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Quarry a hole
lot of fun

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Gory stories galore
from pre-NHS days

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FREE-RANGE EGGS AT NO EXTRA COST

Free-range eggs deal in schools will set seal on quality for county children

By Stephen Axon

BATTERY-farmed eggs are being kicked out of Lancashire schools in a major victory for child health and animal welfare.

From next month, county school meals bosses will ensure that ALL eggs in school dinners will be free range only.

With 7.6m school dinners prepared each year for Lancashire children, the change is a major step forward for the national campaign to promote free-range chickens.

Even better for hard-pressed parents...the change will not add a penny to family budgets.

County Councillor Tom Burns, Cabinet member for organisational development, said: "This has taken time to arrange due to the large numbers of eggs we use."

"After talking with different suppliers we have a deal which balances animal welfare against the small cost increase."

"It is my opinion that this is a relatively small increase and, ultimately,

what price do we put on improving the lives of chickens?"

The change to free range was prompted by County Councillor Sean Serridge, the council's Champion for Young People, who examined how large companies bought eggs – and how much they paid. All eggs will also be British.

Staff at Lancashire County Commercial Group (LCCG), the county's school meals supplier, are constantly looking into standards. They meet regularly with local suppliers to ensure standards are met while getting the best prices.

Staff member Emma Tweedie meets farmers every week with a view to helping local food producers land county council meal contracts.

Not all Lancashire school kitchens are run by LCCG. Many of those are also investigating use of free-range eggs.



●TOM Burns:
Free-range eggs
decision.

FOOD FACTS

When in season, 67 per cent of prepared vegetables and 100 per cent of prepared potatoes served in Lancashire schools are from the county.



●MENUS are getting better all the time in schools. The latest change will see only free-range eggs in schools. This picture, taken at St Augustine's RC Primary School, Burnley, shows County Councillor Sean Serridge and pupils Max Guest (6) and Somer Smith (6).

County launch for metal theft hotline

METAL theft is costing taxpayers thousands of pounds each year according to highways bosses.

More than 20 man-hole and grate covers were stolen from Lancaster, Burnley and Accrington on one night alone in July.

Vision readers are now being asked to ring a county council hotline if they see anything suspicious.

County Councillor Janice Hanson, Cabinet member for highways and planning, said: "This is highway robbery of the worst kind."

"Not only does it hit the taxpayer in the pocket but it also results in major safety hazards on roads and pavements."

THEFT

Stop the metal thieves on
0845 0530011

HOTLINE

"The problem is that members of the public see a van turn up and a couple of men putting cones out, they presume it's all okay."

Councillor Hanson continued: "If anyone has any information we would urge them to contact us or the police – particularly if a scrap yard has been approached by someone trying to weigh in the items."

Thefts have increased in line with increases in market prices for metal.



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Ask Shirley

Don't know who
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The Red Rose Hub
Bluebell Way
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PR2 5PZ



ASK THE EXPERT

Questions
answered
by your
friend in
the know

Marked down

The road markings on the street that my father lives on have faded very badly. There are double yellow lines on the road, which prevents the students and visitors to the college nearby parking there. Can anything be done?

Miss T Chamberland, Billington

Lancashire County Council's highways office will inspect and prioritise the job of repainting the road markings. This is usually done in summer. Contact Lancashire Highways by telephone on 0845 053 0011. A customer services officer will take the details and pass them to a highways inspector for investigation.

Bus boost

My daughter goes to high school in September and the school is quite a distance away from home. I am receiving benefits and my daughter gets free school meals. Is there any help available for the cost of travel to school?

Mrs P Williams, Preston

From September, secondary school pupils in years seven to 11, who are eligible for free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum amount of Working Tax Credits, will receive travelling expenses if they attend one of their three nearest schools and the distance to the school is between two and six miles.



●SAFETY first on the roads: see "Marked Down" (left).

Pupils from low income families will also have their travelling expenses met if they attend the nearest appropriate faith school, if the school is between two and 15 miles from their home.

For further information about school travel contact the county council's Customer Service Centre on their school transport helpline number: 01772 534 588.

Tree trouble

I have a problem with my neighbour's tree. I am an elderly pensioner who has a good relationship with the other residents on my street. The problem is that the tree has now grown to a size that is unsafe for me and my neighbour to prune. I am wondering if you can offer any advice, as the branches are starting to fall in the bad weather and I fear that they may damage my car.

Mr H Windford, Chorley

The county council often attends to trees that are causing a hazard to residents and the public. They will cut them back for safety reasons. However, the county council can only maintain trees which are on the public highway. To discuss this, contact the highways department on 0845 053 0011.

Illumination

The lamp outside my house is off again and it is very dark at night. I

am worried about having to go outside when it is like this. Last night there were teenagers congregating there. Who will come and repair it?

Mrs Proctor, Rawtenstall

Our highways department will arrange for a street lighting engineer to call and repair the lamp. Simply contact the Customer Service Centre on 0845 053 0011 with details of the location.

Transport help

Please could you let me know where to get the new bus pass for senior citizens, as I am 77 years old and I am also now disabled.

