

Whitworth VALLEY NEWS



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Whitworth
Town Council



Whitworth's Memorial Gardens achieves a Green Flag Award!

Full story on page 11

Plus – Stronger Together's Memory Garden,
Tourism and Leisure Committee updates and local news

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Whitworth Residents and Friends,

As I reflect on my first few months as Mayor of Whitworth, I'm filled with gratitude and pride for the warm welcome and support I've received from our wonderful community. It's been a busy and rewarding start to my term, and I've had the pleasure of attending a variety of events that truly showcase the spirit and heart of Whitworth.



From visiting the local Brownies and celebrating achievements at Whitworth Community High School's Awards Evening, to joining the Cancer Research fundraising meal, I've been inspired by the dedication and kindness of our residents. These moments remind me why Whitworth is such a special place to live and serve.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather, we had to cancel our "Meet the Mayor" and "Proms in the Park" event. However, we're hopeful to reschedule something soon with the band - so watch this space! We're excited for our upcoming Over 50s Halloween Party featuring entertainment from Zac and Terry, bingo, hot food and a raffle. Fancy dress is optional but there will be prizes available! Tickets are £10 per person and are selling fast. To purchase these see contact details below.

There's plenty more planned, including a Curry Night on 2nd October and a Christmas Quiz at the Cock and Magpie on 11th December, and to round off my year as Mayor, a Daytime Festival on Saturday 25th April - 80s Mayor Fest - that promises to be a fantastic celebration for all. Keep an eye out for details on social media, We'd love to see you there!

I've thoroughly enjoyed these first few months and remain committed to representing you all with enthusiasm and care. If you'd like more information about any upcoming events or wish to purchase tickets, please feel free to contact me at cllr.j.whitehead@whitworth.gov.uk or reach out to our Town Clerk, Rachel, at info@whitworth.gov.uk.

Thank you for your continued support - it's an honour to serve as your Mayor.

Warm regards,

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



WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BAND CLUB



Thanks to all who joined with the club in celebrating this year's rush bearing. A special thank you to all the performers who entertained over the week; hope to see back next year if not sooner.

The committee and staff were extremely pleased to be awarded CAMRA Club of the Year for the area, and the club continue to offer a great selection of cask beers from local and national brewers. The club hosts an open mic night on the last Wednesday of every month which includes a free pint for every performer.

The club has been happy to provide meeting room facilities for The Whitworth Leisure Centre team, Swimming Club, Whitworth Sports Council and Town Twinning Committee. Other local community groups are invited to use the committee room, just give us a ring.

On a similar note, fundraising activities are taking place in the near future with a Macmillan coffee morning 10am - 12noon on Friday 19th September. The Lighthouse Foodbank are holding a fundraising quiz on Saturday 27th September. Details are available on social media.

Following on from last year's Addams Family hosted extravaganza there will be a Halloween disco on Friday 31st October. The "bottomless brunch" in the summer was enjoyed by all and another is scheduled for Saturday 6th December.

The club staff and committee hope to see you on Remembrance Sunday and for "Carols in the Club" with the band on the last Sunday before Christmas

The club's Facebook and webpages provide updates on events and current beers on tap, including some changes to opening times for live football on TV. Remember the club normally opens at 5PM on Fridays and 3PM on Saturdays.

WHITWORTH RUSHCART PROCESSION



As the Whitworth Valley News was going to press, Whitworth's Tourism and Leisure Committee took the sad decision to cancel The Whitworth Rushcart. This decision was not taken lightly but the Committee considered that, out of respect to the much-loved Whitworth resident who had sadly passed away, the event had to be cancelled.

The Whitworth Rushcart is one of only four such celebrations which still take place in the United Kingdom. Whitworth's cart is unique in that it is the only one to be

covered in beautiful heather that is in bloom at this time of year, collected by the Whitworth Rushcart Men from the moors above Darwen before the event. Rushcarts in other areas are covered in rushes or tatters of cloth.

The Committee would still like to thank everyone who assisted with the organisation of the event, this event would not continue in the future without you! From the volunteers who sweep the car park before and after the event, to those volunteer marshals who ensure the Rushcart arrives safely at The Ashcroft.

2026 will be the 50th anniversary since the Whitworth Rushcart was revived. If you'd like to be part of the team that is hoping to make the 50th Rushcart the best one yet, please email info@whitworth.gov.uk or contact the Tourism and Leisure Committee of Whitworth via Facebook.

WHITWORTH SKYLINE

Skyline 10 happened as advertised in May (no postponement necessary this time!) with a record 643 walkers taking part, on a day which, thankfully, was not too hot, and featured a breeze up on the tops, making a challenging event a good day out – although the relentlessly hard ground made for a lot of blisters and sore joints back at the finish.

The new online entry system had its glitches, but by and large was a bonus. Thanks, as ever, to Lobden Golf Club for hosting us, and to the 50+ volunteers who flag, marshal, run checkpoints, cook and do all sorts in the background - and make the event what it is.



