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ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

Paint-a-Pot... Sports Report...School Report...Scarecrow Festival form...Christmas Lights buy a Bulb campaign... 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!

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Time has passed quickly since last May and my year as Mayor is drawing to a close. Susan 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 Mayoress.

Every event has been very enjoyable, but opening the Whitworth Sports Festival in June was special; as Chairman and founder of Whitworth Sports Council this event is close to my heart. Additionally, the events leading up to Remembrance Sunday will stay permanently with me, especially the Festival of Remembrance at the Riverside, a tribute to the Whitworth men who gave their lives in the Great War, and also Remembrance Sunday when folk turned out in their hundreds. To see so many paying their respects made me incredibly proud. I extend a huge thank you to my chaplain, Father Frank Thorpe, for his ministry at this and all my civic occasions. It was also an honour to be invited, along with the Mayor of Rossendale, to Whitworth High School and see the wonderful work of the staff and the pupils under the leadership of Mrs Middlemas, and to take part in their awards ceremonies.



The Mayor, Councillor Jim Mellor
and his wife and Mayoress, Susan

Thanks to all who have supported the Mayor's Charity, from purchasing raffle tickets and making donations to attending Charity functions. Grateful thanks also go to those who've helped me so much: my wife Susan (Mayoress,) Lisa McDowell at the Riverside, CLAW, Michael Whitby, and my family and friends who have supported me throughout the year. And huge thanks to the person who oils the wheels and makes it happen, Karen Douglas our Town Clerk. I would urge everyone to vote in May's elections, or to consider standing as a councillor. I offer sincere thanks to all the town councillors for their dedication and hard work over the last four years, and wish all candidates the best of luck on 7 May.

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 Ball in April; this promises to be a great event and I hope to see you there. Thank you.

With all best wishes,

Councillor Jim Mellor, Mayor of Whitworth

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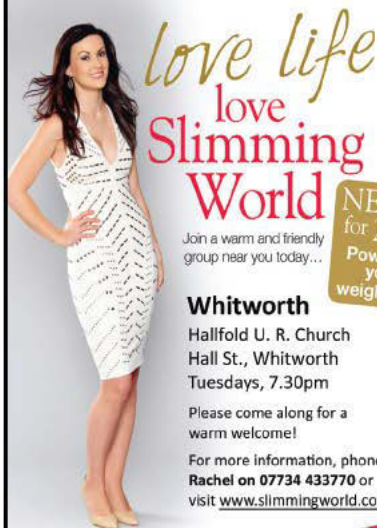
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ALPINE FLOWERS WILL FESTOON THE RIVERSIDE

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 21 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, 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 1990s and more recently attracted marvellous attendances and the organisers hope that Whitworth folk will be tempted back by a raffle, tombola, free parking, seed, book and plant sales and refreshments.



Photo by Cliff Booker, used with kind permission

The event runs from 12 noon until 4pm on 21 March and entry for the general public is £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 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.

VALLEY CATS



The former Bakerleigh Kennels and Cattery in Shawforth has been re-launched as Valley Cats, a boarding cattery now exclusively for felines. Set in 5 beautiful acres, the Catteries were completely rebuilt in 2014 and now boast chalets with underfloor heating and a spacious outdoor exercise area for motivated moggys.

Valley Cats has been transformed by Kay Critchlow, who has owned the business since 2007. Kay says: "When the time came to renovate I decided to specialise in the sole boarding of cats. It's much more peaceful for the cats and they settle in really well. Quality food and bedding, safety, hygiene and care are paramount for us, and we're delighted that we've been able to renovate the business to such a high standard. I'm confident that we now have one of the best catteries in Lancashire and we're looking forward to a busy year ahead."

Valley Cats is open from 9.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Saturday and from 9.30am until 4.30pm on Sunday. For more information, please contact Kay directly on 01706 853556, email kay@valleycats.info or visit www.valleycats.info. Daily charges are as follows:

- 1 cat: £7 per day (discount applied until July 2015, normal price £10)
- 2 cats sharing from the same household: £12 per day (discount applied until July 2015, normal price £17)
- 3 cats sharing from the same household: £18 per day (discount applied until July 2015, normal price £22)

CANCER RESEARCH – WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

The Committee wishes everyone a happy new year and thank all supporters and those have donated and worked toward fundraising in the last 12 months. The Committee's 2014 target of £10,000 was achieved prior to the Carol Concert in December; at the cheque presentation the audience were enthralled as local lad Alan Jordan from the Christie gave some amazing facts and figures on how progress is being made in the research and treatment of this disease which impacts on so many families. The Committee's target amount for this year is £12,000 for a light microscope, specialist equipment for the Christie enabling light to be shone through cells as they are examined.



