

RIBBLE VALLEY News



The newspaper of Ribble Valley Borough Council

40th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL Spring 2014



Celebrating **40** momentous years

A LOAF of bread cost 15p and a gallon of petrol set you back 42p. The first McDonalds opened in London, the BBC launched Ceefax and Abba won the Eurovision Song Contest with Waterloo, while the two Robbies – Williams and Savage – were born. The year 1974 was also marked

by a three-day week, two general elections and the biggest shake-up in local government for over a century.

The reorganisation saw the country divided into 'districts,' one of which, Ribble Valley, at 225 square miles, was the largest geographically in Lancashire, but

with the smallest population: 53,000 residents.

The borough would go on to become one of the most successful in the country, with high customer satisfaction and low crimes rates, and at the forefront of several nationally-acclaimed projects.

Join us for a journey through 40 successful years of the borough of Ribble Valley.

● Our thanks go to the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times for access to its archives and former staff for sharing their memories during the compilation of this supplement.

Why not visit us on the web? www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk

40 years of vision and leadership

CATTLE being driven to market through the centre of Clitheroe was a regular sight when Ribble Valley Borough Council opened for business in 1974

And one of the most far-reaching tasks facing the new council was the relocation of the town centre cattle market, or auction mart, and redevelopment of the vacant site.

An initial scheme attracted fierce opposition from town traders and a revised version featuring 39 market cabins and bullring, 71-space car park and 20 flats, eventually went ahead in 1994, 15 years after the original scheme featuring underground parking and a community centre was put forward.

The scheme saw the auction mart and several haulage operations move to the Salthill Industrial Estate, which subsequently became a hub of commercial and light industrial activity. It is now the site of the council's direct works depot, as well as a flagship waste transfer station that opened in 2006 and has set the pace for waste management in Lancashire ever since.

The redevelopment facilitated the decommissioning of the former Clitheroe Gasworks in a groundbreaking £800,000 project led by the council and funded by the Department of the Environment.

The 14-cornered gasholder was so toxic that it rotted the removal equipment and the topsoil so contaminated that a cutting-edge microbiological process was used to reclaim the site. The so-called superbugs broke down the contamination in 12 months, instead of 1,000 years, and the project became nationally acclaimed, as well as the first reclaimed gasholder site in the country to be used for much-needed affordable housing at Black Lane Croft.

Ribble Valley Borough Council also spearheaded the redevelopment of the nearby semi-derelict Clitheroe Rail Station, following an impressive campaign by local rail enthusiasts to have the Clitheroe to Manchester line reopened.

The station building was turned into a multi-award-winning travel hub and art gallery, called the Clitheroe Interchange and Platform Gallery, which was seen as a triumph for urban revitalisation and received an official opening by His Royal Highness Prince Charles in 2002.

The new Clitheroe Market went on to house the monitoring station for Ribble Valley's CCTV system, revamped in 2003 with a £500,000 grant from the Home Office. The scheme was the first of many projects led by the then Ribble Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, now the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, which is chaired by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

Many successful community safety initiatives later, Ribble Valley is the second safest place in the UK, according to Government statistics.

Ribble Valley Borough Council was also at the forefront of flood defence measures at the River Ribble in Low Moor.

The worst floods in living memory hit the Riverside Estate at Low Moor

and Taylor Street during two days of torrential rain in October 1980 that saw the Ribble rise by 12ft in some places.



Following lobbying by the council, the North West Water Authority announced in 1982 that the Ribble would be the first river in Lancashire to have a radar flood warning system. Ribble Valley Borough Council also replaced the sewerage system in several key areas of Clitheroe, including the installation of the largest 'thrust bored tunnel' in the country at Woone Lane, which substantially reduced the risk of future flooding.

Clitheroe Castle has dominated the Ribble Valley skyline since its construction in the 12th Century by Robert de Lacy to protect the administrative centre of his vast estates and housed the office of the council's first chief executive, Michael Jackson.

The castle was the subject of a £3.5million refurbishment spearheaded by the council in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund and several public and private sector partners that saw a glass atrium linking the museum and North West Sound Archives on two levels, a café, exhibition space, interactive display facilities, education suite and several multimedia exhibitions depicting the history of Ribble Valley.

The scheme, officially opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester in 2009, went on to win a raft of heritage and tourism awards.

And when it comes to the provision of sport and recreation facilities Ribble Valley Borough Council has also been a winner.

The council led a community campaign for a £200,000 synthetic sports pitch next to Longridge Sports Centre that was officially opened by international hockey player Val Robinson in 1995. In 2004, it funded a £120,000 refurbishment of Longridge Sports Centre, including new changing rooms, improvements to the reception, disabled access and a fitness room. And in 2008 Longridge Civic Hall opened a community hub featuring a children's centre and state-of-the-art gym thanks to a £195,000 grant from Ribble Valley Borough Council.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's successful sports and arts excellence grants scheme has supported numerous young athletes and performance artists at county and national level since being launched as the recreation grants scheme at the council's inception in 1974.

The scheme's many recipients include Olympic medallists Samantha Murray and Jon Schofield (pictured left), who received a triumphant homecoming following their success at London 2012.

Samantha, of West Bradford, who won the silver medal in the modern pentathlon, and Jon, who took bronze in the canoe sprint, alongside his kayaking partner, Liam Heath, thanked Ribble Valley Borough Council for playing a part in their success.

Thrifty Ribble Valley Borough Council has achieved a great deal with the lowest council tax in Lancashire.

This year, it announced a council tax freeze without cuts in jobs or services for the fifth year running, despite a 12 per cent reduction in Government grants.

Council leader Stuart Hirst praised the dedication and hard work of council staff and councillors for delivering efficient and cost-effective services in difficult times.

He said: "Like all other local authorities, Ribble Valley Borough Council has seen a significant reduction in financial support from the Government.

"There have been announcements from some neighbouring authorities about substantial redundancies, but our budget proposals for the coming year do not envisage any compulsory redundancies or reduction in services, while maintaining support for charitable and voluntary organisations.

"Our sound financial position is down to strong financial discipline, prudent management and a committed and dedicated workforce, and I would like to pay tribute to staff and councillors, past and present, for delivering efficient, cost-effective and first-class services over the last 40 years."



●The old Clitheroe Cattle Market



●Flooding at Riverside Estate, Low Moor



●The Clitheroe Gasworks demolition



●The new Clitheroe Market



●The semi-derelict Clitheroe Rail Station



●A Royal opening for the £3.5million Clitheroe Castle Museum



●The council's Salthill Depot and flagship waste transfer station



●Much-needed affordable housing at Black Lane Croft



●The new-look Clitheroe Interchange and Platform Gallery

Historic merger of proud towns and villages

A MERGER of proud towns and villages was how the new Ribble Valley District Council, later to be called Ribble Valley Borough Council, was described.

