

Culcheth Life

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February 2018

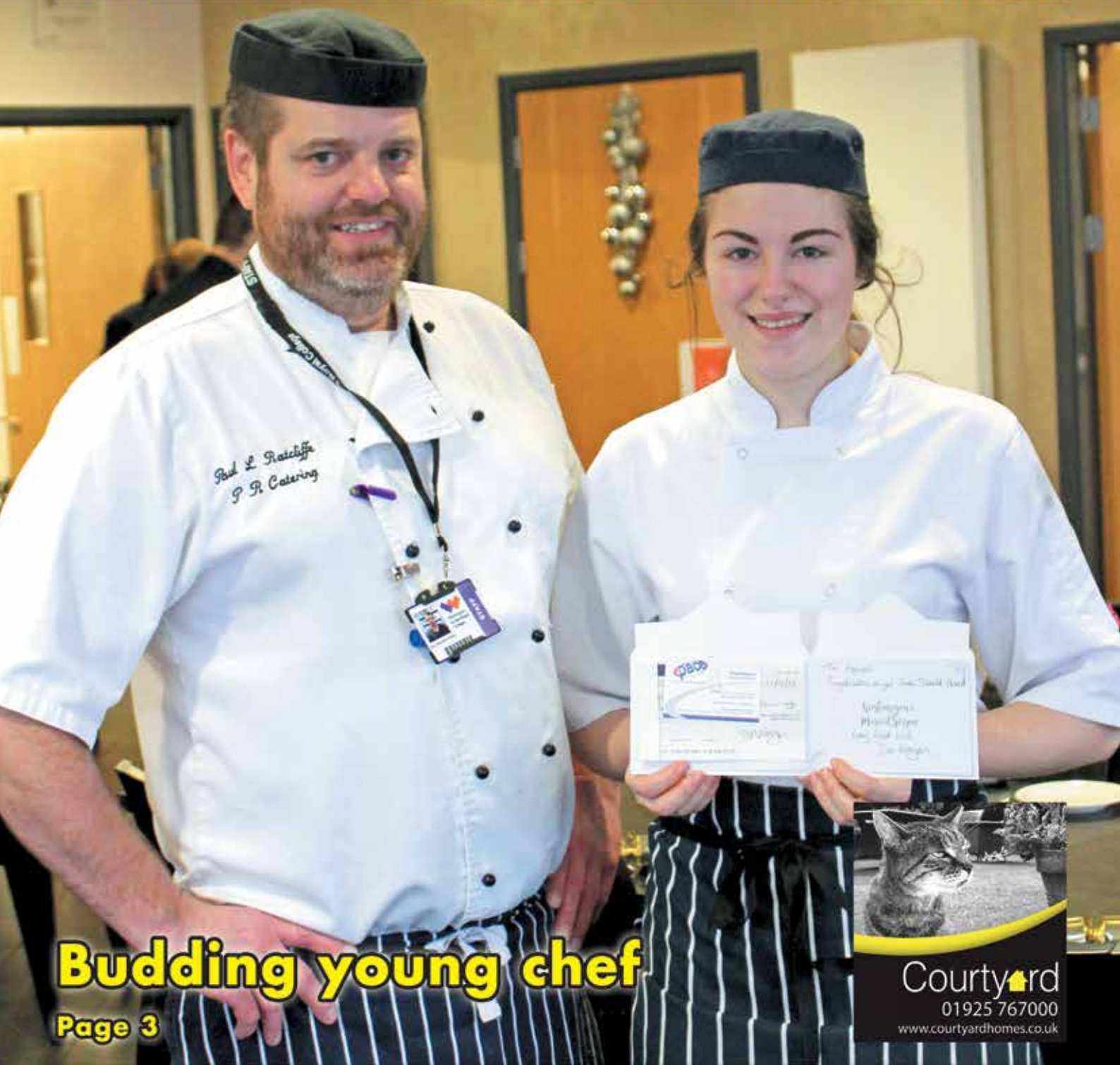
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Budding young chef

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Editor's Comment



IT is disheartening, to say the least, to have to report the police concerns about the activities of a group of young people at Culcheth. A group of youngsters who, it has to be said, are giving the village a bad name - again.

