

Issue 79 / SUMMER 2025

Whitworth

VALLEY NEWS



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Whitworth Residents and Friends,

I am honoured to have recently become the Mayor of Whitworth, a role I will hold until May 2026. This is my second term as Mayor, and I am excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I am fortunate to have the unwavering support of my family and friends. I will also be supported by Councillor Louise Burton who has been appointed Deputy Mayor until May 2026 and we both are looking forward to representing Whitworth to the best of our abilities.

As Mayor, I will be attending a variety of events and initiatives within Whitworth and representing our town at events beyond our borders. I will chair the Town Council's full council meetings and serve as a figurehead for our community. Additionally, I aim to raise valuable funds for local community organisations through the Mayor of Whitworth's Charity Fund by hosting various enjoyable events.

During my term, my primary focus will be on making Whitworth an even better place to live. This includes improving our local environment, collaborating with the police to enhance street and road safety, and working with Lancashire County Council to upgrade footpaths and roadways. I am also committed to supporting our young people.

My official engagements are already filling up my diary, so please feel free to contact me if you would like to invite me to your event. We have many exciting events planned, starting with 'Proms in the Park' featuring our very own Whitworth and Healey Band! Other upcoming events include an Over 50's Halloween Party and our very own Mayorfest - a daytime festival at the Ashcroft.

Best wishes,

***Cllr Janet Whitehead,
Mayor of Whitworth***



Save The Dates

Proms in the Park - Sunday 6th July @ The Memorial Gardens
Mayor's Fundraising stall - Sunday 7th September @ The Rushcart
Over 50s Halloween Party - Sunday 2nd November @ The Ashcroft
Barmy Bingo - Sunday 22nd February 2026 @ Lobden Golf Club
MayorFest - Saturday 25th April 2026 @ The Ashcroft

WHITWORTH

TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE



EASTER TRAIL

This year the Tourism and Leisure Committee set up a new free event which took place in the run up to Easter. Thanks to everyone who took part and thanks to the volunteers who put the trail letters up and kept a beady eye on them while the event was on. The Committee hope residents who took part found a new place to play or found something of interest on our community noticeboards whilst they made their way across Whitworth following the trail. Pictured is Willow, one of the winners of the Easter Trail, with her Easter Goody Bag.

VE DAY

The TLC's 80th anniversary of VE Day event took place on Sunday 11th May. The event hadn't yet taken place at time of this Whitworth Valley News going to press but we hope everyone who attended had a fun, enjoyable afternoon. A full report on this and WTC's flag raising, beacon lighting and VE Day themed Annual Meeting of the Parish will follow in Autumn's edition. We'd also love to see photos of any other VE Day celebrations that took place across Whitworth – please email them to info@whitworth.gov.uk so we can share them in the next edition too.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FIRST AID COURSE

Following on from courses held in 2024, the TLC are planning to hold another First Aid Course on Monday July 7th, 6pm until 8pm in the Council Chamber at The Ashcroft. Thanks again to Chris and Rachel from Proactive Training Services for giving up their valuable time to help Whitworth residents to learn a background in First Aid plus CPR and how to use a defibrillator. Places cost just £5, which covers the cost of the handbook that all attendees take home. Please phone 01706 852018 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am until 2pm) or email info@whitworth.gov.uk to reserve a place.



WHITWORTH RUSHCART

The annual Whitworth Rushcart is planned this year for Sunday 7th September. As ever, the event starts at 1pm with a procession setting off from the top of North St and making its way along Market Street to The Ashcroft where a family fun day will take place. The event is greatly helped by volunteer marshals manning side streets to assist the professional traffic management company who close Market Street to allow the procession to take place. If you would like to help with marshalling, please contact Rachel, Town Clerk (contact details on the back page).

All of the above events are organised by Whitworth Town Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee. This committee is made up of councillors and members of the public, who give up their precious free time to assist with the organisation of community events. If you would like to join them, either contact Rachel (Town Clerk) or simply come along to their next meeting on Thursday 10th July at 7pm in the Council Chamber at The Ashcroft. The committee are a friendly group who would love you to join them!



THE MAYOR OF WHITWORTH'S YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD

Councillors decided this year that two very talented youngsters equally deserved this prestigious award.

Harrison Wright has made an outstanding contribution to boxing. A member of Littleborough Boxing Club and a student at Whitworth Community High School, Harrison trains three times a week for boxing as well as playing for a Bury football team. He is already a North West Regional boxing champion and recently was a runner up in the Young Sports Achiever category in Rochdale Borough Active awards. The Whitworth Town Council councillors were hugely impressed with Harrison's success and dedication to the sport and wish him all the very best in his boxing career.



Leo Pilling has started his own car valeting business whilst balancing studying for his GCSEs. Also a student at Whitworth Community High School, Leo's Deputy Headteacher Andy Kewin nominated him for this award when Leo's fellow students told him about Leo's marvellous achievements. The Whitworth Town Councillors were in awe of this incredible youngster's drive and ambition, and we wish Leo all the success in the world.



THE DR ALAN MORRIS AWARD

Steve and Linda Parker have gone above and beyond over a number of years as highly valued members of the Tourism and Leisure Committee. They were an integral part in the formation of the wonderful Santa Express event and every year Steve donates his time (and his truck) to bring joy to the faces of Whitworth kids and grown ups alike as he drives Santa around Whitworth. Linda is his co-pilot for Santa Express and also came up with the idea of holding wreath making workshops with the off cuts from the TLC's Christmas tree on brackets project. She is one of the most enthusiastic members of the TLC, particularly talented in the art of duck-selling! They have both also been regular Skyline marshals too.



Whitworth Town Councillors unanimously agreed to give this award to this wonderful couple to thank them for all the time and effort that they've given for free over a number of years. The beacons that the Town Council have lit to commemorate 100 years since the end of WWI in 2018, the Queens Jubilee in 2022 and this year's 80th anniversary of VE Day would not have happened if it were not for the Parkers. This year, Linda also helped to bake the official VE Day commemorative WI Orange and Ginger cakes served at Whitworth Town Council's Annual Meeting of the Parish.



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NEW TOWN COUNCILLORS

There have been some changes at Whitworth Town Council during the last 12 months, including three new Town Councillors. If you look below, you will find the new Councillors introducing themselves and you can find their contact details on the back page.

Councillor Scott Smith:

Scott has been representing the Healey and Whitworth Ward as part of Whitworth Town Council for 7 months now.

