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Issue: 141  
December 2014

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# Editor's Comment



## THE planning application to demolish the Rhinewood Country House and Hotel at Glazebrook has sparked a lot of interest in the area.

I must be showing my age as it doesn't seem that long ago that the country hotel came into being on the site of a former vicarage.

## Christmas tree festival

THE ninth annual Newchurch Parish Church Christmas Tree and Crib Festival will take place from December 12-14 – and local people are being invited to get into the festive spirit and drop in.

There will be plenty for all the family to see with about 50 decorated trees exhibited by local businesses and community groups. Theme this year is "Christmas Traditions".

On the Friday, the three local primary schools from Culcheth will be singing carols throughout the day and on the Saturday afternoon, between 1-3pm there will once again be children's craft activities.

On the Saturday evening, a brass band will be holding a concert in the church. Tickets are priced at £7.50 and must be obtained in advance either from Spotless Dry Cleaner or by calling 01925 765652.

Hand bell ringers will be in church on Sunday afternoon and there will be a closing Tree Service at 6.30pm with favourite carols being sung. Light refreshments will be available across the whole weekend.

One can only imagine the current owners do not see it being financially viable to carry on and the chance of generating revenue from the sale of the land for 36 properties must be very tempting.

Glazebrook is not exactly an area blessed with many facilities and it will be a sad day if the hotel closes, with the knock on loss of local employment.

The lack of local facilities, including shops, is one of the factors members of the planning committee have given as a reason for refusal.

I wouldn't be surprised if the refusal isn't challenged at an appeal – watch this space!

Meanwhile while one local

business has an uncertain future another continues to flourish – Bents Garden & Home at Glazebury (see opposite).

Congratulations to Matthew and his team for moving with the times over the years and creating a real local visitor attraction which brings in customers from all over the North West and beyond.

It is always pleasing to see a local family business go from strength to strength.

The various benefits provided by this successful business are vital to the success of the local economy through employment and attracting visitors into the area.

Finally can I take this opportunity of wishing all our readers and advertisers a happy Christmas and prosperous and healthy New Year!

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# £5.1 million extension completed at Bents

**THE latest phase of a multi million pound development at Bents Garden & Home at Glazebury, near Warrington has been completed.**

Valued at £5.1m, the 37-week project included the design and build of a two-storey extension, providing additional retail space on the ground floor together with new offices, and future expansion space for retail at first floor level.

The work was carried out by Eric Wright Construction and the scheme also included the construction of a new roundabout on the A574 highway, a key feature of reinforcing Bents as a destination.

Work carried out also enhanced the children's boutique and pet care departments, adding a new groom room and pet café, while the 9,000 sq ft food hall will, on completion, have space for several fresh deli counters, local butchers, craft bakery and wine shop.

Matthew Bent, managing director at Bents Garden & Home, said: "We've come a long way since the Bents' business was established by

my grandparents nearly 75 years ago and the journey so far has been hugely enjoyable.

"Despite growing in size we want to retain all the great things we already do, keeping the feeling and ambiance we have worked hard to create, but in a bigger store. Whilst never forgetting our gardening heritage we've worked hard to create a destination that is no longer just focussed on the garden but also encompasses home, lifestyle, leisure and a day out and Eric Wright Construction has helped us achieve just that."

John Wilson, managing director of Eric Wright Construction, added: "We're delighted to have completed the latest phase of works with Bents Garden & Home and are confident that the new facilities will help the family-run business to continue delivering a multi-faceted shopping experience suitable for all."



## Husband remanded on murder charge

A CULCHETH man accused of murdering his wife has been remanded in custody.

Andrew Munro, aged 50, of Chiltern Road, was remanded in custody until February 20 when he appeared at Chester Crown Court charged with murder and attempted murder.

Mother-of-three Clare Munro, aged 47, died after being found with serious injuries at the family home on November 2.



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# Santa's on his way - thanks to Rotary!

**FATHER Christmas will be out and about in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft with a little help from his reindeer float and the local Rotary Club.**

He will be at Bents Garden and Home, Glazebury on Saturdays, December 6, 13 and 20 and in Culcheth village centre on Fridays December 12 and 19.

