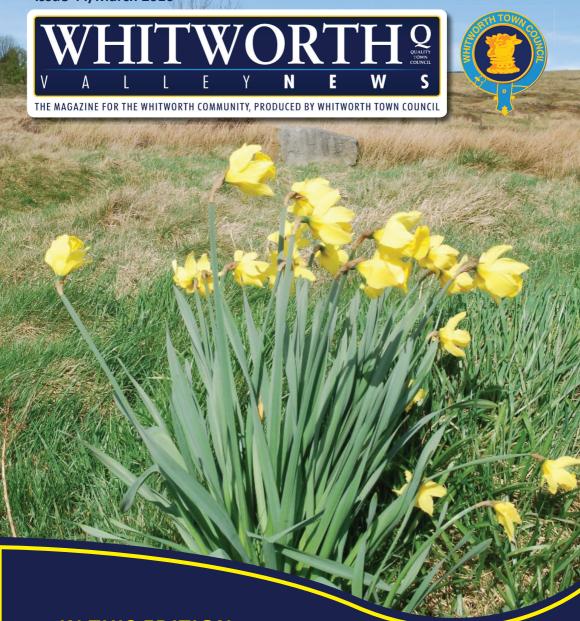
Issue 44/March 2016



IN THIS EDITION:

Upcoming events in Whitworth...St George's Day Celebrations... Scarecrow Festival entry form...Spodden Valley Revealed ...Historical Society...Skyline Walk...useful contact details...Local Trades List...Band news...Message from the Mayor...Precept information...news from our community organisations...and much more!









MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Time has passed quickly since last May and my year as Mayor is drawing to a close. David and I have attended numerous events in the Valley and further afield; we've had a wonderful time and have been very proud to represent Whitworth as Mayor and Consort.

Every event has been very enjoyable, but I wanted to say a special thank-you to Whitworth High School for inviting me to their GCSE presentation evening in November. It was really inspiring to see what our young people are achieving with the help and hard work of the teachers and staff – they are really making Whitworth proud.



The Mayor of Whitworth, Councillor Lynda Barnes accompanied by family members Davi

Once again, the Remembrance service was outstanding with the local community coming out, whatever the weather, to remember the fallen. The performance by the joint primary school's choir was really poigniant (it even gave me goosebumps!) and I wanted to thank the schools for taking part, my Mayoral Chaplin Rev Lyn Woodall, and everbody else involved in making the service run smoothly.

This year began with a record breaking attendance to the 2016 New Year's Day Duck Race. I would like to thank the Tourism and Leisure Committee for their hard work to organise and run these events.

Thanks to all who have supported the Mayor's Charity, from donating raffle prizes and buying tickets to attending Charity functions. The funds raised for the Mayor's Charity will be distributed among the Young People of Whitworth.

As this is my last message as Mayor, I'd like to address the whole Whitworth community and say that it's been an honour to serve you as Mayor. We're look forward to the Civic Dinner in April; this year we are planning a 'Celebration of a year in Whitworth', it promises to be a great event and I hope to see you there. We have secured the fantastic female vocalist Gemma-Louise Doyle and I am very much looking forward to her performance along with the sumptuous four course meal that is planned. Tickets are available from the Council Office and if you book a table of ten then you will be entered into a prize draw to win a luxury hamper worth over £100.

Thank you.

With all best wishes,

Councillor Lynda Barnes, Mayor of Whitworth

Saturday 2 April at The Riverside
Celebration of a year in
Whitworth

Book a table for ten and enter the draw for a fantastic hamper worth over £100!!

Tickets available NOW from the Council Office
£27.50 including fabulous female oscalist, a sumptuous four course meal and
dancing until late

The cover photograph of this magazine is used with kind permission of Cliff Booker, if you would like to contribute to a future issue of the Whitworth Valley News, please contact Melanie, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 or email info@whitworth.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION – THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON WHITWORTH

Lancashire County Council continues to face an unprecedented financial challenge. By 2020 Government reductions mean LCC will have to face cuts of £685m. This extremely difficult financial picture is the result of continued cuts in funding by Government, rising costs and rising demand for key services, particularly Adult Social Care. This may mean cuts here involving bus services; the Countryside Ranger service; the 515 Youth Club; and our Library.

County Councillor Sean Serridge said "Such big cuts to our local services really is devastating, and I am backing the request by county council leaders of all parties to demand the government look again at these funding proposals. I will be doing all I can to limit the impact on Whitworth, and to protect those services which we value most. Please take part in the consultation, and also email me directly on Sean.Serridge@ lancashire.gov.uk with your views and ideas. I will ensure your views are taken into account when decisions are being made, and raise them directly with the Leader of the County Council."

All Whitworth Town, Borough and County Councillors unanimously passed a resolution to stress concerns to Lancashire County Council about bus services, the library, the 515 Centre and gritting/highways.

As a Whitworth resident you have a right to contribute your views to Lancashire County Council on any of their services. Lancashire County Council run a website called 'haveyoursay', so if you're online that's one way to contribute. You can also contact the Council Leader, County Councillor Jennifer Mein, on Jennifer.mein@ lancashire.gov.uk; or the Deputy Leader, County Councillor David Borrow, on David.borrow@lancashire.gov.uk. For the library you can also contact the Head of Library Services on Julie.bell@lancashire.gov.uk and for the Youth Service questionnaires will be available from the Youth Club, Children's Centre and the library. You can also express your views to our local MP – jake.berry.mp@parliament.uk Alternatively you can write a letter on any of these subjects to Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston PR1 OLD.

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Rossendale's busy team of award winning Community First Responders save lives and care for people across the Valley by supporting the North West Ambulance Service. Established in 2003, the Rossendale team is one of the busiest in the North West, covering a large rural area of 53 square miles and 70,000 people.

Additional volunteer Responders are being sought for Whitworth. All Responders must commit to full training, organised by the North West Ambulance Service, which includes a final assessment by paramedics. No previous first aid knowledge is necessary but commitment is required.

Responders are needed to provide cover during the day, in the evening and at weekends, with flexibility for each volunteer to work to their availability. They have training meetings every fortnight. There is a good camaraderie between the Responders and always a bit of banter.

