



## Your Town Council - Did You Know?

Blackrod Town Council thought it would be of interest to local residents to let them have a flavour of the things the Town Council has been able to assist with, financially, on behalf of local residents during the last 12 months.

Financial donations have been provided for local groups and organisations to assist them with items such as setting up costs, new equipment purchases or trips and events.

The village has been provided with new public noticeboards and signage as well as additional floral arrangements and seating. The Town Council has paid to have rubbish bins relocated to improve tidiness around the village and has, more recently, paid for a pathway to be created along the side of the Library/ Council Offices building to improve the walkway from the Doctors Surgery along to the shops on Blackhorse Street, which has made a significant difference to many people.

Other improvements have included an improved Web Facility to make contact with residents more up to date and user friendly, and the Town Council Newsletter continues to be created and delivered freely to all households within the village.

Additionally, the Town Council likes to ensure that local groups use the Council Chamber facility freely whenever possible. Some of these groups include a Scrabble Group, Reading Group, a sleepover held by local Brownies and Scouts, Local history and Community Groups to name but a few. When the use aids the Library, residents and local organisations, the Town Council's policy is to create a free use of space whenever possible in order to save on costs those organisations may otherwise face.

The Town Council also supports the work of the Town Mayor in attending events in order to represent Blackrod as well as providing financial support for events such as the Annual Remembrance Service and costs associated with the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

No Town Councillor is paid for the role that they do, giving their time freely to helping the local community.

The Town Clerk and Town Council members try to assist all members of the community with issues that they raise. This includes trying to help with complaints, giving assistance and advice, as well as liaising with officers within Bolton Council whenever the situation suits.

The Town Council also includes listening to planning applications made for the village at their monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month. Although the Town Council is a legal consultee on matters of planning within Blackrod and their opinions and queries are forwarded to planning officers on this matter, unfortunately, they cannot make the final decision on what can happen as this remains in the hands of Bolton Planning Committee. However, currently plans are well under way for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan which will endeavour to influence development and decisions that are made for your Town. Once approved the Neighbourhood Plan will become a Legal Document which Bolton will have a duty to acknowledge.

Anyone wishing to contact the Town Council with regard to seeking a financial donation or wishing to make a request that would be of benefit to the village, or simply to raise a matter of concern or ask for assistance, then please contact the Town Clerk on 01204 696362 or email [clerk@blackrodtowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@blackrodtowncouncil.org.uk) or contact any Local Councillor or call in at the Council Office located within the Library Building for assistance. Thankyou.

### A Community SOS .....Yes We Can!

Over the last year, the Blackrod Community Centre Project Group has brought together some local representation, to try and create a new future for the under-used and under-valued Community and Sports Facilities that are on our door step in the middle of the Village, off Greenbarn Way. Suggestions for its use have included expanding to offer football for all. For example, Women's teams, Walking Football, teams for people with disabilities as well as developing a social side by making use of the kitchen and a proposed new social area to serve refreshments to spectators and the teams. The Men's Football Teams are also willing to get

involved during the summer to carry out some of the immediate remodelling and improvement works to make this happen. Could you also help? You can by giving some of your time or skills as a volunteer to get the Centre and its outdoor facilities up and running by September 2017: Help organise promotional events and new activities to get more people using the Centre or simply by telling people what is happening and by supporting the events and activities to help to generate interest and to raise money locally to make it all possible. If you require any more information about the Blackrod Community Centre please contact Christine at [bccpgsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:bccpgsecretary@hotmail.com) or the Blackrod Community Centre Project Group on Facebook.



## Christmas Cheer!

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December 6th 2016 saw the Annual switching on of the Town Council's Christmas Lights on the tree on Blackhorse Street. The event was attended by the Town Mayor, Councillor Ann Cunliffe and Consort Mr Jim Brooks as well as other invited local dignitaries including the Mayor of Bolton Councillor Lynda Byrne, and a huge number of local residents who had braved the cold evening weather in order to join in the festivities. Members of the Blackrod Town Council Youth Division assisted in the ceremony by pressing down the giant switch to brighten up the tree and the singing of Carols were ably accompanied by the Rivington and Blackrod High School Band. Following the short ceremony led by Rev'd Angela Wynne, residents and invited guests made their way to St Andrews Hall, where residents and guests were provided with seasonal refreshments by Blackrod Town Council and everyone was entertained by the fantastic Blackrod Community Choir. Shall we say, same place again in 2017.



### Golden Wedding Time In The Village

Golden Weddings are a time for great celebrations and pictured below are John and Sandra Settle who celebrated their event on 24th September 2016 and Bill and Pam Stutchbury who held theirs on December 17th 2016. On both occasions the Town Mayor, Councillor Ann Cunliffe and Consort Mr Jim Brooks, presented a bouquet of flowers from Blackrod Town Council and during her visit to Bill and Pam, the Town Mayor was delighted to receive a knitted figurine of herself as Mayor to help her remember her own year of office. Also seen in the picture of Bill and Pam is the Mayor of Bolton Councillor Lynda Byrne who also visited the couple on the day.



