

Issue 45/June 2016

WHITWORTH

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Firstly, I would like to say how delighted I am to be writing to you as on the 26th May I will officially take on my new role as Mayor of Whitworth. I have proudly served as a Whitworth Town Councillor for the last 9 years and as a Rossendale Councillor for 4 years. As Deputy Mayor last year, I was able to meet many residents in homes and businesses across the town, and this will no doubt stand me in good stead for the busy year ahead.



The Mayor of Whitworth, Councillor Madeline De Souza

Along with my husband, Mike, and two young daughters, Helen and Marianne, I moved to Shawforth almost 30 years ago. Mike, who sadly passed away in early 2014, and I have always enjoyed being part of Whitworth life and even before I was elected to the Town Council we were champions of the local community and participated in events, meetings and general day-to-day life in our lovely town.

Helen and Marianne are now in their thirties, and married, to Daniel and Sam respectively. I am delighted to have a one year old grandson, Harry, and a granddaughter, due in summer. Although I retired last year I am as busy as ever with family life and community life, which I find very enjoyable and fulfilling.

Part of my role of Mayor will involve raising much-needed funds for some of the wonderful groups and charities who do so much to make Whitworth the place it is. I will also be supporting Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis, a charity very close to my heart as Mike had this condition.

I'll be holding events throughout Whitworth over the next year. My charity fundraiser will be a HillyBilly Country & Western evening on Saturday 22nd October. I hope you are able to join me for a fun night and also help raise money to support these excellent causes. Please look out for further information in the parish magazine and on the local noticeboards.

As Mayor I intend to be as accessible to everyone in Whitworth, and I look forward to meeting you soon.

With very best wishes

Madeline

With all best wishes,

Councillor Madeline De Souza, Mayor of Whitworth

If you would like to contact Madeline personally, her details are at the end of this magazine; you can also speak to our Town Clerk on **01706 852018** or email her at **info@whitworth.gov.uk**

2016 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 15 May: Whitworth Skyline Walk
 Thurs 19 May: Annual Parish Meeting
 Sat 4 June to Sun 12 June: Sports Festival
 Sat 25 June to Sun 3 July: Scarecrow Festival
 Sun 3 July: Family Fun Day
 Sun 4 September: Rushcart
 Sat 22 October: Hillybilly Rocks—Mayor of Whitworth's Charity event

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

WHITWORTH, LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

WHITWORTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On one sunny Saturday morning in April, local volunteers turned up to help prepare the flower beds alongside Festival Bowling Green ready for summer. Volunteers had a great morning with one commenting that it was better than going to the gym, and another suggestions she was inspired to go home and do some work in her own garden.

Whitworth are really fortunate to have a local horticultural society who make a massive contribution to brightening up the town.



Some volunteers tidying up the flower bed at Festival Green Bowling

Their next challenge will be to tidy up the Memorial Gardens, opposite The Riverside. If you are able to spare an hour or two on **Saturday 21 May** to help prepare this area for summer then turn up between 10am and 12 noon. You don't need any expertise or tools, just willingness and enthusiasm. For more details about this event or about joining the horticultural society contact Anita Farrow on **01706 853768**.



ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALIST SOCIETY

Following on from the fantastic trip around Healey Dell in February, Rochdale Field Naturalists invite all Whitworth residents to a **Spring Morning Bird Song Walk on Thursday May 19th**. The event takes place, over the hill at Watergrove Reservoir, starting at 8am meeting in the car park. Strong shoes and binoculars are recommended and children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

The field naturalist society is organised by and for its members, so if bird song isn't your cup of tea there's much more on offer over the summer months, from wildlife wanders throughout the borough, car trips to areas of interest, and monthly coach trips visiting some of the best natural areas in the North West of England. All walks are free to attend and coach trips are only £14. You don't have to be an expert to join us, most people aren't. All you need is a love of nature and a thirst to learn more about it. All events are open to non-members. For more information visit our website at www.rochdalefieldnaturalistsociety.co.uk or email us at rfnsenquiries@talktalk.net

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL INSTALL NEW COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARDS

You may have noticed some brand new noticeboards appearing to replace the original ones at Moss Side Street, Shawforth; on the grass banking outside Whitworth Medical Centre; and on the Prom. These noticeboards have been provided for use by the Whitworth community. You are welcome to place posters and notices on this board, providing that:

- You use pins to secure your notice, NOT staples please;
- You remove it once it becomes scruffy, insecure or out of date;
- The content of your notice is appropriate for display on a community noticeboard.

For further information, please contact Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk, on **01706 852018** or email info@whitworth.gov.uk

LOCAL NEWS

WHITWORTH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL 20 YEAR REUNION

Calling Whitworth Community High School Leavers 1996 - Did you start Whitworth Community High School in 1991? The year they first introduced the additional form of "Q"?

Did you attend that year group any time between 1991 up to 1996? Do you remember enduring the Moorathon and French Exchanges to Bonneville?



YEAR 7T Whitworth Community High School 1991 - Mr Burrows maths teacher as form tutor

On Saturday 23rd July at Berni Inn, Whitworth, from 7.30pm until late, there will be a 20 year reunion held. Tickets are priced at £15 each and includes a DJ set from locally renowned DJ Nigel "Idol Frets" Pickering, cupcakes by Lorraine Rowlands, an 'Around The World Buffet' provided by the talented Dean Murray of Berni Inn and also Howard Wilkinson, professional photographer, will be in attendance to re-enact those dated old skool photographs.

Tickets are available from Naomi Kenyon on Mobile: **07817 826 353** or email: magickmamauk@yahoo.com or from Naomi the second Saturday of each month at the Shop Local Food and Craft Fair, Hallfold United Reform Church, Hall St from 10am - 3.30pm.

THIS IS ALSO AN INVITATION TO ANY MEMBER OF STAFF FROM THIS TIME PERIOD TO ALSO ATTEND.

Also wanted are any school photographs, leavers books etc which can be emailed through to magickmamauk@yahoo.com or brought to Berni Inn on the night.

MEMORY BOXES

Discovering the onset of dementia can, and often is, traumatic for those directly affected, for family members and also those involved in caring. However, with support, it is possible to bring a high degree of normality to what might otherwise be a difficult situation.



Paula Bradbury of Whitworth Museum and Pauline Taylor of Green Vale Homes pictured with some of the contents of the memory boxes

Whitworth Museum, sponsored by Green Vale Homes, has commenced a pilot project which seeks to provide a series of Memory Boxes. Included in the boxes are various everyday items, some from the relatively recent times, others from sixty or so years ago, which, it is hoped, will trigger long held memories and stimulate conversation between parties. The effects of dementia can be extremely isolating for those involved but conversation and stimulus can provide a welcome form of release. Although intended for use within independent living schemes both to help create conversation and ease social situations, the boxes are also available to schools and organisations such as the Scouts and Guides to be used as an aid to raise awareness of dementia.

Information about the loan and use of these boxes can be obtained from Pauline Taylor of Green Vale Homes or by contacting Whitworth Museum directly on either **01706 344894** or **01706 344554**.

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WHITWORTH NEWS – LOCAL EVENTS



WHITWORTH SKYLINE WALK

This Sunday it's SKYLINE! Whitworth's very own community challenge walk kicks off this Sunday, 15th May, between 8 and 9am from Lobden Golf Club. The first two Skyline walks attracted over 300 walkers each – can we make it 400 this year?

Come and have a great day out on the hills. If you've walked Skyline before you'll know the drill – the biggest change this year is the anti-clockwise direction. If you haven't, and you're reading this on Wednesday or before, you can still fill in an entry form at the Leisure Centre, The Riverside, UBS or Jan's cafe and hand over your £3.

