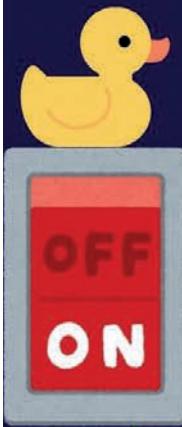


Whitworth VALLEY NEWS



PRODUCED BY
Whitworth
Town Council



Christmas Light Switch On

**Back by popular demand!
23rd November**

**including Santa's Grotto, a free face painter,
a free inflatable snowglobe and much more!
See page 4 for more details**



**Read about our other
upcoming events inside!**

**Christmas Craft Extravaganza - 6th December
Santa Express - 13th & 14th December
New Year's Day Duck Race - 1st January**

Facit Garden Centre



Christmas Trees

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Christmas
CRAFT DAY

SAT 6TH DEC



CHRISMTAS
BARMY BINGO

SAT 6TH DEC



FAMILY
FILM DAY

SUN 7TH DEC



Family
PARTY

TUES 20TH DEC

CHRISTMAS

at The Ashcroft



SCAN ME
for details & to book

FREE EVENT

Christmas
Markets

Sunday 23rd November



www.the-ashcroft.co.uk

@ team@the-ashcroft.co.uk

Whitworth, Civic Hall OL12 8DP



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Whitworth Residents and Friends,

It's been a busy and heartwarming few months here in Whitworth, filled with wonderful events and community spirit. I've had the pleasure of attending a variety of occasions - from our Town Twinning and Swimming Club exchange visits with our friends from Kandel, where I met some truly lovely people, to a delightful afternoon tea in support of Cancer Research and a fun-filled day at Lobden.

The WAMDS show at the Curtain Theatre was absolutely fantastic - what a talented group we have! Healey Church's lively 175th celebration was another highlight, with curry nights and Halloween parties adding to the festive atmosphere. And of course we have just marked Remembrance Sunday, when we came together and paid our respects to all those victims of war.



Councillor Janet Whitehead, Councillor Janet Emsley and representatives of Christ Church, Healey

However, amidst the joy and communal solemnity there was a moment of deep personal sorrow for us to face up to. I was devastated, as I know many of you were, to hear of the tragic loss of 12-year-old Brody. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends – our community stands with you in this difficult time.

*

Soon it will be full steam ahead into our festive season, with Christmas markets, carol concerts, and the magical light switch-on. I've thoroughly enjoyed representing Whitworth over the past few months and remain committed to doing so with enthusiasm and care. I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events, including the Christmas Market where I'll be running a Chocolotto stall, the Christmas Quiz at the Cock and Magpie, and the Speed Quiz in February at Lobden Golf Club. We also have a daytime festival planned for April - all helping to raise vital funds for our amazing local community groups run by dedicated volunteers.

For more information, please feel free to contact me at cllr.j.whitehead@whitworth.gov.uk, or reach out to Rachel or Abbie 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**

Mayor of Whitworth's

Thursday 11th
December 2025, at
The Cock and
Magpie, 8pm



Entry: £2.50pp (max
6 per team)
Contact Janet or
Marie to book your
place

With quizmaster Marie

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.

Throughout these festive activities, between 12-4pm, there will also be a Christmas Market inside the Ashcroft. This will also include a free inflatable snow globe on the stage for residents to take photos, a free face painter based in the lounge inside the Ashcroft, as well as outside catering on the small carpark with seating available and covered by marquees.

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!

We highly recommend booking your visit to Santa's Grotto in advance to avoid disappointment as spaces are limited. To book your visit, either scan this QR code or book via the Whitworth Town Council website.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the card colouring competition and congratulate those who won. All the entries that were submitted were impressive and the Mayor of Whitworth, Councillor Janet Whitehead had a difficult decision choosing the winners. Commiserations to those who were unsuccessful this year. However, there will be another chance to take part next year!



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.

Ukrainian Egg Decorating

Ages 12+ £10pp



Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult.

