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# Editor's Comment

WE have reported previously on the huge impact the proposed High Speed rail network would have on Culcheth and surrounding areas
- none more so than on the Taylor
Business Park.

While the developments are a long way down the line — it is important that everything possible is done over the coming months to make your views known, as once a decision is finally made it would prove

almost impossible to get the route changed.

So it is vitally important that as many people as possible attend the public consultation on Thursday, November 21 at Culcheth Sports Club (Daten) — make sure this is a

date you put in your diary! The Culcheth and District Railway Action Group (CADRAG) are currently backing the Warrington Council's plan to move the route of the line to match that of the West Coat Main Line and in the event of that not being successful, they will support Taylor Business Park in their attempt to divert the line around the Business Park, giving a wider berth to the village and Linear Park.

The impact on the local economy of losing such a facility as Taylor Business Park is mind boggling - so make sure your voices are heard at the public consultation.

There will be no complaining once the route has been set in stone.

The coming months will be critical to the future vitality of the Culcheth business community which has alraedy been hit hard by the economic climate.

# New owners tor

Courtyard Property

CULCHETH based Courtyard Property has embraced new ownership and welcomes the takeover by Harley James Properties, bringing a new lease of life to the company

Courtyard Building & Maintenance' is another arm to the business,

property of including development offering services renovations, extensions and

Courtyard is a local independent agent with local staff, opening seven days a week to provide free honest advice on all aspects of buying, selling, renting and letting a property, and has an independent advisor to assist with your financial needs.

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# Award winning Room31



RISLEY based Room31 scooped another prestigious award at this year's Warrington Business Awards, taking home 'Digital Business of The Year'.

"To win this award is a great achievement for the team and lovely to be recognised as hard-working," said Ruth Thomas who set up her business in 2010 working singlehandedly at a market stall.

Now she has a team of 9 working from a 16,000 square foot warehouse on Taylor Business Park, 8000 customers, doubled her turnover between 2011 and 2012 and has cracked the European market with plans to go global!

Ruth, aged 34, also runs an online ladies fashion website room31.co.uk.

# Renewed call for pothole review

TWO Culcheth councillors have renewed their calls for the Borough Council to carry out a review of pot holes in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

Cllrs Matt Smith and Chirs Vobe have asked the Borough Council to survey every individual road across the three villages to report on the extent of the problem and come up with a forward plan for dealing with the areas most in need.

### **Overlooked**

But Cllr Smith believes that many avenues and cul-de-sacs risk being overlooked by the authority and the condition of their roads must also be taken into consideration.

be taken into consideration.

He said: "It is vital that the Borough Council, when undertaking this work, does not simply examine the main arterial routes.

"We accept that these are the priority due to the sheer volume of traffic that uses them. But the council must also bear in mind the condition of many of our side roads, which are riddled with pot holes and urgently in need of repair."

Cllr Smith said he recently visited residents in Sephton Avenue and Prestwich Avenue, who have been campaigning for improvements to their corrigory.

their carriageway.

He added: "In roads like Sephton



Cllr Matt Smith examines the damage to roads in the centre of Culcheth – a top priority for him as a parish councillor.

Avenue and Prestwich Avenue, residents are not asking for much. They have had 'patch up jobs' carried out, but in some of these instances, it is the quality of the repairs that in itself has been the problem. The tarmac has broken up and the holes have re-opened.

Over a period of time, this has left the road looking like a patchwork quilt.

"The council now have a real opportunity to put a stop to this. I am asking them to carry out a proper assessment – every road, from top to bottom – and sit down with local councillors to put a forward plan in place to deal with this issue

"On many side roads, the condition of the road surface makes a real difference to people's lives. It also creates an impression about our community – well maintained roads generate a sense of pride in our village.

### **Benefit**

"I'm also asking Conservative councillors to stop sitting on the fence over this issue. They say that the Government has given a sum of money to the council to deal with pot holes. But they forget that they have taken over £14 million away from Warrington! I want local Tories to throw aside party politics and join Cllr Vobe and I in writing to the Government to ask for that investment to be returned so that our villages can benefit. I defy the Conservatives to tell anyone that it is fair that leafy Surrey should have its roads repaired at our expense!"

