

Issue 84 / AUTUMN 2026

Whitworth

VALLEY NEWS



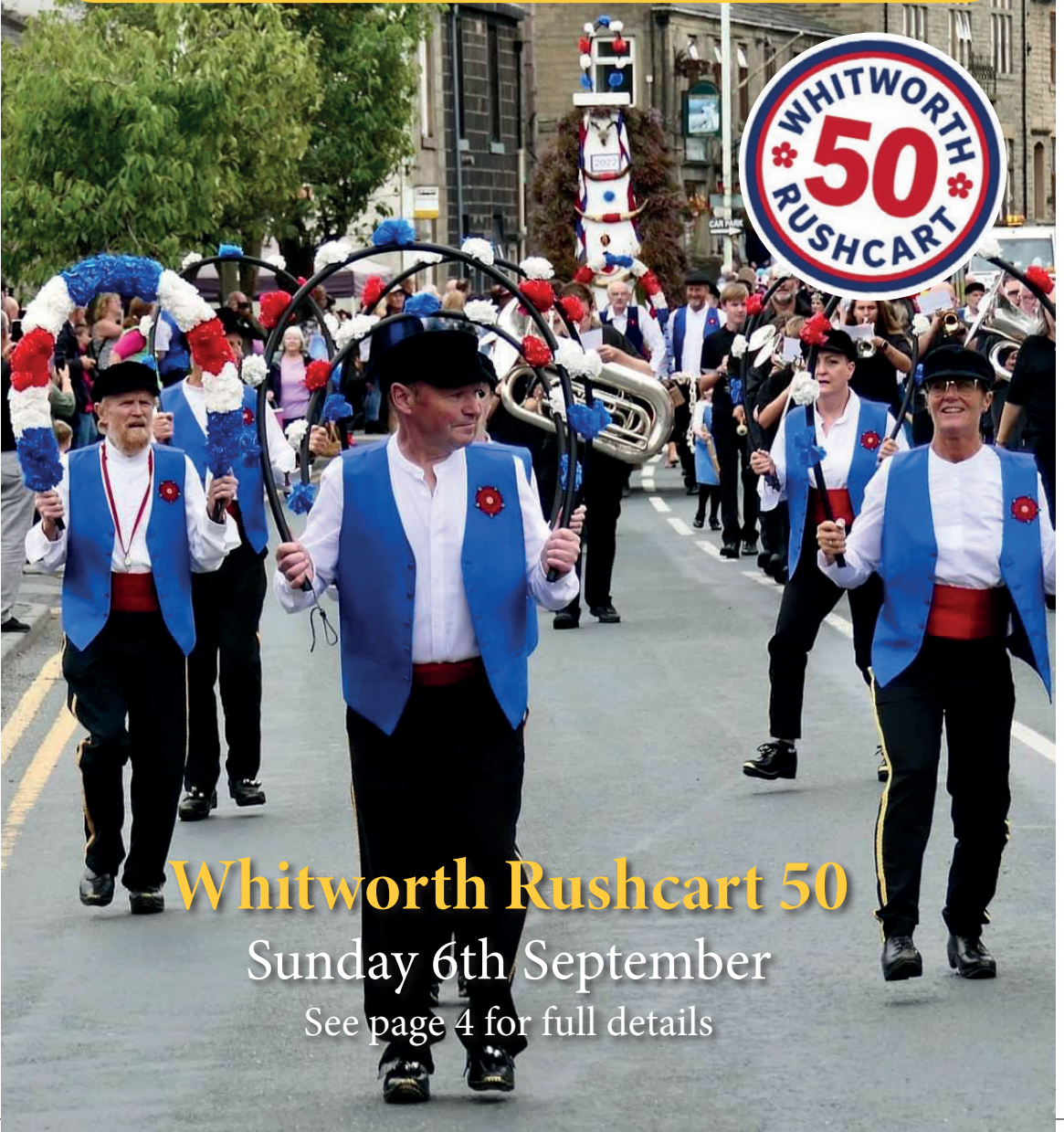
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Whitworth Rushcart 50

Sunday 6th September

See page 4 for full details





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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents of Whitworth,

It has been a wonderful and busy start to my year as Mayor, and I have already had the privilege of attending some truly memorable events across our community.

Some of my first highlights include starting the Whitworth Skyline Walk, attending the Rossendale Borough Council's Mayor Making as Councillor Liz McInnes became Mayor of Rossendale, supporting her charity event at Healey Dell Tearooms recently and also attending the Whitworth High School Awards. It was a pleasure to meet so many wonderful people and to see the generosity and community spirit that continues to make these occasions so special.

