

RIBBLE VALLEY News



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The newspaper of Ribble Valley Borough Council

Summer 2019

Novelist opens new chapter for Pendle Hill by promoting tourism trail



BEST-SELLING novelist Tracy Chevalier visited Ribble Valley to retrace the steps of Quaker founder George Fox.

The author of 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', which was made into a hit film starring Colin Firth and Scarlett Johansson, is helping Ribble Valley Borough Council promote a new tourism trail.

The Quaker Way, devised in partnership with Pendle Council and Mid-Pennine Arts, will showcase the unique heritage and landscape of Pendle Hill to an international audience.

George Fox founded the Quaker movement in 1652 following a vision on top of the hill.

Tracy Chevalier said: "You don't understand the power of Pendle Hill until you witness it yourself. It's a stunning backdrop to so many important true histories."

The trail, which is currently in development, will run from Barley to Downham and take in several spots important to the Quaker story, including a spring, now called Fox's Well, where the

visionary took refreshment.

Stuart Hirst, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council's economic development committee, said: "This trail will benefit our rural economy in a way that will have a low impact on our countryside and bring the hill's history and heritage to an international audience."

"We are delighted that an author of Tracy Chevalier's stature has supported us with this landmark project."

Tom Pridmore, Ribble Valley Borough Council's tourism and events officer, added: "We share some of the most spectacular scenery, best hostels and finest food in the North West with the borough of Pendle."

"After his vision, George Fox walked to Downham and duly converted the local innkeeper, so it is fitting that the new trail ends at the village's acclaimed Assheton Arms, which has the most iconic and stunning views of Pendle Hill."

Further details of this exciting project will be revealed in a future edition of Ribble Valley News.

Council tax is frozen for the eighth year

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has frozen council tax for the eighth year in nearly a decade.

The council's share of council tax on a Band D property in 2019/20 is £150.69, one of the lowest in the country and by far the lowest in Lancashire.

The council is also the only one in Lancashire to offer a weekly refuse collection service and not charge for green waste, saving residents between £25 and £40 a year.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stephen Atkinson said: "Despite acquiring over 2,000 extra households, the council has maintained excellent service levels in one of the sparsest boroughs in the UK."

"This has been achieved by many years of careful and prudent financial planning, and I am grateful to councillors and staff for their dedication and commitment in continuing to deliver efficient, effective services to national standards, while achieving good public satisfaction ratings."

We charge one of the lowest rates in the UK thanks to our 'prudent financial planning'

"The coming year will see capital investment by the council of £2,700,000, of which the highlight is over £1,400,000 in new facilities at the Edisford Sports Complex, enabling our youngsters and residents to play football, rugby, cricket, tennis, netball and basketball. This first-class facility will provide important far-reaching leisure, health and wellbeing benefits for years to come."

"Ribble Valley has a bright future and the council will continue to prioritise the needs of our residents and implement policy decisions to maintain and enhance services for their benefit."

In the council's latest household satisfaction survey, the Perception

Survey, 89 per cent of respondents said they were satisfied with refuse collection, the highest rate in Lancashire, while 86 per cent were satisfied with Ribble Valley as a place in which to live.

Council tax bills include precepts from Lancashire County Council, the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and parishes. Full details are available at ribblevalley.gov.uk.

● Turn to page 2 to find out how Ribble Valley Borough Council is leading a business rates pilot scheme that looks set to bring a £9million boost to Lancashire and page 7 about an 'outstanding officer', whose 43 years' service has helped the council deliver excellent services in one of the sparsest boroughs in the UK.

Pitch perfect!

WORK has started on a £1.4million top-of-the-league sports pitch and community room at the Edisford Sports Complex in Clitheroe.

CLS Sports has started installing a full-size artificial grass pitch, toilet block, community room and multi-sports area, and resurfacing two existing artificial five-a-side pitches, at the Edisford Road site.

The scheme will see £1,150,440 spent on the pitches and £280,000 on the community room, and represents a significant investment by Ribble Valley Borough Council, which owns the site, home to Ribblesdale Pool, Roefield Leisure Centre and the Ribble Valley Tennis Centre.

● Turn to the centre pages to read about this exciting scheme and for more news on Ribble Valley Borough Council's cultural and leisure services.



