

Issue 76 / AUTUMN 2024

# Whitworth

## VALLEY NEWS



PRODUCED BY  
**Whitworth**  
Town Council

**BUSINESS UPDATES**

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

**LOCAL NEWS**

# IT'S BACK!

see page 22 for more details

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

**Dear Whitworth Residents and Friends,**

It has been an absolute pleasure to lead our Town Council since May this year. I can say safely that you are in good hands with the volunteers (Councillors) that serve you overall. I've only been a Councillor for a short while but it's a pleasure to be able to help the good people of Whitworth. One of the other key people in Council is Cllr Kim Olaolu, who is your Deputy Mayor. She shines as a beacon of support and continues to deliver - my special thanks go to you Kim.



Cllr Gareth Baron and Mrs Ness Baron,  
Mayor and Mayoress of Whitworth

Sine having the office of Mayor bestowed on me, I've had a few great engagements to report on. The first one was my Mayor Making ceremony, which was attended by several surrounding Mayors, Councillors, guests, press and the public. My 90-year-old Grandmother (Audrey Baron) was able to make this event - she was my true guest of honour. After that we had the Mayor's Civic Sunday Service at St Barts, which our Mayoral Chaplain Janet O'Neill led, following the theme of my Mayor Making speech of Unity. This was followed by the D-Day remembrance commemorations (see page 5 for more details).

I have also recently attended the Women of Whitworth Awards held at Pepe Nero Italian on Market St, which was great to attend and support. The WoW Project do so much for this town in terms of fundraising and championing females in our Town. Also, the Samba Dance Summer Concert - organised by Sam Clarke - what a pleasure that was! We have so much talent in the Town it's unbelievable - well done to Bella, Lillie, Logan and Harry on your recent successes.

On the theme of talent, let's talk about Valley Thai! We have some world class fighters here in our town that need your support and encouragement. Well done to Andy Hughes and all of the parents who support our youth - an exciting comp coming up in March 2025 in Bangkok that we need to raise lots of money for. There are several local businesses supporting this - please look out in person and on Facebook for those taking part.

There is a lot to do this year and I hope I have your support. Look out for updates on my upcoming fundraising events coming very soon!

Yours,

Gareth

Councillor Gareth Baron (Independent), Mayor of Whitworth



## WHITWORTH RUSHCART PROCESSION

Whitworth Rushcart will take place on Sunday 1st September. The procession leaves Whitworth Museum (North Street) at 1pm featuring traditional morris dance troupes and will travel up the main road, led by the Rushcart itself towards The Ashcroft. From 1.15pm until 4.30pm, the car park of The Ashcroft will be cordoned off for stalls, entertainments, and performances from various morris dancing troupes and members of the Whitworth Vale and Healey Band. The Ashcroft bar will be open for liquid refreshments and there will be a variety of food available. There will also be an arts and crafts fair in The Ashcroft main hall.

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. For the procession to go ahead smoothly, we need the help of 22 volunteer marshals to assist the road traffic management company by directing traffic away from side streets. You don't miss a thing; in fact, you get to watch the procession from pride of place. If you can spare an hour to help marshal, please contact Mike Royds on 07811 994 458 or email [cllmikeroys@whitworth.gov.uk](mailto:cllmikeroys@whitworth.gov.uk)

Photos alongside this piece are from previous years' Rushcart processions and celebrations. Thanks are given to Lisa McDowell and Mike Burgess for the reproduction of these.



## WHITWORTH COMMEMORATES D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Whitworth Town Council were proud to participate in the national D-Day commemorations in June. At 9am on 6th June 2024, Cllr Gareth Baron, Mayor of Whitworth, proudly raised the Flag of Peace, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day. At 9.15pm 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 to recognise the bravery and sacrifice of all those involved in the D-Day landings. Everyone at Whitworth Town Council would like to thank all the volunteers who took part in helping our town mark this incredible anniversary.

On Sunday 9th June, our Tourism and Leisure Committee hosted an extremely popular 80th anniversary commemorative afternoon tea which also featured entertainment from Whitworth's own national champions, Whitworth Vale and Healey brass Band, as well as Whitworth Community Choir and u3a's ever popular ukelele band. The volunteers on the day worked incredibly hard to provide almost 200 afternoon teas (and teas and coffees!) and ensure all those attending had an unforgettable time. Whitworth Museum also kindly provided WWII memorabilia and a volunteer charitably brought his 1940s Bedford QL truck for attendees to have a look at.

Finally, thanks to everyone who came and joined in with the commemorations. The TLC were so pleased with the response that plans are already underway for an 80th anniversary of VE Day in May 2025!







