

The



Shuttle

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EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Local heroes celebrated at awards ceremony

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► Borough celebrates Good Neighbours

► Your Call volunteers recognised

For more information about all Council Services see www.blackburn.gov.uk

GOOD NEIGHBOURS VITAL IN TOUGH TIMES



COUNCIL LEADER KATE HOLLERN



We are in exceptionally tough times as a Council and as a borough. And the tough times will continue as we have to make some really difficult choices in the next few months.

But despite the challenges, there are things for the borough to be positive about.

Your Call has gone from strength to strength. More and more people in the borough are displaying the Your Call attitude which is pleasing considering the tough times we are facing. These residents are standing up and fighting for the borough. Without these residents, this borough would be a lot worse off.

This fighting spirit is displayed by all those who were nominated for a Good Neighbours Award.

I set up the Good Neighbours awards to celebrate people who had never been recognised before for the work they do to make their community tick. I am really pleased with how the event has snowballed. It's great we are being backed by the Lancashire Telegraph, Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group, Blackburn Rovers and Capita and that the awards and Your Call in general have been nationally recognised.

We had so many great entries this year. Each one told a story of someone who went out of his or her way to make their neighbourhood a better place. Judging was a really hard job but it was a really rewarding one.

The awards evening was lovely and it was great to meet so many selfless people.

I am always happy to give support to people who want to make things better. I passionately believe many problems in the community can be solved by members of the community. I believe it's the Council's role to support them and foster that can-do attitude.

QUARTER OF COUNCIL SERVICES HIT BY CUTS

LATEST ESTIMATES SHOW THAT AT LEAST A QUARTER OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN COUNCIL SERVICES ARE BEING HIT BY THE LATEST ROUND OF FUNDING CUTS.

An early savings package totalling over £16million is in place to help make sure the Council is in the best position possible to cope with budget reductions of £19m in the next financial year, 2015/16.

The Council has saved £70m since 2010. Financial forecasting for the next three years shows the need to cut around a further £31million.

Councillor leader Kate Hollern said: "These massive cuts continue to hit places like ours unfairly. It's impossible to fully protect even the services we know are so needed.

"We are doing everything we can to minimise the damage by planning ahead and looking at every penny spent in every part of the Council to decide if it's what citizens want and expect from us."

Many of the latest reductions are taking the form of service reviews with a focus on finding new ways of delivering services that keep cost down but quality as high as possible. They cover all parts of the Council though the cuts will be deeper in some areas

to ensure the main functions are protected.

A fuller three year plan will follow when the budget is set in March. The number of job roles at the Council has reduced by 1,100 since 2010. The top level of management has reduced by half over this period from 24 to 12. The existing 2,700 strong workforce is being told that it is impossible to avoid further job losses – with 300 roles potentially being lost between now and 2018..

Kate added: "We are being let down by the Government and will

not be giving up in our fight to lobby for the resources the area deserves. The investment projects which will help ensure the much needed future prosperity have to continue.

"Special attention is being given to the service areas which we know people value and need such as looking after vulnerable children and adults, clean streets and road repairs."

Many of the larger reviews will involve communities being consulted before any changes are made.

**"THESE MASSIVE CUTS
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PROTECT EVEN THE
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- Cllr Kate Hollern



COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

1. Creating more jobs and supporting business growth.
2. Improving housing quality and building more houses.
3. Improving health and wellbeing.
4. Improving outcomes for our young people - education and skills.
5. Supporting and helping the most vulnerable people.
6. Making your money go further - supporting households in difficult financial times through efficient and effective use of council tax.

IN NUMBERS

£70M:

• Cuts of over £70m since 2010

£31M:

• Further 31m over next three years

£19M:

• £19m in next financial year 2015/16

300

• The number of posts likely to go

Blackburn is Open

ARTISTS LAUNCH NEW POP UP SHOP

A new pop-up shop showcasing the work of local artists has opened in Blackburn town centre.

The shop called No. 11, features the work of five artists and is part of the Blackburn is Open scheme to support the creative industries and aspiring entrepreneurs.

No. 11, which opened on Saturday, September 13, serves as a studio, workshop space and gallery for the artists to show off their creations.

The art work on sale at the Town Hall Street shop includes ceramics, paintings, prints, jewellery, photographs and textile pieces. It also stocks work by other artists from across the borough.

Community Artist, Cath Ford who creates under the name 'Cath in the Attic' is one of the artists behind the project.

The Revidge resident who divides her time between working with schools and communities on art projects and producing her own work, makes colourful hand painted pottery and textiles.

She has seen her creations used in photoshoots for Country Homes

and Interiors magazine and also appeared on the cover.

She said: "I'm excited to be part of the regeneration of Blackburn Town Centre, my home town.

"I think this is an ambitious project that is investing in the creativity and spirit of the town by investing in artists and creative people.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to show and sell my work in such a high profile town centre location and excited to be working with Blackburn is Open alongside other local people contributing to the future of Blackburn."

No. 11 is the latest venture of the Blackburn Is open a scheme that aims to build a creative community in the heart of Blackburn through opening up empty spaces and shops to creatives and small businesses.

Executive member for Regeneration, Councillor Maureen Bateson, said: "Blackburn Is Open provides

space and support to creative, talented people to test out their ideas and "have a go".

"Through our empty shops project, our art markets and an open offer for people to stage their own events, we are giving people the opportunity to showcase their work and test their entrepreneurship.

"Our main aim is to give them an opportunity to figure out a way to take their business ideas and ambitions forward and to see if this is what they want from their careers.

"Whether the results are new commissions, creative collaborations, or just a chance to show their work to a bigger audience the long term goal is to build a creative community that has the confidence and the skills to pursue a future in making, manufacturing and the creative industries."

www.facebook.com/no11town-hallstreet



BLACKBURN IS OPEN CHAMPIONS LOCAL CREATIVES

Blackburn is Open has launched a quarterly zine to champion the creative talents of people who live, work or play in Blackburn.

The first edition includes interviews with local sculptor Halima Cassell, whose geometric sculptures have seen her gain increasing international recognition; artist Alexandra Gallagher whose digital art brings a new dimension to the world of the internet and street-wear designer Sam Houghton.

It also features the poetry of local lass Melissa Lee-Houghton, delves into the history of taxidermy and the 'new wave' of the craft and follows Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery curator Vinai Solanki on a day out in Blackburn, 1885 style.

Blackburn is Open is a creative regeneration scheme funded by Arts Council England and backed by Blackburn with Darwen Council.

It aims to support the creative industries in the town and also offer empty spaces and shops to artists and entrepreneurs to start businesses or to hold cultural events.

Its motto, Arte Et Labore, which is also that of the town, translates as 'by art and by labour' or 'by skill and hard work' and as a result was chosen as the title of the new publication.

The publication has been designed by Blackburn based agency Source Creative who also sponsored it and created a font especially for the zine.

Source Creative are also responsible for the distinctive look of the Blackburn is Open brand including the distinctive look of the scheme's HQ in Blackburn Town Centre.

Entitled the 'Influence issue', the first issue of By Skill and Hard Work explores what inspires and motivates those featured including creative director of Blackburn is Open, Wayne Hemingway MBE.

Entrepreneur and designer Wayne Hemingway said: "It is heartening indeed to see creativity being celebrated in the town that I was born in.

"Blackburn certainly has a bright future if it can continue to grow its manufacturing sector and build its creative sector at the same time. Both can feed off and support each other and help to make the town prosperous and a happy creative place to live and work."

The Zine is available online at <http://bit.ly/bshw1> or, if you prefer to hold a magazine whilst reading it you can pick up a copy from the Blackburn Is Open space at 65 King William Street, Blackburn Museum, Blackburn Visitor Centre, Blackburn Library or BBC Radio Lancashire.

[@BlackburnisOpen](http://www.blackburnisopen.co.uk)

MUSIC LOVERS FLOCK TO 'NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM'

Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery became Blackburn's latest live music venue as music lovers flocked to the 'Night at the Museum' event.

Staged by local music promoter,

Pete Eastwood, the gig saw a line-up of some of the North West's most up and coming acts.

Headlined by The Hummingbirds, winners of Band of the Year 2013, they were supported by four

piece, The Gramotones, Bad Car-digan and acoustic guitarist Jamie Brewer.

Meanwhile gig goers sipped cocktail prepared by the vintage themed Apothecary Pop-Up Bar

and Cocktail Emporium.

Organiser Pete, said: "It's very exciting to see a live gig take place in such an amazing building: the first in its 140 year history.

"The night sold out in less than

24 hours, which blew us all away."

A second 'Night at the Museum' is planned for December 4. Tickets have sold out, but a limited number will be released. For more info visit www.nightatthemuseumlive.com



GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARDS

There were tears, cheers and an ice bucket challenge laid down to the leader of the council, as unsung heroes were recognised at Blackburn with Darwen's Good Neighbours Awards and Your Call celebration.

Dozens of nominees turned out for a heart-warming ceremony at King George's Hall, which was the show-piece event of a campaign which has been backed by Prime Minister David Cameron, opposition leader Ed Miliband, and Blackburn MP Jack Straw.

The awards were set up by Blackburn with Darwen Council, in partnership with the Lancashire Telegraph, to find residents who have made a real difference to someone's life.

The night also celebrated volunteers and community groups who take part in the Your Call initiative.

The youngest of the Good Neighbour winners was Joe Lightbown, 17, of Bolton Road, who has spent hundreds of hours helping his neighbour Michael Crawford, who has Alzheimer's Disease.

The Blackburn College student started doing jobs for Michael last year when the 65-year-old's carer was admitted to hospital.

HELP

He said: "I just got chatting to Michael one day and started helping him with things like shopping, and taking him out walking. We also managed to get hold of a pool table and darts board, which we've set up in his house, so he can play a bit of sport and keep active."

Michael's carer Tony Gouldsbrough nominated me and kept it a secret, and I'm really chuffed to have got an award."

Joe won a year's free gym membership, which was sponsored by Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group.

Council leader Kate Hollern got more than she bargained for when she called Revidge resident Rick Wilson to the stage to collect his award. The 46-year-old, who has inspired hundreds of people to join the 5k Group Run in Witton Park, challenged the Council leader to an 'ice bucket challenge' before the group's next mass run. Councillor Hollern accepted. She had a bucket of freezing water tipped over her head in aid of charity. Rick won a chance to watch a Blackburn Rovers first team training session.

Retired cleaner Pat Nunn, of Stonyhurst Road, was struggling to hold back tears as she collected her certificate. The 69-year-old was recognised for 'going the extra mile' to help her elderly neighbour over the past 15 years.

The grandmother-of-16 said: "I just call in every day and see what she wants, like shopping or other jobs around town. I wouldn't like to see her struggle. I didn't expect to get nominated at all. I've never even been to

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS RECOGNISED

From Left to Right: Rick Wilson, Joe Lightbown, Council Leader Kate Hollern, Pat Nunn, Tanya Foster and Peter Leyden



an award ceremony so it was quite emotional for me. It's nice that they do this to recognise normal people."

She won a Lancashire Telegraph trip to the Singing Legends Week-end in Blackpool.

Mother-of-four Tanya Foster, of Fielding Crescent, scooped her award for supporting her neighbour Michelle Dyson, whose nine-year-old son Connell has cerebral palsy.

She said: "I started helping Michelle with various things last year, and Connell is such a lovely lad, I just love being there for them. I'll

just keep doing what I'm doing."

Tanya won a meal for two at The Pack Restaurant and Bar in Belthorn.

NEIGHBOURS

The oldest winner was Peter Leyden, 78, of Willow Bank, who regularly helps his neighbours by trimming their hedges, fixing fences and taking their bins out.

The other winners were Amanda Chinery, who won a Stanley House voucher donated by Capita, while Christine Walker, of Dukes Brow, and Rizwana Tai, of Chester Close, won £50 vouchers to spend at The Mall.

Dozens of nominees also attended the ceremony, along with people who were also recognised for being part of the council's Your Call scheme.

