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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The Mayor and Mayoress of Whitworth, Councillor Alan Neal and Mrs Janet Neal at a recent event at Christ Church Healey

We are having an amazing year representing Whitworth as Mayor and Mayoress. Janet and I have, between us, attended around 100 separate engagements. We had a busy few weeks up to Christmas attending our local Schools and Churches Christmas fairs and then the various Schools Christmas Performances, the High School Carol Concert and the Annual Cancer Research Carol Concert. All these where most enjoyable and got us both into the Christmas Spirit. Also, I was very lucky at the Scouts Christmas Fair to win a delicious cake which myself and my family enjoyed eating to celebrate my retirement. I also attended, in December, a Christmas Party hosted by the students and staff at the High School, which I would like to congratulate them all on its success.

We have tried to support as many of our local groups and organisations as possible and look forward to continuing to do so for the rest of our Mayoral Year. I would like to take this opportunity in my final message as

Mayor to thank everyone for all the invitations we have received during our Mayoral Year and give special thanks to everyone who has supported our Mayoral Charity and Events.

As a culmination to this year we will be hosting one of our last major fundraising events on Saturday 7th April. The Mayoress and the Clerk have been busy making plans for the spectacular "Murder at the Riverside!" We were really keen to give fantastic value for money and to also offer something different to the wonderful events already on offer in Whitworth. The theatre company we have booked are really amazing and have fantastic reviews and this should be a night to remember, we hope to see as many of your there as possible.

On a Final note I would like to thank my fellow councillors who presented me with a 30 years service medal to commemorate my services to the people of Whitworth. It does not feel any where like 30 years since I was first elected as a Whitworth Town Councillor. It was a real surprise and for the first time in my life I was completely speechless. I would also like to personally thank Councillor Tom Aldred for his kind words of support.

Once again may I thank you for giving Janet and I the opportunity to be your Mayor and Mayoress for the last year.

Councillor Alan Neal Mayor of Whitworth

R A NEW

# **Family Party**

Hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Whitworth

Sunday 4th March, 13.00pm until 17.00pm, Tickets are £5.00 per family

All families are welcome for an enjoyable afternoon of fun and games and music



Tickets on sale at the Riverside, UBS or from the Mayor (07817 414721) or (07517 806776)

# WHITWORTH, LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

# WAMDS PRODUCTION OF ALADDIN WAS 'MAGIC!'

January saw the production of Aladdin at St John's Church Hall which was well supported and full to capacity for the Saturday matinee.

Here are a few of the positive comments from audience members: 'This was a fantastic production, as good as any professional Pantomime', 'Brilliant to have a Panto back at St John's', 'We are back home from a great night out, £8 and I have laughed, danced, sang and laughed some more, oh and booed and hissed! Excellent, well done!'



WAMDS cast for Aladdin

A lot of work has gone in to transforming the hall into a fully functioning theatre with stage, lighting, sound system, newly refurbished toilets and of course a new boiler. WAMDS now need to generate funds to pay for it all! Any support would be very welcome. In addition to coming along to fundraising events and having a great night out, you can support WAMDS by donations or by standing order, please see the website for details and upcoming fundraising events. Go to www.wamds.co.uk and check the facebook page for news and events.

#### The next event is WAMDS Race Night - Saturday 24th February 2018 at St John's Hall

You can sponsor/name a race for £10 Buy a horse for £5 Be a jockey for £2 Contact: 07950245098

In November, Whitworth Town Council took part in **UK Parliament Week.** The purpose was to take a moment to celebrate and reflect on those rights which are often taken for granted but which people throughout history have campaigned to make happen or fought to preserve.

The Council invited children from local schools and Whitworth Cubs to visit the council chamber, meet with some of our Town, Borough and County Councillors and also our MP, Jake Berry. The children got the opportunity ask questions about how our democracy system works and quiz our local representatives.

The children sat in the councillor's chairs and held their own mock council meeting to resolve a difficult local issue,

dangerous and illegal parking outside our local primary schools. This is a frequently complained about local issue and the children held interesting debates and came up with some great ideas and solutions.

Leading on from their visit to the Council, the children from St John with St Michael School have been stationed on the main road in the morning alongside the local Bacup Fire brigade, warning motorists to slow down, and encouraging parents to car share to reduce carbon footprints and also encouraging them to walk at least once a week.



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#### MURDER AT THE RIVERSIDE

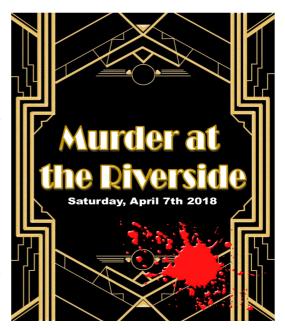
The Mayor and Mayoress of Whitworth are hosting a Civic Dinner with a difference!

It will be held on Saturday 7 April 2018 at The Riverside, Whitworth. Doors open at 7pm for a prosecco reception followed by a three-course dinner and fantastic murder mystery entertainment by local theatre company Just Imagine NW with a prize for the table who guess the murderer first.

The theme of the evening is 1920's Gatsby style and we would encourage guests to dress to this theme although this is not mandatory. There will also be a raffle, all proceeds of which will go to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

Tickets can be ordered from the Riverside or ordered online:

(http://www.whitworth.gov.uk/events/Civic Dinner) priced at £29.95 each.



#### PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES

The 2018 working group is organising a one-off celebration in 2018 for the centenary of the signing of the amnesty for World War 1.