Ribble Valley was formed on April 1 1974 under the 1972 Local Government Act, which saw the country divided into 'districts.'

At 225 square miles, the new district was the largest geographically in Lancashire, stretching from Mellor in the south to Easington in the north, Longridge in the west to Horton and Middop in the east, but had the smallest population: 53,000 residents.

It was a merger of the municipal borough of Clitheroe, Longridge urban district, Clitheroe rural district, parts of Blackburn, Burnley and Preston rural districts, and the Bowland rural district from the West Riding of Yorkshire, hence the inclusion of the Red Rose of Lancaster and White Rose of York on the new council's coat of arms.

One of the principle reasons for the reorganisation was to relax control from Whitehall and bring local government 'closer to the

Creation of new borough brought local government 'closer to people'

people.' Another was to pool resources and make it more economically viable.

The new council boasted 38 councillors and eight committees: policy and resources, liaison, personnel, planning and transportation, recreation and leisure, housing, public works and health, finance and general purposes.

Commenting in the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times on April 4 1974, the council's first chief executive, Michael Jackson, said: "We have to make people aware of the services we will be providing. There is tremendous scope for providing services if people want them and a lot of Government assistance for district councils willing to go out and get it."

And over the following 40 years that is precisely what Ribble Valley Borough Council has done.



£1m HQ brought services under one roof

ONE of the first problems facing the new Ribble Valley Borough Council was to find a home.

Initially, the authority's various departments were scattered throughout Clitheroe, with the chief executive based at Clitheroe Castle.

This meant memoranda and paperwork had to be shunted from office to office, while overheads for heating and lighting were inflated.

Members of the public also had the inconvenience of walking between offices if referred to other departments.

After much discussion, it was decided to construct the new office block at Mytton House in Church Street, which at the time housed the borough treasurer's department.

The new offices were not without controversy, costing just under £1 million and taking a year to build, but they eventually opened in 1980, where they have remained to this day.

Last year, the offices underwent their first refurbishment, featuring a new-look reception, customer service centre, three customer service desks,

three interview rooms, two payments areas, a public IT point allowing public access to the internet and new signage.

Ribble Valley Borough Council chief executive Marshal Scott said: "The council has always focused on delivering the best possible services to its customers and ensuring those services are accessible.

"These new-look reception at the council offices is helping us remain a well-managed authority providing efficient services based on identified customer needs."



A real sense of 'belonging'

LOCAL government has given us ancient administrative terms still in modern use, such as the Saxon 'borough' and Norman 'county.'

Modern local government, however, is overwhelmingly a 19th Century Government creation, along with the many reforms and reorganisations that have occurred with depressing regularity ever since, and still threaten us today.

And therein lies the main clue as to what the next 40 years may hold. He who pays the piper calls the tune and as long as the Government remains the paymaster the freedom to act for local communities is likely to remain constrained, leading to a fractured and resentful relationship – an example of which we have recently seen in Ribble Valley in terms of planning policy.

Such tensions are not sustainable and I believe and hope we can look forward to a genuine process of devolution to an independently funded local

administration – a process already gathering momentum in Scotland and Wales.

Within that process, however, I sense a growing policy shift towards large unitary authorities, which will mean fewer councils serving a wider area, with fewer councillors and employees, as councils commission more and deliver less.

Absorption within a regional 'super council' would be disastrous for Ribble Valley and I fear the years ahead will see us having to argue our case to remain a distinct borough vigorously, as local people will undoubtedly wish.

Whatever the configuration, the future challenge will be to match diminishing resources with growing demands.

The UK population is set to exceed 80million in the next 40 years, with a third over the age of 65, a profile that will be higher in Ribble Valley. Communication technology will drive significant changes in the relationship between citizen and council, as

e-democracy assumes growing importance.

Councils will also need to balance an increasingly sophisticated and knowledge based local economy, deal with growing demand from younger and older residents for affordable housing, and draw upon the civic energies of local communities that will need to think differently about their role – not just as consumers of public services, but as partners in providing them.

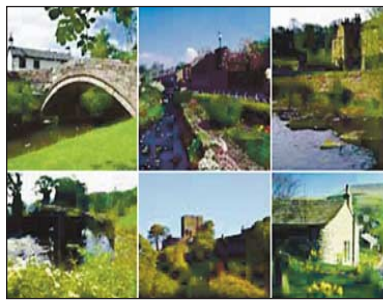
The building of resilient and supportive local communities innovating local solutions to local problems will be a serious public policy objective.

By any yardstick Ribble Valley has been a resounding success over the last 40 years and the sense of belonging is rightly a source of civic pride within the borough – a pride which, I am sure, will be as strong and undiminished in 40 years as it is now.

**Stuart Hirst, Leader,
Ribble Valley Borough Council**

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RIBBLE VALLEY News



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The newspaper of Ribble Valley Borough Council

40th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL Spring 2014



A toast to 40 years of change and innovation

THE borough of Ribble Valley commemorates its 40th anniversary on April 1 2014.

The council came into being in 1974 following the biggest shake-up in local government for over a century.

The reorganisation saw the country divided into 'districts,' one of which, Ribble Valley, at 225 square miles, was the largest geographically in Lancashire, but with the smallest population: 53,000 residents.

The borough has gone on to become one of the most successful in the UK, with high customer

satisfaction rates, low crimes rates and at the forefront of several nationally-acclaimed projects.

And all this has been achieved with the lowest council tax rate in Lancashire and one of the lowest rates in the UK.

Council leader Stuart Hirst praised the dedication and hard work of council staff and councillors for delivering efficient and cost-effective services year after year.

He said: "Like all other local authorities, Ribble Valley Borough Council has seen a significant reduction in financial support

from the Government.

"There have been announcements from some neighbouring authorities about substantial redundancies, but our budget proposals for the coming year do not envisage any compulsory redundancies or reduction in services, while maintaining support for charitable and voluntary organisations.

"Our sound financial position is down to prudent management and a committed and dedicated workforce and I would like to pay tribute to staff and councillors, past and present, for delivering

efficient, cost-effective and first-class services over the last 40 years."

Councillor Hirst is pictured right, with (from the left) the council's director of community services, John Heap, director of resources Jane Pearson, chief executive Marshal Scott and deputy mayor Michael Ranson, with (front) Ribble Valley Mayor and Mayoress Richard Sherras and Lynne Pate.

See our special 'wraparound' supplement for a journey through 40 successful years of the borough of Ribble Valley.

Streamlined collections to boost paper recycling rates

RIBBLE Valley's waste paper collection service has been streamlined in a bid to boost the borough's recycling rates.

From March 3, waste paper and cardboard is being collected on the same day as blue or green wheeled bins.

Waste paper will be collected from households in the north of the borough on the same day as green wheeled bins and in the south of the borough on the same day as blue wheeled bins.