From what the police say, these youngsters are not just causing a nuisance by hanging around in the village after dark. They are damaging property and even putting lives at risk. And apparently they think it is all a big joke.

We know they are a minority. We know the vast majority of young people, in Culcheth, as elsewhere are responsible and decent.

But it seems there is a group of parents unwilling to accept that even a minority of young people are causing trouble. Or that they could be their own children.

An argument is frequently put forward by people of a certain generation that we should look back to our own youth, remember the "naughty" or mischievous things we once did and accept that today's young people are simply doing the same sort of thing and will grow out of it. After all, they say, we turned out all right in the end, didn't we?

Well, I am afraid to say, that if you are the parents of these unruly youngsters, the parents who think it unreasonable that youngsters of 17 should be indoors by a reasonable hour, then you did not turn out all right in the end.

And the chances are that your children will turn out even worse.

Do you actually know where your children are, who they are with and what they are doing?

Previous generations may have misbehaved, but their misdemeanours seldom put lives at risk - locally youngsters have been putting metal poles in the road as well as throwing objects at passing cars.

Fortunately, today's inadequate parents, like their inadequate children, are still a minority and we are pleased to hear of on-going proposals emanating from the silent majority of parents to improve youth provision in Culcheth to persuade young people that there are better

things to do than hang around on street corners.

There will also be a few youngsters who are "unclubable" and we will have to leave it to the police to deal with them. But we surely have a duty to help them by providing them with the evidence they need.

If you feel you know who these troublemakers are please contact the local police - if the current bad behaviour carries on it won't be long before we are reporting a tragedy!

Deadline for the March issue of Culcheth Life February 14



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Budding young chef receives prestigious Gordan Sibbald Bursary Award

A budding young chef who secured work alongside a Michelin-starred chef has been named as a recipient of the prestigious Gordan Sibbald Bursary Award.

Former Culcheth High School pupil Hannah Peake, who is in the final year of the level 3 professional cookery qualification at Warrington & Vale Royal College, was one of 30 students from across the country

to receive the £100 award, which provides financial support to students studying catering and hospitality.

The 18 year-old was nominated by her tutors at the college in recognition of her hard work, enthusiasm and passion for the industry.

As well as completing her studies at the college, Hannah has spent the last several months working part-time at Manchester House restaurant, alongside Michelin-starred chef Aiden Byrne before he departed the restaurant on his new venture at Manchester's No.1 Spinningfields development.

"It has been such an incredible few months," said Hannah.

"It is a great honour to receive the Gordan Sibbald Bursary – it came as a huge surprise. The bursary will help me massively financially and I will be using it to help me to get to and from college. To receive the Gordan Sibbald Bursary Award is something I am extremely proud of and another opportunity I would not have had if it was not for Warrington & Vale Royal College and my tutors here."

Hannah added: "I absolutely love the course at Warrington & Vale Royal College. I am learning

so much that I know will be invaluable in my future in industry. Without my tutors and the college's industry connections, there is no way I would be where I am now."

Andrew Macleod, Curriculum Manager for Hospitality & Catering and Travel & Tourism, added: "It is absolutely fantastic to see Hannah's hard work and dedication recognised in this way – she is a truly deserving recipient of the Gordan Sibbald Bursary Award.

Hannah produces consistently outstanding work and goes above and beyond what is required on a daily basis. She is a role model to her peers and a shining example of what awaits after studying at Warrington & Vale Royal College."

To find out more about the incredible opportunities available at Warrington & Vale Royal College, visit wvr.ac.uk or visit their open evening on Monday 12th February, 5-7pm.



Hospitality and catering student Hannah Peake with chef lecturer Paul Ratcliffe.



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Police seek witnesses of Christmas Eve incident

POLICE have appealed for information about an incident at Culcheth in which a 22-year-old woman suffered a serious face injury.

The incident was in Jackson Avenue in the early hours of Christmas Eve but police did not appeal for information until January 22.

A car window was smashed and an argument then took place between the woman and a man at the junction of Jackson Avenue and Common Lane at about 12.20am.

After the woman was injured,

she was taken to hospital.

Police are anxious to speak to anyone who witnessed the incident.

Sergeant Paul Fegan said: "This was a nasty incident in which the victim sustained serious injuries. She has since been discharged from hospital and is recovering at home.

