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Issue: 161
August 2016

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Editor's Comment



OBSERVANT readers who follow our online editions (at www.culchethlife.com) or who have read the article in the centre pages of this issue, will have noted that there appear to be two separate campaigns to "Save Our Village Green."

One was launched by the local Labour Party the other by the local Conservative Party. Both involve members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and the Labour one is spearheaded by our local MP, Helen Jones.

While we are delighted that so many people are prepared to campaign to get something done about Culcheth's village green, in the wake of the disastrous weather which forced the parish council to twice cancel Culcheth Community Day, we cannot quite see why poor

drainage on the green should be a Party-political issue.

Surely, representations on almost any matter, to whosoever they are made, are more likely to meet with success should they come from a united front?

We at Culcheth Life try to remain politically neutral so it is not our intention to point an accusing finger at either party. We will leave that to others – and no doubt there will be plenty of them.

Coverage of the saga in our online editions drew a comment from a reader who, so far as we know, had no political axe to grind. He suggested the problem was

not about bad drainage but about very bad weather. To start putting a drainage scheme on an area as large as Culcheth Village Green would cost significant sums of money, possibly seven figures, and when people across the country are faced with their homes being flooded and livelihoods lost, it would be hard to justify spending such huge capital sums on the village green.

Protecting homes and businesses has to be the priority, he said.

Much as we love the Village Green and much we admire and sympathise with those organise Community Day, we can't help but think he has a point.

Deadline for the September issue of Culcheth Life is August 16



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Lucca helped commemorate the Battle of the Somme

LUCCA Chadwick-Patel, who leaves Culcheth High School this year after excelling in Drama and Musical Theatre, took part in commemorative events in Manchester to remember those who died at the Battle of the Somme in World War 1.



He was one of a number of volunteers in uniform who moved between and appeared at various places throughout central Manchester and surrounding areas, as a platoon of soldiers.

They never spoke but when approached by people, handed out various cards giving details of individual soldiers who died at the Somme on July 1, 1916. It was all part of the Royal Exchange Theatre production "We're Here Because We're Here."

This was a modern memorial to

mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, in which around 1,500 voluntary participants dressed in First World War uniform appeared unexpectedly in locations across the UK. Lucca wore the uniform of the 2nd Battalion the Gordon Highlanders.

Previously, Lucca has appeared at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in London, together with Gareth Malone, the Military Wives' Choir and the cast of "War Horse."

He also sang with the Halle Youth Choir when they visited Paris.



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Cash prizes for four young artists

FOUR talented young artists each won £50 prizes in an art competition run by Culcheth's CPS Shopping Centre.

CPS ran the competition to find four budding artists to draw pictures to display on the four panels on the exit doors facing the car park at the

rear of the shopping centre.

The four winners, from Culcheth Primary School, were Tony Wenham – Year 5, Abigail Ruth

Phillingham – Year 3, Joshua Carmichael – Year 3 and Emily Yates – Year 2.

They were presented with their winnings by Tony Bridge, who has run the Picture This art gallery and workshops in the CPS Shopping Centre for 21 years.

Head teacher Mandy Dodd was there to see the presentations.

CPS office manager Sandra Rostock said: "The standard of drawings was so good it was a very difficult decision to make, so we got four different judges.

"They were CPS director Stuart Nelson, Tony Bridge, John Waterman from Design Artwork and Print, in Leigh and myself."



Front row: Tony Wenham - Year 5, Joshua Carmichael - Year 3.

Middle row: Emily Yates - Year 2, Abigail Ruth Phillingham.

Back row: CPS Director Stuart Nelson, Tony Bridge, CPS Office Manager Sandra Rostock.

Day nursery raises £2,293 for hospital



CULCHETH Day Nursery has presented a cheque for £2,293 to Manchester's Christie Hospital – the result of 12 months fundraising at the nursery.

Staff at the nursery organised a number of events to raise money for the hospital.

There was a bacon butty morning, a cake sale and a Royal Afternoon tea party. Liane Smith, a member of staff completed the Manchester 10k in memory of her sister-in-law and a group of staff climbed Mount Snowdon.

