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Town's tasty welcome for the Prince of Wales

THE Prince of Wales enjoyed a slice of Ribble Valley hospitality when he visited Clitheroe celebrating the best of the borough's food and drink.

His Royal Highness was greeted by enthusiastic crowds during a walkabout at a promotional event showcasing the forthcoming Clitheroe Food Festival.

The visit of the Prince of Wales marked 16 years since Ribble Valley was devastated by the foot-and-mouth epidemic. In a subsequent triumph of community effort, many farmers have successfully diversified their businesses, while Clitheroe is now the official food capital of Lancashire and hosts an annual food festival that attracts tens of thousands of visitors.

For further details and photographs of the Royal visit, plus a preview of this year's food festival, turn to the centre pages.



New talks on market plan

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council is to hold further talks on the proposed £9million redevelopment of the Clitheroe Market site.

An extensive public engagement programme attracted strong opinions for and against elements of the proposed scheme.

The survey attracted 1,415 online responses and 598 postal responses, while there were 213 street interviews and a tranche of focus groups with traders, shoppers and school pupils.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Ken Hind said: "The response to the engagement programme has been fantastic and we are delighted that so many people have made their views known."

"The council commissioned the survey so it would be better informed in making a decision on the best way forward for the proposed scheme and has closely studied the results, along with feedback from the focus groups

"It is clear that there are strong feelings for and against aspects of the proposed redevelopment, so we feel the best way forward is to hold further discussions before making a final decision, which will allow for a full debate on the future of this scheme in the best interests of the borough now and in generations to come."

Nelson contractor, investor and developer Barnfield Construction was selected to devise a redevelopment scheme for the 1.4 acre site last year following a rigorous selection process.

The aim of the redevelopment is to bring a new lease of life to the market and surrounding area, and the potential for attracting top new retailers and significant economic development to Clitheroe town centre.

The survey results are available at the Ribble Valley Borough Council Offices in Church Walk, Clitheroe, or ribblevalley.gov.uk.

The scheme is scheduled to be discussed again at a meeting of the council's policy and finance committee in due course.

Council tax is frozen for the seventh year

COUNCIL tax in Ribble Valley has been frozen for the seventh year out of the past eight.

What's more auditors have given Ribble Valley Borough Council the thumbs-up in their latest appraisal of the authority's financial affairs.

Members of the council's policy and finance committee heard that prudent financial management meant the council had been able to freeze its share of the council tax.

This means that Ribble Valley Borough Council's share of council tax on a Band D property will remain at £145.69, the lowest in Lancashire and one of the lowest in the UK.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Ken Hind praised the dedication and hard work of council staff and councillors for delivering efficient and cost-effective services in difficult times.

He said: "This is the seventh

year out of the last eight that Ribble Valley's share of the council tax has been frozen, despite a reduction of over 40 per cent in Government funding, which has made budgeting extremely challenging.

"Nevertheless, the council has maintained service levels to nationally recognised standards and achieved public satisfaction ratings averaging over 70 per cent, the highest in Lancashire.

"This is a significant achievement reflecting many years of careful and prudent financial planning and I am grateful to councillors and council officers for their dedication in making this possible."

Auditors have also praised Ribble Valley Borough Council in their latest audit report.

Karen Murray, director at auditor Grant Thornton, said: "The council made its accounts available within the agreed timetable and provided an

excellent set of working papers to support them. It also responded promptly and efficiently to our queries during the course of the audit.

"We found the council has sound arrangements in place to support decision making. Council members have sufficient detail to make decisions about the budget and the well-established budget working group reviews budget setting for the year ahead.

"We are really pleased to have worked with Ribble Valley Borough Council over the past year. We have established a positive and constructive relationship, and some great outcomes."

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



● SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT: Ribble Valley Borough Council's resources team



Barrister Ken takes over as leader of the council

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has a new leader – barrister and Dilworth representative Ken Hind. As Ribble Valley News went to press, Councillor Hind announced his deputy, Paul Elms, and new chairmen: Stuart Carefoot (community services), Bridget Hilton (health and housing),

Stephen Atkinson (personnel), Stuart Hirst (accounts and audit), Jan Alcock (licensing) and Alison Brown (planning and development). Councillor Hind will chair the council's policy and finance committee and a new committee will be created for economic development

chaired by Rupert Swarbrick. Councillor Hind takes over the reins from Stuart Hirst, who is standing down for personal reasons. Stuart Hirst said: "It has been an honour to serve the borough for the last four years as leader of the council. "By any standards Ribble Valley Borough Council is a

high performing authority with a record of solid achievement on which to build for the future and I offer my successor and his team good wishes as they take on their new roles." Full details of Councillor Hind's vision for the borough will be published in the next edition of Ribble Valley News.