"We particularly want two men – a man who was wearing a leather

jacket and smoking a cigarette and a man in a red fleece – who were in the area at the time of the incident to get in touch.

"They are both believed to have witnessed what happened and we are keen to speak to them as they may have important information, which could assist with our enquiries."

Anyone with information about

the incident should call police on 101, quoting incident number 30 of December 24, 2017, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

A 26-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the incident and released under investigation pending further enquiries.



Speeding traffic worry near school

WORRIED parents are calling for action over speeding traffic outside Croft Primary School.

Cllr Norman Partington told a meeting of the parish council he had been contacted by a number of people concerned about the speed of vehicles passing the school.

A number of suggestions had been made – including installing speed bumps.

The council decided to look at the cost of providing an automatic speed indicator in Mustard Lane near the school.

Cllr Keith Bland said a similar device had proved very effective at Culcheth.

Anyone who wishes to raise the issue with the council should contact Cllr Partington on 01925 765144 or by email at normanpartington@gmail.com

Shelters approved at station

NEW shelters are to be provided at Glazebrook Railway Station – a Listed building – following the grant of planning permission by borough council planning bosses.

The shelters will be erected on both platforms – and new ticket vending machines will also be installed.

Bungalow to be re-modelled

PLANS to re-model a dormer bungalow in Lowther Avenue, Culcheth, have been given the go-ahead by borough planning chiefs.

The scheme includes a first floor side extension, installation of dormers and porch to the front elevation, alterations to a rear dormer, conversion of part of the garage and re-roofing, rendering and replacement of windows.



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Alistair said: "I would like to welcome you all to our traditional barber shop with a unique look which compliments our style."



Planning starts for Community Day

PLANNING has already started for this year's Culcheth Community Day on Bank Holiday Monday May 7.

Weather permitting, It will again take place on the Village Green – but Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council is again making back-up plans to switch the event to the Shaw Street playing fields car park in the event of the green being waterlogged.

Cllr Sue Bland, who is contacting prospective stallholders, said: "We are hoping that this will be the last time we need to have a back-up plan as by next year drainage work on the green should have been carried out."

Star attraction on the day will be "Above and Beyond" – a trio of trapeze artists.

Charities and voluntary organisations interested in having a stall on the day should contact Cllr Bland on 01925 766641.

Last year's event proved a huge success with charity groups and voluntary organisations benefitting by an estimated £10,000.

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Bents team up with



BENTS Garden & Home has teamed up with Shoulder to Soldier, donating a plot at its community allotment site to the Leigh based charity, which dedicates it's time to supporting serving personnel, their families and veterans.

Formed in June 2017 Shoulder to Soldier is committed to providing support, practical advice, financial relief and social welfare for those

who are serving or who have served in the armed forces. It was a veteran who suggested the use of an allotment to help improve mood

Time to put nature in focus

BENTS' hunt for hidden talent is back on with the Glazebury based garden and home centre's annual photography competition.

The hugely popular competition returns for its ninth consecutive year and Bents is looking for photographs which capture the beauty of our surroundings; from gardens and flowers to landscapes and wildlife. Whether it's a close up shot showing the intricate detail of a flower, a wide angle view of a breath-taking landscape or an image capturing the beauty of animals; all have featured in previous winning photographs.

Twenty shortlisted entries will be displayed in the Centre and on Bents' Facebook page where customers will be able to vote for their favourite image.

The winning entry will receive

£50 worth of Bents vouchers and a framed copy of their print.

Managing Director Matthew Bent said: "Each year the number and standard of entries increases and we are taken aback by the huge amount of talent out there. We would like to encourage as many entries as possible and are looking forward to the shortlisting process, which is becoming a very challenging task!"

The closing date for the competition is Friday 28th February and the 20 shortlisted entries will be on display for voting throughout March. The winning entry will be announced early April.

Entry forms are available from Customer Services or entries can be made online at www.bents.co.uk/events/photography-competition/

Get snapping and good luck!



Picture shows last year's winning entry.

Shoulder to Solider



and motivation and within 24 hours of making the request a plot was donated by Bents.

