



Vision

Beacon Authority
 2004-2005 Transforming the School Workforce
 2006-2007 Positive Youth Engagement (in the community and Democratic Process)
 2007-2008 Healthy Schools



www.lancashire.gov.uk

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

February 2008

SQUAWK SHOW

Join our hen-harrier camera crew

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LUXURY HOLIDAY

Win a superb break at fabulous Ribby Hall

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£1.25m NEW START

Explore your roots

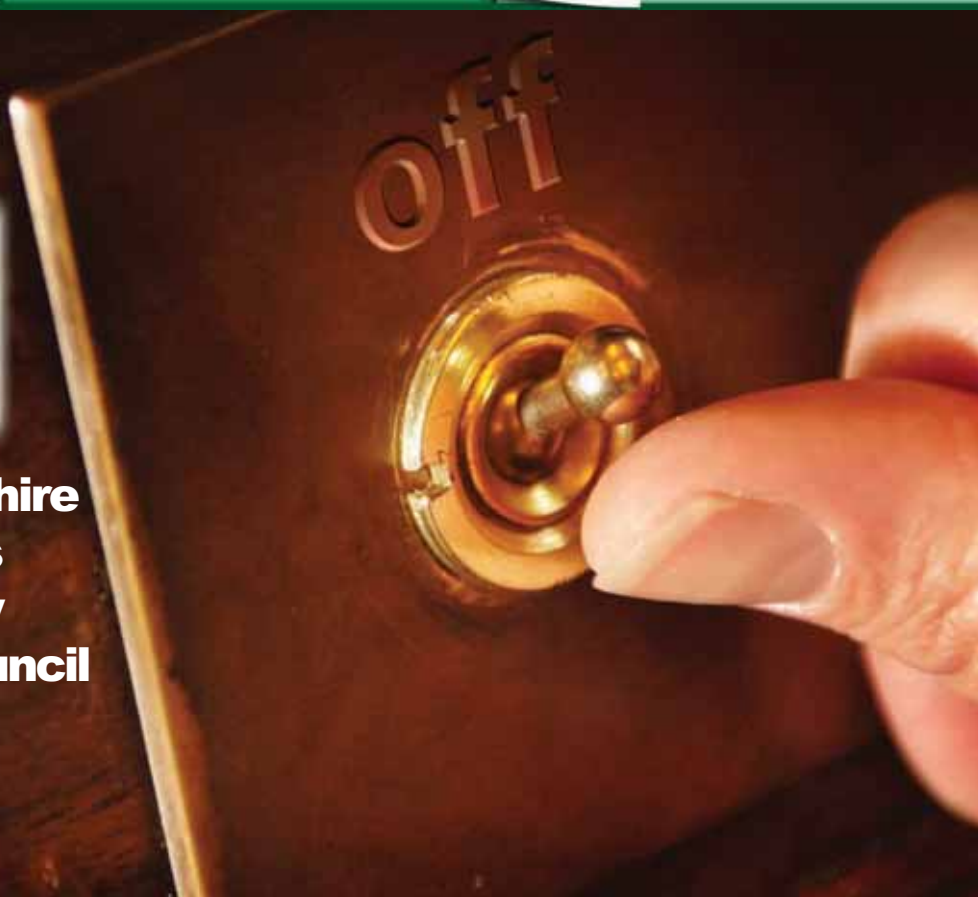
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We're making the switch

ON to

- ✓ a greener Lancashire
- ✓ better streetlights
- ✓ renewable energy
- ✓ more efficient council vehicles



...by changing the way we work

LANCASHIRE County Council is setting an example in the fight against climate change with a major drive to cut its carbon footprint.

Action is underway to make buildings and vehicles more efficient, by everyday resources such as paper and energy from green sources and encourage staff to leave their cars at home.

A wealth of changes is planned to inspire other employers and individuals to sign up to help Lancashire meet targets to cut greenhouse gases.

County Councillor Hazel Harding, Lancashire County Council leader, said: "Big organisations have a real opportunity to contribute towards protecting the environment by changing the way they carry out their day-to-day activities."

"We have a programme which is already underway to reduce carbon output resulting from our services, whether that is making sure our vehicles meet stricter emissions standards or changing our streetlights so they use less power."

The next few months will also see a campaign to encourage Lancashire County Council staff to do their bit.

County Councillor Harding continued: "Getting staff on board is a

key part of our plan. We are going to improve our car-sharing scheme and look again at the way we promote alternatives to the car as a way of travelling to work."

"Little changes can have a real impact when they are done on a large scale and I hope our actions will inspire other organisations and businesses to follow once we've shown what can be achieved."

Initiatives include:

- Better use of energy in buildings including pre-heating hot water using solar energy and installing high-efficiency lighting and improved insulation. New buildings will meet high environmental standards.
- A green approach to purchasing

with more electricity to be bought from renewable sources and printing and photocopying facilities switched to save on paper and energy.

- All new vehicles to meet strict emissions standards alongside a programme to replace old vehicles and fit speed limiters to improve fuel efficiency.

- The lamps and controls on streetlights are being updated. The scheme aims to reduce the energy used by each streetlight by 20 per cent by 2010 compared with 1990 – with no loss in brightness.

- A fresh drive to encourage staff to travel to work by public transport, car-share or cycle. Staff will also be urged to save energy by switching off electrical equipment. Plans are

being developed to improve recycling facilities in offices.

Lancashire County Council has also applied to work with the Carbon Trust, an organisation which advises big businesses and large public sector organisations on cutting carbon emissions.

County Councillor Harding added: "We are already a highly rated authority for our use of resources and many of these initiatives are a further step towards improving efficiency which is not only good for the environment but also results in savings for council taxpayers."

"We will soon be asking everyone in Lancashire to help reduce carbon emissions but we want to get our own house in order first."

A cassette version of Vision is now available for visually impaired people from Galloway's Society for the Blind by calling 01772 744148

The presence of promotional leaflets delivered inside Vision does not imply Lancashire County Council endorsement.

