

# Whitworth

## VALLEY NEWS



PRODUCED BY  
**Whitworth**  
Town Council

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY

# Christmas

AND A HAPPY 2025!

*read about  
our festive  
events inside!*



NEW YEARS DAY DUCK RACE  
1pm Cowm Res



COMMUNITY  
CAROL SERVICE  
7pm Mon 9th Dec



SANTA EXPRESS  
Sat 21st & Sun 22nd Dec

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

## Dear Whitworth Residents and Friends,

I am six months into my term as Mayor of Whitworth, since taking over in May 2024, and have loved every minute of it. The Rushcart Procession, the Dog Show, celebrating our local talent and seeing our achievements on a global, local and national level have been amazing recent events to witness and support.

A recent highlight has been the Mayoral Charity Ball and Awards Evening, where I proudly presented awards to: Eric Halliwell, Andrew Thorpe, Steve Butterworth, Lillie-Mai Davies and the staff of the Co-Op Whitworth branch. All of the award winners won awards for going above and beyond in terms of serving their community.

The evening saw nearly a thousand pounds raised for the charities and groups that I'm supporting this year. Special mentions go to those who attended, our Town Clerk Rachel Hodson, DJ Jules Ullah for the music, The Ashcroft, Lords the Caterers, Karis Serena (female vocalist) and local (Rochdale) band Emma and The Echoes, as well as the volunteers who helped our Mayoress Neressa Baron organise and prepare everything.

The amount of road traffic collisions and traffic offences locally have seemed to increase significantly recently (3 in a week at its height) – but we know we've had this issue for a long time. That's why I authored a 12-page Crime Intelligence Report and called a special meeting about it. I presented the report to our local MP Andy MacNae in person along with other members of Whitworth Town Council. The Police and Crime Commissioner was invited and confirmed to attend but the day before had to send his apologies. His office received a copy of the report later that day. 80% of the content of the report came from Whitworth residents who took the time to contact me personally with reports, ideas and concerns (thank you). I'll be hosting a follow up meeting in the town council chamber early in 2025 to hold those concerned to account on progress and action that needs to be taken on behalf of Whitworth's residents.

As we move into winter, we look forward to several public events. These include the recent Remembrance Sunday commemoration to remember our fallen and to honour residents who have served and those who continue to protect us in the Armed Forces far and wide.

The people of Whitworth are special. We all need to continue to look out for each other, get involved and keep our unique community spirit alive.

With best wishes to you all,

Councillor Gareth Baron, Mayor of Whitworth



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



## Whitworth Community Carol Service



7pm on Monday, 9th December at The Ashcroft

## SANTA EXPRESS



Following the huge success of previous years, the committee have decided Santa Express will return to the streets of Whitworth again!

Father Christmas will be travelling through Whitworth in his custom-built sleigh between 6pm and 8pm on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd December. He will be sledding between Broadley and Britannia, with an extra stop at Bacup town centre – back by popular demand!

He will also be calling at most of the residential areas in Whitworth on the way, driving slowly to allow families to wave as he passes by. It would be impossible to cover every single street, but Father Christmas's elves have worked hard to ensure that you won't have far to go to see him drive by.

Residents are encouraged to come out and meet Father Christmas at one of our designated Santa Stops (see below) to partake in the full Santa experience! Children will be able to collect a bag of sweets as a Christmas treat and, if our safety elves allow, Father Christmas may be able to make additional short stops along the route. This year, as a special Santa treat, the Mayor of Whitworth will be waving off Santa from The Ashcroft car park at 5.50pm on Saturday 21st and the Mayor of Rossendale will be in attendance at Bacup town centre at approx. 7.45pm on Sunday 22nd December.

Father Christmas wants to see everyone out and waving this year, joining in the festivities. He would love to see everyone's Christmas lights and decorations cheering up the Valley. Anyone wanting to request a mention from Father Christmas then please email [whitworthtlc@gmail.com](mailto:whitworthtlc@gmail.com) by Thursday 19th December, stating which Santa Stop you will be waiting at.

Finally, please send Father Christmas any photos or videos of the event to [whitworthtlc@gmail.com](mailto:whitworthtlc@gmail.com) or post them on social media with the hashtag #whitworthsantaexpress

### SATURDAY SANTA STOP

#### Saturday 21st December

- 5.50pm The Ashcroft, Main Entrance
- 6.05pm Medical Centre Carpark
- 6.20pm Lobden Golf Club
- 6.35pm Waingap View
- 6.40pm Ainsdale Drive
- 6.50pm Tonacliffe School
- 6.55pm Tonacliffe Way
- 7.05pm The Oxford
- 7.20pm Station Rd Broadley/Dell Meadow
- 7.25pm The Birches
- 7.40pm Riddiough Court/Masseycroft
- 7.45pm Opposite Hallfold car park
- 7.55pm Eastgate bottom of Fairway
- 8.05pm Spring Mill
- 8.15pm Wallbank Drive
- 8.25pm Wallbank Drive

### SUNDAY SANTA STOP

#### Sunday 22nd December

- 6.00pm Orama Ave/Cowm Park Way South
- 6.10pm Orama Ave
- 6.15pm Cowm Park Way South
- 6.20pm New Way/The Hedgerows
- 6.25pm Cockhall Lane/Sandbank Gardens
- 6.35pm Cowm Park Way North/Railway Close
- 6.45pm Halfway House
- 6.55pm Barley View
- 7.00pm Spring Side/Riverside
- 7.10pm Oak Street
- 7.20pm Knowsley Crescent
- 7.30pm St Vincent's Housing, Britannia
- 7.35pm Britannia Post Office
- 7.45pm St James Square Bacup
- 8.05pm Facit Fold
- 8.15pm Longacres Drive

