

WHITWORTH

V A L L E Y N E W S

QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

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



WHITWORTH RUSHCART

Sunday 7th September 2014

From this...



...to this!



1pm: procession from North Street

1.00pm – 4.30pm: Riverside (inside and car park)

Stalls, entertainments, dancing, rides, refreshments, arts and craft fair
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More information:

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

IN THIS EDITION:

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from our community organisations... and much more!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

So far, Susan and I are enjoying this term as Mayor and Mayoress as much as we did the last time. Three months in and we've already been invited to numerous events and initiatives, most of which we have been able to attend, and we send sincere thanks to all who have contacted us. What a busy, innovative and creative community we have!

Mayor-Making and Civic Sunday were most enjoyable; sadly however, soon after our term started, Honorary Townsman Mr Terry Bolton passed away and the flag above the council offices was raised at half-mast in his memory and honour – our thoughts were and remain with his wife Lillian and their family.

Since mid-May our busy diary has included opening and closing the 6th Whitworth Sports Festival, visiting the staff and pupils at Whitworth High and attending their awards ceremony in Rochdale Town Hall, attending Whitworth Hospice Support Group's Annual General Meeting and the launch of the Hospice's palliative care programme, attending a performance of Whitworth Amateur Musical and Dramatic Society's amazing production of *The Addams Family* at the Curtain Theatre, giving local Three Peaks Challengers a send off at the Cock and Magpie, and having fun at Whitworth By The Sea. We were also delighted to see the young people from 515 Young People's Centre win the overall logo for alcohol awareness competition at Rossendale Children and Young People's Trust 'Dragon's Den Event at the Riverside. By the time this magazine is delivered we will have made a visit to Whitworth's twin town of Kandel in Germany with the Town Twinning Committee, and attended the Shop Local Food and Craft Fair at Berni Inn, the Brass In The Park event in the Memorial Gardens and the third Jimmy Grogan Memorial Concert at the Riverside.

We're very much looking forward to the Rushcart in September and, further ahead, to our charity fundraising event in October. We are incredibly proud and honoured to represent Whitworth as your Mayor and Mayoress, and we look forward to meeting as many people as we can during our year in office.

With all best wishes,
Councillor Jim Mellor, Mayor of Whitworth



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

Mamma Mia! Make like a Dancing Queen at...

One night of ABBA!

The Riverside
Sat 18 Oct, doors open 7pm
Money, Money, Money: tickets cost £15
(buffet meal included in price)

Tickets: Whitworth Town Council (01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk)
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RAISING FUNDS FOR WHITWORTH COMMUNITY

On Thursday 11 September at 8pm, the Mayor and Mayoress of Whitworth, Councillor Jim Mellor and his wife, Susan, will be hosting a fundraising dinner at the Ashoka Restaurant in Whitworth, to raise money for the Mayor's Charity Fund. All money raised by this fund is ploughed directly back into initiatives supporting the Whitworth community at the end of the Mayor's year of office in May, and the Mayor extends an invitation to all in Whitworth to attend. This is a ticketed event – tickets cost £15 and can be purchased in advance from Mick Whitby on 01706 852613. For more information, please contact Councillor Mellor on 07973 421145.

WHITWORTH LIGHTS OUT EVENT A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE

On 4 August, Whitworth took part in Lights Out, joining the rest of the UK in turning off all lights except one at 10pm to mark the exact time and date, 100 years ago, that Britain entered World War One. Whitworth Town Council organised a candlelit vigil at the Cenotaph in the Memorial Gardens, which was attended by around 300 people, many of whom brought candles and left small crosses (kindly donated by the Royal British Legion) bearing personal messages. Many thanks are offered to all who attended and who helped to make the evening such a success; special thanks especially to the wonderful Mr Dave Tattersall from Whitworth Vale and Healey Band, who played his cornet so beautifully at the start of the evening.



Photo by Lisa McDowell, used with kind permission

WHITWORTH SWIMMING CLUB

Whitworth Swimming Club hosted another successful bi-annual Kandel Exchange between 29 July and 6 August. The club welcomed 25 children and 5 adults to Whitworth for a week of fun and activities starting with the 'Welcome Party' at the Whitworth Riverside. The events included both day and evening entertainment with special trips to the Crocky Trail in Chester, a ferry across the Mersey, time on the sands at Lytham St. Anne's followed by the thrilling rides at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and fish n' chip supper, activities at Cowm Reservoir and at Cowm Leisure, a family day and finishing with lots of walks around Whitworth. A fantastic time was had by all. Chair of the Club, Mike Burgess says: "It's always a pleasure to welcome the Kandel guests. The group absolutely love the Whitworth Valley and are always keen to explore and see the beautiful views we have. Whitworth Swimming Club is now looking forward to their visit to Kandel in 2015". For more information on Whitworth Swimming Club and for contact details, please visit www.whitworthswimmingclub.com or find the Club on Facebook.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S OWN TOUR DE FRANCE



The cyclists celebrate their amazing achievement

Church members and friends welcomed home George Scaiffe and Gerald Varley who completed a sponsored cycle ride in aid of the church tower restoration appeal. Whilst professional riders came to England, George and Gerald, two retired church members, undertook their own version of the Tour de France by completing a gruelling cycle ride of over 800 miles from Dunkerque to Montpellier. They were accompanied by two friends - Martin Kay, who rode with them, and Alan Jones, who acted as back-up. The route took them along cycle tracks adjacent to canals and rivers but frequently encountered challenging inclines when deviating onto the roads. They passed through the Somme, Ardennes and Champagne regions on their way south and paid their respects at three war grave cemeteries. This photo shows their arrival at the Mediterranean Sea. The team offer thanks to everyone who

helped with the ride, especially those who gave nutrition advice, the Whitworth Leisure Centre who advised on fitness and those who made pledges on the sponsor forms. Money raised will go towards urgent repairs to the top of the church tower. Want to make a donation? Then please contact Gerald on 01706 853072 or George on 01706 646016.