Very much a veteran led project, the allotment has already been visited by a team of 10 plus one current serving member. Everyone who wishes to will have a role in the project and the ex-forces engineers are already using their skills to design the layout which will take into account disabled veterans.

Linda Fisher, founder of Shoulder to Soldier, said: "The allotment is already proving very beneficial and will help improve health and well-being, team building and getting our guys out and about to meet and socialise with new people. It is fantastic. Thank you to Bents for providing this fantastic facility, which is already proving to be a very popular and thank you to the local businesses who have already supported the project by donating or reducing the price of items."

Matthew Dickinson, Head of Outdoor Retail at Glazebury based Bents Garden & Home, and responsible for the Bents' Community Allotments commented: "We have been looking for local groups to take advantage of our community plots but have had little interest so were delighted when Linda approached us about a plot for Shoulder to Soldier. They are exactly the kind of initiative that we hoped would take advantage of this opportunity and we had no hesitation in agreeing to their request. We're looking forward to

seeing the plot take shape."

In addition to financial support, the work delivered by Shoulder to Soldier includes advocacy and advice for armed forces families, writing letters, attending benefits appeal hearings on a range of matters covering homelessness and housing, general finance, benefits and employment related matters.

Shoulder to Soldier is a local charity (1173255) based in Leigh which was founded by a person who is passionate about the Armed Forces: Linda Fisher. Linda has raised the profile of Armed Forces Families across the country and is endorsed by many Armed Forces Families and organisations for her passion, drive and commitment.

Another local company, Culcheth Paving has donated base flags for an allotment shed and the charity has raised funds for the shed. Bob Brockelhurst of Garden Building Supplies gave a 35% discount and local veteran Kevin Moore has designed a wooden plaque for the shed. The charity would welcome any other offers of support for tools, seeds, plans and equipment.



Green bin licences being snapped up

GREEN bin licences are being snapped up at the rate of 1,000 a day by local residents, according to the borough council.

In the first 10-days after the licences went on sale, the council hit the 10,000 mark.

The garden waste collection licences were introduced by the council last year when 39,552 licences were issued for green bins across the borough. Warrington residents recycled more than 9,500 tonnes of green waste.

Residents will need to buy a new licence in order to benefit from the first round of collections in March. The service runs fortnightly until November.

People can pay for more than one green bin if they need to. They can also share a bin with neighbour(s) if they don't produce much garden waste.

For more details visit warrington.gov.uk/gardenwaste

The Gardening Guide



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Simon Bax,
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- Sterilise pots and seed trays before using this year to stop the spread of fungal disease
- Houseplants will benefit from the first feed of the season now

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First volunteers come forward for parish plan

THE first volunteers have come forward to help draw up a parish plan for Croft.

More are still needed – but the parish council can now start thinking about setting up a steering group to get the plan under way.

Cllr Keith Bland, chairman of the parish, said: "We have had two or three volunteers come forward so we should be able to make a start. But I think there are many local people who still don't realise how important a local plan will be for the future of the village. We could still do with some more volunteers."

When the parish council first appealed for volunteers there was no response.

But when Cllr Bland drew attention

– in the last issue of Culcheth Life – to the fact that a parish plan could be used to help fight the borough council's proposals for 60 new houses on Green Belt land in the village, the volunteers came forward.

It is not just individuals that can get involved in the parish plan but businesses and organisations as well – including schools, pubs, clubs and voluntary groups.

Anyone interested should email the parish clerk at croftparishcouncil@gmail.com or telephone 01925 733766.



Cllr Keith Bland.

Café plan for disused toilet building

THE disused public toilets at Croft's village play area could have a new life – as a community café.

Members of Croft Parish Council have discussed the idea as a way of bringing the building back into use following its closure some time ago as a result of vandalism.

Chairman Cllr Keith Bland said: "It's only at an early stage and it may not be possible. But we are certainly studying the idea. Similar initiatives have worked in other areas, so why not in Croft?"

The council decided some time ago to close the building after a number of incidents of vandalism.

But councillors don't want to see the boarded-up building standing disused and becoming an eyesore.

Cllr Bland said: "The building is bigger than it looks from the outside and it would be possible to create an outside area, with tables, which could prove popular during the summer months when the play area is frequently very busy."

