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Issue: 160
July 2016

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Editor's Comment



AS Culcheth Life was going to press the fate of Culcheth Community Day was still in the lap of the weather gods.

The weather is so changeable it is impossible to predict whether the village green will be capable of staging the event.

It was still pretty boggy as we went to press later than usual so we could include coverage of the annual Croft Carnival, which I am pleased to say did manage to go ahead despite some heavy showers.

This year has been one of the worst on record weather wise when it comes to covering local carnivals and events but it is something we have no control over.

But we do have control on land drainage and clearly the village green is in urgent need of attention.

Hopefully land drainage works can be carried out in plenty of time for next year as community day is

a key event in the year for many of our community groups to raise much needed funds and increase their profile.

Fingers crossed the event will be taking place on Saturday - but be prepared for rain!

Family fun day

A FREE Family Fun Day is to be held at Culcheth Community Campus on Saturday, July 23.

The event, which will be from 12 noon to 4pm, aims to provide a range of mixed activities for adults and children and an opportunity for local clubs, instructors and businesses to raise their profile and promote their services.

Activities on the day will include fitness centre taster sessions, low impact fitness classes, football, rugby and archery, martial arts displays, health and wellbeing advice, summer reading and libraries information, community clubs information, games, competition and fun activities for all ages.

Food and drink will be served throughout the day.

Deadline for the August issue of Culcheth Life is July 19

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Pedal power to help send Theo to America

A GROUP of cyclists from Culcheth tackled one of the most challenging one day cycle routes in the country - to raise money to send a two-year-old boy to America for life-saving treatment.

Members of the Culcheth Raj Roadsters Cycling Club took on the Fred Whitton route in the Lake District.

The money they raise will help

send toddler Theo Clennon for proton beam therapy in Oklahoma.

In March this year Theo began to experience some changes to his balance and co-ordination. Within

just weeks, following a CT scan, it was found that Theo had a rare brain tumour and needed surgery.

Because the tumour was large, deep inside the skull and next to the brain stem, his family received the devastating news that it was inoperable and were told Theo only had a few weeks to live.

Thankfully, Mr Connor Mallucci a surgeon at Alder Hey was willing to operate and successfully removed 100 per cent of Theo's stage four tumour.

Theo is now cancer free, but without further treatment his cancer will return. Theo is undergoing chemotherapy but due to his age,

radiotherapy is not an option. He needs Proton beam therapy which is unavailable in the UK.

In Oklahoma there is equipment that can penetrate deep enough into the body to help fight any cancer cells left in his body. But the family needs to raise £160,000.

The Culcheth team rode 112 miles, climbing 12,000 feet - more than 40 per cent of the height of Everest - and all six of the major Lakeland passes.

Anyone who wants to support the team and help Theo can do so at <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/fredfortheo>



Theo with his cousin Antonia who was born three days apart from him.



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Ofsted boost for Croft children

CHILDREN, staff and parents of Croft Village pre-school and wrap around care have been celebrating not one, but two "good" Ofsted judgements.

In March 2016 the pre-school was inspected, followed by the After School Club in May 2016.

Manager, Rachel Ferguson, said: "We are delighted with the outcomes. Staff have worked so hard and the children have responded fantastically to what we offer."

The Pre-school was described by Ofsted as "an exciting place for children to be".

The After School Club report stated that "Parents speak positively about the club and the staff team. They state that their children enjoy attending and often don't want to leave."



'Royal' tea party raised £300 for hospital

PARENTS and grandparents of children at Culcheth Day Nursery attended a "Royal Afternoon Tea Party" to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and raise money for the Christie Hospital in Manchester.

The nursery has been raising money for the hospital for 12 months, due to cancer having a major impact on a number of local families recently. A total of £300 was raised on the day but more money has been raised through a number of other activities, including some staff climbing Mount Snowdon and running the Manchester 10k.



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'HS2 is still on track - but it's not too late to derail it'

THE HS2 rail link is still on track to carve a path of environmental destruction through Culcheth - but it is not too late to derail it.

That's the message from Frank Allen, chairman of the Culcheth and district Rail Action Group (CADRAG).

