



# Parish and Town Council Newsletter

September 2024 (Autumn)



## A word from our Parish and Town Councils' Champion CC Paul Rigby....

Welcome to the Autumn Parish and Town Council newsletter which I hope you will find interesting. Summer is officially over and our schools are all back for the new academic year. I hope you all had a good Summer, however, and managed to get some time off and to relax and spend time with family and friends. The weather hasn't always been kind to us which as a farmer I know only too well!



As a farmer and resident in Lancashire's lovely countryside, affordable rural housing is a subject close to my heart and I was interested to learn about the Rural Housing Partnership and the Rural Housing Enabler Service earlier in the Summer. They are keen to work with parish and town councils to develop a small number of appropriate and affordable homes for local people. You can find out more information later in this newsletter.

As Parish and Town Council Champion, my role is to assist the Leader of the County Council and appropriate portfolio holders by advising on ways to sustain and improve effective working relationships between the county council and parish and town councils in Lancashire. One of the ways that I do this is through the Parish Champion Grants. All Parish and Town councils in Lancashire are encouraged to bid for a grant to support projects and initiatives in their locality. Each year I have a budget of £10,000 for such activities and we have previously supported a range of community assets including a defibrillator, a life belt, picnic tables, playground equipment and memorial stones.

The annual Lancashire Parish Council Conference also provides a great opportunity for us to look at ways we can work better together. I always look forward to meeting many of you at the conference which this year will be held on Saturday 2 November at County Hall. Details of how to register will be sent out in late September.

Before the Conference we will be refreshing the Charter: Better Working between Lancashire County Council and Parish and Town Councils, and hope to work with some of you on this. We are grateful to everyone who took time to complete the survey we sent out over the Summer. Your views will help us to improve both relationships and effective working between our two levels of local government.

We know that Parish and Town Councils make a big difference in our local communities and we've included examples of some great projects at the end of this newsletter to celebrate the work you do and to share your experiences.

With very good wishes,

*Paul*

**County Councillor Paul Rigby**

**Email: [paul.rigby@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.rigby@lancashire.gov.uk)**

**Mobile: 07779 596592**



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## Tree Planting and Woodland Creation

Since starting work in June 2023, the Treescapes Team at LCC have been working with local council clerks and councillors across the county, to plan, fund and deliver tree planting and small woodland creation projects on parish and town council land.

Last winter, we worked with five parishes to plant two new community orchards, two tennis court - sized micro woods, double the size of an existing orchard, expand two woodlands and offer help and advice on tending the trees. All work was grant -funded at no cost to the parishes - unless you count keeping volunteers in brews and biscuits!



Following a successful bid to Defra, the team have been awarded funding from the Coronation Living Heritage Fund (CLHF). Established to plant trees in public spaces to mark the King's coronation, the fund supports new community orchards and micro woods. Both of these options are ideally suited to corners of village greens, recreation grounds and other community spaces, especially "problem" areas that may be a little run down, have drainage difficulties, or could use an uplift.

You can apply for a CLHF orchard grant yourself, by following this link [Lancashire Community Orchard Grant - Lancashire County Council](#)

We're happy to help with any aspect of your application, including on-site advice and assistance with planting and aftercare. Just get in touch.

The CLHF has also given us the funding to create new micro woods (also known as Miawaki forests) across Lancashire. We planted our first two micro woods on local council sites last winter, in collaboration with Up Holland Parish Council and Kirkham Town Council. They're each the size of a tennis court and were planted in the unloved corners of recreation grounds that got a bit boggy in winter.



Both projects galvanised lots of local volunteers, bringing together people who'd never collaborated before to create some of the first woodlands of their type in the UK.

The specialised ground preparation method used in these plots results in accelerated growth, up to 2 metres a year at first. As a result, their benefits to people and wildlife - cleaner air, pollinator and songbird habitat, water level management, shade, carbon sequestration - are felt much sooner. We've already got some sites lined up for this coming winter, but would like to hear from parishes who may be interested in a micro wood of their own.

Aside from the CLHF grants, we're here to help you with any aspect of tree planting and woodland creation that you may be interested in.

