

Whitworth

VALLEY NEWS



PRODUCED BY
Whitworth
Town Council



see page 13 for more details

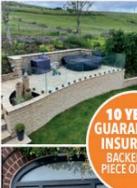
MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**

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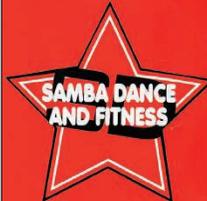
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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Whitworth Residents and Friends,

We've had an eventful Winter, with lots going on in Whitworth.

It was a great privilege to bestow the title of Honorary Townsman upon Councillor Alan Neal, who has been serving this community for nearly four decades now. We all appreciate your dedication to Whitworth, Cllr Neal (full details on page 7). We also saw the appointment of a new Town Councillor, welcome Cllr Scott Smith. Scott, as some of you will know, has been an active councillor locally for some time and already represents Whitworth on both RBC and LCC. Also, Cllr Sarah Rhodes has kindly agreed to take over from Cllr Kim as Deputy Mayor - please join me in congratulating Sarah and supporting her in her new role. She recently stood in for me as Chair and did a sterling job. I'd like to thank Cllr Kim for all her hard work while she was in the role.



We also had the floods, where several local businesses and residents were impacted. Due to the nature of the floods, conversations have been had with the Environment Agency, United Utilities, LCC and the Flood Forum. My thoughts are with those affected and plans are underway to put protective measures in place.

Whitworth's Environmental and Wildlife Committee was established in the late summer. On this Town Council Committee both councillors and experienced and passionate members of the public aim to proactively address some of the local activities and their impacts on our local ecology and beautiful surroundings.

They, along with the Town Council and other agencies, will be looking into the impact of the proposed Scout Moor II windfarm planned recently by Cubico. The wind farm project is still in consultancy phase, with lots of opinions for and against from the residents of Whitworth and wider region. I would highly recommend that you research as much as you can about this as it will impact us for generations to come and needs to be taken seriously. There will be a second public consultation held at the Ashcroft soon and I would also encourage you attend that if you can.

To end with something positive - Valley Thai Boxing have the upcoming World Championships coming up soon, and over 12 of our talented local fighters will be representing Team GB over in Thailand in the spring (see page 17). Please join me in wishing them all the best and let's hope they bring back even more medals and victories to Whitworth!

Take care and look after each other.

Councillor Gareth Baron, Mayor of Whitworth

**PLEASE COME ALONG TO
WHITWORTH'S ANNUAL
PARISH MEETING
THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2025 7:30PM
AT THE ASHCROFT (CIVIC HALL)**



WHITWORTH

TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE

It was a very busy December for the hard-working volunteers who make up Whitworth's Tourism and Leisure Committee.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA

As well as hosting their ever-popular wreath making workshop, the volunteers branched out this year and added 2 extra workshops – Ukrainian Egg Decorating and Christmas Cracker Making. A lovely day of festive fun was had by all who attended, and the Committee enjoyed seeing the smiles on the faces of all who came. With Christmas music playing in the background and complimentary refreshments, it was the perfect start to their Christmas schedule. The Committee would like to give a special thanks to Lindsay Fairhurst, Janis Rielly and Pat Myers for their additional help on the day.



CHRISTMAS TREES ON BRACKETS

This year the Committee sold 80 Christmas trees which were installed the length and breadth of Whitworth. Once again, thanks to everyone who ordered one-you really did help to make Whitworth such a welcoming, festive place to be! A special thank you to Les Hirst, Steve Parker and their helper elves who work so hard to make this event work.

SANTA EXPRESS

Despite some pesky weather conditions, Santa returned to Whitworth via the Santa Express. Thanks to everyone who attended, and the Committee hopes you all enjoyed this wonderfully fun event in the Committee's calendar. It was lovely to have the Mayor of Whitworth wave off Santa on the Saturday night and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Rossendale welcome him to Bacup Town Centre on the Sunday night. And thanks so much to Santa for taking time out from his busy December schedule to come and visit Whitworth.



THE WORLD-FAMOUS WHITWORTH NEW YEAR'S DAY DUCK RACE

As ever, the TLC like to kick-off the beginning of the year with their New Year's Day Duck Race. An eggcellent 3,000 yellow ducks were launched down the overflow from Cowm Reservoir, raising funds for future community events in Whitworth. Thanks to everyone who came out to watch, despite the wind and rain! This event really does put the "fun" into "fundraising" and helps to finance the TLC's upcoming events.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE?

These events can only go ahead thanks to a team of incredible volunteers who come up with the ideas for, assist with the organising of, and support the events on the day. It can be hard work, but it is also a lot of fun!

If you are interested in joining the committee, then please contact Cllr Mike Royds (Chair of the Committee) on 07811 994458 or Rachel, Town Clerk, on 01706 852018 (Mon-Fri 9.30am to 2pm).

The TLC have about 8 planning meetings a year where all the year's events are planned and discussed. 2025 events so far include an 80th anniversary of VE Day event in May, the Whitworth Rushcart in September and of course, their busy range of December events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHITWORTH EASTER TRAIL

Plans are in hand for an Easter Trail across Whitworth. This free event will start on Saturday 5th April and be open until Thursday 17th April. Suitable for all ages, the idea is simple:

Scan the QR code for a series of maps (maps will go live on Friday 4th April)

Visit the area indicated by  to find a letter.

Put the letters together to spell out an Easter phrase.



Bring the phrase to the Town Council office by 11am on Thursday 17th April to enter a prize draw. This will take place at the end of The Ashcroft's coffee morning on the 17th April and 6 lucky winners selected at random will receive an Easter gift bag. All entries received at the Town Council office will also receive a treat. The TLC hope this free trail will be fun for Whitworth's intrepid explorers to take part in during the school Easter holidays.