The two councillors are due to meet with the Chief Executive of the council in coming weeks to discuss the progress of the council's maintenance programme.

# All set for Rotary Beer Festival



The Hunter Healey Oompah band at last year's event.

THE 2013 Culcheth Beer Festival organised by Newton & District Jubilee Rotary Club takes place at Culcheth Sports club on September 13 and 14.

Featuring 45 Cask Ales, various Ciders, Live Music, a Hog Roast and Complimentary Soft Drinks for designated drivers, this is a "MUST" for connoisseurs of the Hop and those who just enjoy a sociable pint with their family and friends.

Persons or companies Interested in sponsoring a cask or advertising in the programme should ring call Bernard Groom on 01925 733893.

Meanwhile Rotary is continuing to serve the community at large. They are presently circulating 14 local schools advising of the many services which Rotary can provide i.e. mentoring, mock interviews, academic and non-academic prize sponsorship, the Youth Speaks competition, Young Citizen of the Year competition etc. They can also provide support for sports clubs, Scouts, Guides and Cadet groups.

For more details on joining Rotary or finding out more about the organsation call Bernard Groom on 01925 733893.



# Hunter Healey

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# Fastest broadband in town

fastest broadband in Warrington

tastest broadband in Warrington after making a significant investment to deliver high speed data services to all of its tenants.

MD Paul Taylor (pictured) said: "Historically companies across Warrington and Cheshire have suffered with slow and often unreliable internet speeds delivered via broadband on the BT delivered via broadband on the BT Openreach network.

"Their only alternative was to have a dedicated leased line installed with high monthly costs, and because of location having to foot the bill for installation and excessive groundworks costs. These can be approaching the £10,000

Cheaper Now Taylor Business Park can offer these services significantly cheaper than a leased line, and are far superior to broadband in terms of speed, reliability and security. They can get their tenants up and running in a fraction of the time than that of any comparable services from BT or any other providers, and there is no charge for the installation as the infrastructure is already in place.

Tenants are now able to take advantage of these improved internet speeds to use many of the tools a modern business needs:

- High speed data transfer VOIP Telephony
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- Remote Access



Off site data storage Video Conferencing And many more

The Taylor Business Park network is a fibre backbone network spanning the entire Taylor Business Park complex.

Their strategic partner Rock Networks delivers fibre optic Internet that is distributed across

premises over either ethernet connectivity. connectivity and network design allows for quick bandwidth upgrades not only to their network but also to the tenant's. Paul added: "We

constantly from tenants that they were sick of dealing with BT, whether directly or through other companies like Talk Talk that use their network as they constantly blamed each other and it's the end user that suffers.

Superior

bypassed "We've the infrastructure completely and we have a link to Metronet in Manchester which means we can provide speeds that make BT Infinity, Virgin Cable and Sky Fibre look like they're crawling along, and with a far superior level of

support for our tenants.
"Our tenants don't need a call centre and get passed from one department to another, they knock on our front door (on-site) and we have a four hour guaranteed fix time for any issues. They'll often be fixed before they even know there's

an issue!
"As a comparison we can supply a constant 1000 Mb line..
BT infinity offer 'up to' 76 Mb. Virgin offer a 'superfast' 'up to' 100 Mb service! We're ten times faster than superfast! In fact with our infrastructure we could go even

# 'The King and I'

A MEETING of Newchurch WI was a glimpse of an unknown world by guest speaker, Norma

Walmsley.

Her talk "The King and I" described her life in Brunei, first as a primary. teacher at the International School and then as governess to the younger children of the Sultan of Brunei.

Members were dazzled by pictures of palace interiors with solid gold gilding and precious stones. The little princes and princesses were normal children and Norma's teaching helped them learn and to have fun with birthday parties, sleepovers and their own playground.

There was very strict official protocol but with the backing of the Sultan and his two wives Norma was able to get round many of the rules. She told members that much of the Sultan's oil wealth is used for free health service, education, good

wages and generous pensions at 35.
Her husband provided a marvel-lous audio-visual presentation. The talks are used to help raise money for a village in the Philippines, home to their former housekeeper in Brunei.

