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Issue: 158  
May 2016

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**Church's  
50th anniversary**

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# Editor's Comment



AFTER reporting local news for more than three decades it takes a lot to shock me - but the recent incident involving the Shaw Street recreation ground left me sickened.

What sort of person or people can go to the trouble of taking bags out of a dog litter bin and then smear the contents over play equipment?

It defies belief that anyone could be so depraved that they could stoop this low in our so called civilised world.

Fortunately Warrington Borough Council moved quickly to clean up the mess within 24 hours of it being reported by a local resident.

As far as I am aware nobody has been brought to book for this gross act.

I doubt those involved have the ability or mentality to understand the depths of their depravity or even the possible health consequences of their actions.

If by any chance anyone reading this does know who was responsible please report them to the authorities as they clearly have some kind of psychological problems which require treating - more so than any punishment to fit the crime!

Meanwhile many of you will probably be aware the local elections are almost upon us and I am sure our local politicians have been busy out and about seeking

your vote.

When the time comes to vote please go out and vote and use your vote for the best person to do the job locally.

Try and look beyond the political party colours and vote for the person you think best to represent our local communities.

Finally putting politics to one side I would like to wish Chris Vobe well

in the future following his decision to stand down as a councillor.

Whatever you may think of Chris and I certainly haven't always agreed with some of his political practices, he has undoubtedly worked hard in the community raising issues and has been an excellent communicator.

## Tree work approved

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for tree surgery work on protected trees at the rear of new development at Culcheth Hall Farm Barns, Withington Avenue, Culcheth.

The work will be subject to conditions, including no work being undertaken eight metres from ground level to retain the screening value of the trees.

Ivy can be removed from the base of the trees to allow for more light and increase visibility for tree defects. In addition, willow growing near a pond can be thinned out by 50 per cent.



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# Church celebrates its 50th anniversary

CULCHETH Methodist Church is marking 50 years since it first opened its door in May, 1966.

The church – then considered to be quite futuristic in design – was built after local people raised enough money through personal giving, alongside a grant from the

central Methodist Church, to buy land at the corner of Burton Close for the grand sum of £825 in 1962.

Building work on the current church began two years later.

Prior to construction of the church, services had been held at what was then Culcheth Secondary

School on Warrington Road since 1958.

The hall was opened in September 1965 and the Church was dedicated on May 19, 1966.

In the 50 years since, an organ was commissioned, the current foyer added, the courtyard was filled with a glazed conservatory and a multi-use games pitch was included in the garden.

The building has been filled with, among many other things, a nursery, pre-school, Scout and Guide groups, choirs, fellowship and bible study groups, as well as weekly services.

The church is celebrating

its anniversary with a number of events. Throughout May, an exhibition of photographs, memorabilia and documents will be on display. A number of previous ministers and church members have returned to preach in this anniversary year, including Rev Paul Martin and Rev Phillip Berry on May 15. The anniversary weekend will include an activity day and a special service and lunch on May 21 and May 22.

A leaflet about the events is available in the church foyer and further information can be found on the web at [www.leighandhindley.org.uk](http://www.leighandhindley.org.uk).



Members of the congregation and the church 50 years ago.



**Deadline for the June issue of Culcheth Life is May 17**



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# Retiring councillor 'overwhelmed' at support from residents

A COUNCILLOR who announced earlier this year that he would not be seeking re-election in this month's elections says he has been "overwhelmed" by the support he has received from local residents.

Cllr Chris Vobe, a member of the borough council, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Croft Parish Council, announced in January that he was standing down from all three because of "a wide variety of other commitments."

He says he has not previously publicly commented on the feedback he has received to give candidates contesting the elections "breathing space."

But now he has publicly thanked all those who have offered kind words and good wishes since his announcement.

He said: "I have been overwhelmed by the many messages I have received from local residents."

"Whether 'phone calls, emails, text messages, or even those who have stopped me in the street, the feedback from neighbours, friends and those I have represented for the past four years has been humbling."