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
10am - 12 noon
The Ashcroft

Scan QR code or book via Whitworth Town Council's website.



Make your own Christmas Cracker

Ages 5+ £5pp



Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring your own xmas gift to fit inside

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
10am - 12 noon
The Ashcroft

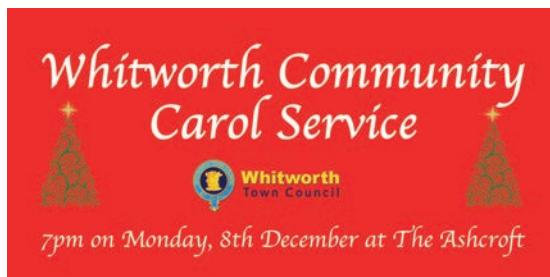
Scan QR code or book via Whitworth Town Council's website.



WHITWORTH COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

A highlight in the festive calendar is the Whitworth Community Carol Service. Last year's service saw the main hall at The Ashcroft filled with residents of all ages, enjoying the performances by local schools, Whitworth Community Choir and our award-winning Whitworth Vale and Healey Brass Band.

Taking place on Monday, 8th December at 7pm at The Ashcroft, this event is free for all residents to attend, and complimentary teas, coffees and mince pies will be available after the service. This year the service will be hosted by Reverend Laura Brinicombe, with readings from Whitworth Town Councillors. Please come along and enjoy the beautiful voices of Whitworth Community Choir, our incredible local school choirs and of course, the fantastic Whitworth Vale and Healey Brass Band. The night is guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit and is certainly a favourite event of all of us here at Whitworth Town Council.



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. Father Christmas is excited to see everyone out and waving this year and joining in the festivities. Anyone wanting to request a mention from Father Christmas on the night, please email whitworthtlc@gmail.com by Thursday 11th December and state which Santa stop you will be waiting at.

Unfortunately, because Santa's Elves want to visit as many kids on the night as possible, they are still working on the routes and deciding on stops. Please visit Whitworth Town Council's website for updates on the route.

SKYLINE 2026

Skyline 11 is booked in for Sunday 24th May 2026. It will be a clockwise route this time which is a trek up Rooley Moor Road. However, this means there is the option of the Skyline Sunday Stroll of 3 miles to the start of Rooley Moor Road or the Western Skyline ending after 9 miles at Britannia.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Christopher Rothwell on 07846 107922 or cjrothwell@hotmail.com. This is his first year taking over the reins from Jo Furtado and perhaps you all agree he has some pretty big boots to fill, so any support for him would be greatly appreciated.



DUCK RACE

Whitworth's Annual New Year's Day Duck Race has become an egg-citing success and a popular event in the Whitworth calendar. The ducks take to the water at Cowm Reservoir, Tong Lane on New Year's Day at 1pm.



For those unfamiliar with the concept, numbered ducks sponsored for a pound are entered into the Duck Race. The prize money this year is £150, £125 and £100 for first, second and third place ducks. Even the last duck wins £25!! You will find sponsor sheets in many of our local shops and businesses, or you can purchase online via Whitworth Town Council's website. Results will be announced at the end of the race, and the winners will be contacted to arrange distribution of prizes. You can sponsor as many ducks as you want with all proceeds raised going to community events in Whitworth. There are 2,500 ducks to be sponsored this year, however they are selling fast so get in early for a chance to win!

Hot drinks will be available to buy on the day from Charlie's Coffee, so come along and celebrate the New Year by supporting this incredibly popular event.

For more information regarding the Duck Race, visit the Tourism and Leisure Committee's page on Facebook.



