Hello and Happy Summer from the Council People team. Hope you all have a nice sunny weekend, long may it last.

We’ve tried to do as we were told and write you a fun edition crammed with news and stories from your colleagues, and what they’ve been up to in and out of work.

Hopefully we’re getting there with what you wanted to see from your magazine, but we still need more stories from you if we’re going to make it as people focussed as you’ve asked.

We’ve heard rumours that there are aspiring Jimi Hendrix’s, wannabe Ricky Gervais’s and future Wayne Rooney’s in our midst, and that Burnley Council, as well as being full of great workers, is also full of people who have talents out of the workplace!

We want to hear from you. Send us a photo of you practising your talent, be it on the stage, field, or anywhere else you shine, and the best picture and story wins a Marks and Spencers voucher.

Next edition we will feature your photo round up and you can see what your colleagues do on a weekend!

Enjoy, and as always…feedback to the usual place councilpeople@burnley.gov.uk
The closing date for Round 1 is July 7th so keep voting for your colleagues if you want them to win a big prize!

Good Luck!

The third Annual Awards night was a great night at Towneley again at the end of April. As always, it was a lively evening, with plenty of laughter and celebration.

Individuals:
Heather Nicholas, Secretary to Director of Environment
Sarah Dowber, Customer Services
Chrissy Grimes, Green Spaces
Jane Grady, Streetscene

And the winner was...
Jane Grady, Streetscene

Chief Executives Special award and Peoples Choice Award
Gina Cole, People and Law

Teams:
Community Safety Team, Streetscene
Park Rangers, Green Spaces
Caretakers, Property Consultancy
Markets Escalator team, Markets & Streetscene

And the winner was...
Caretakers, Property Consultancy
Burnley Football Club supports Burnley Broth competition

Junior masterchefs meet their Clarets Heroes
Sports fans tuning into Sky Sports News or Football Focus over recent weeks may have been surprised to see the airwaves taken over by sport of a different kind: the hunt for Burnley’s Best Broth!

Back in autumn, a call went out to budding chefs across Burnley to come up with their favourite broth recipe. After much deliberation, four recipes were shortlisted and entered into a public vote held at Turf Moor, where the soups were sampled by players at the club.

Following a tense taste-off, year two pupils from Brunshaw Primary School were crowned the winners, producing a vegetarian broth that got everybody’s tummies rumbling for more!

Amy Newton, Year two’s teacher, said: “We’re all really excited about winning the competition. Our current study topic is all about healthy eating and growing our own vegetables. We based our work around our entry to Burnley Broth. One of the things we wanted to do is make learning more interesting for our boys.

“By making the connection with Burnley Football Club we achieved this. It’s also helped the children make links with their community and, hopefully, improve their food choices.”

The Burnley Broth Competition was launched by Burnley Council’s Environmental Health Team, and working in partnership with Burnley Football Club. The competition was supported by funding from the Food Standards Agency and involved working with partners through Burnley Food Forum. From start to finish, this whole competition really was an example of true partnership working within Burnley.

The young winners later returned to Turf Moor to serve up their broth to the club’s manager, Brian Laws, and some of the players. The broth was a real hit with players, who came back for second helpings - Brian Laws even took some home! The broth was such a success that it’s now been incorporated into the players’ healthy eating menu.

And it didn’t stop there. Over a thousand hungry claret fans tasted Burnley’s Best Broth at the team’s home game against West Ham on 6 Feb. The supporters really enjoyed the broth and thought it was a tasty winter warmer on a cold day.

Janet Field, a local claret supporter, said: “What a refreshing change to be able to purchase a healthy option on match day. Perhaps the broth had something to do with Burnley beating West Ham 2-1!”

Chris Gibson, catering manager at Turf Moor, said: “We almost sold out of the broth in all areas; in fact, it affected pie sales, which is probably good news to you!”

The Burnley Broth initiative has been hugely successful in getting the healthy eating message out to people in Burnley and beyond, making people more aware about the importance of eating a healthy diet and reducing the levels of saturated fat and salt we eat.
Teenagers!
My teenaged son has dropped out of college and now won’t look for work. He says ‘it’s pointless’. I’m at my wits end. Please help!
Bet you feel like strangling him? I know I did when mine did just that. Unfortunately it’s frowned upon to murder your children just because they aren’t doing what you think is right. We all have a map of the world that is unique to us. Our perspectives are our own. Your son’s reasons for his behaviour at the moment are real to him (though may seem insignificant to you). Try some gentle encouragement. Start by joining him in what he likes to do (even if it means freezing to death on the terraces!). Don’t mention anything about your worries for a while. Let him come to you. He might surprise you. Actively listening whilst doing something he likes will build up a trust and you may discover interests of his that you didn’t know about. Remember: be patient and good luck!