You can still enter on Thursday, Friday or Saturday (but only at UBS or the Leisure Centre, and it'll be £5 then). Alternatively, you can enter on the day for £5, by turning up at Lobden Golf Club between 8 and 9am – please note no dogs can be taken on the walk: sorry. If you do this, please make sure you're well kitted out – walking boots or the equivalent, waterproofs (at least to carry), and at least one layer of clothing more than you think you're going to need, because it's always cooler and windier on the tops.

The 14 miles will take you, probably, between 5 and 8 hours, so bring a snack or two, and a drink, although there will be juice/water available to you at each checkpoint (roughly every 3 miles), a burger van en route and a meal at the finish back at the Golf Club. Checkpoint 2 is on the main road at Britannia at 5 miles, so if you know the full 14 is going to be beyond you, how about walking just those first 5 miles, which we're calling the Eastern Skyline, and calling it quits? (If you tell us on your entry form that this is what you're going to do, we'll lop a pound off your entry fee. You'll still get your certificate: and your meal, if you go back to Lobden.)

GALLERY AT THE BATHS

The next exhibitions at The Gallery at the Baths are:

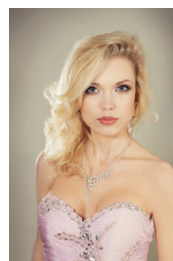
- From 13th May – Whitworth Sports Festival Retrospective
- 10th June – Whitworth Valley Football Club
- 1st July – Whitworth Sports Festival 2016
- 22nd July – St John with St Michael county Primary School
- 12th August Whitworth Fun Day/ Scarecrow Festival

The programme for September onwards is about to be organised. If you are an individual artist or photographer, or an official of a local community organisation and would like to have an exhibition included, please contact Christine Ashcroft (**01706 853012**) or Jo Furtado (**01706 853442** or **07813 180748**).

LANCASHIRE BORN MUSIC STAR ENTERTAINS WHITWORTH

International Vocal Artist, Gemma Louise Doyle brought joy & delight to Whitworth when she performed for the Mayor of Whitworth at the 2016 Civic Dinner and Dance, Celebration of a Year in Whitworth. A classically trained singer, Gemma performed timeless World favourite hits, from Popular music to Jazz, West End Musicals & more. Gemma dedicates her life to inspire people and can entertain for corporate events, community organizations & even very special weddings.

To enjoy Gemma's talent for yourself, visit; www.gemma-doyle.com or call **07757 216112**.



WHITWORTH NEWS – LOCAL EVENTS

WHITWORTH VALE & HEALEY BAND CLUB

Regular Saturday night concerts are staged to suit all musical tastes; coming up are the ever popular Idol Frets on 21 May, 18 June and 13 August; James Devine performs on 2 July; with local rockers KIND on 16 July and vocalist Gemma-Louise Doyle returning on 30 July.

The Sunday evening fun quiz takes place on 22 May, 5 June, 19 June, 3 July, 17 July, 31 July, 14 and 28 August. The quiz commences around 8.30 and is free to enter.

Sunday evening Karaoke will be held on 29 May, 26 June 24 July and 21 August, all are welcome. On Saturday 11 June there will be an evening commemorating The Queens 90th birthday

Both Sky and BT sports channels are now available. The Club is available for special events and there's a small meeting room for community groups to use, all free of charge - contact the Steward on 01706 852484.

Follow the Club on Facebook, which is updated weekly with a selection of guest ales available and details of forthcoming events.

10 YEARS! THANK YOU!

In October 2016 the Riverside will celebrate its 10th Anniversary which wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of the Whitworth Community.

During this time they have welcomed 100's of thousands of guests through their doors for a wide range of events from birthdays, christenings, weddings, funerals and much more.

The Riverside will be holding several events over their anniversary weekend in October, starting with Stars in your eyes on Friday 28th, a celebration dinner on Saturday 29th and ending with a family Halloween party on Sunday 30th, there's something for everyone! Details of these events will be available soon.

As a registered charity (not for profit) CLAW understand how vital every penny is to maintain both the Riverside & Leisure Centre to a high standard. They have recently incurred additional expenditure due to the cost of repairs caused by deliberate acts of vandalism. CLAW are extremely thankful for the hard work and support from all the volunteers (young & old) from the Whitworth Community and they work extremely hard to allow generations of your families enjoying these facilities for years to come.

CLAW, Management & staff of the Riverside would like to thank the community for their continued support over the past 10 years and for the years to come.

**The Riverside, Market Street, Whitworth,
Lancashire, OL12 8DP**

Tel: 01706 854130 Email: riverside-whitworth@zen.co.uk

Web: www.whitworthriverside.co.uk



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VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

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



The Community First Responders

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

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

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

SPODDEN VALLEY GRASSLANDS

An important stepping stone to help bees and other pollinating insects to recover from decades of decline, is being restored by volunteers in Whitworth.

The Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Spodden Valley Grasslands Project, run by Rebecca Witcombe is working to restore and extend meadows that lie to the north of Healey Dell LNR.

Restoration of the Spodden Valley grasslands complement the work that the South Pennines Grasslands Project, lead by Phil Reddell, has been carrying out along the old railway line, including cutting and clearing small areas of grassland.

A team of volunteers from the Whitworth area worked with Rebecca and Phil on two sunny days in February to clear scrub back off the meadows. This work enabled a local farmer to come in and cut the meadows in preparation for the wildflower planting activities planned for this spring and summer. Activities coming up:

- Plug planting and seed sowing – May
- Mapping invasive species - May
- Wildflower ID – July
- Plug planting and seeding – August

For further details about volunteer days please contact Rebecca at rwitcombe@lancswt.org.uk or **01282 704605**, or Phil at preddell@lancswt.org.uk



The meadow before the work
...and after



WHITWORTH NEWS

CUBS & BEAVERS HEARTFELT THANKS!

Due to the amazing generosity of the businesses and people of Whitworth, the local Cubs and Beavers have raised funds enough not only to pay the bills which were threatening to cause their closure, but also to have some over. Group Scout Leader, Jackie Phillips said she was moved to tears by the amazing response they had and stated that the extra money will certainly not be wasted, it will be spent on:

- Activities and trips for the Cubs and Beavers,
- Equipment used in games, crafting and badge work,
- Urgent maintenance work on the Scout Hut,
- Costs and promotion of future fundraising activities.



A recent trip to the Flight Deck Experience

Plans are underway for all of these, including a Car Boot Sale at the Scout Hut to take place on the morning of Sunday 15 May to which all are welcome.

The group would like to issue a big thank you to everyone who has helped them and will be continuing in their fundraising efforts to ensure the group remains financially secure in the future. If you would like any information about Whitworth Cubs or Beavers, email akelajackiephillips@gmail.com or call Jackie Phillips on 07846 535094.

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WHITWORTH NEWS

WHITWORTH YOUNG PEOPLES CENTRE

It is business as usual at Whitworth Young People's Centre. The club has actively provided a valued service in the community for teenagers for over thirty years. During the current uncertainties facing the club, staff are still committed to opening the doors and welcoming young people.

The club is hosting a pool tournament during Whitworth Sports Festival and entering a scarecrow into the annual Scarecrow Festival. Staff aim to engage, support and motivate young people in the community and actively encourage members to engage in positive activities. New members are always welcome to the centre from the age of 12-19 (25 SEN). The clubs opening times are Monday 7-9.30pm, Wednesday 7-9.30pm and Fridays 6-8.30pm. If you feel the youth club is for you or know someone who may wish to attend the staff in the centre will give you a very warm welcome. Come and say hello!