The changes are outlined in collection schedules delivered to households in March and available from the Council Offices.

Ribble Valley Borough Council took its popular 'white sack' collection of waste paper and cardboard in-house in July last year in a drive to increase efficiency and boost recycling rates.

Robert Thompson, chairman of the council's community services committee, said: "The white sack service has been valued by local residents for many years, but by aligning it with the rest of our refuse collection service we hope to make it easier to use, as well as increase participation rates.

"We aim to collect as much waste paper and card as possible, not only because it helps to protect the

planet, but also to contribute towards the cost of providing the service through income generated from the sale of the paper and cardboard."

The schedules show whether white sacks will be collected on the same day as blue or green wheeled bins. The collection days and collection points remain unchanged, and all householders have to do is leave their white sack out with the relevant wheeled bin.

UK households produce over 30million tonnes of waste a year, of which around 40 per cent is recycled, compared to 70 per cent in other European countries.

Recycling conserves raw materials and protects natural habitats, reduces the need for mining, quarrying and logging, and refining and processing raw materials, all of which create substantial air and water pollution.

Households can check whether their waste paper and cardboard will be collected on a "blue week" or "green week" at ribblevalley.gov.uk.

Anyone needing a white sack for the collection of waste paper and cardboard or a new collection schedule is asked to phone Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.



● SACK SAVVY: Ribble Valley Borough Council refuse loader Dean Golding

Continental market 'is a first' for town

SOME of the finest foods and artisan products in Europe will be up for grabs in Clitheroe this month, when the town hosts its first continental market.

Geraud Markets, the UK's leading operator of specialist markets, will occupy the Clitheroe Market Car Park for three days from Thursday, April 17, to Saturday, April 19.

Geraud Markets manages 55 continental markets across the country, as well as the famous Covent Garden Sunday Market, and over 50 stallholders from across Europe are expected to take part in the three-day bonanza.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: "Clitheroe is famed for its independent retailers and now we have the opportunity to launch this year's summer season with a fantastic shopping experience that will put Clitheroe even more firmly on the North West's retail map."

The market will feature fine foods, including French charcuterie, continental cheeses, German sausages, garlic and vegetables, as well as artisan items, such as handmade jewellery and leather goods.

Clitheroe Market is also expected to open on the Friday, which is not a normal market day, while the Friday flea market will operate as normal.

● Don't forget the Clitheroe Food Festival takes place on Saturday, August 9, featuring Lancashire's finest food producers.

Why not visit us on the web? www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

Council leader's message

Tax is frozen for fifth year

I AM delighted that Ribble Valley Borough Council has frozen its council tax for the fifth year running.

At £140.69 on a Band D property, Ribble Valley's share of the council tax will remain the lowest in Lancashire and one of the lowest in the UK. As national economic pressures continue to erode Government funding, which is an integral part of our income stream, the budget process has become a demanding and detailed exercise.

Over the last five years, while Ribble Valley's share of the council tax has remained frozen, the council's funding from Government has decreased by over £1.5million.

Despite this, careful cost control and sound financial planning, along with planned and prudent use of reserves and new income streams, has enabled the council to maintain core services at satisfaction levels averaging over 75 per cent, one of the highest in the North West.

We should not, however, underestimate the challenges ahead. We know that our grant in 2015/16 will decrease even further and we are starting budget preparations immediately to deal with this.

Increased resources

National planning policy continues to make an unprecedented demand on our efforts and we are severely constrained by policy requirements. The examination in public of our Core Strategy has now closed and the Planning Inspectorate has suggested a number of amendments. Upon completion of the additional work we fully anticipate its adoption within months.

This remains a key objective and will afford us the single most important tool in controlling the unwanted and excessive flow of housing applications.

Finance and planning are key issues for us, and regrettably sometimes overshadow the council's ongoing excellent work in many other areas.

The council was recently praised by the Government for its refuse collection service. The Government's guidance on weekly refuse collections, or "bin bible," cites Ribble Valley as an example of best practice.

Our residents tell us that they value and appreciate weekly collections of non-recyclable waste and we are delighted that the Government has recognised our achievements.

As you can see on this page food hygiene in Ribble Valley is also among the best in the country according to a national investigation.

A Which? report has placed Ribble Valley Borough Council seventh in the country for food hygiene enforcement.

The report found that the council's food safety team inspected 99.3 per cent of the borough's food establishments requiring inspection in 2013, 97 per cent of which were awarded a food hygiene rating of three stars or above.

Ribble Valley has some of the best food outlets and producers in the country and a deserved reputation as a premier food destination.



● **Stuart Hirst, Leader, Ribble Valley Borough Council**

New 'clean up' orders to keep rogue dog owners in check

NEW orders requiring Ribble Valley dog owners to clean up after their pets and keep them under control in public are on the cards.

The dog control orders will see pet owners face fines of up to £1,000 in a magistrates' court or fixed penalty notices of at least £50 for anti-social pet behaviour.

Five orders have been approved in principle by the council's community services committee following the ongoing problem of dog poop in public places, particularly on playing fields.

The orders have been subject to public consultation and will go back to committee for final consideration with a view to

becoming law by the summer.

They will require pet owners to remove dog faeces from public land, including footpaths and fields, keep their dogs on leads when instructed to do so by a dog enforcement officer and prohibit dogs from sports pitches, playing fields and children's playgrounds.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of environmental health, James Russell, said: "Complaints about dog issues are the second highest received by the council each year and the new orders will enable us to deal with these matters more effectively.

"They will also give our dog enforcement officers greater powers to deal with offenders.

"Irresponsible dog owners will



● **TAKING THE LEAD: Ribble Valley Borough Council dog warden Adele Geraghty**



no longer be able to use ignorance as an excuse for not controlling their pets and the message is simple: The days of allowing dogs to foul in public are over, so pick up your pet mess everywhere, every time."

Ribble Valley Borough Council receives over 200 complaints about dog fouling and spends £30,000 disposing of it each year.

Dog faeces take two months to break down and can give humans a number of infections, including toxocarasis, which can cause breathing difficulties, red and painful eyes, or clouded vision, particularly in young people.

To report dog fouling or for further information, contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.

We've got food hygiene licked, says Which? probe

● **FIRST FOR FOOD HYGIENE: Ribble Valley Borough Council environmental health technician Louise Hilton-Knott and Katie Winstanley, of Clitheroe's five-star sandwich shop, Megabites**



SAFETY SPOT
 "Don't wash your chicken" is the message behind this year's Food Safety Week from June 16 to 22. The campaign will see consumers advised on what they can do to protect themselves and their families from food poisoning caused by handling chicken.

FOOD hygiene in Ribble Valley is among the best in the country according to a national investigation.

A Which? report has revealed a significant variation in food hygiene across the UK.

But the report has placed Ribble Valley Borough Council seventh in the country for food hygiene enforcement.