Trees – and bats – set neighbours against each other

A PLAN to carry out tree surgery to a group of protected sycamores at Culcheth has set neighbours against each other.

Culcheth Life, in its June issue, reported how three residents of Culcheth Hall Drive had complained to the borough council over an officers' decision to allow a tree surgeon to carry out work on the protected trees in their gardens without even telling them.

Spokesman Frank Waring claimed they were not informed anyone had applied for permission to carry out the work, nor had they given permission for anyone to enter their gardens to do the work.

The trees are on land between the rear of Culcheth Hall Drive and the rear of Culcheth Hall Farm Barns – and a resident one of the barns, Graham Winston, says Mr Waring's version of events is incorrect.

He says Mr Waring was present at a meeting between the affected residents, the borough council and the Culcheth Hall Farm Barns management company when it was agreed some pruning of the trees should take place.

He claimed Mr Waring gave his full approval to the works and agreed a date – only to withdraw permission just before the work was about to take place. He had since refused to talk to Culcheth Hall Farm Barn residents.

Mr Winston also said Mr Waring had claimed there were bats roosting in the area when in fact no bats had been seen in the area for several years.

Mr Waring said he and his neighbours had withdrawn permission for the work to be done because the application granted by the borough council was different to the work agreed at the meeting. It allowed more crown thinning than originally agreed and also allowed for the severing of ivy growing at the base of the trees, which was where the bats were roosting.

He added: "Mr Winston is mistaken about the bats – they come every year and they are here now!

"In fact, co-incidentally, a bat survey has just been carried out at a neighbour's house by experts and speaks of bats foraging in the area."

Mr Waring said if a "reasonable" approach was made by Culcheth Hall Farm Barn residents it was still possible that an agreement could be reached.

He suggested the dispute had arisen because of the borough council policy of granting permission for work on protected trees before finding out if the landowners would grant permission for anyone to enter on to their land. Agreement on access to the land should be agreed before the tree work was even considered.

Mr Winston said the sycamores badly affected five houses in the Culcheth Hall Farm Barns development, including his own.

"Our gardens are over hung and shaded by the trees. This greatly affects what can be grown in the garden and the gardens become mossy and unpleasant to be in."

He stressed that the barn residents did not want the sycamores felled but merely trimmed as per the original agreement.



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Plan to extend restaurant given the go-ahead

PLANS to re-build a former single-storey side extension, erect a new side extension and provide additional car parking space at a former restaurant in Common Lane, Culcheth, have been given the go-ahead by borough council planning chiefs.

The proposals will result in the currently empty building being enlarged – but will also result in additional parking spaces,

including a space for disabled parking and spaces for motor cycles or pedal cycles.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish

Council opposed the scheme on the grounds of inadequate parking space for the likelihood of obstructive parking on Common Lane and there was also an objection from a nearby resident.

The resident feared any increase in size would result in local residents being exposed to an increase in noise and disturbance, parking problems, noise and even fighting.

But planners decided the scheme

could go ahead. Councillors were told the scheme would provide an additional 15.7 square metres of publicly accessible space.

Vehicle access to the site would remain unchanged.

The committee was told the amount of parking available would be below standard but, because of the site's proximity to the village centre car parks, it was considered acceptable.

Five things everyone should know about dementia

FIVE things everyone should know about dementia were outlined at the monthly meeting of Lowton WI.

They are:

- It's not a natural part of ageing.
- It's caused by diseases of the brain.
- It's not just about losing your memory - it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks.
- It's possible to live well with dementia.
- There's more to a person than dementia.

The speaker was Jayne Horton from "Dementia Friends" - an organisation helping to create more dementia-friendly communities.

She gave an interesting talk about dementia and all the misconceptions and myths

associated with it.

With support, people with dementia can and do take an active role in life.

For further information on Dementia Friends go to the website dementiafriends.org.uk or phone 0845 306 0898.

