

Hop on the coach for a trip to the brewery

PEOPLE are being invited on a day trip to visit a community pub and micro brewery.

It has been arranged by the Campaign for Real Ale for the Save the Bec Action Group in a bid to prevent demolition of the Beconsall Hotel, Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

The Bec, the village's only pub, closed in June 2009 and locals fear houses or flats will be built there.

The Old Crown Pub and Micro Brewery, Heskett Newmarket, Cumbria, was bought by the community several years ago and re-opened the only pub in the village of Melmerby.

Una Mc Bride, whose 93-year-old mother was the pub's landlady for 25 years, said: "We have organised a fun, community-spirited research day out.

"They are kindly opening specially for us to give us a tour of the brewery and pub, a talk, to answer questions and two-course lunch. Everyone is welcome to join us for a great day out together and to learn how they did it."

The coach will leave at 10.45am on Saturday March 13. Phone Una on 07968 737278 or e mail unamcbride@btinternet.com for more information.

CLEANING UP: Preston North End players Paul Coutts and Tom Williams with Pool House Primary School pupils Simone Cox and Daniel Evans plus Anne Milne-Riley, the litter education officer for Preston City Council, on litter pick



PNE heroes help young pupils clean up school

CHILDREN from a Preston school teamed up with North End players to clean up their school. They were joined at Pool

House Primary School, Kids-grove, Tanterton, by Lily-whites' midfielder Paul Coutts and new left-back Tom Williams.

Anne Milne-Riley, litter education officer at Preston City Council, was also on hand to help the children clean up the school grounds.

Birthday BOARD



Kyle Kirnon **Theo Collinson** **Adam Gallagher**

Today's Birthdays: Kyle Joseph Kirnon, age 9, from Ingol; Theo Collinson, age 2, from Lea; Adam Gallagher, age 9, from Walton-le-Dale.

To be included in our Birthday Board, please send your photo with details on the back and a SAE to arrive at least a week before the publication date, to Kay Taylor, Birthday Board, Newsroom, Lancashire Evening Post, Oliver's Place, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9ZA, or you can email kay.taylor@lep.co.uk

Thin blue line faces rest days squeeze

Proposed new rotas put police officers rest days at risk

by Chris Visser
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NEW rotas for Lancashire Police could see officers lose 30 days off work, it is claimed.

The county's police authority has revealed that, following extensive consultation, new shift patterns will start in October.

Rank-and-file officers are concerned that introducing new seven or eight-hour shifts to replace longer 10 or 12 hour stints would mean fewer rest days.

John O'Reilly, chairman of the Lancashire Police Federation, said: "A new shift rota has been agreed which will see a reduction in the number of rest days for officers. Many are being reduced to 115 days off a year from 146."

The move comes after the Evening Post revealed the number of Lancashire police officers is set to fall to 3,611 this year.

A passage in a report, to go before the authority's planning and performance review committee on Tuesday, reads: "Following recognition that existing rotas did not match existing demand it was decided in September 2009 to carry out a review.



"The objective was to design a new shift rota that would improve deployment of officers and therefore service to the public."

The report says the changes should ensure more police officers are available during peak periods and they will help cut overtime spending.

The authority recently approved a 2.95% rise for its share of council tax but warned of reductions in Government funding and aims to save £10m.

Lancashire Police Chief Constable Steve Finnigan said of the shift review: "We are facing a difficult economic climate that will be challenging for some years to come and we need

to ensure that we protect frontline policing so that we are able to continue to provide an effective 24/7 response that meets the public's needs.

"The review has allowed us to re-configure response shifts in order to better meet demand.

"This not only ensures we deliver the best service we can to people, but that more officers are on duty when demand is high.

"Whilst response officers will not generally work more than their currently contracted hours, the new rota means that there will be almost 40,000 extra officer days at work in the year. "I appreciate that this is an emo-

tive subject, which affects the working and personal lives of all members of staff involved, which is why I, and other senior officers, have consulted extensively with our staff."

Miranda Carruthers-Watt, chief executive of Lancashire Police Authority, said: "The current pattern means that shifts are routinely 10 hours a day over four days.

"The new proposal allows for shorter shifts of eight hours over five days.

"The authority understands that this process will mean changes for officers but we believe that the shorter shifts will provide a better work/life balance for staff."

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