Festive shoppers invited to follow the star

SHOPPERS from across Lancashire are invited to follow their star to Clitheroe this Christmas for a festive extravaganza.

Northern Star will feature unique festive goods and live entertainment at Clitheroe Market on four consecutive Saturdays from November 26, including a Christmas lights switch-on by ‘Northern star’ songstress Ella Shaw, while the nearby Platform Gallery will exhibit unique work from over 50 artists and makers from across the UK from October 22 to January 7.

Heather Coar, Ribble Valley Borough Council’s head of environmental health, said: “We are going all-out to ensure Clitheroe is the place to be for festive shoppers this Christmas.

“We are inviting them to forget the hustle and bustle of the city, and come to Clitheroe for a unique shopping experience among some of the best craft makers and independent shops in the North West.”

Further details and a Northern Star programme will be available at ribblevalley.gov.uk over the coming weeks.

Public to have a say over market

A PUBLIC consultation into the proposed £9million redevelopment of the Clitheroe Market site has been launched.

“The consultation will be overseen by a cross-party working group chaired by Ribble Valley Borough Council deputy leader Terry Hill.

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

The aim of the three-year scheme is to bring a new lease of life to the town and attract top new retailers and significant economic development.

Draft proposals attracted concern from some sections of the community during an initial public consultation by Barnfield Construction, as a result of which the council has decided to run its own comprehensive consultation to ensure the scheme is widely accepted by stakeholders and residents.

Terry Hill (right) said: “This is a significant opportunity to bring modern retail and leisure facilities to Clitheroe town centre and Barnfield’s plans are ambitious.

“The project constitutes one of the biggest ever private sector investments in Clitheroe town centre, in which the council will retain ownership of the land.

“We anticipate the scheme will stimulate further investment, jobs and growth over the coming years by securing a number of high-quality retail and leisure operators not currently represented in the town.

“However, the scheme has to be right for Clitheroe and the council has decided to undertake its own comprehensive consultation prior to any plans being brought forward for consideration.”

A cross-party working group has held an initial meeting and further details on how to take part in the consultation will be made public over the coming weeks.

Further details of the consultation will be available at ribblevalley.gov.uk soon.

SAWLEY canoe ace Jon Schofield surged his way to success at the Rio Olympics.

And Ribble Valley Borough Council is to honour the double-Olympian with a specially commissioned commemorative coffee set thrown by top potter Matt Wilcock.

Jon, who has been supported by Ribble Valley Borough Council’s sports and arts excellence grants scheme, secured second place in the kayak pairs 200m sprint at the Lagoa Stadium.

Jon and kayak partner Liam Heath took silver after beating Lithuanian duo Aurimas Lankas and Edvinas Ramanauskas in a split-second photo-finish.

Ribble Valley Mayor Joyce Holgate said: “Ribble Valley Borough Council is immensely proud to have supported Jon over the years and is thrilled with his success.

“For him to have won bronze at London 2012 was fantastic enough, but to top that with a silver at Rio is outstanding. It was a nail-biting finish and I was cheering him on in front of my television set.”

Jon Schofield (right) said: “The competition at Rio was fierce and we worked hard prior to the Games on lowering our stroke rate and getting the most out of each stroke.

“We have got a lot stronger since the London Olympics and are thrilled with our silver medal in Rio.

“I would like to thank Ribble Valley Borough Council for its help and support over the years, which is invaluable to young sportsmen and women.”

Ribble Valley Borough Council has commissioned top potter Matt Wilcock, who won last year’s surprise TV hit the Great Pottery Throw Down, to produce a commemorative coffee set for budding barista Jon.

Matt has been exhibiting his innovative pottery, which marries technical ability with astonishing artistry, at the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe.

● Turn to page 8 for further details of Ribble Valley Borough Council’s sports and arts excellence grants scheme.
Fly-tippers face big fines

FLY-TIPPERS in Ribble Valley face hefty £400 on-the-spot fines under tough new measures. Ribble Valley Borough Council is launching a crackdown on people who foul its backstreets and country lanes.

Local authorities have been given greater powers to tackle fly-tipping by issuing penalty notices of between £150 and £400 to those caught dumping anything from old fridges and sofas to garden waste and rubble.