For more information about what the club has to offer please contact Gill Pearson **01706 853646** during opening times or email gill.pearson@lancashire.gov.uk

WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BAND

The area finals at Blackpool in February were very disappointing for the Band and a bottom half place has left them in danger of losing their place in the First Section. Rehearsals are now underway for the concert season and the band have 3 huge concerts in the space of 2 weeks at the end of May beginning of June followed by others in July:

30th May, Ramsbottom war weekend
5th June, The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration at The Riverside
10th June, Parkinson's Disease Society Annual Concert at Rochdale Golf club
2nd July, Alder Hey Hospital Annual Concert at The Curtain Theatre
10th July, Jimmy Grogan Memorial concert at The Riverside
23rd July, Last Night of the Proms at Rochdale Golf club
3rd August, Annual Bowling Contest at Football and Cricket Club

Fund raising events will also be taking place throughout the summer to assist with the costs of the band supporting the 50th Anniversary celebrations in Kandel in August. The Youth Band and Academy project continues to flourish. There is now a session for a beginners band at the club on Wednesdays evenings at 6 pm prior to the Youth band rehearsal. Anyone who would like their child to learn how to play or join the beginners band or youth band please ring for info. If you would like to book the band need any information or would like tickets for any events please ring Michael Whitby on **01706 852613**.

GREENBROOK HOUSE GARDEN PARTY

On Saturday 12th June from 1pm until 5pm Greenbrook House will be holding a garden party. Come along and help to raise money for a defibrillator. Tickets can be purchased at Greenbrook House from 2 May 2016; £5 for adults and £2.50 for children, entry includes sandwiches, cakes and a glass of summer punch. Entry is free for those who just want to browse.

There will be stalls, including crafts, Jewellery, knitting, scentsy, Face painting and fun stalls for the family. Great prizes have been donated from, Lords, Butterfly room, Reflections, All in One Garden Centre, Season's, The Green Door, Madison's, Alan Howards and many more. There will be a grand bake off for everyone to enter free of charge. The Mayor, Councillor Madeline De Souza will be here to taste and choose a winner. Willowbrook staff will be there to ensure you have a fulfilled day.

WHITWORTH NEWS

MAKING WHITWORTH A BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY PLACE

BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY PLACES SCHEME

Whitworth Children's Centre is supporting Whitworth Businesses to support Breastfeeding Mum's on their premises. Breastfeeding Friendly Places is an important element of the UNICEF 'Baby Friendly Initiative'

New mothers in East Lancashire tell us that they feel more relaxed visiting public premises that display the "Welcome to Breastfeed here" logo, as it gives out an encouraging and supportive message. It reassures mothers that they need not feel anxious or embarrassed about breastfeeding their baby when out in public, in turn this scheme helps to reduce a potential barrier to breastfeeding by protecting and advocating a mother's legal right to breastfeed in public places (as detailed in the Equality Act 2010).

You may have seen Children's Centre Manager Tracy Johnson and Outreach Worker Elaine Brett out and about visiting local businesses. They have been overwhelmed by the Whitworth Business community in supporting the Baby Friendly Initiative, contributing to the Health and Wellbeing of the Whitworth Children.

If you run a local business and they have not visited you yet or you would like to have further information and sign up for the scheme, please contact Tracy or Elaine on **01706 648747**, and help make Whitworth Village Breastfeeding Friendly.

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Tel: **01706 550303**



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Thursday 5pm—9.30pm

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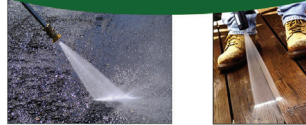
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WHITWORTH NEWS

NEW COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS FIRST GRANTS

Thirteen highly deserving local projects are celebrating being awarded grants through the new Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund. The successful projects have each received a share of £35,000.

The largest award went to Whitworth Valley Football Club who have been awarded £10,000 to improve the infrastructure at the Rawstron Street football ground. Other projects in Whitworth sharing the wind fall include Whitworth Vale and Healey Band, Whitworth 41st Scout Group and Whitworth Community Choir.

Funding was also awarded to the 25th anniversary Rushbearing Festival and the annual Food and Drink Festival both of which take place in Littleborough during the summer. Wardle village also had a number of successful projects with the Scout troop, Wardle Football Club and Wardle Recreation Ground all being selected to receive grant support. Hare Hill House Community Hub was also awarded over £4,000 to assist in repairing the roof and the Incredible Edible Farm in Todmorden will soon have a community Nano Dairy thanks to a grant of £3,500.

Monies for the Community Fund are provided by Hastings Funds Management UK (Hastings) who manage the Crook Hill wind farm. The Fund is being administered by national charity GrantScape. For more details visit www.grantscape.org.uk or call Liz Payne on **01282 543775**.

SAVE WHITWORTH LIBRARY!

Due to Lancashire County Council's decision to make cuts of £65m by April 2017, Whitworth Library is facing the threat of closure. This community hub offers so much more than simply books; it is a centre for life-long learning and once it is gone, there will be no way of re-instating it.



Whitworth Library, photo used with kind permission of Dave Matson

So, why should it be fought for?

SOCIAL

- It hosts weekly meetings of Knit and Natter, Scrabble, Reading, Toddlers' Story time and Painting groups which provide a lively social and informative environment for all ages - even an exercise class!

CULTURAL

- It is the venue for talks and poetry reading. The displays keep users abreast of current trends and daily papers are available.

ENTERPRISE

- It has hosted planning meetings for the community and has supported activities involving business innovations with the community and schools.

EDUCATION

- It has up-to-date IT equipment which the librarians are on hand to help users access eg for job-searching and creating CVs.
- Oh, and it also has a wide range of books, audio-books and DVDs!

It is a crucial community resource. Help save the library!

To get in contact, email: friendsofwhitworthlibrarygroup@gmail.com or visit the Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/628005047340899), e-petition; council.lancashire.gov.uk

WHITWORTH NEWS – FLOODING UPDATE

ROSSENDALE FLOOD RESILIENCE FUND

A fund of £5000 is available for businesses and home owners affected by flooding during the recent storms Desmond and Eva. The fund is intended to help protect buildings from future flooding, by preventing water from getting in or by limiting the damage caused where flooding is unavoidable.

For insured property: If your property is insured, your insurer may have assessed ways to build resilience into the repair work. Insurers won't pay for this work as it is considered 'Betterment', and the Resilience Fund could meet the additional cost.

For uninsured property: If your property is uninsured, you can still apply for the Resilience Fund, providing evidence of how the fund will support your property to become more resilient to flooding. Where a survey is required, this can be funded as part of the £5,000.

Rented accommodation: The fund can be accessed by landlords, providing evidence of how it will be used in each specific property.

Collective applications: Where groups, such as a street of properties who have been affected by flooding would like to work together to develop a solutions, such as adaptations to infrastructure, there is potential for the fund to support this.

You can apply for the fund retrospectively, and where it is agreed that measures have provided additional resilience, funds will be allocated. All applications should be submitted by the 31st December 2016.

Claims for the fund can be made through Rossendale Borough Council go to www.rossendale.gov.uk/ 'flooding advice and information' to access the application online.

For more information please email resiliencefund@rossendalebc.gov.uk or contact David Presto on **01706 252477**.

WHY DOESN'T FLOOD INSURANCE FUND COVER SMALL BUSINESSES?

On December 26th a number of small businesses in the beautiful Rossendale Valley in Lancashire got flooded, these businesses are the heart beat of their local communities.

Sadly- the insurance industry scheme starting in April 2016 that ensures that domestic dwellings can get insurance at a fair price even if they have a high flood risk-is not open to small businesses.

David Broadbent MD of Northern Joinery commented "We have been flooded 3 times in the last 8 years and most recently on Boxing Day- we cannot get flood insurance and we must self insure. This is putting our business at risk and more importantly the livelihood of the 50 families that rely on our company".

Simon Macaulay of the Whitworth Flood Forum says:

"We think more serious flooding is here to stay – Northern Joinery and Anglo recycling are responsible businesses and are happy to bear their share of the burden by building greater resilience to flooding (e.g. electric points higher off the ground and stock held on racking at a higher level) but in return we think these businesses should be allowed to enter the insurance industry's scheme and receive the offer of a fair price for insurance against future flooding- just as householders do".



