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Issue: 176
November 2017

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Page 8

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Page 3



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Editor's Comment



I can't believe the countdown to Christmas has already begun - but it certainly has - and this year's Christmas Market looks set to be the biggest and best yet!

Following on from last year's new look event, which replaced Victorian Day, Paul Taylor from Taylor Business Park has once again provided support - which this year includes under-writing the cost of an ice-rink in the village.

This should prove to be a great attraction - all we need now is a little bit of snow and it certainly would bring an extra special Christmas feel to the village. But I doubt we could be so lucky, especially on the

back of the recent mild winters.

I do hope local residents will turn out in force to support this great occasion which is an important time of year for many local businesses.

On top of supporting the Christmas Market, Paul has also provided fantastic support to the Wild Wings Bird Sanctuary which now has new premises on land at Taylor Business Park - another fantastic gesture of goodwill to the local community. The sanctuary recently had a fund-raising day which was a great success.

Again this has a great opportunity to become another fantastic facility in the local community.

Further still Paul has, along with me, been voted on to the board of

directors at Warrington Chamber of Commerce & Industry - where we both hope to help promote the local business community.

I suspect the local area is not too well represented on the Chamber - and we would love to hear from any local businesses interested in joining.

By working together we can all be stronger.

Deadline for the December issue of Culcheth Life November 21

A chance to remember a loved one

THE annual Memorial Service at Culcheth Methodist Church will take place on Sunday, November 5 at 3pm.

It offers people an opportunity to remember someone they love that they have lost and, perhaps, some quiet time to think about them and light a candle in their memory.

The Service is open to anyone who would like to attend to remember a loved one.

Further details are available from John Gregson (Pastoral Visitor) on 01925 762715.



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Get your skates on for Christmas Market

THE countdown has begun for the annual Christmas Market in Culcheth - which this year will have the added attraction of an ice rink in the village.

The event, which has replaced Victorian Day, takes place in the village on Saturday November 25 from 10am-5pm.

Last year Taylor Business Park supported the event by underwriting the entire cost of the event for the parish council and this year they are doing the same for an ice rink at the event!

MD Paul Taylor said: "We were overjoyed to see how much of a success the last Christmas market was. It was the busiest I have ever seen the village, even compared to the summer events and the fact that so many came out in the bitter cold was amazing. We're hoping the weather will hold up for this one but it'll still be a great day if not. There's nothing like mulled wine, beer and sausages to cheer people up when it's miserable out! Throw an ice rink into the mix and there's something for everyone."

"The Culcheth Arms have kindly offered to let us have it in their car park for the whole day and for those who want to have a skate the rink will be open from 10am to 4pm and will cost £5 for around 15 minutes of skating but that may change a little depending on turnout and weather. The rink will be open though so even if it's not the best weather get wrapped up and come and have a go!"

Paul added: "There are lots of activities on the day.. Music,

sausages, beer, mulled wine, rides for the little ones, on the small Sainsbury's car park, stalls all over the village and the village Christmas lights will be switched on at the end of the day.

"The Business Park will also be giving out a £250 prize for the best decorated stall on the day as well so make sure you put on a good show!"

Around Culcheth's village green, forty colourful gazebos will link the two Gift and Craft Christmas Fayres taking place in the Parish and Methodist Halls, with another link to more stalls and a cafe in the Scout Centre on Jackson Avenue and then on to The Culcheth Centre Art exhibition. The market stalls and surrounding shops will showcase the local traders' fabulous Christmas wares as well as presenting exciting craft and produce stalls from further afield. Jewellery, collectables, antiques, cakes, fabrics, crafts, gift wrapping, boxes, ornaments, flowers, pet supplies, toys, Christmas hampers, winter warmers and much more will be available in a traditional market setting. To beat the cold, hot food stalls, mulled wine, and chestnuts will be available outside, while several cafes and local hostellers, will provide indoor warmth and traditional cheer- and, of course, you will find Santa in his Grotto. Across the village there

will be exciting entertainment throughout the day with children's roundabouts, music, including The Infernal Twangers ukulele band, The Culcheth Village Choir, hand-bell ringers and a traditional barrel organ. There will also be a display of police memorabilia and uniforms - to try on - plus refreshments and children's crafts at the Scout Centre.

