

# Culcheth *Life*

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Issue: 177  
December 2017

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Page 8

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# Editor's Comment



**THE annual Christmas Market in Culcheth looked to be a great success again, following the new format adopted last year.**

While it was clearly disappointing that the ice rink could not appear due to unforeseen circumstances (the supplier was badly injured in a traffic accident), there was still plenty of activity in the village - and parking was certainly at a premium, which is always a good sign.

Once again Paul Taylor from Taylor Business Park should be congratulated on his enthusiasm for supporting events in the village, along with the team from the Parish Council.

As always it is important for the community to turn out and support local businesses whenever possible and hopefully this event helped kick start a busy Christmas period for local traders.

Meanwhile at time of going

to press we were awaiting the report on libraries which is due at Executive Board on December 11, with council Chief Executive Steven Broomhead recommending there should be no library closures and indeed investment in book stock and buildings which are in need of updating and repairs.

If his recommendations are followed this is good news for Culcheth Library which, as we have stated before, is an important facility in the local community.

Now it looks set to remain open it is important, that as a community, we support it.

I am sure the working party set up to come up with ideas to help sustain the library moving

forward, can hopefully look forward to having a facility in the village moving forward - subject to the politicians approving the recommendations of their Chief Executive.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our readers and advertisers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Deadline for the February issue of Culcheth Life January 16**

## WI concert

MEMBERS of Lowton WI will be joining Cheshire WI members for their annual Christmas concert, which is being hosted by Glazebrook WI at Hollins Green, on Friday, December 8.

The Lowton members will be holding their Christmas Party the previous day.



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# Bents judged 'best' Christmas display in UK

**GLAZEBURY based Bents Garden & Home has won the Garden Centre Association's 2017 title of Best Christmas Display in the Country, beating off strong competition from other centres within the region and throughout the UK.**

The coveted title was presented to Bents following an extensive judging process which saw centres from throughout the UK hosting spot visits by the Garden Centre Association (GCA) to determine regional winners as well as the overall national title.

Centres are judged on their innovation, inspiration and the excitement created by the way Christmas products are displayed and the 2017 national title is yet another cause for celebration at the family owned and run business. The announcement comes in a very special year for Bents as it is also celebrating its 80th anniversary; 80 years since founders Alfred and Margaret Bent started to sell roses from their front garden just yards from the Centre's current location.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "What a fantastic start to the festive season, especially in what

is our 80th year; a great way to celebrate our anniversary.

"The title is a credit to all of our Christmas colleagues who work extremely hard throughout the year to deliver a magical experience. Everything, in all our displays has been designed, created, fashioned, built, painted by our own in-house team of experts both on the shop floor and behind the scenes and we would like to say a big thank you to each and every one of them for their continued commitment to creating our spectacular displays."

Bents is also the current holder of the GCA's title of Best Destination Centre in the North West, recording one of the top audit scores in the country for the wider centre. It has now been shortlisted for the national title of Best Destination Garden Centre in the UK, which will be announced at the annual conference in January, following a second, similarly strict audit.



## Art group exhibitions

FOLLOWING on from their annual exhibition at the Culcheth Centre, Culcheth Art Group are taking their show on the road.

The exhibition includes special displays on Warrington's industrial heritage and the Manchester Ship Canal.

The group are exhibiting at the Gallery at Bank Quay House, Sankey Street, Warrington, until January 12. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.



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# School's anti-bullying message to village

**NEWCHURCH Primary School, Culcheth decided to make a lasting impression on pupils and the village in general to mark Anti-Bullying Week.**

They approached businesses, other schools and organisations asking them to join them in making a "Zero Tolerance to Bullying" pledge.

The school has been recognised for some years for its excellent work on anti-bullying and received a "gold" in the Warrington Wise-up Awards for two consecutive years.

This year's pledge was to education all stakeholders on what constitutes bullying, to develop a culture where whistle-blowing

on bullying is seen as everyone's responsibility and detailing with any incidents of bullying and trying to make sure they are stopped.

