



Vision

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



Lancashire
County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk

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

January 2008

OH YEA, OH YEA

Take a fresh look at
historic Lancashire

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VISION ONLINE

Enter competitions and
write to us online

www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision

FROM THE HEART

Teens share
their feelings

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ROAD CHAOS: END IN SIGHT

Legal move to end school-gate anarchy

A COUNTY council clamp-down against dangerous parking is set to boost safety at the school gates.

Many parts of Lancashire have schools where drivers ignore zig-zag "safety zones" in front of school gates. The resulting congestion is a danger to children.

But new traffic regulation orders

(TROs) for 2008 will make it easier for parking attendants to enforce parking restrictions on zig-zags.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Cabinet member for Sustainable Development, said: "People have complained for years that a minority of selfish parents park their cars right next to the gates, making it very dangerous for children trying to cross the road.

"Some would drive their car right into the school hall if they could. Parents, pupils and teachers are the winners in this move.

"It has always been an offence to park on zig-zags, but – until now – parking attendants have only been able to inform the police, giving the offender the chance to drive away.

"The changes will mean that parking attendants will now be able

to issue £60 penalty charge notices, which should be a strong deterrent.

"I have seen cars parked two abreast outside some schools – with children trying to navigate their way through the traffic. It is shocking and completely selfish.

"Many headteachers are sick of writing to parents asking for some consideration. It is about time that something was done."

Surveys have already been ordered to ensure that zig-zag road-marks and signs are up to legal standards at all of Lancashire's 600-plus schools.

The TROs will be introduced on a district-by-district basis. By late spring, schools in every part of the county will be included. Until then – and after then – the existing offence of obstruction will continue to be enforced by police.

Time for action - headteacher

HOLY Trinity CE Primary School is one of dozens, possibly hundreds, of schools county-wide which will benefit from extra enforcement of school "zig-zag" zones.

John Aspin, headteacher at the Stacksteads school, said: "I have sent many letters to parents telling them to park considerably. It sometimes works – but doesn't last.

"Some parents drop their children off on the zig-zags. They think it will only take a few seconds – but parking there causes a danger to other people trying to cross the road.

"Almost every school can report near-misses and some have actually had children being hit by cars."

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

Road repairs

About seven years ago I bought a house on quite a large, new housing estate. The estate was completed four years ago and the developer moved off site.

I have just found out that our street has still not been adopted by Lancashire County Council, so therefore they are not responsible for repairs. There are problems on the road and several streetlights do not work. I have spoken to the developer but still nothing has been done. How do residents get this road adopted?

Mr N, Chorley

To get the road adopted, the person who owns the road (most likely the developer) has to apply for what is known as "Section 38" Agreement".

This is the process that has to be gone through by the land owner to get a road adopted. Developers who wish to build a road to be maintained by the council will normally be expected to enter into an Agreement under Section 38 of the Highway Act 1980, a function that is undertaken by district councils on behalf of Lancashire Highways. Before this process the road has to be brought up to Lancashire County Council's adoption standard. Please contact Lancashire Highways on 0845 0530011 who can inform you if the



● NEED to get rid of something? Recycling centres are the way to go.

process is underway. For any existing defects you will have to contact your developer again.

Learn to drive

My daughter is planning to learn to drive this year. Is there any information available to help her get started?

Mrs R, Preston

Lancashire County Council Road Safety Group's Pre-Pass Support scheme helps learners and friends and family planning to accompany them on practice sessions. There is the opportunity to attend a free course and receive a free CD-ROM. For more information call 01772 530316 or email roadsafety@env.lancsc.gov.uk

Permit worries

I have fitted a new kitchen in my home and as a result I have a large amount of rubbish which I need to take to the tip. Do I need a permit in order to get rid of it and, if so, how do I go about getting one?

Mr K, Carnforth

Lancashire's Household Waste Recycling Centres are open daily from 8am to 7pm except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. You will only need a permit to take any rubbish to the site if you want to use a van or a twin-axle trailer (less than 3m long). You can get one by ringing 0845 0500957 or applying online at the above address.

To find your nearest site go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/waste/. The sites are designed to help you to recycle as

much rubbish as possible so you should be able to recycle your cardboard and old units, but if you're in any doubt just ask one of the "Here To Help" staff available on all the sites.

Childcare

My family and I have recently moved to Preston and I am looking to find a local childminder who can look after my two young children. Where can I find their details and how much will they cost?

Mr M, Preston

The Childcare Information Service will be happy to help you. You can contact them on 0800 1950137 or email them at: childcareinformation@env.lancsc.gov.uk. They can produce a personalised list of childcare providers that can be posted or e-mailed to you. Details should include contact numbers, available working hours and cost. Local, registered providers can also be found on the web at www.childcarelink.gov.uk/lancashire. For details about available places you should then contact the childminder directly.

Boiler help

I have had a grant from Warmfront for a new boiler. I have had problems and the installer is avoiding sorting it out.

Mrs G, Burnley

Warmfront is a government-backed scheme providing grants and subsidies to provide basic heating facilities and advice on a whole series of energy-saving initiatives. The contribution made by the householder can range

from nothing to £1,000s depending on the work carried out and the eligibility criteria used for the grant.

A lot of the grants are dependent on the work being carried out by an approved installer. Even where work has been carried out at limited or no cost, you are entitled for it to have been done properly and effectively.