The Committee has been arranging its varied events and activities programme for the year ahead. The first event will be a fundraising meal at Annabella's at the end of March (date TBC). The annual Songs of Praise at Christ Church Healey takes place on Friday 24 April at 7pm; no admission charge but a retiring collection will be held. The open golf tournament will again take place at Lobden on Sunday 10 May.

If you'd like any information on the work of the Committee or would like to attend an event or organise an event yourself to raise funds, please contact Michael Whitby (852613) or Joyce and Arnold Ashworth (343424).

PAINT A POT IS NOT JUST FOR KIDS!

Paint-a-Pot provides an affordable activity for all the family, young and old, and will be delivering more sessions than ever this year. The studio is open 2 days a week for public drop-in sessions and is also available outside these hours for groups (minimum 5 painters). Paint-a-Pot also comes to the community; they will be at all the Whitworth Shop Local Food & Craft Fairs on the second Saturday of each month at Hallfold Church, and they are delivering adult events at Berni Inn in Facit again this year, hopefully one every other month. They support the Stroke Association and will be at the STEP OUT event at Heywood's Queens Park on Saturday 23 May. Paul and Julie would love to see more mature residents at the studio on Thursdays and Fridays; there's a lovely coffee shop for homemade cakes or a light lunch and then enjoy a couple of hours with your friends painting pottery. Paint-a-Pot caters for birthday parties for any age, either at the studio or at your home or venue of choice. Prices start from £80 for the first 8 painters, then £8 per person thereafter. The Paint-A-Pot studio is open every Thursday and Friday, 10am till 4pm (school holidays Tuesday till Friday); all other times by appointment. Please contact Paul Sanders on 07411 018244 or Julie Sanders on 07411 043981, or visit www.paint-a-pot-and-more.co.uk. See advert on page 22.





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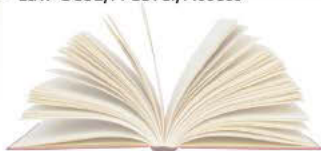
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TOWN AND BOROUGH COUNCIL JOIN FORCES TO TACKLE DOG FOULING

Dog fouling is an important and much complained about issue. At a recent Whitworth Town Council meeting, a proposal was put forward to deliver a pilot project in Whitworth aimed at encouraging dog owners to clean up after their dogs, based on schemes operated successfully in other areas of the country such as Liverpool. The scheme includes marking out a 'clean it up' symbol on pavements in temporary paint and displaying highly visible glow in the dark signage in hot spot areas. Lancashire County Council and Rossendale Council are supportive of the project, and the town and

borough councils are working on developing the project for implementation in spring 2015.

For further information please contact Karen Douglas at Whitworth Town Council (01706 852018 / info@whitworth.gov.uk) or Catherine Price at Rossendale Borough Council (01706 252541 / catherineprice@rossendalebc.gov.uk).

Rossendale Council has also recently entered into a partnership with Burnley Council to deliver proactive dog enforcement patrols throughout the borough, including Whitworth; since the arrangement started in mid-October over 100 patrols have been carried out across the borough and a fixed penalty notice has been issued to someone exercising 3 dogs on a sports pitch, which is a dog exclusion area.

HALLFOLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Following the success of their last visit to Whitworth, the Bus Pass Buskers are set to return to Hallfold UR Church in March. The band, which is based in Sheffield, offers a great night out with a wide repertoire of skiffle, country and western and a touch of the blues, and a fun night is guaranteed. The Buskers will be appearing on Saturday 14 March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 including refreshments; for further information please phone 01706 344894. Wednesday 1 April is the date for an Easter Coffee Morning at the Church. This will be held between 10am and 12 noon. Hot Cross buns will be served and various Easter themed activities will be available, plus stalls and an Easter Egg raffle. Family worship is held every Sunday morning at 10.45am to which everyone is welcome.



The Bus Pass Buskers

RIVERSIDE & SAMBA JOIN FORCES FOR CHARITY

On Sunday 8 March from 10am – 4pm The Riverside and Samba Dance & Fitness will co-host a Danceathon as part of Comic Relief. The event, which takes place at the same time as the official Comic Relief Danceathon at London's O2, features ten different styles of dance and exercise; each will be led by an expert from Samba Dance & Fitness so you'll be able to pick it up no matter what your previous dance experience. You can take part in one section or you can challenge yourself to the whole five and a half hours! The colour theme for this event is red.

The programme:

10am – 10.30am: Disco

10.30am – 11am: Cheerleading

11am – 11.30am: Boogie Bounce

11.30am – 12 noon: Slow Dance

12 noon – 12.30pm: Ballet

12.30pm – 1pm: Zumba

1pm – 1.30pm: Tap

1.30pm – 2pm: Street

2pm – 2.30pm: Boogie Bounce

2.30pm – 3pm: Latin American

3pm – 3.30pm: Disco

3.30pm – 4pm: Party Fun!