THE GREAT WHITWORTH SEWING BEE

Have you always wanted to learn to sew? Maybe you have a machine but aren't sure where to start? Or maybe you would like to be able to alter your own clothes and make new and unique things for your home? Whitworth seamstress Mel Hearn is offering workshops at Cloud 9 Gallery in Bacup for sewers, from beginner to intermediate. At each workshop you will make something lovely to take home with you and show off your new skills. All materials and equipment are provided along with endless tea, biscuits and good company. For a good beginner's course, choose the 'Learn to Sew' or 'Pocket Tissue Holder' class. If you already know the basics of how to thread and work a machine then the 'Appliqué Owl cushion' or 'Appliqué tote bag' would be perfect for you. When you are ready to get in the festive spirit then the 'feltylicious Christmas decorations' will be fun too!



Photo supplied by Mel Hearn, used with kind permission

Sun 31 Aug, 1pm – 3.30pm: Pocket Tissue Holder (£25)

Sun 14 Sept, 11.30am – 3.30pm: Appliqué Owl Cushion (£30, bring your own lunch)

Sun 28 Sept, 1pm – 3.30pm: Learn To Sew (£25)

Sun 26 Oct, 11.30am – 3.30pm: Applique Tote Bag (£25, bring your own lunch)

Sun 16 Nov, 1pm – 3.30pm: Feltylicious Christmas Decorations (£25)

To book a place or find out more, visit www.melhearn.com, email handmade@melhearn.com, phone Mel on 07855 422175 or call into Cloud 9 Gallery, 7a Union Street, Bacup. Or pop along and see Mel on her stall at the Rushcart on 7 Sept.

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"I am very proud to be Whitworth's MP. As well as representing everyone here in Whitworth I'm also the MP for around 90,000 people across Darwen and Rossendale. I see it as an honour and a privilege to be your Member of Parliament and I will always do what I can to help.



Many local residents in Whitworth have got in touch recently concerned about the plans for a Wind Farm on Rooley Moor. I'm not the greatest fan of these towering windmills – although I support the need for more renewable energy, I don't want to see every single hill in Rossendale and Whitworth covered in turbines. That's why I launched my 'Not On Our Hills' campaign to try to protect our beautiful countryside. We've already had a small success with the number of turbines on Rooley Moor being reduced from 15 to 12 – but I'd still rather not see any! You can still support my campaign by signing up at www.notonourhills.tk.

As your MP I'm here to help, so if you ever need my assistance, please get in touch, my contact details are below."

Email: jake.berry.mp@parliament.uk

Phone: 01706 215547

Address: 4 Mount Terrace, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, BB4 8SF

Website: www.jakeberry.org

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SHAWFORTH METHODIST CHURCH

Everyone is welcome at Shawforth Methodist Church

Sunday Services: 10.30am • **Toddler Group:** 9.30am - 11.30am

Friday Drop In: 10.30am - 12noon • **Ladies Group:** 7.30pm (last Tues in the month)

Coffee & Lunches: 11.00am - 1.00pm (2nd Sat in the month)

Watch out for the Friday Film Nights starting again in September.

To hire the Chapel, or a room in it, please contact Christine on 01706 854172.

REDUCED SWIMMING COSTS FOR 0-5 YEARS

Would you like access to your local gym and swimming baths at a reduced cost? If you live in Whitworth and have a child aged 0 – 5 years, you could benefit from reduced prices in a scheme being run jointly by Whitworth Children's Centre and CLAW (Community Leisure Association of Whitworth), which manages Whitworth Leisure Centre. The offer includes a free induction and sessions for just £1.50. If you think you might be eligible, please contact Whitworth Children's Centre on 01706 648747 for more details (terms and conditions apply).



COCK & MAGPIE'S NATIONAL 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE



13 regulars from the Cock & Magpie took on the National 3 Peaks challenge on 19 and 20 July. They were wished good luck by the Mayor of Whitworth and set off on their journey. The first challenge - Ben Nevis, Scotland - started on the 19th at 4.04pm and was completed in rain and freezing fog. Scafell Pike, England started at 3.30am on the 20th, completed in less than four hours; the final peak was Snowdon, Wales at 12 noon. The 11 men and 2 women were supported by a 3-man back-up team providing transport and essentials to keep them fuelled and energised. This wouldn't have been possible without the support from local businesses the Late Shop, Loco/

Top Shop, Clive Knight Commercials, Cowm Leisure, Ingoe Fuels, Jon Meek Transport, C. Law Haulage, Jan's Butty Shop, The Riverside, Josh Law Butchers, Tesco Express and Ron Chalkers. The fantastic team (pictured) trained hard and completed the challenge within 24 hours, and raised a combined amount in the region of £4,500 in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. The next challenge is a Blackpool to Whitworth Bike Ride on Sunday 21 September in aid of North West Air Ambulance; if you'd like to donate and / or contribute please contact Chris Law, landlord of the Cock & Magpie on 01706 852226.