When Scott first joined Whitworth Town Council, he stated that he was pleased to be part of such a dedicated team of councillors. He is also the Leader of the Opposition as a Conservative member at Rossendale Borough Council. Scott thoroughly enjoys his councillor work, serving the community and he looks forward to doing so for many years ahead.

He is also a keen member of Whitworth Community Choir, assisting them with their anniversary of VE Day engagements.



Councillor Julie Greenwood:

Julie was co-opted onto Whitworth Town Council in April 2025. She looks forward to playing a bigger part of the Whitworth community now she has more time to offer.

Julie has recently retired from the NHS after 41 years. As a Health Visitor she worked with parents and young children along the Rossendale valley and in for the last 11 years supported families with children who have additional needs. She is keen to work across all ages of the population in her new role. Julie has lived in Whitworth for 24 years and as a regular dog walker has developed many friends and acquaintances during her walks. People take time to have a friendly chat which is what she likes about the Whitworth community.



Julie is also passionate about the splendid surrounding open spaces we are lucky to have on the doorstep and is keen that they remain litter free and accessible so that they can be enjoyed by all. As Julie likes to keep fit, she is also keen to promote the use of the leisure activities we have at our disposal. Julie will strive to support residents to have their voice on issues that affect them and Whitworth as a whole.


Councillor Kim Bleazard:

Kim was co-opted onto Whitworth Town Council in April 2025. She has lived in Whitworth for over 35 years and has raised her three children here.

She has worked at one of the local schools for over 20 years and is passionate about opportunities for Whitworth's young people. She is also a member of Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC, the group of volunteers who came together to take over the running of Whitworth Leisure Centre when Rossendale Borough Council transferred the ownership to the Town Council.



Kim became a councillor because she wants to help the community in any way that she can.



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2025 WHITWORTH RUSHCART

**Sun 7th
Sept**



MARSHALS NEEDED:

Can you spare an hour on Sunday 7th September? We need adults to man closed side streets during the procession. You will get to watch the procession go by whilst marshaling.

Contact Whitworth Town Council at
info@whitworth.gov.uk or phone
the number below
Mon-Fri between 9:30am - 2:00pm.



MORE INFO: 01706 852018 WWW.WHITWORTH.GOV.UK

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A WINDOW TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

Providing a community service like the Lighthouse requires many different tasks all of which are done by volunteers: collecting goods from retailers, serving clients in the 'shop', searching for funding, cleaning, promoting the service, staffing pop-up stands in retailers, management roles, lots of admin ... the list continues. Some volunteers bring experience of some roles and others learn on the job. The search for more volunteers rarely stops.

A new group of Lighthouse volunteers recently formed to make eye-catching displays in the Lighthouse shop window. The displays have already proved an effective way to tell the public about aspects of the work and some of the items needed. Keep an eye on the window to see the fruits of their labours. Oh, and Milly the Lighthouse Mouse will be in every display – can you spot her?



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WILL WHITWORTH'S MEMORIAL GARDENS BE AWARDED A GREEN FLAG?

Rossendale Borough Council has submitted an application for a Green Flag Award. This national award is given in recognition of well-kept and welcoming spaces which demonstrate community involvement.

The Gardens were refurbished in 2011 and tended by Whitworth Horticultural Society and latterly by volunteers from Whitworth in Bloom, as well as other members of the local community. With beautiful, well-established trees, flourishing borders and magnificent rose beds enhanced by the poppies on the railings, it is hoped that the judges will recognise the hard work and commitment that goes into keeping the gardens looking as good as they do.



Judging will take place soon so if you would like to become involved in maintaining this valuable community space, please feel free to find out more by emailing whitworthinbloom@gmail.com.

And wish us luck!

HONORARY TOWNSMAN



Since the last edition of the Whitworth Valley News, an event has been held to celebrate the wonderful Arnold Ashworth BEM being rightly honoured with the Honorary Townsman of Whitworth title.

Invited guests, representing different local organisations that Arnold has been long associated with, together with Town Councillors, fellow Honorary Townsman Councillor Tom Aldred and Councillor Alan Neal, and the Mayors of Whitworth and Rossendale came together to celebrate his incredible length of service to the Whitworth community on the night.

Councillor Janet Whitehead, who nominated Arnold to be an Honorary Townsman, spoke for everyone when she said that Arnold was “a man whose life reminds us all of the power of perseverance, love, and community spirit”. Pictured is Arnold at the event, with Councillors Janet Whitehead, Gareth Baron (then Mayor of Whitworth) and Judith Driver (then Mayor of Rossendale).

In the last edition of the Whitworth Valley News, we incorrectly gave Arnold the suffix BME instead of BEM. Sincere apologies for this typo.

CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

Update on events since the last magazine. A quiz night at the Band Club in February raised £400. Thanks to the club for sponsoring with food and prizes. Special thanks to Samantha and Mike Keiley for their generosity and hard work on the night. The meal at the Rose and Bowl in March raised £1,168 - a magnificent amount. Again, thanks to all who attended and Carol, John and staff for their continued support of these events.

On Friday 2nd May Gordon and Christine Brownlie undertook a sponsored walk up the Big One at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. A report on this will be in next edition. Sunday 22nd June sees the first Golf tournament of the year at Lobden. If you would like to enter a team, please contact on numbers below.

The group would also like to thank all those bereaved families who chose donations to CRUK through Duffy's Undertakers in 2024, and particular thanks to Dawn for coordinating and recommending CRUK. In total, £3,100 was raised in 2024.

Finally, in March we lost one of our favourite venues for fundraising meals when Pepe Nero closed. We would like to thank Anna and Dawid and all staff for their generous support during their time here and wish them well in the future. They will be missed.

If you would like to attend any events or donate to the local group, have any questions about the Committee, or even join us, please ring Michael Whitby 852613 or Elaine Bagshaw 853935.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Anybody up for a little bit of delivery, once every three months? These Valley News don't suddenly appear on people's doormats by magic...

If you might be interested, please call Jo Furtado on 07813 180 748, or leave your contact details with Town Clerk Rachel and Jo will get back to you.



Monday	1pm-7pm
Tuesday	9am-5pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9am-5pm
Friday	9am-5pm
Saturday	9am-1pm
Sunday	Closed

Whitworth Library, right at the heart of the community, where you'll always get a warm Whitworth welcome. Check out these activities at the library for everyone to enjoy. All are FREE unless stated.