If you are interested in becoming a First Responder, log on to www.nwas-responders.info where you will find an application form, call **0845 0021 999** or call Dawn Taylor on **07812 303856**.



JUST MOVE TO IMPROVE

It's New Year's resolution time, when you think about making changes for yourself. After much holiday indulgence, shape up at Shawforth Chapel exercise classes. Success stories have already happened, from being inspired at the class, weight loss and even giving up smoking, in a bid to be healthier, (the ladies used their own efforts for that of course) but they said the class motivated them. HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training), tabata, medleys and many other types of circuit training involving intervals are the types of classes offered. HIIT benefits: gets rid of body fat more efficiently, after burn of fat for 2 hours!

Tired of your helly, butt and thinks. not looking their best? Just Movel To Improve Cardio/HIIT classes At Shawforth Chapel Tuesday & Thursday 9.15am-10.15am Monday 6-7pm out weight management & Cardiovascular Fitness £3 UU Commitment Nutrition Motivation

Want to get more active?

There's additional toning for those problem areas, belly butt and thighs, after you melt away the fat, sculpt those muscles into that body you will be happy with. Exercises are for beginners to advanced, any age, all shapes and sizes are welcome so you won't feel intimidated.

Most importantly it's preventing those degenerative diseases, such as high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes to name a few, you'll see inactivity and weight as top risk factors in their cause. It's all about being more active, remember: Just Move! To Improve.

For more information contact Rosemary Thompson (07886963024)

INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

Why not come along and see what Whitworth Photographic Society have to offer, now in their sixth year and going from strength to strength.

They are a friendly and enthusiastic society who welcome everyone from beginners to experienced photographers and throughout the year they regularly hold presentations, trips out and club competitions to help improve their photography skills. The trips out are of photographic interest, please see

www.whitworthphotographicsociety.org.uk for details of their syllabus.



ken by Whitworth Photography Society member John Butterworth

Last year they held their annual competition with Bacup Camera Club and a 2 way battle with Rochdale Camera Club with great results, they are now looking forward to their annual competition with Bacup next month followed by a 2 way battle with Nelson Camera Club later this year.

During last year they had some interesting talks from black & white photography to Colin's South Indian Experience. A talk from husband & wife team, Adrian & Jane on creative differences was well received.

Whitworth Photographic Society meets on the first and third Monday of each month in the band room at The Band Club, 498 Market Street, Whitworth, OL12 8QW at 8pm

New members are always welcome, please come along and join in! Contact Jim 07973 421145 (jim.mellor47@btinternet.com) or Lisa 07739 324901 (lisamac97@googlemail.com) for more information.









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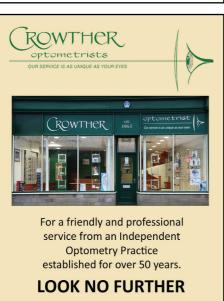
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ALPINE FLOWERS WILL FESTOON THE RIVERSIDE WITH BEAUTY AND COLOUR

After the tremendous success of recent events, Whitworth will again play host to a national horticultural event, when the Alpine Garden Society stage another huge Spring Flower Show at the Civic Hall (Riverside) on Saturday 19 March. The event attracts exhibitors, judges, nurserymen and enthusiasts from across the



country and features over 140 individual classes ranging from rare alpine gems to bulbs, conifers, succulents, ferns and mini-gardens. Unusual plants from around the globe will vie for your attention with nurserymen selling the cream of alpine plants, while many of the nation's leading exhibitors will be competing for a number of highly prestigious medals and trophies. Shows held in the hall in the 1990's and more recently attracted marvellous attendances and the organizers hope that Whitworth folk will be tempted back by a raffle, tombola, free parking, seed, book and plant sales, licensed bar and refreshments.

The event runs from 11am until 4pm on 19 March and entry for the general public is only £2.50 – why not go along and enjoy the floral magic of the mountains in the foothills of the Pennines. The Show Secretary, Carol Kellett, can be contacted on 01257 273382. The East Lancashire Local Group (which holds regular monthly meetings at the Civic Hall in Ramsbottom) continues to thrive – new members are always welcomed and encouraged. Secretary and Whitworth resident, Cliff Booker, can be contacted on **01706 356385.**

ONE FRIDAY, ONE SUNDAY

This year, local Methodist churches are hoping to spread the message of Easter in a contemporary way.

Thrum Hall Methodist are engaging members of the church who are skilled in various forms of art to develop some art installations in order to form a display that tells the story of Easter. This will include floral art and an Easter garden display. They are even hoping to engage the homeless people who are served at their soup run in one of the projects. The displays will be open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy week. On Thursday Evening there will be a Maundy Thursday Meal and an Easter Day Family Celebration Service for all ages.

Syke Methodist will also be involving artists and hopefully photographers and members of the Community Base and church groups to produce a similar display to the above. Easter will be celebrated with a 6.30 Sunrise service followed by breakfast.

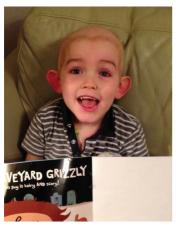
Whitworth Methodist ...The Lighthouse in partnership with Anglo Recycling Group are hoping to involve the businesses in Market Street to create window displays that tell the Easter Story. Would you be willing to lend a window to help create an Easter trail that would hopefully be a marketing tool for the High Street with a seasonal message? Local groups are also invited to create a display to a given theme. On Good Friday itself there will be Good Friday Reflection time in the church and on the Thursday and Friday of Holy Week there will even be Hot Cross Buns. Further enquiries and offers of help will be gratefully received, contact Rev Helen Johnson **01706 646566**.

BLOOD DONATION EVENT

Following the success of the first NHS Blood and Transplant Blood Donation event at the Riverside in May, a further event has been scheduled for Monday 29 February, with sessions from 1.15pm – 3.30pm and 5.15pm – 7.30pm. Every day hospitals need around



6,100 blood donations and 330 platelet donors. Regular donations are crucial to saving and improving the lives of patients with cancer, blood disorders and those suffering medical trauma or undergoing surgery. Please visit **www.blood.co.uk** or phone **0300 123 23 23** to find out if you're eligible to donate, register as a donor and book an appointment. Giving blood is easy to do and will only take about an hour of your time. By giving a single blood donation, you can save or improve up to three people's lives. It could literally be a matter of life and death for somebody else.



