

Blackrod Town Council welcomes a new member



In February 2017, Mr John Price of Castlecroft Avenue, Blackrod, was unanimously elected to become a member of the Town Council, representing the North Ward. We asked Councillor Price to give us a little bit of extra information about himself and here's what he told us.

"I was born in Blackhorse Street, Blackrod on April 10th 1945. My father came from Horwich but my mother's family were, and still are, an old Blackrod family.... the Fosters. I attended St Katharine's Church School but we moved to Horwich shortly after I started school and at that point I went to St Catherine's Junior School. From there, I then went on to Rivington and Blackrod Grammar School. On leaving the Grammar School, I attended Bolton Technical College. During my working career I worked at Rivington Carpets from 1965 to its closure in 1976. I married my wife Sandra in April 1966 and on our first wedding anniversary we moved into Castlecroft Avenue Blackrod, where we have now lived for over 50 years. We have

one daughter, Lara, and two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Flynn, who also live in Castlecroft Avenue together with Lara's husband Stuart. I am also honoured to have been granted the Blackrod Community Award and also the Blackrod Civic Award for service to Blackrod. Over the years I managed and coached Blackrod Villa Football Team and I currently run a voluntary group who maintain Blackrod Cemetery, 6 planters throughout the village, plus the gardens at the end of Vicarage Road, the garden at the bottom of Chorley Road and the land at the top of the Ridgeway. These volunteers are a wonderful group of people who love Blackrod as I know many of us do. I am now extremely honoured to serve Blackrod as a Town Councillor and for that I thank all those people who voted for me in the by Bi-election held earlier this year. I promise to help all Blackrod residents in whatever way I can. If I can be of any assistance to anyone then please do not hesitate to contact me directly on 01204468567 or through our Town Clerk". Cllr John Price

Our Scarecrow Festival 2017

Well we were lucky once again with our British weather and enjoyed near perfect conditions once the early drizzle had disappeared. Business was very brisk throughout the village as visitors got around as many of the wonderful creations as they could. The two schools and the two churches raised £9500 between them to use for their own projects, and the sales of the programmes, magnets and scarecrow

cards topped £2000 which will be given away to projects and organizations within the village. A donation has been given to Blackrod Luncheon Club who meet each Monday at the Methodist Church and a herb planter will be provided in the village for everyone to help themselves. If this is a success then a second tub will be planted out. Visitors missed the minibus, previously provided by Playdays, so the fund will

provide transport on both days of the festival next year. The event was a great financial boost for our village as well as being another brilliant day to remember. Sincere thanks to all who made scarecrows, sold programmes, put bins out, cleared up or helped in any way – you did a fabulous job!! Next year it will be held on 30th June and 1st July – thinking caps on!!!

Congratulations to the festival raffle winners: £100 was won by Amanda Shaw from Aspull; £50 by Andrew Knee from Brightmet and £25 went to Tracy Brown of Horwich. **Jean Hibbert**



Stop Press, Donations from the sale of programmes have now been allocated: £250 has been given to Blackrod Luncheon Club, £100 to St Katharine's for their printer and meeting room, £200 for a minibus to take the elderly round the village to see the scarecrows next year, £300 to the Hilltops to be divided amongst various sporting teams, £500 to be plant out a herb bed in the spring for use by everyone in the village, £175 for a willow structure and the remaining £500 to top up funds for the 2018 festival.



A new Mayoral Year has arrived

Issue 9 Summer Edition 2017

Councillors Mrs Isabel Seddon was duly elected to serve as Mayor of Blackrod in May 2017 and has shared a little bit about herself for those residents who may be new to the area and may not have met with the Mayor.

Isabel and her family arrived in Blackrod from Australia in the early sixties and she initially taught at Blackrod County Primary school for several years, later becoming a Senior Lecturer at Wigan College. Councillor Seddon has previously served both as a Blackrod Councillor and a Borough Councillor and was Mayoress to her late husband John in 2002. She has held the position of Mayor of Blackrod twice previously in 2006 and 2010, only standing down from being a Councillor to support her late husband whose health was failing. Following his death, Councillor Seddon stood again for the Town Council and was duly elected to serve for the current term.

