

Home help is on line

OLDER and disabled residents in Fylde and Wyre now have constant access to support thanks to a hi-tech device.

Care workers check on people in their own homes, and react to accidents and emergencies.

Telecare is funded by Lancashire County Council.

Sensors in the home link to a wireless hub which can send an emergency call to a 24-hour local monitoring centre.

The sensors can tell things like if the home is too cold or if the gas has been left on.

County council chiefs want to raise awareness of Telecare in Fylde where half of the residents are aged 45 or over.

Councillor Dorothy Westell, Lancashire's champion for older people, said: "Telecare is an incredible aid."

■ For information on the scheme please call 01772 436756.



● HI-TECH: (from left) Councillor Dorothy Westell, Telecare trainer Barbara Roebuck, and Lancashire manager for older people's services Jill Brown, with the Telecare kit.

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LANCASTER / RIBBLE VALLEY

Down your street

Joy as Roman relic returns to its home

AN iconic Roman cavalry tombstone has been returned to Lancaster to go on public display at the city's museum.

The impressive tombstone, dating back to 100 AD, was discovered by builders laying foundations for a block of flats in Aldcliffe Road in the city in 2005.

It was excavated by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit and has been described by experts as "unique" and of "significant national archaeological importance".

The fascinating stone is almost 6ft in height and it weighs approximately 1,500lbs.

Funding

It depicts a quartermaster or junior officer of the ala Augusta riding with the severed head of a barbarian enemy in his hand.

Since its discovery, Lancashire County Council and the Museums Service, together with Lancaster City Council, has secured funding from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Purchase Grant Fund;

City display for soldier

By Andrew Lynn

Haverfield Bequest, which supports research on Roman Britain and also the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Specialist staff at the county council's conservation studio in Preston have worked to conserve the

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

THE museum is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm and entry is free. For further information, contact the museum on 01524 64637 or visit online by logging on to www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums

tombstone so that it can be put on permanent public display in Lancaster, where it will be placed in the most fitting setting.

The museum is not far from the site which had been its home for almost 2000 years. County councillor Anne

Brown, cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "It is fantastic that we have been able to save and conserve this important piece and keep it here in Lancaster for the people of Lancashire to learn from and enjoy."

Stephen Bull, curator of military history and archaeology for Lancashire Museums and author of the "Triumphant Rider - The Lancaster Roman Cavalry Tombstone", said there was a very good chance the stone depicted a real incident.

Dramatic

He said: "The inscription tells us that the man was ranked as a curator in the Roman auxiliary."

"This stone provides a crucial insight into the history of the county, and an iconic piece of Lancaster's dramatic past."

Visitors will be able to see it from Wednesday October 15, with more displays later in the year.



● CONSERVED: Lancaster's tombstone

NEWS BRIEFS

Bus info just the ticket

A NEW leaflet detailing routes and times is now available for Bowland Transit buses.

Leaflet 104 explains changes to the service in Ribble Valley and North Yorks.

Detailed information on public transport is available at Clitheroe Interchange, Camforth station, Lancaster's Stagecoach travel shop, Morecambe's Tourist Information Centre and via Traveline on 0871 2002233.

Fire safety

TRADING standards officers are offering free fire safety checks on electric blankets this month.

Technically qualified staff will be on hand on Monday 24 November at Lancaster fire station on Cable Street.

Appointments must be made in advance by calling 01772 533569.

Cash boosts

MEMBERS of the Lancashire Local Lancaster District committee have approved two local grants.

County councillor Albert Thornton gave £750 towards the renovation work on Morecambe's war memorial plinth.

Councillor Peter Elliott gave a grant of £250 to the 8th Lancaster Guides towards their activities.

Pulling the right strings



CANDLELIGHT in Lancaster Cathedral will be the backdrop to a selection box of musical treats from the Lancashire Sinfonietta.

Works by Handel, Bach,

Vivaldi and Purcell will feature in the concert by the county council-funded orchestra.

The concert will take place on Friday December 12 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available for £10 or £7.50 by calling 01524 32878.

Drive for democracy

YEAR 4 pupils from Barnacre Road Primary School in Longridge visited the council chamber at county hall and staged their own debate.

They spent a morning at Lancashire County Council as part of their studies for democracy week.

The debate was chaired by eight-year-old Sean Forrest and the motion to abolish school uniform was passed by 15 votes to 10.

Good points

County Councillor Alan Whittaker, chairman of the authority, said:

"Everyone spoke clearly and concisely and made very good points. It was an excellent debate."

County Councillor Mary Wilson, who represents Longridge with Bowland, met the children at county hall. She said: "This is an extremely important exercise."

"There has been a decline in the number of younger people who vote or are involved in local politics. I hope this will stimulate their interest."

Mum Marion Smith, who visited with the children, said: "It was interesting for me. I have learned a lot things I didn't realise that I didn't know."

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HYNDBURN / ROSSENDALE

Down your street

Rick forges ahead to a fantastic future

By Mark McAdam

A TRADITIONAL craftsman from Rossendale is looking forward to a bright future thanks to the commercial arm of Lancashire County Council.

Bacup blacksmith and wrought iron fabricator Rick de Boutemard runs Pennine Forge, which has got support from council-backed Rosebud Finance.

Rick, based on Beech Industrial Estate, has already created five jobs.

He said: "I set up a business in partnership in 2002. The business grew quickly and we began to take on corporate fabrication work."

Investment

"After a few years we decided this corporate emphasis was the way to go and because of the circumstances at that time I took the business forward myself."

Rosebud Finance has helped more than 400 businesses. Profits and income are recycled, providing further investment for new clients.

Rosebud can provide loans and equity funding to firms in Lancashire and those relocating here.