The Which? research found that one in three high and medium-risk food businesses in some areas of the country were not complying with food hygiene requirements.

The investigation was based on data submitted to the Food Standards Agency in 2013 by the UK's 395 local authorities.

Each authority was ranked on three criteria: the proportion of premises ranked as high or medium risk broadly compliant with food hygiene requirements, the percentage of premises yet to receive a risk rating and the proportion of inspections required but not carried out by food hygiene inspectors.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: "Ribble Valley has some of the best food outlets and producers in the country, and a deserved reputation as a premier food destination.

"The majority of the borough's food businesses have high standards of hygiene and we are delighted that the standards being exacted by our food safety team have been recognised in this investigation."

The investigation found that council's food safety team inspected 99.3 per cent of the borough's food establishments requiring inspection in 2013, 97 per cent of which were awarded a food hygiene rating of three stars or above.

Food premises in Ribble Valley, including restaurants, cafes, takeaways, sandwich shops, food retailers and supermarkets, are rated from five to zero for food hygiene.

They are assessed on a range of criteria, including the preparation, cooking, re-heating, cooling and storage of food. Food hygiene ratings are displayed on distinctive green and black stickers on windows and doors or can be found at ribblevalley.gov.uk.

Voters set to go to the polls as Euro elections loom

RIBBLE Valley goes to the polls in European parliamentary elections on Thursday, May 22.

The notice of poll and list of candidates will be published on Ribble Valley Borough Council's web site by 4pm on Friday, April 25.

Residents who want to vote must be registered as an elector by Wednesday, May 7, which is also the deadline for new postal vote applications, or changes to existing proxy or postal votes. New

proxy vote applications must be made by Wednesday, May 14. Emergency proxy votes are available until 5pm on polling day.

European parliamentary elections are the second biggest democratic exercise in the world, with over 400 million people expected to cast a vote.

The 751 MEPs will set the course of European policy for the next five years and elect the leader of the European Union's executive body, the

European Commission.

Voting is voluntary in most European Parliament member states, including the UK, but compulsory in Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and Luxembourg.

Anyone who is not a registered elector or has recently moved into the area and would like to vote is asked to contact the council's elections team on 01200 414411.

Council tax freeze 'won't hit services'

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has announced a council tax freeze without cuts in jobs or services for the fifth year running.

The council has frozen council tax without the need for compulsory redundancies or service cuts, despite a 12 per cent reduction in Government grants. Support for charities and voluntary organisations will also be maintained.

The council's 2014/15 budget means Ribble Valley Borough Council's share of the council tax on a Band D property will remain at £140.69, the lowest in Lancashire and one of the lowest in the country.

And council leader Stuart Hirst has praised the dedication and hard work of council staff and councillors for delivering efficient and cost-effective services in difficult times.

He said: "I am very pleased that Ribble Valley's share of the council tax is to be frozen and core services protected for the fifth successive year.

"This has been achieved despite a reduction in Government funding of 12 per cent, a total of 47 per cent since 2010.

"Ribble Valley has the lowest council tax in Lancashire and one of the lowest in the country, which is a significant achievement built on many years of detailed financial planning.

"I am grateful to councillors and staff for their dedication and commitment, and continuing to deliver efficient and cost-effective services in difficult times."

Council tax bills include precepts from Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and parishes. Full details are available at www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk.

Trees planted to honour the fallen of Great War



AN ambitious scheme to plant a tree in each of Ribble Valley's 35 parishes in memory of the borough's First World War fallen has been launched.

The Great Wood scheme will see oak trees bearing plaques in memory of the hundreds of young Ribble Valley men who lost their lives during the Great War planted throughout the borough.

Ribble Valley Deputy Mayor Michael Ranson plans to plant the commemorative trees throughout his mayoral year, which starts on May 13.

Schoolchildren from each parish will be involved in the planting and given poppy and wildflower seeds for commemorative gardens at their schools.

The 100th anniversary of Britain's involvement in the First World War takes place on Monday, August 4, and will herald commemorative events throughout the country.

From 2014 until the 100th anniversary of the official ceasefire, or Armistice Day, on November 11 2018, communities across the world will come together to remember those

who lived, fought and died in the First World War.

Councillor Ranson (pictured), who lost a great-uncle in the war, said: "We are all connected to the First World War, through our family history, the fallen in our local communities, or its long-term impact on society.

"I am honoured and humbled to be leading this important campaign to remember Ribble Valley's fallen during my year as mayor."

The First World War was a turning point in world history, claiming the lives of 16million people across the world and having a huge impact on those who experienced it.

Millions of men fought on land, at sea and in the air, with modern weapons causing mass casualties.

As Ribble Valley did not exist until 1974, precise records of the number of fallen in the borough do not exist, but it is believed to be around 1,000.

Ribble Valley will host numerous First World War commemorative events over the coming year and further details will be available in due course at www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk.

Little Green Bus has a new set of wheels

A DOOR-TO-DOOR bus service that prevents elderly and vulnerable Ribble Valley residents from becoming "prisoners in their own homes" has a new set of wheels thanks to cash from the borough council.

The Little Green Bus, so-called because of its environmental credentials, has a new "blue" Mercedes Sprinter thanks to £6,200 from Ribble Valley Borough Council and additional cash from Ribble Valley Homes, the Yorkshire Building Society and Lancashire County Council.

The Little Green Bus provides door-to-door transport for elderly and vulnerable residents via fully-accessible minibuses and a volunteer car scheme, enabling them to access

vital services and get their essential weekly shopping.

The scheme's manager, Donna Atkinson, said: "Our drivers are marvellous individuals, who volunteer their time to help us assist people who, without our services, would be prisoners in their own homes.

"Our newest project is an assisted shopping and access to services scheme that supports people with illnesses, such as dementia, allowing them to use transport that is familiar to them and staffed by specially-trained volunteers.

"We are extremely grateful to Ribble Valley Borough Council and all our sponsors for their generosity."

The new bus was launched by Ribble Valley Mayor Richard Sherras, who added: "The Little Green Bus is a vital lifeline in such a



● ALL ABOARD: Ribble Valley Mayor Richard Sherras launches the Little Green Bus

large rural community, where many elderly and vulnerable residents live in isolation, and we are delighted to support this scheme."

The Little Green Bus, started four years ago, now has five buses and 27 volunteer drivers offering affordable

travel to over 300 vulnerable residents and 50 community groups. It is looking for additional volunteers and if you would like to help as a bus or car driver, or shopping and access to services assistant, contact Little Green Bus on 01200 444484.

Opposition leader's message

Local knowledge is always better than Whitehall diktat

JUST before Christmas, the Government announced that it was not going to introduce legislation on how local authorities should enforce parking regulations.

How big an effect this legislation would have had on Ribble Valley is debateable, but it does highlight a bigger issue.

Successive governments seem to think they know how to deliver local services better than the local authorities that have to deliver them.