Help through the maze
My family has a history of breast cancer. My mother died from it and my sister has had a mastectomy. I have found a lump and I’m too scared to talk to anyone about it. I don’t want to talk to my sister because it will upset her and she has enough to deal with. Taking that first step and making the doctor’s appointment frightens me because of the maze of complicated medical appointments that will follow.
I won’t lie to you – that maze is horrendous! Complicated medical jargon and long winded explanations of procedures you don’t want or understand. It’s even worse to try to go through it alone though. Tell your sister. You may be surprised by her reaction. She has experience of working her way through the medical system and can be a great support to you. How would you have felt if she hadn’t told you of something so important in her life? Hurt? Upset? Of course. Tell her and explain why you haven’t said anything before she will understand. Above all else please seek medical advice as soon as possible.

Life is too much!
Life has just got too much. I feel tired all the time because I am so stressed. I live alone and am quite lonely. I feel like all my problems would be sorted if I could just meet that someone who could share my burden.
Life IS too much! We all have worries: family, money, work, health, etc, etc, etc. How we deal with them is different for each of us. Contrary to society norm we don’t need other people to make us happy. I know it’s not easy to hear–happiness really does come from inside. Yes – a problem shared is a problem halved it’s true, however you could just as easily share with a colleague (about work), a friend (about your lonely feelings), financial advisor (about the money worries), etc, etc. We would all like to have someone special in our lives, we don’t actually NEED someone though. Think about what interests you. If you like reading - join a library. If you like dancing - join an aerobics class/dance class. The main thing is to get out and about even if it’s just going to the shops. Do something you’ve never done before. Before you know it your life will be so full you won’t have the time for anyone else!
Life for the not so hairy ‘Buy a Bikers’

Just before Christmas the long awaited ‘Buy a Bike scheme’ was launched, enabling you to save nearly 50% on the price of a brand new bike. It works by deducting money from your wage each month for a year, tax free. You can also buy any related equipment you may need to cycle safely, as part of the same deal.

So as Summer approaches (or has arrived – we’re still not quite sure which!), what better time to start a new hobby, get fitter, get some fresh air, and reduce your carbon footprint by leaving the car and cycling to work.

But don’t just take it from us that it’s a great scheme – we already have some keen ‘Buy a Bikers’ who make cycling to work look like a stroll in the park, and here’s what they think of the scheme…

If you have any queries about the Bikes for Staff Cycle to Work Scheme or would like to register for a brochure pack, please contact Joanne Rowe in Personnel on 2162.

Dave Hortin, Environmental Planner and happy cyclist said:

“I was already a keen cyclist, commuting from Harle Syke to town and back for 10 years, when I joined the cycle to work scheme.

My cheap hybrid bike was falling to bits so I decided to upgrade and get a low maintenance road bike, which I otherwise couldn’t have really afforded without the discount.

The application was easy and I got my new bike from a local shop. There are a lot more cyclists on the roads of Burnley now than there were 10 years ago, and a lot more facilities - you really should try it!”
Comings and Goings

As well as comings and goings, Council People like to celebrate with you!
So tell us all about your exciting events, a new baby, a special birthday, you've won something, anything...email us at councilpeople@burnley.gov.uk

New Arrivals...
The twins, Katie and Ethan were born 12 weeks early weighing just 2lb3 & 2lb11. They spent a total of 9 weeks in special baby care but are now home and doing well considering their rocky start to life. Ethan fought off a serious bowel infection while in hospital, pneumonia and has yet to have a hernia operation but we feel so lucky to still have our babies with us, alive and well. Karen Hargreaves, ERBS

Starters:
- Sanna Hussain
- Michael Wright
- Scott Wheeler
- Judith Mabbutt
- Tracey Finch
- James Collinge
- Martin Thompson
- Ryan Yates
- Hayleigh Thompson
- Gillian Duckworth
- William Lawley
- Ben Brighouse
- Blue Colliston
- Richard Gisbourne
- Janina Harrison
- Jack Higgins
- Jamie Holgate
- Daniel Porter
- Jean Regan
- Robert Richards
- Ashley Gracey
- Sallyann Higgins
- Arron Hanson
- Katie Thompson
- Andrew Dean
- Ian Winchester
- April Olerenshaw
- Angela Hobson
- Revenues & Benefits
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Revenues & Benefits
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- People & Law
- People & Law
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Property Consultancy
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Streetscene
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Property Consultancy
- Property Consultancy
- Streetscene
- Streetscene
- Streetscene
- Markets
- Markets
- Markets
- People & Law