Phone boxes win reprieve after campaign

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has saved 41 phone boxes from closure after spearheading a successful community campaign. BT wanted to remove public payphones from 50 sites in Ribble Valley, including the iconic 'centre of the kingdom' phone box in Dunsop Bridge.

But the borough council objected to 41 out of the 50 proposed closures after consulting local residents.

Communities agreed to the closure of six payphones and offered to 'adopt' a further three, but mounted an impassioned campaign that attracted widespread media attention to save the remaining 41, citing rural isolation, poor mobile phone coverage and access to emergency services.

BT wants to axe payphones across the UK where usage has declined by 90 per cent or more, but has to consider keeping them in service if communities object.

Chipping borough councillor Simon Hore, who led the campaign, said: "Mobile phone reception in the borough is patchy and there are numerous wireless 'not spots', so some phone boxes provide a vital service.

"Payphones are a valuable asset and we were keen to ensure that those proposed for removal were not needed for emergency communications and residents had an alternative option.

"We would like to thank local communities for taking part so

enthusiastically in our campaign against the proposed closures and are delighted with the outcome."

Under Ofcom regulations, if BT wishes to remove a payphone and there isn't another within 400 metres, they must consult local councils and their communities.

Payphones earmarked for adoption are in Church View, Wilpshire; Hesketh Lane, Chipping and Mellor Lane, Mellor.

Payphones being removed are in Pimlico Road, Turner Street and St Paul's Street, Clitheroe; Kingsmill Avenue and Mitton Road, Whalley, and Preston New Road, Mellor.

The iconic Dunsop Bridge phone box is at the exact centre of the kingdom and was the 100,000th to be installed in the UK. It has become a tourist attraction since its installation in 1992, with visitors to the borough making their way to the picturesque village specifically to have their photograph taken inside it.

Pupils from Thorneyholme RC Primary School, Dunsop Bridge, wrote to the Her Majesty the Queen in her capacity as Duchy of Lancaster and explorer Ranulph Fiennes, who officially opened the phone box, highlighting the matter.

●BT is currently repairing or servicing the payphones that will remain and residents can report faults on 0800 661610.



●PHONE HOME: Councillor Simon Hore (right) with the council's partnership officer, Joseph Hildred, and pupils from Thorneyholme RC Primary School

Calendars to remind you of bin collections

CALENDARS outlining refuse collection dates have been stuck to wheeled bins throughout the borough.

The calendars outline collection dates for the different bins – burgundy for non-recyclable waste, blue for recyclable waste and green for garden waste – until March 2018, including rearranged dates for Christmas.

The stickers are a handy reference for householders to check when their refuse or recyclables are due for collection.

The following items can be placed in blue bins: Glass bottles and jars, food and drinks cans, aerosols, clean foil, plastic bottles, such as milk, mineral water, fizzy drinks, shampoo, household cleaners and empty medicine.

Recycling companies are strict about what they will accept, so the following items cannot be placed in blue bins: Paper, card and cardboard, textiles, crockery, food trays or bags, plastic pots or tubs, carrier bags, waxed drinks cartons and any other form of plastic.

Food from the kitchen or garden can no longer be placed in green bins, due to changes in the treatment process.

If refuse collection crews spot the wrong materials in blue or green wheeled bins, the bins may not be emptied until the offending items have been removed.

If you have not received your new calendar, contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.



●MAKE A DATE: Ribble Valley Borough Council refuse manager Kevin Rushton

Have your say NOW over boundary changes

RESIDENTS in Ribble Valley wanting to have their say on proposed changes to the borough's ward boundaries are advised to do so without delay.

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking local people to

comment on its draft plans for new council ward boundaries.

A 10-week consultation on the recommendations giving residents the chance to comment on new council wards, ward boundaries and ward names in the borough is nearing completion.

The commission is proposing that Ribble Valley should have 40 councillors, the same as present, but

divided across 14 two-councillor wards and 12 one-councillor wards.

The full recommendations and detailed interactive maps are available on the commission's website at lgbce.org.uk.