Councillor Mrs Seddon has been closely associated with the Bolton Parkinsons Group for several years and has seen first hand the benefits derived from the wide range of physical activities provided and the professional support given as well as the social interaction facilitated by other members and their supporters. All these activities have a financial cost and despite the group doing a lot of fundraising themselves they often need help from other agencies. Councillor Mrs Seddon stated "I have been surprised to discover how many very local people benefit from the groups activities and have seen for myself how effectively funds are used. Everything raised goes direct to benefit the person with Parkinsons and it is for that reason that I have decided to make Bolton Parkinsons one of my Mayoral charities for this year".

Anyone wishing to contact the Town Mayor can do so by using the contact address of the web page or by telephoning the Office of the Town Clerk on 01204 696362



The Town Mayor will be hosting three forthcoming events before Christmas in aid of the Mayors charities.

Coffee Morning | Bingo Night | Murder Mystery Night

Look out for announcements of dates and venues on the noticeboards and council website.

Town Council pays tribute to Councillor Lucy Patricia Barrow (Decd)



Lucy Patricia Barrow lost her long battle with ill health on 20th April 2017. Councillor Mrs Barrow served the Town Council and local residents alike for over 30 years, including during her period of illness, and served as Town Mayor 4 times as well as representing Blackrod for 4 years as a Horwich & Blackrod Ward Councillor. Councillor Mrs Barrow raised thousands of pounds on behalf of charitable organisations, including Derian House, and was always there to assist anyone in need, working actively with her husband, former Councillor Ray Barrow on the Blackrod Welfare Group for many years. Councillor Barrow was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother always cheerful and determined with a marvellous sense of humour and desire to do right by all. She will be sadly missed by her colleagues within the Town Council. Thankyou for your years of dedication Pat, we will miss you.

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.

BLACKROD ART EXHIBITION



Blackrod Art Group's annual exhibition started with a packed preview evening on Friday, 2nd June. Town Mayor, Mrs Isobel Seddon officially opened the event and spoke kindly of her association with the group and the excellent standard of the work on display. The Guest Judge on the night was Judith Atkinson, Judith has a background of over 30 years in Architectural Draughtmanship and a lifetime's passion on the history of the North's Mills and their machinery. Judith chose Anne Hargreave's painting entitled 'I'm a Rambler' as the winner of the Harry Speak Trophy. 4 additional paintings won a place in the 'Outstanding category', the winning artists were, Tom Doran, Eric Proctor, Brian Waddington and Mary Higham. The Trophy Vase awarded by the visitor's favourite vote, went to Jean Spencer for her painting entitled 'Footpath View'. The Ron Hobson Trophy was awarded to the Art Group Members favourite, which was voted on the night, and went jointly to Jean Spencer and Mary Wilson for her painting, entitled Freddie. The Group's Chairman, Mike Shuttleworth, offered a warm welcome to everyone and a vote of thanks to all the dignatories who attended and the library staff who gave their assistance. The exhibition continued until the end of July, with over 90 original paintings on display and for sale. Another successful year. **Jean Spencer**

Blackrod Community Group

Blackrod Community group was formed in December 2013. It consists of representatives from various groups in Blackrod and activities covered so far by the Community group since its formation include:

- Large Union Jack Flag (positioned on the wall of the Council Chamber/Library building) depicting the names of all the soldiers who had died in WW1 and who were named at the time on the cenotaph. A smaller version of the flag can also be seen at other sites in Blackrod.
- Purchased a new Bench in Blackrod situated at the top of Ridgway.
- Produced a book 'Forget Me Not' Researched and written by various members of the group about the Blackrod soldiers who died in WW1 – Many more

were found whose names were not on the cenotaph, these were included in the book and added to the cenotaph.

- The group also had a Roll of Honour printed and framed with all the names of fallen soldiers of Blackrod. This is now up in the foyer of the Blackrod Library. – This project was done with the help of Heritage Lottery Funding.
- The group applied again for funding to provide courses for the community of Blackrod. After a successful application the group was able to provide a Craft course at Create in Bolton, (the culmination of the course resulted in a beautiful wall hanging of scarecrows which can be seen on display in the Library Foyer) an ICT course at the Bolton Innovation Centre and a History project, which involved the two schools in

Blackrod and members of the Community Group resulting in a History Trail, which will be unveiled at the library on the Heritage weekend 9th September 2017.

Other projects the group are continuing to work on are a Photography Course, Watercolour Art Course, Gardening projects for the schools. Next year the group will be commemorating the end of WW1. Any suggestions of activities which will involve the whole community would be most welcome.