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

Borough bids for slice of £675m to boost high street

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has bid for a slice of £675million to rejuvenate Clitheroe town centre.

And Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth Jake Berry is to visit the town so see for himself the challenges facing high streets.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's policy and finance committee voted unanimously to work up an expression of interest in the Government's Future High Street Fund announced by Chancellor Philip Hammond in his 2018 budget.

Council leader Stephen Atkinson said: "The proposed redevelopment of the Clitheroe Market site has been ongoing for a number of years, but committee felt the new Future High Streets Fund was an excellent opportunity for the town centre as a whole.

"The Government has acknowledged that town centres lie at the heart of our communities, but the way we shop and use high streets is changing.

"This £675million fund aims to help high streets adapt to meet these changes and comes at an opportune time for Clitheroe, given our ambitions for improving the town centre."

Committee decided that rather than continue with the development of Clitheroe Market in isolation the new fund would provide an opportunity to deliver wider improvements to the town centre.

Councillor Atkinson added: "Jake Berry has accepted my invitation to visit Clitheroe on a date to be confirmed and see the challenges facing town centres.

"I would like to thank Barnfield Construction for their work to date on the original Clitheroe Market scheme."

Ribble Valley Borough Council has submitted an expression of interest in the fund and will find out in July if it has been selected to submit a business case.

The project will be led by the council's director of economic development and planning, Nicola Hopkins.



Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stephen Atkinson and the council's director of economic development and planning, Nicola Hopkins

Council takes lead on £9m business rates pilot scheme

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council is leading a Business Rates Pilot Scheme that looks set to bring a £9million boost to Lancashire.

The scheme will see Lancashire's 11 borough councils, two unitary authorities, the county council and fire authority keep 75 per cent of growth in business rates to invest in services at a time when budgets are under intense pressure.

The councils involved in the scheme have a combined collectible rate income of over £360million.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stephen Atkinson said: "We have much to gain from this scheme and are delighted to be leading on it.

"We have set a course for growth and this scheme means our efforts to encourage more businesses, jobs and prosperity in the borough will pay dividends, as we will all be able to share in the pooled rewards.

"I would like to pay tribute to Lancashire finance officers for putting the successful bid together, which should bring an extra £9million in business rates growth to the county.

"This is an excellent example of partnership working between the authorities concerned for the benefit of our communities."

The pilot started on April 1 2019 and will test whether full retention of business rates can be rolled out nationally, as the Government wants local authorities across the UK to retain 75 per cent of business rates by 2020-21.

Business rates are charged on most non-domestic properties, such as shops, offices, pubs, factories, holiday rental homes or guest houses, with levels set by the Valuation Agency.

Despite Government cuts, Ribble Valley Borough Council has maintained excellent service levels in one of the sparsest boroughs in the UK. This has been achieved by many years of sound management, careful financial planning and the dedication and commitment of officers like Lesley Helm, who you can read about on page 7.

Businesses back 'partnership for growth' initiative



OVER 70 businessmen and women attended the lively launch of a new partnership looking to boost economic growth in the borough.

The launch of the Ribble Valley Economic Partnership included interactive sessions to explore ideas and options for boosting the local economy.

It included presentations from Miranda Barker, chief executive of the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce (pictured), and Stephen Young, executive director of growth, environment, transport and community services at Lancashire County Council.

There was also a series of 'spirited' discussions around Ribble Valley's economic priorities.

Stuart Hirst, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council's economic development committee (pictured), said: "We have an established record of working in partnership with business and community groups to promote economic growth.

"The former Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership provided a forum in which groups with an interest in the local economy could meet, but there has never been an umbrella organisation that can draw key economic sectors, such as manufacturing, tourism or food, together.

"This new partnership will provide such a forum and meet quarterly to inform the council's economic development work, in the first instance our economic plan.

"It was a lively, spirited event,

with some fantastic ideas on how the local economy can be boosted, including proposed improvements to roads and rail.

"We are certainly looking forward to taking this partnership forward and working with the business sector to promote economic growth in the borough."

Feedback from the meeting will be incorporated into Ribble Valley Borough Council's draft economic plan, which sets out a 10-year economic vision for the borough and will be discussed at the next partnership meeting at the end of June.