A very meaningful occasion recently was our Civic Sunday Service at Our Lady and St Anselm's Church, where Mass was given by Father Benjamin Garba (pictured). The service was a lovely opportunity to reflect on the importance of community and public service.



There is still so much to look forward to during my Mayoral year. I am particularly excited about the Rushcart on 6th September, which promises to be a fantastic community celebration. I would also be very grateful for any donations that could support the Mayor's Charity Stall at the Rushcart. Every contribution, however big or small, will help us raise valuable funds for the charities I am supporting during my year in office.

Looking further ahead, I am delighted to announce our Mayor's Charity Event on 31st October – The Vampires Masquerade Ball! This promises to be a wonderfully spooky night, with The Second performing and plenty of fun to be had. I hope as many of you as possible will join us for what is sure to be a memorable evening, while helping us raise much-needed funds for our chosen charities.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me so far. It is a real honour to serve as Mayor, and I look forward to meeting even more residents, attending community events and celebrating all that makes Whitworth so special.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Councillor Louise Burton
Mayor of Whitworth

THE MAYOR'S VAMPIRE MASQUERADE BALL

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER
THE ASHCROFT
7:30PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

ENTERTAINMENT BY **THE SECOND**
FOOD BY **BACUP BALTI** ADDITIONAL CHARGE
FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

ENTRY £10 TICKET

SCAN FOR TICKETS

WHITWORTH

TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE

WHITWORTH RUSHCART



The annual Whitworth Rushcart will take place on Sunday 6th September.

This year will be particularly special as it marks the 50th year since the event was revived. Our Tourism and Leisure Committee (TLC) would like to thank the Rushcart dancers and cart builders, the heather collectors and every other single person who gives up their time every year to put this incredible event on. It really does make Whitworth come alive for the day and brings a brilliant number of visitors to our lovely town.

As ever, once the parade has made its way from the top of North Street, down Market Street to The Ashcroft, a family fun day will take place with inflatables, ice creams, food by Wood Fired Pizza and Bacup Balti together with an array of stallholders both inside and outside the venue. The dance troupes will be centre stage outside, taking turns to perform on the car park and there will also be a free balloon modeller and free face painter providing fun for both the small (and big) kids of the community.

The TLC are also hoping to provide some free games on the Ashcroft car park (space depending) and as ever will be providing free craft activities on its stall.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Of course we'd welcome new volunteers to deliver a boxful of Whitworth Valley News. Next edition – November.

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WHITWORTH

TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE

UPCOMING TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE (TLC) EVENTS



To spread the Christmas cheer throughout the town, the TLC will be offering to fit brackets to display Christmas trees on the outside of properties as well as installing pre-lit Christmas trees from late November.

The committee has worked hard to keep the costs as low as possible and are continuing to charge £25 per bracket and £50 per tree. Anyone who has previously bought a bracket can sell theirs back to the TLC for £25, if they no longer wish to use it.

Please email whitworthxmastrees@gmail.com for more information.

Brackets and Christmas Trees are now available to be booked on the Town Council website. Please use the QR code on the page. The deadline for ordering brackets is mid-September, and trees are at the beginning of October. The committee appreciates this is very early, but it allows them the time to ensure everything runs to plan.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON AND SANTA'S GROTTO – SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER



The TLC were overwhelmed with the support last year of the return of the Christmas Light Switch On and Santa's Grotto event. They've extended the time of the event this year to allow for even more children to visit Santa and have made a few little adjustments to the event, based on feedback from residents last year. There will be free crafts for the little ones to do, and a free face painter as well. Plans are well underway for the event and check out the TLC's Facebook page for more information soon.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA! – SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER



The TLC really look forward to this event, and this year have added a phenomenal extra. As well as adding an additional session to their traditional wreath making workshop, they have also teamed up with Clay & Glaze to bring a fun new way to celebrate the festive period. Attendees can choose to decorate a bauble, Santa ornament, an 8 inch coupé plate, a mug or a gingerbread man. Bookings can be made via the QR code and Clay and Glaze have guaranteed that all items will be ready in time for Christmas, making them the perfect gift for family members and friends! The popular Christmas cracker workshop will be returning too, make as many as you can in 2 hours.

Due to phenomenal demand last year, there will be a small wreath making session in the morning, as well as the usual full hall session in the afternoon. Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN – SATURDAY 12th AND SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER

The fantastically popular Santa Express will return for a (probable) final year. The route is still being worked on, based on feedback from previous years, but Santa will make his way through the town over the weekend, spreading joy (and sweets) to the young people of the town. Please check the next edition of the Whitworth Valley News for more details.