Pupils were delighted with the response of the other groups they approached and congratulated them on committing to make the village a happier, safer place.

To raise the profile of their message, they dressed the village in blue bows post boxes, lamp posts, railings, etc.

They also wore blue ribbons on

one day of the campaign.

Next year, they hope to spread the pledge to the whole village – and anyone interested in joining in should contact the school office or visit the school website [www.newchurchprimary.co.uk/website](http://www.newchurchprimary.co.uk/website)

Anti-hate and anti-bullying campaigner Adrian Derbyshire, who launched #SASSY (Support Against Self Harm & Suicide in Youth) following the tragic death of his own daughter Julia Derbyshire,

who took her own life after being a victim of online bullying, recently visited the school.

He said: "I have visited nearly every school in Warrington in recent years and have to say Newchurch is one of the best at dealing with the issue of bullying. They are an exemplar school when it comes to the issue of raising awareness about hate crime and the impact cyber bullying has on victims."



## Croft Parish Council News



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01925 766641  
[keithbland1@gmail.com](mailto:keithbland1@gmail.com)



Martyn Griffiths  
(Deputy Chair)  
07982 110490



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Carole Thewsey  
07742 567055  
[cas.t@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cas.t@hotmail.co.uk)

### Christmas Lights Switch on

The Croft Parish Council switch on of the lights will take place on the Croft Playing Field car park on Friday 1st December 2017 at 6.00pm followed by carol singing by the local schools. Everybody welcome.

The Parish Councillors would also like to wish all the residents of Croft a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

### Warrington Borough Local Plan Consultation

Croft Parish Council has objected most strongly to the proposals by developers to build a large number of houses on the Green Belt around our Village. Parish Councillors made their own submissions, objecting to the proposals, and the Parish Council has joined up with Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council and Winwick Parish Council to engage a Planning Consultant to draw up and submit a more detailed response to Warrington Borough Council. There will be a more detailed local plan submission by WBC in the new year. You can be assured that we will keep you informed of it as soon as we receive it.

### Local evening bus service

We have been in contact with the Chairman of Bus Company Network Warrington who has replied that they may soon be able to issue favourable news about the evening bus service. We are determined not to let this drop until we have a satisfactory outcome.

### Croft Parish Plan

We are looking for volunteers from businesses, residents & local organisations from the Parish to help us put together a Parish Plan in the new year. We can use the Plan for not only fighting the Borough Council's Local Plan but just as importantly, to try and attract more facilities and services to our Parish. If you have the time and would like help please contact the Parish Clerk [Email:croftparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:croftparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:croftparishcouncil@gmail.com) Twitter: @croftparish Web: [www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk](http://www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk)



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# Care home residents have a hoot!

**RESIDENTS at Holcroft Grange in Culcheth had a hoot during a visit to the home by a barn owl and a tawny owl, who were brought in by their keeper, Pam Graham.**

The activity is part of the home's varied programme of animal assisted therapy (AAT), which is shown to have health benefits for older people, particularly those with dementia.

The residents got to stroke the birds as they were paraded around the room. Some residents wore a leather gauntlet so that their new feathered friends could perch on their arms.

The owl visit coincided with a trip to the home by children from Culcheth Primary School, and the residents enjoyed chatting with the schoolchildren, as much as they did interacting with the birds of prey. The visits to Holcroft Grange have become a weekly occurrence for children.

Lillian Benson (86), a resident

of Holcroft Grange, said: "I loved every minute of the owl visit. The birds were so beautiful. As always, it was wonderful to chat to the schoolchildren as well."

Nicola Newens, activities coordinator at Holcroft Grange, said: "The owl visit was a great morning! It was heart-warming to see the residents' faces light up as they petted the birds. We understand that interaction with animals is recognised to have mental and physical benefits for older people."

