

# Whitworth Swimming Club News

## Winter: December 2013

### Issue: 6



Welcome to the sixth issue of Whitworth Swimming Club newsletter.

The swimming teachers, assistants, helpers, and committee would like to wish all swimming club members, children, parents, carers, relatives and Whitworth Leisure Centre staff a very **Happy Christmas and Fun Filled New Year**. Many thanks again for all your support in 2013. We are planning some new activities in 2014 that we will be canvassing your views on.

If you would like to see additional features in this newsletter then speak to one of the qualified teachers or Mike Burgess. More information about the Swimming Club is also on our website [www.whitworthswimmingclub.com](http://www.whitworthswimmingclub.com)



## Dates for the Diary

Please add these dates to your diary, phone, blackberry and calendar:

### Christmas and New Year Holidays 2013/14

We are closed on the following dates:

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December 2013

31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014

### And there is more.....

At the end of this newsletter you will find:

- School Holiday closure dates
- Swimming teacher and assistant meeting dates
- Swimming Club Activities Calendar



## Communications and Social Media

Whitworth Swimming Club website contains lots of information about the club <http://www.whitworthswimmingclub.com/>

We are visible and active on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/253308758086422/>

We are tweeting on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/whitworthswim>

## Remembrance Sunday

### 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Whitworth Swimming Club showed their respect on Remembrance Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

It was a very poignant and moving ceremony to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. Kim Blezard and Robbie Blezard kindly laid the wreath, seen here with the Mayor of Whitworth and Vicar of St. Bartholomew's

More photographs of the service are here:

<http://www.whitworthvalley.com/#/remembrance-sunday-2013/4581046208>



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## Annual Memberships 2014

At the AGM we agreed to keep memberships fees to £15 per annum per child, for multiples of 3 children it will be £40. Please can you renew your memberships in January 2014 and provide us with your email address for mailing newsletter, swimming club events and news to your inbox.

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## Standing Orders 2014

Please read the rules about standing orders for 2014 and please do not cancel over the Christmas Holidays

[Please click here to download the important information on standing orders](#)

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## Whitworth Swimming Club Family Fun Party and Medal Celebration 2013

It was party time on Sunday 3rd November 2013 when over 110 parents and children joined Whitworth Swimming Club at the Family Fun Party and Medal Celebration 2013 at the Riverside, Whitworth

Kim Blezard's (swimming teacher and vice Chair) enthusiasm and party mood ensured the club party kicked off the afternoon with a superb range of games and competitions so every child could participate. With her band of helpers the kids enjoyed the traditional party games with prizes and sweets.



The biggest draw of the afternoon was the medal celebration, with every entrant receiving a special printed certificate. Swimmers not only received the gold, silver and bronze medals but also special trophies for the overall winners in each age group. The competition for these exclusive trophies was intense at the gala. The event concluded with a very special "Whitworth Swimming Club has talent" with a range of dancing competitions where the kids showed us their dancing moves. Club spokesman Mike Burgess said: "I would like to express a massive thank you to parents, children, teachers, helpers, volunteers and the Riverside staff for making it a super afternoon. Finally a special mention to Dale Blezard for being a great DJ and keeping the kids dancing"

To see more photographs of this event, please visit.

<http://www.whitworthswimmingclub.com/#/medals-2013/4580903719>

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## Whitworth Swimming Club Annual General Meeting (AGM) 11.11.13

Whitworth Swimming Club held it's AGM on the above date the following committee members were elected at the very well attended meeting. It would be nice to see some more parents involved and present. Thank you to Alf Hill for joining us.

### Nomination and Election of New Officers:

Mike Burgess was elected as **Chair**

Kim Blezard was elected as **Vice Chair**

David Whatmough was elected as **Treasurer**

Sam Keiley was elected as **Secretary**

Michelle Ashcroft was elected as **Child Protection Officer**

Robbie Blezard and Alex Park **Teaching Assistant Representatives**

Tracy Maden and Terri Ann Simpson: **Events Managers**

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## Exchange Visit 2014

Whitworth swimming club has been involved in an exchange between swimming club children and the children of Kandel (our twin town in Germany) since 1978 and we hope to continue this amazing experience for many more years to come. Next year we are expecting up to 30 visitors from Kandel, made up of approximately 5 adults and 25 children (ages 11-16). They will be visiting between the dates of **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August**. We now require families who are able to accommodate our visitors in their homes. The exchanges tend to follow the same basic formula year in year out:



On arrival from Kandel we meet our visitors at the Riverside and take them to our homes to unpack. As long as they do not arrive too late in the day we then host a **Welcome Party** that evening (this is open to all the visitors / host families /swimming teachers/assistants and anyone able to help out). During the weekdays Swimming Club arrange for trips for the host families and the visitors (on a one for one basis to keep down costs – funded by swimming club) the children will be looked after and normally just require a packed lunch. In the past we have been to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Blue Planet, Crocky Trail and many more local (ish) places of interest!!!! Some evening events are organised to entertain everybody, in the past we have held talent contests, sports evenings, games evenings and numerous fun events.