There will be Community Carol Singing in the Methodist Church and the day ends in style at 4.30 when the Parish Council Chairman, helped by Santa, switches on the Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Christmas Lights.



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If you are interested in applying for a place for your child in the Reception class of September 2018, 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 2018.



What's on at The Culcheth Arms

November 2017

Christmas Shopping Night - Monday 20th from 6pm until 8.30pm

Culcheth Christmas Markets - 12pm until 5pm

December 2017

Pensioners Party - Tuesday 12th from 12pm £15 per person

Christmas Party Nights every Friday and Saturday from 9pm

New Years Eve - Casino Night 7pm until 2am £40 per Person

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Bid to launch new neighbourhood forum

TALKS are ongoing in a bid to set up a new neighbourhood forum following the demise of the Warrington East Area Board.

The loss of neighbourhood boards has left a hole in the connectivity enjoyed in the community in the Warrington East area and at the last meeting ever of the East Area Board those present discussed a possible way forward.

A proposal has been tabled to find out everyone's thoughts on a different approach with many of the advantages that the old board format provided.

The proposed East Neighbourhood Forum would act as a conduit between residents, parish councils, established community groups, the council, police and other stakeholders such as the fire service and NHS. This would allow feedback to be sent to the council and also act as a way of the council and emergency services effectively communicating information to communities and parish councils.

There is a lot of support for this approach and it is now planned to take the concept to the council and see if it fits in with their way of thinking. It was agreed that a forum seemed like a good way to improve communication between the councils and the community groups so that everyone was aware of the needs in the area.

Local businessman Paul Taylor said, "There has been a dearth of information and effective communication since the boards were

dissolved. They have been changed into a single group that meets four times a year just to deal with the distribution of the Community Initiative fund, and only has councillors and one member of Warrington Voluntary Action Group sitting on it.

"Taylor Business Park has offered to pay for any admin costs of these meetings as they are at the moment but we hope that it will be a model that the council approves of and may roll out to the other areas that previously held Neighbourhood Board meetings.

"The boards were a vital channel of communication and helped to direct local groups towards funding available available through the Community Initiative Fund. There is £60,000 available in grants from £50-£3,000 but not many organisations are aware of the changes that have taken place.

"Community groups and charities in Culcheth in particular did very well out of the neighbourhood board's funding and they were invaluable when it came to finding out what was going on in the area. It's a shame to see them go but hopefully this will bridge a gap that exists at the moment. If any organisations would like to support this concept and see how they can get involved email me at PaulTaylor@TaylorBusinessPark.com"

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- Happiness, fun and enjoyment



Former student reflects on life at Oxford

Former Carmel student Andrew Dixon, who achieved A*A*A in his A Levels, called into college recently before heading back to Oxford to start the second year of his Law degree. Head of our High Achievers' Programme, Nicola Newton, quizzed him about life at one of the most prestigious universities in the world!

How did you find the transition from Carmel to Oxford?

Oxford is very different, but in terms of community, there isn't that much of a leap. Carmel is a close knit college and because of this you have really good friendship groups, so moving to Uni wasn't that hard.

What is the mix of students like at Oxford?

One of the good things about Oxford, is that there are different people from different regions of the country, all different religious backgrounds, different cultures and international students. You're all in the same boat and it's much easier to make connections.

We heard that you have been in Hong Kong for a month. Was this part of your degree course?

Yes, I've just come back from Hong Kong. Every year the students who perform best in the exams, get invited to apply for a work placement over there. I got placed with a Barrister's Chambers in Hong Kong.

Are there any myths you can dispel about Oxford, for example, is it like living at Hogwarts?

Erm, well I guess appearance wise it is, as with any old building. There's no magic, sadly. We do have to wear

gowns sometimes for ceremonies and some meal times.

What advice would you give to students who are thinking of applying to Oxford?

The first one would definitely be APPLY! Anyone considering it should put in an application. I couldn't have gone any better. The quality of life and teaching is just amazing. Secondly, don't be upset if you don't get in. It is a very tough process. Finally, try your hardest at college, do your best in your exams and listen to Nicola and the other staff on Carmel's High Achievers' Team!