It is normally the responsibility of the installer to correct defects. The initial complaint should be made to the installer directly but, if this is not successful, should be escalated to Warmfront.

Complaints should be made by, or on behalf of, the customer to:

- 1) the contact centre on 0800 3166011;
 - 2) If unable to resolve, it should be referred to the customer services team on 0800 408 0392;
 - 3) It could be escalated to a manager or;
 - 4) It can be escalated for a written response to: Customer Response Team, Eaga House, Archbold Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1DB.
- If this process is followed, and it fails, Trading Standards can pursue the complaint.

DON'T FORGET

Your 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

Car use falls by 13 per cent

Travel plans extended after South Ribble shows public transport can work

By Martin Crabtree

CAR trips in South Ribble were slashed by 13 per cent following a marketing exercise carried out under the CIVITAS SUCCESS banner.

The project is now being extended to parts of Preston, Lancaster and Morecambe to relieve congestion on the roads.

The TravelSmart project involved making direct contact with households by phone and on the doorstep to offer personalised information and advice on the best ways to travel.

Help included individually tailored local bus timetables and discounts on cycles.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Cabinet member for Sustainable Development, said: "The project has shown that by making better use of public transport information and taking steps to promote alternatives to the car, we can achieve great results."

"This 13 per cent would go a long way towards tackling traffic congestion and climate change if it were repeated across the country."

The South Ribble campaign involved more than 10,700 households.

Evaluation of the project has shown that people increased their walking by up to 45 per cent, cycling by 75 per cent and public transport use by 10 per cent - resulting in a 13 per cent reduction in car-driver trips.

Easy travel

Make your journeys simpler - by leaving your car at home.

Visit: www.transportforlancashire.com for timetable information and a link to a journey planner.

Visit www.civitas-initiative.org for a wider view of transport in the future.

Museum steams ahead



●AWARD for bringing history to life: from left, Ian Gibson, head of museum collections, awards chair Professor Marilyn Palmer, staff member Sylvia Wilson, Professor Angus Buchanan.

BURNLEY'S Queen Street Mill and Textile Museum has been named "best tour" by the Association for Industrial Archaeology.

Lancashire County Council's 19th-century tourist mill in Harle Syke is the world's only surviving steam-powered weaving mill, bringing history to life with all the sights, sounds and smells of the mill.

Together with its sister museum, Helmshore Mills Textile Museum in Rossendale, the two museums help to bring the east Lancashire textile industry to life. Helmshore museum is currently closed for major improvement works. Queen Street is closed for the winter and will reopen in March.

NEWS IN
BRIEFRe-Mark-able
achievement

THE Lancaster and Morecambe Adult Learning Disability Provider Service has been awarded Charter Mark status.

The service achieved "Best Practice" status for its consultation processes and provision of information for adults with a learning disability.

The county council currently supports over 420 adults with a learning disability, aged between 18 and 64, in the Lancaster and Morecambe area.

Illness down

EMPLOYEES at Lancashire County Council have achieved reduced absenteeism levels.

The number of working days lost for each full-time employee between July and September is 1.81 days.

This is a reduction compared to 1.94 days in 2006 and beats the target of 2.25 days.

Action film

SWORD fights, car chases and unexploded bombs are some of the perils being faced by Longridge High School pupils.

They have created the Longridge Broadcasting Corporation and its first feature will be a James Bond-type film, devised and scripted entirely by pupils themselves.

The film, called City Lights, will be premiered in the New Year.

New bid to boost food safety

'Clean food' scheme extends across the county

By Martin Crabtree

HUNGRY residents could be getting a better deal the next time they fancy a tasty meal from one of the county's many food establishments.

Experts from the county council's Trading Standards team and district council environmental health officers have teamed up to launch Recipe 4 Health, a benchmark for healthy eating.

The scheme has been running successfully in Chorley for the last 12 months and has attracted more than 50 businesses keen to prove that their meals and premises meet high standards.

And now businesses in Burnley, Rossendale and Preston are to get the opportunity to sign up.

Businesses wanting to carry the Recipe 4 Health logo must meet standards in four key areas:

- Compliance with food standards and food safety legislation
- Allergen/alcohol awareness
- Healthy eating
- Consideration for the environment

The award is also on offer to any establishment where food is served. Already schools, nurseries, a conference centre and a cricket club have joined.

Trading Standards officer Aamena Kapasi explained: "These days more and more people have meals out or take-aways.

"Recipe 4 Health is an indication that the business conforms to high standards regardless of whether they are selling you a sandwich or a curry.

"The scheme also ensures that customers are provided with healthy options."

Businesses that have achieved the Recipe for Health standard will begin displaying their door stickers and certificates soon.



● **HEALTHY and safe food:** Gillian Ferguson, owner of Chorley's Lancashire Fayre and trading standards officer Aamena Kapasi.

Health is the prize



● **PUPILS** Alison Nesham (15) and Christopher Proctor (15) with County Councillor Alan Whittaker, deputy chair of the county council.

HEALTH-conscious pupils at Pear Tree School in Kirkham have scooped a £1,000 prize for their campaign to bring good eating habits to the school.

Now they plan to spend their winnings on a new salad bar.

Pear Tree pupils were winners in the special school category of the Lancashire County Council Chairman's Challenge, in which schools were invited to come up with ideas for making their pupils healthier.

The school council at Pear Tree will now open a school tuck shop offering healthy snacks.