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY CELEBRATION

The TLC had so much fun organising the D-Day Commemorations, they've decided to do it all again for VE Day! At time of the WVN going to print, plans were very much still in progress but look out for more information coming soon.

Please see the Tourism and Leisure Committee's Facebook page for updates on all their upcoming events.



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Model shown is MY23 Yaris Cross Design 1.5 VVT-i Auto PWD £26,655 including optional Metallic paint at £615. Prices correct at time of being published. Terms and conditions apply. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km), combined 54.6 (5.2) - 62.8 (4.5). Combined CO2 117-102 g/km. Hybrid electric vehicle. Figures obtained using a combination of battery power and fuel. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption, CO2 and/or equivalent all-electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption, CO2 produced, and equivalent all-electric range can vary significantly depending on a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP). All mpg and CO2 figures quoted are full WLTP figures. More information can be found by visiting: www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp.

HONORARY TOWNSMEN

The greatest honour that Whitworth Town Council can bestow on an individual is to nominate them to be an Honorary Townsman on Whitworth. The first Honorary Townsman was Herr Oskar Böhm, from Kandel – Whitworth's twin town- and that title has only been bestowed on twelve individuals since 1980. In 2024, two local individuals were nominated for the honour, with council unanimous in their nomination due to the long service of these two locals.



COUNCILLOR ALAN NEAL

Councillor Alan Neal was nominated to become an Honorary Townsman in September 2024 by Councillor Tom Aldred who considered that "I cannot think of anyone that is more deserving of this prestigious accolade" quoting Councillor Neal's 37 years serving the people of Whitworth as a councillor.

Cllr Neal stated it was a great honour which had been bestowed upon him, which had agreed to accept on behalf of his family and the people of Whitworth, without whom none of this would have been made possible. A celebration was held in November at The Ashcroft (Civic Hall) attended by the Mayors of Rossendale and Whitworth, with invited guests. Despite the inclement weather, residents came out in force to show their appreciation for Councillor Neal's dedication to Whitworth and enjoyed tea and cake, whilst being entertained by fantastic local vocalist Leah Fisher.

MR ARNOLD ASHWORTH BME

Cllr Janet Whithead nominated Mr Arnold Ashworth BME to be an Honorary Townsman in December 2024 citing "Arnold has given a great service not only to Cancer Research but to the people of Whitworth for over 60 years and is well deserving of being recognised by Whitworth with this honour". She explained that Arnold's dedication to Whitworth Amateur Dramatics and his incredible fundraising for Whitworth's Cancer Research Committee made him a more than worthy candidate for such an honour. Plans are currently in progress with Arnold to celebrate this award.

POPPIES AT THE MEMORIAL GARDENS.

Nowadays, the Memorial Gardens provide a place for reflection and relaxation, all the while reminding us of the sacrifices made in combat. This is further enhanced by the addition of the poppies on the railings. The Poppy and Me project was introduced in 2023 by local lady and army vet Jemma Harden who worked hard with members of the town's Tourism and Leisure Committee to make it happen. The 457 poppies represent all the British servicemen who lost their lives during the conflict in Afghanistan. The poppies were made by local firm, BCH, free of charge, then painted by Dean O'Loughlin of Triple-7-Refurbs. They were then installed by Jemma, Cllr David Chorlton, Cllr Mike Royds and volunteers Clive Morton, Mark Ambrose and Steve Parker. This is yet another cooperative venture that Whitworth can be proud of.



Last year, three new colours of poppies were added by the main gates: black to represent the Black and Caribbean troops; purple to commemorate the animals who died in conflict and white to symbolise civilians as well as combatants who died in times of war. Poppies can still be sponsored through the town council for a minimum donation of £20 with all profits going to the Royal British Legion.

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PROTECT WHITWORTH'S WILDLIFE

Wildlife protection contributes to a healthier planet, enhanced ecological sustainability, and beneficial coexistence between humans and nature.



Are **you** ready to act? The **Environment and Wildlife Committee** encourages these ways to protect wildlife:

1. **Sustainable land use practices** – including reducing pollution, minimising disturbance, and avoiding activities that disrupt natural ecosystems e.g. not littering and keeping dogs on leads
2. **Public education and awareness** – to develop responsibility and stewardship, encouraging everyone to protect wildlife and habitats e.g. hedgehog conservation
3. **Research and monitoring** – by monitoring the status and trends of wildlife populations, essential for effective conservation management e.g. RSPB bird counts
4. **Creating wildlife areas** – by investing in nature-based projects or making our homes wildlife-friendly habitats, we provide safe refuges for birds, butterflies, bees and other species whilst also promoting biodiversity
5. **Tree planting** - trees offer food, shelter and breeding grounds for many species and help to offset the carbon emissions of human activities
6. **Recycling** – reducing demand for new products, and carbon offsetting by lowering waste in landfills and incinerators, both large sources of carbon emissions
7. **Conserving natural habitats** - such as wetlands or woods, to protect land from development and other human activities that can disturb the ecology



SKYLINE 10

Skyline 10 will take place on Sunday May 18. The route this year will run anticlockwise, which means we have a reasonably flat start, but finish with a half-mile climb back up to the Golf Club. The full walk is, as ever, 14 miles long (a proper challenge, to be taken seriously), but there will be the usual shorter option for those for whom that is too much of a challenge: the Eastern Skyline to Britannia is 5 miles long. Because it's our tenth walk there will this year be a dress code – please wear something visibly blue!