THE ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY DUCK RACE – FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 2027

The TLC would like to thank Whitworth Leisure & Wellbeing Hub for training their ducks over the summer holidays, making sure they're in eggs-ellent form for the NYD race. They also hope that the Whitworth community enjoyed swimming with them in the pool and seeing that they really are all individually numbered for the race!



The committee hold an annual duck bingo night where all the numbers are checked by their volunteers and so if any did escape over the summer, replacements will be brought in to take on the challenge.

Ducks can be sponsored all year round using the QR code here.



WHITWORTH MUSEUM

In addition to its collection of objects, Whitworth Museum holds a wealth of documents relating to village life.

Originally part of the ancient parish of Rochdale which was itself within the Salford Hundred of Lancashire, Whitworth was granted the authority to set up a Local Board in 1874. This followed relatively rapid industrial growth resulting from improved road and tram links with other towns and districts in the locality but most significant was the construction of the railway, initially forming a link to Rochdale, but eventually running through to Bacup. Whitworth became fully independent from Rochdale in 1894 when the Local Board was superseded by the Urban District Council. The first meeting of the Council took place on 3rd January 1895.

Returns of Deaths.					
Whitworth Urban District Council.					
Name	Sex	Age	Cause of Death	Date	Place of Birth
John Thomas	M	75	Heart Disease	1896	Whitworth
John Thomas	M	75	Heart Disease	1896	Whitworth
John Thomas	M	75	Heart Disease	1896	Whitworth
John Thomas	M	75	Heart Disease	1896	Whitworth
John Thomas	M	75	Heart Disease	1896	Whitworth
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John Thomas	M	75	Heart Disease	1896	Whitworth

An original return of deaths from September 1896.

Although many records were lost during government reorganisation in 1974, a large number of documents, including the minutes of Whitworth Council meetings were saved from destruction. These, along with official returns of births and deaths, are held within the museum's extensive archive. Unusually, also held in the archive are documents relating to the many evacuees who came to Whitworth in World War II.

Whitworth Museum is open each Saturday from 11am – 4pm and at other times by appointment.

WHITWORTH'S REMEMBRANCE - SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 10:20am

On Sunday 8th 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.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE ASHCROFT



This year marks a very special milestone as The Ashcroft celebrates 20 years at the heart of the Whitworth community. Over the past two decades, we've welcomed generations of local families, hosted countless celebrations, and created memories that will last a lifetime.

To celebrate this incredible achievement, we're inviting everyone to share their favourite Ashcroft memories. Whether you have old photographs from special events, stories from memorable nights out, or kind words about your experiences with us, we'd love to

hear from you. Your memories will help us celebrate the people and moments that have made The Ashcroft such a special place over the last 20 years.

Our anniversary celebrations will take place over a fantastic weekend of entertainment, beginning on Friday 16th October with Barmy Bingo, followed by Whitworth's Got Talent – Meet Stars in Your Eyes on Saturday 17th October. The celebrations continue on Sunday 18th October with our Family Halloween Party. Entry to each event is just £2, making it a great opportunity for everyone to join in the fun.

Full details on how to share your memories, along with information about all of our anniversary events, can be found at www.the-ashcroft.co.uk

We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with our wonderful community.

FREE 'NO FEAR' SESSION

A free 2 hour 'No Fear' session to learn/refresh your CPR skills and practice with a training defibrillator takes place at The Ashcroft on Thursday 17th September 7-9pm.

Run by Rossendale Community First Responders, please take this opportunity to attend.

Please book on using the QR Code. Two hours well spent!





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PARTY ON THE PITCH – WHITWORTH VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Get ready for an unforgettable day of live music, family fun, great food and fantastic entertainment at Party on the Pitch, taking place on Saturday 5th September at Whitworth Valley FC Ground!

Bring your friends and family along for an event packed with incredible local talent and a vibrant festival atmosphere. The live music line-up features artists Pub Lunch, Lareena, Sam Biggs, and Pickeaters, building up to an electrifying headline performance from Boomin, guaranteed to get the crowd singing and dancing into the evening.

There's plenty for families and younger visitors to enjoy throughout the day, including face painting, a huge 100ft inflatable assault course, and appearances from a selection of popular character mascots, including Rumi from K-Pop Demon Hunters, creating memorable photo opportunities for children and fans alike.

When the live stage winds down, the party continues with a spectacular Silent Disco, where DJs Owen Bromley and David Reader will be spinning crowd favourites and dancefloor classics through the headphones. Choose your channel, hit the dancefloor and enjoy a unique party experience under the stars.

