

## Gwenda keeps the towpath clean ...

Many of you will have seen Gwenda, a Bulk Ward resident, striving to keep the canal towpath tidy. Until last September British Waterways (who own the canal and towpaths) were paying for the City Council to provide and empty litter bins along the canal - but not any longer.

Speaking in July, Gwenda said: *"Inspired by Cllr Andrew Kay's canal-clearing party in March, I decided to carry on. The City Council gave me some litter-picking equipment, and I'm pretty adept now at grabbing floating rubbish. The gorgeous flowers and broods of ducklings, moorchicks and cygnets make the job a pleasure (of sorts).*

*It's good to see that folk are filling up the bin-bags that I tie onto railings and seats along the towpath, where no bins exist. The full bags have to be taken to nearby streets or car parks to be collected by the City Council. Being told that I "shouldn't be picking up litter at my age" by a young chap with a drink in his hand was, I think, kindly meant!"*



## ... but British Waterways won't help

County Cllr Sam Riches and City Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox recently met with British Waterways officers at their regional office in Wigan to discuss a way forward that would allow Gwenda to step back.

However British Waterways have said that, for the foreseeable future, it cannot afford to fund the emptying of litter bins.

Cllr Hamilton-Cox said: *"We think this is unacceptable, and will continue to push for a better solution. In the mean time we would like to thank Gwenda for her efforts, and urge all users of the canal to do their bit to help to keep it free of litter and dog mess."*

## Update on Newton's Riverview site

Bulk ward activist Viv Preece says: *"A survey of local residents (undertaken in June) who live near the empty Riverview centre on Langdale Road revealed huge support for the idea of turning it into a community centre (97%) with great interest in projects to grow and cook our own food (75%) and art & crafts (73%). Residents also want safe areas for children to play and a place for older people to meet."*

*The Riverview Group put a proposal to the County Council (who own the site) for a sustainable community centre, but this was rejected because the County Council wants to sell the property.*

*However, all is not lost. A charitable organisation is looking into raising the finance to buy the site, in which case the project could still possibly go ahead."*

## Ridge staff to work at Kenyan orphanage

Shaun, Lou, Arkie and Darren - all from the Ridge Community Centre - are flying out to Kenya for 4 weeks from 21<sup>st</sup> August to help out at a home and school for children orphaned by Aids, run by the charity Double Joy, which was set up by former Lancaster resident Mary Hinde. Currently they are fundraising to pay for their plane fares. If you can help, please phone Lou on 01524 389008.

## Would you like to 'adopt-a-plot'?

Do you know of any unused areas of Council land that you would like to help bring into use for food growing, community gardens, flowers/herbs or play space? If so please contact Cllr Ceri Mumford.

## Forest skills education centre ready

The woods owned by LRGS, between Esthwaite Gardens and Christ Church School's grounds, now contain an impressive activity area including rope walk, an outdoor classroom and compost toilet.

Green Councillors were initially unsure about fencing off such a large area which was previously free for people to roam over. Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: *"We recognise that this is a brilliant facility for young people, and the fact that local schools and youth groups will be able to book to use it free of charge has clinched our support for the project."*

# Bulk leads on 20 mph limits

Lancashire County Council will roll out 20 mph speed limits in residential areas across the whole County by the end of 2013.

Freehold, Lower Bulk, Moorlands and Primrose are all included in one of the first schemes - which will blend with pre-existing 20 mph zones in Ridge and Newton.

County Cllr Sam Riches said, *“The public consultation for the scheme recently ended, and I’m told that only one objection was received to the advertised plans, whilst 105 letters and emails of support were received.*

*I’m delighted that so many local people have got*

*behind the proposal - not least because children walking and cycling to and from all schools in Bulk will directly benefit from the lowering of average vehicle speeds.*

*This scheme is fully endorsed by the police, who will take an active role in enforcement, and it should be visibly in place in just a few weeks’ time.”*



# Lancaster hit hard by arts cuts

The Dukes Theatre’s nationally renowned walkabout plays in Williamson Park will cease from next year, after The Dukes was hit by funding cuts of £100,000 - mainly from the Arts Council. Other local arts organisations have also suffered big cuts, including Ludus, the Storey Gallery, Folly and Litfest.

County Cllr Sam Riches said: *“Lancashire has been hit hard by Arts Council cuts. Spending is now down to just 60p per person in the county, compared to £4.26 in Cumbria and £4.18 in Greater Manchester. I am worried that this might mean not only cutbacks to events and programmes offered, but that some local companies may be forced to shut down. This would be a tragic loss - in jobs, incomes and quality of life - for the city.”*

# Thanks for your support in May elections

Voters in Bulk ward have elected 3 Green Councillors to Lancaster City Council - Andrew Kay, Ceri Mumford and Tim Hamilton-Cox.

Tim is now a Cabinet member with responsibility for the Council’s property holdings and energy use in its buildings.

Andrew is a member of the Planning Committee and Ceri sits on Overview & Scrutiny.

Ceri said: *“Our job is to represent all residents to the best of our ability, and to work hard to improve Bulk Ward. Please contact us with any issues you want to raise.”*

# Greens Oppose NHS Reforms

**Patient Choice?  
Always choose the**



The Green Party is campaigning against government plans which will break up the NHS and allow private companies to take over NHS services.

The government is planning to get rid of Primary Care Trusts and put groups of GPs in charge of purchasing care from private companies and public health care providers. The government has back-tracked on some aspects of the plans but the following proposals still remain in place:

- **Privatisation:** Private companies will be allowed to bid for NHS work. This could result in private companies creaming off the most profitable work, leaving the NHS under greater financial strain.
- **Quality of care:** There will be competition between private and public health care providers as they bid to supply services. This could result in provision of the cheapest, rather than the best quality, services.
- **Not a national service:** The NHS will become a market of competing private and public health care providers, rather than a single public health service. The government will no longer have to ensure that comprehensive healthcare is available throughout the country.

Cllr Andrew Kay said: “A better direction would be for the Government to scrap the internal ‘Health Market’, saving around £5 billion per year, and spend this money on improving services. This is exactly what has happened in Scotland and Wales.”

For more information see: [www.keepourNHSpublic.com](http://www.keepourNHSpublic.com)

## YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS



County Cllr Sam Riches

07909 001432  
sam.riches@lancashire.gov.uk



City Cllr Andrew Kay

01524 62788  
akay@lancaster.gov.uk



City Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox

01524 843353  
thamiltoncox@lancaster.gov.uk



City Cllr Ceri Mumford

01524 555861  
cmumford@lancaster.gov.uk