**All timings are approximate and may be subject to change due to weather conditions.  
Please follow Tourism and Leisure Committee of Whitworth's Facebook page for updates**



REAR OF 307A MARKET STREET, WHITWORTH,  
ROCHDALE, OL12 8PW  
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EMAIL [SALES@RTFENCING.CO.UK](mailto:SALES@RTFENCING.CO.UK)  
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## HELLO NEW YARIS CROSS HYBRID COMPACT SUV

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Model shown is MY23 Yaris Cross Design 1.5 VVE-i Auto 170D £26,695 including optional Metallic paint at £815. Prices correct at time of being published. Terms and conditions apply. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km), combined 54.5 (5.2) - 62.8 (4.3). 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/fcbs/wltp.asp](http://www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcbs/wltp.asp)

## WHITWORTH VOLUNTEERS HOST CHRISTMAS CRAFT EXTRAVAGANZA



A previous attendee of our wreath making workshops

Whitworth Town Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee have been getting in the Christmas spirit planning the Christmas Celebrations. Following the success of previous year's workshops, the volunteers have decided to do it all again this year with a few added extras! The original wreath-making idea was the brainchild of volunteer member, Linda Parker, to recycle the Christmas tree offcuts the group produce.

The event takes place on Saturday 7th December at The Ashcroft from 10am until 4pm. Crafters can choose between learning the art of Ukrainian egg decorating or making their own Christmas crackers from 10am until 12pm and also there will be a traditional wreath making workshop from 1pm until 4pm. Everything will be provided to make a Ukrainian decorated egg, and attendees can personalise their Christmas crackers by bringing their own gifts for inside the crackers. Traditional, natural materials will be provided for the wreaths, although attendees are welcome to bring along decorations to customise their wreaths to their own colour scheme. Guests will receive tea, coffee, juice and a mince pie and be entertained by Christmas tunes while they craft. The bar will also be open for those wanting to enjoy some traditional mulled wine or speciality coffee.

Bookings close on Sunday 1st December and places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment! The crafts are priced at £5 per person for Christmas crackers, £10 per person for Ukrainian egg decoration and £20 per person for wreath making. Bookings can be made in person at the Town Council office or via the Town Council website at [https://www.whitworth.gov.uk/events/Christmas\\_Craft\\_Extravaganza](https://www.whitworth.gov.uk/events/Christmas_Craft_Extravaganza). Christmas cracker making is suitable from those aged 5 and above and Ukrainian egg decorating for those aged 12 and above. All under 16s will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.



## DUCK RACE

Whitworth's Annual New Year's Day Duck Race has become an egg-citing success and a popular event in the Whitworth calendar. The ducks take to the water at Cowm Reservoir, Tong Lane on New Year's Day at 1pm.

For those unfamiliar with the concept, numbered ducks sponsored for a pound are entered into the Duck Race. The prize money this year is £150, £125 and £100 for first, second and third place ducks (respectively). Even the last duck wins £25!! You will find sponsor sheets in many of our local shops and businesses, or you can purchase online via <http://www.whitworth.gov.uk>



Results will be announced at the end of the race and the winners will be contacted to arrange distribution of prizes. All proceeds from the duck race are ploughed back into the tourism and leisure events for Whitworth. Due to unprecedented demand last year, the committee have recruited even more ducks to ensure anyone wanting to sponsor a duck on the day will not be disappointed.

Refreshments will be available on the day from the Waterski Centre so come along and enjoy the New Year by supporting this incredibly popular event.



## ST JOHN'S FACIT & ST BARTHOLOMEW'S WHITWORTH CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS 2024

**Saturday 14th December** 'Carols @ the Co-op' 10.30am outside Whitworth Co-op  
Come and have a Sing - Collection for Springhill Hospice

**Sunday 15th December** Carol Service @ St Bart's 3pm in church  
Led by Revd Janet O'Neill

**Christmas Eve** 'Pop Up Nativity' @ St John's 4pm  
Led by Revd Janet O'Neill.  
Bring the children for some fun.

**NO MIDNIGHT SERVICE THIS YEAR**

**Christmas Day** Holy Communion @ St Bart's 10.30am

COME AND JOIN US. YOU WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME

Contact Revd Janet O'Neill for further details on 01706 878954





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We can undertake a new one for £50 in the Whitworth area. Call or text Paul on 07581 587990 or email [ashworthenergy@sky.com](mailto:ashworthenergy@sky.com)

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**Christmas PARTY NIGHT**

FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DEC

**FAMILY PANTOMIME**

SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> DEC

**FAMILY FILM DAY**

SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DEC

**Family NYE PARTY**

TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DEC

# CHRISTMAS

at The Ashcroft

**SCAN ME**  
for details & to book

**FREE EVENT**

*Christmas Markets*

Sunday 24th November

THE ASHCROFT

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

@ [team@the-ashcroft.co.uk](mailto:team@the-ashcroft.co.uk)

Whitworth, Civic Hall OL12 8DP



## 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 will be holding their Christmas extravaganza on 4th December and on the 8th January their speaker will be Iain Bowden on the topic of "The History of Hollingworth Lake".

U3a 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 07718 913131.

New members are welcome for an annual membership of £15 and £2 monthly meeting subs. Anyone interested may attend two meetings before joining. A full list of speakers, interest groups and contact details can be found on the FB page and website [u3asites.org.uk/whitworth](http://u3asites.org.uk/whitworth).