No festival is complete without amazing food, and Party on the Pitch has something to satisfy every appetite. Enjoy delicious offerings from Spartan Scran, authentic flavours from Noos Thai, freshly prepared Woodfired Pizza, and a tempting selection of sweet desserts for those with a sweet tooth plus a licensed bar.

Party on the Pitch promises a fantastic day and night of entertainment for all. Don't miss out and be the ones looking at other people's photos and videos! Book now to avoid disappointment.



AQUA TAI CHI AT WHITWORTH LEISURE & WELLBEING HUB

Start the Week Feeling Great with Aqua Tai Chi. Looking for a gentle way to improve your wellbeing, mobility and fitness? Lighthouse Aqua Tai Chi© takes place every Monday at 10.30am at Whitworth Leisure & Wellbeing Hub.

Combining the mindful movements of traditional Tai Chi and Qigong with the benefits of warm-water exercise, these relaxed, low-impact sessions can help improve balance, coordination, strength and mobility, while reducing stress and strain on the joints. Sessions are friendly, fun and non-competitive, with experienced instructors providing encouragement and support. You don't need to be fit or able to swim, and beginners are welcome to join at any time.

Aqua Tai Chi can be particularly beneficial for people experiencing joint pain, back problems, balance or mobility difficulties, or those returning to exercise following injury or surgery. It's also a wonderful opportunity to relax, build confidence and meet new people.

Lighthouse Aqua Tai Chi was created by Helena and David in 2010 to make the benefits of Tai Chi and Qigong accessible to those who may struggle with land-based classes. Why not come along and give it a try? You'll be made very welcome.

Please consult your GP or healthcare professional before starting any new exercise programme, particularly following surgery.

CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE



The sponsored walk held at Morecambe Bay Sands on 10th May was a huge success. Monies are still trickling in and at the moment the figure stands at just over £4,500. Thank you to all who took part, all who sponsored walkers and especially to Sue Bayley who organised and coordinated.

The Songs of Praise held at Christ Church Healey raised £513. Thank you again to all who attended and to John Keate for organisation.

The meal at the Swan Bacup in July raised the magnificent amount of £1,274 - a record for the committee's restaurant meals. Huge thanks to Shah and staff for their generosity and support, and thanks also to everyone who attended and provided prizes.

Unfortunately, the Golf Tournament at Lobden in June had to be cancelled and has been rearranged for Sunday 13th September.

The Annual Ladies Afternoon Tea will be held at Lobden on Sunday 27th September. Tickets are priced at £20 and are usually in great demand (it was sold out last year). Please contact the committee on the numbers below to reserve a place.

The committee are hopeful that there will be further meals at The Rose and Bowl and The Swan before Christmas, keep an eye out on social media.

An early notification for diaries - the Annual Carol concert with Whitworth Band will take place on Sunday 6th Dec at 6pm at the Ashcroft. Tickets will be on sale from November.

If you would like to attend any events, make a donation or find out more about the committee, please contact Michael Whitby on 852613 or Elaine Bagshaw 853935.

WHITWORTH MEN'S SHED

The Men's Shed movement originated in Australia in the early 1980s and is seen as providing a way to improve the health and wellbeing of older men. Whilst the movement is very active in many parts of the UK, The Whitworth branch, although a member of the national association, is unusual in that it is fully independent and self governing.

There is a steady stream of tools and equipment donated by members of the public. Some are retained for use within the workshop, others sold on to raise funds. If you are need of small hand-tools, call into the Shed to see what's on offer. Stock is changing all the time. Recently, the Shed has been able to offer a tool sharpening service, mainly for garden and woodworking tools.

The Shed hosts two drop-in sessions each week, Wednesday morning and Friday morning. Both sessions run from 10am - 12noon and are open to all men aged 45 years and over. Just come along and find out what activities we have to offer; 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.



Just a few of the tools on offer at WMS

THE ASHCROFT IS *Celebrating it's* 20TH *Anniversary*

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OCT**

*Barmy
Bingo!*



**SAT 17
OCT**

★ ★ **WHITWORTH'S
GOT TALENT** ★ ★
MEETS STARS IN YOUR EYES

**SUN 18
OCT**

**FAMILY HALLOWEEN
PARTY**



FRI 16TH - SUN 18TH OCTOBER

For more info
THE-ASHCROFT.CO.UK

 www.the-ashcroft.co.uk  team@the-ashcroft.co.uk  Whitworth, Civic Hall OL12 8DP   

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY FOODSHARE



This edition's Lighthouse Community Foodshare article is a little different from the norm. Whilst the Lighthouse continues to do its amazing work of providing much needed support to members of the community who are struggling to afford food to feed their families; Whitworth Town Council wanted to shine the light on one of their volunteers.