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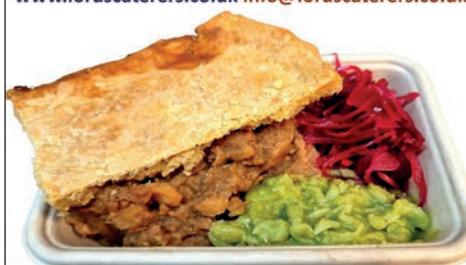
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LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY FOODSHARE

Community support for the work of the Lighthouse is a constant source of amazement for them. This year, they again received the Harvest Festival collections from almost all the schools and churches in Whitworth. This is hugely valued as it helps supply them through to the next influx of donations at Christmas.

The Lighthouse celebrated its fifth anniversary in September and during this time they have fulfilled around 17,500 appointments, mostly to local people. They remain entirely run by volunteers, all committed to providing food and more to people with the courage to ask for help. They currently have over 100 clients accessing their service, most with families. A record number even though they have had to turn some people away because they live further away than the 4-mile limit they had to impose this year. Sadly, there are no signs of the demand reducing and the challenge of operating their service is sometimes overwhelming. Though they have over 60 volunteers only 25 of them serve in the foodshare and of these a committee of 9 volunteers manage the service. More volunteers are desperately needed to continue operating into next year.



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 Halffold 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:

3rd December 2025

'Christmas Showtime' by members of the U3A

7th January 2026

Pam Wharton speaking on the 'History of Ellen Smiths'

4th February 2026

Ian Thomas from the Cyber Security Unit GMP speaking about On-line Safety

We have 22 Interest groups currently and growing all the time. For insurance purposes, only members can join Interest Groups. Helen, our Groups Coordinator can be contacted on 07860 314968

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.

HEART TO HEART PROJECT



The Heart to Heart project offers a support group for people who have witnessed a heart attack or cardiac arrest.

This project was introduced by Emma Carey, provided by Safer Rossendale. They offer free monthly sessions, where you can learn more about cardiac arrests, talk with trained peer supporters who understand what you've been through and access basic life support training.

The support sessions take place on the last Sunday of each month, excluding December, between 2:30pm to 4pm, at St Veronica's Church, 503, Helmshore Road, Rossendale, BB4 4JR.

For more information, contact Emma Carey on 07425 865504, or visit their Facebook page, Heart to Heart Support.



ROSSENDALE TEAM
Making Jesus Known



CHRISTMAS 2025 AT ST JOHN, FACIT & ST BARTHOLOMEW, WHITWORTH

Saturdays:

22nd November: St John's Coffee Morning & Christmas Fair at The Ashcroft, 10.30am

29th November: St Bartholomew's Christmas Market at Holt Mill Day Centre, Lloyd Street, 11am-4pm.

6th December: St Bartholomew's Christmas Wreath Making at Holt Mill Day Centre, Lloyd Street, 1pm. Please message them via their Facebook page to book a place:
www.facebook.com/stbartholomewwhitworth

13th December: St John's Carols at the Co-op, 10.30am outside Whitworth Co-op. We'll be collecting for Springhill Hospice.

Sundays:

7th December: Holy Communion at St John at 9.15am and at St Bartholomew at 11am

14th December: St John & St Bartholomew Family Carol Service at The Ashcroft, 10.30am - please do join us to sing all your favourite carols!

21st December: Morning Worship at St John at 9.15am and at St Bartholomew at 11am

Christmas Eve: Christmas Holy Communion service at St John's, 7pm

COME AND JOIN THEM - YOU WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME!

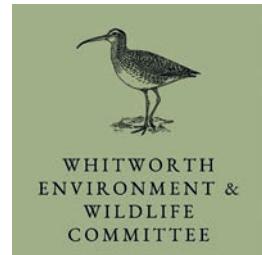
Contact Rev'd Janet O'Neill for further details on 01706 878954 or email janet.oneill@rossendalecofe.church



ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Owls

Whitworth's owl species, include the Tawny Owl, Barn Owl and Little Owl, live in various habitats including woodlands and moorlands.



Tawny Owl: This owl can be heard calling twit twoo, which is actually a male and female duet. They frequent wooded areas, including around workplaces.

Barn Owl: Recognisable by its heart-shaped white face, this owl hunts at dusk and dawn over grasslands and fields. Lancashire is a stronghold for this species.