Leavers:
- Victoria Rees
- Natalie Murton
- Ian Roper
- James Brimlow
- Jean Bourne
- Michael Hinks
- Michael Taylor
- Carl MacKie
- Phillip Ball
- Pauline Boyle
- John Baker
- James Holden
- Margaret Brindle
- Angela Culleton
- Helen Bailey
- Natasha Housby
- Adam Booth
- Lucy Butter
- Allen Rycroft
- Jonathon Rigby
- Lorraine Griffiths
- Katharine Collinge
- Gwendoline Lord
- Samantha O’Neill
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- People & Law
- Customer Services
- Planning & Environment
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Streetscene
- Revenues & Benefits
- Streetscene
- Planning & Environment
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Leisure & Recreation Sv
- Chief Executive’s Office
- Revenues & Benefits
- Green Spaces & Amenities
- Markets
- Streetscene
- Planning & Environment
- People & Law
Gina’s Cinderella story

Hi I’m Gina Cole and most of you will know me as the Organisational development officer from People and Development by day; provider of biscuits and sweets on training courses and a possibly a few interesting icebreakers and games and hopefully a bit of fun!

But by night you’ll see me either in Rags or if you’re up later maybe running around with 1 glass slipper on in search of a prince!

Playing Cinderella at the Mechanics was great fun – I love to be in the midst of the action in shows whether at rehearsals or during show time. It’s incredibly energetic and is a great mental relief from the world of work and the pressures of life. Being somebody else for a while is great stress management – I think everyone should have a go!

The best bit about Panto-land is hearing the children screaming out as loud as they’re voices will let them; the Dames frightening some unsuspecting dad to point of distraction and the ahhhhhh sound when Cinderella appears (after a 20 second kick-off change!) in all her finery.

The worst part was losing my voice for for the last few performances!! An interesting situation I have to say and most unnerving. I had laryngitis for the last 4 performances having to miss one and mime 3 shows. I’ve never lost my voice before and colleagues may say that in usual circumstances this was heaven sent bliss! So if you came along with the Unison gang on the Saturday afternoon I’m afraid I was faking it guys! However – I am now going to audition for Girls Aloud as I am now a fully competent mime artist. See we can learn something from every situation!

PS – if anyone does see a Prince hanging around Burnley centre – hands off – he’s mine!
EVERY FOUR YEARS, THE GREATEST TEAMS IN THE WORLD COME TOGETHER BUT BY THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE WINNER. IT COULD BE YOU! BURNLEY COUNCIL MEN’S NETWORK WISHES TO HEAR FROM MEMBERS OF STAFF WHO THINK THEY ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO GO UP AGAINST THE BEST... IN THE COUNCIL!

5-A-SIDE MAX 10 TEAMS

EACH TEAM REPRESENTS A COUNTRY

TEAMS ARE MADE UP FROM SERVICE UNITS OR GROUPS OF COLLEAGUES

COUNTRY ALLOCATION IS ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

THE QUICKER YOU APPLY THE MORE CHANCE YOU HAVE OF SECURING THE COUNTRY YOU WANT TO REPRESENT

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

CONTACT RYAN GIFFORD BY 11/06/10

INTER-COUNCIL WORLD CUP

09/07/10

SPIRIT OF SPORT, BURNLEY 6-10PM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

*This will be the Network's launch event. It has been set up via the Council’s Wellbeing Group who recognise that many men do not access health initiatives or medical services as much as they should and is keen to promote positive health and equality messages to all male employees.
Still working hard for you...

As a Council we are committed to progression, in the town, in our workforce, and in our residents. That’s why as well as having a team of dedicated Learning and Development reps, we’ve also signed the Skills Pledge, which we featured in the last edition.

Well here’s some exciting news! We were assessed recently and came back with a score of 94% - the highest score that has ever been recorded.

Rene Barrett, Skills Advisor at North West Employers said:
“It is a testimony to all the hard work, energy and expertise you have put into making skills development such a fundamental part of your OD and Workforce Planning Strategies in Burnley BC.