Councillor Hollern, who set up

GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARDS



CAPITA



NHS
Blackburn with Darwen
Clinical Commissioning Group



the awards, said: "The people on this stage don't realise how special they are and everyone here has made a massive difference in the borough to make it a better place."

"The council can't solve every problem on its own, we all need to work together."

Emma Broom, assistant editor of the Lancashire Telegraph, said: "These awards are all about shining a spotlight on those people who do so much to help keep their neighbourhoods united but who do so very quietly and without seeking any praise."

Council chief executive Harry Catherall also praised everyone who had been nominated and all the groups and individuals who had taken part in Your Call.

This is an edited article that first appeared in the Lancashire Telegraph.



LANCASHIRE TELEGRAPH IS PROUD TO SUPPORT AWARDS

By Emma Broom, Assistant editor, Lancashire Telegraph

As a child of the 1980s and teen of the 90s, I grew up with the 'everybody needs good neighbours' tune ringing in my ears.

Those words were true back then and remain pertinent today, particularly for the most isolated members of our communities.

The Good Neighbours Awards really are a unique opportunity to seek out the absolute unsung heroes and heroines of our communities, the people who go quietly about their business but who make such a huge difference to the lives of others.

Something they see as a relatively small gesture can have a massively positive impact on someone else's life or well-being and it's vitally important to be able to celebrate that.

Newspapers, and the media in general, have a reputation for focussing on bad news, unfortunately bad things happen at home and abroad and they must be reported.

But interspersed with that and to redress the balance must be the local achievements of groups and individuals in our grassroots communities, and the Lancashire Telegraph prides itself on being at the heart of Blackburn's neighbourhoods, in contact with the people who bind our neighbourhoods together.

The best way to do that is through the eyes of the people who live there and that's what these awards allow us to do.

Almost 70 people were nominated when the awards were launched in 2013, and there was a similar positive response this time around, making each and every one of us realise just how much unheralded work is actually going on on our doorsteps.

There were nominations for thoughtful people who have helped sick friends and neighbours during their time of need, visited them in hospital every day or helped out when they've been housebound.

Others go out of their way to do small jobs which make life much easier for others, putting wheelie bins away, signing for parcels and gritting paths when it snows.

And then there are those who take it upon themselves to clear litter from the streets and parks close to their homes, work with young people and provide sporting activities to help get others fit and active.

Many of the words repeatedly used on nomination forms were 'tirelessly' and 'selflessly', people who take pride in their neighbourhoods and make their area a better place in which to live.

Every heart-warming story is different yet they all have one thing in common which is that each of the nominees and winners gives their time to others and expects nothing in return – for that they should be immensely proud.

As people go about their busy day-to-day lives, neighbourliness and community spirit is as important now as it ever has been, if not more so.

With an aging population, there are thousands of people out there who see or speak to no-one for days on end, their only 'company' is the radio or television. Many of them ring charity helplines, some see no-one on Christmas Day and others battle through illness alone.

I'm sure most of us would be horrified to think this was happening to someone next door or on our street and that's why taking five minutes out of our day to check on a vulnerable neighbour, know their name, is so vitally important.

These awards are all about shining a spotlight on those people who do so much to help their communities and to help keep their neighbourhoods united but who do so very quietly and without seeking any praise.

One of last year's winners I recall saying: "I don't do any of this for thanks. I do it because I love and enjoy it."

And it is also a chance for the people who benefit to show their thanks for helping them out or going the extra mile.

Once again, it's a pleasure to be here tonight to see the winners receive the recognition they so richly deserve.

They, each and every one of them and all those nominated, help to make Blackburn with Darwen a better place and we at the Lancashire Telegraph look forward to working with the council on the hugely successful Good Neighbours Awards for many more years to come.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE

History came alive around Blackburn and Darwen over the Heritage Festival weekend.

With major events taking place in Blackburn Town Centre and opportunities to visit locations around the borough for unique experiences.

Over 100 activities and events took place at 50 venues on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th

September 2014 including a vintage fairground on King William Street, a pop-up bandstand outside the Cathedral, clog dancing on Church Street, street theatre, exhibitions, displays and most of it was absolutely free.

The festival encompassed the rich heritage of the area in conjunction with national Heritage Open Days.

www.blackburnheritage.com



Photo courtesy of Lancashire Telegraph



Photo courtesy of Lancashire Telegraph



MAJOR INVESTMENT UPDATE FOR THE BOROUGH

NEW IMAGES UNVEILED ON CATHEDRAL QUARTER



The piling and foundations for the three new buildings on the Cathedral Quarter development has begun.

New images have been unveiled showing more detail on how the ground floor retail and restaurant

units on the office and hotel sit and interact around the new Square and Gardens.

This £25 million town centre regeneration project is being pioneered by Blackburn and Darwen Borough Council, Blackburn Cathedral and

Maple Grove Developments to create a new mixed use quarter around the Cathedral fronting the railway station and a new bus interchange.

This first phase of the Masterplan will comprise a new 6 storey BREAM Excellent Grade A office building of



32,000 sq ft, a 60 bed Premier Inn hotel and car park.

A new Clergy Court will provide offices, library, apartments and townhouses, together with a public refectory for the Cathedral. All these buildings will be arranged around a

new public square and gardens with completion scheduled for September 2015.

A 3,500 sq ft restaurant unit will be on the ground floor of the 60 bedroom Premier Inn alongside the entrance to the hotel.



KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

The first amazing steel loop sections, which will form a central part of the new Blackburn bus station, have arrived on site.

Two lorry loads of the huge features were driven onto the site off Penny Street in a con-

voy of wagons.

The specially designed loops were designed by Capita in Blackburn and delivered to the site on Thursday.

They were lifted into place by a huge

crane as work on the steel structure begins. The loops arrived in two separate pieces and were put together by the constructors on site.

The new bus station which will be fully covered will open in the New year.

NEW ARTIST IMPRESSIONS OF LEISURE CENTRE POOLS RELEASED

These artist impressions show how the Water Play Zone at the new £13m Blackburn Sports and Leisure Centre will look – with a shallow water area, a range of moving water features- bubbles, squirts, cascades and a little double slide to keep youngsters enter-

tained.

This is right next to the small pool allowing families to move between the two.

FUN FLUMES

The two flumes will be a key feature of the new sports and leisure centre, a



joint venture between Blackburn with Darwen Council and Blackburn College.

Work is progressing well with the roof almost complete and the concrete being poured for the pool tanks. The sports halls will open in

September, with the pool opening in the New Year.

The flume entrance boxes will be high up in the pool hall, they then go outside the building making a distinctive elevation on Nab Lane, before coming back in and running into their own shallow aquacatchers. No deep water exits! There will be a Speed slide and a Family slide.

The picture also shows expanded



boxes for some of the features.

AQUASMASH

There will be a Slide Champ time display where you can see your run time and an AquaSmash score board which shows points you can score as you go down the flume - as well as internal lights, black holes, corkscrew effect and clear sections.

The sports halls will be used by the college during the day but will be available in the evening

and at weekends for block bookings by community groups. To book, please email blc@blackburn.gov.uk or call 01254 268800.

Councillor Andy Kay, Executive Member for Resources, said: "Here we have another major investment in leisure facilities in the borough.

"It is important that we continue to invest in modern facilities to help improve the health and well-being of all our residents and to attract visitors."

GET YOUR SKATES ON

The new £120,000 state-of-the-art indoor BMX and skatepark Junction 4 was due to open on Saturday, September 20.

Local skaters and BMX riders were set to test their skills at the park which is situated at the former Blackburn Rovers Sports Academy building near Darwen Vale School. In the park there is a large street section and bespoke bowl with an 'over vert' and wall ride. You can see the park and some of the BMX footage at: <http://bit.ly/jct4-op>

The skatepark will be used by hundreds of youngsters each week on BMX bikes, skateboards, inline

Skates and Scooters. Junction4 is an indoor facility and will be open outside of school times just like all the other existing parks in the country. Opening times are : Monday to Friday 4pm – 10pm, Saturday 10am – 7pm and Sunday 12pm – 6pm.

ASSET

Council leader Kate Hollern and Councillor Damian Talbot, Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Young People, had a chance to look around the amazing facility ahead of the opening and meet some of the riders who were testing it out.

Councillor Kate Hollern said: "The facility looks fantastic. I think it will be a real asset to the borough and help put us on the map. It is great that young people have been involved in the design and even the naming of the skatepark."

Cllr Talbot added: "The feedback from the riders who were testing the ramps and jumps was great. They are really pleased with how it has been built and I hope it attracts riders from all over the borough and encourages new riders to take up the sport."

For more information log on to Facebook at: /junction4skatepark or twitter: @junction4skate



MAJOR JOBS BOOST AS A RESULT OF PENNINE REACH

Work has started on a major new link road in Blackburn which will open up an employment site. The £1.1m road is being constructed between Burnley Close and the Red Lion roundabout at Whitebirk.

Once complete, it will open up the area for regeneration, bringing hundreds of new jobs to the borough.

IMPROVEMENTS

It is being delivered as part of the Pennine Reach, a major transport scheme aimed at improving the local bus network along the Accrington - Blackburn.

The project, which is funded by the Department for Transport, is being jointly led by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.

The Furthegate scheme also includes the widening of a 700m section of road between Copy Nook and Furthegate to provide public transport priority in and out of the town centre.

Work to install new pedestrian and cycling facilities at the junction of Branch Road and Bolton Road has begun.

Improvements have already been completed at Hollins Grove Street, Darwen, with new traffic lights and pedestrian facilities installed.

Lancashire Laminators at Earcroft has been demolished to make way for a new residents' car park. A new car park is also due to be built at Hollins Road for local residents.

Work has also started at Ewood. The contractors' first task was to demolish the former Albion mill in order for work to start on the new link road with roundabout junction at Livesey Branch road and linked to Aqueduct Road to take traffic from Bolton Road.

REDUCING CONGESTION

Councillor Maureen Bateson, Executive Member for Regeneration, said: "Pennine Reach is aimed at reducing congestion, making public transport more attractive option by reducing journey times and improving reliability. But it will also bring hundreds of new jobs as key employment sites will be opened up for redevelopment."

For further details, log onto www.blackburn.gov.uk

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR CALL



East Rural clean-up

The community of East Rural braved the bad weather, and over the course of a two day Your Call event collected over 20 bags of rubbish.

In the face of heavy rain, volunteers kept smiling as they collected litter in Hoddlesden on the Saturday and around the Pickup Bank area on Sunday.

Matthew Jackson, organiser of the clean-up said "This was a fantastic, community driven event which cleaned up several areas within the local community."

"Volunteers got into the Your Call spirit, with over 20 bags of rubbish collected, and the rain failed to dampen the spirits of those taking part."

COMMUNITY

Group's tasty start

A new group which aim to celebrate belonging and diversity in Blackburn with Darwen launched with an international buffet

Called Communities of Blackburn, the group is working with Your Support Your Choice service found opposite Blackburn Library.

The group hosted the buffet which was filled with delicious delicacies from around the world, covering four continents and 15 countries

The dishes were made by a group of hard working volunteers who aim to bring communities together through our shared love of food.

Their mission is: "Creating a space for togetherness and belonging, celebrating diversity in Blackburn with Darwen."

Ben Pearson, Project Co-ordinator, said: "It's exciting the launch is here, all members of the group have worked so hard to get to this stage and this will be an opportunity to celebrate this and allow us to share our vision with a diverse group of people over some great food."

Your Support Your Choice is a free information and signposting service based in Blackburn helping people live well and independently by focusing on improving mental health and wellbeing.

For more information: Twitter - @COB_BwD, Instagram - cob_bwd, Facebook - Communities of Blackburn.



PARK TRANSFORMED



A play park which had been hit by vandals on numerous occasions has been transformed into a new track for youngsters to learn how to cycle safely.

The new cycle way has been built in the play area at Griffin Park. Previous play equipment had been targeted by vandals and was costing thousands to fix back up. Residents demanded action and worked with the Council on how to tackle the situation.

