

BLACKROD TOWN COUNCILLORS

Following May 2019 elections the following Councillors were re-elected/elected to serve the community of Blackrod for the next four years.



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



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



Councillor Mr Alan Bury
130, Greenbarn Way Blackrod BL6 5TE
Tel: 01204 692177 **SOUTH WARD**



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



Councillor Mrs Susan Gaskell
28, Meadow Way, Blackrod BL6 5BR
Tel: 07813 347994 **CENTRAL WARD**



Councillor Mrs Susan Warburton
Poachers Pub, 1, Scot lane, Blackrod BL6 5SG
Tel: 01942 831609 **SOUTH WARD**



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



NEWLY ELECTED

Councillor Mr Nick Bell
1, Acresfield Close, Blackrod BL6 5ED
Tel: 01204 695516 **NORTH WARD**



NEWLY ELECTED

Councillor Mrs Susan Baines
30, Brooklands, Horwich BL6 5RW
Tel: 01204 698244 **CENTRAL WARD**



Mrs Stella Lewis, Town Clerk
Tel: 01204 696362

I was born in Manchester in 1962 and moved to Blackrod in 1995 with my wife, Odette, and our son, Gareth. I have spent most of my working life in public service. I spent 26 years in NHS where I started a career in finance but later specialised in information systems and management. I believe my skills will build on the good work already started by our Town Councillors in building bridges with Bolton Council and our fellow Town Councils. I believe that transparent and effective local government has a place in improving the lives of the people of Blackrod. I am making my own efforts already to do this with my involvement in the Blackrod gardening group and the Neighbourhood Plan. I was also an original Trustee of the Blackrod Sports and Community Centre. I look forward to becoming involved in the activities of the Town Council and to work with the council and people of Blackrod to improve our town for everyone.

I have lived in Horwich most of my life, having got married at Horwich Parish Church in 1974 to my husband Michael. We have two grown up daughters, who live in Perth Australia and Hertfordshire and are blessed with four wonderful grandchildren. I initially trained as a SRN nurse at Bolton General Hospital and then as a Midwife and have cared for mothers and their families across Bolton, Horwich and Blackrod. I still work as a Lecturer in Midwifery and Applied Healthcare Ethics and also as a Magistrate. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, painting with water colours, family trips, travel and eating out! I decided to become a Councillor as I felt I had amassed lots of community experience due to my midwifery and magistrate's roles which help to identify many social issues people have to deal with. I feel privileged to be a Councillor and part of the team for Blackrod and with them hope to create positive changes across the village for everyone.



NEW MAYOR AND MAYORESS FOR BLACKROD

The new Mayor, Councillor John Price and Mayoress Mrs Sandra Price, took up office on 13th May 2019 taking over from the retiring Mayor Mr Scott Batchelor and Mayoress Karen. Following the Civic Inauguration on 19th May in St Katharine's Church, guests were entertained by the children's choir from Blackrod Church School, who enthralled everyone with their wonderful voices and sense of pride in what they were doing. The new Mayor has lived in the village for over 50 years and been involved in many local projects throughout that time including the current volunteer gardening group, which help to maintain the local cemetery. Councillor Price stated that he was incredibly honoured to take up the position of Town Mayor and looks forward to meeting as many people as possible during the course of his year. Look out for the new Mayor's planned charity fund raising events across the year. Anyone wishing to contact the Town Mayor can do so through the office of the Town Clerk on **01204 696362**.



Members of Blackrod Church School Choir entertaining Civic guests

Notable Celebrations / Anniversaries
If you or any member of your family are celebrating 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 Groups Annual Exhibition

Friday 31st May saw the preview of this years Blackrod Art Group's Annual Exhibition at the library. Once again it was supported by local artists, community dignitaries, guests, family and friends. Deputy Mayor, Isabel Seddon officially opened the event and guest judge Tony Moss selected the award winning paintings. Further awards were made when visitors were invited to choose their favourite painting. Several paintings were sold on the night and the exhibition work will remain on display in the library for six weeks. The exhibition is the highlight of the groups year and the preview evening is a way of welcoming and thanking the community and the groups supporters. The photo shows John Barlow, an amazing amateur artist, who picked up the trophy from guest Judge, Tony Moss for the judges' favourite and also the trophy for the visitors' favourite. Congratulations go to all other prizewinners and it's a big thank you to the Library staff for allowing us to use the venue once again.



Jean Spencer (Secretary)

If anyone is interested in joining the group, call in at the Methodist Hall on Wednesday mornings or alternatively come to our Open Event planned for late October.