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## THE REFURBISHMENT OF WHITWORTH MEMORIAL GARDENS

In 2010, Anita Farrow, in her capacity as Treasurer of the Whitworth and Healey Horticultural Society, saw the need to rescue the gardens which had fallen into a sorry state. The priorities were: to use local stone, as befits Whitworth heritage, to construct a hard standing area for the band on Remembrance Sunday; repair paths; replace the metal railings which had been requisitioned in WW2 and never restored; renew trees and plants and add new benches.

Inspired by rose beds Anita had seen on her travels abroad; she had the idea to have a box hedge and 50 roses planted. She approached David Austin Roses and, unbeknown to Anita, the owner himself advised on the type of roses suitable for Pennine gardens, selling them to her for under £5 each. (Current RRP is £30!)



After numerous meetings, emails, letters and phone calls, as well as endless forms to fill in, Anita was offered a grant from Community Spaces. With donations from other sources, the amount raised was £58,000.

Trees have since been planted to commemorate the loved ones of local residents and plaques have been placed on benches. Two acer trees were added in 2018 as special tributes to all those killed or injured in the two world wars.

Work carried out by council gardeners and volunteers resulted in the gardens being ready for an official opening in May 2012. More than 200 people attended and were regaled by the band who finally got to play in their new space.

(With thanks to Anita Farrow and Whitworth Heritage Museum for information and photos)

## CANCER RESEARCH UK WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

An update on events since last magazine.

A fundraising meal at Pepe Nero at the end of July raised £835. Thanks once again to Anna and Dawid for hosting and generosity, and thanks also to all who provided prizes. A golf tournament at Lobden in September raised £1,130. Thanks once again to Lobden Golf Club, and all who participated and supplied prizes. An afternoon tea, again at Lobden, in September raised £761. Thanks to all who attended, provided prizes and worked hard on the day, with particular thanks to Arnold Ashworth for all his hard work on both these events at Lobden. A fund-raising meal at the Rose and Bowl in early October raised £759. Thanks to John and Carol for their hosting and generosity and to all who attended and provided prizes.

The final 2 events for this year are a fundraising meal at Pepe Nero on 28th October and a Christmas concert at the Ashcroft on Sunday 8th December at 7pm. Tickets are priced £8 and available from the numbers below.

The support from the people of Whitworth this year has again been phenomenal. The committee would like to thank you all and wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

As mentioned previously, we are always on the lookout for new members. If you would like to join us, the commitment is one meeting a month plus attending and helping at events. Please contact the committee on the numbers below for more info or to attend any events or to make a donation.

Michael Whitby on 01706 852613, Elaine Bagshaw on 01706 853935 and Arnold Ashworth on 01706 343424.

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## WHITWORTH MUSEUM - FROM THE COLLECTION



Drainpipe finial handmade from lead

Most of us take the plumbing in our homes for granted and expect the mass of interconnecting pipework to stay out of sight. As recently as the 1950's however, things were very different for plumbing companies. Many of the fittings had to be made by hand from flat lead sheet and formed into the various traps, connections and finials. This could involve a degree of artistry on the part of the leadsmith.

In Whitworth, Varley Brothers ran a very successful business with a well equipped workshop on Market Street. As materials changed from lead to copper, PVC and plastic, so too did the working techniques involved. Inevitably, this change saw the decline of workshop based leadcraft and by the end of the 1960's crafting with lead had all but died out. When in the early 1970's Varley Brothers finally closed down, a number of their specialist plumbing tools, many fashioned locally from wood, were accepted into Whitworth Museum.

This decorative drain pipe finial (pictured) has been crafted from a flat sheet of lead made in the Varley Brothers workshop.

Whitworth Museum is open each Saturday from 11.00am-4.00pm and at other times by appointment.

## WHITWORTH KNIT AND NATTER'S D-DAY COMMEMORATION

In order to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the industrious crafters who attend Whitworth Library's Knit and Natter sessions came together to produce a wondrous Union Flag, made up of over 5,000 individual flowers.

The impressive flag was proudly displayed at our Tourism and Leisure Committee's 80th Anniversary of D-Day Commemorative afternoon tea event before being moved to its permanent home of Bancroft House in Burnley. Bancroft House rehabilitates and reconnects veterans and their families and the flag now stands in pride of place in their foyer. Donations were taken at the afternoon tea event in honour of this amazing crafting achievement and a fantastic £260 was raised for Bancroft House.



Everyone here at Whitworth Town Council would like to pass on their huge thanks to Knit and Natter for their labour of love, which was also fully funded by the Knit and Natterers (that's a lot of wool!). Anyone wanting to join these amazing crafters, please feel free to pop into Whitworth Library between 2 and 4pm on a Monday afternoon (excluding bank holidays). You're guaranteed a warm welcome from this friendly group of talented crafters.

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## WHITWORTH LIBRARY

There are several events coming up at Whitworth library to suit all ages.

### **Barbara - Spot On live theatre show - Fri 22nd Nov 8pm- 9pm** **suitable for ages 14+. Tickets all £8**

Don't miss this immersive theatrical experience which sensitively explores the subject of dementia, through the lens of how we care for those we love and how we care for ourselves.

Through warmth, affection and humour, the lid is lifted on what it means to care for someone you love when they lose their way. There will be music. There will be laughter! Book online at LCC Events ([lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk)) or by calling into the library.

