

Roman remains exposed

An archeological dig on Quay Meadow has been considered a major success after the results far exceeded initial expectations. Lancaster District Heritage Group thought that it would find foundations of relatively modern buildings following a geophysical survey that identified various anomalies at a shallow depth. Instead, each of the three trenches uncovered remains of structures that are believed to be Roman, including a road heading in the direction of the Roman hill fort that used to occupy Castle Hill. Fragments of Roman Samian ware pottery were also discovered.

Green Cllr Nick Wilkinson, who is a member of the Heritage Group, said: *"The results of this first dig suggest there is plenty more to be found, and further digs are planned. These finds strengthen Lancaster's reputation as a city with a huge heritage offer, and the challenge is to convert this into a thriving tourist industry comparable to Chester or York."*

Purple Lights for Hope

Green Cllr Jon Barry, in his role as Mayor, agreed to light up the Ashton Memorial in purple on November 1st as part of the Purple Lights for Hope campaign, to raise awareness about pancreatic cancer. This disease has the lowest survival rate of any cancer (4% at 5 years after diagnosis) and there has been little improvement in this figure over the last 40 years.



A Roman excavator (left) and the Roman road (right)

Green Christmas Fair

Saturday 21st November
10am - 4pm at the
Friends Meeting House
(next to Lancaster rail station)



With lots of stalls, live music, café
& Santa's grotto.

Admission 50p (kids free)

Marsh Surgeries

Councillor surgeries first Tuesday in the month (starting 1st Dec), 9.30 to 10.30 am, Marsh Community Centre.

Greens see Red over Housing Figures

Green councillors have labelled City Council's planners' claims that the district needs 650-700 new houses per year until 2031 as "*not based on common sense or a sound logical basis*". The housing need figure comes from planning consultants Turley, who have produced a report for Council planning officers. Greens are challenging the figures on two crucial points. Firstly, Turley estimate a large increase in our population through new people coming into the district. This increase is at odds with government predictions and the actual far lower average population increases since the early 1980s. Secondly, Turley predicts job growth at a rate that is five times the level the district has seen in the last ten years.

Scotforth West Councillor Abi Mills says "*City councillors have not yet debated this, nor voted on it, so it can still be changed. Releasing too much land means developers pick off the most attractive places. Brownfield land and the places where housing is needed will be ignored.*"

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 8th Dec, 7pm.

Town Hall Banqueting Suite

Green councillors will critique the City Council's current housing figures and suggest an alternative way forward.

See the report: "**What's wrong with Turley**" on the North-Lancs Green Party website. [campaigns/ housing page](#). Also gives details on how to comment on the council's consultation.

County Council - Drastic Service Cuts

Government reductions to the County Council's budget together with increasing demand for services mean that cuts in some key services will be inevitable. Recent budget reports at county show that in two years' time the county will barely have enough funding to cover services that it is legally obliged to provide (around £684m). The cost of non-statutory services such as youth work, street lighting, bus services (to name a few) cost around another £100m.

County Councillor Gina Dowding (right) says: "*It is not exaggerating to say that the situation is dire. The county budget has been reducing sharply for 5 years. Government cuts in other areas – such as welfare and health services - are increasing the demand for services, yet funding to local authorities continues to be cut. Things may get even worse as the Chancellor says he is contemplating even bigger cuts in the spending review due to be unveiled on 25th November.*"



Councillor takes Donations to Calais

Green councillor Rebecca Joy Novell travelled to Calais in October to take hundreds of donations from members of the public to refugees. She will be doing the same again over Christmas, travelling to both Calais and Lesvos. If you would like to donate items or, more crucially, money, to help those in Calais, please see the Facebook page 'Lancaster Supports Calais Refugees' or email Rebecca. She commented: "*I have been overwhelmed with support and donations from the people of Lancaster and Morecambe. I, like many others, simply cannot stand by and do nothing whilst these people are suffering and it has been a privilege to be able to help in this small way.*"

Paris Summit on Climate Change

A group of Lancaster people, including the Green Party's Emily House from Marsh Ward, is joining a 5 day cycle ride (pictured) from London to arrive in Paris on the 10th December for the Climate Change Summit.