A summary of the recommendations and maps are also available at the Ribble Valley Borough Council Offices in Church Walk, Clitheroe.

Submissions should be made by Monday, June 19, to The Review Officer (Ribble Valley), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QP, or consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

The commission will consider all submissions and publish its final recommendations in September 2017.

Fine fare and first-class crafts at special markets

IF you love markets, Clitheroe is the place to be this spring and summer.

Lancashire's official food town will be hosting a series of special markets featuring fine fare, first-class crafts and a bargain or two.

Farmers' markets featuring the best local produce are being held on the second Thursday of each month, while artisan markets featuring a range of handcrafted produce and fancy goods are taking place on the first Saturday of each month. A series of themed markets are being held on dates throughout the spring and summer, while flea markets are taking place every Friday, with stalls up for grabs for just £5.60.

The move comes after Clitheroe hosted a successful Christmas market, Northern Star, organised and



●FINE FARE: Heather Coar (left), with the council's chief executive, Marshal Scott, former Ribble Valley Mayor Joyce Holgate and market traders

funded by Ribble Valley Borough Council, on four Saturdays in December that attracted hundreds of festive shoppers.

Heather Coar, Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of environmental services, said: "Following the success of Northern Star, we are aiming to boost footfall to the market even further by hosting a series of special markets.

"Recent studies show that markets contribute to social

interaction and community regeneration, but over the past decade they have been experiencing significant decline across the UK.

"Northern Star was a huge success and we want to build on that by hosting a series of special markets catering for all tastes and needs, with the capacity to attract a broad range of shoppers and visitors."

Farmers' markets allow farmers to

sell their products direct to the public and are popular among food enthusiasts, who favour buying local produce and meeting suppliers face-to-face, while flea markets have long been a magnet to bargain hunters and thrifty residents looking to grab a bargain or raise cash from unwanted items.

Up to 30 stalls are available at the Friday flea markets for the sale of second-hand goods, bric-a-brac or collectibles for just £5.60 a day on a pre-booked basis.

The themed markets are June 17 – young entrepreneurs, July 15 – pet goods, September 16 – pies and pastry.

●Further details and bookings are available from Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111 or ribblevalley.gov.uk

Legal eagle Richard is new mayor

RIBBLE Valley's new mayor is barrister, drummer, cricket umpire and fell-walker Richard Bennett.

Richard moved to Read aged five, when his father was appointed vicar at St John's CE Church from 1960 to 1969.

He attended Read St John's Primary School and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, where he was a keen footballer and cricketer. He later played cricket and football for Read, as well as football for the Old Accringtonians in the Lancashire Amateur League and Grindleton FC.

His early employment was varied, having worked as a window cleaner, lorry driver and salesman, before embarking on a career in law, firstly qualifying as a legal executive, then as a barrister in 1986, since which he has practiced at the Criminal Bar from chambers in Preston.

Richard has represented Read and Simonstone on Ribble Valley Borough Council for six years.

He is a qualified league cricket umpire and umpires in the Ribblesdale League.

He is also a former member of Clitheroe Round Table and is now a member of Clitheroe 41 Club.

His hobbies include mountain and fell-walking, and he has undertaken expeditions to Everest Base Camp, the Atlas Mountains, the Pyrenees, the Sierra Nevada and, last year, Spain's Santiago de Compostela with partner Trish Kelly.

He has also cycled across Cuba and walked extensively in the Scottish Highlands and the Lakeland Fells, and twice completed Wainwright's coast-to-coast walk on foot and by cycle.

As well as being the drummer for rock band Fisher T. Fish, Richard also enjoys cycling, fishing and is a fan of Burnley FC.

His mayoress is friend Marilyn Davies (pictured) and his chosen charities are the MS Society in memory of lifelong friend Chris Berryman, who died of MS in 2009, and Read St John's Church Community Project.



Council honours Olympic kayak hero



●FULL OF BEANS: Jon Schofield (left) and Matthew Wilcock

CLITHEROE kayak ace Jon Schofield, who surged his way to success at the Rio Olympics, was honoured at Ribble Valley Borough Council's 2017 sports and arts excellence awards.

He was presented with a specially commissioned coffee set thrown by top potter Matt Wilcock by former Ribble Valley Mayor Joyce Holgate.

He and Matt then presented grants to the borough's up-and-coming young sportsmen and women, and performance artists.

