



Rainbow Sleepover at Blackrod library and Council Chamber

On the night of May 24th something happened in Blackrod Library that has never happened in a Bolton Library before... The library hosted a



sleepover as a special favour to the Blackrod Rainbows!! It was a wonderful evening and the girls really enjoyed themselves and Library staff Ann Brown and Anne Burns really, really enjoyed having them... They made fairy wish jars, met Tinkerbell and the Mayor of Blackrod who presented all the



Rainbows with a special certificate saying they were the first people to ever sleep in the Council Chamber. Anne Burns read extracts from the BFG and Peter Pan, they had a Treasure Hunt and found naughty fairies hiding in the library, made cute cuddly toys, ate hot dogs for supper and had 3 bedtime stories. In the morning they had even more stories and wrote down everything everyone had enjoyed about the sleepover. A truly lovely event.

Tea for Two

Two pupils from Blackrod Primary School have won the final of a Great British Afternoon Tea Competition, which was held recently at Rivington & Blackrod High School. Year 5 students from Blackrod Primary School, Riya Hasija and Ellanor Purtill, pictured here with the Head Teacher of Rivington & Blackrod High School Tony Purcell, won first prize having designed a classic afternoon tea menu. The judges of the competition praised their attention to detail, creativity, taste, texture and overall presentation. The final was the accumulation of mini heats held within each school



where parents and Governors were invited to sample the delights of various afternoon tea designs. The event was sponsored by Horwich Rotary Club and the winning menu is being showcased at an exhibition which the school is hosting as part of its 450 year celebrations.



The Bolton Mayor welcomed into her Parlour this afternoon, the Mayor of Blackrod Councillor Ann Cunliffe and the Blackrod Town Youth Council from Blackrod Church School and Blackrod Primary School. The children were shown around the Mayor's parlour and were taught about the insignia of the town. The Mayor of Bolton said "The children were a credit to their schools and it was a pleasure to have them in the parlour".

BLACKROD WELCOMES THE NEW MAYOR & MAYOR'S CONSORT

Councillor Ann Cunliffe and Mr Jim Brooks have taken up their respective roles as Town Mayor and Mayor's Consort following the Annual General Meeting of Blackrod Town Council. Following their Civic Inauguration at St Katharine's Church, The Town Mayor told friends and Civic Guests that this year her main charities would include the children within Blackrod Schools as well as Bolton Society for Blind People. In her inauguration speech, Councillor Cunliffe thanked everyone for joining her, not only friends, family and civic guests but also those who made up the heart and soul of the Blackrod Community including children, voluntary and community groups, teams, organisations and businesses and in conclusion stated how extremely honoured she was to be the Town Mayor of Blackrod and vowed to represent the people and the Town in the best way she possibly could. The Town Mayor can be contacted through the Office of the Town Clerk on 01204696362 or by email to clerk@blackrodtowncouncil.org.uk



Blackrod Council agree Strategic Plan

Following agreement by Blackrod Town Council to support the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish, the final seal of approval to proceed was given by Bolton Council's Executive Committee at their meeting on 10th July. This strategically important document will set out the vision and objectives of the community for the next 15 years and will cover Housing development, Infrastructure, Environment, Heritage and other areas determined by the residents and broader community of Blackrod. Blackrod Town Councillor Alan Bury (Snr) stated: "It's taken some time to reach this point as much research and discussion was required but I am very happy that we now have an opportunity to influence what is built in Blackrod and have the ability to develop the village and its surroundings in a positive way.

This is a Plan for the community of Blackrod, as they will determine its content so I am looking forward to working with residents, groups, business and all interested parties alike in its creation".

Councillor Bury will lead the Project Steering Group in to compiling the Plan which is expected to take around 18 months to complete.

Blackrod residents or interested parties wishing to be involved in the work should contact the Blackrod Town Clerk on Tel: 01204 696632 or email: clerk@blackrodtowncouncil.org.uk



Notable Birthday's / 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.