Councillor Niki Penney, chair of Lancashire County Developments Ltd which runs Rosebud, said: "Rick has already created five jobs which can only be good news for Bacup and East Lancashire and hopefully the business will go from strength to strength."



● RINGING ENDORSEMENT: County Councillor Sean Serridge, left, who represents Whitworth and County Councillor Niki Penney, of Lancashire County Developments Ltd, get a lesson in blacksmith skills from local craftsman Rick de Boutemard.

NEWS BRIEFS

Memories are made of this

A RESEARCHER is looking for memories of the north's industrial golden age for a new book and a series on television.

The information collected will be archived for use by libraries and museums in the region.

People who were in their teens, 20s, and 30s during the 1950s and '60s are invited to tell the story of their working life and the community they lived in.

If you have tales from the mills, mines, and factories of Hyndburn and Rossendale, please contact Kathryn Hall on kathytvftn@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 0113 249 3001.

Time to have your say

LANCASHIRE Local committees bring together county and district councillors to take decisions over neighbourhood issues.

Anyone can attend and speak at the meetings.

Agendas and relevant documents are on Lancashire County Council's website.

The next Hyndburn district Lancashire Local is on Monday, November 24, at 7pm in Springhill Community Centre, Exchange Street, Accrington.

The next Rossendale district Lancashire Local is on Monday, December 1, at 6.30pm in the Whitworth Civic Centre, Market Street, Whitworth.

£595,000 roads repair drive

POLITICIANS in Hyndburn have decided how to spend an extra £595,000 allocated for road repairs by the county council.

A number of schemes have been approved including:

- Carriageway reconstruction and kerb repairs on Sparth Road, **Clayton-le-Moors**; Burns Drive, **Baxenden**; and Dorset Drive, **Knuzden**
- Anti-skid surface treatment on Dill Hall Lane, **Accrington**
- Bollards in **Oswaldtwistle** to keep cyclists off the footpath between Kent Drive and St Oswald's Close
- An interactive sign on Harwood

Lane, **Great Harwood** as well as school "keep clear" markings across the borough.

County councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for sustainable development, said: "Thanks to this an extra 21 schemes will be carried out in Hyndburn this year."

Councillor Dorothy Westell is chair of the Hyndburn Lancashire Local committee, which decided on the projects.

She said: "It has allowed us to tackle some longer standing projects that we did not have the money for before."

Breaking the age barrier

OLDER people across Lancashire are soon to have their own "Parliament".

Nominations are expected to be sought in the New Year for representatives to speak out at the heart of policy-making.

The announcement was made at this year's Older People's Day



● CELEBRATION: Dorothy Westell, left, and county council leader Hazel Harding at this year's Older People's Day.

when leading councillors gathered to promote the interests of the elderly.

Councillor Dorothy Westell, Lancashire County Council's Champion for Older People, said: "I would like to see as many people as possible represented in the new assembly. There are many enthusiastic people with strong views on what services should be provided."

"I want them to be involved at the earliest stages of making policy."

"The days when age meant only frailty are long gone."

She added: "Today's retired people want leisure provision, they want financial advice, they want transport, they want more flexibility in services than ever before."

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PRESTON / SOUTH RIBBLE

Down your street

Registering success

A **BAMBER Bridge** firm has won the contract to build a new register office in Lancashire.

Conlon Construction, of Charnley Fold Lane, has started work on a new purpose-built register office in **Chorley**.

The single-story development will include a large ceremony room for 65 people, with disabled access.

The project is costing £798,000

and should be completed by June next year.

Conlon Construction was founded by five brothers in 1961 and it still employs six members of the Conlon family.

The Lancashire County Council registration service can be contacted by logging on to www.lancashire.gov.uk/registration or by calling 0845 053 0021.



● SOMETHING NEW: An artist's impression of the register office being built by Conlon.

NEWS BRIEFS

Making your views heard

PEOPLE in Preston and South Ribble are being asked to comment on new plans for long-term local development over the next two decades.

The plans include improvements to transport, neighbourhoods and the economy. To find out more visit your library or log on to www.centralancscity.gov.uk

Finney scores

A HOME for people with dementia has been awarded £500 of garden furniture. Lady Elsie Finney House, Cottam, won a vote in the Lancashire Evening Post. The county council-run home is named after the wife of Sir Tom Finney.

Party switch

COUNTY councillor Norman Abram, who represents Preston West, has left the Liberal Democrats and joined the Conservative group.

Local voices

LANCASHIRE Local committees bring together county and district councillors over neighbourhood issues. Anyone can attend and speak.

The next Preston meeting is on 17 December at 6.30pm in the Town Hall. The next South Ribble one is on 20 November at 7pm in Lostock Hall Community High School.

Service just the ticket

AN innovative **South Ribble** bus service has been shortlisted for a top national honour.

Flexi Link has been recognised by the UK Bus Awards and is a contender for the Accessibility: Claudia Flanders Memorial Award.

The demand responsive service has been running since September 2007, serving areas of South Ribble not covered by public transport.

It is available for anyone in the borough without access to a car who cannot use public transport easily because of mobility problems or the lack of a suitable service.

In one example, the service helps people travel between **Longton** and **Leyland** where a traditional route is not in operation.

A new minibus was provided for the

Bus project on the route to a top award

By **Suzie Evans**

service by Lancashire County Council featuring unique and attractive livery branding.

County councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet member for environment and transportation, said: "To be shortlisted is an exceptional achievement.

"Flexi Link has quickly proved popular and has shown promising growth, running at close to capacity just one year after its launch.

"Passenger surveys reveal that the service has achieved a great deal in combating social exclusion.