Lin Hayes welcomed four visitors to the meeting - Linda and Irene Turton, Mavis Thompson and Christine Macmillan.

Celia Adamson gave details of trips including a visit to the BBC Studios at Media City, a visit to Brindley Theatre to see "Seriously Dead" and a sail down the Bridgewater Canal followed by afternoon tea.

Visitors always welcome. For further details call Lin on 01942 207764.





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A cure for backache – without drugs or manipulation

MEMBERS of Newchurch WI learned about methods of curing severe chronic back pain without drugs or manipulation at their monthly meeting.

Guest speaker Kim Cant spoke about the Alexander Technique and how it had helped her overcome severe back pain.

As a result, she had given up her former career as a housing officer to train as an Alexander Technique instructor and had since helped patients of all ages to lessen many types of pain without drugs or manipulation. The secret was correct posture and members were put through some of her exercises – not always as easy as they looked but all aimed at proper balance of the spine and the head.

She brought a little skeleton called Bonaparte to show the bones involved and one of her former patients told everyone how Kim's classes had reduced the shoulder pain caused by her work with computers.

Kath Hanley thanked Kim, particularly for coming at short notice.

The meeting began with some sad news - the death of Margaret

Martyn and of a former member Joan Ellison.

On a happier note members were told about Glazebury WI's Strawberry Tea on August 6 and a trip to Llandudno September 7.

The Literary Group would resume in October.

A special event was the display of the Craft Group's exhibit at the Cheshire Show – Egypt – as part of the Far Horizons category. Aileen Paterson thanked Barbara Alldred for the original idea and for her beautiful calligraphy. To the group's surprise they came 5th out of 24 entries with a commendation

After tea served by Barbara Alldred and Margaret Jones, the competition winners chosen by Kim were announced. Marjorie Pugh was first, followed by Margaret Harrop and Pat Cairns. The subject was "A Pig Ornament" and the pigs came in all sizes!

The next meeting will be on August 10 and everyone is welcome.

Open Evening

Thursday

6th October 2016



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'Save our village

THE late decision to call-off Culcheth Community Day for a second time because of flooding problems on the village green led to the launching of what appeared to be two separate campaigns to "Save Our Village Green."

One was led by Warrington North MP Helen Jones and the three Labour councillors who represent Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft on the borough council, Matt Smith, Joan Grime and Jan Davidson.

The other involved the four Conservative members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, Keith and Sue Bland, Ileyne Hutchinson and Val Allen.

Both campaigns called for urgent action by the borough council and United Utilities – and both groups posed for photographs on the green.

The Labour campaign included an online petition said to have been signed by hundreds of local people. The Conservative campaign included

a special "surgery" and coffee morning at the Village Club at which residents were invited to give their views.

The postponement and then cancellation of Community Day was unprecedented.

When the original May Bank Holiday event was postponed it was the first time ever.

Cancellation of the re-arranged event on July 9 was done on the last minute – indeed some stallholders actually arrived and started setting-up.

But the persistent rain never gave the waterlogged green time to dry out.

A strongly-worded letter was sent

Charities Trust to relaunch

A CHARITABLE Trust which has distributed more than £250,000 to local good causes in Warrington is set to relaunch to help embrace new technology.

Warrington Charities Trust has been successfully distributing much needed funds to local charities for nearly thirty years and has decided it's time to modernise the approach they take in the borough to continue the good work they've been doing.

The Trust takes applications from organisations throughout the year and they help charities fund everything from basic running costs such as postal and telephony expenses, to helping develop new ideas or to repair of property that the charities use.

Paul Taylor, Vice Chair of Cheshire Business Leaders and Director at Taylor Business Park has joined the board of the Trust with a view to helping them more effectively use social media and modern technology to raise awareness, attract new investors and more importantly make the local charities aware of the organisation so that they can receive the help they need.

Paul said: "Warrington Charities Trust is a great organisation that is run by some fantastic people who have put a lot of time and effort into the trust over nearly thirty years. We're going to do a big push over the next twelve months to boost the fund's income from local companies and help distribute those funds to where they're needed."