Anyone who has attended the Lighthouse will have met Steve Gough at some point. He is one of the hard-working members of the management committee for The Lighthouse Community Foodshare and is regularly on the front desk there, meeting and greeting its clients with a cheery smile and instantly putting them at ease. Earlier this year, he was awarded Man of the Year 2026 in the Pride of Rossendale Awards by Rossendale Hospice. Steve hasn't publicised this but we thought the community should know all about it.

Pictured is Steve with his well-deserved award. He's taking a little break from his Lighthouse duties at the moment but please congratulate him next time you see him. Steve (and the other members of the Lighthouse team) don't put in all their volunteer hours for glory; they do it because they care about their community and want to support those who need a little bit of help from time to time. However, being presented with community awards allows the hard work they do to be highlighted and rightly so. Well done Steve.

THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST ANSELM - BACUP AND WHITWORTH



St Anselm's Catholic Church in Whitworth and St Mary's Catholic Church in Bacup joined together into one Parish under one Priest in 2009. Both churches have their own historical backgrounds, up to that amalgamation.

After 2009 it was renamed 'The Parish of St Mary and St Anselm, Bacup and Whitworth'.

Many of you knew Father Chris McGrane, Parish Priest from 2018-2026, who recently retired. There was a wonderful evening celebrating Fr Chris's 25th Anniversary and Retirement and they also joined together to celebrate Mass to welcome their new Parish Priest - Fr Benjamin.

Fr. Benjamin Usakule Garba is a Catholic priest ordained in the Diocese of Bauchi, Nigeria, currently serving in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford, UK. Born in Jambiri Village, Bauchi State, he made history as the first Karai-Karai priest. He is also an author, known for his play *Arrows of Love* (2021) and the poetry collections *Whispers from the Sahel* (2024) and *Musings in the UK* (2026).

Prior to his appointment at St Anselm's, he ministered at the Good Samaritan Parish in Burnley. You can find out more information and Mass times on:

Website - stmarystanselms.co.uk

Facebook - The Parish of St Mary and St Anselm Whitworth

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THE WORD PUZZLE PAGE

Here's your next **OLD ENGLISH RIDDLE**. As ever, think yourself back a thousand years, to a time before mechanisation, to a land of lords and servants – and look at the unusual nature of the relationship between this servant and his (or her) lord. Who is this narrator?

I keep my snout to the ground; I burrow deep into the earth, and churn it as I go, guided by the grey foe of the forest and by my lord, my stooping owner, who steps behind me; he drives me over the field, supports and pushes me, broadcasts in my wake. Brought from the wood, borne on a waggon, then skilfully bound, I travel onward. I have many scars.

There's green on one flank, wherever I go, on the other my tracks – black, unmistakable. A sharp weapon, rammed through my spine, hangs beneath me; another, on my head, firm and pointing forward, falls on one side so I can tear the earth with my teeth – if my lord, behind me, serves me rightly.

WORD FINDER



And **WORDFINDER**. Full rules are in the Autumn 2025 edition, but essentially, how many words of 3 letters or more can you make out of the letters of the key word? No plurals (even though this word ends in -s: on the other hand this word contains two ts, so your words can too. For all other letters it's just one each.

Your key word – taking a necessary break from anything football-related – is **ATHLETICS**.

50 words – solid 65 – good 75 – very good 83 – star! (If you can get there without the obvious two rude ones).

There are 3 archaic words in there. And in your total, have you found 6x6 letter words and 6x7 letter words?

For your **Quickie/Coffee-Break Challenge**, try this key word: **SPRINT**. Same rules.

12 words – solid 14 – good 16 – very good 17 – wow!

Extra challenge over the second biscuit: change the key word to **SPRINTER**.

Aim to double your score: if you can get to 38 you're in Usain Bolt territory.

Happy puzzling.

