BLACKROD COMMUNITY GROUP

The Group formed over 2 years ago. The group consists of representatives from various groups in Blackrod. For example: Stitch and Knit, Cemetery Group, Scarecrow Committee, St Katharine's Parish Church, Blackrod

Library, Beavers, Schools and Blackrod Town Councillors. The group have been working on various projects and fund raising activities to help the village. You may have noticed the large Union Jack plaque on the wall of the library/ council chambers commemorating Blackrod's fallen soldiers in WW1, also, plaques on the flower displays around the village, you may have seen the appearance of new benches at the top of Ridgway and Station Road provided by town Council, Scarecrow committee and the Community group. The group have also been working on the publication 'Forget Me Not' over the past two years researching all the soldiers born in Blackrod who died in WW1. If you have any suggestions of anything



you would like to see done or activities within Blackrod please can you put them in the box provided at the library. Also, suggestions of ways to raise money and help to fund future projects are also welcome.

WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS IN THE VILLAGE

Division whose members attend Blackrod Youth Council and sharing our ideas. introduce themselves:

Oliver, Max, Katelyn and Neve. We were elected



There is a new Blackrod Town Council Youth are all very excited about being elected for the

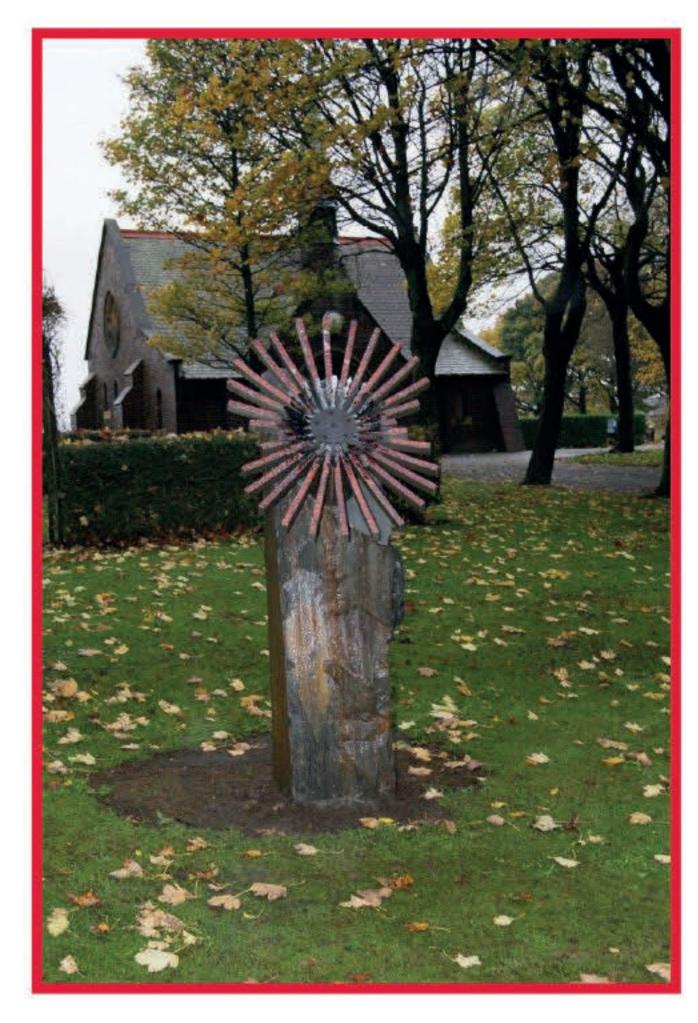
Primary School and Blackrod Anglican In the Autumn term, we met the Mayor for the Methodist Primary School. They would like to first time in the Council Chambers. We found out about the work of the Council and the Mayor. Our names are Ashley, Kelsey, McKenzie, Josh, We were also given the opportunity to say what needs to be improved in Blackrod. We talked by our class and school mates after preparing about vandalism in the schools and village, and presenting speeches in our schools. We noise at the Community Centre, speeding cars, chewing gum on the roads and bad parking. These issues are now going to be discussed at the Council meetings.

> The Youth Division will meet on a termly basis. We all found the experience very enjoyable and beneficial. It is an experience that we will never forget! We take our roles very seriously and recognise that we are the voice of Blackrod's children. We hope that we are approachable and that we can take any concerns or ideas that the children in our schools have. This will help to improve Blackrod village for everyone who lives there.

Issue 6 Winter 2015



On an extremely cold night in December, The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Michael Hollick and Mrs Janet Milward, Members of the Town Council, the Reverend Carol McCabe, several other local dignitaries and members of the Rhapsody Choir all gathered together with a large number of local residents to conduct the annual ceremony of switching on the Christmas Tree Lights. Once again assistance was given by young children from the village. The ceremony was followed by the serving of light seasonal refreshments at St Andrews Hall where a good old sing-a-long was led by the Rhapsody Choir. A cold but enjoyable evening for all concerned.