ST MARY AND ST ANSELM

St Mary and St Anselm will be holding their Christmas Fayre at the Riverside on Saturday 8 November, 10am until 1pm. Admission is £1; children accompanied by an adult go free. There will be stalls including handicrafts, a tombola, cakes and biscuits, and toys and books, and there will also be a special visit from Father Christmas! Refreshments, including bacon butties, will be on sale. All are welcome. For more information, please contact David Peel on 01706 852008 / email d.peel6@btinternet.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.

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

**MORE INFO: Karen Douglas, Town Clerk
Tel: 01706 852018 / Email: info@whitworth.gov.uk**

R60S FESTIVAL

The organisers of the second Rossendale 60s Festival are putting the final touches to this year's event programme. The Festival runs from Friday 12 – Sunday 14 September, and there are a couple of events new to the Festival this year. Haslingden Community Street Fair will be held on Sunday 14 September with a 60s theme, and a 'Magical Mystery Tour', supported by Rossobus, will take visitors to participating towns that are joining the event this year. Marketing Lancashire will be featuring the Festival as one of the top 'must see' events in Lancashire, providing extensive publicity for the Festival and helping to establish it as an annual Valley event. Bernie at Berni Inn at the Fudge Village in Facit is taking part again this year with a 60s theme to her Saturday evening dining on 13 September, so please do support her. It's not too late to get involved; if you would like to take part in the Festival please contact Barry Hyde on 07954 294653, or simply turn up, get into the 60s spirit and enjoy one of the events and celebrations. You can keep up with progress and see the full programme of events on the Festival blog: rossendale60sfest.wordpress.com.



ANGLO SOCIAL – AN “IMPRESSIVE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HERE IN WHITWORTH”

...so tweeted Grant Shapps, Chairman of the Conservative Party, after a visit to Anglo Social in Tong Lane. Mr Shapps visited Anglo at the invitation of local MP Jake Berry; as well as meeting the young autistic adults cleaning and recycling carpet tiles at Anglo Social, he toured the carpet recycling line at Anglo Recycling to see how Anglo now diverts over 1,000 tonnes of carpet from landfill each year.

Melanie Ashman, team leader for Anglo Social, explained to their guest that Anglo Social was set up to help young men and women on the autistic spectrum to build their confidence and self esteem as well as to learn the disciplines of work in a real work environment doing important work. The work is important not only because it keeps carpet from going into landfill, but also because it provides flooring products to some of the most needy in our society.

“Anglo Social really wants to offer the refurbished tiles to folk in Whitworth” comments Simon Macaulay, Managing Director; “We try to offer people a decent, hard wearing flooring solution for £2/m2 – hopefully accessible to most budgets”. If you would like to view the current range, visit www.anglosocial.org.uk.



NEW GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM PLANS

Whitworth Valley FC is in the process of forming its first girls' football team. It will be an under-11 team, which means that players must be in year 6 (or 5) at primary school this September. Parents of interested girls are asked to contact either Jo Furtado (853442 or 07813 180748) or Bobby Twiddy (07805 859366). Training at the moment is on Thursdays at 6.15pm on John Street – but ring first, please.

INSPECTOR PAUL LEIGH



"Firstly can I introduce myself as Paul Leigh, I am the Police Inspector responsible for delivering neighbourhood policing within Whitworth and Rossendale as a whole. I have worked in Rossendale previously and I am passionate about the area and its residents. I have been in post since April this year and I have held meetings with your town and borough councillors, the town clerk and local people to identify the issues that cause concern in Whitworth. The neighbourhood policing team of PC Vinny Hopkins and PCSO Heidi Kirkbright are continuing to work with the Town Council to deal with the small number of young people causing problems around the Riverside. We will take action where appropriate however we are keen to listen to young people to find solutions to their issues also. We have also carried out community roadwatch checkpoints and have written to numerous motorists caught speeding in response to community concerns.

Vinny and Heidi remain the visible presence in Whitworth and Shawforth, supported by the wider policing family. They regularly act upon the community intelligence that you, the community provide. It is essential that we continue to receive this information from local people and between us we will continue to make Whitworth a wonderful place to live and work."

To contact PC Vinny Hopkins or PCSO Heidi Kirkbright, please phone 101, or email Vincent.Hopkins@lancashire.pnn.police.uk or Heidi.Kirkbright@lancashire.pnn.police.uk.



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Saturday 11 October
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GALLERY AT THE BATHS

Currently showing at the Gallery at the Baths is an exhibition charting 125 years of Lobden Golf Club.

Next up will be:

Aug. 29: Whitworth Valley FC – Golden Jubilee

Sept. 19: Welcome to The Riverside

Oct. 10: Colin Hubbard, Bicycle Traveller – South India Expedition

Oct. 31: Mike Burgess – Views of Whitworth

Nov. 21: Shawforth in the Sixties

SHOP LOCAL FOOD AND CRAFT FAIRS

The first Shop Local Food and Craft Fair of 2014 took place in July at Berni Inn.