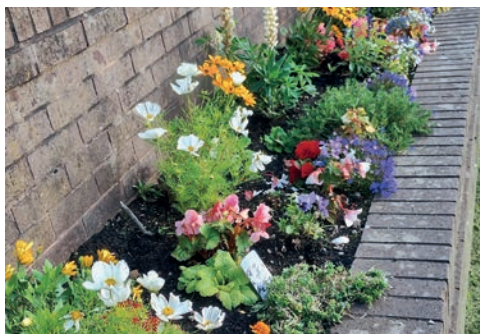
WHITWORTH BLOOMERS – KEEPING WHITWORTH BLOOMING

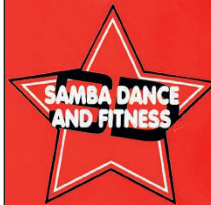
The Whitworth Bloomers have once again been hard at work, giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to help keep our town looking at its very best. From the beautiful Memorial Gardens and Cemetery (which featured in a wonderful display at the library) to many of the other planted areas around Whitworth. This year has brought its challenges, particularly during the prolonged spells of hot, dry weather. Keeping our flower beds, planters and gardens watered has been no easy task, with volunteers making countless extra visits to ensure that plants survived and continued to flourish. Thanks to their determination and commitment, Whitworth has once again been rewarded with vibrant displays of colour brightening our streets and public spaces.

We are also delighted that the Memorial Gardens have once again achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award. This national recognition reflects the high standards of care, maintenance and pride that our volunteers put into the gardens throughout the year.

This summer has also seen a wonderful community effort in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the Whitworth Rushcart Procession. Residents of all ages, including local children, came together to make hundreds of red, white and blue pom-poms to decorate the town for this very special occasion.

If you've ever admired the colourful displays around Whitworth or enjoyed spending time in our Memorial Gardens, why not consider joining the Bloomers? No specialist gardening knowledge is needed - just enthusiasm, a willingness to get involved and a love for our local community. To get involved please email cllr.s.smith@whitworth.gov.uk or karin.tweedale@gmail.com and together we can continue to keep Whitworth blooming for everyone to enjoy.



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Monday	12pm-6pm
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 fabulous activities at the library for everyone to enjoy. All are FREE unless stated.

Mondays

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 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 and Crafts** (ages 3+)

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.

WHITWORTH'S FELL RACES

The latest edition of the **Brown Wardle and a bit Moor** race was held on a lovely evening in June, and was won by Martin Howard of Calder Valley AC in 24 minutes and 13 seconds. First female runner home was Stephanie Harrison of Rochdale Harriers (35.09), and first Vet50+ was Neil Swann from Holcombe Harriers (31.45). The event raised £116 for Whitworth Scouts, who kindly loaned their hut for registration. Thanks to all who marshalled or assisted in any way.

There was no **Junior Fell Race** this year due to insurance issues, which will be resolved in time for 2027.

Our next fell race is the traditional **Hades Hill** race, starting at Whitworth Square on the evening of Thursday September 3. Entry is open to anyone 16 or above. If you're interested in marshalling at some remote spot on the moor you can get involved by emailing Eric Taylor on eric@carreinforcements.com or, if it's easier, ring Jo Furtado on 07813 180748.

TEENAGE HEADLINERS EVENT

On Saturday 1st August, our Tourism and Leisure Committee worked with Martin Duffy to put on an event to celebrate Whitworth's local teen bands at The Ashcroft.

The sun shined and lots of local people seemed to have a great day listening to some fantastic music. Bacup Balti provided the food, Purdy's ice creams were a much-needed refreshment in the beautiful weather, and our very own TLC made some free games available in the middle of the car park to ensure there was something for everyone on the day. It was great to see so many people enjoying themselves and the feedback from the day was great to hear.

But the event could not have happened without Martin Duffy's immense work behind the scenes. As well as organising the sound on the day, he planned all the bands featured on the day (with every act performing for free) and made sure each band got an insight into how professional events are run.

Thanks to everyone who came and supported the event.





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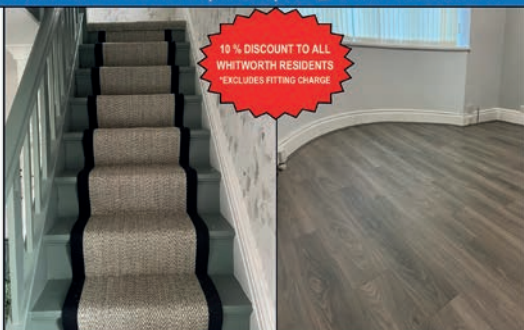
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY WHITWORTH LIBRARY!



Whitworth Library celebrated its 60th birthday on July 16, exactly 60 years to the day after it was officially opened. Thankfully, it continues to thrive but there was a time, ten years ago, when its future was in doubt. At that point, a Friends of Whitworth Library Group was set up to fight for the library's existence – and won! It seemed only right then that the group should mark this special anniversary and so it provided refreshments during the birthday week for all library users to enjoy.

To make sure the library reaches its 70th birthday, let's keep enjoying all it has to offer and making the most of a service we are fortunate to still have.



