

# Blackrod Town Council



## NEWSLETTER

Issue 10  
Winter  
2007

Welcome to the tenth quarterly Newsletter to be published by Blackrod Town Council



### Blackrod Methodist Church Christmas Market

Blackrod Mayor Cllr. Ian Hamilton & his wife Helen, seen here admiring the plant stall, opened the Christmas Market on Saturday 17th November. Thanks to the efforts of many willing volunteers £1,200 was raised for the Church funds

**Blackrod Christmas Tree** was lit at a short service conducted by Rev. Carol McCabe. The Rivington & Adlington Band accompanied the carol singing. The Mayor pulled the switch and lit this magnificent tree. It is hoped that even more people will join us in future for this traditional celebration.

### Carols Round the Tree



### Unveiling of the Blackrod Village Tapestry



### Unveiling of the Blackrod Village Tapestry

Ruth Kelly MP, seen above with Mary Pryle, recently unveiled the Blackrod Village Tapestry at the Town Council Chamber. Twenty members of the Blackrod Tapestry Group took seven years to produce this truly impressive work of art depicting Blackrod through the ages. The three panel tapestry currently is on display in the Blackrod Library and later in St Katharines Church, shows the village from Roman times through to the present day.

### Getting the Christmas Shoe Boxes Ready

The Mayor & Mayoress of Blackrod Cllr. Ian Hamilton and his wife Helen helped to check the contents of Christmas appeal shoe boxes to make sure that everything complied with the regulations laid down by the Charity. Thanks to the generosity of the local people many children will have something to look forward to when they wake up on Christmas Day.



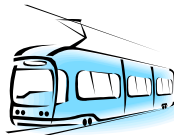
Tapestry & Shoe Box Photos courtesy of Steve Crawshaw, Horwich Advertiser.

## Changes to the Concessionary Fares Scheme in 2008

From April 2008 people over 60 and certain groups of disabled people who hold a Greater Manchester Concessionary Pass will be able to travel free after 9.30am on any local bus service in England.



In addition they will still be able to travel free on trains and on the Metrolink between 9.30 and midnight within the current Greater Manchester limits and free or at discounted fares on buses, trains and Metrolink before 9.30am



GMPTE will be issuing new passes to all current concessionary pass holders and to any others who are eligible and wish to join the scheme.

Everyone eligible should receive a pre-prepared application form that they must check and return in a pre-paid envelope. Along with a passport style photograph. The "Smartcards" will be issued in March and will be valid for five years. After five years it will be necessary to re-apply using a more recent photograph

## Mayor's Fundraiser



Blackrod Mayoress Helen Hamilton and her daughter Rachel held a "Partylite" fundraiser in support of the Mayor's Charity Diabetes U.K. A good time was had by all.

## Christmas Crafts Activity Event

Blackrod Library are having a Christmas Craft Activity Event for primary school aged children on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 4pm & 5pm. If you fancy coming along just call into the Library and put your name on the list

## New Minor Illness/Minor Injuries Service



Minor Illness (e.g. coughs, colds, sore throats) and Minor Injuries (e.g. sprains, strains, burns cuts etc) can now be treated at Westhoughton Clinic every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1.30 pm – 6.00 pm. This service is for Unsworth Practice patients only. For details ring 01942 812525.

## Concessionary Travel Passes

From December 1st all new applications for concessionary travel passes will have to be processed at Moor Lane Bus Station. The pass will automatically be replaced by a "Smart Card" in March 2008

## Coffee & Carols in Blackrod Library

Blackrod Library will be hosting its Annual Coffee & Carols event on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December between 10 am and 12 noon. The staff will serve refreshments and mince pies to Library users as a thank-you for their custom throughout the year. Pupils of Blackrod Church School will sing carols.



## Get Involved in the 2008 Scarecrow Festival



Last year's Scarecrow festival was such a success that plans are being made to ensure that it is even bigger & better next year.

Now that we have all seen how it is done, I am sure that more people will be happy to join in the fun by either displaying a scarecrow or forming part of the appreciative audience.

For those interested in being involved the first meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in St Katherine's Church.

**Everyone welcome. All ideas valued.**

## Civic Amenity Site

The Civic Amenity Site at Blackhorse Street has now reopened following necessary improvements and complete re-surfacing of the whole of the area.

The times of opening remain the same :- Winter Months 8 am - 6 pm Week-days & Saturdays, 8 am to 4 pm Sundays, Summer Months 8 am to 8 pm every-day.