Ian Wright, Community Engagement Officer  
ian.wright2@lancashire.gov.uk  
01772 534 216  
Lancashire Community Orchard Grant

## Scambuster Stan

**For consumer advice contact  
Citizens Advice helpline on:  
0808 223 1133**

**Lancashire Trading Standards  
Scambuster Stan**

4.9K followers • 109 following

Message

Follow Search

Did you know? Trading Standards have a Facebook page where you can keep up to date with scam alerts and information about how to keep yourself safe from scammers, information about product recalls of unsafe goods, allergen alerts relating to food, news about trading standards matters and [Lancashire Safe Trader Scheme](#). Head over to [Facebook](#) and follow the page for more information.

You can find out more about how to keep yourself safe from telephone and doorstep scammers on Lancashire County Councils [Trading Standards](#) page.



## Consumer Product Safety – Lancashire County Council Scientific Services

### Know the risks when buying new or second-hand products



We rely on many things we buy to make our lives easier, to help us and to support our wellbeing. But not all products you buy new or second-hand may be made well or meet essential safety standards that you would expect.

Taking the time to do some simple checks before purchasing from a shop or online can avoid accidents and injuries to you, your family and friends.

### What you should look for

Here are some simple things you can do before buying products:

- Does the product have safety markings or warnings?
- Are there any instructions and are they easy to understand?
- Can you see the address of the manufacturer or seller?

If you can't see any of these things on the packaging or the item, it may mean that the product you are buying is not safe to use or hasn't been tested by the manufacturer to make sure it meets safety standards.

### Buying second-hand

If you're thinking of purchasing something second-hand, consider how old it is and if anything might have happened to it during its lifetime – can you see any obvious damage that could make it unsafe to use?

### Register your products

Many household products, especially electrical ones, come with the option to register them with the manufacturer. Registering your product means that you can then be directly informed if there is a safety issue with it and get any repairs done as soon as possible. If it is recalled, a refund or replacement may be available.

You can register second-hand products as well as new ones.

To find out more about consumer product safety, product recalls and safety alerts go to [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#).

For more information from Lancashire County Council, visit [Trading Standards](#).

### Opportunities for community groups and networks

If you are part of a local group and are interested in keeping your community safe by taking part in an online presentation or a visit to your group (location dependent), please contact Lancashire County Council at [scientificservices@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:scientificservices@lancashire.gov.uk) or telephone 01772 721660.





## NHS Health Checks Outreach Service

FCMS provide a community outreach NHS Health Checks service on behalf of Lancashire County Council. Appointments are delivered from a variety of community locations including from the brand-new NHS Health Checks mobile clinic. FCMS are a local not-for-profit social enterprise healthcare provider

As we get older, we are all at higher risk of developing certain health conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease or type 2 diabetes. Even if someone is feeling well a free NHS Health Check is a simple way to spot the early warning signs so that they can take action to improve their health.



### What is an NHS Health Check?

An appointment takes less than 30 minutes and includes checks for:

- Height and weight
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Blood sugar
- Basic questions about your family history, exercise, alcohol and smoking



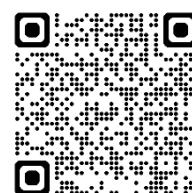
Results are then shared with the patient's GP and where appropriate the team will refer onto a range of lifestyle services.

### Who's eligible?

Anyone aged 40-74 who lives or works within the LCC area and does not have certain pre-existing conditions (check the website for more details). Those not eligible for a full NHS Health Check are still welcome to drop into clinics and the team can offer a 'mini health check' which involves a blood pressure check and lifestyle conversation.


### How to access

You can find out more and book an appointment here: [www.nhshealthcheckslancashire.co.uk/book-now/](http://www.nhshealthcheckslancashire.co.uk/book-now/) or by scanning the QR code. New dates and locations are added on a regular basis.



### Contact

If your Parish or Town Council has an upcoming event that we might be able to support, venues that we could utilise to deliver the service or would like to find out more about how we could work together, please contact: [fcms.nhshealthcheckslancashire@nhs.net](mailto:fcms.nhshealthcheckslancashire@nhs.net) or 0300 033 6431.