Mondays

- 10:00 – 10:45 **Fitsteps** Upbeat dance exercises with Jan (£5.50)
 11:00 – 11:45 **Pilates** Improve your strength, posture and balance with Jan (£7.50)
£11.00 for both above classes. Contact Jan Jenkins Fitness on 07939 087122
 14:00 – 16:00 **Knit and Natter** Bring your knitting and enjoy a brew and good conversation

Tuesdays

- 10:00 – 12:30 **Scrabble Club** Great company and good fun – why not join us?
 14:00 – 14:30 **Storytime and Crafts!** Stories and themed activities (18 months - 4 years)
 14:00 – 15:00 **Little Steps** featuring games, sing-alongs, stories and crafts on last Tuesday of month
 15:00 – 17:00 **U3A Wellbeing** 1st Tuesday of month - 07762 757925 (Sheila) for info

Wednesdays

- 10:00 – 11:30 **Rossendale Children and Family Wellbeing Session** for children aged 0-5 yrs
 12:00 – 13:30 **Meditation and Wellbeing** Contact Sheila Daly for details (07762 757925) (suggested £5 donation)
 18:00 – 19:00 **Line dancing** Contact Sheila Daly for details (07762 757925)
 19:00 – 20:30 **Yoga, Pilates and Relaxation** Contact Sheila Daly for details (07762 757925) (suggested £6 donation)

Thursdays

- 09:30 – 10:30 **Learn My Way** Get online – start your digital journey today!
 10:00 – 11:30 **Shared Reading Group** All welcome!
 10:00 – 12:00 **U3A Family History** on last Thursday of month. T. 07790 192120 (Jean) for info
 13:30 – 15:30 **U3A Art Group** 1st Thursday of month. T. 07800 820096 (Lindsay) for info
 14:00 – 15:00 **U3A Creative Writing** 1st Thursday of month. T. 07903 570008 (Kay) for info
 14:00 – 15:30 **U3A Flower Arranging** 3rd Thursday of month. T. 07411 520771 (Nina) for info

Fridays

- 10:15 – 11:00 **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** (birth to 3 yrs.)
 14:00 – 15:30 **U3A Card Games** 2nd Friday of month. T. 07860 314968 (Helen) for info.

Saturdays

- 10:30 – 12:00 **Lego Club** (for all ages)
 10:30 – 11:30 **Whatever the Weather** activities for children of all ages, come rain, hail or shine, you'll have a good time!

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If you, a relative, or someone you care for, can't get to the library, the team can bring the library home to you, via the Home Library Service. Get in touch by calling 0300 123 6703 and ask to be put through to Whitworth Library, or email: whitworth.library@lancashire.gov.uk

Follow the library or the Friends of Whitworth Library Group Facebook page, for news about events. You can also contact friendsofwhitworthlibrarygroup@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.



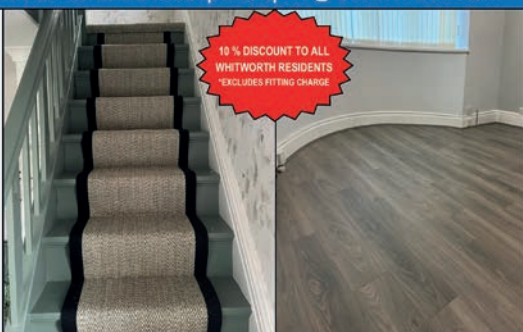
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CUBS

On Tuesday, April 1, the Whitworth Cubs met to create a hedge from logs accumulating in the Memorial Gardens. The aim was to create a suitable habitat for small birds, mammals and invertebrates.

First, the Cubs gathered sticks, branches and prunings deliberately left in the gardens by RBC's Green Space workers. They then knocked sharpened poles into the ground before selecting branches to interweave horizontally between the poles.

They learnt that the wood and leaves will die back creating a cosy and safe place for the creatures to shelter.

The whole experience was fun, lively and well-managed by the Cub leaders and Steve Haigh who had prepared the resources in advance and who encouraged the Cubs to understand the nature of the task and respond accordingly.



TOMMY TUMBLE TOWN

Tommy Tumble Town is a role play centre for children aged between 0 and 8 years old and was opened in memory of Charlotte and Dan Squibbs' son Tommy who sadly passed away from leukaemia in March 2024. The family wanted to create a legacy for Tommy and are receiving a great deal of comfort knowing that his name will be on the tip of people's tongues for ever more.



The role play centre allows children to pretend to be various people including firefighters, hairdressers, builders, opticians and gardeners. It is an inclusive venue where all children can attend, and parents can meet likeminded parents and form friendships with people they previously did not know. They have a focus on communication, including non-verbal communication and use Makaton and provide sign language lessons. They hope to provide the local area with something they know is missing and very much needed. The centre, based at Pippin Bank in Bacup, opened in April and anyone wanting to book a session is invited to email tommytumbletown@gmail.com for more information. Bookings can also be made via www.tommy-tumble.co.uk and they are also on Instagram and Facebook as Tommy Tumble Town.

Alongside the role play they also offer:

- Toddler football
- Baby massage
- Toddler Keep Fit
- SEN stay and play
- Chat and Sign (Makaton sessions)

Pictured is Brooke Vincent from Coronation Street opening Tommy Tumble Town on 14th April 2025 with Tommy's parents Dan and Charlotte Squibbs.



ELLIE THE EAGLE SOARS TO SUCCESS



Ellie Clegg, a year 5 pupil at Tonacliffe School, has followed on from her success in the summer, when she won the GB Dry-Slope skiing championship, by heading back out to the Alps this winter.

In January she travelled to Champéry in Switzerland where, in weather conditions that would have been more familiar in Whitworth – heavy rain and sleet – she achieved 4th in the Giant Slalom and 6th in the Slalom events.

A few weeks later she returned to Pila in Italy where the previous year she had managed to podium in both disciplines in the National Schools Snowsports championships. This would be her last outing in the under-10 age group before stepping up to the under-12s in the spring. Determined to go out on a high, Ellie did herself proud: in both races she took first place, crowning her Overall NSSA champion for her age-group.

After spending weeks away from her family and friends she couldn't wait to get home and show off her medals and trophy when she returned to school.

CUBICO'S SCOUT MOOR 2 WIND FARM PROPOSAL

It can't have escaped your attention that a proposal has been put forward for Scout Moor 2, an extension of the Scout Moor Wind farm, on the moors above Whitworth.