Scarecrow 2019

A million thanks to all who got involved with our annual Scarecrow Festival this year – it was another fabulous event enjoyed by hundreds of people over the weekend. The great ideas that you all come up with seem to get better every year - from Paddington Bear with his marmalade sandwiches to Vera's full-on crime scene – brilliant! Everybody played their part and joined in – exhibitors, programme sellers, erectors of gazebos, photographers, yarn bombers to say nothing of the fabulous trio of Worzel Gummidge, Aunt Sally and Crow who worked their magic once again. This year they changed into a quartet on Sunday and were joined by Saucy Nancy along with their carts and all the wonderful bits that come with it. We hope those who needed it used the minibus service provided by our Town Council and thanks to Ann and the library team who hosted 900 visitors over the weekend. There are countless volunteers who help in the run up to the event – making maps, producing programmes, distributors of forms and posters – thank you to you all and whatever you did you helped to bring £9,000 into our village to be enjoyed by us all. We have around £1000 to give away for a village project from the sale of the programmes so if you have any suggestions please contact me and we will consider them all. As you probably know the current team are handing the

2020 festival over to a new team who will bring new ideas and energy and ensure its future for many years to come. Around 40 people came together after the festival and we shall meet again in September – if you want to be part of that team please let me have your contact details and we will let you know the date etc. Winners of the programme raffle are: £100 – Sacha Holland of Blackrod; £50 – J Trevena of Blackrod and £25 – D Billington of Abram – congratulations to you all.



My contact details are 01204 691575 or jeanhibbert@virginmedia.com and I am looking forward to hearing from you (Jean Hibbert).

Blackrod Educational Trust Funding Application

2019 application forms will be available from October 2019 from the library or Council offices.

Blackrod Town Council Meeting dates during 2019/20

2019	Monday 5th August 7pm
	Monday 2nd September 7pm
	Monday 7th October 7pm
	Monday 4th November 7pm
	Monday 2nd December 7pm
	Tuesday 3rd December 6.30pm (Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony)
2020	Monday 6th January 7pm
	Monday 3rd February 7pm
	Monday 2nd March 7pm

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE NOVEMBER 2019

This year's Remembrance Day Service and Parade will revert back to normal practice and take place on the afternoon of Sunday 10th November 2019. Those attending should take up their places outside Heroes Bar on Manchester Road from 2pm for the short walk to the first part of the service held at the Cenotaph commencing at 2.15pm. This will be followed by the parade through the village for the Service of Remembrance at St Katharine's Church at 3pm. Maroons will be fired at 11am on 11th November at the Cenotaph in Blackrod Cemetery. Keep watch for any other information that may be forthcoming.

BOLTON LUNCHES

St Katharine's will once again be the collection point for the Bolton Lunches Scheme that will operate this summer. Those children eligible for Free School Meals can call between 11-12 noon to collect their lunch and the scheme operates from 22nd July to 30th August.

St Katharine's will also be holding coffee mornings every month and their Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 23rd November 10.00am-1.00pm.

BLACKROD LIBRARY

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



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 -Third 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 in to the library.
Knit and Natter - Every Saturday – bring your knitting/sewing projects and join others with a cuppa and a chat.
Audiology Clinic – First Thursday in the month 10am -12 noon – If you wear a hearing aid provided by 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.
Ward Councillors Surgery - Second Saturday in the month 10am-11am
Third Saturday of the month 10am-11.30am

Free Wi-Fi in the library

Free computer use for the first hour - £1 per hour after up to 3 hours extra
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 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.

The Summer Reading Challenge (Space Chase) runs from July 6th – 8th September 2019. Open to everyone from 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!
Health Check
1st August 2019 9am -3pm
Call in to the library on Thursday 1st August for a Health check- run by the Health Improvement Service. They will check your Height, weight, BMI, blood pressure, waist measurements, pulse checks, give CO2 readings for smokers and general lifestyle advice.



Neighbourhood Plan UPDATE

The Blackrod Neighbourhood Development Plan is with Bolton Council until the 19th July 2019 undergoing publicity and consultation. After this date the Plan, with any received responses, will be forwarded to an Independent Examiner. The Independent Examiner will review the Plan and responses then provide an assessment of the suitability of the Plan to go forward to a referendum, with or without modifications. We expect this review to be completed by September 2019." We anticipate the Neighbourhood Development Plan will go to referendum before the end of this year.



BLACKROD'S PEDRO THE PEACOCK

It is not every day you see a peacock in Blackrod, until that is three years ago. In July 2016 two intrepid adventurers, who became known as Pedro and Percy, arrived on the scene and quickly made themselves at home, roosting in the trees of the Old Vicarage.

Their owner, from Scot Lane, tried unsuccessfully to catch the two and return them to the rest of the group (nine females and one other male). And so it was they came to stay – Blackrod's unique and much loved residents.