Entry forms will appear in all sorts of locations at the start of April, and we intend to offer an online entry. Paper forms can be returned with fee to Seasons, the Council Office, and the Leisure Centre. How to enter online will be explained when you've scanned the QR code. Entry fees this year will be £5 for the full Skyline or £3 for the Eastern, but they go up to £7/£4 if you enter after Thursday May 15 or on the day. You'll need to register at the Golf Club between 7.45 and 9am (no later please), then off you go, at your own pace, on your chosen challenge. Every walker gets a (small) meal at the end, though if you're walking the Eastern you'll need to organise yourself a lift to get back up there. Please note that, as in previous years, no dogs are to take part in the Skyline walk. And, after last year's postponement, fingers crossed, please, for trek-friendly weather.

If anyone would like to be part of the event, but doesn't want to walk, Skyline always needs marshals, and backmarkers (which does involve a couple of miles of slow walking). If either of those appeal please speak to Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 asap.

COULD YOU RECEIVE OVER £5,600?



Attendance Allowance is a benefit for those in receipt of a State Pension. If you have some challenges with moving around, someone else supports you to get washed or dressed or you are struggling with your memory, then you may qualify. Even if you can manage your personal care yourself but it takes you a long time, or it hurts, you may still be eligible. These are just a few examples. It is tax free and does not have any impact on other benefits you may receive. You cannot receive Attendance Allowance if you are receiving PIP/DLA.

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More info on our website <https://millcare.info>

WHITWORTH MUSEUM



DK53 - Whitworth's First Car

Whitworth's first car was registered in Rochdale around 1905 and took to the road with the designation DK53. This vehicle was unusual in a number of ways but principally because it was 'home-built' in a small garage at Broadley by draughtsman and science teacher Grindrod Kershaw.

Unfortunately, firm technical details are unavailable but the car did have very light wire-spoked wheels with solid tyres. Suspension was provided by half-elliptical leaf springs front and rear. Although there is what appears to be a plain tube front mounted radiator, fluting under the seat suggests the presence of a rear mounted engine. Brakes were on the rear wheels only and applied by a hand lever. It is difficult to be certain but the drive was probably provided to the rear wheels by a chain and sprocket arrangement. There is no evidence of lights of any kind.

Sadly, it is not possible to say what happened to this machine but, at some point, it appears the registration DK53 was transferred to another car also owned by Grindrod; what seems to be a much more sophisticated vehicle of 1903/04 vintage, possibly Renault or De Dion-Bouton.

Whitworth Museum is open each Saturday 11.00am – 4.00pm



Whitworth
Town Council

2025 DIARY DATES

05 APRIL	MAYORAL EVENT	
08 MAY	80TH ANNIVERSARY VE DAY AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	
15 MAY	MAYOR MAKING (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)	
07 SEPTEMBER	WHITWORTH RUSHCART	WHITWORTH TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE
09 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
23 NOVEMBER	WHITWORTH CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON	WHITWORTH TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE
08 DECEMBER	COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE	
13 & 14 DECEMBER	SANTA EXPRESS	WHITWORTH TOURISM & LEISURE COMMITTEE



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WHITWORTH MEN'S SHED

Whitworth Men's Shed volunteers are now actively engaged in producing items in readiness for the 2025 spring and summer seasons. Products include nest boxes, bat boxes, bird tables and novelty planters, all of which can be purchased directly from the shed.

In addition, the Shed offers a range of services for the repair of garden accessories such as seats and pet houses. Special commissions are, where possible, also undertaken. Just visit the Shed or make a 'phone call for details.



Shed members enjoying a brew at a drop-in session

For members of the Shed there is a programme of outings to places of interest which, in 2024, included the Avro Museum near Stockport, the Helmshore Mill Textile Museum and the Astronomy Centre at Todmorden, to name just a few.

The Shed hosts two drop-in sessions each week, Wednesday morning and Friday morning. Both sessions run from 10am - 12 noon and are open to all men aged 45 years and upwards. Just come along and enjoy a cup of tea in an atmosphere of friendship. Newcomers are always welcome.

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



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

This nationwide commemoration will include beacons being lit, street parties and lots of flag waving! The Town Council will be marking this anniversary on Thursday 8th May with a raising of the official flag at 9am and the reading of the National Tribute at 9.30pm, as well as a beacon being lit overlooking Whitworth.



This anniversary also coincides with Whitworth's Annual Meeting of the Parish, where the anniversary will be marked with attendees being offered the official Women's Institute VE Day Orange and Ginger cake.

The TLC are also planning a celebratory event on Sunday 11th May featuring Whitworth Vale and Healey Brass Band plus much more.

All the local community are encouraged to join in the festivities, including organised bellingings at 6.30pm! Please visit veday80.org.uk for more information on how you can join in the with this shared moment of celebration.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

A volunteer force of over 30 kind souls delivers your quarterly WVN to every household in Whitworth. Additional volunteers are always welcome, so if you fancy a useful once-every-3-months stroll around our fair valley, simply contact Jo on 07813 180748 or jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk and he'll fix you up with a round.

PARLIAMENT WEEK

In November 2024, Whitworth Town Councillors were very pleased to welcome some very interested children from Our Lady and Saint Anselm's Roman Catholic Primary School, as part of Parliament Week, to the council chamber. Cllr Gareth Baron, Mayor of Whitworth, and several other town councillors fielded questions from the youngsters including what the role of a councillor is and what the best/hardest parts of the position are.

The councillors very much enjoyed seeing how interested the school children were in Whitworth Town Council and we hope the children had as much fun as much as we did!

LOCAL MONEY AND DEBT SUPPORT

If you are struggling with money worries and need some advice, below are details of three local organisations who may be able to help.