Introducing fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping is the latest move in a Government crackdown on waste crime, which costs the UK millions of pounds a year in clean-up costs, undermines legitimate business, blights the countryside and is a public health risk.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: “Fly-tipping is a blight. It starts with a small pile of rubble, or a couple of bin bags, but then more rubbish is dumped and, before you know it, half a house clearance has been left.

“Some of our backstreets and country lanes are becoming an eyesore and we are determined to tackle it. “Our environment is too lovely to trash and anyone caught fly-tipping is going to feel it in their back pocket.”

Environment Minister Rory Stewart added: “It is beyond me that anyone feels it is acceptable to dump waste in the countryside.

“This new fixed penalty notice will provide Ribble Valley Borough Council with another tool to tackle selfish individuals who blight communities and ruin our beautiful landscape.”

According to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, fly-tipping costs the UK costing taxpayers over £100million a year to clean up. As well as the new fixed penalty notices, local authorities can prosecute large-scale waste criminals, who face up to five years imprisonment.

Local residents who witness fly-tipping are asked to report a vehicle’s registration number in complete confidence to Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.

Deadline looms for flood grants

OVER 100 Ribble Valley households and businesses affected by the December floods have received grants totalling £414,000 to protect their properties from future flooding.

And anyone that has not yet applied for the funds is advised to do so without delay, as any work must be completed and invoices paid by December 9.

Under the Flood Resilience Grant Scheme, households and businesses affected by Storms Desmond and Eva can apply for up to £5,000 to flood-proof their properties.

The grants are intended to help home and business owners put measures in place to improve their property’s resistance and resilience to flooding over and above repairs that would normally be covered by insurance.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: “We have been working hard with the Government and other agencies to help homeowners and businesses get back on their feet following the December floods.”

The Flood Resilience Grant Scheme is playing a significant part in reducing the impact of future flooding on vulnerable properties and anyone who has not applied is advised to do so without delay.”

The scheme funds external and internal measures aimed at keeping water out of a property, or reducing the damage caused by flooding, such as airbrick covers, sewerguard bungs, toilet pan seals, non-return valves, water-resistant mortar, door guards, flood doors, raised ovens, waist-height power sockets and wall-mounted boilers, as well as the waterproofing of external walls.

Ribble Valley Borough Council can offer support in completing the grant application and further details are available from the council on 01200 425111.

A new national freephone number, 105, has been launched to residents to report power cuts, regardless of who they buy electricity from. The number can also be used to report damage to power lines and substations.

Don’t lose your voice: register now to vote

RIBBLE Valley residents who have not yet registered to vote are advised to do so without delay if they want to have their say in next year’s county elections.

Sweeping changes to the way residents registered to vote were introduced in 2014. Previously, one person in every household was responsible for registering everyone who lived at their address, but under the new system, called individual electoral registration, or IER, each person is now required to register to vote individually.

IER is the biggest change to electoral registration for over a century and aims to make registration more secure, simpler and faster, while protecting against voting fraud.

Residents were automatically transferred from the old to the new register during a transition period that ended last December, since which residents not registered under IER have been removed.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: “ Elections are fundamental to our democratic way of life, but if you are not registered you can’t vote and if you don’t vote you can’t have a say in how things are run.”

Further details are available from Ribble Valley Borough Council’s electoral registration team on 01200 414411, or to register to vote go to gov.uk.

Council leader’s message

Facing up to life after Brexit vote

IN its 40-year history Ribble Valley has never conducted its business against a national context that has so completely changed in so short a time.

The Brexit vote marks a truly seismic change in our national political, social and economic life. Perhaps the only certainty is that the immediate future is uncertain and we must be realistic in assessing the potential challenges – and opportunities – that the new national direction will bring.

Inevitably, we must expect a further tightening of the fiscal belt for local government on top of the already significant reductions we have seen in the last six years. We now know that the central grant will be completely phased out by 2020 but the much-vaunted introduction of the new business rates retention scheme to replace it remains significantly lacking in detail making accurate budgeting very difficult.

Additionally, continuing Lancashire County Council cuts continue to bear down heavily on our residents and we know financial support for our waste recycling will be withdrawn in 2018.