The group are hoping all the schools. Nursery's and Healey Care will make poppies for a display in the Facit memorial gardens.

On the 10th November, the group are planning a night of celebration at the Riverside with singing and dancing with a few words to remember people who were in the war with the help of Whitworth Museum. The entertainment is booked and the plans are underway, watch this space!

Other plans to mark the occasion include lighting a beacon on Brown Wardle on Sunday and asking residents of Greenbrook House, Riddiough Court, Masseycroft and The Knit and Natter group to make poppies that can be used to decorate the inside of the Riverside.



Wouldn't it be great if the whole town join in with this unique commemoration? If you have any ideas or would like to do something you can get in touch with Cllr Maureen Jones , Cllr Karen Ruane, or Cllr Lynda Barnes whose telephone numbers are printed on the back cover of this magazine.

**Healey Care Limited** celebrated a fantastic achievement with their Care Quality Commission inspection in September 2017 at Healey House by attaining 3 outstanding and 2 good in the 5 inspection criteria. This places their services for people with Learning Disabilities in the top 2% nationally an amazing result.

Healey Care held its annual Christmas fair in December for their signature Charity of Christies raising a wonderful £500. In October they also held their annual car wash for Derian House raising a fantastic £150.

The service user Group the Compass Group held its annual general meeting electing Committee members to take the group to the next level in applying for local grants for equipment and getting their newsletter of the ground. Some of the funds raised were used for the annual Pantomime where everyone had a great festive party.

Healey Care Limited have an up to date website at www.healeycarelimited.co.uk and Facebook page for all contact and enquires.

#### TOWN MAYOR IN 30TH YEAR OF SERVICE

Councillor Alan Neal the current Mayor of Whitworth was rendered speechless at the Full Council meeting on 21st December as the Honorary Townsman Councillor Tom Aldred thanked him for 30 years unbroken service to the Town Council and presented him with a commemorative lapel pin to mark this milestone.

Councillor Alan Neal was first elected to Healey and Whitworth ward as a Labour Councillor in May 1987. In 2003, he left Labour Party became an Independent Councillor then in 2007 formed Community First.

Alan has been a Member of the Town Twinning Committee since 1987 and visited Whitworth's twin town Kandel a number of times both with the town twinning committee and for private family visits.

Alan is a member of the Burnley area committee and the Executive Committee of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils and has been Chairman of both committees over the years.

In the days before mobile phones Alan's two daughters, Helen and Kimberley, got used to answering the telephone and taking messages. During Alan's 30 years of service to the Town Council he has seen many changes to the area including the burning down of the former Civic Hall building and the fight to have it rebuilt.



Councillor Alan Neal, Mayor or Whitworth after receiving his medal for 30 years service to the town council accompanied by his wife, the Mayoress, Mrs Janet Neal and his two daughters Kimberley Ashworth and Helen Kowal, photograph used with the kind permission of Mr John Miller





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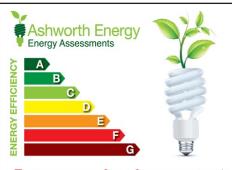
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# WHITWORTH TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

# WHITWORTH'S NEW YEAR'S DAY DUCK RACE AN EGG-CITING SUCCESS

A popular event in the Whitworth calendar, the ducks took to the water at the overflow of Cowm Reservoir on Tong End. In total over 1,300 ducks were sponsored and around 400 people turned out on the day in this growing event.

The first duck over the line was number 1265 and the sponsor won £100, with second duck 1202 winning a £75 prize and third place to 595 winning £50. The last duck to cross the finish line was 460 and the sponsor won a tenner! All winners have now been contacted.

The Duck Race is organised jointly between Whitworth Town Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee and CLAW (the Community Leisure Association of Whitworth), and all proceeds are ploughed back into tourism and leisure events for the town organised by the two organisations. This year the duck race raised over a thousand pounds to be split between the two organisations and used for the Whitworth community. For those unfamiliar with the concept, numbered ducks sponsored for a pound are entered into the Duck Race, and those who have sponsored the numbers of the first three ducks (and the last one) over the line get a cash prize.



photo used with kind permission of Mike Burges

# BY GEORGE! WHITWORTH TO CELEBRATE PATRON SAINT IN STYLE

On Sunday 22 April 2018, the town of Whitworth will hold its annual celebration of England's patron saint, St George. As usual, the event has been organised by the Whitworth Tourism and Leisure Committee, comprising town councillor and non-councillor volunteers.

The celebrations will be slightly different this year as a procession is not financially viable due to the cost of the road closure. The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Chorlton said "It is a real shame that we are not able to have the procession this year but with a limited budget the committee felt that we need to make sure there are funds available to close the road for the Rushcart celebration in September. By considering different ways to celebrate St George's Day we are making sure that the committee can continue to hold events within our community."

This year the committee will host a celebration at the Riverside starting at 2pm featuring Whitworth's famous Vale and Healey Brass Band followed by coffee and light refreshments after the service, with the events expected to draw to a close around 3pm.

Whitworth primary schools are taking part in a 'design a dragon' competition, the winners of which will be announced at the service.

For further information on the St George celebrations, please contact Melanie Hearn, Clerk of Whitworth Town Council, on 01706 852018 or email info@whitworth.gov.uk.