The track which mimics the layout of real roads with pedestrian crossings, roundabouts and signs teaches children and young people about cycling and roads in a safe environment.

The track was officially opened by Councillor Kate Hollern, leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council, and Councillor Jim Smith, Mill Hill ward member and Executive Member for the Environment, with families who live near the park.

Parents said they were extremely happy about the cycle way and

thought it would benefit their children.

Councillor Smith said: "I am delighted it is open and I am very pleased to hear parents and their children say how much they like it. One parent told me their little one had been on it constantly even before it was officially opened. Kids need a safe environment to learn how to ride a bike and about road safety. This is a perfect setting for them to get all the skills they need and it is a place where they can come to exercise and keep fit and healthy."

Councillor Hollern said: "It is a great facility for children and young people. The youngsters seemed to really love it. Places like this are a great way to learn about road safety and knowing what to expect on the roads. Road safety is very important to me and I firmly believe something like this can help tackle the issue as well as teaching kids to use their bikes safely. We will be certainly looking at developing more these."

FISHING CLUB NETS A BIG CATCH

A Blackburn fishing club has netted nearly £50,000 to build a fishing lake and reserve.

Southwest Angling and Sports Association will transform the derelict Dickens Street Reservoir thanks to the People's Millions.

The volunteer-led group has a 20-year lease on Dickens Street Reservoir from Blackburn with Dar-

wen Borough Council and will use the money to create a fishing lake, educational venue, a nature reserve and wildlife habitat.

Works include a perimeter fence to prevent future dumping, new paths for parents with prams and people with disabilities, and a pond dipping area for children.

They will also install two cabins

to store resources and equipment.

Coun Kate Hollern, leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council said: "It is fantastic to see that Southwest Angling and Sports Association has been successful in gaining funding for a much needed facility in Blackburn. I look forward to seeing the benefits this funding will bring."



YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR CALL

YOUR CALL GRANT FOR SUCCESSFUL RUNNING CLUB

By Shuttle Staff

A running group, which has surged in popularity with hundreds of people now regularly turning out, has been awarded a Your Call grant in recognition of its success.

Councillor Kate Hollern, leader of Blackburn with Darwen Council, was so impressed with the work of the free 5K Group Run she agreed to fund some equipment they needed.

Founder of the group Rick Wilson said he was delighted with the grant of nearly £500 to buy hi visibility team bibs for volunteers who help support other runners.

Rick, from Revidge, launched the group last summer. He weighed nearly 20 stone but wanted to train towards running the Pennine Lancashire 10k race.

The 46-year-old said he thought about joining a running club but thought it might be a bit daunting so decided to set up one himself after finding out about an NHS running

programme called "Couch to 5K".

In eight weeks, he lost three stones. Word spread around and the group got bigger and bigger.

THANK YOU

Rick, who has also won a Pat on the Back award and won a main prize at the Good Neighbours, said about the grant: "I am delighted and want to say a massive thank you to both Councillor Hollern and Councillor Sylvia Liddle for their support.

"We now have a pool of 104 volunteers, who have all completed the Couch to 5K plan themselves, and there are usually around 65 of them attending every session.

"We are currently supporting between 300 to 350 runners, meeting three times per week at the Pavilion at Witton Park. It really has captured everybody's attention which is reflected in the number of people running who would otherwise have been inactive."



SUPPORT

Councillor Hollern said: "Rick Wilson embodies the Your Call spirit. His work has helped hundreds of people get fit and healthy and he did it all on



his own. I am always happy to give support to people who have an attitude that says we can do something here to make things better. I passionately believe many problems in the community can be solved by members of the community and I believe it's the Council's role to help support them and foster that can-do attitude."

Councillor Liddle, Roe Lee ward councillor, said: "Rick is an example to us all about what can be achieved when you put your mind to it. The success of the running group is phenomenal and I hope it continues to go from strength to strength."

Councillor Hollern started the group's big celebration run in August. And the leader of the Council got more than she bargained for when she agreed to go through the ice bucket challenge for charity.

Road safety champion appointed

A road safety champion for Blackburn with Darwen has been appointed.

Councillor Stephanie Brookfield, member for Earcroft, will champion road safety issues in the borough.

She was appointed to show how seriously the Council is taking such issues and to spread the road safety message loud and clear.

Councillor Brookfield has already started work and is dealing with issues at Ashleigh Primary School, Darwen.

Worried parents and residents contacted the Council about parking issues outside school.

SAFETY MEASURES

The Council, acting on these concerns, are introducing new safety measures such as new signs, extending keep clear lines outside school and new double yellow lines. The measures build on ones brought in last year.



She is also planning a full programme of school visits to talk to children and is looking at a number of other schemes.

Councillor Brookfield said: "I have personal experience of the problems bad parking and poor driving can cause as I drop my grandchildren off at school.

"Everyone has a responsibility to keep our roads safe. I am determined to get the message out there for drivers to think and for pedestrians especially children to keep safe."

"Tackling bad parking especially around schools is one of my top priorities."

FACEBOOK

Councillor Kate Hollern, leader of the Council, said: "We are doing a lot to improve road safety in the borough but Stephanie's dedication and energy will help tackle these issues."

Councillor Maureen Bateson, Executive Member for Regeneration, said: "I warmly welcome Councillor Brookfield as road safety champion and look forward to working closely with her over the coming months."

The Council has set up a road safety facebook page for residents to talk about their issues and also report problems. Residents can also use it to give them their ideas on how to improve road safety in their area. The facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Road-Safety-Blackburn-with-Darwen>

Councillor Brookfield can be contacted on road safety issues on her email Stephanie.brookfield@blackburn.gov.uk or 07795087577.

SCOUTS CLEAN UP

One Voice Scouts came out in force to clean up their neighbourhood.

The scouts scrubbed up the area around Brookhouse Primary School, Troy Street.

The event was supported by Blackburn with Darwen Council through the Your Call scheme. Councillor Kate Hollern, leader of the Council, also awarded the group £200 through the Your Call funding pot.

Arman Hussain, seven, Nisbah Hussain and Hamza Hussain, seven, collect rubbish in the Brookhouse area of Blackburn.



Confidence Building for local Mums and Dads

Bank Top Neighbourhood Centre is running free confidence building sessions for mums and dads. They are being held on Tuesday mornings from 10-1pm. Free Childcare and transport is available if required. The aim is to help build confidence and help people achieve their aspirations. Support includes Personalised coaching and mentoring, networking with other local parents, taking part in local community activities, Training allowances, Learning opportunities including use of ICT, Development of skills and mapping out future ambitions, Signposting and hand holding to other help and support.

For further information contact John on 01254 773273 or ring Sinclair at the Cheethams on 07724 413072

DO IT ONLINE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

By Charlotte Bradshaw

The number of people accessing Blackburn with Darwen Council services online has seen a dramatic increase over the past year.

Two of the Council's most popular on-line services, Housing Benefit & Council Tax Support applications, have seen more than 70% of new applications submitted on-line since it was launched at the end of February this year.

CAMPAIGN

A creative campaign featuring local people has now been launched to help encourage even more people to save time and money by interacting digitally with the Council as more services become available.



Temporary giant hoardings outside Blackburn with Darwen Council's Town Hall are being used as part of the drive. The quirky designs show real people in "real" settings contacting the Council using modern technology. The campaign uses Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) with the faces of local people to

help bring the designs to life.

The 'models' are all local people who have volunteered to take part in the campaign. They include Bethany Andrews, 29, from Blackburn, who works in The Mall, Blackburn. A special CGI image has been created to show Bethany using an iPad to report fly tippers whilst relaxing in the bath.

Asif Hussain, 45, a Council youth worker, can be seen using an iPhone to report that his bin had not been emptied

Whilst mum and daughter Joanne, 43, and Martha Lynch, seven, from Darwen are using a computer in the library to apply for a school place online.

The campaign includes the strapline Pay, Report, Find, Say, Apply: Anywhere, Anytime to highlight what you can do online.

There are almost 80



Council services available online with more planned. People can go online at www.blackburn.gov.uk to

report problems, apply for services, pay bills or access library or museum information using the website from home or on the move with a variety of devices rather than visiting or telephoning customer service centres.



REPORT PROBLEMS

Problems such as faulty street lights, missed bins collections and potholes can also be reported conveniently and efficiently.

Councillor Andy Kay, Executive Member for Resources, said: "The campaign will help us to make sure as many people as possible are aware they can deal with the Council or get information in this popular way as more services become available online."

"As a Council we are continually looking at ways to improve services so that they can be accessed easily by all our residents. By doing more online, people can decide on a time that best suits their lifestyle because it gives them the choice to access Council services anytime, anywhere, saving them time and money."

"It's also important that people know if they don't have a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone at home, they can still use our online services using the free

to use public access computers in our town halls and libraries."

To help more people get online the Council's Customer Services staff are available in both Town Hall receptions to guide people on to our MyBWD accounts and on-line forms. We aim to have free internet training sessions available at Blackburn & Darwen Town Halls in early 2015.

To help with the drive your Shuttle will be available as an online resource. Visit www.theshuttle.org.uk

APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE? DO IT ONLINE!

Parents applying for a primary or secondary school place for their child this autumn are being urged to apply online.

Online admissions opened on Tuesday, September 9, via the Council's website at www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions.

You can download a copy of the primary or secondary school admissions booklets, which include all the information you need to choose the school you would prefer your child to attend.

Applying online is quick, easy and

convenient and all information is held securely. You will get an email confirmation so you can be reassured that your application has been received and you can also print out or copy your application for your records.

DEADLINE

The deadline for applying for secondary school places is 31 October, 2014. The deadline for applying for a primary school place is 15 January, 2015. If you submit your application

after the closing dates, the application will only be considered after all other applications received by the closing date.

If you have applied online you will receive an email informing you of your child's school offer, secondary school places, 1 March 2015, primary school places 16 April, 2015.

If you need any help or advice, contact The Admissions Team at Children Services & Education Department, 10 Duke Street, Blackburn, BB2 1DH or call (01254) 666613.



PAY : REPORT : FIND : SAY : BOOK : APPLY : ANYWHERE ANYTIME

More council services are now available through our website visit www.blackburn.gov.uk to find out more.



SEE PICTURES OF THE BOROUGH AT WWW.FLICKR.COM/BLACKBURN-WITH-DARWEN



You don't see bikes like this in the Tour de France ...

DO YOU WANT TO WIN 1 OF 10 FABULOUS PRIZES?

FIND OUT HOW YOU COULD **SAVE MONEY** WHILST ALSO HAVING THE CHANCE TO WIN LOTS OF FABULOUS PRIZES.

GET A FREE PERSONALISED TRAVEL PLAN AND BE ENTERED INTO THE FREE PRIZE DRAW BY VISITING: WWW.BWDCONNECT.ORG.UK

THE FABULOUS PRIZES UP FOR GRABS ARE:

- Four vouchers for bikes worth £300 each to be redeemed at an independent cycle retailer in Blackburn and Darwen.
- Two Gold Transdev bus tickets worth £99 each allowing one month's unlimited travel across Lancashire and Manchester.
- Four Blackburn Mall vouchers worth £50, £75, £100 and £150.

DISCLAIMER

- The competition is restricted to the first 5,000 entries only.
- It is only open to new registrations.
- Competition closing date, October 31, 2014.

re:fresh
your health and wellbeing

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN CONNECT
MAKE THE CHANGE, MAKE THE CONNECTION

BLACKBURN & DARWEN COUNCIL

People showed their support at a "cycle-tastic" public roadshow held in Blackburn Town Centre.

A specialist smoothie-making bicycle was an unusual addition to the Town Centre during the event. People were able to use pedal-power to create their own healthy drinks as part of the Council's CONNECT public roadshow.

Even the Council's Chief Executive Harry Catherall got into the spirit of the event and took part in the roadshow, having a go at making a smoothie on the specialist bike, provided by Pennine Events.

The Council's CONNECT team hosted the event to promote sustainable travel including walking, cycling, bus and train travel.