Budding barista Jon, who was supported by Ribble Valley Borough Council throughout his early career, took silver in the kayak pairs 200m sprint at Rio with kayak partner Liam Heath after beating Lithuanian duo Aurimas Lankas and Edvinas Ramanauskas in a split-second photo-finish.

Clay ace Matt, who won last year's surprise TV hit the Great Pottery Throw Down, marries technical ability with astonishing artistry and recently exhibited at the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe.

The coffee set comprises four mugs

and a cafetiere featuring the Olympic rings on a circular tray. The set was thrown from stone-wear clay on a traditional potters' wheel and glazed with Leach celadon, named after its inventor, renowned British potter Michael Leach, which is a distinctive jade green colour.

As a bonus, Clitheroe coffee emporium Exchange Coffee presented Jon with a hamper of beans.

Stuart Carefoot, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council's community services committee, said: "We are immensely proud to have supported Jon over the years and thrilled with his success.

"For him to have won bronze at London 2012 was fantastic enough, but to have topped that with a silver at Rio is outstanding.

"We are delighted that Jon and Matt took time out of their busy international schedules to join us at this year's sports and arts excellence awards ceremony."

●Turn to page 8 for further details of the sports and arts awards ceremony.

Council backs safeguarding campaign

RIBBLE Valley Borough Council is behind a countywide drive to safeguard children.

The council has updated its safeguarding children and young people's policy and council staff will be undertaking safeguarding training.

Safeguarding is broader than 'child protection' and advocates the proactive welfare of children and prevention of harm to their health and development.

Mark Beveridge, Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of cultural and leisure

services, said: "There has been a huge amount in the media recently about safeguarding children and councils across Lancashire have been reviewing and revising their policies.

"Although borough councils don't have responsibility for children's services, we want to keep up with best practice and actively promote the health and wellbeing of young people, as well as train our staff on what to do if they come across a child who may be at risk.

"Safeguarding children is of paramount importance to the council and we are committed to providing safe and supportive services that will give them the opportunity to achieve their full potential."

Council staff will undertake training to ensure they know what safeguarding is and the new policy, including a summary booklet, is featured in the staff handbook.

Councillors will also receive a briefing on safeguarding and a safeguarding policy for vulnerable adults is currently being written.

A princely feast

Royal visit showcases borough as a premier food destination

FOOD fit for a king was on the menu in Ribble Valley during a visit to the borough by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The visit celebrated the best Ribble Valley and Lancashire food and drink and the borough's emergence as a premier food destination.

The Prince of Wales met food producers and traders at a small promotional event showcasing this year's festival during a walkabout, among them Bowland Outdoor Reared Pork, Beef and Lamb, and Mrs Dowson's Ice Cream, both of which have bounced back from the 2001 foot-and-mouth epidemic to become market-leading brands.

He also visited one of Clitheroe's best-known institutions and a magnet for fine wine enthusiasts from across the North, D. Byrne and Co, where he enjoyed a tour of the shop's labyrinthine cellars that run under King Street and enjoyed a sip of Isle of Jura Superstition whiskey while chatting to the Byrnes family.

Prince Charles then popped into Cowman's Famous Sausage Shop, which stocks 76 varieties of sausage, including a special Prince of Wales banger devised by the Cowman's team to commemorate the Royal visit.

Clitheroe Food Festival founder and chairman Michael Ranson said: "The emergence of Ribble Valley as a premier food destination shows the never-say-die attitude of rural Britain and is a testament to the hard work of the community in overcoming adversity."

"The visit of the Prince of Wales was a tremendous opportunity to showcase what the borough has achieved over the past decade and I am delighted that he received a hearty welcome."



Festival attracts thousands of visitors from the north west

THE first Clitheroe Food Festival in 2010 was a modest affair attracting 500 or so curious shoppers to the town centre.

Now in its seventh year, the festival, spearheaded by Ribble Valley Borough Council, with extensive local sponsorship, and chaired by former council leader Michael Ranson, attracts over 10,000 visitors from across the UK.

The aim of the festival is simple – to highlight and promote Ribble Valley and Lancashire's quality food and drink.

But fine fare isn't the only thing on the menu, for visitors to the one-day event spend over £100,000 between them, with many booking accommodation for the night.

A survey revealed that 98 per cent of respondents enjoyed the festival and 94 per cent were likely to visit it again, with 68 per cent likely to visit Clitheroe again on a non-festival day.

Respondents came from throughout the North West, 38 per cent of them from Ribble

Valley, and over half spent at least £20 each, with 10 per cent booking accommodation for the night.

