

# Whitworth

## VALLEY NEWS



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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

**Dear Whitworth Residents and Friends,**

I will have the pleasure of being your Mayor from Thursday May 16th 2024. It truly is a privilege and an honour that I am grateful for.

A bit about me and us! I live in Whitworth and have done so for the past 11 years with my wife Ness and daughter Millie. My daytime job is as an IT consultant specialising in cyber security, and I've been an independent town councillor since 2022. Prior to that I have served as a special constable in Greater Manchester Police working in Rochdale and served time as a Community Action Team member of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service. I had the privilege of being Cllr Mike Royds' Deputy Mayor for the last 12 months, and would like to pay homage to him, and the previous mayors before us, for doing a fantastic job.



As your mayor, I will be strongly focused on the same issues that affect us all. The priorities haven't changed much since I've been here, so I won't reinvent the wheel. My focus will be on supporting the residents with their individual needs. Continuing to work with Lancashire Constabulary in effective policing in the community and cracking down on anti-social behaviour and burglary/thefts. Promoting local businesses and enterprises. Supporting local charities and supportive organisations in their endeavours to help the people of Whitworth. Supporting our newly formed Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC and seeing a return to normal operations of our well-needed local swimming pool.

I cannot wait for my mayoral year to get under way; my wife has been a huge support to me all the way, and as Mayoress of Whitworth will continue in that fashion. We have a fantastic town that deserves to be shouted about, and all of those people who make it a great place to live – you know who you are and you have my full support.

We look forward to meeting as many people as we can, and helping in any way that we can. We have a fantastic Town Council with 12 Councillors who give their time for free to help local residents with various issues. Please support them and us as we embark on another year celebrating and supporting Whitworth.

All the best,

Gareth  
Councillor Gareth Baron, Mayor of Whitworth

**Save The Dates**

**Civic Sunday  
Mayoral Fundraiser  
Civic Dinner**

<b>Sun 2nd June, 2pm @ St Barts Church</b>
<b>Sat 12th Oct, 7pm @ The Ashcroft</b>
<b>Sat 5th April 2025 @ The Ashcroft</b>

## D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS

It will be the 80th anniversary of D-Day on Thursday 6th June 2024.

In honour of this Cllr Gareth Baron, as Mayor of Whitworth, will be raising a commemorative flag at 9am at The Ashcroft. This is part of a nation-wide coming together to remember all who took part in the most extensive naval, air and land operation in history.



All are welcome and encouraged to attend this tribute. There will also be a commemorative beacon lit at 9.15pm, as part of the Nation's Tribute to honour the bravery and sacrifice of so many.

Please see [whitworth.gov.uk/events](http://whitworth.gov.uk/events) for more information.

### D-DAY AFTERNOON TEA

On 9th June, the TLC will be hosting an afternoon tea at The Ashcroft to commemorate 80 years since D-Day. Whitworth Vale and Healey Band will be performing alongside Whitworth Community Choir and u3a's Ukelele group. Tickets are priced at £6 and available from the town council office or [whitworth.gov.uk](http://whitworth.gov.uk). 1940s fancy dress is encouraged, and Whitworth Museum are kindly loaning some appropriate exhibits for the day.

### FIRST AID COURSE

Following on from courses held in 2023, in March Whitworth's Tourism and Leisure Committee (TLC) facilitated a first aid course aimed at young people. With special thanks to Chris and Rachel from Proactive Training Services, 15 youngsters (and their grown ups!) spent a Sunday afternoon learning the basics of First Aid. Thanks also to Angela Rhodes and Healey Care for the use of their venue at Holt Mill, Lloyd Street. More courses are planned for the future, please see the TLC's Facebook page for updates.



## WHITWORTH MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Are you a patient at Whitworth Medical Centre? Does it work for you and other patients you know? Are some services really good or are there some that could be better? Did you know that you can give feedback to the Centre through the Patient Participation Group?

The Group meets every two months. There are two ways you can become involved. You can put any feedback in the box situated in the foyer area of the Medical Centre. It will be considered by the Group and brought to the attention of Centre staff. If you would like to become more involved you can join the group. We welcome patients of all ages and we alternate the start times of the meetings between 4pm and 6pm so that people busy during the day can still get to a meeting. You don't need any special knowledge, just an interest in what goes on at the Centre and a desire to help improve the services. Your contribution can make a difference.

Next time you visit the Medical Centre let a member of staff know if you want to get involved.

## WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL AWARDS

Whitworth Town Councillors are amazed by the wonderful array of talented individuals that live and work in this fantastic town. Each year, councillors have the very difficult decision of deciding who to bestow awards on due to the amazing breadth of talent we have.

### THE MAYOR OF WHITWORTH'S YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD

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



**Daniel Calderbank**, on his 16th birthday, won gold at the 19th annual World Muay Thai Federation competition in Bangkok.

He joined fighters from over 40 countries and won gold in the youth under-60kg weight category to gain the World Champion title.

We wish Daniel all the best as he has now started to compete in the adult categories.



**Ellie Clegg**, who has only been skiing for two years, won a remarkable two bronze medals in the under-10 age category at the British Schools Alpine Open Skiing Championships 2024 in Pila, Italy in February.

There she competed against individuals from other UK schools in her first ever Alpine race.

We wish Ellie good luck later in the year in the UK summer race league where she will soon be competing in the GB Indoor and Outdoor series.

### THE ALAN MORRIS AWARD

Whitworth received a massive shock in May 2023 when Rossendale Borough Council sadly announced that our beloved leisure centre would close in July. An understandable outcry came from the town and a group of individuals came forward with the hopes of re-opening the centre for the community.

A lot of blood, sweat and tears later and Whitworth Leisure Centre re-opened in February 2024. This was all thanks to the determined individuals who make up Whitworth Leisure Centre Community Interest Company (CIC). At present, the gym is open and plans are underway, thanks to numerous funding applications, to reopen the pool later in the year.

Please see Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC Facebook page for more information (and page 29). Pictured are just a few of those hardworking volunteers and all of us here at WTC thank the whole team for their incredible endeavours.



