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Issue: 170  
May 2017

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Picture: Paul Jackson

## All set for Teddy Bears' Picnic

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**Editor**  
Gary Skentelbery

**Production**  
Paul Walker

**Advertising**  
James Balme

**Freephone**  
0800 955 5247

**Editorial**  
01925 623633

**Email**  
info@culchethlife.com

**Websites**  
www.culchethlife.com  
www.frodshamlife.co.uk  
www.lymmlife.co.uk  
www.warrington-  
worldwide.co.uk  
www.warrington.tv

**Address**  
New Media Centre  
Old Road Warrington  
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# Editor's Comment



**CONGRATULATIONS to Paul Taylor and his victory for common sense on helping find a new home for Wild Wings Birds of Prey for at least the next five years.**

Hopefully Wild Wings can now settle in their new home on land next to the Taylor Business Park and become a valued addition to the local community as well as providing a much-needed facility for injured birds of prey.

Having witnessed their work in the community first hand I have seen how much they care for these unfortunate animals.

I take my hat off to Paul for his hard work and determination in helping

them find a new home. The planning process can be very frustrating at times!

Meanwhile it is all systems go for this year's Culcheth Community Day - and let us hope the weather is kinder than in previous year's for the event which takes place on Monday May 1.

We certainly shouldn't see a repeat of last year when it had to be cancelled last minute due to the flooding problems on the village green.

A back up plan is in place, should rain and flooding become a problem, with a Plan B for the Shaw Street recreation ground.

Here's hoping for a sunny Bank Holiday for a change so all the community groups can showcase themselves.

**Deadline  
for the June  
issue of  
Culcheth Life  
is May 16**

## Defibrillator training

TRAINING sessions in the use of a new defibrillator purchased by Croft Parish Council are to be held at the Memorial Hall, Mustard Lane, on Tuesday, May 2.

The professional training, organised by Croft Scouts, will start at 7pm - and all are invited to attend.

When fully commissioned, the defibrillator will be sited on Smithy Lane, near to the playing field. It will be accessed by using a security code provided by the emergency services.



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## All set for Teddy Bears' Picnic

**A charity Teddy Bears' Picnic is taking place at Southworth Farm Croft, to help raise funds for The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.**

The event is being organised by Philip Sharpe and Pam Ellis on Sunday, May 21 from 2pm-5pm and is suitable for all ages.

The afternoon will be packed with garden games; a treasure hunt and a punch a Judy show and includes afternoon tea for adults and a picnic basket for the children. Tickets are £25 for a family (2 adults & 2 children), Adults £10 and children £5 (children under 2 are free of charge). Admission is by ticket only.

R.A.B.I Regional Manager Georgina Lamb said: "We are looking forward to hosting this wonderful event at the farm of Philip Sharpe and Pam and I am sure it will be memorable and a special occasion for all who attend, especially the children. The tickets are selling fast so please contact us as soon as possible to reserve your place on your spot on your picnic blanket"

R.A.B.I - the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution is a welfare charity which helps people within the farming industry in financial difficulty. Each year they support around 2,000 farming families and in addition to giving practical help pay out more than £2 million in grants. For Tickets Contact: Pam Ellis (Southworth Hall Farm) 07817284642 or Georgina Lamb 07917114250.



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# Wild Wings finally find new home

**THE nomadic Wild Wings Bird sanctuary finally has a new home for at least the next five years after winning planning permission to relocate to land next to Taylor Business Park near Culcheth.**

Taylor Business Park MD Paul Taylor said: We're bursting with both pride and pleasure to be able to announce that the Warrington planning committee unanimously approved the planning application for Wild Wings to move to the fields to the side of Taylor Business Park.

"It's been a long, long journey since I first got involved with them back when they were leaving Bents Garden Centre in 2014/15 where

they used to be based on what is now the dinosaur themed crazy golf site, which I'm sure will also be a huge attraction for the area.

"The land has changed from having one type of raptor on it to a very different type now!

"I'd like to say a huge thank you to Linda Wright from PlantWright for getting us started in the process and pointing us in the right direction. Thanks also go to Croft Parish Council for withdrawing

their objection to the planning application and to all those that wrote in to support it.

"Now it's time for everyone to show their support for this organisation again by attending some fund raising events that they'll be holding soon. It'll be a great chance for members of the local public to meet the team and their birds and a chance for them to help organise volunteers and raise funds for their big move."

