



## THE BEE'S KNEES

**What brought Ugandan visitors to Lancashire?**

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## VISION ONLINE

**Enter competitions and write to us online**

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

## VIRTUAL VOICE

**Youngsters helped by new technology**

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# WANTED: FRIENDS OF LANCASHIRE

## New website to aid the fight against climate change

**LANCASHIRE residents are being invited to get "online" and help protect the county for future generations.**

This month sees the launch of a new section on the Lancashire County Council website - giving residents, schools and local businesses the opportunity to join forces in the fight against climate change.

The site contains a wealth of information, and will be the platform for a brand new scheme known as "Friends of Lancashire". By simply registering on the site, anyone can become a Friend of Lancashire and find out tips on tackling climate change in their neighbourhood.

All registered "friends" will receive regular email updates from the county council with useful tips and advice on how, and where, to get discounted environmentally-friendly products such as low energy light bulbs and home composters.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, leader of the county council, said: "Many residents want to play their part in the fight against climate change. People often ask how they can contribute to such a global problem. "Something as simple

as registering as a Friend of Lancashire can make a difference and even save people money on their household bills."

The new website is the latest in a string of climate change activity carried out recently by the county council. Other initiatives include buying green energy for streetlights, phasing out polluting fleet vehicles and using renewable energy to power new projects such as the Building Schools for the Future scheme.

A local grant scheme has also been established to kick-start activity at a grassroots level by encouraging groups to set up climate change initiatives in their own communities. Grants have already been agreed which will see better insulation in community buildings and loan smart energy meters.

Councillor Harding added: "We have seen just how effective climate change grants can be within local communities, which demonstrates the importance of giving residents ways in which to act."

"Our new climate change website is intended to build on these roots in the community and give every single resident, school and business a way to get involved and look after Lancashire."



●LOGGING ON: People can find out green hints and tips by visiting the new website in their own homes.

## County signs up to Carbon Trust

**THE drive to combat climate change has gathered pace with news that Lancashire County Council is joining forces with national experts on energy saving.**

The council has signed up to the Carbon Trust, giving its bosses access to a huge resource of knowledge and experience on how to curb carbon emissions.

The announcement marks a victory for the authority after a strict application process requiring the council to prove its commitment to a greener Lancashire.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, leader of the county council, said: "We are already making changes to our buildings, vehicle fleets, staff travel and street-lighting."

"As one of the county's biggest employers we are committed to showing

other organisations that there are practical things we can all do to combat climate change and that it is possible to save on heating, electricity and fuel while still delivering the services people need."

The Carbon Trust will now lead the county council on a journey which will start with the authority accurately identifying its current carbon footprint and end with carbon saving

becoming part of its everyday work.

A five-step programme will see the council calculate the effect of its activities on the environment and make a case for change based on environmental gains, cash savings and any impact on frontline services.

News that the council has joined the Carbon Trust comes after the launch of a climate change strategy last year.

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To get involved, visit the website at: <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/climatechange>

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

**Don't know who  
to contact when  
you need help?**

**Baffled by  
bureaucracy?**

Ring Shirley on  
**0845 0530000** or email  
Shirley on enquiries@  
css.lancsc.gov.uk

Write to:  
Ask Shirley  
Customer Service Centre  
The Red Rose Hub  
Bluebell Way  
Preston  
PR2 5PZ



## ASK THE EXPERT

Questions  
answered  
by your  
friend in  
the know

### Bullying worry

*I believe that my son is being bullied at school and I do not know how to go about helping, as I believe something needs to be done at a higher level. My wife and I are considering home schooling for him if this carries on and I just wondered how this could be arranged. I would be extremely grateful for any advice you could give us for our son's welfare.*

*Name withheld*

If you have concerns over bullying, you need to contact a teacher or the headteacher at your child's school and have a discussion with them regarding your son's welfare. If you are not satisfied with the school's response you can write to the school governors and also contact your area Education Welfare Office for advice and guidance at any time via **0845 053 0000**.

With regard to home schooling, in the first instance you will need to inform the head teacher of the school attended by your child, who will in turn inform the education authority in writing. For comprehensive advice and an information pack on Elective Home Education please contact **0845 053 0000**.

### Foul mess

*Everyday I take my dog on a walk through my local area and without fail I see several dogs*



●CONCERN : See Bullying worry

*fouling on grass verges, parks, pavements and gardens on my journey. It is such an eyesore for the public and causes such a mess. Please can something be done about this to clean up our village for the responsible dog owners and the rest of the public who like to keep our village clean?*

*Mrs T Griffin, Rishton*

Dog fouling is a cleansing issue and the fouling of footways and greens is dealt with by your district council. Please contact your local council and request to speak to the cleansing department regarding the matter and they should be able to help you keep your village clean.

### By the board

*Some of the local shops have started to put their fruit and vegetable stalls out onto the street due to the longer days and summer weather as they do every year. However, in recent years these stalls are so far out onto the pavement that people are having to walk on the road and I do not feel that this is safe for pedestrians anymore. Are these shops allowed to block the footway like this?*

*Mr McDonald, Ribchester*

Some shops do have private forecourts and displays may be permitted there. However if the display is causing an obstruction on the pavement then this is indeed an offence and is not allowed. To report a pavement obstruction, please call our highways section on **0845 053 0011** who will be able to report the problem for you to the local highways inspector.