"I thought it was important to allow Labour's new candidates the breathing room to set out their priorities and vision for our community, which is why I have not commented publicly before – although I have spoken privately with everyone who has been in touch and offered them my personal thanks for their kind words."

"Since before I was first elected, I have been simply bowled over by the loyalty and support that my fellow residents have shown me."

"I was especially humbled by the petition which was drawn up locally, asking me to reconsider my decision and seek re-election. That that petition drew such a high number of signatures is something which I find deeply touching."

"However, despite the best attempts from so many of my fellow villagers to twist my arm, I felt it was right to stick to my original decision."

"I am delighted to be able to look back over the past four years and highlight the many positive things we have achieved for our villages – those achievements have come about not because of any one individual, but by our community working together and championing our causes so effectively. It has been my privilege to work alongside so many local people to deliver successful outcomes on wide-ranging issues across Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft."



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# Vandals stoop to a new low

LITTER louts and vandals have stooped to a new low at a recently refurbished play ground in Culcheth, smearing equipment with dog excrement taken from nearby dog bins.

Local resident Nick Taylor was appalled by what he found at the Shaw Street Recreation Area.

Mr Taylor says the recently refurbished play area has become the target of some fairly unsavoury environmental crimes including repeated littering and emptying of the litter bins.

Bags of dog faeces were taken and their contents spread on ramps in the skateboard area creating an environmental hazard.

An area near the newly resurfaced car park has been dug up and the stones used to throw at the rugby club changing rooms and strewn across the car park along with broken glass.

Mr Taylor said: "It was distressing to see the mess at the play area and the stench and health hazard it has caused."

"We need to find out who has done this as it is an environmental crime and this area is used by many



children and will need professional attention to make it safe."

Mr Taylor said the matter had been reported to Warrington Council, the Parish Council and local Police.

A spokesperson for Warrington Borough Council, who moved quickly to clear up the mess in less than 24 hours, said: "This appears

to have been isolated incident, but if anybody has any information about it our environmental crime officers can be contacted on 01925 443322. Residents can report any future issues on the same number or online at [warrington.gov.uk/report](http://warrington.gov.uk/report)"

## Howzat! A great start to the summer

THE curtain has gone up on the local cricket season – and Glazebury Cricket Club started in fine style.

There were fine wins for both the 1st XI and the 2nd XI in the opening games in the Cheshire Cricket Alliance.

The 1st XI entertained Saughall at Hurst Lane and bowled them out for a modest 84 in 32 overs after winning the toss and electing to field first.

Skipper Sam Stanier took 5-22 with his pace bowling and fellow paceman David Acton took 2-19.

Then Glazebury batted and hit off the necessary runs for the loss of only two wickets, opener Jack Warhurst hitting an unbeaten 48, including a six and five fours.

The 2nd XI travelled to Ashley where they batted first and hit a formidable 265-7, Anthony Meulman hitting 91, Phil McCue 30, Michael Nutkins 36, and skipper David Nicholson 34.

The home side were bowled out for 118, Nicholson taking 3-36, McCue 3-16 and Hakeem Dahou 2-21, to give Glazebury victory by 147 runs.

A club spokesman said: "It's early days, but you can't get off to a much better start to the season."



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Needlecraft fans won't be disappointed with Bothy, Anchor and DMC all even further reduced.

After all that shopping why not take a well-earned break, sit down with a cup of tea and slice of cake in the Tea Shop giving you chance to restore your batteries and ponder your next project. There may even be time to squeeze in a bit more shopping before you leave!

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## Tea party marked the Queen's birthday

CULCHETH residents took tea to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday – and St George's Day.

The double celebration was at the Culcheth Centre in Jackson Avenue and also acted as a fundraiser for the centre.

Cllr Sue Bland said: "The event gave us an opportunity to celebrate the Queen's actual birthday and St George's Day at the same time, in advance of her official birthday in June."