WIN PRIZES

Residents across the borough are being invited to have a go at winning one of ten top prizes including mountain bikes and Mall vouchers when they sign-up to receive a personalised travel plan. Find out more by clicking the Plan your journey button on the Connect website: www.bwdconnect.org.uk

The event, which was organised by the Council's sustainable travel scheme CONNECT, helped people travel smarter by cycling, walking, car sharing and using public transport.

Also on hand to provide advice at the event were walking charity Living Streets as well as Blackburn with Darwen Council's free leisure scheme, refresh. Bus and train travel advice and information was also provided by Transdev and Northern Rail.

THE WAY WE ALL REGISTER TO VOTE HAS CHANGED



You need to make sure that you're on the updated register, or you might not be able to vote in future.

For more information please go to www.gov.uk/yourvotematters

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN





BLACKBURN with DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Your Council - represe

Audley ward

Yusuf Jan-Virmani

Labour
173a Burnley Road,
Blackburn, BB1 3HN
Tel 07940 244819
yusuf.janvirmani@blackburn.gov.uk



Corporation Park ward

Arshid Mahmood

Labour
195 Revidge Road,
Blackburn, BB2 6DT
Tel 07980 017035
arshid.mahmood@blackburn.gov.uk



Zamir Khan

Labour
13/15 Copperfield Street,
Blackburn, BB1 1RB
Tel 07974 688569
zamir.khan@blackburn.gov.uk



Salim Sidat MBE

Labour
c/o Democratic Services,
Town Hall, Blackburn, BB1 7DY
Tel 07973 657542
salim.sidat@blackburn.gov.uk



Abdul Rehman

Labour
'Woodroyd', 1 Meins Road,
Blackburn, BB2 6QQ
Tel 07968 143919
abdul.rehman@blackburn.gov.uk



John Wright

Labour
c/o Democratic Services,
Town Hall, Blackburn, BB1 7DY
Tel 07792 132264
john.wright@blackburn.gov.uk



Ewood ward

Maureen Bateson MBE

Labour
9 Kings Road,
Blackburn, BB2 4PX
Tel (01254) 201889
maureen.bateson@blackburn.gov.uk



Jim Casey

Labour
6 Monmouth Road,
Blackburn, BB1 3LB
Tel (01254) 368346
jim.casey@blackburn.gov.uk



Jamie Groves

Labour
60 Bonsall Street,
Blackburn, BB2 4DB
Tel 07891 324737
jamie.groves@blackburn.gov.uk



Little Harwood ward

Pat McFall

Labour
272 Livesey Branch Road,
Blackburn, BB2 4QL
Tel (01254) 478501
pat.mcfall@blackburn.gov.uk



Abdul Patel

Labour
6 Brooklands Terrace,
Blackburn, BB1 5NT
Tel (01254) 677344
abdul.patel@blackburn.gov.uk



Naushad Surve

Labour
33 Furness Avenue,
Blackburn, BB1 5SE
Tel 07813 023785
naushad.surve@blackburn.gov.uk



Bastwell ward

Parwaiz Akhtar

Labour
3 Percival Street,
Blackburn, BB1 6NH
Tel 07951 593929
parwaiz.akhtar@blackburn.gov.uk



Iftakhar Hussain

Labour
84 Whalley Street,
Blackburn, BB1 6ER
Tel 07968 120175
iftakhar.hussain@blackburn.gov.uk



Shaukat Hussain

Labour
c/o Democratic Services,
Town Hall, Blackburn, BB1 7DY
Tel 07846 459709
shaukat.hussain@blackburn.gov.uk



Earcroft ward

Stephanie Brookfield

Labour
3 Haldane Road, Darwen
BB3 0AE
Tel 07795 087577
stephanie.brookfield@blackburn.gov.uk



Trevor Maxfield

Labour
8 Clifton Street,
Darwen, BB3 0BR
Tel (01254) 707606
trevor.maxfield@blackburn.gov.uk



Fernhurst ward

Denise Gee

Conservative
6 Richmond Park,
Darwen, BB3 0JX
Tel 07590 929073
denise.gee@blackburn.gov.uk



Jacqueline Slater

Conservative
11 Minster Crescent,
Darwen, BB3 3PY
Tel (01254) 702207
jacqueline.slater@blackburn.gov.uk



John Slater

Conservative
34 Rudyard Drive,
Darwen, BB3 3LE
Tel (01254) 775743
john.slater@blackburn.gov.uk



Livesey with Pleasington ward

Alan Cottam

Conservative
'Westone', Pleasington
Lane, Pleasington,
Blackburn, BB2 5JE
Tel (01254) 201671
alan.cottam@blackburn.gov.uk



Derek Hardman

Conservative
12 Wythburn Avenue,
Cherry Tree, Blackburn,
BB2 5HQ
Tel (01254) 207181
derek.hardman@blackburn.gov.uk



John Pearson

Conservative
1 Priory Close,
Pleasington,
Blackburn, BB2 6RP
Tel 07837 023200
john.pearson@blackburn.gov.uk



Beardwood with Lammack ward

Imtiaz Ali

Conservative
1 Seacole Close, Blackburn,
BB1 2RA
Tel 07793 270639
imtiaz.ali@blackburn.gov.uk



Julie Daley

Conservative
29 Buncr Lane,
Blackburn, BB2 6SE
Tel 07759 650640
julie.daley@blackburn.gov.uk



Michael Lee

Conservative
4 Tintagel Close,
Blackburn, BB2 5JN
Tel 07747 762962
michael.lee@blackburn.gov.uk



Political make-up of Blackburn with Darwen Council

Labour.....	48
Conservative	12
Liberal Democrat.....	4

Higher Croft ward

Mike Johnson

Labour
66 Palmer Road,
Blackburn, BB1 8BS
Tel (01254) 661265
m.johnson@blackburn.gov.uk



Andy Kay

Labour
354 Preston Old Road,
Feniscilffe, Blackburn, BB2 5LJ
Tel (01254) 201786
andy.kay@blackburn.gov.uk
Twitter @CllrAndy



Don McKinlay

Labour
6 Crambe Heights,
Darwen, BB3 0SZ
Tel (01254) 663432
don.mckinlay@blackburn.gov.uk



Marsh House ward

Frank Connor

Labour
6 Duxbury Street,
Darwen, BB3 2LA
Tel 07720 947813
f.connor@blackburn.gov.uk



Tom Evans

Labour
9 Sough Road,
Darwen, BB3 2BN
Tel (01254) 405528
tom.evans@blackburn.gov.uk



John Roberts

Labour
1 Bosley Close, Darwen,
BB3 3LF
Tel (01254) 773273
john.roberts@blackburn.gov.uk





BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting you 2014/2015

Meadowhead ward

Julie Gunn
Labour
c/o Democratic Services,
Town Hall, Blackburn, BB1 7DY
Tel 07930 565339
julie.gunn@blackburn.gov.uk



Carl Nuttall
Labour
8 Mill Hill Bridge Street,
Blackburn, BB2 2QY
Tel 07854 251619
carl.nuttall@blackburn.gov.uk



Ashley Whalley
Labour
110 Columbia Way,
Blackburn, BB2 7DT
Tel 07718 668836
ashley.whalley@blackburn.gov.uk



Queens Park ward

Mustafa Ali Desai
Labour
350/352 Whalley Old Road
Blackburn, BB1 5SB
Tel 07581 189516
mustafa.desai@blackburn.gov.uk



Faryad Hussain
Labour
80 Queen's Park Road,
Blackburn, BB1 1SE
Tel 07980 680751
faryad.hussain@blackburn.gov.uk



Salim Mulla
Labour
3 Ripon Street,
Blackburn BB1 1SW
Tel (01254) 260208
salim.mulla@blackburn.gov.uk



Shear Brow ward

Hussain Akhtar
Labour
38 Shear Bank Road,
Blackburn, BB1 8AZ
Tel 07887 958209
hussain.akhtar@blackburn.gov.uk



Hanif Khonat
Labour
26 Shear Bank Road,
Blackburn, BB1 8AZ
Tel 07825 031160
hanif.khonat@blackburn.gov.uk



Suleman Khonat
Labour
176 Buncr Lane,
Blackburn, BB2 6TE
Tel 07831 566909
suleman.khonat@blackburn.gov.uk



Wensley Fold ward

Dave Harling
Labour
109 Selborne Street,
Blackburn, BB2 2SW
Tel (01254) 676822
dave.harling@blackburn.gov.uk



Kate Hollern
Labour
1 Bosley Close, Darwen,
BB3 3LF
Tel c/o Democratic Services
(01254) 585167
kate.hollern@blackburn.gov.uk
Twitter @CllrKate



Mohammed Khan OBE
Labour
48 Lancaster Place,
Blackburn, BB2 6JT
Tel (01254) 696935
mohammed.khan@blackburn.gov.uk



Mill Hill ward

Jim Smith
Labour
57 Brookway,
Blackburn, BB2 4RB
Tel (01254) 675938
jim.smith@blackburn.gov.uk



Damian Talbot
Labour
Moorgate Bungalow, Pickup
Bank, Darwen, BB3 3QQ
Tel 07890 707101
damian.talbot@blackburn.gov.uk



Carol Walsh
Labour
14 Portland Street,
Blackburn, BB2 2PQ
Tel 07808 251379
carol.walsh@blackburn.gov.uk



Roe Lee ward

Sylvia Liddle
Labour
c/o Democratic Services,
Town Hall, Blackburn, BB1 7DY
Tel 07973 537795
sylvia.liddle@blackburn.gov.uk



Phil Riley
Labour
46 Pleckgate Road,
Blackburn, BB1 8NZ
Tel (01254) 260468
phil.riley@blackburn.gov.uk



Ron Whittle
Labour
27 Roe Lee Park,
Blackburn, BB1 9RZ
Tel 07544 125278
ron.whittle@blackburn.gov.uk



Sudell ward

Paul Browne
Liberal Democrat
100 Greenway Street,
Darwen, BB3 1EQ
Tel (01254) 701296
paul.browne@blackburn.gov.uk



Roy Davies
Liberal Democrat
209 Olive Lane,
Darwen, BB3 3DJ
Tel (01254) 608214
roy.davies@blackburn.gov.uk

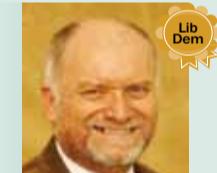


Eileen Entwistle MBE
Labour
6 Almond Street,
Darwen, BB3 2SD
Tel (01254) 705638
eileen.entwistle@blackburn.gov.uk



Whitehall ward

David Foster
Liberal Democrat
4 Derby Close,
Darwen, BB3 2EJ
Tel (01254) 703858
david.foster@blackburn.gov.uk



Karimeh Foster
Liberal Democrat
4 Derby Close,
Darwen, BB3 2EJ
Tel (01254) 703858
karimeh.foster@blackburn.gov.uk



North Turton with Tockholes ward

Colin Rigby OBE
Conservative
227 Bolton Road,
Edgworth, Bolton, BL7 0HY
Tel (01204) 853199
colin.rigby@blackburn.gov.uk



Jean Rigby
Conservative
227 Bolton Road,
Edgworth, Bolton, BL7 0HY
Tel (01204) 853199
jean.rigby@blackburn.gov.uk



Shadsworth with Whitebirk ward

Tony Humphrys
Labour
1 Durham Close,
Blackburn, BB1 1DQ
Tel (01254) 260256
anthony.humphrys@blackburn.gov.uk



Ron O'Keeffe
Labour
28 East Park Road,
Blackburn, BB1 8DW
Tel (01254) 260146
ronald.okeeffe@blackburn.gov.uk



Jim Shorrock
Labour
107 Oban Drive,
Blackburn, BB1 2JE
Tel (01254) 602613
james.shorrock@blackburn.gov.uk



Sunnyhurst ward

Pete Hollings
Labour
2 Matlock Street,
Darwen, BB3 1PB
Tel 07515 149074
peter.hollings@blackburn.gov.uk



Dave Smith
Labour
18B Woodbank Avenue,
Darwen, BB3 1JJ
Tel (01254) 773470
david.smith@blackburn.gov.uk



Brian Taylor
Labour
22 Sunnyhurst Lane,
Darwen, BB3 1JN
Tel (01254) 702204
brian.taylor@blackburn.gov.uk



Contacting your Councillor

The councillors who represent you are available to take up issues and queries on your behalf. They can be contacted at their home addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses.