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## SHEEP WORRYING - WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL



Sadly, this is a message we must reiterate every year. We are in the season of lambing, calving and foaling and sadly the issue of sheep worrying is as prevalent as ever.

The CRoW Act 2000 states that ALL DOG WALKERS must keep their dogs on a short lead of 2 meters between the 1st of March and 31st of July and at ALL TIMES in the vicinity of livestock throughout the year. To protect livestock and ground nesting birds, lapwing, curlew, merlin and snipe. Graziers have the RIGHT in LAW to close the high ground entirely.

Every year there are an alarming number of very sad and preventable incidents involving ewes and lambs, caused by dogs off their leads, worrying the sheep. Sheep worrying causes immense distress to these defenceless animals and they are often left in a dreadful, bloody state which results in the humane destruction of the pregnant ewes. Besides the egregious act of sheep worrying, graziers are having to deal with the separation of ewes from their lambs, caused by dogs off their lead and running wildly on the moors in the vicinity of them. This is incredibly distressing and damaging to both animals. Let us not forget that this impacts our commoners' and farmers' livelihoods too. The common land is managed land and their place of work.

There has never been so much disturbance of livestock, maiming and killing of animals, and it is all preventable, by simply ensuring that dog ownership is always responsible where livestock are grazing and complying fully with the CRoW Act 2000.

Please, always be a responsible dog owner and keep your dog on a lead at ALL times around livestock.

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## BUDDY UP WITH A BLOOMER

By the time you read this, the Whitty Bloomers will have chalked up a good number of hours preparing the various beds, boxes and baskets they manage around the town. The areas they share, and work in cooperatively, include Healey Corner, the library, the bed in front of the surgery, the Coop beds, the area near The Bug, Cowm Park Way North, The Ashcroft, the Fudge Factory, the cemetery, the Memorial Gardens and Britannia.

They get a lot of satisfaction from seeing the fruits (and flowers!) of their labour, especially when it is appreciated by so many members of the public. However, another huge bonus is the mental and physical health benefits that are well documented from gardening. So, if you fancy benefiting yourself and your local community but maybe don't feel you have the confidence to know what to do or know where your help would be most useful, please consider the option of buddying up with one of the existing volunteers.



We don't pretend to know everything about gardening, but we can have a chat about what needs to be done and how you can help.

Don't hesitate to call 07904 130206 for further info.

## SPRINGHILL'S 3 RESERVOIR RAMBLE RETURNS FOR 2024!



Thanks to the fantastic support and attendance from the community with last year's event, Springhill Hospice is delighted to announce the return of its 3 Reservoir Ramble. On Saturday 14th September, locals will be able to join Springhill for a scenic walk through stunning surroundings, taking in the beauty of 3 Whitworth reservoirs – all whilst raising vital funds for hospice care.

As last year, the 11k route will start and end at the Oxford pub, ensuring participants are able to enjoy a hearty lunch after their efforts! With almost 200 people joining in the event on its launch last year, Springhill are hopeful for an even greater turn out this year.



Jo Ali, Community Engagement Officer at Springhill Hospice and event organiser, said, "We were blown away with how many people got behind the 3 Reservoir Ramble last year for its launch, and we all had the most incredible day. Springhill relies on the generous support of its community, and we can't wait to join them outdoors once again."

To purchase your tickets or for further information, please search Springhill Hospice 3 Reservoir Ramble.

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## STRONGER TOGETHER



Well, what a busy four months Stronger Together carers group has had! They celebrated their one-year anniversary with a party. It was a huge success, and they send thanks to all who came, and all who performed at the event - Rossendale Drum Majorettes, Samba Dancers, u3a Ukelele group, Kyle & Rodgen and Paul Wynn.

They celebrated Valentine's Day with a special afternoon tea and a single red rose for all our members. They also went on a trip out for lunch to Sycamore Farm in Burnley where a great time was had by all. They have also welcomed a couple of ladies from Springhill Hospice who came and did some activities with the group. Whitworth Football and Cricket club held a snooker tournament, all dressed in their best attire, and they donated the proceeds of £186 to Stronger Together.



They have welcomed many new members and have now had to expand to the full hall at the Ashcroft. On their busiest day, they are serving close to 70 meals. Plans are in progress for a commemoration that will be open to the community for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. This will be held on 3rd June where there will be singing, dancing, street party style food and a prize for best 40s style outfit. Once again, they send thanks to everybody who has supported them.

## WHITWORTH SPORTS COUNCIL

Whitworth's two summer Fell Races will take place as usual in June, maintaining a skeletal SPORTING presence while hoping for a revival (next year?) of Whitworth Sports Festival – anyone want to take it on?

Our long-established Junior Fell Race will be on Thursday June 13 at 7pm, with the start at Lobden, the traditional route around the back of and then over Brown Wardle, finishing just above the start at Lobden Golf Club, where the presentations will take place afterwards. Entrants must be aged 7-16 and will need to sign up in advance, £2 per runner, with trophies to all Age-group winners, a timed certificate for all - your entry gets you a drink and a chocolate bar when you finish. Paper entry forms will be available at schools and at the Leisure Centre, and there will be an online entry too.

The day before, on Wednesday June 12, the Brown Wardle and a bit Moor race, for Seniors (16+), will start from Edward Street at 7.30. The race is usually dominated by club runners (from all across Lancashire and West Yorkshire) but is open to local runners too. Be warned, however – it's a properly accredited fell race, up and over Brown Wardle, then left onto Middle Hill, and back the same way (-ish): not much more than 3 miles but steep and demanding, not for the unfit or the faint-hearted. Registration is at the Scout Hut on Longacres Lane, next to the Memorial Garden.

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## THE ASHCROFT

Why not come to The Ashcroft, located in Whitworth. Their commitment to providing amazing spaces is unwavering. With their newly introduced room hire pricing for 2024, they aim to make hosting your event even more accessible and convenient.

Whether you're planning a small team meeting or a large-scale function, they have the perfect space to suit your needs. Their individual rooms are versatile, accommodating gatherings of up to 12 to 250 people with ease. Each room is designed to inspire productivity and encourage collaboration, ensuring that every event held at The Ashcroft is a resounding success.