YOUR LANCASHIRE: A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE MATTERS



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

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies



Ask Shirley

ASK THE EXPERT

Questions
answered
by your
friend in
the know

In tuition

My daughter is interested in learning to play the guitar. How do I go about getting tuition for her and would I have to pay?

Mrs S, Freckleton

Unless your child receives educational welfare benefits, you will have to pay for the tuition. You should contact the school to establish what provisions they have in place or you can contact your local music centre. More information is on the Lancashire Music Service website at: www.lancsmgfl.ac.uk/curriculum/music/ or tel. 01257 234450.

Pupils who receive educational welfare benefits can be provided with an instrument and tuition free of charge, subject to availability.

Path permit

I am having a new driveway placed on my property and need to have the kerb outside dropped to allow access to it. Do I need to get permission for the work to be done?

Ms B, Clitheroe

If the road is an adopted highway, that is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, you will need permission to have the kerb dropped. If the road is not the responsibility of the county council, you will need to contact the land-owner in order to get



● Musical tuition MAY be free (see In tuition, left).

their permission. To find out whether your road is adopted, and to get a quote, call our highways inquiry line on 0845 0530011.

Next-door noise

I am being harassed by my neighbours and it's been going on for years. They play very annoying, very loud music and shout at me in a nasty voice when I make meals and wash dishes. They also wake me up at night by tapping on the walls and make silly noises. This has become a regular, almost daily habit and is quite frightening on dark winter nights.

I have tried talking to them and this has had some effect but the problem still goes on. I really don't know where to get help as I can't prove anything and I don't know what level of noise is classed as a nuisance.

Anonymous, Preston

The Environmental Health department at your district council can give more information. They cover issues such as noise, pollution control, bins and rubbish and are regulated and controlled by your local district council. If you have problems with noise and noisy neighbours, and want advice on what you can do, you need get in touch with them where they will be happy to help.

Parking advice

Recently my neighbour has received a new Blue Badge and there appears to be a hologram on it. I also have a Blue Badge and mine does not have this hologram. Will my badge need updating?

Mr G, Heysham

No your Blue Badge will not need updating. As

from October 2007 all Blue Badges have been changed to help prevent fraud and aid enforcement including the introduction of an anti-fraud hologram, additional wording identifying the front of the badge and a gender-specific serial number on both sides (for individual badges only). These badges will be renewed for badge holders as part of the standard three-year rolling programme. Holders will receive an updated badge when their current one expires. For more information, contact the county council's Blue Badge Service on 0845 0530009.

Childcare cash

My daughter is three years old in March and I have heard I can receive help with childcare costs. Is this true?

Mrs L, Thornton

Yes. Children become eligible for a Nursery Education Grant-funded place for the term following their third birthday. This means your child will be eligible for five two-and-a-half hour sessions (12.5 hours) of free early education a week for 38 weeks a year. For information please contact the Childcare Information Service on 0800 1950137.

DON'T FORGET

You county councillor will be keen to help. Contact details are available on 0845 0530000 or at: www.lancashire.gov.uk

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

Be a squawk show host

By Martin Crabtree

DO YOU fancy being the next Bill Oddie, Kate Humble or even Davina McCall? If you do then Lancashire County Council might have just the opportunity for you.

The county council's Countryside Service is teaming up with others to host the Bowland Hen Harrier Project at the Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell.

A hidden "nest-cam" will allow visitors to watch the progress of a hen harrier, her surviving chicks and all the drama that unfolds on a big screen in the visitor centre.

Nick Osborne, from the Countryside Service, said: "It's a little bit like Big Brother or one of

the nature watch-type programmes as the cameras will show everything that goes on.

"And because they are wild animals we expect the action to be a little more interesting, and possibly more civilised, than most reality TV shows!"

"We are looking for volunteers to act almost as presenters who will explain to visitors what has been going on recently and what unfolds on screen while they are there.

"No experience is needed, as full training will be provided including a field trip to see a hen harrier in the wild."

The project is likely to run from mid-May until mid-July.

Partner organisations include the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, United Utilities and Natural England.

LEARN & EARN

Volunteers need to be over 18 years old, passionate about the countryside and enjoy meeting and talking to people.

Volunteers must also commit to a rota, which can be as little as one day a fortnight, over a six-week period.

Full training and support will be provided along with a payment of £10 for each day worked (including training days) to help towards travel and subsistence costs. More details on 01772 534709.

Are you interested in becoming a Secondary Maths, Science or Design Technology Teacher?

Do you have GCSE grade C (or equivalent) in English and Maths?

Do you have an appropriate degree qualification?

If the answer is YES to the above questions you may be interested in the Graduate Teacher Programme.

The North West & Lancashire GRTP Consortium will be holding an open evening on Tuesday 26 February 2008 at the Woodlands Centre, Chorley from 5:00pm until 7:00pm.

You can call in to speak to a member of the team and/or listen to one of the information sessions presented by the Programme Manager at 5:15 or 6:00pm

Recruitment and Retention Team, Room 505, East Cliff JDO, Preston PR1 3JT Phone: 01772 531885 E-mail: rrteam@ed.lancscc.gov.uk



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

Baffled by
bureaucracy?

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Vital votes on 7 February

VOTERS in Thornton Cleveleys Central electoral division are being reminded to vote on Thursday 7 February. The by-election for a seat on Lancashire County Council is to elect a successor to County Councillor Keith Tebbs who died last year. The council is responsible for services including education, transport, trading standards and provision of social care. Polling stations open at 7am and close at 10pm.

Open access

DISABLED people are now finding it easier to get through "kissing gates" thanks to new RADAR keys. The gates have been installed at various places in the county. Keys to open them wide enough for wheelchairs can be bought from Preston Disability Information Service Centre, 103/4 Church Street, Preston, or tel 01772 558863.

Musical gig

YOUNG people in Coppull are running their own music "gigs" at the town's youth and community centre. Police are also involved at the Friday evening sessions which involve youngsters organising gigs. Details from Julie Traynor on 01257 470201.

Consumer watchdogs on £70m trail

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to help Lancashire become up to £70m richer.