Mrs D Lennon, Preston

The county council's bus pass is called the NoWcard. This allows people aged 60 and over and disabled people to have free concessionary travel across England on local bus services. There are different ways to apply depending on where you live. As you are in Preston, you can visit the town hall. Your photo will be taken there and you will need to provide evidence of your age and address if you are applying for the over-60s pass or proof of disability and address for the disabled pass.

To apply in other districts, advice is available by contacting the NoWcard helpline on 0845 058 1096.

UPDATE: MARRIAGE PLANS

In last month's Ask Shirley, we included a letter about registering your marriage plans. There is now additional information.

If you are planning to marry in a Church of England, Church of Wales or other religious building, you should contact the vicar or person responsible for the venue to check if you

need to post banns or give a notice of your intent to marry. In the case of civil marriages, in a register office or other approved premises, you should contact the Registration Service to arrange to give notice of your intent to marry. For more information, contact them on 0845 053 0021.

Buzz around birthday of road safety scheme

A GIANT hedgehog, duck and bee took part in the celebrations for the 10th birthday of an innovative road safety programme.

Lancashire County Council's Road Safety Group spent the day on Preston's Flag Market to celebrate a decade of the "Together we can Make the Difference" (MTD) strategy.

Crowds gathered at lunchtime to see a penalty shoot-out between Preston North End's mascot Deepdale Duck and Burnley FC's Bertie Bee.

Neil Cunliffe, road safety group manager, said: "Since its launch in 1998, over 26,000 individuals and companies have signed up to MTD, pledging to help make Lancashire's roads safer."

"By making small changes everyone can make the difference and



● SAFETY first: Burnley FC mascot Bertie Bee with Giant Hedgehog, and Preston's North End's Deepdale Duck.

signing up to MTD is the first step on the journey to safer roads."

As party of the celebrations, the group also officially launched this year's edition of Roadlife magazine.

This year's bumper edition features an exclusive interview with Hairy Biker Dave

Myers, a behind the scenes look at Holby City, an interview with some Grumpy Old Drivers, as well as road safety advice, news and fantastic competitions.

If you would like a copy of Roadlife contact 01772 533 693 or email anna.worthington@lancashire.gov.uk

Professional play time



●CHILD CARE: Pat Jefferson (left) and Graham Dunn, from Lancashire County Council's Children and Young People directorate, at the Wilton House event.

THE concept of learning through play has taken on a new meaning at a training centre for childcare workers.

Lancashire County Council's Early Years Professional Development Centre in Chorley aims to teach staff how to help children get the best out of their pre-school experiences.

As part of their programme they go back to nursery themselves - looking at how having fun can teach children the basic principles that underpin their learning in later life.

Liz Monks, early years consultant at the county council, said: "The workers who come here love it."

"We use sand, water, role play, construction - it's all relevant and it's all fun for children."

"It's all about exploration and investigation, and coming to the development

centre opens workers' eyes to the range of possibilities of playwork."

The centre, at Wilton House in Chorley, has been open for a year.

Its facilities have been used by more than 9,000 staff from nurseries, playgroups, schools, after-school groups, holiday clubs and childminders.

The school has two fully equipped play classrooms, so that workers can have hands-on experience of tried-and-tested favourites such as water and sand, as well as sampling new equipment that wasn't around when they were tots themselves.

The project has been so successful that advisers from the government's Department for Children, Schools and Families held it up as a flagship and other authorities nearby are looking at the service.

NEWS BRIEFS

Museum's sealife lessons

THE perils of the sea are to be explored in an exhibition at Fleetwood Museum.

Worse Things Happen at Sea is based on Morecambe Bay – an area known for its beauty but also its treacherous sands, stormy seas, shipwrecks, drownings and unpredictability.

In recent years, seven men died in a helicopter crash and 23 Chinese cocklers perished in the fast tides.

The museum opens Mon-Sat 11am to 4pm and Sun 1-4pm.

Music and blooms

FLOWERS and music will feature at All Saints Church in Clayton-le-Moors on Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17 August.

Saturday evening at 7pm will see a performance by Slaidburn Silver Band in the vicarage grounds (weather permitting) or in church. The festival will conclude with songs of praise in the church at 5.30pm on Sunday.

Free-wheeling

A REVAMPED cyclepath is giving youngsters at three Lancaster schools a safe and smooth journey to school.

Improvements have been carried out to the cycle/footpath which links the Hala estate to St Bernadette's and Moorside Primary Schools and to Stepping Stones School on Bowerham Road.

Improvements include reconstruction and widening of the path, street lighting and signs.

£5m for 18 new children's centres

By Andy Swain

AN AMBITIOUS plan to add 18 new children centres to Lancashire's existing 61-strong network has been approved by Lancashire County Council.

The Children's Centre Initiative aims to ensure that by 2010 every family in the county will have access to a local centre.

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

This latest phase - costing £5m - will create a number of satellite centres targeted particularly at more affluent and rural areas.

County Councillor Jennifer Mein, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "These centres will build on existing services for children and families like schools, health centres, nurseries, and family centres.

Efficient

"This means staff and resources can be used more efficiently, and specialist equipment can be used in different communities.

