



Scouting

Blackrod Town Council support World Scout Jamboree Participant



Blackrod Town Council has made a small donation towards the fund of Maiti Hutchinson, a young person from Blackrod, who has been selected to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan next year.

The World Scout Jamboree takes place in a different country every four years

and gives Scouts aged 14 – 18 years the opportunity to meet many other Scouts from all over the world, to work with them on projects, to learn new skills, to find out about each other's lives and cultures. Before the Jamboree, Maiti will get to meet up with the other 4000 participants from the UK and they will spend 3 or 4 days exploring Tokyo before taking the bullet train to the Jamboree site. After the Jamboree, Maiti and her unit

will get a taste of what real Japanese culture is like when she lives with a Japanese family for 3 or 4 days before returning back to the UK.

Maiti has told of how, from selection in 2013 through to the Jamboree in 2015, she will be taking part in various training events to prepare for the time in Japan; learning to live with other members of the group; cook for each other; undertake daily tasks such as hand washing their clothes and develop sufficient outdoors skills to build a successful camp site to sustain them for the entire period.

Maiti said she is "delighted to have the support of the Town Council in going to the World Scout Jamboree. The generosity and enthusiasm of the town has been brilliant at various fundraising events I have run in Blackrod and neighbouring towns.

I am proud to represent Blackrod at the Jamboree and hope to enthuse other scouts at 47th Bolton - where I am a young leader- and at other Scout groups when i return."

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.....

Scouting has rarely been more popular today, thanks in part to the prominent leadership of Bear Grylls, the Chief Scout but also the high profile and active support of some of the country's most influential people, such as the Duchess of Cambridge.

The numbers of young people joining Scouting continues to rise, partly due to opening up to girls a few years ago. Nationally there are now about 550,000 young people in Scouts and here in Blackrod, we continue to contribute to this healthy situation. Scouting has taken place in the village for many years, with the present 47th Bolton (Blackrod) Group celebrating its 50th year in 2015.

Although presently lacking a Scout Troop, there are thriving Beaver and Cubs Sections; Beavers are for 6 –8 year olds and Cubs are 8 up to 11 years of age.

After Cubs, young people can join a Scout Troop in Horwich

if they want to continue their Scouting experience. Scouting is an international voluntary organisation, believing that the world is a better place when people are trustworthy, self-controlled and self-confident. We work together in a context of enjoying what we do and having fun to serve other people and to improve society, showing responsibility towards the natural world and fostering self-respect and respect for others.

Beavers and Cubs meet Monday evenings at Blackrod Church School, Vicarage Road West: Beavers 6.00-7.00pm, Cubs 6.30-7.30pm. As a positive way of helping your community, adults volunteering as helpers are particularly needed and are always very welcome.

If you are interested in your child joining the Beavers or Cubs or maybe volunteering as an adult helper, please contact Bob Massingham on 01204 691431 or robertmassingham@btinternet.com



Guiding is Growing

Guiding in Blackrod is growing! In February this year we have opened a new Brownie pack at the Methodist Church. The Unit is thriving with 14 Brownies who are currently learning about what it means to be a Brownie and part of the Guiding family. They celebrated this at a party, where all the Brownies made their promise.

This year is also 100 years since Brownies began, so it is an excellent time to celebrate and learn about Brownies through the ages, with both the 46th Bolton and 82nd Bolton Brownies, taking part in challenges, activities and events throughout the forthcoming year.

In June over 600 hundred Brownies from our county, Lancashire Border, are gathering in Bury at the Big Brownie Birthday Bash.

Guides are growing too and are looking forward to lots of outdoor activities in the next few weeks: treasure trails, local walks, barbecues and outdoor cooking at Shoemaker Fold. Recently Guides have completed several badges including Craft, Film Lover, Science, First Aid and 'Being Green'. They have made gift boxes, cards, created their own short film to say what they like about Guiding, carried out science investigations, created bug homes from recycled materials and made bird feeders from wood. Rainbows continue to have a waiting list and have enjoyed a range of activities recently, such as exploring lots of different countries around the world. They have made crafts from Africa, learnt some of the Welsh language, completed activities from America and Australia, done some baking and even tried some Chinese food.

Why not come along to our units and help Guiding to grow even more? Whatever your age, there is space for you, whether a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Adult Leader. Contact us on 07853241176.