**Saturday 11 –
Sunday 19 June 2016**

A celebration of Whitworth sporting
activity for participants and spectators

COLOUR KEY:

	Must enter in advance
	Turn Up and Join In
	Climb Prize

Plenty of old favourites, and several unusual new events, make this a busy Festival, so record the Euros, come along and get stuck in to this little lot! Basic details below, but if you have a query call the event organiser or Jo Furtado on 853442, or go to www.whitworth-sports-council.co.uk.

SAMBA DANCE on Station Road, Facit (tel. 854960) are giving you the chance to try out their classes, **FREE**. The classes printed in the schedule run at that time every week, but there are lots of others – pick up one of Samba’s own leaflets for full details. You can sample Samba’s kind offer any time this June, not just during Festival.

WHITWORTH WATER-SKI, during Festival **and the week before**, is offering anyone the chance to try out any of their activities at member rates. Ring 852151 for details.

CLAW will once again be giving **free swim tokens** to all who take part in Festival events. They can be redeemed at the Leisure Centre on John Street at any appropriate time until July 24. (Under-8s must be accompanied in the pool.)

Climb ROCHDALE is again offering prizes for the winners of some of our individual events – vouchers that will allow free entry to their wonderful bouldering walls, with the chance then to have cut-price time on their challenging roped climbs, and, for adults, a free lesson in belaying. For more info go to www.climbrochdale.com. Festival prize events are marked with the pink **Climb ROCHDALE** logo.

ENTRY FORMS for all those events that require **PRE-ENTRY** be available this year from:

- The Riverside • The Leisure Centre (Baths) • The Library • All Whitworth Schools • 515 Centre

Your entry form can be returned, with entry fee, to any of these places – it doesn’t have to be the place you picked it up. **BUT** do please read entry forms carefully to see **WHEN** you must return them by, and please note that **different events have different deadlines**.



SAT 11 JUNE: OPENING DAY All at the High School

12.45pm Sports Hall steps

The Mayor of Whitworth, Councillor Madeline De Souza, will declare our Sports Festival officially open.

OPENING CEREMONY

1pm School field

Michelle Griffiths will be getting us all together to get our hearts and limbs ready for the afternoon’s exertions – that’s **all** of us, footballers, rounders players, supporters. It **won’t** be *Insanity*, but it should be a fun way to start Festival.

COMMUNITY WARM-UP

1.30pm Sports Hall

This is trampolining for athletes with disabilities, and was one of our little successes last year. If this appeals to you, please **ring Amy Taylor (07734488803)** to book a place and make appropriate arrangements.

REBOUND

1.30pm School field

Create your own team – a squad of 7 (max.) including at least one veteran (40+), two under-15s, and no more than 3 males aged 16-40. (Vet and at least one under-15 must be on the pitch throughout.) Oh, and a female player earns her team a bonus goal for every full game she plays. No entry fee, but **ring John Leyland (854380) in advance** to enter your team.

FAMILY & FRIENDS 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

1.30pm School field

Enter a team by contacting Becky Macnamara (07985245717). This year we intend this to be a more structured tournament. If you’ve no team but would like to play ring Becky or see her early on the day (fetching pink hi-vis!) and she’ll try to find you a team to play for. Male or female, any age, any level of experience – just come and have some fun.

ROUNDERS

OPENING DAY (CONTINUED)

Throughout the afternoon, on the school field

Simple, traditional, fun events for those too little to be involved in the rounders and the football.

MINI SPORTS ■

Throughout the afternoon, on the school field

For those too big for the mini sports, a sort of simplified orienteering – best done as a team of two or three friends.

TREASURE HUNT ■

SUNDAY 12 JUNE

10am Festival Park (next to Riverside)

If you've never bowled, or not done much of it, now's your chance. Joe Warburton will pair you up with a more experienced partner, and give you plenty of games. You can pick up an entry form at bowling clubs, or ring Joe on 853457, or turn up ten minutes early and ask for Joe. Bring a packed lunch (drinks available) to see you through.

BOWLING ■

10am to 4pm The Arena (above the stables on Cowm Park Way – signposted)

EQUESTRIANISM

Just walk up the lane to this gem of a venue and you'll get a real close-up insight into the precision of dressage and the athleticism of showjumping. Refreshments available.

MONDAY 13 JUNE

10am Valley FC, Rawstron Street

Our thanks to Nathan Bibby and the School Sports Partnership for this event and for the coaching they will have taken into the schools in the weeks beforehand.

PRIMARY SCHOOL TAG RUGBY

6pm High School Sports Hall

Two separate tournaments, one for those in years 6, 7 and 8; one for years 9, 10 and 11. You don't have to be a club member to enter, but you do have to fill in a **PRE-ENTRY form**, or contact Paul Shiel on 853115.

JUNIOR BADMINTON ■

7pm Young People's Centre, 515 Market Street

Cracking tournament last year, with Carl Ashworth winning a dramatic final. So, who's up for it this year? Open to any boy, of whatever age, club member or not. Speak to Gill Pearson at the club, or turn up at 7pm on the night.

POOL (Boys' night) ■

7pm (Juniors) 8pm (Adults) The Stables, Station Road, Facit, OL12 8LU

THAI BOXING ■

out. Just turn up (next to Samba), introduce yourself to Andy Hughes, and he'll get you started. (Wear shorts/T-shirt.)

Free Samba Dance tasters! 11am Pilates (adults) / 4.15pm Tiny Tap (3-7yrs) / 5pm Freestyle Disco (9yrs+) / 6pm Ballet Fusion / 6pm Bums, Legs & Tums (adults) / 7pm Advanced Senior Tap



TUESDAY 14 JUNE

3.30pm St John with St Michael School

Another event courtesy of the Schools Sports Partnership – and thanks too to the young umpires from Haslingden High. Thorn Primary won last year – who will it be this time? Please note that this is now an outdoor event.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NETBALL

6.45pm Cowm Reservoir

The challenge in our signature event, for adults as well as children, is simply to run the 400 yards of Treacle Sanderson's track as fast as you can. Come and give it a go! Our youngest runners will be in year 6 at school; our oldest vet. yet was 73. **PRE-ENTRY ESSENTIAL, so pick up a form** - strictly NO ENTRY on the night.

TREACLE CHALLENGE (RUNNING) ■

FREE Samba Dance tasters! 4.15pm Primary Tap (6+) / 5pm StreetDance (4-9yrs)/7.45pm Boogie Bounce Extreme (adult)

**TURN UP
and
JOIN IN!**



WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE

3.30pm Tonacliffe School

PRIMARY SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Congratulations to Mollie Campbell, who is now a full England International. Can one of the Whitworth schools bring home the trophy named in her honour? Please note that this is now an outdoor event – appropriate clothing please.

5pm Cowm Reservoir

PONY-GO-ROUND ■

Horses are a lovely feature of Whitworth Life, and so is the fact that Jenny gives so many aged 4-12 this chance to ride, completely free of charge, along by the reservoir. Wear old clothes and low heels, please. No booking, but be prepared to wait – the event can be very popular. Refreshments available.

6.30pm Tonacliffe School Hall

FENCING ■

En garde! Salle Angelo Fencing Club will lend you the gear and initiate you into the art of the musketeers. Again, free to both children and adult

7pm Young People's Centre, 515 Market Street

POOL (Girls' night) ■ ♀

This tournament is open to girls of any age, and you don't have to be a club member. Speak to Gill Pearson at the club or on 853646, or just pop in at 7 o'clock.

7pm North Street car park, opposite Sportsman pub

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL RIDE ■

Simply turn up with your bike and helmet and away you go on one of two circular group rides that will take about 2 hours.