WHITWORTH COMMUNITY GALLERIES

our first exhibitions in what promises to be another creative and interesting year. Do pop in and enjoy these varied snapshots of Whitworth life.

At the Baths

From August 17 – Whitworth University of the Third Age

September 11 – Whitworth Valley FC

October 2 – Ashcroft 20th Anniversary

October 23 – Whitworth Rushcart

November 13 – Artwork by students of Our Lady and St Anselm School

At the Library

From August 17 – Wonderful Photography by Jan Keiley

September 11 – Whitworth U3A

October 2 – Whitworth Valley FC

October 23 – Ashcroft 20th Anniversary

November 13 – Whitworth Rushcart

If your organisation or you as an individual would like to exhibit work in 2027, please contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 or email jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

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.

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?

Applications are considered annually and will close on 10th February 2027, with decisions being announced by late April 2027. 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.

For more information, please go to the Grantscape website.

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 22nd September at 6:30pm at Healey Care, Holt Mill, Lloyd Street, Whitworth. OL12 8AA.

Community Partnerships can give grants of up to £250 to local community and voluntary groups that can provide added value to the residents of the Borough.

For more information contact communitiesteam@rossendalebc.gov.uk








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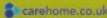
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WHITWORTH & DISTRICT U3A

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:

2nd September 2026

Andrew Harrison – How 28 men, 5 items and a wheelbarrow accidentally invented a Global Movement – A Co-op Story.

7th October 2026

Kevin Fitzpatrick (North West Tonight & BBC Radio Manchester) – working as a Political Reporter.

4th November 2026

Steve Williams – Four tins, A look at military and social history using 4 tins all with a connection to Lancashire.

2nd December 2026

'Christmas Cracker'

We have 23 Interest groups currently and growing all the time. For insurance purposes only members can join Interest Groups – details are available on our FB page, website or at the meetings. You can contact the Group Leaders for information on dates, times and venues for group activities. Helen, our Groups Coordinator can be contacted on illingworthhelen2@gmail.com

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

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WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND



After a successful summer concert series featuring music from the stage and screen, and a summer break, the band will turn their attention in the autumn to the Rochdale contest. This is a full day of entertainment for one entrance fee, and will feature bands in all sections, some of which are from the Rochdale locality, others are not so local, with the top section competing for an invitation to the Spring Festival to be held in Birmingham, Spring 2027.

Alongside this you can see the band perform locally at the Rushcart on Sunday 6th September and at the Remembrance Service to be held on Sunday 8th November.

ACADEMY AND YOUTH BAND

Both bands continue to look out for new members, either beginners or students that already have lessons or play at school, aged between 7 and 18.

If your child is interested in joining us, please call into the band club between 6 - 8.30pm on a Wednesday night for further information.



Speak to Lancashire County Councillor for Whitworth and Bacup Daniel Matchett

Monthly drop in sessions at Whitworth Town Council, The Ashcroft, Market St, OL12 8DP

Friday 18th September 10am - 11.30am

Friday 16th October 10am - 11.30am

Friday 13th November 10am - 11.30am

Friday 11th December 10am - 11.30am

plus other dates to be confirmed



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WHITWORTH HIGH SCHOOL

TWO students from Whitworth Community High School, who were nominated for the first ever Lancashire Education and Learning Awards, won their categories.

Pupils and students from Primary Key Stage 2 and Secondary and Sixth Form Key Stages 3 and 4 were awarded top honours in six categories including Lancashire Values, Sporting Prowess, Young Heroes and Outstanding Progress.

Whitworth's Sophie Baron, 14, won the KS3 Red Rose Award and was named a Lancashire Champion while Alice Kowal, also 14, was named as the KS3 Lancashire Art Excellence Champion at a ceremony at The Exchange in Preston.

They were nominated by Whitworth Headteacher Andrew Oliver.



Whitworth Community High School students, from left, Alice Kowal and Sophie Baron with their Lancashire County Council education and learning awards.

Sophie said: "I do a lot of fundraising for school and also for charities and I am hoping, next year, to be picked for the school's Youth Enterprise team. I started this about a year ago and I was in a Spanish cooking competition in school when I made cakes and helped to raise money for new library books."

Alice said: "I get involved in everything art wise in school and I also do lots outside of school too, including Girl Guiding where I am a Young Leader."

Alice also won a Mayor of Whitworth Young Achiever Award in May.

VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

Veterans and Armed Forces Families can access all the help and support they may need by simply contacting Veterans In Communities – which is now part of the national network of VALOUR recognised centres.

The charity is based at the VIC Centre in Haslingden, and operates across Lancashire.