Blackrod welcomes their NEW MAYOR

Councillor Mrs Beryl Monaghan has taken up her position as the new Town Mayor of Blackrod for 2014-2015.

Left: retiring Mayor Councillor Mr Stephen Laycock welcoming the New Mayor Mrs Beryl Monaghan.

Councillor Mrs Monaghan has plenty of experience in handling the role, having served the people of Blackrod as Town Mayor several times, as well as being a former Mayoress to her late husband John, who was also the Mayor of Bolton. Councillor Mrs Monaghan hopes to bring young people to the fore in her role as Mayor and is currently looking at ways in which young people can learn more about the work of the Town Council, through school and through hands on experiences to be rolled out through the Town Council. At her recent inauguration within Blackrod Methodist Church, the school choir of Blackrod Church School, pictured, made sure that they gave the Mayor and guests plenty to smile about with their wonderful performance and had the whole audience singing along with some very

popular tunes. The Town Mayor has taken over from the retiring Mayor, Councillor Mr Stephen Laycock seen here wishing Councillor Monaghan a very successful year with Councillor Mr Michael Hollick being welcomed as Deputy Mayor. Councillor Monaghan will be supporting local charities and ventures across Blackrod in the coming year and hopes to see many local residents at events including Line Dancing, Bingo, Coffee Mornings and a Fashion Show just to get things started.

Anyone wishing to contact the new Town Mayor can do so through the Office of the Town Clerk, based in the Library Building.



Left: Blackrod Church School getting ready to sing at the new Mayors Inauguration in Blackrod Methodist Church.



Left: new Town Mayor welcoming her new deputy Mayor Mr Michael Hollick.

This year Blackrod Town Council presented awards for both the Civic Award and Community Awards.

Anyone can be nominated for these awards and the process begins with nominations being received from the public for those nominees who have either made a significant contribution to the fabric of the community of Blackrod; For being a community member who has achieved outstanding success or a community member who has overcome adversity for the benefit of others. A committee meets to discuss the nominations and read testimonials written by members of the community who get the opportunity to tell Council members about the outstanding contributions their nominees have made or given to the village of Blackrod and its surrounding areas. The number of nominations received this year was exceptionally high and this year several awards were made. They were Mr John Price who received the Town's Civic Award and Mr Raymond Barrow, Mrs Joy Rankin and Revd Carol McCabe who received the Town's Community Award and Mr John Seddon who received a posthumous Community Award for works carried out across Blackrod and the community.

Below: Retiring Town Mayor Stephen Laycock presenting the Town Council's Civic Award to Mr John Price and Town Council's Community Award posthumously to Mrs Isobel Seddon wife of the late John Seddon.



The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Beryl Monaghan would be delighted to attend any community activities within the village, including schools, churches, fund raising activities and community groups. **Please speak to the Town Clerk on 01204 696362 for more information.**

Charity Support



Left: retiring Mayor Councillor Mr Stephen Laycock presenting one of his charity cheques raised within his civic year to a representative from Bolton Dementia Support Group





PERFORMING ARTS IN BLACKROD



Children of the Rhapsody Academy of Performing Arts

Rhapsody Academy of Performing Arts is coming towards the end of its second year at St Andrew's Place. Since joining the Blackrod community the academy has gone from strength to strength and there are now classes running 3 days a week.

On Tuesday evenings over 40 people from the local community gather for the Rhapsody Community Choir Rehearsal. The choir has now been established for just less than 2 years and in that time have been invited to sing in and around the local community. This year performances will include Horwich Festival of Music

performing alongside local schools and community groups as well as the Blackrod Scarecrow Festival.

On 18th May Rhapsody put on their first ever academy showcase where over 40 children from all the different Rhapsody classes performed for parents, family and friends. The response was fantastic and all of the children shone as they showed off everything they had been learning in their weekly lessons.

Although it is coming towards the end of term time, there is plenty to get involved with over the Summer. 'Musical Madness' returns once again this summer for two weeks of Musical Theatre fun.

'Musical Madness' is a summer stage school for children aged between 4 and 16. The children work together with professional teachers to put on a musical in a week. Both weeks will run from 10am – 4pm and everyday will be jam packed with singing, acting and dancing! There will be a performance of the week's work on the Friday evening for family and friends to watch.