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# **MOTHER'S DAY**

#### **SUNDAY 11TH MARCH**

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#### MONDAY EVENING READING GROUP

The Monday Evening Reading Group who collect their books from Whitworth Library as part of the Lancashire Council Reading Group Scheme, have made their yearly charitable donation. This year, the seven members donated a total of £70 and this was presented to Val McDonald and Sue Neilson on behalf of the Friends of Whitworth Library, who organise educational activities, social events and group meetings ensuring that the library is maintained as a community hub for the village of Whitworth. The donation will be used to fund additional activities.

There are vacancies for three more people in the reading group, which meets on the evening of the third Monday of each month at one of the members' homes in Whitworth to discuss the chosen book. It is a very informal and friendly group with lots of laughter! Anyone interested in joining should phone Jill on 07539 001001.



Jill McCarthy (centre) and Brenda Hauxwell (right) on behalf of Whitworth Monday Evening Reading Group donating £70 to Sue Neilson on behalf of Friends of Whitworth Library



It was fantastic to see a full house at the first ever "Whitworth's Got Talent" event on 1st December. The successful event was organised by youth leaders, Sarah and Matt and the teenagers who attend the Youth Club on Monday night at the Scout Hut. The support from businesses in Whitworth was amazing with a fundraising raffle supported by gifts from local companies.

The £100 prize, sponsored by Northern Joinery, in the under 16 category, was won by Isabella Whip who danced beautifully to a routine to "Golden Summers" by Elbow.

The winner of the £100 prize for the over 16's, sponsored by DTE IT Support, was Lora Jackson who sung an original song called House.

Pete Trowton of Studio Studio Recording in Whitworth, whose clients include Elbow, offered a special prize to two outstanding acts, Poppie Yeomans and Keelie Thomas, of free studio time to record a song.

Thanks go to the Mayor, Councillor Alan Neal for his support and the sponsorship from the Mayor's Charity Fund and the Whitworth Neighbourhood Forum for their sponsorship.



In 1st place for the over 16's was Lora Jackson who sang an original song she wrote called House. She got the 16 & over top prize of £100 with thanks to

Maybe a new annual event for Whitworth? A few days later Sarah got a call from the producers of the main show encouraging the winners to put themselves forward- watch this space! Great photos of all the winners are available on the youth club website at www.whitworthyouth.co.uk/whitworth-s-got-talent

#### WHITWORTH AND HEALEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

It's that time of year again when the buds start pushing through and flowerbeds need some TLC. That means that the Horticultural Society volunteers will soon be out and about at the Memorial Gardens and areas around The Riverside. As always, extra pairs of hands are welcome, so if you could spare a couple of hours on a Wednesday morning on a monthly basis, please contact Anita on 01706 853768 or Chris on 01706 852613 for further details





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# RECOVER FROM DRY JANUARY WITH 'WET FEBRUARY' AT WHITWORTH FOOTBALL AND CRICKET CLUB

Whitworth Football and Cricket Club have had an exciting new installation – mutlti-room Sky! to celebrate they are hosting 'wet February' where all pints will be £2 each for members (£2.30 for non-members)!

The club is open weekdays from 7pm and weekends from 12 noon. You don't need to be a member, all are welcome.

#### **CROOK HILL COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND 2018**

In just two years since it was first launched, the local Crook Hill Community Benefit Fund has supported 28 projects with over £70,000 in grant awards.

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.

Local groups who require grant support can apply for funding each year. There is £35,000 available in 2018 and the application deadline is 7th March 2018 (decisions May 2018). Grants between £250 and £10,000 are available for community projects which will benefit residents of the local area.

To be eligible you must have a project located within the defined funding area and be a constituted group with a bank account in the name of your organisation. The Fund can provide both capital and revenue grants.

To apply you need to complete an online application form. The process is paperfree, simple to use and you don't need to provide any supplementary information. For more details visit www.grantscape.org.uk or call Liz Payne on 01282 543775.



#### **CELEBRATING THE EPIPHANY AT OUR LADY & ST. ANSELM'S**

To celebrate the Epiphany, on the first week back in school after Christmas, the children of Our Lady and St Anselm's returned to school like the three kings bearing gifts. They brought gifts for a new baby such as: baby-grows, nappies, outfits, toiletries and even a Moses basket. The number of gifts brought into school was overwhelming. These have now been taken to Burnley maternity unit where the staff were extremely grateful to receive such a bounty. They will ensure that families in need of support will be given a special bundle of clothes and essentials to help their new baby. Mrs Rainey, the headteacher said "I am so proud that our children and families care so much for others and have been generous with their gifts."



# **BUSINESS NEWS**

#### **NEW GIFT SHOP COMING SOON!**

An exciting project incorporating three local businesses under one roof is soon to be unveiled at 296a Market Street Whitworth.

WHITWORTH APOTHECARY - is a new venture for business partners Harriet Murphy-Harry and Fran Butcher, offering an interesting mix of natural health and beauty products, including bath bombs, shower cubes, hand made soaps and unusual gifts and curiosities. There's something for everyone even the Gents, with prices from £1.

LITTLE TREAT BOUTIQUE - will be selling Ladies handbags, scarves, hats and accessories all available at very competitive prices starting from £3. Ex George clothing manager, Jason Wales, has been establishing Little Treat Boutique locally and in surrounding areas for the past three years and believes this is an exciting but natural step forward.

HAELAN BOWEN THERAPY - has been treating clients in the Whitworth area since 2014. The non-invasive physical treatment is said to be like acupuncture but without the needles and may help with a wide range of conditions from back pain to migraines.

Until the grand opening, all their products are available on their respective Facebook pages, so You know where to find vour valentines gifts!