"First of all we have to see if conversion of the building is possible. Then we would have to see if there is any enthusiasm in the village for volunteering to run it, so we really are at an early stage."

"But it could prove to be viable."

Police seek help from public to track down young troublemakers

POLICE are seeking help from the public in the Culcheth area to identify a group of youths responsible for criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

The youths – said to be wearing all-black clothing with hoods and to be both boys and girls – are mainly active in the evening.

They are alleged to have:

- Damaged parked cars in various parts of the village
- Throwing items at passing vehicles on Warrington Road and Common Lane
- Climbed on the roof of Culcheth Sports Hall and Culcheth Primary School
- Placed a metal pole on Common Lane – and then made fun of drivers who attempted to move it off the road.

A police spokesman said: "This is unacceptable and is also an arrestable offence."

"We have been provided with names of individuals who may be responsible, or may be associated with those who are."

"But we need help to provide more information to identify those who are responsible or may be present in this group."

Police say have a very good idea who the youths are but need more help to collate more information and bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

The anti-social activity appears to have been increasing.

On one day, police received four reports of youths causing damage in Church Lane as early as 3.45pm and in full view of nearby residents.

Officers accept that not all youths who congregate in the village centre are causing any harm and hope that those who socialise in a respectful manner may know who the troublemakers are and be able to help identify them.

Parents are urged to speak to their children to find out where they are when they are out in the evening.

Any information which helps identify the culprits should be passed on to police on 101.



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Snakes and snails helped teach children to read

SPEAKER David Duckett – who used snails and snakes to help teach children to read – was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI.

He talk was entitled "Tales out of School" and told how he started his working life as a librarian, with responsibility for younger readers.

To encourage them to read, he would take to work some of his collection of creatures, such as snails and snakes.

When the children started to ask about the animals, he would point them to the books where they could get all the information they needed. Eventually, word reached the local schools and he was then invited to

visit them to carry on his unusual way of teaching.

David told how the Romans introduced snails to Britain, because they loved to eat them boiled in milk. They also introduced rabbits for food.

Poetry was a subject many of the boys hated, until David explained that "rapping" is poetry, and he would also read them well-known rhymes with silly, alternative words. To finish, he produced his ukulele and sang the George Formby song "I wish I was back on our farm".

The next meeting is Tuesday February 20 at 2pm in the Parish Hall. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Luxury homes approved on Mee Brow site

A PLAN to build luxury homes at Culcheth, thrown out by borough planning chiefs last year has now received the green light.

The scheme on the Trucks-2-Go site in Warrington Road at Mee Brow now involves 15 houses – one less than the previous one.

It was recommended for approval by planning officers when it went before members of the borough

council's development management committee.

The committee originally refused consent for the development because of concerns about traffic and parking.

Part of the site is undeveloped

and in the Green Belt, but this will be retained as an amenity area. A public footpath will have to be diverted.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council did not formally object to the scheme but expressed concern about traffic and parking and questioned whether a development of four and five-bedroomed houses was appropriate for the village.

They pointed out that traffic is extremely heavy on Warrington Road.

But planning officers said the proposals were appropriate in a Green Belt area. The developer had agreed to pay £320,812 towards the cost of affordable housing elsewhere and also £48,513 towards education enhancements at Culcheth High School.



Council to oppose plans for 11 houses on nursery site

A PARISH council has resolved to oppose plans to build 11 new houses on a nursery site at Croft.

Members of Croft Parish Council decided to fight the proposals after a face-to-face meeting with the would-be developers and their planning consultants.

The council objects on the grounds that the proposed development –

on the site of Kenyon Hall Nursery in Kenyon Lane – is in the Green Belt.

The developers argue that it is a brownfield site because of existing nursery buildings.

But Cllr Keith Bland, chairman of the parish council, said: "There are no permanent buildings on the site – just timber sheds of the kind you

would associate with a nursery.

"A nursery is surely a greenfield site anyway."

Councillors are also concerned that the development could lead to traffic hazards on Kenyon Lane and believe the application is premature in view of the impending Warrington Local Plan, which envisages around 60 new houses

on Green Belt land at Croft.

Local residents also oppose the scheme. They say the proposal is for eight houses costing in the region of £500,000 and three "affordable" town houses.