**Blackrod Town Clerk ,  
Your Key Source of Council Information**

**Christine Pearson**, the Town Clerk , can be contacted at her office in Blackrod Library /Council Services, Church Street Blackrod between 9am & 4pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Tel 01204 696362 or on e mail; [blackrodtc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:blackrodtc@tiscali.co.uk)  
Web Site Address [www.blackrodtowncouncil.org](http://www.blackrodtowncouncil.org)

**Dates of Town Council Meetings 2008**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January , Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February,, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March , Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April . Meetings commence at 7.15 pm in the Council Chamber, Blackrod Library.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and 15 minutes are set aside at each meeting for members of the public to speak on any matters of concern to them.

**Remembrance Parade and Service**

The Mayor and Mayoress along with members of the Town Council, members of the Royal British Legion and other organisations took part in the Annual Service of Remembrance and Parade on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The laying of wreaths at the War Memorial in the Blackrod Cemetery was lead by the Mayor of Blackrod. Maroons had been fired from the Cemetery at 11.00 am to mark the Day of Remembrance.



**Blackrod Town Councillors**

**North Ward**

Cllr. Mike Hollick	Tel. 01204 697933
Cllr. Marlene Winward	Tel. 01204 694646
Cllr. Ann Cunliffe	Tel. 01942 830001

**Central Ward**

Cllr. Ian Hamilton	Tel. 01204 699703
Cllr. Isabel Seddon	Tel. 01204 692597
Cllr Pat Senior	Tel. 01204 400487

**South Ward**

Cllr. Pat Barrow	Tel. 01942 831461
Cllr. Andrew Bower	Tel. 01942 830707
Cllr. Graham Farrington	Tel. 01942 832853

Cllr. Hollick & Cllr. Hamilton are also Bolton Borough Councillors

The Blackrod British Legion Poppy appeal raised a magnificent £ 1,950 this year. The Town Council contributed £150.

**Policing in Blackrod**

Police surgeries continue to be held in the Blackrod Library on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month from 6 – 7 pm.

**Dates for Your Diaries**

**The Blackrod Welfare Christmas Party** is all set for a festive treat for the over 70s on December 8th **Christmas parcels** will be distributed on December 10th

**Bus Services in Blackrod**



Have you had any recent problems with bus services in Blackrod? If so, please let us know by ringing the Town Clerk on 01204 696362 or emailing on [blackrodtc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:blackrodtc@tiscali.co.uk) when we can take any problems up with the relevant Bus Company.

**Bulb Planting for the spring**

The group of willing volunteers have now completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of bulb planting in Blackrod so look out for the additional displays in Spring



**Blackrod Recycling Station**

After a full refurbishment the “skip” has reopened in time for a pre-Christmas sort out.

**Rivington & Blackrod High School** will be holding their Christmas Carol Service in St Katherine’s Church at 7.30pm on Monday 17th December. Come along and enjoy this festive event when local children display their musical & Vocal talents.

If you wish to include items in the Newsletter such as Fund Raising Events which would be of interest/benefit to other residents again contact the Town Clerk or any Town Councillor.





### Children's Painting Competition

The winners of the Children's Painting Competition celebrate their success with the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackrod.



The Mayor and Mayoress of Blackrod, Councillor Ian and Mrs Hamilton, presented trophies and prizes to the successful participants in this year's Blackrod in Bloom Competition.

### Blackrod Lunch & Leisure Club Monday in the Methodist Hall

### Arm-Chair Based Exercise Class



Following the success of the initial 12 week trial period, the Arm Chair Based exercise class, will now continue to run indefinitely. The FREE classes are held every Thursday in the Council Chamber Blackrod Library from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm (*refreshments served at 11.30 am at a small cost*). The exercises are organised as part of the 'Ageing Well' Campaign and the emphasis is on having fun!! Classes resume in January. Why not come along and give it a try.



The Club continues to go from strength to strength thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers. They turn up reliably to cook, serve, set the tables, wash up and organize the Bingo. Anyone else interested in becoming involved should contact Margaret Jones on 01204 468427 Lunches resume after the Christmas break on Monday January 7th.

### Rivi Studio Launch

Rivington & Blackrod School's state of the art television & radio studio was officially opened by Rock FM DJ Hywel Evans on 14th November.



£100,000 Multi Media studio was financed through a grant received by the school for gaining specialist technology status. In addition to providing a launch pad for pupils who want to break in to the world of entertainment, it will add an extra dimension to the teaching of other subjects. The Head Teacher Tony Purcell said: this is an excellent opportunity for both young people and other groups across the community to truly embrace the future of technology and media.

### An Admirable Fund Raising effort



Cllr Isabel Seddon visited Cleveland School during her Mayoral year to talk to the pupils about how the Blackrod Charity helps the children who are still affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The school adopted that cause as their charity for the year. Cllr. Seddon was delighted to return in September to accept a cheque for £2,647.

### Presentation of the cheque