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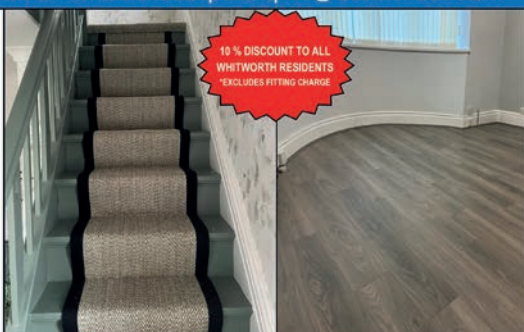
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## HEDGEHOG AWARENESS WEEK

The UK once boasted 30 million hedgehogs but sadly, there has been a momentous decline to 1 million. Loss of habitat, inhospitable and impenetrable gardens, highways, pesticides and herbicides have all played a significant part in their dramatic reduction.

But all is not lost. Whitworth Town Council have purchased a number of hedgehog highways which include information leaflets and two Town Councillors, Cllr Sarah Rhodes and Cllr Kim Olaolu, were then invited into three local primary schools to talk about the much-loved prickly mammals. The children enjoyed learning all about hedgehogs and more importantly, they learned how they can help to secure a future for them, including how to create an organic garden that's safe and that allows hedgehogs to roam and forage for food.

The children also entered a poster competition, and 10 winners were selected from each primary school. Cllrs Kim and Sarah were absolutely blown away by the children's enthusiasm and creativity, producing fun packed, illustrative and informative posters. They said it was incredibly difficult to choose just ten posters per school, because they were all brilliant. After much deliberation, they made their final selections. Each winner received a hedgehog highway, which allows hedgehogs access to a garden, along with a certificate. Please look out for these fantastic, informative posters around the town.

The councillors would like to thank Our Lady and Saint Anselm's, Tonacliffe and Saint Bartholomew's for welcoming them along with a huge thank you to everyone who participated in their competition. The councillors thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the children and looking through their outstanding posters.

Here a just a few of some of the wonderful posters created by the children who took part.





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## THE ORIGINS OF WHITWORTH MEMORIAL GARDENS

This article is based on research done by Anita Farrow of the Whitworth and Healey Horticultural Society who says she spent many a happy hour at Facit Park playing hide and seek in the rhododendrons, and on the children's playground (now the scout hut).

In January 1919, a public meeting was held at Lloyd Street School to discuss the provision of a War Memorial in Whitworth. The decision to locate it in its present position was taken when the owner of the land, Major W A C Lloyd, donated the area, and work began on the boundary wall in June 1920.

By June 1921, the stone obelisk was erected and the bronze tablets bearing the names of the fallen soldiers followed later.

On 13 August 1921, Major Lloyd was presented with a 'golden key' with which he unlocked the gates and formally declared the park open. As he unveiled the memorial, three volleys were fired and the Last Post played. The brass band played and once the proceedings were over, the residents of Whitworth continued with sports on the cricket ground, dancing at the Conservative Club and a band concert on the Recreation Ground.





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## FROM THE COLLECTION - DONKEY STONES

Up to about 70 years ago, a common practice in northern mill towns was to 'donkey stone' the front door step of one's home. A donkey stone is a solid block about the size of a bar of soap and made from a mixture of ground sandstone, cement, bleach powder and water. It is a hard, abrasive cleaner.

Originally used on greasy steps in textile mills, the stone was dipped in hot water and vigorously rubbed on the steps to give a non-slip coating making the steps much safer on which to walk. Outside the factories, housewives used the donkey stones for cleaning flagstones adjacent to their houses and also the front door steps. It was a matter of pride to have a well 'stoned' step. Stones were available to buy from most local shops but many obtained theirs from the rag-and-bone man in exchange for old clothes. Several companies manufactured these stones including Pony Brand and Lion Brand but the brand name of Donkey Stone is now used as the product's generic term. Whitworth Museum has several donkey stones in its collection.



Photo caption : A collection of donkey stones

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

# 2024 WHITWORTH RUSHCART

**Sun 1 Sept**

**1pm: Whitworth Museum**  
Procession feat.  
Whitworth Vale & Healey Band,  
Whitworth Rushcart Dancers,  
Britannia Coconut Dancers  
& more!

**1.30pm - 4.30pm: The Ashcroft**  
hot & cold food, arts & crafts fair,  
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**MORE INFO: 01706 852018 [WWW.WHITWORTH.GOV.UK](http://WWW.WHITWORTH.GOV.UK)**



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## WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND



Whitworth Band have continued to be busy. They played at the Buxton contest in April, putting on their own concert supported by the George Lloyd Society, with family connections to Whitworth. They also played at the Whit Friday marches in May, where they achieved some notable successes, followed by the D-Day commemorations at the Ashcroft in June.

Their academy tuition has been in to St. Bartholomew's CE Primary school this term, working with the year 4 children. A huge pat on the back must go to some of their academy group who are now also attending their youth band sessions, both on a Wednesday night (6-7pm - Academy band, 7.30-8.30pm - Youth band).

