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Issue: 178
January 2018

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**Drama group to
celebrate 60 years**

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Editor's Comment



THE news that Culcheth Library – along with all the others across the borough – is no longer under immediate threat of closure is indeed welcome.

There is, of course, still the proviso that there must be a "robust business case" for keeping each library open, but given the progress already made by the new "Friends" group, the commitment already shown by the borough council and the generally high levels of literacy in the Culcheth area, its future should surely not be doubtful.

The Friends say they expect the library to stay open and we agree with them.

Culcheth Library serves a much wider area than the village itself. People living in Glazebury, Glazebrook, Croft and even Winwick have no nearer library and we have no doubt some of them use it.

But of course, the issue of usage lies at the heart of the problem. If libraries had been in recent times attracting readers as they once did, there would never have been any question of closing any of them.

Residents of Culcheth and surrounding areas are, as we have already said, a pretty literate bunch, but they are vulnerable to the lure of the internet and social media as anyone else.

An impressive number of voices were raised in protest when it was first suggested the library might be in danger. Let all those people now put their money where their mouths are and make sure they use the library.

Deadly Dedicoat helps charity

THE BBC'S Alan Dedicoat – the "voice of the balls" on the National Lottery show was again at Culcheth's Village Club to host a quiz in aid of BBC Children in Need.

The event was a sell out success and raised a total of £2003. It finished as a tie-breaker with the winning team having to guess the colour of his socks!



Deadline for the February issue of Culcheth Life January 16



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Drama group set to celebrate 60 years

AMATEUR drama group Culcheth Players will celebrate 60 years of "treading the boards" this year - starting with a production of the pantomime "Adladdin."

Sponsored by Culcheth Day Nursery the show will run from Friday, February 16 to Sunday February 18 with evening performances at 7.30pm on the Friday and Saturday and matinee performances at 2pm on the Saturday and Sunday.

Directed by Jane Lyne, the show promises plenty of laughs, songs to join in with and of course plenty of audience participation.

Tickets are going quickly, are only £6 and can be bought from

Culcheth Sports Club (behind the bar) or can be reserved by calling: 07548 598 898 and leaving your details.

Culcheth Players formed in 1958 and have in the past had many of the Cheshire Theatre Guild's nominations and awards for the quality of their productions. These have been gained in various categories for both acting and non acting aspects of their work.

Productions enjoy the use of the 200 seat main hall at Culcheth Sports Club. Each season the group presents three plays, a panto in February and then plays in June and October. Regular weekly meetings and/or rehearsal nights

are every Monday night in the main hall from 8pm to 10pm

Productions are varied and include period plays, drama, whodunnit and comedy.

Secretary Sue Rogers said "We are always looking for new members, both acting and non acting, since there is much to be done 'behind the scenes' as well as on stage."

"Our small drama group relies on the support of the local community and anyone interested in joining is welcome."

More details can be found on the website www.culchethplayers.co.uk.

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Cast for the pantomime is:
 Aladdin - Benedict Percival, So-Shi - Layla Buxton, Widow Twankey - Dave McManus, Emperor Pengwinn - Lee Rigby, Empress Pengwinn - Julia Nellist, The Evil Abanazar - Phil Ratcliffe, Wishee Washee - Ayesha Morris, Cheap - Gillian Elliott, Cheerful - Justine Domville, Desert Sunrise - Christine Boardman, Golden Mountain - Rosemary Powell, Ping - Graeme Walker, Pong - Laurence Harrison, Pharaoh - Esther Slater, Slave of the Ring - Hannah Mitchell, Genie Al-Hty - Susan Rogers.



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A message of hope sent to a stranger

MP Helen Jones dropped in at Newchurch Parish Hall, Culcheth to sign up to Warrington Amnesty Group's "Write for Right" campaign.

It was the fourth year the event had taken place and the Warrington North MP makes a point of supporting it.