For more details on the Chairman's Challenge, contact 01257 226900.

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

Important information for all holiday club and after school club organisers

A new year may mean a new start, so if you are thinking of setting up either an after school club or holiday club, then help is at hand.

Whether you are thinking of a holiday club, after school club, breakfast club or a full day care provision, allowing time for planning is essential. Before you set up you will need to register with OFSTED, consult with your community, carry out market research, produce a business plan, secure funding and employ staff.

Please bear in mind:

- OFSTED registration can take up to 25 weeks;
- Recruiting quality staff can take 2 months or longer;
- Market research can take a couple of months to put together.

If your club is already up and running and you need further advice, then our service is here to support you.

Day Care Briefing Sessions

The Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare Service hold Day Care Briefings on a monthly basis across Lancashire. The aim of the sessions is to give you:

- An overview of the support offered by the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Service;
- Information about national and local initiatives and regulations;
- Information about the national standards;
- The steps you will need to take to become registered;
- Details of five workshops available to support you in your application.

Development Workers and Registration and Training Officers will be available to talk to you about your proposals and give advice. After the session you will be able to book onto any of the five workshops which follow up the Day Care Briefing and will take you through the process of planning your childcare.

The Sure Start, Early Years & Childcare Service

For further information, or if you would like to book onto one of the sessions, please contact the Childcare Information Service on 0800 195 0137.

If you need help and advice on looking for childcare, working in childcare or help with training and development for childcare workers, then also call 0800 195 0137 or log on to www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare

Available workshops are:

- Setting up – Organisation structures
- Business Planning*
- Financial Planning*
- Recruitment and retention of staff
- Are you ready to open?

A new workshop to help you meet the requirements for registration and inspection.

*Compulsory workshops for those settings wishing to apply for funding from the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Service

0800 195 0137
www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare

Lancashire
County Council

You're telling us!

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

Shop with soul

THE Co-op was the best thing that ever happened to the working people of Great Harwood (Vision, Nov/Dec), where I grew up.

The Great Harwood and District Co-operative Society was a society with a soul. The benefit that people derived from its activities was imponderable.

The dividend (divi) provided many poorer families the wherewithal to enjoy a little Christmas cheer – even it was only a chicken for the table, a Christmas pudding, a box of crackers and a bottle of wine. Without it a very bare Christmas would have been in store.

It did not end there by a long chalk. Each year the local schoolchildren were assembled on the Town Gate Square for the Co-op treat and then, led by a brass band, they would march through the town to the local show-field.

Each child was given a bag of sweets and a ticket for a coffee and a bun. The hot coffee was served from huge wooden barrels on flat carts, and was the best coffee I have ever tasted.

Father Christmas on the move

LANCASHIRE County Council's Father Christmas was a big attraction to children when he joined councillors in meeting members of the public on the authority's mobile unit.

He is pictured in Leyland with, from left, Chloe Wealthy, Joseph Grant and Alex Grant.



A full programme of entertainment was organised. There were races of all descriptions. The final of the local school football competition ensured that a good time was had by all.

The society also produced pantomimes for the children, by the children. A great deal of care, time and trouble were lavished on these productions. The musical director was a brilliant pianist called Sydney Duckworth, who was sadly lost serving with the air force in the Second World War.

The Co-op catered for all needs, from banking to a clogger's shop.

The Co-op had virtually a shop on every street corner, its own farms and factories. How then did they go under? A mixture

of complacency, lack of foresight, and bad management was to blame in my view.

Increasing use of cars after the war meant that people wanted one-stop shopping with parking facilities.

Some traditions will never be repeated.

G JOHNSON
Foulridge

EVERYONE shopped at the Co-op in Kirkham.

I was born on Mill Street in Kirkham and remember shops in the town well. The Co-op had lovely shops which employed local people. We had a row of shops on Poulton Street, including a grocery, a bakery, a butcher's shop, a drapery, a chemist – the offices,

where you got the "divvy" were upstairs.

Some time ago I went to Beamish in Durham and saw the old Co-op shops there. They brought back many good memories,

MRS E LEWKOWITZ
Kirkham

Better behaved

I DON'T know why anti-social behaviour occurs - or what its perpetrators get out of it.

All the same I was pleased to see that anti-social behaviour appears to have fallen significantly (or, at least, that people perceive less of it) as Vision reported in December.

What I do know is that my road used to be plagued by such behaviour at all times of the day and night.

Some was by young people, some was by adults.

It is now quite a while since there have been any incidents.

It may signify a lasting change or it may be that residents here have had a lucky run - but any respite is welcome.

T PILLING
Rossendale

WIN A super shopping weekend for two



ENTER our competition for the chance of a superb weekend away in Staffordshire.

Wedgwood Pottery celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2009 but you needn't wait that long to discover more about its heritage and history.

Stoke-on-Trent, commonly known as the Potteries, is the only British city to be named after its principal industry. It attracts 3.5m visitors a year and has something to interest everyone all year round.

Enjoy a two-night stay for two, including bed and breakfast, at the Jacobean-style North Stafford Hotel opposite the main railway station. Owned by Britannia Hotels, the North Stafford is the ideal base to explore the city and New Year shopping bargains that Stoke has to offer you.

We'll include first-class return rail tickets from First TransPennine (Lancaster or Preston to Manchester) and Virgin Trains (Manchester to Stoke-on-Trent) to get you there in style and comfort.