FUNDRAISING FOR JOSHUA MCCORMACK

Whitworth born Joshua McCormack is a 4 year old boy who, on the 27 October 2015, was diagnosed with an ultra rare cancerous tumour on his brain stem. He has already undergone pioneering surgery which removed 75% of the aggressive tumour, followed by 6 weeks of intense radiotherapy on his whole brain and spine. This has left Joshua with physical and mental disabilities. Joshua, a popular pupil at St John with St Michael, Shawforth, is currently on a break from treatment which will commence again on the 4th March. This is 4 months of intense chemotherapy in the hope to kill the remaining tumour. His parents Kevin and Nicola, are attempting to raise funds to assist Joshua in his rehabilitation and are also hoping to take him to Disneyland, Paris for a well deserved family break after treatment is complete.

The next event in aid of Joshua is a family fun day at Mayfield Rugby Club in Castleton on 28 February starting at 11am, admission by a donation on the door. For information about this and other upcoming events please contact: lewigreg081281@hotmail.com 07712 649956.

www.facebook.com/groups/1144399812251689

WHITWORTH SPORTS FESTIVAL

Whitworth Sports Festival is set for Saturday June 11 to Sunday June 19 this year, a week later than it was last year. The festival has always been brilliantly supported by our local primary schools and their pupils, but we hope to have more events this year aimed at older children and adults too. How about running the 400-yard Treacle Challenge; or the Senior Fell Race; or you could try Thai boxing, or boccia, or boules, or bowling, or climbing, or dancing, or table tennis, or water sports, and there may well be two very different cycling events? We also aim to have a busier and more varied opening day at the High School, for all ages, and rounders and a family-and-friends football event are likely to feature, so you might like to be sorting out your team! If you need more information or, even better, if you'd like to run an event, please speak, pronto, to Jo Furtado (07813 181748).





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WHITWORTH'S ROYAL VISITORS

This year the Queen will celebrate her 90th birthday and although the Queen has never visited Whitworth, the Historical Society have kindly provided us with information about Whitworth's very interesting royal encounter. In 1913, George V & Queen Mary were en-route between Bacup and Rochdale. On that occasion His Majesty stopped his car at Millgate and requested to look inside a typical textile worker's cottage. The house he visited was that of Mr & Mrs Ford and this house is now recognised, and the visit marked, by a 'Blue Plaque'.



King George V & Queen Mary as their car passes Facit Mill en route to Rochdale (The actual car still exists and is housed with the Queen's collection at Sandringham) permission

This is not our only Royal encounter. The Duke of Edinburgh made a visit to Orama Mill, then Delusso Kitchens, in the mid 1970's and the Princess Royal made an official visit to Whitworth in November 1991. The latter occasion was to officially open the then refurbished CAB office, located at that time to the rear of the old Whitworth Council offices.

WHITWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY - HERITAGE MUSEUM



A hand lamp used by a local ARP Warden during wartime blackout conditions - one of the many local

For many years, Whitworth's local museum in North Street has opened its doors to members of the public on Saturday afternoons 2.00 - 4.00pm, and on Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm, throughout the year. This year it is the intention of the Society to increase public access to the collection by additional opening during the 2016 spring and summer seasons. From Sunday 3rd April 2016 through until the beginning of October, the museum will be open from 2.00 - 4.00pm on the first Sunday of the month to provide an opportunity to see the extensive collection of local interest objects and to view the

 $comprehensive\ documentary\ and\ photographic\ archive.$

The museum is well served with parking on the adjacent North Street public car park and, if required, wheelchair access to the building and its facilities is available on request. Entrance to the museum is free and hot drinks are available in return for a donation towards upkeep of the museum. New for 2016 and still under development is the museum catalogue which visitors, with museum staff guidance, can view electronically should they wish to do so. Assistance with family research is offered and souvenirs are available to purchase, either as a personal memento or a gift.

LOBDEN GOLF CLUB

Lobden golf club began its existence at Shawforth in 1888 but was originally named as Rochdale golf club.

After a period of time it found the ground unsuitable and moved to Lobden moor where it is today. Rochdale golf club had another nine hole course at Kings Road Rochdale so members could play at both courses. The splitting of the old Rochdale golf club came in 1905 when the lease ran out at Kings Road course. The new Rochdale golf club moved to Bagslate where they still are and the newly named Lobden golf club took the name of the moor where it sits today. Lobden golf club has just started its 128th year as is the 15th oldest 9 hole golf course in the world and is also the oldest in the East Lancashire golf association. The 6th tee at 1032ft is the second highest tee in England. On a good day it is possible to see Jodrell bank, the Welsh hills and 4 different counties.

Lobden golf club has always been recognised as a friendly club who welcome new members. Throughout the year they hold lots of events for the people of Whitworth to enjoy.

Membership prices: New male member £200 for 1st year. New lady member £50 for 1st year. Returning male member £340. Lady returning member £140. New junior member £30. For more information contact **01706 343228** or visit **www.lobdengolfclub.co.uk**. Follow their facebook group for updates on events and more.

KEEP WHITWORTH TIDY

Thirty million tons of rubbish are collected from England's streets each year. That's enough to fill Wembley Stadium four times over! In Whitworth alone, our Town Caretaker is kept busy clearing up rubbish but we can all help to Keep Whitworth Tidy.

If every adult in Whitworth picked up just one piece of litter and put it in a bin, that would be 4000 pieces of rubbish disposed of. Imagine if everyone picked up at least one piece of litter every day for the next year? Some people have been inspired to take action to tackle litter in Whitworth and 'Keep Whitworth Tidy' have so far held four successful litter picks and accumulated over 100 bags of rubbish with the help of a team of local volunteers. Organised picks are usually held monthly on a Sunday morning from 10am until 11am and equipment is provided. The next litter picks are scheduled for Sunday 28th February 2016 and Sunday 20th March 2016 and everyone is welcome.

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN FOR HER MAJESTY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Clean for The Queen is a campaign launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th birthday in 2016. It will rally an army of volunteers across the country to clean up their local areas and will include a special clean-up weekend on March 4–6.