On 11th November, Armistice Day, Children from both local schools came together at the Cenotaph to see their piece of Artwork, created as a project funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, handed over to the Town Mayor following its dedication by the Rev's Carol McCabe. As part of the Art project the children also experienced life in Blackrod in 1915 and the impact that the Great War had on families. They wrote and presented a play, wrote a song, had lessons as they would have been at that time and looked at the lives of three soldiers. Each of the petals on the Artwork is engraved with the children's drawings and these drawings represent the life of soldiers when they would have been children in Blackrod. The engravings also include drawings of pits and mills. The piece of Artwork was created with the children working with the artist Salina Somalya. Additionally as part of the service at the cenotaph, the school children layed a small cross, each representing the name of the 7 soldiers from the village who died in 1915.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Blackrod lead the way as Town Councillors, Local Dignitaries and Associations and a great number of local residents braved the very wet November day on the march from the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph to St Katharine's Church. The marching crowds were accompanied by the Greenfield Band who gave an outstanding performance as the group made their way through the village. Following the service warming refreshments were served by the local Town Council at the Hilltops Social Club and a thankyou is also extended to "Pauline and Joe" for all their assistance with this annual event, which is greatly appreciated.



COMMUNITY CENTRE CAN BE GIVEN TO BLACKROD COMMUNITY

Bolton Council is working alongside Blackrod residents to secure a positive and viable future of our Blackrod Community Centre and Football pitches. Talks are being held to look at ways for Blackrod community to take over and manage their own facilities. Bolton Council is principally in agreement with leasing the Community Centre and Football pitches on a peppercorn rent. It has also agreed in principle to cover its running costs for a six month period. Councillor Ann Cunliffe is encouraged with the goodwill Bolton Council has shown especially hearing the recent news that Bolton has agreed in principle to invest Empowerment Funding of up to forty thousand pounds over two years. This is excellent news for the residents and community of Blackrod. I do hope that we are on the first steps to the Community Centre and football pitches to become a thriving part of Blackrod once again.





Pictured with the Town Mayor, is Daisy Dean, the Junior winner of the Blackrod Scarecrow Festival Photographic Competition. Daisy is receiving some well deserved photographic vouchers. The winner of the Adult section was Devina Lister. The 2016 Scarecrow Festival will take place in July and anyone interested should make enquiries to Mrs Jean Hibbert on 01204 691575



The Mayor of Blackrod Councillor Michael Hollick and Mayoress Mrs Janet Milward meeting students and staff at the Rivington & Blackrod Christmas Party which was held in December. During the course of the afternoon students and staff served homemade afternoon tea to local community residents and the whole afternoon was polished off by seasonal entertainment provided by the school's students. A very enjoyable afternoon.

BLACKROD TOWN COUNCIL

CIVIC AWARD

THE BLACKROD TOWN COUNCIL IS NOW INVITING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 'BLACKROD CIVIC AWARD'

ANY RESIDENT OF BLACKROD WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A

THE NOMINEES SHOULD

a) Have made a significant contribution to the fabric of

c) Is a community member who has overcome adversity for the benefit of others.

Office or the Blackrod Library during normal Office/Library hours, to be returned no later than April 30th 2016

Blackrod Town Council - Meeting dates during 2016/2017

Monday 7th March 7pm

Monday 4th April 7pm Monday 11th April 7.30pm

Monday 25th April 7pm

Tuesday 3rd May

Monday 6th June 7pm Monday 4th July 7pm

Monday 1st August 7pm

Monday 5th September 7pm Monday 3rd October 7pm

Monday 7th November 7pm Monday 5th December 7pm

Tuesday 6th December 6.30pm (Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony)