Further details about the meeting or future partnership activities are available from Ribble Valley Borough Council's economic development team on 01200 425111.

Alert over e-mail scam promising council tax refunds

RIBBLE Valley residents are warned to be on their guard against an e-mail and text scam promising a council tax refund in exchange for personal details.

Ribble Valley Borough Council has been contacted by residents concerned about e-mails or texts claiming to be from the Government

informing them that they are due a council tax refund.

The scam claims households were placed in the wrong band in a previous address and promises refunds of hundreds of pounds in exchange for personal details.

Mark Edmondson, Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of revenues and benefits, said: "At first glance the

emails or texts appear genuine, but they are far from it and by clicking on the words, Refund Form, at the bottom residents will be forwarded to a bogus web page requesting personal details.

"Residents should never give their personal details to anyone they are not sure of and if they receive the scam are advised to delete it immediately."

STAY AHEAD OF THE SCAMMERS

- Don't give your bank details to anyone contacting you by e-mail or text
- Don't let anyone into your home without checking their identification
- Verify the identity of anyone claiming to be from Ribble Valley Borough Council by phoning 01200 425111
- Inform the police immediately if you believe anyone is impersonating council staff



A FEAST of fun and flavour comes to Clitheroe on Saturday, August 10, when the town hosts its annual food festival.
The free event will feature a huge array of foods from over 100 of Lancashire's best producers, including organic dairy products, meat from traditional Lancashire breeds, Asian treats, Thai pies, Biltong beef and a feast of fruit

A feast of fun and flavour at Clitheroe Food Festival

and vegetables packed with flavour. Producers are screened for quality and provenance, and this year's festival features

several with a national reputation, including the Bowland Chocolate Company, Fatjax Chutney, Leagram Organic Dairy, Bolton Bavarian patisserie Pretzel and Spelt, the Port of Lancaster Smokehouse and R. S. Ireland's Black Puddings.

There will be a series of tasting-talks in the Ribble Valley Civic Suite and a host of family entertainment in Castle

Street and King Street, including the unique plate-flipping and napkin-sculpting slapstick of the Comedy Waiters, who are back by popular demand.

The perennially-popular Mad Science will set up a series of roving fun stations featuring madcap demonstrations and hands-on activities, while King Street will host non-stop music from a

festival stage.

Simon Hore, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council's community services committee, said: "The Clitheroe Food Festival is one of Lancashire's most popular events and people will find plenty to whet their appetite this year, including the best food and drink in Lancashire, a feast of fun and non-stop street entertainment."

"Residents are invited to join us for what promises to be a fantastic day out for all the family." Residents and festival-goers are reminded that there will be road closures in Clitheroe town centre from 6am until 8pm on festival day and in New Market Street from 6am on Thursday, August 8. Further details are available at clitheroefoodfestival.com.

Neglected mill pond set to become top nature haven

A NEGLECTED Clitheroe mill pond is to be turned into a haven for nature featuring the longest fish pass in England thanks to an £820,000 scheme backed by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The project, led by the Ribble Rivers Trust, will see the redundant Primrose Lodge that runs between Woone Lane and Whalley Road receive a three-phase revamp funded by the European Regional Development Fund and contributions from local housing developers.

As well as the fish pass, the scheme will create a nature reserve with habitats for otters, kingfishers and an abundance of river life.

Phase one will see 4,000 cubic metres of silt removed from the lodge to create permanent open water.



Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stephen Atkinson (left), with the council's director of economic development and planning, Nicola Hopkins, and Jack Spees, chief executive of the Ribble Rivers Trust

The second phase will see the construction of the longest fish pass in England, allowing salmon, trout, eels and other fish to migrate along Mearley Brook and through Clitheroe to the village of Worston, encouraging the return of otters, kingfishers and other river species, which are absent

or in very low numbers upstream.

The final phase will see the construction of public access and a network of footpaths, a new bridge over the brook and a boardwalk over the newly-restored open water.

The stone wall between Woone Lane and the lodge will

be removed and overgrown woodland areas thinned out.

And as well providing a first-class recreational amenity the scheme will help to reduce downstream flood risk.

Ownership of the site will switch to the newly-formed Primrose Community Nature Trust and there will be opportunities for the community to get involved in maintenance and conservation work.

