

Culcheth Life

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Issue: 163
October 2016

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Page 10

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Editor's Comment



The ongoing consultations over the future of libraries in Warrington, including Culcheth library are causing continuing concerns.

Local MP Helen Jones is calling on LiveWire to be more transparent with their consultations, while LiveWire say they are being fully transparent and that no decisions have yet been made.

What has become abundantly clear is that libraries across Warrington and indeed in various other places, are seeing reduced numbers of patrons.

We are living in changing times, with fewer people reading hard copy books.

I don't think I have borrowed a library book, which would have been from the Culcheth library, since I left school.

Yes libraries are still very important and young people especially should be encouraged to read books.

But in reality every time you see someone these days - and not just youngsters - they are constantly looking at their phones as their primary source of information.

Libraries in their current form are struggling and they will ultimately have to move with the times - hence the consultations.

The local councillors and the MP for the area, have been very vocal in voicing their opposition to any

proposed library closures.

Well it will be the locally elected councillors on Warrington Borough Council who will have the final say on any decisions to close libraries.

Because while LiveWire, a not for profit community interest company, run the libraries day to day, it is Warrington Borough Council, who are making the financial cuts which will ultimately decide their fate.

So perhaps the locally elected borough councillors should take a hard long look in the mirror and sit down with their officers and look for ways of making them financially viable, without closing premises and putting people out of work.

School fireworks extravaganza

TWISS Green Primary School PTFA, Culcheth, is holding its annual community fireworks extravaganza on Friday November 4.

The gates will open at 6.30pm and the display will start at 7.30pm. There will be food, drinks and rides. Tickets will be available from the middle of October from various businesses in the villages. Advance ticket prices are £6 for adults, £4 for children (age 4 - 16) and free admission for children age three and under.



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Parish Council condemns any plan to close library

MEMBERS of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council have made strong objections to suggestions that Culcheth Library might have to close - despite assurances no decisions have yet been made.

In a letter to Emma Hutchinson, Managing Director of Livewire Warrington, Parish Councillors have made it clear they do not want Culcheth Library to close - although it will be Warrington borough council who make the final decision following ongoing public consultations.

Parish councillors say Culcheth Library is an asset to the community, and have criticised the failure of Livewire to develop it to include other community uses which are not available in the area.

Cllr Jacqui Johnson says: "No effort has been made to widen our youth provision or increase adult education. The Library could be a hub for our community. The Guides carried out a survey recently which brought out some excellent ideas and showed the enthusiasm of young people for their Library."

Cllr Margaret Webber adds: "Computer use provided by the Library for those who do not have their own is a vital resource. It will be impractical for many people to access alternative provision at the proposed hubs."

Overall the Parish Council believes that Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft would be getting a raw deal compared to other areas of the Borough.

Cllr Anne Roberts says: "One valued asset of a library is the ability to browse. The locker proposal is expensive, inadequate and doomed

to failure. It is inappropriate for the demographic of the village."

Cllr Ben Alldred added: "The Parish has a high proportion of elderly residents. The library is important in reducing isolation and promoting wellbeing. Its use should be expanded."

Cllr Pete Holmes warned: "If the Library building is vacated it could prove unmarketable and become derelict."

Councillors concluded: "We feel that any decision should be delayed until a full discussion about the future use of the Library can be undertaken."

Borough Councillors for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, Joan Grime, Matt Smith and Jan Davidson, are also opposed to the plans.

They say: "There has been a huge response in our villages in support of the Library. All age groups in the population, have told us of the importance of the Library to them. Many letters have been sent to us and to the Livewire Consultation, all of them objecting to the Library closure. There is no doubting the strength of feeling in the villages on this issue."

The Borough Councillors add: "We appreciate what Livewire has done in encouraging sport and physical activity across the Borough, but do not feel they have managed our Library with anything like the same enthusiasm. The policy has been to cut hours (and then say the use has

dropped) rather than develop the service. Groups that have met there have been told it is not practical to continue. The residents of our villages have been deeply scathing about the consultation process and many people consider it has been totally invalid."

"We call for the plans to close our Library to be scrapped."