"Previously, 43 per cent of passengers were unable to make their

journey, 29 per cent relied on friends or relatives to provide transport and a number relied on relatively expensive taxis."

Flexi Link is competing against

GET BEHIND THE WHEEL

If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer to be a driver for any of Lancashire's community transport services, we would like to hear from you. Visit www.lancashire-communitytransport.co.uk or email us at: communitytransport@env.lancscc.gov.uk

schemes from Brighton and Hove, Buses for All, CENTRO, Travel Training Manual and Metro, MetroLocal at the UK Bus Awards ceremony, which will be held at Battersea Evolution in London later this month.

Flexi Link is operated by Central Lancashire Dial a Ride in partnership with Lancashire County Council and is an initiative of the European Civitas Success project.

■ **To use the Flexi Link service or to find out more about where it runs call 01257 261844. You can book your journey in advance by ringing this number between 9am and 1pm.**

Pulling the right strings



● MELODY: The highly-acclaimed Lancashire Sinfonietta in one of its rehearsal sessions.

THREE strings players from the Lancashire Sinfonietta will perform one of the world's top keyboard pieces at a pre-Christmas concert.

Organ legend Johan Sebastian Bach's Goldberg Variations and a work by contemporary composer Howard Skempton will feature in the pre-

Christmas show which will take place on Friday December 19.

The trio – who usually perform with the Lancashire County Council funded Sinfonietta – will be performing at 12.30pm in St George's Church in Preston.

Families are welcome to attend the event and no advance tickets are required.

Call out for phone volunteers

VOLUNTEERS are wanted for a new **South Ribble** advice line.

They will help people who call find the services that they need – like welfare rights or social services.

Based on Towngate in **Leyland**, the mini-call centre is run by the **Chorley, South Ribble** and Districts Citizens Advice Bureaux.

June Leadbeater, from the CAB, explained: "All volunteers will be offered full training in order to recognise the appropriate needs of the

caller and to direct or assist them to find the level of information or advice required to resolve their problem.

"This may be an appointment with an adviser or a referral to an appropriate external agency – like the county council."

The new phone line will be open from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 1pm to 4pm. The service will run Monday to Friday. For help, or to enquire about volunteering please call us on 01772 424282.

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children and waste... are they bothered?



So just what do the children do?

Reduce

The top priority for managing waste is reducing the amount of rubbish we make and buy. Children learn how much packaging comes with everyday items we buy and how to reduce this. For example, a collapsed cornflake box held up against 12 collapsed multipack boxes, shows how much packaging could be needed for the same amount of cereal. While a washing line with one person's waste for a week hung on it, shows just how much we all throw away.

Reuse

Next up is learning how many things can be reused rather than just thrown in the bin. Whether it's bags for life or using yoghurt pots to plant seeds, the key is showing that a lot of what is thrown away can be used for something else. To show this items are passed around the class which had a different use in a previous life such as coasters that were once CDs or a fleece jacket made from plastic bottles!

Recycle

"Who will eat your rubbish?" looks at the composting process and the insects that live in the compost heap and what they do to recycle leftover fruit and veg. into compost. Children are asked to look at and explore how waste can be sorted, an important part of any waste recycling process. They use everyday items like colanders, torches and magnets to show how they can sort rubbish by size, weight, transparency and magnetism, demonstrating how different objects will be separated as they journey through the waste separation process. Once the Environmental Education Centre is built they will be able to see this happening for themselves on a very large scale.

Lancashire County Council is currently working with Global Renewables Lancashire Ltd to develop an innovative environmental education centre due to open in 2010. This Centre, part of Lancashire's new Waste Technology Park in Leyland, will include an elevated walkway to give children a bird's eye view of what happens to their waste, exciting interactive displays as well as indoor and outdoor learning spaces to get children interested and involved in waste.

Tony Martin, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development said: **"It's really important that we show people today how they can make a difference to tomorrow. We are investing heavily in new ways to handle all our waste in the future but we need to make sure that everyone knows how this will affect what they do with their waste in the future and there are no better ambassadors for this than children."**

Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Global Renewables Lancashire Limited are working together to ensure that our children are on top form when it comes to rubbish.

"We all produce too much rubbish in our everyday lives and our children are no different, but the question is 'Are they bothered?' The answer is a resounding 'Yes' as this exciting new education programme being offered to Lancashire's schools is finding out.

Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council are committed to working with all 7 - 11 year olds in Lancashire and Blackpool to show them what happens to their rubbish and how they can make a real difference by reducing what they throw away. This 25 year education initiative, funded by the Authorities, is one of the most exciting and extensive projects of its kind in the UK.

This exciting package of workshops, hands on activities and interactive sessions are available free to every Key Stage 2 class in Lancashire and Blackpool and is delivered by the Global Renewables Environmental Education Team. This team has four eco-friendly teachers aiming to turn the not so cool issue of rubbish into an exciting learning experience, with individual classes exploring how much they throw away and developing ideas on how they can make a difference.

Jo Green, Environmental Education Service Manager said: **"We want to investigate with children the issues of waste, where it comes from and where it ends up, helping them understand the problems and inspire them to make a difference. The workshops are designed to reflect the national curriculum, supporting teachers in making subjects like science, geography and design and technology very real and accessible to children"**.



Coming soon...

2009 will see the launch of a brand new Environmental Education DVD for all schools containing three short animations to convey the reduce, reuse, and recycle messages. The DVD also incorporates a selection of tasks that teachers can challenge their pupils with.

Happy 1st Birthday Education Team!

