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April 2016



THE Wild Wings bird sanctuary doesn't seem to have had much luck in finding a home in recent times.

Having left Bents last year it appeared to have found a new home at another garden centre down the road at Penketh. But again this arrangement has not worked out

Hopefully local businessman Paul Taylor's second attempt to provide a new home for the facility will bear fruit this time.

I am not quite sure why planners feel a bird sanctuary is not suitable in the green belt – to me having a sanctuary in the green belt is probably as near to having a natural home for these fine birds of prey could have.

Hopefully the issue can be resolved sooner rather than later and I am sure once up and running the bird sanctuary would provide a fine asset to the local community.

Meanwhile Mr Taylor is also calling on Culcheth Victorian Day to be given a bit of a revamp.

I hope those who take the trouble and time to organise this annual event, take his comments in the spirit they are intended.

I'am sure if the community pull together we can all help make Victorian Day an even greater experience which will attract visitors from far and wide.

Having visited similar Christmas festivals in other nearby towns and villages I believe Victorian Day could benefit from some kind of parade, involving local school and community groups. While this will involve some

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considerable time and effort - and cost, if it involves any road closures, surely it is worth exploring. Finally you will read this month that there are concerns from some

over the future of Culcheth Library

The library is a focal point of the village and an important part of the community. I work closely with the team at LiveWire and will monitor the situation.

Deadline for the May issue of **Culcheth Life** is April 19

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Culcheth man helps launch #TakeOffTheTape campaign

A CULCHETH man features on a new social media campaign for mental health called #TakeOffTheTape. People are still reluctant to be open when they're struggling to cope because of the reaction they

fear from their friends and peers. Ruth Richards at Mind said: "At

some point, there are problems that everyone is likely to face. Whether it's worry about work, money, our image, health, a l oved one, exams

- stress and anxiety are emotions

"If we don't speak out and seek support, these feelings can build

and start to impact on our quality of life, our relationships and our

"By encouraging everyone to talk

we all encounter.

health.

The campaign is designed to make people feel more comfortable talking about stress and anxiety, as these are often the problems that can lead to more serious mental health issues.

Paul Chisnall, who lives on Wigshaw Lane and is a former pupil of Čulcheth High School, came up with the idea along with colleague Alex Lever and they successfully pitched it to national charity MIND.

number of celebrity ambassadors are now taking part in the campaign, which has been featured in the national press and glamour magazines.

Despite many strong campaigns around mental health, the subject remains highly misunderstood.



that they need some support." One in four of us will experience

a mental health problem in any given year, but Mind's research shows that four out of five 18-34 year olds admitting to putting on a

brave face when they are anxious A quarter of 18-34 year olds also admitted to feeling that to show their emotions is a sign of weakness, even though one in five said they had cried in the past week because of anxiety. Ruth added: "With a better

understanding of mental health, we hope more people will seek support early, before things become too much."

- To take part you: Write something that causes stress or anxiety on a piece of tape or paperPut it over your mouth & take a
- selfie
- Post to social media with the hash tag #takeoffthetape including "text TAPE to 70660 to donate £.3"



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Public inquiry announced over Culcheth shooting

HOME Secretary Theresa May has announced that a public inquiry will be held into the shooting of an unarmed man at Culcheth by Greater Manchester Police four years ago.

Father of two Anthony Grainger aged, 36, died after being shot in the chest during a police operation at Culcheth in March 2012. The Home Secretary said in a written statement that the hearing

will be a judge-led inquiry.

"It has been necessary to convert the inquest to a statutory enquiry so

all relevant evidence can be heard by the Judge," she said. "I have agreed with Judge Teague that the inquiry will have the same scope as the current inquest, which has been adjourned

prior to the setting up of the inquiry. "My hope is that this inquiry will be able to determine how and in

what circumstances Mr Grainger came by his death and that this can bring some solace to his family."

Greater Manchester's Mayor and police and crime commissioner Tony Lloyd has welcomed the news stating that Anthony Grainger's family and the public deserve to know what took place during the police operation that led to his

police operation that lea to his death four years ago. Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said following the announcement: "Since Anthony Grainger died in March 2012 we have always insisted that the family, public and the officers involved deserve a full understanding of the circumstances

that led up to his death. "We therefore welcome the announcement of the public inquiry and GMP will continue to cooperate fully with this ongoing process.