"The visits from the pupils at Culcheth Primary School are also proving really beneficial for our residents. The interaction is brilliant, and the residents and children love asking each other questions. Afterwards, there's a noticeable lift in the residents' spirits and everyone's very talkative."



Resident George Hodgson (83) holding the barn owl.



Resident Brenda Coleridge (92) stroking the barn owl while it rests on her arm.



A pupil from Culcheth Primary School strokes the barn owl.

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# Students busy fundraising for trip of lifetime

**CULCHETH High School students Hannah Hughes and Ashlea Smith have shown excellent initiative in arranging fundraising activities throughout the past year to gain funds for their expedition to Nepal next year.**

The two girls, who are currently studying in year 9 at the school wrote a letter of application about the trip before the fundraising began.

They have been selling cakes in the CPS Centre, Culcheth which was kindly offered as a venue by the centre and Dragonfly Delights owner Sue Elkin.

Sue said, "I support local fundraising and it was my pleasure to offer the students a place to hold their cake stall and tombola."

Hannah said, "I wanted to have a new outlook on life and see

how other people live in different countries.

"We have so far raised £1500 towards the trip which will include a six-day hike to Nepal where Ashlea, myself and several other students will help to rebuild a school that was destroyed during an earthquake in 2015."

Hannah's Mum, Ceri Hughes added, "I am really proud of my daughter who is going to be embarking on a life changing experience with her friends.

"They have shown excellent initiative in the project which

increases their self-esteem as well as allowing them to build confidence in group work and making new friends."

The trip will take place from the middle of July after their year 9 study has been completed.

Learning about the world with this extra-curricular activity will certainly inspire the students involved to continue their education at College and University."

Photographs by Silver Arrow Photography



Ceri Hughes (Left), Ashlea Smith (centre), Hannah Hughes (right).

## Italian bar and grill opens its doors

Il Cortile Italian Bar and Grill opens its doors on Common Lane in Culcheth on December 13.

Italian tastes and flavours are the heart and soul of Il Cortile and they are 100 per cent committed to sourcing the best quality ingredients around to provide the best Italian food for miles.

The menus incorporate the best and freshest seasonal produce, Italian cheeses, meat and seafood, all delivering pure classic Italian flavours.

Il Cortile fuse a distinctive Italian atmosphere with relaxed elegance where guests will feel at ease instantly whether dining in the

restaurant or eating at the bar from a delicious chicchetti menu which will be introduced in the New Year

The bar is the perfect place to enjoy a drink with friends or sample great cocktails -with an emphasis on classics, craft beers, Italian wines and champagne.

Il Cortile is closed on Mondays but open for lunch and dinner Tuesday-Sunday and caters for weddings, christenings, business lunches and birthday parties.

It is always advisable to book, either through Facebook or by calling 01925 737733 or 07763 806656.



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# Christmas Marke

Pictures: Graham Young & Gary Skentelbery

**THE annual Christmas Market at Culcheth was once again a huge success, despite the non appearance of a proposed ice rink in the village due to an unfortunate accident involving the supplier.**

Paul Taylor from Taylor Business Park, who sponsored the event, including a £250 prize for the most "Christmassy" stall of the market, said: "It was a fantastic day! The weather held out pretty well and the village was packed.

"Deciding on the winning stall was tricky.. A lot of them had made a serious effort and I imagine it'll be even tougher next year. We gave the award to Crafty Crafters as the stall was well decorated and they had a really good variety of Christmas themed gifts, a lot of them hand made.

"Loads of others did a really job though. Most of the stalls had put on a good effort to decorate their spaces this year which helps push the theme on the day..

"We really appreciate everyone's

understanding about the ice rink. We're really sorry that it wasn't there on the day and lots of people passed on their hopes and wishes that the chap from the company makes a speedy recovery. We're learning every year and next year we'll make sure we use a bigger supplier so that there's less chance of it not appearing if one key person can't make it on the day."

The Christmas Market has replaced the previous Victorian Day and is organised by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and supported by Taylor Business Park and other sponsors, including Bents Garden & Home.