Little Owl: This is a small, non-native owl. It often hunts from veteran trees along old hedgerows.

How we can protect owls

- Let hedges grow taller and leave some areas wild to support the small mammals that owls eat.
- Avoid using rat poison, as it can poison the owls that eat poisoned rodents. If you must use poison, get advice on wildlife-friendly options.
- Remove or secure soccer nets when not in use, especially at night, as they can entangle owls.
- Install owl nest boxes but ensure they are correctly sited.
- During construction or tree pruning, check for nests beforehand to avoid disturbing them.
- Object to rural developments that could damage owl habitats.



Tawny Owl

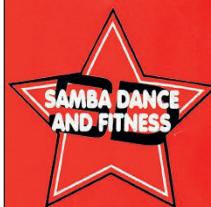


WHITWORTH COMMUNITY GALLERIES

Currently (until Nov 14th) the Leisure Centre Gallery has material from Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee, centred on the Rushcart and upcoming events. That will be followed (until Dec 5th) by an exhibition of photos from Whitworth Heritage Museum, featuring some of the many domestic items in their collection on North Street. Then, over the Christmas/New Year period it's over to Our Lady and St Anselm School, with Tonacliffe School taking up the baton on Jan. 9.

Meanwhile, at the Library, you've just time to catch Mike Burgess's splendid photos of Whitworth Wildlife 2024-25, with the three exhibitions listed above transferring from the Leisure Centre on those given dates.

If your local group, or you personally, would like to exhibit, please contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 or jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk. Some summer slots are still available.



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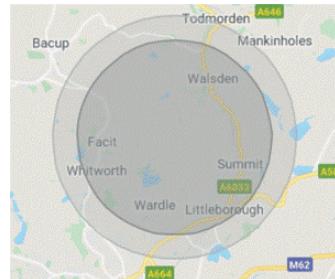


CROOK HILL COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Is your community group within the inner or outer circle?

Did you know that you could apply for a grant of between £250 and £10,000 from the Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund each year?

There is a single application round each year. The next closing date is 11 February 2026, midnight. Decisions will be announced by End April 2026. The fund is open to any community project which is for the benefit of residents of the local area and can provide both capital and revenue funding. Eligible organisations include voluntary and community groups, charities, schools and educational establishments and social enterprises and community interest companies.



Previous awardees that have been supported through the fund include, Whitworth Playgroup, who received £646 for a wooden playhouse, Whitworth Amateur Musical and Dramatic Society, who received £3,000 for upgrades and repairs to St John's Hall, and Whitworth Leisure Centre who received £7,253 for a studio and new gym equipment.

For more information, please visit the Grantscape website - grantscape.org.uk

HOMEWISE

REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS & ADAPTATIONS

Homewise is a registered charity which offers home improvement services to older and vulnerable people so they can live in a well maintained, safe and secure home. They have worked in Hyndburn for over 35 years, but they also offer services in the Ribble Valley and Rossendale. Homewise can support people through a range of practical help and advice. Some services they include are:

- Advice and information which offers help with larger repairs, improvements and adaptions, for example grants for appliances such as a new boiler.
- Memory matters services help people suffering from memory loss to remain in their own home for longer.
- Handyperson and small repairs help people stay on top of smaller jobs such as fitting light bulbs or building flat pack furniture.
- List of recommended contractors for help finding a quality tradesperson.

For more information, please visit homewiseeastlancs.co.uk, or contact them on 01254 232249 or info@homewisesociety.org.uk.

STUBBYLEE MOORLANDS JUNIOR PARKRUN

Stubbylee Moorland Junior Parkrun is a free, fun and friendly 2k run event for juniors, age 4 to 14.

It is held every Sunday at 9am and takes place at Stubbylee and Moorlands Parks, Stubbylee Lane, Bacup, OL13 9RQ. The course is marshalled so that juniors will be in sight of a marshal at all times. These events are entirely organised by volunteers.