February has been selected as Scams Awareness Month to highlight the problems that are caused by misleading marketing scams involving being selected for a prize or being a lottery or prize draw winner.

Members of the public are being asked to take suspect letters or leaflets to any Lancashire library or County Information Centre - and trading standards sleuths will check them out.

Analysis of national figures suggests that Lancashire residents are cheated out of an average of £60 per person each year.

Scams can include prize draws, foreign lotteries, work at home and business opportunities, and premium-rate telephone prizes.

Chief Trading Standards officer Jim Potts said: "Some people will be losing very little while others may be losing very large sums."

We are calling for people, particularly in February, to let us know when they receive something that they think is potentially 'dodgy'.

"These scams only need a small percentage of people to be taken. Many people, who may have only lost a few pounds, don't bother to report it."

"Recent information from the Canadian authorities identified people in Lancashire who had been conned into paying out money after

We check 'scam' leaflets to keep you safe

By Martin Crabtree

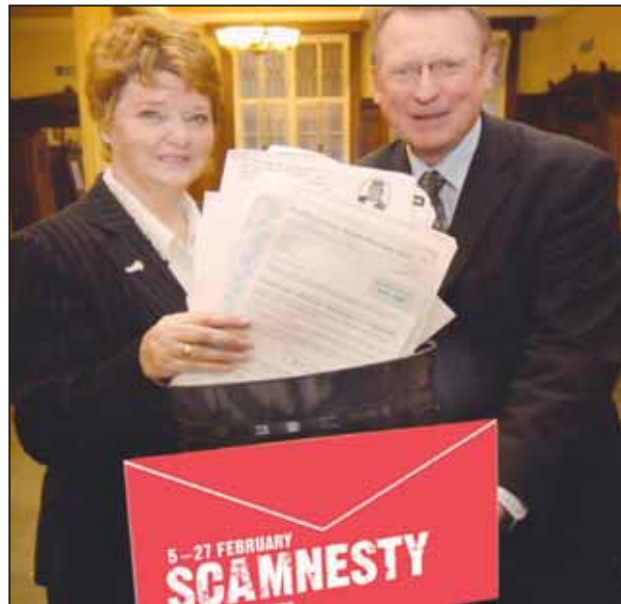
they had apparently won the Canadian lottery. One lost £50,000."

County Councillor Jean Battle, Cabinet member for community planning and partnerships, said: "Fewer than one in 20 of people conned actually complain."

"People need to take steps to avoid being misled. They should complain if they have been."

Anyone wishing to complain should register it with Trading Standards via Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

You can avoid many scam mailshots and coldcalls by registering with the Mailing Preference Service (0845 7034599) and Telephone Preference Service (0845 0700707).



●BRING your suspect leaflets: Councillor Jean Battle and Jim Potts launch the scheme.

AVOID CHEATS

IF it is too good to be true it probably is.

■The words "Congratulations you have been awarded a major value prize" signals a scam, unless you have really entered.

■Never pay to collect a prize. No international lottery, even if you do take part, asks for a fee to receive a prize.

■Where you have not entered a competition a letter saying you have been awarded a prize is inevitably misleading.

■A minimum-value prize can simply be a discount off the purchase of an item at an expensive price.

■Scratch cards and premium-rate number competitions will lead you to believe that you have won a major prize. You will almost certainly win a gift of limited value.

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

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

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.

Lancashire
County Council

We will be running courses as follows:

East Lancashire

Date: Tuesday 22nd April 2008
Time: 9.15am to 12.15pm
Venue: **Fairfield Children's Centre**
Fairfield Street
Accrington
BB5 0LD
How long: 5 weeks (3 hours per week)

Date: Thursday 25th April 2008
Time: 9.15am to 12.15pm
Venue: **Burnley Football Club**
Harry Potts Way
Burnley
BB10 4BX
How long: 5 weeks (3 hours per week)

Preston/Kirkham

Date: Tuesday 1st April 2008
Time: 9.30am to 12.00pm
Venue: **Preston West Children's Centre**
Ashton Primary School
Ainsdale Drive
Ashton
Preston
PR2 1TU
How long: 6 weeks (2.5 hours per week)

Date: Thursday 3rd April 2008
Time: 9.30am to 12.00pm
Venue: **Pear Tree School**
29 Station Road
Kirkham
PR4 2HA
How long: 6 weeks (2.5 hours per week)

Combine the seaside with the countryside and win a holiday at Ribby Hall Village, ten minutes from Blackpool in the quiet countryside.

Take time out at the fabulous Ribby Hall Village – which has a choice of accommodation including private cottages, unique pine lodges and a luxury hotel.

The competition is to win a mid-week break in a standard self-catering cottage for six people and can be taken any time before July 08 – subject to availability, excluding school and bank holidays.

Ribby Hall Village is family run and prides itself on the standard of accommodation offered. The cottages have a comfortable living room and kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and two separate bedrooms and family bathroom. They also feature facilities such as DVD players, dishwashers and BBQs with private parking and patio areas.

Ribby Hall Village also offers the latest in luxury holidays in their pine lodges, which include outdoor hot tubs, private balconies and luxury features such as a state-of-the-art kitchen, large plasma screens and televisions in each bedroom.



Ribby Hall Village is only 10 minutes from Blackpool but set within 100 acres of countryside offering you the best of both worlds with activities such as:

- Adult pool and family fun pool
- A choice of restaurants and bars
- Horse riding
- Racquet sports
- A health & beauty spa and hairdressers
- Nine-hole and mini golf courses
- Children's holiday club and crèche



Visit www.ribbyhall.co.uk for a virtual tour or to check availability and book on-line. Alternatively call 0800 085 1717 8.00am-8.00pm, seven days a week quoting RHV 169

ENTER!
WIN A RIBBY HALL
VILLAGE BREAK

Ribby Hall Village is set within how many acres of countryside?