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For more information and to check out their brochure, please visit [the-ashcroft.co.uk](https://the-ashcroft.co.uk)



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## WHITWORTH'S COMMUNITY MINI-GALLERIES SCHEDULE

At the Library right now is an exhibition featuring Whitworth Community Choir. Next up (June 7) will be some more of Peter Williams' impressive pen-and-ink drawings, mostly of locations around Whitworth. Students from Our Lady and St Anselm's School will have their artwork on display from June 28; with Whitworth Valley Football Club taking over on July 19. Each of those exhibitions will then transfer from the Library to the Ashcroft (or maybe, just maybe, the Leisure Centre) on the next date in that sequence.


Once again, organiser and exhibitors would like to thank Aimee and all at the Ashcroft for providing a temporary home over the past few months.

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## WHITWORTH LIBRARY, SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST BOOKS!

Did you know that the Library team run lots of fabulous, free, fun-packed activity sessions to keep the children entertained each week?

Bring your preschooler along from 2-2:30pm every Tuesday for Storytime and more, where they can listen to a fascinating story, before getting their creative juices flowing at the following themed craft session.

Every Friday we raise the roof of the library with our lively Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions. Bring your baby or toddler along 10:15am to 11am to enjoy lots of lively sing-along songs and nursery rhymes old and new, plus the chance meet and chat with other parents and carers.

When the weekend rolls around our Saturday mornings have something for every child. Join our green fingered Garden Gang and get busy either planting or crafting, depending on our unpredictable Lancashire weather, from 10:30-11:30am. Our Lego Club also runs each Saturday from 10:30am to 12 noon; no need to be an expert, all you need to bring is your imagination.

There's no need to book, and all the sessions are free, so come and join us for a warm Whitworth welcome. We'd love to see you. We have lots of activity sessions for adults too. Visit Lancashire County Council Events for all the details.

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## WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BAND CLUB

The Club are delighted to have again been awarded CAMRA Club of the Year East Lancashire, hopefully in response to the selection and quality of beers available. Look out for an additional pump and increased choice in the near future.

Following a much-enjoyed St Patrick's themed evening there will be similar events leading into the summer. All are welcome as always.

Following on from last year's refurbishments internally, the outside is now getting some attention. Re-flagging has been finished at the front and the planters will be refilled over the next couple of weeks, depending on the Whitworth weather.

The club's Twitter, Facebook and website provide updates on events and current beers on tap, including any one-off changes to opening times for live sports on TV, both SKY and BT being available. Remember the club generally opens at 7pm, but at 5pm on Fridays, 3 pm on Saturdays and 1pm on Sundays.

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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 5th June our speaker will be Paul Blakey MBE on 'Street Angels'. 3rd July - Martin Lunn FRCA - Earth, Wind and Fire: the inner planets. 7th August - Frank Pleziak - Bee Keeping.

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.

## ROSSENDALE METHODIST CHURCH IN SHAWFORTH

<b>SUNDAY</b>	10.30am	Sunday Service. All welcome and stay for a brew afterwards
<b>MONDAY</b>	9.30am - 11.15am	Toddler Group
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7pm - 9pm	Whitworth Community Choir rehearsal
<b>THURSDAY</b>	8pm	Model Flying Club (last Thursday in the month)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	10.30am - 12pm	Community Drop In - tea/coffee/toast and a natter. All welcome
<b>SATURDAY</b>		Seasonal Coffee and Lunches. Look out for information

**Superintendent Minister Revd. David J Burrow Tel 01706 602882**

**For room hire (children's parties, meetings etc. wi-fi available) contact 07799 304 405**

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## WHITWORTH MUSEUM

Cycling both on and off-road appears to be gaining in popularity these days but competitive cycling on the track was taking place in Whitworth more than 120 years ago.

Several of the districts in the Rossendale Valley had their own cycle clubs but in the Township we had the 'Whitworth Wheelers Cycle Club', whose 'home' base was the cycle track at the Rawstron Street playing field, a venue now used by the Whitworth Valley football team.



The attached picture is of four members of the Rossendale Bicycle & Tricycle Club, at the start point of a one-mile race around the cinder track. The event took place on the 3rd July 1898 with the winner recorded as H.J. Whitworth. Mr Whitworth can be seen second from the right wearing a cap and with a moustache!!

This, and the many other photographs in our collection, can be seen at Whitworth Museum, North Street, which is open each Saturday between 11.00am and 4.00pm or at other times by appointment. While donations are welcome, entry to the museum is free of charge.

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## WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND



Whitworth Band has had a busy start to the year with the youth band joining the Veterans band in February. This year the "Newsome Shield" was presented to Jacob Milnes (E Bass) for the level of commitment shown to the band and improvement in his playing during the last year. This was the first concert for our new youth band conductor Zoe Wright.

Late February also saw the senior band compete in the first section at the North West Regional Championships resulting in fifth place.

The band will be taking in part in the Whit Friday traditional contests on 24th May and will also be involved with the D-Day celebrations being held at The Ashcroft on 9th June.

Finally, the Whitworth band organisation would like to send many congratulations to Zoe on her recent marriage to Ashley Higgins and wish them both all the best for the future.

For further information regarding the bands or bookings please ring Michael Whitby on 852613 or call into the band club between 6 - 8.30pm on a Wednesday (Youth band night).



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## Barley View



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look at this [www.whitworthcare.co.uk](http://www.whitworthcare.co.uk)



YOU BET IT'S ANOTHER PAIR OF CROSSWORDS  
WITH THE SAME ANSWERS!

CRYPTIC CLUES

The theme this time is notable women from round the globe, including Nuneaton. There are 5 of them, at 1 and 10 across, and 11,13, and 17 down. All except one of them feature an anagram.