If you are, or anyone you know of is, aged between 7-18 years, interested in joining either of their groups (whether you have previous experience of playing a brass instrument or not) please call into the band club between 6-8.30pm on a Wednesday (Youth band night) for further details. If you would like to book the band for a concert, please ring Michael Whitby on 01706 852613.

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## WHITWORTH'S REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 10.20am

On Sunday 10th 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 David Chorlton on [cllr davidchorlton@whitworth.gov.uk](mailto:cllr davidchorlton@whitworth.gov.uk) or 07939 218 266.


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## WHITWORTH COMMUNITY MINI-GALLERIES

Whitworth Community Mini-Galleries continue to offer exhibition space, thanks to the support of many local organisations and individuals. Dates for the next few months are not ready to hit the WVN's copy deadline, but between now and November there are sure to be exhibitions featuring Whitworth Town Council, the Rush Cart, Whitworth Historical Society and more on display at the Library (certainly) and either the Ashcroft or the Leisure Centre.

If you or your organisation would like to exhibit, please contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 or [jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk)





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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 (l/100km): combined 54.6 (5.2) - 62.8 (4.5). Combined CO2 117-102 g/km. Hybrid electric vehicle. Figures obtained using a combination of battery power and fuel. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption, CO2 and/or equivalent all-electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption, CO2 produced, and equivalent all-electric range can vary significantly depending on a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed 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/icc/wltp.asp](http://www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/icc/wltp.asp)

## WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!

### 2 TYPES OF CROSSWORD – 1 SET OF ANSWERS.

This time the theme is **IDIOMS** – those ways of expressing something in a language that are a bit odd, especially to foreigners, things like letting your hair down, warts and all, tied to the apron strings. If someone's described as being as much use as a chocolate teapot, or someone you've got to keep tabs on, the speakers are using an idiom.

So, some of these clues, the italicised ones, may refer you directly to the answer, or may point you to an idiomatic phrase from which you'll need to pick out the requisite word to insert in the grid. The number of letters (in brackets) should help. The other clues are conventionally cryptic, you'll be pleased to hear.

#### CRYPTIC CLUES

##### ACROSS

- 1 Manc e-chain – maybe... Aren't they a bit jack-the-lad? (4,6)
- 7 Sue Prior – what a mum, eh? (8)
- 8 Bring up that ugly noggin (4)
- 9 Sounds like you've won the vote – clap! (4)
- 10 Ancient Middle Eastern country, like modern one (7)
- 12 She used to suck eggs, apparently – perhaps still does, expertly (11)
- 14 How Cliff can see Church of England involved in spinning rally (7)
- 16 In one of these you're panicky (4)
- 19 Mysterious hairy man, but...me? (4)
- 20 Whisky for school staff (8)
- 21 Curator Reg rippled...and rippled (10)

##### DOWN

- 1 Eastern wrestler spins; human or rodent? (5)
- 2 Pie? Amen! Weirdly a girl came from here (7)
- 3 Keep it up, or take it on it (4)
- 4 Firstly, a boy, really awkwardly, skated into our nasturtiums and caused a bit of a scrape (8)
- 5 Torch can (5)
- 6 Send self-addressed envelope back. That is right. Could it be simpler? (6)
- 11 Wedding vow... not yet... worshipper! (8)
- 12 As a rule, it might warrant a handshake (6)
- 13 Lancashire football club resolve their feud (Compiler's note: I wish!) (7)
- 15 Can I start, my Spanish friend? (5)
- 17 Means oyster (5)
- 18 Go with it! (4)

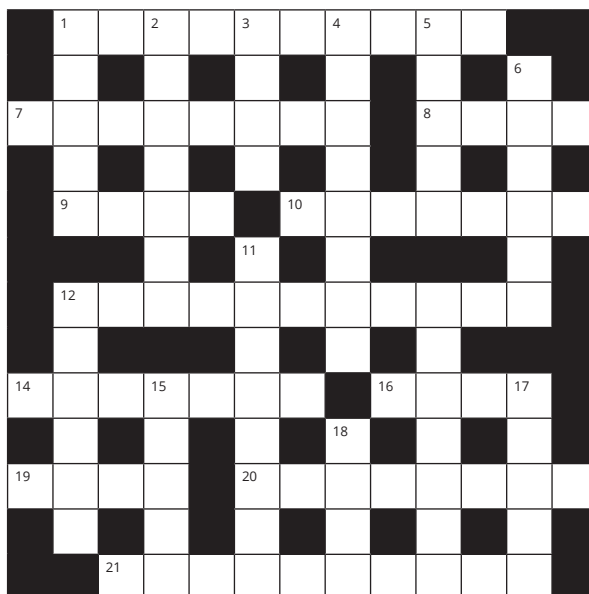
#### REGULAR CLUES

##### ACROSS

- 1 You'd have an eye to this (10)
- 7 Senior nun (8)
- 8 Back end (4)
- 9 Ocular items (4)
- 10 Its army "came down like a wolf on the fold", biblically (7)
- 12 Mum's mum (11)
- 14 How Jimmy Cliff could see (7)
- 16 Goulash, perhaps (4)
- 19 Hairy Himalayan? (4)
- 20 The bosses in the classroom? (8)
- 21 Get our card? (Anagram) (10)

