INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Green Flags awarded in borough

Rail link to Piccadilly station axed

CONSULTATION ON CYCLE Lanes WAS ‘HIJACKED’ BY OPPONENTS - CLAIM

Council chief fears opposition to cycling project is ‘coordinated’ - but critics hit back and warn controversial scheme should now be dropped

A CONTROVERSIAL scheme to roll out cycle lanes from Ainsdale through to Crossens could be axed after a public consultation showed “broad public opposition” to the plans.

But, despite what appears to be overwhelming criticism, Council bosses are making the remarkable claim that the genuine views of people ‘might have been hijacked in a coordinated response by people opposed to the scheme’.

A wave of opposition greeted the first of the government-backed pop-up cycle lanes when they were installed in the town centre in September 2020 and a public consultation on continuing the scheme was then launched.

The scheme aims to encourage more people to cycle and walk in a bid to make the borough greener.

The ‘Southport Active Travel Cycle Lane’ consultation was due to end in June but the town’s MP Damien Moore secured an extension after concerns were raised with online petitions against the scheme gaining more than 3,000 signatures and a local opposition group being created with 600 members.

The consultation focused on the routes between the Plough and Hesketh Park and then from York Road to Ainsdale - in between is what already exists as the town centre cycle route. The results of the consultation will be presented to Sefton Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee on November 9.

Sefton Council’s cabinet member for locality services, Cllr John Fairclough said: “As promised we will make the full results of this consultation public and subject it to cross-party scrutiny to ensure complete fairness and transparency.”

He then claimed: “Those who take a look at the report findings will see some unusual outcomes including multiple, and in one case 19, submissions from a single IP address and people responding to every single question with ‘strongly disagree’.

“I can understand there are people who do not agree with our proposals and there has been some high-profile opposition expressed. However, I have never known people to be so adamantly against plans to introduce crossing points that would improve road safety for pedestrians.”

You’re nicked!

YOUNGSTERS at Marshside Primary School were treated to a visit from Merseyside Police. The children even had fun ‘arresting’ their teaching assistant (pictured right). The visit by officers was to help children learn more about the role of police officers and their importance in the community. Headteacher Natasha Sandland said: “Some children did take their role very seriously when they decided it would be a good idea to arrest their teaching assistant, Pauline Gerrard, and put her in the back of the police van!”

Report by Danielle Thompson

DREAM BIG

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Residents face council tax increases of up to 5% 

RESIDENTS in Sefton could be forced to fork out even more on council tax after forecasters predicted that it could be increased by up to 5% a year until 2024/25.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) published findings to say that under government spending plans, a rise of at least 3.6% on council tax bills will be needed annually to keep services at pre-pandemic levels. However, the report added that rises of up to 5% are more likely through to 2024/25.

It means another increase for local taxpayers after it went up by 3.99% in April last year. Sefton Council leader, Cllr Ian Maher, has responded by calling on more government financial support.

At a Cabinet meeting last week, Cllr Maher said that if council tax rises are seen as a way to fund local services, such as social care, then it would "widen disparities between areas rather than achieve any levelling up."

Cllr Maher said: "As the country emerges from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic and areas such as Sefton that have been among the hardest hit, start to recover, we are facing enormous financial pressures. "These are a result of a legacy of government cuts and then a failure of ministers to provide sufficient support during the pandemic, despite their claims at the beginning of this crisis, that they would do 'whatever it takes' to support communities. "It is now becoming clear that the government's plan for tackling existing pressures and the growing costs of social care is through council tax and the new social care precept. "As the research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the LGA have shown this is going to leave people facing significant rises in council tax at the same time as they are having to deal with increasing household fuel costs, rising prices in the shops and the government's £20 per week cut in Universal Credit."

The IFS claimed the government's recently-announced social care policies will cost £5billion a year in the long term, which is almost three times the funding that has been allocated over the next three years. England's councils face almost £8billion of extra cost pressures of by 2024/25 just to keep vital local services running at today's levels, the Local Government Association (LGA) has warned.

"It does not include what it calls 'the very real pressures that councils are facing here and now such as paying care workers a fair wage or investing in the early intervention services which help families and young people falling into crisis. 'Cllr Maher called on the government to make safeguarding vital local services for the long term, a priority for the Chancellor's Spending Review later this month."
Tragic death of baby

A BABY tragically passed away at a home in Southport.

Merseyside Police confirmed that emergency services attended an address on Vineyard Close just before 5pm on October 12 to report that a baby had suffered a cardiac arrest.

The baby was taken to hospital but later passed away.

Officers remained at the scene on Wednesday, October 13, while enquiries were carried out, as per normal procedures.

Teenage driver left with serious injuries after car overturned

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a Southport man was seriously injured following a collision in Burscough which has left a man seriously injured.

The driver of the car, a 19-year-old man, suffered serious head and internal injuries. He was taken to Aintree Hospital and later transferred to the Walton Centre for further treatment.

Police are appealing for information and urging anyone who saw anything, or anyone with dashboard mounted camera footage of the collision, to come forward.

Sgt Chris Evans, of Lancashire Police, said: ‘An investigation is underway following a road traffic collision in Burscough which has left a man seriously injured.

We are appealing for information and very keen to speak to any witnesses, or anyone with dashcam footage which shows what happened.

“If you can help please come forward.”

Get fell in! say walkers

SOUTHPORT Fell Walking Club is searching for new members to join them.

Every fortnight, the group go out by coach to the Lakes, Yorkshire, Derbyshire or Wales and spend the day walking on the hills. They cater for a range of ages, abilities and interests.

With more than 50 years experience, the group look forward to welcoming new members.

Call on 01704 806635 or Stuart on 01704 840777 or check out the club’s blog for more information at southportfellwalkingclubnews.blogspot.com

Gym instructors reach their peak to raise thousands for two charities

GYM instructors teamed up to raise more than £13,000 for two charities with a crossfit competition as well as the Three Peaks Challenge.

Staff from MGYM Personal Training studio in Formby had three separate teams of staff compete in Battle Cancer, a crossfit competition and a group of 14 members of staff who took on the Three Peaks Challenge. This is an event in which participants attempt to climb the highest mountains of England, Scotland and Wales within 24 hours.

It is frequently used to raise money for charitable organisations. Walkers climb each peak in turn, and are driven from the foot of one mountain to the next.

They raised funds for two charities, Young Lives Vs Cancer and the Oliver King Foundation.

Young Lives Vs Cancer is the UK’s leading cancer charity for children, young people and their families. Its care teams provide specialist support across the UK.

The Oliver King Foundation was set up in January 2012 following the tragic death of 12-year-old Oliver King from a hidden heart condition which kills 12 young people every week.

The charity provides training in defibrillator awareness and in first aid and to date they have placed 4,500 defibrillators in schools and organisations across the UK.

Predatory sex attacker was pulled off terrified victim by heroic passer-by

A PREDATORY sex attacker dragged a woman into bushes on a main street in Southport and raped her in what police described as a ‘horrid ordeal’.

Steven Lequesne’s violent attack only came to an end when a passer-by grabbed him in a choke hold and punched him in the face.

He detained 23-year-old Lequesne until police, who watched before had passed the scene unaware of the rape, came and arrested him.

Lequesne has now been jailed for ten and a half years with an extended licence of four and a half years after the judge ruled that he is dangerous.

The hero passer-by, Christopher Fletcher, has been praised by the judge who is putting him forward for a formal commendation.

Judge Matthew Aira told Lequesne the defendant: “It was only when a brave member of the public came to her rescue that her ordeal came to an end. Christopher Fletcher showed all the qualities of a brave, decent, upstanding member of the community in tackling you and summoning the police.”

The judge said he rushed to stop the “brutal and terrifying attack.”

Liverpool Crown Court heard how the victim and Lequesne had been drinking at the Metropole Hotel in Portland Street, one evening this summer before walking through Southport train station after 1am.

Robert Wyn Jones, prosecuting, said she was clearly drunk and sholess and was stumbling. He played a CCTV clip in court that showed an altercation between them and her trying to get away. He said during a coming together she is fighting him off and is pulled backwards to the ground.

She got up and a nearby CCTV camera in Hoghton Street captured him attacking her in the bushes of a car park.

A police car drove past and Lequesne ‘docked down behind the bushes’, before the woman repeatedly kicked at him, but he pinned her down and raped her.

Mr Wyn Jones said Mr Fletcher walked past, saw Lequesne raping the woman while she was screaming ‘no’, so pulled Lequesne away.

Mr Fletcher took hold of the defendant around the neck in a chokehold. He then took him to the ground before he called the police and held him until the police arrived. Police found the victim extremely distressed nearby.