Jack Spees, chief executive of the Ribble Rivers Trust, said: "This scheme won't just benefit river life, but will provide community access to blue and green space, and the opportunity for people to experience nature up close not far from home.

"It will also encourage more people to visit, enjoy and value the rivers and green spaces of Clitheroe."

Ben Wilkinson, managing

director of Beck Developments Limited, which owns the site, said: "This scheme represents the greatest opportunity in a generation to regenerate the lodge and safeguard this important blue and green space for many generations to come."

Richard Stephenson, chairman of the Primrose Community Nature Trust, said: "The regenerated lodge will create a nature-rich destination in the heart of Clitheroe and we are hopeful the community will get involved in developing this special place."

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stephen Atkinson said: "The Primrose Lodge project will create a major new public amenity and we are delighted to support it."

Work on the scheme is scheduled to start early summer and be completed by September 2020.

Castle Museum now borough's No.1 attraction

CLITHEROE Castle Museum has come out tops following a tough assessment by UK tourism supremos.

National tourism agency Visit England gave the museum an 81 per cent rating following a rigorous once-over.

The assessment praised the museum's family-friendly offer, the maintenance of displays, general cleanliness and level of customer care.

Simon Hore, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council's community services committee, said: "The Clitheroe Castle Museum has gone from strength-to-strength since a major refurbishment 10 years ago and is now the borough's Number 1 attraction."

"The castle and its grounds are a cultural asset to the borough, attracting visitors from far and wide."

Cemetery poop patrols to target irresponsible dog owners

A COUNCIL is to get tough on dog owners who are letting their pets poop in a public cemetery.

Dog wardens are to patrol Clitheroe Cemetery, where irresponsible dog-owners are allowing pets to foul among graves.

The cemetery is one of several action zones targeting people who repeatedly leave pet poop in public.

Dog wardens will be sweeping the cemetery, as well as other dog-fouling hotspots in Clitheroe, Longridge, Barrow, Whalley, Billington, Wilpshire, Read and Mellor, in a bid to catch the culprits who are blighting the borough with dog dirt.

And dog walkers who fail to pick up after their pets will be slapped with a £100 fixed penalty notice or day in court and fine of up to £1,000.

DID YOU KNOW?

Public space protection orders operate throughout Ribble Valley, which make it an offence to:

- Let your dog foul
- Not be in possession of dog bags
- Let your dog off its lead in Clitheroe Cemetery
- Allow your dog to enter a playground or sports pitch
- Refuse to put your pet on a lead if asked by a dog warden
- Be in charge of more than four dogs at once

Ribble Valley Borough Council receives at least one complaint about dog fouling per day and spends £30,000 a year disposing of it.

Heather Barton, the council's head of environmental health, said: "Dog-fouling is the subject of constant complaints from residents and we are currently receiving about one complaint daily."

"Many dog owners are picking up their pet poop, then simply

hanging it on tree branch!

"This has got to stop and dog warden patrols have been stepped up in hotspots like Clitheroe Cemetery, where dog-fouling is absolutely unacceptable."

"We are asking residents to be our eyes and ears and help us tackle this problem by reporting irresponsible dog owners."

To report dog-fouling, contact Ribble Valley Borough Council in confidence on 01200 425111.



A NEW home in a picturesque Clitheroe development could be yours for less than £2,000!

House prices in Ribble Valley are way above the national average and Ribble Valley Borough Council has joined forces with housing associations to tackle the borough's chronic shortage of affordable homes.

Ten new family homes are available in Clitheroe from just £1,944 to £2,300 thanks to Home Reach Step One, an innovative new

rent-to-buy scheme that will give you a leg up onto the housing ladder without the need for a large deposit or mortgage.

And over 70 further properties for affordable rent, shared ownership, discount sale, rent-to-buy or for the over-55s are currently available throughout the borough to households with a local connection.

So, if you thought home ownership was beyond your reach, read on to unlock the door to a new affordable home.

Affordable housing on offer to local residents

A RAFT of affordable homes for purchase or rent are up for grabs by Ribble Valley residents with a local connection.

Over 70 properties for affordable rent, shared ownership, discount sale, rent-to-buy or for the over-55s are available to local households with annual earnings between £15,000 and £80,000, and in some cases with a minimal deposit.