##### DOWN

- 1 Little rodent (5)
- 2 Somewhere in Brazil a girl famously and enchantingly came from (7)
- 3 Not where you want an uppercut to land (4)
- 4 Graze or scrape (8)
- 5 Sounds like a girl's name (think: film) (5)
- 6 Not as difficult (6)
- 11 Someone who worships statues? (8)
- 12 Silence is this, sometimes! (6)
- 13 Little axe (7)
- 15 Pal (in Madrid?) (5)
- 17 Sometimes used as a synonym for Earth, sometimes for the totality of the universe (5)
- 18 Famous statue that used to stand outside the Etihad stadium: The B of the .... (4)





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## 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 or battery festive lights, 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.

To order your tree, please email [whitworthxmastrees@gmail.com](mailto:whitworthxmastrees@gmail.com) or order online at [www.whitworth.gov.uk/events/tree](http://www.whitworth.gov.uk/events/tree). The last order for trees is Sunday 13th October so order now, while stocks last!

If you want a Christmas Tree but do not have a bracket, the TLC can supply one fitted for £25. The last day for ordering brackets is Sunday 15th September, with the aim of it being fitted at the end of September.



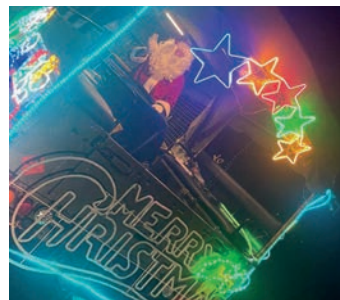
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## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Once again, we 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 21st and Sunday the 22nd of December, between 6 and 8pm.

His 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 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.



## FESTIVAL PARK BOWLING GREEN

Festival Park bowlers would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to those who made the fencing project around Festival Park possible. A special thanks to Councillor Janet Whitehead and Councillor Alan Neal for their meticulous planning, to Councillor Scott Smith and the police for their support.

They are deeply grateful to the committee members who tirelessly fought to see this project through. Their appreciation also extends to R&M Development for their excellent and professional work in erecting the fence, and to the anonymous donor who generously provided the fence.

The remaining funding was provided by The National Lottery, Whitworth Town Council and Whitworth Community Partnership, for which the bowlers are immensely thankful.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

It's that magic moment when your Valley News hurtles through your letterbox...

If you'd like to be responsible for a smidgen of that hurtling four times a year, please contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 or jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk and he'll bite your (non-hurtling) arm off and add you to his list of 30+ loyal volunteers. Next edition – November.

**SUPPORT THE**



**PINK TRAIL 2024**

**WHITWORTH**

**1ST - 18TH OCTOBER**



**PINK TRAIL**

THE WOW PROJECT IS ORGANISING A COMMUNITY EVENT TO CELEBRATE PINK MONTH IN OCTOBER AS PART OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.

BUSINESSES WILL BE DISPLAYING PINK IN THEIR WINDOWS FROM 1ST - 18TH OCTOBER.

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WE HOPE TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CHOSEN CAUSES OF THE LIGHTHOUSE FOODSHARE, STRONGER TOGETHER UNPAID CARERS GROUP AND SPRINGHILL HOSPICE.

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## THE ASHCROFT'S UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ashcroft continues to offer a vibrant array of events. Known for its welcoming atmosphere, The Ashcroft is the go-to venue for anyone seeking an enjoyable experience.

Join in on a Coffee Morning or two, featuring bouncy castle fun. Only £3 including a hot drink. It is great fun for the mummies, daddies, or grandparents to come along to, relax and catch up with friends.

There is also a relaxed Family Film planned. Adults go free with every child's ticket. It's cheaper & easier than going to the cinema! With soft play and the bar open for snacks and drinks, sit back and enjoy.

Grab your hairspray, leg warmers & your bingo tickers for 80's Barmy Bingo Night. Dress to impress and enjoy a night of lively bingo, great music and fantastic prizes.

As Halloween approaches, The Ashcroft is gearing up for its annual sell-out guaranteed Halloween Party. With decorations, costume contests, and a spooky disco, great family fun.