To help please email stubbyleemoorlandsjuniors@parkrun.com.

WHITWORTH MUSEUM – FROM THE COLLECTION



Wilkinson Empire 7-Day Safety Razor

These days, most will use an electric razor or one of the many multi-blade types of 'wet' razor now on the market for the daily shave. But in about 1930, the Wilkinson Sword Company brought out its 'Empire 7-Day Safety Razor Set'. At that time, this was a significant development on the traditional cut-throat razor.

The Empire 7 was a safety razor with seven individually marked blades, one for each day of the week. The depth or cutting action of the blade could be adjusted and was designed to be 'stropped' to a super fine edge immediately before use. The earliest models were contained in a wooden box, but later a

metal box, offered in either silver or gilt was introduced. The lid of the box had art deco tooling and the interior was finished off with a felt and silk lining. A blue lining was deemed appropriate for the silver box with red for the gilt. As can be seen, the museum's exhibit has a gilt box with red lining.

Whitworth Museum, located in North Street, is open to the public each Saturday between 11.00am – 4.00pm throughout the year and at other times by appointment.

WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND



Whitworth Academy and Youth Bands are on the look out 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.

Once again it has been a busy quarter for Whitworth Band. Following on from the band's participation in the Remembrance service we held a concert at Hallfold Church in partnership with Whitworth Town Twinning Committee.

Concerts for the festive season include:

30th November - St Paul's Church, Ramsbottom - 2pm

7th December - Cancer Research Christmas Concert - The Ashcroft 3pm
(Contact Mr Whitby for ticket information - number given above)

8th December - Civic Carol service - The Ashcroft - 7pm

21st December - Carol service - The Band Club - 2pm

The band will also be out and about the local area with our usual carolling and street playing. This will be announced each week on the local social media sites.

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THE WORD PUZZLE PAGE

OLD ENGLISH RIDDLES...

Wordplay has been a human amusement for a long time.

A thousand years ago, in a time when few could write (so evidence of people's thought-processes is very thin) there was a tradition in this country of riddling. Some of these **Old English riddles** were written down by monks, and are preserved in a collection of a mere 131 pages of manuscript known as The Exeter Book.

This collection was bequeathed to Exeter Cathedral by Leofric, its first Bishop. He designated it as .i. mycel englisc boc be gehwilcum thingum on leothwisan geworht, which means "one large book in English about various subjects rendered in verse" – which is a truthful title, if not especially catchy.

Most of the poems are expressly religious, as you might expect, but amongst them are 95 riddles, only some of which could be described as religious – indeed some are downright rude.

Some of these riddles, like the ones we'll print in your WVN (modern English courtesy of a scholar called Kevin Crossley-Holland) are lovely meditations, full of wonder, on a range of human existence, hiding objects and experiences, sometimes special, sometimes everyday, in a concealing web of thought-provoking language. The test, as with any riddle, is to work out what's being described.

So, think yourself back a thousand years, to a time when most of us were peasants, working on the land, surrounded by the natural world, with fewer people, simple distractions, a hard, down-to-earth, very quiet life - except in times of war (think, Vikings).

Try this one, where the subject speaks for itself: it's not too difficult, given the hints above...

*I'm by nature solitary, scarred by iron and wounded by sword, weary of battle.
I often see the face of war, and fight hateful enemies – yet I hold no hope of
help being brought to me in battle before I'm cut to pieces and perish.
At the city wall sharp-edged swords, skilfully forged in the flame by smiths,
bite deeply into me. I must await an even more fearsome encounter – no
chance of me finding a physician on the battlefield, one of those men who
heal wounds with herbs.
My sword wounds gape wide, and wider - death blows are dealt me by day
and by night.*

... And **WORDFINDER**

Have you come across the very tasty COLIN the CATERPILLAR?

Try making words of 3 letters or more, using just the letters of each of those words. (Full rules in Autumn 2025 edition). Aim for 7 from COLIN (8 with a very Whitworth word): you might zoom past 100 from CATERPILLAR.