"Lancashire leads the way in providing such services and support. We have one of the largest and most developed networks in the country.

"This latest phase enables us to continue increasing the number of families that benefit from them."

Proposals will be considered about exactly where these new centres will be placed, following feedback from Lancashire Locals, Children's Trusts, key stakeholders and other interested parties.

Target: 79 - this is the latest



● **MORE** help for families: from its central location on Station Road, Rishton, the recently opened Copperhouse Children's Centre is open to families with babies and children up to five years old.

The centre offers support and health services and access to day care and early education, in partnership with First Class

Day Nursery and Toppers Day Nursery, supported by the centre's own qualified teacher.

(Pictured) Youngsters Jessica Booth and Anna Bradbury with manager Helen Mountford, centre, County Councillors Miles Parkinson and Doreen Pollitt and Hyndburn mayor Pam Barton.

Quest goes on for VFM

By Chelsea Wigmore

GOOD management of money is saving a small fortune for Council Tax payers.

County council money men say that careful investment of council balances will limit future Council Tax rises – and help fund present services.

Long-term loans are raised at low interest rates while savings are invested at high interest rates to pay for investment to improve services.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Cabinet member for Resources and Performance, said: "My priority is quality and value.

"We are doing everything possible to get the biggest 'bang for the buck' from every penny.

"We face some big challenges over the coming years but the good news is that the county council's focus on cost savings leaves us in a good position."

Voice of Vision – p6

ADVERTORIAL

Lancashire Adult Learning is the County Council's adult education service. We offer a wide range of high quality learning and training opportunities for adults and businesses.

Whether you want to develop new skills, pursue interests or develop skills relating to your job and workplace we have something for you.

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courses include arts and crafts, sports and leisure, information technology, languages, English and Maths as well as support for advancing your career or starting a new one.

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Help us plan our M6 display

VISION readers are being asked for their memories of the country's first ever motorway - the M6.

Work is well under-way on plans for a museum exhibition to celebrate the 50th birthday of the M6, or the Preston Bypass as it was first known.

The county council-designed and built road heralded the start of an unprecedented period of motorway building across the UK.

FAST SHOW

Tell Vision your views and recollections of the country's first motorway. Write to: The editor, Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ.

Display dates:

29 Nov 08-11 April 09.
Museum of Lancashire,
Preston.
2 May 09 - 29 Aug 09
Lancaster City Museum.

In the run-up to the celebrations, we want to hear about your first experiences on the motorway.

Perhaps you or a member of your family helped build or design the M6.

Whatever you remember, Vision wants to know. Memories and artefacts will help guide the museum display.

New venue brings sporting chance to disused quarry



THE wow factor came to Rossendale when an "Adrenaline Live" event left spectators open-mouthed at the level of skill on display.

Walkers and visitors to Lee Quarry, Bacup, stopped to gaze in awe at the skills of the trials bike riders who were taking part in the third round of the British Mountain Bike Trials Championships.

Several champions took part in the event which saw them hopping and jumping their bikes across a series of obstacles.

The disused quarry could have joined others in Lancashire that have become landfill sites - until the county council developed it as a centre for "adrenaline" sports.

Seven times British trials bike champion Lois Morgan said: "I'm thrilled to be here and take part in a

difficult and challenging course. It's great to see a council provide a venue like this."

Elsewhere in the quarry, cyclists of all ages participated in the Open Mountain Bike Cross Country Races and visited the bike-skill workshops provided by manufacturers.

The quarry activities were just one part of the "adrenaline live" weekend which also saw the British Disabled Waterski Championships take place at nearby Whitworth Waterski centre and music and a skiing and boarding event at Ski Rossendale.

The disabled championships were able to go ahead only after Lancashire County Council's economic development department stepped in at the last minute to provide much needed sponsorship.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "This weekend has seen people

from as far away as Jersey travel to Bacup to see and take part in the Adrenaline Live! weekend.

"I am encouraged and thrilled that a regeneration project that we have supported and managed has had such an impact in the world of adrenaline sports.

"This is exactly what we envisaged when we started the project and this weekend's test event has shown that there are huge opportunities for tourism and investment through regeneration in East Lancashire."

The Adrenaline Gateway Project is a partnership involving Lancashire County Council's economic development department - Lancashire County Developments Limited - Rossendale Council, Rossendale Leisure Trust and the North West Regional Development Agency. It is part-funded by Natural England through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.



(Top, left) LOIS Morgan, one of Britain's top mountain bike trials riders.

(Left) COUNTY councillors Sean Serridge and Hazel Harding with waterski champion Sean Rose and Jane Sowerby.

(Above) EXCITING aerobatics at Ski Rossendale.

(Right) WORLD champion rider Scott Wilson tackles some of the quarry's huge boulders.



You're telling us

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

Right track

HAVING recently relocated home in the past 12 months, after having lived in the South West and East Anglia, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the recent edition of Vision.

The front page grabbed my attention immediately with a wonderful welcome home and acknowledgement to our armed forces.

The pages that followed then went on to remind me of the wonderful countryside that I have returned to.