Answer Name

Address

Email

Entry to be returned by Tuesday 19 February to Holiday competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ. You can also enter online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision. Tick box if you do not want to be sent Ribby Hall Village details ☐



Send your letters to:

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

Food for thought

CAN I be the only person alarmed at the misuse of the words dinner, lunch and tea?

It is not long ago that all Lancastrians ate dinner shortly after noon and tea at about 6pm.

Lunch was something that the middle class elsewhere enjoyed. Even Lancashire's middle class eschewed lunch in favour of dinner.

Yet now...

I suspect that only about half of us refer to dinner while the other half refer to lunch. Are people ashamed of their history? Is it a form of one-upmanship? The expression "lunch" has been spreading northwards for some time. Schools, of course, still have dinner ladies.

Can anyone give a definitive judgement? I for one will stand up for Lancashire!

K MICHAEL

Parking trouble

VISION referred to "school gate anarchy" in January – but it is not only the parents of schoolchildren that need to show more consideration. We live near a school and experience the problem of car parking.

School staff park their cars in any space available, causing difficulties for residents and parents "dropping off" children for school.

Why isn't off-road parking

provided for school employees?

I sometimes think that head-teachers and planners need to show more consideration to such matters in tackling traffic chaos in school areas.

JOHN FLEMING
Morecambe

Up the workers

I WAS very interested to read the letters on the Co-operative Movement in Lancashire (Vision, January 2008). I wholeheartedly agree with the points made.

When in Great Harwood I always call in to its excellent, modern store. It often reminds me of the Co-op in Burnley – once the largest retailer in the town, supplying almost everything its customers could desire. There is now not a single Co-op shop.

The movement's decline is one of the saddest things that has happened in modern retailing. Some years ago I set out to research and write about the Burnley Society. As sometimes happens with local history, nothing came of it, but what I found out has influenced me ever since.

I recall visiting Manchester Central Library and consulting the local papers published in the years after the Rochdale Pioneers opened their first shop in 1844. The "divi" was important, but the need for the Co-op was apparent in the press reports which outlined

cases of adulteration and the selling of short measures by the grocers, butchers and other tradesmen of the day.

The number of cases suggest such crimes were a major problem at the time. I believe that the Pioneers' first principle – that they would sell only wholesome food at the correct weight – had a considerable effect on the history of manufacturing, as well as retailing, food.

The Lancashire Co-ops, by their example, achieved something for which we should all salute the Co-operative Movement.

It is not often realised how important the Co-operative principle has been in manufacturing. Many realise that the Co-ops had their own bakeries, shoe and clog factories and laundries. Less well known are the "worker co-operatives" of Lancashire's former staple industry, cotton.

I was born in Harle Syke, near Burnley, which was the leading cotton manufacturing village in the days when "England's bread hung by Lancashire's thread". Many of the mills in the village were run as "worker co-operatives". One of them, the famous Queen Street Mill – the world's only surviving steam-powered weaving mill – is now operated as a museum by Lancashire County Council with the support of Burnley Council.

It was pleasing to see, also in the pages of Vision, that Queen Street Mill has been named as

"best tour" by the Association for Industrial Archaeology – a real success for both councils.

COUNCILLOR R FROST
Briercliffe

Think of others

I AM disabled and three years ago bought a mobility scooter. It is fully insured but I am unable to use it. Why?

Because where I live there is very little access to the wider world. My own road is inaccessible because of parked cars on the pavements. There are also uncut hedges, often thorny and overhanging the pavement.

If I go onto the actual road drivers get annoyed because I don't have a legal right (they think!) to drive an unlicensed vehicle on their road. I would gladly pay road tax to stop this resentment and enable me to use their roads.

I have had drivers beeping their horns to tell me to get out of their way. I also had one occasion while trying to cross another road where one lady driver beeped and gave me a two-fingered salute while shouting out of the open window. Fortunately my husband was with me and reassured me that I had done nothing wrong and had been courteous and correct in crossing the road.

Even getting into town is difficult for a disabled person. I have to be aware that dogs like to chase bikes and scooters.

I also have to watch out for speeding cars. There is a small crossing island nearby but visibility is difficult due to a bend. It is not unusual for vehicles to illegally reach speeds of 60mph.

People should think more of the needs of other people.

L STEWART

Plans and cash probe aims to boost care

By Neil Graham

A MAJOR new probe has started to find ways in which the county council can increase extra-care housing provision for older people.

About 330 "very sheltered" places now exist county-wide in 18 separate schemes. Forecasts show that about 1,400 will be needed within 10 years – so a task group is looking at how numbers can be boosted.

Between six and nine months will be spent interviewing health chiefs, planning chiefs, housing experts, people living in existing schemes and looking at projects nationwide to find the best way ahead.

County Councillor Bob Pendleton, chairman of the new Overview and Scrutiny task group, said: "We have to be ready to provide the care and support that people will need – and that means looking at obtaining land, planning permission and funding."

"We have to bid to Whitehall for some of the money, and we know we have to show we are working with other bodies to boost our chances of success."

"We will be speaking to district councils and primary care trusts to see how we can strengthen our bids."

The extra-care concept is a halfway house between helping people live in their own home – which most prefer – and going into a care home. It means there is extra support available for people living either in purpose-build complexes or in neighbourhoods.

County Councillor Chris Cheetham, Lancashire County Council Cabinet member for Adult and Community Services, said: "A number of our schemes have failed to get off the ground because of planning permission and funding issues."

"We must look at these issues in order to increase the chance of success of future schemes – they provide the independence and care that people want."

Lottery win for county cyclists



●NEW park and cycleway for east Lancashire – thanks to "The People's £50million". Cycling officer Caroline Holden is pictured with pupils Olivia Bacigalupo and Shannon Ditch, pupils at Shuttleworth College which backed the project in the public vote.

VISION readers are being thanked for their help in securing a multi-million pound prize for cycling and walking in the county.

A massive country-wide public vote in December was used to decide who would get their hands on millions of pounds in National Lottery funding via the TV show "The People's £50million".

Thanks to the efforts of Lancashire people a bid from Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, beat off tough competition from the Eden Project, the Black Country and Sherwood Forest.