This year's shows are: 'Matilda the Musical' 28th July – 1st August 'Joseph and the Technicoloured Dreamcoat' 18th – 22nd August

For more information on how to get involved at Rhapsody please visit our website: www.rhapsodyacademy.co.uk

Blackrod Art Group



Blackrod Art Group held their annual exhibition of Art within Blackrod Library during July.

The exhibition coincided with the annual Scarecrow Exhibition allowing more visitors to view the 90 pieces of artwork which were on display.

The Town Mayor Councillor Mrs Beryl Monaghan opened the exhibition on the preview evening and several Town Councillors and local dignitaries attended the event offering wonderful comments about the excellent standards of work which was on display. Guest Judge, local artist Judith Farnworth spent the afternoon choosing her favourites and together with the Mayor awarded prizes to the winning participants.

Best in Show was A.Pieczonka's oil on canvas "Oooh Chocolate". Visitors favourite was won by J.E.Proctor's watercolour "surfing the net". This painting was also selected by Judith for an Outstanding Award.

The group's work can also be seen in Blackrod Medical centre and Cosgrove's Physiotherapy Centre.

Currently the group are working on a collage which will be their contribution to the Town's WW1 Centenary plans.

Jean Spencer.

Boxing



Blackrod Boxers come home with not one but two gold medals from Europe's largest Amateur Boxing Event which took place in the Alexandra Palace in London. Over 300 male and female boxers took part in the event, which is held every June and Leanne Mitchell, took Gold in the 75-81kg Class C and Whazir Pasha taking gold in the Class B. Both Boxers attend the local boxing club, ran by Stuart Greaves. Anyone interested in joining should contact Stuart at the club which takes place at

Blackrod Methodist Church.

Also featured is Molly Marsden, aged 15, who won her first amateur contest in June. Molly has been with Blackrod Amateur Boxing Club for just over twelve months and loves the whole experience.

Blackrod Town Council Meeting Dates during 2014/15

2014

Monday 28th April 7pm (brought forward due to bank holiday on 5th May)

Monday 12th May Annual Meeting (7.15pm)

Monday 2nd June 7pm

Monday 7th July 7pm

Monday 4th August 7pm

Monday 1st September 7pm

Monday 6th October 7pm

Monday 3rd November 7pm

Monday 1st December 7pm

Tuesday 2nd December 6.30pm (Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony)

2015

Monday 5th January 7pm

Monday 2nd February 7pm

Monday 2nd March 7pm

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



Back Row left to right:

Councillor Graham Farrington, Councillor Michael Hollick, Councillor Stephen Laycock, Town Clerk & RFO Mrs Stella Lewis, Councillor Charles Senior, Councillor Alan Bury

Front Row left to right:

Councillor Mrs Marlene Winward, Town Mayor Councillor Mrs Beryl Monaghan, Councillor Mrs Pat Barrow, Councillor Mrs Ann Cunliffe

Know Your Town Council Team

Contact Details

Councillor Alan Bury.

07854 773928

Councillor Graham Farrington

01942 832853

Councillor Stephen Laycock

01257 474663

Councillor Charles Senior

01204 830127

Councillor Beryl Monaghan

01942 831766

Councillor Marlene Winward

01204 694646

Councillor Pat Barrow

01942 831461

Councillor Ann Cunliffe

01204 332375

Councillor Mike Hollick

01204 697933

Town Clerk Mrs Stella Lewis

01204 696362

Email: Blackrodtc@tiscali.co.uk

Council Offices, Church Street,

Blackrod BL6 5EQ

Blackrod Young People's Centre

The newly refurbished young People's Centre is now open.

4-13 year olds Mondays 3.45 to 5.45 - 13-19 year olds Wednesday 6.30 to 8.30. The centre has plenty of arts and crafts, games, pool, table tennis, sports, volunteering opportunities and much more. Go along and get involved, make new friends, learn new skills whilst at the same time letting those that are supporting you know the kind of things you would like to see happening for you.

For more information email positive.activities@bolton.gov.uk or ring 01204 332323.

Blackrod Library Opening Times

Monday and Thursday 9.15am – 7.30pm

Saturday 9am – 12.30pm

Reading Groups –

Afternoon Reading Group - First Monday in the month 2pm-3pm.

Twilight Reading group - Third Thursday in the month 6pm – 7pm.