Furthermore, the councils are actually looking to reduce costs, not service levels, and "save us money" by allowing localised policies and ensuring accountability should this be valid.

CHERYL
Oswaldtwistle

They fought for us all

I HOPE many pupils take part in the school project about the First World War (Vision, July).

When I was a child (not that

long ago!) WW1 veterans were still about in numbers. I remember one man near me who had been at the Battle of the Somme.

They say you could hear the sound of the guns in London.

I would be very interested to see the articles produced by the children. I wonder if Vision would run some examples.

I wonder if schools could also involve children in learning about the Second World War. We still have many veterans around. They were a very good generation who won the war and then committed themselves to building a better Britain.

Let us record what they did while we still can.

F GORDON
Rossendale

Helpful staff

I WOULD like to say "thank you" to the staff at the recycling depot in St Annes.

We had been doing some refurbishments and we had to make several trips to the depot.

The help we received was fantastic. Nothing was too much trouble for them. Their depot is beautifully kept. They take a

real pride in their work.

MR AND MRS P HEALEY
Lytham

Proud history

WHITE Coppice Women's Institute enjoyed a super summer evening outing to Lancashire County Council's Alston Hall.

After enjoying the lovely grounds, we enjoyed entertainment by Ron Bolton - "The Clatter of Clogs". Clogs were so integral to Lancashire life in the mills, factories and on farms. It brought back many happy childhood memories for our older members.

Many still remember the sights, the sounds and even smells of the clog-makers and cobblers' shops. What fun it was to make sparks fly and slide down icy streets. Members had brought their own beautifully made baby clogs. We learned the different woods used for soles, and designs for the leather uppers and fasteners. All very practical.

Clogs were well-loved, warm and comfortable.

ROSELLE HOLDEN

ENTER & WIN A weekend on the coast

Why not enter our easy competition for the chance of a weekend away in North Yorkshire?

Enjoy a two-night stay for two, plus bed and breakfast, at the Grand Hotel in Scarborough.

Included is First Class rail travel from First TransPennine Express.

We'll also offer a limited number of family books, DVDs or CDs as runner-up prizes.

To be in with a chance of a break at the Grand Hotel and enjoying First Class travel, great accommodation, beautiful sandy beaches, promenade walks and all that Scarborough has to offer, send us the answer to the following before Friday 15 August:

In which county is Scarborough?

Return your entry to:
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Vision, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or online at:
www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/te/vision



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Please note hotel accommodation is subject to availability. Usual Vision competition rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

Girls rise to design challenge

GIRL power was the name of the game when schools in Preston, Ribble Valley and Wyre came together to consider careers.

The aim was to get girls to consider traditionally male careers such as engineering and design - so teams of girls were given cardboard, sticky tape and an electric blower and told to design and produce a working hovercraft.

Before the day was out the teams raced their creations and the winner was ... a team called Girl Power.

By Chelsea Wigmore

The challenge was organised by the Aim Higher project which works with boys and girls from high schools to promote higher education and even higher career expectations.

Project worker Steve Boardman said: "It shows how interesting physics can be.

"A hovercraft sounds very complicated, but the principles are quite simple when you approach the problem in a scientific way."



Full steam ahead

Billions of pounds boost jobs and pay and beat crime

By Neil Graham

LEADING public-sector agencies are teaming up to ensure that billions of pounds are spent wisely on a better future for Lancashire.

District councils, Lancashire County Council, the NHS, fire, police... all are signed up to a Local Area Agreement (LAA) masterplan to boost Lancashire.

Between them, they already spend many billions of pounds.

But now, they have agreed on a vision for the future - the LAA will bring them together to ensure they pull in the same direction on:

- **Jobs** - economic regeneration to revitalise communities.
- **Crime** and anti-social behaviour.

● **Health** - parts of Lancashire are far worse than national averages.

● **Social harmony** - a look at everyone's life chances, including economic advancement, education, and encouraging communities to respect each other.

"We call it narrowing the gap", said County Councillor Hazel Harding, Lancashire County Council leader.

"Public bodies already spend many billions of pounds in Lancashire. They used to work separately - the way ahead is to get them working in partnership so they spend their money together to secure the future we want.

"Thousands of people have had their say on what they want Lancashire to be like. They want better pay, safer

and cleaner streets, better chances for their children, better health provision and more jobs.

"That is the key to social harmony and to civic involvement. That is what they want and it is what we will do.

"We have set concrete milestones that we will aim to pass by 2011."

County Hall research shows that Lancashire's economy has moved forward in recent years. Advances, however, have been slower than elsewhere.

Efforts will be aimed at employment rates, skill levels and earnings.

Ged Fitzgerald, Lancashire County Council chief executive, added: "This is a great opportunity to make an impact.

"People should feel a sense of ownership of where they live and feel able to get involved.

"The LAA will tackle economic development, health issues such as mental health, cleaner streets, crime, accidental fires and air pollution."

LANCASHIRE: LIFE IN 2011

- Anti-social behaviour - reduce the re-offending rate of youth offenders.
- Reduce serious acquisitive crime in target areas by 5 per cent.
- Building communities that work.

■ Boost success in English and maths.