Clitheroe Food Festival chairman Michael Ranson said: "The festival started as a modest affair, but with the help of a dedicated team and generous sponsorship we have built it up into one of the UK's premier food festivals showcasing fantastic produce from Ribble Valley and beyond."

"I would like to thank Ribble Valley Borough Council and all the organisations, sponsors and volunteers who help make the festival so unique and successful."

Mark Beveridge, head of cultural and leisure services at Ribble Valley Borough Council, and festival coordinator, added: "The Clitheroe Food Festival makes an invaluable contribution to the promotion of the borough as a visitor destination and provides a significant economic boost."

"The festival is an excellent, well-run event that enhances the borough's reputation by attracting extensive national media coverage and substantial positive feedback."

Cream of the crop poised to converge on Clitheroe

THIS year's Clitheroe Food Festival looks set to be even bigger and better attracting some of the best food and drink producers in Lancashire, as well as chef demonstrations, tastings and talks.

The event will take place on Saturday, August 12, from 9am to 4.30pm, and confirmed producers include Wilde Bakery Flapjacks, Grasmere Gingerbread, Leagram Organic Dairy, the Real Thai Pie Company, Cunliffe Hog Roast and festival favourite Mrs Dowson's Ice Cream.

It is anticipated there will be appearances by Choc Amor, Fat Jax Chutney, the Fudge Factory, the Magnificent Marshmallow Company and Port of Lancaster Smokehouse.

Festival chairman Michael Ranson said: "This year's festival will certainly not disappoint, with a host of top producers, tastings, talks, demonstrations, a children's food academy, street food, pop-up bars and live music."

"Visitors can expect a feast of Lancashire produce, including meat from traditional breeds, organic milk, cheese, yogurt and ice-cream, handmade pies and pastries and a feast of fruit and vegetables packed with natural flavours."

"The festival will take over the town centre, with the biggest street buffet of food and drink imaginable, and tastes, smells and sounds to entice the senses of every visitor!"

Further details about this year's Clitheroe Food Festival are available at clitheroefoodfestival.com.



IT'S unpleasant, potential dangerous and drives residents barking mad – it's dog dirt.

Over 1,000 tonnes of the stuff is produced across the UK each day and, while much of it is disposed of responsibly, there is still a long way to go.

Ribble Valley Borough Council receives over 200

complaints about dog fouling each year and spends £30,000 disposing of it.

The council is committed to taking action and has introduced a raft of measures to help tackle the problem, from on-the-spot fines and warning signs to night patrols and school visits, as well as working with partners,

including the police and the Kennel Club, and distributing over 1,000 free dog poop bags to parish councils.

Read on to find out what the council is doing to ensure you don't have to put your foot in it. Better still, if you want to report dog fouling contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111 and we'll do the rest.

Action zones to curb dog poop in public

FIVE dog fouling action zones targeting people who leave their pet poop in public have been established in Ribble Valley.

Dog wardens will be out-and-about in Clitheroe, Chatburn, Sabden, Mellor and Longridge in a bid to catch the culprits who are blighting the borough with dog dirt.

They will be issuing £100 fixed penalty notices to dog walkers who fail to pick up after their pets rising to prosecution and fines of



●IN THE BAG: Sabden parish councillors at the launch of the village's dog-fouling action zone

£1,000 for persistent offenders.

Heather Coar, Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of environmental

health, said: "Dog fouling is the subject of constant complaints from the borough's residents and we are committed to

taking action.

"We have been working with local primary schools to encourage positive pet ownership, but residents who persistently fail to clean up after their pets can expect to feel the full force of the law.

"Dog warden patrols have been stepped up in five action zones and fixed penalty notices will be issued to those who let their dogs foul in public.

"We urge members of the public to be our eyes and ears and help us catch the culprits by reporting the irresponsible dog owners."

Don't leave dog mess on our village green!

YOU'RE risking our health! That's the message to Sabden dog owners from disgruntled pupils at the village primary school.

Sabden is one of the borough's dog fouling action zones after pupils complained about dog poop on the village green.

Dog fouling can give humans toxocarasis, which causes serious illness and even blindness, particularly in children.

The symptoms of toxocarasis include seizures, breathing difficulties, a very red and painful eye, or clouded vision, usually only in one eye, which if left untreated can result in permanent loss of vision.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of environmental health, Heather Coar, said: "Toxocarasis is an awful condition that can leave children permanently blind.