The Greater Manchester Police operation involved armed officers stopping a stolen Audi in a car park at Culcheth. A bullet fired by an officer passed

through the windscreen, hitting Mr Grainger in the chest.

It was reported at the time that the unarmed father of two from Bolton had been wrongly suspected of stealing a memory stick containing the names of police informants.

Three men who were later charged with plotting a robbery with Mr Grainger were cleared of

all charges after a trial. The police marksman involved has been interviewed twice under caution by the IPCC.



Victorian Day - What's it all about?

LOCAL businessman Paul Taylor believes it is time to have a re-think on Victorian Day.

Mr Taylor from Taylor Business Park, said: "I went to the last Victorian Day which was plagued with bad weather unfortunately but that wasn't what struck me the most about it.

"The theme itself seems to have lost a lot of its direction over the years and since then I've spoken with a number of shops in the village and they've all pretty much

echoed the same sentiment. "On one hand we've got a Victorian theme and on the other hand we don't have stalls and shops but there is a huge noisy Silcockstype thing and some trampolines that also weren't getting much use. "I think it's about time the whole

day had a rethink. Christmas markets are hugely popular these days. If we started from scratch and looked at maybe Christmas stalls selling the Saul bits and bobs you see in the popular Manchester Christmas market, and why not rent an ice rink for the day if we're looking for an outdoor activity looking for an outdoor activity that's fun with a winter/victorian theme? I'm not just having a moan about it, I want to see the groups that organise it get together and look at it with fresh eyes in time for the port one." the next one."

Mr Taylor says The Business Park

would be happy to get involved. He added: "I'm sure we can raise whatever funds are needed between us to make it a memorable event again. One thing seems for sure and that's if we let it carry on the way it is it'll just be the same old thing until people give up on it. With the stalls, sausages, mulled wine beers and an ice rink it'd have the backing of the local stores and the attendance would sky rocket. Hopefully enough to make it a weekend event in the future."



Paul Taylor



Croft 'invaders' will hike round island



THREE men from Croft are to weekend walking 66-miles non-stop - round the Isle of Wight.

Andrew Hiley, Roger Lamming and Andy Beevers - who call themselves the Croft Island Invaders - plan to do the walk in

All they have to do is keep the sea on the left and keep going - for between 24 and 30 hours!

- tor between 24 and 30 hours! It won't be an afternoon stroll either, for the trio are aged in their 40s, 50s and 60s. Andrew said: "We're aiming to raise £4,000 to complete our fundraising drive to purchase an incubator for the neonatal

unit that serves the North West area.

It will be the second incubator the Alice Hiley Memorial Trust have donated in memory of Andrew's daughter and Roger's granddaughter, Alice. The Trust was established in

Alice's memory to raise funds to help neonatal babies and to raise awareness of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CHD).

Anyone who wants to support the cause can do so by visiting the Alice Hiley Memorial donations page at https:// mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ croftislandinvaders

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'Use it or lose it' campaign by library users

WORRIED residents have started a campaign to get more people to use Culcheth Library.

They fear that recent reductions in opening hours at the library could be the "thin end of the wedge" leading to the library eventually being closed altogether. Theme of their campaign is "Use it or lose it.

One resident, who asked not to be named, said: "Culcheth Library is the only library in Warrington which is closed on two full week days and one of the few which are

Culcheth Beer **Festival**

NEWTON & District Rotary Club have announced plans for their popular Culcheth Beer fortival festival.

The annual event will take place at Culcheth Sports Club (Daten) on Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10.

The event will be open from 5pm-11.30pm on the Friday and from noon until 11.30pm

and from noon until 11.30pm on the Saturday. There will be 40 cask ales, bottled lagers and draft ciders, live music and a hog roast. Entry costs £5 with all proceeds going to charity. For more information visit www.culchethbeerfestival.org

closed on a Friday.

"The problem with reducing opening hours – and particularly closing for a full day – is that it has the effect of reducing use of the library altogether.

"There are plenty of people in Culcheth who value the library and would hate to see it close. I would appeal to local people to use the library because if they do not we could eventually end up not having one at all – and that would put a lot of people to a great deal of inconvenience.

Culcheth Library's opening hours are: Monday: 2pm-5pm; Tuesday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-6pm; closed; Wednesday: Thursday: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm; Friday: closed; Saturday: 9.30am-1pm; Sun day: closed.