■ 28 per cent reduction in working-age people claiming out-of-work benefits.

■ Boost average earnings by 36 per cent (before allowing for inflation).

■ Cleaner streets. 10 per cent year-on-year reduction in litter.

■ Protection of animal and plant life.

These are only a few examples of the Local Area Agreement. See the full report at the online Vision: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision

NEWS BRIEFS

£3,000 for China quake

RESIDENTS of Lancaster and Morecambe have raised more than £3,000 for victims of the Chinese earthquake.

An evening's entertainment raised more than £1,000. The total was bolstered by donations and a series of pupil "dress down" days in schools.

County Councillor Elizabeth Scott, one of the organisers, said: "Lancashire people have a long record of being generous. The area's links with the Morecambe Bay Chinese cockling tragedy meant there was enormous support."

The evening, which included Chinese singing, was organised by Lancaster and Morecambe Chinese Association.

Telling times

A UNIQUE clock has been installed at new bus-waiting facilities on Station Road in Barnoldswick.

The four-sided clock, paid for by Lancashire County Council and housing developers, spells out the time with the letters of the town's name.

Beat burglary

YOUNG actors have been working with older people to investigate the issues of bogus callers and distraction burglaries.

The youth and community service volunteers have been bridging the generation gap in South Ribble.

Performances have been recorded onto DVD.

POW! ZAP! WAM! KAPOW!

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County Council

LOOK LIVELY

The customer is right . . .

EVERYONE says the customer is king – but Lancashire County Council is taking concrete steps to turn the saying into reality.

Staff across the organisation have been taking customers to one side and quizzing them about how they think services should be run.

The county's main museum, the Record Office – a fantastic place to trace family trees – and Travel Care buses have been involved so far. Findings will be studied by management with a view to improving services.

The main issues so far are around public knowledge of, and access to, services.

By Neil Graham

County Councillor Hazel Harding said: "Traditional research has concentrated on numbers, but this project has gone much deeper.

"Statistics can only go so far, while actually speaking to people reveals much deeper attitudes and views.

"Services looked at so far appear to be excellent – but people want to know more about them and how to use them.

"The way ahead for all councils is to tailor services to public need. There is no future in councils just providing what they

want to provide – we must provide what the public wants."

Some frontline staff were invited to sit in on discussions.

The county's Record Office is a repository for documents going back to medieval times. It is open to the public, but research showed people wrongly thought it was for academics only.

Councillor Harding, county council leader, added: "Some concerns are very basic, such as not knowing where the entrance door is for some services.

"The county council is here to help residents, so we must treat such views very seriously."

Your chance to design a new Britain

BRIGHT ideas from Lancashire could soon be inspiring housing across Britain.

Ideas including eco-homes, construction, renovation, design, low-carbon building and waste management are being sought for a "Sustainable Stars 2008" competition run by Elevate in east Lancashire.

The winning ideas will be displayed and form the basis for discussion workshops at the national Elevate conference in October.

Elevate is a £160m housing renewal project – so the winning ideas could end up with major backing.

Members of the public, schools and community groups are all able to enter in one or more of the competition's 13 categories. Deadline is 31 August.

More details and application forms from Catherine Toon on 01254 304572 or visit: www.elevate-eastlancs.co.uk

Book festival puts children on write path



●READING leads to a life of learning: County Councillor Anne Brown with (front, from left) An-Nisa Noor Kham (7), Maisy the mouse, and Al-Yasa Khan 10.

CHILDREN joined Maisy the Mouse and County Councillor Anne Brown, new Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services, at the launch of Lancashire's Shout About Books children's summer literature festival.

Shout About Books allows children to meet well-known authors and take part in a range of fun activities and reading sessions in local libraries.

SUMMER BOOKS

The Other Boleyn Girl
By Philippa Gregory

I HAVE never been a fan of historical novels but the release of the film "The Other Boleyn Girl" prompted me to give this genre another try, and I'm so glad I did.

Most people are familiar with Henry VIII and his six wives, and in particular his second wife, Anne Boleyn.

But I wonder how many people realise he had a relationship first with Anne's younger sister, Mary, and according to the book, had two children by her. Mary is presented to the king at the tender

age of 13 by her scheming family and the story relates her rise and subsequent fall in favour, when Henry begins to pursue Anne.

I don't know how historically accurate the book is but it makes enjoyable reading – it has everything a good read should have – murder, intrigue, romance, and even though you know how it will end, it's still a page-turner!

The reader really gets to know what it must have been like to live in those turbulent times in the court of Henry VIII.

Ms Gregory has brought this period to life for me and I'm really looking forward to reading her other historical novels.

Review: Audrey Taylor

The Other Boleyn Girl is available in Lancashire libraries

VOICE OF VISION



Don Bates
Senior accountant

Meet Lancashire's "Billion Dollar Man". On any given day, Lancashire County Council has approximately £500m of your money invested until it is needed for services.

Timing is crucial in investing and borrowing. Don's good sense of timing saves hundreds of thousands of pounds per year – money that supports public services and keeps down Council Tax bills...

What does your job involve?

It is about managing money wisely. The council has savings and borrowings.