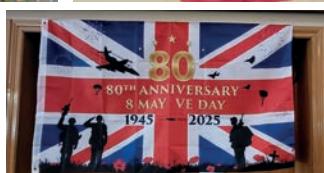
Chief organising duties for Skyline 11 in 2026 pass to Mr Christopher Rothwell.

WHITWORTH COMMEMORATES THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

Whitworth Town Council were proud to participate in the national VE Day celebratory events in May. At 9:30am on Thursday 8th May 2025, Cllr Gareth Baron, then Mayor of Whitworth, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, raised a commemorative flag. Whitworth's Annual Parish meeting took place at 7.30pm and provided complimentary VE Day themed refreshments. At 9.30pm that same day, a commemorative beacon was lit at the top of Brown Wardle, alongside other beacons across France and the United Kingdom as part of the International Tribute.

On Sunday 11th May, our Tourism and Leisure Committee hosted an extremely popular 80th anniversary celebratory event which also featured entertainment from Whitworth's own national champions, Whitworth Vale and Healey Brass Band, as well as Whitworth Community Choir, u3a's incredible ukulele band and Rossendale Drum Majorettes. Everyone at Whitworth Town Council would like to thank all the volunteers who took part in helping our town mark this incredible anniversary. We would also like to thank the fantastic members of Whitworth's Knit and Natter group who created special armed forces knitted heads to raise vital funds for Bancroft House in Burnley, who support homeless veterans.

Pictured are some of the beautiful knitted heads, our VE Day celebrations and a photo sent in from Steve Ashworth of his own VE Day themed celebration.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA!



Whitworth Town Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee have been getting in the Christmas spirit planning the Christmas Celebrations. Following the success of previous years' workshops, the volunteers have decided to do it all again!

The original wreath making idea was the brainchild of volunteer member Linda Parker to recycle the Christmas tree offcuts the group produce. The event takes place on Saturday 6th December at The Ashcroft from 10am until 3.30pm. Crafters can choose between learning the art of Ukrainian egg decorating (£10pp) or making their own Christmas crackers (£5pp) from 10am until 12pm and there will be the now-traditional wreath-making workshop (£20pp) from 1pm until 3:30pm.

Everything will be provided to make a Ukrainian decorated egg, and attendees can personalise their Christmas crackers by bringing their own gifts for inside the crackers if they wish. Traditional, natural materials will be provided for the wreaths, although attendees are welcome to bring along decorations to customise their wreaths to their own colour scheme. Guests will receive tea, coffee, juice and a mince pie and be entertained by Christmas tunes while they craft. The bar will also be open for those wanting to enjoy some traditional mulled wine or speciality coffee.

Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment! Please note that the Christmas cracker making is suitable from those aged 5 and above and Ukrainian egg decorating for those aged 12 and above. All under 16s will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

CHRISTMAS TREES ON BRACKETS



Whitworth's Tourism and Leisure Committee (TLC) are aiming to continue to extend the Christmas lights offer across the length of the town by installing Christmas trees to properties around Whitworth.

To spread the festive cheer throughout the town, the Committee are hoping that residents might consider displaying a Christmas tree on their property. The Committee can offer a 3ft to 4ft real Christmas tree plus a set of mains-powered festive lights either multi coloured or white, including installation and removal. We anticipate the cost will be £50 per tree and the trees will be installed in the last two weeks of November and will be taken away at the end of the festive season. The contractor will need to arrange access for the mains cable to be fed into the house for installation. If you want a Christmas tree but do not have a bracket, the TLC can supply one fitted for £25. There is a very limited supply of these which are sold strictly on a first come, first served basis.

To order your bracket and/or tree, please email whitworthxmastrees@gmail.com or order online at www.whitworth.gov.uk/shop. The last order for trees is the beginning of October so order now, while stocks last!

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Once again, the TLC have arranged for Father Christmas to take some time out from his very busy schedule to visit Whitworth and district in December. He will be sledding through the town in his custom-built 4-wheel drive sleigh on Saturday the 13th and Sunday the 14th of December, between 6 and 8pm.



His main route will be between Healey and Britannia. Due to the good behaviour of the boys and girls last year at Bacup Town Centre, the committee has agreed to make this extra stop once again. Santa will be calling at most of the residential areas of Whitworth as he travels around, driving slowly to allow families to wave as he passes by. It would be impossible to cover every single street, but the volunteers have worked hard to ensure that you won't have far to go to see him drive by.

Residents are encouraged to come out and meet Father Christmas as he makes short stops at allocated points and Santa's helpers will be handing out sweets at the allocated stops. The sleigh will also stop at local businesses, including The Birches, The Ashcroft and Lobden Golf Club. Check out the next issue of the Whitworth Valley News for the route and schedule.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON AND SANTA'S GROTTO

Step into the magic of Christmas this year at The Ashcroft on Sunday 23rd of November, to experience Santa's Grotto, a Christmas Light Switch on and a Christmas Market.