Retiring 2015-2016 Mayor’s Charity Night

Retiring 2015-2016 Mayor, Councillor Mike Hollick and Mayoress Mrs Janet Milward are pictured with a number of the representatives from various organisations and groups who each benefitted from a financial donation, raised through several fund raising events held on behalf of the Town Mayor’s Charity. Councillor Hollick thanked everyone who had donated raffle and tombola prizes, baked caked and sold tickets for each of their fund raising activities, stating it would not have been possible to achieve the amount of money they had done without them. Councillor Hollick also paid tribute to his Mayoress whose catering and organisational skills had helped him achieve a very successful year. Fundraising events had included A Race Night: Murder Mystery Evening: Bingo: Coffee Mornings and an Evening

of Live Music with over £4000 being raised for good causes. A big thank you was also given to all those friends, families, colleagues and people of Blackrod who supported these fund raising events.



The results are in

Hurricane force winds and lashing rain heralded the 10th Blackrod Scarecrow Festival on 2nd July but undaunted the scarecrow makers of Blackrod were out in force and by lunchtime the weather had settled down and Blackrod welcomed hundreds of visitors to



explore the fantastic creations around the village. Loads of families had photos taken with our real Worzel Gummidge, Aunt Sally and Crow who delighted the crowds over the weekend and if you missed any of the scarecrows have a look on Blackrod Scarecrow Festival facebook page or check out the gallery on www.stkatharine.net.

Blackrod Church School, Blackrod Primary

School, Blackrod Methodist and St Katharine’s church raised just over £2000 each so have money now for extra projects and the sale of programmes raised a further £2000. This money will be donated back into the village over the next twelve months and will benefit as many groups as possible. A million thanks to all who helped in any way and to all who visited us over the weekend - it was great to see you all. Next year its the 1st and 2nd of July so we hope to see you all again.



Winners of the free raffle in the programme were Keith Makin of Blackrod, Vicki Haselden of Pemberton, Wigan and Wendy Sykes of Horwich.

(Jean Hibbert)

Town Mayor says it with Flowers!

The Town Mayor, Councillor Ann Cunliffe dropped in to Blackrod Library, unannounced, on a sunny day in May, to present Library Assistant Lesley Hayes with a beautiful bouquet of flowers on the day of her retirement after almost 40 years service with Bolton Council. Lesley had previously held the role as Library Manager at the High Street and Oxford Grove Libraries and is seen here with the Town Mayor, Blackrod Library Manager Ann Brown and Blackrod Library Assistant Janet Worth. When asked how she was going to spend her well earned retirement Lesley responded with “spending time with family, holidays and would you believe – more reading!” We all wish Lesley a wonderful retirement.



Blackrod Town Council Meeting dates during 2016/2017

2016	Monday 1st August 7pm
	Monday 5th September 7pm
	Monday 3rd October 7pm
	Monday 7th November 7pm
	Monday 5th December 7pm
	Tuesday 6th December 7pm (Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony)
2017	Monday 9th January 7pm
	Monday 6th February 7pm
	Monday 6th March 7pm
	Monday 3rd April 7pm

BLACKROD TOWN COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mr Michael Hollick 62 Nightingale Road Blackrod BL6 5EA
Tel: 01204 697933 NORTH WARD

Councillor Mr Stephen Laycock, Edgewood Chorley Road Blackrod BL6 5LF
Tel: 01257 474663 NORTH WARD

Councillor Mrs Ann Cunliffe 578 Manchester Road Blackrod BL6 5SW
Tel: 01204 332375 CENTRAL WARD

Councillor Mrs Lucy P Barrow 44 Eskdale Avenue Blackrod BL6 5SE
Tel: 01942 831461 SOUTH WARD

Councillor Mr Graham Farrington 1 Barkers-de-Lane Blackrod BL6 5SP
Tel: 01942 832853 SOUTH WARD

Councillor Mr Alan Bury(Jnr) 134, Greenbarn Way, Blackrod, BL6 5TE
Tel: 01204 332238 CENTRAL WARD

Councillor Mr Scott Batchelor, 12 Carlton Close, Blackrod BL6 5DL
Tel. 01204 452740 NORTH WARD

Councillor Mrs Isabel Seddon, 8, Hillside Avenue, Blackrod BL6 5BS
Tel. 01204 692597 CENTRAL WARD

Councillor Mr Alan Bury (Snr) 130, Greenbarn Way Blackrod BL6 5TE
Tel. 01204 692177 SOUTH WARD