To read Andrew's full interview and find out more about Carmel's High Achievers' Programme, visit www.carmel.ac.uk



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Thurs 9th Nov 2017
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Sat 18th Nov 2017
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Wild Wings fund

VISITORS joined in the fun at a Wild Wings Birds of Prey fundraising event at Taylor Business Park.

The hard work by owners Carol-Anne and Ian as well as the volunteers was completed on the morning of the event and allowed visitors to see all the birds of prey.

Visitors also learnt about the birds in the newly finished education building which has wonderful airbrush artwork of Owls.

This will be used in the future to provide children on school trips with knowledge about the birds and their habitats.

Light entertainment was provided by animal balloon maker and puppeteer Mark Pendlebury. Children enthusiastically watched him make dogs and swords using the balloons. His pet Raccoon made several appearances throughout the day to make visitors jump.

Children and adults could try

their hand at the coconut shy and archery which were very popular.

There was also face painting where children could have their faces painted with their favourite wild animals such as lions and wild birds.

Visitors had a great time and over £700 was raised from the event which goes towards caring for the magnificent birds and the running costs of the sanctuary.

Paul Taylor MD of Taylor Business Park, who has provided a new home for the sanctuary said: "It was a great day and it's fantastic to see Wild Wings raising the funds they'll need to get set up on their new site here at Taylor Business Park. They're going to be a great asset for the village when they open their doors."



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Pictures by Michael Berry



The Gardening Guide



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Scottie's £800 sky dive

AN 80-year-old Lowton woman raised £800 for Help the Heroes – by completing a sky dive.

Moir Peter – better known as Scottie – is president of Newton and district Jubilee Inner Wheel Club, which draws most of its membership from Culcheth.

She performed her first sky dive when she was 70 – and vowed to do another when she reached 80.

Husband Ron was there to see her take to the air at Cockerham, Lancashire

The dive was just one of many activities Scottie is organising to mark her year as president and she had to overcome opposition from some members of her family.



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Winter Wonderland is back!

MANCHESTER'S biggest Indoor Christmas attraction, the award-winning Winter Wonderland Manchester is back for 2017!

The magic of Christmas will take over EventCity next to the Intu Trafford Centre from Saturday 9th December 2017 to Monday 1st January 2018.

Legendary children's TV show, Rainbow will be the star attraction of this year's Christmas extravaganza, plus over 50 family rides and attractions all under one roof - including new rides for 2017, and all included in one ticket price.

As well as the rides and the bright lights, there will be a dazzling array of colourful shows which this year includes Zippy and George from Rainbow who will no doubt bring lots of magic, mayhem and comedy capers!

The spectacular Christmas Circus also makes a welcome return delivering the finest collection of circus acts that will leave everyone marvelled and amazed with daily performances.

Of course, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a visit from Santa Claus complete with real reindeers, who will be taking time out of his busy schedule to meet and greet with all the children, every day up to and including Christmas Eve. Fairies and Elves

will also fly around to play and chat and have 's-selfies' with the children.

There will also be a whole host of games stalls and a vast array of food and drinks stalls to purchase refreshments including hot snacks and sweet treats.

Winter Wonderland operates on a session basis to ensure visitors can enjoy the experience without overcrowding offering families four hours of non-stop fun and entertainment.

Group, family and individual tickets are on sale now for the magical festive family adventure which is guaranteed to create that enchanting Christmas spirit.

Book your tickets now at www.winterwonderlandmanchester.com or by calling 0843 208 1842, for Group Booking please call 0843 208 6003.



'Old friend' returned to the WI

AN old friend returned to Newchurch WI at its last meeting – "Betsy" the character presented by Yvonne Halliwell on two previous visits.

She first came as a scullery maid, then as a housekeeper, but this time she was grandly dressed and was now Mrs Freeman-Fielding. She told the story of her romance and very successful marriage, which all happened because she joined the village choir. As in her earlier days, Betsy had an uncanny ability to say the wrong thing but members were delighted that her story had a happy ending. Phyllis Longson gave the vote of thanks and Betsy (a.k.a Yvonne Halliwell) judged the October competition – a pretty apron. Aileen Paterson was first, with Doreen Procter and Sylvia Brown coming second and third.