Sponsor forms are now available, and all proceeds go to Comic Relief. To request a sponsor form and for more information, please contact Lisa McDowell at the Riverside (01706 854130 / riverside-whitworth@zen.co.uk) or Sam Clarke at Samba Dance (07790 063608 / samba.dance@hotmail.co.uk). If you'd like to donate without taking part, visit the Just Giving fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/Riverside-Samba-Dance.



THE GALLERY AT THE BATHS

If you've a spare few minutes, why not pop into the Gallery at the Leisure Centre on John Street and catch the exhibitions mounted by local groups. If you would like to exhibit, as a community group or as an individual, please contact Christine Ashcroft (01706 853012) or Jo Furtado (01706 853442 or 07813180748), or leave your name and number at the desk at the Leisure Centre and we'll get back to you.

20 Feb – 13 Mar: Whitworth Community High School

13 Mar – 2 Apr: Samba Dance and Fitness

2 Apr – 24 Apr: Whitworth Historical Society

24 Apr – 15 May: images from Whitworth Skyline Walk 2014

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SCHOOL REPORT

OUR LADY & ST ANSELM PRIMARY

On 5 January the children came back to school wearing crowns to celebrate the Epiphany; the arrival of the Three Kings.

On Wednesday 21 January six pupils from Years 5 and 6 were commissioned by

Father Frank as Pupil Lay Chaplains. They received certificates and a special dove pin badge. Their work will be guided by the Holy Spirit as they help other pupils to show witness of faith, and caring for friends at school and within the local community of Whitworth. On 11 February pupils celebrated 100 days in school. The children recalled what they had learned and how much smarter they were. The school extends thanks to all parents who continue to support the school's challenge to achieve excellent attendance. Grandparents travelled back in time to their school days on 13 February, spending time in classes and sharing lunch with the children.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PRIMARY

The school's Christmas production was a great success. The show was held at The Riverside and, in the words of the Head Teacher, it was "amazing.

The children looked brilliant, sang beautifully and said their lines clearly.

I cannot tell you how proud we were of them. As we said on the night,

thanks to all of our parents and carers for helping them with their lines,

learning the songs and sorting out costumes. It was a magical evening and

one that I'm sure will be remembered for a long time." There has been a new addition to the continuous provision in the reception classroom, a rather lovely new reading corner. The school is committed to making reading enjoyable and hopes that this new reading corner will inspire the children to read even more, at home and at school.



ST JOHN WITH ST MICHAEL CE PRIMARY

The parents of St John with St Michael CE Primary School have reformed the parents, teachers and friends association and renamed it Support Our School. A competition for a letterhead was won by Jade Trow and Rocco Hanson-Walker, both in class 2. Group numbers have dwindled over the years, due to parents and friends having other commitments and busy lives, and the school really needed help to run events such as fairs and theme days. The new group has already held a Silent Auction in January, which raised £235. Another exciting event in their calendar is a Ladies Breakfast on Friday 13 March from 9.30am at Shawforth Chapel. Tickets for this event will be £5 which includes a full cooked English breakfast and a brew; there will also be a raffle, poems by the children and an inspirational service. The group is keen to involve all the lovely ladies of the local community and the event is open to anyone; tickets are available from the school office. If you have any fundraising ideas for the group please email bursar@sjsm.lancs.sch.uk or telephone the school office on 01706 852614.

SCHOOL REPORT

IT'S GREAT TO BE GOOD

Whitworth Community High School was delighted to achieve an overall Good rating by Ofsted in its latest inspection in December. Inspectors acknowledged the significant improvements in leadership and management, teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety since the school was last inspected in 2013, when it was deemed to 'require improvement.'

Headteacher Gillian Middlemas is commended in the report for her 'steely determination' which has secured rapid improvements in all areas, especially teaching and achievement, with the strong support of governors and the shared vision of all leaders. Ofsted reported that standards are improving at a faster rate than nationally, and in 2014 students attained significantly better results in many subjects than in previous years. Students are 'immensely proud of their school. They talk excitedly about the improvements seen in the school' and about being listened to, cared for and respected by their teachers. They consider it to be like a family and wear their uniform with pride - with one student commenting: 'the pride I have in my school and the uniform that I wear makes me walk taller.' Mrs Middlemas says 'This is an excellent report, which recognises and celebrates the fantastic progress, shared vision and hard work of everyone in school.'





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WHITWORTH NEWS



THE GREAT WHITWORTH SEWING BEE RETURNS!

Over the past year, Whitworth folk have been digging out and dusting off their sewing machines, with several even investing in a first machine to join the sewing revolution with Mel Hearn's classes at Cloud 9 Gallery in Bacup. The results have been amazing! This year there are more opportunities to get involved with a whole new selection of workshops. Whether you want to make beautiful creative gifts that will be treasured, or even if you want to learn to make professional looking lined curtains for your home, there is a class to suit you. For more information contact Mel Hearn on 07855 422175 or email handmade@melhearn.com. You can see a current list of classes online at www.melhearn.com.