#### SLIMMING WORLD

Slimming World is proving so popular that Whitworth now has, not one, not even two but three Slimming World groups! Every Tuesday 9.30am, 5pm and 7pm at the Riverside (Civic Hall)



If you want to lose weight; even if you're worried you can't or nothing has ever worked for you before; you won't be disappointed in these warm friendly and caring groups. There is help, support and encouragement every step of the way and absolutely no judgement EVER.

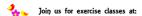
Why not make 2018 the year you eat and enjoy normal filling foods and lose weight for the last time?

Message or text Hannah on 07792 654 802 if you'd like to know more.

#### JUST MOVE TO IMPROVE

Springtime is here, winter has passed lambs and daffodils remind us change is on its way, things are new why don't you start exercising it's the best thing you can do for you!

Join Rosemary at the AB&D centre and at Riddiough Court in exercise classes for the older adult who believes age is no barrier to keeping fit. These keep fit



AB&D Centre (Burnley Road, Bacup) Monday's (Except bank holidays) Wednesday's 10.30 - 11.30 am 1.45 - 2.45pm Cost £3.50

Riddiough Court (Hall Street, Whitworth, OL12 8TL) Except every 2nd Wednesday of the month when its 11.30am-12.30pm

classes are aimed at the over 50s and all exercises have been chosen with the older adults needs in mind, they include; gentle yet cardiovascular exercise, coordination and balance routines aimed at fall prevention, a focus spots for the lower back and other problem areas like the neck and knees, improving flexibility with strength resistance using bands for upper and lower body, sit to stand, stretch and cool down. Joining a group can be motivating, it's stimulating, it's fun and laughter is the best medicine they say!

Exercise is paramount in preventing those degenerative diseases, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes to name a few, inactivity and weight are top risk factors in their cause, so please join in and just move to improve.

See poster for days, times and cost. For more information, contact Rosemary on 07886963024.

# ANOTHER NATIONAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW TO BE HELD IN WHITWORTH

Saturday 28th April 2018 – 11.30am – 3.30pm
The Riverside, Market Street (A671), Whitworth. OL12 8DP

After hugely successful events over quite a number of years, the Alpine Garden Society are to stage another national Spring Flower Show in Whitworth. This prestigious event, which attracts exhibitors, nurserymen and enthusiasts from across the country, will feature over 130 classes ranging from rare alpine gems to bulbs, dwarf conifers, ferns and minigardens. Unusual plants from around the globe will vie with those on the stalls of leading nurserymen selling the cream of hardy alpines and inexpensive rock garden plants.

In the 1990s (and since its welcome reintroduction in 2009) this show has attracted remarkable attendances. Organisers hope Whitworth folk will be tempted back to this stunning venue by a superb raffle/tombola, free parking, seed and plant sales and excellent refreshments. Whitworth couple, Cliff & Sue Booker founded the East Lancashire Group way back in 1986 and the group (which holds monthly meetings at Ramsbottom Civic Hall) still thrives. Newcomers are always most welcome to join.

For further information on the Show, the Group or the Alpine Garden Society, please contact Cliff on 01706 534626.



#### CANCER RESEARCH WHITWORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE

The Christmas Carol concert was one of the most successful in recent years. The Riverside was packed, the festive music provided by youth and senior bands was enjoyed by all and a cheque for £12,000 was handed over to Dr Alan Jordan from cancer research to purchase vital equipment in the continuing battle to fight this terrible disease. Alan outlined the advances that are being made in new treatments thanked everyone for their ongoing support and paid tribute to Joyce Ashworth who sadly passed away in October praising her courage and commitment and lengthy service in working for the whitworth group for 60 years.

In November, a fund raising meal at Ashoka raised £750 boosted by £200 donation from the Yorkshire Bank. Thanks to Raj

and staff at the Ashoka and Yorkshire bank and all who supported and donated prizes for the raffle. In December, a sponsored run for Joyce raised £350 thanks to Andy O'Sullivan and Steve Butterworth from Basils for promoting this event.

Events in 2018 include a QUIZ NIGHT at the band club Saturday 10th February at 8pm.

MARCH Fund raising meal at Promenade date to be confirmed

Friday 18th May Songs of praise at Christ Church Healey.

If you would like to attend any events or learn more about the committees work please contact Michael Whitby 852613.



# WHITWORTH NEWS

#### TOWN TWINNING

For 50 years Whitworth has been twinned with a town in Germany called Kandel (pronounced candle). Last year saw more than 90 Whitworth folk in Kandel for the 50 year anniversary of friendship between the towns.

Town Twinning was started after WWII to encourage people of Britain and Europe to mix, explore each other's customs and combat negativity between nations in the hope that never again will Britain and Europe go to War.



St Georges and Pletzel

Many Whitworth people have been arranging biannual visits, families in Whitworth have formed lasting friendships with people in Kandel. The strong ties have been formed by families staying in each other's houses, were the bonds are created



The main street in our twin town Kandel

the strongest. There are no barriers for anyone living in Whitworth to become a member of the Town Twinning Committee who are at the forefront of arranging these visits, it sounds very official 'Town Twinning Committee', but if you are a member it means that like everybody else you can put your ideas of what direction the TTC should take and what we offer our guests when they come to visit.