One certainty I can promise, however, is that Ribble Valley Borough Council will continue to focus its efforts on the business in hand and ensure it continues to provide high-quality services in a competent and solvent manner, however volatile the national context.

Much concern has been expressed about the proposed development of the Clitheroe Market site and the council has listened and acted by announcing a new comprehensive, council-led consultation, which is now in progress.

The opportunity to secure a £19million investment in Clitheroe entirely funded by the private sector, but which retains the freehold of the land in public ownership, cannot be underestimated. Equally we understand that the plans must right for Clitheroe and acceptable to stakeholders and residents alike.

It is my genuine hope that this serious and meaningful consultation will achieve both objectives and help to secure this further boost to the local economy, before any scheme goes forward for planning consideration.

There is one recent feature of our national life in which we can all take great pride. The success of Team GB in the Rio Olympics and Paralympics was truly outstanding and two Ribble Valley athletes shared the glory, with Jon Schofield taking silver in the men’s kayak double 200m and Samantha Murray finishing a credible ninth in the modern pentathlon.

Jon and Samantha are no newcomers to success, having taken bronze and silver respectively at the London 2012 Olympics. Both were supported over the years by Ribble Valley Borough Council’s sports and arts excellence grants scheme, which helps youngsters excel in sport, dance, drama and music.

Turn to page 8 for information about our forthcoming round of grants and another young sportsman tipped for Tokyo 2020.
Best in North West for council tax collection

RESIDENTS and council staff have been praised for their sterling efforts after official figures revealed that council tax collection in Ribble Valley is the best in the North West.

Ribble Valley Borough Council collected an impressive 98.8 per cent of council tax in 2015/16 thanks to prompt payment by council taxpayers and the diligence of the council’s collection team.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: “Ribble Valley has the lowest council tax in the North West and one of the best collection rates in the country.

“Council tax is vital in ensuring we continue to fund services in the borough and I would like to thank residents for their excellent payment record, and council staff for maintaining these outstanding collection rates.”

Council tax bills include precepts from Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and parishes.

Ribble Valley Borough Council’s share of the council tax is just nine per cent, the lowest in Lancashire and one of the lowest in the country.

Stuart Hirst added: “This is a significant achievement built on many years of careful financial planning and management.

“I am grateful to councillors and staff for their dedication and commitment in continuing to deliver efficient and cost-effective services while maintaining high levels of customer satisfaction.”

The council’s head of revenues and benefits, Mark Edmondson (left), added: “We won’t rest on our laurels and our staff will continue to pursue any outstanding council tax over the coming months.”

Anyone struggling to pay council tax is asked to contact Ribble Valley Borough Council on 01200 425111.

Further information about council tax and what it is used for is available at ribblevalley.gov.uk.

Legal warning over switch to park homes

RESIDENTS thinking of selling up their bricks and mortar and moving into a mobile home are being strongly advised to think twice.

People buying so-called ‘park homes’ face being forced to move, if the site they live on is in breach of planning regulations.

Not every site has residential permission and buying a holiday lodge as a permanent address can expose residents to risk of eviction.

Local authorities can prosecute park owners for breach of their site licence or planning consent. They can also serve enforcement orders on holiday park residents to remove their lodging from the site.

Furthermore, the homes may not be insured for floods or other natural disasters, nor will the residents automatically qualify for re-housing.

A Ribble Valley Borough Council spokesman said: “We strongly advise residents to think carefully before parting with their greatest asset – their house – to live in a holiday park. And if they do so they are strongly advised to choose a licensed residential park, where they will have the full protection of the law.

“Although mobile homes are an attractive proposition for older residents looking to downsize, we cannot stress strongly enough how much they are risking if they choose to live at a site where residential use is not permitted.”

The National Caravan Council has published a guide for park owners and managers called ‘Misuse of Caravan Holiday Homes’, which is available from thenc.org.uk, and Age UK has produced a factsheet for prospective holiday park residents called ‘Park Homes’, which is available at ageuk.org.uk.

Have your say on boundary changes

RESIDENTS in Ribble Valley are invited to put a marker down on proposed changes to ward boundaries in the borough.

Ribble Valley Borough Council has 40 councillors and the Local Government Boundary Commission will announce in mid-November whether this is the right number.