The opening hours of Blackrod Library have changed slightly. The new hours are as follows:

Monday: 9am - 7pm
Thursday: 9am - 7pm
Saturday: 9am - 7pm



Scrabble Club Every Monday 2pm
Reading Group - meet on the first Monday in the month 2pm
Toddler Tales - Thursday 10.30am for children under 5
Twilight Reading Group - Thursday of the month at 6pm
Local History Group - Third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm
A Computer mentor is at the library to help with basic computer use for 1 hours tuition at 10am and 11am if you would like to book a session with her call into the library.
Saturday Club - for Children under 5 every Saturday 9.30am. Enjoy Stories, songs and activities.
There is now free Wi-Fi in the library
Free computer usage - up to one hour
Free access to Ancestry Online - From Library computers
Bears Reading Adventures - 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 out (or know someone who can't 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.
Family History Course - A five week family history course is starting on Monday 10th October 2016 at 10am - 12pm Cost £15. Please book with a member of staff.
The Summer Reading Challenge (The Big Friendly Read) runs from July 9th - 10th September 2016. Open to everyone form the age of 4-11 (primary school children) you can sign up at Blackrod Library, then read six library books of your choice over two visits to complete the challenge. There are rewards to collect along the way and a medal and certificate for completing and it's FREE to take part.

(Ann Brown)

Blackrod Town Council is very pleased to announce the launch of our newly designed website.

We wanted to make the new website easier to navigate and more user friendly FOR THE PEOPLE of Blackrod.

The new website features bright colours, an uncluttered design, simple navigation and our newly designed logo which is based upon our Mayors Medal.

We also wanted to make it easier for the people of Blackrod to contact their Town Clerk, Mayor and Councillors, so we have developed an easy to use contact form that will email directly the individual you want to contact. You will also receive a copy of this email for your records.

We also have a new website address:-
www.blackrodtowncouncil.org.uk which replaces the previous www.blackrodtowncouncil.org website address, so please update your address book and any references to the old website address.

We hope the new website continues to be a useful resource FOR THE PEOPLE of Blackrod.



Blackrod Art Group's preview evening enjoyed the company of several local dignitaries including The Mayor and Consort of Blackrod, The Mayor of Westhoughton and our local M.P. Chris Green.
The winning artist, Peter Young is seen here receiving his award for 'Best in Show' from the guest judges, Alan and Helen Davies.

Blackrod Town Council requested this newsletter be printed on re-cycled paper and ask that you re-cycle it after you have finished reading it.



'Forgotten' Great War heroes saluted at last

SOLDIERS from Blackrod who died during the First World War have been remembered in a service.

The service was in dedication to 22 local war heroes, whose names have been added to the village war memorial, after research by Blackrod Community Group.

Mayor of Blackrod, Ann Cunliffe, laid a wreath on behalf of the town at the service on Sunday which was conducted by the Revd Chris Bracegirdle from Westhoughton.

Councillor Cunliffe said: "I was very proud to lay the wreath in memory of these soldiers.

"Blackrod Community Group is made up of very dedicated and committed people.

"It has been two years in the making to complete this research and they deserve every credit and have done Blackrod, these soldiers and their families proud.

"These soldiers will never be forgotten now and their names will be read out on Remembrance Day. It's absolutely superb."

In the First World War, 72 Blackrod men lost their lives.

For two years, Blackrod Community Group has been researching the history of the village's soldiers and have, in tribute to them, created a book 'Forget Me Not' with their stories.

The historical project was helped by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as backing from Bolton Council and donations from Blackrod Scarecrow Festival.

Alan Bury, from Blackrod Community Group, said: "We began by researching the names on the war memorial but as we got in to it we found 22 new names of soldiers born in Blackrod that we felt should be on the war memorial.

"It took us two years and it was hard work, but we covered every man on the list and produced the book 'Forget me Not,' which we are all proud of and shows the culmination of all our work.

"We were very fortunate that we could get the names on the original memorial and just felt that a dedication of remembrance to recognise these men and their names being put where they belong was needed."



