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Issue: 182  
May 2018

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**Graham's a winner!**

Page 12

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# Editor's Comment



**HOW often do we come across monstrous buildings – usually built within the last few years – and think to ourselves: “How on earth did that get planning permission?”**

Probably about the same number of occasions that we hear of quite reasonable sounding developments being thrown out!

All of which makes us wonder, sometimes, if some planners live on a different planet to the rest of us.

So it is with considerable relief that we report on Page 14 of this issue the story of the father who has won retrospective planning consent for a lay-by near his home

to provide a safe place for his disabled son to be picked up by a school bus.

OK, he shouldn't have created the lay-by without permission. We accept that. We can't have people carrying out developments, even small ones, all over the place.

But when we saw that planning officers, highways officers and even members of Rixton-with-Glazebrook Parish Council were all urging that permission be refused, meaning the father would have to remove the whole thing, we could scarcely believe our eyes.

Inappropriate in the Green Belt? “Urbanising” the area? Inadequate visibility? Surely not.

We know the personal circumstances of an applicant do not carry much weight in planning law, but really...in this case?

When we published the story in our online edition (www.culchethlife.com) in advance of the meeting when the decision was to be made, a number of readers shared our concerns and made rather unflattering remarks about planning officers.

Fortunately, members of the borough council's development management committee shared their views and decided the lay-by could stay. So one little bit of bad and, in this case, rather heartless planning has been avoided.

We are delighted – and venture to suggest that 10 years from now, perhaps even sooner, no-one will even remember the lay-by was ever there.

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# Nina takes on a challenge – in memory of Carl

SPORTS mad Nina Walsh will be hosting afternoon tea on May 5 – and cycling the equivalent of 100 miles at the same time.

She will be holding the event in memory of her late partner, Carl Greenaway, of Culcheth, who died tragically after a road accident – and also raising money for two charities.

The afternoon tea will be served at Bold Street Methodist Church's coffee shop, Warrington, where Nina will be on her bike on a turbo trainer riding for six hours – her target time for a 100 mile ride.

Carl, aged 36, a father-of-four died after a car accident in June last year – shortly after re-introducing Nina to the world of cycling. They had planned to compete in the 100-mile Manchester cycle event in September this year.

Nina, 31, said: "Carl and I never got the chance to start a family. But we had planned to marry."

"After seeing his children's heartbreak at losing their dad, it broke my heart even more. I am fundraising and trying to raise awareness of the fantastic charities who supported us through this very, very difficult time.

"Winston's Wish is the UK's childhood bereavement charity, supporting children and parents after they have lost a parent or sibling.

"Aftermath Support work with people in Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside who have been affected by the devastation of road traffic accidents.

"Both charities have been incredible and are supporting my fundraising activities"

Nina, like Carl, is a huge sports fan and loves running and cycling. She's out most nights on her road bike and enjoys mountain biking in Wales. She has sky-dived twice from 15,000 ft, climbed Snowdon twice and enjoys white-water rafting.

She will be taking on the Manchester 100 in September for Carl and herself – and to raise money for the charities.

But she also loves baking cakes and Carl loved eating them – hence the afternoon tea.

Entry to the tea party will be £10-a-ticket and donations can also be given via the Just Giving website [www.justgiving.com/teams/ninawalshsteam](http://www.justgiving.com/teams/ninawalshsteam)





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# Speed indicator devices help slow down traffic

ADDITIONAL speed indicator devices installed in Culcheth have helped reduce the speed of traffic travelling through the village.

This was revealed in a report on the last 12 months by Cllr Peter Holmes, chairman of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

He said the devices – on Warrington Road and Common Lane – had gathered data showing a significant drop in speed when entering the villages which should improve road safety in the area.

"Whilst some people continue to speed, they have been successful in reducing the number of speeding vehicles."

Cllr Holmes said the parish council was particularly proud that, aided by the borough councillors, they had been able to reach an agreement to level and implement a drainage system on Culcheth village green, where excess water would now be able to be taken away through United Utilities pipes.

"This took significant discussion and negotiations with the borough council and United Utilities but we are glad that this has been signed off, and that the preparatory stages have commenced."

The second stage would hopefully begin in May.

"This is a major development and has involved significant investment, but it should hopefully allow villagers the opportunity to



use the Green more often."

Councillors had been involved in fighting the proposed closure of Culcheth Library, and the Friends of Culcheth Library group had now been formed and were taking the lead in securing its future. "Whilst nothing is ever guaranteed, we are now very confident that the library will remain, and recommend that all residents visit the library and make use of the building, not just for borrowing books, but also for the classes which have been set up, which include a variety of subjects.

"We also recommend that you become a member of the Friends of Culcheth Library and help retain the library for future generations."