On the Saturday we will arrange something in the afternoon going onto early evening for the children to do together (this gives the host families chance to have a lie in!!). More often than not Sunday is Family Day where you as a host get the opportunity to show your guest what you like to do as a family on a Sunday, be it going to Church, going to the swimming pool or even off for a family walk however the Trafford Centre seems to be a big favourite or the sea-side. The night before our visitors leave we always have a **Leaving Party**, this is when the Swimming club provide a small gift to all the visitors as a memento of their trip. And before you know it the visit is over, many friendships have been forged and when we wave goodbye as the coach leaves the car park copious tears are shed. But the best bit is we get to go over to visit them the next year, and so on and so on.

Take a look at our website and Facebook to see some of the great photos from over the years, it really is a wonderful experience.

<http://www.whitworthswimmingclub.com/#/kandel-twin-town/4544078773>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10201779925596819.1073741907.1141972093&type=1&l=64a536e01a>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10201779883915777.1073741906.1141972093&type=1&l=1926c08910>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.528085120608783&type=1>

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## Please let me “Introduce Myself”

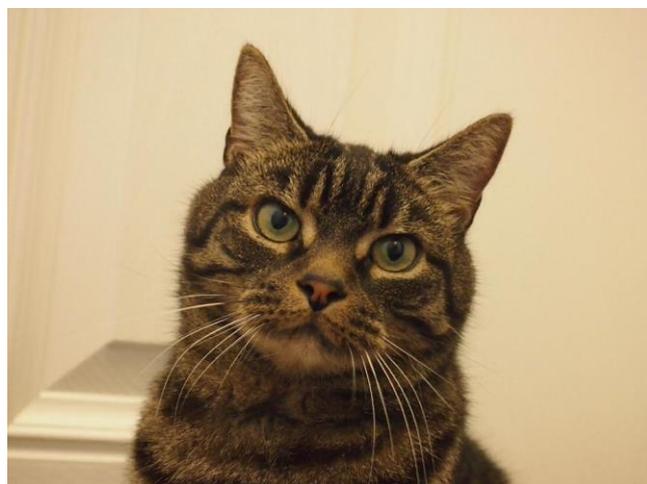
Hello there swim folk and parents. You may have seen me checking out the Swimming Pool on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings on Swimming Club Nights.

My name is Kooshka and I am gorgeous male tabby cat.

I was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 and am a young 8 ½ years old.

I enjoy a good cuddle or stroke and I do love attention where ever I go especially at my favourite watering hole, the Whitworth Leisure Centre.

In August 2013, I moved house to the new ones built opposite the pool on Grogan Close. It didn't take me long to make lots of friends with everyone who lives in the new houses. I quickly spied the Leisure Centre and the crowd of lovely life guards to get lots of cuddles from and some snacks, yum.



Call me old fashioned but I do love my routine. After a good nights snooze curled up in my fluffy bed next to the central heating dreaming of chasing dogs I like to be up bang on the dot at 6.30am. I patiently wait behind the front door for my lovely owner Shelly to let me out to play so I can go check out what has been happening in my hood and catch up with my mates.

By 8.30am I like to nip back home for my breakfast where I do enjoy a good bowl of my favourite cat biscuits (licks lips). Whilst munching away I plan the purrfect day to spend my time. I love going in and out of the house all day, visiting my friends at the Leisure Centre, checking on the children in the pool, eating and my personal favourite cat napping. I have to admit I am a bit of a sun worshipper and you can often find me in the sunshine stretched out sunbathing. After a busy day I do like to be home, I am not one of these cats out all night on the tiles. I love to be snuggled up in my bed by late evening and I adore my fluffy bed and stay in it all night. After a purrfect night sleep it is 6.30am and I get up and I do it all again.



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## Dates for the Diary

### School Holiday Closures for 2014

We will post this early 2014 and on the website

### Swimming Club Teachers Meeting

Please see dates on the following link: <http://www.whitworthswimmingclub.com/#/events/4561498877>

### Whitworth Swimming Club Activities Calendar 2014

#### 6.55pm and 7.25pm Width Sessions and 8.00pm onwards Length Sessions

Please see the activity calendar on the following link:

<http://www.whitworthswimmingclub.com/#/events/4561498877>

#### Monday 16th Dec: Civic Carol Service

Organised jointly by the Town Council and Churches Together in the Whitworth Valley, this family service is very popular.

#### Wednesday 1st Jan 2014: New Year's Day Duck Race

OK, so technically not in 2013 but it's worth making a note of anyway! 1,000 yellow rubber ducks are sponsored at £1 each; the ducks are flung into the overspill at Cowm Reservoir, and the first three ducks to cross the line collect a cash prize. This is a great event and was attended by over 350 people in 2013.



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## Other Bits and Bobs

Please see link <http://www.whitworthswimmingclub.com/#/downloads/4544525909>

### Whitworth Swimming Club Volunteers

### Whitworth Swimming Club Rules

### Whitworth Swimming Three Strike Rule