Properties, including two and three-bedroom houses, two-bedroom bungalows and one-bedroom apartments, are available in Clitheroe, Barrow, Whalley and Longridge.

All new developments in Ribble Valley have to comprise 30 per cent affordable properties that meet a local need and attract a mix of people of all

ages and circumstances to help create a balanced community.

Discount sale properties are available to people with a local connection for up to 40 per cent below the market value, while under shared ownership purchasers can buy between 25 and 75 per cent of the property, with an affordable rent on the remainder.

New homes are also available for affordable rent below the market value in line with the local housing allowance, while rent-to-buy allows people to access shared ownership with a minimal deposit by 'gifting' them one per cent of the value of the property.

Rachael Stott, Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing strategy

officer, said: "Affordable properties are built to a high specification, with modern bathrooms, contemporary fitted kitchens, turfed gardens and dedicated parking.

"They are an ideal way for some residents to access the housing market and we are delighted that the properties have become available in Clitheroe and Whalley, where affordable homes are particularly scarce.

"I would encourage anyone interested in an affordable home to register without delay."

To register for an affordable property or discuss the best scheme for you contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111 or e-mail housing@ribblevalley.gov.uk.

Shared ownership opened the door to Rachel's dreams

TEACHER Rachel McKenna-McKeown thought she would never be able to buy a house in her home town of Clitheroe.

But thanks to shared ownership, she has snapped up a delightful three-bedroom property for her and son Jack at Littlemoor Park.

She said: "I grew up in Clitheroe, but had to move to another town where house prices were lower in order to buy a property.

After a couple of years, I missed being close to my family and friends, but couldn't afford to buy a house here, so had to move into private rented accommodation."

After renting for three years, Rachel approached Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing team for advice.

She says: "They put me in touch with Onward Homes, who took my details and said they would get in touch when any properties became available. True to their word, they contacted me a couple of months later to say they were developing two sites for shared ownership.



"Looking at the location and quality of the properties that had already been built, I didn't think I would ever be able to afford to buy one, but after speaking to a financial advisor was delighted to find out that I could afford to buy a 45 per cent share and reserved a property straight away."

Shared ownership allows you to buy a share in a new home, typically ranging from 25 to 75 per cent, and you pay an affordable rent on the remainder.

Rachel is now enjoying the independence and freedom of owning her own home, something she feels wouldn't have been possible without

shared ownership.

She added: "Without shared ownership, it would have taken me years to get what I have now. It has enabled me to get on the property ladder and for my monthly outlay I would not have got anything close to this on the open market.

"I am enjoying decorating my gorgeous new home and hope to buy further shares, and eventually own it outright."

To register for an affordable property or discuss the best scheme for you contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111 or Onward Homes on 0151 708 2421.



KEY TO THE DOOR: Rachael Stott, Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing manager (left), with the council's leader, Stephen Atkinson, and economic and community development officer, Amy Holden

Now you can snap up a new home in Clitheroe for less than £2,000!

A NEW home in a picturesque Clitheroe development could be yours for less than £2,000!

Home Reach Step One is the name of an innovative new rent-to-buy scheme that will give you a leg up onto the housing ladder without the need for a large deposit or mortgage.

The scheme 'gifts' you one per cent of the property's value and you pay an affordable monthly rent on the remainder, purchasing additional shares as you go along.

Ten two and three-bedroom houses are available at the Rose Gardens development in Woone Lane from just £1,994.

All you will need to purchase a 25 per cent share of the three-bedroom Woodrush is a five per cent deposit – about £2,287 – and around £577 a month, while the two-bedroom Rosebay will set you back just £1,944 for a five per cent deposit and around £497 a month.

A further 12 two and three-bedroom properties are also available for shared ownership at Rose Gardens. Shared ownership allows payments to be split between mortgage and rent, with ownership typically starting at a 25 per cent share and the option to buy the property outright at a time that's right.

The Rose Gardens affordable properties are built to a high

specification, with French doors, modern bathrooms, contemporary fitted kitchens, turfed gardens and dedicated parking.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stephen Atkinson said: "The provision of affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges facing the council and we are working closely with our housing partners to address this problem.