In Glazebury, additional Christmas lights are to be provided and extended over future years.

Cllr Holmes' last act as chairman of the parish council will be to open Community Day on May 7.



## Speakers brought spring with them!

SPEAKERS at the monthly meeting of Lowton WI were Margaret and Geoff Fletcher, from the National Garden Scheme, with information on gardens which will be open for charity this year.

Members were made to feel Spring had actually arrived by the display of flowers on show and thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

Also on the agenda was one of the WI resolutions last year- a campaign to cut down on the use of plastic.

Lowton members value their cups of tea and coffee – but agreed that in future they would bring their own cups to meetings.

Next meeting will on Thursday, May 3 at All Saints Social Centre, Golborne at 7.15pm.

## Helpers needed for lunch club

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help run the Tuesday Lunch Club at Culcheth's Village Club.

The club operates from 10am to 1.30pm weekly and offers older residents games, talks, tea and biscuits and a two-course lunch – all for £5. But a small number of volunteers are needed to that a rota can be operated among the present helpers. Anyone interested in helping out should call parish councillor Sue Bland on 01925 766641.



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## Caravan park can stay open – for 10 months a year

THE long-established Holly Bank Caravan Park at Rixton is to be allowed to stay in business – for 10 months of the year.

Warrington Borough Council's development management committee decided an application for permission for a permanent residential caravan site could be approved, subject to it being closed for two months each year.

The site already had permission for use by touring caravans – but the committee was told there were 121 caravans on the site and about 100 of them had been there for more than 11 years and were the main, or only, place of residence for the occupants.

Rixton-with-Glazebrook Parish Council had opposed the application for a permanent site but had suggested the two-month closure.

The site was originally granted permission for 30 touring caravans in 1978. Subsequently the number was increased and permission was given for five static caravans.

In 2005 permission was refused for an extension to the site.

# Library gets busier as Friends' group moves forward

CULCHETH Library is getting busier – and looks set to get even more as more groups start activities there.

The Friends of Culcheth Library group is moving forward with plans to support the library – and Culcheth and Glazebrook Parish Council is to move its office into the building, providing the library with additional income.

Friends' secretary Cllr Joan Grime said: "We plan to revitalise the library as a focus for our community, seeing a wider range of uses, increased footfall and increased income."

A group of volunteers have taken a course in Mindfulness and Heartmath – a programme for reducing stress and anxiety, provided by A Quiet Place.

A Well-being hub has been set up in the library funded by Awards for All.

"We aim to bring the wider community into this project soon, so if you are interested please contact me for more information (joan.grime@hotmail.co.uk, 01925



763631)."

A number of groups are meeting at the library, some that have been going on for some time and new ones starting.

There is a book club (evening) and craft sessions (day). A family history help desk is ready to start. There have also been events run by the Friends or by Livewire, and these have been well supported.

A talk was given by a well-known local author and a bookstall and refreshments were laid on to celebrate World Book Day.

Friends of Culcheth Library are also involved with other library groups across the borough.

They attend Warrington Borough Council's Library Partnership Board and are part of the Libraries

Networking Group by which Friends of various libraries support each other.

Reorganisation of rooms "behind the scenes" will enable the parish council to move in.

Cllr Grime said: "The Friends of Culcheth Library group is now established financially as well as fully constituted, and fund-raising is one of our next major tasks."

"We will be setting up optional membership subscriptions in which many members showed interest when they signed up. Volunteers will leaflet the village with information about this, and there will also be information at the Parish Council Gazebo on Community Day, May 7, and in the Library."

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# All set for Co

PLANS are all in place for Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council's Community Day whatever the weather!

The event takes place on the first Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, on Culcheth Green with the official programme starting at 12.00 noon.

Every year there is a different theme or main entertainment.

This year it is the circus, with Above and Beyond Trapeze Display, Children's Circus Workshop and Kevin the Clown

There will also be many community stalls, organisations and features, plus a Karate Display.

Members of the public are urged to visit the Green and support local charities and organisations with Shaw Street car park as a fall back venue if there is heavy rain and flooding issues.



**Pictures from Culcheth Community Day 2017**

## Bents donates more than £22,000 to Alzheimer's Society



CUSTOMERS and colleagues showed enormous generosity in helping Bents Garden & Home raise an incredible amount for its 2017 Charity of the Year. A total of £22,100 was presented to Alzheimer's Society, who will use the donation to help people living in the local area.

Penny Hamer from Alzheimer's Society visited Bents to accept the donation and was joined by Zachary Clements and a team from St Rocco's Hospice, the Centre's 2018 Charity of the Year; a cause which was chosen by Bents' customers in a vote held earlier in the year.

Matthew Bent, managing director said: "We are absolutely delighted to have raised so much for the Alzheimer's Society and believe our money will be used to help people living with the condition in our local community.