WE ARE LANCASHIRE WOMEN

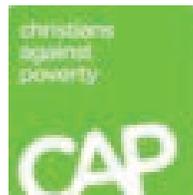
This Lancashire-wide service offers free impartial, non-judgemental advice to women in Lancashire if you are worried about any aspect of debt. Their highly qualified Money Advice Team are FCA regulated, and IMA Certified and have a combined experience of over 50 years. Their website is lancashirewomen.org and their contact number is 0300 330 1354, Monday to Friday, 9am until 4pm.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Their free, expert debt help will advise on the best route out of debt and offer different types of support to help you become debt-free. Through a team of hundreds of dedicated staff members based in all four UK nations, and hundreds of incredible churches delivering our services, people in desperate need are discovering life-changing freedom and hope every day. Their closest branch is Kay Street Baptist Church, Rawtenstall, BB4 7LS or call 0800 328 0006 for more information.

CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice East Lancashire have a specialist debt team who can assist clients with money and debt matters. They offer a free and confidential service, and their advice/support is tailored to their clients. They operate drop-in sessions within Rossendale and can arrange telephone or face-to-face appointments. Their debt team offers budgeting advice, income maximisation and all areas of debt advice and support. Their debt team can be contacted on 01282 616750 or emailed at debteam@cael.org.uk



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HERE WE GO AGAIN – TWO CROSSWORDS TO TEASE OUT

THE REGULAR CLUES ARE... REGULAR. THE CRYPTIC CLUES ARE TRICKIER... BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

CRYPTIC CLUES

No particular theme. If you're looking for a simple (?) start, try 3 Down; 12 Across, 16 Across, 1 Down, 11 Down and 13 Down are all anagrams.

ACROSS

- 1 Not out! Six! Jacques bowling! Do join us, please (8)
- 7 He and I turn left into chamber and find valued hand-me-down (10)
- 8 Debts to be added to Harmon, Bil and Nox (4)
- 9 Section you might walk into backwards? (4)
- 10 Decorative flowering plant for perfect pig's dwelling (7)
- 12 Man's rite, pal! Really - treating others as though they're your children? (11)
- 14 A soupcon of your partner? (7)
- 16 Acrobatic go-er. Frightening! (4)
- 19 Group of beauties drink (4)
- 20 Clairvoyance over itchy sores - you need a slug of coffee! (8)
- 21 Removed hair. Upset (10)

DOWN

- 1 E-pint!? Rubbish! Useless! (5)
- 2 Under a museum I break into an outburst. Different! (7)
- 3 Palindromic sound of horn (4)
- 4 Short ex-Chelsea footballer sneaking into resting places (8)
- 5 Proclaim elegy to tree? (5)
- 6 Swear briefly at cat - is that usual? (6)
- 11 ET is Czar? Ridiculous, most ridiculous! (8)
- 12 Ex-Barcelona centre-half stands on D, looking vexed (6)
- 13 Resigns about right of entry (7)
- 15 Heart of hairy rebel looks to the west for Welsh glory (5)
- 17 Affected by bug; lost head: got better (5)
- 18 Swivel and dig deeper for sword (4)

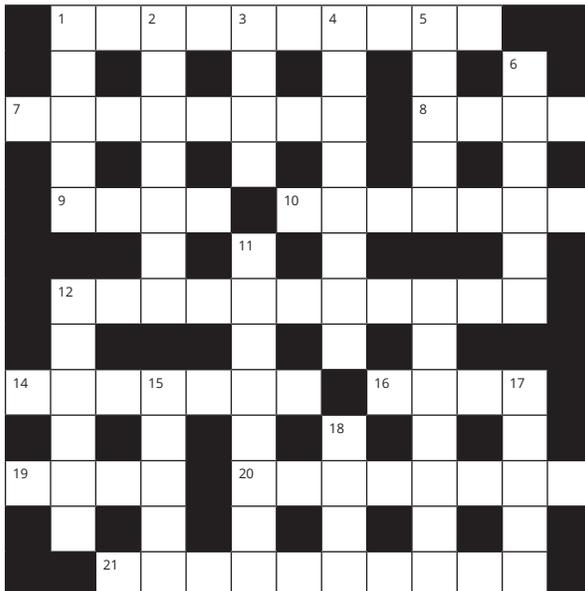
REGULAR CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 May come with RSVP (10)
- 7 Something precious passed on to a descendant (8)
- 8 Bills of debt (4)
- 9 Gin (or control a ball) (4)
- 10 Frankness (7)
- 12 Treating with assumed authority those with no standing (11)
- 14 Hug tightly (7)
- 16 Shrek, for example (4)
- 19 A drink (abbr.) (4)
- 20 Small Italian beverage (8)
- 21 Deeply upset (10)

DOWN

- 1 Lacking skill (5)
- 2 Something related, but different (7)
- 3 Horn noise (4)
- 4 Lucky dip amusements at a fete (8)
- 5 State volubly (5)
- 6 Usual practice (6)
- 11 Daftest (8)
- 12 Intrigued... or nettled (6)
- 13 Entry (7)
- 15 Snowdonia (5)
- 17 Lessened (5)
- 18 One of three Olympic fencing disciplines (4)



THE ASHCROFT

The Ashcroft, nestled in the heart of Whitworth, offers a welcoming space for families and communities to come together and celebrate life's special moments. With its versatile rooms and warm atmosphere, this venue is perfect for hosting unforgettable events, especially children's parties filled with laughter and joy.



The Main Hall provides ample room for energetic celebrations, with bespoke packages available and our special package including our bouncy castle. For smaller gatherings, The Lounge offers a more intimate setting for up to 50 guests, ensuring everyone feels part of the celebration.

The dedicated team understands that every event is unique. They go above and beyond to ensure your party runs smoothly, so you can focus on making memories with your loved ones. The surrounding grounds, including a play park, add to the charm, giving little ones even more opportunities to explore and play.