On arrival, Spode and Portmeirion manufacturers are within walking distance. Other attractions, including factory shops, the Wedgwood Visitor Centre and the famous Italian Gardens are a bus or taxi ride away.

To be in with a chance of winning our

superb prize, just answer the following: **What is Stoke-on-Trent commonly known as?**

Send your completed entry by Friday 18 January to Potteries Competition, Vision, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ. Or save a stamp and email your entry to: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/vision.

For more information about Stoke-on-Trent see www.visitstoke.co.uk or telephone 01782 236000. Steve Birks' website - www.the.potteries.org - is worth a visit.

Virgin Trains has travel information, including special offers, at: www.virgintrains.com

Fares include complimentary seat reservations and may be bought online on 08457 222333, or by visiting any staffed rail station or rail-appointed travel agent.

First TransPennine runs direct services calling at Lancaster and Preston to Manchester. A new fleet of 100mph diesel trains has recently been introduced offering improved standards of comfort and inter-city quality travel.

For tickets and timetables, see www.tpeexpress.co.uk

Britannia Hotels has a fantastic January sale offering you the chance to stay at many of its 33 hotels at bargain rates. Details at www.britanniahotels.com

Note: hotel accommodation is strictly subject to availability. Usual Vision competition rules apply. The prize is as stated. Transport to mainline rail stations and incidental expenses are not included.

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

PARENT DIRECT

Helping parents to make choices about their home and working lives

- 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 them the 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.

Personal details, including salary, hours worked and childcare costs are entered. The estimator can then show how employees can save money through employer-supported childcare; calculate working tax credit and child credit; and demonstrate how working tax credit is affected by taking salary sacrifice and how any saving affects entitlement

to the childcare element of working tax credit.

Lancashire Parent Direct can provide you with answers to these questions and many more. Parent Direct is a new service aimed at working parents, which provides accurate and up-to-date information advice and guidance about employment rights to help parents make decisions that are best for them. Legislation to help working parents find a better balance between work and family life is constantly changing with new measures, such as an increase in statutory maternity pay and the right to request flexible working being implemented. Parent Direct aims to help parents keep up with these changes.

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



LANCASHIRE
Childcare
Information
Service
0800 195 0137

For further information, help and advice please contact the Childcare Information Service on 0800 195 0137

Lancashire
County Council

NEWS IN
BRIEF**Fleetwood
ferry to sail
through winter**

A POPULAR public transport service, linking Fleetwood to Knott End, will run through the winter for the first time in years.

Following a very successful summer service, the ferryboat Wyre Rose will keep the transport link across the River Wyre open until Easter.

County Councillor Tony Martin, Cabinet member for Sustainable Development, said: "Successful public transport schemes aren't just about buses and trains as the Knott End ferry clearly shows."

The Wyre Rose crosses the river once every hour between 8am and 5pm in winter.

There will be a gap in February when the ferry will have to leave the water for a complete overhaul and service. During that period, the ferry bus service will operate.

**Nurseries
stop the rot**

LANCASHIRE nurseries and a Lancashire dentist have teamed up to improve dental health among children.

It is less than two years since Poulton dentist Graham Wilding recruited nurseries in a bid to teach correct dental health to the under-fives.

More than 1,100 nurseries are now part of his Stop the Rot campaign – which now has backing from a national company.

Business guide

THE help available in Lancashire to businesses is explained on a new website.

Availability of cash support, skills, land, property and details of infrastructure are all featured on www.makeitlancashire.com – a free and comprehensive service.

The site offers contact details for business support across all of Lancashire's local authorities.

Tim's tales

READING and songs in Lancashire dialect helped celebrate Lancashire Day at Chorley library.

Chorley-based Brian "Sid" Calderbank read excerpts from the writings of Tim Bobbin, whose work dates from as far back as 1746, and also read a selection of comic Lancashire tales.

It is hoped to run similar events at the library in the future.

Road-gritting

In the December edition of Vision we stated that Priority 1 for gritting in Lancashire comprises "county motorways and principal 'A' roads which are looked after by the Highways Agency". This should have read Priority 1 – county council maintained motorways and principal (A) roads. The Highways Agency, which maintains most of the motorways and major trunk roads in the UK, carry out its own winter gritting service.

Through the eyes of a child...

Hundreds of Lancashire children entered a competition to tell us what they think of where they live

WONDERFUL countryside, great seaside towns, even the grey terraced streets ... hundreds of Lancashire children have been casting a fresh eye over proud Lancashire.

The child's-eye view of the world is completely unprejudiced – so they see what the rest of us take for granted.

Community spirit is still there, fresh air is back, the town centres

are looking better, the schools are happy places.

That is what hundreds of children told Lancashire County Council in a writing contest that was judged on the annual Lancashire Day.

Teachers in classes across the county used the competition to get children thinking and writing. Some pupils did drawings and paintings to accompany their entry.

'I love the sea breeze in my hair'

- Winner Angus Young (10)

Lancashire is as beautiful as a great red sunset on a summer's evening.

There is a vivid contrast between the bustling cities and the tranquil rural areas.

Our glorious countryside is the best in England, with its mountains and woods. All through the seasons the countryside is stunning; in the autumn as the leaves are golden, you see the most spectacular colours in the world.

A golden stream flows through the gaps in the canopies above.