There are five more events planned between now and Christmas, all of which will take place at Halford United Reformed Church hall on Hall Street.

The fairs are organised by locals Ian and Lynn Knight, with the aim of encouraging local crafters, artists and food providers to take a stall and show what they have to offer, encouraging the community to Shop Local. The July event saw a range of stallholders, from knitted and crocheted goods to freshly baked breads and cakes to the opportunity to paint your own pot.

The dates for the five remaining events this year are as follows; the fair runs from 10am – 2.30pm:

Saturday 9 August

Saturday 20 September

Saturday 11 October

Saturday 8 November

Saturday 13 December

For more information, please phone Lynn on 07545 914826, email contactus@whitworthmarket.co.uk or visit www.whitworthmarket.co.uk.

ARNOLD AND JOYCE ASHWORTH RECEIVE JEFF OGDEN AWARD

At the town's Annual Parish Meeting in May,

Arnold and Joyce Ashworth accepted the Jeff Ogden Award for Services to the Whitworth Community. The couple were nominated for their award by Councillor Karen Ruane, who also gave the citation on the night. The award was given to Arnold and Joyce for over 50 years' service and dedication to the fight against cancer. Arnold and Joyce joined the Whitworth Cancer Research Committee in 1961; since then the Committee has raised in excess of £300k to support the vital work of this amazing charity, down in no small part to Arnold and Joyce's commitment to the cause. Their award was presented to them by Kay Ogden, the late Jeff Ogden's wife, and Amy Fenton, Jeff's granddaughter.



Photo by Mike Burgess, used with kind permission



Joyce and Arnold receive their well-deserved award. L-R: Kay Ogden, Amy Fenton, Joyce Ashworth, Councillor Karen Ruane, Arnold Ashworth

WHITWORTH 2015 CALENDAR – ON SALE NOW!

The official Whitworth 2015 calendar is on sale now! This year's theme is historical transport in Whitworth. The Tourism and Leisure Committee, which produces the calendar, has sourced the photos from the vast and varied collection at the Whitworth Historical Society and Museum, which has kindly allowed the Committee access to its archives, for which the Committee is extremely grateful.

The selected photos are just a very small part of a huge and brilliant collection of photos, documents and artefacts housed at the Museum and lovingly cared for by the equally brilliant Society and Museum volunteers. The 2015 Whitworth Calendar costs £5 and will be on sale at the Rushcart and other events leading up to Christmas, and is also available now from the Riverside and Whitworth Post Office.



WHITWORTH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Make a note of the following Whitworth events, presented by Whitworth Town Council, the Mayor of Whitworth or the Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee:

Sun 7 Sept: Whitworth Rushcart

Thurs 11 Sept: Mayor of Whitworth's fundraising meal at the Ashoka

Sat 18 Oct: Mayor of Whitworth's charity fundraising event at The Riverside

Sun 9 Nov: Remembrance Sunday commemorations

Sun 23 Nov: Whitworth Christmas Lights Switch On

Mon 15 Dec: Community Carol Service at The Riverside

Thursday 1 January 2015: New Year's Day Duck Race at Cowm Reservoir (see photo below, taken by Mike Burgess and used with kind permission)

For more details on all these events, please visit www.whitworth.gov.uk or contact Karen Douglas, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.



IT'S RUSHCART TIME AGAIN!

The Whitworth Rushcart takes place on Sunday 7 September.

The procession will leave from the car park on North Street at 1pm, processing up Market Street to the Riverside; this year the procession will again feature the wonderful Thwaites Brewery Shire Horses. From 1.20pm until 4.30pm, there will be performances from a variety of dance troupes from across the region, including the ever-popular Britannia Coconutters and the Whitworth Rushcart Men, and the Whitworth and Healey Youth Band. There will be rides for all ages, stalls, entertainments, hot food provided by St Bartholomew's Church and other food and drink, and the Riverside bar will be open. There will also be a variety of arts and crafts stalls both inside and outside the Riverside. And Grogan's Delight ale will be available on tap (named in memory of much-missed Jimmy Grogan). Last year over 1,500 people attended the event – come along and join in the fun! For more information on the 2014 Rushcart, please contact Karen Douglas, Town Clerk, on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.



The 2012 Rushcart; photo by Jim Mellor, used with kind permission

Associated events:

- Rushcart Evening Service, Sunday 7 September, 6.30pm, St Bartholomew's Church, Whitworth Rake. All welcome. For more information, please contact Rev Lyn Woodall on 01706 853931.
- Whitworth Band Club: 2nd Annual Beer Festival, Thurs 4 – Sun 7 Sept. Up to 15 cask ales available – for more details see the Beer Festival advert on page 4 or contact the Club on 01706 852484.
- Whitworth Museum, North Street: open from 10.30am on Sunday 8 September whilst finishing touches made to the Rushcart. For more information contact Mr Schofield on 01706 343370.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY COMMEMORATIONS



Please join the Mayor and Mayoress of Whitworth, Councillor Jim Mellor and his wife Susan, and members of the Whitworth community at the 2014

Remembrance Sunday commemorations.

