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Issue: 164
November 2016

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Working party to discuss future of library

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THERE seemed to be plenty of optimism at the recent second public consultation to discuss the future of Culcheth Library.

Like many in the village I feel it would be a huge loss to the local community if Culcheth Library was to close its doors.

I am more than hopeful that this will not be the case and the library will continue in some format.

But in this changing world we have to accept that we have to move with the times.

Many businesses have had to adapt to changing technology as have schools and colleges – and it is no different with libraries.

The facts are quite simple, less people are reading traditional books and less people are using

libraries. I am as guilty as anyone. Rarely do I read a traditional book and I have not set foot inside a library to borrow a book since leaving school.

Most of my time is now spent reading online via a computer or mobile phone.

But a local library still has an important role to play in the local community, not just for books but for people and community groups to meet. We also still need to do everything we can to encourage young people to read traditional books.

Hopefully the working party and LiveWire can come up with a solution to ensure Culcheth Library continues in some format for future

generations to enjoy.

Finally I would like to wish local PCSO Steve Dodd all the best in his new career following more than a decade of dedicated service in the local villages.

He has always been engaging and proactive and he will be a big loss to the local community.

Deadline for the December issue of Culcheth Life is November 15

Art exhibition

CULCHETH Thursday Afternoon Art Group is to hold its annual exhibition at the Culcheth Centre, Jackson Avenue, on Friday and Saturday, November 25-26.

The exhibition will be open from 10am to 4pm and this year's special display will feature people and places in and around Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft. Refreshments will be available, there will be a raffle and many of the paintings will be on sale.



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Working party to discuss future of Culcheth library

AROUND 50 people attended a second public consultation on the future of Culcheth Library.

The event was hosted by local councillor Matt Smith, who at the end of proceedings, suggested a working group be set up to discuss other options of keeping the library open, with community involvement.

Modernising

LiveWire explained that due to cuts from Central Government, they had been asked by Warrington Borough Council to take a £300k cut to their management fee from the council, and that this should come from modernising services.

Culcheth library costs £44,000 per year to run including the staffing and overheads for the property.

The falling use of libraries was in line with national trends.

LiveWire MD Emma Hutchinson stated that there had been an error in the initial Culcheth visitor figures that were circulated and that a systems error meant that three months of figures had not been included.

She stated that the correct figures had now also been shared with the public and that this was a systems issue and was not a deliberate attempt to mislead the public.

She also added that visitor figures are a guide to usage in library buildings which are measured by people counters and

manually by staff and that the most important figures in terms of lending and reading books are book issue figures which are measured by a digital system in line with statutory library services across the country.

With regard to lending lockers, Emma explained that they do not want to replace libraries and that LiveWire understood the value of a library to its users. Lockers are considered by some to be more convenient to those who can't visit their local library due to hours that they work and other commitments.

Withdrawn

Many residents and councillors commented on the terrible transport links in the area now that Network Warrington has withdrawn more stops on routes and made it clear that this would cause issues with getting locals to the library, if it was situated at Birchwood or Culcheth Community Campus (the High School).

There was discussion of increasing the parish precept to around £10 per person on their council tax to run the library as currently, or a smaller increase to run it with volunteers.

At the end of the meeting a number of people came forward following Cllr Smith's suggestion of

a working party.

Speaking after the meeting LiveWire Director Paul Taylor said: "It was a good meeting. Everyone was looking for a way forward from where we are and Matt did a great job of chairing it. The government cuts have hit Warrington badly but many other towns have already shut down many facilities like this. Hopefully we won't have to here in Culcheth."

"There are some good options on the table but the residents in

the working group need to figure out which works best for them and make sure it's sustainable. I'm happy to help with my Livewire hat on or my Taylor Business Park hat. I grew up here and don't want to see our library close, or any other libraries in town. Nobody in Livewire does. They're an essential part of our society but we're in hard times so we've got to be clever about how we approach this challenge."



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Popular PCSO's fond farewell

POPULAR PCSO Steve Dodd has been bid a fond farewell by members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council after more than 13 years service.

Steve, who started his beat at Birchwood for two years, before moving to cover the Culcheth and Glazebury area, is returning to Birchwood to work at the local primary school as site manager.

"It is quite ironic that I am returning to Birchwood," said Steve, who says he will miss his many friends and contacts he has made during more than a decade working the Culcheth and Glazebury beat.

He was presented with a small gift and thanked for his services in the area by Parish Council Chair Cllr Joan Grime.

Explaining his decision for a career change Steve said: "I fancied a career change and a new work life balance.

"I have really enjoyed my time helping people and I have met a lot of really nice people."