If you would like to be a part of this and travel to Germany this year, please contact Cllrs Jim Mellor jim.mellor47@btinternet.com or Tom Aldred atomaldred@aol.com











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# SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WHITWORTH LIBRARY... ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE UNLESS STATED

Up and Active Weight Loss Drop-in First 45 mins is FREE and focuses on weight

10.50 12.00	management and healthy eating; second 45 mins is an exercise session to get people moving.
14:00 - 16:00	Knit and Natter
14:00 - 16:00	Careers Advice with Kay Royal. (Contact Kay on 07896 933560)
18:00 – 18:30	Bedtime Story – every second Monday of the month (18 months to 8 years)
Tuesdays	
10:00 - 12:30	Scrabble Club
10:00 - 12:00	Citizen's Advice by appointment. Please ring CA on: 0300 456 2552
14:00 - 15:00	Storytime Session (18 months to 6 years)
10:00 – 12:00	U3A Family History Group. 3rd Tuesday of every month.
Wednesdays	
09:30 - 10:15	Up and Active Buggy Boot Camp Mums exercising with buggies. £2 per class
13:00 - 14:00	Up and Active Health Walks Walk
	Lasting no more than 1 hour, then a cup of tea and a health-related chat in the library.
19:00 – 20:30	Yoga, Pilates and Relaxation with Sheila Daly (07762 757925) £5 per session
Thursdays	
10:00 - 11:30	Shared Reading Group
10:30 - 12:30	The A Team Onwards and upwards for people with disabilities.
	For information email: melanie_ashman@yahoo.com
14:00 – 17:00	FREE IT Basic Skills Course Please book your place at the library.
	(N.B. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment).
14:00 – 15:00	U3A Creative Writing 1st Thurs. of month. T. 07484 712878 (Sylvia) for info.
14:00 – 15:00	Bookworms Reading Group (for adults). 2nd Thursday of month.
14:00 – 15:00	Pelvic Floor Awareness & Incontinence Drop-in (M/F) 2nd Thurs. of month.
14:00 – 16:30	U3A Wellbeing 3rd Thurs. of month. T. 07484 712878 (Sylvia) for info.
14:00 – 16:00	U3A History 4th Thurs. of month. T. 07484 712878 (Sylvia) for info.
Fridays	
10:15 – 11:30	Baby Bounce and Rhyme (birth to 18months)
14:30 – 16:00	Afternoon Tea on last Friday of the month. An opportunity to meet Sandra
	from Carers Link. Also, presentations by various invited guest speakers.
14:00 – 16:00	CraftySew and Sews 1st Friday of month (no class in June) All welcome!
Saturdays	
10:30 – 12 noon	Lego Club (for all ages)

Why not come along and join in? Everyone welcome!

All this plus books, magazines, newspapers, computers and friendly faces

#### Standard library opening times:

Monday, 14:00 19:00; Tuesday, 09:30 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00; Wednesday Closed; Thursday, 09:30 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00; Friday, 09:30 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00; Saturday, 09:30 - 13:00

Updates can be found on the Friends of Whitworth Library Group Facebook page, or contact friendsofwhitworthlibrarygroup@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

#### WHITWORTH VALE AND HEALEY BAND

The band would like to thank everyone who supported events during December. Unfortunately, the ice and rain severely affected the street playing and the band only managed to get out on the street twice, apologies to those who didn't get to hear them. They did manage to play outside the co-op though so it is hoped that most got to hear them.

The cancer research band concert in December was one of the best supported for many years and the band joined in tributes to the late and sadly missed Joyce Ashworth. The youth band were also very busy with concerts at Riddiough, Christ Church and the Riverside a busy month indeed.

The next concert is the annual veterans concert including the youth band. The senior band are in contest mode with a performance on at Skegness Butlins and 25th February is the Area finals in Blackpool.

Saturday 21st April it's the Annual St George band concert at the Riverside tickets are £7 will be available from the riverside or number below. The Service for St George takes place the following day same venue.

If you would like your child to learn how to play an instrument book the band or attend any of the concerts please contact Michael Whitby on 852613

# ROCHDALE RSPCA'S LATEST CHARITY SHOP IS AT 595 MARKET STREET, WHITWORTH



The money raised helps support the work of the Rochdale Animal Centre on Redcross St.

For more information check the website www.rspca-rochdale.org.uk, ring 01706 861897 or email rspcarochdale@btconnect.com.

Opening hours are 11.30am-3.30pm every

day, except Wednesday when the centre is closed to the public. There is now a car park adjacent to the animal centre so parking isn't a problem for visitors.

2017 was another busy year for Rochdale Animal Centre with approx. 400 animals rescued and rehomed. In addition, the animal centre has become a holding centre for rescued wildlife and last year dealt with over 300 including hedgehogs, swans, geese and owls.

Check the website for ways you can support this work, not only by donating or shopping at the branches charity shops but also by supporting fundraising events, or by volunteering.

RSPCA ROCHDALE & DISTRICT Reg Charity no 232257







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#### CAPOW!

#### (Community Activities & Performance Opportunities for Wellbeing)

FoWLG are pleased to announce the success of CAPOW! the above Prescription for Wellbeing grant application, which will allow more FREE activities in Whitworth Library to support better health and wellbeing in the community.

Activities will include Tom Byrne's Puppet Theatre Workshops, which are due to start on 24 March and will run as 2 hour-long sessions over 9 consecutive Saturday afternoons. Places will be limited to 30 local people, of all ages from 7 + years, so be sure to book your places early! People with younger children can also participate and there will be sensory stimulation activity for babies.