7.30pm Scout Hut, Longacres Lane

SENIOR FELL RACE ■ ♀

This year's race, at 3+ miles, up and over Brown Wardle, is a bit longer than before, and is challenging, but is still do-able by a reasonably fit novice. Minimum age for entry is 14 on the night, but 14-15-year-olds need parental signature on entry form. Registration is at the Scout Hut from 5.30pm, or ring Andy Lee on 344436.

*** Andy's looking for **marshalls** for this event. If you'd like to help out, please give him a call. ***

FREE Samba Dance tasters! 4pm Freestyle Disco (4-9yrs) / 5pm Cheerleading (4-9yrs) / 5pm Freestyle Disco (9+yrs)
6.30pm Senior Street Dance (14+) 6.45pm Boogie Bounce Extreme (adult)/ 7.30pm Adult Freestyle

THURSDAY 16 JUNE

3.15pm Tonacliffe School

PRIMARY SCHOOL CRICKET

Our thanks to Paul Gallagher for once again running this event. Thorn School took the Hiram Slack trophy to complete a memorable clean sweep last year. But this time?

4.30pm Lobden Golf Club

JUNIOR GOLF ■

Kevin and Co. will loan you the clubs, show you how to play *and even feed you – free!* This offer is open to girls and boys up to the age of 16, whether you're a complete beginner or a very occasional player. No need to book – just turn up.

7pm Lobden/Brown Wardle

JUNIOR FELL RACE ■ ♀

An astonishing 120 girls and boys aged from 7 to 16 ran the 3.5km over Brown Wardle last year, all thoroughly earning their certificate and chocolate bar, with 17 of them cracking the 20-minute barrier. If you wish to run, you **MUST PRE-ENTER, so pick up a form** – NO entry on the night.

*** Jo's looking for extra **marshalls** for this event. If you'd like to help out, please give him a call on 07813180748. ***

FREE Samba Dance tasters! 1.30pm Teeny Boppers – Music and Song (18months+) / 4pm Junior Latin and Ballroom
6pm Limber and Flexibility (all ages) / 7pm Zumba Dance Exercise (adults) / 8pm Adult Fun Tap

FRIDAY 17 JUNE

1.30pm Greenbrook House (next to Valley FC)

BOCCIA ■

Boccia is a form of indoor boules, played with squashy balls. It can be played equally by able-bodied and disabled athletes of all ages. You don't have to be a Greenbrook resident – if you fancy trying boccia, you'll be made very welcome, whether you've booked by ringing Amy Taylor on 07734488803 or you've just turned up.

6pm Tonacliffe School Hall

KIDSANITY ■

Yes, it's Michelle, back again, and this time it will be a full-on workout, for under-11s, from *any* primary school.

7pm Whitworth Square (Red Lion)

CYCLING HILL CLIMB ■ ▲

Now this *is* tough. Cyclists will ride an individual time-trial from next to the Square to St Bart's Church (16 years old and under) or Lobden Golf Club (Seniors). **You need to PRE-ENTER** either by entry form or by registering via dedicated email chrisatwhitworthrakehillclimb@hotmail.com. Please note – parking at top of rake only until 6.45.

FREE Samba Dance tasters!	9am Pi-Yo (adults) / 10am Boogie Bounce Extreme (adults) / 5.30pm Grade 2 Ballet
----------------------------------	--

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

9.30am till noon Sharneyford (details when you register; or Facebook) CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING ■

A brand-new event run for us by Clough Head Gun Club, for adults and children strong enough to hold a gun safely. You **MUST** phone Michelle Spilling on 07767216626 to **REGISTER A WEEK IN ADVANCE**. (For insurance purposes and to make sure there's enough equipment.) £12 covers 25 clays, all equipment, and instruction. Refreshment available.

10am onwards Whitworth Quarry

MOTORCYCLING ■

If you're between 4 and 12 Cowm Leisure have something that will let you try motorcycling safely – electric bikes where you rev and vary the speed, but within limits set by a controller, dependent on your age, strength and aptitude. £15 for half an hour **but you need to book a week ahead**. Ring John on 07970101879. Or you can book a dirt bike or trial bike – same time/fee/safety equipment provided.

10am (ladies)/11am (juniors)/ 12noon (mixed adults) The Stables (next to Samba) THAI BOXING ■

Another chance to try out this controlled-but-explosive, balletic-but-forceful, tough-but-disciplined sport. See Monday's info for details.

1pm Sportsman, 464 Market Street

BOULES ■

Turn up and join in – that simple!

FREE Samba Dance tasters!	9.15am Mini Movers Pre School Fun Dance (2yrs+) / 10.15am Uni Ted Ballet (3-6yrs)
----------------------------------	---

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

8am Leisure Centre/Cowm Reservoir

SPLASH & DASH ■ ▲

And you thought *Insanity* was hard! In this, our traditional finale, children aged 8-16 swim 8 lengths of the pool, then run 1.75 miles to the res. and round. You **MUST PRE-BOOK, so pick up a form**.

*** The Swimming Club are always looking for extra early-rising **marshalls** for this event. If you'd like to help out, please ring Jo on 07813180748 ***

2pm The Riverside

CLOSING CEREMONY

This is where we come together to celebrate the week's achievements, with various awards, including the Ian Clegg Legend trophy, which is given to someone who has contributed or achieved a lot during this Festival. There will be lots of photos (orderable) of Festival events, displays by Valley Thai and Samba, a raffle, a quiz, a game or two of stand-up bingo... oh, and the bar will be open.



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WHITWORTH TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

WHITWORTH SCARECROW FESTIVAL

The 6th Whitworth Scarecrow Festival takes place from 25 June – 3 July this year. Once again this year the public will be voting for which display they think is the best, with the winners announced at the Family Fun Day at the Riverside on 3 July. If you'd like to take part you can pick up an entry form from various locations in Whitworth or, rather handily, you can simply complete the one opposite and hand it in at the Riverside! Last date for returning the forms is Friday 10 June, so you've still got some time to come up with ideas for your display. Any queries, call Melanie at the Town Council on **01706 852018** / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

WHITWORTH RUSHCART PROCESSION AND CELEBRATIONS

Following months of planning, the annual Whitworth Rushcart celebrations will take place in the town on the afternoon of Sunday 4 September 2016. This is a family friendly event and all are welcome. The procession will leave from North Street car park, off Market Street, Whitworth, at 1.00pm. Featuring numerous traditional morris dance troupes, the Rushcart procession will travel north up the main road, arriving at The Riverside at approximately 1.20pm. The procession will be led by the Rushcart itself.

From 1.15pm until 4.30pm, the car park of the Civic Hall will be cordoned off for stalls, entertainments, and performances, plus the Whitworth Vale and Healey Youth Band. St Bartholomew's Church will be providing traditional hot food, and the Riverside bar will be open for liquid refreshments, including real ale named 'Grogan's Delight' in memory of the late Jimmy Grogan, Honorary Townsman of Whitworth.

The Whitworth Rushcart is one of only four such celebrations which still take place in the UK, the others being in Sowerby Bridge, Littleborough and Saddleworth. Whitworth's cart is unique in that it is the only one in the UK to be covered in beautiful local heather that is in bloom at this time of year, collected by the Whitworth Rushcart Men from the moors above Darwen before the event; Rushcarts in the other areas are covered with rushes or tatters of cloth. Whitworth's Rushcart history goes back hundreds of years; initially the celebration was linked into the cutting and collection of rushes to be strewn on the bare earth or stone flagged floor of the church as a form of insulation for the winter to come, taken to the church on the cart. Out of this grew a celebration which was enjoyed by the whole community.



Last year's Rushcart celebrations

For further information, please contact Melanie Hearn, Whitworth Town Clerk on **01706 852018** / email: info@whitworth.gov.uk (Monday to Friday, 9am – 2.30pm).