"We will be launching a range of membership options for companies that want to make regular annual donations to the fund that will have different benefits for those who sign up."

"We have some well known

businesses in the area that are keen on supporting local causes. The beauty of the Trust is that it has a great system in place to make sure that money from those who are generous enough to donate goes to where it's most effectively used. They have a great set of criteria for applicants and a very thorough and accountable vetting process."

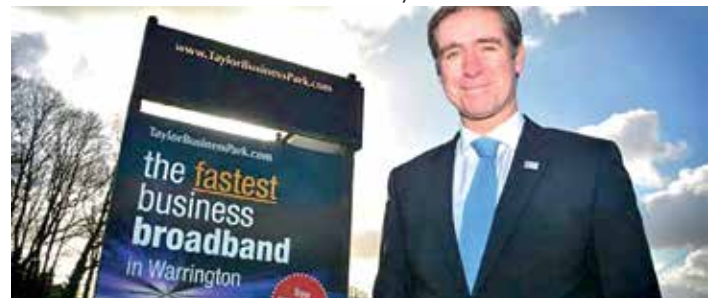
The Chair of the Trust, Bill Spiegelberg, is looking forward to the future for the trust and says, "I have had the honour of being Chairman of Warrington Charities Trust since 1994, when I took over from the Rector of Warrington, the late Rev. Canon Joc Colling. In fact I have been a member of the Trust since its formation 30 years ago when I was Company Secretary of The Greenalls Group."

"During that time we have distributed a quarter of a million pounds to over 400 local charities, giving them a lifeline to continue their invaluable work in the Borough of Warrington."

"Sadly in recent years for various reasons our funding has fallen but I am delighted that with the arrival of Paul Taylor on our Committee, there is every chance that we will be able to continue."

Paul added "It's a great way for local companies to pool their usual donations and funds and know that the money reaches the right place. The fact that nobody at the Trust receives an income, nor do they claim any business and travel expenses is both reassuring and refreshing in this day and age. Your money goes straight to where it's needed."

To get involved please call 01925 768401 or email paultaylor@TaylorBusinessPark.com



green – and ours!

to the borough council by the parish council.

But in addition, the MP and three Labour councillors wrote to the borough calling for urgent action to install adequate drainage on the green.

Helen Jones said: "The green is one of the last remaining big open spaces in Warrington North and is used widely by many groups and organisations in this part of my constituency."

"It is disappointing to see the drainage problems getting worse over the past few months. The decision to cancel this year's Community Day will have been a big disappointment to many charities and worthwhile causes who come together for the day."

"That is why I believe it is vital that the borough council take action now, to ensure things do not get any worse."

"We must protect this immensely valuable community resource and ensure that no future events held in the centre of the village are put in jeopardy because of the poor drainage."

In a joint statement, the three councillors said: "Even light rain leads to pools of standing water across the field – simply put, the existing drainage cannot cope and there are parts of the field which are starting to sink!"

"The village green is the centrepiece of our community – we are committed to ensuring that everything possible is done to protect it and secure its use for future generations."

According to the borough council, United Utilities say the main drains in Culcheth would not be able to take

the extra water a drainage scheme for the village green would produce. In addition, the council says there is no money available for such a scheme. But the four Conservative councillors said: "This reply is just not good enough. There are very few village greens left in Warrington. They are our heritage and should be protected and maintained by our borough council as well as United Utilities."

"Culcheth needs a solution now. You can be assured that we are totally in support of the parish council's efforts to resolve this matter."

Cllr Keith Bland said: "The parish council will have to consider what is to be done next year."

"We might have to consider an alternative venue, such as the car park at Shaw Street, or perhaps a contingency plan, which we have not had previously."

"But Community Day is too important an event to be left to chance."

The borough council says it is committed to carrying out a feasibility programme to deal with the drainage issues.



The Labour campaigners.



The Tory campaigners.