The first workshop took place in November 2007 and in the last 12 months:

7,171 pupils have participated in a workshop ✓

4,500 pupils have enjoyed an assembly ✓

70 schools have been visited ✓

For further information...
If you would like more information or would like to book a free workshop in your school please:

Call 01772 642880
Email education@globalrenewables.com
Visit www.globalrenewables.co.uk



HAPPY DAYS

Helping others can give you a happier and healthier life

VOLUNTEERING makes you happy and is good for your health and your wellbeing.

That is the official finding of a new report published recently by a national charity, Volunteering England, writes **ANDREW LYNN.**

The report shows that volunteering can make you live longer by making you more active, healthier and happier.



FOR Joseph Crompton, volunteering is proving to be both an enjoyable and fulfilling past time. And it is also helping him boost his confidence, self-esteem and independence, by taking an active role within his local community.

An avid Preston North End FC fan, Joseph religiously watches his favourite team at all their home matches at weekends. But on Thursday afternoons, he gives something back to the community. Joseph, who also has a learning disability, volunteers in the young people's section of the Harris Library in Preston.

He said: "I have been working here since December after I did an introduction to volunteering course and tried it here with another volunteer who supported me.

"I used to come with Jonathan for a couple of months, but now I get the bus and come on my own."

Laughs

As a member of library staff, his role and responsibilities include sorting and tidying children's books, shredding, cutting and making bookmarks. He is viewed as a valuable member of the team.

He adds: "I really like working here."

Like most county libraries, the children's section is always busy, particularly in the school holidays. "The kids mess up the books, but

↑ **JOSEPH Crompton** helping out at the Harris Library, Preston.

I don't mind and tidy them up", laughs Joseph. "It's always nice to meet people."

Step into Volunteering is a project set up by Lancashire County Council Volunteer Service which supports adults with learning disabilities who attend Preston Day Services, to become active citizens.

Joseph is one of eight individuals who have completed a volunteering course. Another

volunteer with a disability also works in the reference library and museum.

Joseph was previously supported by the county council but, due to his progress, his volunteer, Jonathan, was gradually withdrawn and he is now volunteering independently.

Volunteer support officer Lauren said: "Volunteering has given him a real sense of involvement and a sense of pride when he puts on his shirt and tie on and gets ready for work."

VOLUNTEER CODE

A volunteering code is to be published by the county council in partnership with Volunteering Lancashire.

It represents an agreement between the county council and partners on recruitment, promotion and support of volunteers in Lancashire.

It includes recognising the value of volunteers; promoting access and removing barriers to volunteering; and ensuring the quality of volunteering.



Candlelight Baroque

We invite you to open our scrumptious musical selection box of Baroque treats! The gorgeous setting of Lancaster Cathedral provides a seasonal candlelight backdrop and the evening mixes soloistic flourishes with some wonderful orchestral concert.

Terence Charleston is one of the world's leading harpsichord players and this is his directing debut with the Sinfonietta. He returns to his Lancashire roots with this fabulous best of Baroque mix.

Join us for a festive celebration of the 17th century.

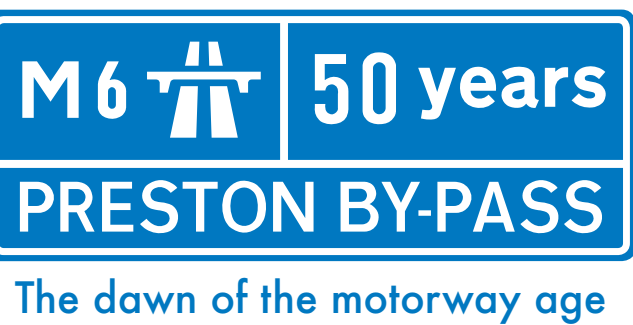
Purcell:	Chaconne from King Arthur
Vivaldi:	Violin Concerto in F minor, Op.8, No.4, RV 297, "L'inverno"/"Winter"
Bach:	Overture (Suite) No. 1 in C major, BWV 1066
Bach:	Concerto for Harpsichord and Strings in D major, BWV 1054
Bach:	Concerto for Oboe, Violin and Strings in D minor BWV 1060
Handel:	Concerto Grosso in B flat major, Op.3, No.2, HWV 313

Tickets available from the following:
LANCASTER Lancaster Tourist Information Center (01524 32878); Cathedral House (01524 384820); By email (events@lancastercathedral.org.uk). **BURNLEY** Box Office: 01257 516444.





● **MUCK-SHIFTING** on the north escarpment. Although this picture was "staged" it gives a good indication of the plant in use at the time.



The dawn of the motorway age

IMAGINE a world without motorways.

Do you see it as a tailback-free utopia or a place where a quick trip to the Lakes, Scotland or London would be a day-long test of navigation and stamina?

Well, until 50 years ago the UK didn't have a single stretch of motorway. That was until Lancashire County Council and its highly influential County Surveyor and Bridgemaister James Drake (later to become Sir James Drake) set about building the country's first stretch of motorway.

In 1958, the 8.25-mile stretch of road opened by the Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, was known as the Preston By-pass and set the scene for what many consider to be the golden age of road building in the north-west and beyond.

The subject of the M6 has inspired many Vision readers to write in with their memories of the early days (see "Changing times", below).

Speed was unrestricted and the "hard" shoulder was actually soft!

The 50-year anniversary will be celebrated with the launch of an exhibition and the unveiling of a plaque to mark the achievements of Sir James Drake close to the site where the ribbon was first cut.



● **THE** road construction included a layer of a material called "wet mix". This picture shows the material being laid and rolled.



● (Above, left) **HIGHER** Walton Bridge.

● (Above, right) **SAMLESBURY** Bridge over the River Ribble.

Come and see our historic M6 exhibition

THERE will be something for everyone at the Museum of Lancashire's M6:50 years exhibition.

Models of the revamped junction 31, original "cats' eyes" and cars from half a century ago will stir the memories.