Amanda Walton, Chief Executive of VIC, said: "Being recognised as part of VALOUR marks an important step in strengthening how VIC delivers support to the Armed Forces community. By working in partnership and connecting existing services more effectively, we can make it easier for veterans and their families to find the support they need, ensuring there is no wrong door to accessing help."



Staff and volunteers outside the VIC Centre in Bury Road, Haslingden.

VALOUR does not replace existing services, instead it brings them together into a more connected system, making it easier to navigate support. A VALOUR Pathways Co-ordinator and VALOUR Project Co-ordinator are being recruited. VALOUR is a new £50 million UK wide support system which being rolled out nationally.

For more information contact 01706 833180.

NEW PARISH LENGTHSMAN

Whitworth Town Council are delighted to welcome Andrew as our new Parish Lengthsman.

You'll soon see him out and about helping to keep our town looking its best and helping to make Whitworth a more welcoming place for everyone.

If you spot him around, be sure to say hello.



PRELOVED UNIFORM PROJECT

Thanks to everyone who donated, sorted and collected the preloved uniforms available at The Ashcroft over the summer holidays. Thanks as well to The Lighthouse, Library and Co-op for having donation stations and The Ashcroft, without whom the project simply couldn't run.

For those who haven't been aware of it. Residents can drop off good quality, clean, used school uniforms for any Whitworth school and a small team of volunteers sort and size the uniforms ready for any Whitworth residents to take them, for free, from the foyer of The Ashcroft. There are no questions asked, the reusing of the uniforms stops them going to landfill and saves our local residents from purchasing brand new ones, when there are preloved - if any of the children can actually love a school uniform! - uniforms that still have life left in them. The Lighthouse Community Foodshare kindly store the uniforms when the school summer holidays are over and so please get in touch with them if you need any more before the next school summer holidays.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Whitworth's Remembrance Sunday Commemorations

Sunday 8th November 2026

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

**10:40 Service of Remembrance
at Memorial Gardens, Facit
led by Rev Janet O'Neill and
Father Benjamin Garba**

**Refreshments post-service at
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Word Puzzle answer to May 2026 riddle - The answer to
the riddle in the May (Summer) edition was **SONG THRUSH**
- though it might just possibly be **EVENING BIRDSONG**.

Beautiful, evocative poem, anyway. Hope it gave you pleasure.

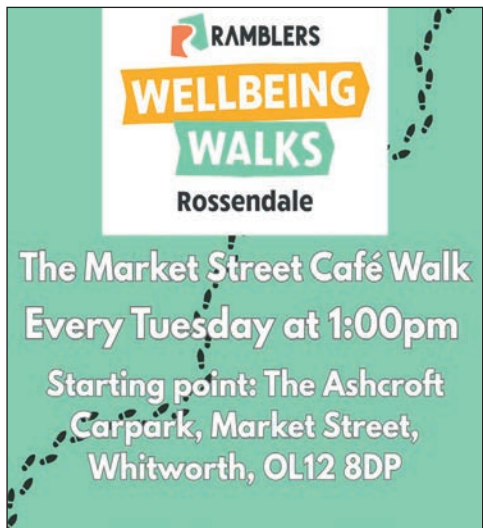
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**THE DEDICATED COMMUNITY PCSO FOR WHITWORTH IS NOW ISABEL WHEATCROFT,
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www.lancashire.gov.uk

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:

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info@carereslink.net
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WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

FACIT & SHAWFORTH WARD

Kim Blezard (Independent): 07931 760303 • cllr.k.blezard@whitworth.gov.uk

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

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

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

Mackenzie Ritson (Reform UK): 07496 186202 • mackenzieritson@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Janet Whitehead (Independent): 07884 795201 • cllr.j.whitehead@whitworth.gov.uk

HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD

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

Deborah Mitchell (Independent): 01706 852018 • cllr.d.marshall@whitworth.gov.uk

Alan Neal (Community First): 07817 414721 • cllr.a.neal@whitworth.gov.uk

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

Michael Whitworth (Community First): 07850 910321 • cllr.m.whitworth@whitworth.gov.uk

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:

3rd and 17th September, 15th October, 19th November and 3rd December

All meetings are open to the public and take place at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber

See the Town Council website for details or contact the Town Clerk

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Councillor Alan Neal

07817 414721

alanneal@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Councillors Scott Smith

07891 695962

scottsmith@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Councillor Mackenzie Ritson

mackenzieritson@rossendalebc.gov.uk

07496 186202

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Daniel Matchett

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andy.macnae.mp@parliament.uk

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