He wants local people to voice their opposition through local councillors and MPs so that Warrington's voice is heard in Westminster, where the decision will finally be made.

"If enough people take action now, we can still stop this," he said.

Mr Allen said a HS2 held a poorly publicised "drop in" session at Culcheth Sports Club on May 12.

He said: "Their message was clear. The HS2 Golborne link will still go ahead, and they were there to explain to local residents what, if any, compensation they might be given."

More drop in sessions are planned on September 6 at Culcheth Sports Club (6-8pm). And at Golborne High School on September 14.

More information can be obtained by emailing hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Mr Allen said he and several other CADRAG members, and members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, had attended the May session.

"I talked at length to one of the HS2 representatives. I argued

again that the Golborne link was unnecessary, expensive, and very damaging to the local economy, environment and community.

"He said that the decision had not yet been taken although the Secretary of State intended to go ahead with the Link.

"I asked how we could get our message across. His response was that our best route was through our elected representatives - that means your borough councillors and your MP, Helen Jones for Warrington North or David Mowat for Warrington South.

"The HS2 argument for the Golborne Link is widely held to be wrong, and we have argued long and hard that the alternative, to upgrade the West Coast Main Line at certain locations between Crewe and Wigan, is cheaper, less destructive, and brings significant other benefits.

"However, the decision is now linked to HS3, the High Speed line proposed from Liverpool to Manchester and on to Leeds.

"Liverpool proposes that a new high speed line should be built from Liverpool to Golborne to connect to the Golborne Link and so to Manchester, Leeds and London. This will cost more, bring more destruction, and no benefits.

"Although this decision will be taken in Westminster, it will be based on recommendations by Transport for the North, a local government group, at which Terry O'Neill, the leader of Warrington Borough Council, is our representative.

"If you want to stop the Golborne Link being built, you must tell your local councillor so they can continue to press for the route to be changed. To stop the Golborne Link we need people to write or email telling them that we are still opposed to the idea, it does not make sense and we want it stopped.

"We should do that even if we have done it before.

"It is also important to tell HS2 again that we do not want the Golborne Link."

Anyone who wants to help with the campaign should call Mr Allen on 01925 765017.

Although the main disruption caused by the HS2 Golborne Link would be in the Culcheth area, it also affects Rixton, Warburton, Lymm and High Legh.

Warrington's MPs, Helen Jones and David Mowat have both indicated their opposition to the proposed route.





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New chairman wants urgent action on travellers

NEW chairman of Croft Parish Councillor Val Allen says she will be looking to meet with the relevant parties to secure a long-term solution to the problem with travellers using the Silver Lane site at Risley.

Travellers returned to the site recently, despite the installation of a barrier last August in an attempt to solve the problem.

The issue was referenced in a statement calling for residents to support the Look of our Villages campaign across Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

Cllr Allen said: "One of our biggest problems is litter. We employ caretakers for our villages to pick up other people's litter.

"I am sure that residents would much prefer us to spend their money on other services rather than tidying up after travellers.

"Like other residents I am also concerned that Silver Lane is still being used by traveller - this despite a barrier being put in place."

Cllr Allen said she would be seeking a meeting with the borough council and other relevant bodies to secure a permanent solution.

The Look of our Villages campaign is being backed by the Conservative Councillor team in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, led by Cllr Allen and Cllr Keith Bland in Culcheth.

In a statement, the pair said: "We intend to tackle the main causes of complaint from residents and its usually something we see ourselves when we walk through our streets - dog fouling, litter, fly tipping and graffiti to name a few.

"We will be working with all local responsible agencies and residents to make sure Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft retain the kind of look we all want to see when travelling through the villages we love.

"We will also be out tackling some of these issues head-on

with our Look of our Villages Campaign."

Anyone who wants to help with the campaign or who would like to contact the councillors with an issue of concern can contact them on 01925 766641 or info@wnconservatives.org.uk

You can also contact Warrington Borough Council by phoning 01925 443322 or emailing contact@warrington.gov.uk



Warrington 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 near Culcheth 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. During that time we have distributed a quarter of a million pounds to over 400 local charities."

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."