"Everyone has a responsibility to keep their community tidy and this campaign provides us with a great chance to protect our wildlife and improve the quality of our streets and public spaces. I hope it will help lead to a lasting legacy of a cleaner, tidier Britain."

If you, as a group or an individual, would like to take part in Clean for The Queen, please register at **www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk,** where you'll find advice and tips about how to join a group or to simply do your bit.





WHITWORTH BAND

The Band would like to thank all their supporters who attended any of their concerts or made donations during December to the street playing, your continued support is much appreciated. The weather was kinder to the band this year and they managed to visit more area's although Christmas day was a bit damp to say the least !!!

The first contest of the year at Skegness was one to forget as the band came 20th. By the time of publication hopefully the band will have acquitted themselves at the Area finals in Blackpool.

The concert season is being planned along with fund raising event's for the 50th Anniversary of Town Twinning trip to Kandel in the summer. The first concert of the year for the senior band will be the St George's concert on Saturday 23rd April at The Riverside. This will be a busy weekend as the parade takes place the following day. Whit Friday this year takes place on the 20th May and it is envisaged that there may be some concerts celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday.

The youth band continue to develop and enter their second contest in April. The academy scheme, developed in schools, is growing from strength to strength leading to an additional learners band at the club on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm.

If anyone would like to book the band for a fundraising event, join the band or bring their children to the band to learn how to play, please contact Michael Whitby on **01706 852613**.

CANCER RESEARCH - WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

The committee would like to thank all their supporters and anyone who has attended any of the events during 2015 - the target of £12,000 for the light microscope was achieved just in time for the Annual carol concert in December. Once again the concert was a huge success raising over £1200 and local professor, Alan Jordan, again provided a fascinating insight to the advances being made in the treatment of this disease which affects so many but is becoming more treatable.

The target for the committee this year is £10,000 to purchase two cell doc systems. Events are already planned for the year ahead and include:

Quiz at the Band club on Saturday 6 February

Fund Raising meal at The Promenade Bar & Grill on Thursday 17 March

Coffee morning with Hot cross buns at Greenbrook House on Saturday 26 March

A sponsored ascent of Ben Nevis in April

Annual songs of praise at Christ Church Healey Friday 29 April

Golf tournament at Lobden Golf Club 15 May

The committee are always open to suggestions for fund raising and should anyone want to help by raising funds they will receive support from the committee and the local area organiser.

If you would like to attend any events or just like any information on the committee's activities please contact Michael Whitby on **01706 852613** or Joyce or Arnold Ashworth on **01706 343424.**

WHITWORTH MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP

CQC Inspection Report

The CQC inspection took place on Wednesday 9 December 2015 and the group are all extremely happy with the results. All staff and members of the PPG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those patients who participated in the CQC questionnaire for their comments and support.

The CQC inspection area ratings are as follows:-

(Latest report published on 7 January 2016)

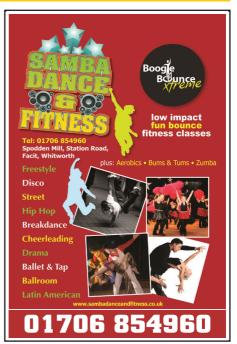
Safe
Good
Effective
Good
Caring
Good
Responsive
Well-led
Good

The full report is available online at:- www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-548991929

Minor Injuries Unit

The Minor Injuries Unit at The Hub, Bacup Road, Rawtenstall is open 8am – 8pm 365 days per year (including weekends and bank holidays). There is free parking to the rear and the 464 Rochdale to Accrington bus stops outside. Patients unsure of whether they should be treated at the Minor Injuries department or access treatment elsewhere should telephone NHS **111** (free of charge) for advice.









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SPODDEN VALLEY GRASSLANDS

A Whitworth nature reserve has been identified as an important stepping stone to help bees and other pollinators recover from decades of decline. Work on meadows at Spodden Valley will provide a link for insects to pollinate native wildflowers which have been planted there.

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust's South Pennines Grasslands Project has been working on the site to restore and extend meadows on the site which lies to the north of Healey Dell. It is running activities throughout 2016 to restore and improve the wildflower meadows at Spodden Valley. This will involve removing scrub that has encroached the meadows, cutting back overgrown grasslands and planting new wildflowers, all with the aim of increasing biodiversity. There will be opportunities for volunteers, schools, community groups and individuals to carry out the practical work.

If you would like to learn traditional grassland management techniques, get out in the fresh air and learn about your local wildlife site, please get in touch with Rebecca (rwitcombe@lancswt.org.uk or 01282 704605) or Phil (preddell@lancswt.org.uk or 07923 485856) to find out how you can get involved. The work is funded by Lancashire Environment Fund, Wren, Whitworth Town Council, CCG and Newground.



Working to restore the meadows

A Painted Lady at Spodden, photograph taken by Phil Reddel

DON'T LET CUBS & BEAVERS CLOSE!

Whitworth Cubs and Beavers may sadly have to close their doors unless they can raise around £700 in the next four weeks. The money is needed to pay for insurance, both on the building and also to ensure the children are covered during all the many activities they undertake. This on top of various utility bills which have built up over the past year and have brought this once thriving group to its knees. Their Chairman, Mr Tony Phillips says, 'We are determined to raise the amount needed but we will be looking to the people and businesses of Whitworth for some much needed help. We do have several fundraising plans for the near future but we can't put these into place in time to raise this money so we will be writing to local businesses to ask for donations, speaking to local councillors and basically pleading for money from anyone who will listen. We know, from past experiences that Whitworth is a very caring community and we are confident that this will once again be proven, this time on our behalf.'

For the group to once again begin to thrive, new members are needed. Beavers is open for 6 to 8 year olds and takes place at the Scout Hut on Wednesdays from 6.30 - 7.45 pm.

Cubs caters for children aged 8 - 11 years and is held on Tuesdays from 6.15 - 7.45 pm.

Subs are £5 per week or £15 per month by standing order.