"But the disease can be controlled if dog faeces are disposed of immediately in a responsible manner.

"Dog owners have no excuse for exposing children to the risk of this disease and must pick up their pet mess.

"Most dog owners are responsible, but a few are spoiling it for everyone else and we are committed to taking action."

Dog wardens have been undertaking school visits throughout the borough in a bid to boost responsible pet



●KEEP OUR GREEN CLEAN: Sabden Primary School's dog poop plea

ownership.

Sabden Primary School pupil Ruby added: "Dog poo is horrible and we are asking dog owners to clean up their mess, so that we can play on the green without

stepping in it."

For further information about dog fouling or to report dog fouling, contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.



Chip your pets now or face a £500 fine

DOG owners in Ribble Valley are warned to microchip their pets or face a £500 fine.

Dog owners are now required by law to microchip their pets and register them on a database, and if the dog is transferred to a new keeper the new keeper must update the database.

Over 100,000 dogs go astray in the UK each year, resulting in £57million in kenneling costs to local authorities and welfare charities. In Ribble Valley alone, around 60 are lost and 25 stolen, which have to be returned or rehomed.

Heather Coar, Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of

environmental health, said: "Microchipping is a simple, safe and quick procedure that makes reuniting dogs with their owners more likely.

"A microchip is the size of a grain of rice and the procedure, which is carried out by a vet or trained microchip implanter, takes only a few minutes and lasts a lifetime.

"Although many dog owners already microchip their pets, our dog wardens are now equipped with microchip scanners to ensure residents are complying with the law."

For further details, contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.

Licence reminder over kennels

ANIMAL enthusiasts are reminded that they need a licence to run a boarding kennel or cattery.

Anyone looking to provide accommodation for other people's dogs or cats needs an annual licence. And you still need a licence even if you only look after a small number of animals in your own home.

To obtain a licence, you will need show that the animals are kept in suitable accommodation, provided with adequate food, drink and bedding; regularly exercised, safeguarded in an emergency and protected from infectious disease, including if necessary in isolation facilities.

You will also need to keep a register available for inspection by a vet or council officer containing a description of all the animals you have kept, their arrival and departure dates and the name and address of their owners.

You will not be given a licence if you have been banned from keeping a pet shop, or convicted of any other animal welfare offence.

And you can be fined up to £500, imprisoned for up to three months, or both, if you run an animal boarding establishment without a licence, or don't follow the conditions of your licence.

Further details are available from Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.

**Sign up now
for borough's
affordable
housing**

RIBBLE Valley residents looking for affordable housing are advised to register on the borough's housing waiting list.

Over 100 affordable properties for rent, shared ownership or discount sale will be available over the coming year to households with a local connection and annual earnings below £80,000.

All new developments in Ribble Valley have to comprise 30 per cent affordable properties that meet a pressing local need and attract a mix of people of all ages and circumstances to help create a balanced community.

Affordable houses are typically for rent, shared ownership or discount sale to households with a local connection.

Under shared ownership, purchasers can buy between 25 and 75 per cent of the property, with rent on the remainder, while under discount sale properties are available to people with a local connection for up to 40 per cent below the market value. Properties are also sometimes available for rent below the market value in line with the local housing allowance.

Rachael Stott, Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing strategy officer, 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.

"New properties are becoming available in Clitheroe, Longridge, Whalley, Billington, Gisburn, Chipping and Barrow over the coming year and demand is expected to be high, so we advise anyone in need of accommodation to register their interest without delay."

Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing waiting list is managed by Ribble Valley Homes, which can be contacted on 0800 111 4448.

Bungalows with sublime views up for grabs

SIX one and two-bedroom bungalows with sublime countryside views and dedicated parking spaces are up for grabs in Clayton-le-Dale from just £57,750.

The bungalows, developed by housing provider Ribble Valley Homes in association with Ribble Valley Borough Council, are available to local residents for shared ownership from £57,750 for a 25 per cent share and £245 per month rent.

A 50 per cent share will cost £82,500, with £189.06 per month rent, and a 75 per cent share £123,750.00, with £94.53 per month rent.

The properties are of a generous size and feature dining-kitchens with fitted appliances and lounges at the rear and jaw-dropping views over open countryside, as well as dedicated parking spaces and private patios.