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Bents Garden & Home celebrate success at the double

GLAZE BURY based Bents Garden & Home is celebrating success at the double after being awarded Best Show Feature at this year's RHS Tatton Flower Show and Best Destination Garden Centre in the North West 2016 by the Garden Centre Association.

The title of Best Destination Centre in the North West comes following a strict audit of garden centres throughout the country with the results announced on a regional basis. The GCA comprises over 200 of the country's best garden centres and as a member each undergoes a strict audit process with judges assessing every part of the centre from plant and product quality to customer service and innovation.

Bents received a spot visit by the GCA auditors and recorded one of the top scores in the country, which not only saw them awarded Best Garden Centre in the North West but also regional titles for Best Outdoor Living Retailer, Best Restaurant and the Barton Grange Trophy for Innovation and Creativity. It is also one of only three finalists from the

North to be shortlisted for the Best Plant Area in the UK, which will be announced following a further audit in the autumn.

All Bents' GCA awards were quickly followed by success at this year's RHS Tatton Flower Show. Bents attended the show as part of the Cheshire Gardens of Distinction display, dressing the stand for the occasion and their work was recognised by judges with the award for Best Show Feature.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "The GCA awards are extremely important within the industry as they are based purely on quality standards throughout the centre. This quality is not only in relation to products and departments, but also people and service, which makes it

a very special award to win.

"We have a great team who work extremely hard and the title of Best Destination Garden Centre in the North West is a fantastic way to thank them for all their input. And to follow it up with an award at one of the country's most popular horticultural shows is just the icing on the cake!"

Garden centres don't pay to enter the GCA awards or put themselves forward; members are all visited by inspectors with no prior knowledge of the exact date to ensure standards remain high at all times. The award also sees Bents being acknowledged as a Garden Centre of Excellence, one of 10 in the country.





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www.culchethbeerfestival.org

40 different ales at the beer festival!



THE annual Culcheth Beer Festival, organised by Newton and district Jubilee Rotary Club, takes place at Culcheth Sports Club on Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10.

This year it will feature 40 different cask ales, various ciders, a Prosecco bar plus free soft drinks for designated drivers.

Numerous sponsorship opportunities exist for businesses and individuals. Sponsors, while contributing to Rotary charities and gaining publicity, will also feature on the festival website, have their name displayed on a cask of beer and their details in the festival programme. They also receive two or four free entry tickets, depending on the extent of sponsorship.

Major sponsorship opportunities include commemorative pints glasses or a music session at the festival.

More details are available from Bernard Groom on 01925 733893 or from the Rotary District 1285 website.

Improvement work to start on scout HQ

WORK will start during the summer holidays on improvements to the 1st Culcheth Scouts headquarters.

The improvements include LED lighting, refurbished toilets, and secure fencing around the activity area.

Grants co-ordinator Daphne Eastburn said: "We are thrilled to be able to make our building a safer secure and much more environmentally friendly."

The scouts have issued a "huge thank you" to organisations who have supported the work through grants, including Cheshire Community Foundation (£500), the Big Lottery Fund (£10,000) and Warrington Borough Council (£1,000).

LED lights installed in the community hall last year are already saving energy and money for the scouts.

Crafty way to get more people in the library

A NEW craft group at Culcheth Library is encouraging more people to use the facility – but is still looking for new members.

The group was started by local resident Sue Hadley after reading in "Culcheth Life" of a campaign to persuade more people to use the library.

There were fears that reduced opening hours could be "the thin end of the wedge" leading to the library eventually closing altogether.

Sue said: "I approached the library staff and asked if I could start up a craft group to get more people going in. It seems to be going quite well but we could do with more members. We meet on Thursday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.

"The idea is that any craft is welcome, or you can just come and have a chat. I tell people to take out a book, or two, when they leave and everyone seems to be having a good time.

"If anyone gets stuck with something, they can bring it along and we see if we can help.

"The library kindly provide tea or coffee for £1."

CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

NEWCHURCH WARD



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@protonmail.com



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Margaret Webber
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GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



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Valerie Allen
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Ileyne Hutchinson
01925 765131

Culcheth Village Green

The Parish Council was hugely disappointed when the decision had to be made to cancel this year's Community Day due to the poor drainage. Following heavy rain throughout Spring, the Green has become waterlogged. The condition of the Village Green in Culcheth has become an urgent issue which can no longer be ignored. The Parish Council is fully supportive of the "Save Our Village Green" campaign which is being led by our local Member of Parliament and Borough Councillors Matt Smith, Joan Grime and Jan Davidson.

We have reaffirmed our support in our correspondence to Warrington Borough Council's Chief Executive and continue to press for a solution. There is a petition available online where local residents can show their support for urgent intervention by the Council and United Utilities.

Victorian Day - Saturday 26th November

The next key event on the village calendar is Victorian Day, to be held on Saturday 26th November. This is a popular event for the community in the lead up to Christmas, which also serves to promote local businesses and community groups. The Parish Council is now taking the lead in organising Victorian Day, whilst Birchwood Lions will be making arrangements for Santa's annual visit. We welcome input and involvement from local businesses and community groups, who want to offer fresh ideas to help revitalise the event.

If you or your organisation are interested in lending a hand with this year's Victorian Day, please get in touch with Parish Councillor Jacqui Johnson.

HS2 Update

At the time of writing, the Government and HS2 Ltd are continuing with their plans for the "Golborne link" which would see the line routed through our villages. We expect final confirmation on the route from the Minister in Autumn. The decision is now linked to the Government's HS3 project; a proposed high speed link from Liverpool to Manchester and beyond. Before any announcement is made, there will be a "drop in" session on Tuesday 6th September at Culcheth Sports Club between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

There is an additional opportunity to meet representatives from HS2 Ltd at Golborne High School on Wednesday 14th September, also from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. To book an appointment, just email: NorthWestEngagement@hs2.org.uk with your preferred time and if possible, a summary of your question.

You can also contact them through hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. The website is www.gov.uk/hs2

Planning Applications

The Parish Council continues to keep a watchful eye on the range of planning applications that are submitted locally. Although we do not have any power to determine the applications, parish councillors can submit comments or objections.

Parish councillors are also available to help and offer advice on how the planning system works. In recent weeks, we have continued to closely monitor planning and other matters from neighbouring parishes and boroughs which may directly impact on Culcheth and Glazebury - these include the possibility of additional freight parks and terminals to our west and events on Silver Lane in Risley.

Parish Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman

The Parish Council is pleased to approve the appointment of Cllr Joan Grime as Chairman for the year 2016/17. Cllr Anne Roberts will serve as Deputy Chair for the same period.

Publication of information

The Parish Council has adopted a publication of Information scheme. Details of who we are, what we do and how the public can access information is published on the main notice boards, Common Lane, Culcheth and Churchill Avenue, Mee Brow, Culcheth Library and on our website www.culchethandglazebury.org.uk

Knights take centre stage at Winwick Carnival

THE Knights of the Roundtable took centre stage as they turned back the clock to medieval England at what could be the last ever Winwick Carnival!

With the current organising committee standing down this year, there will be no carnival next year unless a new committee can be found!

This year's event was the sixth by the current committee which has been dwindling in numbers from around 20 to just five active members.

Long time committee member John Shaw said: "We've had an absolute ball during our time, but with such low numbers its becoming much more like hard work so we're all having a well earned break."

To ensure a carnival takes place next year volunteers need to come forward now by emailing info@

winwickcarnival.co.uk

Meanwhile this year's event attracted large crowds with the rain holding off despite grey skies.

As well as the usual fairground attractions and community stalls, there was plenty of entertainment from the Cheshire Dog Display team, Legends of Dance Academy and the Knights of the Crusade who turned back the clock to medieval times, with the Knights of the Roundtable and King Arthur.

Local school boy Kian Ainscough aged seven, from Winwick Primary School had the honour of pulling the sword from the stone and being crowned King Arthur.



Knights of the Crusade.



Local youngster Kian Ainscough is crowned Arthur.



Crowning glory for local youngster Kian Ainscough.