Sun 1 Mar, 12.30pm – 5pm: Pyjama Bottoms (£25)

Sat 14 Mar, 2pm – 5pm: Mother and Child sewing session (£25 per pair; additional children £5 each)

Sun 22 Mar, 10am – 1pm: Learn to Sew (£25)

Thurs 2 Apr, 10am – 12 noon: Children's Easter badge workshop (£5 per child)

Sun 19 Apr, 10.30am – 4.30pm: Making Curtains (£40)

Sun 10 May, 10am – 4pm: Patchwork Cushion (£30)

JUST SIT AND KEEP FIT!

A new exercise class with a twist is available every Friday morning at Shawforth Chapel. Aimed at people with limited mobility, the class involves gentle chair-based exercises to improve general health. If you are limited by mobility through ill health or weight issues, why not go along and try it out? You can join any time and the first class is free of charge. Classes take place every Friday morning from 11.30am until 12.30pm. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. For more information, please contact Rosemary Thompson on 07886 963024.

PC VINNY HOPKINS

"I hope this message finds you all well. Problems still persist around the parking of vehicles outside schools. The safety of your children is at stake, and despite it being a small minority, I encourage you all to adhere to the road signs outside school. To be blunt, unless you have a permit, DO NOT park on the yellow zig-zags or double yellow lines. It is laziness and compromises the safety of all pedestrians in and around the area. Tickets will continue to be issued to those who repeatedly offend, and I will not hesitate in naming and shaming persistent offenders. On a different subject altogether, we'd like to highlight the local neighbourhood forum panel. This is an excellent way to discover what is happening within the community and is an ideal opportunity to network. The next meeting is at The Riverside on Wednesday 1 July at 6.30pm. For confirmation of this and any future dates, please keep an eye on the Rossendale Borough Council website. If anyone has any problems, as always you can contact PC 424 Vinny Hopkins or PCSO 7356 Heidi Kirkbright on 101. Similarly, you can e-mail us at Vincent.Hopkins@lancashire.pnn.police.uk or Heidi.Kirkbright@lancashire.pnn.police.uk."



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WHITWORTH NEWS

WHITWORTH NEEDS YOU AND YOUR VOTE!

Elections for the Town Council, Borough Council and Member of Parliament all take place on Thursday 7 May - your vote is important! The Town Council is determined to do all it can to help ensure Whitworth remains a great place to live; the Council has its Quality Status and continues to strive to provide a high level of service. But we need your help! Take an active role - please vote, or become a Councillor yourself.



How to vote: You must be on the Register of Electors to be able to vote. If you've moved house you can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or by contacting the Elections Office (see details below). You'll need to provide your date of birth and national insurance number in your application. Registration isn't immediate so register soon if you want to vote in May.

Polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm on 7 May, however if you'd prefer to vote by post or by proxy (when you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf) please contact the elections office for an application form. Postal voting forms must be returned to the elections office by 5pm on 21 April and proxy voting forms by 5pm on 28 April.

Why not consider becoming a Councillor: The Town and Borough Councils rely on local people taking an interest in what happens in their community, and local councillors bring a wealth of knowledge and community understanding to a council.

If you're interested, now is the time to act. You don't need to be a member of a political party; perhaps you're just interested in helping your community and could stand as an Independent. Being a councillor can be an extremely rewarding experience for as little as a couple of hours a week. Information for prospective candidates can be found on the Electoral Commission's website <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent>. Nomination papers are available from the Electoral Commission's website now or from the local elections office at the end of March. If you'd like to order a nomination pack, please contact the elections office.

For more information, contact the Elections Office at the Borough Council on 01706 252445 / email joannesmith@rossendalebc.gov.uk.

BY GEORGE – IT'S ST GEORGE!

On Sunday 19 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. 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 Service of Celebration will take place. The service will be followed by light refreshments.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the procession and attend the service. And the Committee encourages everyone in the town to decorate their homes and businesses in red and white! For more information, contact Karen Douglas, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 or email info@whitworth.gov.uk.



Photo by Mike Burgess, used with kind permission

WHITWORTH NEWS

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 21 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 Karen Douglas, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 'BUY A BULB' CAMPAIGN

The Tourism and Leisure Committee is the first to admit that the Christmas Lights weren't looking at their best last year. The Town Council and Rossendale Borough Council have agreed to purchase new lights for the trees in the Memorial Gardens, which will go a long way to making things look shinier and brighter. However, we want to go one step further, and we need the community's help. The Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee and CLAW have launched a 'Buy a Christmas Bulb' appeal, with the aim of improving the Christmas lights display in the town and giving it more of a 'wow' factor. Initially, we're raising funds to replace the very tired looking street lighting column displays, but the hope is that we might be able to raise enough money to extend the display to other parts of Whitworth, too. If you'd like to make a donation to the appeal, there's a minimum donation of £5; contact Lisa at the Riverside on 01706 854130 / email riverside-whitworth@zen.co.uk for more information.