Emma Hutchinson, managing director of LiveWire who run all Warrington's libraries, said: "LiveWire is currently trialling slightly reduced opening at all of our libraries across Warrington which we will review in April.

"The new temporary opening hours have been implemented following a detailed review of the service which showed that an increasing number of customers are accessing the service online through our e-book provision rather than through visiting our library sites.

"We will shortly be reviewing the trial period and if deemed successful, the new opening hours will be implemented permanently. We will endeavour to reinvest any convince mode either during the savings made either during the trial period or if the new hours are made permanent, back into the library service to further improve our digital offer, again in response to what our customers told us through the review."



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Charlie Dimmo Spring

SPRING got underway in style at Bents as the Glazebury based garden and home centre was joined by gardening expert and TV presenter Charlie Dimmock for a weekend of green fingered fun and inspiration.

Charlie was special guest at Bents' Get Gardening weekend, hosting a series of talks and demonstrations on a range of topics such as hanging baskets,

containers, lawncare and children's planting activities.

Six lucky customers also won the chance to have Afternoon Tea with the celebrity gardener, who dined



Councillors join 'Clean for the Queen' campaign



Cllr Grime is pictured (right) with volunteer Margaret Webber

MEMBERS of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council joined the "Clean for the Queen" campaign which celebrates the Queen's 90th birthday. Cllr Joan Grime was joined by fellow parish councillor Jacqui Johnson to lead volunteers in a litter-pick on Shaw Street Recreation Ground and Parise Evaluation Playing Fields.

ck helps launch at **Bents**

with the competition winners and shared her love of gardening.

snarea ner love of gardening. Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "Spring has definitely arrived and now is the time to prepare, plant and pamper your garden. Charlie's enthusiasm is intections and she was the perfect person to also lounch the new season here at help launch the new season here at Bents and provide our customers with some green fingered inspiration." Spring is the perfect time to

give your garden a lift Inject some instant colour, tackle a few simple tasks and your garden will be ready and waiting for the spring and summer months that lie ahead. Plant colourful containers, boost borders with a few fresh plants, put in a little bit of time and effort now and you will be rewarded with a wealth of colourful blooms, setting the scene and creating the perfect backdrop for outdoor living and summertime entertaining.



Village 'drop in' session to discuss traffic

CROFT Parish Council is to hold a "drop in" session on Saturday, April 9 to give local residents an opportunity to air their views on traffic conditions in the village.

The event at Croft Youth Centre will take place between 10am and 2pm. Ite event at Croft Youth Centre will take place between IOam and 2pm. Items up for discussion will including the de-priming of Winwick Lane which many residents fear will lead to a big increase in heavy traffic in Croft, proposals for a road freight terminal on Green Belt land on the site of the former Parkside Colliery at Newton-le-Willows and the possibility of installing a Zebra Crossing in Smithy Lane. But there will also be an opportunity for residents to raise other issues. Concern about increasing traffic problems has been growing in Croft for some time – with Smithy Lane, New Lane and Lord Street all regarded as hot-spots

hot-spots.

Borough council highways chiefs say Smithy Lane does not meet the criteria for a Zebra Crossing but residents have raised the possibility of local people raising money towards the cost – and this could make a difference.

The parish council has already voiced its opposition to the road freight terminal on the former Parkside Colliery site on the grounds that it would lead to increased traffic in Croft.



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The Gardening Guide **APRIL**



Spring fertiliser can be applied to your lawn, but remember to water it in if there's no rain

Lynne Roe, Garden Care Team Leader

- Spring vegetables such as peas, beans and lettuce seeds can be sown now
- Try spring cleaning your houseplants; remove spent flowers, dead leaves and rinse the dust from the leaves with a sprayer as clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!
- Plant up hanging baskets with fuchsias and other basket plants and then hang them up in your greenhouse to establish
- Many of the birds (that you put up nest boxes for!) will have young now and need help with food

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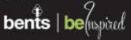
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CULCHIETCHI & GLAZEBURY PARISHI COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

NEWCHURCH WARD





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GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Anne Roberts 01925 763047



CULCHETH WARD



Mike Vobe mike.vobe2012 @gmail.com



Peter Caswell 01942 671938





Keith Bland Helena Campbell 01925 766641 01925 766658

mpbell Pau 6658 019:

Paul Campbell 01925 766658

HS2

The HS2 project continues to cause anxiety locally. Your Parish Councillors have met with representatives from HS2 Ltd, local residents' action groups, and the Borough Council to ensure that, as far as possible, we ensure the views of our local community are taken into consideration at national level. We have asked the Leader of Warrington Borough Council to specifically highlight the devastating effect the "spur" would have on Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft if the "initial preferred route" goes ahead. Parish Councillors are also working to ensure that Culcheth and Glazebury's position is made known to the region-wide Transport for the North body. We have committed to supporting CADRAG financially and re-enforced our wholehearted support for the efforts of the local community.