Each year, globally, thousands of people send cards and write letters on behalf of strangers they are never likely to meet but whose story of injustice, abuse or wrongful imprisonment touches their heart and motivates them to take action.

One such person is Egyptian women's rights lawyer Azza Soliman who has dedicated her life to defending victims of torture, arbitrary detention, domestic abuse and rape and now faces imprisonment on the grounds that she is a threat to national security.

Ms Jones said: "I am pleased to support this event once again. Now



Helen Jones signs her message card.

in its fourth year, it has become established in the local community. The messages of support sent to people around the world are so much appreciated by those who receive them – human rights abuses must be highlighted and as much pressure as possible put on governments to end such activities."

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Friends group expect library to stay open

THE Friends of Culcheth Library now expect to see the village library stay open, following the decision by the borough council's executive board to maintain all existing library provision in the town.

But the borough's commitment is subject to a "robust business case" being established for each individual library – and that may prove more difficult at Culcheth than in some areas because of the condition of the building.

Costly roof repairs are needed which means the borough will have to explore the possibility of capital investment to enable potential partners who have expressed an interest in renting space in the building, to develop their offer.

But the land on which the library is sited is subject to a covenant that it should be used for a library or similar community use, which strengthens the case for maintaining the library.

Cllr Joan Grime, a member of both the borough council and Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, is secretary of the Friends of Culcheth Library.

She said: "We now expect to see the library stay open and will be very active at looking at ways to ensure it continues. We have to show there is a robust business case for keeping the library open."

The Friends have already launched a drive to find "well-being champions."

The idea is to find about 30

volunteers who would be trained by a specialist social enterprise to learn how to practically reduce anxiety and help others grow their own positive well-being. Teenagers, working age people and older people are needed as "champions".

Once trained the champions, based at the library, would volunteer their time to support and help others to champion positive well-being support across the village.

Anyone interested in getting involved is asked to contact Cllr Grime by emailing CllrJoan.Grime@warrington.gov.uk

The "rescue plan" for libraries across the borough was approved unanimously by the borough council's executive board after they had received a report from chief executive Steven Broomhead, chairman of a working party set up to review library provision.

Four recommendations were approved.

1. To commit to maintain Warrington's existing libraries provision and keep all existing libraries open, subject to robust business cases that deliver the outcomes of a new Libraries Partnership Group. These matters will be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services in conjunction with the Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Community.

2. To support the Vision for Warrington Libraries.

3. To provide up to £1m in the council's capital programme to support a planned programme of repairs, maintenance and investment identified in the individual library cases and to support the investment in the book fund.

4. To approve the development of a new Libraries Partnership Group chaired by the director of corporate services which will oversee the development of a new partnership strategy for libraries and establish a new set of performance measures.

The council's lead member for leisure and community, Cllr Tony Higgins, outlined the proposals saying there had been no "u-turn" by the council as the decision was being made following extensive consultation.

He said: "I've said from day one that we will listen closely to residents on this important issue. These recommendations are the result of months of hard work, with

the views of local people always at the heart of the discussions.

"I would like to thank all members of the working group who have worked so hard and so positively together. The financial climate is not getting any easier, but I have been enthused by the ideas put forward by local communities on how libraries can work in partnership with local groups, parish councils and small businesses.

Cllr Russ Bowden, deputy leader of the council and lead member for corporate finance pointed out that the council still had to achieve £300,000 savings within the budget, so it was important for the Business Cases to stack up.

Under the plans, libraries operator LiveWire and the council will maximise resources by working with external partners at a number of libraries to create "mini hubs", with integrated services focusing on learning, wellbeing and community.