### Help for people

*I would like to know if the council runs any volunteer groups with regard to helping the elderly. I go to see my mother daily who frequently says that she*

*would like to know of any groups or people who could take her out to socialise and make friends if ever I needed a day off. I love going to see my mother and the joy it brings her even if we just go out for a coffee or I can take her for a walk, and I wondered if I could maybe join a group where I would be able to help other elderly people with activities like this, as well as my mum?*

*Mrs Lawson, Lancaster*

Lancashire County Council does have a Volunteers Service which recruits and trains volunteers to support people who access social care services. Volunteers can provide 'befriending' support and assist service users and carers with day-to-day living activities. Volunteers can provide vital support to vulnerable people and reduce feelings of social isolation and loneliness. This can be as simple as a coffee and chat with an older person, to more intensive support, for example enabling an adult with a learning disability to access community activities such as going to the cinema, shopping, or swimming. If you would like more information on either how you go about becoming a volunteer, or indeed any other services your mother may be entitled to please contact **0845 053 0000** or e-mail [volunteer.services@ssd.lancsc.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer.services@ssd.lancsc.gov.uk)

## DON'T FORGET

Your county councillor will be keen to help. Contact details are available on **0845 053 0000** or at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

You can also try your area's County Information Centre where staff are trained to help the public

## Pledge to ensure dignity in care

PEOPLE who live in residential care homes or those who receive care services should be treated with dignity and respect.

That was the unequivocal message from care chiefs following the official launch of Lancashire County Council's Dignity in Care Charter.

A key focus of the charter is on creating a zero tolerance approach to a lack of dignity in the care of older people.

The charter is a joint initiative between the county council and the Lancashire Social Care Partnership, which represents independent care providers in Lancashire, and includes Lancashire Care Association (LCA) and the UKHCA Lancashire Forum.

County Councillor Chris Cheetham said: "There is a commitment from all care providers that people facing residential care, and their relatives, will be treated with dignity."

"Only by working together can we deliver what people want and give them what they deserve".

The charter is a public statement that care providers and service commissioners have agreed to, and underlines what a person can reasonably expect when they need and use care and support services in Lancashire.

The charter was officially signed by Councillor Cheetham, former cabinet member for Adult and Community Services, and Ken Nolan, director of the LCA; and recognised the good work that has been going on between the two organisations over recent years.

The charter is based on the Department of Health's Dignity in Care Charter, which was launched in November 2006.

Social care providers, including care home owners and managers, will be asked to sign up to Lancashire's Dignity in Care Charter as part of their agreement with the council.

## Improving energy usage

Continued from p1

Schools are also being encouraged to start "energy clubs" to look at how they can contribute.

Councillor Harding said: "The Carbon Trust will help us to look at what we are doing to cut carbon, how we are doing it and whether we are achieving our aims."

"Monitoring and reducing energy and fuel use is not easy, especially for a large organisation, and I'm very glad we have won the backing of this scheme which has proven success."

"On top of the environmental benefits, this is a good investment as the county council stands to make significant savings which will have ever more impact as energy prices continue to rise."

The county council is already a key member of the Lancashire Climate Change Partnership, a group of public and private sector organisations which have joined forces to coordinate action to cut carbon and prepare the county for the effects of global warming.

The county council is one of the largest organisations ever to join the Carbon Trust.

The Carbon Trust was set up by the Government in 2001 as an independent company. Its aim is to accelerate the move to a low carbon economy by working with organisations to reduce carbon emissions and develop commercial low-carbon technologies. Over 100 local authorities are currently working with the trust.

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

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

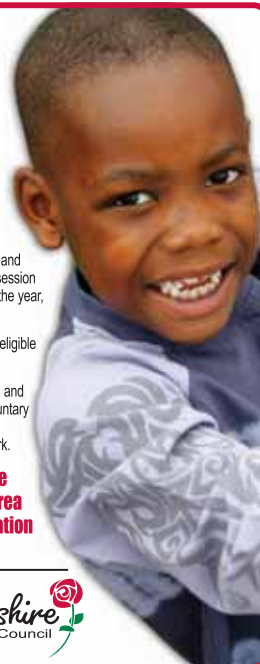
A free place consists of a maximum of five sessions per week and no more than sixty five sessions for the Summer term. A free session is for a period of 2.5 hours in length. There are three terms in the year, covering a total of 38 weeks.

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**





# Gaining a voice

## New technology is helping youngsters to communicate

**CHILDREN with complex communication needs across Lancashire are being given a voice, through a new scheme which provides access to the right communication aids.**

The "Augmentative Communications" scheme was introduced after the Government's £21m Communications Aid Project (CAP) ended. This project had been intended to supplement provision from local and health authorities across the country.

Lancashire's response to the end of the CAP was to embark on this scheme to ensure that Lancashire County Council staff and workers from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) across the county had the necessary skills to

carry out specialist assessments.

Kate Fallon, a senior adviser with the strategy and inclusion team, said: "We now have a wide group of people right across Lancashire who are able to assess children to a specialist level in order to make recommendations for them to have augmentative communication aids."

So far, staff from 13 special schools have been trained to undertake assessments of children with complex communication needs. More widely, 13 specialist support staff from the county council and eight staff from three Lancashire PCTs have been trained.

