

HERITAGE &
ENVIRONMENT
NEWSLETTER

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Important Points of Interest in this issue:

- ◆ Solar Panels
- ◆ Enhancing Properties
- ◆ Census Details
- ◆ Historic Building Info
- ◆ Free Tree Scheme Sponsorship Request

A Good Deal Greener

If you're looking for an investment that will reduce your carbon footprint and energy bills, help you become more self-sufficient in energy and earn some extra income, this could be of interest to you.

In April this year the Government introduced the feed-in tariff as an incentive to increase the level of renewable energy in the UK. The feed-in tariff provides the owner of any renewable electricity generating technology with a fixed income for every kilowatt hour (KWh) they generate.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems use energy from the sun to generate renewable electricity. A small 1KW domestic installation, ideally located on an unshaded, south facing roof space, would generate an income of approximately £320 a year. The electricity can be used in your home free of charge, also reducing your electricity bill by around £88 a year. Any electricity you don't use will earn you an

additional income when you sell it back to the grid, although savings are far greater if you are home during the day to use the energy as it is generated.

The feed-in tariff is guaranteed for 25 years and the average payback period for installation costs is around 8 to 10 years. Be mindful however, that maintenance of the panels and roof over the 25 year period also needs to be considered.

At present 95% of the electricity we use comes from oil, gas, coal or nuclear power. Burning these fossil fuels to heat and power our homes releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is the primary greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.

The installation of solar technology on dwellings, in the majority of cases, is permitted development and will not require planning permission. However, these rights do not extend to listed buildings

where consent will almost certainly be required. In conservation areas the panels may still be accepted but care needs to be given to their position and ideally they should be located away from principal or roadside elevations. It is best to check first with the Planning department prior to the installation to make sure that no permissions are required.

If you are considering investing in renewable technology for your home, please visit the Council website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/gogreen for more information.



Solar Photovoltaic Panels



Council Energy Efficiency Projects

This year the Council is focusing investment in making its own properties more energy efficient, which includes a number of pilot projects to investigate the benefits of renewable technologies. Tenants of a sheltered housing scheme in Skelmersdale are set for a warmer winter as electric

storage heating is replaced with the latest green technology.

Air source heat pumps, which transform the energy found naturally in outdoor air into cost effective heating, are set to be installed over the coming months. Energy consump-

tion and associated CO₂ emissions are predicated to drop by at least 30%. Another scheme in Ashurst, Skelmersdale, has recently been fitted with a solar powered hot water system.

*Sliding Sash Windows
Traditional on Victorian Properties*



In the last edition of the newsletter we told you about the re-launch of our conservation area enhancement grant scheme and how you could now get up to £2000 to cover half the costs of enhancement works to your property.

Since then a number of schemes have been submitted by residents wanting to put back lost 'character' and successful grants ranging from a few hundred pounds to just short of £2000 have been given out.

The principal aim of the grant scheme is to support works to properties, buildings and sites, which will help preserve or enhance the character and appearance of a conservation area. Under the scheme grants can be given for;

- The reinstatement and repair of traditional features on properties e.g. putting back sliding sash windows
- Tree and hedge planting schemes
- Preparing reports to help the re-use of vacant sites or buildings

- Making landscape improvements
- We are particularly interested in partnership-working with groups to help preserve or enhance their local conservation area. For more information on the scheme and to obtain an application form, please visit, www.westlancs.gov.uk/heritage. If you have any questions about the grants please contact Ian Bond, Heritage and Environment Manager, at ian.bond@westlancs.gov.uk or on 01695 585167.

*Track your family history
and find your roots*

Aside from many present and future benefits, the census has the power to unlock the past. Once census records are made public, 100 years after they are collected, they mark the beginning of a journey for thousands of people to discover the lives, loves and lifestyles of their ancestors. Along the way, there are numerous opportunities to swap stories and ideas with other family historians – and today, it's never been easier to hook up with your fellow

researchers. This area of the 2011 Census website goes hand in hand with [2011 Census Family History on Facebook](#). The 2011 Census for England and Wales has set up this group to help you share how you've used census data to help track your family history and find your roots.

Every search will tell its own story, revealing many surprising facts and, in some cases, restoring lost family connec-

tions. The 2011 Census team want to hear those stories – and, with your permission, they would like to post them on these pages and perhaps also feature them in their local and national media campaigns. When they spot something on Facebook that they think their visitors could be interested in, you will be contacted for further information. Or you can simply submit your story direct to them.

*Do not discount Holly as
hedging. Native, good for the
environment, and can make a
property secure*



*A Holly is for life, not
Just for Christmas*

Holly (*Ilex*) is a genus of approximately 600 species of flowering plants in the family *Aquifoliaceae*, and the only living genus in that family.

Hollies are mainly dioecious - most forms have male flowers on one plant and females on another, both are required for berries. Most females produce berries whereas most males do not. In West Lancashire the Common Holly grows well in the acidic

soil areas of the Borough and is a very useful specimen tree/shrub and can also be excellent hedging. The Council have a large number of Holly trees that are subject to a Tree Preservation Order and if they are in 'tree form', and not cut regularly as a shrub, residents in a Conservation Area should notify the Council prior to any pruning or felling. Look out for the small, slow-growing, silver

hedgehog holly, *Ilex aquifolium* 'Ferox Argentea', which is a male silver-and-green holly with a very aggressive prickled leaf surface. It will reach just over 1m (3ft) in height, and there is a very attractive golden male form called, 'Ferox Aurea', both of these are common in gardens around Ormskirk and Aughton.