Anne Burns donated a plant for the President's table and tea hostesses President's table and tea hostesses were Shirley Flaherty and Ruth Briggs. The Craft Group had entered an exhibit (A Weekend Break) at the Cheshire Show, which was set up in the Parish Hall for members to see. The competition (An Old Map) was on display and Olive Lee was chosen as the winner with Paddy.

chosen as the winner, with Paddy Poulter and Margaret Harrop second and third.



# Culcheth Community Primary School

# **OPEN DAYS**

October 16th: 2pm and 6pm

November 20th: 2pm and 6pm

There will be a short presentation followed by a tour of the school. (If you are unable to make these dates, please contact the school)

Culcheth Primary is a warm, welcoming school situated on the same site as Culcheth High and Culcheth Day Nursery with extensive grounds and superb facilities for sport and Computing.

"Leaders and staff foster pupil's love of learning by planning exciting and memorable activities which inspire and motivate them to work hard and strive to excel." Ofsted December 2012

Individual visits to school welcomed - please phone to make an appointment Further information about the school can be found on our website

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Headteacher presentation at 6.30pm and 7.00pm



# School recognises academic achievements



Head Teacher Award winners Amy Reeves and Becky Reed.

MORE than 70 pupils at Culcheth High School had their achievements recognised at a star-studded Presentation Evening.

Academic achievement was the main focus for pupils in Year 9, 11 and 13, including special awards for Art and for Engineering donated by BAM and BDP, the companies responsible for the new school build in 2010.

The Rotary Club also presented two awards, for Technology and for

Community Service.

For the first time this year, the school also celebrated achievement outside the traditional subjects. Students from Years 7 to 11 were nominated for their attendance and contribution to wider school life.



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# College caters for 17,000 students every year

EVERY year more than 17,000 people chose to study at Wigan & Leigh College.

The College offers a wide range of courses both full-time and part-time to both school Teavers and adults.

The Sixth Form Centre, based on the Leigh Sports Village site offers A Level courses with many students progressing onto higher education at the College or University. Vocational courses in Childcare, Computing & IT, ESQL, Health & Social Care, Teacher Education and Sport are also offered at the Centre.

Also within Leigh, the Image Centre based on Walmesley Road, is a purpose built hair, beauty and holistic therapy centre offering professional treatments at realistic prices.

The College also offers vocational courses in subjects such as Business, Business Administration, Catering & Hospitality, Computing & IT, ESOL, Floristry & Horticulture, Public Services and Travel & Tourism at its Parson's Walk Centre. A centre of excellence at School for the Arts, Wigan provides students with courses in the arts, fashion, graphic design and photography. The Pagefield Centre, Wigan is a a purpose built facility for tradespeople of the future with brand new mechanical engineering facilities due to open this September.

To find out more about the courses call Course Enquiries on 01942



# **Newchurch Community Primary School**

Invite you to New Intake Open Afternoon / Evening

### Preparing to fly.

Newchurch will give every child a flying start by working in partnership with parents, staff and the community to develop and celebrate well-rounded citizens who will contribute in a positive way to society.

> **Thursday 3rd October** at 1.30pm

Wednesday 6th November at 1.30pm and 7pm

We are proud of our school - find out why!

Glebeland, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 4DX Telephone 01925 763427

# Enrolling is easy...

### Early Enrolment Sessions

ALL AT PARSON'S WALK CENTRE - WIGAN

If you are not waiting for exam results and want to find out more about our courses, come along to one of our Thursday enrolment sessions.

Date	Time
Thurs 1 August	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Thurs 8 August	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Thurs 15 August	200pm + 700pm

### Main Enrolment Sessions

AT ALL CENTRES

Alternatively if you are awaiting exam results or cannot make the dates above, come along to our main enrolment sessions.

Date	Time
Thurs 22 August	200pm - 7.00pm
Fri 23 August	9.00am - 2.00pm
Tues 27 August	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Wed 28 August	2.00pm - 7.00pm
Thurs 29 August	200pm - 7.00pm
Thurs 5 September	200pm - 7.00pm
Thurs 12 September	200pm - 7.00pm
Thurs 19 September	2.00pm - 7.00pm