Fundraisers at the Culcheth Centre have been busy raising money for some time to purchase new, lightweight furniture.

The Queen's official birthday is on June 11 when she will hold a "street party" on The Mall, attended by 10,000 guests.



## House extensions

EXTENSION proposals at two houses in Twiss Green Lane, Culcheth have been approved by planning chiefs.

At one house, the proposals involve carer's accommodation over an existing garage with dormer windows and a single storey kitchen extension at the rear.

The other scheme involves a two storey side extension and a single storey extension at the rear of the property.

## New home plan

A PLAN to demolish a former stable building at Cop Holt Cottage, Newton Road, Winwick, and replace it with a new, single-story dwelling has been given the green light by planning chiefs.

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## Long service rec

**A husband and wife team from Culcheth have clocked up a total of 89 years in their respective jobs.**

Stuart and Linda Bateman's combined commitment in their respective roles is a cause for celebration as Linda has now collected an MBE from Buckingham Palace for her services to the Home Office.

Linda trails slightly behind Stuart,

who has worked at Bents Garden & Home for 49 years, and is now the centre's longest serving employee, but her impressive 40 years at the Home Office was recognised in this year's New Year Honours List.

Linda is a Deputy Chief Caseworker for UK Visas and

## Nicole has her hair cut – for two good causes!

A CULCHETH girl has raised £645 for a hospice where her auntie is battling cancer – by having her long hair cut off.

Nine-year-old Nicole Skinner, a pupil at Twiss Green Primary School, also donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which provides real-hair wigs to children suffering from hair loss free of charge.

Nicole was devastated when her auntie, Karen Bennett, was diagnosed with lung cancer at the age of 34.

She is now battling the disease at Wigan and Leigh Hospice so Nicole decided to do something to raise money for the hospice. She realised that by having her long hair cut off she could help two good causes at the same time and had her hair cut at a local salon free of charge.

Her mum, Kelly, said: "We were all terribly upset when my sister got cancer and we are hoping she can beat it. But we are so proud of Nicole and all the people who sponsored her to raise the money."

"We can't thank them enough."

Our pictures show Nicole – before and after her locks were trimmed!





# Recognised in style

Immigration at the Home Office, and was honoured for her work in Public Service and Services to the Supportive Treatment of Migrants in the UK, presented with her award by Prince William.

Stuart and Linda described the ceremony as a wonderful experience and a day to remember forever. Linda describes her job as challenging but extremely rewarding with the MBE a fantastic recognition of her work.

She says: "I was thrilled and delighted to receive this honour. But I always have at the forefront of my mind, the fact that every decision I make has an impact on the lives of those I deal with and indeed their

families."

Linda is proud to have supported organisations such as Veterans Aid and those dealing with vulnerable individuals; areas of work that have been particularly rewarding. She has also had the good fortune in her career to work with some wonderful and supportive colleagues.

Linda's husband, Stuart, joined the Bent family business in 1967 and during his time has seen the massive expansion of the Centre's on-site nursery where more than 60 per cent of all Bents plants are now grown. He plans to retire next year on his 50th anniversary with the company, and will be hugely missed.



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**Dog Coffee Morning** - Saturday 21st May, 10am - 11.30am

**Bank Holiday Activities** - Sat 28th May - Mon 30th May

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# Local elections line-up

**THE local area goes to the polls on Thursday, May 5, with borough and parish council elections and also an election for the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner.**

In the borough and parish elections there are Conservative, Labour and Liberal candidates and, at Rixton and Woolston, two Independent candidates who are former Labour councillors who were controversially "de-selected" earlier in the year and are now opposing their former party. Candidates are as follows:

## Borough Council elections

Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft ward: Frank Allen (Cons), Valerie Allen (Cons), Sue Bland (Cons), Jan Davidson (Lab), Joan Grime (Lab), Eddie Sloan (Lib Dem), Matt Smith (Lab).