Bring the whole family and experience the wonder of the festive season. From 12:30-3:30pm at just £3 per child, children will be greeted by Santa himself in his cosy, winter wonderland. Children will be able to share their Christmas wishes, have a festive chat and don't forget to take a photo to capture the moment! Each child will receive a hand-picked present to take home with them, straight from the North Pole! There will be a post box available so children can either hand their letter to Santa himself or pop them in the post box for him to read later.



At 4:15pm, residents are invited to gather outside The Ashcroft to experience the magical evening of lighting up Whitworth at this most wonderful time of year!

Throughout these festive activities, between 12-4pm, there will also be a Christmas Market inside the Ashcroft.

To book your visit with Santa, either scan this QR code or book via the Whitworth Town Council website.



Barley View

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COMMUNITY LITTER PICK – VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Whitworth residents are being invited to roll up their sleeves and help make our town sparkle with a community litter pick.

Organised by local councillors, the event aims to bring people together to help clean up parks, pathways, and public spaces that we all enjoy. Whether you're a regular volunteer or just fancy lending a hand for an hour or two, everyone is welcome.

All equipment will be provided – just bring suitable footwear, weather-appropriate clothing, and plenty of enthusiasm!



If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please email Cllr Scott Smith at cllr.s.smith@whitworth.gov.uk

Let's work together to take pride in our community!

PEAT COMPETITION WINNERS

Environment and Wildlife Committee members, Sue Neilson and Kim Olaolu, delivered peat presentations in Whitworth's four primary schools in April when children were also invited to enter a Design a Peat Poster Competition. The winners are seen here after receiving prizes from the Mayor of Whitworth on 20th June in the Council Chamber. It was amazing that these children could recall lots of peat facts when the Mayor asked what they knew about peat. During the presentations in school, children learned that peat is an irreplaceable, non-renewable resource and local peatlands are some of the deepest and most valuable national assets. Our globally rare blanket bogs play a vital role in protecting Whitworth's communities and contribute to a healthier and more resilient environment by:

- improving flood resilience and water quality
- capturing and storing carbon
- having cooling effects on the climate by storing carbon and reflecting solar radiation naturally
- supporting and improving biodiversity, including many endangered species
- recording the past over millennia
- improving mental and physical health and wellbeing
- other economic benefits linked with eco-tourism



Every primary schoolchild in Whitworth also received a peat sticker as a memento and all agreed that peat was like a superhero protecting our planet.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Anybody up for a useful walk in November (and February, May and August)? Your favourite local magazine (aka WVN) is always looking for deliverers. Unpaid, of course, but your efforts will help support Whitworth Sports Council (and, all being well, the Sports Festival), and not too onerous – most rounds run to a little over 100 magazines. Please contact Jo Furtado 07813 180748 or jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk if interested.

WHITWORTH COMMUNITY GALLERIES

Whitworth Community Galleries have had something of a reboot this year, with a more permanent relocation into two of the corridors at the Leisure Centre supplementing arrangements at the Library.

The idea of the Galleries is to provide spaces for local individuals and community organisations to exhibit, providing over the months and years a rolling picture of various aspects of Whitworth life. The galleries sometimes house photography, sometimes artwork. They might

- record a local event (eg Rushcart, the rebuilding of the High School)
- celebrate achievement (eg school artwork, a club's significant anniversary) or success (reopening the Leisure Centre)
- present a simple display of beautiful work (individual or group artistry or photography)
- show off what an organisation does (eg U3A, Museum, Stronger Together Carers)
- help to recruit new members (eg Over the Tops walking group)
- advertise an upcoming annual event (eg Skyline)
- ... or, very often, be a mix of those things.

Lots of things in Whitworth are done for love. Not all of those things are appropriate for display – but, as the list above implies, a lot is. First step if you or your organisation are interested in exhibiting – contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 or jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk to talk things over, see what's involved/what help is available, and, who knows, book a date.

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY FOODSHARE



Art teacher Mrs Walsh with the students holding their own card - Mahnoor Fatima, Alfie Howard, Anastassia Matel and Lucia Clarke with Steve Gough from The Lighthouse Foodshare.

Artwork created by high school students has been turned into thank you cards which will be distributed by a food project. The Lighthouse Community Foodshare in Whitworth organised a competition with Art Teacher Mrs Walsh from Whitworth Community High School. Students from Year 7 to 9 were invited to submit pictures which had to include key items, like a lighthouse and also to reflect the seasons of Spring and Summer. Around 200 students took part and four of the designs were being picked as the best and made into cards.

Co-founder of The Lighthouse Steve Gough attended school to present Anastassia Matel, 12, Mahnoor Fatima, 12, Lucia Clarke, 12 and Alfie Howard, 14, with their finished cards.

Steve explained the history of the Lighthouse Foodshare, which launched in 2020, and how it works, and he also told the students their cards would be seen by people all over the country, as The Lighthouse supporters are not just local residents. He said: "We set up and within three weeks we had opened a shop and were helping more than 300 people."