Residents will then be able to say whether they want to see changes to the borough’s 24 ward boundaries.

The review has been triggered due to electoral inequality in some Ribble Valley wards and the commission wants each vote in the borough to carry the same weight.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: “Local people know their communities best, which is why their views will be sought on a range of issues during this important review, such as what they identify as their local community and where they think ward boundaries should be.

“The views of residents will make a difference and help the commission decide a new ward pattern for Ribble Valley.”

The consultation will include a dedicated website containing interactive maps, information and online forms.

Following the consultation, the commission will produce a draft proposal, which will be subject to further consultation from April to June before final recommendations are made.

Further details will be available at ribblevalley.gov.uk over the coming weeks.

Clitheroe ‘job centre’ on schedule to open

THE Clitheroe ‘job centre’ is on schedule to relocate to the Ribble Valley Borough Council Offices by the end of October.

The move will safeguard the Lowergate centre, called Jobcentre Plus, meaning the 200 Ribble Valley residents who use it in person each week will not have to travel 11 miles to Blackburn at a cost of £6 per trip.

Ribble Valley Borough Council leader Stuart Hirst said: “I am delighted to say that Clitheroe Jobcentre Plus is on schedule to relocate to the council offices by the end of October.

“Our contractors have done a fantastic job in converting part of our ground floor into a new Jobcentre Plus office and reception.

“Locating the job centre at the council offices has advantages for both organisations and will be convenient for service users.

“We have worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to facilitate the relocation and safeguard this important service for our residents.”

Steve Johnson, Jobcentre Plus district manager, added: “Locating our services at the council offices presents opportunities for closer working, which will improve how we deliver services to the people who need them, while providing value for money for taxpayers.”

Jobcentre Plus is a Government employment agency and social security office run by the Department for Work and Pensions that helps people find employment.

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**GET COSY THIS WINTER**

The provision of affordable housing is one of the biggest issues facing Ribble Valley Borough Council. House prices in the borough are way above the national average and first-time buyers are often forced out of the community, with those older than 60 facing the threat of ‘fuel poverty’.

### Affordability homes available in Whalley

ARAFT of new homes for affordable sale or rent will be up for grabs by Ribble Valley residents over the coming months.

The RIBBLE Valley Borough Council has given a slice of £2.25m to install central heating systems in fuel poor households. The funds are available from the Cozy Homes in Lancashire partnership, which specialises in building energy-efficient homes specifically for older dwellers. They are spacious, open, high-energy-efficient, secure, adaptable and ‘yard’ rooms. They also have high levels of natural light and green space and can be digitally connected.

Several homes are available in Leyland, direct from St Vincent’s Housing Association, featuring 20 two-bedroom ‘HAPPI’ homes and two-bedroom houses are available in Leaon Road in Whalley – seven for affordable rent that have already been snapped up and nine for shared ownership. The properties all have gardens, a communal lounge, a shared garden and allotments, and private courtyards.

Simon Hore, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council’s health and housing committee, said: “The provision of affordable housing for older residents is one of the biggest challenges facing the council.”

“We are delighted to have supported this flagship development”

Simon Hore, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council’s health and housing committee, said: “The work has been carried out to a superb standard by Clitheroe builder David Johnstone and we are delighted to have supported this flagship development.”

Homes scheme designed for young people

### Historic building reopens as nine stunning apartments

ONE of Clitheroe’s most impressive buildings that housed the design team on Sir Frank Whittle’s jet engine has been turned into stunning affordable apartments for young working people.

Nine apartments will be up for grabs at Millthorne House in Henthorn Road, which is being let for a minimum of five years, during the Government’s decent homes standard scheme backed by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The apartments have been renovated to a high standard, are extremely energy-efficient and boast picture windows with stunning views of the surrounding countryside, Porcle Hill and Clitheroe Castle, as well as dedicated parking spaces.

The project has been carried out to a high standard, and will be let for a minimum of five years, during which the council will own all the properties and have a 10-year tenancy agreement.

Simon Hore, chairman of Ribble Valley Borough Council’s health and housing committee, said: “There is a chronic shortage of affordable accommodation in the borough, particularly for young single people and couples or in employment and with a local connection.”