### **Storytime & Craft Christmas Special - Tues 17th Dec 2-3pm**

Bring your pre-schoolers to get festive with Whitworth Library. Santa's little helpers will read some cracking Christmas stories, and they'll have lots of crafts to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

### **Shared Reading Christmas Special - Thurs 19th Dec 10-11.30am**

Join the library to get cosy and listen to some cracking Christmas stories, with a nice cuppa and a mince pie.

### **Bounce & Rhyme Christmas Special - Fri 20th Dec 10.15 -11**

Dig out those Christmas jumpers and bring your little ones along to sing seasonal songs, crack open some Christmas crackers and have lots of festive fun.

### **Ukelele Christmas Concert - Fri 20th Dec 3:45-4:45**

Come along for a unique seasonal singalong with the brilliant Whitworth Ukelele group performing festive songs, old and new, live at the library.



## WHITWORTH GUIDES AND RANGERS



2024 has been an eventful year for 1st Whitworth Guides and Rangers. Badges have been completed, the annual visit to Whitworth water-ski centre has happened and service to the community has been undertaken by litter picking, charity fundraising and replanting at Hall Street with Whitworth in Bloom.



In addition, February saw some of the unit travel to Disneyland Paris but the extra activities in 2024 didn't stop there! One Ranger is now a peer educator for Girlguiding North West England whilst also training to be a young leader with 1st Whitworth Brownies. Another Ranger attended the Girlguiding North West England's international selection in June 2024 and will head to South Korea in 2025.

Recently more of our Rangers attended the county trip to Blackpool and finally one of the leaders – Helen - led Girlguiding North West England's international to Space Coast, Florida in July 2024. The Rangers she took got to experience two rocket launches, train like astronauts at Kennedy Space Center and meet Senior Girl Scouts.

With activities still planned for 2024, 1st Whitworth Guides and Rangers are eager to see what 2025 has in store! Should you wish to join or volunteer check out [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) for more details.

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## LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY FOODSHARE



The old saying warns us 'pride goes before a fall' which may lead us to regard pride as something we should avoid. However, ask any of the volunteers who are part of the community running the Lighthouse and many will say they are proud of being part of the organisation, and proud of the service it has grown into. It's a service which has garnered a shelf-load of awards and at times has enjoyed support from every school and church in Whitworth as well as from local and even international businesses.



The Lighthouse was proud to support WOW's Pink trail in October

There are several aspects of its service thought to be unique to itself: a private 15min slot for clients to select their own items, the generous amount given to clients (stock permitting), the period over which it will help clients, the one-off £10 registration fee after which the service is free for up to a year. But the Lighthouse doesn't rest on its laurels and takes nothing for granted. The challenge of recruiting enough volunteers, moving and maintaining adequate supplies, and meeting the varied needs of its clients are constant.

Although it's aware it can't be all things to everyone, it listens when people suggest ways in which it can improve. These and the stories of gratitude from its clients make it something all its supporters can be proud of.

Lighthouse opening hours are Tuesday & Thursday 10am-4pm, Saturday 10am-3pm

For an appointment or to ask about volunteering tel or text: 07922 951 096

Donations can also be made by bank transfer using sort code: 30-98-97, Acc no: 55373062



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## ON A MISSION TO CHANGE THE WAY WE BUY GLASSES



Glasses shopping can often be uninspiring, with rows upon rows of frames that all look the same. When the only variation is black or tortoise shell, it's not surprising that most of us find picking a new pair a less than exciting experience.

Crowther Optometrists in Bacup is on a mission to change all this.

Lots of their frames are handpicked for quality, uniqueness and style. They have recently been over to Paris to spend time at SILMO, one of the world's biggest and best eyewear tradeshows. Their new collections are in stock now and feature some of the most amazing pieces that are guaranteed to change the way you think about your eyewear forever.

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optometrists

Next time you are looking for your new pair don't just settle for mediocrity, let the eyewear stylists at Crowther Optometrists help you pick a pair that is going to make you look and feel great!

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## SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS TIPS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE

Whitworth Town Council's Environment and Wildlife Committee would like to wish all of our residents a wonderful Christmas and New Year. They hope that by following the tips below, a more natural and sustainable time can be had by all.



- 1. Wildlife Christmas treats** Buy edible Christmas wreaths. See birds up close, including species that are only around in winter.
- 2. Bring nature inside** Why buy Christmas decorations? Make your own from what you can find. Leave plenty for wildlife.
- 3. Gift a wilder future** Purchase wildlife sponsorship, gift memberships, books, clothing and more.
- 4. Ask for donations to environmental and wildlife charities instead of gifts.**
- 5. Wrap responsibly** Avoid non-recyclable wrapping paper and cards. Buy brown paper and decorate it – potato stamping is great fun! Use twine not sticky tape or reuse ribbons from gifts given to you. Give reusable options - boxes, bags or fabric wrapping (called 'furoshiki').
- 6. Reuse or replant Christmas trees** Buy pre-loved instead of new ones to minimise plastic. Buy potted real trees to replant and use year-on-year.
- 7. Shop small and local** Minimise food miles and waste.
- 8. Support wildlife when shopping** Organisations like Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Give as you Live include charitable donations for your purchases.
- 9. Cook sustainably** Plan meals ahead and use leftovers. Minimise food waste. Compost vegetable waste. Avoid foods with unnecessary packaging to reduce your carbon footprint.

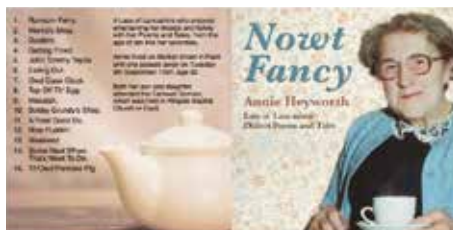




## ANNIE HEYWORTH - NOWT FANCY

A 15 track CD has been created using vocal recordings of iconic Whitworth resident Annie Heyworth called *Nowt Fancy*. Copies are selling for just £5, with all proceeds going towards Whitworth Historical Society.