Deputy Mayor of Warrington Cllr Karen Mundry was on hand to show her support.



*Sophia and Olivia Hunt meet Santa at Culcheth Methodists Church.*



*Charlie and Ian Bent visit the police stand.*



# et is huge success



The Prize winning stall.



The Parish council team.



Deputy Mayoress Karen Mundry.



Jane and Wendy from the Fizzy Cart.



Elf Cath from Diamond Designs.

## The Gardening Guide



“ Many trees and shrubs bring colour and interest to the winter garden and now is a good time to see where the gaps are ”

Simon Box,  
Plant Area Specialist

- Natural food is at its scarcest at this time of year so keep your bird feeders stocked up at all times - look after your feathered friends
- Evergreen plants come into their own over the winter and stems may be cut and used in arrangements
- Improve the structure of clay soils by digging in plenty of bulky organic matter such as composted bark
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# Long-serving councillors open remodelled pub

**LONG-serving councillors Keith and Sue Bland were invited to do the honours when Culcheth's Cherry Tree pub officially re-opened as a Sizzling Pub & Grill.**

The husband-and-wife team cut the ribbon as the re-modelled pub re-opened.

Cllr Keith Bland said "Sue and I were thrilled to have been given the honour of officially reopening the Cherry Tree following its big refurbishment.

"The Cherry Tree is a great pub

and is right in the heart of the village. The whole team have done brilliantly to pull everything together, they've done an excellent job of it.

"We've been in the village for 40 years and it's always been a good family pub - we're so happy to see that continue."

General manager Mike Davies, said: "We're so pleased at how brilliant the Cherry Tree looks following the remodel, and we were thrilled to have had Keith and Sue cut the ceremonial ribbon for us.

"Keith and Sue have been a big part of the local community for some time now, and the work they do is very much appreciated by everyone in the area. We wanted to make our reopening a special occasion and thought of no one better to reopen the pub for us than Keith and Sue. They are true local heroes.

"Bringing the new look Sizzling Pub & Grill to Culcheth is really exciting for the whole team. At Siz-

zling Pub & Grill, we want to offer good food and good value for all our guests, and we're thrilled to be providing the area with a new dining destination that does that in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere.

Following the refurbishment, The Cherry Tree will continue to look to support the local community with a calendar of fundraising initiatives throughout the year.

For more information, or to make a booking at the new look Cherry Tree, please visit their website

[www.sizzlingpubs.co.uk/findapub/northeast/thecherrytree-warrington](http://www.sizzlingpubs.co.uk/findapub/northeast/thecherrytree-warrington) or call 01925 762624.

## Pupils visit care home

CHILDREN, staff and parents from Croft Early Years Nursery and Pre-School took the number 19 bus from Croft into Culcheth to visit the residents and staff at Holcroft Grange.

The warm welcome they received at the care home soon put everyone at ease and along with toast and milk started the visit off really well. Everyone chatted



and shared stories and then played with pumpkin playdoh and enjoyed gluing and sticking collage pumpkin pictures. After a quick tidy up, everyone really joined in the singing which led into a wonderful time of "show and tell" with the children and residents taking time to tell one another about their possessions, which ranged from toys to photographs to jewellery and musical instruments.

This first visit was one of three that Croft Early Years have planned in partnership with parents and staff at Holcroft Grange.

However, an extra visit has been slotted in as everyone enjoyed the visit so much.



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# Plans well underway for Newchurch Christmas Festival

**PLANS** are well underway for the 12th Christmas Tree and Crib Festival at Culcheth's Newchurch Parish Church which takes place over the weekend of December 8-10.

The festival brings together all elements of the community to truly celebrate the festive season.

Local schools, businesses and organisations exhibit a tree or crib in the selected theme, this year's being 'Christmas Carols & Songs'. The church is then filled with festive cheer across the weekend giving it a magical atmosphere which captivates all those who visit.