Rixton and Woolston ward: Paul Bretherton (Ind), Bill Brinkman (Ind), Mark Chapman (Cons), Andrew Hill (Lab), Howard Klein (Cons), Tony McCarthy (Lab), Isaac Tweedale (Cons), Paul Wenlock (Lib Dem), Pat Wright (Lab).

Burtonwood and Winwick ward: Cathy Mitchell (Lab), Timothy Muttok (Lib Dem), Terry O'Neill (Lab), Robin Sloan (Cons).

## Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council

Culcheth ward: Valerie Allen (Cons), Keith Bland (Cons), Sue Bland (Cons), Christine Estlin (Lab),

Peter Holmes (Lab), Ileyne Hutchinson (Cons), Howard Roberts (Lab), Isaac Tweedale (Cons).

Glazebury and Mee Brow ward: Frank Allen (Cons), John Davies (Lib Dem), Joan Grime (Lab), Anne Roberts (Lab).

Newchurch ward: Ben Alldred (Lab), David Hutchinson (Cons), Davies Johnson (Cons), Jacqui Johnson (Lab), Margaret Webber (Lab).

## Croft Parish Council

Southworth ward: Elected unopposed: Valerie Allen (Cons), Keith Bland (Cons), Merrill Cummerson (Lib Dems), Martyn Griffiths (Cons), Norman Partington (Lab), Carole Thewsey (Cons).

## Rixton-with-Glazebury Parish Council

Glazebury ward: Elected unopposed: Bob Andrews (Ind).

Rixton ward: Elected unopposed: Liz Clarke (Ind), Andrew Hill (Lab), David McLachlan, David Trenbath.

## Winwick Parish Council

Houghton Green ward: Diana Bennett (Lab), Graham Fien (Lab), Bob Haskew-Jones (Lib Dem), Stefan Krizanac (Lib Dem), Michael Matthews (Lab), Russell Purnell (Lab).

Winwick Ward: Pamela Barrow (Ind), Stuart Davidson (Lab), Sue Gordon (Ind), Ann Iddon (Ind), Mal Lingley (UKIP), Cathy Mitchell (Lab), Trevor Nicholls (UKIP), Carl Owen (Lab), Ian Richards (UKIP).

Peel Hall ward: Elected unopposed: Poul Gosney (Lab), Rachel Ward (Lab), David Williams (Lab).

## A chance to wear that wedding dress again!

A CHANCE for former brides, bridesmaids – and even grooms – to wear their wedding dresses, etc again and raise money for charity at the same time will come at Culcheth's Village Club on Saturday, July 2nd.

Two local mums, Suzanne McGucken and Tracie Cotton, have organised a Summer Wedding Ball and Brides' Night out to raise funds for breast cancer awareness and local charities.

They describe the event as "a charity night of food, music,

dancing and laughs"

The idea is that brides, bridesmaids, bride's mothers and anyone else who still has the apparel they wore at a wedding should get a chance to wear it again!

And of course, bridegrooms can join in the fun.

Tickets can be obtained from the Village Club, in Wigshaw Lane, or by emailing traciecotton@rocketmail.com or calling 07972 240247.

The event starts at 7.30pm

## Farm office plan approved

NEARBY residents have failed in a bid to block proposals for a single-storey office building at Dingle Green Farm, in Wilton Lane, Culcheth.

Borough planning chiefs gave the scheme their seal of approval after deciding the scheme represented a planning gain.

The new building will contain an office, manager's room, storage area, kitchen and toilets and will replace existing temporary buildings.

Five letters of objections were received from neighbours who claimed the development would be unacceptable in the Green Belt and would industrialise a rural area.

They said there were existing problems caused by large, articulated vehicles visiting the site via narrow roads importing waste to the site.

Residents had "had enough" they said.

But planning officers said the new building would not result in an increase in the amount of waste composted on the site. It would simply replace existing, poorer quality temporary buildings.