WHITWORTH FAMILY FUN DAY

On Sunday 3 July, the Family Fun Day organised by the Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee is back! There'll be lots of attractions including rides, stalls, live performances by local dancers, candy floss and ice cream, and even the announcement of the winner of the Scarecrow Festival. Come along, bring all the family and join in with the fun (and you never know – the sun may even shine too!). For more information, please contact the Riverside on **01706 854130**.

WHITWORTH SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2016

ENTRY FORM



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

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

Your name *: _____

Your address (incl. postcode) *: _____

Your contact tel no *: _____

Your email address: _____

£1 entry fee paid: YES / NO

YOUR SCARECROW'S DETAILS:

Name of your scarecrow or scarecrow display (as it will appear on the Scarecrow Trail map) *:

Location of your scarecrow display (if different from your address as above) incl. postcode *:

THE OFFICIAL BIT: By signing this entry form and paying my £1 (non-refundable), I agree to display my scarecrow(s) between Sat 25 June and Sun 3 July. I understand that there may be people who will come and look at my creation. If I am unable to show a scarecrow I will do my best to let the organisers know before 10 June. I understand that if my scarecrow display is deemed to be inappropriate I may be asked to remove it. I understand that I may be asked to display a laminated Scarecrow Festival poster next to my display.

SIGNED: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

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

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

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WHITWORTH NEWS – FUNDRAISING AND CHARITIES

WHITWORTH HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP

WHITWORTH Hospice Support Group was formed 32 years ago to help raise funds for the planned **Rochdale Hospice**. The hospice opened several years later and the group now organises fund raising events to assist with the up keep of the hospice which can be utilised by the Whitworth population. The group meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at Whitworth Band Club. If anyone wants to join the group or has any fund raising ideas please contact Janet Schofield (Chairperson) Tel No: 01706 852414 or Sheila Lucas (Vice-Chairperson) 01706 852024.

The last fund raising event was organised by Michael Whitby and facilitated by Berni's Restaurant, Gemma-Louise entertained us, the food was delightful and £927 was raised for the hospice. The group would like to thank Mr Whitby and Berni's Restaurant for their efforts in raising this phenomenal amount of money.

Forthcoming Events:

A makeup demonstration, wine and nibbles to be held on Tuesday 26th April 2016 hosted by Cobello's Hair Studio at 7 pm -Tickets: £3

Afternoon Tea, Greenbrook House, Sunday 26th June 2016, 2pm until 4pm - Tickets: £5.

CANCER RESEARCH - WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

Since the last magazine, a fundraising meal at the Promenade Bar & Grill was held which raised £470. Many thanks to all those who attended and special thanks to Julie and Chris, the owners, for their support and generosity. The coffee morning at Greenbrook House raised over £200 again. Thanks to all who attended and worked on the day and special thanks to Josie Canavan for providing the music. A race night at Lobden Golf club raised over £500 again many thanks to members for their continued support.

By the time of publication the Annual songs of praise will have taken place at Christ church Healey hopefully another successful event. The next major event will be a Band concert organised by Ian and Janet Sandiford on Sunday 5th June at The Riverside. The event is a Royal celebration for the Queens 90th Birthday and all proceeds will be going towards the equipment being purchased by the committee this year. Tickets are priced at £12.50 and will include a glass of bubbly on arrival a commemorative programme and your very own flag !!! It will involve the Senior and Youth band. Tickets are available from The Riverside or from numbers below.

The annual golf tournament takes place on Sunday 12th June at Lobden Golf Club. There are arrangements being made for a car rally at the end of June which will run from the Cock and Magpie. Further events and fundraising meals will take place later in the year more details to follow. If anyone would like to become involved with the committee, attend any fundraising event's, sponsor anyone in their fundraising activity or just like any information on the committee's activities please contact Michael Whitby on **01706 852613** or Joyce or Arnold Ashworth on **01706 343424**.

ELLA'S RMCH CHARITY FUNDAY

Ella Chadwick is 8 years old and is a pupil at Tonacliffe Primary School, Whitworth. Ella does lots of fundraising for Manchester Children's Hospital. She has been a patient at the hospital since birth and after 43 operations and 2 kidney transplants the hospital is a very special cause for Ella and her family. She has already taken part in mini marathons, cake sales and fun days.

Ella's next fun day will be held at the Heywood Civic Centre on Sunday 22nd May, 12 – 4pm (entry by donation). There will be children's entertainer acts on stage, stalls, a raffle, a bouncy castle, mascots, princesses, photo booth, caricatures and much more.

For more information about the event visit the facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1582870695366694/>

WHITWORTH NEWS

OLIVER'S BIKE TO BEYOND

Local lad Oliver Gollcher (age 9) was touched by 2 local stories of bravery and wanted to help, he went on to organise a bike ride from Rochdale to The Riverside Whitworth followed by a day of fun, games, and laughter which raised funds of over £3000 for 2 local causes;



Oliver's bike ride

The Joshua McCormack Fund, local boy Joshua, age 4 bravely battling a rare brain tumour and gruelling treatment no adult could bare, and **Manchester Royal Infirmary's Coronary Care Unit**, who looked after his pal Gary Hancock after he suffered a heart attack last year.



Oliver and his Grandad, Craig Brierley

This adventure was all Oliver's work with the invaluable help of grandad Craig Brierley and friend Lisa McDowell who tirelessly rallied troops to donate and help on the day. The day came to a close with a game of giant pie face, with some well-known but beloved faces taking a pie or two for a good cause.

Oliver's family could not be any prouder of him, his kindness and his love of life and adventure.

Oliver asked his mum after the day had finished "What can I do next year?" so watch this space!

Special thanks to all those involved on the day.

KEEP WHITWORTH TIDY

The Keep Whitworth Tidy has been formed for just one year and has already made a fantastic impact on Whitworth collecting a whopping 205 bags of litter (and lots of other items that wouldn't fit into bags!). It is run by local volunteers of all ages from 4 years up. The picks are usually held monthly on a Sunday morning from 10am till 11am.

The areas are decided by need and accessibility depending on the time of the year. All equipment is provided.

Many members have enjoyed the community spirit and working out in the fresh air. If you think you would like to join up the next arranged pick will be on the 17th July 2016.

Please see the Facebook group 'Keep Whitworth Tidy' for more details and locations nearer the time.

You can also contact the group through the 'LitterAction' website
www.litteraction.org.uk/keep-whitworth-tidy

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WHITWORTH NEWS – SCHOOL REPORT

WHITWORTH HIGH SCHOOL

The year 8 girls' Netball team from Whitworth High School played 3 matches in a tournament at Haslingden High School. They did not win the first two matches but won the last match 8-0 against Haslingden High School Combined Team. The girls displayed excellent sportsmanship skills with the other teams. Comments were made on how smart the new Netball kit looks and all the girls were very proud. Congratulations and well done to all the players: Jessica Butterworth; Leah Butterworth; Nicole Whitehead; Jorga Slicker; Abigail Dawson; Codie Barron; Holly Butcher; Samer Qureshi; Jessica Burton.



The Whitworth High School Y8 netball team

ST JOHN WITH ST MICHAEL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children, parents and staff of St John with St Michael CE Primary School in Shawforth held a creative curriculum week based on Science and Shakespeare. They held a fun packed week looking at The life Cycle of Plants, Growing, Planting, botany, Carl Linnaeus and his classification system, Science Fiction Movies and famous artists such as Georgia O'Keefe and Van Gogh's famous Sunflowers.

Class 3 linked it all in with Enid Blyton's The Enchanted Wood and Class 2 linked with Beatrix Potter. The Support Our School (PTA) team helped the children plant tree saplings that they had received from the Woodland Trust and a non uniform day was also held to help support the charity Milly's Smiles. The week also involved a "Money Sense" workshop provided by the Nat West bank, which got the children looking at how to budget their money and plan it accordingly.