Using appropriate communication aids can transform lives. Such aids can range from low-tech letter boards and charts, through to sophisticated com-



●TOUCHING: An example of the technology that is helping youngsters to communicate in innovative ways.

puter systems that can be used by people with a wide range of physical difficulties.

Jo Heywood, a speech and language therapist from East Lancashire PCT, who works with children at a number of special schools, said: "A lot of the children we work with have physical difficulties which limit their capacity to express themselves verbally, so the communications aid acts as their voice."

## Writing about their county



●PRIDE: Pupils Angus Young (11) and Sarah Elliot (10) with Wendy Dwyer, county council chair.

**CHILDREN** across Lancashire are being asked to write about Lancashire, their town, or even their street in a bid to boost literacy.

The Red Rose County has some fascinating history and an exciting future - so a child's eye view of what adults sometimes take for granted is being sought.

Each pupil will be asked to write about their local area. Winners will receive prizes of books for themselves and their school.

County Councillor Wendy Dwyer, county council chair, said: "Children see the world in a different light to the rest of us."

"Adults become jaded and it is a tonic to be

reminded of how things look from someone else's perspective.

"The purpose is to get children thinking about what they value, and then getting those thoughts on paper."

"Literacy is one of the most valuable skills they can learn. It will last a lifetime for them."

"Children can write about Lancashire's countryside, its streets, its sights and sounds, or even about their family."

The competition will, it is hoped, run in all 600-plus primary schools with the judging due to be done on Lancashire Day in November.

Details are being sent out to all Lancashire schools.

Details are also available from Paul Moran on 01772 531 064.

## Learning from Lancashire

**LESSONS** learned in Lancashire about older people are being spread across the nation.

Councillors from Cambridgeshire County Council came to Lancashire to learn of the county's plans for older peoples' services in the future.

Lancashire County Council has one of the first Champions for Older People in the country.

Councillor Dorothy Westell, who holds the position, is charged with ensuring that older people are considered at all stages of county

council policy-making.

Councillor Westell said: "There is interest from all over the country in what services should be provided for older people in the future."

"People are now just as likely to need advice on sport or their finances as they are to need the things traditionally associated with old age."

Lancashire already has a Strategy for an Ageing Population - devised with organisations in the Lancashire Partnership - and the visitors are studying it before producing their own.

## NEWS BRIEF

### Young people's clubs

IN our last edition, we incorrectly stated that a grant of £89,000 had been made to the Lancashire Association of Clubs for Young People.

Although the group did apply for a grant to the county council it was not approved.

We apologise to the group for this error and any inconvenience this caused.

Take a trip on  
**DalesRail2008**

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**DalesRail runs:**  
Sundays 1 June until 29 June  
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Clitheroe Interchange on 01200 429823 for a brochure

**PRESTON COLLEGE**

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**June Enrolment**  
Tuesday 24 June  
10am-8pm

**It's life changing**



# Snappers delight

## Top-of-the-range bike up for grabs in our new summer photography competition

CYCLISTS are being asked to get snapping in a competition to win a top-of-the-range new bike.

All cyclists have to do is find an interesting view, point their camera and with just a click they could win a new bike.

Leading cyclist Chris Jackson is saddling up to judge the competition and the East Lancashire-based shop On Yer Bike is offering a £250 voucher for a new bike or bike equipment for the winner.

Caroline Holden, Lancashire County Council's cycling officer, said: "Cyclists see so much when they are on their trips - and we want them to share what they see. It could be beautiful scenery, or it could be children playing on their bikes in the street."

"It could be cycling in the city, going to the shops or even of a group of friends on a ride. Everyone has their own idea of what is inspiring."

"I've seen some great pictures of daredevil bikers in skateparks and mountain-bikers in the country."

Although pictures must be cycling related, photographs do not need to feature bikes.

With more than 160 miles of off-road cycleway available - and thousands of miles of roads and tracks - cyclists have plenty of scenes to snap.

Judge Chris, a member of the Board of British Cycling, said: "Cycling is good for your health and great fun. It is amazing what you see from a bike when you would never have seen them from a car."

"I'm backing this attempt to get people out and about in the beautiful Lancashire countryside."

With hundreds of bikes, including racers, mountainbikes, BMX and children's bikes for sale, Burnley and Blackburn-based On Yer Bike has something for everyone. The shops' trained staff also sell cycling gear, tools, lights and training equipment in large showrooms.

The competition's £250 voucher can be spent on a bike - or other cycling equipment from On Yer Bike.

The contest will run over the summer with a closing date of Friday 29 August.



Send entries to: **Cycle Photo Competition, PO Box 9, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston PR1 8RD.** Alternatively send your images by email to: [cyclecompetition@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cyclecompetition@lancashire.gov.uk)

Entries to be submitted on the understanding that they may be used in Lancashire County Council publications.

For more information on cycling routes, including online maps and guided rides for all abilities, visit the website at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/cycling](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/cycling)

The winners of last month's Booths' competition are Ronnie Bootle from Walton-le-Dale, Tracey Hall from Lancaster, Brian A Reeves from Fleetwood, P Summerfield from Tarleton and Mrs Carol Dixon from Freckleton. Winners will be contacted shortly about receiving their prizes.