# The Results Are In...

The presentation to the winners of the 2016 Blackrod Scarecrow Festival Photographic Competition has taken place in Blackrod Library and many congratulations to all three winners. The adult winner was Patrick Morley, second was Michelle Hulme and our Junior winner was Kara Fallows who all received tokens to spend at Mathers Photographic shop in Bolton. Thank you to all who took part in the competition and the images will be used in the marketing for next year's festival which will be held over the weekend of 1st and 2nd July 2017. Put a note in your diary – you could be a winner next year!



The photograph shows the Blackrod Town Mayor Ann Cunliffe and her Consort Jim Brooks presenting Kara with her prize along with Patrick and Michelle – and Blackrod's very own Worzel Gummidge called in to see what was happening!!!

## Christmas and Carols

Students at Rivington and Blackrod High School and Sixth Form hosted a Community Christmas Party in December for members of the local community, celebrating the festive season with homemade Christmas food, performances by the Music and Performing Arts Departments, and a personal appearance by Santa Claus. Residents of local care homes and members of the senior citizen's

community groups, were invited to attend. Local council members also attended. Students took an active part in the hosting of the event, preparing and serving food, decorating the hall, and providing drama and musical performances. Sing-a-long carols were performed for the guests so that they could join in and they were each given a gift donated by staff, hand delivered by Santa Claus.



The photograph includes left to right, Councillor Isobel Seddon the Deputy Mayor of Blackrod, Keith Maher, Horwich Rotary Club, the Town Mayoress of Horwich, Mr Roach Headteacher and Mayor of Horwich Councillor Jim Bullock.



This year £1000 has been donated to Blackrod Cricket Club from the sale of festival programmes over the Scarecrow weekend. They have bought a junior bowling machine which will help the development of the 40+ junior boys and girls currently at the club. Anyone interested in learning to play cricket please contact Richard Ashworth BCC junior coach on 07

## Blackrod Town Council Meeting dates during 2017

Council Meetings	Monday 6th February 7pm
	Monday 6th March 7pm
	Monday 3rd April 7pm
	Monday 24th April 7pm
	Monday 5th June 7pm
	Monday 3rd July 7pm
	Monday 7th August 7pm
	Monday 4th September 7pm
	Monday 2nd October 7pm
	Monday 6th November 7pm
	Monday 4th December 7pm
Annual Parish Meeting	Tuesday 11th April 7.30pm
Annual Meeting	Monday 8th May 7.15pm
Christmas Tree Lights	Tuesday 5th December 6.30pm

## BLACKROD TOWN COUNCILLORS

**Councillor Mr Michael Hollick** 62 Nightingale Road Blackrod, BL6 5EA  
Tel: 01204 697933 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**, 30 Arden Drive. Clayton-Le-Woods, PR25 5AD  
Tel. 01772 494682 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

*Elections for the North Ward vacancy will be held on Thursday 23rd February at Blackrod Church School*

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

**Monday: 9am - 7pm**  
**Thursday: 9am - 7pm**  
**Saturday: 9am - 12.30pm**



**Scrabble Club** - meets every Monday, 2pm  
**Reading Group** - meets first Monday in the month, 2pm  
**Toddler Tales** - Thursday 10.30am for children under 5  
**Twilight Reading Group** – meets Third Thursday of the month at 6pm  
**Local History Group** – Third Thursday in the month 2pm (new time)  
**Saturday Club** – for under 5's, stories rhymes and activities from 9.30am.  
**A computer mentor** is at the library to help with basic computer use for 1 hour's tuition at 10am and 11am. If you would like to book a session with the mentor, please call in to 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 with every visit to the library.  
**Home Delivery Service** – If you enjoy reading and cannot get to the library (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.  
**Check at the library for children's activities during school holidays.**

**New - Audiology clinic** - first Thursday in the month 10am – 12pm  
If you wear hearing aids provided by the Royal Bolton Hospital, the clinic will Supply and fit new batteries: Supply and fit new tubing: Give advice in maintenance and fitting: Support and train you on using your hearing aid. **This is a FREE service**

## Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan

Progress is continuing on the Plan for Blackrod with the first Public Meeting arranged for the 28th February at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

This meeting will be a chance for Blackrod residents to ask the Community Steering Group questions as well as putting forward their own thoughts and ideas on how Blackrod needs to change over the coming years.

Residents will be able to learn about the work undertaken so far and of some of the difficult areas under review such as housing requirements in Blackrod. Do the 3 and 4 bed roomed houses being built reflect the real need of the community? Do we need to do more for our elderly residents? Are there enough community facilities? These and many more issues need to be addressed and only by direct contact and discussion with the residents of Blackrod can the Steering group hope to produce a Plan for the next 15 years which will cover these important issues.

Any residents that cannot attend the Public meeting should put their ideas and suggestions down on the slips provided inside the Library or complete the online Contact-us form on website:-  
**[www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk](http://www.blackrodneighbourhoodplan.org.uk)**

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.