When interviewed the defendant denied rape but was linked to the attack by DNA evidence. Lequesne, of no fixed address but formerly of Fulwood, pleaded guilty to rape.

The court heard that Lequesne has 15 previous convictions for 21 offences, including harassment and two offences of outraging public decency.

Recorder Corbett-Jones told Lequesne: “This was a brutal and terrifying attack on a defenceless woman, in order for you to satisfy your desire for sexual gratification, which I have no doubt will cast a shadow across the rest of her life.”

Detective Inspector Lisa Milligan of Merseyside Police, said after the case: “Lequesne subjected his victim to a horrific ordeal. There is no doubt that this continues to have a profound impact on Lequesne’s victim and I hope that he will reflect on the pain and suffering he has caused while serving his sentence.

“I would like to take the opportunity to praise his victim for her bravery and composure throughout the investigation.

“It would make it so clear that if you report a sexual offence, we will investigate it thoroughly and provide you with the utmost support throughout. We are here to treat you with compassion and respect, and will work tirelessly to put perpetrators before the courts.

“Specialist police officers from our Unity team work side-by-side with a number of partners including Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), who work with the victim from the moment the police make the referral through to the court case and beyond.

“Anyone with information or wants to report sexual offence allegation is asked to call 101 where you will be spoken to by specially trained officers or you can pass information to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.”
Moore to continue to hold surgeries despite death of MP

SOUTHPORT MP Damien Moore has told the Champion he will continue to hold in-person surgeries in the town, despite the shocking death of fellow Conservative MP Sir David Amess.

And he revealed there ‘was an incident’ at his Southport office just a few weeks ago leading to increased security.

Sir David died after he was stabbed several times during a surgery at his constituency in Essex on Friday, October 15.

The 69 year old, who had been an MP since 1983 was attacked at a church in Leigh-on-Sea. He is the second MP to be killed in six years, following the murder of Jo Cox.

Mr Moore said: “Use of MPs is at unprecedented levels and very much facilitated through social media. Anonymised attacks leads to no recourse for those making threats. You expect people to passionately disagree with you but it’s not acceptable to threaten violence or even kill anyone working in politics or public life.

“In some instances this threatening behaviour extends to staff and their families as well.

“The tragedies for Ms Cox and Mr Amess are unacceptable. Differing views should never be escalated to violence. Cross-party, we all aim to do right by our constituents and to do good but people should not be put in harms way by doing their job, this should not be a risk of the job.

“I will continue to hold in-person surgeries. We had an incident at the office a few weeks ago and have upped our security and each MP has to choose for themselves how they will react going forward.

“The best part of our job is how accessible we are and I want to be able to keep speaking to people in person, helping people face to face.”

In 2019, Jack Renshaw, 23, from Skelmersdale was jailed for life for planning to murder West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper, with a machete. The judge at the Old Bailey said the neo-Nazi had wanted to ‘replicate’ the murder of Jo Cox.

A parliamentary report found threats of murder, rape and other violence against MPs had become ‘commenpalce’ and had forced many to change their behaviour and take increased security measures when they deal with the public.

Report by Danielle Thompson

Sir David Amess MP
On yer bike, Boris... but not in this town! say cycle lane critics

From page 1

“My concern is that the genuine views of the people of Southport might have been hijacked in a coordinated response by people who don’t want to see these walking and cycling schemes go ahead and I look forward to hearing the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel. “As the report says, the Council put a lot of effort into encouraging people to take part in the consultation but it seems to have been mainly people who fit a certain profile who have responded in large numbers so we need to look at how we can try to get broader responses in the future. “Given the multiple submissions identified, we are going to need to build in ways of detecting this into future consultations, to ensure the outcomes are truly representative of a community’s view. “Dukes Ward Cllr John Pugh responded to Cllr Fairclough’s comments that suggested the results were potentially ‘hijacked.’ He said: “It is utterly counterproductive for anyone to try to fix the consultation and those who have done so have harmed the cause of those with sensible objections. “Efforts should be made to unmask and identify them. However, I suspect that even without that, everyone knows that the schemes as proposed lack broad public support and that should be fatal to them. “My understanding is that there is going to be quite a bit of back-pedalling. The consultation needed ‘bread public support’ but it is widely known that it shows ‘bread public opposition’ “In those circumstances the government funding behind all this would be in doubt. The issue is what is to happen to the significant amount of money given to Sefton for the purpose of building cycle lanes and whether Sefton will be penalised by the government for not pressing ahead as has happened in other boroughs. “It would be a huge mistake by Sefton to proceed this far without prior consultation with local councillors and hopefully some of the right lessons are being learnt. “It’s still though a bit of a mess currently and Southport residents would be justified in finding it all confusing and thinking the town is being used as an experimental lab. “There are currently three different schemes on the go, working to different timetables – the existing lanes through the town centre done under Covid regulations, the liveable streets scheme and the cross town Churchtown to Ainsdale route. Nobody is sure quite what the Council is trying to do or how it will know if it’s done it. “We still haven’t had the evaluation of the Hoghton Street scheme done without consultation under the government’s emergency regulations.” A full report on the consultation’s feedback and comments will be published publicly on November 1, with the data being scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on November 9.

Temporary bollards which cost more than £84,000 could be removed in six months’ time, warns councillor

TEMPORARY bollards cost more than £84,000 to install as part of the controversial cycling scheme in the town centre, according to Councillor John Pugh. Significant amounts of public money have been spent on making the town centre lanes more secure with new fixtures attached to the road replacing temporary bollards, after the previous measures were vandalised. Cllr Pugh told the Champion: “The scheme implemented without consultation under government Covid-emergency regulations has still not been properly evaluated. This should have been done after six months according to the rules and, if judged unsuccessful, should be removed. “It seems like monstrous arrogance by the Council to just assume that the scheme would be positively evaluated. If it gets the thumbs down, all the money spent would be down the drain.” He claimed: “The order for the new more solid fixtures was placed over a year ago with the money offered by the government back in August 2020. The supplier - a firm called Rosehill - then were working flat out as the government tried to boost cycling. They could not supply any to Sefton until much later at a cost of £84,350.” When asked if they would like to comment on Cllr Pugh’s comments, Sefton Council directed us to previous comments by Cllr John Fairclough, Sefton Council’s cabinet member for locality services. He said: “We are all too aware that Sefton, like many other councils, were told by the Government to quickly implement strict

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Elderberries Gardening club wants to grow its membership!

The Elderberries Gardening Club is set to spring back to life after 18 months, with members eager to return to the club – but they are hoping that new faces will join them too.

The group meets from 10.30am-noon on the second Wednesday of every month at Saint John’s Church on Saint Johns Road in Birkdale.

Shelley Lewis-Lavender, chairperson, revealed that she has been inundated with new enquiries.

The club offers talks from guest speakers, trips to historical houses and gardens, visits to see local gardening specialists and social events such as a Christmas lunch in December.

Shelley said: “It was lovely to see so many new members join the club as many people have discovered their love of gardening during the pandemic. Some clubs have struggled to survive but the Elderberries is growing from strength to strength.

“Autumn is on its way and we have the dark nights ahead of us so let’s hope we can bring some cheeriness through the Elderberries to keep us going and we get back to our old routines soon.

“Gardening for well-being is one of the best reasons to get out in the garden. Your physical and mental well-being vastly improved and its free. “You don’t even have to do any gardening, just being out in the fresh air amongst the trees and flowers will increase your feeling of well-being and your mood will be happier and calmer.”

To find out more, email elderberriesgardening@gmail.com or call Shelley on 01704 560690.

Man who sexually abused two girls jailed for 21 years

A FORMBY man who sexually abused two young girls has been jailed for 21 years.

Paul Shields, 45, was told by a judge in court on Thursday, October 14 that he is “a danger to children as far as serious sexual harm is concerned” and imposed a one year extended sentence.

Shields, of Beechwood Drive, Formby, had been convicted of a catalogue of 22 sexual offences after a trial.

Judge Robert Trevor-Jones told him, “You still maintain your innocence. You completely refuse to admit what you have done.”

He pointed out that his denials meant his victims were forced to go through the ordeal of giving evidence before a jury at Liverpool Crown Court.

“Both victims refer to the devastating impact on their lives. They talk of the daily impact on them and the affect on their mental health. They have difficulty in trusting people and forming relationships.”

“Quite clearly it amounts to serious psychological harm. Their feeling is you have destroyed their lives.

20 of the offences which included attempted rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and causing a child to engage in sexual activity involved one of the girls and spanned several years.

The other two offences of sexual assault and causing a child to engage in sexual activity involved the second child.