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2014

10.20am – procession leaves from opposite the old Council Offices (corner of Market Street and Tong Lane)

10.45am – Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph, Memorial Gardens, Facit, led by Mayoral Chaplain, Rev Father Frank Thorpe of St Mary and St Anselm RC Church

Please stay for light refreshments at the Riverside after the service – all are welcome.



WHITWORTH'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – THE BIG SWITCH ON!

Put this family-friendly date in your diary – Whitworth's Christmas lights will be switched on at the Civic Hall on Sunday 23 November, early evening at the Riverside (Civic Hall). More details to be featured in the next edition of the Valley News, in the local press and online at www.whitworth.gov.uk.



WHITWORTH ENJOYS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FAMILY FUN DAY 'BY THE SEA' AND SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Despite competition from a gripping Wimbledon Men's Final and Le Tour De France passing close by, the community came out and enjoyed another afternoon 'by the sea' on Sunday 6 July. Now in its 5th year, the day is organised by the Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee. The event benefitted from good weather despite the forecasted showers. Attractions on the Riverside car park included funfair rides, ice cream, and five seaside-themed competitions. The winner of the bonniest baby competition was treated to a free portrait photography sitting from local photographer Howard Wilkinson, and the Riverside donated the other competition prizes. Whitworth's famous Vale and Healey Band played traditional seaside tunes, and there was fun from Punch and Judy, facepainting and a real life Mermaid (Amelia Valentine, AKA Toni Mishell) and Pirate! The 2015 Family Fun Day will take place on Sun 5 July.



The Mayor meets mermaid Amelia Valentine at the Family Fun Day.
Photo by Mike Burgess, used with kind permission

Meanwhile, the Whitworth Scarecrow Festival took place in late June and early July. 26 separate displays were scattered across the town, with entries ranging from characters from popular children's films to original ideas inspired by topical events or pure imagination. Some displays were produced by members of the public and some were made by schools, churches and local businesses and voluntary organisations. The winners were as follows:

GENERAL CATEGORY:

Winner: 'Minion Madness' (Cottesmore Close)
1st Runner Up: 'Bosher's Buccaneers' (Wallbank Lodge, Halfold)
2nd Runner Up: 'The Beekeeper' (The Crescent, Hall Street)

BUSINESS AND ORGANISATION CATEGORY:

Winner: 'Lest We Forget' (Tonacliffe Primary School)
1st Runner Up: 'Four Seasons' (Healey Care Ltd)
2nd Runner Up: 'Peggers' (The Sportsman Pub)

The General Category winners received a family ticket to see 'Alice In Wonderland' at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, and all winners and runners up received a certificate. The 2015 Scarecrow Festival will take place from 27 June – 5 July and the Committee encourages as many people and organisations as possible to take part.



General category winner 'Minion Madness' on Cottesmore Close. Photo by Mike Burgess, used with kind permission

The Tourism and Leisure Committee always needs new members, even if only for an hour's marshalling at events, or delivering posters to shops and businesses. Any assistance would be gratefully received, so if you have spare time and / or fresh ideas, please contact Cllr David Chorlton on 01706 853234 / email david@ubswitworth.co.uk or Karen Douglas, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

WHITWORTH SPORTS FESTIVAL

This year's Whitworth Sports Festival, all nine days of it, passed without a single drop of rain! So, for once, no cancellations, no spectators in need of revival, and perfect conditions for some excellent sport. Highlights? A splendid little family-and-friends 5-a-side football tournament played with just the right mix of competitiveness and sociability; a first junior tag rugby tournament (courtesy of Hornets Community Team) that attracted six schools from Rochdale to join our local primaries; 15-year-old Callum Farrell winning the Treacle Challenge; a happy evening of climbing and table tennis organised by the High School's Will Cawley; 108 runners in the Junior Fell Race – the first time we've topped a century for a couple of decades; and a sun-drenched equestrian event organised by Jenny Fallon. 16-year-old Robbie Blezard, won the Ian "Legend" Clegg trophy for best overall contribution to Festival, clinching the award for being involved in so many events across the piece, but particularly for turning up as a marshall at the senior fell race, but then deciding he might as well have a go at running it. He posted a respectable time, too. Could we book some repeat weather for June 6 – 14 2015, please?

Photographs of many Festival events (and Skyline) are available to download from the new Sports Council website at www.whitworth-sports-council.co.uk, where you can also find a directory of lots of places in or around Whitworth where you and/or your children can take up all sorts of sport. Ideas and offers of help for next year's Sports Festival (and Skyline) to Jo Furtado on 853442 or 07813 180748.



The Treacle Challenge, and 515-ers enjoy a game of pool. Photos by Jim Mellor, used with kind permission

SKYLINE WALK

May's inaugural Skyline walk was also blessed with perfect walking weather, and 330 people, most from Whitworth but with a good sprinkling from further afield, signed up. Of those, over 270 of all ages completed the whole moorland circle, finishing at varying speeds and in varying degrees of disrepair at Lobden Golf Club, where a welcome meal awaited all. The number of walkers allowed the organisers to make contributions to the Tourism and Leisure Committee, the Sports Council and the Mayor's Charity Fund. Thanks to the Countryside Rangers and all volunteer marshalls, without whose goodwill the event could never have taken place. Next year's event has been scheduled for Sunday 17 May.