Livewire's MD Emma Hutchinson responded, said: "We have simply released proposals for consultation."

"Nothing is set in stone and we are inviting public feedback. At the end of the consultation period, a report will be presented to Warrington Borough Council who will make the

final decision on these proposals.

"It is vital that we discuss the future of our libraries, as the way they are being used is changing significantly against a backdrop of wider central government cuts. We need to respond to this and examine the options."

"These proposals have been developed by a team of experienced staff from across LiveWire which has included two members of staff who currently hold both strategic and operational roles within the library service and have the correct expertise and experience to develop proposals to reshape the library offer in the town in order to try and increase participation."



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For further information visit our website: www.glazebury.eschools.co.uk



Growing numbers at Hunter Healey

Hunter Healey are pleased to announce the merger of Braken Chartered Accountants of Warrington with the practice.

Braken proprietor Sarah Rakestraw and Clients will join the firm's Culcheth offices from where the enlarged firm will continue to trade.

Senior partner Nigel Healey said: "It's great to welcome Sarah and her clients to the practice. After the initial meeting, it was clear that the firms were a good fit and shared similar values in providing a high quality service to clients. We're confident the enlarged practice will continue to provide an excellent offering to all clients old and New."





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01925 764312

Further information can be found on our website www.culchethprimary.co.uk

"Leaders and staff foster pupil's love of learning by planning exciting and memorable activities which inspire and motivate them to work hard and strive to excel." Ofsted December 2012



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- Friendship and kindness
- Creativity and courage
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Village traffic still a major concern

HEAVY traffic travelling through the village of Croft continues to be a major concern for local residents, councillors have discovered.

Three members of Croft Parish Council held a surgery at the Memorial Hall to hear issues raised by villagers.

Councillors Val Allen, Marty Griffiths and Keith Bland welcomed a number of residents who complained about the amount of traffic going through the village centre at peak times.

There was particular concern about traffic speeding passed the two primary schools in the village.

The councillors agreed to follow up on these concerns and will look into signage depicting pedestrians crossing, especially for the elderly and children both on the

approaches to the village and in the area of the schools.

They also agreed to continue to push Warrington Borough Council to provide a mini-round about in the centre of the village.

Other issues raised will also be followed up and residents kept informed as to any progress being made.

The councillors are to hold surgeries in the months to come asking that in the meantime, residents who need to contact their local councillors can do so by email at info@wnconservatives.org.uk or by telephoning 01925 766641.



Delhi Square opens its doors in Grand Style

LOWTON recently saw the grand opening of its newest Indian restaurant 'The Delhi Square.'

The restaurant based in the former premises of the Eastern Revive has been fully refurbished to a very high standard indeed and is welcoming to customers who wish



to enjoy a fine dining experience in a lovely atmosphere.

But that's not all. The chef who is preparing mouth watering dishes for the Delhi Square was originally a partner at the Raj in Culcheth. Highly skilled and with vast experience he uses only the freshest ingredients to produce traditional Indian Cuisine.

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Ofsted Inspection February 2014

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52% Top Grades A*-B

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2016-2017

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Thursday 10th November 2016
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Saturday 19th November 2016
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Tuesday 7th February 2017
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*ALPS 3 Year T Score
**The Times % A*-B Grades 19/08/16

Beer festival broke all records



THE sixth annual Culcheth Beer Festival broke all records – with 1,055 people packing into Culcheth Sports Club to enjoy live music, a hog roast – and of course the beer.

A total of 2,558 pints of beer was consumed – along with 560 pints of cider, 39 bottles of wine and 113 bottle of Prosecco.

Almost £10,000 has been raised to date but, with donations promised from Barclays and Santander, Rotary charities will benefit further.

Rotary chiefs thanked sponsors who had supported the event, in particular Hunter Healey accounts who had provided souvenir glasses, sponsored a cask and provided entertainment with a brass band.

The Hunter Healey beer band opened the event again this year to a warm reception with many commentators saying the event gets better each year.

The band's programme commemorated David Bowie and Sir Terry Wogan as well as many classics with an Oompah twist!

The firm's staff were also well represented behind the bar ably assisted by Santander and the Rotarians.