In the summer, the sun smiles down on everything, a wise orange eye floating in the sky.

The birds, twittering away to each other, in the most striking song.

Even in winter, you are astounded by the wonders it holds, the bare trees reaching up to the great blue sapphire, and the ice and frost glinting like diamonds in the cold winter sun.

We have many famous natural breeding sites, such as Martin Mere and Leighton Moss.

We are famed for our Lancashire hotpot (which I love). Lancashire has seaside towns and picturesque villages.

I live in St Annes, one of those towns. I find the

Picture by
Georgie Kay
Holman (9) of
Rivington
Primary
School.



sea breeze enchanting as it blows my hair and creeps up my nostrils.

The beach is a great asset, as I can just pop down and relax or play. Everybody seems to know everyone.

The community is very tight. The centre of the community is the square, which has many shops and delightful restaurants.

Lancashire is the best place to be!

Roll of honour

Winner - Angus Young (10)

Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School, St Annes

Runners-up

Kirsty Blair (11), Forton Primary School, near Lancaster

'Streetlights meant mills could work longer'

- Runner-up Calum Forde (11)

LANCASHIRE: in early times it guarded England from the invading Scots. Lancashire is littered with conflict – York and Lancaster, Cromwell and Charles and parts of the Jacobite Rebellion were all played out in the county.

We also have the famous Pendle witches, and their trial in the 1600s around the Pendle area.

Preston was the first town to have gas streetlighting. It is possible that the main reason was that the mills were then able to work longer hours.

In 1732 Richard Arkwright was born in Preston, the youngest son of a poor family. While staying in the Arkwright house in

Holly Welsby (10), St James CE Primary School, Brindle

Calum Forde (11), St Mary's RC Primary School, Preston

Abby Tomlinson (9), St Michael's CE Primary School

Sarah Elliott (10) Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School, St Annes

Stoneygate in 1768 he applied for a patent for the new machine he had developed.

A famous dish is the Lancashire hotpot which originated in the days of industrialisation. It consisted of meat, onion and potatoes baked in the ovens and is still very popular today.

What makes Preston proud?

On 17 October 1799 it was the day the queen came to visit and lots of people were there to see her.

Today, there is a cricketer called "Freddie" Flintoff who plays for England and Preston.

Nick Park, who did Wallace and Gromit, attended Our Lady's RC High School.

From the Lakes to Liverpool, forever Lancashire



●COUNTY pride: Lancaster town crier Frank Barton reminds people how large Lancashire is.

TOWN criers were out in force on Lancashire Day to celebrate the county's historic boundaries.

The traditional boundaries of the ancient County Palatine included Liverpool, Manchester, Salford and parts of the Lake District.

The area covered by Lancashire County Council has changed vastly over the years. The administrative area of Lancashire has changed – but the historic county still exists.

Town criers in 22

towns, including Lancaster, Ulverston, Clitheroe, Nelson, Ormskirk and Grange-over-Sands, read out the Lancashire Day proclamation declaring people's historic right to call themselves Lancastrians.

Investment and
regeneration
for individuals,
communities
and businesses.

We change lives

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

Lancashire
County Council

Lancashire County Development Ltd

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

If you have a child born on or between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2004 your child is entitled to a free part-time pre-school nursery education place from the start of the Spring Term 2008 commencing in January.

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

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

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

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



SureStart

Lancashire
County Council

LOOK LIVELY

School desks shipped to Pakistan

TWO containers of used furniture from Lancashire schools have made a massive difference to educational opportunities

in Pakistan.

The tables and chairs – which had been destined for a landfill site – are being used at the Jaurah

High School in the Gujrat district of Pakistan, which was visited earlier this year by County Councillor Terry Burns and Pendle

headteacher Mike Tull.

Many people in Burnley and Pendle have family in Gujrat and the East Lancashire community

raised the money to pay for the containers to be shipped.

The pictures show the class before and after.

BEFORE: pupils sit on the floor to learn



NOW: new life for Lancashire's old desks



Old phone appeal

OLD mobile phones could soon be helping the elderly – with a collection and prize draw organised by Help the Aged.

Lancashire's Help the Aged volunteers are asking people to donate their old mobiles. Each unwanted, reusable phone can raise £5.

Each donation will be entered into a draw to win a new Nokia phone – donated by SHP Solutions.

Donated phones should be accompanied by your name, telephone number and Help the Aged written on it into the freepost envelope along with your mobile.

They should be posted to: FREEPOST, SHP Solutions, Lancaster, or taken to your local Help the Aged shop.

Pick up a free safety pack

A NEW partnership has been formed to reduce congestion and encourage safe use of Lancashire roads.

The county council's Road Safety Group, Travelwise and Parkwise are teaming up for a new campaign aimed at winter driving.

"Winter Road Remedy" packs, including a free scraper, information about road safety, public transport and other services as well as promotional gifts, will be handed out by the groups.

Parking attendants will also give the packs to motorists.

Call Traveline to find out about all public transport services in Lancashire on 0871 200 2233 between 8am and 8pm, 7 days a week (calls from landlines cost 10p a minute plus normal network charges) or visit www.transportforlancashire.com

To find out more about Parkwise, visit www.parkwise.org.uk or for Road Safety information, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/roadsafety/



Lesley Dodd
Literacy consultant
- phonics

All of us remember learning to read and write.

Many of us learned the "phonics" route - we learned that D-O-G spells dog. Learning can be fun!