Mr Taylor added: "Wild Wings have been in limbo for a couple of years now but they will finally have a place to call their own for the

next five years now, a place where they can start to arrange group visits, and earn enough money to make their not for profit business sustainable again. The fact they have stuck with it all this time shows their dedication to the birds that they look after.

"We were very pleased to see that HS2 removed their objection as well. It just shows what can be achieved by picking up the phone and engaging with people rather than throwing up barriers. They were actually very accommodating and have even agreed to allow them permission to remain on the site longer if the HS2 project suffers any delays."

Mr Taylor concluded: "Wild Wings are still looking for a permanent home due to a high speed train ploughing through their new site in the next decade or two so it isn't the end of the road for them yet, but at least they have a home they can operate from now and they can finally be left to do what they do best.. saving the lives of endangered birds that need specialist care, and making the people that visit grin from ear to ear."

Wild Wings Birds of Prey is a family owned 'not for profit' rescue, conservation and education centre housing approximately 90 birds of prey.

Many of their birds have been rescued and rehabilitated.

For more info visit [www.facebook.com/WildWingsBirds/](http://www.facebook.com/WildWingsBirds/)



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## Motorists warned to expect delays with Gas mains upgrade

MOTORISTS are being warned to expect delays with essential work to replace underground, ageing metal gas mains in Glazebury over the next six months.

The latest phase of a 30-year, country-wide project to replace metal pipes with durable plastic ones is now under way in Warrington Road and will ensure safe and reliable gas supplies until the end of the century.

Following careful planning and communications with Warrington Borough Council, local businesses and residents, National Grid Gas Distribution's teams have started the 2.4km-long pipe replacement.

Working seven days a week, the teams will start from the junction with Hey Shoot Lane and, over the five to six-month duration of the project, will gradually move along the road to the junction of Lowfield Gardens.

Traffic management systems are in place. Access will be available at all times, but drivers should expect delays. In order to optimise flow of traffic in each direction, traffic lights will be operated manually at peak commute times.

Gas supplies in the area will not need to be switched off at any time.

Stephen Murray, head of contract for National Grid Gas Distribution, said: "This is essential work to ensure people can continue

to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies, to heat their properties and cook their meals, for at least another 80 years. We have worked very hard to minimise disruption, by working closely with the council, as well as informing and consulting businesses in the area. It is inevitable and unavoidable that there will be some inconvenience while we carry out this work, for which I can only apologise."

Homes and businesses along Warrington Road, which include Bents Garden and Home centre, have been informed by letter and, in many cases, face-to-face meetings. When the work reaches the garden centre end of Warrington Road – expected to be around September – the gas company will have a team based at the centre to explain the works. The centre, and all businesses along the route, will be open throughout.

Further information is available from the customer team on 0161 703 1000 / 1010. General information on the gas mains replacement programme is at [www.bettergaspipes.co.uk](http://www.bettergaspipes.co.uk)



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## Bents donate £30k to Epilepsy Action

**BENTS Garden and Home based at Glazebury has raised a staggering £30,000 for its Charity of the Year, Epilepsy Action.**

Thanking all their customers for their support, the figure once again breaks all fundraising totals since the Centre launched its Charity of the Year initiative in 2005.

Harvinder Chaggar, from Epilepsy Action was joined by 11 year old Elliot Bent to accept the

donation, with Aimee Maguet from Alzheimer's Society, the Centre's 2017 charity of the year, also attending the event.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our customers and colleagues who have helped us

to raise such a fantastic amount. Epilepsy Action is a cause very close to my family's heart as our son, Elliot was diagnosed in 2015 so we have had a direct personal experience of the vital work and support they provide. We hope this donation will go some way towards helping people live with the condition.

"We are now looking forward to working with Alzheimer's Society and hope to be as similarly successful in our fundraising achievements."

Over the years Bents has been successful in raising considerable amounts of money for many local causes and it hopes 2017 will be no exception with a full calendar of events already planned. Bents hopes the money raised during 2017 will be used to help people in the Warrington and surrounding areas who are affected by the

condition.

Bents not only wants to raise money for Alzheimer's Society but it also wants to work with the charity to become a dementia friendly destination. Over the course of the year, Bents will work with the team at Alzheimer's Society to provide tips and training for its colleagues and guidance as to how they can help people with dementia whilst at the Centre.

Bents aims to raise awareness of dementia and re-think how the Centre can provide a warm, friendly and welcoming environment for those living with the condition.

It also aims to work with Alzheimer's Society to research other opportunities that might help those living with the condition such as providing support and advice as to how customers can make their own gardens dementia friendly.