Additionally, we're currently costing up the price of the trees bracketed on to buildings, which looked so lovely along the main road when they were introduced a good number of years ago. Once the brackets are in place it will just be a case of replacing the tree each year so the cost should be minimal. If you live, or if you have a business, on the main road and you'd be interested in having a tree on your house, phone Karen at the Town Council on 01706 852018 or email info@whitworth.gov.uk and we'll keep in touch with you.

WHITWORTH SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The 5th Whitworth Scarecrow Festival takes place from 27 June – 5 July this year. The competition element has been revived, but this time 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 from the end of March or, rather handily, you can simply complete the one overleaf and hand it in at the Riverside! Last date for returning the forms is Friday 12 June, so you've got plenty of time to come up with ideas for your display. How about a popular cartoon character or film star? What about a pop star, or a character from your favourite book? Or how about a display showing what you like most about Whitworth? Any queries, call Karen at the Town Council on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.



WHITWORTH SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2015

ENTRY FORM



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 name *: _____

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 27 June and Sun 5 July. I understand that there may be people who will come and look at my creation. If am unable to show a scarecrow I will do my best to let the organisers know before 12 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 12 JUNE 2015:

- 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 Karen Douglas, Town Clerk, on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

WHITWORTH NEWS



ROSSENDALE ENTERPRISE ANCHOR LTD

REAL, Rosendale Enterprise Anchor Ltd, is a non-profit charity organisation that works with and for the area within and around the lovely rural Rosendale Valley. In an attempt to bring the valley together and essentially connect the dots they are launching a new website which will feature everything that is going on within and around Rosendale. This is in order to reinforce the area as a valuable place to live and work. The website will be free to use for all those wanting to promote their organisation / service / activity etc, as well as to the site users wanting to know and keep up to date with all that is going on around them as well as finding out what they can get involved with. If this sounds like something you might be interested in and you have something you would like to shout about, get in touch by emailing info@realtd.co.uk or calling 01706 833190. You can also get in touch and keep up to date by liking their Facebook page, 'REAL for Rosendale'.

CALENDAR PHOTOS – CAN YOU HELP?

The Tourism and Leisure Committee has decided that the 2016 Whitworth Calendar will feature past photos of Whitworth. The Historical Society and Museum have a wealth of archive photos, however the Committee wondered if anyone living locally would like to submit a photo or two for consideration. The Committee needs photos covering the length of the town, from Britannia to Healey, and your photo needs to have something in it to spark the general public's curiosity and interest. If you have a photo, or photos, you'd like to submit, please contact Karen at the Town Council on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk in the first instance. Deadline for submissions is end April.

EVER WONDERED...

....how it is that your Whitworth Valley News pops miraculously through your letterbox every three months? Well, usually they are delivered by a crack team of superheroes who stand on top of Brown Wardle and flick their wrists one hundred times a minute and the magazines zoom through the air beyond the speed of light and with unerring accuracy, landing in pristine condition on your doormat. Now and again, though, the subs have to come off the bench – a bunch of local volunteers who walk the streets of Whitworth whenever the superheroes are otherwise engaged saving the world, washing their masks etc. If YOU would consider being one of those local volunteers, please contact either Karen Douglas at the Council office, or ring Jo Furtado on 01706 853442 or 07813 180748. There's no brass and no glory, of course, but the Council does pay a small fee to the Sports Council for delivery, and that money effectively pays for the annual Sports Festival (June 6-14 this year, by the way). Rounds can be tailored to suit individual capacity, but usually take an hour or two to complete.

ISSUE 40

MARCH 2015

WHITWORTH

VALLEY NEWS

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE WHITWORTH COMMUNITY. PRODUCED BY WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL.



Find out how to vote, why the Town Council needs you to use your vote, and how to stand as a Councillor



Whitworth needs YOU and your Vote!

ALSO IN THIS EDITION:
Paint-a-Pot... Sports Report... School Report... Scarescrow Festival form... Christmas Lights buy a bulb campaign... 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!

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Saturday 14 March

Saturday 11 April

Saturday 9 May

Saturday 13 June...

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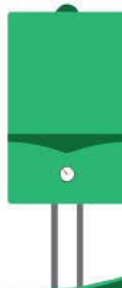
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WHITWORTH NEWS

WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BAND

The Band's busy Christmas schedule was hampered again by atrocious weather with street playing on only two days. Cold, snow and wind is fine but torrential rain makes playing impossible as it ruins the music. The Band thanks all who contributed to collections when they played at the Co-op and Tesco, and on the two days they played on the streets; this is essential income for the Band's continued development.