Other activities will include targeted readings, poetry and discussion groups and competitions for local schools to design posters and logos for bespoke wristbands, e.g. to support smoking cessation and to identify vulnerable people's helpneeds in crossing the road. There are many more interesting things planned, so look out for things that you'd like to do. FOWLG also need local knitters and crafty sew and sews to create boob caps and egg cup covers, which can be sold to help counter breastfeeding stigmas. If you're interested, please contact the library for patterns, or why not join in one of the existing crafts groups for friendship and fun?







#### **EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT WHITWORTH MUSEUM**

Thanks to the latest 3600 photographic technology, you are now able to take a visit to Whitworth Museum without leaving your armchair. A Lytham St Annes based company, EUK360 Ltd, was commissioned to develop a virtual tour capability which could be incorporated into the museum's existing website. The work, which used panoramic photography, was completed in early December 2017 and is now available to be viewed via the website. Be sure to look at the 'doll house' view which allows you to visit each room in turn at your own pace. The controls are similar to those used for navigating Google Street View.

The museum is also interested to hear from anyone with an interest in photography but preferred is someone with experience in the field of photogrammetery. This is a relatively new technique and is used for the construction of a 3D virtual model of a real-world object. A challenging but nevertheless exciting new concept.

New for 2018 will be the launch of a new website. The latest version, with much increased functionality, should be available online around the end of March 2018.

www.whitworthhistoricalsociety.org.uk



Doll House view of Whitworth Museum

Leonni Tighe lives in Shawforth and attended Whitworth Community High School until last year when she successfully left with 10 GCSE's. Leonni is now studying at Hopwood Hall in Middleton on a sports science course.

Leonni is trying to raise awareness of her hobby in motocross and love of riding dirt bikes.

What started out when she was 6 years old, riding locally, racing and becoming three times girls national champion has now become even more exciting as her results in the British Women's Championship last year, where she came second, has earned her a place in Europe this year.

Leonni will be representing team GB and is looking for any sponsors no matter how big or small. This is also a great advertising opportunity for local businesses in the UK and over Europe. Leonni would like to thank John whittle at Cowm Leisure for the use of the track over the years and also her parents and sisters who are her biggest supporters!

If you would like more information or are interested in sponsoring Leonni contact her on email: leonni119@gmail.com or telephone 07475 664106



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hese fees have remained the same from last year and if you have any othe legal work, please contact us for a quote.

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## Facit Garden Centre





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Four times a year, in February, May, August and November an unsung bunch of heroes stride out from home to rattle your Whitworth Valley News through your letterbox. Mostly these heroes are back home with their feet up after an hour or two. If you would like to be a 3-monthly hero, please ring Jo on 853442 or 07813 180748.

Whitworth Sports Festival is set to run from Saturday June 9 to Sunday June 17 (so not too much overlap with the World Cup in Russia, and none with England's games), and looks set to be the busiest, and most inclusive festival yet, with at least one new venue and two new sports. Obviously, there are lots of details to be sorted, but the Sports Council are on schedule to publish the full program in the June edition of the Valley News. Contact Jo (soon) on 07813 180748 if there's any event



you'd like to offer to the people of Whitworth, or any help you'd like to offer, as a marshall, for example, or as a timer or measurer, say, at the opening sports day on June 9.

Whitworth Skyline walk will come in three guises on Sunday May 13 this year -

- the full and original Skyline, a clockwise14-mile circle of the moors, starting and finishing as ever at Lobden Golf Club a demanding challenge;
- the Western Skyline going via Prickshaw, up Rooley Moor Road and through Lee Quarry to terminate at Britannia after 9 miles not the full monty, but still a decent challenge;
- and the Skyline Sunday Stroll comprising just the first 3 miles (or so!) and ending just beyond Prickshaw –
  for anyone who'd like to be involved, but the thought of walking up Rooley Moor Road is just too much.

All walkers are invited back to Lobden Golf Club for a small meal and friendly conversation.

Entry forms, with full information about the walks, will be available from the Council Offices at the Riverside, the Leisure Centre, UBS and Nibbles from the start of April. You will also be able to download information and forms from www.whitworth-sports-council.co.uk.



Skyline only happens because enough people volunteer to help out. If you are up for marshalling or backmarking or have a 4x4 vehicle you would be prepared to use on May 13, please contact Jo on 853442 or 07813 180748.

There have been some splendid exhibitions at **The Gallery at the Baths** in the past few months, so here's hoping the next ones follow suit.

From February 16 – Whitworth Historical Society
March 9 – Spring is Sprung (St John with St Michael School)
March 30 – Whitworth Photographic Society
April 20 – Whitworth Skyline walk
May 2 – Whitworth Sports Festival Retrospective

If you or your community group would like to take advantage of the exhibition space, please contact Jo Furtado on 853442 or 07813180748 for details.

#### WHITWORTH AND DISTRICT U3A

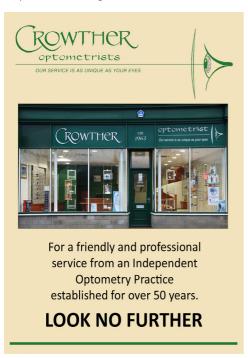
Whitworth and district U3A continues to grow from strength to strength, with new members joining every month (over 60 at the start of the year). Potential members are accessing the website: www. u3asites.org.uk/whitworth and appreciate the information on the site and responses from officers. The U3A closed group Facebook page also assists in helping members stay in touch with what is happening each month. The AGM, which reports to members and appoints new officers, is due in May, when it is hoped there will be a good turn out!