"Schemes such as Home Reach Step One are an ideal way for some people to access the housing market and the standard of the properties is usually very high.

"We are delighted that these properties have become available in Clitheroe, where affordable property is particularly scarce, and I would encourage interested people to register without delay."

The properties are available to anyone with a Ribble Valley connection, who intends using it as their principal and only home, and whose household income is above £15,000.

Further details are available from Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing team on 01200 425111.

● **Costings in this article are estimated. For exact figures, speak to an independent financial advisor.**

KEEPING OUR OLDER RESIDENTS SECURE

FREE security measures are on offer to help older Ribble Valley residents feel safe and secure in their home.

Home improvement charity Homewise is providing and fitting free security measures, while stocks last.

Homewise works in partnership with Lancashire Police and can arrange for specially trained and police-checked staff to survey your home and advise on any security measures that are needed, then fit them for free.

Homewise offers advice, support and assistance to older residents to help them live more safely and comfortably in their own home, including a budget handyman service, advice on all aspects of home improvements and a list of trusted tradesmen.

To book a free security check, contact Homewise on 01254 232249.

Lesley closes her ledger after 43 years



A COUNCIL officer has closed her ledger after 43 years in Ribble Valley Borough Council's revenues team.

Lesley Helm joined the recently-formed council in 1975 aged 16 as a junior clerk in the then treasurer's office. After stints as a rate rebates assistant, payroll assistant and rating assistant for the old general rates system, she was appointed business rates officer in 1990, a post she held ever since.

Over the years, Lesley saw significant changes to working practices, particularly the switch from handwritten to online ledgers.

She said: "The job was very different when I started. In those days, there were no computers and everything was handwritten, including bills, and we had huge rates ledgers that we kept by hand.

"I remember the first council's photocopier.

The paper came on a big roll and the ink came off in your hand. It's amazing how much technology changed the way we work."

Ribble Valley Borough Council chief executive Marshal Scott said: "Despite Government cuts, the council has managed to maintain excellent service levels in one of the sparsely populated boroughs in the UK.

"This has been achieved by many years of sound management, careful financial planning and the dedication and commitment of officers like Lesley, who know their jobs inside out and provide efficient and effective services to customers they have worked with for many years.

"Lesley was an outstanding officer and we wish her the very best for a happy and well-earned retirement."

Remember to use the correct bin for recycling

COME on folks – do your bit to protect the planet by putting the right stuff in your blue bin.

In the last six months, Ribble Valley Borough Council has collected around 4,144 tonnes of recyclable material, but 16 per cent of it was 'contaminated'.

This means people put recyclable material, such as plastic bottles, cans, paper and glass, into their burgundy non-recyclable waste bin, while others put non-recyclable material in their blue recycling bin.

If a blue bin contains the wrong material, such as margarine tubs and yoghurt pots, which currently can't be recycled in Ribble Valley, the entire wagon load risks being rejected and diverted to landfill, which impacts on the environment and costs money that could be better spent on public services.

Linda Boyer, the council's waste management officer, said: "Our residents are certainly recycling more, which is great, but we can do even more to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

"We could increase our recycling by 16 per cent alone if we just put the right items in the blue bin.

"Householders tell us they are often unsure if items are recyclable, especially from the bathroom and living room. Put simply, if an item is bottle-shaped, put it in the blue bin, along with any cans and glass.

"If we all do our bit to boost the borough's recycling rates, we can reduce the cost of landfill, reduce our carbon footprint and protect the planet's future."

● Recycling is complicated, we know, so if in doubt remember this blue bin ABC: A – Aluminium and aerosols, B – Bottles (plastic and glass – jars, too!), C – Cans (food and drink).

Rich pickings in the kitchen to boost our recycling rates

HOUSEHOLDS looking to boost their recycling rates will find rich pickings in the kitchen.

For example, recycling just one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a light bulb for four hours, which is certainly food for thought.

Many kitchen items can be recycled from the kerb or taken to household recycling centres at Henthorn Road in Clitheroe or Chapel Hill in Longridge.

Linda Boyer, Ribble Valley Borough Council's waste management officer, said: "Kitchen products make up a substantial percentage of household waste and recycling glass and plastic bottles alone could make a significant difference to the borough's recycling rates.