We borrow money for capital projects, such as building new schools and waste recycling centres. They are things that will last for generations, so we can't expect the cost to fall just on this year's tax payers.

We also have money which is earmarked for something in particular but not needed just yet. We can invest that and offset the borrowing costs of the capital projects.

How much is involved?

On the average day we will invest anything between £500,000 and £80m.

Borrowing rates have been relatively low recently and we have been able to borrow early and lend the money out at higher rates until we've needed it.

Is it risky?

All councils have to manage money sensibly. We also manage finances for the pension fund, the police and fire authorities.

We take advice from experts on the safety or otherwise of investment opportunities. Lancashire County Council's record is above the national average – the money we make is already supporting the county council's services.

What is the secret?

Good timing is the key.

We may have money put aside for a major project, but we will know we will not have to spend it for some months. We may as well have that money invested in making more money.

We review the amounts each day. It means we need to know what the money into, and the payments out of, our account will be each day so we can decide what we can invest and how long for.

It is like a huge and more complex household budget. The principle is the same.

What are the "profits" used for?

That is for elected councillors to decide.

They can use the money to pay for services – or to offset against Council Tax demands. In reality, the money we make in good investments is used for a bit of both.

It is good to think that some services, somewhere in the county are being provided for "free".

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

If you have a child born on or between 1 September 2003 and 31 August 2005 your child is entitled to a free part-time pre-school nursery education place from the start of the Autumn Term 2008 commencing in September.

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

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

These can be Local Authority (LA) maintained nursery schools and nursery classes, providers in the independent, private and voluntary sectors or accredited childminders on an approved National Childminding Association (NCMA) Children Come First Network.

Further information including a Parent Guide and a list of eligible providers within your area may be obtained from the Childcare Information Service on Freephone 0800 195 0137.



SureStart

Lancashire
County Council

EASY RIDER

Your transport questions answered, by transport expert Andrew Varley



Everywhere you look now you are being told to go by bus or train rather than driving. I drive everywhere but I am willing to try public transport as long as I can find out how to plan my journey. Is there anyone who can help?

It's easy just to jump in the car but, with increased traffic levels and the need to lower CO2 emissions, trying alternative options may be practical - especially for shorter journeys.

Getting around Lancashire by bus or train may seem daunting. Help is at hand as there is a lot of information available to help you plan your journeys more effectively.

Traveline (0871 2002233) is available from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. It is a partnership between bus operators and local authorities and can provide you with up-to-date local and national transport information. If you want to travel from Lancashire to anywhere else in the UK, Traveline can help.

For those with the internet there is a journey planner on www.transportforlancashire.com. Bus timetables for all services in Lancashire are also available to download as well as information about Preston's real-time bus system.

Many bus stops in Lancashire now have details about how to get information via SMS text message to your mobile. Text the bus stop code to 84268 and within seconds you will receive timetable information for the next three or four buses from that stop.

Timetable leaflets, maps and guides for all bus services in Lancashire are produced by Lancashire County Council and are available from a wide variety of outlets including County Information Centres, Tourist Information Centres and many libraries, or by email to timetableorders@env.lancscc.gov.uk

If you wish to travel further afield or compare road, rail and air travel visit www.transportdirect.info

Useful contacts

www.transportforlancashire.com
www.transportdirect.info
www.lancashire.gov.uk
www.travelwise.org.uk
www.nationalrail.co.uk
timetableorders@env.lancscc.gov.uk
 Traveline 0871 200 22 33

Horrible history

COMMUNITY HISTORY

NEIL GRAHAM writes about the changing face of libraries

Libraries have gory stories galore for those who want to explore Lancashire's colourful past and ever-changing present

PEOPLE take the NHS for granted.

But it didn't always exist – and the days before it was founded in 1948 were remembered when libraries across Lancashire took part in Local and Community History Month.

Leeches, charities, herbal remedies – and a lot of financial worry – were the lot of many working people before 1948.

A PICTURE of health: children from St Joseph's RC Primary School visited Chorley library's exploration of health over the years. Similar displays are held across the county.



Staff at Chorley library launched Gory Stories, their own exhibition, to remind the younger generation of yesterday.

Reference librarian Linda Langford said: "Libraries across Lancashire play a key role in bringing local history to life."

"We had a reminiscence day and a series of talks to get people thinking. All older people have memories of the pre-NHS days – and many can still tell you about the old remedies."

"Treatment was expensive in those days and people who couldn't afford help often tried to treat themselves with things such as herbal cures."

The gruesome stories thrilled pupils of St Joseph's Primary School, Chorley, who attended the display.

They saw "cures" for everything from the common cold to deadly typhoid. Some techniques went as far back as the Roman era.

Treatments included: leeches for draining blood and pus from plague victims; metal pliers for pulling out rotten teeth, drills for relieving headaches and paraffin for treating nits. The "plague doctor" himself even made an appearance!

Chorley Fire Service demonstrated their chemical suits and safety equipment to the children.

North West Sound Archive attended the library to record memories of health services in Chorley.

The library also showed medical equipment supplied by Lancaster Medical Museums.