The new building would be small compared to existing farm buildings on the site so the impact on the appearance of the site would be minor.

## Culcheth Community Day postponed

FOLLOWING an emergency meeting of Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council it was agreed to postpone Culcheth Community Day (scheduled for Bank Holiday Monday May 2) until Saturday, July 9.

Recent heavy rain has left the village green in a very poor state with standing water in some areas.

It was agreed by councillors that vehicles could not get on or off the green – with a real danger of them getting stuck!

The event will now take place on Saturday July 9 – with confirmation that all the main attractions scheduled for Monday will be on show on the new date.

The theme "Outer Space: fact and fiction" will permeate through much of the entertainment.

Featured performances will

entertain young and old alike, and there will be the chance for Star Wars fans to come face to face with Darth Vader, the Jedi and even ride the X-Wing Starfighter.

There will also be the usual favourites – Trumble the Clown will entertain young children, fairground rides will be located in the village centre, there will be a pet show and the veteran car/motorcycle and tractor display.

Schools will have the opportunity to take part in both art and creative writing competitions, with exclusive space-themed prizes to be won.

## Scouts seek more security

SCOUTS at Culcheth are seeking planning consent for a 2.4 metre high security fence around its headquarters.

Aim of the fence, around the scout centre in Jackson Avenue, is to deter trespassers who leave litter and broken glass in the grounds of the centre – posing a injury threat to the scouts.

It is hoped the additional security will keep the grounds and car park free of hazards and enable scouts to use the outdoor facilities during fine weather.

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# Cocktail bar plan gets the go-ahead



A PLAN to convert first floor offices into a cocktail bar at Culcheth has been given the go-ahead – despite opposition from the parish council.

Members of Warrington's development management committee approved the scheme in Common Lane, Culcheth.

The scheme involves changing the use of existing offices above the Indian Tiffin restaurant – although the offices have been unused for more than five years.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council objected on the grounds the applicant had given no indication of the likely number of users of the cocktail bar and the access staircase was inadequate and potentially dangerous.

They also feared noise and disturbance for nearby residents and an increase in existing parking problems.

But planning officers recommended the scheme be approved and pointed out that the nearest residential properties were 56 metres away in Thompson Avenue.

The existing offices had been marketed since 2011 without success and it was believed potential tenants had been put off by the possibility of noise and smells from the restaurant below.

It appeared an office use was, therefore, unviable and that a change of use to a cocktail bar, with light refreshment facilities, would enhance the overall vitality of the neighbourhood centre.

There would be no changes to the external appearance of the property.

Members were told the new business would have six staff, including two part-timers.



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## Villagers seized opportunity to talk about traffic

VILLAGERS at Croft seized an opportunity to make their views known on traffic issues in the village when Croft Parish Council organised a "drop in" session at the Youth Centre.

There was a steady stream of residents arriving during the four-hour session – and no shortage of views expressed.

Main concern was the increased levels of traffic cutting through Croft – in particular HGVs.

Recent road works at Birchwood exacerbated the problem and although the works have now been completed, many residents feel traffic which found "rat runs" during the roadworks are continuing to use them now.

Other issues included the de-priming of Winwick Lane, which many people 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.

The parish council have distributed forms to enable villagers who were unable to attend the drop in session to make their views known. These were distributed through the churches, WI, etc.

Chairman Cllr Merril Cummerson said: "We are waiting until all completed forms are returned before consider what steps to take next."

"But we were delighted with the response to the drop-in session which has already provided much useful information."

## The beauty beneath the sea

MEMBERS of Newchurch WI had an underwater experience at their monthly meeting when guest speaker Wendy Northway demonstrated "Beauty Beneath British Seas" in a series of delightful slides.

Wendy took up diving over 20 years ago and her love for deep-sea creatures and plants has grown. She introduced many of her favourites – sea-slugs, worms with wonderful tentacles (these are cousins of our earthworms!), sponges and fishes of all kinds.