24 Day Reverse Advent Calendar

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21 November Tin of Fruit	22 November Tinned Soup	23 November Crisps or Nuts	24 November Gravy
25 November Tin of Baked Beans	26 November Pasta Sauce	27 November Tin of Carrots	28 November Chocolate
29 November Jam or honey	30 December Tin of Tuna or Meat	1 December Shower Gel or Soap	2 December Cake
3 December Bottle of Squash	4 December Tin of Peas	5 December Instant Mash	6 December Tin of Potatoes
7 December Biscuits	8 December Dry Pasta	9 December Packet of Stuffing	10 December A Gift item






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WHITWORTH MEMORIAL GARDENS

Everyone here at Whitworth Town Council would like to thank the amazing volunteers who, yet again, came together to ensure that Whitworth Memorial Gardens looked its best for this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations. As ever, it was great to see such a great attendance for the service, and we'd like to thank everyone involved in bringing the community together to rightly honour the men and women who gave so much for all of our futures.

The volunteers who make up Whitworth In Bloom, as well as maintaining the Memorial Gardens, also keep Whitworth looking blooming lovely at sites such as Whitworth Library, Whitworth Cemetery, Healey Corner and Britannia. They would however love new volunteers to come forward to help them with weeding and planting across Whitworth. Volunteers don't need any particular experience of gardening, just a willingness to get stuck in, and all tools and guidance will be provided. Volunteering is a great way of improving residents' physical and mental health and also helps people to achieve a real sense of pride in their community.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by contacting Cllr Janet Whitehead at cllr.j.whitehead@whitworth.gov.uk or by phoning 07795 577647 or by contacting the Town Council office by email at info@whitworth.gov.uk or by phoning 01706 852018.

WHITWORTH MEN'S SHED

As last year, the Shed will be represented at most of the Christmas community events and fairs taking place within the Valley. Look out for the Men's Shed stall and take a look at its range of festive products, many new for 2025. Also available will be the range of traditional garden products with demand for bird tables and nest boxes being particularly strong. These items are often available from stock or, in the case of the larger items, made to order.

Recently, the Shed's music group, consisting mainly of guitar players, has been in big demand with local organisations over the summer period and further 'gigs' have been booked for the festive season.

The Shed continues to be well supported by local businesses with some helping out with both materials and services.

The Shed hosts two drop-in sessions each week, Wednesday morning and Friday morning. Both sessions run from 10am - 12 noon 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.



Festive gifts available from Whitworth Shed

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Calling all Whitworth community groups! Whitworth Town Council allocates a small sum of money every year for not for profit/community groups. Capped at £350 per group per financial year, applications are welcome anytime by emailing info@whitworth.gov.uk.

All applications received are discussed by councillors at the next appropriate council meeting, with the funds being transferred within a couple of working days if approved.

For more information, please contact the Town Council office.

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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 fabulous activities at the library for everyone to enjoy this Autumn/Winter. All are FREE unless stated.

Mondays

10:00 - 10:45 **Fitsteps** exercise class followed by Pilates (£8.00) 07939 087122 (Jan) for info
14:00 - 16:00 **Knit and Natter** - all welcome!

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 - 5 years)
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
18:00 - 20:30 **Yoga, Pilates and Relaxation** Contact Sheila Daly for details (07762 757925) (£5.00 donation)

Thursdays

09:30 - 10.30 **Learn My Way** Computer class for beginners
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
14.00 - 15.00 **U3A Creative Writing** 1st Thursday of month. T. 07903 570008 (Kay) for info

Fridays

10:15 - 11:00 **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** (birth to 3 yrs)
14:00 - 15:30 **U3A Card Games** on 2nd Friday of month. T. 07860 314968 (Helen) for info.
15:30 - 16:30 **Teen Book Club** on last Friday of month. Come along to join!