Whether you're planning a birthday party or a family gathering, The Ashcroft combines a beautiful setting with thoughtful service. It's a place where families come together to create moments that matter. Enquire by emailing us at team@the-ashcroft.co.uk

VALLEY THAI BOXING CLUB

Valley Thai Boxing Club are taking a team of 16 fighters to compete in March at the WMF World Muay Thai Championships in Bangkok Thailand. The competition welcomes between 40-50 different nations from all over the world. Valley Thai took a small team to the event last year coming back with 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 bronze medal. Head coach Andy Hughes expects a much bigger medal haul this year with his dedicated team of fighters who have been working extremely hard in preparation for the competition.



The Valley Thai team train 6 days a week, are actively out competing most weekends and are well respected on the UK Muay Thai circuit with their successful junior and adult fight team.

More information on Valley Thai Boxing Club and their classes or events can be found on www.valleythai.co.uk or on social media pages – Facebook (Valley Thai Boxing Club), Instagram ([andy_valleythai](https://www.instagram.com/andy_valleythai/))

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

Every English town or parish must hold an **Annual Meeting of the Parish** for electors registered in the area. This year, Whitworth's Annual Meeting of the Parish takes place on Thursday 8th May at 7:30pm, at The Ashcroft. The meeting will be quorate (legal) if just two electors are present. Although chaired by the Mayor, this is not a council meeting. It is a meeting for all Whitworth people to get an overview of what is currently happening in the town, looking at the work of various organisations serving Whitworth, and offering electors the opportunity to raise queries and make observations. It is usually over within the hour or so, so why not come along, everyone is welcome. See you there!



For more information, contact Rachel Hodson, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 or email info@whitworth.gov.uk

WHITWORTH LEISURE CENTRE

You'll be aware by now that **Whitworth Leisure Centre** is now fully open. If you are someone who came along to the celebratory official opening on February 9 you'll know exactly what's on offer there now, because you'll probably have taken up the invitation to try a few things out.



For those who couldn't make it... obviously there's the **pool**, with its new air-handling unit installed to deal with the condensation issues, and lots of water activities from lessons to aqua tai chi, from family fun sessions and adult-only slots to floating soundbaths and low-lit swims! And the wonderful Whitworth Swimming Club on a Tuesday evening. Then there's the **gym**, open a full year now, and open every weekday from early morning, for those who crave a pre-work workout, to late evening. Whenever the LC is open, so is the **café** area – and you don't have to be swimming or gym-ing to enjoy a coffee or browse the gallery. Now there's the new **studio**, with a variety of movement and fitness classes – Pilates, spinning, fitness sessions, with more to come. That room is available to hire for children's **parties** too.

Exact times are published on Facebook – search for Whitworth Leisure Centre CIC, where the weekly timetable is the featured item. See the page opposite for the “standard” weekly timetable and scan the QR code for an instant check. Whenever there are changes the timetable is also updated on the LC noticeboard plus all the Town Council's village noticeboards, and at the Health Centre, Nuttall's Chemists, the Post Office, Wallbank shop, Whitworth and Bacup Libraries, Tonacliffe and SJSM schools, Metcon, Seasons, Market Street Kitchen, Smart Cut, Ashton's Chippy and Futures Park – thanks to all those organisations for their support over the last few months.

Indeed thanks to everyone who has supported the reopening of the Leisure Centre. We all wanted it to happen, and it simply wouldn't have happened without the time, effort and generosity of so many, from Whitworth Town Council lining up alongside the CIC, local businesses getting stuck in, many volunteers offering their time, and members and others walking through the doors to make use of the place.

Now the Leisure Centre is fully operational, it's these last individuals who become critical to the ongoing success of the project. If we, as a community, can keep building the numbers who use the LC, it'll survive and thrive. We kicked up a collective fuss when it was closed, so now it's open we **need** to get behind it. Of course it'll have its imperfections, but the LC gets no regular grants from any local government organisation: **we** have to generate running costs and pay for any improvements **ourselves**.

So, have **you** visited yet? And if you have, when's your **next** visit? And will you be bringing a **friend** with you? Chances are, they'll love it as much as you!

WHITWORTH COMMUNITY GALLERIES

Whitworth Community Galleries continue to showcase the work of local community groups at the Library and the Leisure Centre. From this week you can enjoy lovely colourful primary school artwork at both venues - Tonacliffe School are at the Leisure Centre, St Bartholomew's School at the Library. Following St Bart's at the Library will be the U3A Photography group (from March 7); photos from Skyline 9 (from March 28); and Whitworth in Bloom (from April 22). All those exhibitions will transfer to the Leisure Centre three weeks later.

If you, as an individual artist or photographer, or as a representative of a local group, would like to exhibit, please contact Jo Furtado on 07813 180748 or jofurtado@hotmail.co.uk

Weekly Timetable



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	Gym open 6:30am - 9pm	Gym open 6:30am - 9pm	Gym open 6:30am - 9pm	Gym open 6:30am - 9pm	Gym open 6:30am - 9pm	Gym open 9pm - 2pm	Gym open 10am - 2pm
	Rachael's Pilates 6:30pm - 7:30pm	Rachael's Pilates 6:30pm - 7:30pm	Rachael's Pilates 6pm - 7pm	Rachael's Pilates 6pm - 7pm			
			Rachael's Pilates 7pm - 8pm	Rachael's Pilates 7pm - 8pm			