Activities across the weekend include the local primary schools visiting the church on Friday 8th and singing Christmas carols and songs:

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

On Saturday between 2 o'clock and 4 o'clock there are supervised children's crafts and

activities and light refreshments are available throughout the day.

For those who enjoy a musical interlude, on Friday 8th @7.30p.m. there is a brass concert by Integra with Craig Mann. Tickets are just £8.00 and include a mince pie and glass of mulled wine, excellent value for a superb night's entertainment (tickets available from Spotless Dry Cleaners, Lodge Drive). On Saturday December 9 at 7.30 pm Culcheth Choir will performing a concert.

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

Over the 10-year period the festival has raised over £4,500 for local charities, this year the festival will be supporting 'The Children's Society - Warrington Project' as well as Church funds.

Entrance to the event is a £1.50 donation with children free.



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Culcheth Community Primary welcomes individual visits from parents/carers of children who are due to start school in September 2018.

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**01925 764312**

[www.culchethprimary.co.uk](http://www.culchethprimary.co.uk)

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Ofsted June 2017

**Our School Values**



- Respect
- Teamwork
- Honesty and trust
- Friendship and kindness
- Creativity and courage
- Happiness, fun and enjoyment



# 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

*Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year*

## The Local Plan

We joined with Croft, Winwick and Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Councils to put in a detailed response to the Local Plan Preferred Option using a planning consultant. Our aim is to retain our Green Belt boundaries, but we also responded constructively to the issues raised. The Borough Council will now look at all the responses and the Draft Local Plan will come out for consultation in the New Year. It is important that any issues raised in the preferred option continue to be looked at before the Draft comes out, and if you have any information or queries please let us know.

## Government Consultation

As part of looking at wider issues we, together with Croft Parish Council, replied to a National Consultation on changing the way the housing figures are calculated. This is important as it affects what happens at Borough Level.

## HS2

The preferred route 2b, Crewe to Bamfurlong, was announced last year, and what happens at Crewe was/is still being discussed. We continue to oppose the Golborne Link but where possible meet with HS2 to point out the problems with the route itself. We also raise the serious difficulties caused by blocking our villages' access roads during construction. Transport consultants working on behalf of HS2 have been doing traffic surveys during November, on Warrington Road (Taylors to Birchwood to M62 J11, plus at the Greyhound), the Wilton/Kenyon Lanes junction as well as roads in Lowton, Golborne, Lane Head and Holcroft Lane South of the M62.

## Culcheth Library

The Friends of Culcheth Library have been working to add to the Library provision to ensure its future. Current proposals are for the Parish office to be there as well as a well-being hub. There would be opportunities for wider use of rooms.

## Defibrillator Training

The Parish Council has approved funding for Defibrillator Training for interested businesses and residents. If you would like to take part please get in touch with the clerk at [culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com](mailto:culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com) with full contact details.

## Mee Brow Play Area

The Borough consultation has closed and we await the proposals for this much needed improvement.

## SIDs

We are pleased that the Borough Council has agreed to our and residents' requests that the 30mph speed limit begins earlier on Warrington Road well before Newchurch Lane. You will also see more SIDs, speed Indicator devices, in our villages.

How to get involved in all the issues in our villages - Contact your Parish (and Borough) Councillors and also:

1. Come to our monthly Parish meeting where at the beginning the Police give a report and take questions from councillors and residents. At the end the meeting is thrown open to the public for anyone to raise issues. Our next one is on Tuesday, December 12th, at 7.30p.m. in the Culcheth Centre on Jackson Avenue.
2. Look on our website, [culchethandglazebury.org.uk](http://culchethandglazebury.org.uk)
3. If you can, attend the quarterly Community meetings, which are held on a Wednesday at 1.30pm in Culcheth High School. If you cannot go to these meetings you can still go on the mailing list to get minutes and general information. Contacts: - [eastneighbourhoods@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:eastneighbourhoods@warrington.gov.uk) or Cllr J.Grime.
4. Volunteer to help with the many sports teams and uniformed organisations that do so much for the young people in our villages. There is also a new group set up to look at further youth provision. Contact them directly from their publicity or again go via parish councillors.