He has also seen some major changes in the area, most noticeably the issues involving troublesome teenagers, which are now at an all time low.

"When I first arrived in the village it was at the time a dispersal notice had been in force and there had been 97 arrests in one month for anti-social behaviour. Now there are only 2-3 incidents in a month!"

Steve said he had particularly enjoyed working with young people.

He hopes to keep in touch with his many friends in the village where he will continue to live.



Steve receives his gift from Cllr Joan Grime.

Plans underway for Christmas Tree Festival

PLANS for the eleventh Christmas Tree and Crib Festival at Culcheth's Newchurch Parish Church are now well underway.

The festival which runs between Friday 9th and Sunday 11th December brings together all elements of the community to truly celebrate the festive season. Local schools, businesses and organisations exhibit a tree or crib in a selected theme, this year's being 'Christmas Carols & Songs'. The church is then filled with festive

cheer across the weekend giving it a magical atmosphere which captivates all those who visit.

Activities across the weekend include the local primary schools visiting the church on Friday 9th and singing Christmas carols and songs:

- Twiss Green School – arrive at 10.00
- Newchurch County Primary School – arrive at 11.00
- Culcheth County Primary School – arrive at 2.00

On Saturday between 2 o'clock and 4 o'clock there are supervised children's crafts and activities and light refreshments are available throughout the day.

For those who enjoy a musical interlude, on Saturday 10th @7.30p.m. back by popular demand are the 'Ellenbrook and Boothstown Brass Band'. Tickets are just £7.50 and include a mince pie and glass of mulled wine, excellent value for a superb night's entertainment (tickets available

from Spotless Dry Cleaners, Lodge Drive).

The festival is closed on Sunday evening with a candlelit service at 6.30 p.m. incorporating favourite carols.

Over the 10-year period the festival has raised over £4,500 for local charities, this year the festival will be supporting 'The Children's Society - Warrington Project' as well as Church funds. Entrance to the event is a £1.50 donation with children free.

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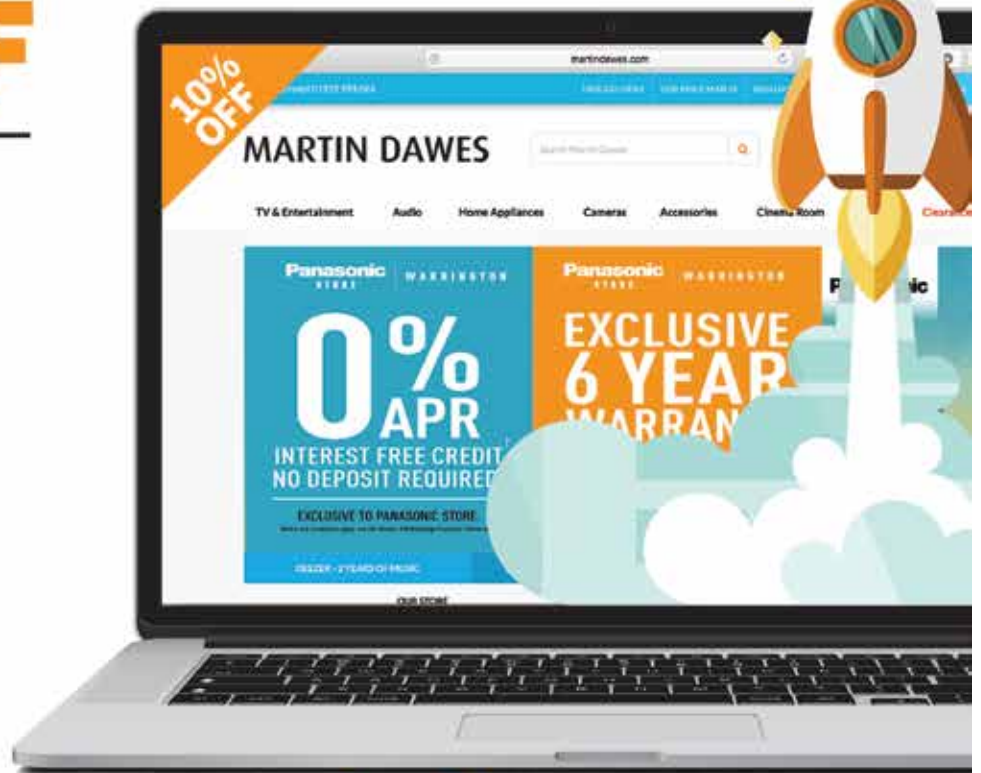
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Former Land Girl celebrates 100th birthday

Former 'Land Girl' Elsie Waters celebrated her 100th birthday in style at Holcroft Grange care home in Culcheth.