Rachael Stott, strategic housing manager at Ribble Valley Borough Council, said: "The provision of affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges facing the council and affordable bungalows 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 features much-needed high-quality shared ownership accommodation for older Ribble Valley residents."

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.

The Showley Court bungalows are scheduled to be completed by the end of June and to register your interest contact Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing team on 01200 414567 or Ribble Valley Homes on 0800 111 4448.

Flagship 'HAPPI' homes for the over-55s

A FLAGSHIP Billington development featuring 19 two-bedroom 'HAPPI' homes for the over-55s is complete.

The HAPPI homes, or Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation, are designed specifically for older dwellers. They are spacious and open, highly energy-efficient, secure, adaptable and 'care ready', have high levels of natural light and green space, and can be digitally connected.

The Elker Meadows scheme, which has been developed by St Vincent's Housing Association, with support from Ribble Valley Borough Council and NHS England, also features easy-access parking and storage facilities, individual balconies, a communal lounge, shared

garden and allotments, and private courtyards.

Colin Hirst, Ribble Valley Borough Council's head of regeneration and housing, said: "The provision of affordable housing for older residents is one of the biggest challenges facing the council and these apartments are ideal for those looking to downsize.

"Elker Meadows is designed around a landscaped courtyard allowing for outdoor activities and socialising. There are also communal grounds and a large allotment area, with raised plant beds.

"We are delighted to have supported this flagship development, which is one of the best of its kind and has brought much-needed high-quality accommodation for older residents to Ribble Valley."

Loretta Haslam, older person's manager at St Vincent's Housing Association, added: "We are very proud of Elker Meadows and delighted that the first residents are settling in and enjoying their new homes.

"St Vincent's recognises how the needs of older people have changed over time, so it is important we can showcase just how valuable HAPPI schemes like Elker Meadows are, particularly as we are all living longer and healthier lives."

All rented properties at Elker Meadows have now been allocated, but a few for shared ownership are still available to people with a local connection. For further details, contact Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing team on 01200 425111 or St Vincent's Housing Association on 0161 772 2165.



●HAPPI chappies: Colin Hirst and Loretta Haslam

Affordable homes at exclusive Longridge scheme

TWENTY-SIX new affordable homes will be available at an exclusive development in Longridge from Spring 2018.

The two and three-bedroom bungalows and houses will be available for affordable rent and shared ownership at Tootle Green in Dilworth Lane.

The properties have been developed by Taylor Wimpey in association with Chorley Community Housing – part of the Adactus Housing Group – and Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The development will comprise eight two and three-bedroom houses and four two-bedroom bungalows for affordable rent and eight two and three-bedroom houses and six two-bedroom bungalows for shared ownership.

The scheme has yet to be officially launched, but demand for the properties is expected to be high and interested residents with a Ribble Valley and specifically Longridge connection are advised to register without delay.



●TOOTLE OVER: Rachael Stott and Rupert Swarbrick

Rachael Stott, Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing strategy officer, 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 the problem. "We are delighted to have supported this excellent scheme, which will make much-needed high-quality affordable rental and shared ownership properties

available in Longridge."

Longridge borough councillor Rupert Swarbrick added: "I am regularly asked why there are no affordable homes for Longridge residents, particularly for the young and elderly, and this scheme will go some way in addressing the problem.

"These affordable homes are good news for Longridge and I would encourage interested people to register without delay."

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.

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

To register your interest in the Tootle Green properties contact Adactus Housing on 0845 505 3355 or Ribble Valley Borough Council's housing team on 01200 414567.

Pitch perfect as fields score £10,000 council boost

FOOTBALL pitches at Roefield, Clitheroe, are top of the league thanks to a £10,000 boost from Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The cash has been used to buy three sets of high-quality roll-away goals and flexible corner flags, and fund a state-of-the-art surface drainage treatment called 'shockwaving' in partnership with Clitheroe Wolves FC.

Two pitches have also been re-marked and re-configured, which will allow more junior teams to play at Roefield and Clitheroe Wolves FC to develop its girls' team.

Ribble Valley Borough Council's sports

development officer, Peter Fletcher, said: "These improvements will give youth football in Ribble Valley a tremendous boost, particularly girls' football, which is going from strength-to-strength."

"We are delighted with the improved facilities at Roefield and would like to thank Clitheroe Wolves for their support, as well as the fantastic contribution they make to local sport."

When a sports pitch is heavily used, it becomes compacted, which prevents grass roots from penetrating the soil, causing inefficient drainage and in extreme conditions waterlogging.