A debate about phonics has raged for years.

Here, consultant Lesley Dodd explains what is happening in Lancashire.

I WORK as a literacy consultant, introducing phonics into schools around Lancashire. It's a really worthwhile job as the reading skills that primary school children acquire will open doors for them for the rest of their lives.

Phonics are the sounds that letters, or combinations of letters, make: once children have mastered these, they can then use them to "decode"

words for themselves.

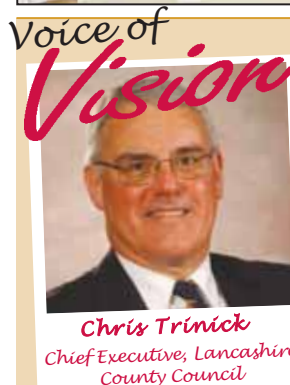
The independent Rose Review of Early Reading last year confirmed that high-quality phonic work should be the prime means for teaching children how to read and spell words. It also highlighted the importance of developing children's speaking and listening skills.

As a result, many schools in Lancashire are using a high-quality phonics teaching aid called "Letters and Sounds" to plan lively sessions which raise standards in reading and writing.

The Rose Review recommended that phonics should be taught daily, more attention should be paid to developing speaking and listening skills, and that for most children, phonics teaching should start by the age of five.

Letters and Sounds takes a "synthetic" approach to the teaching of reading, encouraging children to identify sounds in words. For example, children quickly learn to work out that "C-A-T" spells "cat".

Teachers in Lancashire have welcomed the principles and practice of Letters and Sounds, and are building their skills and enthusiasm by attending courses run by Lancashire County Council's Literacy Team.



Chris Trinick
Chief Executive, Lancashire
County Council

How has local government changed over the years?

It has become far more joined up in recent times. Previously, services worked in "silos".

Most services offered were excellent but did not work across departmental boundaries.

For example, our work in school improvement was done in isolation. No-one was looking at related issues such as housing and health which influence what happens in school.

How has change affected the public?

Our services are now more "customised" to people's needs.

We are a large organisation, yet we try to get the balance right between economy of scale and a personalised service.

Take social care as an example where we are moving towards individualised budgets. The days of providing a uniform service have gone.

People are living longer and they need a wider range of services which are relevant to their personal needs.

Did you think you would ever be in charge of a £1.4bn organisation?

No. I had an ambition to be a headteacher and then become a chief

executive Chris Trinick never knew where his career would end when, 37 years ago, he first stepped into the classroom as a teacher.

Then his ambition was to become a headteacher.

He will leave in May after six years as chief executive of Lancashire County Council, the fourth largest local authority in the country. It has been six years of constant change to ensure that the county council's services meet the ever-increasing expectations of modern service users.

education officer.

Career opportunities came along, but it was never planned. In Lancashire I am the first non-lawyer to hold the top job in the council since it was established in 1888.

Your background is in teaching. How have schools changed?

My first chief education officer, when I left teaching and became a professional assistant in Ealing, had real power. Schools had to seek permission even to replace a window.

Local management of schools has changed all that by giving schools their independence. Schools have been strengthened by it.

As a children's services authority, we now challenge schools as a critical friend. We support them, but we do not give them orders. It is no longer our job to run schools directly.

Should teachers be given more independence?

There is a trend now to let the pendulum swing back so that teachers can take more initiative – and that is right.

These things change - it is swings and roundabouts across the world.

At one stage, schools had total responsibility for the curriculum, but the mood moved away from that.

In this country there are the beginnings of a swing towards giving teachers more autonomy again.

Having said that, good teachers have always taught in their own individual style, regardless of what the law required them to do in terms of content.

The debate today is not just about how we teach but, also, how children learn.

What was the high point of your career?

That was when Lancashire County Council was first awarded four-star status by the Audit Commission.

It meant – and still means – that services to the Lancashire public are excellent and still improving.

It has given us more flexibility and freedom from central control. It is a recognition that we are able to get on with the job – a recognition that now saves us £20,000 in audit fees annually.

Do members of the public get good value?

We spend £800,000 a day on social care.

That is 146,000 separate episodes of care each day. We literally get some people out of bed and put them back to bed at the end of the day.

We are being smarter in how we provide services. Life in Ormskirk, for example, is different from life in Lancaster or Burnley and our services have to be adapted to meet people's needs in evermore cost-effective ways.

What will you do after Lancashire County Council?

I shall go fishing a lot more.

I remain a member of the Ofsted board and will continue with that as well as keeping my options open for future challenges.

I won't return to Lancashire County Council as an elected member!

Straight from the heart

Touching words give insight into how life can go wrong at an early age

By Sue Becker

ART and writing is being used in a new project to make young offenders think about their past and their future.

The thought-provoking and sometimes heartrending musings, in the form of watercolours, screen prints and poetry, force the youngsters to ponder what they can do to get their lives on track.

The stART work - mainly, but not all, by offenders, is being displayed until 23 February 2008 at Preston's Museum of Lancashire.

Catherine Witt, the county's youth justice services manager, said: "This work gives us a glimpse into these young people's joys and pains, longings and loathings in a way that is honest and touching."

"It is work that starts young people being creative and positive - and starts them on the road to realising their full potential."

Some of the work on display is a clear effort by young people to grapple with what went wrong with their lives.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "Young offenders are

(right) → Examples of the poetry and images from the stART book.

often seen one-dimensionally in our society, in terms of the offence they have committed and the trouble they have caused.