Members wanted shorter walks and they now have the option to join in, with walks and tuition on orienteering being offered, also on a monthly basis.

Monthly meetings continue to be well attended and are a great way to check out what outings are on offer, as well as offering interesting talks on a wide range of subjects. This year, talks have included life as a member of a lifeboat family, child war evacuees in Whitworth and life with a guide dog.

Sadly, Sunny bank day centre won't be available after April and the U3A will be moving to new premises. Look out for posters advertising the new venue!









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#### THE 'WOMEN OF WHITWORTH' (WOW) PROJECT

This year marks 100 years of Women's Voting Rights so to celebrate this occasion WOW are launching the 'Women of Whitworth' (WoW) Project.

The idea is that WOW would like to invite nominations and submissions for females in the area (Whitworth, Shawforth, Healey and Facit) to recognise their achievements, contributions or just because they deserve to be celebrated.

There are so many amazing Women in the area that have achieved great things and therefore it deserves to be celebrated.

To nominate please email thewowproject2018@gmail.com a recent photograph of the female you are nominating and also in no more than 100 words the following:

I am nominating this female for her outstanding contribution and good work because...

The nominations will be looked over and compiled together in a photo display of 100 Women of Whitworth. WOW also hope to arrange an event in the community to celebrate the achievements and further details will be available shortly.



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# WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT 2018/2019

Whitworth Town Council has this year set a net budget of £60,684. The Council has worked hard to keep the increase in precept to a minimum, which has been difficult in the current financial climate.

This past year has seen some pressures on finances and significant increases in costs, but some decent savings have been made in various areas of the budget to off-set this. Additionally, the Town Council's wise investments are providing a healthy dividend. The Council is never complacent, however, and continues to strive to increase income and reduce spending wherever possible. Expenditure includes salaries for the Town Clerk (30 hours), our full-time Whitworth Town Caretaker, who makes a significant impact on the town's cleanliness, and our Parish Lengthsman, who tackles repairs and general maintenance around the town.

The recently improved Town Council website attracts good visitor numbers, and the Town Council utilises social media to encourage a two-way dialogue with the community. The Valley News magazine, produced quarterly by the Town Council, continues to be hugely popular, and the Council's Tourism and Leisure Committee has a variety of leisure and cultural events planned for the year ahead. The Town Council continues to promote Whitworth as a great place to live, and lobbies hard for the best possible services for the town. It is at the forefront of tackling crime through the sponsorship of the Police Community Support Vehicle and facilitates monthly multi-agency meetings attended by all the local agencies. For the last year, Whitworth Town Council have been running a successful Community Toilet Scheme, working alongside local businesses to improve the facilities in our town.

To conclude, the Town Council continues to be proud of its achievements and looks forward to working with and for the people of Whitworth during the forthcoming financial year.

2017/19 2016/17 2015/16

	201//18	2016/17	2015/16
Employee's (Town Clerk / Town Caretaker)	46,504	45,323	46,898
Parish Lengthsman (salary / materials)	6,740	7,287	7,066
Administrative Expenses incl. rents	10,410	9,364	8,945
Statutory and Civic Events / Expenses	9,665	8,415	7,065
Audit Fee	330	450	450
Training / Members' Expenses	650	650	250
Insurance	1,228	1,628	1,480
Grants to Outside Bodies	1000	1,000	500
Special Projects	6,400	6,800	5,000
Street Floral Displays	600	600	600
Magazine (Valley News)	1,250	1,250	1,854
Investment Income	-10,500	-10,500	-10,000
LCC / RBC devolved funding	-9,747	-9,697	-9612
Other income	-6,938	-5,819	-5,764
From Reserves	0	0	-309
Contingencies	1,000	1,000	1,000
COST OF TOWN COUNCIL LEVY (£)	58,592	57,751	55,423
RBC Council Tax Support Grant	8,000	8,000	8,000
Net precept	50,592	49,751	47,423
Number of band 'D' equivalent units	2,162	2,162	2,061
Council Tax per band 'D' property (£p)	£ 23.40	£ 23.01	£ 23.01
Percentage increase per band 'D' property	1.74%	0%	0%
Actual increase per band 'D' property	39p	0р	0р

Every English town or parish must hold an Annual Meeting of the Parish for electors registered in the area. This year, Whitworth's Annual Meeting of the Parish takes place on Thursday 17 May at 7.30pm, at the Riverside. The meeting will be quorate (legal) if just two electors are present. Although chaired by the Mayor, this is not a Town Council meeting. It is a meeting for all Whitworth people to get an overview of what is currently happening in the town, looking the work of the various organisations serving Whitworth, and offering electors the opportunity to raise queries and make observations. It's usually over within an hour or so, so why not come along, everyone is welcome. See you there!

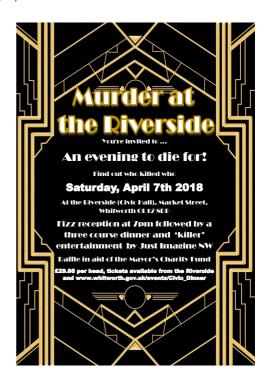
For more information, contact Melanie Hearn, Town Clerk on 01706 852018 / email info@whitworth.gov.uk.