Shockwaving uses alternate blades to cut and move compacted soil from



side-to-side to 'crack it open' and create efficient drainage.

Clitheroe Wolves FC was one of the first junior

football clubs in the North West to be chartered by the FA and runs a variety of teams and training sessions

for youngsters aged six to 16. Further details are available from clitheroewolvesfc.co.uk.

New phone app gets residents up and active

RIBBLE Valley residents are getting 'up and active' in a new scheme that has put health and fitness in the palm of their hands.

Up and Active is accessible via smartphones, iPhones and the internet, and outlines a host of activities throughout East Lancashire – many of them free – via an activity search featuring public participation and community events, health walks, school activities, family workshops, afterschool clubs and community gardening.

Users can register on the Up and Active web site and track and monitor their progress, as well as download activity guides and information.

Since being launched, Up and Active, which is supported by Ribble Valley Borough Council, has attracted 310,000 users across East Lancashire.

Tracy Balko, Ribble Valley Borough Council's health and fitness officer, said: "Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions."

"Up and Active can be accessed by people wherever they are and the council's health and fitness staff are also on hand to help them achieve the recommended activity levels of 30 minutes five days a week."

Up and Active offers a variety of activities to help people be more active or lose weight, including easy circuits, tai chi, swimming, aqua aerobics and cardiac rehabilitation.

"It also offers a discounted rate for three months at participating leisure centres, including Roefield, Oakhill and Ribblesdale Pool.

Statistics also show that just 56 per cent of adults in Lancashire achieve the recommended two-and-a-half hours of moderate to vigorous physical activity each week.

Tracy Balko added: "Obesity combined with lack of exercise is one of the biggest preventable causes of early death alongside smoking. As well as shortening people's life expectancy, it can lead to many years of poor health and low quality of life."

"We are determined to help people enjoy better health by helping them get up and active."

Further details are available from Ribble Valley Borough Council's Up and Active team on 01200 414484 or upandactive.co.uk.

● Ribble Valley Borough Council's award-winning walking scheme, Stepping Out, now a part of Up and Active, has just launched its 2017 summer programme, which is available from the council on 01200 425111.

Olympian urges young achievers to 'aim high'



● **AIMING HIGH:** Jon Schofield (right) on the podium with kayak partner Liam Heath

'WORK hard and aim high' was the message to Ribble Valley's up-and-coming young sportsmen and women, and performance artists, from Clitheroe Olympian Jon Schofield.

Jon, who surged his way to success at the Rio Olympics, presented Ribble Valley Borough Council's 2017 sports and arts excellence awards.

Jon and canoe partner Liam Heath secured second place in the kayak pairs 200m sprint final at the Rio Olympics after beating Lithuanian duo Aurimas Lankas and Edvinas Ramanauskas in a split-second photo-finish.

Jon told the youngsters that

15 years ago he was also in the council chamber nervously waiting to receive his award.

"Who knew that I would end up with an Olympic silver medal – and you can, too, if you work hard and aim high."

"I am delighted to be here this evening to present these awards and would like to thank Ribble Valley Borough Council for its support over the years."

Jon then posed for selfies with the enthralled youngsters, some of who tried on his silver medal.

Twenty-four youngsters received awards of up to £350 for a range of sports and arts, including cycling, fishing, climbing, netball, dance, drama and music.

Pool re-opens after £250,000 refurbishment

CLITHEROE'S public swimming pool has reopened after a £250,000 three-month refurbishment.

Ribblesdale Pool in Edisford Road has undergone extensive modernisation to its reception and changing rooms, and the pool has been re-tiled.

The £250,000 scheme has been funded by Ribble Valley

Borough Council, which owns the pool, and Sport England.

Members of the public were involved in the design of the refurbishment, which includes changing rooms specifically for the disabled and families, a brighter environment and more user-friendly waiting and refreshment areas.

Stuart Carefoot, chairman of

Ribble Valley Borough Council's community services committee, said: "We are seeing increasing numbers of people starting to swim again and the refurbishment has given us an opportunity to revitalize the popular pool."

"Ribblesdale Pool is popular with residents and swimming groups, and we now have a truly

modern facility that will serve the needs of the community for many years to come.

"We are extremely grateful to Sport England, whose generosity has made the refurbishment possible."

Further details about Ribblesdale Pool, including opening times and classes, are available at ribblevalley.gov.uk.

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