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## MP reaffirms opposition to "de-priming" Winwick Lane

MP Helen Jones has reaffirmed her opposition to any proposals to "de-prime" Winwick Lane in Lowton, which is currently a prime route for traffic.

The Warrington North MP fears it could cause traffic chaos in nearby Croft.

She restated her position following reports of a meeting at Leigh Town Hall, which included representatives from Croft and Culcheth parish councils, Warrington Borough Council and Wigan council.

The Lane Head Residents Group, who also attended the meeting, are calling for a HGV ban on Winwick Lane.

Ms Jones said: "This idea was first proposed over a year ago and is obviously still under consideration. The situation has not changed in that time. Banning HGV's from Winwick Lane is likely

to mean lorries would still leave the M6 at Junction 22 but divert through Croft village to access the East Lancs Road instead.

"This solution is simply moving the problem from one area to another. Shifting the problem in this way is just not acceptable. Many of the roads in Croft are narrow and have no pavements, making them totally unsuitable for heavy goods traffic.

"As was said when this proposal was first raised, the highway infrastructure cannot cope with the increase of this type of traffic and the disruption to residents' lives and amenities would be devastating.

"I am not prepared to support any scheme which detrimentally affects residents in Warrington North.

"I call on Warrington Borough Council to confirm that they will oppose these proposals."

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# Fingers crossed for Cul

**PLANS are in place for a full programme of events for Culcheth Community Day on Bank Holiday Monday, May 1 - with back up plans in the event of inclement weather.**

Last year's event had to be abandoned due to the village green being flooded.

But local councillor Keith Bland says the weather has been kinder this year and is hopeful it can take place as planned.

But if heavy rain does fall there are back up plans to switch the event to the Shaw Street Recreation Ground - although not on the sports pitches!

"There hasn't been as much

rainfall this year so we are hopeful it can take place as planned on the village green," said Keith.

"But the parish council has a back up plan this year should things take a turn for the worse. But so far it is looking very hopeful for the village green."

Anyone interested in setting up a stall at the event should contact Sue Bland on 01925 766641 or email ben Alldred at ben.allred2016@protonmail.com



*Cake stall at the 2015 event.*



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# Culcheth Community Day



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# Pupils raise funds for trip to Nepal

**THREE pupils from Culcheth High School are organising fund raising events for their World Challenge Trip to Nepal next year.**

The trip will form part of an expedition that will be helping to rebuild Nepal communities badly hit by the 2015 earthquake.

Sophie Openshaw, Cara Slattery and Lucy Upton are asking the

local community to support them by helping them raise the vital funding needed to make the expedition a success.

The girls will have a stall on Culcheth Community Day on

Monday May 1 selling all sorts of bric-a-brac and following this up with a quiz night at The Culcheth Village Club/Royal British Legion, Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth on Saturday May 20.

On the night, the doors will open at 7pm with the quiz starting at 8pm. The ticket price of £5 per adult or £15 per family ticket (2 adults, 2

children) includes a burger/hotdog per person.

Tickets will be available from The Culcheth Village Club, Culcheth High School and at the stall on Community Day or just email [culchethquiznight@gmail.com](mailto:culchethquiznight@gmail.com) to book a place at the quiz. Any remaining tickets will be available on the door.



Left to right: Lucy Upton, Cara Slattery and Sophie Openshaw

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## Planning chiefs reject 'bespoke homes'



PLANNING chiefs have thrown out proposals for three "bespoke" homes on the site of Culcheth Hall Barns on Withington Avenue, Culcheth.

It was the second attempt by August Blake Developments Ltd to build properties on the site – the first for four homes being refused in 2015 and subsequently lost on appeal.

Officers recommended the new scheme be approved – but the borough council's development management committee refused it again.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and more than 16 nearby residents opposed the development.

The committee was told the site was to the east of Culcheth Hall Barns and adjacent to but not within the Green Belt. But it was a greenfield site, adjoined by public footpaths.

The applicant had made a number of alterations from the scheme refused in 2015, reducing the number of properties from four to three, redesigning the properties with two of them reduced in size. Further space had been provided between the houses to make more parking space. One house would resemble a traditional farmhouse.

Objectors argued that the scheme would represent overdevelopment of the site and would be out of character with the Green Belt and the natural beauty of the area.

They believed existing parking problems would be made worse. The parish council argued that the proposal was a "high impact development" on a greenfield site in a prominent position. The site was not surplus land, as claimed, but a bullock pasture defined as a greenfield site.