The win means that £300,000 will now go towards the development of a linear park and cycleway on a disused railway line from Rosegrove in Burnley to Padiham.

Cycling officer Caroline Holden said: "I was amazed at the level of public support we got for the bid."

"Schools were encouraging pupils to vote and local shops were handing out flyers to their customers with their shopping. Many thanks to everyone."

NEWS BRIEFS

Awards point to tourism's green side

THE Duke of Westminster has handed over gold, silver and bronze Green Tourism Business Scheme awards to 17 tourism operators from the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

These successful businesses demonstrated profitable and environmentally conscious management to achieve their awards.

The five gold, six silver and six bronze prizes were presented at the Forest of Bowland Sustainable Tourism Forum.

The Forest of Bowland AONB is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. For more AONB information, visit www.for-estofbowland.com or ring 01772 534709 for an information leaflet.

New look for youth activity

LOOK out in next month's Vision for more information on Positive Activities, a new way to help young people find places to go and things to do in Lancashire.

Positive Activities, to be launched in March, is part of major plans to reorganise services for young people, including looking at the way information is presented online.

New websites are being developed to provide information on everything from advice and guidance on issues such as getting a job, coping with exams or dealing with health issues, to the Positive Activities information, which will provide further detail on the full range of positive activities that young people in Lancashire can get involved in.

River's new horizon for disabled people

A NEW viewing platform that will allow visitors to the Yarrow Valley Country Park to get an excellent view of the river has been officially opened.

For any visitor to the park in Chorley being able to visit the weir on the River Yarrow, especially following heavy rain, is a must as cascading water shakes the ground as it pours over the over the Victorian structure.

Disabled people, however, were unable to see the splendour before the new platform, path and bridge were opened.

The improvements at Yarrow Valley are part of a much wider countywide scheme, which aims to provide countryside access for people of all abilities.

Work across Lancashire has already included opening up circular routes around reservoirs and level and barrier-free routes at nature reserves.

The project at Yarrow Valley has been funded and implemented in a partnership between Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council with Groundwork Lancashire West managing the contract work. Access Lancashire has provided guidance on the needs of people with mobility difficulties.



New guardians will offer honest advice

By Andrew Lynn

ELDERLY, disabled and ill people can now have official guardians to act as their best friends and put their interests first in matters of health, money and welfare.

New legislation makes the Public Guardians available to end people's fears of being taken advantage of when vulnerable.

The new "friends" are legally obliged to put the interests of the vulnerable person - those lacking "mental capacity" - first.

And now a new information booklet, together with online guidance, has been made available by Lancashire County Council to help people understand the new system.

"People may have difficulties making some decisions due to a learning disability, dementia, mental health problem, brain injury or following a stroke", said Richard Jones, executive director of adult and community services.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 came into force in October 2007 and affects everyone aged 16 and over. It makes clear who can

take decisions, in which situations, and how they should go about this.

Richard added: "The Act also enables people to plan ahead for when they may lose capacity to make decisions in the future."

"It can include decisions about someone's property, financial matters, social care, medical and healthcare treatment and research arrangements, as well as everyday decisions about personal care."

YOU FIRST

The Mental Capacity Act specifies that:

- It should be assumed that a person has capacity to make decisions.
- People have the right to be supported to make their own decisions.
- People should not be treated as lacking capacity merely because they have made an "unwise" decision.
- Everything done for people without capacity should be in their best interests.
- All decisions must be made in a way that is least restrictive of an individual's freedom.

The new law also affects families, carers, health and social care staff, and other people who have contact with people who lack capacity to make decisions themselves.

To lack capacity a person must have a medically recognised impairment of, or disturbance in the functioning of, the mind.

A new Court of Protection will have power to make declarations about whether someone lacks capacity, make orders or appoint deputies to act in a person's best interest.

The Public Guardians will have several duties under the Act including registering Lasting Power of Attorney and supervising court-appointed deputies.

The law also introduces a new criminal offence of ill treatment, abuse or wilful neglect against a person who lacks capacity.

For more information about the Act or to request a copy of the joint county council and NHS booklet, contact your local adult social services office or visit online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/social-services/mental-capacity

More can be found at the Office of the Public Guardian online at: www.publicguardian.gov.uk or call 0845 3302900.

Take care to join the foster future

OFFICERS from Lancashire County Council's fostering and adoption teams took part in an event with a difference when they attended BBC Radio Lancashire's volunteering recruitment day at Preston's Guild Hall in January.

They joined dozens of other organisations in making a pitch to members of the public who were there to find out about the realities and rewards of volunteering with children.

Anyone who would like to know more about fostering in Lancashire can contact the team on 0800 195 1183.

Brew up for business success

A new brewery is pumping up success with locally brewed beers, thanks to Rosebud finance.

Grindleton Brewery, based in Clitheroe, has seen its beers gain popularity in the area. Called Gradelly Bitter, Ribble Rouser and Lancashire Pale Ale, the beers are brewed using a range of local ingredients.

Orders and return custom are both increasing thanks to Rosebud finance which enabled owners Ian Lait, David Brown and David Schofield to start the business in a barn before moving to their current Clitheroe address.

Rosebud finance, provided by Lancashire County Developments Ltd, is versatile - loans and equity funding is available for sums from £5,000. For more Rosebud details 01772 536652.



● ROSY future - thanks to Rosebud funding: (L-R) brewery owners David Brown and Ian Lait with County Councillor Niki Penney, chair of Lancashire County Developments Ltd.

£305,000 boost for station

A LEADING Lancashire councillor has welcomed news that another train station in the county is to receive a major overhaul.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Cabinet member for sustainable development, believes that plans for a £305,000 revamp of Bamber Bridge railway station will put the town on the map with commuters.

Station platforms will receive new shelters, seats and signage together with improvements to the station environment and landscaped areas. CCTV will also be installed to improve security.

Work is expected to be complete in the spring.