Rachael Scott, Ribble Valley Borough Council’s housing strategy officer, said: “This is the first housing scheme in the borough specifically for young people for a long time.”

“The landlord renovation grant has helped me renovate two properties for affordable rents”

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Ribble Valley Homes managing director

### Landlord grants to ease cost of conversions

LANDLORDS in Ribble Valley are being offered cash for the creation of affordable rented accommodation.

The cash is up to £5,000 for one-bedroom flats to convert to two-bedroom homes and £10,000 per flat to convert to a shared ownership property.

Up to £5,000 per household for converting shared ownership properties to one-bedroom homes will also be available.

The cash for the conversion is calculated on the cost of converting each property to the Government’s decent homes standard, with a minimum of five years, during which the council will own the properties and have a 10-year tenancy agreement.

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Ribble Valley Homes managing director
Volunteer drivers needed for bus service

A COMMUNITY bus service supported by Ribble Valley Borough Council that prevents elderly and vulnerable residents from becoming “prisoners in their own homes” is looking for volunteer drivers.

The Little Green Bus, so-called because of its environmental credentials, provides door-to-door transport for elderly or vulnerable residents via fully-accessible minibuses and a volunteer car scheme that transports passengers to and from medical appointments.

It also has a programme of Friday trips aimed at reducing isolation and thereby contributing to improved health and wellbeing.

Ian Sayers, Ribble Valley Borough Council’s community transport champion, said: “The Little Green Bus is a vital lifeline in a large rural community, where many elderly and vulnerable residents live in isolation.

“In fact, two passengers who developed a friendship on our weekly shopping trips went on holiday together, something they would not have contemplated on their own.”

The Little Green Bus, started seven years ago, has five 16-seater minibuses and 27 volunteer drivers offering affordable travel to over 900 residents and 50 community groups.

As well as being thoroughly appreciated, volunteer drivers receive ongoing training and support, insurance cover and expenses.

Little Green Bus chief executive Donna Atkinson added: “Our drivers are marvellous individuals, who volunteer their time to help us assist people, who without our services would be prisoners in their own homes.

“We can never have enough drivers and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining this wonderful team.”

Further details on becoming a Little Green Bus volunteer driver or passenger are available from 01200 444484 or littlegreenbus.org.uk.

Giving ‘isolated’ residents a little taste of freedom

APPRENTICESHIP programme helps young people kick-start career

YOU'RE hired! Ribble Valley Borough Council is backing a UK campaign aimed at recruiting more apprentices.

From next year, companies and organisations with more than 250 employees or an annual pay bill over £3 million will be required to invest in apprenticeships.

The Government wants to improve the quality of apprenticeships and create three million more by 2020.

The apprenticeship levy aims to address skills shortages and broaden young people’s routes into decent careers.

Research shows that the better you train your employees the longer they stay and more positive effect they have on your organisation.

And Ribble Valley Borough Council is no stranger to apprenticeship success, with one former apprentice recently promoted to a senior post. Alan Coar (centre) was taken on by Ribble Valley Borough Council as an apprentice electrician aged 16 – and 14 years and a degree in surveying later is now the authority’s principal surveyor.

He said: “Being an apprentice has really worked for me. I undertook my degree by day release while gaining valuable work experience and have been able to earn while I learn.

“My career progression has surpassed what I might have achieved had I gone to university straight from school.”

The council’s regeneration projects officer, Melissa Thorpe (right), also worked her way up being a legal apprentice and undertook a BA Business by day release.

And now IT apprentice Nick Haralambos (left) has been given a two-year extension to his apprenticeship after achieving an NVQ Level III in Computing, while former depot apprentice Mike Lancaster has just returned to the authority as a fully-qualified HGV driver.

Ribble Valley Borough Council’s head of human resources, Michelle Smith, said: “Apprenticeships are a tried and tested way to recruit new staff and attract enthusiastic talent into new ideas, as well as reduce staff turnover, by increasing employee satisfaction and loyalty.

“And kicking off your career with an apprenticeship is a great way to get a head start in the field you want to work in.

“They enable you to ‘earn while you learn’ and gain the skills and qualifications that future employers want.”

Ribble Valley Borough Council has just appointed a three-year accounting apprentice and further apprenticeships are on the cards.