To read in detail about the proposals, please visit scoutmoor2.co.uk for information on the location and height of the turbines and the proposed measures that Cubico, the company proposing the project, will be taking to counteract any damage caused in their installation, should planning permission be granted for the wind farm.

A group of local residents have come together to form "Say No to Scout Moor 2", concerned about the damage to the moorland, the visual effects of the tall turbines (together with associated noise and shadow flicker) plus the damage the project will have on local flora and fauna.

Please see Facebook for more information about the group or contact Alan Billingsley on 01706 852341.

SCHOOL UNIFORM PROJECT

Over the past few years, a school uniform project has been run over the school summer holidays, based at The Ashcroft. A small group of volunteers have washed (if needed), sorted and displayed donated school uniforms for all local schools. Four fantastic local outlets have again agreed to take donations in – Whitworth Co-op, Whitworth Library, The Lighthouse Foodshare and The Ashcroft - and plans are underway so that residents can drop in to The Ashcroft over the summer holidays and take whatever uniform they need, no questions asked. More details on dates and times that uniform will be available can be found on the Town Council website soon.

It is hoped that, by reusing good quality school uniform, that hundreds of school uniform items will be saved from going to landfill. The project also helps to save residents hundreds of pounds on uniform, without costing anyone a single penny. The project is planned to continue this year but desperately needs volunteers in order to continue. If you are able to help, either collect donations or to sort or display the items (into different schools and sizes so it's easier for those looking to find what they need) then please email info@whitworth.gov.uk or phone the Town Clerk (times and number on the back page).

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


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CRYPTIC CLUES

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ACROSS

- 1 Farm building indulges in terpsichore. Inside, nimble legwork, fiddling and much yee-hawing (4,6)
- 7 Sounds like what you might do, nightly, to a stubborn zit (8)
- 8 Valley caretaker (4)
- 9 First barrel plays music (4)
- 10 Befuddled slimy old queen is tight (7)
- 12 Cygnet Inn Co creates a rainy-day plan (11)
- 14 Sauce with an object floating – gets you down! (7)
- 16 Pet's feet face backwards – exchange! (4)
- 19 Broad French runner (4)
- 20 Nous, grip – all you need for cliques (8)
- 21 In times gone by you'd add two points to refer to a dirty, untidy woman (10)

DOWN

- 1 Oops! Rocket! (5)
- 2 Hard musical comestible (4,3)
- 3 Reduced, but perfectly-formed, emporium at 6,12 (4)
- 4 Sweet absence of objects (8, or 2,6)
- 5 King of the birdies? (5)
- 6,12 Early? Her? Once – turning out of the valley! (6,6)
- 11 Area where your ears may be unfooled (8)
- 12 See 6D
- 13 Ben Worn – needs a little care: just arrived: happy days! (7)
- 15 Corrupt twisty belly-button (5)
- 17 Flower girl (5)
- 18 Therefore I stand on my head, and behold, a frightful being! (4)
- 17 Affected by bug: lost head: got better (5)
- 18 Swivel and dig deeper for sword (4)

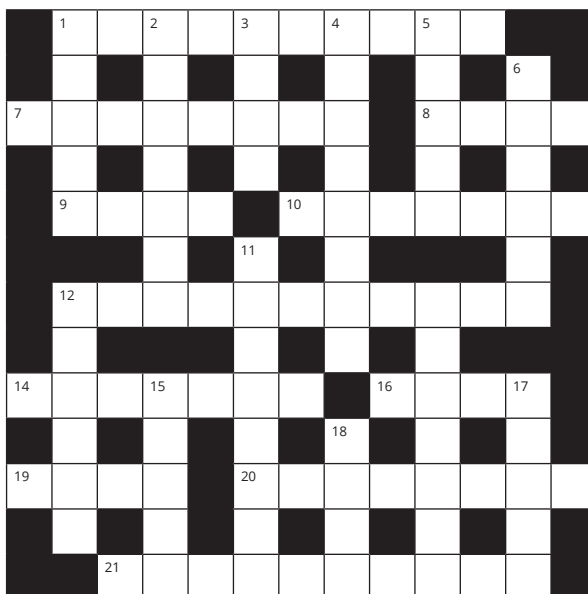
REGULAR CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Rustic entertainments (4,6)
- 7 One of King Arthur's (8)
- 8 Valley caretaker (4)
- 9 Brass instrument (4)
- 10 Mean (7)
- 12 Rainy-day fund (11)
- 14 Discovered by an apple? (7)
- 16 Exchange (4)
- 19 In Mexico they jump (allegedly) (4)
- 20 They shut people out (8)
- 21 Old-fashioned (sexist) word to describe a dirty, untidy woman (10)

DOWN

- 1 Loud explosive noise (5)
- 2 Simple hard-but-crumblly food item (4,3)
- 3 Delicatessen (abbr.) (4)
- 4 Sweet _____ (8)
- 5 Majestic bird, sometimes golden (5)
- 6,12 Southern end of our valley (6,6)
- 11 Locality (8)
- 12 See 6D
- 13 Just arrived! (7)
- 15 Corrupt (5)
- 17 Red flower (5)
- 18 Large, fearsome (possibly green) humanoid (4)



COMMUNITY MINI-GALLERIES

Whitworth's Community Mini-Galleries are now fully back in action, indeed not quite so mini any more, with 25 frames on offer to exhibitors at the Leisure Centre now. The opening exhibition there was by the U3A Photography Group, and if you missed them, you missed a treat. Do watch out for them next year!

Right now the Library is showcasing the really valuable work of Stronger Together. Next up there (June 6) will be work by St John with St Michael School, followed by Our Lady and St Anselm School on June 27.

Whitworth in Bloom are current residents at the Leisure Centre, to be followed by Stronger Together on June 6, SJSM on June 27 and OLSA on July 18.

At the Library exhibitions are impossible to miss: they're right in front of you. In the Leisure Centre you need to dive into two separate corridors. There are signs, and the lovely LC reception staff will happily point your way. (And before you leave, you could always partake of a coffee in the café area... where there's a more permanent exhibition of items illustrating the history of the Leisure Centre itself.)