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

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PLANS are in place the rearranged Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Community Day for Saturday, July 9 at 12 noon on Culcheth village green

The event had to be postponed on the May Bank Holiday Monday due to heavy rain which made the village green boggy.

This year's theme for Community Day is "Outer Space: Fact and Fiction."

Join NASA for the day! Meet Darth Vader, the Jedi and R2-D2! Ride the X-Wing Fighter and bring your own Light Sabre.

Community Day has something for everyone, and the featured performances will entertain young

Concerns over village gr

FEARS are growing for the Culcheth Community Day event scheduled for Saturday, July 9, with the village green still suffering from drainage problems following recent heavy rains.

After the community day postponed from the May Bank Holiday due to poor weather, it was hoped a sunny spell would dry out the grass on the village green.

Paul Taylor from Taylor Business Park, who are supporting the event, said: "So far it isn't looking good but everyone has their fingers crossed.

"The green still has substantial drainage issues which we hope the council will soon resolve, and when you couple that with the awful run of weather we've had recently it will need a good run of very good and hot weather to get everything

in a fit state for the big day.

Local councillors have been asking the council to take a look at the green for some time now.

Matt Smith, Councillor for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft said: "Myself and Cllr Joan Grime brought the Council's Chief Executive, Professor Steven Broomhead, to Culcheth to view the problems with the Green for himself a few weeks ago. Following this meeting he has instructed senior Council officers to assess the cost of the work required to solve the drainage issues.

"Once the costings have been done we will be looking at the possibilities for funding the work, most likely via the Council's capital programme".

The Culcheth Community Day is still set to go ahead on July 9.

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ed Community Day

and old alike. There will be a celebration of British Astronaut Tim Peake's launch to the International Space Station. Visitors (especially children) are encouraged to attend in costume. Star wars outfits and astronaut costumes will be particularly great!

There will be many firm favourites – fairground rides including Sudden Impact, Trumble the Clown,

the Pet Show and the veteran car/motor-cycle display. New this year is a Karate Display at 1.00pm. Plus all the usual stalls supporting local charities.

Parish Council Chair Joan Grime said: "Many thanks to our supporters: Taylor Business Park, Sainsbury's and the Amazing Cake Company."

reen for Community Day



The Gardening Guide JULY



“Cutting basket plants back can revive a tired basket - follow up by giving extra attention to feeding and watering”

Judith Evans, Seasonal Plants Buyer

- This is the month for hedges - newly planted hedges will need watering regularly and if they are straggly they can be lightly trimmed to encourage bushiness
- Watering is crucial this month so remember to look after your containers and baskets
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New 'accident map' for village

A NEW accidents and hazard map for the village of Winwick has been launched by the parish council.

Aim of the initiative is to enable local people to let the council know where problems of speeding traffic, accidents or near misses exist.

Chairman Mike Matthews says: "We want to hear from people who have experienced problems with speeding vehicles, accidents, near

misses and any problems crossing the road, or even feeling intimidated by the speed or proximity of cars on the road.

"We will be working in partnership with the borough council to map and analyse all these complaints so that a scheme

can be designed to deal with the problems.

"In order to achieve this we need help to populate the map of the village with all the current problems.