The Ashcroft Christmas Markets returns for 2024. With a variety of stalls offering festive goods, perfect to start your Christmas shopping early, and get into the Christmas spirit, with festive food and drinks.

For more information visit: [the-ashcroft.co.uk](https://the-ashcroft.co.uk)



**80's BARMY BINGO**  
FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEP

**FAMILY FILM DAY**  
FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCT

**HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCT

**Christmas MARKETS**  
SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOV

**WHAT'S COMING UP at The Ashcroft**

Experience exciting events at The Ashcroft in Whitworth, Rossendale great for community gatherings, family fun & festive nights out.

[www.the-ashcroft.co.uk](https://www.the-ashcroft.co.uk)

Whitworth, Civic Hall OL12 8DP

Save the date!  
*Christmas Party Night*  
Friday 13th December

[f](#) [ig](#)

## WHITWORTH LIBRARY

We're excited to be hosting our very first Fun Palace at Whitworth Library on Saturday 5th October from 10-2pm!



A Fun Palace is a fabulous fun packed event, where arts, crafts, science and tech and digital are a catalyst for community engagement and full participation for everyone, from the grassroots up and we want YOU to get involved!

Fun Palaces are made by local people for their own communities, bringing together arts and sciences, crafts, tech and digital, free and fun where everyone's an artist and everyone's a scientist.

As a small library with a big heart and a fabulously supportive community, the Whitworth Library already welcomes local people to have ownership of the space, so is well set up for a free, fun packed event, made by local people for local people.

**The Librarians will enable the local community to create a 'laboratory of fun and a university of the street' - in essence, a local, free festival of art, science, digital, heritage, sport and tech, for all ages. With of course a warm Whitworth welcome for all guaranteed!**

At Fun Palaces people come together to share their skills, passions and interests, and the library team can't wait to show the world just how brilliant and packed full of genius our Whitworth community is!

So what are you waiting for? Get involved by emailing [whitworth.library@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:whitworth.library@lancashire.gov.uk) or scan the QR code below



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## WHITWORTH AMDS PRESENT *THE WEDDING SINGER* THIS OCTOBER!

Whitworth AMDS are thrilled to present their next production of *The Wedding Singer* from October 8th to 12th. Based on the hit Adam Sandler movie, this high-energy musical transports you to 1985 with a rocking score that promises to keep you dancing in your seat. The story follows Robbie Hart, a charming wedding singer who is left heartbroken at the altar. Just when he hits rock bottom, he meets Julia, a kind-hearted waitress who is about to marry a Wall Street shark. As sparks fly, Robbie must decide if he will win Julia's heart or let her marry the wrong guy. This hilarious and heartwarming tale of love, heartbreak, and rock 'n' roll will be performed at The Curtain Theatre, Rochdale, offering an evening of unforgettable songs and laughter.

Tickets are priced at just £15 and can be purchased at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wamds](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wamds). Don't miss this chance to enjoy an unforgettable evening as Whitworth AMDS bring this beloved story to life on stage.

Contact: Whitworth AMDS, [Digital@wamds.co.uk](mailto:Digital@wamds.co.uk)



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# NEWSLETTER

July/August 2024

A full detailed update from the Leisure Centre

As Whitworth reaches the point of reopening the Leisure Centre fully, perhaps we should take stock of precisely what's been done, and how we've got to this point.

It was brilliant news back in the spring when it was announced that Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC had been successful in attracting a substantial grant from the government. Put simply, that made reopening a possibility.

However, the money we bid for, and got, was less than a fifth of what Rossendale Borough Council's building report claimed was necessary, so we had to be realistic about what we could achieve. The report was useful in identifying all the building's faults, but we had to pare that back, focusing on immediate priorities, and essential, rather than desirable, costs.

We also had to save costs wherever we could, and that was where Whitworth's sheer generosity and determination came to the fore. Volunteers cleared and painted; local tradespeople did jobs for free or at cost; there were donations of money; and various fundraising schemes. And, from when the first bit of the Centre – the gym – was reopened (which was before we were awarded the grant, a real leap of faith) the place has been staffed by volunteers who have kept things tidy and ticking over.

The gym is not all bells and whistles, but those who have been using it seem to have appreciated it hugely. But the cash it has brought in has been a trickle, to be blunt. It's obvious that many people have really been waiting for the pool to reopen. That job was always much bigger, and has required more complex planning, more skilled workers, and much more money (though some heroic local tradespeople have again done some jobs at cost, or donated time). There also had to be quotes gathered, selected and justified. A further complication arrived with the announcement of the general election – all government money is frozen until after an election, so that any new government can scrutinise the outgoings they inherit. But work has been done. The asbestos in the changing room ceilings has been professionally removed. (Other areas, professionally assessed, have been sealed.) New ceilings, hiding new electrics and pipework, have been installed. The big windows in the pool, damaged when RBC boarded them up, have been completely replaced. The learner pool – destined to become an exercise room/gym extension to try to raise more revenue – has been separated from the main pool. The pool has been partially regouted, scrubbed and filled, to enable the plant room equipment to be tested, and has then been chlorinated to ensure a good quality of water to swim in. (Exactly the same process as when CLAW reopened the pool before.) New alarm systems have been installed, and new fire doors are on the way. Outside, guttering and fascia boards are in the process of being replaced. Some smaller windows have had to be replaced.