 [nhshealthcheckslancashire](https://www.facebook.com/nhshealthcheckslancashire)

 [@NHSHCLancashire](https://twitter.com/NHSHCLancashire)



## Lancashire Rural Housing Partnership

Are you aware of affordable housing need in your community? Would you appreciate some help to understand this?

Lancashire's Rural Housing Enabler Service is looking for Parish Councils to work with towards developing a small number of appropriate and affordable homes for local people. We will work with you and our partners in the Lancashire Rural Housing Partnership - including local planning authorities, the NFU, Housing Justice, local landowners, and Housing Associations to achieve this.

Further information and contact details are on our website - <https://communityfutures.org.uk/index.php/rural-housing-enabler-service/>.

We're looking to target Fylde, Wyre, Lancaster, Ribble Valley, and Preston (Rural) however we are happy to be contacted by Parish Councils, landowners or community groups in any Lancashire District area.

## Celebrating parish and town councils

We wanted to showcase examples of some of the great and innovative projects that are being undertaken across Parish and Town Councils in Lancashire. So earlier in the year we asked you to send in details so that we can learn and share good practice. We've included a few examples below, please keep letting us know about the great work that you are doing.

### Memorial hall refurbished

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council have worked with their community to fundraise to refurbish the Memorial Hall in Hurst Green, a facility that is used by many local groups. Supported by grants from organisations such as Ribble Valley Borough Council, the parish council succeeded in raising sufficient funds for a new roof, ground source heating, new double glazing and internal refurbishments. The project which began in 2019 is almost finalised with great success in the additional booking of the hall for weddings, fitness classes, birthdays and village events.



Parishioners have also established a community garden by taking over the care of a grass verge, with agreement from the housing association, and have spruced up the area for the best kept village competition. History and heritage of the village is kept alive through the provision of a stone table to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and the maintenance of Great and Boer War memorials.

### New lease of life for village hall

Cloughton on Brook village hall, rebuilt in 1983, hadn't changed much in 40 years. Although the large main ground floor was well used, the first-floor large assembly room had never been fully developed. The Parish Council together with the Hall Management Committee and other community volunteers planned and raised funds via a combination of grants, and funding from the hall's own savings, and now work is nearly complete on



the refurbishment of the entrance, rear ground floor lobby and new stairs to first floor, which is completely renovated. There is still much work to do and the project is ongoing.

**Clean up brings villagers together**

In the spring Worston villagers met in the Mission Room to attack the village clean up with the help of grabbers and bags provided by Ribble Valley Borough council who also collected the following week.

There was an unbelievable turnout of local people who enjoyed working, chatting, laughing and naturally having a brew together. The end results spoke for themselves. Work around the village is expected to continue throughout the year. Great community spirit!



**Football crazy in Whittingham**

When Whittingham Parish Council wanted to create a football pitch for youngsters to have an informal game of football, they looked around for suitable land.

Not having any land of their own, they looked at the Village Green, which is managed by Preston City Council. They approached the City Council for a licence to manage and maintain the pitch and now have a lovely football pitch for youngsters to play football on.



The parish council has also teamed up with Preston North End youth involvement who come to the pitch one evening a week to provide training and an informal team match amongst the youngsters who turn up.

**Environmental Action**

Hoghton Parish Council have partnered with Holy Trinity Church, Hoghton Scouts and Hoghton Village Hall Committee to develop new wildlife areas in the parish. Following an LCC grant in 2023/24 the groups were contacted and were keen to be involved in the project and an area was found at the rear of the church hall to work on. Hoghton Village Hall and Sports Committees also provided some of their land at the edge of the cricket pitch for the Scouts to use and improve.

Further funding grants have enabled the purchase of topsoil, a wheelbarrow, waterbut, watering cans and seeds etc.

Through one of the parish councillors, they linked up with Wymott Prison and the prisoners made 80 bird, bug, bat, bee and hedgehog boxes for the project.



The Scouts group held a Big Help Out Day in June for the people of the Parish to help with the work and planting in their area of the cricket pitch

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Wishing everyone all the best for Autumn 2024 from the Partnerships Development Team! [parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk)