Tenor - Alfie Boe
Director - Bradley Creswick

Cosmo Rodewald Hall,
Manchester University,
MANCHESTER

Friday 14th March, 2008, 7.30pm

Manchester Tickets:
£10.00 (£7.50 conc.)
Box Office:
(0161) 275 8951/8950

Marine Hall, FLEETWOOD
Saturday 15th March, 2008.

SOLD OUT

Lancashire
Sinfonietta

Delights of the Danube

Performances by Lancashire Professional Orchestra

Mozart - Symphony No 36 "Linz" K.425
Siczyński - Vienna city of my dreams
Strauss - On the Beautiful Blue Danube Op.314
Lehár - Dein ist mein Ganzes Herz
Bartók - Divertimento
Dinicu - The Lark
Hubay - Hejre Kati - "Pretty Katy"

Virtuoso violinist, Bradley Creswick, will lead the Sinfonietta on the journey of a lifetime, down the beautiful Blue Danube.

The hugely talented tenor, Alfie Boe, has been making an international name for himself since he last appeared with the Sinfonietta. After his years performing in the Royal Opera House, on Broadway and releasing two solo albums, Alfie is thrilled to return to his home town of Fleetwood for this special concert.

The itinerary of our trip will include the glorious historical city of Linz, the romantic soul of Vienna, the smoky cafés of Budapest and ending in the gypsy heartlands of Hungary.

These epic musical travels will melt your heart and stir your blood!

Lancashire
County Council

LOOK LIVELY

Lancashire women keen to tie the civil knot

LANCASHIRE women are keener to tie the knot in civil partnerships than men, according to latest statistics.

They are bucking the national trend which shows that more men than women are forming the same-sex partnerships that were introduced in late-2005.

Almost 340 civil partnership partnerships have been formed since then in Lancashire - 187 involving women and 150 involving men.

Gill Greeson, superintendent registrar at Lancashire County Council's Registration Service, said: "A civil partnership is an

entirely non-religious process but a legal commitment which can be formed by two people of the same sex.

"It gives them the ability to obtain legal recognition for their relationship.

"It is encouraging to see that same-sex couples are still keen to commit and form a legally binding partnership."

Lancashire hosts a wide range of venues and around 106 approved premises for anyone wishing to tie the knot - for those who either want a discreet ceremony with minimal fuss or those who wish to opt for a full

celebration-style ceremony."

Nationally, 60 per cent of all civil partnerships are men, compared to just 45 per cent in Lancashire.

In order to form a civil partnership in the UK, couples must both be of the same sex, be 16 years of age or older, not already be in a civil partnership or marriage; and not be within the prohibited degrees of relationship. For residents who live in Lancashire you first need to contact the ceremonies officer for the area in which you live. The ceremonies officer will arrange an appointment

for you to give a formal notice of intention to form a civil partnership at a Lancashire Registration Office.

If you live outside Lancashire you will need to contact the Registration Office in the district where you live. You can provisionally book a civil partnership up to one year in advance of the ceremony.

For more information about the services offered by the Lancashire Registration Service visit www.lancashire.gov.uk or contact your local Register Office on 0845 0530021.

Voice of
Vision



Anne O'Mahoney
Head of Lancashire
Brussels Office

It's interesting to think that Lancashire County Council has an office in Brussels. Are people often surprised?

Lancashire was among the first regions in the UK to open an office in Brussels, more than 15 years ago. There are now over 250 offices in Brussels, from regions across the UK and Europe.

What is the purpose of the Lancashire Brussels Office?

We speak up for the people of Lancashire. Many laws and policies are agreed at European level and the office is an "early-warning system". We identify things at an early stage so that the county council is well prepared and can lobby for changes on policies and legislation that are important for Lancashire. We identify opportunities and help build partnerships with organisations from across Europe, to access European funding and share expertise. We also work closely with Lancaster University and the University of Central Lancashire, who are partners in the office.

How does the work of your office benefit the people of Lancashire?

As long as Britain is part of the European Union, it's important we get the most we can from it. Our job is to ensure that happens. The European CIVITAS Success Project is one example - we and partners in Romania and France have received €7.5m to use the latest clean-vehicle technology and other measures to promote sustainable transport.

Can you describe a working day in the Brussels office?

No two days are the same. Often someone from the office will attend a breakfast briefing where an influential Brussels figure, such as a commissioner, will speak about a current issue.

We meet MEPs or commission officials to brief them about matters that are important for Lancashire. We inform colleagues in Lancashire of the latest developments in Brussels and when they come here, we advise officers and members how to approach the people they need to meet.

It sounds like a busy office. How many staff do you have?

Just two. My colleague, Tanja Siggs, European Liaison Officer, works on environment and transport policy, two hugely important fields for the county. We also have an office trainee, on a six-month placement from Lancaster University who monitors research, education and health issues.

What is it like living in Brussels?

Culturally it is a beautiful city, but what motivates me the most, is the opportunity to speak up for Lancashire on the European stage.

Library's high-tech revolution



●QUIET please! Accrington library celebrated its 100th year with a re-enactment of life in 1908.



●TELLY talk: a web-camera on top of the computer screen allows Councillor Wendy Dwyer to speak direct to a county council customer service officer.

ACCINGTON Library recently celebrated its centenary in style - and opened the door to a technological gateway.

The library not only hosted a weekend celebration, with county council staff dressed in Edwardian costume, but also began the pilot of a new system called Telly Talk.

Telly Talk allows residents to speak directly to a Lancashire County Council customer services officer, via a webcam and telecoms

link. Local people can use the system to send information, fill in forms and attach photographs to documents such as Blue Badge applications.

County Councillor Wendy Dwyer, Lancashire County Council chair, said: "This pilot is ideal for anyone who prefers talking to our Customer Service Centre face-to-face. People can receive a personalised service, in a location that is convenient for them."

Alongside the Telly Talk pilot, staff at Accrington

Library also celebrated the centenary year with displays which included famous books written in the early 1900s and photographs of the library.

Parents and children were also invited to go back in time to an Edwardian schoolroom, taking part in lessons and playing traditional games such as hopscotch and whip and top.