"You can boost the borough's recycling rates by filling your blue bin with plenty of kitchen recyclables."

Kitchen items that can be recycled: Glass bottles and jars, food cans, pop cans, plastic milk or household cleaner bottles, foil milk bottle tops, cereal and other food

- The UK throws away 13 billion steel cans every year – stacked on top of each other, they would reach the moon and back!

- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a light bulb for four hours

- Producing steel from recycled material saves 75 per cent of the energy needed if steel were made from virgin material

- Every tonne of paper recycled saves 17 trees

boxes (but not the plastic inners), aluminium foil and foil trays. Please rinse items first, so as not to contaminate the load, then simply place them in your blue bin.

Cardboard packaging should be placed in white waste paper sacks.

White goods can be taken to household recycling centres, or collected from the kerbside by Ribble Valley Borough Council for a small charge. To request a bulky collection, phone 01200 425111.



We're helping create healthy communities

RIBBLE Valley is to benefit from up to £10million to boost your mental wellbeing by helping you get active.

Pennine Lancashire is one of 12 pilot areas selected by Sport England to develop new approaches to creating healthier, more active communities.

Together an Active Future aims

to increase activity levels for people with or at risk of poor mental wellbeing.

Sport England announced last year that Pennine Lancashire would receive a minimum of £3million to develop 'test and learn' initiatives, with the possibility to unlock further funds of up to £10million for the most

promising projects.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stephen Atkinson said: "I am delighted that Pennine Lancashire, which includes Ribble Valley, will benefit from this funding.

"It will make a big difference to people's health and wellbeing, and we will ensure it has a lasting

impact."

The foundations of the pilot were laid at a recent networking event attended by over 100 health and wellbeing groups and organisations.

Further details about Together an Active Future will be available in future editions of Ribble Valley News.

“Local voters enjoyed an efficient, open and transparent election”



Council has new line-up for the next four years

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has a new line-up for the next four years following local elections on May 2.

The council has 40 councillors representing 26 wards and all seats, apart from two in Bowland and Chipping, were contested.

Ninety-four candidates vied for the 38 contested seats and over 15,000 residents, 34.25 per cent of the electorate, cast their vote at 52 polling stations.

The Conservatives and Labour put forward the highest number of candidates, 40 and 35 respectively, while the Liberal Democrats fielded 16, the Green Party two and UKIP one, along with two independents.

The election saw the ruling Conservative group take 28 seats, the Liberal Democrats 10 and two independents take Wiswell and Barrow.

The Conservative Group is led by Stephen Atkinson, who is known as the council leader, and the Liberal Democrats by Allan Knox.

The council's chief executive, Marshal Scott, in his capacity as returning officer, said: "Staff in polling stations worked from 6.30am until at least 10pm and many were back at Roefield Leisure Centre in Clitheroe on Friday for the count.

"As usual, it was a tremendous effort by all involved ensuring local voters enjoyed an efficient, open and transparent election."

How to have your say at council meetings

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has a constitution setting out how it operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that ensure those decisions are efficient, transparent and accountable.

Although the council's day-to-day business is overseen by a corporate management team comprising chief executive Marshal Scott and three directors – community services director John Heap, economic development and planning director Nicola Hopkins and resources director Jane Pearson – decisions are made by councillors via eight committees, namely accounts and

audit, community, economic development, health and housing, licensing, personnel, planning and development, policy and finance.

Committee meetings are held in the Ribble Valley Civic Suite in Church Street, Clitheroe, and usually start at 6.30pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and will find a warm welcome, as well as the opportunity to speak, or ask a question.

Residents wishing to speak or ask a question and requiring an immediate response are asked to contact the council's committee services team no later than two days before the meeting. Residents not

requiring a response can contact the committee services team as late as noon on the day of the meeting.

Only Ribble Valley residents may speak at meetings and contributions are limited to three minutes and one person per agenda item.

Public participation lasts for 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting and speaking slots are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

A meetings calendar and committee agendas are available at ribblevalley.gov.uk and further details about public participation are available from the council's committee services team on 01200 425111.

Contact your councillor

Councillors are approachable people, with the best interests of the community at heart. If you are concerned about a local issue, they will be happy to hear from you. Please see their details below.

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