He had threatened them not to tell anyone but eventually in 2018 they disclosed details of their ordeal and the police were eventually informed.

Gerard Doran, defending, said: “No doubt he will have a very long time to contemplate these matters. No doubt there will come a time when he can take advantage of services available to him in custody.

“I hope that will pay dividends and he will be permitted to return to society.”

The judge ordered Shields, who looked shocked at the length of the sentence, to sign on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

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Town’s rail link to Manchester Piccadilly to disappear under new timetable announcements

Report by Henry James

RAIL campaigners have reacted with disappointment to an announcement which will see Southport lose its rail link to Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport.

The core of a new timetable for rail services in and around Manchester has been approved for December 2022. Once finalised it aims to reduce delays for passengers by around 25%.

The latest announcement will see an hourly service which will run between Southport, Wigan and Manchester Oxford Road all day, and the retention of a second hourly service from Southport to Manchester Victoria and Stalybridge all day.

However rail campaigners in Southport and West Lancashire are disappointed there will be no direct services to and from Piccadilly and Manchester Piccadilly under these plans.

In February of this year Transport for the North began a consultation on its new train timetables, which was criticised by rail campaigners as it proposed to stop the service which runs from Southport through West Lancashire to Piccadilly or Manchester Airport. It had only recently been brought back after being cancelled.

"The Southport line into Manchester was and is the only one to have made a full business case for its services which is how we won the Piccadilly service back before and we were building on this, for example with an extra commuter service to and from Victoria."

"This was totally disregarded by MRFT who have quite dogmatically pursued their preference for a train operating plan which sees Blackpool gain a second airport service when overall services have been reduced and all day services between Southport and Oxford Road, and Southport and Victoria are presented as something to be celebrated when it is less than what we have today."

"The formal report on the consultation exercise undertaken earlier this year shows 26% of the 814 responses from Wigan and further along the line, people living in Southport and Lancashire who are served by rail links. They have just reinforced that at the expense of people living 30 or more miles away, Manchester is already very well served by rail links. They have just reinforced that at the expense of people living in Southport and Lancashire."

"It doesn’t make sense to enhance access to rail for people within three miles of Manchester at the expense of people living 20 or more miles away, pushing more people into longer car journeys on our region’s already congested roads."

"I am very disappointed to see the timetable changes that have been made, which have left thousands of people and businesses in Southport and large parts of Lancashire without direct access to Manchester Piccadilly and the south side of Manchester, which is so important to people working in the centre."

Manchester is already very well served by rail links. They have just reinforced that at the expense of people living in Southport and Lancashire."

It was inevitable that some service reduction through central Manchester would be the outcome of the work by the Manchester Recovery Task Force (MRFT) however decisions needed to be based on firstly an understanding of passenger demand for specific city centre destinations and stations, and then tempered by operational constraints.

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"I will continue to lobby hard for better rail services for the people of Southport."

Direct service to airport will also go - but, there will be an hourly train to Oxford Road

A new option called B+ was introduced after the first consultation. This option was for a service, once an hour, between Southport, Wigan, but stopping at Manchester Oxford Road and not going to Piccadilly and beyond.

Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Travellers Association (OPSTA) Chair Alan Panton is annoyed about the latest announcement and said: "It was inevitable that some service reduction through central Manchester would be the outcome of the work by the Manchester Recovery Task Force (MRFT) however decisions needed to be based on firstly an understanding of passenger demand for specific city centre destinations and stations, and then tempered by operational constraints."

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Pageant finalist helps raise £21k for charity

A GROUP of semi-finalists for Miss Teen Great Britain 2021 have raised more than £21,000 for charity just days ahead of the finals of the pageant.

Libby Smith, 13, from Formby, will head to The Globe in Blackpool for the semi-finals of the contest this weekend (October 23-24) ahead of the Grand Final of the contest on Monday, October 25.

Libby was one of a group of semi-finalists who raised £21,000 and she herself raised more than £2,500.

Hogtastic Halloween!

AN ANIMAL sanctuary is holding a three-day ‘Hogtastic Halloween’ fundraiser!

The team at the sanctuary on Sandy Lane, Holmeswood, are staging the event from 11am-3pm from Tuesday, October 26 to Thursday, October 28.

A spokesperson said: ‘We are inviting you to our brand new Hogtastic Halloween each day that you dare! Enjoy an array of spooky tricks and treats - fancy dress is optional, but you may feel safer by blending in because the team and animals are feeling the eerie vibe this year! ‘Seasonal refreshments will help you keep both the weather and any ghosts at bay. Booking is essential due to places being limited.’

To book tickets, which are £3.50 for under-16s (adults go free) visit tickettailor.com/events/woodlandsanimalsanctuary/584304#
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Former World War Two sergeant celebrates his 100th birthday

Report by Danielle Thompson

A WORLD War Two sergeant has celebrated his 100th birthday.

Albert Chisholm was born on October 15, 1921 in Northumberland.

He joined the army in 1938 as a volunteer and served in the Northumberland Regiment and then transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers.

He served in Burma, the Atlantic Convoys and the Suez Canal. He was torpedoed not once but twice – the first time, in 1940, he was picked up unconscious by an American Greyhound ship and the second time, he was torpedoed off South America.

After leaving the army in 1947, he worked as a delivery worker, a chauffeur and then for a telecommunications firm.

Make a Change for Ben group, is the latest idea by friends and family to raise at least £200,000 to have the water cleaned in Ben's memory.

When Southport Pleasureland CEO Norman Wallis heard that the group’s biggest fundraising event of the year was still without a headline sponsor less than four weeks before the dinner, he was quick to agree to help.

The event is at the Bliss Hotel on October 28 when guests will hear former Liverpool and England footballer John Barnes speak.

Mr Wallis said: “Southport Pleasureland is proud to step up as headline sponsor and wish this important fundraiser every success.”

Pleasureland owner steps in at last minute to sponsor ‘Make a Change for Ben’ charity night

Pleasureland owner Norman Wallis has stepped in at the last-minute to ensure a group’s fundraising dinner can go ahead.

Ben Smith-Crallan, 37, died after catching a rare infection following a fall into the water of Churchoftown’s Botanic Gardens’ lake in June of 2018.

The Sportman’s Dinner event, organised by the

The Life Rooms is open!

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- Bootle: St Winefride’s Campus, Merton Road, L207AP
  0151 330 6461
- Southport: 23-25 Scarisbrick Avenue, PR8 1NW
  01704 383 198

To find out more about The Life Rooms visit www.liferooms.org or follow us on social media by searching @LifeRooms_MC

Come along and say hello!
Martin Mere news

Starling Murmuration Returns

Lots of people have taken advantage of our late night openings to see the thousands of pink-footed geese coming to roost for the night. We also now have the added bonus of a murmuration of starlings coming into our reedbed every night.

To see these spectacles, access to the Martin Mere nature reserve will be free of charge from 5.30 to 7pm on Sat 23rd, Wednesday 27th and Saturday 30th October.

Up to 20,000 starlings have been wheeling around, before flying into the reeds to spend the night. It is the wheeling and reeling around that is known as the murmuration.

Murmurations are one of nature’s wonders, as thousands of starlings move as one large mass, forming a multitude of patterns in the sky. This behaviour lasts for up to an hour, with the mass of starlings getting bigger and bigger by the minute as birds join in from all directions.

It is believed that the murmurations offer each bird greater protection from predators, as the individual odds of getting picked out by a predator become much greater if you are surrounded by 20,000 others, than if you are on your own. Furthermore, the flocking behaviour is thought to make it harder for any predator to pick out and concentrate on catching a single bird.

However, scientists remain befuddled on how the thousands of birds move as one unit and don’t bump into each other. Studies have even included references to particle physics and one study found that each individual bird’s movement affected seven others around it, which is what makes the starlings look like a twisting, morphing cloud.

Murmurations are bigger in the autumn and winter as British starlings are joined by migrant birds escaping colder weather in Europe. However, starling numbers in general are in decline and many murmurations aren’t anywhere near as big as they were ten or twenty years ago. The decline is thought to be as a result of modern farming practices and insecticides reducing the starling’s food supply.

Many murmurations take place at the same sites every year but, at some, they can be more sporadic. At Martin Mere, we had a fantastic murmuration in November 2017 but, until this year, had not seen a repeat. So, if you want to see this spectacle at Martin mere, you need to come soon, as it may not be repeated for a few years.
Free swimming lessons offered to children in care thanks to donation

Report by Danielle Thompson

SEFTON Council is helping to provide free swimming lessons for children in care, thanks to generous funding from one of the local authority’s contractors.