An art display made by the school for an Easter display at The Lighthouse

St John with St Michael School also got involved with the Children's Easter Experience at The Light House Methodist Church in Whitworth. The children visited to hear the true meaning of Easter and tasted Crackers, grapes and mini chocolate eggs.



Ellie at the Money Sense Workshop working out a budget



Evie with her 3d wire flower sculpture

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ANNUAL REPORT, WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MAYOR'S OVERVIEW

Time certainly flies when you're having fun, as they say – I can scarcely believe that it is a full twelve months since the last Annual Parish meeting. As Mayor and Consort, David and I have had a wonderful, fulfilling, privileged time – we've been invited to attend well over 100 events in Whitworth and further afield and have managed to get to all but a handful of them. My personal highlights include the Remembrance commemorations in November, I was astonished and humbled by the numbers of people who turned out to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday. I have also hugely enjoyed chairing the meetings of the town council and I thank the members of the public who have also attended our meetings to raise issues or concerns.

This document as a whole details the work not just of the Town Council but of some of the organisations and charities that work tirelessly, many on a voluntary basis, to improve Whitworth and make it a great place to live. It never ceases to amaze me how a relatively small town can have so much taking place within it, and so many devoted, hard working members of the community to organise events and initiatives.

The Town Council continues to be at the fore of a variety of initiatives, many of which are detailed in this report; it continues to provide a dedicated service to the town whilst staying within its frugal spending limitations. It is through prudent financial management and much discussion and research that the Council can announce that it has again managed to keep its precept at the same level, with a 0% increase for the sixth year running. Over and above core duties, the Town Council works alongside other councils and agency organisations, such as the Police and Green Vale Homes, and with residents and businesses to get the best for our town and its residents. The Town Council often leads on these discussions and our Clerk facilitates numerous meetings throughout the year. The Town Council also continues to uphold the rights and values of the town in its role as a pressure group and a sounding board for local opinion.

Outside of the work of the Town Council, our wonderful community rallies around to make sure that there are a variety of events and initiatives taking place throughout the year. There continues to be a strong interest in sport in Whitworth and we have an enviable amount and variety of sporting and leisure activities available all year round. The Tourism and Leisure Committee and the Sports Council both continue to provide events and festivals, working with other local organisations, often on a voluntary basis. We are also extremely fortunate to have such an active voluntary sector in our town, and the Town Council sends sincere thanks to everyone who strives to make Whitworth a better place to live.

Looking ahead to the next twelve months, Councillor Madeline De Souza will become Mayor, I am sure that Madeline will do a thorough and professional job. There are some exciting projects ahead for Whitworth including great

investment in the Spodden Valley revealed project, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, this will celebrate our heritage and make a fantastic leisure resource for the future. In the months ahead, the Town Council will make the best of its opportunities and strengths and work its way through any challenges. The Town Council's staff and councillors, as always, remain fully committed and are looking forward to the year to come.

INITIATIVES

The Council is supported by Town Clerk Melanie Hearn, who works 30 hours a week as standard. The Council also contracts a Parish Lengthsman, John Leyland, for general repairs and maintenance, including attending to Public Rights of Way, mending footpaths, fences and stiles and undertaking a multitude of jobs in and around the town. The Council employs a full-time Town Caretaker which is funded in part by Rossendale Borough Council. Glen Iliff, our Town Caretaker, litter-picks targeted sites the length and breadth of the town, and reports issues and problems to the Clerk. All three maintain healthy attendance sheets. The Town Council's website, www.whitworth.gov.uk, is well used and an asset to the Council. The site aims to be a one-stop-shop for Whitworth information for residents and visitors, and is updated by the Town Clerk. The Town Council also makes good use of social media; its Facebook page is regularly contributed to.

The Horticultural Society continues to do a wonderful job ensuring the town looks its blooming best. The Society works proactively with the Town, Borough and County councils, and is financially supported in part by the Town Council – a good illustration of the Council interacting with the community. The volunteers tend to flowerbeds and the planter boxes provided by Northern Joinery Ltd.

The Town Council-produced quarterly Whitworth Valley News magazine continues to be a very popular read, receiving editorial contributions from a wide variety of organisations and featuring over 62 paying advertisers. It involves a significant amount of work for the Clerk but is very well received and ensures all in Whitworth are up-to-date with town news and developments. A recent change in printing contract has seen the costs of producing the magazine drop significantly. It is hand-delivered to all households by the Sports Council volunteers.

The Town Council contributes towards the fight against crime with the continued sponsorship of the Whitworth community police car, which has proved invaluable to the local constabulary, and which the Town Council recently has currently committed to support for a further two years.

The Town Council works in partnership with Rossendale and Lancashire Councils and other local organisations including Lancashire Police and Green Vale Homes to provide the best possible services for the Whitworth community. To give examples, the Town Council facilitates monthly Multi-Agency meetings, where representatives of all the main agencies come together to tackle issues in the town. The Town Council continues to take a pro-active

approach to tackling the issue of litter and uncollected dog-mess, supporting the legislative work undertaken by the Borough Council, issuing further letters to residents around particular 'grot-spot' areas. The Town Council continue to use initiatives like a pavement stencil and accompanying signage in hot spot areas (in partnership with the Borough Council) and stickers issued to homes and businesses requesting people pick up their dog mess.

The Town Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee, featuring councillor and non-councillor members, organises or part-organises a large number of events annually – this past year's offer has included the Rushcart, Christmas Lights Switch On, New Year's Duck Race, St George Celebrations, Family Fun Day and the Whitworth Calendar, which sold 200 copies. The Committee is currently working on all these projects again, along with the sixth Whitworth Scarecrow Festival which takes place in early summer. Additionally, the Town Council itself is responsible for organising Whitworth's Remembrance Sunday commemorations and the Community Carol Service (see below). All these events serve to preserve and strengthen the town's identity and provide a solid sense of community and civic pride.

Comprising town councillors and representatives of local sporting organisations, the Whitworth Sports Council continues to flourish, and plans for the 2016 Sports Festival are well underway.

Since 2007, Whitworth Town Council has held Quality Status, a nationally recognised quality benchmark for parish and town councils. This has now been replaced by the Local Council Award Scheme, which celebrates the successes of the best local councils, and provides a framework to support these councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. It encourages progression by including three award levels: Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold – Whitworth Town Council has successfully achieved the Foundation level and is now working towards its Quality level.

TOWN TWINNING

Whitworth has been twinned with Kandel for 50 years this year and the friendship between the towns continues - during August 2016 a delegation from Whitworth will visit Kandel for seven days, staying with Kandel families and enjoying a programme of activities in and around the Kandel area.

Cllrs Aldred and Mellor are instrumental in keeping the twinning alive, and thanks are due to them for their continued work; if you wish to get involved with Town Twinning in Whitworth please contact them.

CIVIC EVENTS

2015's municipal year began as always with Mayor-Making held at the Riverside, followed by Civic Sunday at St Bartholomew's Church. Rev Lyn Woodall has acted as Mayoral Chaplain this year and many thanks are offered to her for her support. As always, the Town Council-organised Remembrance Sunday commemorations were extremely well attended. The Community Carol Service at the Riverside

was led by Rev Lyn Woodall and was a very popular event; the junior band did a sterling job accompanying the carols and a joyful, festive time was had by all. The Civic Dinner and Dance last month was an enjoyable evening, with food provided by Lords the Caterers and featuring live musical entertainment from Gemma-Louise Doyle. Dignitaries from other Councils attended the event, and over £365 was raised for the Mayor's Charity Fund.

PLANNING

As a statutory planning consultee, the Town Council passes comments on all Whitworth applications; Rossendale Borough Council then takes these observations into account when reaching planning decisions. Since April 2015, 31 applications have been considered by the Town Council, ranging from home extensions to new developments. The Town Council is also consulted on Highways proposals and other consultations which relate to, or affect the Whitworth area.