If anyone would like to make a donation to this very worthwhile, local group then they can contact Tony on **07792 811407** or alternatively email him at **tonyphillips86@gmail.com** or make a donation online using this link **www.crowdfunding.justgiving.com/whitworth-scouts**

ROSSENDALE ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

A team of Year 10 Business Studies students from Whitworth High School entered the Youth Enterprise Challenge to raise funds for Rossendale Hospice along with the other local schools. Whitworth High School students made a superb presentation detailing all the hard work and enterprising efforts they had accomplished and the judges unanimously declared them to be the winners, having raised the most money and involving the whole community in the project.



Throughout December, the students wisely invested a small start-up grant from the Hospice and turned this into a much bigger amount to return to the Hospice. They initially invested £13.78 to purchase ingredients for a bake sale but after re-investing the profits, and also due to the superb generosity of students, staff, parents, the local community and local businesses, they have given back to Rossendale Hospice a phenomenal £1882.62 – which, using the formula given, represents a massive 13,735 return on the investment!!

The students involved in Whitworth High School Youth Enterprise Challenge winning team are:

Jak Foreman, Tiger Hall, Rebecca Harrison, Lewis Keating, Thomas Kershaw, Toni Potter, Chloe Calderbank, Chloe Fallows, May Heslop, Aiden Nixon, Megan Pinder, Tanya Prince, Alexandra Clegg, Elle Gregson-Howorth and Alex Lord.

Well done to all - worthy winners and Rossendale Youth Enterprise Champions 2015/16.

GREEN VALE COMMUNITY VAN VISITS WHITWORTH

Green Vale Homes are launching a new community van which will visit areas throughout Rossendale. Tenants can come to discuss any issues they might have including repairs, Anti-Social Behaviour or concerns about falling behind their rent payments.

The van will also have access to computers and the internet to offer basic computer support, demonstrate the new Green Vale website and help tenants register to use it.

Anyone interested in becoming a Green Vale tenant is also welcome to come for information, find out how to register for a Green Vale property and the bidding process. Properties currently vacant will also be displayed.

The Green Vale community van will be in Whitworth, on The Riverside car park from 11am until 3pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 9th March Wednesday 13th April Wednesday 11th May Wednesday 8th June Wednesday 13th July

WHITWORTH VALE & HEALEY BAND CLUB

The Club had a busy Christmas and New Year including Sean's Fun Quiz and the annual Carol Service. Along with many other residents and businesses in Whitworth the Band Club had some flooding issues on Boxing Day but was able to open as normal.

Regular Saturday night concerts are lined up to suit all musical tastes; coming up are local favourites KND on 20 February and 7 May, The Exit Band on 12 March, and the ever popular Idol Frets on 26 March, 16 April and 21 May. Fun quiz nights take place every other Sunday from 27 February, with a bonus cash prize of up to £100 available. Sunday night Karaoke every 4 weeks on 6 March, 3 April, 1 May and 29 May. Come along for a sing song!

Although the Band Club is a members club anyone is welcome to enjoy the fine selection of lagers and real ales including San Miguel, Warsteiner, Thwaites Original, and 3 premium guest beers which change regularly.

Follow the Club on Facebook, which is updated weekly with ales available and forthcoming entertainment. The Club is available for special events and there's a small meeting room for community groups to use, all free of charge - contact the Steward on **01706 852484.**





WHITWORTH TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

WHITWORTH SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The 6th Whitworth Scarecrow Festival takes place from 25 June – 3 July this year. Once again this year the public will be voting for which display they think is the best, with the winners announced at the Family Fun Day at the Riverside on 5 July. If you'd like to take part you can pick up an entry form from various locations in Whitworth or, rather handily, you can simply complete the one opposite and



hand it in at the Riverside! Last date for returning the forms is Friday 10 June, so you've got plenty of time to come up with ideas for your display. How about a display depicting a sporting event like the Tour de France – or the Whitworth Sports Festival? Or a display to mark the Queen's 90th birthday this year? Or even your favourite superhero?

Any queries, call Melanie at the Town Council on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.



Photo by Mike Burgess, used with kind permission

BY GEORGE - IT'S ST GEORGE!

On Sunday 24 April, the Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee will present the 2015 St George celebrations. This event has become a staple in the Whitworth diary and is very popular, attracting larger crowds – this year the event is expected to be bigger than ever with a special appearance from a fantastic dragon! At 2pm a procession, lead by the Mayor of Whitworth, 'St George', a dragon and the Whitworth Vale and Healey Band, plus representatives of the uniformed organisations, will set off from the corner of Tong Lane and process along Market Street to the Riverside (Civic Hall). Then, at 2.15pm, a Celebration will take place followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome to take part in the procession and attend the service. If you would like to help out by spending a few

hours marshalling or are part of a group and would like to take part in the procession or help out, contact Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk on **01706 852018 or email info@whitworth.gov.uk.**

WHITWORTH NEEDS YOU!

Have you ever wondered who organizes all these fantastic events that happen throughout the Whitworth year? Well they are carefully planned and executed by a crack team of volunteers known locally as the Tourism and Leisure Committee. You may have seen them out locally sporting their dashing hot pink shirts?

The committee meets about eight times a year and are always looking for new members. If you just fancy getting involved for a couple of hours per year then you could help by marshalling at some of the events. If you would like find out more about the TLC or marshalling opportunities, contact Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 or email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

WHITWORTH SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2016

ENTRY FORM

Your name *:



YOUR DETAILS (all those marked with * are required):

Your name and contact details are for the organiser's use only; your address and the name of your display are the only bits of information that will be included on the Trail Map.