"The library has remained an important and valuable community resource for all residents of Accrington throughout the years," said

Carol Hoskin, senior librarian for Lancashire County Council.

"And unlike 100 years ago it is now possible to become a library borrower by joining and renewing books online."

Anyone may join the Lancashire County Council Library and Information Service for free. Visit online at

www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries
The Telly Talk pilot is expected to run at Accrington Library until March 2008.

Win £20 in driving quiz

DO you want to help make Lancashire's roads safer and win a little cash into the bargain?

Just answer five simple questions, send the answers to the county council's Road Safety Group - and you could win a £20 shopping voucher.

The quiz comes just two months before new legislation will mean that organisations can be prosecuted if a lack of safety measures is the cause of work-related deaths.

Awareness of the new requirements could save life or, if you are an employer, the risk of a criminal record.

To enter, send in your answers on a postcard or on the alongside form answering either "yes" or "no" next to the question numbers along with your name and daytime contact number to: Road Risk competition, Road Safety Group, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston, FREEPOST PR 844.

Or email the answers to:
roadsafety@env.lancscc.gov.uk

ENTER AND WIN £20

Answer the following to have a chance of winning. Just circle the correct answer.

1. Does your work expect you to answer your mobile phone while driving? Yes/no
2. Do you have rest stops planned on longer journeys for at least 15 minutes every two hours? Yes/no
3. Have you completed any driver-training specific to your job? Yes/no
4. Do you know if your bosses have policies in place to protect you on the road? Yes/no
5. Did you know that work-related road deaths are to be included in the new corporate manslaughter legislation? Yes/no

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:Tel:

No Lancashire County Council employees can enter this competition. Closing date is 20 February 2008.
We will print the results of this survey in the March edition of Vision.

Don't miss a music treat

LANCASHIRE Sinfonietta has launched a new website listing this season's concert dates and community-education news.

Free tracks, including Mozart and Handel, can be downloaded at a click of a button. Ten tracks are now available.

Alfie Boe, the talented tenor from Fleetwood, will join violinist, Bradley Creswick, in leading the sinfonietta down the Blue Danube at special concerts in Manchester on 14 March and at Fleetwood's Marine Hall on 15 March.

Visit online at www.lancs-sinf.com or call the sinfonietta on 01772 531794.

£1.25m new start for textile museum

Explore the true story of the Lancashire textile industry – a great day out for schools and families

AS the great waterwheel at Helmshore's Higher Mill cranks slowly but impressively into action, gasps of excitement echo from a small party of school pupils on their history field visit.

These children are just some of the hundreds of visitors expected to visit the county council's newly refurbished Helmshore Mills Textile Museum in Rossendale this year.

The museum offers an exciting and unique insight into two fully preserved Lancashire textile cotton and wool mills, and an industry that was fundamental to Britain's industrial revolution and economic success in the 19th century.

Helmshore village, nestled in a pleasant wooded valley near Haslingden and Rawtenstall, owes its very existence to the damp hilly area which was ideal for the wool and cotton trades.

Museum

The museum site comprises two adjacent stone mills and associated ponds with the River Ogden flowing through it. The older Higher Mill was built in 1789 by the Turner family as a water-powered wool finishing and fulling mill. In 1820 one of the sons, William Turner, took over the mill and made significant changes to the production methods used.

He later constructed the adjacent mill – today referred to as Whitaker's Mill – in the late 1820s for the carding, spinning and weaving of wool. This turned a family-run cottage industry into the industrial giant it became.

With these factories came demand for homes for the workers. The mill owners constructed cottages for their employees and Helmshore village was born.

Following Turner's death in 1852, Whitaker's Mill switched between wool and cotton a number of times. In the 1920s the mill was taken over by a local textile firm, L Whitaker and Sons, who converted it to a condenser cotton processing and spinning mill. It remained in that business until closed in 1978.

Today, its finely preserved original machinery offers visitors a unique insight into the working textile mill environment, and shows how raw cotton was



ENJOY & LEARN

- New walkway building linking the two previously separate stone wool and cotton mills.
- New café.
- New shop, reception and toilets.
- New display about wool with information about the mill's history including the waterwheel.
- Interactive models and videos explaining the textile-making process.
- On-screen displays and touch-screen information points.



processed into yarn. The ground floor used for opening and blending, known as "Devil Hole" is where raw and waste cotton was processed. Upstairs, the spinning floor still contains its original carding and spinning machinery which

(Top) ↑ Vanessa Shields (15) from Westholme school, Blackburn, enjoys the new-look museum.

(Top, right) → Sarah Mawson (14) and Hannah Mathias (14) take a closer look.

visitors can watch being operated.

The wool mill – today referred to as the Higher Mill – was taken over by Lawrence Whitaker around 1875. His descendants continued to run it as a fulling mill until its commercial closure in 1967.

From the hand- to mule-spinning machines, the famous giant waterwheel and large wooden fulling stocks (hammers) it powers, to the wool-finishing room, the buildings and machinery are all immaculately restored and give an insight into the Victorian textile industry.

The mills themselves are protected by English Heritage. The collection on display at the museum, together with that at sister museum Queen Street Mill Textile Museum in Burnley, has been designated as being of national importance.

Refurbishment

The museum has this month re-opened its doors to schools and families following an extensive refurbishment programme. It has undergone major repairs and expansion following a joint £1.25m investment supported by Lancashire County Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, the North West Development Agency, and the Friends of Helmshore Museum.

Part of the refurbishment has been carried out to ensure the mills and facilities are modernised and fully accessible for visitors with disabilities and impaired mobility.

Building repairs have also been carried out to fire-damaged joists in Whitaker's Mill, and to the roof of Higher Mill's single storey building.

Simply Schools

A number of local schools have already road-tested what the new-look museum has to offer as part of the county council's Simply Schools programme – bringing together teaching resources and experiences for primary schools from the best of Lancashire's museums.

The Simply Schools programme includes facilitated museum visits, interactive and role-play sessions, special events, material loans service, and video-conferencing classes through the Cumbria and Lancashire Education Online (CLEO) broadband internet network.