The Lighthouse does not just provide food; it also offers school uniforms and electrical items and also signposts people who need additional help.

As a thank you to everyone who supports the charity in whatever way, cards are sent out, and now those cards have designs which were created by the students.

Art teacher Mrs Walsh was proud of the students' achievements and said: "I think they have done a beautiful job. We had so many designs to choose from - about 200 - and we came up with a shortlist of seven, with four being picked as winners."

WHITWORTH MEMORIAL GARDENS AWARDED GREEN FLAG STATUS

Whitworth Town Council are delighted that Whitworth Memorial Gardens have been awarded Green Flag status. The Green Flag Award recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces and sets a benchmark for the standard of outdoor spaces, acknowledging the hard work put in by the local community.

In 2011, refurbishment at the gardens began thanks to the dedication and hard work of Anita Farrow and the Whitworth and Healey Horticultural Society. With lottery grants and funding from Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and Whitworth Town Council as well as other organisations, a new stone area was provided for the town's well known brass band. A beautiful rose bed complete with David Austin roses was also planted and new railings were installed.



Today the Gardens are maintained by the Whitworth in Bloom volunteers, Rossendale Borough Council employees, and further enhanced by local community groups for all ages. The latest project taking place here is a collaboration between Whitworth Men in Sheds and 41st Rochdale (Whitworth) Scout group to make and install bird and bat boxes.

Pictured are Councillor Janet Whitehead (Mayor of Whitworth), Honorary Townsman Anita Farrow and the Whitworth community who help to maintain the beautiful space, together with RBC green spaces team. Thank you to everyone involved in maintaining the gardens; we are really pleased that your hard work has been recognised.

WHITWORTH SPORTS FESTIVAL

For a decade before Covid Whitworth had its own Sports Festival. Whitworth Sports Council is aiming to revive it next June - if there is support for it. Not just as in "That'd be a nice idea - wonder what they'll put on?" but more "What is there that I (or my club) could do to contribute?"



Sports Festival was a collective concern, with those of us passionate about sport coming together for a week to offer events to those who might, unaccountably, never have tried out our amazing pastime! Some groups might do that by putting on a taster event when, ideally for free, people could come along and have a go, at anything from angling or archery to yoga and Zumba. Or we might run a tournament, to encourage a little friendly competition. Sometimes the football club, for instance, would organize a junior tournament and invite other clubs along, and spectators with their children, who might be looking to join and play next season. The valley's primary schools would compete at all sorts - tag rugby, quick cricket, try golf, pop lacrosse. Some crazy cyclists organised a KOM event up Whitworth Rake.

If you could see yourself organising an event, please contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180 748 or jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk to start the ball rolling.

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MIKE ROYDS

In May 2025, WTC and Rossendale Borough Council councillor and past Mayor of Whitworth Mike Royds sadly passed away. He joined Whitworth Town Council in 2021 and, in just four years, worked hard to proudly represent the community of Whitworth.

He was elected Mayor of Whitworth in 2023, just days before Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) made the heartbreaking decision to close Whitworth Leisure Centre. He worked tirelessly in those first few mayoral months, meeting with representatives from RBC on numerous occasions and, together with an incredible group of local people who quickly formed Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC, brought the baths back into the ownership of the town in December 2023, culminating with it reopening to the public in February 2024. This wasn't the only issue that Mike had to deal with, but whatever he did turn his attention to received the same amount of professionalism and effort. He proudly drove the lead car for Whitworth's Santa Express at Christmas, guiding Santa around the town by putting his years of driving experience to great use.



This year, his daughter Kirstie will be taking over the role, in honour of her fantastic dad. Mike was a much-loved, incredibly well-respected member of Whitworth Town Council and we will all miss him greatly. Everyone here at WTC sends our best wishes to Glen and the rest of the family and to all of Mike's friends at this sad time.

Mike's daughter Kirstie has been fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Research by swimming the equivalent of the English Channel, but using the more local Whitworth Leisure Centre. She was proud that her first sponsor was Mike, just before he passed away, and she completed her swim on 26th July.

Donations can still be received for this challenge, please use the QR code which will take you to her Macmillan fundraising page should you wish to contribute.



WHITWORTH'S REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 10:20AM

On Sunday 9th November, Whitworth residents will gather to remember those lost and injured during times of conflict.

The town's Remembrance Sunday commemorations will begin with the procession which sets off from the former Town Council Offices (near the corner of Market Street and Tong Lane) at 10.20am. The procession route will be subject to a road closure for this short period of time and drivers are advised to avoid the area. The procession will arrive at Whitworth Memorial Gardens in Facit at approximately 10.40am and will be followed by a service of Remembrance around the Cenotaph, including a two-minute silence at 11am.



Following the Service of Remembrance, everyone is invited to join the Mayor for light, warm refreshments at The Ashcroft. This event can only continue with the help of volunteer marshals to assist with the road closure. If you know of any adults willing to help marshal the event, please contact Whitworth Town Council on info@whitworth.gov.uk or 01706 852018.