Your address (incl. postcode) *:
Your contact tel no *: Your email address:
£1 entry fee paid: YES / NO
YOUR SCARECROW'S DETAILS:
Name of your scarecrow or scarecrow display (as it will appear on the Scarecrow Trail map) *:
Location of your scarecrow display (if different from your address as above) incl. postcode *:
THE OFFICIAL BIT: By signing this entry form and paying my £1 (non-refundable), I agree to display my scarecrow(s) between Sat 25 June and Sun 3 July. I understand that there may be people who will come and look at my creation. If I am unable to show a scarecrow I will do my best to let the organisers know before
10 June. I understand that if my scarecrow display is deemed to be inappropriate I may be asked to remove it. I understand that I may be asked to display a laminated Scarecrow Festival poster next to my display.
SIGNED:
PRINT NAME:
DATE:

Please return this form to one of the venues listed below by FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2016:

- Council Offices, Civic Hall, Market Street, Whitworth
- The Riverside (Civic Hall), Market Street, Whitworth
- Whitworth Post Office, Market Street, Whitworth
- UBS, 699 Market Street, Whitworth

For more information, please contact Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk, on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

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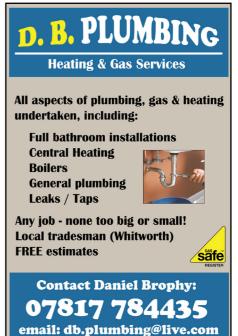
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WHITWORTH'S ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

Every English town or parish must hold an Annual Meeting of the Parish for electors registered in the area. If there is a Town Council, its Chairperson (or Mayor) chairs the meeting. This year, Whitworth's Annual Meeting of the Parish takes place on Thursday 19 May at 7.30pm, at the Riverside. The meeting will be quorate (legal) if just two electors are present. Although chaired by the Mayor, this is not a Town Council meeting. It is a meeting for all Whitworth people to get an overview of what is currently happening in the town, looking the work of the various organisations serving Whitworth (including the Town Council), and offering electors the opportunity to raise queries and make observations. It's usually over within an hour or so, so why not come along, everyone is welcome. See you there! For more information, contact Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

GENTLE EXERCISE AND RELAXATION FOR MATURE MOVERS

Wellbeing and fitness is essential for everybody - even if you feel that you couldn't take part in a hectic fitness class, this class could be right for you. Whitworth has it's very own community fitness group led by an ex-professional dance and fitness teacher. This is a small diverse group which enables the instructor to adapt each exercise to suit individual needs and there is a lovely friendly atmosphere.

The classes are held at Whitworth Library on Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8.30 pm. The library offers an ideal venue: it is warm, clean and a welcoming atmosphere. There is a charge of £5 per session which covers the costs of the class.

The exercises consist of gentle yoga, pilates and relaxation, tailored to suit individual needs and although the class is gentle the exercise is effective. During the class relaxation techniques are introduced and the skills are built for people to use at home.

No need to book, just turn up to a class or call Sheila (07762 757925) for more information.

JOIN THE TEAM AT ROCHDALE CHILDREN'S MOORLAND HOME

Rochdale Children's Moorland Home is a registered Charity that has been in existence for 120 years providing much needed holidays for young children from Rochdale and the surrounding areas.

Through an internal reorganisation they are looking to recruit a hard working and organised housekeeper to support and work with the matron and childcare workers during the season, which runs from the end of March until the end of October.

The hours of work shall be 11.30am until 8.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am until 4.00pm of Friday and in return, dependant on age, you will receive £7.20 per hour for a 38-hour week. The salary can be prorated over a full 12-month period if required.

If you would like a rewarding job and join this hard-working team, please request an application form from Becky Allatt on **01706 647020**

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL NEWS



Whitworth Town Council has this year set a net budget of £57,751. The Council is pleased to announce that, for the sixth year in a row, there will be no rise in the precept for the financial year 2016/2017, a significant achievement in the current financial climate. This past year has seen some pressures on finances, but some decent savings have been made in various areas of the budget. Additionally, the Town Council's wise investments are providing a healthy dividend. The Council is never complacent, however, and continues to strive to increase income and reduce spending wherever possible. Expenditure includes salaries for the Town Clerk (30 hours), our full-time Whitworth Town Caretaker, who makes a significant impact on the town's cleanliness, and our Parish Lengthsman, who tackles repairs and general maintenance around the town. The Town Council's website attracts good visitor numbers, and the Town Council utilises social media to encourage a two-way dialogue with the community. The Valley News magazine, produced quarterly by the Town Council, continues to be hugely popular, and the Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee has a variety of leisure and cultural events planned for the year ahead. The Town Council continues to promote Whitworth as a great place to live, and lobbies hard for the best possible services for the town. It is at the forefront of tackling crime through the sponsorship of the Police Community Support Vehicle, and facilitates monthly multi-agency meetings attended by all the local agencies. To conclude, the Town Council continues to be proud of its achievements, and looks forward to working with and for the people of Whitworth during the forthcoming financial year.

	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15	
Employee's (Town Clerk / Town Caretak	ter) 45,323	46,898	46,457	
Parish Lengthsman (salary / materi	als) 7,287	7,066	7,100	
Administrative Expenses incl. re	nts 9,364	8,945	9,325	
Statutory and Civic Events / Expen	ses 8,415	7,065	6,110	
Audit	ee 450	450	450	
Training / Members' Expen	ses 650	250	250	
Insura	nce 1,628	1,480	1,451	
Grants to Outside Boo	lies 1,000	500	500	
Special Proje	ects 6,800	5,000	2,500	
Street Floral Displ	ays 600	600	600	
Magazine (Valley Ne	ws) 1,250	1,854	2,760	
Investment Inco	me -10,500	-10,000	-8,300	
LCC / RBC devolved fund	ing -9,697	-9612	-9,612	
Other inco	me -5,819	-5,764	-5,629	
From Reser	ves 0	-309	-390	
Contingend	ties 1,000	1,000	1,000	
COST OF TOWN COUNCIL LEVY	(£) 57,751	55,423	54,572	
RBC Council Tax Support Gr	ant 8,000	8,000	8,000	
Net prec		47,423	46,572	
Number of band 'D' equivalent u	•	2,061	2,024	
·				
Council Tax per band 'D' property (Ep) 23.01	23.01	23.01	
Percentage increase per band 'D' prope	erty 0%	0%	0%	
Actual increase per band 'D' prope	erty Op	0р	0р	



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WHITWORTH FLOOD GUIDANCE AND FLOOD RESILIENCE PLAN

Flooding problems have become more acute in the Village since 2006. A group of local residents affected by flooding came together to form the Whitworth Flood Forum Steering Committee with the purpose to reduce the risk of flooding in the future. As a Pennine Village, Whitworth is liable to flash floods as rainwater pours off the moorland. However, using local knowledge of the area, measures can be taken to alleviate the situation.