Linda added: "Libraries are no longer just repositories for books – they are repositories for all kinds of knowledge."

"We have pictures, archives, access to the internet and also access to many local historians."

"Books are as important as ever, as the new services have added to what we do for the public."

Summer listings



Until 29 Aug. Holiday activities for children. Queen Street Mill, Burnley. Small charge.

Sat 2 Aug
10.30am. Moth mayhem! Outdoor event. Turton Tower.
 2-4pm. Flutterby butterfly mobile. Turton Tower. Small charge.
1.30-3.30pm. Super Saturday: Natural Curiosity. Lancaster City Museum. Ring 01524 64637 for details and booking.

Mon 4 August
12.30-3.30pm. Fabulous Fleetwood – arts and crafts activities for children 4-11. Fleetwood Museum. Pre-booking required. (Also 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29 Aug).
1-4pm. Painting with wool. Suitable adults, children over 12 years. Lancaster Maritime Museum. Small charge, pre-booking required. Ring 01524 64637 for details and booking.
11am-1pm. 1950s seaside holidays, suitable children 4-11. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required.

Tues 5 Aug
10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Fishes in the River. Lancaster Maritime Museum. Ring 01524 64637 for details and booking. (Also 12, 19, 26 Aug).

Tues 5-Sun 10 Aug
2-3pm. Family craft workshop, Helmshore

Mills Textile Museum. Small charge, pre-booking required.

Wed 6 Aug
1-4. Woodland Wednesdays. Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham. Small charge. (Also 13, 20, 27 Aug).
10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Art and craft workshop. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster. Ring 01524 64637 for details and booking. (Also 13, 20, 27 Aug).
2pm. Kids' activity tours (under-12s). Lancaster Castle. Pre-booking required.
10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Family craft activities, suitable children 5-11. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required. (Also 13, 20, 27 Aug).

Thurs 7 Aug
10.30-12.30, 1.30-3.30. Natural Curiosity. Lancaster City Museum. Ring 01524 64637 for details and booking. (Also 14 Aug, 21 Aug, 28 Aug).
10.30-12, 1.30-3. Meet a Roman soldier, suitable children 4-10. Rossendale Museum, Rawtenstall. Pre-booking required.
2-4. Knights Away! Turton Tower. Small charge.

Fri 8 Aug
12.30-3.30. Jumping Frogs. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster. Pre-booking required.
11-1. Wartime works of art. Suitable children 4-11. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required.

Sun 10 Aug
1.30-4.30. Archaeological trail – insight into a quarry's industrial past. Lee Quarry, Bacup. Meet: Kingfisher Business Park, Newchurch Road, Stacksteads. Suitable for Trampers (to be booked on 01995 640557).

Mon 11 Aug
1-3. Badger walk and talk. Slides, talk, walk. Pepper Hill Barn, Wycolter.
11-1. 1950s fashion and music. Suitable children 4-11. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required.

Tues 12 Aug
1-3. Let's fly a kite! Learn to make a kite. Meet: Fleetwood Marsh. Trumper friendly.

Wed 13 Aug
1-4. Teddy bear's picnic. Bring teddy and picnic and join in fun and games. Meet: Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell. Book Trampers on 01995 640557.

Thurs 14 Aug
12-2, 3-5. Teddy bears' picnic. Turton Tower. Small charge – ticket will include picnic and activity.

Fri 15 Aug
11-1. Fabric Fantastic. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required. (Also 22 Aug).

Sat 16 Aug
11-3.30. Beautiful Lune Valley. Walk, suitable for Trampers. Meet Crook O' Lune car-park.

Mon 18 Aug
11-1. 1950s toys and games. Suitable children 4-11. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required.

Wed 20 Aug
1-4. Get close to birds of prey; see them in action. Meet: Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell Country Park. Suitable for Trampers – book on 01995 640557.

Thurs 21 Aug
2-4. Watch the Birdy! Turton Tower. Ring 01524 64637 for details and booking.

Fri 22 Aug
2-3pm. Drop spinning. Helmshore Mills Textile Museum. Small charge. (Also 24 Aug).
12.30-3.30. Folded Kaleidoscope. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster.

Sat 23 Aug
2-3pm. Family craft workshop. Helmshore Mills Textile Museum. Small charge, pre-booking required. (Also 25 Aug).

Sun 24 Aug
 Craft demonstration. Queen Street Mill, Burnley. Also 25 August.

Mon 25 Aug.
2-4. Terrible Tudor Masks. Turton Tower. Ring 01524 64637 for details and booking.
2-5. On the Ropes. Lancaster Maritime Museum.

Tues 26 Aug
11-1. 1950s TV. Suitable children 4-11. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required.

Fri 29 Aug
12.30-3.30. Mobiles – birds and aeroplanes. Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster.
11-1. That's Entertainment! Suitable children 4-11. Museum of Lancashire, Preston. Pre-booking required.

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

Useful phone numbers

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

Museums' main office 01772 534061
 Museum of Lancashire 01772 534075.
 Lancaster Maritime Museum 01524 382264.
 Judges' Lodgings 01524 32808.
 Lancaster Castle 01524 64998.
 Lancaster City Museum 01524 64637.
 Helmshore Mills Textile Museum 01706 226459.
 Fleetwood Museum 01253 8766221.