"A big thank you to all our customers and colleagues who have helped throughout the year to make the campaign such a success. We are now looking forward to working with St Rocco's Hospice and are keen to do just as well in 2018."

St Rocco's Hospice was one of three charities nominated by Bents' colleagues and after a period of in store voting was chosen by customers as the Centre's 2018 dedicated cause, with all money raised throughout the year helping the facility which provides high quality care for adults living with a terminal or life limiting illness.

Bents' relationship with Alzheimer's Society does not end with the fundraising. It will continue to work with the charity to become a dementia friendly destination, working with the team to provide tips and training for its colleagues and guidance as to how they can help people with dementia whilst at the Centre.



# Community Day



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# Village set to stage first ever beer festival

CROFT Village Memorial Hall, in conjunction with Croft Youth Activity Centre, are staging a beer festival on June 15 and 16, in the Memorial Hall on Mustard Lane, Croft.

Both groups exist in order to support the broad local community and by joining forces and pooling resources they hope to put something different on in Croft – the first beer festival in Croft to the best of their knowledge.

Keeping with the community ethos they've engaged Croft WI to provide refreshments – your 'typical' festival friendly menu – sausage rolls, sandwiches etc.

Entertainment is being arranged for both days but rest assured there will be plenty of spaces to have a sit down and some relative quiet.

Members of the community are being invited to support the event which is aimed at providing an opportunity to socialise with friends whilst at the same time raising much needed funds to keep the two buildings viable and sustainable as community facilities. Ben Mitchell, chairman of Croft Youth Activity Centre, commented: "Maintaining community facilities is always a challenge. They don't operate on good wishes alone – and we hope that the very community we seek to support will turn out to the Memorial Hall in support of this

ambitious event, raising funds for, and awareness of, what we do".

Just £5 gets you in, then via a token system there is a choice of some 28 casks of ale, a dozen or so ciders along with the lager fridge, specially curated Gin bar and Prosecco by the large or small bottle.

Main sponsor is Dave Monks at "The Horseshoe Inn" in Croft, a community stalwart whose logo will be on the souvenir etched glasses that are being produced – free to the first 500 attendees.

Commenting on the arrangements, Memorial Hall chairman Peter McCartney said: "We are really excited to be taking the idea of holding a festival and seeing it become reality. This is run purely by volunteers who give up hours of their own time in support of the community. Please do your part by attending and making it a success - we'd love to see you there on Friday, Saturday or both!"

If you'd like more information or if your business or family would like to sponsor a cask (thereby helping us to raise even more money), please contact Peter on 07703 363201, or message Croft Village Memorial Hall via Facebook.

# Rhiannon shows the BBC she's got talent



FORMER Birchwood High School pupil Rhiannon Lawrence has won a prestigious place at the BBC talent pool

Rhiannon studied media up to GCSE and is now in her third year studying television production management at Edge Hill University.

She went through a rigorous interview process at Media City in Salford and was then selected to be in the BBC Children's production management assistant talent pool.

The former Birchwood CE Primary pupil said: "I'm absolutely over the moon. After a group scenario task, an individual prioritising task and then an interview, I feel I learnt a lot from the process itself which I really enjoyed."

BBC Children is the home of the UK's two most popular children's TV channels, CBeebies and CBBC – not to mention two websites, eight apps, children's radio content, two YouTube channels and much more. Rhiannon will have plenty of opportunities to use the skills she has learnt in her Television Production Management degree.

# The Truth will out – about Shakespeare

AN evening of culture was enjoyed by members of Croft WI with Coral Greenwood's talk entitled "Brush up your Shakespeare".

Retired drama teacher Coral began by listing the many everyday quotes that originate from the pen of Shakespeare, such as: Cold Comfort, Long and Short of it, The Truth will out, Give the Devil his due, Salad Days and many more.

There were no portraits painted of Shakespeare during his lifetime and the most famous likeness is actually a wood-cut completed after his death. There are 17,677 words in his plays and 1,700 words used for the first time within them, for example; accommodation, fitful, lack-lustre, road and numerous other words we use in everyday speech. Shakespeare died on the same date that he was born, April 23 – St. George's Day and countless other fascinating facts were included in the talk.

Coral's vast knowledge of the many famous passages from the plays, recited from memory with all the necessary acting intonations, was very impressive and her anecdotes relating to her teaching career were hilarious. A very enthusiastic vote of thanks was given by Sheila Glass.

The competition was won by Barbara Taylor, 2nd Audrey Stokes, 3rd Janet Hughes.

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## Graham's "frosty thrush" wins photo contest



THE annual photography competition for customers at Bents Garden and Home has been won by Graham Young from Culcheth.