### Parson's Walk Centre - Wigan

- (Health/ Youth & Community)
- Pre Access (Health)
- Accountancy
- Art & Design
- 3D Design
   Beauty Therapy (Wigan courses)
- Business Administration
- Catering & Hospitality
- Computing & IT Early Years/Childcare
- Fashion
- Foundation Studies
- Graphic Design
- ESOL
- Floristry
- Hairdressing (Wigan courses)
   Health & Social Care
- Management & Professional
- Media
- Music Performance
   & Sound Engineering
- Performing Arts
- PhotographyPublic Services
- Retail
- Skills for Life.
- Teaching Assistant
   Teacher Education
- Travel & Tourism

### Pagefield Centre - Wigan

- Civil Engineering
- Construction Crafts
- Electronic & Electrical Engineering
- Electrical Installation
- Mechanical Engineering
- Plumbing

### Sixth Form Centre - Leigh

- # AS/A Levels Access to HE
- (Social Care, Science & Forensics, Health, Scort)
- Pre Access (Science, Health, Social Science)
- Accountancy
- Business
- Computing & IT
- Early Years/Childcare
   ESOL
- GCSEs
- Health & Social Care
- Management & Professional
- Science
- Skills for Life
- Sport
- Teaching Assistants
- Teacher Education

### Image Centre - Leigh

- Hairdressing
- Beauty Therapy
- Holistic Therapy



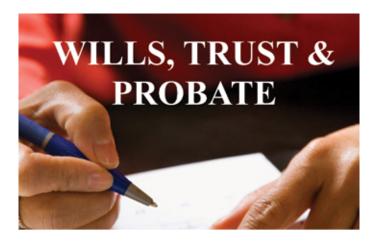


If you have already applied for a full-time course, you will receive a letter with a date and time to come in and enrol from 9.00am onwards on GCSE day (Thursday 22 August).

If you have already applied for a full-time Higher Education course (via UCAS), you will receive a letter with a date and time to come in nd enrol between 9.30am - 12noon on Tuesday 27 August

Please bring proof of qualifications as well as one of the following forms of identification with you to enrol

- ID Card or other form of national ID.
- National Insurance Card
- Bank Credit / Debit Card
- Pasaport
- Driving Licence



# Keeping your Will up to date - don't put it it off!

As part of our commitment to providing you with the best possible advice, we recommend that you review your Will every five years or so.

Family circumstances often change and since you made your Will new rules relating to Inheritance Tax have been introduced.

So it's important to keep your Will up to date

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# Alien invaders

ALIEN invaders landed at Croft's annual carnival as local schools and community groups paraded through the village in glorious sun shine.

Croft Primary School's float featured Zoe Spratt as an Avatar creature and a whole host of other aliens!

The parade of floats set off from The Plough, at Kenyon Lane, toured the village ending up on the Smithy Lane playing fields.

The parade was followed by an action packed afternoon with a variety of stalls and fairground rides and entertainment from Bernie Bennett's Live Wire Act, Professor Pumpernickel – The Mad Scientist and Blackpool Circus School. Music was provided by The Fuse, Warrington Pipe Band and Tyldsley Brass Band

This years' Queen was 13-year-old Lauren Taylor, who attends Culcheth High school. Lauren's attendants were Mattea Morrison Evans and Honey

Sasha Johns, aged 11, was this years' Carnival Princess. Sasha is a year 6 pupil at St. Lewis's School. Her attendants were Poppy Burton and Louisa

Rose bud was 6-years-old Beatrice Rios-Hunt. Bea attends Croft Primary School. Bea's attendants were Maddison Cassidy and Casey Skinner. Crown Bearer was 5-years-old Finlay Marshall from Croft Primary School.



Avatar Zoe Spratt and friends.



Flower power from Croft WI



Croft Brownies wild west float

# d at Croft Carnival



Alien invaders from Croft Primary School



Carnival Queen Lauren Taylor

Princess Sasha Johns



Creown Bearer Finlay Marshall



Rosebud Beatrice Rios-Hunt

# The Gardening Guide **AUGUST**

- Take cuttings of tender perennials such as fuchsias and pelargoniums
- Stop feeding roses now as any new growth will be soft and prone to disease
- Warmer temperatures mean houseplants will need misting and watering more
- If you are going away on holiday leave cutting your lawn until you get back - the extra length will help retain moisture in the lawn
- Autumn/winter vegetables can be planted now

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# Jennifer crowned gala queen

Pictures courtesy: Alan Croston and Ching Lee

JENNIFER Stephenson aged 11 of Meadow Bank Gardens, Glazebury has crowned Glazebury Gala Queen.