The Group would also like to produce a leaflet with all the activities which take place in Blackrod. If you would like your group and activity in the leaflet then please contact the group by either calling in to the library or contacting Ann Schofield on 01257 485098 with the details.

BLACKROD LUNCHEON CLUB

Aged over “60” and looking for something to do on a Monday lunchtime? If joining friends for a ‘Home’ cooked meal followed by a game of Bingo and a good old chin wag is something for you, then why not pop along to Blackrod Methodist Church Hall where you can share in it all for a very small cost. The group has been running for a long time now and balanced meals such as delicious meat and potato pie and peas, roast dinner, hot pot and much more, all made with freshly bought local ingredients all enhance the homely atmosphere experienced by those who regularly attend the event. Organisers Joe and Pauline (pictured below with the Chef, catering assistants and guests) are always on hand to welcome new faces and if you require further information as to all the activities that take place they can be contacted on 01204 450866. A stair lift is also available for those who find climbing stairs difficult. Why not pop along and experience a truly enjoyable Monday whatever the weather- you won't be disappointed.



Blackrod Town Council Meeting dates during 2017

2017	Monday 4th September 7pm
	Monday 2nd October 7pm
	Monday 6th November 7pm
	Monday 4th December 7pm
	Tuesday 5th December 6.30pm Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
2018	Monday 8th January 7pm (put back due to bank holiday on 1st January)
	Monday 1st February 7pm
	Monday 7th March 7pm
	Monday 4th April 7pm

Annual Meeting of the Town Council 2017/2018 to be held during May 2018 to be confirmed during the meeting of the Town Council in February 2018.

Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly) 2017/2018 to be held between 1st March 2018 and 1st June 2018 and confirmed at the meeting of the Town Council to be held in February 2018.

BLACKROD LIBRARY

Monday: 9am – 7pm
Thursday: 9am – 7pm
Saturday: 9am – 12.30pm



Scrabble Club –

meet every Monday at 2pm

Reading Group –

meet first Monday in the month at 2pm

Toddler Tales –

Thursday 10.30am for children under 5

Twilight Reading Group –

Meet Third Thursday of the month at 6pm

Local History Group –

Meet Third Thursday of the month at 2pm

Saturday Club –

For under 5's, stories, rhymes and activities from 9.30am

FREE - A computer mentor is at the library to help with basic computer use for 1 hour's tuition at 10am and 11am on Thursday's. 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.

FREE home delivery service –If you enjoy reading and cannot get to the library (or know someone who cannot get to the library) we offer a free fortnightly home delivery service for household readers. Finding it difficult to read? – We have a selection of audio books to take out. Also you can download ebooks and eaudio books for FREE for adults and children. Call in to the library for more information. Audiology Clinic –First Thursday of 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.

The Library will be running a Family History Course every Monday for 5 weeks from 2nd October – to 30th October 10am-12pm. The cost is £15 for the whole course. Please contact the Library for further information.

Interested in your local history?

Why not come along to Blackrod Local History Group. We meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month in Blackrod Council Chamber inside the Library at 2.00 pm.

We charge £1 and that includes refreshments. For further information contact David 01257 481393 or Jean 01942 831719

BLACKROD TOWN COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mr Michael Hollick 6, Willowcroft Avenue, Aspull Wigan WN2 1QJ
Tel: 01942 731164 NORTH WARD

Councillor Mr John Price 13, Castlecroft Avenue, Blackrod BL6 5BA
Tel: 01204 468567 NORTH WARD

Councillor Mrs Ann Cunliffe 578 Manchester Road Blackrod BL6 5SW
Tel: 01204 332375 CENTRAL 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, 32 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

A Bi Election will be held later this summer in order to fill the vacancy on the Town Council for representation in the South Ward of the Village.



BLACKROD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS

The Consultation process with the Community of Blackrod continues through summer with feedback being sought on buildings important to the Heritage of the village and how we regard the Open Spaces around us. Perhaps the biggest and a key consultation is the one completed on the 28th July where we asked households across the parish for their views in a survey questionnaire on Housing Needs. This consultation was very well supported with close on a quarter of the village expressing their views and opinions. This survey will help inform the future housing needs of the village and influence what is built across the parish.

Work continues on the Plan which we are hoping will be available in a draft form for all to read around the end of summer. **Councillor Alan Bury (Snr)**