But much outside has not been done yet. There is roof work to be done. And obviously the John Street side is still a bit of a mess, and the river side is still an overgrown wilderness/dumping area. We have plans for both those areas, but there is only so much you can do at once. Watch out for a new opportunity to volunteer!

In July we've begun the task of hiring paid staff – in preparation for the pool reopening in August. The Valley News copy deadline prevents us from giving details of that reopening here – but have no doubt it will be shouted from the rooftops – we can't quite shout yet, in mid-July.

We're trying to get school swimming and private lessons up and running as soon as possible, and we will be delighted to welcome Whitworth Swimming Club home too. Public swimming hours will be widely advertised, and of course the Leisure Centre has its own noticeboard now, so details of Pilates classes and yoga groups and the evening running club and other news will be on there too.

Obviously we hope that as many people as possible, from Whitworth and beyond, will come and use both the pool and the gym. It's NOT a shiny new Leisure Centre, but it's HERE. It's OURS, because Whitworth decided it was important enough to fight for. It's ours, and WE have to make it work. That means two things. Firstly, it's use it or lose it – every single customer is helping to keep it open. If not enough people use the Leisure Centre it will dwindle, and shut – and that will be that.

It is also a fact that it is going to need volunteers to keep it open – it will probably never generate enough cash to have a fully-paid workforce. So, when volunteering opportunities are advertised, please think positively about any contribution YOU could make. This is a genuine community asset that some Whitworth volunteers, backed by the Town Council, have revived. It will need fresh injections of volunteering blood to keep it healthy, and make it a place we can all be proud of.



**Follow us on Facebook for updates. Search - Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC**



# pool re opening August 2024



*Sit, chat, brew*

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We have a lovely hot drinks machine now in the centre. This is for everyone. You don't need to be using our facilities to pop in, get a brew and take a seat.







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.)

#### **Saturdays**

- 10:30 – 12:00 **Lego Club** (for all ages)  
 10:30 – 11:30 **Garden Gang** (for children of all ages)

... 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](mailto: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](mailto:friendsofwhitworthlibrarygroup@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.

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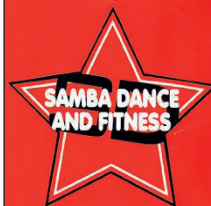
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## CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

There is only one event to report on since the last magazine and that is the Golf tournament at Lobden in June. The event was a huge success raising £1,100. Many thanks to Lobden Golf Club, all who participated, all the helpers on the day and those who donated prizes. The late summer golf tournament will take place on Sunday 8th September. If anyone is interested please contact on numbers below. A fundraising meal was due to be held on 25th July at Pepe Nero. A report will appear in the next Valley News.

A Ladies afternoon tea will be held at Lobden Golf Club on Sunday 29th September at 2.30pm, with tickets priced at £17. Again anyone interested please contact on numbers below.

The group have been given their next targeted piece of equipment to raise money for. Its name is quite a mouthful - Amersham Western Blot Imaging System. The cost is £22,200 so it's quite a challenge for us this year. This machine enables scientists to look at the interaction between pancreatic cancer cells and the body's scaffolding system. This is significant at the present time as there is a large increase in pancreatic cancer in young people, especially young women. This equipment will be invaluable in looking at ways to treat this disease.

If anyone wants to donate to Cancer Research or ask any questions about the committee's work, organise any event or join the committee (we are always on the lookout for new members) please contact Michael Whitby 852613, Arnold Ashworth 343424 or Elaine Bagshaw 853935.

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## SKYLINE AND FELL RACES

Skyline 9 took place a little later than planned this year, due to the weather forecast for the original date suggesting the likelihood of thunderstorms (they arrived a little late, but powerfully).



Lobden Golf Club (thank you) were able to offer a date 3 weeks later... a day of perfect walking weather, which was lucky. 480 walked, somewhat fewer than last year, but not bad at all in the circumstances. After expenses, and a donation to the Rossendale and Pendle Mountain Rescue team, and boosted by the generosity of many entrants, the event raised £1849, which Whitworth Sports Council has donated in its entirety to the Leisure Centre. Skyline 10 is set for May 18, 2025.