Monday 9th January 7pm

Monday 6th February 7pm Monday 6th March 7pm Monday 3rd April 7pm

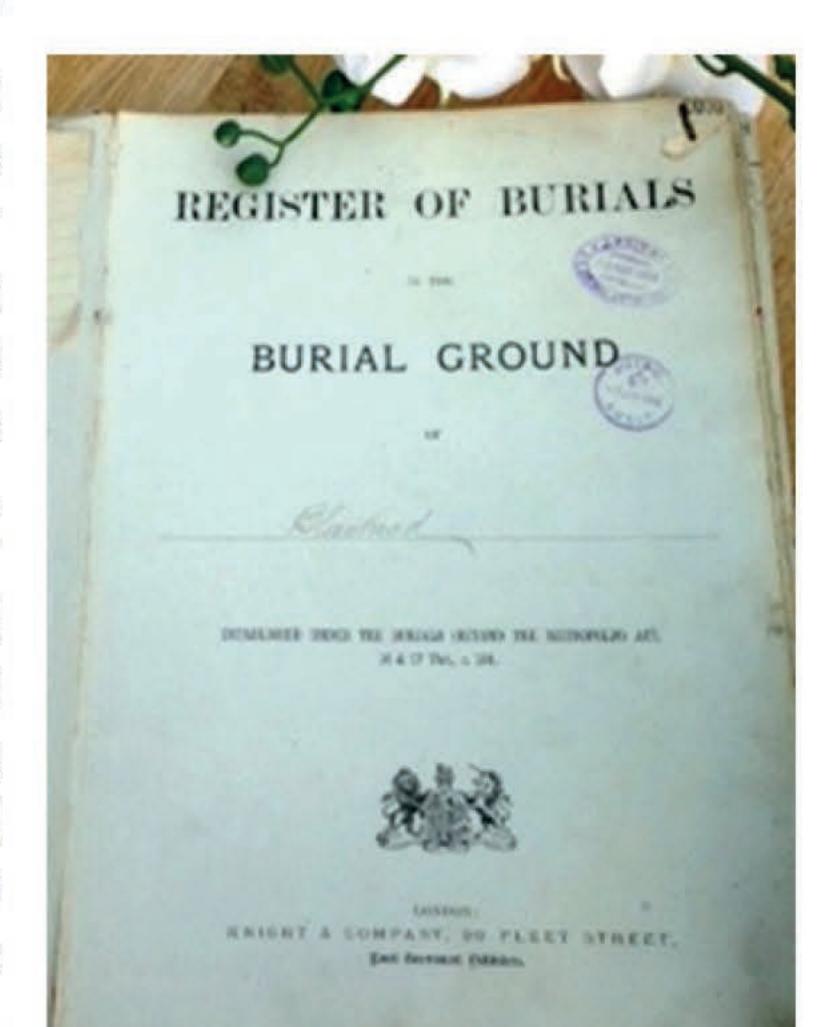
Annual Parish Assembly (brought forward due to bank holiday

on 2nd May) Annual Meeting & Mayoral Inauguration (7.15pm)

(put back due to bank holiday on January 2nd)

Blackrod Town Council to commemorate Public Graves

In the autumn of 2015, Councillor Mrs Ann Cunliffe carried out an extensive piece of research in to the number of public ground burials that are recorded for Blackrod Cemetery. The Cemetery opened in 1887 and is situated in a picturesque setting with open views over the surrounding countryside. During the late 1800's and through to the next century, when poverty and consumption unfortunately led to premature deaths, many Blackrod residents could not afford to purchase family graves. Following a funeral service, bodies would be placed together in large public graves, with no headstones to mark their final resting place. Following the research, Councillor Mrs Cunliffe asked the Town Council to consider the purchase of a plaque that would be placed in the Blackrod Cemetery, which would commemorate the unmarked graves so that those buried such a long time ago would be remembered and respected eternally. This was wholeheartedly agreed and work is now taking place to commission an appropriate piece of stonework to be erected and dedicated in the near future. Councillor Mrs Cunliffe said "Should anyone wish to view the piece of research which was completed they are most welcome". A copy of this work can be found in Blackrod Library or by contacting the Town Clerk on 01204 696362.



Feeling Artistic?

Then why not join Blackrod Art Group on Wednesday mornings 9.30 to 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall. The group is welcoming and supportive and has a space for anyone at any level of ability from 'beginners' to the 'expert'...... Who knows you, too, could be

the next Picasso or Monet.

Stop Press:

There has been a great response to the Calendars produced by the Art Group. A great number have been sold and some have even found their way to the other side of the world...Well done everyone for the beautiful pictures contained in the Calendar.

~Senior moments~

Enjoy watching a good film and eating a delicious afternoon tea all for £3

Then why not go along to St Katharine's Church for 2pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month An afternoon well spent!

BLACKROD LIBRARY

Opening Times

Monday and Thursday: 9.15am - 7.30pm Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

Join us for regular activities - These are free and there is no need to book unless otherwise stated:

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

Local History Group - Third Thursday in the month 2.30pm (£1.00)

Computer Mentor – One hour free tuition. Please book with a member of staff Family History Course – 5 weeks £15 starting 3rd October – 31st October 10am -12pm Please book with a member of staff

Coming Soon!

Under 5's story and craft activity every Saturday 9.30am

Free Wi-Fi in the library (from the end of March)



Also at Blackrod Library

Free computer use – up to one hour

Free Access to Ancestry Online – From library computers

Bears Reading Adventure - For under 5's. Collect a sticker for your free story book every visit to the library.

Home Delivery Service - If you enjoy reading and cannot get to the library we offer a free fortnightly home delivery service for housebound readers.

Finding it difficult to read? We have a selection of audio books to take out or download.