The proposals would also obscure an important local view which was a reminder that there was once a Culcheth Hall.

Cllr Matt Smith said he was concerned about highway safety and also that existing residents of Culcheth Hall Barns may feel unable to object because their properties were subject to a leasehold agreement with the applicant.

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# Warrington 2021 City of Culture



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## Going for it!

Warrington has thrown its hat into the ring to become the UK's City of Culture 2021 – and needs your help to win!

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The competition, which happens every four years, was started after Liverpool's successful European Capital of Culture and is designed to build on the successful regeneration that

Liverpool achieved. Despite the title, you don't have to be a city to enter.

Warrington-based, award-winning TV Producer, Ken Horn said: "Whatever you think of culture in Warrington right now, this is a great opportunity to accelerate existing cultural plans and to put Warrington on the map for the right reasons.

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Win or lose, there will be a benefit to Warrington by just being part of the process. I'm proud to be backing the bid and the support so far has been brilliant."

Hull is the UK City of Culture for 2017 and has already brought in more than £32m of additional investment as a result, with an overall economic impact of more than £60m being projected by the end of the year. If Warrington was to be successful it could expect to see similar benefits.

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## New call for action on fly-tipping

**A COUNCILLOR is calling for urgent action to stop fly-tipping on a disused car park off Church Lane, Culcheth.**

Cllr Sue Bland first raised the issue more than a month ago but her efforts to get the owner of the site to clear it up have come to nothing – and the problem has got even worse.

Recent items to be dumped include mattresses, an old vacuum cleaner, rolls of carpet, pillows, a television set and a child's buggy.

Cllr Bland said: "The trouble is that when rubbish gets dumped in public view it attracts more rubbish.

"I understand the sale of the site is going through any time now. In fact, the agent's 'for sale' sign has been knocked down and has joined the rubbish.

"The agent won't accept responsibility for the situation and I have not been able to find out who the new owner will be. I have been passed from pillar to post.

"It is completely unacceptable. This is private land, but it is in full view of the public. The sort of rubbish accumulating there now will attract vermin.

"I have now contacted the borough council's environmental services department to get something done as a matter of urgency. We need enforcement action - we should not have to have an eyesore like this in the centre of the village."



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# Working group exploring 'co-location' options for library

**A WORKING group established by councillors and local residents to help secure the future of Culcheth Library is on the lookout for interested parties who could share the site as part of a 'co-location' scheme.**

Culcheth Library Working Group have already been approached by not-for-profit organisations who are willing to rent space within the library building. The group are now hoping to widen the net to see if any other groups and organisations would be interested in entering discussions.

Cllr Matt Smith (below), who chairs the working group, said: "The working group in Culcheth has held a series of very successful meetings so far, providing an opportunity for local councillors, members of the community, LiveWire themselves, and other interested parties to give their input. We are working closely with the chief executive at the borough council, our MP, and



library users to develop a strong business case which will secure the future of this service at the heart of our village.

"As part of this, we are delighted to have received approaches from social enterprises who have expressed a desire to share the use of the library building, and we are keen to explore this option further. The way that it would work is simple – any community-minded organisations or local businesses would be able to rent space within the building, and that money would be ploughed back into the maintenance and upkeep of the library, helping us to sustain and improve the facility for local people."

Cllr Joan Grime (right) said: "We want to hear from any organisations, or social enterprise who think that "co-locating" within the library building is something that they may want to consider. There would be no commitment necessary, we simply want to cast the net as far and wide as possible to see who is out there. This model has been used effectively in other libraries around the country, and provides a great opportunity for co-operation and mutual support between public services and local enterprises."

Cllr Jan Davidson concluded: "Here in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, we are fortunate that our working group is much further advanced than many around the town. Our success so far would not have been possible without

the input and contributions of local residents. As councillors, we have been delighted to work alongside them to help develop a business plan which will we hope will not only retain, but enhance, our service. We hope that local businesses and social enterprises can be a part of that too!"

Any groups, businesses or organisations who would be interested in a discussion about potentially taking part in a "co-location" model at Culcheth Library can get in touch by email to Cllr Smith at: [matt.smith062@gmail.com](mailto:matt.smith062@gmail.com) or by calling 07890 560 880.



## The fascinating story of Crystal Palace

THE fascinating story of Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition of 1851 was told by guest speaker David Hill at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI.

Prince Albert was a great innovator and organiser, and he got together with civil engineer John Scott-Russell and entrepreneur Henry Cole to organise an exhibition showing the best of manufactured products from around the world.