The year's first contest in Skegness ended in disappointment with no top 10 place. No time to dwell on this as the next contest - the area finals in Blackpool - takes place on 1 March; fingers crossed the band will qualify for the national finals. Concerts for the coming year include the St George's concert, Jimmy Grogan memorial concert, Heartbeat and hopefully a repeat concert with one of the big championship bands following the success of the Brighthouse and Rastrick concert last year. The academy and youth band project continues with Our Lady and St Anselm Primary being the latest recipients, and ten learners are now hoping to join the youth band.

For band enquiries please contact Michael Whitby on 852613. Senior Band rehearsals are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 8pm and Youth Band on Wednesdays at 7pm. If your child would like to learn an instrument please contact Michael on the above number.

St Mary & St Anselm

St Patrick's Night Ceilidh Dance

The Riverside (Civic Hall)

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WHITWORTH VALE & HEALEY BAND CLUB

Firstly, the Club wishes to thank everyone who supported events over the Festive period. 2015 promises to be an equally busy year with a further five dates confirmed. Idol Frets will be appearing throughout the year (next appearances on Saturday 21 March and Saturday 23 May), and the Club will play host to another exciting covers band, The Black Stripes, in June. There are also the very popular Karaoke and Quiz nights alongside all of the other long standing events. All events are advertised on the Club's Facebook page on a weekly basis, alongside a list of the fantastic guest cask ales that are available.

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due for 2015 and non-members are also invited to submit membership applications. Membership subscriptions are £10.00 per annum; new members also pay a £5.00 new members fee. Details of when to pay are advertised on the Facebook page. Finally, the Club is available during the day for events such as funerals and christenings, and there is also a small meeting room available – all free of charge to use. Contact the Club Stewards on 01706 852484 for further details.

WHITWORTH NEWS

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT 2015/2016

Whitworth Town Council has this year set a net budget of £55,423. The Council is pleased to announce that, for the fifth year in a row, there will be no rise in the precept for the financial year 2015/2016, 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 twoway 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.

	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
Salaries (Town Clerk / Town Caretaker)	46,898	46,457	45,655
Parish Lengthsman (salary / materials)	7,066	7,100	10,348
Statutory and Civic Events / Expenses	3,575	2,850	3,000
Administrative Expenses incl. rents	8,945	9,325	9,200
Mayoral Allowance	2,180	2,150	2,150
Training / Members' Expenses	250	250	250
Audit Fee	450	450	550
Insurance	1,480	1,451	1,700
Member Election Costs	1,310	1,110	1,110
Grants to Outside Bodies	500	500	1,000
Special Projects	5,000	2,500	5,000
Street Floral Displays	600	600	700
Magazine (Valley News)	1,854	2,760	3,260
Maintenance and Repairs	-5,764	-5,629	-4,629
Investment Income	-10,000	-8,300	-8,800
LCC / RBC devolved funding	-9612	-9,612	-16,801
From Reserves	-309	-390	-436
Contingencies	1,000	1,000	1,000
COST OF TOWN COUNCIL LEVY (£)	55,423	54,572	54,257
RBC Council Tax Support Grant	8,000	8,000	8,000
Net precept	47,423	46,572	46,257
Number of band 'D' equivalent units	2,061	2,024	2,010
Council Tax per band 'D' property (£p)	23.01	23.01	23.01
Percentage increase per band 'D' property	0%	0%	0%
Actual increase per band 'D' property	0p	0p	0p

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SPORTS REPORT

WHITWORTH SKYLINE WALK

Last year, one May Sunday morning, over 300 people of all ages, mostly local, set out from Lobden Golf Club on the inaugural Whitworth Skyline walk. During the afternoon most returned to Lobden, having completed the course across wonderful terrain in glorious weather.

It's taking place again, on Sunday 17 May. Again, walkers will sign in at Lobden and set off at their own pace between 8 and 9am. Checkpoints en route will provide orange juice and plasters and, at two points, allow an early drop-out.

Back at Lobden there'll be a certificate, a meal and an open bar. Hopefully the atmosphere will be as full of joy, relief, camaraderie and a sense of achievement as was felt last year. Entry forms will be widely available soon, with instructions for where to return them and the date by which they must be returned to claim your pre-entry discount. Do join in – it's a real challenge, but one which as a community can be accomplished in a spirit of friendly encouragement. Profits last year were split between the Sports Council, the Tourism and Leisure Committee and the Mayor's Charity Fund.

If you don't want to walk but would like to help out, please contact Jo Furtado (853442 or 07813 180748) or David Chorlton (853234) – they need marshals for all checkpoints, and are particularly keen to hear from anyone prepared to offer 4x4 assistance. PS: they undersold the distance last year: it's 14 miles!



2014's inaugural Skyline Walk. Photo by Mike Burgess, used with kind permission.