As I have indicated previously I truly believe there are some extremely innovative and effective practices that you have developed and embedded in your work which I am delighted that you have agreed to share with colleagues in other authorities. I have been singing your praises and sharing some of your examples with others since I visited to undertake your assessment.”

Well done everyone for being open to change and learning, we are reaping the rewards. We are also having great successes with our apprenticeship scheme.

A few weeks ago we held a get-together at the Town Hall, for young apprentices to share experiences with each other and discuss how they think its going so far, so we can ensure we are putting our all into making the scheme work for us all.
You may not know it, but Burnley is full of buffalos, all leaping, bounding and running across the town... but I'm not talking about the four-legged kind! Our buffalos are bursting with energy, full of vigour and eager to learn something new! The Buffalo Project (Burnley Food And Fitness Aimed at Lowering Obesity) is a healthy lifestyles project that gets children and parents across Burnley fit, active and hungry to learn healthy eating skills; something we call all be proud about.

This year, the Buffalo project has worked intensively with 210 Year 5 children and regularly with a further 1260 primary school children to get children fitter, more active and eating fresh and healthy meals. In addition to this, we have supported 60 parents in cookery, gardening and physical activity sessions and helped to train teaching staff to sustain the activities.

They're constantly bringing new ideas to the schools and communities with which we work, and we want to make young people feel proud of all their hard work in project activities. One recent example of how we did this was the Buffalo Junior Masterchef competition. Finalists had to design a healthy lunchbox and take part in a lively cook off in front of a large school audience, including a panel of hungry judges.

The BUFFALO project has recently been Highly Commended at the Community Partnership Awards, in the Healthy Communities sector.

After a presentation which saw the group in the final six, they then fought their way to joint second with Birmingham City Council.

Congratulations Buffalos!

"I'd like to congratulate all of our finalists. Each of you has performed to an outstanding level, innovating and going the extra mile to achieve real benefits to your communities. In doing so you have impressed our expert judges and they have singled you out as deserving of special recognition."

Emma Maier from the Local Government Chronicle (award organisers)
The Boot Inn, Parker Lane, Burnley

The Boot Inn, Wetherspoon’s latest acquisition is another fine example of Wetherspoons high quality renovations of quality buildings. This time turning the former Yates’s building, a fine example of Burnley architecture, into a haven for local drinkers.

Whilst its sister pub The Brun Lea attracts a lot more of the professional daytime drinking class, The Boot has so far been a hit with town centre workers during the busy lunch time period.

Complete with spacious beer garden, book shelves and wooden beams the pub feels almost like a library with beer than a busy pub.

Some criticise the pub chain for the clientele they attract, but the chain do genuinely make an effort. They renovate nice old buildings that no-one else will touch, they make the inside look stylish, whilst leaving original features intact and emphasise the food offer. It seems their only crime is to make the experience as affordable as they can.

Great, what’s wrong with that? No-one complains when the money they’ve saved can be spent on another drink.

So, its Ham and Eggs from the menu and I’m not disappointed. Two massive fried eggs, massive slices of thick ham bursting out from under the egg, tasty chips and loads of condiments. Lovely stuff. The sight of it even makes one of my table mates go and order it himself. Amusingly, his comes out rather smaller than mine with ham hidden under two smaller eggs. Haha. Well its something to remember. Impressive, but not always consistent.

It really is a bootiful pub. Weather you agree or not.
Benefits officer Dominic Marquis is back at his desk, saddle sore but satisfied, after completing a mammoth charity bike ride.

Clarets fan Dominic cycled 250 miles from Turf Moor to the Emirates Stadium in London in aid of Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital.

Dominic teamed up with his fellow Burnley fan Peter Baker on one tandem while two Arsenal supporters named Garreth Ellidge and Jimmy Capstick completed the ride on another tandem.

Around £4000 has been raised, including some great donations which were collected by the four cyclers outside the Emirates after completing their journey.

Dominic said: “A support vehicle was in front of us showing us the way which made it easier for us although on the first day, in the first hour, we did get lost. ‘On our journey people stopped us along the road to give us some donations. All along the route people were stopping us and giving us money. We stopped off at a café in London and an old lady gave us £20. “We managed to go all the way without any punctures although on the first day our gear cable snapped. Luckily we came across a small cycle shop who gave us a new cable. The result of the Burnley-Arsenal game caused more pain than the journey itself.”

Here are a few excerpts from Dominic’s diary:

Day one:
“Today was hard work, some of the hills were never ending and it took a lot out of us. When we finally stopped after 95 miles it was 6.30pm and dark then there was only one place we were heading – the pub. Guinness soon sorted me out, well that and a three course meal."