"However, this exhibition reveals that these young people can also have quite extraordinary abilities which may not have been brought to light until now."

The work has also been reproduced in a high-quality 50-page booklet, which will be distributed throughout the county to be used in work with young people.



Open Doors
I cannot wait until the day,
When I go home to stay,
No more drugs and no more crime,
No more prison and no more time.
That day will come, it won't be long,
Time to prove I can be strong,
I promise I'll have no doubt,
So open the doors and let me out.
Gareth



I would tell young people to start where they are, with what they are, with what they have and that the secret of a big success is starting with a small success and dreaming bigger and bigger dreams - John H Johnson

To Gran
Sorry for the things I have
done to hurt you,
Sorry for the pain I have put
you through,
Sorry for the things I
have stole,
My life is just one big hole!

Sorry for splitting our
family apart,
I know that I have broke
your heart!
All I know is, I need my gran,
Even though she's not my fan,
I think of you every night,
Even though I've not done
right.

I hope this poem makes
you realise,
How much I love you and
how much I care,
Because without my family
around me, my life is just
bare!!

Jodie



Sixty-plus? Need advice on tax and benefits?

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

CAN I get help with your Council Tax bill? Am I missing out on money I am entitled to? What will happen if I move into a care home? How do I get a bus pass? Am I paying too much income tax? Do I have to pay for a TV licence?

These are questions lots of people ask us - and the answers to these and many other questions can be found in the new edition of Lancashire County Council Welfare Rights Service's popular booklet '60+... benefits for you'.

The booklet, first published in 1994, has proved an outstanding success with copies being quickly snapped up following each publication.

The booklet is free to all people over 60 living in the Lancashire County Council area. It has information about all the main cash benefits which can be claimed by people in this age group and also details of county council and other services which are available to help them.

Copies of the booklet are available at your local library, County Information Centre, Welfare Rights Office, Age Concern or Advice Centre or write to: Welfare Rights Service, Freepost, Preston PR1 8RR (you don't need a stamp) or ring on 01772 533504.

School meals cut the miles

New manager takes to the road to put Lancashire food on Lancashire tables

"DID you know carrots are naturally purple but were modified by the Dutch to make them orange?"

When the person responsible for buying produce for the county's schools meals asks this type of question, you know that she knows her onions. Or should that be carrots?

Emma Tweedie, who joined Lancashire County Commercial Services as food and procurement manager back in April, recently took up the opportunity to travel down the supply chain to see where Lancashire schools' fruit and vegetables really come from.

The day started with a tour of the depot at Fulwood-based Ralph

Livesey Ltd, before heading out to visit salad growers in West Lancashire.

Emma explained: "We stopped at Bryan's Salads

to see how our mixed leafy salads and vegetables are brought in from the fields and within just a couple of hours are cut, washed, qual-

ity checked, bagged and boxed ready to go.

"At one farm I pulled up purple carrots and golden beetroot from the fields.

Did you know carrots are naturally purple but were modified by the Dutch to make them orange?"

"Any carrots that don't quite make the grade are put to one side for animal feed - there is minimal waste."

Emma also had the chance to head out on a combine harvester and tried her hand at harvesting - under the careful guidance of the farmer.

"It was very encouraging to see the local network of small enterprises; farmers and packers who supply Lancashire's schools with fresh local produce through."



Life in Lancashire

Local grants, local impact

Active citizenship is what keeps society healthy.

We would all be worse off without the county's many voluntary groups. Lancashire Local committees in all 12 districts of the county work hard to devolve power downwards. Each county councillor member also has a small pot of money to water the "grassroots" in his or her area.

FYLDE: On the ball



●**GAME:** (Front row, left to right) Alistair Stubbs, Sam Appleton, Cameron Stubbs and James Boulton with organiser David Marsland.

SPORTING activities are bringing young people together across the Fylde.

Young people everywhere will get active if they get the chance.

So Fylde Coast YMCA organises indoor and outdoor activities across the area - thanks to a little help from County Councillors Bernard Whittle, Joyce Stuart and Liz Oades.

The three teamed up to give the YMCA a total of £2,250 from their Lancashire Local pots, allowing sports to carry on all year.

Councillor Whittle said: "Civic groups do tremendous work. The best thing that local authorities can do is to support their activities."

CHORLEY: Otters are almost set on river

THE first otters spotted in living memory on the River Yarrow have been given a boost.

County Councillor Alan Whittaker gave £300 from his Lancashire Local Grant allocation to The Friends of the River Yarrow.

The money will go towards the creation of an otter set by the Duxbury Weir, the removal of trees close to the river and the construction of a new fish pass.

Three other obstructions in the Duxbury Birkshire Weir Fish Pass area will also be helped with this funding.

Councillor Whittaker said: "The Friends of the River Yarrow are a voluntary group



●**CURRENT:** Councillor Whittaker (second left) with the Friends of the River Yarrow

who are working hard to improve the river itself and the area around it.

"The benefits of their work

are already being seen with a more accessible environment and of course the first otters in living memory on the river."

RIBBLE VALLEY: Splashing out in Clitheroe

SPORTS players in Clitheroe are getting a cash boost to buy much-needed kit thanks to Ribble Valley Lancashire Local.