ACROSS

- 1 Pushes that unusual pharaoh (10)
- 7 MP in saga about religion (8)
- 8 Shade? Maybe in Cornwall it isn't (4)
- 9 Welshman's platform (4)
- 10 Anglo-French Superqueen – real one to unravel (7)
- 12 The Taj Mahal... or a child covered in mud? (11)
- 14 Juliet's famous scene built by boy clan (7)
- 16 Woman made in error? (4)
- 19 A quick look back – and forward (4)
- 20 European Union – acid test? Or in charge? Happy now? (8)
- 21 Most troublesome! Nothing that is saintly, anyway (10)

DOWN

- 1 Sounds like a lot of cows – well, sounded? (5)
- 2 Pin tail into magical French footballer (7)
- 3 Healthy sounding greeting (4)
- 4 Casual worker not on time – that's the pattern (8)
- 5 Beyond fanatical fan (5)
- 6 No matter who, girl swallows greeting (6)
- 11 Grub, then, for this Swedish citizen of the world (8)
- 12 Reduced group loses Bjorn, but gains Edward (6)
- 13 Shuffle – lose ace – for Victorian nurse-cum-businesswoman (7)
- 15 Competition secretary makes a brew (5)
- 17 "Mary-Anne? But that's a woman's name." "Yes, George." (5)
- 18 Famous canine blemish (4)

REGULAR CLUES

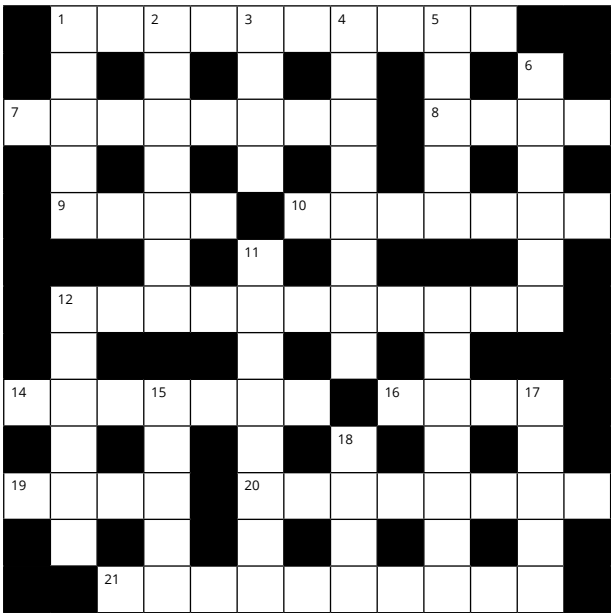
ACROSS

- 1 Powerful Egyptian from long ago (10)
- 7 Religion (8)
- 8 Shade (4)
- 9 Raised platform at front of room (4)
- 10 The Rigby woman (7)
- 12 The Aurora Borealis, maybe (1,5,2,3)
- 14 Verandah? (7)
- 16 Judi Dench (4)
- 19 Slightest noise (4)
- 20 Over the moon (8)
- 21 Least well-behaved (10)

DOWN

- 1 Used your ears (5)
- 2 Disgraced French football administrator (7)
- 3 Hard rain? (4)
- 4 A useful guide (8)
- 5 -vox or -violet (5)
- 6 ...for tennis? (6)
- 11 Young environmental activist (8)
- 12 Lessened (6)
- 13 Famous Victorian businesswoman-cum-nurse (7)
- 15 Southern version of a brew (5)
- 17 Victorian novelist who wrote Silas Marner (5)
- 18 Zit! (4)

**Humble pie corner.** The powerful woman who is the answer to 1 across (in both crosswords, of course) has bewildered your miserable setter to the extent that he has transposed two letters, exchanging P for T and vice versa. It being too close to deadline day to alter the knock-on effects of this error, please be advised that 2 down starts with the P, and 4 down starts with the T, so an already mind-boggling Egyptian name will need to be boggled a little more. Sorry, gentle readers.



**Joshua Law**  
Traditional Family



## Butchers...

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Whitworth, Civic Hall OL12 8DP



# 50 YEARS OF



# Whitworth Town Council

## HISTORY

Whitworth Town Council was formed in 1974 following the reorganisation of local government in England. Prior to this date, Whitworth Urban District Council was the administrative body in the Valley, but was abolished following the reorganisation.

The history of local government in Whitworth began 100 years before this, in 1874, and so local government in Whitworth is actually celebrating an incredible 150 years this year! The latter end of the 1800s saw a great deal of local development. As a result, a Local Board was set up in 1874 to administer Whitworth. Further independence arrived towards the end of the century with the creation of the Parish of Whitworth, one of 19 new parishes carved out of the original vast Rochdale Parish. Complete independence came in June 1894, when an urban district council replaced the Local Board. The first meeting was held on 3 January 1895 and the first chairman (appropriately enough) was a Mr William Ernest Whitworth. Whitworth had thus, at last, become ecclesiastically and administratively free of its neighbour. The wheel turned full circle in 1974 when the Urban District Council was abolished, and Whitworth was absorbed into the newly created Rossendale Borough Council (RBC).

The last Chair of the Urban District Council, Vincent Clegg, became the first Mayor of Whitworth for about 6 weeks, until the first elected Mayor of Whitworth Town Council was nominated in May 1974 – Dr John Tierney.

---

## MAYORS OF WHITWORTH

Each May a new Mayor of Whitworth is elected by council. The Mayor is the first person of the town and has the honour of representing Whitworth on numerous engagements throughout their mayoral year. Regardless of gender, the elected person is called the Mayor and they may be accompanied by a Mayoress or Consort, whichever they choose. The Mayor also chairs the Town Council meetings and, in the event of a tied vote, has the discretion to cast an additional vote on a particular motion.

An interesting fact is that the Mayor can wear the mayoral chains wherever they choose within the township, but permission has to be granted to wear them in other parts of Rossendale or even across the border into Rochdale - in fact in any area that is not Whitworth! The reverse is also true; any other Mayors coming into Whitworth need to ask permission to wear their mayoral chains here.

## WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Whitworth Town Council acts a pressure group for its residents and its councillors all have their own passions and interests. Each councillor brings into the role their own lived experiences and relevant expertise, with the aim of assisting residents in whatever their issue might be. The Town Council have a range of subcommittees, including the Tourism and Leisure Committee. The TLC (as it is affectionately known) consists of both councillors and a lovely group of volunteers. These committed, enthusiastic individuals help to organise events such as the annual Rushcart celebrations, the joyous Santa Express, Christmas Trees on Brackets which help to illuminate the township, and the world-famous Duck Race.

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## WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Town Council consists of twelve councillors. Contact details for each member can be found on the back page of this publication. Councillors are elected on a four-yearly basis and each councillor will be elected onto different committees and outside bodies, ensuring that the Town Council is represented in organisations such as Whitworth Playgroup, Whitworth Sports Council, Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund and the Whitworth Community Partnership meetings organised by RBC.

We thought the celebration of 50 years of WTC was a great opportunity to reintroduce to you our committed and hard-working councillors. We will be featuring a number of councillors in this and future editions of the Whitworth Valley News. In this edition, it was thought to be apt to firstly reflect on a current councillor whose connection with the council encompasses a phenomenal 50 years too!

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### Councillor Tom Aldred

Tom joined Whitworth Town Council in September 1974 as its Responsible Finance Officer. Throughout his time as an employee, he also took on the role of Town Clerk, merging the two roles, a situation which continues to this day.

After leaving his job, Tom then became a councillor and has remained on the Town Council right through to present day and is the first point of contact for all historical matters. He became an Honorary Townsman in 2012, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Whitworth, an honour only bestowed on 10 esteemed individuals to date.



### Councillor Louise Burton

Louise is our newest councillor. She joined WTC in July 2023 and has lived in Whitworth for the past 30 years. She works at Hopwood Hall College in Student and College Services and has previously been chairperson of Whitworth Playgroup Committee. Whist chair, the Playgroup received an outstanding recommendation from Ofsted and Louise considered this was partly due to the amazing, dedicated staff employed there.

She was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2000 and felt that despite the ups and downs of her illness, she was keen to take on a new challenge of becoming a councillor to help to keep the town as wonderful as its residents are.

## ELLIE “THE EAGLE” SOARS HIGH



In February, Ellie Clegg, a year 4 pupil at Tonacliffe Primary School, attended the British Schools Alpine Open Skiing Championships 2024 in Pila, Italy.

Competing against athletes from other UK schools and British Schools in France and Italy, she came away – in her very first Alpine race experience – with an impressive two bronze medals in the under-10 age group in both the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. Ellie, who has been skiing for only two years, is a member of Ski Rossendale Race Club, and trains weekly at The Hill (Ski Rossendale) in Rawtenstall.

She will now be turning her attention to the UK summer race league, competing in the GB Indoor and Outdoor series, which is the highest level of ski racing in the UK.

Ellie said, “It was great to represent my school and my village, and amazing to win two medals – but the best thing was making lots of new friends.”

---

## PLEASE HELP TO PROTECT OUR VULNERABLE BIRDS AND SMALL MAMMALS

Did you know that the Lancashire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Dogs Trust encourage owners to keep their dogs on leads during the nesting season – April 1 to August 30?

Whitworth Town Council (WTC) are asking our community to consider keeping dogs on leads when visiting our local nature reserve, Healey Dell, and Cowm Reservoir. Please note that WTC owns Waingap Woods/the Trim Trail, and here dogs must be kept on leads at all times, not just nesting season. For your own safety, and to protect nesting birds we implore you to keep to the footpath which forms the perimeter of Waingap Woods.

We all enjoy walking in nature. However, it’s a busy and crucial time for our wildlife too, especially at ground level. Skylarks, lapwings, meadow pipits, woodcock, robins, dunnocks and nightjars all nest close to or on the ground. Springtime also brings migratory visitors that have travelled thousands of miles to nest across our countryside.

These ground-nesting birds are incredibly vulnerable to disturbance from dogs, causing them to abandon nests, thus losing their eggs or chicks. Two thirds of ground-nesters, including curlew, are in decline. Many are critically endangered. Disturbance by dogs can make it even harder for them to survive. Nesting and fledgling birds are particularly vulnerable – the eggs of a willow warbler are so tiny that they can be crushed in a moment without a dog-owner even noticing.

Many dog-owners are of course passionate about nature and want to avoid harm. But even the most well-behaved dogs can unintentionally cause distress or damage wildlife, simply by following their natural curiosity. Birds perceive free-roaming dogs as predators, and may abandon nests, leaving eggs and chicks cold and unprotected – leading to their demise.

Responsible dog owners can help wildlife if they:

- Keep dogs on short leads, particularly in nature reserves, where wildlife should have priority.
- Clean up after their dogs, disposing of waste in bins or back home. Dog waste can carry diseases dangerous for wildlife, and by increasing nutrients in soils above healthy levels it causes harm to fragile habitats.
- Prevent dogs from jumping in pools – insecticides in dog flea treatments pollute waterways and kill wildlife too.

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Model shown is MY23 Yaris Cross Design 1.5 VVE-i Auto 170D £26,695 including optional Metallic paint at £815. Prices correct at time of being published. Terms and conditions apply. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km), combined 54.5 (5.2) - 62.8 (5.3). Combined CO2 117-192 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/fds/wltp.asp](http://www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fds/wltp.asp)

## CUSTODIANS OF HEALEY DELL



We are blessed to have a nature reserve here in Whitworth and many of us enjoy walking through the trees listening to bird song as we go.

What should be a wonderful, peaceful experience is blighted by litter and fly tipped items from Massey Croft bridge all the way down to the first gate, polluting land and the river Roch. The dangers to birds and small mammals is high as they become entrapped in the litter that's been so carelessly strewn on the ground and water courses. Most of the litter and waste has been discarded in truly inaccessible places and requires special equipment and manpower to retrieve, costing valuable time and money affecting every local taxpayer. Millions of animals are either badly injured or killed, including domesticated pets, every year on litter. Toxins from this waste leech into the ground and river forever changing the equilibrium of nature.

Whitworth Town Council, together with Rossendale Borough Council (RBC), are working closely to monitor and prevent future fly tipping and littering of our nature reserve. An extensive clean-up operation was recently conducted and surveillance of Healey Dell will be ongoing.