Zara Fance and Eleki Ganguli enjoy a donkey ride.



Face painting fun with Collette Griffiths, Lilli Mae Round, William Round and Rachael Round.



Winwick WI on their stall.



Presenter John Edgar Gordon catches up with one of the Knights.

Cricket club's fun day

GLAZEBURY Cricket Club hold their annual Fun Day at the Chat Moss Hotel on Sunday, August 28.

The event – the club's main fundraising effort of the year – starts at 1pm and will provide plenty of fun and entertainment for villagers.

Attractions lined up include a barbecue, live music, DJ, bouncy castle, beat-the-goalie, tombola, raffle, hook-a-duck, lawn darts, a putting competition and much more.

Glazebury field two senior teams in the Cheshire Cricket Alliance and also have a junior section.

Money raised by the Fun Day goes towards providing equipment and maintaining the ground and pavilion in Hurst Lane.

House in garden plan is thrown out

AN application for permission to build a dwelling in the rear garden of a semi-detached cottage at Culcheth has been thrown out by the borough council's development management committee.

Councillors decided the proposal would impact on the amenity of neighbours and had inadequate parking facilities.

Highway safety could also be affected because of inadequate visibility splays in Fowley Common Lane.

Three neighbours had opposed the scheme and there was also an objection from Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

Planning officers had also recommended the plan be rejected.

Strawberry tea "diet" for WI members

A SOCIABLE "strawberry tea" evening was enjoyed by members of Croft WI at their monthly meeting where, apart from the strawberries and cream, the members were treated to scrumptious shortbread biscuits and meringues baked by secretary and cookery teacher Norma Owen.

As an alternative to a speaker, members enjoyed a quiz and the winners were presented with boxes of chocolates, so all in all it was not an evening for dieters!

Members were told Croft WI won "most amusing float" at the annual Croft Carnival with their hilarious interpretations of characters from the plays of William Shakespeare to celebrate his anniversary year. President Ann Lamming presented Louise Geekie with the winners impressive cup.

With 94 members, Croft WI is an active, interesting and social hub for the women of the local community with an ever expanding membership and all new members of any age are made welcome.

The competition was won by Barbara Taylor, Norma Owen second and Brenda Simm third.

Diary dates: August 9 – Walking Group, Dunham Walk, 10.15am car park opposite Horseshoe. Sept 19 – Group Meeting, Croft Memorial Hall.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

SUPPORT WORKER REQUIRED TO support a young man with Cerebral Palsy in the Culcheth area. Duties will include providing support in the family home and out in the community. Shifts to include evenings, weekends and some overnights shifts. £9 p/h weekday /£10 p/h weekend. **Contact JS Parker Ltd on 0161 247 7756 or re@jspm.co.uk to request an application pack. Post subject to DBS check.**

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Local Property Price News

We all think we know the housing market and where our house sits within it. I get many people telling me how well the market is doing and that they are sure house prices have increased recently, so here is some up to date information based on the properties within Cheshire and Greater Manchester; Warrington appears to be leading with overall asking prices of £200,918 as opposed to Greater Manchester where the overall asking price was £162,814. During the last year, Warrington sold prices were up by 7% on the previous year and 9% on 2010 when the average price was £185,146. Greater Manchester didn't see quite as high an increase but prices were still up by 6% on the year before and 7% up on 2007 when the average price was £152,315.

Average Sold Prices 2015

Culcheth

Sold prices up 19% on previous year and up by 15% on 2007*



Croft

Sold prices up 27% on previous year and up by 18% on 2007*



Irlam

Sold prices 3% down on previous year and 8% down on 2013*



Cadishead

Sold prices up 6% on previous year and down 19% on 2012*



Keep in mind that these statistics are based on averages and therefore individual property may have increased in value due to refurbishments and modernisation, or may have remained stagnant, however depending on condition they may have even decreased in value. Always instruct a local reputable agent to conduct a market appraisal for you. A local agent should have all the up to date information and be experts in their field.

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*Figures based on Land Registry statistics as of April 2016.