*Thanks to all who helped to make the  
Christmas Market on November 25th a success*

## 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, in Culcheth Library and on our website [www.culchethandglazebury.org.uk](http://www.culchethandglazebury.org.uk)

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GROUP BOOKINGS: 0843 208 6003



# Walking football team riding high

**JUST 12 months after launching, the Culcheth Walking Football Team are riding high.**

They had a highly successful first season against teams that had been established for some years. Now they are turning out two good six-a-side teams who can compete at any level, according to spokesman Denis Sutherland. Both teams played in the St Helens Football Festival and the Warrington Disability Trust, where they beat local rivals Great Sankey. St Helens Beacons have visited Culcheth twice at Culcheth High

School – and were well beaten on both occasions. The Culcheth teams train on Tuesday evenings, from 7pm to 8pm, at the high school and would welcome new players to enable them to compete in other tournaments next year. Said Denis: "Culcheth Sports Club have been most generous with their support and equipment, kit and balls."

## All change at Newchurch WI

THE November meeting saw big changes for Newchurch WI. Eileen Griffiths greeted members for the first time as president and June Cope sat beside her as secretary. Eileen also had to greet a very large number of November "birthday girls" after thanking Aileen Paterson for the pretty plant given for the President's table. Speaker was Graham Stirrup and his topic was "Women in World War One". He set the scene by showing attitudes to women in earlier times, from "Wife Sales" to the lack of property rights and education chances up to 1900. Queen Victoria was no help to her female subjects, it seems. Graham used cartoons, newspaper cuttings and early films to show the struggles for better chances for all classes

of women. The war when it came gave the women all sorts of new jobs, but only when the country was facing starvation and defeat. At last the government used this labour force for real work on farms and in factories. They even kept trams and buses going and they enjoyed the pay and the independence. After 1918 some women got the vote but the better-paid jobs went to men. Women's rights still had a long way to go! Sylvia Brown thanked Graham and he judged the competition for World War One memento. Jean Riley was the winner, with Trudy MacDonald and Aileen Paterson as second and third. Freda Wilcock and Margaret Wilkinson then served tea, followed by a Food Quiz.

## A mixed bag of music

THE Three Towns Operatic Society presented a mixed bag of music at a concert at Culcheth Methodist Church recently. There were songs from the shows, popular music and some classical. For further details on the Society call 01925 764179.

## Pre-school busy collecting Christmas shoeboxes

CHILDREN, parents and staff at Croft Early Years pre-school have been busy collecting items for Christmas Shoeboxes over the last three weeks. The pre-school went into partnership with the charity Linktohope to fill the boxes with gifts for needy families and elderly people in Eastern Europe. Items ranged from such as gloves and toothbrushes to games and art and craft items.

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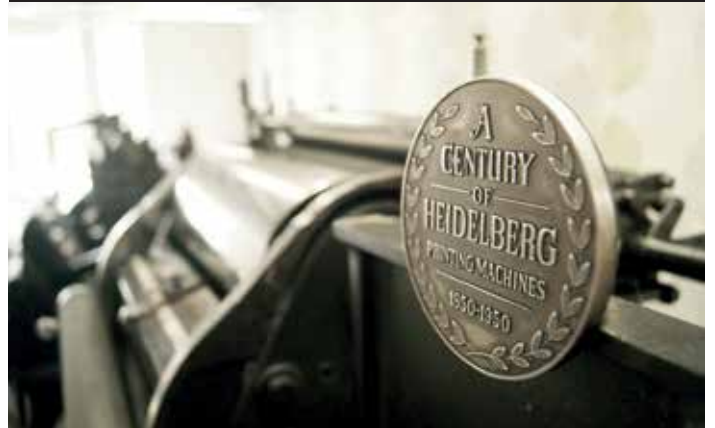
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