If anyone witnesses fly-tipping, please make a note of the vehicle's registration number and a description of the person. RBC WILL carry out an investigation and enforce action against the offenders.

The Environment Protection Act 1990 states it is an offence to drop or leave litter on any land. A fixed penalty notice may be served by RBC payable within 14 days of the notice being issued.

The natural world is on the brink as habitats and species buckle under human pressures; therefore let's work together to protect our natural world for the sake of us all and become good custodians of our nature reserve, Healey Dell.

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## WHITWORTH MEN'S SHED

Following on from the success of their range of Christmas merchandise products, Whitworth Men's Shed volunteers are now engaged in producing a number of items for the spring and summer season. These include nest boxes, bat boxes, bird tables and novelty planters, all of which are available directly from the shed.

Amongst its range of services is the repair of garden accessories such as seats, pet houses and features. Just visit the Shed or call for details of services available.



Wheelbarrow Planter

New for 2024 is the Shed's programme of monthly talks. These are held on the second Tuesday of each month and take place at Hallfold UR Church in Hall Street, just a short distance from the Shed. These presentations are specifically aimed at the interests of older men and are open to members and non-members alike.

The Shed hosts two drop-in sessions each week, Wednesday mornings and Friday mornings. Both sessions run from 10.00am - 12.00am and are open to all men aged 45 years and upwards.

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

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## MAYOR'S OVERVIEW

### Cllr Mike Royds - Mayor of Whitworth 2023 - 2024

I have had a fantastic year as your Mayor, although it did start with a bang, hearing about the closure of the Leisure Centre just four days into my term of office. During this time, I was also involved with the legal issues regarding the cattle grid but with the outstanding help from our small team of councillors and our hard working Town Clerk, both these important items had successful outcomes. We had a great day celebrating the Rushcart with many people attending and kind weather. A very moving duty for me personally was leading the tributes at the Remembrance Service, once again very well attended and immaculately observed.

I have been very busy representing you and Whitworth. I have met some lovely people, attending almost some 35-40 events. Some very moving ones include giving out GCSE awards for some very talented pupils at Whitworth High School, organising and presenting the Whitworth Business & Community Awards, attending some very entertaining Nativity performances and meeting with other Mayors from around the area such as Hebden Royd, Blackburn, Rochdale and of course Rossendale.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me by attending or giving raffle prizes and donations for my fundraising events this year – Spring party, quiz night, curry night etc. We have certainly been busy and should have managed to raise a good amount, to give out to our local charities and community groups. I couldn't have done it without the support of my wife & Mayoress and our local councillors so would like to thank them all for what they have done this year. I can honestly say I have learned a lot this year and enjoyed representing you – the great people of Whitworth. I will continue to support you all I can as a Town Councillor.

---

## INITIATIVES

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

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

Whitworth in Bloom continue to put on a blooming fantastic display. This year they brightened up the bicycle at Britannia and the lower tier of the fountain planter at Healey Corner with regal colours, as a tribute to King Charles' Coronation. They also continue their tremendous efforts at the Memorial Gardens and Whitworth Cemetery,

two places which Whitworth residents can take time to reflect on what a beautiful town we live in. They also spend a lot of time maintaining the areas at Cowm Park Way North, where their Beasties BnB continues to thrive.

The Town Council-produced quarterly Whitworth Valley News magazine continues to be a very popular read, receiving editorial contributions from a wide variety of organisations and featuring 41 paying advertisers. It involves a significant amount of work for the Clerk but is very well received and ensures all in Whitworth are up to date with town news and developments. It is hand-delivered to all households by the Sports Council volunteers.

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

The Town Council works in partnership with Rossendale and Lancashire Councils and other local organisations including Lancashire Police and Together Housing to provide the best possible services for the Whitworth community.

To give examples, the Town Council facilitates monthly Multi-Agency meetings, where representatives of all the main agencies come together to tackle issues in the town. The Town Council continues to take a pro-active approach to tackling the issue of litter and uncollected dog-mess, supporting the legislative work undertaken by the Borough Council, issuing further letters to residents around particular 'grot-spot' areas and supporting volunteers by providing litter picking equipment.

The Town Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee, featuring councillor and non-councillor members, organises or part-organises many events annually – this past year's offers

include the Rushcart, a wreath making workshop, First Aid courses, Santa Express and the New Year's Duck Race. Additionally, the Town Council itself is responsible for organising Whitworth's Remembrance Sunday commemorations and the Community Carol Service. All these events serve to preserve and strengthen the town's identity and provide a solid sense of community and civic pride.

Comprising town councillors and representatives of local sporting organisations, the Whitworth Sports Council continues to flourish, and plans for the 2024 annual Skyline walk are well under way.

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## **TOWN TWINNING**

Whitworth has been twinned with Kandel for over 57 years and the friendship between the towns continues. Cllr Aldred and the rest of the committee are instrumental in keeping the twinning alive, and thanks are due to them for their continued work; if you wish to get involved

with Town Twinning in Whitworth, please contact them. A delegation from Whitworth will visit Kandel in October this year and Whitworth Town Council hope that all the delegation enjoy their visit there.

---

## **PLANNING**

As a statutory planning consultee, the Town Council passes comment on all Whitworth applications; Rossendale Borough Council then takes these observations into account when reaching planning decisions. Since April 2023, 31 applications have been considered by the Town

Council, ranging from new bungalows to fencing around Festival Park Bowling Green. The Town Council is also consulted on Highways proposals and other consultations which relate to or affect the Whitworth area.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Whitworth Town Council continues to work to the best of its ability to serve its community. The quality of the council is monitored and ratified through the benchmark council awards scheme, and the feedback from the community is overwhelmingly positive.

The Town Council strives to be as accessible as possible, with the magazine and website facilitating communications to the community, and the availability of the town clerk and councillors, along with the publicly attended council meetings, enabling a two-way communication with residents, organisations and businesses.

The Town Council works with local organisations and authorities to improve its offer and to enhance the lives of everyone in Whitworth, and to ensure that any issues or problems are monitored and dealt with swiftly.