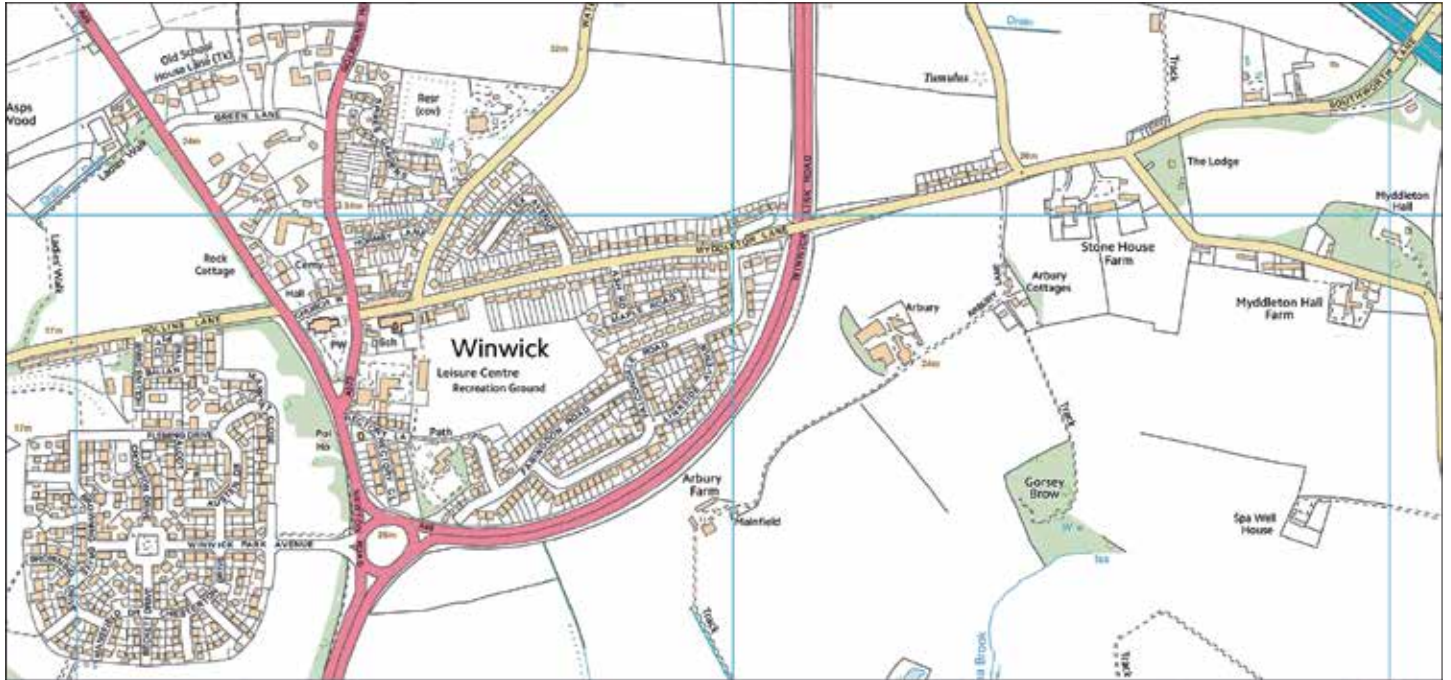
"We ask that people provide us with the postcode of the accident, incident or problem and a brief description of the incident."

Hard copies of the map will

be available at Winwick Leisure Centre for anyone to fill out.

An update of the map; will be published at the end of July and consultation with the public will run until the end of September.

Cllr Matthews said the council was looking forward to hearing from residents and resolving the issues they identified.



Croft Parish Council News



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Traffic Consultation

Traffic matters have been a significant cause of concern to Croft residents for a long period of time. Commuters use the Parish's roads as part of their daily commute to and from businesses in Birchwood, Risley and other destinations. The situation has become worse though in recent times as traffic has been using Kenyon as a way to avoid delays on Winwick Lane; and other commuters have discovered Croft as a route to miss delays on the M62.

Following pressure from the Parish Council, Warrington Borough Council offered to prepare a traffic management plan for the area. The cost to the Parish Council would be £10,000. The Parish Council, while in favour of accepting this offer felt that until other road related matters are settled (for instance the effect of de-priming Winwick Lane) it would be premature to commit to a plan that would be based on outdated information. But Councillors had a strong desire to take some relatively small steps to identify the traffic issues that most worried residents. They wanted to find solutions that had popular support and which the Borough Council could be asked to implement prior to a full traffic management plan.

Croft Parish Council therefore held a consultation event to discover residents' principal concerns about traffic issues in the Parish. At the same event residents were able to sign a petition for a pedestrian crossing on Smithy Lane so that there is a safe way to reach the Playing Field.

The consultation was held at the Croft Youth and Activity Centre on Smithy Lane and attracted a steady stream of residents. Parish Councillors were in attendance and the Police came along to hear directly from residents. The consultation invited residents to specify the particular type of problem that worried them, such as traffic speed or volume and asked them to specify the locations where that problem mostly occurred.

Pedestrians too were asked to state their main concerns. They were also asked to nominate the location worst affected. Residents were asked to make suggestions for how their particular problem could be lessened.