Jennifer, a pupil at Glazebury
CE Primary school was crowned
during a special service at All
Saints Church in the village.
Petal girls were triplets Milli,
Hope and Gabriella Bowers,
Attendant was Tabitha AshtonTogher and the Page Boy was
Connor Glyn.
Retiring Gala Queen was
Lauren Wicocks. Petal Girls were
Mia Blears and Rose Redmond,
attendant was Hannah Grundy and
Page Boys were Liam and Thomas
Farrington.

Farrington.
The gala was opened by Paul and Coleen Locket.



Above: Retiring Gala Queen Lauren Wilcocks and Retinue Hana Grundy, Mia and Rosie



Incoming queen and retiring queen with their retinues



GQ Jenifer Stephenson and Retinue Gabby, Hope and Milli Bowers and Connor and Nathan Glyn





Retiring Gala Queen Lauren Wilcocks and Retinue Hana Grundy, Mia and Rosie



The retinues enjoying a ride to church



Crowning glory for Gala Queen Jenifer Stephenson

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# stylesfiles

# Do you have the 'hedgehog'?

The quest is to find the "hedgehog" in your business. Businesses who have really embraced the challenge have achieved as much as and even more than 30% increase in turnover in the first years of the process. So where did the hedgehog come

from and why is it so important?

Every now and then you come across a book that has a profound impact on your views about a particular topic. These books grab your imagination and question your understanding, beliefs and abilities. "Good to Great" by Jim Collins is

that type of book

This book will challenge your view of your business, define your hedgehog and the way you do

So why is it so great? Well, Jim and his team evaluated over 90 of the top US companies over 30 years and looked for those companies whose performance went from being just below or constant with the market index to consistently

out performing the index every year by 3 times for 15 years. They only found 11 companies that met that criterion.

They were looking at identifying the defining moment when these companies changed, and then compared them against their competitors over the following

One of the keys to the outstanding uccess of these companies was the

'hedgehog principle". The hedgehog has 3 components 1. What can you be **best** in the world at?

2. What are you absolutely passionate about?

3. What is your business's economic engine?

These 3 components are linked by a desire to achieve their BHAG,

i.e. Big Hairy Audacious Goal.
You must first understand each component and then confront the brutal facts as to your intentions and plan to achieve these objects.



Ian Lloyd

Please note the contents of our article are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always take professional advice before taking' action.

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# CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Your Parish Councillors

### NEWCHURCH WARD



Chris Vobe 01925 419481



Jacqui Johnson 01925 763435



Matt Smith matt.smith062 @gmail.com

# GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Angela Duncombe 01925 419481



Eddy Estlin eddy.estlin2012 @gmail.com

### **CULCHETH WARD**



Mike Vobe mike.vobe2012 @gmail.com



Peter Caswell 01942 671938



Keith Bland 01925 766641



Lilian Houghton 01925 762935



Paul Campbell 01925 766658

# Victorian Day

The date for this year's Victorian Day has been set, and will take place on Saturday 30th November.

The Parish Council will be working with the Birchwood Lions to facilitate this enjoyable village event, which will co-incide with the switching on of the Christmas lights. Much like Community Day in May, we are looking forward to shaping an event which brings everyone in the community together.

This year, we are particularly interested in hearing from businesses who have not previously been involved, but who would like to contribute to the Day. Please get in touch with one of your parish councillors if this applies to you. The Parish Council are also looking to shape events on the run up to Victorian Day and will be inviting local schools to participate in a creative writing competition and an art competition. Look out for updates on this, and how to enter, in future editions of Culcheth Life.

### Policing priorities

Your Parish Councillors work very closely with local police and PCSOs to ensure that your policing priorities are made known to local officers.

At each Parish Council meeting, we set monthly priorities for the PCSO team, who in turn report back to us on how they have tackled the respective issues. Whether speeding traffic, anti-social behaviour, graffiti or littering, the Parish Council are committed to stamping out these kind of problems in our community.