Scrabble club – every Monday 2pm-4pm.

Toddler Tales – Thursday afternoons 2.30pm.

Computer Mentor – One hour free tuition please book with a member of staff.

Library Link – If you enjoy reading and cannot get out to the library we offer a fortnightly library link service for housebound readers,

where your books will be brought to your home.

Book start Bear club – From age 0 – 5yrs.

Collect up to 10 certificates by visiting the library and museum.

Summer Reading Game – Mythical Maze for children age 4-11 June 28th – Sept

6th Read six books over the school holiday collect stickers and prizes along the

way and a certificate and medal at the end.

All completed entries will get entered into a prize draw.

The library will be hosting activities through the school holidays.

Please call in to the library to find out which activities are taking place and when.

The library will be displaying all the entries and winners of the

Blackrod Community Group's WW1 school art competition throughout

the summer school holiday.

NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES

If you or any member of your family are celebrating a 'notable' birthday or a Golden or Diamond anniversary, please inform the Town clerk on 01204 696362 who will arrange for the Town Mayor to visit and present flowers.

BLACKROD & HORWICH CHILDRENS CENTRE is holding a series of activities throughout the summer.

Activities such as Mini Movers held at Blackrod Community Centre, Baby Massage in Blackrod Clinic and Well baby Clinic held in the Library building are help to support families across the village. For more information please contact: 01204 334395 for more information or call in to the office within the Library to speak to someone who can help.

THE BLACKROD EDUCATIONAL TRUST

(Registered by the Charity Commissioners)

The Trustees, having regard to the promotion of education, invite applications from those wishing to be considered for an award under the Trust.

Applicants must be under 25 years of age and be resident in the Parish of Blackrod.

AWARDS WILL BE MADE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- In or towards providing such special benefits of any kind not normally provided for by the Local Education Authority for any school substantially serving the Parish of Blackrod.
 - In or towards providing facilities not normally provided by the Local Education Authority for recreation, social, or physical training for persons under the age of 25 years, who are resident in the Parish of Blackrod and who are receiving Primary, Secondary or Further Education.
 - In promoting the religious education of the said persons in such ways as the Trustees think fit.
 - In otherwise promoting in such ways as the Trustees think fit the education of the said persons.
- Previous applicants may still apply whilst in full time education

Application forms are available (please enclose a stamped addressed envelope) from Mrs Helen Gambles The Clerk to the Trustees, Blackrod Educational Trust.

9, The Fields, Aspull, Wigan WN2 1QX

Or through the office of the Town Clerk.

c/o Blackrod Town Council, Church Street, Blackrod BL6 5SY.

Tel No: 01204 696362

Or the Town Council website – www.blackrodtowncouncil.org

Or at Blackrod Library.

Or by leaving your details with St Katherine's Church Office – stkatherineschurch@btconnect.com

Completed forms to be returned to The Clerk for the Trustees no later than 31st October 2014.

How you can be involved in the Community Newsletter?

We want to hear from you if you have some community information that you would like to be included in our next Newsletter. We would like to hear from both individuals and groups about the activities you are involved with. You may want to recruit new members, be interested in working co-operatively with others who have similar aims, need some help and advice or simply want to pass on some useful information. The Newsletter could supplement and compliment the other School and Church magazines and bulletins that are already doing such a good job to help the community to keep in touch with what is going on in the village. (Editor).

Blackrod Town Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of articles contained in this Community Newsletter and cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for error, omissions or advice given.



Scarecrow Festival 2014

How lucky were we! After the constant downpour of the days before, no one in Blackrod could believe their eyes when Saturday 5th July dawned bright and cheerful. Another year has come and gone with so many memories to enjoy and the scarecrows were utterly amazing! Every year we think it can't get any better but it does! People flooded in to the village and enjoyed all that the churches, schools, nurseries and other outlets had organised for them. The Help the Heroes exhibit was unbelievable and raised over £1500 for the charity. Wurzel's Aunt Sally raised funds for Bolton Hospice and gave everyone a marvellous photo opportunity. This year over £11,000 came in to the village over the weekend, in addition to the charity collections so if you sold programmes, made scarecrows, gave your time up to help or volunteered for just about anything then a huge thank you. Without the commitment of people like yourselves this event simply wouldn't happen. Roll on 2015 and let's do it all over again. JEAN HIBBERT.