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 6:30am - 9am	Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 6:30am - 9am	Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 6:30am - 9am	Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 6:30am - 9am	Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 6:30am - 9am	Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 6:30am - 9:30am	General swim 9am - 12pm	General swim 10am - 12pm
General swim 9am - 1pm	General swim 9am - 12:30pm	General swim 9am - 7pm	General swim 9am - 7pm	General swim 9am - 1pm	School swimming	General swim 9am - 12pm	General swim 9am - 12pm
School swimming	Bookable parent & baby sessions - 10am & 11am	General swim 9am - 7pm	Bookable parent & baby sessions - 10am & 11am	Bookable parent & baby sessions - 10am & 11am	General swim 11am - 12:30pm	Family fun session 12pm-2pm	Family fun session 12pm-2pm
General swim 3:30pm - 7pm	School swimming	Low lit swim (+3 lanes) 7pm - 9pm	General swim 2pm - 7pm	Aqua Tai Chi 1pm - 2pm	School swimming	INFLATABLE SESSION 2:45-3:45pm	INFLATABLE SESSION 2:45-3:45pm
Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 7pm - 9pm	Swimming Club		Adult only swim (+3 lanes) 7pm - 9pm	General swim 2pm - 7pm	General swim 2:15pm - 7pm		

Pool safety ratios

- Under 5s - 1 adult to 1 child
- Ages 5 - 8 years - 1 adult to 2 children
- Age 8 to 15 years - No adult supervision providing the child is a competent swimmer.
- Age 16+ no supervision required.

Floating soundbaths
Every 2 months.
Message the page for information

Lane hire available
Please contact the centre for more information

☎ 01706 801770
www.whitworthleisurecentre.com
 📍 John Street, Whitworth, OL12 8BT
 ✉ Whitworthleisurecentre2023@outlook.com

Pool

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Monday	1pm-7pm
Tuesday	9am-5pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9am-5pm
Friday	9am-5pm
Saturday	9am-1pm
Sunday	Closed

Whitworth Library, right at the heart of the community, where you'll always get a warm Whitworth welcome. Check out these activities at the library for everyone to enjoy. All are FREE unless stated.

Mondays

- 10:00 – 10:45 **Fitsteps** Upbeat dance exercises with Jan (£5.50)
 11:00 – 11:45 **Pilates** Improve your strength, posture and balance with Jan (£7.50)
£11.00 for both above classes. Contact Jan Jenkins Fitness on 07939 087122
 14:00 – 16:00 **Knit and Natter** Bring your knitting and enjoy a brew and good conversation

Tuesdays

- 10:00 – 12.30 **Scrabble Club** Great company and good fun – why not join us?
 14:00 – 14:30 **Storytime and Crafts!** Stories and themed activities (18 months - 4 years)
 14.00 – 15.00 **Little Steps** featuring games, sing-alongs, stories and crafts on last Tuesday of month
 15.00 – 17.00 **U3A Wellbeing** 1st Tuesday of month - 07762 757925 (Sheila) for info

Wednesdays

- 10:00 – 11:30 **Rossendale Children and Family Wellbeing Session** for children aged 0-5 yrs
 12:00 – 13:30 **Meditation and Wellbeing** Contact Sheila Daly for details (07762 757925) (suggested £5 donation)
 18:00 – 19:00 **Line dancing** Contact Sheila Daly for details (07762 757925)
 19:00 – 20:30 **Yoga, Pilates and Relaxation** Contact Sheila Daly for details (07762 757925) (suggested £6 donation)

Thursdays

- 09:30 – 10.30 **Learn My Way** Get online – start your digital journey today!
 10:00 – 11.30 **Shared Reading Group** All welcome!
 10:00 – 12:00 **U3A Family History** on last Thursday of month. T. 07790 192120 (Jean) for info
 13:30 – 15.30 **U3A Art Group** 1st Thursday of month. T. 07800 820096 (Lindsay) for info
 14.00 – 15.00 **U3A Creative Writing** 1st Thursday of month. T. 07903 570008 (Kay) for info
 14.00 – 15.30 **U3A Flower Arranging** 3rd Thursday of month. T. 07411 520771 (Nina) for info

Fridays

- 10:15 – 11:00 **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** (birth to 3 yrs.)
 14:00 – 15:30 **U3A Card Games** 2nd Friday of month. T. 078603 14968 (Helen) for info.

Saturdays

- 10:30 – 12.00 **Lego Club** (for all ages)
 10:30 – 11.30 **Whatever the Weather** activities for children of all ages, come rain, hail or shine, you'll have a good time!

... and newspapers and books, including audio and large print. There's information on a whole host of topics. You are guaranteed a welcome and support from the friendly library team. You can brush up your digital skills on the public computers, with free Wi-Fi and also print and photocopy too.

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

Follow the library or the Friends of Whitworth Library Group Facebook page, for news about events. You can also contact friendsofwhitworthlibrarygroup@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

SPRING FLOWER EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE ASHCROFT: SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 2025



Whitworth will once again play host to a National Horticultural event, when the East Lancs Group of the Alpine Garden Society stage another huge Spring Flower Show at The Ashcroft on Saturday 26th April 2025.

The event will feature over 140 individual classes ranging from rare alpine gems to bulbs, dwarf conifers, hardy plants, ferns and mini gardens. The organisers hope that Whitworth folk will again be tempted by a raffle, free parking, plant sales, bar and excellent refreshments.

Open from 11 am until 3.30 pm on 26th April, entry for the general public is only £4 per person. There will be a number of superb nurseries in attendance selling a wide range of alpine and garden plants and leading exhibitors will travel from across the UK. Over the years Whitworth has rightly gained a proud reputation as 'The Friendly Show' among enthusiasts.

The East Lancashire Group still holds regular monthly meetings now at Ashday Lea in Rawtenstall and additional Zoom meetings are drawing large international audiences. New members are always warmly welcomed and encouraged.

Group Secretary, Cliff Booker, can be contacted on 01706 534626 and Show Secretary, Alan Elwell, on 07742646784.

FAMILY THEATRE AT THE LIBRARY DURING THE EASTER HOLS TUESDAY 15TH APRIL 10.30AM RUBBISH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY & THE SILLY HISTORY BOYS

Don't miss this hilarious hour of imagination, clowning, adventure and live music!