THE BANKING HUB

The UK's major high street banking providers are working together to bring everyday banking services, face to face support and guidance to your community. The hub has a counter service operated by the post office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions. There is also a private space where you can speak to a community banker from your own bank about more complicated issues. The community bankers work on rotation, with a different bank available on each day of the week. your local shared banking hub is open at **3 Irwell Street, Bacup, OL13 0AD Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm.**

Contact Number: **01706 392155**

At the banking hub you can:

- Withdraw cash
- Deposit cash and cheques
- Make balance enquires
- Pay utility bills
- Access other cash services such as floats and coinage (for registered business)
- Talk to a community banker from your own bank about managing your account, payments and transfers, getting online and many other things
- The banking hub is not a post office so you can't send parcels or buy stamps



WHITWORTH & DISTRICT U3A

Membership of the u3a is made up of retired and semi-retired people from the Whitworth area who wish to continue learning, make new friends and have fun. Monthly meetings are held at Hallfold United Reformed Church Hall Whitworth, on the first Wednesday of the month from 1.15 pm for refreshments and notices followed by a monthly speaker.



Upcoming speakers are:

4th June 2025

Mark Llewellyn speaking about 'Cissie and Ada, my life with Roy Barraclough and Les Dawson',

2nd July 2025

Frank Rothwell speaking about Rowing the Atlantic single handed twice in his seventies

6th August 2025

James Ellison speaking about 'Living sustainable' – is it possible?

Whitworth u3a currently have an amazing 22 interest groups. For insurance purposes, only members can join Interest Groups. A summary of these groups can be found on this page, together with contact details for the group leaders. Lynne, their Groups Coordinator, can also be contacted on 07718 913131.

New members are welcome for an annual membership of £15 and £2 monthly meeting subs. Anyone interested may attend two meetings before joining. A full list of speakers, interest groups and contact details can be found on the FB page and website u3asites.org.uk/whitworth.

Group Leaders

Amblers

Lynne Hutton
07718 913131
Helen Illingworth
07860 314968

Art

Lindsay Fairhurst
07800 820096
Julie Latham
07801 306776

Birdwatching

George Scaife
07956 294775

Book Club

Helen Illingworth
07860 314968

Booklovers, Reading & Classics Modern Classics

Emma Flook
07815 862929
Julie Latham
07801 306776

Card Games

Brenda Garside
brendagarside@gmail.com

Craft Group

Meg Starkey
07778 017443

Creative Writing

Kay Grayson
07903 570008

Family History

David O'Reilly
07543 655956

Flower Arranging

Nina Gardner
07411 520771

Garden Inspiration

Pat Matson
01706 853691

Learning Italian Together

Meg Starkey
07778 017443

Luncheon Group

Margaret Croxon
07790891962

Philosophy

John & Shirley Hall
john@firefly.me.uk

Photography

Doreen Brown
07813 056481

Play Reading

Mary Cawley
01706 356109

Tap Dancing

Paula Bradbury
gpbradbury@outlook.com

Walking

Garry Bradbury
07486 009581

Wellbeing

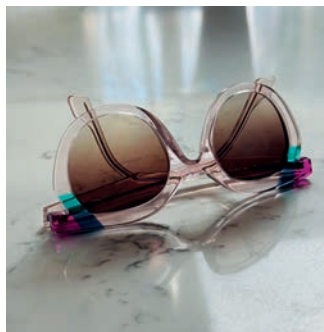
Sheila Daly
07762 757925

Ukulele

Deborah Whitham
07776 332666

PROTECT YOUR EYES AND ELEVATE YOUR LOOK

As the days get longer and the sun starts to shine brighter, many of us are already looking forward to summer - beach days, road trips, and outdoor adventures. But while we may be thinking about swimsuits and sunscreen, there's one crucial accessory that often gets overlooked: prescription sunglasses. If you wear glasses, investing in a high-quality pair of prescription sunglasses this summer could be one of the best decisions you make this year.



The sun's rays are at their strongest during the summer months, and exposure to UV radiation can be damaging to your eyes. Over time, prolonged exposure can lead to conditions such as cataracts, macular degeneration, and even skin cancer around the eyelids.

At Crowther Optometrists you'll enjoy expert guidance, a curated selection of high-quality frames, and personalised service to help you find your perfect pair. Prescription sunglasses not only protect your eyes and improve your vision, but they also enhance your style - giving you the perfect look for all your summer activities. Get in contact with one of their friendly team to book your eyewear styling appointment today.

PEAT

What is peat?

Peat is a soil type formed when plants die in wet and often acid conditions. In these conditions, plant material gets compressed but doesn't decompose.



Where is it found?

In naturally wet places like on Whitworth's moorlands. Our peatlands are called blanket bogs – wide expanses of peat covering large areas of ground.



Why we should protect our peat moors

Peatlands are critical for preventing and mitigating the effects of climate change, preserving biodiversity, recording the past, minimising flood risk, and ensuring safe drinking water. They are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store with more than twice the carbon stored in all the world's forests... and four times as much as in the atmosphere.

How can we protect them?

Follow The Countryside Code including:

- Take litter home.
- Keep dogs on leads. Bag and bin dog poo.
- No fires on open moorland.
- Don't block gates. Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths
- Care for nature – don't cause damage.

Did you know?

It takes 1000 years to form 1 metre of peat. Whitworth's blanket bog is globally rare and, with 13% of the world's blanket bog found in the UK, it's internationally important.

Joshua Law Traditional Family



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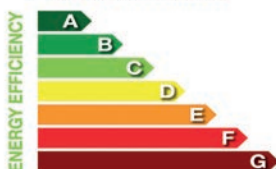
We can check if your property has an existing one and if it is valid

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Email ashworthenergy@sky.com

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- Power of Attorney - £400.00 + VAT per application plus an £82.00 registration fee.

We are offering a package of £700.00 + VAT when applying for both Power of Attorney applications. Please note that the £82.00 registration fee would still apply to each application.

APPOINTMENTS FOR ADVICE

Appointment fees start at £50.00 + VAT (£60.00).

CONVEYANCING FEES

- Property purchase or sale fees start at £600.00 + VAT and disbursements.
- Property remortgage or transfer fees start at £400.00 + VAT and disbursements.

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- Wills & Power of Attorney applications.
- Probate & Court of Protection applications.
- Civil litigation.
- Employment law.

If you have any questions or want to make an enquiry, please contact the office on 01706854167 or email info@rossendalelaw.co.uk.

LETTERS TO HEAVEN AT WHITWORTH CEMETERY

A new "Letters to Heaven" post box has been installed at Whitworth Cemetery. The beautiful new post box gives people the opportunity to write personal messages to those in heaven. Those experiencing grief may find solace in writing to their loved ones on special occasions and anniversaries. This can help some express their emotions in a way that sometimes cannot be spoken. It can also help those who may have left conversations unfinished.