This year Whitworth Town Council worked hard to facilitate the transfer of Whitworth Leisure Centre from Rossendale Borough Council and continues to support the newly formed Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC in its reopening of the facility. It is always looking for innovative ideas to tackle problems, and initiatives such as the support of the Whitworth police car and the partnership working with Rossendale Council on controlling dog mess are making a real and positive difference to daily lives.

On a lighter note, the Town Council continues to provide and support a range of fun, family events and initiatives throughout the year, encouraging community spirit and togetherness.

There will, as always, be challenges and opportunities presented over the year ahead, but the Town Council is well equipped to deal with both.



<b>Monday</b>	<b>1pm-7pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am-5pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9am-5pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am-5pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9am-1pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>

**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)

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

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Join us for tea, cake and activities each month.

Email for more details  
thewowproject2018@gmail.com

This year we will be raising funds to support  
local causes.



## A BEACON OF LIGHT IN WHITWORTH

At The Lighthouse Community Foodshare we are asked all the time "What can we do to help...?"

Here are a few hints and tips on how you can support us:

1. Please like and follow our Facebook page and share our posts
2. We accept all donations of food, toiletries and household products - have a cupboard spring clean
3. Have a collection box in your workplace
4. Do something funny for money - hold a sponsored event at your workplace, school or with friends & family
5. Instead of birthday cards on your birthday - ask people to donate a small amount of money instead (saving the environment whilst supporting a good cause)
6. Donate plastic bags for our clients
7. "One month no take out coffee" challenge - instead of a daily coffee (which are around £4 each) pop them pennies in a pot. At the end of the month you could have up to £100, and that would buy us 100 jars of coffee for 100 clients!



A massive thank you to all our supporters, donors, and volunteers. We are so grateful to everyone. You help us to continue shining our light!

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## WHITWORTH PLAYGROUP EASTER SONGS

On the 28th of March the children of Whitworth Playgroup were delighted to welcome their families along with the Mayor and Mayoress to their Easter concert and bake sale.

They entertained the adults with a number of the songs they had been practising, before everyone enjoyed a selection of home-made cakes. The Mayor and Mayoress drew the tickets for the raffle with prizes including hand knitted toys, Easter eggs and a voucher for our local butcher. The Mayor then presented the children with Easter eggs to take home and enjoy over the holidays.

If you would like your little one to join the Playgroup, they can be contacted at: 07538 104812 or whitworthplaygroup@hotmail.com

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## JAKE BERRY

Whitworth MP, Jake Berry, has welcomed £216,000 of funding from Government to support the re-opening of Whitworth Leisure Centre, and has congratulated Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC on their hard work in securing it.

After the shock closure of the Leisure Centre by Rossendale Council last Summer, CIC volunteers have worked hard to ensure the gym could reopen earlier this year – but the Leisure Centre desperately needed more funding to ensure the pool could reopen too. That day moved a step closer with the CIC's successful bid from the Government's Community Ownership Fund.

Commenting, Whitworth MP Jake Berry said: *"I am so pleased that it looks like Whitworth Leisure Centre will now be able to reopen in full thanks to £216,000 of support from the Government. I had been lobbying ministers hard down in London to make sure they backed Whitworth, and I'm thrilled that it worked."*

*"I want to pay tribute, most of all, to the extraordinary work of the Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC, who have worked night and day both to reopen the gym, and to secure vital funding to ensure the pool can reopen too. I look forward to seeing their continued success."*

## THE ILLEGAL USE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES IN THE ROSSENDALE VALLEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

The illegal use of motor bikes, quads, 4 x 4s and ATVs, on the moor and common land, contrary to popular belief, is not a victimless crime.

The livelihood of local farmers is under serious threat. Their working environment, the moorland has been damaged beyond repair, causing financial hardship and distress.



Other issues which are not exhaustive, include:

- Damage to the moor and irreparable erosion of upland peat.
- Wildlife, including ground nesting birds, whose habitat is being destroyed.
- Damage to fencing, dry stone walls, ripping out gates, cutting locks.
- Harassment of cattle, horse riders, mountain bikers, walkers and wildlife.
- Polluting water ways which flow into our reservoirs.
- Criminal, threatening and intimidating behaviour when approached.
- Serious incidents, when 999 calls have had to be made.
- Significant threat posed by irresponsible riding/driving on public highways, bridleways and footpaths. In most cases the vehicles are not registered or insured.
- They are in breach of S59 of the road traffic act and a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which Rossendale Council have in place. They ignore S59 and PSPO signage.

The perpetrators are organised groups, as large as 37 vehicles. These individuals travel a considerable distance (Mansfield, Yorkshire, Merseyside, Sheffield and Nottingham) specifically to come to Rossendale to illegally ride their vehicles, off-loading from vans.

There are local facilities which these individuals could use, Cown Leisure, BUT they would rather go down the illegal route.

Report incidents by:

- Calling 101 to GMP or Lancashire Police.
- Report retrospectively, on-line. If bikes are seen off-loading, obtain vans' registrations and images, as long as this doesn't put you at risk.
- If incidents are not reported, the Police are not aware.

### Lancashire Police

<https://doitonline.lancashire.police.uk>

Ask to refer the report to RTF (Rural Task Force) and Op Dragster.

### GMP

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime>

Ask to refer the report to Op Dragster.

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## HELP WANTED!

The next Whitworth Valley News will be published in August. The sun will be shining, the sky blue. What's not to like about an hour's balmy stroll around the streets of our fair metropolis posting said WVN through, say, 120 letterboxes? Go on, you know you'd enjoy it!

Contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 and he'll explain all and find you a lovely round.

# CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

Events since the last magazine include a quiz night held at the Band Club in February which raised £400. Thanks to everyone who supported the event and especially the Club who contributed to the supper and provided raffle prizes. The meal at the Rose and Bowl in March raised £1010, another fantastic evening. Thanks to Carol and John and all staff and to everyone who donated prizes. The next two scheduled events are the Songs of Praise at Christ Church Healey on Friday 17th May @ 7pm. It's free entry with donations on the night. Then it's the first golf tournament of the year at Lobden on Sunday 23rd June. Anyone wishing to take part, please contact the committee on any of the numbers below.