Exhibits will include a real cross-section of highway and promotional films for luxury bus tours which took travellers up the by-pass and beyond in style.

Exhibition curator Andrea Purkis explains: "I didn't realise how significant this anniversary was until I started to delve into history.

"The building of the Preston by-pass kicked off a major cultural, economic and engineering revolution."

It is funded by Lancashire County Council's Museums Service, the Highways Agency, the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Highways and Transportation.

■ The doors will officially open on Saturday 29 November at the Museum of Lancashire, Preston and will run until 11 April 2009. It will then make the short journey up the M6 to Lancaster Judges Lodgings and reopen on 27 April 2009.

For more information on this and other exhibitions, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums

THE GOLDEN HIGHWAY

Changing times

THE opening of the Preston By-pass has a special place in the memories of many Lancastrians.

In the early days the road was eerily quiet by today's standards.

Tales of people having picnics on the central reservation may or may not be true. But it's certainly the case that local newspapers carried articles on what you could and couldn't do in the lead up to the opening.

But that didn't deter one Vision reader.

Little traffic

Norman Ellis of **New Longton**, who used to work with his family maintaining the central reservation and attending broken down vehicles, recalls: "When vehicles or machinery working on the central reservation required maintenance or repair my uncle Bill would collect me from the garage in **Bamber Bridge** where I worked with another uncle and I would accompany them to bring back the machinery.

"The motorway had such low volumes of traffic that he was able to park in the outside lane next to the central reservation to unload equipment and then cross over at various points to allow me to return to Bamber Bridge without having to drive to the next junction."

Macmillan's plea

Anne Williams of **Bamber Bridge** was just 12 and attending **Walton-le-Dale** Comprehensive School when the road was opened.

She was lucky enough to be chosen to attend the official opening and got a surprise when Prime Minister Harold Macmillan walked by.

Anne said: "He made a speech about this being a great feat and we children would benefit in future from the technology of the super roads.

"He then walked along the line of children but stopped in front of me and patted my head and said 'Hello ginger, you are part of a very important day. Remember it now and forever.'"

"Strange as it may seem now, I later became a lorry driver and used the motorways for over 30 years in my work for a Lancashire company.

"I often wonder whether being at the opening and meeting the Prime Minister may have influenced my future career in some way."

The M6 celebrates it's 'golden' 50th birthday this month and a new exhibition shows how it changed the face of Lancashire

Words: Martin Crabtree, Harry Yeadon Pictures: Peter Hewitt



Watch our video of the M6 story at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision

German autobahns inspired us - engineer

Vision readers have given a fascinating insight into the early days of the motorway. But few know the story quite like Harry Yeadon.

Harry rose to become county surveyor and bridgemaister - Lancashire County Council's top civil engineer - and was right at the heart of the county council's motorway revolution.

However in December 1958 he had completed a stint as assistant resident engineer (bridges) on the Preston By-pass.

Here he charts the journey that led to the motorway revolution.

In 1937, Lancashire County Council had become "seriously perturbed" at the number of accidents on the Liverpool-East Lancashire Road, A580, which had been opened to traffic by King George V as recently as July 1934.

It was a single carriageway road with a large number of access points, which was one of the main reasons for many of the collisions. It was clear that a new approach was needed.

The autobahns of Germany were inspirational and the county council undertook some initial surveys and protected a route through Lancashire that could be used for a similar road.

Following the end of hostilities in 1945, James Drake, who had visited the autobahn, was appointed County Surveyor and Bridgemaister. His first task was the production of a Road Plan for Lancashire, published in 1949, which included a number of outline motorways

with priority given to the 62-mile long north/south route through Lancashire.

Due to financial restraints following the war, it was unrealistic to expect that the whole length could be constructed at one time. And so a programme of by-pass building was drawn up.

As Preston was suffering from an exceptionally high accident record and severe traffic congestion, it was to be the "first".

The enthusiastic approach adopted by Drake was fully supported by the county council and staff were appointed to undertake the design. A large model, built by staff in their own time, was made as part of a public consultation exercise.

Experiment

Continual political pressure was imposed on the transport minister and, in 1953, he announced that the construction of the eight and a quarter mile-long by-pass was to be included in the expanded road programme as a "guinea pig" - in other words, an experiment for all British motorways.

The objective was to minimise the cost and to see how the road coped with the weight of traffic. Compared with present-day forms of both carriageway, and hard shoulder construction, their design and those of the drainage systems were comparatively simple.

On the basis of his traffic predictions Drake had argued that the carriageways should be constructed with three traffic lanes but the Ministry considered that two lanes would be adequate. A compromise was accepted by which the overall width was to be increased, the bridges designed accordingly, and the central reservation made wide enough to allow for the addition of a third lane to each carriageway at a later date.

Work began in June 1956 and was carried out by three main contractors - Tarmac Ltd; Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co Ltd for the construction of **Samlesbury** Bridge; and Dorman Long (Bridge and Engineering) Ltd for **Higher Walton** Bridge. Tarmac Ltd ap-

pointed Leonard Fairclough Ltd as its sub-contractor for other bridges.

The two-year completion period was based on the presumption that the weather would be average for Lancashire but, in the

event, almost continuous rain fell from the start of the work.

It was a particularly difficult job as much of the major excavation had to be carried out in soft silty clays and large quantities of material from cuttings, which in normal circumstances, could have been used to form embankments, had to be taken to tip and replaced by imported material.

The adverse weather did not affect the bridgeworks. In due course, the works were completed and the by-pass was opened to traffic on 5 December 1958 by Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

Many lessons were learned in both the design and construction, which were applied in subsequent motorway projects and, therefore, the "experiment" was a success.