**LEFT
RESPECTS:** Alan Bury
of Blackrod Community
group with Blackrod
Mayor, Cllr Ann Cunliffe
and Consort Jim Brooks



**RIGHT
MAYOR:** Cllr Ann Cunliffe
lays a wreath at the war
memorial

The tragic impact of war on a tiny village



PALS: Owen Owen, far right, with his comrades from the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry

A TINY village on the edge of Bolton suffered the horrors of the First World War in the same way as every other place did.

But proportionally the loss of 72 lives must have had an incredibly tragic impact on the village and its households with almost every family either losing someone or knowing someone who was lost.

But 100 years on it would be a mammoth task to discover more about the men and boys who were lost on the battlefields of France or died of their injuries after returning home.

However it was a task worth undertaking for proud Blackrod resident Alan Bury and his devoted team of investigators.

For with Heritage Lottery funding the Blackrod Community Group produced "Forget Me Not The Blackrod Men Who Gave Their Lives In the First World War" a beautifully presented colour book about each of the Blackrod men who gave their lives in the First World War.

But what the team discovered during the detailed research was that although there were 43 names on the war memorial in Blackrod more soldiers' names would be discovered.

The additional 22 men's names were finally inscribed on the memorial and a service held to mark this momentous occasion.

Why some of the names were missed remains a mystery in itself but the main problem seems to have been that the men had moved out of Blackrod prior to their deaths.

But thanks to contributions from descendants and a great deal of pouring over historical documents there are now additional Blackrod soldiers who can be recognised for the vital part they played.

Some of the men had moved out of Blackrod but were born there.

"Our mission was to find men who were born in Blackrod. That was the stipulation," explains 66-year-old Alan.

There would be soldiers whose siblings were born in Blackrod but they were not. Sadly, explains Alan, they could not be included.

But men who had married and moved to other towns were eligible if their birth was recorded in Blackrod.

Each man's family life was investigated — with the book concentrating on the human angle of each soldier rather than the horrors of World War One.

"There are plenty of books about World War One so although we have included information about where the men died we have concentrated on the human angle," explains Alan.

The idea was to produce a book that could be given away free of charge to any Blackrod resident who was interested.

It has been hugely popular and little wonder.

The book is a wonderfully detailed account of each soldier, with pictures where available and maps showing where each one lost his life — the spot pin pointed by a single poppy.

It is beautifully presented and has been well received by descendants who answered the team's call to arms — to help provide valuable information when building up a picture of the individual soldiers and their lives.

Owen Owen was one of eight children, the son of Daniel Owen who was a carter for Blackrod Urban District Council and Mary Owen. In 1901 their next door neighbour was John Rookcroft who is also remembered in the book. Both men were killed in action within a year of each other.

Both Owen and John worked at the same dye works prior to enlisting.

As the book explains an extract appeared in the St Katharine's Parish Magazine in July 1918 which said: "Pte Owen Owen, formerly one of the most regular and promising members of our men's class is unfortunately reported among the missing."

Sadly he was last seen wounded near the Austrian lines in Italy. From War Diary accounts it would seem likely he was killed or missing during a raid on May 15, 1918.

A lot of families moved around a great deal for work at the turn of the century.

Some children would be born in Blackrod but others would not.

The final number of men discovered to be from Blackrod and with a valid link to Blackrod came to 72 and are named in the book.

The main criteria used was that the men should have been born in Blackrod or lived in Blackrod at the time of their enlistment.

The new names discovered are:

Fred Amos; Francis Anderton; Harold Banks; Walter Brown; Major Caldwell; Thomas Caldwell; Richard Chester; William Barker Cunliffe; Thomas Darbyshire; Frederick Dickinson; Thomas William Edward Hall; John William Hatton; James Marshall Hayden; James Helme; James Hoole; John Hunt; Edward Jolley; Harry Leigh; Henry Francis Lundy; Michael Owens; Stanley Taylor; Thomas Walkden; Robert Wrightman and John William Winstanley.



Some of these soldiers died in action during the First World War and some died as a result of infection or disease believed to have been contracted during service.

Just two of the soldiers could not be included on the memorial as they came home and died.

All of the soldiers had moved out of Blackrod when they were young or prior to enlistment.

Francis Anderton's brother John is named on the memorial as is Harold Banks' brother Herbert and Michael Owens' brother William.

To get a copy of this remarkable book call in at Blackrod Library.