They saw the need in Croft is for affordable houses – not properties costing £500,000.

"Respect the countryside – while we still have some"

A NATURE conservation group is asking local people to respect the countryside – while there is still some left.

Warrington Nature Conservation Forum (WNCF) is worried at the amount of litter being dumped across the borough.

Houghton Green Pool is one area that has suffered – and another is an embankment near the M62 at Delph Lane, Winwick.

WNCF members have been out collecting rubbish and have filled numerous bin bags with plastic bottles, crisp bags, cigarette cartons and dog poo bags. They even found two dinghies.

Chairman Geoff Settle said: "Farmers in Winwick are constantly battling to stop fly-tipping on their land by barricading field entrances with straw bales. The countryside is following the rest of Warrington in having to deal with these issues. Unfortunately everywhere is under siege.

"Not only does it look unsightly, but the rubbish poses a great threat to local wildlife. There must be smarter ways that will lead to convictions of these cowboys and

litter louts."

Mr Settle suggests a number of ideas, including the use of concealed cameras to record details

of fly-tippers, litter wardens, and more education visits to schools.

In addition, members of the public should report and log details of fly-

tipping incidents.

"The more evidence gathered, leading to prosecutions, the better," he said.



Editor lifts the lid on 50 years of change in the media

GUEST speaker at a meeting of the #LoveWarrington business networking group was Culcheth Life editor Gary Skentelbery.

He lifted the lid on more than half-a-century of journalism and publishing in the Warrington area and told how the local media scene

had changed.

Orbit News – publisher of Culcheth Life and five other magazines, Warrington-Worldwide,



Gary pictured reading to students at Warrington and Vale Royal College.

Seated Yoga at the WI

MEMBERS of Lowton WI started their 2018 programme with their annual New Year dinner at Haydock Golf Club.

Their next meeting is on Thursday, February 1 at 7.15pm at All Saints Social Centre, Golborne, when they will be taking part in "seated yoga".

New members are always welcome and further information can be obtained from Lin Hayes on 01942 207764.

Lymm Life, Village Life, Frodsham Life and Lifestyle Magazine, as well as on-line daily newspaper www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk – celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Gary told the meeting: "The media has been revolutionised over the years since I started work in the family business straight from Culcheth High School, on an old Victorian typewriter using paper and carbon copy paper.

"In those days we had to type a story up and phone the copy over and wait to see our work in print – if we were lucky!

"With the onset of the internet and new technology the publishing industry changed almost overnight in the late 1990s.

"I resisted getting a smart phone until about six years ago as I knew once I had one it would be difficult to switch off from work. I was right!

"We now live in a 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week, 365 days a year news world – with daily online news and various social media feeds, the news never stops."

During the presentation Gary lifted the lid on an old suitcase packed with old newspapers and magazines collected by his father David, who founded the business in

1968 and still works in it, reporting on local news, after working as a journalist for more than 60 years.

"One of the old newspapers in the suitcase was carrying a story on the 'Great Train Robbery' written by my father.

"I can remember as a child being handed scraps of paper and bits of Letraset to create my own magazines. I think my future was being pretty much mapped out!"

During its anniversary year Orbit News and its publications will be supporting a number of community activities, including a reading challenge at Warrington & Vale Royal College, a media student activity with Warrington Wolves Foundation and sponsoring the Warrington Business Awards.

Gary will also be aiming to run a 10k for the first time in his life as part of the English Half Marathon, raising funds for the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace, where he is a patron, which will be commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Warrington bombing this year.

He said: "March 20, 1993 was one of the darkest days in the town's history – one I will never ever forget!"

Appeal launched to repair War Memorial

AN appeal has been launched for funds to repair the War Memorial at Newchurch Parish Church.

The names on the 1939-1945 part of the memorial are fading away – with some completely unreadable.

Paul Campbell, chairman of Culcheth Village Club, noticed the problem at last year's Remembrance Day ceremony.

He has got an estimate for carrying out repairs of just under £1,000 and, after speaking to a number of local residents, issued the appeal.

The Village Club, Culcheth and district Royal British Legion, and Newchurch Parish Church have already offered support and Mr Campbell has approached Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

He said: "I am now asking for the support of residents.