The post box is managed by Whitworth Town Council and can be used by anyone. All posted letters will remain strictly unopened and will eventually be shredded and used for composting. The Letters to Heaven post box was kindly donated by Eternal Family Funerals, who are an independent family run funeral director on Market Street. Eternal Family Funerals offer a range of services from no fuss direct cremations to fully attended traditional family funerals. They operate a 24-hour service and can be contacted on 01706 538 968.



Councillor Gareth Baron, Mayor of Whitworth at the time of installation, opening the Letters to Heaven Post box with former Councillor Kim Olaolu along with Community Funeral Director Sam Hart from Eternal Family Funerals.

WHITWORTH MUSEUM

Coach Travel - In the days before foreign travel became commonplace, Whitworth residents would often take a motor coach tour for their annual holiday. The south coast was popular with resorts such as Torquay, Bournemouth and Ilfracombe being particularly so with Whitworth and Rochdale residents.

During the travel boom which followed the end of WW2, many booked holidays with the well established Yellowway Motor Services in Rochdale whose distinctive bright yellow liveried coaches were a common sight in Whitworth. A number of the local shops along the length of Market Street held booking agencies. Others used the local coach operator, Charles Holt & Son, based at Sunnyside Garage here in Whitworth. Holt's, a small company compared with Yellowway, was well known for the smart appearance of its coaches, none being smarter than the Bedford SB based Thomas Harrington Ltd, 'Europa' which, in 1959, took a party of Whitworth holidaymakers to the Scottish town of Dunoon. Over the years Holt's operated a number of Harrington bodied coaches including the Art Deco influenced 'Dorsal', a relatively ordinary coach from the 1930's but fitted with a large dorsal fin at the rear.

Whitworth Museum is open each Saturday from 11.00am – 4.00pm.



Motor coach operated by Charles Holt & Son

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

MAYOR'S OVERVIEW

Cllr Gareth Baron, Mayor of Whitworth 2024 - 2025

I have had a fantastic year as your Mayor and thoroughly enjoyed representing our Town. I have been very busy and have met some lovely people and have enjoyed attending the many events that I have been invited to. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me by attending or giving raffle prizes and donations for my fundraising events this year. We have certainly been busy and should have managed to raise a good amount, to give out to our local charities and community groups.

I couldn't have done it without the support of my wife & Mayoress and our local councillors so would like to thank them all for what they have done this year. I can honestly say I have learned a lot this year and enjoyed representing you – the great people of Whitworth. I will continue to support you all I can as a Town Councillor.

INITIATIVES

The Council is supported by **Town Clerk** Rachel Hodson, who works 30 hours a week as standard. The Council employs a **Parish Lengthsman**, Chris Rothwell, for general repairs and maintenance, including attending to Public Rights of Way, mending footpaths, fences and stiles and undertaking a multitude of jobs in and around the town. The Council also employs a full-time **Town Caretaker** position which is funded in part by Rossendale Borough Council. Glen Iloff, our Town Caretaker, litter-picks targeted sites the length and breadth of the town, and reports issues and problems to the Clerk. All three maintain healthy attendance sheets – a testament to their professionalism and commitment to the town.

The Town Council's **website**, www.whitworth.gov.uk, is well used and an asset to the Council. The site aims to be a one-stop-shop for Whitworth information for residents and visitors and is updated by the Town Clerk.

This year **Whitworth in Bloom** have racked up many hours preparing the various beds, boxes and baskets that they manage. Their areas include Healey Corner, Whitworth Library and the beds in front of Whitworth Medical Centre and the Co-op. They also continued to keep up a great job looking after the parks and areas around The Bug, Cowm Park Way North, the Fudge Factory, the Cemetery, Whitworth Memorial Gardens and at Britannia. They have also decorated around Whitworth ready for VE Day, re-spraying the bicycle at Britannia. Red, white and blue flowers have also been planted at the Tonacliffe banner frame site.

The Town Council-produced quarterly **Whitworth Valley News** magazine continues to be a very popular read, receiving editorial contributions from a wide variety of organisations and featuring 29 paying advertisers. It involves a significant amount of work for the Clerk but is very well received and ensures all in Whitworth are up to date with town news and developments. It is hand-delivered to all households by volunteers on behalf of the Sports Council.

The Town Council contributes towards the fight against crime with the continued sponsorship of the **Whitworth community police car**, which has proved invaluable to the local constabulary. This has been made possible by generous sponsorship towards the cost provided by **RRG Toyota Rochdale**.

The Town Council works in partnership with Rossendale and Lancashire Councils and other local organisations including Lancashire Police and Together Housing to provide the best possible services for the Whitworth community. To give examples, the Town Council facilitates monthly Multi-Agency meetings, where representatives of all the main agencies come together to tackle issues in the town. The Town Council continues to take a pro-active approach to tackling the issue of litter and uncollected dog-mess, supporting the legislative work undertaken by the Borough Council, and supporting volunteers by providing litter picking equipment.

The Town Council's **Tourism and Leisure Committee**, featuring councillor and non-councillor members, organises or part-organises many events annually – this past year's offers include the Rushcart, a Christmas craft workshop, First Aid courses, Santa Express and the New Year's Duck Race. Additionally, the Town Council itself is responsible for organising Whitworth's Remembrance Sunday commemorations and the Community Carol Service. All these events serve to preserve and strengthen the town's identity and provide a solid sense of community and civic pride.

Comprising town councillors and representatives of local sporting organisations, the **Whitworth Sports Council** continues to flourish, and plans for the 2025 annual Skyline walk are well under way.

TOWN TWINNING

Whitworth has been twinned with Kandel since 1966 and the friendship between the towns continues. Cllr Aldred and the rest of the committee are instrumental in keeping the twinning alive, and thanks are due to them for their continued work; if you wish to get involved with Town Twinning in Whitworth, please contact secretary/treasurer Steven Mitchell at sjmitch2609@hotmail.co.uk. A delegation from Kandel will visit Whitworth in September this year and Whitworth Town Council hope that all the delegation enjoy their visit there.

CONCLUSION

Whitworth Town Council continues to work to the best of its ability to serve its community. The quality of the council is monitored and ratified through the benchmark council awards scheme, and the feedback from the community is overwhelmingly positive. The Town Council strives to be as accessible as possible, with the magazine and website facilitating communications to the community, and the availability of the town clerk and councillors, along with the publicly attended council meetings, enabling a two-way communication with residents, organisations and businesses.