Cllr Matt Smith is Chair of the Parish Council's Law and Order subcommittee. If you know of an area in the villages that would benefit from some extra attention from the local police, please get in touch with Matt at any time and let him know. We can then ensure your comments are fed to the Neighbourhood Policing Team and acted upon.

# Parish Plan Monitoring Group

Would you like to get more closely involved in shaping the future of our area?

The Parish Plan Monitoring Group, which oversees the implementation of the "Parish Plan" might be right up your street! We are looking for additional volunteers to join the Monitoring Group, which will look closely at the aims of the Parish Plan and strive to ensure they are implemented.

A new Secretary and Treasurer have recently been appointed, and there is an enthusiastic team of residents already rolling up their sleeves. Cllr Mike Vobe is taking the lead on this issue for the Parish Council, so if you think you would like to become involved (or simply want more information on the work of the Monitoring Group), then please do get in touch with him. You won't be overloaded with work – volunteers can come along and get involved with the issues that they are interested in.

# Better grass cutting for Newchurch

Your parish councillors in Newchurch have made very robust representations to the Borough Council over their programme of grass cutting in the village.

Recent staffing problems meant that many areas in the village were left unattended for longer than usual, and the grass grew out of proportion! The good news is that Chris, Matt and Jacqui have now ensured that Newchurch will benefit from extra grass cutting on a fixed cycle, which will help to ensure that our local environment is properly maintained, and continues to be inviting and welcoming to all.

### The East Area Neighbourhood Board

Cllr Chris Vobe has recently been appointed to Warrington's East Area Neighbourhood Board, which covers Culcheth and Glazebury. Each "Area Board" has a number of funding streams available so that local communities can bid for funding for local projects and worthwhile schemes. Cllr Vobe will be working diligently to ensure that our area gets its fair share of funding, and so he is encouraging any local organisations who are looking for financial support for community projects to get in touch.

# **Culcheth High Community** Campus

Adult Learning Courses September 2013







Handmade Pottery Learn how to work with clay, create your own pots, plates and tiles, as well as developing your own ideas. Mixed ability, all welcome. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. Every Tuesday evening for five weeks starting on the 17th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Basic IT Computer Skills This course will give you the skills needed to type a letter, access the internet and send e-mails. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. Every Tuesday evening for five weeks starting on 17th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Vintage Floral Art Learn floristry techniques to create beautiful flower arrangements. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. Every Wednesday evening for five weeks starting on the 18th September, 6.30pm -8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

**Jewellery Making** An introduction the craft of jewellery making. This course costs £40 with a cost of £15 for materials, however each learner is entitled to one free course each academic year. Every Wednesday evening for five weeks starting on the 18th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol

Introduction to Art Relax in a creative environment of our Art department and have taster sessions on Printmaking, handmade paper, drawing skills and 3D design. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. Every Thursday evening for five weeks starting on the 19th September, 6.30pm -8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Cooking Around the World Chef Paul Ratcliffe will guide you as you create a range of cultural foods. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. One class every Tuesday evening for four weeks starting on the 17th September 6.30pm—9pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

For more information on enrolment please contact:

Warrington Colligate

01925 494494

# Council risks mbudsman referral'

CROFT Borough and Parish Councillor Chris Vobe has hit out at the Borough Council's planning department over their treatment of the village, after a planning application was approved by officers despite requests for elected councillors to debate the decision.

Cllr Vobe (pictured) accused the planning department officers of having an "in-built bias" against the Croft community, which he says is evidenced by their handling of



the HMS Gosling development, as well as the latest controversial issue.

"A planning application was submitted for agricultural storage on Stone
Pit Lane. Whilst we strive to support our farming community, residents had
real concerns about the effects of increased traffic on this narrow road and whether the location was suitable. They rightly sent their objections to the planning department and I asked for this matter to be sent to a committee of

elected councillors for the case to be debated and decided.

"Instead, council officers seem to have taken it upon themselves to approve this application – just 48 hours after my request for a committee referral was made.

"What is even more bizarre is that, when challenged on why the matter."

"What is even more bizarre is that, when challenged on why the matter did not go before a committee, the council are claiming my letter went astray – yet they have published it on their website right beneath the document which sets out their final decision!"

Residents' anger over this planning application has been heightened after they discovered that only one consultation letter had been sent out by the council – to the person who had submitted the application!