Staff and residents threw a Land Army-themed party, complete with bunting, a classic British buffet, and two Land Army-style singers performing classics from years gone by.

Elsie, who credits her mother's cooking for her longevity, spent her special day surrounded by staff and revellers at the home, and was delighted with a surprise visit by the Mayor of Warrington, who arrived after the party to congratulate her on reaching a century.

Born in London's Saint Bartholomew's Hospital and raised in the capital, Elsie married Thomas Waters in 1944. The couple moved to Warrington in the 1950s and lived together in Culcheth until Thomas passed away in 2000.

During the Second World War, Elsie was a member of the Women's Land Army (WLA), an organisation created to place women in agricultural roles that were left vacant by men who had been called up to the military. Elsie worked with other 'Land Girls' in greenhouses growing tomatoes and vegetables to support the war effort.

Shirley Paton, Home Manager

at Holcroft Grange, commented: "Elsie is a lovely lady who always has an interesting story to tell. We are all so pleased that Elsie enjoyed her Land Army themed birthday party and had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Warrington on her special day. It's an honour and a privilege to know Elsie, and everyone at Holcroft Grange would like to wish her many happy returns."





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Victorian Day rebranded and Glazebury Christmas Market

CULCHETH'S annual Victorian Day, set to take place on Saturday November 26, has been rebranded as Culcheth and Glazebury Christmas Market.

Now Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council are responsible for organising the event, the successful indoor attractions will now also include an outdoor Christmas Market using large gazebos fixed on hard standing throughout the village.

This is a fresh community event to get Christmas in the villages off to a flying start.

Colourful market stalls will appear, linking the two Gift and Craft Fayres taking place in the Parish and Methodist halls.

There will be another link to the Scout Hut where not only will there be indoor crafts but the Police Museum will be bringing their

exhibits.

The Culcheth Centre will host the Art Exhibition. There will also be entertainment throughout the day on Lodge Drive including a ukelele band, culminating at 3.45. pm in carol singing by Culcheth Choir and The Big Switch On of the Culcheth Christmas Lights by the Chairman of the Parish Council and Santa.

In venues around the village you will find Santa's Grotto, an art exhibition, children's roundabouts, children's activities, and, hopefully a vintage fire engine.

Stalls offering food and drink will also be there, with cafes in many of the venues, together with an excellent range of village shops and hosteries.

Pictures show stall holders from last year's event.

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- Santas Arrival** Saturday 12th, 10am
- Little Face of Christmas** Saturday 12th, 19th and 26th
- It's time to decorate the tree** Wednesday 16th, 6pm*
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Students are also encouraged to find work experience with the help of Carmel's dedicated Work Experience Coordinator, Ian Kennedy. Ian said "Employers and many university courses expect candidates to have some form of work experience or volunteering evidence" explains Ian. "With this in mind, we have made vital links with many charities and businesses and we ensure our students are aware of these opportunities that can support future preparation for employment." Ian added, "We look to continually grow our provision for work experience and volunteering so if you want your business or charity to get involved we will be very pleased to meet with you."





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Hob Hey Dental Centre has worked hard to comply with over 120 requirements. "It has been a lot of work," said John Fleming, the Practice Owner, "but everyone has found it worthwhile and we really do feel that we have continued to improve our service to patients. We involve all our patients in their treatment right from the start. We discuss the options available and give them all the information they need to help them decide which is best for them. Patient waiting times are kept to a minimum and we aim to provide appointments that are convenient for the patient."

Halle concert

THE 12th annual Roy Harrison Memorial Concert at Culcheth, organised by Newton and District Jubilee Rotary Club, will again feature members and friends of the World-famous Halle Orchestra.

It will take place at Culcheth Sports Club, Charnock Road on Monday, November 14 at 7.30pm.

All proceeds will go to Rotary charities and there will be a licensed bar and a raffle. Tickets, at £10 can be obtained from the club or by telephoning 01925 764370.



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Three youngsters achieve black belt status in ju-jitsu

THREE members of Culcheth Ju-jitsu club are celebrating achieving their black belts.

Tom Platt aged 12, Sam Lea, 14 and Alex Roberts, 13 have all trained in ju-jitsu under the leadership of Gary Knowles at Culcheth Village Club for many years. All three boys attend Culcheth High School.

They have trained once, and often twice a week and recently reached their goal of becoming black belts. Following a three

hour examination the boys were presented with their certificates by Sensei Andrew Wilshaw.

Tom said: "I started ju-jitsu when I was 7 years old and have willingly given up my Sunday evenings throughout the seasons. Last Sunday made it all worthwhile and I feel we have achieved a disciplined skill which will be beneficial throughout our lives"



Cricket club's prize night

GLAZEBURY Cricket Club will hold its presentation evening and annual general meeting on Thursday, November 17 in the restaurant at the Chat Moss Hotel.