It's been a year of postponements. **Whitworth's Junior Fell Race** also had to shift from its original date due to horrible weather on the original date. Again the Golf Club and some flexible marshals rode to the rescue. 88 7-16 year olds ran (another impressive turn out) with the race won by 15-year-old Thomas McKee. First girl home was 13-year-old Megan Earnshaw. Our Lady and St Anselm won the inter-school trophy.

The day before, in glorious sunshine (but it was nippy) the **Brown Wardle and a Bit Moor** senior fell race set off from Edward Street to crest Brown Wardle from the west, divert onto and over Middle Hill, then return by traversing Brown Wardle from the (even steeper) east. The winners were Dave Parton (in 29.29) and Kay Welsby (in 32.47) – both Rochdale Harriers.

None of these events could happen without volunteer help. It takes 50 to put on Skyline, and about 20 for each of the fell races. To all those who made themselves available to help with these events, the organisers say a big thank you. If you are looking for a chance to help out somewhere up on the moor, your next opportunity comes on evening of the first Thursday in September with the traditional Hades Hill fell race – offers of help, well in advance please, to [eric@carreinforcements.com](mailto:eric@carreinforcements.com).



## VOLUNTEER POWERED

The core service of Lighthouse provides is the food-share where clients are given a 'private' 15-minute appointment to select food and other essentials. This ensures they only receive items which are of use to them and creates opportunities to get to know the clients and perhaps learn of other ways they might be helped.

Beyond this core service the Lighthouse has also given Christmas Hampers with everything needed to make Christmas dinner and including gifts for the children. They've provided slow cookers, given additional food for children's lunches over school holidays and the Feed-up-Fridays food given outside the local Co-Op with kind permission. Over this year's Summer Holidays, they have pushed themselves even further by offering their client families four activity days to participate in: soccer training at RKix in Rochdale, Ranger-led nature walks at Hollingworth Lake, bee-keeping demonstration and games at Springfield Park and craft workshops and a family film at the Ashcroft. Coach transport to selected events and of course food provided. These activities were made possible by sponsorship from a multinational company wanting no publicity for their extraordinary generosity.

As with everything they do though, it's the volunteers who make things happen. Their time, their enthusiasm, their commitment. It's simple arithmetic – the more volunteers they have the more assistance they can offer, and they really stretched their limits this holiday season. A volunteer gives as much or as little time they wish and there are many benefits to being part of an organisation that does as much good as the Lighthouse does.

Opening hours are Tuesday & Thursday 10am-4pm, Saturday 10am-3pm. For an appointment or to ask about volunteering: Tel or text 07922951096



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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.

On Wednesday 4th September it will be our Annual General Meeting. Wednesday 2nd October our speaker will be Siobhan Clarke with an interesting talk on 'The Romanovs'. 5th November will feature Nicky Patterson talking about being an Air Traffic Controller.



We have 17 Interest groups currently. For insurance purposes only members can join Interest Groups. Details are available on our FB page, [u3asites.org.uk/whitworth](http://u3asites.org.uk/whitworth) or at the meetings. You can contact the Group Leaders for information on dates, times and venues for group activities. 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.



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- 1. How energy efficient is your home?** If you're a homeowner or a private tenant, we might be able to find ways to make your home more energy efficient.
- 2. How much energy are you using each year?** Your energy bills will show you how much energy you're using. We can help you to understand the information on your bills and help you to lower your energy use if it's higher than average for your household.
- 3. Are you eligible for an energy grant?** Grant eligibility depends on the property, who owns it, and usually the income of the occupant - you don't always need to be on benefits to be eligible for a grant.
- 4. Does your home have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)?** In order to be eligible for a grant, the EPC usually has to be D or below. If you are eligible for a grant, but your property doesn't have an EPC then we may be able to complete a free home energy assessment and provide you with a valid EPC.
- 5. FairerWarmth - [app.fairerwarmth.com](http://app.fairerwarmth.com)** Use the Fairer Warmth app to check for energy grants and start an energy action plan. Register your property on the app to get started. And, if you need any help, you can use the app to ask for one of our Energy Champions or contact us using the details over the page.



## INTRODUCING WHITWORTH COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE



This committee, approved on 20.06.24, aims to actively preserve, protect and enhance our environment in Whitworth and develop an environmental and wildlife strategy for the council, striving to achieve related targets. These targets would include: community education measures; monitoring community activity; encouraging local reduction in the carbon footprint by encouraging greener practices and eco-friendly cultures; networking effectively; referral to appropriate environmental agencies; and checking every planning application to ensure that conservation and preservation of the environment and wildlife are core requirements.



Towns like ours are vulnerable to certain effects of climate change and other environmental stresses, like recently experienced heatwaves, flash floods, pollution, noise, and soil contamination. Our collective consumption patterns can also lead to biodiversity loss. Biodiversity underpins the health of the planet and has a direct impact on all our lives. Put simply, reduced biodiversity means millions of people face a future where food supplies are more vulnerable to pests and disease, and where fresh water is in irregular or short supply. We need your help and vigilance to identify any activities that negatively impact on our environment to keep Whitworth a green and pleasant place for future generations.