It seems that British waters cover huge rock reefs and cliffs which give shelter to so many species. The underwater colours were dazzling and the kelp forests looked like tropical gardens. A surprise was the way different creatures help each other against predators – Wendy finished with a short film showing a clam swimming with its guardian barnacles and sponges.

Sue Kennerley gave the vote of thanks and Wendy judged the competition – (A shell). She chose Pat Cairns as winner, with Aileen Paterson and Margaret Hill coming second and third.

Secretary Jean Riley said a trip to Trentham Gardens had been arranged for May 3 and it was hoped to arrange a trip to Llandudno on September 7. President Doreen Procter spoke of Judith Hibbert, the excellent speaker at the Mosslands meeting on April 6. She had received a standing ovation.

She also announced the success of Newchurch's Spring Coffee Morning and of the first meeting of the lunch club.

Two special events now took place. Tea was served by Lesley Lloyd and Liane Clarke with some delicious cakes given by Anne Wharton to help celebrate her 80th birthday. After tea the flower arrangement created by Ann Langridge for the President's table was given to Sylvia Brown by Ann's wish as a thank-you for Sylvia's many years as President. This made a happy end to the evening. The next meeting will be on May 11 with Todd Bulmer of Kenyon Hall Farm as guests speaker.

## WI celebrates its 70th birthday

PRESIDENT Margaret Hornby welcomed members to the 70th birthday celebrations of Glazebrook WI.

There was a WI in the village previously, called "Hollinfare" but when it disbanded, "Glazebrook" took over.

Before the celebrations started, members discussed business, including an outing to see "Grease" at the Brindley Theatre, the Mossland Group meeting, craft group meeting and NFWI news and events.

Centrepiece of the anniversary celebrations was a beautiful cake, iced with flowers and a "70th" symbol.

Tables were decorated with pretty flower arrangements and a longer table was sumptuously laden with many types of luncheon delicacies.

A social card had been made for each member with a copy of the "100th WI celebration banner"

A special raffle prize was selected from the NFWI shopping pages.

After the meal, members were entertained by Tom Dewhurst, who took members back to yesteryear with reminiscences and poems.

A group photograph was for the WI's archives.





## Civic Service was council chairman's last official engagement

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council's annual Civic Service was held at St Lewis' RC Church, Croft – hosted by council chairman Chris Vobe as his last official engagement before stepping down from the council.

The service sought to recognise the work voluntary groups, uniformed organisations, and community associations have undertaken in the villages over the past 12 months and celebrate the parish council's successful partnership with many local volunteers.

Readings were given by Cllr Maureen Banner, of Rixton-with-Glazebrook Parish Council and Cllr Amanda King, of Penketh Parish Council.

After the service, Cllr Vobe paid tribute to all those who had given their time and expertise to the community during the past year, and worked alongside parish councillors on projects ranging from the village's Community Day to the formation of the Glazebury Play Area.

Guests from Croft Parish Council, Warrington Borough Council, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, and the local community, led by Cllr Merrill Cummerson, of Croft, paid tribute to Cllr Vobe's service over the past four years.

Cllr Vobe said: "Civic Sunday is a great opportunity to come together and recognise everything that is good about our community – our dedicated volunteers, our local residents groups, and our uniformed organisations like the Scouts, all of whom contribute towards making Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft a wonderful place for people of all ages to live and work."

"I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who came along, especially those members of the community who took time out of their day to join us – and particularly my friend Merrill Cummerson for her kind words of tribute."

"It was lovely to see so many fellow councillors, residents and friends there who made the morning such a special occasion."



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**If you would like further information about 'Make a Will Week' call St. Rocco's Fundraising Team on 01925 575780**

**Please remember St. Rocco's Hospice when you write your Will.**





# Walking over hot coals for charity



CULCHETH Life Editor Gary Skentelbery is planning to walk over hot coals as part of Warrington Disability Partnership's 25th anniversary celebrations.