The committee are proud to announce that Arnold Ashworth, our longest serving member, was awarded with the Flame of Hope award. It was presented at Gorton Monastery in March for his long service and work for Cancer Research UK. Arnold first started fund raising in 1964 along with his late wife Joyce who was also a recipient of the award in 2008.

The committee would like to thank Glenn Sheil, one of our friends and supporters who, in celebrating his 30 years in business as GLS, held a raffle for 30 free MOTs and raised £1075 for CRUK.

If anyone wants to donate to Cancer Research or ask any questions about the committee's work, or join the committee, or attend any events, please contact Michael Whitby 852613, Arnold Ashworth 343424 or Elaine Bagshaw 853935.



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SOLICITORS

**WILL & POWER OF ATTORNEY FEES**

- Wills - £125.00 + VAT (£150.00)
- Mirror Wills - £200.00 + VAT (£240.00)
- Power of Attorney - £400.00 + VAT per application plus an £82.00 registration fee.

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

**CONVEYANCING FEES**

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

**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Residential & Commercial Conveyancing.
- Family law including divorce & children applications.
- Wills & Power of Attorney applications.
- Probate & Court of Protection applications.
- Civil litigation.
- Employment law.

**APPOINTMENTS FOR ADVICE**

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

If you have any questions or want to make an enquiry, please contact the office on 01706854167 or email [info@rossendalaw.co.uk](mailto:info@rossendalaw.co.uk).



# NEWSLETTER

## Whitworth

### LEISURE CENTRE

Fit For The Community

April/May 2024

CURRENT JUST GIVING TOTAL  
**£13,160**

CURRENT GYM MEMBERSHIPS  
**85**

VOLUNTEER STAFF  
**29**



#### THE POOL - WHY ISN'T IT OPEN?

It's the number one question... "Why isn't the pool open?" We completely understand the frustration; we want it open too. But it isn't as simple as just filling the pool with water, even though it was usable prior to closing. The pool 'room' needs a lot of work.

The pool has slowly leaked and the water is currently only around a foot deep. It requires a lot of energy to heat; utility costs rise to around £8,500 a month when the pool is running, so we need it to be as efficient as possible. The pumps need maintenance to make them run at their best, and there are minor tiling repairs needed on the pool itself. When the windows were boarded up, the frames were damaged and panes of glass smashed, so new windows and frames are required. We also have leaks in the roof of the changing rooms which need attention. A partition needs to be built between the main pool and the baby pool, which will be transformed into a new studio space. This will also bring with it the benefit of making the main pool room more energy-efficient as it will be smaller space. Everywhere needs just a little TLC. We also need to employ lifeguards and staff who are qualified and capable of managing pool machinery and running the necessary tests.

We need to ensure our electricity systems, fire safety, health & safety, and emergency procedures are all up to specifications to run the centre safely.

## RECENT BIG NEWS

### Community Ownership Fund support programme



Funded by  
UK Government

This week, progress has been made by deciding and actioning which software we will use. This will make lots of things easier, such as member enrolment, direct debits, in-house management, and includes an app for members with numerous useful features.

As you have possibly heard, we have received confirmation that we have secured funding from the Community Ownership Fund. This is HUGE for the centre but doesn't mean it's job done. This money is the key to the centre's transformation but our extensive running costs mean we still need community support.

This is mainly in the form of using the facility - we need more members!

The best news is **the pool will open!**

The garden will be a beautiful, usable space. We will have a brand-new studio space for classes, parties and PT sessions.



- A notice board displaying all our information is now up outside the centre.
- Online memberships are coming soon!



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



For information on any of the classes below, please call in or contact us. 01706 801770 Email - Whitworthleisurecentre2023@outlook.com

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
8:00							
9:00							
10:00							
11:00							
12:00							
13:00							
14:00							
15:00							
16:00							
17:00							
18:00							
19:00							
20:00							
21:00							
22:00							
23:00							
24:00							

Currently Closed

Key.

Leisure Centre  
Closed

Yoga with Katie  
07969213608

Plates with Peggy  
07969533071

Plates with Rachael  
0796920274

Running Club  
Just turn up!

## GYM

### Opening hours

Monday	6am - 2:30pm   5pm - 9pm
Tuesday	6am - 2:30pm   5pm - 9pm
Wednesday	6am - 2:30pm   5pm - 9pm
Thursday	6am - 2:30pm   5pm - 9pm
Friday	6am - 2:30pm   5pm - 9pm
Saturday	9am - 12pm
Sunday	Currently Closed

Whitworth Leisure Centre

Fit For The Community

# 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  
rlhgasandpropertyservices@yahoo.co.uk  
GAS Safe registered 531279  
33 Oak Street, Shawforth

## SEAN BRADLEY

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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

## 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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FB page - ETERNAL CEREMONIES  
Tel: 07834 924 626  
tinaann.hall@yahoo.com

## MACLEOD PODIATRY

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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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01706 852018  
info@whitworth.gov.uk

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the content of adverts within the magazine.

## 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  
07970 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@homestarttrbh.co.uk](mailto:emma@homestarttrbh.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

**David Chorlton** (Independent): 07939 218266 • clldchorlton@gmail.com

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

**Sarah Rhodes** (Independent): 07891 269998 • clrsarahrhodes@whitworth.gov.uk

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

## HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD

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

**Robbie Blezard** (Community First): 07506 609226 • cllrrobbieblezard@whitworth.gov.uk

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

**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: 16th May, 20th June and 18th July

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

At the time of going to press, the results of the RBC election on May 2nd were not known.

Please see the RBC website for your councillor's details

## LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**Councillor Scott Smith**

Scott.Smith2@lancashire.gov.uk

07891 695962

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

**Jake Berry MP**

0207 210 5000 (House of Commons)

01706 215547 (Constituency office)

jake.berry.mp@parliament.uk

www.jakeberry.org