A year or so ago, Secretary of State Eric Pickles published a dossier on how he thought councils should make savings, yet it is evident to anyone

that how money is saved in London is totally different from Lancashire and how money is saved in Richmond is totally different from Ribble Valley.

But this Government is no different from any other. When John Prescott was the minister in charge of local government he gave local government services more targets than the Pentagon.

The Government before that devised compulsory competitive tendering, meaning councils had to put services out to auction to the lowest bidder. Unfortunately, while savings were made, far too often the quality of the service

plummeted.

On top of all this have been the many and varied changes over the years to the planning regime.

The fact is, local authorities and their elected representatives have a far greater understanding of what is going on in their areas than Government ministers or Whitehall mandarins and, though we might not get it right every time, local knowledge is far better than Whitehall diktat.

Allan Knox, Leader of the Opposition, Ribble Valley Borough Council





Lock it up, warn police

MOTORISTS in Ribble Valley are being warned to lock their vehicles after a spate of thefts from insecure cars and vans.

Recent figures have revealed that almost 70 per cent of thefts from vehicles in the borough last year – 180 – were from those that were unlocked.

Kevin Horkin, chairman of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, said: "Of the reported thefts from cars and vans, nearly three-quarters were from vehicles that had been left unlocked.

"Thieves are targeting unlocked vehicles to steal phones, satnavs, tablet devices and laptop computers.

"We have also had reports of cars being entered to take small change or sports bags, while thieves are targeting vans to steal power tools or copper pipe.

"Locking vehicles can go a long way in deterring these opportunistic thieves and ensuring Ribble Valley remains one of the safest places in the UK"

Ribble Valley geographical police inspector Hassan Khan added: "Ribble Valley does have low crime levels, but we should all still be taking sensible steps to protect our property.

"We are asking motorists to take a few seconds to lock their vehicles and ensure they have not left anything on view.

"Residents who see anyone trying car door handles or acting suspiciously around cars or vans are asked to call 999 straight away."

Motorists are advised that insurers may not pay out for property stolen from an insecure vehicle.

Top tips to combat theft from vehicles:

- Keep loose change in a closed ashtray. A desperate thief will smash a side window worth £80 to steal small change
- Handbags, leather jackets, wallets, laptops and shopping should never be left on view, but locked in the boot
- Lock portable satnavs in the boot and wipe any suction marks from the windscreen
- Keep the inside of the vehicle tidy, as an untidy vehicle containing opened mail or plastic bags may attract the curiosity of a thief
- If there is nothing in the glove compartment, leave it open to view
- Remove the fascia of your sound system if it has one and use the PIN facility

RIBBLE Valley is the safest place in Lancashire and one of the safest in the UK.

And behind the scenes a great deal of hard work is going on to ensure this remains the case.

Ribble Valley Borough Council chairs the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, which in 2005 was tasked with reducing crime by 13.5 per cent.

Since then, reported crime in Ribble Valley has fallen by over 35 per cent and recent Government figures show that 28 crimes for every

1,000 residents were recorded in the borough last year, significantly below the national average and the lowest in Lancashire.

Ribble Valley councillor Kevin Horkin, the partnership's chairman, said: "Thanks to some fantastically innovative work on a shoestring budget the partnership and its members have contributed significantly to a reduction in crime in Ribble Valley in recent years."

Read on to find out how the partnership and its members are working hard to ensure Ribble Valley remains one of the safest places in the UK.



Free water chasers on tap to support burgeoning nightlife

Bars to serve up new 'safe' glasses

WATER chasers and 'safe' glasses are on offer to town centre revellers as part of a new scheme to support Clitheroe's burgeoning nightlife.

Clitheroe is fast becoming a fashionable nightspot, attracting partygoers from as far afield as Preston and Blackburn to its trendy wine bars and gastro-pubs.

Now drinkers are to be offered drinks in indestructible polycarbonate glasses and free water chasers in a drive to strengthen Ribble Valley's reputation as a vibrant and safe night time destination.

Over 3,000 of the glasses, featuring the message, Drink sensibly and enjoy your night! are being handed out to hostellers across the borough.

And posters featuring the message, Tap water's on the house, will be displayed prominently in all licensed premises.

Kevin Horkin, chairman of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, which helped to fund the scheme, said: "Clitheroe is fast becoming the place to be, attracting partygoers from across East Lancashire looking for a safe and

enjoyable experience.

"The polycarbonate glasses are indestructible and will strengthen the perception of Ribble Valley as a safe place in which to enjoy a night out.

"We will also be encouraging partygoers to drink water chasers, which go some way to mitigating the effects of alcohol and are commonplace in many European countries.

"We will be working with licensed premises to ensure posters promoting the provision of free tap water are displayed prominently."

The scheme, also funded by the



● SAFETY ON TAP: Kevin Horkin, chairman of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, and Peter Ellis, licensee at the White Lion, Clitheroe

Lancashire Partnership Against Crime, Lancashire Trading Standards and Public Health Lancashire, is part of the Ribble Valley Nighttime Economy Alcohol Harm Reduction Plan.

The plan also includes spot checks on licensed premises to ensure they are not selling alcohol to children or people who are drunk and the Matthew Alston Project, which was set up in 2011 in memory of 18-year-old Clitheroe Royal Grammar School pupil Matthew Alston, who died in a car crash the morning after he had been drinking.

Council hosts forum on web safety issues

INTERNET safety was the subject of a conference hosted by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The event, attended by over 50 youngsters, their parents and teachers, outlined how to combat cyberbullying, use computer privacy settings, use chat sites safely and which web sites to avoid.

It included a short drama on the risks of social networking by pupils from Ribblesdale High School, while Catherine Perrin-Griffiths, a former pupil of St Cecilia's High School in Longridge, performed her song, Josh's Song, in memory of schoolfriend Joshua Unsworth, who was found dead behind his family home in Goosnargh last year after allegedly being bullied on a social networking site.

The event was organised by Ribble Valley Borough Council, Lancashire Police and the Grand in Clitheroe, after a survey among high school pupils in Ribble Valley revealed 88 per cent of respondents had a social networking account, 75 per cent had chatted to someone they did not know and 60 per cent had experienced bullying directly or indirectly.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's partnership officer, David Ingham, said: "Children of the internet age face the threat of bullies reaching them wherever they are and at any time. "They are learning social dynamics on the internet and staying abreast of that as a parent is difficult.

"The aim of the conference was to offer parents advice and information on how to stay a step ahead of the cyberbullies.

"We are delighted with the response to the conference, which has facilitated some valuable ongoing work."

Cyberbullying is the use of the internet and related technologies to harm or harass people in a deliberate, repeated and hostile manner.

According to the NSPCC, 38 per cent of young people have been affected by cyberbullying, including unwanted sexual messages and cyberstalking, while ChildLine received 31,599 calls from children about the problem in 2011/12.