He is taking part in a fire walking event on Saturday May 14 being organised by local courier business Today Team outside their premises at Taylor Business Park.

## Leading expert

The event is being run by Scott Bell, twice holder of the Guinness World Record for the greatest fire walking distance. He is

internationally known as one of the world's leading experts on fire walking.

The temperature of the coals can be as hot as 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Gary said: "I have been a long time supporter and trustee of Warrington Disability Partnership and I am doing this to support the charity during their 25th anniversary year."

"I had been wondering how to help raise funds and when I heard Jamie and the Today team were putting on a fire walking event I decided to give it a go."

"Why fire walking? Well most of my business contacts and friends will take great delight in thinking of me walking over hot coals and suffering a little pain and spectators are welcome!"

The event starts at 10am with Training and Motivation Talks with the Fire Walk starting at 11am and a noon finish.

To sponsor Gary visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Gary-Skentelbery>



## Aimee aiming for pole position

AIMEE Hilton, a pupil at Culcheth High School, is to take part in the World Pole Sport Championships in London in July.

Organised by the International Pole Sports Federation, the event will attract athletes from various parts of the world.

Aimee is currently ranked third in the world and trains five times a week at a dance school in Warrington.

She has competed in the world championships three times previously and is hoping to improve her ranking this year.

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# £4.5 million to keep air ambulances flying

MARK Butler, a volunteer speaker for the North West Air Ambulance, was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Lowton WI.

In an interesting and informative talk, he explained that the Air Ambulance receives no government or central funding and is entirely reliant on donations.

The three helicopters – two from Barton Airport and one from Blackpool Airport – fly 365 days a year across the entire region, an area of 5,500 square miles. The helicopters attend up to six incidents a day and on average it takes just 14 minutes to reach the scene of an incident, where doctors and paramedics on board can provide life-saving treatment when and where it matters most.

Wherever the helicopters land, they are never more than 10 minutes away from the nearest hospital, overcoming obstacles of distance, congestion and access.

The majority of call outs are for road traffic collisions and also sporting accidents. The pilots respond to 999 calls, coastguards' intensive care transfers and hospital transfers.

It costs £4.5 million per year to keep the helicopters flying!

Norma Clarkson and Carol Leigh presented a cheque of £300 to Mark which had been raised by the "Nibble and Natter" group and a generous donation by Tom Clarkson.

The next meeting will be held at All Saint's Social Centre, Golborne at 7.15pm on Thursday 5th May when Judith Scott will be the speaker and the theme "That's Life". Visitors always welcome. For details call Lin on 01942 207764.

## Pupils to enter RHS flower show

PUPILS from Croft Primary School are to enter the school garden competition at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park for the sixth year running.

This year they have designed a garden inspired by the musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang for the competition – the biggest of its kind in the country.

Theme for the school garden award is musicals – and the youngsters had no hesitation in choosing Chitty Chitty Bang Bang for their entry.

Head teacher Anne Mains said: "We are all really excited with this year's design and are looking forward to the challenge of making a flying car, a child catcher's van and grandpa's shed."

The RHS Flower Show at Tatton runs from July 20 to July 24.

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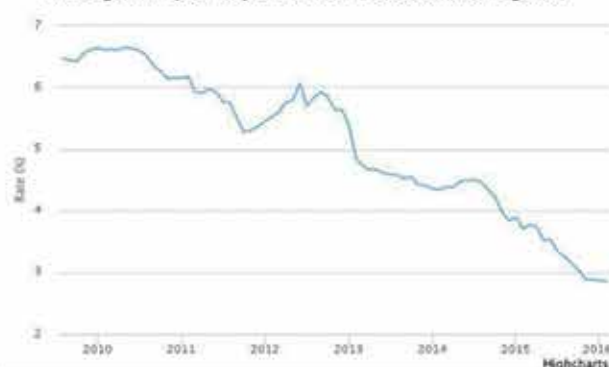
### So, what does this mean going forth?

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