SEE 4YOURSELF

The museum is inviting schools and pre-booked groups in advance of a phased reopening to the public while the finishing touches are put in place. But it will open all week during the spring half-term holiday (18-24 February), with a focus on family activities.

Monday 18-Friday 22 February (12-4pm); Saturday 23-Sunday 24 February (12-5pm)

From Thursday 28 February to Thursday 20 March, the museum will open Thursday to Sunday.

From 20 March-31 October 2008 the museum will be open seven days a week: Monday to Friday (12-4pm); Saturday and Sunday (12-5pm)

The estimated visiting time is two hours. For more information, contact Helmshore Textile Museum on 01706 226459 or visit online at www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk

For more information about Simply Schools programme, or to download a booking form, visit online at www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk/simplyschools

Investment and
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lives



Call us to see how we can help you
01772 536600 : www.lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council



Life in Lancashire

Granting a new future

£2m-plus is available to help local groups meet local needs as they see fit

DURING the last year Lancashire County Council has awarded thousands of pounds to local community groups. Your group could be one of them.

The county council knows that local people know what their community needs.

Local Grants and Local Gateway Grants give you an opportunity to tell your county councillors, through Lancashire

By Mark Waddington

Local committees, exactly where funding could be spent in their community.

Local Grants are available all year round from your local county councillor.

Just contact them to tell them about your group. You can also get contact details from the county council grants team.

Local Gateway Grants are the newest additions to the county

council's already very successful grant schemes.

Although currently closed to applications, another round may take place later in the year, so be sure to contact the grants team to find out more.

Later this year, from September, you'll be able to apply for a Central Gateway Grant, which is for much larger projects. Funding will run from July 2009 and our grants team can make sure that you get the application information when it's available.



●NIFTY: members of the group take a break whilst enjoying their time out in the countryside.

Climate-change children

SCHOOLCHILDREN are coming up with solutions to combat climate change.

A new scheme aims to raise awareness of the effect of greenhouse gases and what schools can do to reduce them.

Staff from Lancashire Wildlife Trust are working with the county council to deliver the programme, called Back to the Present.

Education officer Zoe Garland said: "We paint a picture of what the world could look like in 3001 if we don't change our behaviour."

"The children then come up with actions we could take now to prevent this."

"They cover all aspects of the environment, from protecting species to preventing pollution and reducing waste."

The scheme is aimed at older-aged primary school children and the first three year groups in secondary schools.

Many schools already recycle, but are also encouraged to become more energy efficient and set up school-based eco-projects with help and advice from the county council.

LOCAL GRANTS

Local Grants can help your community by providing funding for a variety of activities for local people.

Your county councillor has £1,250 per year to spend in your area and once you've checked if you're eligible, all you have to do is contact your county councillor. He or she can help you through the simple process to getting the funding you need.

From equipment to room hire, if you're a local group working with local people, then Local Grants could be for you.

LOCAL GATEWAY GRANTS

Local Gateway Grants can help with running costs and salaries, or even help buy equipment or training.

And if it's a project you want to do, the Local Gateway could help there too. The grants team can guide you through the process and send you all the information that you need, or you can download it from our website.

CENTRAL GATEWAY GRANTS

Central Gateway Grants provide infrastructure support. This fund will open for new applications in September.

CLIMATE CHANGE GRANTS

THE Climate Change Fund supports community projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions or helping communities to cope with the impacts of climate change. Grants will normally be in the range of £500-£15,000.

The fund is shared across all 12 Lancashire Locals. For more information, call 01772 531257.

HANDY HINTS

DO

- Check your eligibility for the grant.
- Call the grants team for advice and support.
- Think carefully about what you want the money for. Check deadlines.
- Read all the information sent to you or on the grants team's website.

DON'T

- Just fill in the form and send it off without checking the supporting information.
- Assume you'll be successful - remember to try other avenues of funding.
- Assume you won't be successful - if you don't try, you won't know.

For more information:

Mark Waddington:
01772 537697
Misbah Bhatti: 01772 530818

Alternatively visit the website:

www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/grants_groups

NORTH Meols' Nifty Fifties group received a £500 local grant towards fitness classes for their 64 members.

The money paid for professional instructors to put members through their paces for ten weeks, helping to build self-confidence, improve fitness and promote a healthy, active lifestyle.

The group, based in West Lancashire, is just one of the many diverse groups and activities helped over the last 18 months through the county council's Local Grants scheme.

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

Lancashire's children need you

New phase of development for the Children's Centre Initiative in Lancashire!

The Government's Children's Centre Initiative aims to support all families with young children by providing a range of high quality services. The services to be delivered via the

children's centre must include early education, family support, health and training.

Lancashire has targets to develop more children's centres in phase 3

(2008-2010), so if you are interested in learning about how children's centres are helping your community and the plans to bring more children's centres to your area you may want to attend the following meeting:

District	Roadshow	Venue
Chorley	Mon 11 February	Woodlands Conference Centre, Chorley
Wyre	Tues 26 February	North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood
Ribble Valley	Thurs 28 February	Alston Hall, Longridge
Pendle	Tues 4 March	Training 2000, Nelson
Rossendale	Thurs 3 April	St Mary's Chambers, Rawtenstall
Burnley	Mon 31 March	Turf Moor, Burnley
Hyndburn	Mon 17 March	The Dunkenhall Hotel, Accrington
West Lancashire	Weds 19 March	Investments Centre, Skelmersdale
South Ribble	Tues 25 March	Wellington Park, Leyland
Lancaster	Thurs 27 March	Elms Hotel, Morecambe
Preston	Weds 26 March	Barton Grange Hotel, Preston
Fylde	Weds 2 April	Ribby Hall, Kirkham

To reserve a place at the meeting, or for further information, please contact Sam Parker at the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Service on:

Tel: 01772 331317 E-mail: sam.parker@ed.lancscg.gov.uk

SureStart

Lancashire
County Council



LANCASHIRE
Childcare
INFORMATION
SERVICE
0800 195 0137