Many councillors also hold regular advice surgeries in their wards. For information on your local councillors' surgeries or for any other queries about contacting your councillors, please telephone democratic services on

(01254) 585321

or e-mail

councillor.support@blackburn.gov.uk

If you would like a postal vote or wish to check whether you are registered to vote in the next Council elections call

(01254) 585920

or e-mail

voting@blackburn.gov.uk



By Sam Cudworth

Residents across Blackburn with Darwen have been commemorating the First World War, with community groups holding events to mark the centenary with the help of small Your Call grants.

Volunteer groups who have held 3 or more Your Call events, such as a community clean up or a winter squad, across the previous year have had the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £200, to commemorate the First World War in their area.

Already several events have taken place across the Borough with the help of grant funding.

Ewood Park's Blues Bar was the venue for a commemorations event that included dances, poetry, and talks from Cllr Alan Cottam, the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen and Scott Knowles of the Great War Society, the event gave an insight into what life was like 100 years ago.

Dozens of residents joined with the friends of French Road community group to remember the sacrifices their community made 100 years ago, walking the roads of French Road and Wensley Fold conveying a message of remembrance as they went along.

Steven Irwin from Blackburn Museum displayed several First World War items, such as a periscope from the trenches on the western front, a collection of medals and a soldier's



jacket and helmet, during an event held at the Whitebirk and Intack 2000 Centre on Hereford Road, Blackburn and organised by A Twin Valley Homes tenant volunteer group.

A commemorations event was

also held by Friends of Blackburn Old Cemetery, held at the cemetery on Sunday August 3 and attended by residents, councillors and officers.

A ceremony marked the occasion, which was followed by a tour of the

war graves.

All these events have seen residents able to gather together, share stories and engage with each other, whilst remembering those who gave their lives during the First World War,

and sacrificed so much for so many.

If you would like more information about applying for a grant, please contact (01254) 585448 or visit the Council website www.blackburn.gov.uk

LEST WE

HERE WE TAKE A LOOK AT HOW THE BOROUGH



FORGET

IS COMMEMORATING THE FIRST WORLD WAR



HUNDREDS ATTEND LIGHTS OUT EVENTS

Across the borough, hundreds of residents gathered to mark the moment 100 years ago, when Great Britain entered World War One.

The nationwide commemorations event was inspired by Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Secretary in 1914 at the time of Britain's entry into the First World War, who said that "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life".

In Blackburn, residents and Councillors were joined by members of the Royal British Legion and the cadet forces in both Corporation Park and Little Harwood to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of war.

The event in Corporation park also saw a commemorative stone unveiled created by Brent Stevenson as part of a resident-led project to place a new memorial in the park listing the names nearly 4,000 people who fell in the war.

In Darwen, hundreds came together in the town centre and joined Cllr Trevor Maxfield, the Boroughs armed forces champion, in an evening of remembrance, hymns, prayers and reflection in commemoration of the Great War.



Podcasts look back at the borough during First World War

Several Podcasts and audio clips are available, which mark the centenary of the First World War.

These include Steven Irwin from Blackburn Museum giving an insight into what life was like when war was declared on August 4, a letter from a Darwen soldier from Britain's entry into the conflict with extracts read by a relative, and also life in Blackburn during the Belgian Refugee Crisis of 1914, a large part of the 'home front' during the early part of the war.

Also online are several audio clips from commemoration events across the Borough, including Lights Out, and resident led events organised by volunteers.

These can be found at www.soundcloud.com/theshuttle/sets/first-world-war-commemorations.

Landlord prosecuted

A Landlord of a property on London Terrace, Darwen, was ordered to pay fines and costs of £1960 after pleading guilty at Blackburn Magistrates court.

Miss Anne Edwards, who was charged with failing to apply for a selective license within a selective licensing area, pleaded guilty in writing to a hearing earlier this year.

Appearing in person Miss Edwards argued for mitigating circumstances, and whilst the Court took these into account, magistrates ordered fines of £1300, costs of £540 and a victim surcharge of £120 to be paid.

The offence, dating back to November 2009, saw Miss Edwards in breach of part three of the Housing Act 2004, which requires landlords in selective licensing areas to apply for a selective license in order to legally let property to tenants.

Fined for leaving rubbish in a Blackburn Street

A man and woman have been ordered to pay a total of £1441.30 for failing to clear a build-up of household rubbish.

Miss Patricia Manning and Mr Gavin Wilson of Parkinson Street, Blackburn were served a notice under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which required the removal and disposal of the waste which was found close to the rear of their property, in a legal manner. This was not complied with.

The case was heard at Blackburn Magistrates, and the Defendants failed to attend at Court, with the matter proved in their absence. The Defendants were fined £400, with a victim surcharge of £40. The defendants were also required to pay £280.65 costs.

Council prosecutes unlicensed landlords

Mr Stephen Doughty and Mr Christopher Gac have been ordered to pay a total of £6,324.65 after being found guilty, in their absence, to the charge of being in breach of the Housing Act (2004), following a hearing at Blackburn Magistrates Court.

Part 3 of the aforementioned act legally requires landlords to apply for a selective licence for the letting of property within a selective licensing area. The court subsequently heard that the defendants had failed to apply for such a license for their property within Sarah Street, Darwen.

The offence which dates from June 2013 –February 2014, saw both Mr Gac and Mr Doughty fined and as such Mr Doughty was ordered to pay fines of £2000, costs of £694 and a victim surcharge of £120 totalling £2814.

Mr Gac however was ordered to pay fines of £2000, costs of £990.65, a victim surcharge of £120 and a contribution towards the license fee of £400 totalling £3510.65.

Welcoming this successful prosecution Cllr Arshid Mahmood Lead Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services said: "As a Council we work very closely with both tenants and landlords to ensure that they both live and operate within the framework of law.

However as a Council we take a tough stance towards landlords that fail to operate legally or fail to obtain a licence within a licencing area.

I therefore welcome the Magistrates decision to fine the owners of this property that wilfully held property without the correct licence."

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ENJOY A FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL

The words 'Blackburn Beat' were spraypainted on pavements, directing the crowds to King William Street where they enjoyed a day of free music and entertainment.

Craft stalls and activities were packed with children and local food stalls provided the crowd with the finest street cuisine, accompanied by a live cookery demonstration thanks to Blackburn Market.

Double platinum selling group Dodgy headlined the event, which also saw the warm weather make a welcome return.

Also performing were Ella Shaw, The Retrosettes, the Chris Scott Band, the New York Tourists, and Jeremiah Ferrari.



BOROUGH SET TO SHINE BRIGHTER

Over the next few months the streets and roads of the borough will shine a little brighter, as new LED lanterns are installed.

Installed as part of the Council's 'Invest to Save' programme these new LED Lanterns represent part of a £10m investment within the borough's highways.

Approved at a meeting of the Council's Executive Board earlier this year this new investment, along with LED Lantern installation, will see many of the Borough's roads resurfaced or repaired.

Modern and cutting edge, these new LED light fittings are guaranteed for 20 years, they use half the energy

and need minimal maintenance.

It is hoped then that this investment will help reduce highways spending by 50 per cent in energy bills whilst cutting the borough's carbon emissions and limiting lantern failures.

Cllr Jim Smith Executive member for Environment said "These

new LED lights will improve the visibility of both our pavements and roads but they ultimately will save the council money. Investing in our highways now will, in the long term, reduce the cost to run and maintain our street lights but also help cut our carbon emissions."



E-BOOKS AVAILABLE AT OUR LIBRARIES

Blackburn with Darwen Council's library service has launched its new digital service.

Users of the library can already borrow and reserve books, both paperback and hardback, and audio books either in person or online.

Users will now be able to download their e-book choices to their tablets, PCs or reader device.

The eBook will be on loan for a period up to a maximum of 14 days, at which point it will expire and will no longer be readable on the PC or eB-

ook reader. If they have not finished with the eBook, users can download it again if there are no reservations attached to it.

Councillor Damian Talbot, Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Young People, said: "The e-books

are free and we hope it will increase the number of people who have access to literature and learning."

You can reserve or download your e-book by logging onto www.blackburn.gov.uk/libraries. There are also FAQs on how to use the new system.

Local artist exhibits new work

Sunnyhurst Wood Visitor Centre is currently playing host to an exhibition featuring local amateur artist Michael Wilkinson.

The local artist will be exhibiting

at the Centre, based in the Woods off Earnsdale Road, Darwen.

Until October 19, when the centre is open Thursdays to Sundays, 1pm-4pm, Michael is showcasing his skills and imagination at produc-

ing work of his favourite subjects, seascapes and landscapes.

The exhibition is free to enter and is one of many exhibitions held throughout the year, which give opportunities for local talent to show-

case their work.

For more details about the Centre contact Countryside Services 01254 666876, email countryside@blackburn.gov.uk, or www.blackburn.gov.uk

CUSTOMERS OFFERED FREE HEALTH CHECKS



B&Q on Bolton Road, Blackburn was the latest venue in the borough to host Free NHS Health Checks.

Free NHS Health Checks are supported by Blackburn with Darwen Council and are open to people aged 35-74 who either live, work, have a GP or are educated in the borough. You must also not already be diagnosed or take medication for heart

disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

Taking the health checks sessions to B&Q proved successful, with 17 people signing up on the day to have one carried out with the health checks nurse, Suzanne Warren.

Health checks can help pick up on any risks associated with heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, although you must not be

diagnosed with any of these conditions before having one.

For more information call: (01254) 682037

Photo: (L-R) B&Q staff members Clare Lopresti, Tracy Tomlinson and Hannah Ward with Council health interventions officer Michael Wolstenholme

Health

**Get the jab
Get flu safe**

Are you at risk from flu?

Flu can be really serious. Getting a flu jab can protect you all winter. It's free if you are pregnant, over 65 or have a health condition such as severe asthma, diabetes, a chest, heart, liver or kidney complaint, or lowered immunity.

It's quick, safe and free. To book your jab, speak to your GP practice today.



NHS

PEOPLE URGED TO HAVE FREE FLU JAB

Blackburn with Darwen residents who are most at risk from catching flu are being asked to make plans to have a free flu jab to protect themselves and their families.

Flu is a highly contagious infection that anyone can catch, and it can be a really serious illness for some. Those at greater risk include people aged 65 or over, pregnant women, and those with health conditions such as severe asthma, chest or heart complaints and diabetes.

The best time to be vaccinated is at the start of the flu season from October to early November, so it's good to get in early in time for the winter. The flu vaccine changes every year to fight the latest strains of flu, so even if you had a jab last winter you need another one this year.

Following on from last year's

campaign, young children aged two, three and now four will again be offered a nasal spray vaccine. Young children's close contact with each other means they are more likely to transmit the virus to other more vulnerable groups.

Contact your GP to arrange a convenient appointment and get your jab. It's quick, safe and free for those most at risk from the virus.

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: "If you are aged 65 or over, are pregnant, have lowered immunity or a long term health condition it's really important to get vaccinated. It is also very important that your children are vaccinated if they are two, three or four years old. Make plans to see your GP and help prevent the spread of the disease."

UPCOMING HEALTH CHECKS

British Heart Foundation, Darwen Street, Blackburn, Friday October 3, 9.30am – 3.50pm

Carer Service, Kingsway, Blackburn, Tuesday October 7, 10am – 3.40pm

Witton Arena, Preston Old Road, Wednesday October 8, 9.30 – 3.50pm

Blackburn Central Library, Health Days event, Friday October 31, 10am – 4pm

Appointments can be booked in advance or just drop in at the venue. For more information or to book an appointment call (01254) 682037 or email healthchecks@blackburn.gov.uk

SMOKERS ENCOURAGED TO QUIT FOR STOPTOBER

During October, smokers in Blackburn with Darwen are being encouraged to quit together as this year's Stoptober challenge launches.