CRL Concrete Repairs Ltd and its suppliers, who are working with the council on the refurbishment of Dunes Splash World, have teamed up to kindly donate funding to the Sefton Active Aquatics team.

This has allowed the service to provide a brand new ‘Access To Swimming’ programme designed to help disadvantaged children and children in care to swim.

Through the funding, Sefton’s Aquatics Team have been able to put together a completely free ten week course of swimming lessons. Cllr Ian Moncur, Sefton Council’s Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing, said: “We recognise that throughout the country there are a lot of children who do not have the opportunity or means to take part in any form of swimming lessons. “That is why we are delighted that, thanks to the generous and kind hearted donation of CRL Concrete Repairs Ltd and partners, we are able to provide a dedicated Access to Swimming scheme to help children in care have the opportunity to learn how to swim, enjoy being in a pool and make many happy memories. “The opportunity to provide these lessons for disadvantaged children in care who have not had the opportunity to attend anything like this before is invaluable. “I would like to say a massive thank you to CRL and their suppliers for their philanthropy.”

Daren King, CRL’s Northern Regional Director, added: “CRL have a longstanding history of working collaboratively with our clients and supply chain to support the communities in which we work.

“We are very proud to be working alongside Sefton Council to set up the Access to Swimming Programme which will give many disadvantaged children and children in care the opportunity to learn an important life skill and have fun in the process.

“We are very thankful to Mapei, AMB Technical Ltd, VI Distribution, Industrial Coating Services, QED Scaffolding and Prema Energy Ltd who have generously supported our programme and made it possible. “We hope all the children enjoy their swimming lessons at this excellent facility.”

Children in care will be offered free lessons
What a waste of council tax money

There is much national news about the many and so difficult to manage cost increases in many areas of council spending. A further one we are pre-warned we will need to handle in all this mayhem is significant future council tax bills.

As I travel down Hightown Street and look at the endless newly installed lamps of concrete with large poles sticking up occupying the road where residents, visitors and shoppers used to pay the council to park on, and I think just how much will this cost us all in our future council tax bills?

I personally have yet to witness one handlebar shopper - although apparently the council spend our money to count ‘thousands’ of cyclists in the town centre. ‘Ken’, Crossens

More education is needed on how to keep people safe on streets

I have been hearing a lot on TV about girls or anyone really not feeling safe.

I’m torn because I know why but I have a good trust in our police officers and part of that has been they have always been polite, near to reach and a good presence within the community.

What could be helpful is letting people know about things that could help, for example, having phones with locators so that you people trust you can know where you are. There are phone apps to help with safety, although not too many people know of them.

We also don’t just have cameras in London that police can access. Perhaps if people were informed more about how many and where are they, they could make safer decisions on routes to take. It may also be a good deterrent if criminals realised how many exist and police have more access than ever to cameras.

I recognise that, sadly, bad things happen and at times people need to be punished for awful things but I also think that the media could help people more by educating them how best to be safe and trust in our police officers and part of that has been developing the traditional community.

Jeff Carter, Southport,
Lancashire

Back to your desks (as happened last week)

Janet Ingman, Netherton

Solutions

The actual word is (5)

1. A candle holder (4, 3)
2. An Italian antiseptic (7)
3. Leafy green (6)
4. The UK Channel 1 (7)
5. A fuel rich in oxygen (9)
6. Black chess piece (6)
7. A key (6)
8. A type of vodka (6)
9. A part of a horse (6)
10. A metaphor (6)
11. A location in the UK (6)
12. An instrument (5)
13. A small canal (5)
14. A dog (4)
15. A cloth (4)
16. An island (6)
17. A type of fish (5)
18. A type of sugar (5)
19. A type of egg (5)
20. A type of wood (5)
21. A type of fruit (5)
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Impact Pru care about school staff and pupils

Lancashire Day is an opportunity to show loyalty to red rose county

Lancashire Day is on Saturday, November 27. The Festival of Real Lancashire is currently compiling their annual list of Lancashire Day activities all over the county.

We would like to hear from any organisations or individuals who are planning an event on the day or during that week.

As well as showing loyalty to our red rose county, Lancashire Day is an opportunity to raise money for charity, remember a much loved Lancastrian and for businesses to promote Lancashire produce.

At the beginning of November, events are posted on our website (www.forl.co.uk), details are sent to the Press and also to our members so they may support an event in their locality.

Events usually include Lancashire Day Proclamations, Lancashire nights with traditional hot pot or nibbles and entertainment, lunches, afternoon tea, shops with Lancashire produce, restaurants with a special menu, exhibitions, heritage walks, quiz nights and reading of Lancashire dialect.

Please email any events to chairman@forl.co.uk and include a contact telephone number.

Remember if you were born between the river Duddon in the North and the river Mersey in the South you are first and foremost a Lancastrian - no legislation has ever changed the traditional county boundaries.

Jeff Carter, Southport, Lancashire

Get back to your desks

Every so often, (as happened last week) the brown bins in our cul-de-sac were not emptied.

So, in the past, (pre COVID) I’d ring Sefton Council and be told to leave the bin out, and the crew would empty them in the week, but nine times out of ten they wouldn’t, which would mean that come grey bin day, the crew would simply dump the carefully recycled rubbish into the stuff going to land fill.

Now, you ring and get a pre-recorded message telling you to leave the bin out for the crew to attend to, or use their web site to report the failure to empty. Not everybody has a computer, which means such things will go unreported.

Why, when the rest of the country has returned to work, Sefton’s staff haven’t? And why should we have to carefully separate our recyclable waste, if it’s not going to be collected? Also, why aren’t the crews instructed that any areas they miss, must be dealt with the following day before starting that day’s work. Or is that too Simple.

Fred McCann, Southport

It’s a jamb well done!

As GP practices are getting so much negative press on the issue that I would just like to say ‘thank you’ to St Mark’s Southport.

My husband and I attended the flu vaccination clinic at the surgery last Saturday morning and we were impressed with the professional and efficient service we received.

We both had our jabs at the same time from the pleasant nursing staff and we were in and out within five minutes.

So thank you and well done to all the staff.

Maureen Melling, Southport

Sefton want to impose a ‘Livable Neighbourhood scheme’ – whether residents and business want it or not recent leaflets would show its community and business benefits and how to live with it.

The scheme is supposed to make life more able by allowing people to get around from A to B if they walk, cycle or use a wheelchair. Now, for as long as I have lived in Southport, (my whole life 41 years) we have had pavements for people to walk on, roads to cycle on.

The scheme has now progressed; we can see streets are indeed being blocked off at one end and I don’t mean roads without shops but the roads that have the very businesses that make Southport.

Residents will have to carry out three-point turns on double parked roads to try and leave their homes, and that’s every time they leave, then be herded like cattle along routes which will be longer and involve sitting in traffic thus creating more pollution.

I want to say how grateful I am to the residents of Sefton council who have access to support through the Council and trade union requirement to offer to all our pupils. Staff concerned about the changes actually have access to support through the Occupational Health service or our two on-site counsellors.

Among the factual errors I would like to point out are the facts that IMPACT Pru is not two separate schools as reported in the article but a split-site school with locations in Netherton and Formby.

Fred McCann, Southport

Congestion will destroy town

The scheme has now progressed; we can see streets are indeed being blocked off at one end and I don’t mean roads without shops but the roads that have the very businesses that make Southport.

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Among the factual errors I would like to point out are the facts that IMPACT Pru is not two separate schools as reported in the article but a split-site school with locations in Netherton and Formby.

Rachel Wild, headteacher

Editor’s note: The article referred to in the letter, above, and the claims made in it, included a full response from Sefton Council.

Sefton want to freeze Southport and leave it in ruins

Lee Durkin, Birkdale

If you enjoy these puzzles, and would like to exercise your brain further, check out The Wheeler Book of Crosswords and The Wheeler Book of Word Searches.

Both are currently available from www.wheatearbooks.co.uk or Amazon.
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Port exit FA Cup after valiant effort against National League opponents

FA Cup fourth qualifying round: Southport 2, Altrincham 3

A BUMPER crowd of more than 1,300 saw Southport exit the FA Cup after a spirited effort against National League team Altrincham in an action packed game, writes Jonathan O’Byrne.

Southport had certainly started the brighter of the two teams and Charlie Oliver had a header cleared off the line in the second minute after he made good contact with a Josh Hmani cross.

Port continued to build on that ascendency pressing high up the field and forcing the opposition into errors.

They went ahead in the 35th minute when a beautiful worked move down the left involving Dylan Vassallo and Jack Doyle culminated in Marcus Carver prodding the ball past Alty goalkeeper Matthew Gould.

