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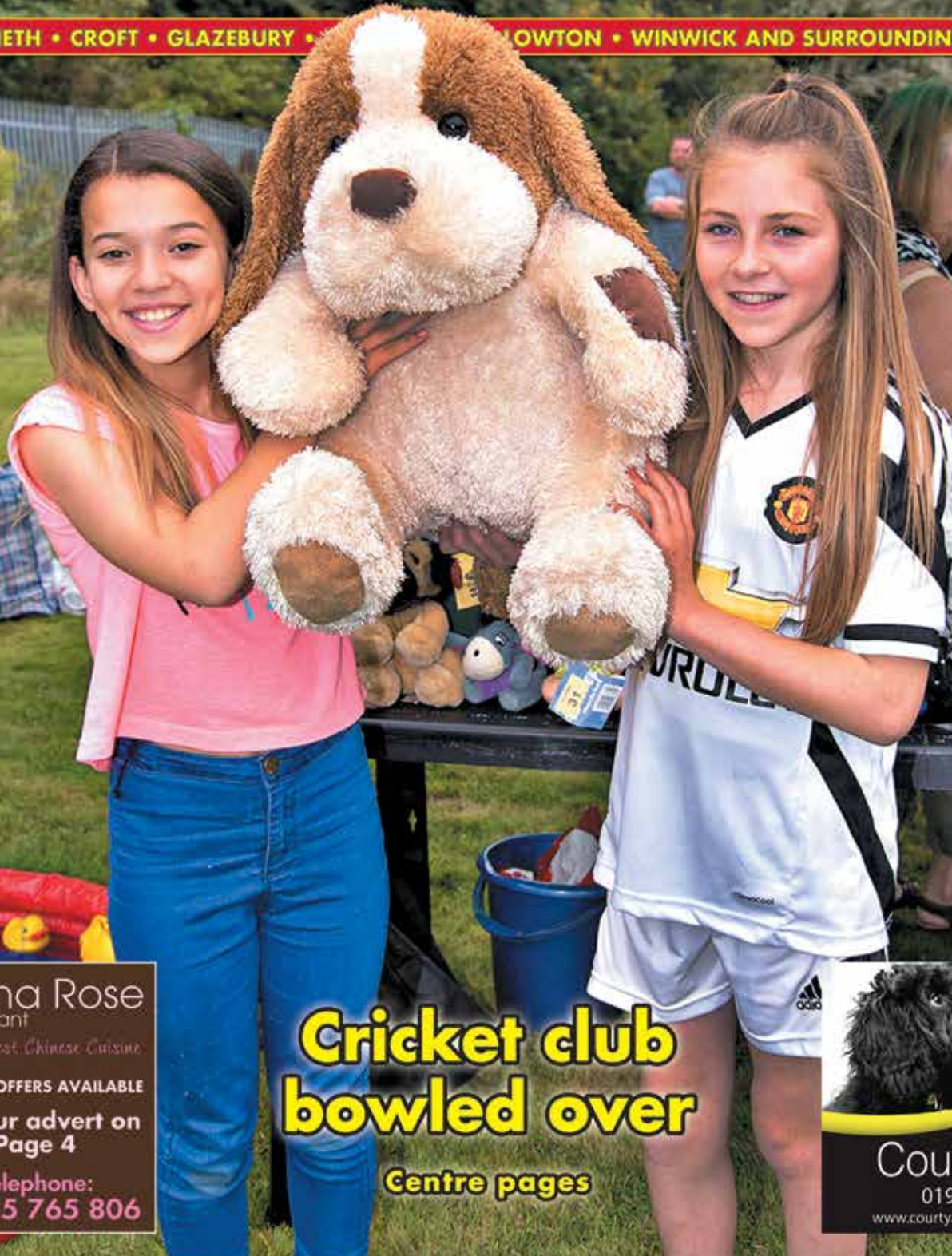
# Culcheth Life

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Issue: 151  
October 2015

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# Editor's Comment



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*Printed by TwentyFourSeven*

## CONGRATULATIONS to everyone involved at Newton & District Rotary Club for another fantastic beer festival at Culcheth Sports Club.

It was another great occasion helping raise funds for local good causes and various charities.