Council backs new one-stop shop offering facts and support for young people

'Trust Ed' site to help youngsters steer clear of drink and drugs

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council is supporting a new web site for young people offering information on drugs, alcohol, bullying and e-safety.

Trust Ed is a one-stop-shop for facts, advice and support on a range of community safety issues for youngsters aged 10 to 14.

The site, developed by Lancashire Police in consultation with young people across the county, provides up-to-date information on news and issues affecting youngsters and will host live web chats with police officers.

It aims to help prevent young people falling victim to crime, give them the facts to identify if they or one of their friends are a victim, provide them with the information they need to get help and support or report a crime and give them a platform to express their opinions.

The site also aims to be a key resource for parents, carers and teachers, where they can get information and advice, find links to other useful web sites and download helpful guides.

Kevin Horkin, chairman of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, said: "Trust Ed is a fantastic way of educating young people about the risks that exist not just in the outside world, but online, too.

"Young people are more at risk than any other age group of falling victim to certain crimes, such as street robberies, as well as being exposed to cyberbullying and sexual exploitation.

"Trust Ed is a reliable and trusted resource that young people in Ribble Valley and throughout Lancashire can go to for information and advice."

Trust Ed can be found at www.trusted2know.co.uk.



'Shared' bungalows up for grabs in Clitheroe

RIBBLE Valley's first ever shared ownership bungalows are up for grabs at a picturesque development overlooking the River Ribble in Clitheroe.

Three two-bedroom bungalows are available on a part-buy-part basis at Low Moor Gardens, along with three two-bedroom houses, three three-bedroom houses and a four-bedroom house.

The homes are being developed by Taylor Wimpey in association with Ribble Valley Borough Council and St Vincent's Housing Association.

And St Vincent's is hosting an open day at the development on Tuesday, April 29, from 4 to 7pm.

The properties have gardens and off-road parking, making them ideal for families or mature residents in an area where affordable housing is particularly scarce.

And the shared ownership bungalows start at just £75,000 for a 50 per cent share.

Colin Hirst, head of housing and regeneration at Ribble Valley Borough Council, said: "The provision of affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges facing the council and affordable bungalows and four-bedroom houses are almost non-existent.

"We are working closely with housing associations to address this problem and are delighted to have supported this excellent scheme, which will bring much-needed high-quality shared

ownership accommodation to Clitheroe."

Rachel O'Conner, St Vincent's Housing Association's development manager, added: "Low Moor Gardens is a superb development with fantastic views of the River Ribble and Pendle Hill.

"We are delighted to be a partner in this scheme that will release much-needed affordable properties into the housing market."

House prices in Ribble Valley are way above the national average and first-time buyers are being forced out of the communities their families have lived in for generations.

There is also a dearth of accommodation suitable for young single people and the elderly.

Ribble Valley Borough Council is at the forefront of several housing initiatives, from the provision of affordable properties in partnership with housing associations and developers, to cutting-edge energy efficiency.

Other current affordable housing schemes include Ribble Meadows in Henthorn Road, Clitheroe; Romans Crossing in Longridge, Black Hill View in Sabden and Church Raikie in Chipping.

Anyone looking for an affordable property should contact Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing team on 01200 414567. To register for one of the Low Moor Gardens properties, call Plumlife on 0161 447 5050.



●KEY TO THE DOOR: Colin Hirst and Rachel O'Conner

RIBBLE Valley residents with health problems are staying the right side of fitness thanks to the council's healthy lifestyles scheme.

Nearly 5,000 residents have signed up to the successful scheme since it started in 2001.

The programme, run in conjunction with Public

Health Lancashire and the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, offers a range of classes for people with specific health needs, such as heart complaints and weight management, as well as long-term conditions, such as Parkinson's Disease.

The programme was recently rated as good or

very good by 97 per cent of respondents in a survey, with a 97 per cent also saying they had made positive changes to their lives as a result of taking part.

Read on to find out how the healthy lifestyles scheme can put the skip back into your step.

Cash bonus for fitness programme

RIBBLE Valley's healthy lifestyles scheme has been helping residents with specific health needs stay fit for over 13 years.

Now the popular scheme has received a funding boost for a further two years.

Ribble Valley Borough Council has been running the scheme on behalf of health sector partners since 2001, since which over 5,000 residents with a range of health problems, from heart complaints to weight management, have taken part.

The scheme has received accolades from doctors, health professionals and the Government for devising fitness programmes aimed at people with specific needs.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's health and fitness officer, Tracy Balko, who manages the scheme, said: "Funding for the healthy lifestyles scheme has always been fixed-term and subject to renewal, but the great news is that our current funding from Public Health Lancashire and the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group has been extended for a further two years.

"This is a fantastic endorsement of the scheme and its ongoing success in helping residents with specific health needs, who might otherwise not be able to access appropriate fitness programmes."

Further details on the scheme are available from the healthy lifestyles team on 01200 414484.



● **FITNESS FIRST:** Tracy Balko (front right), with healthy lifestyles referral officers Sharron Whiteoak and Simon Walton, and enthusiastic participants

Heartwatch ticks over nicely thanks to health team

A CARDIAC rehabilitation programme for Ribble Valley residents with heart problems is ticking along nicely thanks to the council's healthy lifestyles team.

Heartwatch helps residents recovering from a heart attack or heart surgery return to health through physical activity and advice tailored specifically to their needs.

Participants are referred to the 12-week Heartwatch programme by their GPs. During the scheme, they are continually assessed and supported, and afterwards they can continue with the scheme or take up alternative exercise.

Over 300 participants have passed through Heartwatch, which is managed by Ribble Valley Borough Council and funded by the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, since it started in 2003.

Heartwatch starts with gentle circuit sessions and progresses to more independent gym sessions, as participants gain fitness and confidence.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's health and fitness officer, Tracy Balko, said: "Cardiac rehabilitation schemes run successfully throughout the country, but the uniqueness of Heartwatch is the close working relationship that the healthy lifestyles team has with the local clinical team, which ensures participants are getting the absolute best guidance and support."

Clitheroe mum Diane Simpson (pictured right), who was referred to Heartwatch by her GP following a heart attack, said the scheme was changing her life.

"The Heartwatch team really know their stuff and are helping me return to fitness in a way that is appropriate to my needs. I can't recommend it highly enough."

Further details are available from the healthy lifestyles team on 01200 414484.



10th anniversary for walking group



A WALKING scheme that is helping Ribble Valley residents take great strides in their health and fitness is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Stepping Out was set up in 2004 to promote walking as an effective and low-risk form of physical activity for those who are inactive.

Started with a handful of volunteers and two treks a week, it now offers a bustling programme of five weekly walks of varying lengths and difficulty facilitated by an enthusiastic team of over 30 specially-trained volunteer walk leaders.