## Smiles per hour

VISION readers are being asked what makes them smile while driving in a bid to help the Road Safety Group tackle road rage.

Whether it is the journey home on a Friday or listening to a favourite tune, one lucky reader could win a £20 voucher.

For a chance to win simply answer these questions:

- How do you stay calm on the roads?
- What makes a stress-free drive?
- When travelling with children, how do you keep them happy on long journeys?

- What is your favourite journey?
- Who is your dream passenger?
- What is your favourite music to listen to whilst you are driving?
- What kind of driving tips you would like to hear more about from us? (e.g Tips for long journeys, speed limits, laws, eco-driving etc)

To enter, send your answers on a postcard with your name and telephone number to: **Smile competition, Road Safety Group, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston, FREEPOST PR 844** or send an email to: [roadsafety@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafety@lancashire.gov.uk)

The closing date is Friday 27 June.

## Express your bus ideas

### Views wanted on rapid bus transport plans for East Lancs

PEOPLE are being asked for their views on plans which could lead to state-of-the-art public transport coming to the area.

PennineReach is a proposed dynamic, new bus service designed to improve the public transport network between Accrington, Blackburn and Darwen; via Rishton, Great Harwood and Oswaldtwistle.

The network could include new high quality buses travelling on dedicated bus lanes, bus priority at traffic lights and other measures to shorten journey times and improve service reliability.

Passengers could also benefit from improved waiting facilities, real-time bus displays showing up-to-the-minute information and innovative "smart card" ticketing technology.

The multi-million pound scheme has been put together by Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, who will bid for Government funding later this year. Hyndburn Borough Council are also closely involved in the scheme.

A major consultation exercise will be held during June and July 2008.

Residents living along the route and in the surrounding areas will be receiving details of the proposals and asking for their feedback.

Public exhibitions are also being held locally across Hyndburn allowing people to view the plans first hand and share their opinions.

Details and plans of the proposals will also be on display from Monday

## SHARE YOUR VIEWS

### Consultation events:

- **Great Harwood Library:** Tuesday 17 June, 6pm-8pm
- **Clayton Civic Hall, Clayton-le-Moors:** Wednesday 18 June, 6pm-8pm
- **Rishton Library:** Thursday 19 June, 6pm-8pm
- **Hippings Vale Community Centre, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle:** Tuesday 24 June, 6pm-8pm
- **Ernest Street Baptist Chapel, Walmsley Close, Church:** Thursday 26 June, 6pm-8pm
- **Accrington Town Hall, supper room:** Tuesday 1 July, 6pm-8pm

9 June to Friday 4 July in Accrington Town Hall, Accrington Market Hall and Oswaldtwistle Mills.

Leaflets are available at: [www.transportforlancashire.com](http://www.transportforlancashire.com), by sending an email to [rapidtransport@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:rapidtransport@lancashire.gov.uk) or by writing to: **FREEPOST PR844, Lancashire County Council, Environment Directorate, Public Transport Policy (PennineReach), PO Box 9, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston, PR1 3BR.**

For general information call 0845 053 0000.

## Celebrating good school health

PUPILS at a Nelson primary school are looking forward to a healthy future, thanks to lessons learned at school.

Lomeshaye Junior School recently celebrated its national Healthy Schools status, which shows that messages about eating well, getting exercise, being safe and looking after each other are finding their way into all areas of the curriculum.

County Councillor Vali Patel, Cabinet member for schools, spent a morning at the school to see for himself what had been achieved, along with two members of the

Healthy Schools Programme team.

After attending the weekly whole-school celebration assembly, where pupils receive a variety of awards and certificates, Councillor Patel joined a parents' healthy eating cookery session to see a roast chicken dinner being prepared.

He also observed the "Big Write" sessions held each Friday - part of the school's success in raising writing achievement.

The visitors also toured the tuck shop where pupils sell fruit, watched playground games moni-

tored by play leaders from each class and attended the School Council meeting where pupils discussed plans for new outdoor play equipment.

Councillor Patel said: "This is a model school. The good practice should be disseminated to other schools. There are high standards and high achievement. They are happy, well-motivated and well-mannered pupils"

"Lomeshaye has wonderful facilities thanks to the high standard of gradual refurbishment that has taken place over the past four years."

## You're telling us!

### Send your letters to:

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

### Pride in our heroes

EVERYONE should recognise the bravery and sacrifice that a section of true Lancastrians regularly display.

I refer to the many soldiers that come from the area and who have served, and are serving, in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Gulf.

We should be proud of them. My son is one of them.

I wonder why those who are injured do not get a special medal in addition to the campaign medal.

Many of these soldiers come back with horrific injuries, some have to bury comrades, while others suffer from mental trauma that forces them to leave the jobs they are proud of and in

which they believe. They surely deserve recognition.

**MRS D A DANIELS**  
Little Hoole

### School's out

With the school holidays fast approaching, I am trying to find days out and activities in Lancashire to keep my nine year old and five year old entertained without it costing too much money, can you help?

**MRS LAWRENCE**  
Garstang

■ **Lancashire Countryside Service** organise family fun days during all school holidays. For further information visit the website at:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/events](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/events) or telephone 01772 534 709 - editor.

### Under a cloud

A SHOP near where I live sells cigarettes "under the counter".

It's obvious that it is not entirely legal. Who deals with this, is it the police or customs?