Unsurprisingly the outcome of the traffic survey was that the amount of vehicles and their speed were the biggest worries. Respondents identified Smithy Lane as the blackspot for both of those issues with New Lane badly affected particularly with traffic speed.

Of the suggestions to overcome these problems, speed bumps were by far the most popular, but there was a very small number of respondents who specified that speed bumps should not be introduced. Other remedial ideas were for speed restrictions to be made, for Dam Lane to be opened to general traffic, for speed cameras (including average speed cameras) to be installed and for chicanes to be inserted on roads.

Pedestrians concerns focused on safety and how it was affected by the lack of pavements within the area and by the speed, volume and perceived close proximity of traffic to walkers and cyclists. Respondents noted that it was not just moving vehicles that affected them. Cars parked on pavements forced walkers on to the road; uneven and poorly maintained pavements made walking difficult, and the lack of consideration by dog owners who do not tidy up dog mess was another irritant.

Suggested remedies included relaying the footpaths, having speed calming measures, installing pedestrian crossings at key locations, enforcing anti-dog fouling measures.

The Parish Council will pass its report (which may be found on the 'Notices and News' page of www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk) to the Borough Council and seek its support in implementing improvements.

Residents may contact Mike Pope, Croft Parish Council's Clerk on 01925 733766 or
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Culcheth Centre's new furniture

PEOPLE who attended a strawberry tea at the Culcheth Centre were able to enjoy the new furniture, curtains, etc that organisers have been fundraising for.

Cllr Sue Bland said: "The next project could be to give the garden area a facelift – and possibly start a gardening club."

"We would like to thank all the volunteers and supporters who helped with the fundraising."

Most of the old furniture was given to other local groups.

Planners resolve dispute over garden fence

A LENGTHY planning dispute over fencing along the boundary of a detached bungalow at Culcheth has finally been resolved.

Members of Warrington Borough Council's development management committee has agreed to allow the fence to remain in place at the junction of Birchall Avenue and Common Lane after the applicant agreed to reduce the height of part of the fence.

The committee had twice deferred a decision on the retrospective application which had resulted in objections from two nearby residents and from Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council. Members had also visited the site.

Originally the plan had been rejected because of the "stark" appearance of the fencing when compared with the "leafy" appearance of the rest of the road. But in addition to reducing the height of the fence, the applicants have also agreed to "soften" its appearance by providing cladding and landscaping.

Pupils shown the impact of a road traffic accident

YOUNGSTERS at Culcheth High School were given an insight into the impact of a road traffic accident by police and fire emergency services.

Cheshire police along with Cheshire fire and rescue, English Highways and Warrington Borough council visited the school on a road safety impact day.

The pupils witnessed a car accident reenactment and then did classroom activity on cause and impact.

The youngsters enjoyed the day and learnt why and how car accidents happen and the impact on the victims lives.



Croft Carnival Queen's crowning glory

LIKE many events across Warrington this year Croft Carnival didn't escape the showers but it didn't stop 12-year-old Laela Sakhi enjoying her crowning glory as carnival Queen.

Laela, turned 12 just three days before this year's carnival and followed in the footsteps of her sister Rosa, who was last year's youngest ever queen. Laela has lived in Croft for 7 years and is a pupil at Culcheth High School. Her hobbies include Roller Skating and spending time with her friends. Laela would one day like to work in the medical profession as a doctor or nurse.

Laela has previously represented the village as Croft Princess. Her attendants were Isabel Dean and Charlotte Hiley.

This year's princess was nine-year-old Sophia Gregory, who has lived in Croft all her life and is a year 4 pupil at Croft Primary School where her favourite subject is Art. She is also a member of Croft Brownies. Sophia's attendants were Sarah Quinlivan and Sarah-Anne O'Hara.

This year's Rosebud was 7 year old Emily Maloney, who has also lived in Croft all her life. Emily attends Croft Primary School, where she is a Year 2 pupil. She is a keen dancer and a member of Croft Rainbows. Her attendants were Evie Twist and Red Thackeray.

Crown Bearers this year were 11 Year old Jake Taylor and 5 years old Leo Goulden.