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:

1st October

Richard Lord speaking about 'A virtual tour of old Rochdale and Whitworth'.

5th November 2025

Fran Sandham speaking about his 'Solo Walk across Africa'.

3rd December 2025

'Christmas Showtime' by members of the u3a.

We have 22 Interest Groups currently and these are growing all the time. For insurance purposes, only members can join Interest Groups. Lynne, our Groups Coordinator, can be contacted on 07718913131.

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 for group leaders can be found on Whitworth u3a's FB page and website u3asites.org.uk/whitworth.

An advertisement for ESBP Agricultural Services. The top half features three images: a garden with a trampoline, a yellow oval logo with 'ESBP' in red, and a garden with a wooden deck. The bottom half contains text in white and red. The white text reads: 'LANDSCAPING, DRIVEWAYS, PATIOS, DECKING, FENCING, RENDERING, GARDEN WALLS, FLAGGING, BLOCK PAVING'. The red text reads: 'MOT TYPE 1, 20/40MM CLEAN STONE, GABION STONE, GRIT SAND, TURFING SOIL, GRADE A TOPSOIL, 6F2, 6F5, SLEEPERS, CEMENT, MUCK AWAY, MAN & MACHINE'. Below this is a large yellow phone number: '0161 710 2238'.

LANDSCAPING, DRIVEWAYS, PATIOS, DECKING, FENCING,
RENDERING, GARDEN WALLS, FLAGGING, BLOCK PAVING

MOT TYPE 1, 20/40MM CLEAN STONE, GABION STONE, GRIT SAND,
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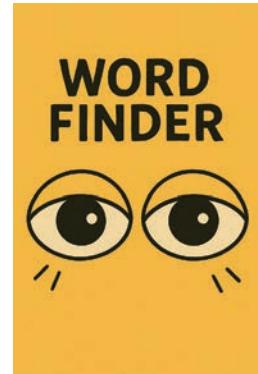


GOOD GRIEF, NO CROSSWORD! INTRODUCING WORDFINDER

Quite simply, how many words (of 3 or more letters) can you find using the letters of the 9-letter starter word?

Not many rules:

- No plurals ending in -s – so *oxen* and *mice* are ok, but *apes* and *frogs* are not
- No third-person verb forms ending in -s either, so *opens*, *shuts*, *flips*, *crashes* etc are off-limits
- Proper names – no... unless the name has a separate meaning e.g. *peter* (as in things that *peter* out)
- No acronyms – NASA, BBC etc
- English spellings, not American – no *honor*, *organize* etc
- You're given 9 letters to use. Each can be used only once per word of yours. So, if the starter word contains one *R*, you can't claim the word *RaRe* or *eaRlieR*



And two matters for your own judgement:

- Archaic English is ok, as long as you know what the word means e.g. (maybe) *ere*, as in *ere long* (before long)
- Foreign words? Ok if they're in accepted English parlance e.g. *banal*, *bistro*, *déjà vu*

These rules will not be printed in the next WVN (space!) so please memorise or photocopy.

After all of which, if you've got your pen handy... Starter word this time is **SPHERICAL**

Jot your words on a piece of paper, or on the blank bits of this page. 70 - good. 90 – very good. 100 – wow! 108 - chapeau! (And pat yourself on the back.)

PS Special features to look out for:

- Five homophone twosomes (words that sound the same but are spelled differently) e.g. *gate* and *gait*... and a threesome
- Two 7-letter words

100 words may take you a while, so here's one for your mid-morning coffee break.

ELEVENSES

Ignoring the word eleven, how close to 11 words can you get, using the same rules?

You might get to double the other number hiding in your snack.

(You can't have the obvious ex-England football manager, since... third rule. 3 possible answers end in -s, but without breaking first or second rule.)

WHITWORTH TOWN TWINNING COMMUNITY GROUP

As you drive through Whitworth you will see the boundary signs detailing that Whitworth is twinned with Kandel in Germany. The towns became twinned in 1966; at a ceremony in Kandel on the 6 August, the Twinning Charter was formally signed by the Chairman of the Whitworth Urban District Council, Councillor Frank W Walker, and the Burgermeister of Kandel, Herr Oskar Böhm. This tradition has continued and been reinvented post-covid into a social community group to promote our towns' similarities and growing friendships.



Whitworth
Town Council



Members host a delegation from Kandel every two years and members also get to visit Kandel on the opposite year. In 2024, group travelled to Kandel and incorporated visits to the Wine Country, the October festival in the town square, an amazing art installation in a Gas Station and a trip to the Black Forest Country. The group stay in family homes and have the opportunity to build alliances. Members have a monthly get together in the WVHB Band Club and plan fundraising events for when the Kandel Delegation comes to Whitworth. This all revolves around nice food, a drink or two and celebrating our lovely town. They are keen to involve local businesses, schools and to work alongside other community groups to ensure that we can continue to evolve the historical link with our German friends.