**New woodland and hedgerows** will be created in Whitworth for the benefit of people, wildlife and landscape in a project supported by the Woodland Trust. In March, 1400 trees will be planted at Slacks Farm, Acre Street, Whitworth, which backs onto the South Pennine moors and Brown Wardle. The woodland will be British native trees, including alder, field maple, rowan, sweet chestnut, hazel, silver birch and oak. The hedgerows will be created from hawthorn to encourage wildlife, such as birds, butterflies, moths, bats and dormice.

Slacks Farm welcome help from the community through a tree planting weekend on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March (times to be confirmed). There will be refreshments and a woodland craft activity. There is also the opportunity to sponsor trees through an online crowdfunding page as well as in person at the planting weekend. For information email: analoguefarm@gmail.com See you there and bring a spade!

# Ashton's FISH and Chips

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## **CHURCHES**

#### SHAWFORTH METHODIST CHURCH

10:30am Sunday Service, everyone welcome and stay for a brew afterwards Sundays

Mondays 9:30am - 12:00pm Mothers and Toddlers

Tuesdays 19:00pm - 21:00pm Whitworth Community Choir rehearsals

> 19:30pm Ladies Group everyone welcome last Tuesday in every month

Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:00pm Mothers and Toddlers

> 13:00pm - 15:00pm Foodshare (see bleow)

**Thursdays** 20:00pm Model Flying Club

last Thursday in every month

Fridays 10:30am - 12:00pm Drop in for tea, coffee and toast, all welcome

11:00am - 13:00pm Lunches and stalls Saturdays

3rd Saturday each month

Superintendent Minister Revd. David J Burrow Tel 01706 602882 For room hire contact Christine Tel 01706 854172

#### A.R.C.(ANCHOR RESOURCE CENTRE) **FOODSHARE**

Have you heard of Foodshare? They are a brilliant group of volunteers at Shawforth Chapel who host a group every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm - 3pm. Everyone is welcome to drop in for free tea and coffee and volunteers are also on hand to help with benefit forms, debt and job applications as well as just for a friendly chat. In addition, Foodshare is offering a bag of food shopping for a £2 donation.

Everyone has struggled financially at one point and this service is there to help, regardless of the circumstances, whether you are unemployed or a worker on a low income. All will be welcome to come for help.

The £2 donation will be used to help keep the project running and is a voluntary donation, people who cannot afford will still benefit with a bag as it is a donation only



The beginning of the Foodshare project, Viki (a volunteer from Shawforth) pictured left and a volunteer from Fareshare (who deliver the food) pictured right]

St Mary and St Anselm St Patricks Might Ceilidh Dance

at The Riverside on Saturday 17 March at 7.30pm

Tickets £6, available from:

David Peel (07970 782333) or Carmel Donnelly (01706 650239)

Even if you are not a dancer, there'll be instruction given before each dance.

The group has plans for the future and are looking for funding for some tables and also a laptop to allow them to help more people with job searches and computer skills. There are ways that you can help too. The group are keen to hear from anyone who would like to give a couple of hours of their time to volunteer or even people wanting to donate non-perishable food items or businesses' that would be able to act as a food drop off point for donations.

For more information please contact Michelle Delaney on Even if you don't want to dance, it's a lantastic evening and more importantly, great fun! 07748 483385 or email michelledelaney742@gmail.com

# **LOCAL TRADES LIST**

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#### Private tuition, all ages: DR ADAM ANDREW

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### Gas Engineer (servicing, installation& repairs, kitchen & bathroom): 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)

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#### Window Cleaning – Pure Water Fed Cleaning System (hard to reach windows) – UPVC Cleaning

JOHN LEYLAND Tel: 01706 759896 / 07932 986666 (7 Daniel Street, Whitworth, OL12 8BX)

#### Window & UPVC Cleaning – Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning JetWashing: OPENREACH

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

# **USEFUL CONTACTS**

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kriane@outlook.com

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#### WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES:

Civic Hall, Market Street Whitworth, OL12 8DP

Contact: Melanie Hearn, 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 and Tom Aldred

HEALEY & WHITWORTH WARD:
Alan Neal and Sean Serridge
(see left for contact details)

#### LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Peter Steen

07703 832 156

 $petesteen@msn.com \bullet peter.steen@lancashire.gov.uk$ 

#### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:

Jake Berry MP

0207 210 5000 (House of Commons) 01706 215547 (Constituency office) jake.berry.mp@parliament.uk • www.jakeberry.org

#### FORTHCOMING WHITWORTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Thurs 22 Feb, Thurs 8 Mar, Thurs 22 Mar, Thurs 12 Apr, Thurs 26 Apr, Thurs 17 May, Thurs 24 May All meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Riverside; members of the public are welcome.

#### OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

Honorary Alderman Eileen Kershaw: 01706 344661

**Community Police Officer PCSO 7356 Heidi Kirkbright:** to speak to Heidi please call 07890 591 496, or to report a non-urgent crime or incident, please dial 101. For emergencies only, dial 999.

Together Housing: 0300 555 5556 (general enquiries) • 01706 836318 (Michele Heys, Whitworth Officer)

Lancashire Wellbeing Service: 03450 138208

Living Well Living Better: 01706 252542 • hello@livingwell-livingbetter.com • www.livingwell-livingbetter.com

Homestart Rossendale, Burnley and Hyndburn: 01706 214621 • Emma@homestartrbh.co.uk • www.home-start.org.uk

Carers Link Lancashire: 01254 387444 • info@carerslink.net • www.eastlancscarers.org.uk

Citizens Advice Rossendale: 03444 889622

The Samaritans: 01706 830999 • (Freephone) 116 123

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

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