President Doreen Procter had begun the meeting by welcoming a new member and greeting one "birthday girl". She described the successful trip to Ferrari's hotel and the start of choir rehearsals. She also showed members the Newchurch Banner brought back from Chester HQ.

Secretary Jean Riley gave out the dates for coming events – the luncheon club, choir rehearsals, and the trip to the ballet.

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Pupils create a community garden



SEVEN Year 10 pupils from Culcheth High School's Culcheth-2-Soweto team have created a community garden in Lansdowne, Culcheth.

Helped by three members of staff, they spent an afternoon digging out an area of grass and planting a shrub and an array of bulbs and also planted bulbs around two trees in the area.

Residents can now look forward to a beautiful array of flowers in the spring.

The Culcheth-2-Soweto team wanted to give something back to the community that has supported the project so well over the years.

Made up of pupils from across Year 8 – 11. Culcheth-2-Soweto is a two-year international exchange programme, in which Culcheth

youngsters develop key skills and plan a visit to the high school's partner school in Soweto, Matseliso High School.

On their return the Culcheth pupils then raise the money and plan a return visit, enabling pupils and staff from Soweto to visit Culcheth.

Students involved in the garden project were: Krishen Chadwick-Patel, Carlos Clarke, Sam Hegarty, Josh Morley, George Neal, Amy Sheppard, and Jess Taylor.

Bent's Garden Centre donated the bulbs and shrub for the project.

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Basketball youngster gets selected for England

CULCHETH High School youngster Ellis Evans has been selected to play basketball for England just two years after taking up the sport.

Ellis currently plays for Cheshire Wire based at Birchwood Leisure Centre and North West Basketball and has been selected to play for England under 15's which is seen as a great honour by his school, family and friends.

He started playing basketball just two years ago aged 13 and trains 3-4 times a week with the team and also 1-2 hours a night on his own.

Ellis will be joining up with the rest of the England squad for the first seasons national training camp

in Manchester in December.

When asked about his future ambitions in the game Ellis said: "I'd really like to continue my basketball development by gaining a place at Myerscough College, that would allow me to continue my studies whilst playing basketball, and I'd ultimately like to get a chance to play professionally in the NBA in the USA."

"But I know there's a lot of hard work, training and studying ahead of me to reach that goal!"

School wins top science award

A Culcheth school has been awarded the Science Quality Mark award to celebrate a commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning.

Newchurch Primary School, is celebrating after receiving the good news.

The Primary School Quality Mark scheme enables schools to work together to share good practice and is supported by professional development led by local experts. It encourages teacher innovation and development in science subject leadership, teaching and learning.

The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high and gaining a Primary Science Quality Award is a significant achievement for any school.

Head teacher Mrs Jayne Narraway said: "We are extremely

proud to achieve this award which celebrates our unwavering commitment to teaching and learning in this area of the curriculum.

"Mrs Ayres, our Science leader, has inspired not just the staff but the children to approach Science in an exciting, innovative and creative way. The children and staff have worked extremely hard to create a long lasting vision of what Science looks like at Newchurch."



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INVISIBLE HOMES CAUSE HOUSING SHORTAGE IN WA3

So over the past few months I've been meeting potential vendors at their homes to give them a free market appraisal, however I am finding the majority are stating that they want to move but they can't find anything to buy. Sound familiar?

So let's look at this:

Vendor 1, Let's call them Mr and Mrs Smith they are looking to buy a four bed detached house but they love their three bed semi and don't want to move out of it unless they find their dream home

Meanwhile:

Mr and Mrs Jones are downsizing from a four bedroom detached house but also don't want to move unless they see something for them, but if neither are visible to each other how will they ever realise the opportunity that could be?

The solution! Stop waiting for the right property as demand is high it is likely to sell before you have a chance to market your own.

All you need to do is go ahead, be upfront with potential buyers that you can't move until you find the right house. It's simple, by everyone sat waiting you are creating a stagnant market, by taking the leap a snowball effect will ensue, giving you a better supply and variety for you to choose.

Courtyard alone, have over 200 applicants ready to buy in the area and only 53 properties are available! C'mon guys let's get this market moving!

(stats accurate according to Rightmove at time of print)



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