Saturdays

10:30 - 12.30 **Lego Club** (ages 3+)
10:30 - 11.30 **Arts and Crafts** (children, all ages)

And of course, the library has books, lots of books, including audio and large print. You can brush up your digital skills on the public computers, with free Wi-Fi and 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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Model shown is MY23 Yaris Cross Design 1.5 VVT-i Auto FWD £26,655 including optional Metallic paint at £615. Prices correct at time of being published. Terms and conditions apply. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (Urban): combined 54.6 (122) - 62.8 (4.5). Combined CO₂ 117 - 126 g/km. Hybrid electric vehicle. Figures obtained using a combination of battery power and fuel. Figures provided for comparison purposes only. Actual fuel consumption, CO₂ and equivalent all-electric range figures may differ due to factors such as driving style, traffic, weather, road conditions and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are full WLTP figures. More information can be found by visiting: www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp.



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WHITWORTH LEISURE CENTRE NEWS!

It's finally here! Our gym refurbishment is now complete, with new flooring and state-of-the-art cardio and strength equipment, for a full body workout experience. We have two qualified, experienced gym instructors on site, so if you need any help - just ask! If you're a complete beginner, you can book in for an induction session, where one of our team will provide you with a fitness programme to get you going.

The gym is open from 6.30am - 9pm every weekday, with reduced hours at the weekend. Plus, we have a full programme of classes in our studio to suit all ages and abilities, and our supervised junior gym sessions will be coming soon. Gold Membership is only £36 a month, which gives you access to the gym, all classes and, of course, the pool. If you take out an annual membership, it's only £360, which gives you two months free - and we offer 10% off for over 60s, students and Blue Light card holders. The best place to see up-to-date information about classes and events is to check our Facebook page - Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC.



In other news, we have recently converted to charity status, so you'll soon see the CIC being dropped from our name - watch this space for some exciting new developments!

If you are a Co-op member and have the Co-op app, please vote for us! The Leisure Centre is one of three local causes included in the Co-op's current fundraising programme, and the more votes we get, the more money we could receive. We will be using any money raised to start a table tennis club at the centre - hopefully, something else for the community, young and old, to get involved in.

We look forward to seeing you soon!





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CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

The committee have been really busy recently. The Golf Tournament at Lobden raised £677 and the Afternoon Tea at the same venue raised £774. Many thanks to Arnold Ashworth for his organisation and to all who supported the events and donated raffle prizes, Carol for her talk regarding the work of TUSC and of course Lobden for their usual support. The meal at The Swan raised £1008, a fantastic amount for our first function there. Thanks to all who attended, donated prizes and to Shah and all staff for their support.

A small group from the committee visited the Paterson institute Cancer Research centre at the Christie to look at some of the work being undertaken with the equipment the monies raised goes towards funding. They were also advised of some of the excellent success with a new screening program that had ensured early detection of lung cancer.



The next event will be a meal at the Rose and Bowl on 27th November tickets £22 and this is followed by the Annual Carol Concert with Whitworth Band tickets priced £10. Tickets for both available from numbers below. At the concert the guest scientist from the Paterson will be presented with the cheque for £22,500 which has been raised for the latest piece of equipment. Those present will also be advised of the advances being made with the support from funds raised. Always an informative and interesting listen.



The group would like to thank everyone for their continued support this year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

If you would like to attend any event learn more about what the committee do or even join the group please contact Michael Whitby on 01706 852316 or Elaine Bagshaw on 01706 853935.

FLOOD HUB

As we move into the colder months and rainy days are ahead, it is important to stay informed and prepared for potential flooding. The Flood Hub help support communities to manage flood and coastal risk across the Northwest.



They provide in depth information regarding flooding and include resources to support householders, businesses and communities in becoming more flood resilient. Their information is signposted to enable you to more easily find all the information you need either within their content or by visiting one of their linked websites. Their website has been funded by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and is a joint initiative developed by Newground and supported by the Environment Agency, United Utilities, and the Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Strategic Flood Partnerships.