Also well done to Nigel Healey

from Hunter Healey Accountants for his continued support for this annual event as the main sponsor - and for helping provide the entertainment

at another memorable occasion. On a personal note it was also great to catch up with some old school friends I had not seen for many years.

## Village road works set to start

A NEW programme of road repairs is set to start in Croft on October 5, bringing significant benefits to local residents.

Roads to be resurfaced include Southworth Lane, Spring Lane, Dam Lane, New Lane and Smithy Lane.

The work has been welcomed by local councillors Chris Vobe and Matt Smith who have been campaigning for road improvements in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

Cllr Smith said: "Our commitment to significantly improving the road network across the villages is slowly but surely being realised. Despite devastating cuts to Warrington's budget by the government, we are striving to ensure that Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft gets its fair share of investment. Improving our roads - particularly along main arterial routes - is a crucial part of attracting businesses and other organisations to

establish themselves in this part of Warrington.

"Good quality roads, and a well-kept local environment, all help to keep business and investment here, which in turn keeps our economy moving."

Cllr Vobe added: "We have seen significant council investment in our roads over the past three years

and this latest wave of resurfacing projects will be particularly welcome in Croft.

"The roads which will benefit from improvements are some of the areas which have been most in need."

Diversions will be in place while the resurfacing takes place.



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# Campaign launched for better broadband

**A CAMPAIGN demanding better broadband for residents in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft has been launched.**

For months, local people have struggled with poor internet connection and slow speeds.

BT Openreach and Connecting Cheshire have promised that the green cabinets throughout the area will be upgraded so that every household can access fibre broadband — but that hasn't happened.

It has prompted local councillors Chris Vobe, Matt Smith and Joan Grime to take action.

Cllr Vobe said: "Labour councillors are taking the lead on this important issue. The current situation just isn't good enough. We want clarity from BT and Connecting Cheshire about when their services will be provided and a formal commitment from them

that they will adhere to the dates they fix.

"They've managed to provide fibre broadband to remote areas like Kielder Forest Park in Northumberland — so why can't they do the same in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft? We're asking as many residents to join with us by adding their name to the petition we have launched."

The three councillors and MP Helen Jones are to call for a meeting with senior managers at BT to deliver their petition and put pressure on them to deliver a better service.

Cllr Joan Grime is supporting residents in Glazebury and Mee Brow who have contacted her about

this issue.

She says that she is determined to make sure that Glazebury doesn't get left behind after the latest figures show that less than 100 properties in the village have access to fibre broadband!

In Hob Hey, residents have been told that the upgrades have been delayed until 31st March next year.

In Croft, local resident Norman Partington is working with Councillors to get additional funding from

Connecting Cheshire so that the rural parts of the village don't miss out.

Norman and local councillors have written to the company, asking that they step in and use part of their government funding to get Croft connected.

Residents who want to add their name to Labour's petition can do so by visiting [WarringtonLabour.com](http://WarringtonLabour.com) or contacting the councillors via [chrisvobe@googlemail.com](mailto:chrisvobe@googlemail.com)



## At last – Shaw Street's new changing rooms approved

PLANS for the long-awaited new changing rooms at Culcheth's Shaw Street recreation ground have been given the go-ahead after a lengthy delay.

Earlier this year, the scheme was withdrawn from the borough development management committee's agenda after it was decided a tree survey should be carried out because of the proximity of locally important trees.

Now, however, the scheme has been approved. The scheme will involve demolition of the existing sub-standard building and construction of a steel modular building to serve as a sports changing complex and canteen. The new building will occupy the same site as the old, but will be slightly larger, taking in an area of hard-standing surrounding the current building.

## Another beer festival success

ROTARIANS have been congratulated on another successful beer festival at Culcheth Sports Club.

Hunter Healey were main sponsors to the event with Alicia leading the HH team behind the bar ably assisted by friends from Barclays and Santander and Nigel leading the beer band on the stage.

Practice Manager Alicia Flint said: "Congratulations to Rotary on another fantastic event. It was great to see so many clients and friends in attendance. It's always a popular event with our staff who willingly give up their time in support of such a worthy charitable cause, We can't wait for next year!"



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# Showjumper's plan clears the first hurdle

**SHOWJUMPER** Jay Buxton's plans to create a top class equestrian training facility at Croft have cleared the first hurdle.