If you love travel, love our Whitworth community, and like to have a social event every month to look forward to, you are an ideal candidate to become a member. If you would like to know more and understand the process, please phone Helen Rendall on 07789 745049 or Nicola Chippendale on 07877 151325, or message the group's Facebook page 'Whitworth Town Twinning Community'.

WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND

Whitworth Academy and Youth Bands are on the lookout for new members.



We are looking for young people aged between 7 and 18, either a beginner or you already play and have brass lessons at school and would like to come and find out what we are all about. Please call into the band club between 6-8.30pm on a Wednesday (band night) for further information, or ring Michael Whitby on 852613 for more details.

In May, the senior band won the top section at Buxton contest and also secured the best soloist of the day - Ian Peters (Euphonium). The band were also awarded a selection of prizes at the Whit Friday contests in Saddleworth including two first prizes and two third prizes (in the first section) along with some high placings overall.

Future band bookings include:

- Saturday 18 October** - Rochdale Contest to be held at Wardle High School.
- Sunday 26 October** - Concert for Twinning Committee - 3pm - Halford
(Contact details: Nicola Chippendale 07877 151325)
- Sunday 9 November** - Remembrance Sunday - March followed by a concert in the band club
- Sunday 30 November** - St Paul's Ramsbottom, An Introduction to Christmas - 2pm



ANOTHER MAJOR MILESTONE FOR OUR LEISURE CENTRE - the gym is finally undergoing a full refurbishment!

For the first time in over 20 years, all the old gym equipment will be replaced with brand-new, modern machines. The full refurbishment is planned for the end of 2025 and will completely transform the space, giving members a massively improved workout experience.

This upgrade is the final piece of the puzzle. Since opening just over a year ago, the centre has already benefitted from several major improvements, including the installation of the air handling unit to the pool, plus the creation of the fitness studio, with the gym next in line for a makeover.

The team is really excited to bring this project to life and can't wait to share more details soon. It's been a long time coming, and it's a huge step forward for the centre and everyone who uses it.

Keep an eye out for updates - and get ready for a whole new gym experience later this year!

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

Seeking information on the current owner(s) of the land at 535 Market Street, OL12 8QW.

Please contact Labibah at 07308 991710.

INFORMATION REQUIRED



JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ASHCROFT

Starting Friday, 5th September, join us weekly from 10am–12noon for the **Friday Morning Social Club** - a relaxed and friendly get-together designed especially for older adults. For just £2.50, enjoy hot drinks, toast, gentle games, newspapers, music, and great conversation in our cosy lounge. No booking needed, simply drop in and enjoy.

And as the year rolls on, The Ashcroft is the place to be this Christmas season, offering a vibrant array of festive events for all to enjoy. Known for its welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect venue for making unforgettable memories with friends and family.

Start your celebrations at the **Christmas Market & Light Switch On**, a free event on Sunday 23rd November, 12noon–4pm, featuring stalls, Santa's Grotto, food, drink, music, and the magical light switch-on.

There's also plenty of festive fun for the little ones this Christmas season. **The Polar Express** will be shown on Sunday 7th December, with doors open 10am and film starting at 10.30am. Children's tickets are just £3, adults free. The **Children's Christmas Party** on Saturday 20th December, 11am–2pm, offers disco, games, a hot dog, reindeer food, a small gift and fun with Santa. Tickets: £6.50 per child, £4 per adult.

For adults, the **Barmy Bingo Christmas Special** takes place on Saturday 6th December. Doors open 7pm, first game 8pm, with live music from Sam Biggs. Early bird tickets are £6pp until 25th October, with Christmas jumpers and festive fancy dress encouraged.

Finally, bring in the New Year at the **Family New Year's Eve Party**. Doors open 7pm. On Wednesday 31st December, with music, DJ party games, hot food and a fantastic atmosphere. Tickets are £19.50pp adults, £14.50pp children. Book now at the-ashcroft.co.uk

WHAT'S COMING UP *At the Ashcroft*

October

Sunday 26th - Halloween Party

November

Sunday 23rd - Christmas Markets light switch on

December

Saturday 6th - Barmy Bingo Big Christmas Special

Sunday 7th - Christmas Film : The Polar Express

Saturday 20th - Christmas party

Wednesday 31st - NYE family party

FRIDAY MORNING social club

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For all information and to book please scan the QR Code 

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Whitworth's
Remembrance Sunday
Commemorations

Sunday 9th November 2025

10:20 Procession (corner of Tong Lane / Market Street)

10:40 Service of Remembrance at Memorial Gardens, Facit led by Rev Laura Brinicombe

Refreshments post-service
at The Ashcroft



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Friends of Whitworth Library

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!

... and newspapers and books, including audio and large print. There's information on a whole host of topics. You are guaranteed a welcome and support from the friendly library team. You can brush up your digital skills on the public computers, with free Wi-Fi and also print and photocopy too.