The Town Council works with local organisations and authorities to improve its offer and to enhance the lives of everyone in Whitworth, and to ensure that any issues or problems are monitored and dealt with swiftly. It is always looking for innovative ideas to tackle problems, and initiatives such as the support of the Whitworth police car and the partnership working with Rossendale Council on controlling dog mess are making a real and positive difference to daily lives.

On a lighter note, the Town Council continues to provide and support a range of fun, family events and initiatives throughout the year, encouraging community spirit and togetherness. There will, as always, be challenges and opportunities presented over the year ahead, but the Town Council is well equipped to deal with both.

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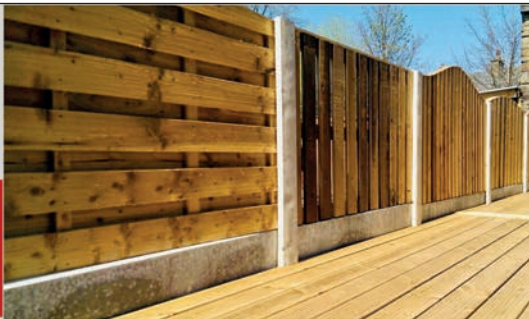
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THE ASHCROFT

50% Off Community Room Hire at The Ashcroft – Supporting Rossendale's Groups

Are you part of a local community group in Rossendale? The Ashcroft in Whitworth is proud to support local initiatives with an exclusive offer - 50% off room hire between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.



The Ashcroft offers a range of welcoming spaces ideal for meetings, workshops, and gatherings. Whether you're hosting a community forum or a social club, our versatile rooms - including the spacious Main Hall and the cosy Lounge - offer flexible layouts to suit your needs. The venue can accommodate up to 250 guests, with staff on site to provide support and ensure your event runs smoothly.

Located in the heart of Whitworth and surrounded by scenic grounds and a play park, The Ashcroft is more than a venue - it's a community hub where ideas grow and connections flourish. Free parking and a large on-site car park make it convenient and accessible for all.

To be eligible, groups must be based in Rossendale, provide a service to the local community, be not-for-profit and constituted, and be part of the Rossendale Connected mailing list.

To find out more or make a booking, email us at team@the-ashcroft.co.uk. Let's build a stronger Rossendale.

WHITWORTH MEN'S SHED

Working in conjunction with the 41st Rochdale (Whitworth) Scout group, the Shed is providing a number of part-made bird boxes which the Scouts themselves will complete as part of their Activity Badge scheme. The completed boxes will be installed at various locations around the Memorial Park.

In addition to its timber product range, which includes nest boxes, bat boxes, bird tables and novelty planters, the Shed offers a range of repair services for garden accessories such as seats and pet houses. Computer, phone and tablet repairs are also undertaken. Just call in or phone for details.

Concluding its current program of outings, Shed members recently visited to the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington near York. The weather was warm and dry, a positive when visiting a site of this type.

The Shed hosts two drop-in sessions each week, Wednesday morning and Friday morning. Both sessions run from 10.00am - 12.00noon and are open to all men aged 45 years and upwards. Just come along; newcomers are always welcome.

For more information about the activities of the Shed see the website, visit the Shed at 6 Milner Street, Whitworth, OL12 8RQ, or phone 07746 702389.



Shed members pictured at the Yorkshire Air Museum






Specialist Dementia Care Home

Overlooking the Rossendale Valley, our Willow Lane community provides a safe, secure and responsive environment for the effective care of people living with dementia. With relaxing décor, bespoke features and dedicated staff - we have created a community where our residents can feel at home, not in a home.

Our home offers:

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- ✓ 14 en-suite rooms
- ✓ Nurse call sensors
- ✓ Light assisted guidance
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- ✓ Communal areas
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Rochdale Training is a leading provider of vocational education and workforce development, supporting individuals and businesses for over 60 years. Rochdale Training offer apprenticeships, short courses, and tailored training to help both employed and unemployed people gain new skills and progress in their careers.

For jobseekers, Rochdale Training provides pre-employment support, CV workshops, and career guidance to build confidence and improve job prospects. Apprenticeships are available in sectors such as Engineering, Business, Childcare, Adult Care, and many more! All Apprenticeships offer hands-on experience and recognised qualifications.

For those already in work, Rochdale Training delivers bespoke workforce development programmes. Designed with local employers, these courses help upskill staff, close skills gaps, and support progression through leadership, management, and technical training.

With strong industry links and a commitment to community growth, Rochdale Training plays a vital role in shaping a skilled, adaptable workforce. Whether you're starting out or moving forward, Rochdale Training are ready to help you take the next step.

For further information on any of our courses visit our website www.rochdaletraining.co.uk or contact our Recruitment Team on 01706 631 417 or email us at recruitment@rochdaletraining.co.uk



WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND

The Whitworth Veterans joint concert with the Academy and Youth band continues to be successful, and this year saw the Roy Newsome Shield presented to Samuel Russell from the Youth Band.



Whitworth Band also competed at the North West Regional Championships and were awarded a fourth place in the first section. The result means that from January 2026 Whitworth Band will be contesting in the Championship section, for the first time in the band's history.

Future band bookings include:

- Sunday 1st June - Hare Hill Park (pm)
- Friday 13th June - Whit Friday, Saddleworth
- Sunday 22nd June - Concert - St Paul's Church, Ramsbottom (pm)
- Friday 27 June - Parkinson's Concert, Rochdale Golf club - 7.30pm
- Sunday 6th July - Outside Proms concert Whitworth - 2pm

More details will be announced closer to the events in the local social media groups.

If you, or anyone you know of, aged between 7-18 years, is interested in joining our youth bands, please call into the band club between 6 - 8.30pm on a Wednesday (Youth band night) for further information.

Alternatively, ring Michael Whitby on 852613 for more details.

PREMIER PET SITTERS CELEBRATES 8 YEARS OF BUSINESS!



Penny Dean, an RCVS qualified Veterinary Nurse, has lived in Whitworth for over 25 years and started her career at Wendy Lane's vets in Rochdale, where she qualified and became Head Nurse. She then married a member of the Armed Forces and moved to Germany, where she first started caring for servicemen's pets whilst they were away on deployment.

The next move was to Catterick Army Barracks in North Yorkshire, where Penny was Head Nurse at Skeldale Veterinary Practice, home of James Herriot and Channel 5's The Yorkshire Vet. "Working alongside Peter and Julian was an absolute dream - helping to birth a calf on a farm one minute, then back to the surgery assisting with a Caesarian on a Pug the next. There was never a dull moment!" Penny fondly recalls.