● **HARRY** Yeadon: great engineering feat.

Autumn listings



Sat 8 Nov
10-4. **Bowland** Wanders. Join rangers for a guided walk over Clougha Pike. Look at moorland management. Bring packed lunch. Meet Rigg Lane car park, Beacon Fell Country Park.

Sat 15 Nov
10-4.30. Walk in Forest of **Trawden**. Panoramic walk with ranger Peter Short. Bring packed lunch. Meet Pepper Hill Barn, **Wyckoller**. Book on 01995 640557.

Sat 22 Nov
9-4. Heather and grouse - strenuous moorland walk to see moorland management that benefits rare wildlife. There will be a charge for minibus. Bring packed lunch. Meet Bowland Visitor Centre, **Beacon Fell** Country Park. Book early on 01995 640557.

Sat 29 Nov
M6- 50 years. Exhibition of the building and effects of the M6, Britain's first motorway. Museum of Lancashire, **Preston**.

LOOK LIVELY

VOICE OF VISION



*Andy Prickett
Road gritter*

FIVE months of hard work start now for gritter Andy Prickett. While most of us sleep in our beds, Andy and his fellow workers will be working through the small hours to keep the roads safe...

What does your job involve?

Keeping the roads clear of ice. We go on standby at the beginning of November and finish at the end of March.

There is more to it than meets the eye. You have to decide how much salt you need per square metre of road – and also how wide the “spread” should be. We have a fleet of new vehicles that have on-board control panels that make it easier – but the salt can still form clumps and not spread properly.

Do gritters only work in the winter?

We do other jobs as well! I am a road sweeper when not gritting. You can't be employed just for five months!

Many of the lorries are also convertible, so they can be used for other things.

Which areas need gritting?

The bosses decide that. They use computerised maps and weather forecasts that tell them what areas will need gritting and at what temperature. Many roads also have temperature sensors.

We have to do the route we are given. Mine covers **Withnell, Abbey Village, Samlesbury, Brinscall and Cuerden**.

People back at the depot can see on screen where each lorry is – gritting can be dangerous and lorries have overturned. The roads, of course, are still ungritted when we drive along them.

Even when we get out of the cab we have to radio our bosses. Otherwise, they will see that the lorry has stopped and worry that there has been an accident.

Are some areas worse than others?

We have priority routes and secondary routes. Priority routes are typically main roads and cover areas such as approaches to hospitals. The secondary routes are done after the priority ones.

It is true to say that areas in east and north Lancashire are usually colder than in my area.

Our new lorries also have road-temperature sensors, so we can give the road a “burst” if we find somewhere that needs it.

What about the hours?

Weather forecasts are pretty accurate these days, so we know if we will be working on a particular night. We are then sent home early for some rest.

When we get back we don't just drive – we have to get the lorries loaded and cabs warmed.

We also get time off the next day if we have been working very late.

The hours can be a bit anti-social and it is nice to see the end of winter.

What do you dislike about the job?

I dislike when people say we haven't gritted a road when I know it has been done.

We now have a new type of grit which includes molasses. It means it no longer blows into piles at the side of the road like the old grit did – and people now assume the road hasn't been gritted at all.



●AT the end of the day: Stephen Thaw's winning picture of the moon in the sky at St Annes. The picture was taken when Stephen was out on his bike (see story, right).

Winning cyclists capture it in colour

A LOVE of cycling has resulted in a new £250 bike for **St Annes** man Stephen Thaw.

Stephen was out cycling in his home town when he spotted the moon low in the sky in the late afternoon.



Get on yer bike!

A BOLD new strategy has been adopted to boost cycling across Lancashire.

More cycle routes, extra town-centre parking for bikes, more cycling maps ... all are planned in a drive to increase cycling by 25 per cent by 2011.

The long-term county-wide trend has seen cycling decrease since 1981, although it has increased by 83 per cent in **Burnley**, 44 per cent in **Hyndburn**, 23 per cent in **Pendle**, 19 per cent in **Lancaster** and 40 per cent in **Rossendale**.

The new approach aims to make cycling safer and more convenient. Experience has shown that cycling increases where it is

shown to be safe. School Travel Plans in **South Ribble**, for instance, mean that more than one in 10 pupils now cycles to school, compared to only 4 per cent in **Fylde**.

Cycling officer Caroline Holden said: “There is growing concern about inactive lifestyles and increasing obesity. Daily use of a bike is one way that people can get the exercise they need.

“It is also good fun and can save a lot of money.

“Many parts of Lancashire suffer from traffic noise and pollution. Increased cycle use allows development on a more human scale – more people walking and cycling leads to livelier and more

sociable streets, which increases community safety and pride.”

The plan aims to increase town-centre cycle parking by 10 per cent and to increase the proportion of the main-road network with cycle lanes.

It is also hoped that commuting to work will increase – relieving rush-hour pressure on roads.

Almost 8 per cent of workers cycle to their office or factory in **Fleetwood**, compared to less than 2 per cent in **Chorley**.

Caroline added: “Cycling has great potential to replace short car journeys. It is also an important leisure activity that can contribute to public health and to reducing CO2 emissions.”

His camera was with him, so he took a snap and entered the photograph into a county council competition to get cyclists to photograph the beautiful scenes they see while out biking.

The competition was sponsored by **Burnley- and Blackburn-based On Yer Bike** which provided Stephen's new bike.

Runner-up was Becky Kitching, from **Lancaster**, who entered the wonderful “Bike in Shadow” picture (see above).

AUTUMN BOOKS

When Will There be Good News?

By **KATE ATKINSON**

Doubleday 2008 isbn 0385608012

KATE Atkinson began her literary career on the highest note winning the “First Novel” category of the prestigious Whitbread Awards for her first novel, “Behind the Scenes at the Museum”.