Participants in the 2014 Skyline Walk.
Photo by Jim Mellor, used with kind permission

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CANCER RESEARCH - WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

The last few months have been busy. Two golf tournaments at Lobden Golf Club raised just short of £1,300; the Committee thanks the members for their continued generosity and support. A floral demonstration at Greenbrook House in May raised £200; thanks to Ruth at Seasons for a wonderful evening. Another fundraising dinner was due to be held at Berni's on 17 July, more details to follow in the next edition. A new venture at Greenbrook House on 4 September, just prior to the Rushcart weekend, is an evening of nostalgia with recitals and films. Starting at 7pm, limited tickets cost £2.50 and are available from Michael Whitby. Other planned events included a sky dive (weather permitting), and the annual sponsored walk in conjunction with Whitworth Vale and Healey Band on 5 October. The year will end as usual with the Carol Concert at the Riverside on 7 December.

The Committee were proud and delighted with the awarding of the Jeff Ogden trophy to Joyce and Arnold Ashworth at the parish meeting in recognition of over 50 years' service and dedication to ensuring people with cancer have better outcomes (see article on page 17). If anyone wants to become involved with the Committee, attend fundraisers, sponsor fundraising activity or would like information on the Committee's activities, please contact Michael Whitby on 01706 852613 or Joyce and Arnold Ashworth on 01706 343424.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH FACIT EVENTS

The church will be hosting a couple of events in the next couple of months, all are welcome:

Friday 3 October, 7.30pm: Quiz Night at Riddiough Court in aid of Kwa M'Kono

(a children's polio hospital in Tanzania), £4 entry.

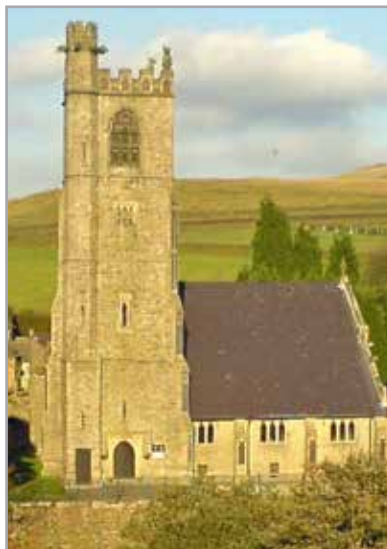
Saturday 11 October, 10.30am til 12 noon: Autumn Coffee Morning at the Riverside, £1.50 entry.

For more information please contact Mr Rod Mitchell on 01706 852809.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

On Thursday 27 November, St Bartholomew's Church will play host to the Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir. The evening starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £6 including light refreshments (ticketed event, no entry on the door). All proceeds will go towards the church tower fund. Tickets are on sale now and available from Terry Mason (01706 340531) and Gerald Varley (01706 853072) – book early to avoid disappointment, limited tickets available.

And on Saturday 15 November 2014 St. Bartholomew's Church will be holding its Christmas Bazaar at The Riverside from 11am to 2pm. There will various stall including homemade cakes and other produce, jewellery and a tombola. A full café will serve hot and cold food including the church's famous Bacon Butties and Gaelic Coffee. Entertainment will be provided by St Bartholomew's Primary School choir, who are always a joy to listen to. Church warden Terry Mason says: "There's no entrance fee so do come along and support the church; we need a lot of support at the moment if St Bartholomew's Church is to survive for future generations." For more information, please phone Terry on 01706 340531.



St Bartholomew's Church; photo by Maureen Jones, used with kind permission

LOCAL AUTHOR RETREATS TO ITALIAN VILLAGE TO WRITE NOVEL SET IN WHITWORTH



Author Dominic Cooper has spent two years in Southern Italy researching his second novel, 'Pins and Feathers.' Dominic was inspired to write the book when geologist friend Arthur Baldwin took him on an inspirational tour of Rossendale's sandstone quarries.

The plot is set in Whitworth in late Victorian England, a time of great wealth and expansion, but who drives this wealth? Men and women live and work in terrible conditions; one such man is Abraham, slaving in a Facit quarry pit, who witnesses the tragic death of his best friend, crushed under tonnes of stone. Abraham is spurred into joining the struggle for union recognition during a time of social upheaval, but to relieve the pain of his friend's death he also becomes embroiled in clog fighting, a brutal sport of gladiatorial intensity which often ends with the fighter's life. Abraham's world coalesces for him when he discovers his employers want him dead. He begins to question his whole world, especially when an exotic gypsy woman from another culture finally changes everything forever...

Dominic says: "I wanted to write a readable novel that was driven by an exciting and varied plot, the type of book that was hard to put down. I believe that I've illuminated an untold history." 'Pins and Feathers' by Dominic Cooper is published by Mirador Publishing, and is available from Amazon as a paperback (£8.99) or a Kindle download (£2.97). The book's ISBN number is 1910104728.

WHITWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Over the past couple of years, volunteers have been actively engaged in developing the Society's extensive museum collection of objects, documents and photographs and making these items more accessible and interesting to visitors. More recently, a number of specific projects have been initiated with the intention of bringing overall management of this collection to a standard recognised by the Arts Council and applied nationally to all major UK galleries and museums. A requirement of gaining this standard

is to ensure the entire collection is fully documented and to meet this requirement, the Society intends to introduce computer software developed specifically for this type of application. Clearly, a great deal of work is involved to catalogue the collection since the physical objects alone number some 3,000 items, the result of 40 years of collecting by dedicated members! The museum and its collection is something of which Whitworth can be proud and for those who have not already done so, please put a visit to your local museum high on your list of things to do! The Museum is open throughout the year on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Saturday afternoons 2pm - 4pm. The Society's winter lecture programme begins at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 October 2014 when former radio presenter Fred Fielder will recount his days at the BBC. For further information please ring 01706 356109.