The Flood Forum have received excellent support from the National Flood Forum Charity to develop an Action Plan considering the causes and potential solutions to Whitworth's flood problems. This is continually updated with regular meetings taking place with various agencies including the County Council (LCC), Rossendale (RBC), Rochdale Council, United Utilities and Environment Agency (EA).

The local Whitworth group was formed to represent all local residents who are worried about the risk of flooding. Whilst they continue to have meetings to address our flood risk, we felt that we needed to do something for residents, for that "just in case" moment. So, we have created this very simple plan for residents to outline how to know basic precautions that can be taken as individuals and a community.

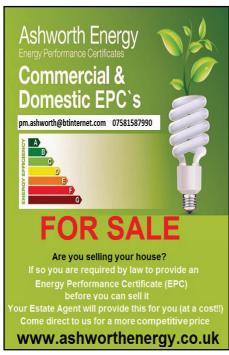
TO REPORT	CALL	NUMBER		
a life threatening situation	Emergency Services	999		
a non-threatening situation	Local Fire Brigade	01706 215162		
an emergency situation	Rossendale Borough Council	Daytime: 01706 217777		
		Evenings/Weekends/		
		Holidays: 0300 222 5946		
a blocked road drain	Lancashire County Council			
	Highways	0300 123 6780		
sewer flooding	United Utilities	0845 746 2200		
main river flooding	Environment Agency: Floodline	0345 988 11 88		
a blockage in the river	Environment Agency:			
	Incident Hotline Number	0800 80 70 60		
anything non-emergency flood				
related in our village can go through us!	Whitworth Flood Forum:			
	Simon Macaulay (Chairman):	simon.macaulay@		
		anglorecycling.com		
	David Broadbent	david.broadbent@		
		northernjoinery.co.uk		
		01706 853513 (for Simon		
		Macaulay or Barbara		
		Dawson)		
To enquire about flood related things	National Flood Forum: a charity	01299 403055		
	dedicated to supporting groups,			
	campaigning on groups behalf,			
	have a dedicated helpline for all			
	flooding issues, including insurance			













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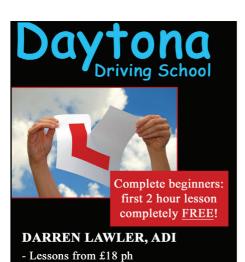
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WHITWORTH SKYLINE WALK

This year's Whitworth Skyline walk will take place on Sunday 15th May 2016. Walkers will sign in at Lobden Golf Club between 8 and 9am, as in previous years, but this year the walk will go anticlockwise around the moors. The usual checkpoints will be in place providing orange juice and plasters. At two checkpoints there will be the possibility, if needed, of an early drop-out. 14 miles after setting out, back at Lobden, there will be a certificate as a memento of your day, a free meal, an open bar and, if previous events are anything to go by, a cheerful and welcoming atmosphere amongst others who have achieved the same as you! Can we turn last year's 300+ walkers into 400 this year?



Entry forms will be widely available soon, with clear instructions about

where to return them and the date by which they must be returned to claim your pre-entry discount. Do come and join in – it's a real challenge, but one which as a community we can accomplish in a spirit of friendly encouragement. The profit last year was used to support the work of the Sports Council, the Tourism and Leisure Committee, the First Responders and the Mayor's Charity Fund.

If you don't want to walk but would like to help out, Skyline cannot work without the kind volunteers who staff our checkpoints. Please contact Jo Furtado (01706 853442 or 07813 180748) or David Chorlton (01706 853234) – we will be looking for marshals for all our checkpoints, and will be particularly keen to hear from anyone prepared to offer assistance with a 4x4 vehicle.

If you'd like to walk just a bit of Skyline slowly, we're always on the lookout for backmarkers for the various sections of the walk – a simple but vital role: again, please contact Jo or David (numbers above), who will explain in more detail.

GALLERY AT THE BATHS

The Gallery at the Baths continues to showcase work by a variety of local organisations. You may just have time to catch Whitworth Photographic Society's splendid exhibition. Then come:

• February 19 Tonacliffe County Primary School Art Club

March 11 Whitworth Historical Society
 April 1 Samba Dance and Fitness
 April 22 Whitworth Skyline Walk

• May 13 Whitworth Sports Festival Retrospective

If you, as an individual or your organisation, would like to exhibit sometime soon, please contact either Christine Ashcroft (01706 853012) or Jo Furtado (01706 853442 or 07813 180748).

St Mary and St Anselm St Patricks Night



Ceilidh Dance

at The Riverside on Friday 18 March at 7.30pm

Tickets £6, available from:

David Peel (07970 782333) or Carmel Donnelly (01706 650239)

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WHITWORTH SWIMMING CLUB

Whitworth Swimming Club is recruiting new members for our widths and lane session on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Swimmers must be aged between 5 and 16 to join the club. Please see the contact page on the website or email whitworthswimmingclub@gmail.com for information.



medal celebration and Christmas party with a range of activities and competitions for the children. The next few months are very with a real focus on stroke developments in breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke. A number of badge months are also planned. In spring will be the very successful distance night and again a sponsored swim to raise funds for the club.

Before Christmas the club had a very successful

Medal Celebration and Christmas Party

In June the club are planning for the Junior Splash n Dash race which is 200 metre swim and 1 ½ mile run around Cowm Reservoir.

At the end of July the club will welcome some visitors from Kandel to Whitworth as part of the exchange programme. Later in August a small group will visit Kandel to celebrate the 50th year of the Town Twinning Scheme. www.whitworthswimmingclub.com

INTRODUCING SPODDEN VALLEY REVEALED

Spodden Valley Revealed is an exciting new project for Whitworth which will explore the long timeline of human settlement in Whitworth. The end result of a three year process will be a unique, linear heritage destination for local people and visitors to explore, adding fascinating content to the longer off-road cycling, riding and walking route which will become the Valley of Stone Greenway.

The project is currently at the beginning of the initial development stage, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Throughout 2016 a development programme of community activities, artist led explorations and archaeological study will all feed into final detailed plans before preparing the second stage bid to support two years of implementation work.

SVR will be a unique kind of visitor destination - a 'string of pearls' of historic sites, all signposted from the central cycling and walking route. Both the engagement programme and the interpretation of these sites will involve a range of exciting opportunities for artists.