CONCLUSION

Whitworth Town Council continues to work to the best of its ability to serve its community. The quality of the council is monitored and ratified through the benchmark council awards scheme, and the feedback from the community is overwhelmingly positive. The Town Council strives to be as accessible as possible, with the magazine and website facilitating communications to the community, and social media and the availability of the town clerk and councillors, along with the publicly attended council meetings, enabling a two-way communication with residents, organisations and businesses. The Town Council works with local organisations and authorities to improve its offer and to enhance the lives of everyone in Whitworth, and to ensure that any issues or problems are monitored and dealt with swiftly. It is always looking for innovative ideas to tackle problems, and initiatives such as the support of the Whitworth police car and the partnership working with Rossendale Council on controlling dog mess and making a real and positive difference to daily lives. On a lighter note, the Town Council continues to provide and support a range of fun, family events and initiatives throughout the year, encouraging community spirit and togetherness. There will, as always, be challenges and opportunities presented over the year ahead, but the Town Council is well equipped to deal with both.



WHITWORTH NEWS

WHITWORTH AGAINST FRACKING!

An Anti-Fracking Group has been formed in Whitworth following the 14th Onshore Licensing Round in December 2015. Hutton Energy – a petroleum exploration and production company were awarded the licence for the area which covers Rochdale and Whitworth (PEDL SD81) and have made commitments to undertake Seismic Surveys and to drill at least one well.

Tracy Abraham, a resident of Whitworth was concerned about the company's plans to use an unconventional gas extraction technique known as Fracking (short for High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing) and decided to set up a Facebook page to raise awareness in the community.



A map of block SD81 area taken from www.drillordrop.com/licence-sd81

The intense nature of this shale gas extraction process is associated with much more negative impacts than conventional drilling. These include leaking methane, water contamination, air pollution, radioactive contamination, massive industrialisation of the landscape, worsening climate change and earthquakes. Severe health effects in people and animals are beginning to mount in areas where shale gas extraction is widespread.

The campaign group now meets regularly at the Red Lion in Whitworth Square. Residents are invited to join up and help prevent fracking in the area. The group email address is whitworthagainstfracking@gmail.com or they can be contacted via the Facebook page Whitworth Against Fracking!

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For the older adult try the AB&D centre, here you will cover fitness components such as cardiovascular, strength resistance, coordination and balance work to address fall prevention, even exercises to target problem areas like the lower back. Both classes offer that social aspect of exercising in a group, which you will find more motivating than exercising alone at home.

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(77 Hall Fold, Whitworth, OL12 8TT)

Private Tuition, all ages: Dr ADAM ANDREW

Qualified teacher with 10 years' experience.

Science and maths specialist.

tel: 01706 630956/adamandrew@talktalk.net

(77 Hall Fold, Whitworth, OL12 8TT)

HEALTH & WELLBEING:

Acupuncture & Massage Therapy:

VALLEY ACUPUNCTURE (Louise Crewe BSc MBAcc)

tel: 01706 759896/07903 851856

lc@valleyacupuncture.co.uk

www.valleyacupuncture.co.uk

(217 Market Street, Whitworth, OL12 8TF)

PROPERTY SERVICES:

A1 TREE SPECIALIST (Jamie Young)

tel: 07510 911122 or 01706 853760

(114 Cowm Park Way North, Whitworth, OL12 8LW)

All electrical, heating, plumbing & bathroom works

(NICEIC approved - Gas Safe registered):

C & N GAS & ELECTRICAL

tel: 07896 198095

(28 Waingap View, Whitworth, OL12 8QD)

Building & Maintenance:

NORWEST PROPERTY SERVICES (Vincent Stringer)

tel: 07817 519628

(28 Tonacliffe Road, Whitworth, OL12 8SS)

CJ ROTHWELL LANDSCAPE AND GARDENING

cjrothwell@hotmail.com

tel: 07846 107922

(39 Rawstron Street, Whitworth, OL12 8BA)

Property Maintenance Central Heating & Boiler

Replacements (Gas Safe Registered):

JIM MELLOR PROPERTY SERVICES

tel: 01706 854777/07973 421145

(35 Knowsley Crescent, Shawforth, OL12 8HR)

Double Glazing Repairs:

MANCHESTER DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS

Whitworth-based, 30 years' experience, no callout charge.

Locks, handles, hinges, sealed units, drafts, leaks.

tel: Richard on 07768 243081/richard@mdgr.org

Electrical maintenance & installation for home &

business: PDB ELECTRICAL

tel: 01706 860840 - 07740 825536

pdbelectrical@yahoo.co.uk

(20 Ainsdale Drive, Whitworth, OL12 8QB)

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

RLH GAS & PROPERTY SERVICES (Richard Lyon-Hayes)

tel: 07970 470019

rlhgasandpropertyservices@yahoo.co.uk

www.rlhgas.co.uk, Gas Safe Registered 531279

(33 Oak Street, Shawforth, OL12 8NP)

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

tel: 01706 879928/07773 798078

seanbrad09@gmail.com

(19 Douglas Road, Bacup, OL13 9PR)

Painting & Decorating: ANDREW ROBINSON

tel: 01706 639709/07967 203484

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

PETER RICHARDSON

tel: 01706 854729 mob: 07957 758928 Over 30 years experience, no job too small (9 Heatherlands, Whitworth OL12 8NW)

Plastering Services: M CREWE PLASTERING

tel: 01706 759896/07932 986666

(217 Market Street, Whitworth, OL12 8TF)

PMB PLASTERERS (Paul Burrill)

mob: 07720 848700 email: plburrill@hotmail.co.uk

Whitworth based plasterer with 20 years experience, high standard finish, no job too big or too small

(17 Grange Road, Whitworth, OL12 8LF)

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

tel: 07976 886926/philip.jones1@btinternet.com

(4 The Hedgerows, Whitworth, OL12 8AW)

Window Cleaning - Pure Water Fed Cleaning System

(hard-to-reach windows)-UPVC Cleaning: JOHN LEYLAND

tel: 01706 854380/07790 771368

(7 Daniel Street, Whitworth, OL12 8BX)

Window & UPVC Cleaning - Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Jet Washing: OPENREACH

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

www.openreach-wcs.co.uk

(15 Westgate, Whitworth, OL12 8UW)

List your business for £5 + VAT per edition!

t: 01706 852018 / e: info@whitworth.gov.uk

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

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

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mads30950@hotmail.com

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jim.mellor47@btinternet.com

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seanserridge@rossendalebc.gov.uk
sean.serridge@lancashire.gov.uk

HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD:

Cheryl Brine (Community First): 07950 728890
cherylbrine@rocketmail.com

David Chorlton (Independent): 01706 869142
01706 853234 • david@ubswitworth.co.uk

Maureen Jones (Community First): 07794 356610
maureen5961@hotmail.com

Ian Mycock (Labour): 01706 632823

Karen Ruane (Community First): 07772 534412
kriane@outlook.com

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

FORTHCOMING WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Thurs 9 June, Thurs 30 June, Thurs 14 July, Thurs 28 July, Thurs 8 Sept, Thurs 22 Sept, Thurs 6 Oct, Thurs 20 Oct
All meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Riverside; members of the public are welcome.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

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

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

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

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

Honorary Alderman Eileen Kershaw: 01706 344661

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

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

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

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

WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES:

Civic Hall, Market Street
Whitworth, OL12 8DP

Contact: **The Town Clerk**
tel: 01706 852018

email: info@whitworth.gov.uk
www.whitworth.gov.uk

Office hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 2.30pm

ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

FACIT & SHAWFORTH WARD:

Lynda Barnes

(see left for contact details)

HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD:

Alan Neal and Sean Serridge

(see left for contact details)

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Sean Serridge

(see left for details)

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:

Jake Berry MP

0207 210 5000 (House of Commons)

01706 215547 (Constituency office)

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

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

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