This small toolkit was issued to British soldiers between 1914 -18 and is part of the collection of authentic WWI artefacts held at Whitworth Museum.

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WHITWORTH RESIDENTS: ARE YOU FED UP WITH FLOODING?



If yes, then the National Flood Forum (NFF) could help you. The NFF is working in Whitworth to raise flood risk awareness, reinforcing the fact that an area is particularly susceptible to flash flooding after a long hot summer's day when a storm occurs, and to form a Whitworth flood group. Rapidly moving surface water can be devastating to lives and property, and it only takes 6 inches (15 cm) of flood

water to knock someone over; the effects of a house being flooded can last many months. A Whitworth flood group would represent the Whitworth community, identifying issues that lead to increasing flood risk such as blocked drains, leaf-filled gulleys, poorly maintained rivers, or roads that become rivers to new developments on land that already floods. The NFF will support partnership meetings with all the relevant flood risk managers in the area. This is a real chance for voices to be heard, listened to and actioned where possible. Initial meetings with interested businesses and residents were held in June and August; if you're interested, please contact Hannah Tankard at the National Flood Forum (hannah.tankard@floodforum.org.uk) or call 07858 353061. Hannah says: "We're excited about getting a Whitworth flood group up and running to hopefully resolve some of the long-standing and newer issues across the valley."

GUIDING IN WHITWORTH

Following weeks of fundraising, members of the Whitworth Senior Section (girls 14 years and above) took part in the Relay for Life at Marl Pits, Rawtenstall, to raise money for Cancer Research UK. The Relay is a celebration of everyone's fundraising efforts and over 20 teams were present. The event began with the inspiring Survivors' Lap of Honour with cancer survivors being cheered and supported by everyone. The team members then took it in turns to walk round the track for 24 hours with at least one member



on the track at all times. There was a lot going on throughout the day – music, games, side stalls and entertainment. As the sun went down, everyone gathered to light Candles of Hope and pay tribute to those whose lives have been affected by cancer. Bags had been decorated and filled with sand and a candle; when the candles were lit, poignant messages of remembrance and celebration glowed around the track. At the end of the Relay, everyone joined together for a final lap to celebrate their fundraising achievements and to look back on a memorable event. The Senior Section girls raised almost £500 and are already looking forward to Relay for Life 2015.

SHOP TO LET

STOP PRESS... A compact shop / office space has become available at 646 Market Street (the former opticians opposite the Fudge Village). Would suit a small office or business. For more information please contact Margaret & John Miller on 01706 853592.

WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BAND

The Band has achieved two historical successes in as many months. In April they won the Championship Section in Buxton, and on Whit Friday they won the Denshaw contest. In both contests the Band achieved this feat in 3 different sections in 3 consecutive years, an amazing accomplishment.

The Band has also been busy with lots of open air concerts. There was a fantastic concert held in Jimmy Grogan's memory; a packed house was entertained by the Youth Band and players from St Bartholomew's School's new academy scheme, and the Senior Band brought the house down with a second half of big band music and a powerful performance of Verdi's La Forza Del Destino. Both bands will be taking part in the Rushcart weekend with the youth band performing at the Riverside. On Saturday 11 October the Heartbeat fundraising concert, normally resident at the Gracie Field Theatre, will move to the Riverside, and the Band are proud to be performing at this prestigious event. The Band is always looking for new players as the end of summer brings university departures. Senior rehearsals are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 8pm; for any young people wanting to learn an instrument or join the Youth Band, rehearsals and tuition take place on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. To book the band or for any queries, please contact Michael Whitby on 01706 852613.



The Band accompanying the Whitworth Morris Men at the 2012 Rushcart; see them again this year on 7 September! Photo by Mike Burgess, used with kind permission.

WHITWORTH VALE & HEALEY BAND CLUB

Busy times at the Club recently, with an event celebrating the D-Day Anniversary, the annual Youth Band BBQ and concert in the Club, and the Anniversary of World War One. On August Bank Holiday weekend the Club will host a members nights with entertainment from the magnificent 'Franklyn' on Saturday evening, and on Sunday 'A Simple Quiz for Simple Minds' with Shaun Connellan. Both events are free for members and non-members alike, although on the Saturday there will be a nominal charge for food and every member will receive a free pint. All are welcome.

The Club recently had a visit from Cask Marque Assessor Chris Dempsey who was particularly impressed with the real ale on offer and gave top marks for beer quality. Well done Gillian and June for keeping a fine cellar! The Club remains committed to providing locally brewed real ales as part of the CAMRA inspired LocAle scheme and is pleased to have hosted ales from Elland Brewery and Greenfield Brewery alongside those frequently offered.

Follow the Club on Facebook, which is updated weekly with ales available and forthcoming entertainment, including Quiz and Karaoke Nights or special events (see separate advert for the Annual Beer Festival). The Club is available for special events and there's a small meeting room for community groups to use, all free of charge - contact the Steward on 852484.