Further details are available at ribblevalley.gov.uk.
Security boost as CCTV switches on

CRIME prevention in Longridge has received a major boost thanks to the 24-hour switch-on of the town’s CCTV system.

Technical advances mean the town’s six CCTV cameras are now linked to the monitoring station in Clitheroe offering round-the-clock surveillance.

Robert Thompson, chairman of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, said: “Recent technical advances mean the Longridge CCTV system can now be linked to Clitheroe.

“CCTV is an essential tool in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and this development is great news for Longridge.”

Inspector Paul Goodall of Ribble Valley Police said: “This is fantastic news for Longridge and will help us fight crime in the town, and respond more proactively.

“I have seen the CCTV system in operation and am looking forward to seeing some results.”

It is a decade since CCTV cameras were installed by the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership at prominent points in Longridge, namely the Forrest Arms, Stonebridge and Durham Ox, with three more following at Market Place, the Towneley Arms and Shay Lane Industrial Estate.

Councillor Thompson added: “The cameras have been monitored from Longridge Police Station since installation, but following recent technical advances I am delighted that they can now be monitored round-the-clock from Clitheroe giving Longridge a valuable crime prevention boost.”

‘Mounties’s saddle up to support our rural police

‘Safe glasses’ served up to pubs

A SCHEME offering ‘safe glasses’ to Ribble Valley revellers has been extended after proving a huge success.

Over 3,000 polycarbonate glasses featuring the message ‘Drink sensibly and enjoy your night’ were handed out to local hostelries during street parties and festivals last summer.

The scheme has proved so popular that the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership has ordered a further 3,000.

Clitheroe is fast becoming a fashionable nightspot, attracting partygoers from across East Lancashire to its trendy wine bars and gastro-pubs. It also attracts food and music enthusiasts from across the region to its flagship Ribble Valley Jazz Festival in May and Clitheroe Food Festival in August. Longridge and Whalley are also popular nightspots.

Terry Hill, deputy leader of Ribble Valley Borough Council, said: ‘Clitheroe and Longridge are fast becoming the place to be, attracting partygoers from across East Lancashire looking for a safe and enjoyable experience.

“The polycarbonate glasses are high quality and reusable, and are strengthening the perception of Ribble Valley as a safe place in which to enjoy a day or night out.

“The polycarbs have been so favourably received by hostelries and drinkers that we have ordered a further 3,000 to be used at the borough’s popular festivals and street events.”

THE first volunteer ‘Mounties’ in the North West are out and about on the bridgeways of Ribble Valley in a unique community safety scheme.

The Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership and Lancashire Partnership Against Crime have set up the mounted volunteers scheme to support rural police officers in crime prevention.

The six volunteers, who ride regularly in Ribble Valley, have received special equipment, including hi-vis jackets identifying them as Lancashire Police mounted volunteers and hi-vis exercise sheets, leg bands and breathplates for their horses, as well as training from the British Horse Society in riding and road craft, observation and recording information, and knowledge of wildlife and rural crime. Police community support officer Di Bickett, who spearheaded the scheme, said: “Ribble Valley is a large rural area, which poses a challenge in terms of engaging with and being visible to the community.

“The mounted volunteers have an elevated position from which they can observe things that cannot be seen on foot or from a vehicle, such as over hedges and walls into fields and farm buildings, gardens and residential properties.

“Horse-riders are well placed to provide information on rural crime issues, including poaching, badger-baiting, dog-fighting, fly-tipping, drug-use, anti-social behaviour, rustling and stone theft.

“In addition, they are part of the rural community, where most people know each other, so are best placed to provide a positive link between the police and residents.”

Robert Thompson, chairman of the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership, said: “We are delighted to support this scheme, which will see local mounted volunteers provide a positive link between the police and residents.

“The volunteers will assist with crime prevention, while riding out on our bridgeways, lanes and country roads, by looking out for anything suspicious and reporting it to the police control room.

“This is another fantastic example of community safety partners working together for the common good.”

If successful, the scheme will be rolled out across the rest of Lancashire next year.
Why fitness is now just a click away

Ribble Valley residents are invited to get ‘up and active’ in a new interactive scheme that puts health and fitness in the palm of their hands.

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

Users can register on the Up and Active web site and track and moni...