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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STRONGER TOGETHER

The amazing volunteers that make up Stronger Together Carers Group have been working tirelessly over the past few months to create The Whispering Winds Memory Garden.

Kath and Angela from Stronger Together had a vision to create a space to sit for their members and the local community. Many who support people with dementia are full time carers and many are bereaved. Kath and Angela both know firsthand how hard caring for a loved one can be and just to take a minute in a beautiful, serene space helps to bring comfort, peace and reflection.



The community of Whitworth came together to celebrate the official opening of Whispering Winds Memory Garden. The garden was unveiled on 18th August with families, friends, and supporters attending a special opening event, with Mrs Glen Royds, wife of former councillor and past Mayor of Whitworth Mike Royds who sadly passed away in May 2025.

Organisers said: "We are truly overwhelmed by the kindness and support we have received. Whispering Winds is more than a garden – it's a place where people can come to feel close to their loved ones, to find peace, and to know that their memories will always live on. This project has only been possible because of the generosity of our community."

The project was supported by Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund, CJ Landscapes, MA Contracting, Triad Fabrications, Orthoplastics Bacup, Howdens Bacup, Asda Rochdale, Dunelm Mill Rochdale, Nathan Whitehead (Graffiti Artist), uDigit, The Fudge Factory, and Whitworth Community Partnership.

Aimee Walker, Lynne Stocks, Kevin Smith and Edna Smith have been invaluable with their help throughout the project, so Kath and Angela would like to say a heartfelt thank you to them in particular.

Featured in the memory garden is a wall mounted memory tree provided by Triad Fabrications in which leaves can be sponsored in memory of a loved one. For just £20, each leaf is a heartfelt tribute, a lasting symbol of love, hope and remembrance.

For more information, please phone Stronger Together on 07827 292951 or email strongertogethercarers@gmail.com





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CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

An update on events since last magazine. The sponsored walk up the Big one in Blackpool in May by Gordon and Christine Brownlie raised £1951. Many thanks to Chris and Gordon for their bravery and to everyone who sponsored them. The Songs of Praise at Christ Church raised £460 - many thanks to John Keate for organising this. The golf tournament at Lobden in June raised £877 - again many thanks to all who supported and to Lobden for hosting, not forgetting Arnold's usual efficient organisation. A meal at the Rose and Bowl in July raised £1036 - again thanks to all who attended, provided raffle and auction prizes. Thanks also go to Carol and John and staff for another wonderful meal and to Michael for organising.



Upcoming events to raise funds for the committee include a golf tournament at Lobden on Sunday 14th Sept, a ladies afternoon tea on Sunday 28th Sept, a meal at The Swan, Bacup on Thursday 23rd October and a meal at The Rose and Bowl on Thursday 27th November.

The final event of the year will be the annual carol concert in conjunction with Whitworth Vale and Healey Band on Sunday 7th Dec at 3pm. Tickets are priced at £10 and will be available from November from Michael Whitby on number below. This is one of the committee's highlights of the year when a visiting scientist from The Patterson updates on recent developments and describes how the equipment that has been funded is used.

If anyone would like to attend any events, donate to Cancer Research UK, join the committee or have any questions about the work of the committee, please ring Michael Whitby 852613 or Elaine Bagshaw 853935.

ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE – SAVE OUR BEES



To help bees, providing bee-friendly flowers for food sources, allowing wild areas to flourish for nesting habitats, and reducing pesticide use are key steps.

Conservation Tips:

- **Plant for Pollinators** - Plant a variety of nectar- and pollen-rich flowers, shrubs, and trees in gardens to provide food sources all-year.
- **Create Wildflower Meadows** - Sow wildflower seeds, mimicking natural wildflower cycles. Include cornflowers, cowslips, and common poppies.
- **Reduce Pesticide Use** - Avoid pesticides; they can harm bees and other beneficial insects.
- **Allow Natural Growth** - Leave patches of garden to grow wild, providing nesting and feeding sites for bees.
- **Build Bee Hotels** - Provide artificial nesting sites by creating or purchasing bee hotels with different sized tubes.
- **Provide Water** - Offer shallow dishes of water with pebbles for bees to land on safely.
- **Minimise Grass Cutting** - Cut your grass less; leave cuttings to allow plants to flower and provide forage.
- **B-Lines** - Support initiatives like B-lines to connect areas of wildflower-rich habitats.
- **Educate** - Learn about bee conservation and share knowledge with others to raise awareness and encourage participation.
- **Consider Bee Health** - If you keep honeybees, avoid spreading diseases, ensuring no competition with wild bees for resources.



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FAMILY HUBS

Lancashire Family Hubs Network can help to find support for you and your family both in person and online. Support is available for all stages of family life, from pregnancy through to 19 years old or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Families can access a wide range of service at Family Hubs, such as;

- midwife and health visitor appointments
- groups for expectant mums and dads
- counselling for families
- baby feeding advice
- SEND support groups and advice



The Family Hub nearest to Whitworth is the Maden Family Hub, based in the Maden Centre, Bacup, Lancashire, OL12 9NZ.