Blackburn with Darwen Council is supporting the Public Health England campaign in a bid to help local people quit. This year's campaign harnesses the talents of some of the country's best comedians who will provide a humorous slant to the campaign's messages.

Stoptober quitters will receive a full range of support to kick the habit for good. Local smokers are also encouraged to get in touch with the Blackburn with Darwen stop smoking service, as research shows you are four times more likely to quit with this extra support than stopping on

your own.

One ex-smoker who did just that is Iwona Chudzinsk, 36, who accessed help from the stop smoking clinic at Audley Late Night Pharmacy, Audley Range.

Iwona was determined to quit and with the right support from the pharmacy's stop smoking advisers Ebrahim Nagdee and Zubair Patel managed to do so, saving over £2,000 each year.

She said: "I am very grateful for all the help and support given to me. I feel much healthier and have been able to make my home a smoke free area."

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: "We want to help as many people as possible

like Iwona in Blackburn with Darwen to quit. Stoptober is a great chance to get help to break away from this addiction and start to feel the health and financial benefits of becoming smokefree."

Stoptober 2014 starts on Wednesday October 1 and runs for 28 days. For further information contact the Blackburn with Darwen Stop Smoking Service on (01254) 587999 or email: quitsmoking@blackburn.gov.uk T: @BwDStopSmoking or search BwD Stop Smoking on Facebook.

For a list of local stop smoking clinics visit: <http://refresh-bwd.com/information/stop-smoking-service.html>



Care page

CARE

New champion

A new older people's champion for the borough has been appointed.

Councillor Brian Taylor has vowed to make sure the voices of older people are heard and that they are involved in Council decision and policy making.

Councillor Taylor, who is also lead member for Health and Adult Social Care, said raising awareness of the terrible health impacts of loneliness and social isolation was one of his main priorities.

COMMITMENT

Councillor Taylor, a Sunnyhurst ward member, said: "I'm very honoured to hold this position. I'm retiring from Friday so it is something that I can give lots of commitment to."

"I want to meet as many older people as possible, to listen to their concerns and wishes."

"As Lead member for Health and Adult Services I am acutely aware of the detrimental effects loneliness and isolation has on the health and the wellbeing of our citizens. So if anyone holds Coffee mornings or any gatherings for over 50s and they would like me to attend, could they please contact me on brian.taylor@blackburn.gov.uk"

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Executive Member for Adult Social Care, said: "I think Councillor Taylor will be an excellent advocate for older people and will really champion their causes."



Kemp Court celebrates silver anniversary

A residential complex has celebrated a proud 25th anniversary.

Kemp Court, in Brownhill, Blackburn, opened in 1989 through a link between five churches - Brownhill United Reformed, St Gabriel's, Holy Souls, St Peter's in Salesbury and Wilpshire Methodists.

Offering a selection of 43 single/double apartments and dormer bungalows, Kemp Court is governed by a management/residents committee.

More than 70 residents, management, staff and guests attended a celebratory lunch to mark the special milestone.

Pictured raising a glass in celebration are, left to right: Jean Bleasdale, Gordon Bury, Alan Monk, Avril Roscoe, Eric Astley, Barbara Charlson and Harry Eddleston.

NEW MULTI-MILLION POUND HOUSING SCHEME UNVEILED

Extra care scheme for older people planned in Darwen

Older people are to benefit from a major new housing with care development in Darwen.

Plans for an extra care scheme with neighbouring bungalows are being developed which will improve housing choices for older people who want to continue living independently, together with care and support services to help them to do so.

The site will be developed by Twin Valley Homes with Blackburn with Darwen Council and builders, Keepmoat.

This is a £13m investment by Blackburn with Darwen's biggest social landlord, a member of the Together Housing Group. It includes £2m funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

SCHEME

The scheme will be built in two phases to provide 119 new extra care and retirement living homes. The first phase will see 85, one and two bedroom apartments and out-

standing facilities, including hairdressers and cafe/restaurant, to make independent living easier for older people.

In the second phase, 34 two bedroom bungalows will be built adjacent to the extra care scheme. These will be available for rent and residents will be able to enjoy use of the facilities at the main extra care scheme.

A planning application is expected to be submitted this autumn. Work is scheduled to start on site in May and is expected to take 18 months to complete.

DELIGHT

Wendy Malone, Together Housing Group Head of Project Management, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council and Keepmoat to provide a superb new housing with care development for older people in Darwen. The scheme will increase the housing choices for older people who want to continue

living independently, together with care and support to help them do so. The new scheme at Shorey Bank will complement the Willow Gardens retirement living scheme which opened last year."

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: "This is superb news for the borough and it has the potential to be another excellent facility. It has to go through the planning process but I am personally excited about the scheme.

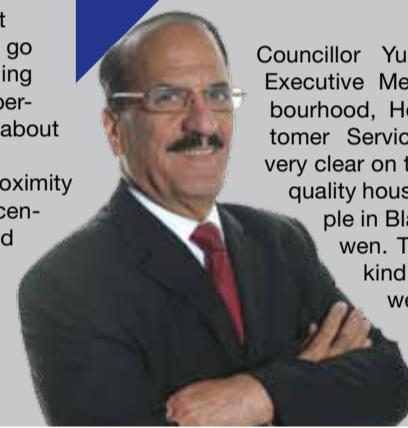
"It's in close proximity to Darwen town centre and has good public transport links so will have a very positive impact for the whole area."

"THIS IS SUPERB NEWS."

- Councillor Mohammed Khan

"We need such high quality and fit for purpose housing in the borough because they enable older people to enjoy their retirement in a safe, secure and vibrant environment with superb facilities on their doorsteps. Our goal is to help more and more older people live independently in their own homes for as long as possible."

QUALITY



Councillor Yusuf Jan-Virmani, Executive Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Customer Services, said: "I am very clear on the need for good quality housing for older people in Blackburn with Darwen. This is exactly the kind of development we want to have here."

New emergency service for carers in Blackburn

Carers in Blackburn can have real peace of mind thanks to a new service from the Red Cross.

The Red Cross Carer's Emergency Card is a new way for people who care for others to be identified and for their dependents to be looked after in case of illness or accident.

It instantly identifies the card holder as a carer and means that in the case of an emergency help will be provided for the person they care for in their absence.

The service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Carers across the borough have also been celebrating Carers Week, with a host of events and meet-ups to give information and support to people caring for others.

Held at the Carers Service at Kingsway in Blackburn, these included coffee mornings, an Eastern night with food and music, relaxation treatments and information events with advice on healthy eating and activities in the bor-



ough.

To get a Red Cross Carer's Emergency Card, tel: 01772 709555

or email: carerscard@redcross.org.uk



British Red Cross

YOUNGSTERS FIND FOREVER FAMILIES

Increasing numbers of children with complex needs are finding permanent families, as part of an ongoing, council-led adoption recruitment campaign – Let's Adopt.

Blackburn with Darwen Council's adoption service launched Let's Adopt in January, in a bid to find loving and stable homes for a wide spectrum of children currently in care.

The campaign has also helped to educate potential parents in the borough and surrounding areas that single people, non-homeowners, those who are in fulltime employment, same-sex couples and over 21-year-olds are eligible to adopt.

Karen Barrick, head of permanence at Blackburn with Darwen Council, said: "We have an excellent track record of finding permanent families for children with complex needs. This can include children with foetal alcohol syndrome, autism, physical disabilities, visual and hearing impairments, or potential life-limiting conditions."

SUPPORT

Single-parent Beverley Hodkinson, 43, adopted her now 10-year-old daughter, Toni, through the service, when she was two years old.

Toni was diagnosed with foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) from birth, so had a difficult start in life. With the support and love of a forever family, Toni's life has dramatically changed for the better.

Beverley said: "I always wanted to extend my family, and as a single parent, adoption seemed like the best option. The Blackburn with Darwen adoption team supported me fully during the process, putting my mind at ease

during difficult times. However, once I met Toni, I felt an instant bond and was certain that my biological daughter and I could provide her with a family that would last a lifetime."

After being matched with her adoptive daughter, Beverley was able to attend Toni's important hospital appointments and began to build the foundations of a strong and supportive home.

The benefits of these improved environments allow children with complex needs to flourish, with many experiencing accelerated mental and behavioural developments once settled with their new families.

Beverley continued: "I'm a qualified paediatric nurse, so was aware of the difficulties of raising a child with FAS. I

"I ALWAYS WANTED TO EXTEND MY FAMILY, AND AS A SINGLE PARENT, ADOPTION SEEMED LIKE THE BEST OPTION."

- Beverley Hodkinson

felt confident that I could provide for Toni's needs as a single parent, and the ongoing support from the Blackburn with Darwen adoption team helped make the process as simple as possible.

"It's been an extremely rewarding experience raising Toni – she's a ray of sunshine and I wouldn't be without her. Parenting is never easy. However, any challenges we might have encountered along the way have definitely been worth it."

SUCCESS

Blackburn with Darwen Council's adoption team provides high-level support to all parents through the entire process, especially so when the child has additional requirements. Due to this, the service has experienced a high success rate in finding forever families for these children over the past four years.

Karen continued: "We are committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to find a caring and permanent home. We regard this as an essential and key consideration for every child who comes into our care.

"We seek to ensure that children have a secure, stable and loving family to support them throughout their childhood and one, which remains meaningful into their adulthood. This expectation is the right of every child."

The Blackburn with Darwen community has proven to be extremely receptive to our recruitment campaigns. We urge anyone who is considering adoption to contact our team, especially if they feel they could provide a caring home for a child with additional requirements."

For more information about adopting with Blackburn with Darwen Council, come along to one of our information evenings at Little Harwood Children's Centre, Robinson Street, Blackburn, BB1 5PE, on Tuesday September 30, October 28 and November 25, at 6pm. Alternatively, visit www.letsadopt.co.uk or like our Facebook page (Adoption at Blackburn with Darwen).

 **LETSADOPT.CO.UK**



Happy Family: Beverley Hodkinson with her adopted daughter Toni

£1M INVESTMENT BIDS TO TRANSFORM CANCER CARE

The Council has formed a pioneering partnership with cancer charity Macmillan and the NHS to transform cancer care across East Lancashire.

The aim of the Macmillan Cancer Improvement Partnership is to support people with cancer and their families, helping them to lead healthier lives while they are receiving

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Council worker Nazmun Usman will play a key role in the Macmillan Cancer Improvement Partnership project, helping to recruit volunteers who have had first-hand experience of cancer so that they can shape

ing treatment and stay healthy while they recover.

It will include telephone support, health and wellbeing clinics, physical activity programmes and a community based cancer information and support service providing practical and emotional support. The partnership will also work closely with all 90 GP practices in East Lancashire to improve cancer awareness and early diagnosis.

Macmillan is investing £1m in the partnership, which is also made up of NHS East Lancashire Clinical

Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust and Lancashire County Council.

Jeremy Such, Macmillan Development Manager for Lancashire, said: "The project will provide better care and support for people affected by cancer at every stage, from the moment of diagnosis, through treatment and beyond."

Dominic Harrison, Director of Public Health in Blackburn with Darwen, said: "Provided people get an early diagnosis, life expectancy for most people with cancer can be dramatically improved. This project will help us do that together."

ers. It's about giving them a voice and a forum to share their experiences of cancer.

"By engaging with people, I can ensure they are actively involved in the project and their voice is heard and responded to in

FREE EARLY EDUCATION FOR TWO YEAR OLDS

Parents of children aged two and under in Blackburn with Darwen are being urged to come forward to find out if they will be eligible to claim new free early education sessions.

The Council is offering up to 15 hours per week of free early education – where children learn through play based activities in a childcare setting such as a nursery, children's centre or childminder – during term time to children after their second birthday.