After 17 years teaching animal nursing at Hopwood Hall College, Penny opened her business offering a professional and caring service to the local community. "I absolutely love meeting new customers and caring for their pets whilst they're away on holiday; it's such a rewarding way to spend my time".

Penny can be contacted on 07956 634135 or www.facebook.com/premierpetsittersofwhitworth

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cjrothwell@hotmail.com
Tel: 07846 107 922
39 Rawstron Street, Whitworth

RLH GAS & PROPERTY SERVICES

Richard Lyon-Hayes - Gas Engineer
Servicing, installation & repairs, kitchen & bathroom
Tel: 07970 470 019 www.rlhg.co.uk
rlhgasandpropertieservices@yahoo.co.uk
GAS Safe registered 531279
33 Oak Street, Shawforth

SEAN BRADLEY

High power pressure washing paths & patio cleaning driveways
& tarmacking, decking & cobbles, graffiti removal, garden
stone walls, moss & algae removal, plus window cleaning
Tel: 01706 879 928 / 07773 798 078
Seanbrad09@gmail.com
28 Douglas Road, Bacup

ANDREW ROBINSON

Painting and Decorating
Tel: 01706 63979 / 07967 203 484
4 Meadow Head Avenue, Whitworth

PHIL JONES

Plumbing and Heating
LPG (Gas Safe REG)
Tel: 07976 886 926
pjplumbingandheating@yahoo.com
4 The Hedgerows, Whitworth

OPENREACH Window & UPVC Cleaning

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Jet Washing
Tel: 0800 617 679
openreach-wcs@tiscali.co.uk
www.openreach-wcs.co.uk
35 Westgate, Whitworth

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(within Whitworth Suncentre, 593 Market St, Whitworth)

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Covering all area of landscaping - fencing, decking, gates,
turfing, shed bases, paving, pergolas, artificial grass, hedge
cutting and garden maintenance
Tel: 07925 141783 charliedavidprice@gmail.com

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Tel: 01706 852341 / 07762382407
billingsley212@btinternet.com www.abat.co.uk

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info@whitworth.gov.uk

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

see pg 16
for the puzzle





Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL CRIMES ARE REPORTED

**PC SCOTT BENTLEY IS THE DEDICATED POLICE OFFICER FOR WHITWORTH,
YOU CAN CONTACT HIM ON 2973@LANCASHIRE.POLICE.UK**

**ALTERNATIVELY CONTACT COMMUNITY PCSO 7356 HEIDI KIRKBRIGHT
07790 970878 OR 7356@LANCASHIRE.POLICE.UK**

**ADDITIONALLY YOU CAN REPORT A NON-URGENT CRIME OR INCIDENT,
PLEASE DIAL 101 OR VISIT
WWW.LANCASHIRE.POLICE.UK/CONTACT-US/HOW-DO-I-REPORT-A-CRIME**

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 999

**SIGN UP TO "IN THE KNOW" TO RECEIVE ALERTS AROUND CRIME PATTERNS IN WHITWORTH
STAYINTHEKNOW.CO.UK/LANCASHIRETALKING**

Lancashire County Council:

0300 123 6701 (general enquiries)
www.lancashire.gov.uk

Highways 0300 123 6780

Email highways@lancashire.gov.uk
Out of hours social care emergencies
0300 123 6720

Rossendale Borough Council:

01706 217777 (council tax, bin collections
and other services)
0300 222 5944 (revenues and benefits)
0300 22 5946 (out of hours emergencies)
www.rossendale.gov.uk

The Lighthouse Community Foodshare:

551-553 Market Street, Whitworth
Tue & Thu (10am-4pm)
Sat (10am-3pm) by appointment only
lighthousefoodshare@gmail.com
07922 951 096

Together Housing:

0300 555 5556 (general enquiries)

Homestart:

01706 214621 / emma@homestartrbh.co.uk
www.home-start.org.uk

Carers Link Lancashire:

01254 387444
info@carereslink.net
www.eastlancscareres.org.uk

Citizens Advice Rossendale:

Financial, welfare and benefits advice
0300 456 2552
www.carh.org.uk

The Samaritans:

01706 830999
(Freephone) 0800 116 123

Universal Credit:

(Freephone) 0800 731 9344

Lancashire Volunteer Partnership:

Befriending service for people who want
someone to talk to
www.lancsvp.org.uk
07779 972114

Initial Response Service

0800 013 0707

For urgent or general mental health issues

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

FACIT & SHAWFORTH WARD

Tom Aldred (Labour): 01706 852183 • atomaldred@aol.com

Kim Blezard (Independent): 01706 852018 • cllr.k.blezard@whitworth.gov.uk

Louise Burton (Independent): 01706 852018 • cllrlouiseburton@gmail.com

David Chorlton (Independent): 07939 218266 • cllr.d.chorlton@whitworth.gov.uk

Sarah Rhodes (Independent): 07891 269998 cllrrhodes@outlook.com

Janet Whitehead (Independent): 07795 577647 • cllr.j.whitehead@whitworth.gov.uk

HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD

Gareth Baron (Independent): 07773 307669 • cllrbaron@gmail.com

Alan Neal (Community First): 07817 414721 • alanneal@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Julie Greenwood (Independent): 07396 724607 • cllr.j.greenwood@whitworth.gov.uk

Scott Smith (Conservative): 07891 695962 • cllr.s.smith@whitworth.gov.uk

Michael Whitworth (Community First): 07850 910321 • cllrmikewhitworth@gmail.com

WTC Councillor vacancy – please contact the Town Clerk for more details.

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

The Ashcroft, Market Street Whitworth, OL12 8DP

Contact: Rachel Hodson, Town Clerk

Tel: 01706 852018 • Email: info@whitworth.gov.uk • www.whitworth.gov.uk

Office hours: Mon–Fri 9.30am–2pm

FORTHCOMING WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

All the following Thursdays: 19th June, 17th July,
4th September (General Purposes Committee meeting).

All meetings are open to the public and take place at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber
See the website for details or contact the Town Clerk

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Councillor Alan Neal

Councillors Scott Smith
(contact details above)

RBC Councillor vacancy - please contact
RBC for more details.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Daniel Matchett

Contact details to follow

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Andy MacNae MP

andy.macnae.mp@parliament.uk
01706 489387 (Constituency Office)