The organisers would like to thank the following volunteers for all their time and hard work in bring this project to fruition.



John and Margaret Miller who provided the original tape recordings from the 1970s.

Pete Troughton for his excellent skills converting the tapes into a Master CD.

Alan Wild and Kimberley Ashworth for the artwork and the write-up of the history about life and times of Annie Heyworth.

And finally Jamie from Littleborough for bringing all the artwork and information together.

Copies are available by either contacting Cllr Alan Neal (contact details on the back page) or from Whitworth Museum (opening times on page 10).

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## CHRISTMAS AT THE ASHCROFT

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There's also plenty of festive fun for the little ones this Christmas season. **The Pantomime at The Ashcroft** will bring the enchanting tale of Beauty & The Beast to life. The magic continues when the whole family can enjoy **Arthur Christmas**, a heartwarming film experience. Children can meet Santa, enjoy a festive treat, and receive a gift while watching the movie, with snacks and drinks available throughout.

Finally, bring in the New Year at their **Family New Year's Eve Party**. The evening will feature music, party games, and a delicious hot supper, ensuring a fantastic start to 2025.

Book now at [the-ashcroft.co.uk](http://the-ashcroft.co.uk)



# CROSSWORD! WELL, TWO ACTUALLY, WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLUE – YOUR CHOICE

## CRYPTIC CLUES

No particular theme this time. If you're looking for a simple (?) start, 4 Down is an anagram; 2 Down has an obvious first five letters; and 12 Across is a bit of brick-by-brick building.

### ACROSS

- 1 Wanderer approaches old, messy river and conjures rebounding device (10)
- 7 Preserver is, objectively, the first person to retreat, seeing a weird tree in a pub (8)
- 8 Catty French gossip? (4)
- 9 Smelly status (4)
- 10 Maybe Johnny is finished, but not quietly? (7)
- 12 Villa is... hello, no good! Remarkable! (11)
- 14 Big bunny and rotter fool around with each other – just a pretence (7)
- 16 Palindromic German Chancellor (4)
- 19 Take weaponry back into bar (4)
- 20 Los Angeles - I'm back on short crane projection calculating x and y (8)
- 21 Take the exam again, reverend father, backwards, and get someone to shout it to the world (10)

### DOWN

- 1 Sheep steps back at Cornish border (5)
- 2 Encore, good person – though we're not with you (7)
- 3 I've risen to find cat (4)
- 4 Eel grass waves, creating generosity (8)
- 5 Northern Irish revolutionary icon? Is that a comfortable position? (5)
- 6 Barking computer? Weirdly anatomical animal? Uppity priest? (6)
- 11 In confusion, gently bite roadside bomb? To be... oh, not two Bs! Yuck! (8)
- 12 Back in the day, like round the Greek capital (6)
- 13 Such a narrow strip of land. It's them or us – but lose the east, and surrender the hill (7)
- 15 Fix papers for firm (5)
- 17 Walking happily? Or broadcasting... (2,3)
- 18 Sounds like a negative link (4)
- 15 Can I start, my Spanish friend? (5)
- 17 Means oyster (5)
- 18 Go with it! (4)

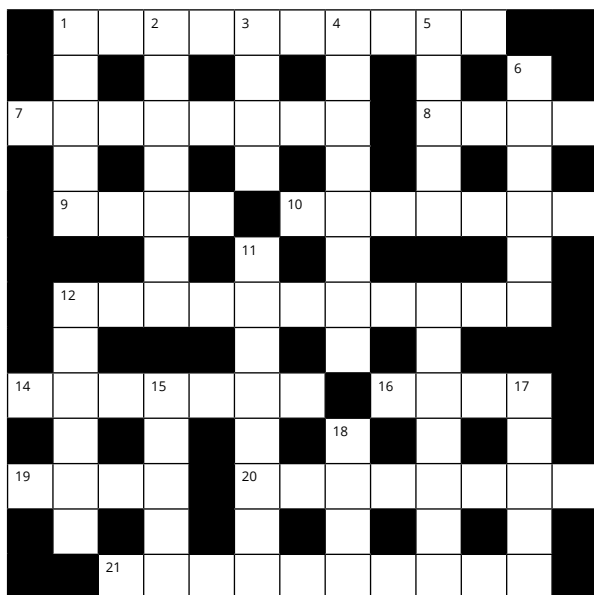
## REGULAR CLUES

### ACROSS

- 1 Place to bounce up and down (10)
- 7 This person preserves a dead body (8)
- 8 Converse easily (4)
- 9 Where someone stands in an organisation (4)
- 10 Maybe... (7)
- 12 Amazing! (11)
- 14 Pretence (7)
- 16 Palindromic German name (4)
- 19 Cosy (4)
- 20 Relating to a mathematical expression containing two terms (8)
- 21 Someone producing commercial info/persuasion (10)

### DOWN

- 1 River forming the border between Cornwall and Devon (5)
- 2 Anti- (7)
- 3 Big cat (4)
- 4 Generosity (8)
- 5 A space into which something (or someone) fits comfortably (5)
- 6 Toy canine? (6)
- 11 Yuck! Tastes awful! (8)
- 12 Location of the Parthenon (6)
- 13 Panama, for one (7)
- 15 Stiff (5)
- 17 Sign requesting silence in a studio (5)
- 18 Granny, reef, bowline, clove hitch... (4)