Research shows that quality early education improves children's development and social skills and helps get them ready for school. Previously, the government funded free early education was only available to three and

four year olds.

The sessions are only available to families who meet certain eligibility criteria, including families in receipt of unemployment related benefits, or families on an income below £16,190 and can include those claiming working tax credits, or receiving other benefits such as Disability Living Allowance. It is estimated that approximately 1,420 of two year olds in Blackburn with Darwen will qualify to receive the offer.

For more information, contact the Families Information Service helpline on (01254) 667877, email fis@blackburn.gov.uk, or visit www.blackburn.gov.uk and search for free early education.

HAD CANCER? HAVE YOUR SAY...

the way care and support are delivered locally in the future.

Nazmun said: "My role involves listening to and consulting with people whose lives have been affected by cancer including patients, families, friends and car-

ers. It's about giving them a voice and a forum to share their experiences of cancer.

"My main message is, you're not alone – there's a lot of help

and support out there, so please get in touch."

If you would like to share your experiences or be involved contact Nazmun on 0780320370 or via: nazmun.usman@blackburn.gov.uk

Family information a click away

A brand new web resource for families of children and young people under 25 who have special educational needs or disabilities will be launched by the Council this autumn.

The online information – called the Local Offer – will include details about what services people can expect.

It will include information about:

- Education, like nurseries, schools and colleges
- Health, including doctors, school nurses and therapists
- Social care, including respite services and children's disability services
- Voluntary groups, including charities, support groups and youth clubs
- Preparing for adulthood, including where to live, education, training and employment
- Leisure and recreation, such as sports and social clubs, food and entertainment

Councils all over the country will be publishing their Local Offer as part of government reforms for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. Blackburn with Darwen's Local Offer will officially launch in October and will be available via the Council website at www.blackburn.gov.uk.



The Nutcracker at King George's Hall

Audiences have the opportunity to catch one of Tchaikovsky's world famous classical ballets, The Nutcracker, when the highly acclaimed Vienna Festival Ballet company returns to town.

The enchanting tale of The Nutcracker follows Clara and her nutcracker doll, which magically transforms into a princely soldier. Their adventures see the Prince and Clara combat the Mouse King and join the Sugar Plum Fairy on a wonderful trip to a kingdom made entirely of sweets.

The show is on Thursday 30th Oct 2014 at 7.00pm. Tickets are available now with costs for adults from £13.50, £11.50 for concessions and Under 16's for £9.50 (or FREE when purchased with two adult tickets). Groups of 10+ can also get a discounted ticket cost of £9.50 each and a pre-show workshop is available for £5 (available via KGH Box Office only).

For more information and to purchase your tickets visit www.kinggeorgeshall.com/whats-on/nutcracker or go to the King George's Hall Box Office - entrance situated next to Blakey's Café Bar, Northgate, Blackburn, BB2 1AA.

MAYOR GETS INTO SWING OF NEW ROLE

It has been a busy – and fun – few months for the mayor of Blackburn with Darwen

Despite only being in the role since June, Councillor Alan Cottam has attended a host of events across the borough in his role as first citizen.

BUSY MONTH

The annual Armed Forces Day, the annual Civic Sunday ceremony, a First World War commemoration at Ewood Park, Darwen Gala and the annual Blackburn and District Flower Show are just a handful of appearances by the Mayor.

He has been attended by the

Mayoresses, Mrs Agnes Cottam and Mrs Deborah O'Sullivan.

SUPPORTING CHARITY

The Mayor has chosen the Soldiers', Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSFA) and East Lancashire Hospice as his charities during his mayoral year.

Cllr Cottam said: "The job of Mayor is a unique one and a great honour for me.

"It is also an honour to be able to attend all the events and functions I am invited to, and I hope we will have a successful year of fundraising to help these two very deserving charities."



LOOKING AFTER SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD?

The Council held a series of events celebrating family life to raise awareness of private fostering

- an informal arrangement where a child under 16 lives with somebody else other than their parents or immediate family for 28 days or more.

A family treasure trek, lifesize bingo game and Facebook photography competition took place over the summer to celebrate the time families spend together and highlight the need for families to tell the Council if they are looking after someone else's child – or have placed their child in the care of a friend or distant relative.

The law says families must tell councils about private fostering arrangements but many people are unaware of the requirement. There

are many reasons for private fostering to take place but some of the most common include:

- When young people are sent to this country for education or for health care by their birth parents from overseas.

- When parents travel abroad and leave their child with a distant relative or family friend.

- When children or young people live with a friend's family or non-close relative as a result of parental separation, death or illness of a parent, or family conflict.

- When children or young people from abroad attend language schools in the UK and live with a host family.

To find out more about private



L/R Mia Calvert, 9, of Blackburn, joins her Mum Jackie Calvert, Council officer Julie Molineux, Executive Member for Children's Services Cllr Frank Connor, Jeanette Richards and Cathy Midgley.

fostering, like our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/BWDPrivateFostering. To register a private fostering arrangement, call 01254 666400 or email: CYPReferrals@blackburn.gov.uk.

SPIRIT OF COMMONWEALTH GAMES COMES TO BOROUGH

The long nights are drawing near but the summer of sports is still fresh in the memory.

Dozens of people turned out to get into the spirit of the Commonwealth Games on a sun drenched weekend in Witton Park.

Activities over the two day event included flag designing and various sports activities.

As these pictures show, people of all ages enjoyed what was on offer.



LONG-TERM FOSTER CARER TALKS ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES

A long-term foster carer has talked about her experiences, and the support and advice available for those who may be thinking about fostering a child.

Samantha Briggs, who along with her partner currently fosters two brothers aged 8 and 10, and has done so for almost 6 years.

This was initially meant to be a short-term placement but Samantha then decided to take the two children on as a long-term fostering placement, and hasn't looked back.

Samantha said: "The more I thought about it the more I thought I could make a difference to the boys."

INFORMATION EVENING

Samantha has joined several others who currently foster, in attending information evenings, meeting those who have shown an interest in fostering

who are looking to learn a little bit more about the process, and the experiences of those who are currently looking after foster children can provide a real insight into the experience.

"As foster carers some of us have attended information evenings, so that people can talk to us and ask the questions which may help when they are looking at the possibility of fostering."

"When people ask why I do it, it's because I am able to. You've made that difference and helped a child feel happy and secure, and although there are challenging moments

"IT REALLY DOES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE. IT IS A PAID AND PROFESSIONAL ROLE WHICH IS ALSO AN EXTREMELY REWARDING EXPERIENCE"

- Councillor Frank Connor



as with a n y child, j u s t s e e - ing that smile or w h e n t h e y g i v e you a h u g , y o u k n o w

you've made a huge difference.

Samantha talked about the support available to those who decide to foster, ranging from the ongoing support provided by social workers, to

the Blackburn with Darwen Foster Care Association, of which Samantha is Secretary.

"The Foster Care Association is a network which provides a further method of support, run by foster carers for foster carers, where everyone can help each other and ask for advice from those who are on a similar journey."

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Executive Member for Children's Services, Councillor Frank Connor said: "Becoming a foster carer allows you to make a huge difference to children's lives, providing them with the opportunity to thrive in a stable and loving home."

"There is extensive training and ongoing support provided to foster carers, with a network which ensures there is ways to ask any questions or concerns you may have."

"It really does have the potential to change your life too; it is a paid

and professional role which is also an extremely rewarding experience, providing the opportunity to have a positive impact on young people's lives."

For more information about fostering with Blackburn with Darwen Council, come along to one of our information events. We'll be at Shadsworth Children's Centre from 6-8pm on October 9; Royal Blackburn Hospital information point from 3-4pm on October 17; at Darwen Leisure Centre from 9am-noon on October 25. Alternatively, visit www.letsfoster.co.uk, like our Facebook page (Fostering at Blackburn with Darwen Council) or call 0800 328 6919.



LETSFOSTER.co.uk

Sign up for the Council's trade waste service

The Council is promoting its commercial waste and refuse service to businesses.

Business waste (controlled waste) is anything produced from a manufacturing process, food preparation, stock packaging, paperwork, staff lunches or even mail through the post - anything that needs to be removed from the premises.

Waste from businesses operating from home are also classed as business or commercial waste including garden clearances, packing, delivering, crèche or child minding.

Businesses, companies and organisations which produce waste on their premises are responsible for managing, storing and disposing of it.

There is no VAT on commercial waste removed by the Council. We also do not charge for bin rental or Duty of Care change.

For further information on removal and disposal of trade waste, contact Maggie Holt on 01254 267667 or Carol Clabburn on 01254 267662.



Lindisfarne at the Darwen Library Theatre

Lindisfarne was Tyneside's best-loved band for over thirty years and The Lindisfarne Story is a celebration of the group's music and achievements. The show is devised, written and performed by drummer/founder member Ray Laidlaw, and Billy Mitchell, front man for the final eight years of the group. Ray and Billy perform acoustic versions of Lindisfarne's classic songs and tell the inside story of the group's rise to fame, from Whitley Bay to San Francisco Bay, from Rothbury to Glastonbury.

They describe the group's early days on Tyneside in the 1960's hustling for gigs and their rise to fame in the early seventies.

The show is illustrated with personal archive photographs and describes their worldwide tours, festival successes and TV appearances, their triumphant return home and their unique relationship with Newcastle City Hall, venue for over 130 Lindisfarne performances.

Lady Eleanor, Meet Me On The Corner, Fog on the Tyne, Run for Home, all of these songs have a story behind them. Enjoy hearing them again in an intimate venue and discover what was the inspiration behind their composition. In 2013 the appeal of Lindisfarne is as strong as ever, EMI recently released a 40th anniversary limited edition vinyl version of the certified platinum 'Fog On The Tyne' album and Newcastle City Council unveiled a blue plaque on Newcastle City Hall honouring the life and work of the late Alan Hull, the band's much-missed songwriter and singer.

The Lindisfarne Story has captured the imagination of the fans and media. This show is on Wednesday 22 October 2014 at 7:30pm and tickets are available for £18.

BLACKBURN CELEBRATES A NEW HEALTHY FOOD AWARD

By Kate Greives

Restaurants, takeaways and food shops and stalls across Blackburn are helping customers to make healthier choices with a new scheme.

Recipe 4 Health is Blackburn with Darwen Council's Environmental Health team working in partnership with Public Health and the healthy living team.

They are working with food businesses to try and improve the amount of healthier choices on the menu.

Food establishments across the borough are offering lighter and healthier options on their menus and have received the Recipe 4 Health award.

Officers are working with businesses to help and advise about healthy options, offering free menu analysis and advice on allergies labelling, whilst helping them to add healthier dishes to their menus, re-

ducing harmful fat content, salt and sugars.

The award is free to businesses and available on three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold - linked to the Government's Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

The aim is not to force people to eat healthier options, but to make it easier to find healthy options when eating out for those who want them.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cllr Jim Smith, the Council's Executive Member for Environment, said: "The Recipe 4 Health campaign is a great way of promoting healthier eating at takeaways and cafes across the whole borough and I want to congratulate everyone who has received the award. We hope that people in Blackburn and Darwen embrace the scheme."

Griller owners celebrate the award with Katie Bland, trainee Environmental Health Officer and Paul Barnard, Environmental Health Officer.



Cllr Mohammed Khan, Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care, said: "These restaurants and takeaways should be commended for boosting their healthier options. I hope this helps people choose healthy op-

tions when eating out."

Any businesses wanting to gain the award should contact the Public Protection Service on (01254) 267688 or email: publicprotection@blackburn.gov.uk

NEW FOOTPATH MAKES WALKING TO SCHOOL A BREEZE

A neglected Blackburn footpath once described as a "river of mud" has been given a new lease of life.

Staff and Parents from Holy Souls



Primary School say they are delighted after a Council scheme stepped-in to renovate the footpath.

The path, off Wilsworth Crescent,

had become muddy and prone to flooding - making it difficult for parents to get their children to school on foot.