Day two:
“Much easier. We were on A roads all day and we were able to make really good time, no traffic lights, steady, hills were easy compared to the previous day. We treated ourselves to massive fish and chips for dinner which was like rocket fuel as we cruised to our next hotel for 4pm after cycling 86 miles.”

Day three:
“It was a walk in the park really after what we had been through, just a 40 mile stroll into London. When we arrived at the Emirates we were greeted outside the ground by supporters clubs and Arsenal photographers, after this we were taken into the stadium and made our way through past the players memorabilia up the tunnel and out onto the pitch for more photos.”

Thanks to everyone who sponsored us!
Burnley Council’s Olympic Pledge – get involved!

As a Council we have recently signed up to the ‘Olympic Pledge’ – a bid to get Burnley active and more engaged in sports ahead of the 2012 London Olympics. As you all know, we have a range of facilities across the borough in which to do this, 3 state of art leisure centres and 6 award winning parks and miles of countryside for outdoor activity enthusiasts. We have clubs and classes covering nearly every sport going, and take the health and fitness of Burnley residents very seriously. One way you can get more active ahead of the games is by joining the Council’s HEAL (Healthy Employees, Active Lifestyle) scheme.

For just £28 a month you get unlimited access to all 3 leisure centres, including swimming, use of the gym and all fitness classes.

For £19 a month you get all of the above at ‘off-peak’ times. This is before 4pm on a weekday, and all weekend. This is a saving of £11 on the normal fee.

So why delay… here’s what some happy keep fitters had to say about being HEAL members:

Laura Gardner, who works in Tourism said:

“I have taken part in the Heal membership for the past 2 years and have found it very cost effective. I attended mostly group exercise classes. There are a range of classes to choose from, but my favourites are BodyStep and BodyCombat these classes are challenging yet enjoyable and the time passes quicker than being in the gym with only your own motivation to keep you going.

I usually attend approximately 3 - 4 times a week which I feel is great value for money.

I did have the full Heal anytime membership and would use the facilities straight after work and on Saturday mornings but I am currently opting for the off peak membership option as I am 4 months pregnant and I am finding that swimming in my lunchtime is a better option for me.”

Gareth Fort in Planning said:

“The off peak HEAL membership works really well for me. At lunchtimes I go to the gym or take my 2 year old daughter swimming, and I use it to take the boys swimming at weekends and school holidays.

As my children are eligible for free swimming, this is all for less than £5 a week!”
Crazy Jumper Day!

Crazy Jumper Day hit our offices back in January, the Corporate Sustainability Group's inventive approach to getting us thinking more environmentally friendly.

By raising awareness about dressing appropriately for the time of year, i.e. not blasting out individual heaters whilst wearing a vest, the CSG coaxed crazy colleagues into donning their finest sweaters.

Thanks to everyone who took part. We had some magnificently colourful entries and it certainly sparked the imagination of some creative types out there.

The overall winners were the Planning Team who received the prize of a £20 M&S voucher for combining dodgy taste in knitwear with a chance to promote themselves in an unusual way.

To find out more about the CSG's work and unusual ways of getting noticed, check out 'Scene' magazine – found on the hub.
Do you have an exciting or unusual job, do you get out and about, go out on site, catch dogs, clean the streets, meet the public, visit companies? Share your working story in a photo. Council People wishes to show how diverse life is at the Council and wants to collect your story in a picture. Share yours with us, show us what you do!

Shown is Jacqueline Whittaker and Laura Gardner of the Tourism Team at their stall representing Burnley at the 'Great Days Out' fair in Bolton.

Seeing double

Identical twins Amy and Lauren Pointon spread confusion among council staff when they spent two weeks work experience with property consultancy and communications.

We asked them to think of five questions each, and then get their sister to answer them. Here they are:

**Lauren:**

**What did you enjoy most about work experience?**
I enjoyed everything because I had a good experience and I have been doing different work.

**Would you do anything like this again?**
Nope, because I want to try out something different even though I had a good experience in Property and Communications.

**What did you least enjoy?**
I don’t know what I least enjoyed.

**Why did you choose to do it at Burnley Council?**
I didn’t choose to do it at Burnley Council but it has been good.

**What do you want to do when you leave school?**
I want to go to college.

**Amy:**

**Did you enjoy work at communications?**
Yes, it was really good because I did things that I haven’t done before and it was interesting.

**What did you most enjoy about it?**
I enjoyed doing the different work because it were a different experience to school work.