Eventually, Joseph Paxton was chosen as the designer of the building that became known as the Crystal Palace, because of all the glass used in its construction. It was twice the width of the Houses of Parliament, and there were elm trees in the way. So that they did not have to be removed, a dome was added to the design to accommodate them. The inside was big enough to hold eight Titans.

People came from all over Britain to see the exhibits, which included machinery never seen before, and a howdah from India. To show this off properly, a stuffed elephant was found in Birmingham. No-one pointed out that it was in fact an African elephant!

There was also a hydraulic press made in Warrington. Season tickets

were three guineas, and a day pass was one shilling, so thousands of people could afford to go.

A great innovation was the public toilets at one penny a time, hence the term "spend a penny".

When the exhibition closed after five months, £180,000 had been made. This money was used to build the Natural History Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Science Museum and Royal Colleges.

The whole building was then moved to Sydenham and rebuilt even larger. It was used for sporting events, Scout Jamborees and concerts until it burned down in 1936. Because of the very dry wooden flooring the fire spread quickly - a sad end to a wonderful building.

Meanwhile members are looking forward to seeing Guys and Dolls in May. The annual Day Trip will be to Anglesey, where the very first WI in Britain was formed in 1915.

President Joan Jarvis welcomed members and one visitor and thanked Sally Taylor for the beautiful rose bouquet on the table.

The next meeting is Tuesday May 16 at 2pm in the Parish Hall. Visitors and new members are welcome.

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# Four to cycle from London to Paris



## FOUR keen Culcheth cyclists are taking on a charity challenge by riding from London to Paris.

Paula Byrne, Sarah Norton, Caroline Tinkler and Margaret McCreedy will be among 50 riders

taking part in the September event.

They said: "With two long distance rides from coast to coast

across England already under our belts, we felt the 313 mile challenge was the perfect next step. We went along to a ride briefing with questions about logistics but came away inspired by the fantastic work of the four charities and determined to do our bit".

The Moore Foundation, a charitable trust based in Warrington, has chosen four local organisations to share the proceeds from the ride. They are: SASSY, providing support against self-harm and suicide in youth; Warrington Youth Club, helping young people achieve, make choices and improve their lives and their futures; Hand on Heart, providing the equipment

and training to reduce loss of life in young people to sudden cardiac arrest; and Brainwave, a centre in Birchwood that helps children with disabilities and additional needs to achieve greater independence.

To raise funds there will be a quiz night on Saturday, June 17 at Newchurch Parish Hall, tickets are on sale at McDees cafe on Lodge Drive or from Mags on 07968 715224.

There will be a "London to Paris" stall at Culcheth Community Day, selling homemade cakes and confectionery. Or, find L2PCulchethPedallers on the Just Giving website to make a donation.

## Pupils make video to challenge Government on school funding

PUPILS from two Culcheth primary schools were among youngsters from 11 schools across the borough who got together to challenge the Government over fairer funding for schools.

The children united to put a new "twist" on the classic "Oliver!" theme, changing the focus from "food" to focus.

Pupils from Newchurch Primary and Twiss Green Primary took part in a video, produced by Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School and then uploaded to YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yufe4vA5fdc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yufe4vA5fdc).

A website was also set up at [www.fundsgloriousfunds.com](http://www.fundsgloriousfunds.com) to help spread the message.

With lyrics such as "Funds, glorious funds, New paper and pencils!" and "Rich schools have it, boys - long term protection!" the song aims to highlight the uncertainty local schools are feeling over the government's new National Funding Formula, and the harmful impact they fear it may have on education.

Children and staff are hoping the video will grab people's attention - from the public, to schools, to the Government - to help raise awareness of the issue and convince politicians to think again.

The initiative was spearheaded by

head teacher at Woolston Primary School, Craig Burgess, who has been campaigning for several years to achieve more funds for Warrington schools.

He said: "This is such an important issue, so we wanted to come up with a creative way of really getting the message out there. I spoke to some of my colleagues who said schools are currently in a position where we are having to beg, just like Oliver Twist. That was the inspiration I needed to write a new version of Food Glorious Food, targeted at the Government.

"Ten more schools quickly came on board and recorded their own performance of the song. All of the versions, featuring hundreds of school children, have been combined to make a powerful, multi-school video, which we hope expresses our fears in a way that resonates across the country."

"The current formula is extremely unfair for authorities like ours and we would implore the Government - 'please sir, we want some more'. It's great that children are taking action themselves and uniting to help get this message to the Chancellor."