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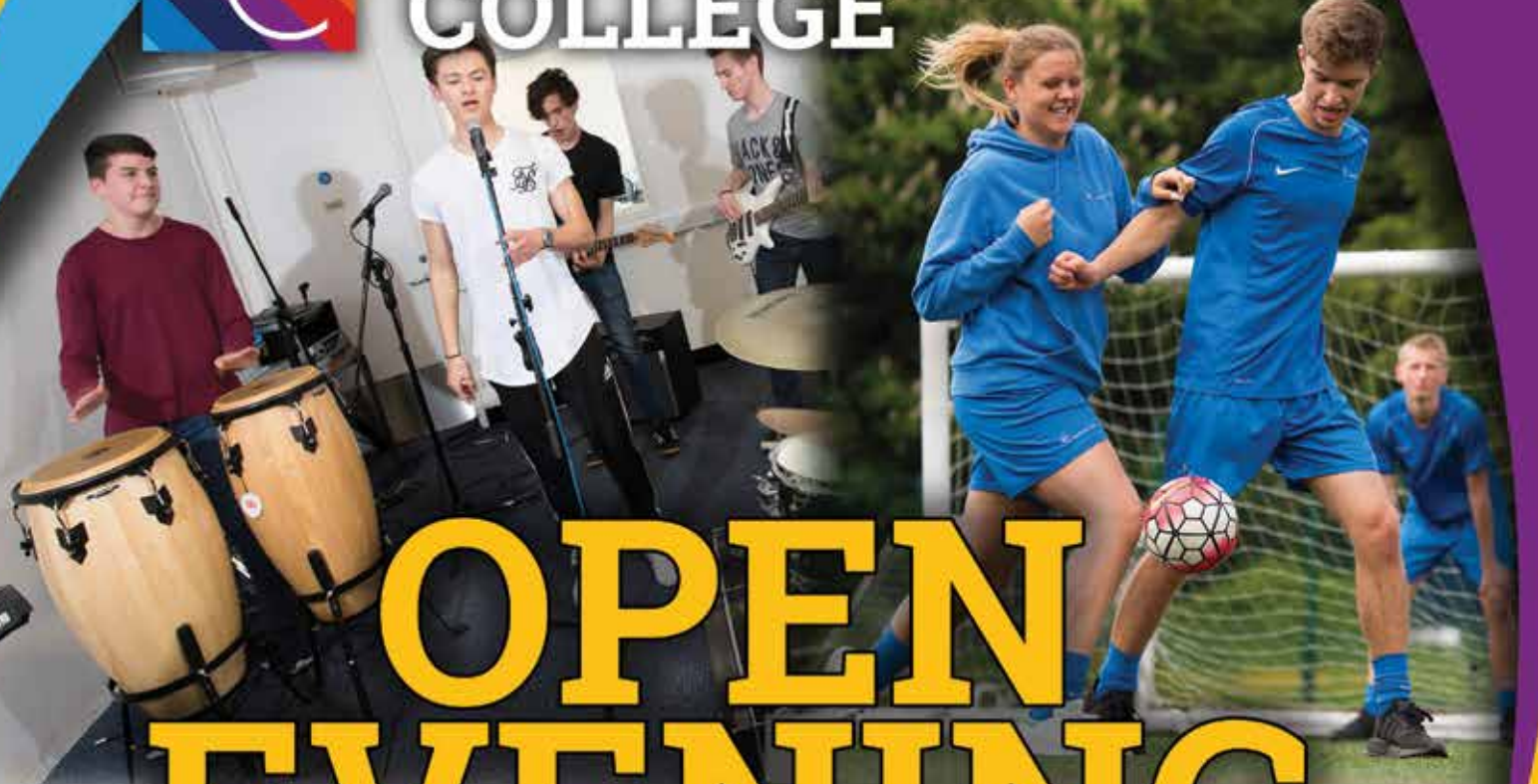
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Crimefighting Fund celebrates a successful first 18 months

A Crimefighting Fund set up by Cheshire Police is celebrating a successful first 18 months supporting community organisations.

The fund was created for supporting organisations which help the police to protect and support victims of crime. An initial £25,000 was donated to the fund in April 2016 – cash which was generated from the auction of seized and unclaimed property – with a further £40,000 donated in September.