SVR will be created through a programme of comprehensive community activities and learning, involving local schools, volunteers and local community members of all ages. There will be lots of opportunities for you to get involved, including:

- Volunteers working with experts on archaeological digs
- Walks & talks led by heritage experts
- School visits to heritage sites and interpretation with creative practitioners
- Intergenerational tea parties to record oral histories
- Local people working with artists to interpret heritage and produce artworks large and small

For more information and to get involved please visit the website www.midpenninearts.org.uk/spodden-valley-revealed The Project Manager for Spodden Valley Revealed will be Diana Hamilton. Diana has started work this month and can be contacted via Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk at Whitworth Town Council 01706 852018 or info@whitworth.gov.uk



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(35 Knowsley Cresent, Shawforth, OL12 8HR)

Double Glazing Repairs:

MANCHESTER DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS

Whitworth-based, 30 years' experience, no callout charge. Locks, handles, hinges, sealed units, drafts, leaks. tel: Richard on 07768 243081/richard@mdgr.org

List your business for £5 + VAT per edition! t: 01706 852018 / e: info@whitworth.gov.uk

Electrical maintenance & installation for home &

business: PDB ELECTRICAL

tel: 01706 860840 - 07740 825536

pdbelectrical@yahoo.co.uk

(20 Ainsdale Drive, Whitworth, OL12 8QB)

Gas Engineer (servicing, installs & repairs, kitchens & bathrooms):

RLH GAS & PROPERTY SERVICES (Richard Lyon-Hayes)

tel: 07970 470019

rlhgasandpropertyservices@yahoo.co.uk

www.rlhgas.co.uk

(33 Oak Street, Shawforth, OL12 8NP)

High Power Pressure Washing (paths & patio cleaning, driveways & tarmacing, decking & cobbles, graffiti removal, garden stone walls, moss & algae removal), plus window cleaning: SEAN BRADLEY

tel: 01706 879928/07773 798078

seanbrad09@gmail.com

(19 Douglas Road, Bacup, OL13 9PR)

Painting & Decorating: ANDREW ROBINSON

tel: 01706 639709/07967 203484

(4 Meadow Head Avenue, Whitworth, OL12 8TH)

Plastering Services: M CREWE PLASTERING

tel: 01706 759896/07932 986666

(217 Market Street, Whitworth, OL12 8TF)

PMB PLASTERERS (Paul Burrill)

mob: 07720 484700 email: plburrill@hotmail.co.uk Whitworth based plasterer with 20 years experience, high standard finish, no job too big or too small (17 Grange Road, Whitworth, OL12 8LF)

Plumbing & Heating - LPG (Gas Safe Reg.): PHIL JONES

tel: 07976 886926/philip.jones1@btinternet.com (4 The Hedgerows, Whitworth, OL12 8AW)

Window Cleaning - Pure Water Fed Cleaning System (hard-to-reach windows)-UPVC Cleaning: JOHN LEYLAND

tel: 01706 854380/07790 771368

(7 Daniel Street, Whitworth, OL12 8BX)

Window & UPVC Cleaning - Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Jet Washing: OPENREACH

tel: 0800 612 7679/openreach-wcs@tiscali.co.uk

www.openreach-wcs.co.uk

(15 Westgate, Whitworth, OL12 8UW)

This community magazine is produced by Whitworth Town Council. It is distributed to 3,600 properties in Whitworth four times a year.

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MORE INFO: Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk (tel: 01706 852018 / email: info@whitworth.gov.uk)

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cherylbrine@rocketmail.com

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01706 853234 • david@ubswhitworth.co.uk

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maureen5961@hotmail.com

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kriane@outlook.com

Alan Neal (Community First): 07817 414721

alanneal@rossendalebc.gov.uk

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Civic Hall, Market Street Whitworth, OL12 8DP

Contact: The Town Clerk

tel: 01706 852018

email: info@whitworth.gov.uk

www.whitworth.gov.uk Office hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 2.30pm

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

FACIT & SHAWFORTH WARD:

Lynda Barnes and Madeline De Souza (see left for contact details)

HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD:

Alan Neal and Sean Serridge (see left for contact details)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Sean Serridge

(see left for details)

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:

Jake Berry MP

0207 210 5000 (House of Commons) 01706 215547 (Constituency office)

jake.berry.mp@parliament.uk • www.jakeberry.org

FORTHCOMING WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Thurs 25 Feb, Thurs 10 Mar, Thurs 24 Mar, Thurs 7 Apr, Thurs 28 Apr, Thurs 19 May, Thurs 26 May.

All meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Riverside; members of the public are welcome.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

Community Police Officers (PC 424 Vinny Hopkins and PCSO 7356 Heidi Kirkbright): to speak to Vinny or Heidi, or to report a non-urgent crime or incident, please dial 101. For emergencies only, dial 999.

Green Vale Homes: 0300 555 5556 (general enquiries) • 01706 836318 (Michele Heys, Whitworth Officer)

Help Direct: 0303 333 1010 • www.helpdirect.org.uk

Home-Start Rossendale: 01706 214621 • coordinator@homestartrossendale.co.uk • www.home-start.org.uk

Honorary Alderman Eileen Kershaw: 01706 344661

Lancashire County Council: 0300 123 6701 (general enquiries) • Highways 0300 123 6780 or email highways @lancashire.gov.uk • out of hours social care emergencies (5pm – 8.45am) 0300 123 6720 www.lancashire.gov.uk

Rossendale Borough Council: 01706 217777 (general enquiries) • 0300 222 5944 (revenues and benefits enquiries) 0300 222 5946 (out of hours emergencies) • www.rossendale.gov.uk

The Riverside (Whitworth Civic Hall): 01706 854130 • riverside-whitworth@zen.co.uk • www.whitworthriverside.co.uk (open weekdays 10am – 3pm; closed Tuesdays)

Whitworth Medical Centre: 01706 852238 • www.whitworthmedicalcentre.nhs.uk

The Green Vale Homes community van will be in Whitworth, on The Riverside car park from 11am until 3pm on the following dates: Wed 9 March, Wed 13 April, Wed 11 May, Wed 8 June, Wed 13 July

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