Planning chiefs have given the green light for his proposals for a 75m X 35m all-weather arena on land off Mustard Lane, together with plans to extend and alter stables and barns on the site.

The scheme had been opposed by three neighbours and by Croft Parish Council.

Jay (Jonathan) Buxton, 24, has qualified to take part in the International Classes at the Horse of the Year Show after winning the wild card qualifying class at the British National Showjumping Championships at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

He qualified after regaining fitness after fracturing his back in a fall at a show in Valencia in March.

Members of the borough council's development management

committee heard that he had the support of Robrecht Cnockaert, the British Showjumping Team's veterinary surgeon.

In a letter to the council, he said: "I have been asked to support Jonathan's planning application for a large menage.

"Jonathan is a promising young showjumping rider who...is developing a good reputation as a producer of quality showjumpers.

"Today's modern showjumper is quite a big animal. We are wanting them to jump over fences that can be 1.6m high with a depth or 'spread' of 2.0m. In order to train these animals safely and effectively it is imperative that suitable facilities are available.

"This includes a suitable menage which needs to be large enough to contain a full set of 14-18 jumps to have sufficient room for them to make a mistake without hurting themselves and potentially injuring the rider.

"A larger menage is thus a necessary requirement for the successful development of quality showjumpers."

Planning officers recommended the scheme be approved. They said the alterations to buildings, including 10 loose boxes, would not be inappropriate in the Green Belt and the outdoor arena would be within an existing paddock.

There would be no significant

impact on openness, nor on the Green Belt.

Neighbours had argued that the development would accommodate a commercial equestrian business

on a busy lane used by children going to school.

The scale of the operation would not harmonise with other buildings in the immediate area.

## Scouts De-"lighted"

CULCHETH Scout centre is a brighter place - thanks to new LED lighting.

Pictured Left, Karen Fance (Keeo) and right, Christine Housby (Akele) help 3rd Warrington East 1st Culcheth Beavers study for their Badges under the new LED lighting installed at the Culcheth Scout Centre on Jackson Ave.



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## Accountants investing in the future



L to R: Jon Knowles, Andrew Halewood, Mike Hayes, Alycia Catterall and Conor Byrne.

### Taking on more personnel in management roles and bringing in the finest graduates are essential requirements, as Styles and Co look to continue their expansive growth.

Styles and Co have shown commitment to their longstanding tradition of bringing in the best and brightest new graduates each year and investing in young talent by taking on two new graduates this summer.

The first of these is Mike Hayes who has joined as a Marketing Coordinator, as part of his Master's Degree in Business Consultancy with Marketing, at the University of Chester.

Conor Byrne has also joined as an ACCA Trainee Accountant, after achieving a first class BSc honours degree in Finance and Accounting at the University of Salford.

Several more experienced faces have also been added to the ranks, as Styles and Co look to strengthen their wealth of experience and knowledge. This will allow Styles and

Co continue to offer the very best in accountancy and taxation advice to clients both present and future.

Amongst the new faces are Alycia Catterall and Jon Knowles, who have joined as a Payroll Manager and Tax Assistant respectively and Andrew Halewood has also been recruited as a Personal Tax Manager. All these people are now in place to enhance the service the firm provides to its personal tax and payroll clients.

Styles and Co Partner: Graeme Hindley said: "These new additions to our already experienced team, and the introduction of new graduates, shows our commitment to investing in the future and the level of service we provide to our clients. At Styles and Co we are delighted that we are again able to take on the best and brightest graduates and 2015 is no exception."



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Thursday 12th November  
Tuesday 17th November  
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## Fun day's £1,100 boost

**GLAZEBURY Cricket Club's annual fundraising Fun Day raised more than £1,100, giving the club a big boost as the end of the cricket season approaches.**

There was fun for all the family at the event in the grounds of the Chat Moss hotel and club members were pleased to see a big increase in the number of children attending.

There were various stalls and other activities and a barbecue – with barm cakes and finger rolls provided by John Waterfield.

Club chairman Sean Caine said: "We would like to thank everyone who helped, including the various clubs and businesses who donated prizes for the raffle."

The event was organised by club stalwart Andrew Calvert and was generally voted a huge success.

Glazebury's 1st XI finished the

## In Bloom winners announced

THE winners of this year's "Culcheth and Glazebury in Bloom" competition have been announced.