CONNECT, the Council's sustainable transport scheme aims to promote walking, cycling, car sharing and using public transport.

Thanks to the scheme, work was carried out to the path so that children and their families can now use it without having to rely on make-shift boards to wade through the mud.

Councillor Maureen Bateson, Executive Member of Regeneration, said: "The path now offers a safer route to the school as it avoids the main roads and keeps the children away from the busy traffic in the morning."

"The school has reported that regular path usage and walking to school has increased by over 60% which is something I really hope continues as walking to school helps give children the right start to their day, ensuring they ar-

rive feeling alert and refreshed.."

Deputy Head Mrs Singleton said: "Children are now arriving to school in a better mood, not only are they getting some fresh air and exercise but they have more social time in the morning to talk to their parents and other children from both the primary schools in the area."

"Parents are also benefiting as they are more relaxed dropping their children off at the school gates as they have walked rather than struggled in the congested traffic. Even our own Welfare Assistants are using the path to walk to school for their lunchtime duties."

The local Residents Association and the PTA have campaigned for the last two years for the path to be resurfaced and for adequate drainage.

A series of events to promote the new path and walking to school are now being planned.

LOCAL BUSINESS RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING

A £9,000 grant from Blackburn with Darwen Council has been awarded to a company that has relocated to Darwen.

Multihog UK Ltd, who is now based off Charles Street, was offered the monies as part of the Council's Assistance to Industry programme.

Assistance to Industry grants are delivered on behalf of the Council by Regenerate Pennine Lancashire. They are awarded to companies to help them expand and are related in part to the number of jobs being created.

The Multihog base unit itself has the appearance of a road legal compact tractor which is articulated and hydraulically operated, accepting a diverse range of different attachments to the front and rear allowing for effective and efficient all-seasonal

utilisation.

With the launching of three new Multihog models this year and to meet the growing demands of a business on the up, the firm have moved from their previous base in the village of Hoddlesden.

The new premises now benefit from a showroom, offices and meeting centre in addition to an engineering workshop and storage unit. Two new jobs have also been created.

Councillor Maureen Bateson, Executive Member for Regeneration, said

"This is exactly what the Assistance for Industry grant is for. We are delighted that we have been able to offer Multihog help with their move to bigger premises and for job creation. We are also pleased they have stayed in the borough."

Nick Leadley, Multihog Director, who lives in Hoddlesden concluded

"Having experienced year on year growth since we started the business, almost four years ago, we knew this



The Council's Executive Member for Regeneration Councillor Maureen Bateson meets with Multihog bosses after approving a £9000 Assistance to Industry grant.



SCRUTINY

FOCUS ON PERFORMANCE

Annual Review of Scrutiny Meeting

By Councillor James Shorrock, chair of policy and corporate resources overview committee

As the Council leader referenced in her column earlier, our Council is continuing to face extremely difficult times and facing further massive budget cuts.



With this in mind, the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee, along with all Scrutiny Committees, are being asked to focus on paying particular attention to efficiency savings that the Council have to make to balance the books.

We need to ensure that despite these huge pressures, we are still providing the best value possible, and that the savings made are not at the expense of our most vulnerable residents.

BUS TRAVEL

At the first Children and Young People Scrutiny meeting, young people told us the cost of travelling to leisure centres across the borough was costing them, in their words: "an arm and a leg".

To look at this issue, what we call a "collaborative inquiry" was held with representatives from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, Youth MP, Deputy Youth MP, members from the

Looked After Children Voice group, Young People's Forum, the Executive Member Cllr Damian Talbot and representatives from the bus companies Transdev and Blackburn Transport.

Each young person spoke and articulated their points of view extremely well. The Council, in conjunction with the bus companies will now explore opportunities to improve the travel offer for young people in the borough.

HEALTH

Health Scrutiny also held a collaborative inquiry with the NHS and health organisations in the borough to look at tackling common priorities together.

The Council is working in partnership with East Lancashire Health Trust, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, Blackburn with Darwen's Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health Lancashire.

The key areas we are focusing on

are reducing obesity, looking at social isolation and loneliness, Foodbank, food poverty and the effects of the welfare reform on vulnerable people across the borough.

SOCIAL ISOLATION

A particular focus will be around working together to tackle social isolation. We aim to ensure proactive measures are in place to help reduce the number of hospital admissions and ensure those who are lonely or isolated are aware of the social opportunities available to them in their area.

I would encourage residents in their own neighbourhoods, and in the true spirit of the Good Neighbour Awards we recently celebrated, to do their bit and take five minutes out of their day to check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours.

Often, just knowing that somebody has taken the time out to check on them would really help brighten their day.

Business leaders event

Following a busy summer period, the next event of the Blackburn and Darwen Hive Business Leaders Network takes place on Wednesday 1st October 2014 where we'll be with the borough's biggest brand – Blackburn Rovers Football Club.

Not to be missed, the area's business leaders are invited to come and hear from the Club's management team on their ambitions for B.R.F.C., the town and engagement with the local community.

Please note that the session is by invitation only and numbers are limited – please email info@business-hive.co.uk to register your interest.

Second offence results in fine

A Blackburn woman was ordered to pay £570 after failing to dispose of house hold waste correctly.

Miss Carina Smith of Accrington Road, who was charged with being in breach of section 46 of the Environmental Protection act 1990 also failed to appear in the Blackburn trial, but was found guilty in her absence by local magistrates.

In its judgement the court fined the Accrington Road resident £200, with costs of £350 and a victim surcharge of £20.

The court also noted that this was Miss Smith's second such offence.

The offence, which dates back to March of this year, saw council officers find household waste strewn at the rear of the Blackburn property and in the back alleyway.

FREE Parking in Blackburn and Darwen

Blackburn Town Centre has free parking on Saturdays! The offer applies to council car parks including the new Feilden Street Multi-storey car park. Please note The Mall car park is not included.

You can also park for free on all council car parks from 3pm.

Darwen Town Centre has free parking on all its town centre car parks both short and long stay, 7 days a week!

For further information about public transport and parking please contact Blackburn Visitor Centre. Blackburn Visitor Centre is situated in Blackburn's new Market Hall. The friendly, knowledgeable staff are on hand 6 days a week to help with any public transport enquiry. Visitors & residents can purchase monthly Spot On, Silver & Gold bus tickets & access our comprehensive range of timetables – not just for Blackburn & Darwen but Lancashire, Manchester & beyond.

So whether you need to know how to get to work, a hospital appointment, that important interview or to go shopping, Blackburn Visitor Centre will help plan your journey.

If you are travelling by car they will help with directions & parking.

getting in and out of the bath became impossible as it caused too much pain. By contacting the Council and explaining the problem she was having, an occupational therapist assessor from the Aids and Adaptations Team carried out an assessment of needs and contributed towards providing Marion with a modern shower room allowing Marion to sit down and shower properly for the first time in a year.

The Disabled Facilities Grant is funding used to enable people to remain in their own homes and live independently. Marion commented on the friendly, helpful nature of the workmen fitting in her new bathroom.

Council plumber Howard Hebden, spent his dinner hour as a good will gesture fitting the new sink and toilet Marion had bought to match her new shower unit.

He explained: "You don't mind going the extra mile because making someone's life that little bit better really makes the job worthwhile."

She said: "it's been really hard just

doing the basic things.

"I'm going to have an hour long shower tonight, it's changed my life".

Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Mohammad Khan, said: "It is heartening to see the impact that this adaptation has had on Marion's life. As a Council we carry out work like this on a daily basis to help people stay in their own homes and ensure they can carry out the basic functions that many people take for granted such as taking a bath or shower or simply just getting up the stairs. I'm delighted we have been able to help Marion and others like her."



Top team: Plumber Howard Hebden (centre) and his team go the extra mile

Marion Shorrock happy with her new shower installation

Rovers in the Shuttle

A trio of new faces arrived at Blackburn Rovers on a busy transfer deadline day at Ewood Park.

Manager Gary Bowyer strengthened his ranks with the signings of defender Shane Duffy, goalkeeper Jason Steele and midfielder Ryan Tunnicliffe.

First through the door was Republic of Ireland international Duffy, who put pen-to-paper on a three-year deal from Everton.

The 22-year-old - a product of the Everton youth system - had been with the Merseyside club since the age of 16 when he moved over from Derry, Northern Ireland.

Strong in the air, Duffy made his Premier League debut for the Toffees in January 2012 and went on to make 10 first team appearances for Everton before joining Championship side Yeovil on loan.

On the international stage, Duffy played for Northern Ireland's schoolboy and youth teams up to the age of 21, before opting to play for the Republic of Ireland at senior level.

"I'm delighted to have made the move and I'm excited to get started now," said Duffy. "I'm over the moon to be here, it is a great club to be at."

"It was a tough decision to leave Everton, but it is a chance to come and play football. It's a new start for me. It is all about development as a player. Blackburn is a great option for me and I jumped at the chance."

Middlesbrough stopper Steele was the next to arrive, joining the club on a season-long loan.

A regular on the international stage for England at youth level, the young keeper shone for the Three Lions at the UEFA European Under-19 Championships in July 2009, where he was named 'Goalkeeper of the Tournament' as England finished runners-up to hosts Ukraine.

Following a loan spell with Northampton Town, Steele made his Boro debut in the Carling Cup and kept his place in goal throughout the



NEW BOYS ARRIVE AT EWOOD PARK!

2010-11 season under former manager Tony Mowbray.

A team-mate of Jason Lowe with England's Under-21s, Steele was also a member of Team GB's Olympic squad at London 2012.

The 24-year-old continued as Middlesbrough's number one until the start of this season, making 142 appearances in total.

"I'm absolutely delighted to join such a massive club," said Steele. "It's something that I'm very proud of."

"It was a great opportunity for

me. Things haven't really worked out at Middlesbrough over the last few months for whatever reason. The chance arose to come here and I couldn't think of a better place to kick-start my career again."

"The facilities here are second to none. I hear people say every day that this is a Premier League club in the Championship and I believe that's 100% true and we need to get back there."

Rovers concluded their transfer business with the capture of Fulham's

Tunnicliffe, who will also spend the season on loan at Ewood Park.

The box-to-box midfielder came through the youth ranks at Manchester United, having joined the club at the age of nine, and played a key role in United's FA Youth Cup success in 2011.

He made two senior appearances for United and spent time on loan with Peterborough United, Barnsley and Ipswich Town, before making a deadline day move to Fulham in January 2014.

"The manager, Gary Bowyer, wanted me and when someone wants you it is nice to come and play for them," said the England youth international.

"I spoke to the manager and he told me about the club, how he works and how the team plays. What he told me suits me down to the ground, so I'm very excited."

"He told me that he's got a young squad, a talented squad that works hard, gives 100% every week and I think I fit perfectly into that."

Rovers ace Craig Conway was the latest player to take a trip down memory lane when he teamed up with the club's Community Trust.

The Scottish international midfielder called in at the Indoor Centre at Ewood Park to surprise the hordes of footy-mad youngsters who were taking part in the Trust's ever-popular Soccer Camps.

Conway posed for photos and signed autographs, before being quizzed about his life on and off the pitch in an entertaining Q&A.

The 29-year-old was delighted to see so many local kids having fun and hopes that a few of them can follow in his footsteps: "It's always nice to come out and visit the kids. These kids are the next generation of our fans and our foot-

ballers. I've been sat in their position and I loved it when a player would come down and speak to us."

"I wanted to be a footballer for as long as I can remember, so it's good to be able to pass on some advice to the next crop of youngsters."

The Trust's next programme is the October Half-Term Soccer and Sports Camp, running from Monday 27th to Friday 31st October, with Rovers' highly-qualified community coaches delivering a fun football, dodgeball and multi-sports coaching programme, keeping the action stimulating, with a guarantee that no two days are the same.

You can express your interest by emailing faye.billington@brfctrust.co.uk or call 01254 296256 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.



THE ROVERS
INTRODUCING THE NEW 2014/15
BLACKBURN ROVERS
HOME KIT