Glazebury Play Area

The Parish Council has continued its support of Glazebury Play Area. Earlier this year, the Council re-tendered the grounds maintenance contract which we fund on behalf of the local community. We are very pleased to advise that the contract has been awarded to a North West firm and councillors believe that this represents very good value for money for local people. The new contract will see the Play Area continue to receive regular environmental maintenance as we strive to make this a centrepiece attraction in the east of Warrington.

Litter

The Parish Council has recently responded to a number of referrals residents have made in respect of litter throughout the villages. Locations where litter has been sighted include Warrington Road, the rear of the shops at the Millennium Gardens and the grounds of Culcheth Library. Councillors take all reports of litter very seriously as we strive to ensure that our villages remain a pleasant and welcoming environment for everyone to live and work in. We are working alongside Warrington Borough Council's environment team to respond to reports of litter whenever they are made, and welcome feedback from residents on any other locations which require attention.

Civic Service

As the Civic Year draws to a close, a Service will be held at St. Lewis' RC Church, Mustard Lane in Croft as a celebration of the work of the Chairman, the Parish Council, and the various community groups with which we have worked over the past twelve months. Cllr Chris Vobe invites residents to attend either Morning Mass at 11.30am on Sunday 17th April, or at St. Lewis' RC Primary School following the service, where the Chairman has provided light refreshments (to the public purse) that will be served.

Parish Council Elections / Thank you to departing councillors

Elections for Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th May. Please ensure that you refer to information published by Warrington Borough Council Electoral Services for further information on candidates, nominations and polling places. Following the elections, a new Parish Council will be elected to serve the villages. A number of Councillors who currently serve have announced their intention not to seek election again. The Parish Council extend their thanks to those members who have worked diligently for the community over a period of years. The departing Councillors would, in turn, like to convey their thanks to local residents for their support during their time on the Council and recognise the many community groups and voluntary organisations with whom they have had the privilege of working.

Celebrating 25 years of Pip, Squeak and Wilfred

IT'S a time for celebrations at one of Culcheth's best-known independent shops – Pip Squeak and Wilfred.

Just 25 years ago, Janet Woods opened what was then a baby and children's designer clothing shop next to the old Kwik Save store in Lodge Drive. After suffering a number of

burglaries she moved the business into more secure premises, a few doors away in The Parade – and never looked back.

Today it's a specialist children's shoe shop with a regional reputation and also stocks an exclusive range of Communion wear and accessories, as well as soft toys and gifts.

Nothing gives Janet more pleasure than seeing customers who first came to her to buy their children's first baby clothes now returning to buy their grandchildren's first shoes. She said: "There are not too

many independent shops selling fitted children's shoes and that is probably why we get customers from all over the North West.

"We are well known for our fitting service as we are registered on the Foot Health Register. There are always at least two trained fitters in the shop at any one time.

"My daughter Claré joined me in the business after she finished university and we work alongside Joanne, Jen and Bayley with Grace coming in on a Saturday. "I would like to thank them all, and the other girls who have worked for me over the years, as well as our loyal customers. "We are celebrating 25 years

but now it's onwards and upwards.

We are looking forward to the next 25 years!"

But what about the shop's appealing name? How did that come about?

Janet laughs. "We were living in Grappenhall at the time, near St Wilfrid's Church.

"My husband drew me a logo,

with a boy, a girl and a teddy bear and we decided to call the bear Wilfred. It just seemed to follow on that the boy was Pip and the girl

"I know there was a newspaper cartoon called Pip Squeak and Wilfred but we did not consciously copy that - it just seemed to come out of the ether!'



From left, Janet Woods, Jen Drummond, Bayley Swinburn and Clare Scotchford.



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Veteran councillors to stand down

TWO long-standing members of Croft Parish Council are not to seek re-election at the May elections.