If you have any environmental concerns, please contact Cllr Kim Olaolu, Chair of the Environment and Wildlife Committee, E: [cllrkimolaolu@gmail.com](mailto:cllrkimolaolu@gmail.com) T: 07434 034784

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Whitworth's**  
**Remembrance Sunday**  
**Commemorations**  
**Sunday 10th November 2024**  
**10:20 Procession (corner of Tong Lane / Market Street)**  
**10:40 Service of Remembrance at Memorial Gardens, Facit led by Rev Janet O'Neill**  
**Refreshments post-service**  
Volunteer marshals needed, contact Cllr Chorlton 07939 218266  


**2024 WHITWORTH RUSHCART**  
**Sun 1 Sept**  
**MARSHALS NEEDED:**  
Can you spare an hour on Sunday 1st September? We need adults to man closed side streets during the procession. You will get to watch the procession go by whilst marshaling.  
Contact Mike for more details  
[cllrkimeroyds@whitworth.gov.uk](mailto:cllrkimeroyds@whitworth.gov.uk) or phone 07811 994 458  
**MORE INFO: 01706 852018 WWW.WHITWORTH.GOV.UK**



# LOCAL TRADES LIST

## HEALEY DELL HERITAGE CENTRE AND TEAROOMS

Fully Licensed tearoom and free venue hire  
Open Thursday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm  
Dell Road, Rochdale  
Bookings and enquiries 01706 350 459  
hello@healeydelheritagecentre.co.uk  
www.healeydelltearooms.co.uk

## CJ ROTHWELL LANDSCAPING AND DRAINAGE

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

## RLH GAS & PROPERTY SERVICES

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

## SEAN BRADLEY

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

## ANDREW ROBINSON

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

## PETER RICHARDSON

Painter and Decorator  
Tel: 01706 854 729 / 07957 758 928  
Over 30 years' experience, no job too small  
9 Heatherlands, Whitworth

## AJ TILING

Experienced wall & floor tiler. Floor levelling/screeding,  
Underfloor Heating. Qualified LVT/Karndean fitter.  
Andy Wilson - 07791837238  
Ajtiling30@gmail.com

## PHIL JONES

### Plumbing and Heating

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

## OPENREACH Window & UPVC Cleaning

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

## ETERNAL CEREMONIES - Tina Hall

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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 the pharmacy AJ Nuttall, 603 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

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from photographs, improve poor photographs, provide prints  
from negatives and more!  
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billingsley212@btinternet.com www.abat.co.uk

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## CROSSWORD ANSWERS see pg 14 for the puzzle





# Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

**IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL CRIMES ARE REPORTED**

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

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

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

**FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 999**

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

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**Lancashire County Council:**

0300 123 6701 (general enquiries)  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

**Highways** 0300 123 6780

Email [highways@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:lighthousefoodshare@gmail.com)  
07922 951 096

**Together Housing:**

0300 555 5556 (general enquiries)

**Homestart:**

01706 214621 / [emma@homestartrbh.co.uk](mailto:emma@homestartrbh.co.uk)  
[www.home-start.org.uk](http://www.home-start.org.uk)

**Carers Link Lancashire:**

01254 387444  
[info@carereslink.net](mailto:info@carereslink.net)  
[www.eastlancscareres.org.uk](http://www.eastlancscareres.org.uk)

**Citizens Advice Rossendale:**

Financial, welfare and benefits advice  
0300 456 2552  
[www.carh.org.uk](http://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](http://www.lancsvp.org.uk)  
07779 972114

**Initial Response Service**

0800 013 0707

For urgent or general mental health issues

# WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

## FACIT & SHAWFORTH WARD

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

**Louise Burton** (Independent): 01706 852018 • info@whitworth.gov.uk

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**Kim Olaolu** (Independent): 07434 034784 • clrkimolaolu@gmail.com

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

**Janet Whitehead** (Independent): 07795 577647 • clrjanetwhitehead@whitworth.gov.uk

## HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD

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**Dayne Powell** (Community First): 07795 022564 • dayne.powell@outlook.com

**Mike Royds** (Community First): 07811 994458 • clrmikeroyds@whitworth.gov.uk

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

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## 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: 5th & 19th September, 17th October and 21st 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

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## ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Alan Neal**  
**Councillor Mike Royds**  
(contact details above)

**Councillors Scott Smith**  
(contact detail right)

## LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**Councillor Scott Smith**  
Scott.Smith2@lancashire.gov.uk  
07891 695962

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

**Andy MacNae MP**  
andy.macnae.mp@parliament.uk  
telephone details to follow in next edition