They went ahead in the 35th minute when a beautiful worked move down the left involving Dylan Vassallo and Jack Doyle culminated in Marcus Carver prodding the ball past Alty goalkeeper Matthew Gould.

A five minute spell before half time changed the complexion of the game as Altrincham scored twice.

The first came when Josh Hancock was allowed into the box and firing in at the near post to put the Robins in front.

Then on the stroke of half time Hancock turned provider to scorer peeling away from his peers who converted.

Southport were more subdued in the second half and in a bid to rekindle their first half performance Liam Watson made a double substitution a 62nd minute, bringing on Isaac Buckley Ricketts and Charlie Munro to add fresh impetus.

Just a minute later though former Marine striker Tom Peers doubled the Altrincham lead.

They went ahead in the 35th minute when a beautiful worked move down the left involving Dylan Vassallo and Jack Doyle culminated in Marcus Carver prodding the ball past Alty goalkeeper Matthew Gould.

Port were given hope with 15 minutes remaining when Niall Watson’s cross from the byline was headed in by Marcus Carver.

Jordan Archer entered the field as Southport threw the kitchen sink at their opponents in an attempt to draw level but they were unable to breach an experienced Altrincham rearguard.

Verdict: Southport played some brilliant football in the first half but similar to the previous round a ten minute blip cost them dearly and against higher level opposition they could not recover.

With the FA Cup out of the way Southport must turn their attentions to the league and visit Ketton Town on Saturday before hosting Darlington on Tuesday.

The Sandgrounders are currently rooted to the bottom of the table to a position reflective of their ability.

Man of the Match: Marcus Carver, two more goals from the frontman who occupied the defence all afternoon with his all round game.
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Dr Marius McGovern, clinical director at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa, is passionate about ending denture suffering by using implants to provide same-day teeth.

He said: “Having missing teeth can have a social and functional impact, but here at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa we aim to address this for our patients by providing same-day fixed teeth.”

“Many people are now aware that dental implants can replace single missing teeth in a highly successful, attractive and long-lasting way.”

“However the advancement in dental implant techniques allows replacement of all missing teeth and full dentures with All-on-4 in a single day!”

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visit www.liverpoolimplants.co.uk or drop into Liverpool Implant & Aesthetic Dental Spa, Brunswick Street, Liverpool L2 0PJ
Animal rescue centre desperate to find a home for ‘lonely Barney’

**Report by Danielle Thompson**

A ‘DESPERATE’ appeal has been launched to find an urgent home for ‘lonely Barney’.

The team at Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre in Ince Blundell wants to find a home for Barney, a medium sized cross-breed dog, aged nine, “who urgently needs a foster home for the sake of his mental and physical health.”

Kennel worker Vikki Ferguson explained: “Barney is an exceptionally sweet and affectionate boy, and we’ve all fallen in love with him.

“Barney has been here since August as his owner could no longer care for him, and has been struggling terribly with this change of life and new hope. We are seeking an experienced foster home for Barney, possibly with a view to adopting him.

“The home will need to be adult-only, pet free and local to our Liverpool centre. It’s really important that it is a quiet and calm environment, which will help ease Barney’s anxiety and help to build his confidence. He is a nervous boy at the moment, so will need lots of reassurance and positive reinforcement.

“Our local community have never let the animals down – we just know that Barney’s special someone is out there. If you can help Barney, call 0151 931 1604 or email kennels@freshfields.org.uk.

Hundreds of children to get free pantomime tickets

A PANTOMIME is set to return to Southport after two year-break.

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society are hosting a Children’s Pantomime, Dick Whittington, for up to 300 children at 2pm on Saturday, December 11 at Our Lady of Lourdes R C Church on Waterloo Road.

Organiser Maggie Sixsmith: “We are able to offer the chance for up to 300 children in the area, some of whom may never get the opportunity at Christmas, to experience live theatre.

“As in the past we have enlisted the services of the same touring children’s pantomime company, whose many years in this field has taught them just what children want.

“This heart-warming and highly entertaining show has been adapted to entertain children from three to 14 years of age.

“The tickets for the show are free, however after having raised a substantial amount of money to fund the pantomime, we are looking for some extra help to enable us to buy the children a Christmas Selection Box. Any extra help in any way would be appreciated.

“If anyone can help, call 07770 778 686 or make any donations directly to Our Lady of Lourdes R C Catholic Church.

Barney, trying to reassure him and spend time comforting him, but unfortunately he is just not adjusting to kennel life. He is becoming increasingly distressed as time goes on.

“We are determined to help Barney, and now we need to call upon our animal-loving local community to give Barney the chance of a new life and new hope. We are seeking an experienced foster home for Barney, possibly with a view to adopting him.

“Because he has experienced life as a pet, he is bewildered and frightened to find himself in kennels at the age of nine years old.

“Barney is an exceptionally sweet and affectionate boy, and we’ve all fallen in love with him.

“We are determined to help Barney, and now we need to call upon our animal-loving local community to give Barney the chance of a new life and new hope. We are seeking an experienced foster home for Barney, possibly with a view to adopting him.

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“Our local community have never let the animals down – we just know that Barney’s special someone is out there. If you can help Barney, call 0151 931 1604 or email kennels@freshfields.org.uk.

Lottery players help raise £26k

NATIONAL Lottery Players in Southport have been thanked for helping to raise £25,906 for local community groups.

Southport MP Damien Moore said that he is delighted with the grants.

He said: “It’s great to see how many community groups have benefited from National Lottery funding in Southport. These groups are inspirational in the great work and support they provide to local people and their community through what have been some extremely difficult times.”

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**Wear it pink**

**Friday 22 October**

**What is wear it pink?**

Wear it Pink is one of the UK’s biggest fundraising events. Each year thousands of people across the UK wear pink and raise money for Breast Cancer Now. 2021 is its 20th year, with over £36 million raised since 2002.

However you wear it pink this October, you can help to make sure that our life-saving research and life-changing care continues. From putting on something pink at home, to raising money with a pink event, your support will mean we can continue to be here for anyone affected by breast cancer.

**When is wear it pink?**

Wear it pink will take place on Friday 22 October 2021, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

**Why wear it pink?**

People affected by breast cancer need us, and they need you too. Since March 2020, the doors to hundreds of our community support events have had to close and our researchers were kept out of their labs for 100 days or more. It’s taken away vital lifelines from people that need them, and our research is at risk of slowing.

That’s why we’ve only become more determined to make sure we’re there to support people when they need us, and help make the breakthroughs in research that will continue to drive forward progress.

Together we can wear pink, raise money and help make life-changing breast cancer research and care happen.

Summer Kendrick, wear it pink manager at Breast Cancer Now, said: “The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on Breast Cancer Now’s ability to deliver the progress and support that people affected by breast cancer rely on for now more than ever.

‘Breast cancer hasn’t stopped for the pandemic. Over the past year people have been diagnosed with the disease at a time when everything from treatment to screenings have been disrupted, making the support that we provide, and the hope our research generates, a vital lifeline.

“That’s why we’ve only become more determined to make sure we’re there to support people when they need us. And more determined to make the breakthroughs in research that will continue to drive forward progress. People affected by breast cancer need us – and they need you too.

“It’s never been more important to wear it pink on Friday 22 October.

Kendra, was diagnosed with breast cancer in October 2020 and explains why she will wear pink for Breast Cancer Now on Friday 22 October.

“In October 2020, I was diagnosed with stage two invasive lobular breast cancer. I was chosen by the local health authority to be part of a trial, and it’s scary to think - if I hadn’t agreed to take part - I would have remained undiagnosed. I had no symptoms at all, and as the first woman in my family to receive a breast cancer diagnosis, it was very unexpected.

“Wear it pink this October, you can help to make sure that our life-saving research and life-changing care happens. People affected by breast cancer need us – and they need you too.

“Raising money for Breast Cancer Now is so important. It gives you an opportunity to contribute to vital breast cancer research and care, and to help keep breast cancer at the forefront of peoples’ minds.

“I’ll be wearing it pink to show support and stand in solidarity with those living with, through or beyond a breast cancer diagnosis. For those we’ve lost, those who’ve lost someone they love, and those who continue to need support.”

**How to take part**

If there ever was a time to put on that pink top, drapes that pink feather boa around your neck or pull up those pink socks, it’s now!

Wear pink on Friday 22 October, raise money and help make life-changing breast cancer research and life-changing care happen.

Sign-up today at www.wearitpink.org

Whatever your wear it pink day looks like, we ask that you follow government guidelines above all else and only do what is right for you and those around you.
Parks and greenspaces flying the flag for Sefton!