# 24 Day Reverse Advent Calendar

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX. THEN DONATE THE CONTENTS TO  
THE LIGHTHOUSE IN TIME TO BE GIVEN OUT FOR CHRISTMAS**

Please take donations to [The Lighthouse Community Foodshare](#) at  
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10am-4pm Tuesday & Thursday, 10am-3pm Saturday. Tel: 07922951096

18 <sup>th</sup> November	19 <sup>th</sup> November	20 <sup>th</sup> November	21 <sup>st</sup> November
<b>Tin of Tomatoes</b>	<b>Washing up Liquid</b>	<b>Long Life Milk</b>	<b>Ready made Custard</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	23 <sup>rd</sup> November	24 <sup>th</sup> November	25 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Tin of Fruit</b>	<b>Toilet Rolls</b>	<b>Crisps or Nuts</b>	<b>Gravy</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> November	27 <sup>th</sup> November	28 <sup>th</sup> November	29 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Tin of Baked Beans</b>	<b>Pasta Sauce</b>	<b>Tin of Carrots</b>	<b>Chocolate</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> November	1 <sup>st</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	3 <sup>rd</sup> December
<b>Jam or honey</b>	<b>Tin of Tuna or Meat</b>	<b>Shower Gel or Soap</b>	<b>Cake</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> December	5 <sup>th</sup> December	6 <sup>th</sup> December	7 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Bottle of Squash</b>	<b>Tin of Peas</b>	<b>Instant Mash</b>	<b>Tin of Potatoes</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> December	9 <sup>th</sup> December	10 <sup>th</sup> December	11 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Biscuits</b>	<b>Dry Pasta</b>	<b>Packet of Stuffing</b>	<b>A Gift item</b>



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### CONVEYANCING FEES

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## Whitworth LEISURE CENTRE Fit For The Community

Update

It has been a joy to be in the leisure centre these past few months. Most obviously, of course, the pool is now well and truly open, and people can once again enjoy the sheer pleasure of swimming in Whitworth – experienced individuals, learners, families, and schools. Swimming Club is back – Tuesday evenings at the moment, but as numbers swell, who knows? The gym continues to tick over, giving a range of people the opportunity to get their fix of adrenaline or simply keep their hearts pumping. Add in regular Pilates classes, Aqua Tai Chi and floating sound baths, and sometimes there's so much lively action in the place. It's abundantly clear the centre meets a real need in our community.

Another thing adding to the sense of activity is that building work and repairs are still happening. There was so much to do – and there still is. By the time you read this, the studio should be up and running, meaning that yoga and Pilates classes can be bigger, and gradually there will be a wider offering of movement classes on offer – watch out for announcements on social media and on the village noticeboards, where you can also find opening times, ever-expanding as the centre takes on more staff to work with centre manager, Matt Turner.

The centre needs – always will need – the active support of our community. There will be fundraising events and activities, and more hard-working volunteers will always be welcome – but THE critical thing is for us all to start and keep on using the place. Every person who comes to swim or gym, or take part in classes, helps ensure that those things will be still there next year and the year after, and hopefully long into the future! We simply have to use it to make it viable. Good start – let's all keep it going! And watch out sometime soon for an official opening celebration!





## LIGHTHOUSE AQUA TAI CHI



Lighthouse Aqua Tai Chi is back at Whitworth Pool, taking place on Friday mornings at 9am.

The amazing Whitworth Leisure Team, together with the community of Whitworth, have done a fantastic job to get the pool re-opened, re-vamped and ready.

Lighthouse Aqua Tai Chi started sessions at Whitworth pool in 2011 and instructor David is delighted to be able to return to the centre. Classes are priced at £6.50. For more details please contact Helena on 07876 377321.

---

Don't book your holiday/wedding/concert tickets/celebration meal for Sunday May 18. That's Skyline!!!

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Please say a silent thank you for the volunteers who deliver your WVN. Oh, and if you would like to fulfil your lifelong ambition to deliver the next one, in February, please ring Jo before you forget – 07813180748.

---

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

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

#### **Mondays**

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

#### **Tuesdays**

- 10:00 – 12:30 **Scrabble Club** Great company and good fun – why not join us?  
 14:00 – 14:30 **Storytime and Crafts!** Stories and themed activities (18 months - 4 years)  
 14:00 – 15:00 **Little Steps** featuring games, sing-alongs, stories and crafts on last Tuesday of month  
 15:00 – 17:00 **U3A Wellbeing** 1st Tuesday of month - 07762 757925 (Sheila) for info

#### **Wednesdays**

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

#### **Thursdays**

- 09:30 – 10:30 **Learn My Way** Get online – start your digital journey today!  
 10:00 – 11:30 **Shared Reading Group** All welcome!  
 10:00 – 12:00 **U3A Family History** on last Thursday of month. T. 07790 192120 (Jean) for info  
 13:30 – 15:30 **U3A Art Group** 1st Thursday of month. T. 07800 820096 (Lindsay) for info  
 14:00 – 15:00 **U3A Creative Writing** 1st Thursday of month. T. 07903 570008 (Kay) for info  
 14:00 – 15:30 **U3A Flower Arranging** 3rd Thursday of month. T. 07411 520771 (Nina) for info

#### **Fridays**

- 10:15 – 11:00 **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** (birth to 3 yrs.)