Cllr Les Hoyle and Cllr Jeff Shelley, who have each served on the council for about 36 years, are both to stand down to "let some

younger ones have a go." Cllr Shelley has been chairman of the council on 10 occasions and Cllr Hoyle eight times.

Both councillors say they have enjoyed their years on the council and are proud to have served the

village. Cllr Shelley said: "It has been an enjoyable experience and we have seen a lot of changes in Croft over the years. I would have stayed on but for health problems which make it difficult for me to contribute

as much as I have in the past."

Cllr Hoyle was also a member of Warrington Borough Council for some 28 years, chairing the planning committee for many years. He retired from the borough council in 2014.

He was chairman of bus company Network Warrington for five years - a role he says was one of the toughest but also most rewarding -and also served as a magistrate for

almost 30 years. With Cllr Chris Vobe also standing down next month, Croft Parish Council will be losing at least half its members, irrespective of the outcome of the election

Celebrity designers draw a crowd

WORLD renowned Scandinavian knitwear designers Arne and Carlos drew a big crowd when they visited Black Sheep Wools in Culcheth. They held a knitting workshop, lecture and book signing and met scores

of fans.

The pair have gained a huge following for their designs and best-selling books which have been translated into 17 languages. After the visit, Arne said: "It's been great fun today and we are so happy that Black Sheep wanted to have us visit.

"We've met some really nice people and the sun has even been shining too which is not what we expected from this part of the world!" Black Sheep marketing director Sara Mulvey said: "We had such a great the with Area and Carlos the sum and the sum of the test had such a great

time with Arne and Carlos – they were a pleasure to host as they were so entertaining and approachable. We very much hope to have them visit again in future'

Cheshire through the Seasons

AUTHOR, historian and photographer David Cummins was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI. His theme was "Cheshire through the Seasons" and he showed slides of the county taken at all times of the year. He started with Christleton, near Chester, which means "Place of the Christians" and then moved to Dunham Massey with photos taken only the day before, of the carpets of dalfodils, snowdrops and hellebores. At Astbury on the Dee Estuary, many birds gather to feed in the rich mud which is full of tasty morsels.

Ellesmere Port has the Boat Museum, a popular day out and Chester has many festivals including the Roman Festival in June, with parades and staged battles.

Then on to historic Tatton Park, which was home to the Egerton family, now owned by National Trust.

Everyone agreed it had been a very interesting talk, featuring places within a short drive.

Members are looking forward to theatre trips to Grease and Singin' in the Rain.

March Birthdays were Chris Wilkinson, Crid Lewis and Kathleen Totham. Christine Seddon gave details of osteoporosis testing which will take place the Parish Hall on April 21. The cost is £10. in

The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 19 at 2pm, when the speaker will be Fr. Michael Burgess on "Fun, Faith and Fellowship".

Anti-HS2 link campaigner to fight election for Conservatives

A KEY figure in the fight to stop the HS2 high speed rail link from passing through Culcheth is to stand for the Conservatives in the May 5 borough council elections.

Frank Allen has been named to replace Dean Bibby who was forced to pull out of the race through ill health.

Mr Allen will join borough councillor Sue Bland and Croft parish councillor Val Allen to make up the Tory team to contest the Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft ward.

his selection has been But criticised by Labour, who said it was "entirely incompatible" with his position as chairman of CADRAG, the Culcheth and District Rail Action Group.

A spokesperson for Labour said: "Frank Allen cannot have his cake and eat it. CADRAG is a nonpolitical, resident-led action group which is working diligently to defend our villages from the threat of the Government's HS2 'spur' – which, if passed by Conservative Ministers, would devastate Culcheth and Croft.

"Not only is Frank Allen using his role within the action group as a platform for his borough council bid, he has an enormous conflict of interest which he needs to acknowledge as a matter of urgency

urgency. "Mr Allen has nailed his political colours to the mast and is standing as a Conservative Party candidate. It is Conservative Ministers who will make the final decision on HS2, and a Conservative Government which is pushing forward the unwanted 'spur' that has blighted homes and lives throughout our

nomes and lives throughout our community." But Mr Allen said: "I do not see any conflict of interest between my role as chair of CADRAG and standing for election to Warrington Borough Council.

"As Conservatives we fight for what is best for our local people, our community, and in that we are no different from other Conservative members, councillors and MPs. There is widespread concern over the Golborne Link in the parts of Warrington that will be affected. David Mowat, Conservative MP for Warrington South, has spoken out on numerous occasions against the

on numerous occa-Golborne Link. "I have fought against the Golborne Link since it was first announced. The Warrington North Conservative Association has the Golborne Link. always opposed the Golborne Link.