Who is the God of roundabouts? How did the microwave get its ping? What is Yorkshire, and how did it come to be? Senior academics of mythology (not really) Professor Doctor Lee Hithersay and Doctor Professor Robert Bond will guide you on a journey through your imagination.

You, the audience, will create your own myths and even have the chance to get on stage and become a legend yourself. Will it be Greek? Can it be Viking? Should it be ancient Mesopotamian? We don't know! That's up to you. You're the boss. We just work here.

This a show for children 6+ and childish adults, don't miss it!

Tickets from £5, to reserve yours, call in to see the friendly team at the library or email whitworth.library@lancashire.gov.uk.

We have lots of FREE, fun packed, events for children to enjoy at the library each week, including Storytime and Crafts, Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Lego Club and our Saturday morning 'Whatever the Weather' activities. Come and join us! See the main page for days and times.



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ALL AGES WELCOME

Sunday 18th May
 14 mile circular moorland walk

or try a shorter walk with the **5 mile Eastern Skyline**

Start between 7.45 and 9am at Lobden Golf Club
 Refreshments en route and meal at finish

Entry forms available across Whitworth or online
 Organised by Whitworth Sports Council

Whitworth Town Council

CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

An update on events since last meeting.

The fundraising meal at Pepe Nero in November raised £800. Once again thanks to Anna and Dawid for their continued support and to all who attended and provided prizes. The carol concert with W V and Healey Band at the Ashcroft was packed and raised £884.

The committee was saddened to hear of the passing of one of our great supporters Malcolm Bird who undertook many long distance runs raising thousands for CRUK Local group. RIP Malcolm a true gentleman who will be sadly missed along with Kay Butterworth another strong supporter who also sadly passed before Christmas.

Events are now being arranged for this year. A quiz will be held at the Band club on Saturday 15th February at 7.30 priced £5 including light supper. There will be a Fund-raising meal at the Rose and Bowl on Thursday 13th March 7.30 price £20.

The committee are proud to announce that our long standing member Arnold Ashworth will be awarded the honour of becoming Honorary Townsman of Whitworth. He will be presented with the title at an event at the Ashcroft on Friday 11th April.

If you have any suggestions for fund raising events, would like to attend any of the fund raising above, or if you would like to hear more about or join the committee, please contact Michael Whitby 852613, Elaine Bagshaw 853935, or Arnold Ashworth 343424

WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND



Would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and extend a thank you for all the support they have received during this Christmas period. The band are now preparing for the North West Area Regional Championships, to be held at the Winter Gardens on Sunday 23rd February.

Congratulations to youth band members Freddie Morris (voted Player's Player of the Year), Bentley Hoyle (Youngest Player), Lillia Bonner (Most Improved Player) and Martha Tattersall (Player of the Year) in the New Year presentations.

Sunday 9th February saw the return of the Whitworth Veterans concert at 3pm at The Ashcroft, Whitworth. This concert will also feature the Whitworth Academy and Youth Bands.

Future band bookings include:

Friday 18 April – Good Friday, Heywood Churches - 12 Noon

Sunday 27 April – St George's Concert, 3pm at The Ashcroft

More details will be announced closer to the events in the local social media groups.

If you, or anyone you know of, aged between 7-18 years, is interested in joining our youth bands, please call into the band club between 6 - 8.30pm on a Wednesday (Youth band night) for further information, or ring Michael Whitby on 852613 for more details.

HOMEWISE

Homewise is a local charity (reg. no. 1179077) that has been helping local people to repair, improve and adapt their homes since 1988. They are able to offer practical help and support to older, disabled and vulnerable people, as well as those with a long-term condition affecting mobility or independence in the home – help with small repairs that may be needed, for example. They can also help with bigger issues like replacement boilers, replacement windows and doors, emergency repairs, and much more besides - just get in touch if you want to discuss. Homewise will visit your home, assess the work and offer recommendations. They will always provide a no-obligation, written quote for proposed works. Some services are open to everyone.

Homewise offer impartial advice and practical help including:

- Advice and assistance with larger home repairs like roofing works
- Help to carry out Affordable Warmth work – fitting new boilers and new door and window frames
- Practical help to people returning home from hospital
- Finding trusted contractors and getting quotes for work
- Assistance with filling in forms and applying for financial help for adaptations and repairs

The Handyman and Small Repair Service

Homewise's experienced and skilled technicians will help you to stay on top of minor household repairs and DIY tasks. Things like:

- Removing trip hazards
- Changing light bulbs
- Improving home security
- Installing energy efficiency measures
- Fitting curtain rails and hanging curtains
- Repairing fixtures and fittings
- Assembling flat-pack furniture

If you don't see your job on the list please ask. If Homewise can't help they will always try to put you in touch with a trusted contractor who can.

Homewise work hard to keep charges low. Some services are offered free of charge or at a low hourly rate, plus the cost of materials. Where there is a charge for the service, Homewise will always let you know in advance, and you can always decide not to have work done.

info@homewisesociety.org.uk or telephone **01254 232249**





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STRONGER TOGETHER

Have had a busy year and wish to thank their amazing volunteers, without whom the group couldn't continue to do what it does.

The group has gone to strength to strength, they were once again finalists in the Rossendale Business Awards and were honoured to be nominated for this.

They celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a well-attended fancy dress party, where lots of amazing people took part.

They took 52 people on a coach trip to Cleveleys for the day and with everyone enjoying a delicious fish and chip tea, which was delicious.

The group held a successful fundraising bingo night at The Market Street Kitchen, and also visited The Rose And Bowl for a carvery and had a fantastic time with delicious food.

In September they had happily raised enough funds to purchase a Carers Caravan. The caravan is sited on Cala Gran in Fleetwood and is available to hire.