The meeting will start at 7.30pm and prizes for the leading performers last summer will be presented afterwards.

Chairman Callum Morgan said: "All members of the club, seniors, juniors, parents, are invited to attend and are actively encouraged to participate in the AGM as it gives every member an opportunity to have their say on matters concerning them and their club, currently as well as on any future plans. Members can also put forward suggestions or proposals."

Nominations are being sought for the Player's Player and Most Improved Player awards.

Captains and club officials will also be elected and there will be a number of vacancies on the executive committee, including junior co-ordinator, league representative, publicity officers, groundsman and 1st and 2nd XI captains.

Trophies for batting and bowling averages will be awarded, along with "Run-getter" award and the new "Wicket taker" award.

Glazebury finished a respectable eighth in the Cheshire Alliance first division, despite having five games cancelled because of the weather.

The 2nd XI finished ninth in their division, winning only three games but again suffering badly at the hands of the weather with four games cancelled.

Tales of Witches and Superstitions

WITCHES and Superstitions took centre stage at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI.

After Vice-President Illyne Hutchinson opened the meeting guest speaker Jean Finney gave a fascinating talk to members and guests.

Henry VIII introduced the first Witch Laws. They ordered the burning of "Heretics and Witches". Unfortunately, women on their own were often accused of witchcraft, as they could not work or open businesses. Their choices were either prostitution or herbalism – the use of plants to make poisons. This was often construed as being 'magic'.

In Europe in 1542, there were 20,000 recorded witches, but it is thought that the actual number burned to death was nearer to 100,000.

They were tortured for days in horrific ways to obtain confessions, so in the end, most of them did confess.

The last witch trial in England was, amazingly, in 1943!

Jean then explained why people are loth to walk under a ladder – the ladder makes a triangle when leaning on a wall, and to walk under it breaks the Trinity.

In 1951, the law was changed to allow people such as mediums to ply their trade for money and not be prosecuted.

The groups next meeting is November 15, 2pm in the Parish Hall.

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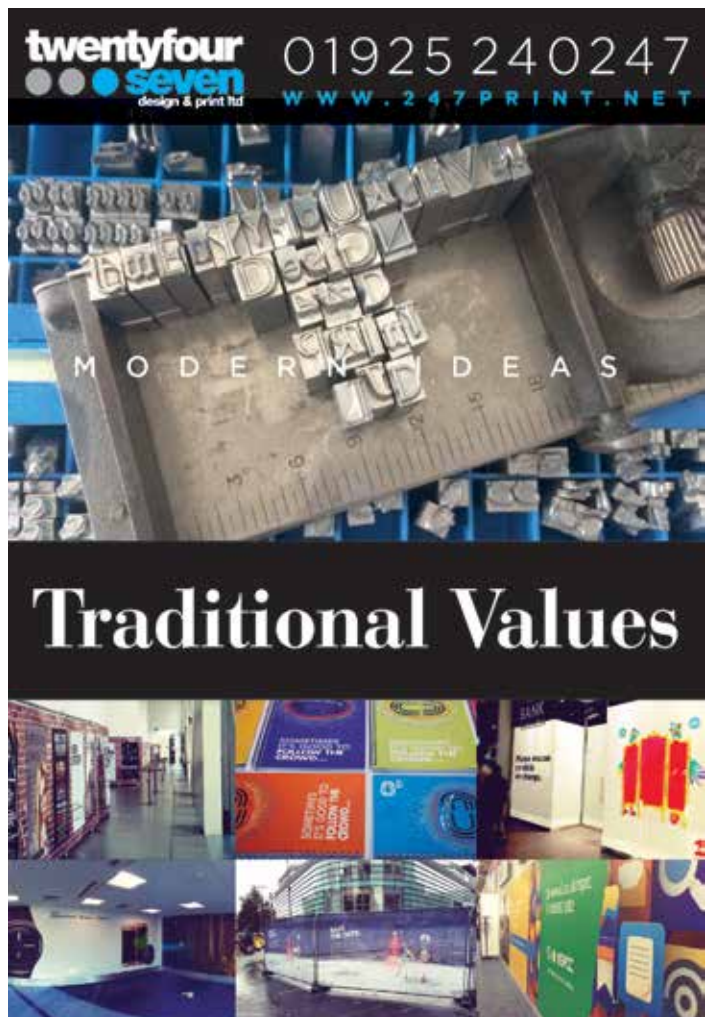
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Written by Victoria Barlow
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