The funding is then distributed with the advice of the Cheshire Community Foundation.

Chief Inspector Alan Fairclough said: "I have the pleasure of working with the Cheshire Community Foundation Grants Panel which has provided me with improved knowledge of charitable law and applications which I have cascaded to our staff who volunteer in charities.

"So far the Crimefighting fund has granted £51,000 to help 11 local charities to provide support to over 6,500 beneficiaries to reduce vulnerability, crime and improve safety. This includes Cheshire Anti-Slavery network, The Hardman Trust and Women's Housing Action Group.

"I was particularly impressed with the Youth Federation bid in July 2017 who are tackling the growing concerns around cyber security threats and the shortfall in cyber professionals.

"Through school events across Cheshire, the half-day sessions are enabling over 200 female students to learn more about the cyber industry, cyber security careers and to take part in coding and encryption challenges. As a result of the events more young girls will also be better informed about their career options in the cyber industry."

Zoe Sheppard, CEO of the Cheshire Community Foundation, said: "We are thrilled with the impact the Cheshire Crimefighting Fund has had over the last 18 months and the partnership that has developed between our two organisations. Cheshire Police have funded a great number of incredibly worthwhile projects tackling issues which are prevalent but widely overlooked, including modern slavery and cyber-crime which can have a devastating effect on our local community."

Acting Chief Constable, Janette McCormick, said: "We are delighted that we have been able to support so many people locally who are in real need of support. Cheshire Community Foundation has connected us to some incredible charities who are working with people in our local community to tackle real issues, changing many lives for the better."

Any one who would like some advice on how to apply for a grant or further details of the projects supported then please visit www.cheshirecommunityfoundation.org.uk

Long service awards for WI members



PRESIDENT Lin Hayes presented long-service certificates to a number of members of Lowton Women's Institute at their Christmas Party.

There was music, games, dancing and laughter and even a visit from Santa.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, February 1 at All Saints Social Centre, Golborne, at 7.15.

New members are always welcome and can contact Lin Hayes on 01942 207764

Bents help make Christmas special for Jasmine



TO help celebrate the launch of its brand new website, Bents Garden & Home ran a festive competition to find a very special person who deserved to have Christmas made for them, with an impressive prize package worth over £1000.

With hundreds of entries, the decision to choose a winner was one of the hardest ever made, but having considered all nominations a unanimous winner was chosen and Bents welcomed 15 year old Jasmine Beedles and her family to the Centre to collect the prize.

Jasmine, who was nominated by her mum, Samantha, has a life limiting heart and lung disease which means each Christmas could be her last, so her family plans to make Christmas 2017 even more extra special than usual. Jasmine goes through so much every day, and is on a ventilator and oxygen to breathe for her and is fully wheelchair dependent.

Samantha said: "When she is well enough Jasmine loves coming to Bents, especially to look at the Christmas decorations so when we saw this competition we knew we had to enter! We are delighted to have won and plan to turn her bedroom – and outside her bedroom window – into a little grotto so when she is too unwell to get out of bed she can enjoy looking at all the lights."

From Christmas trees, indoor Christmas lights, ornaments and decorations to homewares, seasonal plants, gifts and festive pet treats, Bents has everything required for the perfect celebration and in what is its 80th year it wanted to make someone's festivities even more special in the shape of a fabulous Christmas prize.

Says Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home: "2017 has been a very special year for Bents, celebrating our 80th anniversary and launching our new website so we wanted to extend the celebrations and make it a special year for someone else too. And we really hope we have been able to do that for Jasmine. It was a very difficult decision, as there were so many amazing entries, but Jasmine's story stood out and having met her we know she really is someone very special."

Worth over £1000, the prize includes a 2.3m pre-lit Christmas tree, a 1.2m outdoor LED snowman, a charming Christmas carol scene with moving figures and £250 worth of Bents vouchers, which Jasmine was able to spend at her leisure.