**CONCERNED RESIDENT**

■ **HM Revenue and Customs** have a hotline on 0800 595 000 to report VAT and excise tax evasion. You can also contact the county's Trading Standards team on 08454 40 05 06 to report sales of fake cigarettes - editor



## Shostakovich

Chamber Symphony (arr. Barshai)

## Mozart

Sinfonia Concertante for Winds in E flat, K.297b

## Mendelssohn

Symphony No.4 in A, Op.90 "Italian"

Performances by Lancashire's Professional Orchestra  
The Lancashire Sinfonietta,  
Director Andrew Watkinson.

Saturday 28 June 2008, 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, BURNLEY

Sunday 29 June 2008, 7.30pm

The Minster Church, PRESTON

**Lancashire Sinfonietta**

**BOX OFFICE: 01257 516444**  
(9am-5pm, Mon-Fri) Tickets £8.50 (£5.00 conc.)

**Lancashire County Council**

# Waste: from bin to bench

## Ugandan visitors look at innovative waste disposal and recycling schemes

A PIONEERING environmental partnership has been launched with African leaders visiting Lancashire to gain advice on green issues.

Lancashire County Council's top experts on waste, recycling and conservation welcomed visitors from the Gulu region of Uganda to help them establish their own community projects.

Members of the group visited waste and recycling plants in Preston and Accrington, agricultural facilities at Myerscough College, wetlands at Leighton Moss and a beekeeping workshop in Arnside.

Schools, councils and voluntary groups in Lancashire have longstanding links with Gulu, which were first established in the early 1990s. This relationship is maintained by a Preston-based charity called the Lancashire-Gulu Link Association.

The county council has launched a new scheme to help Gulu leaders develop their region in an environmentally sustainable way. Six projects have been agreed including tree plantations, wetlands conservation and waste management.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet member for sustainable development, said: "The Gulu Municipal Council have come up with a very clear and detailed plan of how we can use our knowledge and experience to support them to protect their environment.

"A little help from the county council in areas such as waste and recycling, and managing natural resources will go a very long way in a community where many people lack basic necessities."

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment agreed a £47,000 contribution over



●TOUR: (left to right) Jose Jola Acire, James Ocaka and Catherine Oryem-Oringa from the Gulu community in Uganda with David Stowe from TEG Environmental in Preston.



●SUSTAINABLE: The Ugandan group met Roger Walton and John Walker of Lancaster Bee Keepers Association at a beekeeping workshop in Arnside.

●PROSPERITY: The group visited Prosperity Recycling in Accrington, a company which turns waste plastic into usable products. Left to right: Jose Jola Acire, Catherine Oryem-Oringa, Graham Chadwick of Prosperity Recycling, and James Ocaka.



three years to initiate projects in Gulu. The committee will receive regular progress updates from the Lancashire-Gulu Link Association.

The project, billed as the Lancashire Carbon Compensation Scheme, acknowledges the impact that developed regions such as Lancashire have on other areas of the world - due to our higher carbon emissions - and aims to compensate for them.

One aim of the project is to prevent flooding by protecting and restoring natural defences. Sustainable

tree plantations will supply firewood to local homes and schools; and prevent unauthorised tree felling in woodlands which naturally store water.

Better waste management will keep drains and culverts free from rubbish.

Another scheme will look to create economic opportunities from the natural environment by establishing beekeeping projects. This will allow farmers to produce honey for sale while protecting local plants and trees.

## Council Cabinet changes

THE new council year will see a new look for the county council's Cabinet.

Two new members are joining the Cabinet, to replace two departing members, and three existing members are to change their portfolio.

The total number of members stays the same.

Councillor Janice Hanson (Morecambe West) comes into the Cabinet and takes over the highways and planning portfolio (previously environment and transportation) from Matthew Tomlinson, who changes to sustainable development.

Councillor Jennifer Mein (Preston South East) comes in to take over community planning and partnerships from Jean Battle.

Councillor Anne Brown exchanges resources and performance for adult and community services; and Councillor Tony Martin moves from sustainable development to resources and performance.

## Shadow Cabinet

A NEW Conservative group leader has been chosen following the group's Annual General Meeting.

County Councillor Geoff Driver (Preston North) takes over from County Councillor Michael Welsh (Preston North East).

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

# Voluntary Childcare Register

## There is a new Voluntary Register for Childcare Providers who don't have to be registered with Ofsted

Most childcare providers are already required to register with Ofsted. Changes in the law mean that those not obliged to register can now choose to join the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register.

### Who can join the register?

- Providers who care for children aged over eight
- Organisations offering activity based care
- Individuals who provide care in a child's own home (nannies, au pairs)

### Why register?

- Parents will know that you have met basic standards designed to safeguard children
- Eligible Parents will be able to get help with the costs of their childcare through Working Tax Credit and employer-supported childcare schemes
- Local Authorities offer support and training to registered providers and can pass on their details to parents who are looking for childcare.