VALLEY THAI BOXING



Valley Thai Boxing is a new Whitworth-based muay Thai and kickboxing club which is currently enrolling students of all ages. The Club is based in Spodden Mill on Station Road, Facit and the head coach and owner is Andy Hughes, a former British featherweight muay Thai champion. Muay Thai kickboxing is great for achieving incredible fitness levels as well as improving discipline, respect, confidence, concentration and developing an overall healthy lifestyle. The club is not just for people hoping to become the next champion; it caters for all levels, from people looking to learn a new martial art or improving their fitness right up to professional competition. One of the club's junior fighters (Lucas Thomas, aged 9) recently defended his European title in amazing fashion with a unanimous points win over the Belgian champion, bringing his title belt back to our small village. As this is a new club just starting out they are looking for any local businesses who might be interested in sponsoring the club to help with equipment costs. This is a non-profit club, so every little helps. For further more information and class times please contact Andy Hughes on 07702 006832, email valleythaiboxing@Gmail.com or visit Facebook (search for Valley Thai).

SPORTS REPORT

ANDEMS RACES 2015

Andy O'Sullivan MBE organises a wealth of races over the course of the year, many of which take place in Whitworth, and all of which are open to the public to take part in. Below is a list of the races taking place in Whitworth in 2015; to take part or for more information please contact Andy on 01706 750620 or email info@andemsrunners.co.uk.

- Wed 1 Apr, 7pm: Colin & Brenda Robinson 'Cowm' 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Wed 8 Apr, 7pm: Joe Salt Memorial 'Cowm' 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Wed 15 Apr, 7pm: Mike McGee Memorial 'Cowm' 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Wed 29 Apr, 7pm: Vera Hirst 'Cowm' 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Tues 5 May, 7pm: Geoff Doggett Memorial 'Cowm' 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Thurs 14 May, 7pm Ian Casey Memorial 'Cowm' 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Thurs 20 Aug, 7pm: Stan Curran 'Cowm' 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Thurs 3 Sept, 6.45pm: Derek Clutterbuck & Graham Wright's 'Hades Hill' Fell Race (5 Miles 12 feet) from the Red Lion.
- Sun 18 Oct, 11.30am: Jimmy Cricket's 70th Birthday 5K from the Cock & Magpie.
- Sun 21 Nov, 11am: Lynne Edmondson Memorial 5K Brownhouse Wham Reservoir Race from Red Lion.

GIRLS UNITED

In the December edition of the Whitworth Valley News we featured a picture of Whitworth Valley FC's newest team, the Under-11 Girls. The same picture appeared in a recent edition of the Rochdale Observer, which would have been great, had there been any acknowledgement of the kindness of Samba Dance and Fitness in sponsoring the team's kit, or any sort of report on the team's progress on the pitch. There were neither, so, having thanked Samba again, it behoves the WVN to report that at time of writing the team had played 12 games, recording 7 wins, 3 draws and 2 defeats, placing them fourth in their league.

This valley has some small tradition of girls' football – there was a Facit Mill team in the 1920s – and Whitworth Valley FC are hoping to develop a bit of a future too, building on the relative success of the Under-11s this season. Before and during Sports Festival, in a joint venture with Lancashire FA, the club hope to run a coaching course for girls aged 6-10, with a view to there being a way of making football regularly available next season for girls in that age-group. The club will be looking for parents or other interested adults who might be prepared to take responsibility for coaching such a group from this summer onwards. If that's you, ring Jo Furtado (853442) for a chat.

SAXON KARATE

Saxon Karate trains at Shawforth Chapel, Market Street on Wednesdays at 6pm. Saxon Karate Club is a Shotokan karate club which operates throughout Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire, even extending to Wales and many countries worldwide. Saxon is headed by Sensei Leigh Smith, a highly respected 7th Dan black belt. Founded in 1981, Saxon Karate is one of the most famous karate clubs in the world. Saxon students have taken UK, European and world honours but still retain a family club atmosphere wherever they train. All Saxon Karate instructors train regularly and improve continuously. They are all CRB checked and hold certifications in First Aid and Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults. Training is open to all ages and abilities from 6 to 70+, all you need to train is loose fitting clothing. If you are considering taking up karate, or already have training but are looking for an outstanding club, simply turn up to one of the weekly training sessions or contact Leigh Smith on 07836 778821.

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WHITWORTH NEWS

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Rossendale's team of Community First Responders save lives and care for people across the Valley by supporting the ambulance service. Whitworth retired nurse Ken Sutcliffe enjoys making a difference and being a Community First Responder gives him that chance. "After I retired I found there was a vacuum. Then I was in the Red Lion and the landlord Steve Butterworth, who is a First Responder, said why don't I join – so I did." Even though Ken qualified as a nurse in 1968, he still had to undergo the training to become a Responder. He said: "In Whitworth the Responders are a stock controller, a publican and me. We don't have blue lights and have to stick to the speed limits. We had a call to a cardiac arrest in Whitworth when the Responder saved the person's life, which is rewarding." Responders are needed to provide cover during the day, in the evening and at weekends, with each volunteer working to their availability. All Responders commit to full training organised by the North West Ambulance Service, including an assessment at the end. No previous first aid knowledge is necessary. If you're interested, the team has an awareness session on Wednesday 25 February, 4pm – 8pm at Sunnybank Day Centre, Market Street, Whitworth. Alternatively log on to www.nwas-responders.info or call 0845 0021 999.