Governments from around 200 countries are meeting at the Paris Earth Summit. It is hoped that the summit will ...

'achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world' aimed at limiting global warming to 2°C necessary in order to protect the very eco-systems on which rely for our food, water and health.'

Green Party councillor, Gina Dowding, said:

"It is vital that this summit succeeds. 78% of the British public would like the Government to do more to support community energy, where much of the profits from the scheme are invested back into the local area – like the recently completed Halton Hydro project. Unfortunately, the Government is planning to scrap the scheme that makes this possible. If people want to have their say about this, go to <http://keepfits.org/>."

Local Hospitals Outsource Pharmacy Services

University Morecambe Bay hospitals trust decided in September to contract out its outpatient pharmacy services to one of the big chemist chains. Over 100 hospital trusts have already done so. However, about 10 trusts (e.g. Sunderland and Warwick) have set up their own 'arms-length' companies. These recycle all the cash benefits within the NHS, including the VAT savings on drugs.



Green party Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox (right) comments that: *"The trust's executives planned two years ago to contract out the outpatient pharmacies. Since this became public in 2014, the trust has resisted the calls of the trust's board of governors, and of public opinion alike, to re-think. Whether the contract goes to Boots, or more likely Lloyds, they are both owned by huge American multinationals whose executives and shareholders can have no empathy for a UK public service."*

Vigil for the Climate

Sunday, 29 November, 4-5pm.
Dalton Square, organised by Churches Together & Lancaster's Treading Lightly Network. The day before the UN Climate Summit starts in Paris. All welcome, whether of faith or of no faith.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Green councillors have asked the City Council to look at using electric vehicles for its pool car fleet and to install EV charging points in Council car parks. These could save money and carbon, and improve air quality. Scotforth's Green campaigner Chris Norman is trying to help the RLI to find ways to put in a charging point.

Manager change at Marsh Community Centre

In September Rebecca Joy Novell (right) took over from Geoff Brand as the new Manager of Marsh Community Centre. Rebecca says: *"I am so excited about this opportunity! I have loved working here as a Youth Worker and there is something very special about working for the community you live in. It also gives me a chance to tackle some of the issues that I know residents in this area feel strongly about – such as anti-social behaviour and reducing the social isolation of older people. We already have lots of activities for people aged 4 to 94. If you want more information on the groups available - be it employment and benefits support or our free basic computer course for older people - please call us on 843300 or drop in to see us."*



Community Centre Funding

The Marsh Community Centre has run continuously since 2003. Funding has come from charitable trusts, Lancaster City Council and from the lottery. However, there is currently only enough money to last into the first part of 2016. Long-term trustee Cllr Jon Barry explained: "We are making strenuous efforts to find new funds. However, if you support the aims of the centre, you can help by:

- Becoming a Marsh Community Centre supporter by pledging a small monthly standing order (contact Rebecca Novell on 843300).
- Donating bags of old clothes directly to the centre.

News in Brief

The Fauna nature reserve is to introduce two Exmoor ponies in December. Their job is to graze the rushes on the site. They won't be mixing with the cows.

County Councillor Gina Dowding has been successful in getting the county's pension fund to sign up to the United Nations' Principles for Ethical Investment. The fund has also signed a major investment deal in wind energy.

Highways News

- Persimmon Homes has drawn up plans to place a bollard near to the railway bridge on Long Marsh Lane. The intention is to stop rat-running once houses on the new development at Luneside East have been built.
- The County Council is intending to make St George's Quay 20 mph because of the increase in residential properties.
- Highways engineers have once again delayed a consultation over potential changes to parking at the top of the hill on Westbourne Road. They claim that it is not a priority because there have not been any accidents there. Marsh councillors suggest that it might be good to sort things out before there is an accident.

For more detailed information about our councillors, campaigns, and local policies visit:

www.northlancs.greenparty.org.uk