The Gardening Guide



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Simon Box,
Plant Area Specialist

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Senior Maths Challenge regional winners!

A LEVEL Maths and Further Maths students at Carmel College have won the 'Senior Team Maths Challenge' Regional Finals against 22 other schools and colleges.

The competition involved teams of four students completing a series of challenges over a three-hour period. There were three rounds in total, each testing the group's ability in different ways. They had

to work quickly and precisely as a team to solve extremely challenging mathematical problems.

Congratulations to Bethany Anderson, Ben Hesford, David Xu and Dominic Francis. The team will now progress to the National Finals to represent the Liverpool region in February at Westminster in London.

Students are pictured with Principal Mike Hill and Maths Tutor Jonny Lovell.



Music student to study at world renowned Conservatoire!

CARMEL College Upper Sixth student, Lydia Hutton, who has been offered a place at the world renowned Royal Birmingham Conservatoire!

Alongside studying for her A Levels in Music, Psychology and Photography, outside of college Lydia, who began learning the cello when she was 7, is also studying for her ATCL Performance Diploma.

This is a professional qualification recognised by musicians and music professionals around the world.

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire offered Lydia a place so long as she achieves a minimum of two grade E's in her A Levels, so they must have been extremely impressed with her audition!

Lydia said: "I decided to apply to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as it is a world renowned college for music. With its brand new building that has just opened, it also has the best music facilities in the UK with unparalleled opportunities."



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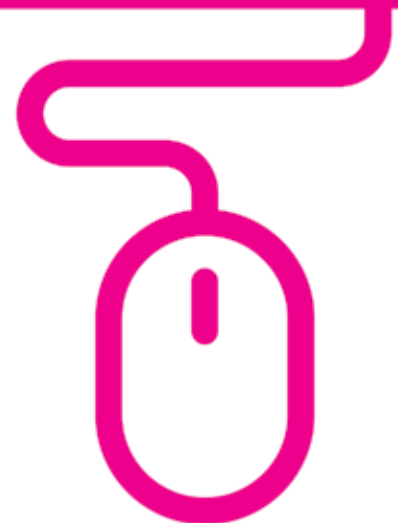
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*2017 known destinations

Daisy lends Mr Tumble a hand on CBeebies

GLAZEBURY youngster Daisy Cooper-Kelly is certainly making an impact on the TV and movie screens.

After securing a role in the 2017 film *Apostasy* starring Siobhan Finneran, which centres around a Jehovah's Witness family drama, which had its debut at the Toronto Film Festival, she is now voicing on *Something Special* on CBeebies.

Daisy aged nine, who has been attending Little Stars Stage School since she was 4 years old is currently voicing *Something Special* for CBeebies and has recorded 25 episodes, including the Christmas Special, in MediaCity over three days.

She plays the part of the child that the key character, Mr Tumble, speaks with throughout each episode and prompts him not to forget his 'Tumble Tap' and also asks him about the Makaton

signing that this series is famed for.

Her first role was when she was just five-years-old in an ITV drama called *The Trials of Jimmy Rose*, with Ray Winstone and Amanda Redman. She then followed this with a role in BBC's *The A Word* with Christopher Eccleston.

In addition, she has also modelled for Aldi and voiced on TV commercials.

Daisy also plays the Violin and is a member of Wigan and Leigh String Orchestra and she attends Hayward School of Dance where she learns ballet. Whilst she enjoys the Performing Arts, she is also a keen artist and hopes to be an Illustrator when she grows up, but will keep her acting going in between drawing!

Her younger sister, Rosie, also voices on a CBeebies TV Series called *School of Roars*, so they can swap notes on recording sessions!



Students fundraising for trip of lifetime

Culcheth High School students Hannah Hughes, and Ashlea Smith have been busy arranging fundraising activities throughout the past year to gain funds for their expedition to Nepal in 2018.

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

They went on to sell 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 2018 after their year 9 study has been completed.