It attracts over 130 weekly participants, 80 per cent of who have been attending Stepping Out for over two years.

A programme of evening walks starts in May and a series of "prambles" suitable for pushchairs is in the pipeline, as well gentle

10-minute treks for residents with restricted mobility.

Stepping Out coordinator Barrie Williams said: "Walking can play an important role in creating a healthier nation and evidence is increasingly showing its many benefits.

"From modest beginnings, Stepping Out is now one of Lancashire's most successful health programmes and we are delighted that it is going from strength to strength.

"You don't have to be fit to walk and the elderly, as well as those recovering from illness, can enjoy it – and it's free!"

Stepping Out encourages people who might not otherwise be active to enjoy the benefits of walking in a friendly, welcoming and non-competitive environment.

Further information and a Stepping Out programme are available from Barrie Williams on 01200 414484.

Feeling under the weather? Visit your pharmacist first

RIBBLE Valley residents are being encouraged to seek help from their pharmacist if they are feeling under the weather.

And the elderly are being advised to tell a friend, family member or carer if they have a bad cough, cold or sore throat, to prevent it getting worse.

The NHS campaign, 'The earlier, the better,' is also asking anyone caring for or visiting an elderly relative to get advice from their local pharmacist

to prevent minor illnesses developing into something more serious.

Bridget Hilton, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council's health and housing committee, said: "Pharmacists can provide expert guidance on how to alleviate or manage long-term conditions, or give advice on the best treatment for minor ailments, such as a cough or cold.

"So it is essential that older people seek help as soon as possible to prevent a trip to hospital if

their condition gets worse. The earlier, the better!"

The campaign, targeted at the over-60s through their friends, family and carers, aims to reduce pressure on the NHS by decreasing the number of people requiring emergency hospital admissions with illnesses that could have been effectively treated earlier by self-care or community pharmacy services.

Further information is available from www.nhs.uk/asap.

DAY-TRIPPERS and weekenders are flocking to Ribble Valley in their droves, new figures have revealed.

The latest national tourism figures show that visitor numbers in Ribble Valley increased by three per cent last year, from 3.5million to 3.61million, with a corresponding increase in tourism spend of seven per cent, from £159.16million to £169.61million.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's tourism team works

in partnership with the county's tourist board – Marketing Lancashire – and the Ribble Valley Tourism Association to promote and develop the local visitor economy.

The council's tourism and events officer, Tom Pridmore, said: "Unlike many boroughs in Lancashire, Ribble Valley has a strong brand as a visitor destination, particularly for food and hospitality, countryside

pursuits and heritage.

"And we are working with our partners and a buoyant and entrepreneurial private sector to ensure this remains the case."

Read on to see how Ribble Valley Borough Council is ensuring the area where Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has said she would like to retire remains firmly on the visitor map.

New-look guide is better than ever!

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has published its 2014 visitor guide, Discover Ribble Valley.

The new-look guide was redesigned in a coffee table magazine style last year following consultation with customers and advertisers. It was a great success, doubling in size from previous editions and attracting significant interest.

This year's guide features sections on food, shopping,

heritage, outdoor activities, weddings, the arts, events and a comprehensive accommodation listing.

It also features recipes from top local chefs Nigel Haworth of Northcote Manor and Stosie Madi of the Parker's Arms.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's tourism and events officer, Tom Pridmore, said: "Discover Ribble Valley focuses on businesses with a real story to tell offering authentic visitor experiences around the

themes of food, country walking and shopping.

"The guide has been very well received since undergoing a revamp and interest in this year's publication has been high."

Discover Ribble Valley will be distributed at tourism exhibitions and visitor information centres across the UK.

It is available from the Visitor Information Centre and Platform Gallery in Station Road, Clitheroe on 01200 425566.

Lucy helps create euro-friendly web site content



A welcome - in any language

WELCOME, willkommen, bienvenue, bienvenidos! That's the message from Ribble Valley Borough Council's tourism team thanks to Clitheroe Grammar School pupil Lucy Woods.

The 18-year-old language student at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School has set about translating sections of Ribble Valley's tourism web site into French, German and Spanish.

Lucy was keen to apply her foreign language skills and contacted the council's tourism and events officer, Tom Pridmore, with an offer to translate parts of the web site to make it more accessible to overseas visitors.

Tom said: "Lucy has enthusiastically translated significant parts of our

tourism web site into French, German and Spanish, as well as making the content more relevant.

"We hope to reproduce her work into printed leaflets for Clitheroe, Whalley, Longridge and the Forest of Bowland, as we are keen to welcome overseas visitors to Ribble Valley."

Camilla Mammen, 24, a student placement from the International Business Academy in Denmark, is also currently working in the council's tourism team and has undertaken further translation work in Danish.

There are also plans to translate Ribble Valley's tourism literature into other languages, particularly Chinese, Mandarin and Dutch, in due course.



● **TOPS FOR TOURISM:** Tom Pridmore (top right), with guests at the launch of Ribble Valley Borough Council's new visitor guide

Free app opens up award-winning food trail to the world

AN award-winning food trail that has championed Ribble Valley produce and been emulated as far afield as Tasmania now has its own app.

The Ribble Valley Food Trail, launched in 2008 by Ribble Valley Borough Council, features 29 producers, shops and restaurants providing top-quality food, exceptional customer service and excellent provenance: food produced, sourced and consumed locally.

The trail has been a runaway success, winning a raft of awards and critical acclaim, and emulated in Oxford, Northern Ireland

and even Tasmania.

And now it has its own free app that will open up a host of benefits to food trail members, food enthusiasts and visitors to Ribble Valley.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: "The Ribble Valley Food Trail has been a tremendous success, showcasing the excellent work undertaken by the borough's food producers, retailers and chefs, while celebrating the area's remarkable recovery from the 2001 foot and mouth epidemic.

"Ribble Valley food is now acknowledged as among the best in the country, but the challenge is to ensure the trail stays a step ahead by consolidating and improving its e-communications interactivity and making the most of the opportunities afforded by social media."

New technology is radically changing the way people interact. There has been a massive increase in the number of people using and communicating via the internet, e-mail and mobile phones.

Over 80 per cent of UK adults are now

online, with 43 per cent actively using social media and 56 per cent owning a web-enabled phone, while studies show 68 per cent of businesses have created leads from social media.

The Ribble Valley Food Trail app will open up a host of benefits, such as one-click booking, video and digital vouchers. Geo-located content will also enable vouchers and coupons to be delivered straight to mobile phones near businesses on the trail.

The app is available on the AppStore and Google Play.

20th anniversary discounts on offer at gallery



●THE BIG 2-0: Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre supervisor Stephanie Hibbert and administrator Rose Hamilton

THE award-winning Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a raft of special activities and discounts from Tuesday, May 20.

The Station Road gallery opened in May 1994, after the redevelopment of the semi-derelict Clitheroe Rail Station.