#### **Saturdays**

- 10:30 – 12:00 **Lego Club** (for all ages)  
 10:30 – 11:30 **Garden Gang or 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](mailto:whitworth.library@lancashire.gov.uk)

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



# WHITWORTH COMMUNITY MINI-GALLERIES

Currently showing at the Library is a display showing a variety of artefacts from Whitworth Heritage Museum (just in case you haven't dropped in there recently). On November 22, our cheerful local walking group, Over the Tops, will present photographs showcasing the many and various places they've trekked this year. From December 13 the Library itself will mount an exhibition to show off their busy and eventful year. From January 20 the space will be taken over by artwork from the pupils of Tonacliffe School – a real treat if previous exhibitions are anything to go by. Do drop in!

All those exhibitions will move on after three weeks to the Leisure Centre, which currently has a display showing off the activities of Whitworth U3A, activities that anyone who has retired might like to be a part of.

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## WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BRASS BAND



Once again it has been a busy quarter for Whitworth Band. They entered a contest in Rochdale in early October, playing in the top section alongside other Championship section bands. Following on from the Remembrance service participation, the band have held a concert in partnership with Whitworth Amateur Dramatic Society, holding a stage and screen concert at St John's church hall. We look forward to forging more local partnerships in the near future.

Christmas concerts include:

Sunday 24th November	St.Paul's Church, Ramsbottom	2.00pm
Sunday 1st December	St Helen's Church, Waddington	3.00pm
Sunday 8th December	Cancer research concert	7.00pm
Monday 9th December	Civic Carol service, The Ashcroft, Whitworth	7.00pm
Friday 13th December	Parkinson's concert - Rochdale Golf Club	7.30 pm
Sunday 22nd December	Carols at the Club	2.00pm (The Band Club)

The band will also be out and about the local area with our usual carolling and street playing. This will be announced each week on the local social media sites.

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

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## THE WHITWORTH VALLEY NEWS NEEDS YOU!

Did you know that this publication is brought together from submissions from lots of different community groups across Whitworth?

If you have something you'd like to share with the community, please contact [info@whitworth.gov.uk](mailto:info@whitworth.gov.uk) or phone 01706 852018 (during office hours, see back page for details) to have your piece included in the next edition. If you know of a fantastic upcoming local event, or about a local community group that you think other residents would like to read about, please let us know.

Also, if you have an image that you think could go on the cover of the next edition, send it in and you could see it arrive through your letterbox in mind-February!

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## Whitworth Community Carol Service


*Attended by the Mayor of Whitworth, Councillor Gareth Baron*

*Monday 9th December 2024*


*7pm at The Ashcroft*

Free entry— all welcome!

For more information  
Please call  
01706 852018



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Home visits are available.

# SPECTRUM INCLUSION ROSSENDALE

In September 2024, Spectrum Inclusion Rossendale hosted an awareness session for Whitworth Town Council and other local community groups to help to spread awareness about their organisation and to allow a safe space for those present to ask any questions that they might have regarding LGBTQIA+.



One of their main current projects is the Spectrum Lantern Campaign, which involves identifying local venues and community groups as safe, friendly LGBTQIA+ places. This is done by identifying venues/groups with a unique window decal and logo for emails and social media. Each venue or group will receive a resource folder, which also contains a commitment to reporting and tackling hate crime. They also have an incident report for anyone who doesn't have a safe/friendly experience and will review each venue/group 12 months after the training date. For more information regarding Spectrum Inclusion and their Spectrum Lantern Campaign, please email [info@spectruminclusion.co.uk](mailto:info@spectruminclusion.co.uk) or visit their Facebook page.

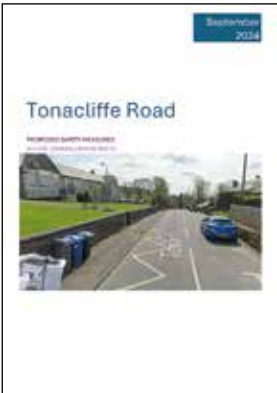
Spectrum Inclusion run a family drop in every 1st and 3rd Saturday between 11am and 12 noon at La Latte Lounge, Rawtenstall. These offer a relaxed, accessible, safe space for peer support and information for families with LGBTQIA+ young people, LGBTQIA+ parents/carers/guardians and also any LGBTQIA+ people who don't have the support of family. They also have a social meetup every 1st and 3rd Saturday between 12 noon and 1pm at La Latte Lounge Rawtenstall. Their ethos is that everyone is welcome, whether you are a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, an ally or questioning.

## PROPOSALS FOR TONACLIFFE ROAD

Due to the increase in recent road traffic incidents and historical traffic problems on Tonacliffe Road, Councillor Mike Royds has produced some proposals for amending the flow of traffic across this road. These proposals are exactly that, nothing has been approved yet and he would really welcome residents' comments on the proposal before taking them forward.



The full document is available on the Whitworth Town Council website by scanning the QR code alongside this piece or by visiting the local news section of Whitworth Town Council's website. A paper copy of the report is also available from the Town Council office (during standard working hours – please see back page for more details).



Please email any thoughts and opinions to [cllrnikeroyds@whitworth.gov.uk](mailto:cllrnikeroyds@whitworth.gov.uk) or phone 07811 994458





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## ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Are you a constituted community group in need of a small grant (up to £150)? Then please apply for a grant from the Whitworth Community Partnership. The WCP can give out grants that help to provide added value to residents and benefit the wider community. All applications are considered by a grants panel of 2 Rossendale Borough Council members and two observers from the community/voluntary sector.



Grants can only be given to local constituted community, voluntary and not for profit groups which are of an abundance in Whitworth so please apply if you are eligible! The maximum grant available is £150 and groups can only apply once per financial year.