Photograph by Silver Arrow Photography Ceri Hughes (Left), Ashlea Smith (centre), Hannah Hughes (right).

Village green drainage work set to go ahead

DRAINAGE work costing in the region of £100,000 is to be carried out on the village green at Culcheth – but not until after this year's Community Day in May.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council is to contribute £20,000 towards the urgently needed work and the borough council is including the scheme in its capital programme.

It is expected the borough will contribute £70-£80,000 to the project.

The village green has been subject to severe flooding for

several years. In 2016, the annual Community Day had to be cancelled for the first time in 26 years because the green was flooded.

Last year, a contingency plan was drawn up with plans made to move the event to the Shaw Street playing field car park in the event of heavy rain. In the event, the sun shone and the event was able to go ahead.

Local charities and community organisations are able to promote themselves on Community Day with stalls and displays and there are

also attractions for local children.

Cllr Keith Bland said: "Some people are asking why the work is not being down until after May but we have to try and make sure the weather is suitable for the work to be done."

"Weather permitting, Community Day will go ahead as usual. But we will probably have an emergency back-up plan again, with the event being switched to Shaw Street if necessary."



Cemetery volunteers win praise from council chief

VOLUNTEERS who help to maintain a village cemetery have won praise from a council chief.

Cllr Judith Guthrie, the borough council's lead member for the environment, met members of the Friends of Hollinfare Cemetery at Hollins Green to thank them for their work.

The group not only meet on the last Saturday of each month to carry out maintenance work on the cemetery, they also raise money to enable improvements to be carried out.

For the last six years, the cemetery has won a prestigious Green Flag award, thanks to their efforts.

Cllr Guthrie said: "The Friends of Hollinfare Cemetery should be held up as a perfect model of how voluntary organisations can make a real difference in communities."

Anyone wishing to join the group should contact them on 01925 267731.

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Picture by Eddie Whittam.

New honour for World Cup winner Roger Hunt

CULCHETH based England World Cup winner Roger Hunt MBE has become the latest Patron to join the team at Culture Warrington.

The sporting hero is the latest patron to lend their support to the charitable trust, which manages Parr Hall, Pyramid and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery.

The former Liverpool striker, who started his career with Warrington Town in their Stockton Heath days, was part of the England team during their historic win at the 1966 World Cup.

Roger enjoyed a long career at Liverpool Football Club – where he became the club's record goalscorer, before his record was surpassed by Ian Rush.

The Warrington legend has worked with Culture Warrington previously and put them forward to benefit from £1,966 grant as part of The FA's '66 for 66' programme, set up last year to mark the anniversary of the 1966 success.

Roger said: "I was honoured and privileged to be asked to be a patron for Culture Warrington Charitable Trust.

"I've admired the work of the charity for a number of years and nominated them to receive a grant from the Football Association

last year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1966 world cup win.

"I was pleased to see the donation used to fund a project that helped explore issues which young people face in Warrington today.

"I now look forward to further supporting the fantastic work they

carry out to make arts, culture and heritage accessible to the whole community."

Roger is Culture Warrington's second patron to come on board, after the charity welcomed international pianist, Stephen Hough, back in the summer.

Culture Warrington's chair,

Maureen Banner, added: "We are delighted to have appointed another patron to the charity.

"Roger is really supportive of the work we do to improve access to the culture and heritage for people across the borough and we are looking forward to working more closely with him in the future."



The role of women in World War One

MEMBERS of Culcheth Women's Institute were told of the role women played in World War One at their annual meeting.

But guest speaker Chris Wilkinson first took members back to 1773, when women were the property of their husbands and one man sold his wife for one shilling "with all her faults."

In the Victorian era, London was the largest city in the world, and the country was reliant on coal to drive the new industries.

Women were in service or worked in the mills. Even Queen Victoria objected to women having any rights – she said that "Equality is a mad and evil folly".