### What are the requirements for Voluntary Registration?

- The care must be provided for at least two hours a day
- The care must be joined up to the beginning or end of the school day
- All staff with unsupervised access to children must undergo a check with

the criminals record bureau (CRB)

- Staff, premises, equipment and care provision must be safe and suitable.
- At least one staff member who is caring for children must have an appropriate first aid certificate
- The registered provider must have public liability insurance

### How much will it cost?

- The fee for registration is £100 for childminders who don't need to be registered or people providing care in the child's home
- £110 (plus the cost of CRB checks) for other childcare

### How do I find out more?

- Contact the childcare information service on 0800 195 0137 or visit [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

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

# 0800 195 0137

Lancashire  
County Council



# LOOK LIVELY

Voice of  
*Vision*



**James Dickinson**  
Conservation officer  
and taxidermist

Animals - great and small - can tell us a lot about our environment and history. Here James Dickinson explains the importance of conservation and uncovers the mysterious work of the taxidermist.

#### What does your job involve?

I conserve old natural history items such as pre-historic bones and prepare items for public display in Lancashire museums and across the country. I work on a variety of species for taxidermy including birds, rare parrots, insects and other wildlife.

#### How did you become interested in taxidermy?

I used to collect bones, feathers and insects ever since I was a boy at school. During my A-levels, in the 1960s, I saw an advert in a newspaper about a bursary for a taxidermist training course run by the Museums Association. I am one of only five dedicated museum taxidermists in the country and accredited to do work for the National Trust.

#### What are you currently working on?

I'm working on re-assembling an Irish deer skeleton which will be displayed at Leeds Museum. It stands roughly 5½ ft high and 7ft long, although almost 13ft across with its antlers. I will soon start on some hippo bones which are over 120,000 years old.

#### What is the most unusual or interesting item you have worked on?

I'm looking forward to working on the bones of a Dodo, which became extinct around 1680. It is the icon of distinction and intrigue for many people.

#### Where can we see your work?

I work on items for different Lancashire museums and across the country. I'm due to begin work for Clitheroe Castle. We are looking to display wildlife including birds of prey and mammals found in the Forest of Bowland - such as the peregrine falcon, the short-eared owl and otters.

#### Is taxidermy becoming more popular?

There are few dedicated museum taxidermists now. There is a big commercial market for taxidermy. Most taxidermists these days are small independent businesses, or individuals who do it as a hobby in their garden shed.

#### What is your motivation?

There is a real sense of achievement when you see items on public display for scientific and educational purposes.

## Let's read together!

CHILDREN and families across Lancashire are being invited to take part in a fun-packed programme of reading events, story sessions and competitions this summer, as part of the National Year of Reading 2008.

The summer campaign kicks off this month with "Shout About Books" - a series of events run by the county council in local libraries where children can meet well-known authors and take part in a range of fun activities.

The campaign will be officially launched on Saturday 7 June at the National Football Museum in Preston, from 11am to 3pm, where football author Tom Palmer, poet Paul Cookson, and local author Damian Harvey will talk about their work.

The free family day will also feature lots of activities including crafts, book signings and a t-shirt design competition for seven-11 year-olds and a colouring competition for under six year-olds.

For toddlers there will be an

opportunity to meet beloved children's character Maisy the Mouse, who will be attending the launch and visiting local libraries throughout June.

The National Year of Reading is backed by the Government and local authorities. It aims to build a greater national passion for reading and encourage people to read more.

County Councillor Anne Brown, Cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "Reading is a crucial skill for life, work and social cohesion. In particular, reading is the

foundation for children's development.

"Early exposure to books improves learning, education attainment and social interaction."

"This campaign is an opportunity to bring fun and enjoyment to reading and motivate the wider community to read more."

"Let's develop a positive reading culture here in Lancashire and celebrate reading together."

For more details contact local libraries or visit the website at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries)

## Dancing to a new beat

ACTIONS speak louder than words - unless the words are spoken to a rap beat.

Young people in Hyndburn can learn to rap for free, thanks to a £1,000 grant from the county council's champion for young people.

The money has been

used to support record shop owner Rob Kearney and pal Ciaran Wells in their quest to help youngsters learn about music.

With recording equipment, decks and mixing gear, the duo are helping young people to make their own CDs.

Sessions are being held across Hyndburn and in

Rob's record shop on Blackburn Road in Great Harwood.

●CHART topper: Hyndburn MP Greg Pope (left); Susan Shorrocks, County Councillor for Great Harwood (centre); and County Councillor Sean Serridge (right) with some of the staff and owners of record shop.



## Rural Ribble Roamer

A PILOT project in the Ribble Valley has shown how people in rural areas can have better access to children's services.

Under the Ribble Roamer - a pathfinder scheme which has now finished - Ribblesdale Children's Centre in Clitheroe extended its services into Ribble Valley's rural areas.

Fiona Owen, extended services manager at the centre, said: "Families in rural areas didn't have equal access to services, so the project aimed to take services out to villages in the Ribble Valley."

Under this project, the children's centre reached out to six villages: Gisburn, Chipping, Chatburn, Slaidburn, Dunsop Bridge, and West Bradford.

Support services included health and nutrition courses, health visitor services, toddler groups and play sessions. The project also helped families travel to and from venues.

Cheryl Morris-Barrow, a mother of two who lives near Slaidburn, said: "One of the services we've been using is a Weeny Workout, aimed at children up to four years old. The scheme is invaluable."

The pilot scheme has now ended. The viability of continuing the services is being explored. Work is also underway to see how the lessons from the project can be used to improve access to services in rural areas across the county.