A group specifically for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities started at the Maden Family Hub in September. **COLOURFUL FOOTSTEPS** will be running on Thursdays after school, 3:30-4:45pm, from 4th September until 23rd November. This is suitable for children aged 5-11 years (siblings welcome). No booking is required, just show up and join in with a relaxed session with emotion- and wellbeing- themed crafts, activities and workshops as well as free play fun and soft play. Snack and drinks available for after-school hunger!



WHITWORTH MORNING YOGA CLASSES

Yoga isn't just for people who can bend like pretzels or wear crystals around their neck without irony. It's for anyone who wants to move a little easier and feel a little lighter in body and mind. A regular practice can help reduce joint stiffness, improve posture and ease those aches that sneak in over time. Scientifically speaking, yoga has been proven to help regulate the body's stress response by lowering cortisol (the stress hormone), activating the parasympathetic nervous system (its rest-and-digest mode) and calming the mind through breath control and mindfulness. Move more, sleep better, worry less and feel just that little bit happier.

Suitable for all ages, genders, and levels of flexibility - even if your last workout was chasing the bus! These morning classes are designed to gently build mobility, strength, flexibility and peace of mind.



Tuesday and Friday 9.30am at Samba Dance & Fitness, 613 Market Street, Whitworth OL12 8DY. For more info or to book a class go to www.katierico.co.uk or contact Katie directly on 07969 213 968.

WHITWORTH MUSEUM



Smash 'Laughing Martian' storage tin.

From the collection - Many will be familiar with a food product that was regularly advertised on television from 1973 through until 1992; Cadbury's Smash. Although the product had been introduced by Cadbury's in the 1960s, it was not until the British advertising agency Boase Massimi Pollitt introduced the Smash Martians in 1973 that the product became incredibly popular. The nature of the advert changed several times over the years but the version probably best remembered is the 1974 "Laughing Martians". In this version the Martians poked fun at human kind for first peeling potatoes with metal knives, boiling them for 25 minutes before "smashing them to bits"; all this instead of using Smash potato granules. The conclusion was that humans were a "most primitive people".

The museum's Smash storage tin exhibit dates from the mid 1980s and is fitted with an electronic laughing device on the underside of the lid. The device was activated each time the tin was opened and the laugh continued for about 30 seconds. Perhaps surprisingly, even after 40 years, the device still works! **"For mash get Smash"**.

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

WHITWORTH MEN'S SHED

In addition to its 'drop-in' general craft and music sessions, the Shed soon hopes to introduce wood turning to its range of regular activities. These new sessions will take place on Thursday mornings from 10am and will initially allow members to try out this interesting and sometimes challenging craft. If it appeals to you, come along and give it a try.

The first in a new season of trips and visits by the group was to the East Lancs Railway at Bury. More trips are planned for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026. Contact us for details.

Demand for the Shed's range of regular garden products remains strong with bird tables and nest boxes being particularly so. These items are sometimes available from stock or, with the larger items, to order.

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.



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

ETERNAL CEREMONIES - Tina Hall

Celebrate, creating unique and bespoke ceremonies to celebrate all those special occasions.
Namings, Weddings and Funerals.
FB page - ETERNAL CEREMONIES
Tel: 07834 924 626
tinaann.hall@yahoo.com

MACLEOD PODIATRY

Bsc (Hons) qualified HCPC registered and fully insured podiatry service
Available for home visits or clinic appointments
Tel: 07728 723657 macleodpodiatry@hotmail.com
(within Whitworth Suncentre, 593 Market St, Whitworth)

CHARLIE PRICE GARDENING SERVICES

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

PHOTOGRAPH RESTORATION

We restore old or damaged photographs, remove or add items from photographs, improve poor photographs, provide prints from negatives and more!
Tel: 01706 852341 / 07762382407
Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/photographrestorationwhitworth>
Or email billingsley212@btinternet.com

**List your business for
£6.25 + VAT per edition!**

**01706 852018
info@whitworth.gov.uk**

This community magazine is produced by Whitworth Town Council. It is distributed to 4,000 properties in Whitworth four times a year.

Editorial content is carried free of charge; advertising rates can be provided upon request.

Whitworth Town Council cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of any information provided for submission by outside organisations, the quality of service offered by advertisers, or the content of adverts within the magazine.

RAMBLERS

**WELLBEING
WALKS**

Rossendale

The Market Street Café Walk

Every Tuesday at 1:00pm

**Starting point: The Ashcroft
Carpark, Market Street,
Whitworth, OL12 8DP**



**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.eastlancscarer.es.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

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

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:

4th September, 18th September, 16th October, 20th November

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)

Councillor Mackenzie Ritson

mackenzieritson@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Mobile - Phone number to follow

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Daniel Matchett

daniel.matchett@lancashire.gov.uk

Office - 01772 537129

Mobile - 07856 930912

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Andy MacNae MP

andy.macnae.mp@parliament.uk

01706 489387 (Constituency Office)