They also had a Christmas Party with fantastic entertainment and were lucky enough to have St Bartholomew's and St Anselm's school visiting to sing for them.

On the last week before Christmas, they provided a tasty, full Christmas dinner for 85 people.

Kath and Angela would like to take the chance to say thank you to all the people and local businesses who have supported the group through the year.



Stronger Together have exciting news for 2025

Beginning in February, they will be opening on a Wednesday morning with a new venture called The Together Spot. On a monthly rolling rotation, they will be undertaking activities to get people moving with, gentle inclusive exercise, singing and a tea dance which will be taught by Sam from Samba Dancing. One of the weeks will be a drop-in session for information, advice support or just a tea and chat.

For more information, please contact Angela Forster on 07827 292951. ST look forward to seeing you all there.

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT 2024/2025

Whitworth Town Council has this year set a net budget of £80,082. The Council has worked hard to keep the increase in the precept to a minimum, which has been difficult in the current financial climate. Statutory wage increases and inflationary increases in office rent has meant that Council has had to take the difficult decision to increase the Precept this year.

This past year has seen some pressures on finances and significant increases in costs, but the Town Council's wise investments are still providing a healthy dividend, thanks to favourable interest rates. Employee costs include 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. This year the Town Council were keen to invest in a local young person and have budgeted for an apprentice to work in the Town Council office, alongside the Town Clerk.

The Valley News magazine, produced quarterly, 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, information about which is included on the Town Council website.

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.

	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24
Employee costs	£ 84,000	£ 72,000	£ 61,728
Parish Lengthsman materials	£ 500	£ 500	£ 500
Administrative Expenses	£ 12,850	£ 11,800	£ 11,100
Statutory and Civic Events / Expenses	£ 4,900	£ 5,320	£ 5,820
Audit Fee	£ 420	£ 420	£ 400
Training / Member Expenses	£ 800	£ 800	£ 650
Insurance	£ 3,000	£ 3,000	£ 1,600
Grants to Outside Bodies	£ 2,000	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
Special Projects	£ 11,300	£ 13,750	£ 9,368
Street Floral Displays	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 600
Whitworth Valley News Magazine	£ 2,500	£ 2,500	£ 1,500
Investment Income	£ -21,400	£ -21,400	£ -19,000
RBC devolved funding	£ -22,150	£ -22,989	£ -16,082
Other income	£ -1,638	£ 800	£ 800
Contingencies	£ 2,000	£ 2,000	£ 1,000
COST OF TOWN COUNCIL LEVY (£)	£ 80,082	£ 69,901	£ 60,384
Number of band 'D' equivalent units	2,365	2,257	2,225
Council Tax per band 'D' property (£p)	£ 33.86	£ 30.97	£ 27.14
Percentage increase per band 'D' property	9.3%	14.1%	1.0%
Actual increase per band 'D' property	£ 2.89	£ 3.83	£ 0.27

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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.

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

On Wednesday 5th March our speaker will be Izabella Donohue with an interesting talk on 'The importance of restoring our Peatlands,' 2nd April will be Sue Evans talking about 'Living and teaching in the Falklands' and Wednesday 7th May our speaker will be Fran Lawson on 'Mary's Meals'.

We have 20 Interest groups currently. For insurance purposes only members can join Interest Groups. 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 sub. A full list of speakers, interest groups and contact details can be found on the FB page and website u3asites.org.uk/whitworth. Or if you're interested in joining, come along to a monthly meeting (you can sample two before joining) and ask someone.

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www.healeydelltearooms.co.uk

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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
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33 Oak Street, Shawforth

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Tel: 01706 879 928 / 07773 798 078
Seanbrad09@gmail.com
28 Douglas Road, Bacup

ANDREW ROBINSON

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Tel: 01706 63979 / 07967 203 484
4 Meadow Head Avenue, 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
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openreach-wcs@tiscali.co.uk
www.openreach-wcs.co.uk
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS see pg 16 for the puzzle





Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL CRIMES ARE REPORTED

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

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

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

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 999

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

Lancashire County Council:

0300 123 6701 (general enquiries)
www.lancashire.gov.uk

Highways 0300 123 6780

Email highways@lancashire.gov.uk
Out of hours social care emergencies
0300 123 6720

Rossendale Borough Council:

01706 217777 (council tax, bin collections
and other services)
0300 222 5944 (revenues and benefits)
0300 22 5946 (out of hours emergencies)
www.rossendale.gov.uk

The Lighthouse Community Foodshare:

551-553 Market Street, Whitworth
Tue & Thu (10am-4pm)
Sat (10am-3pm) by appointment only
lighthousefoodshare@gmail.com
07922 951 096

Together Housing:

0300 555 5556 (general enquiries)

Homestart:

01706 214621 / emma@homestartrbh.co.uk
www.home-start.org.uk

Carers Link Lancashire:

01254 387444
info@carereslink.net
www.eastlancscareres.org.uk

Citizens Advice Rossendale:

Financial, welfare and benefits advice
0300 456 2552
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
07779 972114

Initial Response Service

0800 013 0707
For urgent or general mental health issues

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

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Tel: 01706 852018 • Email: info@whitworth.gov.uk • www.whitworth.gov.uk

Office hours: Mon–Fri 9.30am–2pm

FORTHCOMING WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

All the following Thursdays: 20th February, 20th March, 8th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish) and 15th May (Annual General Meeting).

All meetings are open to the public and take place at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber
See the website for details or contact the Town Clerk

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Councillor Alan Neal

Councillor Mike Royds

Councillors Scott Smith
(contact details above)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Scott Smith

Scott.Smith2@lancashire.gov.uk
07891 695962

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Andy MacNae MP

andy.macnae.mp@parliament.uk
01706 489387 (Constituency Office)