For more information, please visit thefloodhub.co.uk.



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CHRISTMAS AT THE ASHCROFT

The Ashcroft is set to sparkle this festive season with a fantastic line-up of events for all ages!

Kick off the celebrations at the Christmas Market & Light Switch-On on Sunday 23rd November, where you can browse a wonderful selection of stalls, enjoy festive food and drink, meet Santa, and watch Whitworth shine as the lights come on.



Get creative at the Christmas Craft Extravaganza on Saturday 6th December, returning by popular demand! Try your hand at wreath-making, cracker crafting, or Ukrainian egg decorating, while enjoying festive tunes, mince pies, and mulled wine.

For the little ones, the Festive Family Film Morning on Sunday 7th December offers a cosy Christmas cinema experience — the perfect excuse for pyjamas and hot chocolate, and adults go free! Then, join the fun at the Family Christmas Party on Tuesday 20th December, filled with disco games, dancing, and special gifts for every child.

And for the grown-ups, don't miss the Barmy Bingo Christmas Special on Saturday 6th December - a night of laughter, live music, and festive mayhem!

Celebrate the magic of Christmas at The Ashcroft - your home for festive fun in Whitworth. Find full details and booking info at the-ashcroft.co.uk/upcoming-events.



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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



Community Partnerships are informal groups bringing together local residents, community representatives, Borough and County Councillors, Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire Police and Together Housing. There are four Partnerships in Rossendale, covering Haslingden, Rawtenstall, Bacup, and Whitworth.

Their aim is to strengthen engagement and collaboration at a community level. Each area has its own character, challenges, and strong sense of identity, which guide the work of the Partnerships. They have successfully built local connections, influenced services, and created valued opportunities for networking and information sharing.

Each Partnership meets three times a year in an informal setting, chaired by a Borough Councillor. Meetings focus on discussion, updates, and agreed actions, with informal notes recorded. Local residents are welcome to attend their area's meetings. The next meeting in Whitworth is on 27th January at 6:30pm at Healey Care, Holt Mill, Lloyd Street, Whitworth. OL12 8AA.

Community Partnerships can give grants of up to £150 to local community and voluntary groups that can provide added value to the residents of the Borough.

For more information contact communityteam@rossendalebc.gov.uk

VALLEY THAI BOXING CLUB

Valley Thai Boxing Club attended the Unified World Martial Arts Championships held in Tuscany, Italy. Thousands of Martial Artists attended the event with thousands more attending to spectate.

Valley Thai took 7 young fighters to compete in this huge event which brings fighters from all disciplines together to compete for the chance to become World champions. The Valley Thai Students won all their fights with some even moving up age and weight categories to test their skills even more so.

In total Valley Thai came home with 15 Gold medals which is a record for a single club at the event.



Valley Thai Fighters who attended (Imogen Webster, Holly Webster, Harris Ashman, Amelia Clarke, Marcel Bourne, Keaton Taylor, Teddy O'Brien)

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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
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0300 22 5946 (out of hours emergencies)
www.rossendale.gov.uk

The Lighthouse Community Foodshare:

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Sat (10am-3pm) by appointment only
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Together Housing:

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Louise Burton (Independent): 01706 852018 • [clllouiseburton@gmail.com](mailto:cllrlouiseburton@gmail.com)

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

Sarah Rhodes (Independent): 07891 269998 [clrrhodes@outlook.com](mailto:cllrrhodes@outlook.com)

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

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Steven Butterworth (Reform UK): 01706 854402 - Redlionwhitworth@hotmail.co.uk

Alan Neal (Community First): 07817 414721 • cllr.a.neal@whitworth.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 • [cllmikewhitworth@gmail.com](mailto: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:

20th November, 4th December, 18th December, 15th January

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 - details to follow

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Daniel Matchett

daniel.matchett@lancashire.gov.uk

Office - 01772 537129

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Andy MacNae MP

andy.macnae.mp@parliament.uk

01706 489387 (Constituency Office)