Cllr Vobe added: "This is outrageous. People who work hard and pay their council tax have a right to submit their views – whether for or against – on any planning application affecting where they live. The planning department have simply sidelined them by sending a single letter to the person who actually submitted these plans. I don't think it would have taken Einstein to work out that they probably weren't going to object!"

Meanwhile Cllr Vobe has also pointed out that the document which revealed the council's decision to approve permission had initially been labelled with the wrong planning application number. After he informed the

labelled with the wrong planning application number. After he informed the officer of their mistake, he returned the next day to view the report online – only to discover that someone had tipexed out the wrong number and pencilled in the correct one.

pencilled in the correct one.

"This is the same shoddy treatment of Croft that we saw over the development of the HMS Gosling site. It is as if local people's views don't matter. I am appalled that, when I asked an officer whether the council had a vendetta against Croft, they couldn't give me a denial. That only goes to confirm their in-built bias against the community I represent," added Cllr Vobe. The council risks a referral to the Ombudsman over this kind of farce. An independent person should be brought in to examine what has gone wrong, and why we have been let down. Whoever is responsible for these mistakes should be held to account"

mistakes should be held to account."

A council spokesperson said: "A detailed review report has been provided to Cllr Vobe about this issue and his concerns. The conclusion is

that the application was considered appropriately, properly and within the delegated powers of the council.

"Unfortunately, Cllr Vobe's request for a referral to the development management committee was made extremely late and after the decision was made and decision notice issued. The application was published in accordance with statutory requirements and within the agreed consultation period. The council vehemently denies there is any evidence of bias or pre-disposed views towards planning applications in Croft."

# £2,000 raised - by sleeping in cardboard boxes

SCOUTS, Cubs and Beavers at Culcheth raised £2,000 for a charity for the

SCOUIS, Cubs and Beavers at Culcheth raised £2,000 for a charity for the homeless - by sleeping a night in cardboard boxes.

Members of the 19th Warrington Culcheth Methodist Scout Group took part in the event, which was part of a fun-packed weekend of canoeing, kayaking, cooking on open fires, archery, pioneering and songs around the camp fire.

The Beavers were inside a building, the Cubs in a large marquee and the Scouts and Leaders were outside and open to the elements.

But all spent the night in cardboard boxes.

A light shower overnight did little to dampen spirits!

A light shower overnight did little to dampen spirits!
Food was served in "soup kitchen" style with queues and few luxuries.
However no one went hungry and all had a great time.
The event raised money for Compassion in Action - a Leigh based charity that helps the homeless - and Scout Group funds.

In addition tinned and other food was provided to the Culcheth Methodist Church food bank collection service by parents of children attending the

### Expansion keeps it in the family



An oven cleaning business is keeping things in the family after its owner appointed his ideal work colleague - his wife.

Andrea Clark, 46, has decided to link up with her husband and owner of Ovenu Warrington, Paul, 50, in the oven valeting business after seeking a career change.

Paul, who averages three oven cleans a day, was looking for a sub-contractor to help handle the increased workload, which could potentially see the business expand into a new area.

Andrea was inspired by Paul's success in business to create the ideal partnership for the couple, who have been married for 19

She previously worked as a Learning Manager, where she taught at a local primary school for 12 years. She also had an affiliation with the business, as she did the bookkeeping, but her duties from now on will be more hands

Andrea is set to complete her Ovenu training in August, when she will swap her marker pen for an oven scourer as she embarks on her new career.

"After vowing I wouldn't go into oven valeting, the increased business and prospect of working closely with Paul, prompted me to join him," said Andrea.

Paul said: "I am delighted that Andrea has decided to come into the business with me and I am relishing the opportunity to work with her. It was a difficult decision for her to change careers, but one that she won't regret.

provides Ovenu Warrington an environmentally-friendly oven cleaning service to residential properties and businesses including letting agents, private landlords and local schools across Warrington and surrounding areas."

The Ovenu valeting volves dismantling process involves key components of an oven such as the door, interior panels, fan and shelves and placing them into design-registered tank equipment, which uses safe, non-caustic products to clean the oven parts. The whole process takes around three to four hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition.

For more information contact Paul Clark at Ovenu on 01925 453 377 or ovenuwarrington@ hotmail.co.uk

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