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SCHOOL REPORT

WHITWORTH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Will Straw, Rossendale and Darwen's Prospective Candidate, visited the school recently. He says: "I sometimes hear that school discipline is a major issue, but this was not the case at Whitworth. All students were well turned out, courteous, and even stood up when we entered their classroom. This respect clearly provides a better environment for teaching and I was impressed by the skills and topics that were being learned. I was accompanied by School Council representatives who put me through my paces over lunch with excellent questions. We discussed education reform, climate change and whether wind farms were an acceptable form of power, and we discussed how young people can get involved in politics. I got the distinct impression that there were some budding politicians at the school! The afternoon was capped off when I officially opened the new boys' and girls' toilets. Quite a contrast from the 'no go' facilities at my school, which shows just how far our education system has moved on over 20 years of new investment and fresh ideas. Thanks to Mrs Middlemas and the School Council for showing me around." Also, a Mayoral visit took place at the School, meeting the new Head Teacher, Mrs Gill Middlemas, a tour of the school and to see the new blazers which will be in use in September.



L-R: Lauren Lomas, deputy Head Girl; Mrs Lila Towers, Chair of Governors; Mrs Sue Mellor and Councillor Jim Mellor, Mayoress and Mayor of Whitworth; Councillor Tom Aldred and Mrs Val Sanderson, Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale; Mrs Gill Middlemas, Headteacher; Jack Payne, deputy Head Boy.

ST JOHN WITH ST MICHAEL CE PRIMARY

Year 5 and 6 children from St John with St Michael CE Primary School in Shawforth spent an action-packed, fun-filled five days in London in June. They travelled by train and stayed in a youth hostel in Kensington. Throughout their stay they visited many places including Princess Diana's Memorial Park, Kensington Palace, Hamley's Toy Store, Harrods, the Science Museum, 10 Downing Street, the Tower of London and the Royal Armouries Museum. They watched the Changing of the Guard, took a River Boat trip to Greenwich, were entertained by street performers and went to watch 'Matilda the Musical'; they were even invited to go to the Scotland Yard Stables to look at the police horses. Each night they had delicious food in restaurants, and the children's favourite was The Rainforest Cafe. The trip was a fantastic experience for the children and linked in with various areas of their curriculum.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PRIMARY

In July the Year 6s had an amazing weekend of adventure. Starting at Burrs activity centre in Bury, they did canoeing, rock climbing, archery and raft building. That night they slept in the bunkhouse, which was great fun. The next day they came back to Whitworth and played rounders and football. After lunch they walked to Watergrove - it was a clear afternoon and they could see all the way to Manchester. The final weekend activity was a 'Sleep Over at School'. Following a delicious chippy tea from Shawforth JB's chippy they played more games, watched 'Frozen' and played hide and seek in the dark. They all went to sleep in the hall - the culmination of an amazing weekend.



Later in July, seven talented Y4 and 5 pupils took part in the annual Whitworth Band Concert at the Riverside. The children discovered their love of brass through a project which has been running in school, as every child in Class Four has had the opportunity to learn to play a cornet or a baritone. Headteacher Miss Hughes says: "I have a secret yearning to have my very own St Bartholomew's Brass Band - I think with these seven showing such potential, I am well on my way to achieving this!"

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BRASS IN THE PARK



The Band at this year's (very hot!) Brass in the Park event
Photo by Lisa McDowell, used with kind permission

offer grateful thanks to all those who attended Brass in the Park, and to County Councillor Sean Serridge for funding this event. Plans are now taking shape for next year's event, the details of which will be available in this magazine nearer the time.

Following on from the success of last year's Proms in the Park, it was decided to continue with this fantastic event which shows off our very own Whitworth Vale and Healey Youth and Senior Bands and Memorial Gardens. The rain stopped, the sun shone and the band played plenty of feel good tunes in a very relaxed atmosphere, which was enjoyed by over 150 people. Those who attended brought their chairs and blankets and spread out over all areas of the Memorial Gardens enjoying their picnics and Pimms, the beautiful gardens and music of both bands. The organisers

VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES

Residents of Whitworth have been assisted in their commemorations of the start of the First World War by a number of projects carried out by Veterans In Communities (VIC). Work to rebuild a dry stone wall at Whitworth Memorial Gardens is moving on apace thanks to the hard work of David Joddrell, a member of Haslingden-based VIC. David says: "We have had help from Community Pay Back to carry out the work in Whitworth Memorial Gardens and I also taught them how to sculpt with willow and one created a willow archway in the gardens. Unfortunately someone decided to rip it down and we are not sure whether it will re-grow. The work on the dry stone wall has made a big difference to the presentation of back of the gardens and it is good to be able to put something back."



Back on duty: from left, David Joddrell with Stephen Scrivens who found the VIC willow soldier sculpture

David has also created a willow First World War tank and soldier at Healey Corner. Unfortunately, not long after the soldier was woven, he too was stolen but thanks to a Facebook campaign on the group Making Whitworth a Better Place to Live, he was discovered in Heywood and returned. Although the soldier has been replanted, the willow will now not set down roots and re-grow, but at least he is back on patrol next to his tank.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help, please contact VIC on 01706 833180.

LOCAL TRADES

Use the following links to be included on this list, please contact
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