"I am proud to have been involved in the fight against the Golborne Link which CADRAG has been fighting on behalf of local residents, and I have been pleased that so many local residents have supported us. I look forward to continuing the fight within the Warrington Council if I am elected by the local voters. Far from using my role in CADRAG as a platform for seeking election to Warrington Borough Council, I see election to the council as providing a platform to continue the fight against the Golborne Link."

Mr Allen was originally going to stand in the Westbrook ward but now says he is very happy to be selected to stand in his home ward instead.

"I have lived in the Culcheth area for over 35 years, first in Croft for nine years and then in Culcheth, and have brought up my family here. During that time I worked as a manager in a technical consultancy business based in Birchwood.

Labour also attacked Conservatives' Cllr Val Allen. The

Cllr Chris Vobe - who is not standing for re-election this year - said voting for her would be "a massive leap into the unknown."

He said she had made no secret of her ambition to be elected to Parliament and if she was chosen as a parliamentary candidate her time and attention would be taken

time and attention would be taken up by another constituency. "She cannot possibly run a parliamentary campaign while fulfilling her commitments to Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft." But Cllr Allen said she intended to stay clear of "petty squabbles and character assassinations"

and character assassinations" during the election campaign. She added: "If elected, my complete attention will be on my role as a councillor for the next four years and I will give it my full attention."



Chris Vobe



Cllr Val Allen, Cllr Sue Bland and Frank Allen

Council opposes air strip expansion plan

CROFT Parish Council has lodged a strong objection to a plan to increase the use of a private air strip off Winwick Lane, Lowton. The Lancashire Aero Club wants

permission to use the landing strip at Kenyon Hall Farm on any day of the year compared with the 28 days a year for which they currently have planning consent

But their application is being opposed by Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum.

The air strip is close to the the Liverpool-M6 motorway,

Manchester railway line and numerous other smaller roads and fortpaths. It also lies adjacent to Highfield Moss – a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is also subject to flooding.

It has been used by the Lancashire Aero Club since 2002 – and least one crash has been reported there,

one crash has been reported there, in 2012. Cllr Les Hoyle said: "Our objections relate to the increased use of the airstrip. Aircraft taking off and landing are obviously a safety issue and also cause a noise problem.

"There has been a suggestion that it could result in the landing strip developing into something like Barton Aerodrome.

The aero club is also seeking to provide a car park and to widen the access to the airfield from Winwick Lane.

They stress that although they are seeking permission to use the airstrip every day, this would not in fact happen because of weather considerations and the fact that members are at work most days.

Bird sanctuary looking to relocate to business park again

THE troubled Wild Wings Bird sanctuary could be set to relocate to Taylor Business Park after being told to vacate the White Moss⁻Garden centre.

Paul Taylor, from Taylor Business Park said: "They are looking to relocate their birds temporarily with a view to moving on to Taylor Business Park in the long term.

"Wild Wings have fallen on hard times again. They just need a place

to stay with a good lease on a plot of land where there aren't any plans for future expansion and that's exactly what we hope to give them. We'll be approaching the council and parish council and will be asking for their help to give Wild Wings a

permanent home here in the village. They'll be a huge asset and they provide a much needed service for wildlife in the area.

"We're currently finding them some land to relocate and look after the birds on so they can put together a new planning application that has a lower impact on the green bet than the last one.

"Once they have permission they

can put up their existing visitor centre which is only a small log cabin, and the other aviaries so they can get back to trading in order to support and feed the birds they have. We can't believe the run of bad luck they've had over the years and we look forward to them making themselves at home here so they can get on with what they do best.





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Charity fundraiser

A SPECIAL event to raise money and awareness for Crohn's and Colitis UK is to be held at Culcheth on Saturday, May 14. The event at Culcheth Royal British Legion will include stalls, refreshments, a raffle and other activities, starting from 11am and

continuing until 3pm.

Further details are available from Rachel Bennett on 07496 010182.

Sterling work of the Dog's Trust

AMY Best of The Dogs Trust, Merseyside visited Croft WI to talk about their sterling work for our canine friends.