Welcome to 2011 Census Family History

Native Plant Focus - Holly

Help tomorrow take shape

2011 Census coming to a letterbox near you

On 27 March 2011 all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a census. Since 1801 a day has been chosen every ten years for this purpose (except in 1941 during the war). The census provides an excellent source of information about the population. This enables central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to identify need for housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. Did you know that supermarkets use census statistics to work out the kind of foods they need to sell to keep local communities stocked up with their favourites? Water companies use the census data to plan the pipes for clean and

wastewater – to make sure there's enough for everyone. Fire brigades and the police use census data to help communities, putting fire alarms and crime prevention measures in specific areas. The benefits are far-reaching. **The census statistics also feed into the allocation of funding for local authorities and play a major part in identifying need for local services in communities, so it is crucial the population estimate is as accurate as possible.** When the questionnaire envelope comes through the door you'll easily recognise it by the purple 2011 Census logo. Take care of it. If, like many people, you want to complete the questionnaire online, your individual internet code is on the front of the questionnaire. The 2011 Census

doesn't want anyone to fall behind – so there is a wide range of help options available (such as language guidance booklets, large print format, Text Relay and census field staff on hand, as well as online help and telephone call centres).

More information about the 2011 Census can be found at: www.census.gov.uk



*2011 Census
Identifying the needs for local
services in communities*

Dealing with the 'setting' to historic buildings and places

The setting to a historic building, conservation area or monument has for a long while been considered important and is material to our decisions that affect these types of assets. Indeed it is a duty of the Local Planning Authority under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas) Act 1990 to consider how any development may affect the setting to a listed building.

Previous guidance on this matter suggested that local authorities should not interpret the setting too narrowly and should err on the side of caution when there is a doubt about the precise extent of the setting.

The new guidance contained in PPS5 states that we should weigh up any harm to a building's setting against any wider benefits and that we should identify opportunities to improve the settings to listed buildings. **The setting to a historic building is important and can extend well beyond its garden or immediate curtilage.** It often provides the backdrop to the building and can include other buildings which have a functional association and in some circumstances can include a wide area of parkland or farmyard surrounding a site. Views of a building can be an important aspect when considering the impact of development on the setting and this can take into ac-

count the possibility of non-permanent obstructions, at some time, being removed.

English Heritage has recently published a consultation draft on the issue called 'The setting of heritage assets'. The document can be viewed at; www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Setting-heritage-assets.pdf?1287064490

For more information please contact Ian Bond, Heritage and Environment Manager ian.bond@westlancs.gov.uk

*The Clock Tower, Ormskirk in
its historic setting*



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MORE INFORMATION

Tremendous

2010 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Biodiversity. A celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity in our lives. What better way of celebrating and making a contribution to biodiversity than planting a tree. Valuing and managing our mature tree heritage is an important aspect to biodiversity.

An Oak for example can carry more than 450 different types of bugs, insects and caterpillars. More than 300 lichens, ferns and mosses or algae. Then there is an assortment of bird life and mammals that nest and feed in the tree. Livestock use them for shelter and not forgetting children (and some adults) who like to climb them. As the tree becomes older and the bark becomes more fissured the habitat for plants and animals increases. Future generations rely upon them not least for the air that we breathe.

High Hedges

Over the garden hedge – is an 8 page leaflet available from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister providing information on issues relating to hedge disputes. The leaflet can be downloaded free from www.odpm.gov.uk by typing 'Over the garden hedge' as a search. Alternatively the leaflets can be picked up from the Council offices in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

Free Tree Scheme Sponsorship

The Councils 'Free Tree Scheme' has been successfully run for 3 years and this year has been the busiest so far. We want to build on West Lancashire's natural heritage by maintaining and increasing the number of

trees in the borough. The Free Tree Scheme provides residents and land owners with up to 10 free trees or a single fruit tree to plant and nurture. To continue to run the scheme in 2011 we are now looking for a sponsor

partner(s) to help deliver the scheme and broaden its appeal. Expressions of interest should be sent to Ian Bond, Heritage and Environment Manager.

Tree Warden Scheme—20 years and counting

The Tree Council and its volunteer tree champions are celebrating 20 years of the national Tree Warden Scheme this autumn.

The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme was launched on 19 September 1990 and is now a UK-wide force of local volunteers who act as the "eyes and ears" for trees in their communities - both rural and, increasingly, urban.

"Tree Wardens have proved to be a very cost-effective way of helping to make a community more livable by planting and looking after its trees - whether in town or country," said Tree Council Director-General Pauline Buchanan Black.

"Tree Wardening is the embodiment of the Government's 'Big Society' plans to engage more people in be-

coming 'community organisers' and to offer them training. As Tree Wardens already fit the bill, they are a thriving example of what the Coalition Government wishes to see on a wider scale, particularly as the Tree Warden Scheme is stronger than ever before in urban areas - in communities which particularly need trees and the benefits they bring."

When The Tree Council launched its national Tree Warden Scheme on 19 September 1990 there were eight local Tree Warden networks in place. Today there are 8,000 volunteer tree champions in 150 local networks in England, Wales and Scotland.

West Lancashire Borough Council has been part of the

Tree Warden scheme since its inception.

Individual Tree Wardens throughout the Borough have made a significant contribution to the tree and woodland heritage.

The Council appreciates the role that the Tree Wardens have in protecting and enhancing the Borough's trees and woodlands.

Find out more about the Tree Warden Scheme, including how to get involved, by visiting www.treecouncil.org.uk