**Are you as parents in receipt of the maximum amount of working tax credit or are your children eligible for free school meals? THEN YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**WHY?** Because from September 2008 you may now be able to have your child / children's bus / rail fares paid for by the County Council between home and school, if they are in Years 7 to 11 in secondary schools and you live in Lancashire.

From September 2008 if your children are eligible for free school meals or you are receiving the maximum amount of working tax credit, the Council may be able to help you with your children's transport costs if:

- your child attends one of their three nearest schools and the distance to the school attended is between two and six miles; or
- your child attends the nearest school of your religion or belief and the distance is between two and fifteen miles.

If you think you might be entitled, please pick up an application form from your child's school, your local library or County Information Centre, or you can download a form from [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk), (search on S for school transport), and send it to the Pupil Access Team in your local Area Education Office as soon as possible. Or give us a call on your local number shown below.

**DETAILS OF AREA EDUCATION OFFICES BELOW:**

If you live in the North of the County (Lancaster, Wyre and Fylde) then contact: PO Box 606 White Cross Education Centre, Quarry Road, Lancaster LA1 3SQ Tel: 01524 581134

If you live in the South of the County (Preston, South Ribble, West Lancs and Chorley) then contact: Joint Divisional Offices, East Cliff, Preston PR1 3JT Tel: 01772 533608 if your child attends school in Preston, Walton-le-Dale or Lostock Hall. 01772 531809 if your child attends school in Chorley, Leyland or Bamber Bridge. 01772 531812 if your child attends school in West Lancs, Longton or Penwortham.

If you live in the East of the County (Ribble Valley, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle or Rossendale) then contact: Area Education Office, The Globe, St James Square, Accrington BB5 0RE Tel: 01254 220716

**DON'T DELAY ACT TODAY**

**Lancashire County Council**

Directorate for Children and Young People



# A green letter day



THE Red Rose County will be going green later this month for a special environmental event at Samlesbury Hall.

Lancashire County Council has teamed up with the Lancashire Telegraph newspaper and other organisations to host a high-profile public event known as "Green Day", taking place on Sunday 29 June from 11am-4pm.

The doors of Samlesbury Hall will be thrown open for people to find out how to reduce their energy bills, save time and money on transport, make their own free compost or reduce their household waste.

## Top tips at environmental event

### ON DISPLAY

#### On display from the county council at the event: For the garden

There will be an opportunity to see different sorts of home composters and find out more about how people can turn their rubbish into a resource at home.

#### For the home

Low energy light bulbs now come in all shapes and sizes. See what is available for your home, collect a free bulb and find out about discounts available through Friends of Lancashire.

Recycling is now a hot issue for people and this is an opportunity to find out more about what it means

Visitors can get free advice, take part in fun activities and pick up a number of green goodies to help start making a difference at home.

Fiona Cruchley, from

the county council's Climate Change team, said: "The event is about showing people, who think that they can't do anything to reduce their carbon

emissions, that a tiny effort can make a big difference.

"Even for those that have made a start, there will be plenty to learn."

# Top of the shops in Kirkham



●BEFORE: An example in St Anne's before the changes.



●AFTER: A new shop frontage following the work.

SHOP fronts could be revamped in a Fylde market town to boost the attractiveness and appeal of local shops and businesses.

Through a new project in Kirkham, landlords and tenants will be able to access a grant towards up to 50% of the total cost of updating their shop fronts, refurbishments or even expanding their premises.

Lancashire County Council's economic development company, Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL), has teamed up with Fylde Borough Council, the Kirkham and Wesham Business Group and the private sector on the grant scheme.

Any new improvements or developments will be encouraged to also be 'green'.

The scheme aims to make a significant

contribution to reducing the number of vacant units in Kirkham and adding to the appeal of the market town.

County Councillor Niki Penney, chair of LCDL, said: "Strong interest has already been shown by retailers. I am confident that the investment, importantly from both the public and private sector working together, will result in worthwhile and beneficial improvements being made over the next couple of years - and the results will be evident for all to see to further enhance this beautiful part of the county."

This project is based upon the similar award winning St. Anne's-on-Sea scheme. This focused on improving shop frontages, providing business support and enhanced paving, planting and seating in public areas.

# Modern update for nursery rhymes

TRADITIONAL nursery rhymes and folk tales have entered the technological age, with a little help from Lancashire County Council.

Now children can hear old favourites such as Incey Spider and Jack and the Beanstalk at the touch of a 'pen' on the page.

Known as Sing, Sign and Rhyme, the project uses bar-code-scanning and MP3 technology to pick up invisible codes on the page using a Talking Pen. This high-tech piece of equipment, disguised as a child's chubby crayon, then plays English nursery rhymes, as well as their foreign equivalents.

Marion Bamford, the county council's Early Years Resource Centre manager, said: "People often worry that the lovely old rhymes and

tales are being lost to children. This is a new take on traditional verses and stories that relate to modern life, but without losing the good old-fashioned appeal of nursery rhymes.

"The main aim is to make them accessible and relevant to under-fives, even if they don't have English as a first language or if Mum and Dad don't know the words."

Sing, Sign and Rhyme will be available to nurseries, reception classes and other children's groups throughout the county.

The project was partly developed to help meet the needs of children who have different home languages.

The books and posters that can be used with the Talking Pen also include children using sign language, to encourage other forms of communication.