The station building was turned into a multi-award-winning travel hub and art gallery, called the Clitheroe Interchange and Platform Gallery, which received an official opening by His Royal Highness Prince Charles in 2002.

The gallery became one of Lancashire's premier venues for contemporary crafts and underwent a further £100,000 refurbishment funded by the Lottery in 2001.

The Clitheroe visitor information centre moved from the Council Offices to the gallery last year.

Shoppers and arts enthusiasts are invited to join in the anniversary celebrations with a 20 per cent discount off all items for a

week beginning Tuesday, May 20.

The gallery will also feature 20 craft activities throughout the week, including competitions, demonstrations and drop-in activities, while the work of 20 selected artists will be showcased.

There will be a bunting challenge in May, during which local schools will be invited to design and produce their own bunting that will be used to decorate the gallery building.

The Platform Gallery and Clitheroe Visitor Information Centre is a one-stop shop for visitors and art and craft enthusiasts, with the latest information on events and accommodation, a shop selling maps, souvenirs and craftwork by local and national artists, and a gallery exhibiting the best contemporary art, and hosting workshops throughout the year.

All purchases between £100 and £2,000 can be purchased through Own Art, an interest-free purchasing scheme. The gallery is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and on Saturdays 10am to 4.30pm.

Platform Gallery WHAT'S ON

Forthcoming exhibitions

Until April 19

Beauty Is The First Test

Explores craft and mathematics, showing how important mathematics is to contemporary craft practice. Beauty and playfulness is evident in the exhibits that are delighting craftspeople and maths geeks alike.

May 3 to July 12

Craft Open 2014

Popular annual open exhibition featuring craftmakers from across the North of England. A vibrant and eclectic exhibition featuring furniture, textiles, jewellery, ceramics, glass and mixed media. Vote for your favourite piece in the People's Choice Award.

26 July to October 11

Sanctuary

Showcasing crafts for the home in a specially constructed living room, dining area, child's bedroom and adults bedroom featuring furniture, textiles, woodwork, ceramics, lighting, plates and glasses.

Councils link up to produce new map of picturesque valley routes

Five new ways to explore borough cycleways

FIVE treks for cycling enthusiasts have been set out in a new map produced by Ribble Valley Borough Council in partnership with Lancashire County Council

The Ribble Valley Cycle Map features three short and two medium treks by road or fell suitable for novice and experienced riders, and families.

The routes take in numerous Ribble Valley villages, including Downham, Chipping, Hurst Green, the Upper Dunsop Valley and Gisburn Forest.

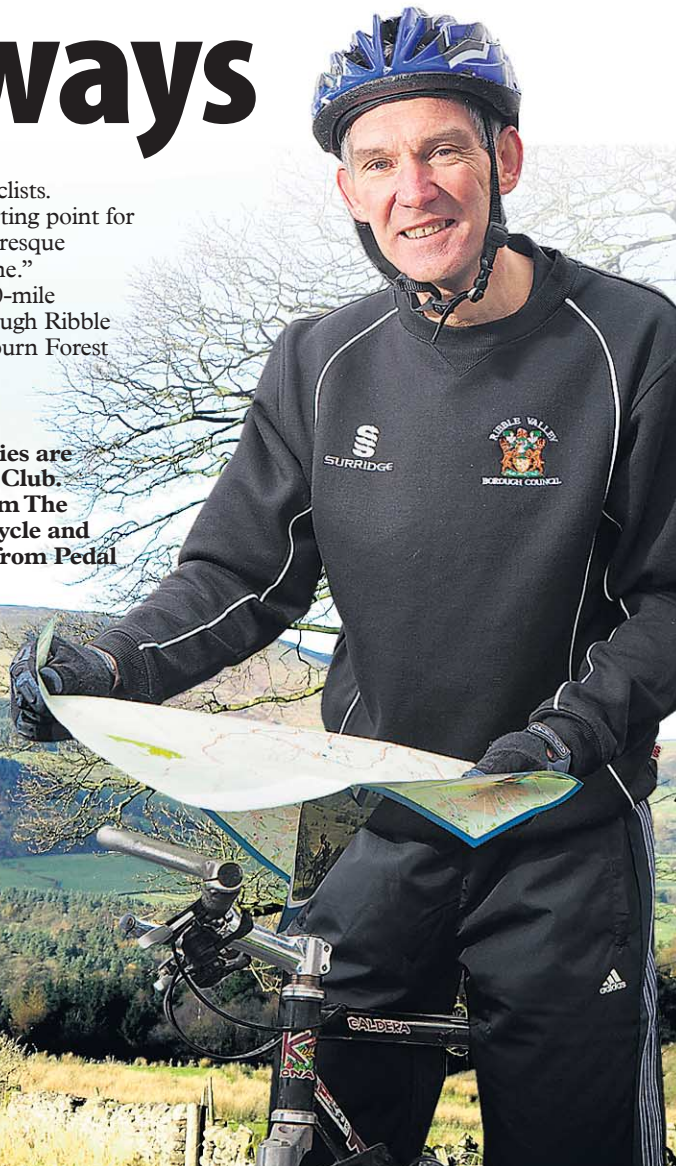
The council's culture and leisure services manager, Colin Winterbottom (pictured), said: "With its quiet country lanes, breathtaking scenery and attractive pubs and cafes, Ribble

Valley is the ideal destination for cyclists.

"This new map is the perfect starting point for cyclists looking to explore our picturesque borough and stay fit at the same time."

The new treks are part of the 260-mile Lancashire Cycleway that runs through Ribble Valley and takes in the famous Gisburn Forest Mountain Bike Trail.

●Weekly cycle rides for all abilities are organised by the Clitheroe Bike Club. Further details are available from The Green Jersey on 01200 427630. Cycle and mountain bike hire is available from Pedal Power on 01200 422066.



Sports clubs to feature in borough 'hub'

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has launched a 'club hub' featuring information on sports clubs throughout the borough.

And clubs signing up to the new scheme by May will be entered into a free draw for £50 worth of sports vouchers.

The hub, which will be published on Ribble Valley Borough Council's web site, will feature comprehensive information on sports clubs throughout the borough, including contact details, who the club's coaches are, where and when the club meets and web site and social media links.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's sports development officer, said: "Sports clubs play a vital and valuable role in encouraging people to take up sport.

"The aim of the Ribble Valley Club Hub is to have a dedicated area on the council's web site offering the public and potential new members as much information as possible to help them find and choose a sports club.

"The hub will be an invaluable resource for parents, teachers and sports participants, and we are inviting sports clubs to sign up."

Plans are also afoot to set up a Ribble Valley Community Sports Forum that will meet quarterly offering sports clubs the opportunity to network and share ideas.

Further details are available from Peter Fletcher on 01200 414435.

Why not visit us on the web? www.ribblevalley.gov.uk