A great night was had by all – a not to be missed event- watch this space for forthcoming details of next year's event and mark it in your diary as soon as dates are released!

College celebrates being one of top 10

CARMEL College is celebrating being one of the top 10 Sixth Form Colleges in the country.

Students achieved a very impressive 99% pass rate with 52% of grades at A*-B and 79% at A*-C. BTEC students were also very successful with 100% BTEC course pass rate and 84% of BTEC grades at Distinction*/Distinction.

According to The Times (19/08/16) Carmel College is confirmed as:

One of the TOP 10 Sixth Form Colleges in the country.

The BEST performing college in Merseyside and Cheshire (% A*-B grades 19/08/16).

Eight students are continuing their studies at the prestigious Oxbridge Universities including former Wade Deacon student Suzanne Vanezis who achieved A*A*A in her A Levels followed by a Distinction* in her Art Foundation Diploma and is now off to do a degree in Fine Art at Oxford. A few examples from the many

other student achievements include:

- former St Gregory's student Ryan Sage (A & Dist*/Dist*) Web Design & Development at Edge Hill;
- former Bankfield student Charlotte McDowell (A*AAA) Medicine at Sheffield;
- former Sts Peter & Paul student James Burke (A*AA) Accounting & Finance at Manchester;
- and former St Gregory's student Carter Howard (AAA) English Literature at Leeds.

Principal of Carmel College Rob Peacock was delighted. He commented, "A Level results day is one of the highlights of the college year. The class of 2016 has excelled. The students' results are first class and they are absolutely thrilled. It has been a real privilege to share their success and to have the chance to wish them all the best in the next stage of their lives. I know they will go on to even greater success."



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Glorious sunshine for

RAIN did not stop play as glorious sunshine greeted Glazebury Cricket Club's annual fun day.

Held in the huge beer garden at the back of the Chat moss pub, local residents were able to enjoy a host of fun activities including BBQ, live music, bouncy castle, beat the

goalie, tombola, raffle, hook a duck, lawn darts, golf competitions and more. There was a good turn out for the fundraising fun day and club Chairman Callum Morgan



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r Glazebury Fun Day

said "It's a great community day out and also our main fundraising event of the year. The proceeds cover 25% of our annual outgoings so it is vital for the clubs continued existence. Also this is a great way to promote ourselves to prospective new members. We accept anyone from the age of 8 and are hoping to get enough juniors to form a team. As the Glazebury Gala is no longer held each year this is the only chance for the community to come together for a fun day.

If you fancy trying your arm at the game of cricket just go to Glazebury Cricket grounds facebook page here www.facebook.com/GlazeburyCC/

After so many washouts this year it was great to have an event where rain did not stop play.



The Gardening Guide October



“ Now is a good time to extend water gardens or construct water falls ”

Simon Bax, Plant Area Specialist

- This is an excellent time of year to construct paths, patios and terraces. Remember they will look best if they complement the materials used for the house
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What's on in October...

Ladies Evening Thursday 6th, 6.30pm - 9pm*

Cheshire Impressions Saturday 8th

October Half Term Activities Saturday 22nd - Sunday 30th

Puppy Hour Saturday 22nd, 10am - 11am

Halloween Planting Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th

*Exclusive to be inspired members

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Vandalised phone box is an eyesore

IF BT has no intention of repairing a vandalised telephone box in Newchurch Lane, Culcheth it should be removed as soon as possible.

That's the view of Culcheth and Glazebury councillor Keith Bland.

He said the phone box had become an eyesore after being left vandalised and out of order for more than six months.

As a result, residents had approached the local Conservative "Look of our Villages" campaign team with a request for urgent action.

Cllr Bland said: "I went to look

for myself and was astonished to find that despite this damage being reported some months ago, nothing had been done.

"I am contacting BT to request that if they have no intention of repairing and looking after this phone box, they should remove this eyesore as soon as possible.

"I will continue to monitor the situation and any response from BT and will keep residents informed."



Courtyard Carpets celebrate 1st year


Courtyard Carpets are celebrating their 1st year in Culcheth Village.

Based in 'The Courtyard' just off Common Lane Managing Director Martyn Daley said, "I would like to say a massive thank you to all of our customers who have purchased flooring from us over that time. We have installed quality flooring to many properties since we opened last September.

In that time we have made a lot of new friends and it has been a pleasure to work in Culcheth and the surrounding area".

If you are thinking of rejuvenating your home and are looking for ideas on carpets, laminates, Vinyls, Karndean, commercial or safety flooring why not pop in to Courtyard Carpets for a friendly chat and take a look at the many samples.

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Tuesday 1st November 2016	1:00-2:00pm
Wednesday 2nd November 2016	6:30-7:30pm
Thursday 3rd November 2016	1:00-2:00pm

Book a place by telephoning or e-mailing the school, as numbers on each visit have to be limited

Tel: 01925 762346
Twiss Green Lane, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4DQ
twissgreen_primary@warrington.gov.uk

If you are interested in applying for a place for your child in the Reception class of September 2017, Warrington Borough Council Children's Services Admission details will be sent to you from the Local Authority during the autumn term. The closing date for applications will be in January 2017.





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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

NEWCHURCH WARD



Ben Alldred
ben.allred2016
@protonmail.com



Jacqui Johnson
01925 763435



Margaret Webber
01925 762617

GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Anne Roberts
01925 763047



Joan Grime
01925 763631

CULCHETH WARD



Peter Holmes
Pdholmes
@gmail.com



Keith Bland
01925 766641



Sue Bland
01925 766641



Valerie Allen
01925 767274



Ileyne Hutchinson
01925 765131

Culcheth Library

We are totally opposed to the proposals to effectively close Culcheth Library. It is a well located community asset. We believe there has been no real attempt to create a community hub there nor in particular to compensate for our lack of Council non -sport youth provision.

We do not believe there has been an adequate consultation about expanding, not reducing the use of the library. There is a big opportunity here to develop a community hub.

The proposals do not fit the demographic of the villages and discriminate against those without internet access.

We have already contacted Livewire, the Warrington Borough Council Chief Executive and the appropriate Council portfolio holder, with detailed objections.

Information can be found in the library, on the Livewire website and on consultation@livewirewarrington.org

HS2

The September 6th meeting at Culcheth Sports Club went well with residents coming with both individual and general issues. We have invited HS2 to come to our Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday October 11th at 7.30 p.m. at the Culcheth Centre on Jackson Avenue. Residents are welcome. At the time of writing we are still waiting for a government statement on the route.

Speed Indicator Devices

We have had to change from moveable fixed SIDs to fixed solar charged ones, starting with two and aiming for a future increase. In the meantime the police are using our mobile SID in varying locations.

Culcheth Village Green

We are waiting for the results of Borough Council discussions with United Utilities.

Culcheth and Glazebury Christmas Market

There is an exciting new look to the start of the Christmas season in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft this year: a vibrant, traditional Christmas Market.

Sadly, as The Lions can no longer sponsor Culcheth's Victorian Day, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council are stepping in to organise a fresh community event to get Christmas in the villages off to a flying start. At the centre of a day of music and fun, the Culcheth and Glazebury Christmas Market will showcase our local traders as well as provide an exciting opportunity for different producers to market their wares.

On Saturday 26th November 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 and the Culcheth Centre. There will be entertainment throughout the day on Lodge Drive culminating at roughly 4.00 pm in carol singing 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, we hope, a vintage fire engine. Stalls offering food and drink will also be there.

This is a new community event - put the date, November 26, in your diary now.

New sports facility on Shaw Street playing fields

We are pleased that Culcheth teams will have changing rooms fit for purpose.

Planning

Borough Council Development Control meetings occur usually every three weeks. The details are on the council website roughly a week before: search "meetings calendar" on warrington.gov.uk.

All planning applications and decisions can be found by searching for "weekly lists" and are often put on retrospectively.

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

Club chairman to host fund-raising dinner

CHAIRMAN of the Culcheth Village Club Paul Campbell is to host a special dinner to raise much-needed funds for the club.

The "Chairman's Dinner" will be at the club on Friday, November 11.

Mr Campbell said: "I will be there to greet all our guests and for the first hour we will have a Bucks Fizz reception and Fun Casino with the person winning the most chips winning the top prize.

The five course carvery dinner will start at 8.30pm and we will be entertained by a great singer on

the night.

"Monies raised on the night will be poured back into the maintenance and upkeep of the club, keeping it a venue the whole community can use and be proud off."

Tickets are £20 and can be obtained by contacting Mr Campbell myself or Les Styles at the club.



New members join WI group

THE North Cheshire WI group visited Croft Memorial Hall for an entertaining meeting.

Chairman Anne Lamming welcomed visitors and three new WIs - Warrington Wif's (Women's Institute Fun Loving Individuals), West End Girls (Sankey Valley) and Widnes Wonders joined the original group of Burtonwood, Croft, Fearnhead, Penketh and Winwick.

After formal business, Liverpool historian Ken Pye gave a talk, aided by computer graphics, on the "The Curious Origins of our Christmas Traditions".

He spoke about the roots of many Christmas customs including festive food. Apparently even the humble mince pie has quite a history. The earliest mention comes from around 1557 when they were called "shred pies" because one of the ingredients was minced or shredded meat.

This provided fat to bind the other ingredients hence, mincemeat. As the meat could often be rancid, dried fruit and other masking elements were added. In fact even the construction of the pies has quite an interesting background. They were originally an open tart baked with a tiny pastry Baby Jesus on top of the mixture.

During the Civil War Cromwell and the Puritans banned any celebration of Christmas, so people began hiding the "baby" under a pastry lid in order to look like an ordinary meat pie and they have generally been this shape ever since. Being a keen chef, Ken interspersed the segment on food with one or two tips for preparing the Christmas lunch.

The ancestries of Santa Claus, Grottos, Pantomime, 1950's Liverpool at Christmas time, along with fine renditions of pertinent songs and poems, were encompassed in the presentation and an enthusiastic vote of thanks was given by the ladies for an informative, amusing and very enjoyable talk.

The evening continued with members of Penketh WI performing a hilarious sketch relating to a typical WI meeting, which was very well received and drew warm applause from the audience.

The competition was won by Winwick WI with Burtonwood 2nd and Fearnhead 3rd.

County treasurer, Diane Coulton, thanked the Group on behalf of the invited guests and the evening concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Open Evening

Thursday

6th October 2016



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Two speakers for the price of one!

THERE were two speakers at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI – Yvonne Matthews talking about her life as a driving instructor and Carol Swindell, from Barclays Bank, on “Being aware of Fraud.”

Yvonne’s tales of driving instruction were hilarious, with ladies such as red-haired Jean, a housewife who seemed to use the lessons as an escape from her usual chaotic life. After many arguments with her instructor, she was ready for her test. As she approached the car park at the end of the test, the car came to a sudden halt. She had refused to drive into the test centre car park, as she had been told that it was full of L-drivers who could not

park! In spite of this, she passed.

Another was a lady who loudly informed everyone that she was a doctor’s wife. She had had lessons before, but had not learned much, taking off at 70mph with no thought for others. Yvonne refused to give her any more lessons, and saw her ten years later, still with L-plates!

Another lady was told off by her husband because she stalled the car three times. He said that she would never learn to drive. So she

took the car keys, got out of the car, and got a taxi home, leaving him in the middle of a very busy road. Then she secretly had lessons, passed her test, then informed her family. She never drove again. This lady turned out to be Yvonne’s mother.

Yvonne is now a bee-keeper, making products from pollen and honey, some of which are used by dentists as antiseptics. She is also planning to open a centre in Liverpool to teach complementary medicine to blind young people.

Carol from Barclays warned of how easy it is to be taken in by

fraudsters and scammers, giving the example of Mary Berners Lee, a computer programmer who helped to develop the first Ferranti computer, and whose son Tim developed the world wide web. She lost £3,000 in a so-called “Courier Scam”. The very interesting video is on YouTube.

A very good piece of advice is that if you are concerned that a phone call is not genuine, and are asked to call back, make another call first, or use another phone, as the caller can keep the line open and pretend to be genuine.

Happy dogs, happy owners – that’s Rachael’s aim

HAPPY dogs – and happy dog owners. That’s the aim of Culcheth Dog Grooming, the newly-opened dog grooming salon in Church Lane, Culcheth.

Professionally trained and fully insured, Rachael Croft is offering a wide range of services to ensure a dog’s life in Culcheth is a good one. Grooming to breed standard, hand stripping, puppy grooms and bathing and de-shedding packages for long and short coated breeds are available, along with additional services such as nail clipping, ear

plucking and work with customers to maintain their dog’s coat.

Practical advice on coat length and lifestyle is also available.

Rachael provides a calm, personal service tailored to each owner’s needs. Every client receives a free consultation before the groom starts to discuss their pet’s health, history and grooming requirements.

This allows Rachael to identify unique requirements and gives every customer the chance to ask questions.

Rachael said: “I meet a wide

variety of dogs in the salon with different coats in varying conditions. I’ve worked hard to find a selection of organic and natural grooming products to suit all dogs.

“All products are made in the UK and are suitable for sensitive owners and pets alike.”

Culcheth Dog Grooming is happy to help with any questions about the products they use. They also sell a small range of grooming products to enable customers to continue their care between visits to the salon. Free advice is always

on hand.

Rachael added: “We’ve had a wonderful response in the community and look forward to getting to know our customers further. Exciting times also lie ahead with the launch of our new website and plans for an Open Day in October. Follow us via our Facebook page for updates.”

To discuss any doggy needs or book an appointment, call Rachael on 01925 767211 or 07910 075659.

Genesis Shoes success goes from strength to strength

ONE of Culcheth’s longest established shoe shops, Genesis Shoes, is celebrating its first year under the new ownership of local resident Katie Oldknow.

Katie has worked as a buyer for well known retailers for the past seven years and always wanted to own her own business.

Genesis shoes has been established in the village for over thirty years with a very loyal customer base and is also well known throughout the North West.

Katie took over the business in September 2015 and the shop was re-opened on the 14th October. Katie retained the original staff Linda and Lesley who both helped with the refurbishment of the premises.

Katie said: “It has been a very successful first year with many regular customers returning for their favourite brands and where we’ve introduced new brands in turn we have gained new customers.”

On the eve of Genesis Shoes 1st Birthday under new management, Katie and the team Linda and Lesley, would like to thank all customers for their continued support and here’s to the next thirty years!

Women golfers reach finals

CULCHETH-based Leigh Golf Club’s women’s team have achieved a first for the club by reaching the finals of the Mail on Sunday national golf club classic.

The finals will be played during late November in southern Spain.

Seven players made up the

team - captain Mhairi Ferrol, Nikki Martin, Rachel Higson, Heather Pirrie, Joanne Lennox Warburton, Penny Moorfield and Tracey Sherwood.

Mhairi Ferrol said: “The incredible team spirit and camaraderie has got us to this point

- who knows what we can achieve in Spain?”

Teams the women beat on the way were Ashton In Makerfield, Shore Hill, Alsager, Ringway, Formby, Ulverston, lanymynech and Howley Hall.



Life as a Tudor lady

SHEILA Walsh, a National Trust Guide at Speke Hall, Liverpool, was the speaker at the monthly meeting of Croft WI. Her talk was entitled “Life as a Tudor Lady” - and she was appropriately dressed as an aristocratic lady of that era.

Each item of clothing was explained in great detail from the head dress (as worn by Anne Boleyn) known as a ‘French Hood’ down to the shift, usually made from linen, worn next to the skin. As dyes usually “ran” in those days and outer garments could never be washed, the shift was a very necessary article of clothing and could be washed four times a year!

The everyday dress of the average population was also presented, along with the origins of some of our phrases today. One example was the way the Tudor ladies fastened their bodices – cross laced meant you were a woman of ill repute, moral ladies always straight laced their clothing, hence the modern saying.

Sheila related everyday life in Tudor times – fashion, laundry techniques using urine, collected from males in a “pee pot” at the entrance of houses (male urine being strong was superior for stain removal), medicinal potions, cosmetics and much more were explained in an extremely interesting and humorous manner. A very enthusiastic vote of thanks was given by Jill Hallam on behalf of members for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The competition was won by Nicky Adams, 2nd Joan Johnson, 3rd Barbara Taylor.

Boxing legend Ricky Hatton opens new facilities at Culcheth Sports Club

Report and pictures Paul Jackson

BOXING legend Ricky Hatton was on hand to help officially open a new £50,000 major upgrade at Culcheth Sports Club.

Hatton, who was welcomed to the club by Chairman, Len Hart, followed with a question and answer session.

The former multiple world champion at light-welterweight, who was also one at welterweight and now works as a boxing promoter, entertained the crowd with his hopes and dreams for his beloved Manchester City, his excitement regarding the wonderfully

successful British boxing scene and also pledged his support for further fundraising events.

When he previously guested at a sportsman's dinner he helped raise £8000 which provided the working capital required to apply and successfully be granted a Biffa Awards grant, to carry out the extensive upgrade to changing rooms and shower facilities.

Also present were Gary Hunt of

Steve Hunt partnerships who were the designers and architects, Rachel Burns and Ted Whitworth, both from Biffa and the workmen Nick, Phil and Keith who did a lot of the building work.

Donald Borland, Grants Officer, announced that further plans are already in place to apply for monies from various sources to continue the club's development with a new Ladies and youth changing facility to bring them up to the high standard of the recently opened changing areas.

The new development resulted in four completely refurbished changing rooms for teams, two officials' changing rooms and two showering facilities, along with a new heating system.

Biffa Awards are a multi million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to community and environmental projects across the UK as part of the Landfill Communities Fund.

Gillian French, Head of Grants, Biffa Award said: "Transforming the changing rooms at Culcheth Sports Club will hopefully help to increase membership, and engagement in sport. Projects such as this are an excellent example of how the Landfill Communities Fund can help to create outstanding facilities for the community."

A club spokesman said: "The new

facilities meet modern standards and with this grant from Biffa Awards the club aim to increase club membership and sports participation in the surrounding area."

Stuart Nightingale, chairman of the Football Club, who play Cheshire County football, said: "This grant has enabled us to continue our work to grow the club. We increased the number of teams using the facility from five to seven in September 2015 with two youth teams having joined the club."

"This year we are pleased to announce that a women's team have been formed and will start playing in September 2016."



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Flooded out – but speaker still turned up

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI could well have been excused if she had not turned up – her home had been flooded the evening before during a freak storm.

Gay Rhodes won the admiration of members by keeping her engagement – touching briefly on her own waterlogged kitchen and then turning to more general problems caused by reaching “a certain age”.

Sometimes this can mean being called “elderly” in the press or displaying lots of unglamorous symptoms needing costly creams and potions. Gay told of a hilarious experience with a runaway exercise machine, one she did not repeat. She had some comforting words – fewer verrucas in old age! Also she had handy hints - trying on (but not buying) very expensive clothes in high-class shops, not betraying one's real age or else adding to it to confuse nosy people, and avoiding soft sofas which are hard to get up from.

For these and many other useful tips she was warmly thanked by Phyllis Longson and then judged the September competition (A snake). Margaret Wilkinson was the winner, with Kath Hanley and Aileen Paterson coming second and third.

After tea Margery Pugh showed photos taken during some of Newchurch's recent events.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 12 at 7.30pm.

Obituary

Maria Zena Sangan



THE funeral has taken place of Maria Zena Sangan (nee Burgess) of Newchurch Lane, Culcheth, who died of cancer at Warrington Hospital on August 20. She was 49.

Family members, husband Mark, children Hannah and Harry, sisters Emma and Louise, her parents and in-laws were at her side.

Maria lived in Lymm, attending local schools. She had successful careers with Whitbread, then Starbucks, meaning she moved around the region before finally settling in Culcheth.

She and Mark shared interests in family activities, keep fit and fun-runs, horse riding, ski trips and holidays at home and abroad. But her love of her dogs was paramount.

The funeral service was at St Mary's Church, Lymm, with interment at Foxcovert Cemetery, Appleton.

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