By Danielle Thompson

PARKS across Southport have been celebrating after being given the Green Flag Award 2021. The Green Flag Award Scheme is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy and recognises well-managed parks and greenspaces.

Winners across Sefton included Sefton Council who were given the Green Flag Award for King's Gardens – which was unveiled to mark the scheme's Silver Jubilee.

Brian Quinn, chairman of the Friends of Rotten Row said: "We are raising a Green Flag Award at Rotten Row for the seventh time. As well as this, we also achieved in winning the 25 year award! "After 18 months, that have seen our parks and green spaces play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely, this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team."

Meanwhile the Friends of Rotten Row; Botanic Gardens Community Association (for the Fernery and Floral Beds) and the Friends of Ainsdale Village Park were given the special Green Flag Community Award for '25 Years of Raising the Standard' which was unveiled to mark the scheme’s Silver Jubilee.

The Green Flag Award Scheme is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy and recognises well-managed parks and greenspaces.

Winners across Sefton included Sefton Council who were given the Green Flag Award for King's Gardens. The scheme's Silver Jubilee was marked by the unveiling of a special Green Flag Award for '25 Years of Raising the Standard'.

Brian Quinn, chairman of the Friends of Rotten Row said: "We are raising a Green Flag Award at Rotten Row for the seventh time. As well as this, we also achieved in winning the 25 year award! "After 18 months, that have seen our parks and green spaces play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely, this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team."

CRICKET aficionados in the town are looking forward to the resumption of activities at West Lancashire Cricket Society, which is returning to its original home at Southport & Birkdale Sports Club this winter for its monthly meetings.

The Society was formed at S&B in 1965 and met there for the first 45 years of its existence.

Laterly it has met at a town centre hotel, but after the entire 2020/21 programme had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, it returns to S&B today (Wednesday, October 20) for the first meeting of the 2021/22 session, when Lancashire and England left arm spinner Stephen Parry is the guest speaker. Membership is open to all and costs £20 for the full winter programme, or £30 for joint membership. Guests are also welcome at £8 per meeting, refundable on conversion to full membership.

For further information contact David Taylor, on 01772 422 206 or attend any of the meetings at S&B, the third Wednesday of the month, at 9pm.


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**GORDON ELLIS**

Peacefully on 1st October 2021

Aged 81 years.

Much loved Husband of Millie.

Father of Daniel and Elizabeth and devoted Grandad to Alex and Owen.

Gordon will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Following a private family committal, a service of thanksgiving and remembrance will take place at Formby Methodist Church, Elbow Lane, Formby on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 12:00pm.

Further enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare, 58 Browns Lane, Formby, L37 4ED

Tel: 01704 878480

**WHITBY**

**STEPHEN PAUL**

Passed away suddenly aged 46 years

Loving partner and best friend to Jayne.

Ceremonial Dad to Lewis, Callum and Lily.

Stephen was a loving son, nephew and cousin, loved by all who knew him.

Service and cremation to be held at West Lancs Crematorium on Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 12.00pm.

Family flowers only, donations if so desired, can be made to The British Heart Foundation.

All enquires to Craven Funeral Services, 44 Liverpool Road, Lydiate, L31 2LZ, Tel: 0151 531 7890

Where Stephen will be resting.

**MOSS**

**MARGARET VERONICA**

9th October 2021

Peacefully at her home in Ormskirk

Aged 77 years.

The dearly loved Wife of the late Barry. Loving Mum of Stephen and Stuart. Devoted Grandmum of Philippa, Helen and Helen.

All enquires to M.Rushton Funeral Directors, 1-5 Moss Lane, Southport, PR9 9RG

Tel: 01704 500086.

**JENKINS**

**MARGARET ELSIE**

Passed away peacefully at The Shining Residential Home on October 11th 2021 aged 86 years

Reunited with Ron, She will be lovingly remembered by Megan, Paul, Rhona, Jim, Stephen, Jill and Grandson Drew.

Funeral Service to take place at Moss Lane Crematorium on Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 11:00am.

Family flowers only, donations if so desired, can be made to Alzheimer’s Society.

Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG

Tel: 01704 214118

**BIRCH**

**HILDA HANDFORTH**

On 14th October 2021

Aged 93 years

Peacefully in a care home

Beloved Wife of John.

Funeral service and cremation to take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 2.00pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations if so desired can be made to The Salvation Army.

Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG

Tel: 01704 214118

**DRAPER**

**NANCY ALICE**

6th October 2021

Aged 88 Years

Daughter of the late Albert and Alice. Wife to Thomas.

Mum to Elaine (deceased), Kevin, Steven and Andrew. Granney to Kieran, Hayley, Alice, Lucy and Mary.

Great Granny to Claudia, Logan, Eliza and Jasmine. She will be sadly missed.

Funeral service to take place at St Mary’s Church, Ormskirk at 2:00pm on 12th October 2021.

Family flowers only please however if desired donations are being gratefully received for the Alzheimer’s Society.

All enquires to M.Rushton Funeral Directors, 1-5 Moss Lane, Southport, PR9 9RG

Tel: 01704 500086.

**MEADOWS**

**IVY**

11th October 2021

Peacefully Aged 100 years of Scarisbrick.

The dearly loved Wife of the late Thomas. Loving Mum of Sheila and Richard. Dear Mother in law of Ian and Wendy. Devoted Nanna to Joanne & Steven, Andrea and Stuart and Great Nanna to Harry, Joe and Jack.

Funeral service at St Mary’s Church, Scarisbrick on Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 1:00pm followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, donations if so desired will be gratefully received for Macmillan Cancer Research.

All enquires to M.Rushton Funeral Directors, 1-5 Moss Lane, Southport, PR9 9RG

Tel: 01704 214118

**SMITH**

**ELEANOR JOSEPHINE “JO”**

Passed away peacefully on 26th October 2021 at Southport Hospital Aged 88 years.

Devoted Husband to Josie. Also his dear brother Derek and his family who live in Canada.

Funeral service to take place at Ainsdale Methodist Church on Tuesday 26th October at 11am, followed by cremation at Southport Crematorium at 12 noon.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, will be gratefully received for Macmillan Cancer Research.

Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG

Tel: 01704 500086.

**SAUNDERS**

**ALAN**

Passed away peacefully on 7th October 2021 at home Aged 90 years.

Loving Mum of Caroline, Julie and Helen.

Peacefully at home on 7th October 2021.

Donations gratefully received for North West Cancer Research and Alzheimer’s Society.

For more information please call 01704 392392.

**BURGESS**

**WILLIAM “BILLY”**

5th October 2021

Peacefully at home Aged 73 years

Devoted Husband of Anita. Loving father of Tracy and Jason, Father in Law to Jerry and Sally.

Passed away peacefully on 7th October 2021 at home.

Loving Mum of Caroline, Julie and Helen.

Peacefully at home on 7th October 2021.

Donations gratefully received for North West Cancer Research and Alzheimer’s Society.

For more information please call 01704 392392.
LEWIS
PATRICIA
ANN
“TRICIA”
Passed away peacefully in Sutton Grange Care Home on 12th October 2021 With her family around her.
Cherished and beloved Wife of John His “First, Last and Everything”
Much loved Mum of Linda, Andrew, Elizabeth and late Son Simon. Mom-In-Law of Sharon, Helen and late Sue-In-Law Milt. Treasured Grandma of Bee, Jenna, Sam, Meg and Charlie and Great Grandchildren Rosie, Ryan, Josh and Finn. Beloved Sister of Susan, Audrey, Chris and the late Michael.
Reunited with your son and all your lovely dogs and released from your suffering. We hold you in our hearts and will miss you so much
Funeral Service to be held at Holy Trinity Parish Church Tarleton on Thursday 28th October 2021 at 1.30pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough.
Family asked that those attending should wear what feels comfortable for them. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to The Donkey Sanctuary or Melanoma Focus
C/o the funeral director.
All enquiries to: Neal Buckley Funeral Home, 49 Church Road, Tarleton, PR4 6UQ Tel: 01772 301700.

EVANS
GARETH
HOPKIN
28th September 2021
Aged 87 Years
Much loved Husband, passed away with his wife Shirley by his side.
Gareth will be sadly missed by his family and friends.
Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Cemetery and Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 11am, followed by a burial in the cemetery.
Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Stroke Association.
Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5SU Tel 01704 867770.