Croft Grandparent was Elaine Bretherton from New Lane. Elaine moved back to Croft two years ago.

Leading this year's Carnival was retiring Queen Rosa Sakhi, Princess Rianna Blood and Rosebud Casey Skinner.

Following the parade villagers packed onto the memorial field to enjoy various activities while dodging the showers and to watch the crowning of Laela.



Carnival Queen Laela Sakhi with attendants Isabel Dean and Charlotte Hiley.



Croft Primary float.



Croft WI float.



Princess Sophia Gregory with attendants Sarah Quinlivan and Sarah-Anne O'Hara.



Rose Bud Emily Maloney.

More pictures online at www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk

Fundraising bike ride for Bangladesh

TWENTY cyclists completed a gruelling 104 ride from Culcheth to Buxton and back to help raise money to provide clean drinking water in rural areas of Bangladesh.

The ride took in the infamous "Cat and Fiddle" pass which is one of the top 10 climbs in the country and was completed in just under six hours at an average speed of just over 16mph.

On the return journey, the riders carried bottles of spa water from Buxton to illustrate the distances some people have to travel for water in Bangladesh.

The ride was organised by local charity the Epiphany Trust in partnership with Culcheth's Raj

restaurant and the Tauri Foundation in Bangladesh.

It was the first in a number of events which it is hoped will raise £20,000 to help dig 80 wells in Bangladesh.

A fundraising evening will be held at the Raj shortly at which presentations will be made to the cyclists who took part.

Cycle club organiser Paul Hardman said: "We wanted to do this ride to highlight how far some people have to travel to get their water from a natural source."

Anyone who wants to help the cause can contact the Epiphany Trust on 01925 220999.



Veteran angler takes gold in World Championships

A CULCHETH angler won a gold medal when he took part in the ninth World Angling Championships for Veterans in the Czech Republic.

Harry Billing, who fishes regularly on Partridge Lakes, near Culcheth, also helped the England Veterans team to win the team gold.

He won the individual gold for winning both days of the competition.

It was the second year the England team had taken the gold but they had to fight off a challenge from 14 other nations to retain their title.

Harry said: "The team spent two weeks out there practicing and we really thought we could do well after catching lots of fish."

"I am originally from Manchester, but have spent the last 10 years in Perranporth, Cornwall."

"We recently moved back to Culcheth because of family commitments and we really love living here. The place is great and everybody is so friendly."



Netball children reach county finals

THE High Five netball squad at Culcheth's Twiss Green Primary School reached the finals of the Warrington and Cheshire Level Three Winter School Games netball tournament to find themselves facing some of the best school teams from across the county.

They turned in fine performances and finished fourth in the tournament – "a very well deserved result" according to Susan Sinclair, netball coach at the school.

The squad is pictured in their new kit, sponsored by parent Joanne Flynn, through her company, Netgiant.



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Obituary

Ian Watson



THE death occurred on May 24 of Culcheth resident Ian Alexander Watson, aged 81, an active and long-standing member of Culcheth Methodist Church.

Mr Watson moved to Culcheth with his wife 41 years ago to work in the UK Atomic Energy Authority's Safety and Reliability Directorate (SRD).

He was interested in cosmology and on retirement joined U3A where he set up an astronomy group. He was also involved in a number of local organisations, including Warrington Community Health Council and Churches Together in Culcheth and Croft. He also did voluntary work on the rehabilitation of prisoners at Risley Prison.

Mr Watson is survived by his wife, son and daughter and two granddaughters.

Vintage tractor festival

A VINTAGE tractor festival is to be held at Ben's Home and Garden centre, Glazebury on Saturday July 30 to raise money for All Saint's Church Glazebury and the Epilepsy charity.

There will be a large selection of vintage tractors and other agricultural machinery on show, as well as other attractions.

The event, which starts at 11am and continues until 3pm, follows the success of the first festival, held last year.

Our picture shows vintage tractor restorer Eric Marshall, with his 1951 David Brown Cropmaster tractor at last year's festival.



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Written by Victoria Barlow
Head of Courtyard Homes

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Top Tip

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

Choose a removal company

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

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

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

Packing Up

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

Moving Day

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



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