# Maths Challenge adding up

THE Mathematics Challenge 2008 has got off to a strong start with four schools in the final.

Tarleton High School, Tarleton; West Craven High Technology College, Colne; All Hallows Catholic High School, Penwortham; and Albany Science College, Chorley; beat off tough opposition to win a place at the grand final which takes place in June at the Woodlands Centre in Chorley.

Lancashire County Council's economic development department Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL) sponsors the events which are organised and run by the council's Schools Effectiveness Service.

The competition involves all of Lancashire's 84 secondary schools.

The broad aim of the Mathematics Challenge is to engage pupils in mathematics at an early age and raise the profile of mathematics both as a core business skill and as an essential life tool.

The theme for this year's challenge is 'famous people in the world of mathematics' which encourages pupils to consider possible careers using mathematics.

County Councillor Niki Penney, chair of LCDL, said: "Every event gives me the opportunity to see how enthusiastic the pupils are to take part and their parents and schools are rightly proud of them."

# Disability living allowance



**Jim Dickson,**  
head of Lancashire  
County Council's  
Welfare Rights  
Service, may be  
able to help

Disability Living Allowance is a tax-free cash benefit of up to £113 a week from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). You can claim it if you are under 65 years of age and have some long-term physical or mental disability which means you find it difficult taking care of yourself or have difficulty getting around. For instance, you may have difficulty getting out of bed, dressing or undressing, taking your tablets or medicine, remembering to do routine things, or preparing and cooking a main meal for yourself. You may be unsteady on your feet, have had a fall or have poor vision or hearing.

Disability Living Allowance is paid on top of most other benefits and will not reduce any Income Support, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Pension Credit or Tax Credits you may get, in fact it may even increase these benefits.

And you can spend the money in the way that suits you best, you do not have to pay a carer to look after you.

For more information get our leaflet 'Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance' from your local library, County Information Centre, Welfare Rights Office or Advice Centre or write to Lancashire County Council, Welfare Rights Service, FREEPOST, Preston, PR1 5BR or ring 01772 533 504.

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# Success for home rehab scheme

## Six-week plan helps people to regain their independence

A NEW home care rehabilitation service that helps older people and people with disabilities is proving a huge success following its launch in April last year.

The Reablement Service, run by Lancashire County Council, provides intensive rehabilitation in a person's home for up to six weeks.

Patients are referred to the service by social workers, care homes or the NHS after an individual is discharged from hospital following a fall or illness.

Following an assessment, a care worker provides a rehabilitation care programme tailored to the person's needs and helps with personal

care and support in the home.

The aim is to help the individual regain their confidence and skills, so that they can continue to live independently in their own home.

The service is offered to new clients and is free for up to six weeks.

Since the service was launched in April last year over 1,000 people across the county have received support through the service.

Following a visit to see how Mrs Davis was recovering, County Councillor Tom Burns for Preston North West, said: "This is a fantastic service and since it was set up last year has made a real difference to people's lives by helping people regain their confidence and

keeping their independence after a period of illness.

"There is nothing worse than feeling alone, trapped in your own home, so this service gives people contact with the outside world and gives families and carers a break."

A couple of weeks after Mrs Sandra Davis from Preston underwent a major life-saving operation, she couldn't have imagined she would be back on her feet so quickly.

Mrs Davis, mother of four, has been receiving support from the Reablement Service for three weeks. A care worker has been visiting seven days a week - two hours in the morning and evening - assisting her with personal care.



●CARE: (Left to right) Care worker Vicky Carr and County Councillor Tom Burns with Mrs Davis.

### CASE STUDY

She said: "I get help getting dressed and some domestic help like making the bed. Vicky and the staff are wonderful. We have a laugh. They gradually build my confidence to do things for myself, but at my own pace."

The service also gives her husband a break from his caring role and enables him to do the weekly food shop while staff sit with her.

Mrs Davies said: "If you're used to being active it can be quite frustrating being dependent on people."

## New youth service created

THE new Lancashire Young People's Service offers 11-25 year-olds the support they need as they enter the adult world.

From windsurfing to DJing, film-making to yoga, the Young People's Service offers access to activities and information and guidance on important issues.

Created by the integration of Lancashire County Council's Youth and Community Service and Connexions Lancashire, young people can now access a huge range of services within the same organisation.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Cabinet member for children and young people, explains: "Bringing these services together gives us the opportunity to concentrate our resources on the front line, where young people can benefit."

Young people will still be able to access the services they are used to, such as Connexions and What Now?, along with new services.

For more information on the new service and the planned launch event on 8 June, visit: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/yys](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/yys)

## Raising awareness

ASPECTS of Burnley have been recorded for future generations in a new series of booklets at the town's library.

Planners and librarians worked together on Heritage Appraisals 2004-2007 - six volumes that will guide the Elevate regeneration scheme in the town.

The booklets have won a commendation in the annual Alan Ball History Awards.

Susan Halstead, refer-

ence librarian, said: "Schools, parks and chapels, for example, are in the booklets - as well as photos of houses, factories and people going about their daily lives."

"These booklets are landmark publications that will be referred to endlessly by people in the future."

Areas covered in the booklets include Stoneyholme, Daneshouse, Padiham, Burnley Wood, Trafalgar and Burnley West.

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.



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

# 0800 195 0137