"We will be organising some fundraising events including a quiz in the parish hall on April 6.

"Other ideas are being explored including a fun run, a fun walk and possibly a dinner in the club, I believe we can raise the necessary funds.

"I would like to see the work done in time for this year's Remembrance Sunday with it being the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One.

"We want a memorial we can be proud of once again, and one that is a true recognition of those brave souls who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"To help get us started we have already received a very kind

donation of £300 towards the restoration from Madeline Kirk, local historian and author.

"If we raise more than we need we will split any extra monies between the Church and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Anyone who would like to make a donation can contact Mr Campbell on 07944 899059 or email culchethvillageclub@gmail.com



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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

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Valerie Allen
01925 767274



Ilayne Hutchinson
01925 765131

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Community Day Monday, May 7th

Plans are already being made and letters will go out to charities on our mailing list nearer the time.

Any new charities who are interested in taking part please contact a Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk. Featured events are a trapeze act "Above and Beyond Trio", "Circus Whiz" as well as the Fairground, Children's Entertainer, Pet Show, Vintage Vehicles and competitions.

Venue is Culcheth Green with Shaw Street car park and recreational area as a back up. We are also looking for sponsors for the day - if anyone would like to sponsor any aspect of the event, from performers to leaflets, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Warrington Borough Local Plan

Because of the large number of responses to the preferred option consultation last year the timetable for the Draft Local Plan consultation has had to be revised. It is important to use the time before the Draft appears to go on the planning policy website of www.warrington.gov.uk to look at the Local Plan Review and see how our villages are assessed. If you have concerns contact us, details opposite.

Culcheth Green

The good news is that an ambitious drainage scheme will at last take place but this will be after Community Day. We will make details available later this year.

Trees

It is said that the old name for Culcheth meant "at the edge of the wood" but over the years we have lost trees in and around our villages through development and natural reasons. We are looking for organisations and individuals to help us increase our tree cover and be "leafy Culcheth and Glazebury". We intend to take advantage of the recent Northern Forest proposals.

Tenders

The Parish Council will shortly be inviting tenders for the renewal of its Grounds Maintenance and Christmas Lights contracts.

Future projects

The Mee Brow play area. Improvements to the Glazebury Christmas lights. Removal or upgrading derelict notices in the Newchurch ward.

Law and Order

We liaise with the Police to decide on priorities and continue to lobby for increased cover. Police Community meetings are on the last Saturday of the month at 11.00 a.m. in Culcheth Library.

The Police also attend the start of Parish Council meetings to answer questions. Parish meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month except August. The February one is at 7.30 pm on Tuesday Feb. 13th in Glazebury Methodist Church.

The police ask that you contact them if you notice any acts of youth disorder. Police numbers - 999 if an emergency and 101 non-emergency.

Defibrillator training

The Parish Council has approved funding for defibrillator training for interested residents and businesses. It will be a free "one-off" event. If you would like to take part please get in touch with the Clerk at culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com with full contact details.

Culcheth Library

More groups are using the library and there have already been some changes, come and see.

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

Death of former Liverpool legend Tommy Lawrence

FORMER Liverpool and Scotland goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence, who was brought up in Culcheth, has died, aged 77.

Nicknamed "The Flying Pig" he made 390 appearances for The Reds including winning two league titles and the famous first FA Cup in 1965 under legendary manager Bill Shankly.

He had been ill for some time.

Tommy Lawrence was born in Scotland but moved to Warrington as a child and was brought up in Culcheth, attending Culcheth High School.

He started his soccer career with Stockton Heath Albion and worked at Rylands wire factory.

But he was signed by Liverpool when he was 17.

He won three caps for Scotland.

After his playing career ended he returned to Rylands as a quality controller – continuing to live in Culcheth.

He earned his nickname through his surprising agility despite weighing more than 14 stone.

The funeral service took place at Warrington Parish Church on January 30.



Charities urged to get help from the Rotary Club

CHARITIES, self-help groups and community organisations are being invited to apply for grants from local Rotarians.

Any organisation in the Culcheth, Croft, Winwick, Birchwood, Glazebury or Lowton areas is entitled to apply for help from the Newton and district Jubilee Rotary

Club.