ROSSENDALE REVEALED

Rossendale is a collection of towns and villages, all having their own distinct character, history and heritage. Set amongst beautiful landscape, it has so much to offer residents and visitor alike. There are numerous events, attractions and activities to enjoy all year round. With Rossendale's heritage including industries such as textiles and footwear, it holds many secrets that are yet to be discovered, included fine buildings, nature trails, traditions and museums reflecting its industrial roots. Rossendale is also home to such unique events as the Whitworth Rushcart, the World Black Pudding Throwing Championship, Gravy Wrestling Championship and the Rossendale 60's Festival. There's also a plethora of unique local shops selling exclusive and hand-made products. If adrenaline is your escape, the Valley has world-class facilities to cater for skiing, mountain biking, watersports, walking and many others. If you are an attraction, activity, accommodation provider or event organiser, and would like to get online, please get in touch with Katie Gee at katiegee@rossendalebc.gov.uk. The Must Visit Rossendale blog provides the viewer with details of some of the many attractions, activities and events that are happening in the valley. You will find this at www.visitrossendale.wordpress.com. It supplements the main Visit Rossendale Tourist Information site that can be found at www.visitrossendale.com.

This community magazine is produced by Whitworth Town Council. It is distributed to 3,600 properties in Whitworth four times a year. Editorial content is carried free of charge; advertising rates can be provided upon request.

DISCLAIMER: Whitworth Town Council cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of any information provided for submission by outside organisations, the content of adverts within the magazine, or the quality of services offered by advertisers.

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

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WHITWORTH NEWS

GROUP MEETS TO REDUCE FLOODING IN WHITWORTH

Following flooding in recent years a charity called the National Flood Forum is working with local people to set up a group to tackle issues and reduce flooding in Whitworth. Even if your home has not been flooded this can directly benefit you as it will make insurance easier and cheaper if Whitworth becomes less of a flood risk area. One of the biggest challenges in managing flood risk for communities on the River Spodden is that changing weather patterns mean there is more heavy rainfall in summer months, leading to flash flooding.

The Whitworth Flood Forum has succeeded in getting the groups that have responsibility for helping water flow together – the Environment Agency, Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council all attend the meetings held at Anglo Recycling on Tong Lane. The group is also being supported by Whitworth Town Council; Councillor Karen Ruane attends meetings and her local knowledge, as well as her understanding of the different organisations, is helping the group. Group Chairman, Simon Macaulay, says: "Flooding is a long term issue for Whitworth, and I've been very impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the various bodies that can help us. By working with them, we can greatly reduce the flood risk in Whitworth in the long term. If you'd like to get involved, please call me on 01706 853513."

WHITWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Whitworth attraction for locals and visitors alike is a walk around Cowm Reservoir. Today it is a peaceful place with grazing animals and surrounding trees and green fields contributing to the tranquil scene, but in the 1860s the picture was very different.

A few years earlier, Rochdale Corporation had decided to build a number of reservoirs at various locations in the surrounding districts, Cowm Valley being the location of the first. Rochdale had secured the services of Thomas Hawksley, a far-sighted civil engineer who had made the link between good public health and round-the-clock availability of a pressurised clean water supply. Work at Cowm was eventually completed around 1870 and the reservoir began to provide, mainly by gravitational means, a supply of clean water to Whitworth and parts of Rochdale. Construction had not been without problems and Hawksley employed the use of liquid cement grout, at that time a revolutionary new technique, to seal a number of very large fractures in the underlying strata. Whitworth Historical Society membership is open to all and holds regular monthly talks at its North Street museum premises between October and June. The museum is open throughout the year on Tuesdays 7.30pm-9.30pm and on Saturdays 2pm-4pm. Admission is free.



Construction of the dam at Cowm Reservoir in the late 1860s

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NOTE: Councillor and MP details correct until 7 May 2015; new details for councillors and MP post-elections in next edition

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Jim Mellor (Conservative): 01706 853479 • 07973 421145
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Sean Serridge (Labour): 01706 877008 / 07947 444732
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HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD:

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Marie Gibbons (Conservative): 01706 854295

Maureen Jones (Community First): 07794 356610
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Ian Mycock (Labour): 01706 632823

Karen Ruane (Community First): 07772 534412
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WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES:

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www.whitworth.gov.uk
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ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

FACIT & SHAWFORTH WARD:

Tom Aldred and **Madeline De Souza**
(see left for contact details)

HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD:

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(see left for contact details)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

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