All went well until early one April morning in 2017, when Pedro fell into the road from a branch overhanging Manchester Road and was struck twice by vehicles. Kind residents rushed to his aid and he was taken to Hillcrest Animal Hospital in Chorley. Word got out about the terrible accident and everyone hoped for the best. Suffering from trauma and physical injuries, which meant walking and eating were very difficult, the vet's advice was to take him back to his

roosting place (home) for his best chance of survival. So with two sets of neighbours caring for him he began his recuperation, living in a shed close to his roosting place and thankfully began to recover. An ingenious and successful plan to tempt Percy into the shed meant both were able to be returned to their owner to continue Pedro's recovery to full health.

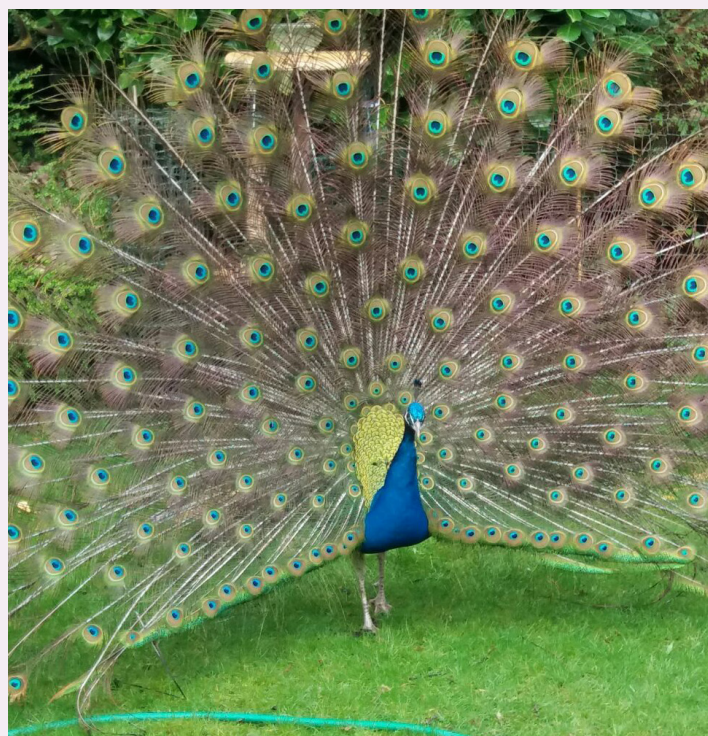
There you would have thought the story ended. None of it! One day not long after Pedro reappeared near to his old roost, much to the amazement of his friends. On becoming stronger Pedro had been released from his temporary recovery pen, only to return to his home in the heart of the village of Blackrod, whilst Percy meanwhile, went on shorter excursions to The Cheethams area of the village.

Pedro settled back into his village life as if nothing had happened and for the next two years he continued to be the talk of the town, popping up everywhere and delighting residents and passers-by alike. He

lived through some terrible weather, including the Beast From The East, all the time being fed by all of his friends in the village. Grapes were amongst his favourite food!

Peacocks can live for well over twenty years, but unfortunately Pedro was not to be with us for as long. In early June this year, after several days of not returning to his roosting place, appeals were made to try to find him but sadly there was no happy ending as Pedro had been killed.

Permission was granted from Bolton Council who along with others recognised Pedro's place in Blackrod as unique and granted permission for him to be buried in the graveyard in Blackrod, in unconsecrated ground.. A fitting place for a character who had made his home in the community and who had been taken to people's hearts. Seeing Pedro has brought much fun and laughter to so many. Young and old will never forget the pleasure of having him as a Blackrodder. Thankyou Pedro.



Mayor's Charity Event

The Town Mayor, Councillor John Price, would like to thank all those who attended the recent charity fund raising coffee morning, held in the Council Chambers. Thanks to all the wonderful cakes and tombola prizes that were donated for the event, which helped raise over £300 that will go towards the Mayors Charity donations to be made at the end of the 2019-2020 Civic year. A big thank you to everyone who helped on the day in whichever way they could.

The next Charity Fund raising night will be held on Friday August 30th at the Hilltops Social Club on

Hill Lane. This event is a 60's night and music and entertainment will be provided by The Travellin' Strings. Tickets will cost £10 and include a warm supper and are available from the Town Clerk, Mayor and other parties. Let's make it a 'swinging occasion'. On Friday 22nd November a Murder Mystery Night will take place at the Hawthorns Function Room (formerly San Marco) Tickets and information will be made available shortly.

Blackrod Mayors chosen charities for 2019 are The Specialist Heart Unit at Royal Bolton Hospital; The Homeless and Blackrod Children's Organisations.



Saturday the 20th of July 2019 saw the Mayors Charity sponsored walk take place from Blackrod Council Chambers to Bolton Town Hall. Donations are still being counted but at the date of printing over £700 had been collected.