In the 1870s, a college for women was opened at Cambridge but there were no degrees awarded until 1948.

When the war started in 1914, men were encouraged to join the army to fight, so there was a shortage of labour. The average number of men joining up was

20,000 per week. One million women joined the workforce, in jobs previously done by men.

The men were sure that the women could not cope with the heavy jobs, but they surprised everyone.

Many middle-class women had trained in first aid and nursing. They offered themselves as volunteers, but the government declined so they went over to Belgium, where they were welcomed.

By this time, the farms were suffering from a shortage of workers,

and there was a severe shortage of food. Many women then joined the Land Army and went to work on the farms, along with injured soldiers and prisoners of war.

The middle classes were told to cut down on the amount of bread they ate, and to eat oysters, lobster and crab instead!

The war ended in 1918, and, as the men returned, women were told by the government to go back to cooking, cleaning and having babies!

Cricket club to be skippered by Aussie



GLAZEBURY Cricket Club will be skippered by an Aussie next season. Anthony Meulman, who topped the 1st XI batting averages last summer, will take over from Jack Warhurst after being voted in at the club's annual meeting and prize night at the Chat Moss Hotel.

Wayne Hargreave, who was 2nd XI captain last season, will stay on in the job.

Other officers elected or re-elected were: Treasurer: Jack Warhurst, press officer and fixtures secretary: Phil McCue; groundsman: Simon Green.

The post of chairman has not yet been filled.

When the silverware was being presented by chairman for the evening Callum Morgan, two players were burdened with three trophies each.

Wayne Hargreaves won the 2nd XI batting prize, the run-getters award with 641 runs and the player's player award while Dave Nicholson was awarded both the 1st XI and the 2nd XI bowling prizes and the prize for the leading wicket taker, with 29.

The trophy for the most improved player went to Nirpal Bansel while the Young Player of the Year was Lewis Nicholson.

New players of all ages are now being sought by the Hurst Lane club – particularly youngsters in the 7-11 age group interested in the All Stars Cricket sessions which proved a great success last summer. Junior co-ordinator is Nirpal Bansel, who can be contacted on 07761 824698.

The club is hoping to get enough enough youngsters to join the Under-11 league next summer.

Winter nets will start soon, probably from February until Easter. Anyone interested can contact them through the club website.

Parish appeal falls on deaf ears

AN appeal by Croft Parish Council for volunteers to help draw up a parish plan appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

No one has come forward to offer to help the parish council to draw up the plan, which could be used to help fight the borough council's Local Plan – which suggests 60 new houses could be built on Green Belt land in the village.

Parish council chairman Cllr Keith Bland said: "I don't think people realise how important a parish plan could be."

"The borough wants to build 60 houses on Green Belt in Croft and everyone in the village says they are opposed to this. But we have not had a single reply to our request for volunteers to help us put the plan together."

"The plan could also be used to try and attract more facilities and services to the parish. A similar plan at Culcheth has proved quite useful."

"It's not just individuals that can get involved but also businesses and organisations such as schools, the WI, the bowling club, pubs, etc."

"We are now thinking of carrying out a survey in the village, asking people what they want and what they don't want. Then perhaps we will hold a meeting to discuss the future of the village."

Anyone who want to get involved should contact the parish clerk at croftparishcouncil@gmail.com or telephone 01925 733766.

Unique WI carol service

NINE Women's Institute choirs gathered at St Helen's Church, Hollins Green for a special carol service.

The service was annual event which has been held for many years involving nine WIs which were formerly in Lancashire before local government reorganisation "moved" them into Cheshire.

It was conducted by the Rev Patricia Gray and each of the choirs sang two carols, interspersed with group singing and readings. Between 180 and 200 WI members took part and after the singing refreshments were served in the village hall.

Glazebrook WI hosted the event and its president, Margaret Hornby, said: "It is a unique gathering which takes place every year and involves WI choirs which were formerly in Lancashire."

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