● **INNOVATIVE:** children from Quernmore Primary School's eco-committee.

New generation of generators

CHILDREN from a rural school near Lancaster are making the most of their breezy location by becoming the first in the area to have their very own wind turbine.

Installed at Quernmore Primary School, the turbine has been generating electricity for the school with any excess being sold to power companies.

The presence of the turbine has not only educated and inspired the children at the school but has also drawn in a number of visitors who have been keen to learn more about it.

Jane Haythorne, the school's eco-adviser, said: "It is important, in these times of high oil prices and with the threat of climate change, that we invest in alternative means of energy production."

● Lancashire County Council has grants available for community groups keen to help tackle climate change. Ring 01772 531257 for details.

One-stop shop points to future

By Andrew Lynn

THE requirements of older people with mental health needs have been recognised by a £1.5m centre offering a wide range of services.

Advice, information, support for people and their carers, community-based treatment - all are now available at the new Charnley Fold Mental Health Community Resource Centre.

Nationwide, an estimated 570,000 people suffer from dementia. The figure is forecast to double within 30 years. Charnley Fold, it is hoped, will provide a model of support in the years to come.

Anyone needing help can call in. The centre also provides a base for support within the community.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, county council leader, said: "This gives us a vision of what care for older people can be. I hope it will be a blueprint for similar provision across the county."

"This partnership puts people, their abilities, and their needs and those of their carers, at the centre of all we do. This is quality care for improving quality of life."

Services at the Bamber Bridge centre include:

- A ground-breaking health and wellbeing centre and

£1.5m blueprint puts the needs of older people first

support service for older people provided by voluntary sector organisations.

- A flexible care service to work with people and their carers at an early stage of being diagnosed with dementia.
- A community-based assessment, diagnostic and treatment service.
- Specialist staff including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other therapists who provide a range of support services in

the community.

- An enhanced day care service for older people with complex needs.
- Training facilities for staff who work with older people.

Traditionally, mental health services for older people have been fragmented and delivered from a number of different locations across the area. The development of Charnley Fold unites organisations to offer services on one site to enable people to maintain their independence.

Lancashire Care, Lancashire County Council, Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust, Age Concern and the Alzheimer's Society are working together to provide the new service.

Finlay Robertson, chief executive of Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "I am delighted to see this facility for older people. This is a place where people can receive treatment and access support from all agencies."

"Working together under the same roof means that people can access a wide range of support services for themselves and their carers."

AT A GLANCE

An estimated 570,000 people now have dementia in England.

The figure is expected to double in the next 30 years.

The past few years have seen Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and Lancashire County Council investing heavily - so that future demand can be met.

SAVE A STAMP!

You can now write to the editor and enter competitions online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision

NEWS BRIEFS

Time to rest

HELP is at hand for unpaid carers in Chorley and South Ribble. Unpaid carers are often friends and family members who look after the sick or elderly - but need a rest themselves.

Monthly drop-in sessions, giving people the chance of activities, a rest and meeting other carers and discussing related issues, have been organised for: 2-4pm, Charleston Court, Longbrook Avenue, Bamber Bridge, last Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays); 10.30-12.30, CVS Leyland office, Towngate, last Tuesday each month; 10.30-12.30, Tuson House, Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham, first Wednesday each month.

Details on 01772 455459.

Tools in place

YOUNG members of Walton-le-Dale Bike Project now have two large toolboxes and a full range of tools for fixing bikes.

Don't be shy

COUNTY councillors from Wyre will be meeting the public when the council's mobile unit visits Cleveleys on Sunday 17 August.

Decisions live

DEBATES on various planning applications can be seen live, thanks to Lancashire County Council's web-cameras.

The meeting of the county council's Development Control Committee can be seen from 10am on Wednesday 6 August at: www.lancashire.gov.uk

Beat the burglar

YOUNG actors have been working with older people to investigate the issues of bogus callers and distraction burglaries. The youth and community service volunteers have been bridging the generation gap in South Ribble.

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grow

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SURE START, EARLY YEARS & CHILDCARE SERVICE

Would you like to work in childcare but don't have any qualifications? **Then Making Choices could be the course for you!**

We will be running courses as follows:

East Lancashire

Date: Tuesday 16th September

Time: 9.30 to 12.30

Venue: **Fairfield Children's Centre**, Fairfield Street, Accrington.

How long: 5 weeks (3 hours per week)

Date: Friday 19th September

Time: 9.30 to 12.30

Venue: **Burnley Football Club**, Harry Potts Way, Burnley.

How long: 5 weeks (3 hours per week)

Preston Area

Date: Tuesday 16th September

Time: 9.30 to 12.00

Venue: **Preston West Children's Centre**, Ashton Primary School, Ainsdale Drive, Ashton, Preston.

How long: 6 weeks (2.5 hours per week)



To find out more about this FREE course or to book a place please contact Mike Barnes on 0800 195 0137.

You can book online via our website www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare and follow the Recruitment link to Making Choices and booking form.

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