HOPE
THOMAS
(TOM)
Sadly passed away 4th October 2021 at home
Aged 88 years
Devoted Husband to Pat, beloved Father to Kevin, Jaqueline, Mark and James and Grandfather to his nine Grandchildren and four Great Grandchildren.
Funeral Service will take place at English Martyrs Church, Litherland at 10am on Tuesday 26th October, followed committal at Thornton Crematorium.
Family flowers only but donations are being gratefully received for the British Heart Foundation.
All funeral enquiries to David Clegg Funeral Directors, 77-79 Bridge Road, Litherland L21 2PA Tel 0151 928 6695

RYAN
JAMES
LAWRENCE
(JIMMY RYAN)
10th October 2018
It’s that time of year again Jim.
This year marks 5 years since your passing left us in floods of tears.
No more pain, no more suffering. Please enjoy your well earned rest, only now we can appreciate how you were simply the best.
We’ve swapped frowns for smiles, now we laugh instead of crying, because we are proud to have known The One and Only Jimmy Ryan.
From your loving Wife Theresa, your Children Stephen, Sharon, Mark and Gary and your Grand Children and Great-Grandchildren

Sarah, Ben, Jamie, Rob, Sam, Mark, Charlotte, Emma, Cheryl, Jack, George, Max, and Lily
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IN MEMORIAM
BARTON
JOSEPH
October 22nd 2020
In memory of a loving Husband to Kath and a special Dad to Phil, Alan (Dec’d) and Linda.
Devoted Grandad to his three Grandchildren.
Just as you were, you will always be, forever in our hearts.
To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

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The closing date for applications is the 31st October 2021

Please contact Mrs C. Sutton, Care Manager, St Vincent’s Residential Home, 33-35 Leicester St, Southport PR9 0EX

Tel: 01704 546386 Email: cathy@mystvincents.co.uk

Please note: all applicants must be eligible to work in the UK and with effect from 11th November 2021, all colleagues working in care homes across England are required by law to have had both doses of a COVID -19 vaccination, unless exempt.
**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that Lancaster County Council have made an order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily close the road in the matters set out in this notice.

No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of the road during the period of this order, which is from 9am on Monday 25th October 2021 until 10am on Monday 25th October 2021, at which time the order will cease to have effect.

The temporary closure is necessary to facilitate road works.

Any person who desires to question the validity of the Order or of any instrument made under them has until 10am on Monday 25th October 2021 to give written notice of such desire to Lancaster County Council, Environmental Health, Licensing, Tackling Anti-social Behaviour, Council House, Lancaster, LA1 1XX. The notice must be received within 21 days of the date of the proposal notice.

**Traffic**

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON**

The following Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, to close the road as described in the schedule below. The diversion route for all traffic will be via School Road, Lower A Road, Thornebeck Avenue, Blundell Grove and vice versa.

**Temporary Closure of Brookside, Southport**

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, by Order in Council 34(1), as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991, to close Brookside, Southport for the following reasons: to replace a frame and cover in the carriageway.

**Alternative Route**

The diversion route will continue in force for a maximum period of 21 days until the works have been completed, whichever is the later.

Work will commence on 3rd November 2021 and be completed by 5th November 2021.

Access will be maintained for the Emergency Services and where possible for residents.

**Metropolitan Borough of Sefton**

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton Council made the following Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Traffic Management Act 2004, on the grounds that any requirement of the Acts or of any instrument made under them has not been complied with.

This application requires wider publicity

**Applicant/Ref**

Derek McKenzie, Chief Planning Officer

**Legal Notices**

JOHN FRANCIS JONES (DECEASED)

Pursuant to the provisions of the Administration of Estates Act 1925, any person having a claim against the Estate of John Francis Jones, late of 70, 70A Trading Estate, Harringay, N8 6SP, who died at the above address on 5th April 2000, are required to send written notice of such claim to the Executors within 28 days of the date of this advertisement.

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**Alternative Route**

The diversion route will be via: Queens Road, Raven Mead Lane, Kings Road, Duke Street, Formby Bridge, Fexfield Road, Access Road To Formby Stakes, Kirkdale Road, St Luke’s Church Road, Birch Lane and vice versa.

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The Champion ● Wednesday 20 October 2021
Are teenagers interested in today’s cars that deserve to be tomorrow’s classics?

SPARE a thought for the poor old clutch. In just a generation’s time it could be sitting in a dusty corner, alongside such relics as the manually operated choke and overdrive switches, as one of those things new drivers will know next to nothing about.

That’s the future being hinted at by research carried out with a focus group comprised of the next generation of drivers – specifically, those who between the ages of 10 and 16. Normally, I give these surveys a wide berth but this one’s being carried out by an up ‘n’ coming motoring specialist you might have heard of – Peugeot. I know it’s got a vested interest because it wants to continue flogging cars after the laws on sales of internal combustion cars change at the end of the decade, and today’s kids are tomorrow’s customers, but its own research concluded that four out of ten youngsters don’t even want to learn on a petrol or a diesel car. The future’s electric, and they’d rather skip that old hat tech and get straight to the point.

All of which makes me wonder how well equipped tomorrow’s motorists will be for yesterday’s motors, or even today’s ones. Another group that’s conducted its own research, the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, concluded at its annual meeting earlier this month that getting younger people interested in classic cars is one of the biggest problems it’s now facing.

For me, it isn’t just about asking today’s teenagers to be interested in things like Ford Anglias and Austin Allegros. It’s about asking how interested they’re going to be in cars on sale right now that deserve to be tomorrow’s classics. The Toyota GR Yaris, for instance. Caterham’s Seven 170, which is so lightweight that it’s actually more efficient than many of today’s hybrid offerings. The Lotus Emira.

The list goes on…

Electric cars have, by the very nature of how they operate, no gearbox, so if that 40 per cent of youngsters do go on to pass their test in a zero-emissions vehicle, they’ll have a licence that counts them out of driving anything with a manual box. That does, of course, mean that there are still 60 per cent for whom learning how to find the biting point and when to change up still have currency, but I reckon it’s a significant percentage that’s only going to increase as 2030 veers ever closer.

I get completely that you’d want your kids to pass their test in something with the latest tech and you’d be mightily annoyed at your driving instructor if they rocked up at the test centre with an Austin Cambridge, but I do think that more needs to be done to promote the joys of driving, and saving the cars that espouse our wonderful motoring heritage.

Having a generation grow up that can’t drive them – and more worryingly, doesn’t want to – means that fewer enthusiasts will be saving the classics of tomorrow.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE ECOFLEX 90 5 DR 15 REG</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW MODEL INSIGNIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>satin steel grey metallic</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,000 miles in sapphire blue metallic, sunroof, alloys, Bluetooth, cruise, front &amp; rear park assist, tow bar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 EXCLUSIV CDTi 160 5 DR 11 REG</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW MODEL INSIGNIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>white, alloys, Bluetooth -</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 months MOT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 SRi NAV 5 DR 15 REG</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW MODEL INSIGNIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>Boracay blue metallic, Bluetooth, full leather, heated front seats &amp; steering wheel, front &amp; rear park assist</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,000 miles in glacier white, Bluetooth, full leather, heated front seats &amp; steering wheel, front &amp; rear park assist</strong></td>
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<td><strong>VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6 SRi NAV (ESTATE) 5 DR 65 REG</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>emerald green metallic, SAT NAV, front &amp; rear park assist, Bluetooth, IntelliLink, DAB radio, alloys, cruise, aircon, heated seats &amp; steering wheel, front &amp; rear park assist</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,000 miles in nautic blue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.4 TURBO SRi (PETROL) 5 DR 65 REG</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW MODEL INSIGNIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>metallic, SAT NAV, Bluetooth, DAB radio,</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000 miles in white, Bluetooth, full leather, heated front seats &amp; steering wheel, front &amp; rear park assist</strong></td>
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<td><strong>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 TURBO SRi 5 DR 18 REG</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW MODEL INSIGNIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>in shadow black, A/C, cruise control, front &amp; rear park assist, manual, 12 months MOT</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,000 miles in oyster grey</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRi 5 DR 15 REG</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW MODEL INSIGNIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>in mountain grey, A/C, cruise control, front &amp; rear park assist, manual, 12 months MOT</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,000 miles in white, Bluetooth, DAB radio, alloys, rear parking sensors &amp; camera, alloys</strong></td>
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<td><strong>VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3 DR 04 REG</strong></td>
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<td><strong>VAUXHALL MOKKA Elite 1.4 T 1.5 TDCi ENERGY SIGNATURE NAV 5 DR 18 REG</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,000 miles in steel grey metallic, leather, electric sunroof, SAT NAV, climate, xenons, Bluetooth, cruise, DAB radio, front &amp; rear park assist</strong></td>
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<td><strong>in oyster grey</strong></td>
<td><strong>5 DR</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,000 miles in velvet red</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12,000 miles in white, Bluetooth, full leather, heated front seats &amp; steering wheel, front &amp; rear park assist</strong></td>
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West Lancashire College expands highly successful A Level provision

Building on the successful launch of The School of Medicine A Level programme in 2019, West Lancashire College will be extending the range of A Level subjects available to students from September 2022.