Hundreds of votes were cast and Graham's 'Frosty Song Thrush' was judged the favourite, winning Graham a framed copy of his beautiful image and £50 worth of Bents Gift Vouchers, all of which he has donated to the Shoulder to Soldier charity.

Graham is a member of the Leigh based charity, which is committed to providing support, practical advice, financial relief and social welfare for those who are serving or who have served in our armed forces. Bents earlier this year donated a plot at its community allotment site to the charity and Graham's vouchers will be used by the team working on the project.

The photography competition attracted more than 100 entries, all depicting nature at its best, from striking landscapes to beautiful wildlife shots. A shortlist of 15 images was chosen and displayed at Customer Services and on Bents' Facebook page where customers were invited to vote for their favourite shot.

Managing director Matthew Bent said: "It is great to be able to support the talents of our customers and provide an opportunity for them to share their passion with others. As always, the quality of all entries was extremely high and it was very difficult to choose the 20 finalists. I'm just glad we didn't have to choose the winner! A big thank all our customers who took time to vote."

All 15 shortlisted images, and Graham's winning shot are available to view at [bents.co.uk](http://bents.co.uk)





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# Father wins fight for safe bus stop for disabled son

PLANNING chiefs have agreed to let a father keep an unauthorised lay-by outside his home after hearing it provides a safe place for his disabled son to be picked up by a school bus.

The lay-by had been constructed without planning consent in Bank Street, Glazebrook and the borough's development management committee was being urged to refuse a retrospective planning application.

Planning officers recommended refusal, highways chiefs objected on the grounds of inadequate visibility and Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council objected on Green Belt grounds.

But after a lengthy debate, the committee voted to allow the application.

Borough councillor Pat Wright had urged them to consider the "serious detrimental impact" refusal would have on the quality of life of the both the father and his eight-year-old son.

The committee was told the applicant had three children, one of which suffers from various disabilities.

The area of hardstanding created allowed the family to park a second vehicle off road, provided a safe boarding area when the school bus called and allowed a carer to park



off-road overnight.

Planning officers argued that the development was inappropriate in the Green Belt. Although the personal circumstances of an applicant could be taken into

account they were seldom sufficient to amount to the very special circumstances necessary for approval in the Green Belt.

The removal of trees and shrubs from the site had made it more

prominent in the Green Belt and "urbanised" the area.

A letter of support for the applicant was received from the school his son attends

## Pupils row all day – on dry land

PUPILS from Newchurch Primary School, Culcheth took part in a sponsored rowing event to help raise funds for a new allotment project at the school.

As part of their Healthy Lifestyles awareness week, the children used a number of rowing machines to row for the entire school day. As one child required a break, the other children continued to do row while another child stepped in to ensure that there was somebody rowing at all times.

PE coordinator and event organiser, Lee Singleton said: "It was a fantastic event for the school. The children were really enthused by the challenge and managed to row the equivalent of an astonishing 72 miles, raising £500."

The money raised from the event will go towards helping to fund a new allotment at the school so that the children can begin to grow their own fresh produce which can be eaten as a snack or cooked and eaten for lunch.

Picture shows some of the youngsters in training for the event



## Pupils presented with an array of career prospects

YEAR 10 pupils at Birchwood High School have been presented with an array of different prospective careers.

They attended the Skills North West Careers Fair in Manchester which highlighted various job opportunities and career paths, including apprenticeships, college and university.

Youngsters rode on the tailgate of a lorry, practised floristry, CPR and explored careers in logistics. The police presented a wide range of opportunities including HR, CID and dog handling.

Pupils also took part in an Army team-building challenge, learnt about the latest hair and beauty techniques and used the latest equipment in the music and games industry.

They left with bags full of information as well as the usual freebies.





# Goalkeeper Joe gets England call

BIRCHWOOD High School pupil Joe O'Shaughnessy, who is on Burnley's books, has received the call-up to attend a four-day England training camp.

Joe is one of just four goalkeepers from across the country invited to try and win a place in the England Under-15 squad to take part in a tournament in Italy in early June.

Over the course of 10 days, teams from England, Italy, Russia and the USA will compete in the tournament.

Joe, who feels confident he will make it through to Italy, said: "When I received the news I was excited that my career path was on course and rather than feeling nervous, I felt excited to take part."

In preparation for the training camp, Joe travelled to Burnley every day over the Easter holidays to train.

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# INVISIBLE HOMES CAUSE HOUSING SHORTAGE IN WA3

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

**So let's look at this:**

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

**Meanwhile:**

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

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

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

**Courtyard alone, have over 200 applicants ready to buy in the area and only 55 properties are available!**

**C'mon guys let's get this market moving!**

*(stats accurate according to Rightmove at time of print)*



*Victoria  
Head of Courtyard Homes*

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