Clitheroe Rugby Union Football Club has received £700 towards new equipment for their netball, hockey and rugby teams scoring the winning points.

The club is expanding rapidly and attracts a wealth of talent from all ages.

County Councillor for Ribble Valley North East, Albert Atkinson, said: "I am pleased to offer the grant and hope it helps keep the club a lively and vibrant part of our local community."



●**SPORTY:** Councillor Atkinson with members of the club.

ROSSENDALE: Children's playgroup gets the sack



●**STORYTIME:** Councillor Serridge with youngsters at Whitworth Playgroup and After-School Club.

AN innovative approach to reading is giving youngsters in Whitworth a head start.

A Local Grant of £120 from Lancashire Local Rossendale has helped Whitworth Playgroup and After-School Club buy 10 story sacks to encourage reading at home.

County Councillor Sean Serridge said: "A story sack is a big bag containing a children's book and other materials which parents and carers take home to help bring the story to life.

"For example, one of the story sacks at Whitworth Playgroup for the Gingerbread Man contains puppets representing the story's main characters as well as a recipe card and baking equipment to make gingerbread.

"Story sacks might contain props and scenery relating to the story, a game or a related factual book or story tape.

"If children experience reading and books as fun, they are likely to learn to read at an earlier age and develop the habit of reading."

Playgroup manager, Liz Hughes, added: "We're really grateful for this grant. Our recent Ofsted report rated us outstanding in all areas and it is learning techniques like the story sacks which help us to give our children the best possible opportunities."

If you are a member of a community group and would like to find out more about Local Grants and other funding opportunities, why not contact your local county councillor for more information?

Log on to our website at www.lancashire.gov.uk or telephone 0845 053 0000 for contact details.

New help for vulnerable adults

POLICE, care staff and NHS workers are teaming up to guarantee a safer future for vulnerable adults.

A whole network of staff are now being trained to watch for the signs of abuse - and they then work together to stamp it out.

The whole world has read about abuse of children. Abuse of vulnerable adults can include:

- Stealing their property
- Bullying and violence
- Leaving them in fear by failing to properly supervise them
- Denying food, drink or medication.

Lancashire County Council's Dilys Macdonald said: "Some adults are at greater risk than others due to a variety of factors.

"A number of public agencies have now agreed a common approach to watching out for the interests of older people.

"Few people realise it - but older people can be left terribly exposed if they have no-one to look out for them."

Perpetrators of abuse can be anyone, anywhere - it could be a family member, a carer, a close friend, or a stranger.

Working with the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the county council is spearheading a new multi-agency framework to raise awareness of the problem.

The drive will include promoting a common approach to tackling such abuse when it is uncovered.

Dilys, the county council's safeguarding adults co-ordinator,

added: "We are ensuring that all social workers and care staff are trained to investigate. All suspected incidents will be fully investigated.

"If you are concerned about your own, or someone else's wellbeing, you should tell someone such as your doctor, health visitor or social worker.

"If you are in immediate danger, or you believe a criminal act is being committed, you should contact the police."

A new leaflet explaining how to report concerns is available at local social services offices and from community mental health teams.

For more information about the project, visit the website at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguardingadults

Burnley FC scores with funding

FUNDING from Lancashire County Council's economic department has enabled Burnley FC to get £1.5 million worth of funding.

Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL) initially worked with Burnley FC to develop space at Turf Moor into office units.

Following visits to other clubs, it became apparent that opportunities existed to include innovative projects that would help disaffected young people learn new skills such as numeracy, literacy as well as help build confidence and interpersonal skills.

LCDL helped the club engage with the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) in East Lancashire to play a central role in developing and fronting the LEGI programme. Now the club's passion has seen the

LEGI Partnership secure £20m thanks to funding from LCDL which enabled them to put together a feasibility study.

Under the branding "No Limits", the club will be leading on delivery of a number of projects such as Enterprise Challenge which enables young people to consider having their own business as a career choice and developing 15,000sq ft of enterprise and education space.

County Councillor Niki Penney, Chair of LCDL said: "LCDL is here to change lives and helping Burnley FC shows how we can achieve this through funding and support from officers."

Burnley FC's chairman Barry Kilby said: "Burnley FC felt its history and links with the community would help the LEGI programme and with LCDL's assistance we have been able to achieve this."

Building towards a new generation of construction

SCHOOL pupils from across East Lancashire have gained an insight into the world of construction and the built environment.

The Elevate East Lancashire event at Burnley Football Club, organised by the Lancashire Education Business Partnership (LEBP), was aimed at year nine pupils

about to select their GCSEs.

The pupils were given a taste of what it would be like to follow a career in construction - from building and plumbing to surveying and architecture - as they took part in some hands-on tasks as well as speaking with companies in these fields.

Gillian Beeley, chief executive of the LEBP, said: "A key role of the LEBP is to con-

nect with young people in a bid to create a motivated, prepared and knowledgeable workforce of the future.

"By inviting businesses to come and speak, we link schools and businesses so that they may work together now and in the future."

The schools taking part included Alder Grange Community and Technology School, Rawtenstall; St

Augustine's School, Billington; Primet High School, Colne; West Craven Technology High School, Barnoldswick; Unity College, Burnley; and Marsden Heights School, Nelson.

●**BUILDING:** Catherine Hackett, of Elevate, with Rizwan Hanif, of Marsden Heights, Amy Howarth, of Unity College and Gillian Beeley from LEBP.