**Would you work at communications in the future?**
No, even though I enjoyed it and it was a different experience I would like to do something else in the future.

**Did you have a good experience?**
Yes the overall experience in communications was good because I haven’t experiences anything like that before.

**What sort of work did you do?**
I did a couple of press releases, photocopying, fling cads and leaflets and a summary for Dominic Marquis.
‘International Netballing fun’
by Beth Baron, Healthy Lifestyles

Last October I played netball at the MEN Arena in a North West Regional Final as the ‘warm-up’ game for the Co-operative World Series Fastnet Netball Championships.

The international teams playing were England Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, Samoa and Malawi.

I played for YWCA Bury against Didsbury from Cheshire.

It was a fabulous experience - even though we lost 18-15 - getting to play on the court where all the international sides play on.

I’m on the back row on the left next to the Matalan man!

If you’re taking part in the run already, and would not mind being featured in some promotional material - please contact Amy Blackburn in Communications
Brian Rant

It’s a well known fact (and by that I mean a common piece of nonsense that I have in no way researched) that the supplest, most agile old people are French old people. It’s common knowledge that in a hypothetical competition to find out which nation of old people is better at squat thrusts than any other nation of old people, the French would win.

Old French people are great at squat thrusts because of those ghastly old toilets they have*. Several times a day the French are squatting and getting in hours of training for an imaginary sporting challenge that I have made up in my head. The important thing is that they do something in their everyday life that keeps them fit.

We should all incorporate some exercise into our day. Hopefully you’ve seen posters around the place instructing you on chair aerobics. I’d like to suggest something a bit more radical.

If we want a fit workforce, we need to reconsider and redesign the work station. Maybe years of ergonomic know how have gone into the current set up, but at the end of the day the "work" station encourages lethargy. The chair is too comfy and the snack draw (don’t pretend it’s full of important papers) is too close.

I’ll be taking this proposal to management team. Hopefully by 2012 we’ll have a team of squat thrusting old folks that can take on the french and win.

The iWorkOutStation™

1: typing
2: checking the typing
3: doing the typing again
4: the doughnut position

*again, no research of any sort has been conducted for this article. It’s an opinion piece, so that’s all you get. And yes, I know that those toilets are largely replaced now, but this is about the old folks that remember them all too well.
Brent’s retirement

Brent Holden, our Principal Cleansing Officer left the organisation at the end of March, after almost 40 years of dedicated service to the Council and the borough. What an achievement! Well done Brent, we’ll miss you!

Hello everybody within the Council.

Firstly for those who do not know me then hit the DELETE button now.

For those that I have had the privilege of working with both within Streetscene and the various other Service Units over the years my last day of employment with Burnley Borough Council is next Wednesday 31st March 10. My parole officer has finally let me go on the grounds of good behaviour over the last few months!

I started work with Burnley Corporation Cleansing and Transport Department on the 5th October 1970 and have worked at the following locations - Centenary Way now Tesco’s Car Park, Nicholas Street on two separate occasions on the ground and first floors, I never quite made the top floor Engineers would not let me in, Princess Way now the site of the new university and Padiham Town Hall where I have made many friends.

1970 does not seem that long ago. Burnley were playing football in the First Division which is the same as the Premiership and the only other boring fact that I know is that Freda Payne was top of the charts with “Band of Gold” which I am sure many of the older aged staff will remember.

As far as I am aware I am the longest serving officer at Burnley Borough Council unless I can be proved wrong so I am quite happy to pass the mantle to someone else whoever that person is!

Anyhow to cut a long story short I will be partaking in drinks at The Inn on the Wharf next Wednesday from 5pm for a few hours and I would be pleased to see as many of my colleagues as possible.

Finally may I wish everyone in the Council good luck and best wishes for the future!

B Holden

(via global email - breaking the rules was acceptable on his last day!)

Now the longest serving member of staff has left the Council who will fill Brent’s shoes?

Here are the rest of the top 5 long-timers here at BBC who will pick up the mantle :-

In first place, having worked here for just over 40 years, its Frederick Kershaw from Green Spaces. Fred is one of our Craftsman Gardeners.

Just behind him is fellow Gardener Paul Thompson who has been here just one month less than Fred.

They’re a dedicated bunch over in Green Spaces, Edward Kershaw has been here 39 years, and he is our Neighbourhood Area Teams Team Leader.

Last but not least is Lynne Flynn from Planning & Environment. She is one of our Senior Technical Assistants and has been here 38 and a half years!