For more information or to request an application form, please contact either Steph Thornton on 01706 252404 or [stephaniethornton@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:stephaniethornton@rossendalebc.gov.uk) or Jackie Flynn on 01706 252532 or [jackieflynn@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:jackieflynn@rossendalebc.gov.uk)

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## WHITWORTH COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

A highlight in the festive calendar is the Whitworth Community Carol Service. Last years' service saw the main hall at The Ashcroft filled with residents of all ages, enjoying the performances by local schools, Whitworth Community Choir and our award-winning Whitworth Vale and Healey Brass Band.



Taking place on Monday, 9th December at 7pm at The Ashcroft, this event is free for all residents to attend, and complimentary teas, coffees and mince pies will be available after the service. This year the service will be hosted by our amazing Mayoral Chaplain, Reverend Janet O'Neill, with readings from Whitworth Town Councillors.

Please come along and enjoy the beautiful voices of Whitworth Community Choir, our incredible local school choirs and of course, the fantastic Whitworth Vale and Healey Brass Band. The night is guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit and is certainly a favourite event of all of us here at Whitworth Town Council.



## FREEMASONRY IN THE MODERN WORLD



Freemasons are a unique members' organisation that has thrived for over 300 years. Having no political or religious affiliations, they comprise members of all ages, races, religions, cultures and backgrounds. They meet in their individual Lodges throughout the country where they have ceremonial traditions which encourage members both to be more tolerant and respectful and actively to fulfil their civic and charitable responsibilities; they also make time to eat, drink and meet together, and form lifelong friendships.

Their aims are to attract those from all backgrounds and walks of life, enabling them to develop into more thoughtful and confident people. And also to inspire and challenge people to practise the core values they celebrate - Integrity, Friendship, Respect, Service - in their private and public lives. And finally, to cement their reputation as a force for good in their communities and society at large and as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join. Whether participating in events, fundraising for a charitable cause or volunteering for public or community organisations, service is at the very heart of Freemasonry. Their members make valuable contributions by donating time, resources and skills.

For more information, please visit [eastlancashirefreemasons.org](http://eastlancashirefreemasons.org) or email [harmony298@outlook.com](mailto:harmony298@outlook.com) to arrange a friendly chat.

---

## WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BAND CLUB



The Club were delighted to receive CAMRA's award as Club of The Year for the area. Hopefully we can progress to further success at national level. Well done to the bar team for looking after the beer so well.

A busy September started when locals and visitors got together for one of the few remaining Rushcart celebrations, a good time was enjoyed for the Halloween night, and moving onto November we had a busy Remembrance Sunday as always.

We will be welcoming all who enjoy some carols to the club on the Sunday before Christmas.

For all interested in performing or just listening, open mike sessions take place on the last Wednesday of each month.

Our longstanding Sunday evening quizzes take place every fortnight from 8.30pm.

The club committee room is available free of charge for community meetings, for example the Leisure Centre Committee currently use it for their regular meetings. Message from Whitworth Leisure Centre – thanks for the use of such a cracking room!

We were delighted with the community's response to the MacMillan Coffee Morning in September which raised £455. Functions at the club have so far raised nearly £1,400 for charities so far this year. Thank you to all who have supported.

The club's X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and webpages provide updates on events and current beers on tap, including any one-off changes to opening times for live sports on TV, with both SKY and BT being available. Remember the club generally opens at 7pm Monday to Thursday; and from 5pm on Fridays, 3pm on Saturdays and 1pm on Sundays.

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Seanbrad09@gmail.com  
28 Douglas Road, Bacup

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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**

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**Lancashire County Council:**

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

**Highways** 0300 123 6780

Email [highways@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@lancashire.gov.uk)  
Out of hours social care emergencies  
0300 123 6720

**Rossendale Borough Council:**

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

**The Lighthouse Community Foodshare:**

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

**Together Housing:**

0300 555 5556 (general enquiries)

**Homestart:**

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

**Carers Link Lancashire:**

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

**Citizens Advice Rossendale:**

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

**The Samaritans:**

01706 830999  
(Freephone) 0800 116 123

**Universal Credit:**

(Freephone) 0800 731 9344

**Lancashire Volunteer Partnership:**

Befriending service for people who want  
someone to talk to  
[www.lancsvp.org.uk](http://www.lancsvp.org.uk)  
07779 972114

**Initial Response Service**

0800 013 0707  
For urgent or general mental health issues

# WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

## FACIT & SHAWFORTH WARD

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

**Louise Burton** (Independent): 01706 852018 • cllrlouiseburton@gmail.com

**David Chorlton** (Independent): 07939 218266 • cllrdavidchorlton@whitworth.gov.uk

**Kim Olaolu** (Independent): 01706 852018 • c/o info@whitworth.gov.uk

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

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

## HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD

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

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

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

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

**Scott Smith** (Conservative): 07891 695962 • cllrscottsmith@whitworth.gov.uk

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

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## WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

The Ashcroft, Market Street Whitworth, OL12 8DP

Contact: Rachel Hodson, Town Clerk

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

Office hours: Mon–Fri 9.30am–2pm

## FORTHCOMING WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES

All the following Thursdays: 21st November, 5th and 19th December,  
16th January and 20th February

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

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## ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Alan Neal**

**Councillor Mike Royds**

(contact details above)

**Councillors Scott Smith**

(contact detail right)

## LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**Councillor Scott Smith**

Scott.Smith2@lancashire.gov.uk

07891 695962

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

**Andy MacNae MP**

andy.macnae.mp@parliament.uk

01706 489387 (Constituency Office)