The money is raised by the club through the annual Culcheth Halle Concert, the Culcheth Beer Festival, local carnivals and of course the collections by Santa when he tours the area on his sleigh at Christmas.

Last year, the club donated money to 23 local charities and five Rotary

approved overseas causes.

Club spokesman Bernard Groom said organisations should contact the club giving details of their aims and ambitions.

"It is highly likely that we can help," he said.

Interested organisations should contact Mr Groom by e-mail at

bernardmcgroom@gmail.com or by telephone on 01925 733893

Newton and District Jubilee Rotary Club meets at Culcheth Sports Club every Tuesday evening at 7pm. More details are available from the Rotary District 1285 website.

New members are always welcome.



Winwick Athletic junior football team in kit provided by the Rotary Club.

Cricket club offers free membership for juniors

GLAZE BURY Cricket Club has renewed its appeal for new players for the coming season – and is offering free membership for under 18s.

The offer is intended to give a boost to the club's bid to strengthen its junior playing members. The club is hoping to get enough youngsters to re-launch an Under-11 team this year. In the past, the junior teams have been a welcome source of new senior players.

Annual subscription for senior members – 18 and over) is £30.

Indoor net practice is set to start soon, with a 10-week session likely to start on Sunday, February 11.

More details and up-to-date information can be obtained from the club website

Wl given insight into Black Sheep Wools

The story of local firm Black Sheep Wools was told at the monthly Croft Wl by store director Sara Mulvey.

Always having a keen interest in knitting and crochet, Sara decided to give up her journalistic career and join her parents in running the family business.

The company was started in 1983 and traded in the mall above, what was then, the CPS supermarket in Culcheth. They also exhibited at numerous shows around the country and also had a successful mail order business, eventually expanding and opening several retail outlets across the North West.

Unfortunately knitting and crafts became less popular in the mid to late 80's and the shops had to be sold, but after a resurgence of interest in the 90's Black Sheep Wools was established at its

present location in Glaziers Lane and is now the largest yarn store in the country and possibly in Europe.

Becoming an internationally recognised brand, due to the social media revolution, and winning many prestigious awards, yarns are now shipped all over the world, South Korea surprisingly being their fastest growing market! Being a local firm they try to support the local community, offering apprenticeships and weekend work for 16-18 year olds and are also involved with local charitable organisations. Sara passed around many samples of yarn and beautiful crochet items and members enjoyed the tactile experience.

The competition "A small hand knitted/Crocheted item" was won by Diane Simms, 2nd Ann Sharpe, 3rd Gill Coon.

Pianist – and his keyboard – beat traffic jams

PIANIST Roger Brown – and his keyboard – beat appalling traffic jams to arrive safely for the monthly meeting of Newchurch Wl.

He accompanied "Jerusalem" and then went on to tell of his two great passions – jazz piano and musicals – in his talk "New Orleans to New York."

His Salford childhood had introduced him to bandstand concerts, Al Jolson movies and childhood talent competitions. At eight years old he won a voucher for a perm at a grand talent show at Salford Central Mission!

Later he played jazz piano in groups all over the North West and he gave examples of music from the American South. He even played at top speed in the style of "rent parties" in New Orleans.

His musical life changed through his day job with the Gas Board in Stockport and its choir. In 1967 a girl in the choir asked him to join the cast of "Camelot" at the Palace Theatre in Manchester and he told of a comical series of disasters with scenery and costumes.

He went on to perform in and direct musicals with the Stockport

Operatic Society and is now their president. He also plays with Manchester Jazz.

Sylvia Brown thanked Roger very warmly and he judged the January competition (a native American souvenir). Aileen Paterson was the winner, with Marjorie Pugh and Lesley Lloyd coming second and third.

After tea served by Sue Kennerley and Suzanne Crompton, there was a quick survey of the 2018 resolutions for the NFWI and Eileen read out Newchurch's choice for the June AGM. These were for action against Female Genital Mutilation and more support for mental health issues.

The meeting was the first of the year, and members still had good memories of their Christmas Party at the Village Club with a hot buffet, entertainment by singer Dean Michaels and beautiful wall decoration by the craft group led by Aileen Paterson.

Aileen was also last year's competition trophy winner.

Also members were asked for help in caring for the Quenching Trough at Culcheth Library.

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