The competition – which is organised by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council – was sponsored by Bents Garden and Home, and is designed to encourage local residents to take an interest in the gardens and give the village more colour.

Mrs Gail Lee, of Chiltern



Road, and Mrs Barbara Delve, of Wigshaw Lane, were presented with their prizes by Councillor Chris Vobe and Matthew Bent, from sponsors Bents Garden and Home.

Nominations were invited from residents of the village for the most beautiful garden. The winners were nominated by fellow residents, who had seen their garden whilst out and about.

A spokesperson from Bents Garden and Home said: "Bents has been proud to support two local 'in bloom' competitions, with fantastic entries in both Croft and Culcheth & Glazebury.

"Bents were delighted to present hanging baskets to the winners of both events and hope they further enhance the beautiful surroundings that have been carefully cultivated by the winning gardeners."

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# Boost for cricket club

season in a respectable mid-table position in the Cheshire Alliance first division, with the 2nd XI holding a similar position in division four.

But they face problems in the coming year with a shortage of young players coming through and a big rent rise looming for their Hurst Lane ground.



## The Gardening Guide October

- This is an excellent time of year to construct paths, patios and terraces. Remember they will look best if they complement the materials used for the house
- The last mow of the year will probably take place this month - just tip the grass blades
- Plant traditional favourites such as Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots and Polyanthus in prepared ground for a colourful spring show
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## Your Parish Councillors

### NEWCHURCH WARD



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## Culcheth and Glazebury in bloom

Our first annual "Culcheth and Glazebury in Bloom" competition concluded this month as our two winners were announced. Mrs Gail Lee, of Chiltern Road, and Mrs Barbara Delve, of Wigshaw Lane, were presented their prizes by Councillor Chris Vobe and Matthew Bent, from Bents Garden and Home. All the gardens entered in the competition were judged independently by members of the local Horticultural Society. The Parish Council was delighted to administer this competition and hope that the interest shown by local residents can be repeated next year, when we plan to repeat the exercise. Councillors will give full details in Culcheth Life next Spring, and open up nominations for any garden in the Parish. We would like to thank Bents Garden and Home for their support and kind sponsorship of this year's event.

## Funding and investment

Your Parish Councillors have submitted several bids to the East Area Board to try and secure funding for a number of important local projects. Cllr Vobe and Cllr Smith attend the Board meetings to lobby on our behalf, where an annual fund is available for all parish councils across the Warrington East area to assist with local schemes that will improve transportation, sustainability and accessibility. In recent years, our Parish has been extremely successful in submitting winning bids and we hope to replicate that success again in November when funding allocations will be made. The Parish Council are hoping to secure the funds towards "speed activated signs" to help tackle excess speeding in the villages; additional "knee rails" around the village green to protect the land and prevent potential traveller incursions; the completion of the "dropped kerbs" project in the centre of Culcheth (by adding road crossings to the junctions of Wellfield Road); and funding for the installation of parking bays on Heswall Avenue to resolve long-standing parking congestion issues there. We will keep you updated later in the year on the outcome of the meeting.

## Wind turbine

A number of residents in Glazebury have contacted the Parish Council to express their dismay at the installation of a wind turbine, which overlooks a number of homes in the village. Planning permission was granted for this turbine last year after an application was submitted to Wigan Council. The turbine itself is actually located outside of the boundary of Warrington Borough Council and so was determined by councillors in our neighbouring authority. Your parish councillors made very strong representations at the time, and attended the meeting at Wigan Town Hall where the matter was discussed. We made clear our disappointment that Glazebury residents had not been consulted as a matter of course, and ensured that local views were heard. Now that permission has been granted, we will keep a watchful eye on the site and are happy to pass on any feedback to Wigan Council if problems occur.

## Solar farm

Culcheth residents in the Common Lane area have recently received a consultation document from a company who intend to submit a planning application to site a Solar Farm on Kenyon Lane in Croft. Although this is outside our Parish, Culcheth residents have been consulted because of the proximity of the proposed farm. A public event was held in the Village Club earlier this month to give residents the opportunity to speak to the applicant and pose any questions they may have. Parish Councillors will be making representations on your behalf as the planning process gets under way. We are keen to hear from any local people who have views on the proposals. Please get in touch if you have any comments or questions and we will ensure these are communicated to the Council's planning department.