Amidst shock and controversy, the same book was chosen over novels by more established authors including Salman Rushdie to win the overall Whitbread Book of the Year award for 1995.

This review concerns her sixth novel “When Will There be Good News?” but I do wholeheartedly recommend her first, entitled, “Behind the Scenes at the Museum”. It is a multi-

layered, multi-faceted novel about four generations of a York family.

Ms Atkinson followed this triumph with the slightly disappointing “Human Croquet” and the weird “Emotionally Weird”.

Both are worth a read but not as good as her first.

Her next novel was a complete change in genre to crime. Move over John Rebus - make way for another Edinburgh detective, Jackson Brodie, now retired.

This is the third work to feature Jackson Brodie and although it can be read alone, I would recommend that you read “Case Histories” and “One Good Turn” first.

“When Will There be Good News?” begins with an act of appalling violence. In Devon, on a beautiful summer's day, a mother, her two daughters and baby son are at-

tacked for no apparent reason by a complete stranger. All except six-year-old Joanna are slaughtered.

Thirty years later, Joanna is a successful GP in Edinburgh.

Her family's killer has said sorry and is about to be released. Riddled with guilt at her inability to save her brother then, Joanna now has a baby of her own.

Has she the resources to defend him?

This is a crime novel with a difference, with fully rounded characters and Kate Atkinson's ability to make the reader laugh out loud in even in the most heart-rending of circumstances.

Highly recommended and available from your local library.

Review: Laura Waterhouse, senior assistant librarian, Harris library, Preston

When Will There be Good News? is available in Lancashire libraries

Pupils learn to put others first

THE heavyweight questions that have puzzled philosophers for centuries are exercising the brains of Lancashire pupils.

Pupils at St Hilda's CE Primary School in **Carleton** have been wrestling with the ideas of how to treat others and putting themselves in other people's shoes. Part of their work has involved an Anne Frank exhibition at Blackburn Cathedral which has encouraged Lancashire pupils to think about the role of citizens in society.

Pupil Anna Loveland won second prize from the cathedral for her haiku – a short, rhythmic Japanese poem.

Teacher Katie Smith said: “I think we may have some future philosophers in this school! “We were asking why people should care about other people. Anne Frank, of course, had to hide from the Nazis for much of the Second World War because she was Jewish.

“Education is about getting pupils to ask questions and to think – skills to last a lifetime.”

SAY IT SLOW

*Dreaming of freedom,
Cramped silent, attic
author,
In starlight, brooding.*

Haiku by Anna Loveland.

Help at hand on fuel bills

LANCASHIRE businesses have the opportunity to save money and the planet by going green.

Lancashire County Council has launched a new project that funds up to 50 per cent of small-scale renewable energy generation equipment.

The project, run by Lancashire County Developments Limited, will help with capital and installation costs of the following equipment:

- Biomass boilers;
- Ground- and air-source heat pumps;
- Solar electricity;
- Solar-powered water heating;
- Small-scale hydro power;
- Wind power.

The project aims to help businesses save money on energy bills while cutting CO2 emissions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

For more information, contact LCDL on (01772) 536600 or visit <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/lcdl>

Trampers join woodland trail

By Suzie Evans

AN enthusiastic group of helpers took part in a unique woodland management event to improve the well-known Roddlesworth Wood near **Withnell**.

The learning-disabled volunteers used Trampler all-terrain electric buggies to get into and around the wood to protect native trees.

The group removed many young beech trees which were hindering the growth of important local species such as oak and birch.

The event, organised by the Lancashire Woodlands Project and the Lancashire Countryside Service, offered the chance to get out into the woods and make a contribution to wildlife.

■ For more information about the work of the Lancashire Woodlands Project, contact Paul Bullimore on 01772 533917 or visit www.lancashirewoodlands.co.uk



● A YOUNG helper lends a hand in Roddlesworth Wood.

Full speed ahead for online learning

SCHOOLCHILDREN in Lancashire will soon benefit from faster internet connections thanks to Lancashire County Council's broadband network for schools.

CLEO – Cumbria and Lancashire Education Online – is a partnership between both county councils to build a high-speed broadband education network and develop the use of ICT and e-learning for all schools.

About £4m is to be spent to

increase broadband speeds to be even faster and more flexible.

Radio equipment that links rural schools to the network is also to be upgraded.

County Councillor Vali Patel, Cabinet member for schools, said: "It is vital that all children get access to technology and information available online, particularly since IT

skills are so important today.

"This decision will also help lessen the 'digital divide' associated with families living in deprived or rural areas, which CLEO sees as a priority.

"Schools in these areas will benefit greatly from the upgraded connections."

Online teaching materials are a boon to teachers - while the high-speed connections are

already allowing pupils to go on "virtual visits" to places like museums and libraries.

The new, higher speed connections will allow more such visits and conferences.

An endless number of websites can be used by pupils as part of the learning process.

The development of the network will also encourage schools to work together.

NEWS BRIEFS

Top guest to speak

A CONFERENCE is being held to help support volunteers across Lancashire.

Organisations such as Scouts, Sunday schools and sports clubs will, it is hoped, benefit from this month's meeting.

Guest speaker will be Paul Ennals, chief executive of the National Children's Bureau.

Contact Jeff Marsh on 01772 530482 or jeff.marsh@ed.lancsc.gov.uk for details.

Quills and quizzes

FAMILIES are the target for a free "Lancashire Reads" event to be held at the county's Record Office on Saturday 8 November.

People can try writing with a quill pen, apprentice themselves to a spook, make a family tree, play quizzes, draw ...there is something for everyone.