From next September, students will be able to select from A levels in Art, Craft & Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History (Early Modern), Law, Maths, Philosophy, Physics, Politics, Psychology and Sociology.

Young people aspiring to a career in medicine will also have an opportunity to join their prestigious School of Medicine, a bespoke programme which prepares students to progress to sought after places at Medical School. In 2021, 100% of our students enrolled on the School of Medicine programme graduated with A and A* grades at A Level, securing places at the Universities of Oxford, Leicester and Lancaster amongst others.

West Lancashire College’s Sixth Form will offer young people an opportunity to study for A Level and Advanced level courses locally, without the need to travel long distances to access high quality education and training. As well as an opportunity to study locally, students will benefit from additional class contact time, smaller class sizes, a bespoke University preparation programme and support and mentoring for academic success. In addition, students will have access to a wide range of exciting extra-curricular activities to help develop wider knowledge and skills and support applications to prestigious University destinations, as well as a fabulous range of international trips to locations such as Ghana, San Francisco, Japan and South Korea.

As a College within NCG, one of the largest providers of education and training in the UK, we have many years of experience of delivering high quality A Level provision, supporting students to achieve excellent A level examination results which help them to take their next steps onto University or into employment. This, combined with the additional range of benefits offered as part of our A Level programme and our outstanding facilities, ensures that West Lancashire College’s Sixth Form offers the perfect recipe for academic success.”

Applications for September 2022 are now open, and the college invites local young people and their parents to attend their forthcoming A Level Open Event on Wednesday 3 November, 5.30pm & 6.30pm slots available. Registration for the event can be made at eventbrite.co.uk or via the college’s website westlancs.ac.uk.

Denise Williamson, Principal of West Lancashire College said “We are delighted to be in a position to build on the fabulous success of our School of Medicine programme by extending our A Level offer for the benefit of young people in the local area.”

If you would like to find out more, please contact the college’s Learner Services Team direct on 01695 52300 or email enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk
Off to university for top grade
School of Medicine students

In August 2021, West Lancashire College’s School of Medicine students received outstanding A-Level grades, with 100% of students on the programme achieving A or A* grades across the board and they are now studying medicine at universities across the UK.

These future medics excelled in their field, standing out against some of the country’s top A-Level students. With the help of their tutors, their medical placement programme and smaller than average class sizes, the students pushed through the challenges of the last 18 months with determination and hard work, and it is safe to say, it definitely paid off!

All students received offers to study medicine or medical related degrees at a wide range of top-level Universities across the country including; Lancaster, Glasgow, Edge Hill and the University of Oxford.

Their incredible hard work has not gone unnoticed; Vice Principal, Daniel Gorman said: “I’d like to say congratulations to all of our students who have received their results. They have achieved some remarkable grades which are testament to their hard work and the outstanding support of the staff at West Lancashire College.

All in all, it has been a fantastic few years working with the School of Medicine students and on the whole college’s behalf, I wish our first cohort of Medicine students the very best of luck for what promises to be a very bright future ahead.”

The School of Medicine programme is unique in its partnership with local CCG’s and universities. In addition to the undeniably excellent opportunities, this programme offers guaranteed medical work placement, 33% more contact time than other A Level programmes, seminars delivered by medical professionals and University Professors, extensive support and mentoring from Generation Medics, a team of Oxford medical graduates.

Applications are now open to study in The School of Medicine for September 2022. For further information, please contact Course Enquiries 01695 52300, enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk or go to westlancs.ac.uk

Continuous investment in local education

At West Lancashire College it is their priority to give the local community access to the very best facilities, resources and opportunities. Over a number of years, they have made a significant investment into their Campus.

In 2011 the college invested £42.8m in a brand new campus situated in Skelmersdale town centre, which benefited from the addition of a £2.5m Construction, Engineering & Logistics Centre in 2019 and more recently the £1.3m School of Science which was officially opened by Professor Brian Cox CBE in July this year.

Funded by the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership’s Growth Deal Programme, the £1.3m hi-tech Centre aims to unlock potential and give local people the ability to drive forward growth for the area.

Located within the main campus, the Centre houses a large, hi-spec, fully equipped laboratory, preparation room, engineering suite plus an external

A LEVEL OPEN EVENT

Wednesday 3 November 2021
5.30pm & 6.30pm slots available

SIXTH FORM

Choose from the following subjects:
• Art, Craft & Design
• Biology
• Business
• Chemistry
• Economics
• English Language
• English Literature
• Geography
• History [Early Modern]
• Law
• Maths
• Philosophy
• Physics
• Politics
• Psychology
• Sociology
• The School of Medicine (Biology, Chemistry +Maths or Psychology)

Then add some fabulous benefits to help you succeed:
• University preparation programme
• Support and mentoring for Academic Success
• Additional class contact time
• Smaller class sizes
• Enrichment to develop skills and support applications to prestigious institutions
• Internships
• Excellence Scholarship fund for high achieving students of £3,000 plus Student Bursary for eligible students
• FREE College Transport
• Outstanding facilities
• International Trips including: Ghana, San Francisco, Japan, South Korea

Find out more:

A LEVEL OPEN EVENT

Wednesday
3 November
5.30pm & 6.30pm

Register your place for our open event at Eventbrite.co.uk or go to westlancs.ac.uk to find out more
Unique opportunities for students

West Lancashire College prides themselves on the unique and diverse opportunities offered to students. Those studying in Sixth Form will have the opportunity to explore their understanding of different careers in their chosen discipline through a vast number of guest seminars either in college with invited guest speakers, or by attending external events or enrichment opportunities that are specific to their subject.

Previous guest speakers have ranged from experts in cutting edge Cancer research and progressive brain diseases such as Alzheimer’s, to West End Performers and representatives from The Royal College of Nursing and the Royal Navy. These guest lectures give students a detailed insight into the vast range of careers in their chosen subject and are aimed to at ensuring they are aware of the breadth of career options available to them in the future.

In addition, Sixth Form students have access to a range of trips, visits and wider experiences. For example, last summer, students attended the Skelmersdale Science Summer School, which was hosted by Professor Brian Cox CBE. Students took part in a workshop delivered by Lord Robert Winston and also attended sessions with other high profile STEAM guest speakers. Students from the School of Medicine attended the Aspiring Doctors Conference at The University of Oxford, and Business students took a trip to Prague and Budapest.

There are many local and international trips planned for 2022/2023 including to Ghana, San Francisco, London, South Korea and Japan. As well as the above, as a student in Sixth Form students can also access the usual enrichment activities such as being part of the college’s Sports teams or joining the Gaming Club, E-sports League or debating society.

A spokesperson for the college said “All extra-curricular wrap around has been designed to give students diverse exposure to the range of careers available. Students are able to gain tips for their personal statement, exams and interviews, as well as receive expert careers advice.”

EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

West Lancashire College have established an Excellence Scholarship fund for high achieving students

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE:

£3,000 paid in instalments over 2 year academic years

FIND OUT MORE

Applications for the Excellence Scholarship open on GCSE results day 2022.

Applications and criteria can be obtained from Learner Services 01695 52393 / enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk
FREE* TRAVEL TO COLLEGE

West Lancashire College offer a range of FREE or subsidised travel* to college including College Bus Services that run in the daytime from:

LIVERPOOL - Kirkby, Aintree, Maghull, Old Skelmersdale
SOUTHPORT - Southport, Birkdale, Formby
WEST LANCASHIRE - Aughton, Ormskirk, Burscough, Parbold, Newburgh & Ashurst
WIGAN - Hawkley, Winstanley, Goose Green, Marus Bridge, Pemberton, Orrell, Upholland, Digmoor & Tanhouse

Plus, students can also benefit from FREE or subsidised* ARRIVA Bus passes for those not on a college bus route.

FIND OUT MORE:
01695 52393 / enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk

*subject to eligibility & availability

OPEN EVENT

Monday 8 November & Thursday 2 December
4.30pm - 7pm

Find out more about the wide range of A Levels, BTECs, Technical and Apprenticeship courses we have on offer and view our outstanding facilities.

PLUS, talk to our teachers and current students about our great results, FREE transport, fabulous wrap around support, great connections with employers and universities, and the fabulous careers our students progress to.

Register your place for our event at Eventbrite.co.uk

WEST LANCASHIRE COLLEGE
Skelmersdale Campus, College Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LH
01695 52300 • www.westlancs.ac.uk • enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk