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Issue: 165
December 2016

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THE latest news on HS2 and its impact on the village is clearly the hot topic at the moment.

While the decision to move the route slightly, saving Taylor Business Park, is on the one hand fantastic news, I am sure those now affected on Glaziers Lane will be devastated.

Personally with HS2 currently having little or no economic benefit for Warrington I can see little point for it.

There is still a long time before any work will be carried out in the area and I am sure those who have been campaigning in the area, will continue to do so.

The campaigning so far has brought some success.

It is now more important than ever that our local politicians work together to ensure we get the best

deal possible for Culcheth and surrounding areas.

It is also important to continue to support the work of Frank Allen and the Culcheth and District Rail Action Group (CADRAG) who are proposing a public meeting in the near future - and I am sure our local MP will ensure our voices are heard where it matters.

The campaigning to date has brought some success and hopefully more can be achieved.

But that is for the new year.

Now it is time to look forward to Christmas, on the back of the new Christmas Market in the village which has kick started the festive season.

Merry Christmas and Happy

New Year to all our readers and our advertisers. Thank you for your ongoing support.

STOP PRESS: The CADRAG public meeting being organised by Frank Allen to discuss the HS2 route for Warrington and Culcheth will take place at the Village Club on Wigshaw Lane at 7.30pm on Thursday, December 8th.

Article deadline for the January issue of Culcheth Life is December 6

Christmas Flower Demonstration

A CHRISTMAS Flower Demonstration is to be held at All Saints' Church, Glazebury, on Tuesday, December 13 at 7pm.

Tickets cost £6 per person, including a glass of wine and a mince pie and can be obtained from Jill Cruickshank on 01925 764704.

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Gone – but not forgotten in two working days

BARCLAYS Bank lost no time in stripping out the front of their branch in Lodge Drive, Culcheth after it closed.

This was the scene after workmen had removed most of the facade of the premises.

Customers had been notified of the closure 12 weeks previously.

The closure leaves Culcheth residents about three miles away

from the nearest Barclays branch, in the Asda store at Birchwood.

Alternatively, everyday transactions typically carried out over branch counters, can also be completed at the Post Office in Jackson Avenue, Culcheth.



A spokesman for Barclays said: "The way customers undertake their banking is changing as people increasingly use online, telephone and mobile devices. We must therefore evolve the shape and size of our branch network in response to changing customer behaviour.

"Customer usage at Culcheth branch has significantly declined in recent years, which is why we have taken the difficult decision to close the branch.

"We do not take the decision to

close any branch lightly and we are committed to adhering to the new UK Government protocol on branch closures. All of our customers have received a letter, posters have been displayed in branch and colleagues have been on hand to assist customers with any concerns.

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Exam success for Nicole

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for **Nicole Horrocks of Hunter Healey** who recently passed her final exam and has now achieved full membership of the **Association of Accounting Technicians**.

Nicole joined the firm as an apprentice in 2013 and has completed training at Warrington Collegiate as well as work place based assessment.

Senior Partner Nigel Healey said: "Nicole has worked diligently

throughout her apprenticeship and thoroughly deserves this accolade. She is a great asset to the firm and we wish her continued success as she progresses to the next level studying to become a fully-fledged Chartered Accountant."

Bridge for beginners

Daten Bridge Club in Culcheth is currently running lessons for beginners.

It is now suitable for those who have played a little Bridge to join. Lessons are £5 per session at Culcheth Sports Club on Wednesdays at 1pm.

Contact Joe Ridyard on 07729 318 854 or joseph.ridyard@gmail.com

Lively annual meeting included a hot pot

A LIVELY annual meeting at Croft WI included a hotpot supper and quizzes, including "Guess the committee member" baby photos!

The meeting heard that Anne Lamming had enjoyed a successful first year as president and the WI continued to thrive, with membership now at 95.

As well as monthly meetings with speakers, members had enjoyed theatre outings and day trips as well as reading, bowling and luncheon groups. This year a very successful darts team had been established, also a popular new walking group and the tempting "Busy Bakers" – a cookery club run by food expert Norma.

The speaker was Lynne Hand, Denman Ambassador for Cheshire Federation WI, who gave a very informative talk and slide show about the WI college, Denman House, near Oxford.

The competition for a handmade Christmas Card was won by Christine Silvester, with Sue Birchall second and Anne Tansey third.

The WI will have its Christmas Party at Statham Lodge, on December 14 and on January 14 there is a theatre trip to see "Billy Elliot."



Nicole (centre) with the firms' partners Alicia Flint & Nigel Healey.

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HS2 set to bypass business park - but others set to suffer!

PROPOSED changes to the HS2 route through Culcheth include moving it further away from Taylor Business Park, securing the future of 500 jobs.

But it is not all good news, as the proposed 300 metre shift will now take it through a smaller cluster of businesses on Glaziers Lane and impact on the local fisheries.

One of those welcoming the moving of the route through Culcheth, is Paul Taylor, MD of Taylor Business Park, which was under threat from the original route.

Mr Taylor said: "I can see why they've done it. Our part of the route misses out all of the congestion on the west coast mainline around Warrington and frees the high speed line up to connect at Wigan and head on up to Preston.

"It should free a lot of traffic from the route and ease things for freight south of Wigan which will take traffic off the roads.

"It is good news for most people, but sadly bad news for the few that it now passes through, following the changes.

"The plus points are that it now skirts the business park, cutting off our entrance road but thankfully missing all of the buildings.

"It also just misses the Black Swan and nearby community centre now.

"But Glaziers Lane effectively ceases to exist as the route now runs right down it which will cause problems for the fisheries which is a great attraction for the village.

"It now gives the rest of the village a wider berth than before though.

"It's as good news as can be expected but will still leave a bitter taste in the mouth for some though and the level of disruption to our business and to the village is going to be incredible during construction.

"On the plus side it should mean that 500 jobs, 48 companies and £750,000 in rates to the council aren't lost."

Mr Taylor added: "It is a fantastic result in many respects, thanks to the combined efforts of Culcheth and District Railway Group (CADRAG), Taylor Business Park, Warrington Council, our local MP Helen Jones and Warrington Chamber of Commerce.

"Engaging with HS2 rather than trying to stop the whole project, which was never going to happen, was the right way to go.

Local MP Helen Jones believes it is still bad news for Culcheth and Hollins Green.

She said: "This is bad news for Culcheth and Hollins Green. It is clear that the government has not listened to local people and the concerns that have been raised.

"Common sense and reasoned argument have been cast to the

wind by ministers.

"Moving the depot to north of Crewe means the case for the spur falls apart in my view.

"Warrington is gaining nothing from these proposals. Both villages will suffer serious environmental damage for a route which is the whitest of white elephants."

Meanwhile Culcheth And District Rail Action Group (CADRAG) are planning a public meeting to discuss the new proposals for HS2 and their impact on the village and surrounding area.

Frank Allen, Chair, CADRAG, said: "There is no formal consultation on this now, although there is a consultation on the decision not to build the Depot at Golborne. We can comment on this that there is now no need for the Golborne link since the Depot will move to Crewe and there will be a connection to the West Coast Main Line at Crewe as well.

"However, we expect there to be local informal consultations on slight tweaks to the route through Warrington - tree screening, maybe putting it in cuttings to reduce the impact. In 2019 a Hybrid Bill will go to Parliament. There will follow the petitioning process, for the following four or so years to 2023/4. We will have the opportunity to petition Parliament at that stage.

"CADRAG has always

campaigned for the Golborne Link to be abandoned in favour of local upgrades to the West Coast Main Line, which will be cheaper, less disruptive and damaging, and bring additional benefits by increasing freight capacity as well. This is still our preferred option.

"CADRAG welcomes the continuing support of Local Parish and Borough Councillors and MPs, and is pleased council leader Terry O'Neill is still opposing the Golborne Link.

"We will be organising a public meeting in Culcheth in the near future to discuss the new proposals and our next steps. Watch out for the posters in the village.

If any one would like to help, contact Frank Allen on 01925 765017.



Paul Taylor

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Festive feel to first

Report & Pictures Paul Jackson

COLD frosty weather gave a wonderful wintery feel to the new community event for Culcheth and Glazebury - a traditional Christmas Market to start the festive season which proved popular and well supported.

Locals and visitors were able to browse for unique and original gifts from gazebos and market stalls linking the two Gift and Craft Fayres taking place in the Parish and Methodist Halls. On

offer were jewellery, collectables, antiques, cakes, fabrics, crafts, gift wrapping, boxes, ornaments, flowers, pet supplies, toys and more. Stalls and refreshments were also available in the Scout Hut and there was an Art Exhibition in the Culcheth Centre.

Keeping people entertained throughout the day were children's roundabouts and crafts, music, a ukulele band, Bell ringing, carol singing and a display of police memorabilia and uniforms to try on. For the peckish and to help keep the cold out there were purveyors of traditional festive fayre such as



Youngsters enjoyed the police museum



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Christmas Market

mulled wine, mince pies, hot cider and roasted chestnuts.

The event was organised by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council who took over Victorian Day from Birchwood Lions. However the Lions were still out in force, bringing Santa and his Grotto to the Methodist Church under the eye of Reverend Andrew Bailey. Main sponsor was Taylor

Business Park.

The day was brought to a fitting climax with carols from Culcheth Choir in the CPS car park, followed by the Parish Council Chairman Joan Grime and Santa switching on the Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Christmas lights. A fantastic, festive feast of fun was had by all.



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The Gardening Guide December



“Remember to protect your half hardy plants during very cold spells”

Simon Bax, Plant Area Specialist

- Evergreen plants come into their own over the winter and stems may be cut and used in Christmas arrangements
- Natural food is at its scarcest at this time of year so keep the bird feeders stocked up at all times and look after your feathered friends
- Many trees and shrubs bring colour and interest to the winter garden and now is a good time to fill in the gaps
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Black Sheep Wools celebrate national award

LOCALLY based Black Sheep Wools are celebrating after being crowned Best Local independent yarn store in the North of England.

The Culcheth based business was also placed third in Best Knitting Blog and third in the category for Best Crochet Store at the British Knitting awards 2016. A spokesperson for the family business said: "This is a huge honour for us and a fantastic achievement.

"As a small family business it is fantastic to be recognised in these national knitting awards in association with Let's Knit magazine. Thank you to all of our lovely customers who helped us get there by taking the time to kindly vote for us."

Meanwhile Black Sheep Wools are starting the countdown to Christmas on November 30 when they are holding a Christmas Knitmas evening at the Craft Barn in Culcheth, Warrington from 6-8pm.

The event is Free to attend and is a relaxed evening of festivity and merriment with the Knit Now magazine team.

Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie whilst perusing the Craft Barn and enjoying a talk from the Knit Now team who will be sharing some Christmas knitting ideas.

There will also be quick and easy Christmas makes demonstrations running throughout the evening. To make it that little bit more festive there will be a local choir in store singing all of your favourite Christmas songs.

Croft Parish Council News



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Christmas Tree and lights

The ceremony to light up the Christmas Tree at Croft on Friday 2nd December will get a new and exciting feature this year. As usual, the choirs from the two local primary schools will sing Christmas carols around the tree as the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Val Allen turns on the lights; but this year the whole ceremony will be preceded by a lantern procession led by local children.

The children's one mile walk, which will start at around 5pm from the Youth Base on Smithy Lane, will be marshalled by trained volunteers. Police Community Support Officers will be in attendance. The route is planned to take in a number of streets in the village. The procession will arrive at the Playing Field at approximately 6pm and the Christmas Lights ceremony will then begin.

The Parent Teacher Associations of the two local primary schools have organised the event and would love there to be as much community involvement as possible. You can get involved by supporting and encouraging the children as they process through the village. Better still, you can make your own lantern (but there must be no naked flames), and join the parade. And you can come along to the Playing Field to join in with the carols.

Further details about the lantern parade may be obtained from the 'Croft Lantern Parade' page on Facebook.

The Parish Council and residents are very grateful to David J Platt Landscapes for donating the beautiful Christmas Tree. And of course, thanks are offered to The Horseshoe for offering some seasonal hospitality to those who attend the carol service.

Parish Council matters - HS2

The Government has announced its preferred route for the next phase of High Speed Two, part of which is a local route modification. The announcement reveals that the new route will be moved approximately 300 metres from the original proposal. The trains' speeds will be reduced as they pass through the area so as to reduce noise disturbance.

Parish Councillors, in common with Helen Jones MP and the Borough Council, remain opposed to the inclusion of the spur line which runs through Croft as it will disrupt and destroy aspects of residents' lives and livelihoods. More meetings are being arranged with CADRAG to determine how to respond to the announcement.

Gypsy and Traveller encampments

In response to the Parish Council's request for a progress report on how the Gypsy and Traveller encampments problem is being addressed, the Parish Council received a presentation from the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team.

In brief, a site suitable to be developed as an official transit camp is being sought within the borough of Warrington. When a location is found, it will be announced and there will be a public consultation. Following that consultation, the site may be nominated by the authorities as the preferred camp location and a planning application submitted.

The site size is likely to be two acres. Other areas that have introduced transit camps have seen a reduction in unofficial encampment activities.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Residents may contact Mike Pope, Croft Parish Council's Clerk on 01925 733766 or
Email: croftparishcouncil@gmail.com Twitter: @croftparish Web: www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk

Arts exhibition celebrates 50th anniversary

A special arts exhibition took place as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Culcheth Methodist Church.

The event included the work of members of Morag Burton's Art Group, with contributions from Marian Maines Croft Art Group.



Joyce Davies with paintings of the countryside.



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Cricket club carry out essential drainage work



ESSENTIAL drainage work was carried out at Glazebury Cricket Club's Hurst Lane ground at the end of the season - with a little help from a local plant hire firm.

Lynch Plant Hire loaned a member of staff, a digger and a dumper for a week.

Money from the club's successful fun day also contributed to the work which, it is hoped, will bring about big improvements to drainage on the ground.

Chairman Callum Morgan thanked the company for their help at the club's annual meeting and awards night.

He also revealed that early next year, the club is hoping to re-floor the pavilion as the existing floor is starting to rot. Improvements are also planned for the kitchen.

"If there is anybody that would like to help the club with a discounted quote or a donation of any item to help with this job, it would really help.

"There are grants possibly available to the club but we will

need to raise most of the money ourselves."

Awards were presented as follows: 1st XI Batting - Jack Warhurst; 1st XI Bowling - Sam Stanier; 2nd XI Batting - Phil McCue; 2nd XI Bowling - Dave Nicholson; Run Getter - Jack Warhurst; Wicket Taker - Sam Stanier; Young Player - Frank Predigrew; Players Player - Sam Stanier; Most Improved Player - Nirpal Bansel.

Jack Warhurst was elected 1st XI captain, replacing Sam Stanier and Wayne Hargreaves was elected 2nd XI captain, replacing Dave Nicholson.

Winter nets will start in February and details will be posted on the club website and Facebook page nearer the time.

New players of all abilities and ages will be welcome.

World class musicians in concert at Culcheth

AN enthusiastic audience of 150 music lovers attended a concert featuring 10 world class musicians from the Halle Orchestra at Culcheth Sports Club.

The concert, organised by the Rotary Club, opened with three wind quintet pieces by Mozart followed by works by Spohr and Jacques Ibert.

After the interval there were works by Elgar finishing with his *Salut d'Amour*, a musical tribute to his wife.

Then a mystery guest conductor took charge of proceedings, guiding the musicians through Malcolm Arnold's *Three Shanties* and finishing with *The Kaiser Waltz* by Johann Strauss II, to which the audience was invited to partake by clapping in time with the music.

A Rotary spokesman said: "We must thank the Daten Management for again granting free use of their premises for this event which, we are pleased to announce raised £550 for Rotary charities.

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

HS2. Confirmation of the Phase 2b route through Warrington- the Golborne Link

This route has been revised on the West side of Culcheth Village, moving to the South West of the Linear Park and South of the Taylor Business Park. We have always opposed and will continue to oppose the whole Link. The reason is that it is of no benefit to our villages or to Warrington itself and has an unacceptable adverse impact on residents and business.

For information go to www.gov.uk/government/news/hs2-route-to-the-east-midlands-leeds-andmanchester-set-out-by-the-government or www.gov.uk/hs2 or go to our Parish website. There has been a launch of two consultations on route refinements:

The first one refers to moving the rolling stock depot from Golborne to Crewe. This depot was one reason for the Golborne link.

The second is on proposed property compensation and assistance schemes.

There has also been a Safeguarding Direction for the route which protects it from conflicting development.

Residents within a certain distance of the route received letters after the November announcement.

There are more stages to go through. A Hybrid Bill will go to Parliament in 2019 together with an opportunity to petition Parliament.

We will continue to work with CADRAG and others affected by the route and will keep residents informed.

Culcheth Library

Thank you for writing letters, signing petitions and attending meetings. A group has now been formed to discuss the options for the library. If anyone wants to join the group please let one of your councillors know.

Speed Indicator Devices

The positions of the first two will be on Broseley Lane in Culcheth and on the A574 Warrington Road near Jennet's Lane in Glazebury.

Warrington Local Plan Review Regulation 18 Consultation

The Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted by the Council in July 2014. It is the Statutory Development Plan for the Borough. It included 500 new homes a year with a reference to 1,100 new homes on the Omega site. A developer challenged this in the High Court and, as a result, although much was unaltered, the housing figure had to be revised.

This present consultation which ends on December 5th is about the scope and the process of the Review. It includes looking at reassessing the Green Belt boundaries and the provision of land for housing and employment, together with the level of housing development. This is the first stage in the review.

Culcheth and Glazebury Christmas Market

Thanks to those who took part and those who supported us. This is part of a "buy local" campaign which will continue next year.

Our Parish website is
www.culchethandglazebury.org.uk

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WI members learn about Georgian kings

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI was Graham Stirrup, who with the aid of charts and portraits, spoke about "Georgian Kings".

He started with the Tudors in order to explain how various kings and queens accessed the throne even though they were a long way down in the line of succession – after Henry VIII broke away from Rome, only Protestants could rule, and many members of the Royal family were Roman Catholic.

George I was brought over from Hanover (now Germany). He was followed by George II, then George III, who was also the last king of America. He reigned for 60 years, despite periods of madness. It is now thought that he was bipolar. He accrued debts equivalent to £30million in today's money, rising to £53million. Eventually we came to William who married Princess Adelaide, who was 25 years younger. They had three children, including Edward, who married Victoria Saxe-Coburg. In 1819 they had a daughter – Alexandrina Victoria, who became Queen Victoria.

Two members with "special" birthdays, Christine Adams and new member Beryl Watson, both received flowers and Chris Wilkinson provided a bouquet for the table. She was thanked by president Joan Jarvis.

Members are looking forward to visits to the Brindley Theatre to see "Oliver", and to WI House at Chester.

Invitations had been received from both Glazebury and Newchurch WIs for two members to join them at their Christmas parties in December.

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Newchurch, Culcheth
Church Lane, Culcheth Warrington, WA3 5ET

Sunday 27th November
6:30pm – Advent Carol Service

Sunday 4th December
10:30am – Christmas Toy Service

Friday 9th December
Christmas Tree Festival – Open 10am -5pm on Friday and Saturday and from 12 noon on Sunday.

Sunday 11th December
6:30pm Christmas tree festival closes with a service of Carols and readings.

Sunday 18th December
10:30am Junior Church - Christmas Nativity Service

Sunday 18th December
6:30pm A traditional service of 9 lessons and carols.

Saturday 24th December
5:00pm Crib Service
6:30pm Crib Service
11:30pm Midnight service and first

communion of Christmas

Sunday 25th December
10:30am Christmas morning family service

Christ Church, Croft
Lady Lane, Croft, Warrington, WA3 7AU

Thursday 1st December
6:30pm – Christmas tree lighting service

Thursday 15th December
7:30pm – Family Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 18th December
10:30am – Nativity service with Communion
2:30pm – Carols in the barn at Southworth Hall Farm

Saturday 24th December
6:30pm Crib Service
11:30pm Midnight service and first communion of Christmas

Sunday 25th December
10:30am – Christmas morning family service

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