Aided by a computer presentation, she related the aims of The Dogs Trust and historical details about their foundation in 1891, when they were

known as the National Canine Defence League. The Dogs Trust is now the UK's largest dog welfare charity and there are 21 "state of the art" re-homing centres across the country with 17,000 dogs

cared for each year. In Merseyside alone 650 dogs are re-homed annually. The various projects undertaken are: dedicated training centres for dogs with behavioural problems, preventative campaigns including education, neutering and micro chipping, helping homeless dog owners cover the cost of veterinary fees, helping dogs belonging to people escaping domestic violence and much, much more. In fact the extent of the Trusts work is quite amazing, they even own a suburban house, due to a legacy, known as Oakfield Oldies. Home where elderly, hard to re-home dogs unable to tolerate kennel life, end their days in domestic bliss.

Photographs of the dogs and puppies in the Trust's care were enough to melt the hardest heart and Amy explained how puppies are far easier to re-home than older dogs. However, no healthy dog is ever destroyed. As a Registered Charity the Trust do not receive Government funding and rely solely on donations, legacies and dog sponsorship. The Dogs Trust Mission Statement is "Working towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life free from the threat of unnecessary destruction". Amy's talk was arrently appreciated especially by members thinking of

Amy's talk was greatly appreciated, especially by members thinking of bringing a dog into their home. The competition was won by Doreena Ellam with Joan Johnson 2nd and

Brenda Simm 3rd.

The next meeting will be on April 15 – Members Night when the competition will be a pocket size game.

A chilling story of mountaineering

GUEST speaker Jackie Greaves had a chilling tale to tell at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI. She decided to climb Ben Macdhui

the Braemar region of Scotland with two companions but found herself alone in heavy snow near the summit – about 4,000 feet above sea level.

Her journey down involved falling through holes in the snow, lying for hours trying to stay awake, and hours trying to stay awake, and crawling on as best she could after losing her crampons.

She described eating snow and making a sort of igloo for shelter. Before a rescue dog found her she suffered hallucinations and periods of blindness. She was treated for severe frostbite and hypothermia in Inverness and found herself a

celebrity. This allowed her to raise money for a new rescue dog and for rescue services in the Lake District. She kept all her fingers and toes but recovered very slowly. However she still enjoys

Mountaineering! After thanks from president Doreen Procter, Jackie judged the competition – An Interesting Stone – and chose Margaret Mellows as winner.

Aileen Paterson and Margaret Hill came second and third. Everyone then enjoyed tea and cake served by Nora Cooper and Jean Power as it was Newchurch's bith devergent birthday month.

The 'president announced plans for an exercise sessions and a new

luncheon club in late April. Irene Bromilow, last year's monthly competition winner was presented with a trophy.

Members were invited to Culcheth WI's fashion show to be held on April 23

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Positive signs for first time buyers in 2016

Written by Victoria Barlow Head of Courtyard Homes 2016 has got off to a good start with Rightmove analysts reporting visits to their website were up by 21% in the first working week of 2016, than of the same period in 2015! This combined with a 6.6% year on year increase in the number of "New to the Market" homes in the One & Two bed categories (the highest since 2007) and house prices remaining virtually the same in this sector can only be good news for the First Time Buyers!

Will it continue?

In my opinion, supply of one and two bedroom properties for sale, throughout the UK can only rise, this is the only sector that has seen a slight increase of stock. (1.8% year on year of newly marketed homes).

With the upcoming shake up in the "buy to let" market, due to the increased stamp duty for investors taking effect in April and the tax implications for landlords being phased in during 2017. It is likely that investors may look to sell before the tax ramifications take their toll, turning there once profitable turn over into a financial burden. If indeed they begin to sell their stock at reasonable prices in order to achieve quick sales, this will allow first time buyers to have greater choice. Furthermore, due to the expected high stock levels in this sector, which will create heavy competition in the market place, it can only ensure that prices in this category remain the same or similar.

My advice to First Time Buyers

"Be Savvy"

Keep a look out now, as owners of smaller properties begin to sell rather than wait until later in the year. Whilst interest rates remain the same, you could be stepping onto the property ladder sooner than you think.

As the doors beings to close on investors, they look set to open up for first time buyers!

As a first time buyer what should I do to be ready when for when I find the house I want?

Save a deposit • Look Into mortgages • Consider First-time buyer schemes from the Government • Don't forget Stamp Duty Other costs, bills utilities, solicitors and surveys • Find a property • Put in an offer • Exchange contracts and complete

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