## Planting day for the village

Councillors are working with local residents to explore the possibility of a bulb planting day for the village after residents suggested that they would like to get involved in "brightening up Culcheth"! The Parish Council's environment committee will be looking to arrange a display of daffodils along Warrington Road around the cherry trees and will be opening the event up to anyone who wants to come along and join us. Councillors will give further details as soon as a date and time is fixed.

# "Mystery shopper" drops in at the WI

"MYSTERY Shopper" Keith Vigurs was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI – although he could equally have been described as a spy for the retail trade.

After retiring from his position as a bank manager, he enjoyed a very busy retirement working as a hospital visitor, TV extra and helping in schools, in addition to singing in a male voice choir. His work as a mystery shopper involved going anonymously into supermarkets to test staff on their performance and customer service and then reporting back to the management.

In restaurants, accompanied by his wife, he would measure the time between courses, the quality of service, cleanliness of the toilets etc; he considered this part of his job not too onerous, and certainly more interesting than banking, as he and his wife would have a free night out!

Two new visitors, Jill Berry and Jeanette Leatherbarrow, were welcomed and Eileen Williams was thanked for the flowers she gave for the president's table.

Birthday congratulations were given to Margaret Barron and Joan Lawton, both of whom had celebrated birthdays in September.

After tea and biscuits, served by Madelaine Kirk and Janis Porter, the raffle was drawn and with extra prizes of apples given by Roma, this month's winners were Frances Robinson, Roma Etherington, Maura Appleby, Eileen Williams, Barbara Hartley, Sally Taylor, Jill Berry, Christine Adams and Wendy Williams.

Next meeting is on the afternoon of Tuesday October 20 when the speaker will be Janet Bradshaw telling of her "Sweet Memories".

# Celebrating the WI'S 100th birthday

THE monthly meeting of Croft WI resembled Ladies Day at Ascot when members donned their finest ensembles to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute.

Visitors from Burtonwood, Winwick, Penketh, Sankey, Fearnhead and Westend Girls institutes came along to enjoy the party, which included quizzes, raffles, an extensive buffet and entertainment provided by singer Sarah Lowe. Sarah proved to be an extremely versatile singer whose repertoire covered operatic songs right through to country and western and pop and members enjoyed a good "sing along" to some of the numbers.

Treasurer Anne Lamming read out a congratulatory message from the Prime Minister sent to all WI's throughout the country in which he praised the WI and women's achievements over the past 100 years.

WI advisor Selena Prescott thanked Croft WI on behalf of the visitors for a wonderful evening.

The competition was won by Joan Johnson, with Barbara Taylor second, and Sue Birchall third.

The next meeting will be on October 21 and the competition will be for An Old Cooking Utensil.

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## Moving House Tips

### Top Tip

Communicate with your removal company as early as possible and confirm your new house details before the move in date. Tell them about your property layout, access points and types of furniture to be removed and packed so that the company can plan to accommodate large items and overcome any potential hazards in advance.

### Choose a removal company

Price isn't everything, you are entrusting these people with your possessions.

Get a few quotes from your agent, family or friends, don't always opt for the cheapest and check the services they offer, reliability, availability and flexibility for dates.

Make sure the company has insurance cover, just in case of any mishaps, also check they are registered with the British Association of Removers (BAR), as they ensure removal companies are compliant with current regulations.

### Packing Up

- \* Start early and collect boxes in advance
- \* Pack room by room and label any fragile items. If your removal company is packing for you they will often do the labelling
- \* Pack heavy items in smaller boxes to enable easier transport on moving day. Save large boxes for lighter items

### Moving Day

- \* Make sure you've not packed the kettle and tea making facilities, moving is thirsty work! Have a constant supply of drinks and nibbles to keep you going
- \* Keep your mobile on and landline connected until you leave, if your removal company can't get hold of you mid-move, you will have problems
- \* Ask the agent you're buying from for a copy of your new properties floorplan, this will be helpful for your removal company
- \* Pack a box with the essentials i.e. toiletries, bed linen and towels to travel with you to save time searching through boxes that night
- \* Take photos of precious items before they leave your home, make sure you date stamp them, this will help your case should you need to claim for any damages
- \* Before leaving your old home, take metre readings, switch off the water and mains gas supplies and ensure all windows and doors are secure

Have you seen the signs?



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