The office is based on Bow Lane, **Preston**. Activities start at 10.30am and end at 3.30pm.

Stand up for young

CHILDREN and young people in Lancashire now have someone to stand up for them, with the appointment of Sarah Callaghan as the new Children and Young People's Champion.

Sarah's job is to make sure that children and young people have a real input into the services that are provided for them.

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

Helping you to make choices about your home and working lives

PARENT DIRECT

- Are you struggling to balance work and family life?
- Are you aware of your rights as a working parent?
- Are you aware of your rights as an employer?
- Do you need to spend more time with your child without giving up your job?

Parent Direct could be for you...

Parent Direct is a telephone and email support service for working parents to give information they need to juggle the demands of family and work. It builds on the existing Childcare Information Service (CIS) to provide additional help on employment legislation and support available for working parents.

For parents, it offers a one-stop service for information on all aspects of balancing home and work life. As well as childcare, the service covers maternity

and paternity rights, flexible working, time off for dependents, tax credits, grants, benefits and support. The service is accessible, friendly and authoritative, enabling parents to make informed choices using high-quality information.

For employers, the high-quality information provided helps staff to make well-informed decisions on flexible working and find the childcare they need, enabling them to feel supported in the workplace.

As part of the Parent Direct Service, CIS staff has access to the Opportunity Links' estimator. The estimator is a user-friendly tool that calculates tax credits and the tax and National Insurance savings from Childcare Vouchers, showing how one affects the other.

Parent Direct is delivered through Lancashire Childcare Information Service so information about childcare and family support is also on hand. For example, a parent seeking to return to work after childbirth will be able to access details of local childcare and discuss options for flexible working with a single enquiry, saving time and effort.



LANCASHIRE
Childcare
INFORMATION
SERVICE
0800 195 0137

For further information, help and advice please contact the Childcare Information Service on

0800 195 0137

Lancashire
County Council

FREE

Ring freephone
0800 169 11 25

Home Fire Safety Check

You may also be entitled to a FREE mystery gift



Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service are launching their Winter Safety Campaign, to raise awareness of fire risks associated with the holiday period and winter. During the campaign, members of the public who receive a **free** Home Fire Safety Check may also be entitled to a **free** mystery gift. To book your free Home Fire Safety Check, ring freephone **0800 1691125**. It is a call that could easily save lives.

Why do you need to think about fire safety when you just want to relax and enjoy yourself? Times when people get together and celebrate - at a party, say, or a religious festival - are times when there are more deaths and injuries from fires. You're relaxed or distracted, you're cooking in a rush, there are more people than usual in your home, people are drinking or smoking. Your home is decorated, you have put up extra lights and candles. All the usual risks get bigger. So you need to be extra careful. Here's what to watch out for and what steps you can take:

Be careful...

- With electric heaters
- With electric blankets
- With candles
- With fairy lights
- When people are smoking
- When people are drinking
- When cooking

Electric Heaters

Plug-in heaters use a lot of electricity and generate a lot of heat. This means they can be dangerous if they are not used correctly. You should:

- Keep them clear of curtains and furniture
- Only sit at least three feet (one metre) away from them
- Buy them from reputable shops
- Never dry washing on or near them (or on fireguards)

Electric Blankets

You should replace your electric blanket at least every ten years. Never buy one second-hand and always check for the British or European Standard.

You shouldn't fold electric blankets to store them, as this can damage the wiring. It's better to roll them or keep them on a spare bed. An electric under-blanket can be left on your bed all year, whether you are using it or not. Here are some further safety tips:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Never use an under-blanket as an over-blanket (or vice-versa)

- Keep all electric blankets flat or rolled to store
- Tie electric under-blankets to the bed or mattress as this stops them slipping and creasing, which could cause damage
- Only leave a blanket switched on all night if it has thermostatic controls for safe all-night use otherwise, switch it off and unplug it before you get into bed
- Don't get blankets wet; and if your blanket does get wet, don't use it never switch it on to dry it

Celebrate Safely: Lights, Candles and Decorations

Here are some tips on enjoying lights, candles and decorations safely.

Lights

Fairy lights, Christmas tree lights, multiple sets of lights and other kinds of decorative lights get used less often than your everyday lights, and they need more care.

- Check the fuses are the right type (see the box for the maximum size of fuse you)
- If bulbs blow, replace them
- Don't leave fairy lights on when you go out or when you go to sleep
- Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper
- Don't overload sockets

Candles

Candles have naked flames, and they need to be treated with respect.

- Don't leave them burning in a room with no one in it
- Don't put them in or by a Christmas tree, plants, flowers or foliage. Ribbons and other decorations around the candle holder could also catch fire
- Make sure they're in holders that won't fall over
- Put night lights or tea lights on a heat-resistant surface

- Keep them away from curtains and furniture, and not under a surface, like a shelf
- Don't put them where they could be knocked over easily or where people could burn their clothes or hair on them
- Make sure they're completely out - not smouldering

Decorations

- Decorations made of light tissue paper or cardboard burn easily.
- Don't attach them to lights or heaters
- Don't put them immediately above or around the fireplace
- Keep them away from candles

Celebrate Safely: People and Parties

- When you have people round for a party or some other occasion, think ahead.
- If you have guests staying the night, make sure they know how to escape safely
- Let guests know of any features they may not be familiar with - for example, how to open the front door
- Tell guests where the door keys are
- Take particular care of elderly people, children and people with disabilities
- If there are smokers put out enough ashtrays, so ash or butts don't get dropped in places like waste paper bins
- Don't leave food to cook unattended. Deep fat frying in particular can cause horrendous fires when a pan of oil is left, overheats and catches fire. 'WHEN YOU'RE COOKING, KEEP ON LOOKING!'



making Lancashire safer