Nearly 4,500 people have viewed the video online - and the number is growing.

## Urgent talks on future of youth centre

MEMBERS of Croft Parish Council are calling for an urgent meeting with borough council officers to discuss the future of Croft Youth Centre.

The popular centre, which is heavily used by the youth of the village and other organisations, is owned by the borough council but run by a voluntary group.

The group currently pay the borough council £7,000-a-year and let the premises out to local organisations on a not-for profit basis.

But the borough - faced with the need to cut costs - is suggesting changes in the arrangements which the voluntary groups fear could mean the annual rent rising to anything from £25,000 to £35,000.

An alternative option would be for the borough to take over management of the building which locals fear would result in lettings fees rising sharply.

Cllr Keith Bland said: "We need to speak directly to the borough about this and to find out exactly what is being proposed. We are demanding an urgent meeting with borough officers - possibly before the next meeting of the council.

"We need to get information straight from the horse's mouth."

# MP calls for compensation for poor broadband speeds

**PEOPLE in Culcheth, Croft and Winwick could be among those owed at least £246,000 in compensation for slow broadband speeds.**

This is the view of MP Helen Jones, who is calling for automatic compensation for customers receiving poor broadband speeds.

She said: "Sadly, the roll-out of fibre broadband in a number of locations in my constituency, including Burtonwood, Winwick, Culcheth and Croft, has been slow.

Discussions I have had with service providers over the years have resulted in some progress, but the position is still far from satisfactory.

"Less than half of all UK broadband connections are superfast, calling into question the government target to provide superfast speeds to 95 per cent of all UK premises by the end of this year.

"That is why I'm supporting the call by the British Infrastructure Group of MPs (BIG) to introduce a comprehensive automatic compensation scheme that allows customers to be refunded for receiving unreasonably slow broadband download speeds.

"Millions of properties across the country fail to meet the proposed minimum download speed of 10 Mb/s and could be eligible for receiving compensation from their providers.

"BIG, whose figures have been verified by the House of Commons Library, estimates that people in my constituency are owed at least £246,000 in compensation. Sadly, the major broadband providers who are signed up to Ofcom's Voluntary Code of Practice could not quote an average figure for compensation paid out. When asked to outline their process for claiming compensation each provider described a complicated and protracted process which suggests a lack of transparency in broadband customer services.

"There should be four principles to guide the introduction of a new industry wide compensation policy."

"Ofcom must continue to publish data on the disparities between actual and advertised broadband download speeds.

"Clear and objective parameters for what constitutes compensation need to be defined and enforced by the regulator.

"The Voluntary Code of Practice needs to have statutory footing.

"Broadband providers need to take responsibility for communicating a new compensation policy to their customers.

"It is unacceptable that there is still no industry-wide standard for compensation in the telecoms sector. Ofcom, government and broadband providers must work to implement an automatic compensation policy as a matter of urgency to make sure that customers do not continue to pay for sub-standard speeds and service."



## The life and times of a much loved comedian

THE life and times of much-loved comedian and singer Joyce Grenfell were celebrated at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI thanks to the talents of speaker Jean Finney.

She sang her songs, accompanying herself on an electronic device called a Qtone, recited her monologues and performed quick costume changes - headscarves, pinnies, sparkly evening wear and even a very curly 1960s wig.

She followed Joyce's life from her privileged background, her early and happy marriage and her gift of mimicry, which led to success on stage, radio, films and television.

There was even a WI connection - a 1939 meeting when the speaker's topic launched her career as a mimic.

Kath Hanley proposed the vote of thanks and Jean then judged the competition for an amusing poem.

Lesley Lloyd was the winner with Ann Langridge in second place. Rose Collins provided a beautiful pot of African violets for the top table and Suzanne Crompton and Jean Power were the tea hostesses.

Members were reminded of Culcheth WI's fashion show in May and a display by the Embroiderers' Guild at Tatton Park.

Newchurch's own trip to Boundary Mill would take place on May 17. President Doreen Procter announced that Newchurch had been granted a Mosslands bursary and proposed that this might be used for a later trip to Whitefriars.

She thanked Marjorie Pugh for setting up the "Cascade" communication system and made special mention of the maintaining of the library quenching trough by Margaret Mellows and Kathleen Manning.

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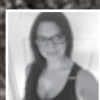
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# Moving house tips



Article written by Victoria Barlow  
Head of Courtyard Homes

## 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 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 meter readings, switch off the water and mains gas supplies and ensure all windows and doors are secure

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