Street tours are planned in Culcheth and Glazebury on December 15 and 17, Gorse Covert on December 18 and Croft on December 22.

It is also hoped to have a presence in Birchwood, subject to dates being agreed.

A Rotary Club spokesman said: "Staging these events is hard but

rewarding team work. Our Club needs new members who will be made most welcome."

Anyone interested should call Bernard Groom on 01925 733893 or visit the Rotary District 1280 website for more details.

Meanwhile, the club has expressed thanks to the public, Culcheth Sports Club and their sponsors for the massive support given to its fourth annual Culcheth Beer Festival.

A total of 1,008 people attended the two day event to enjoy live music,

a hog roast, the choice of 40 cask ales, a variety of bottled beers and lagers, ciders, wines and soft drinks.

After last orders were called the following statistics emerged: 2,765 pints of ale drunk, 445 pints of cider quaffed, 396 bottles of lager sipped and 25 bottles of wine sipped.

Profits were more than £8,500.00, another record, which will benefit Rotary charity work locally and those

less fortunate further afield.

Plans are already in place for next year's beer festival which will take place on Friday and Saturday, September 11-12 at the same venue.

Rotary's annual Halle concert at Culcheth was also a resounding success and it is hoped it will have raised more than £1,100, again for Rotary charities.

## WI hears of 'Victorian times'

THERE was a full house at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI, including two new members.

Speaker was Graham Stirrup on the subject of "Victorian Times."

He spoke of huge changes taking place in England, with wealth unevenly spread and much unrest regarding the monarchy.

When Victoria came to the throne she proved able to stabilize things as she herself had had a very ordered and strict upbringing.

In 1840 she married her first cousin Albert and had nine children with him. Albert became very popular but at the age of 42 he suffered a bout of influenza which turned to typhoid and he died. Victoria's mourning over a long period lost her some popularity. She was ruling a great empire with India as the "jewel in the crown". But there were terrible conditions facing poor people - huge overcrowding, workhouses, penny

set-ups for sleeping and two baths for 20 people. After the talk, the meeting turned to business affairs and Christine Seddon gave a summary of financial matters and spoke of outings to Swan Lake, Chester and Steel Magnolias in February. The next meeting will be on December 16.

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# Croft Parish Council News

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Jim Hilton  
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Les Hoyle  
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j.shelley@btopenworld.com



Chris Vobe  
01925 419481  
chrsvobe@gmail.com  
Twitter @ChrisVobe1

### Christmas tree and lights

In the company of the Croft Carnival Queen and of villagers, the Chairman of Croft Parish Council, Councillor Jeff Shelley will turn on the village's Christmas lights on Tuesday, 2nd December. As in previous years choirs from the two local primary schools, Croft Primary and St. Lewis' will sing traditional Christmas carols as the community celebrates the start of the Christmas season. Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony which starts at 6pm in the Playing Field car park on Smithy Lane.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to David J Platt Landscapes Limited for donating the beautiful tree and to Jaylec Northwest Limited for donating their time to put up the lights.

### Speed activated warning sign

In response to villagers' concerns about excessive vehicular speeds around the village and after a lengthy consultation with the borough council, the Parish Council has commissioned the installation of a speed activated warning sign on Mustard Lane on the approach to St. Lewis' from Culcheth. The intention is that speeding drivers will be reminded of the speed limit and advised to 'Slow Down'.

### Croft in Bloom

Congratulations to Tony and Beverley Moran of Millhouse Lane who were this year's winners of the Croft in Bloom competition organised by the Parish Council and sponsored by Bents Garden & Home. The aim of Croft in Bloom is to keep the villages' front gardens looking as attractive as possible and the Moran's colourful garden with a variety of plants and shrubs certainly fulfilled that criterion.

**The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Residents may contact Mike Pope, Croft Parish Council's Clerk on 01925 733766 or  
Email: [croftparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:croftparishcouncil@gmail.com) Twitter: @croftparish Web: [www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk](http://www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk)

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# Daphne honoured for her fundraising work

**DAPHNE Eastburn, a fundraiser from Culcheth Methodist Church and the local scouts, was among 60 volunteers honoured at a celebration event in Warrington.**

## £400 boost for jiu jitsu club

CULCHETH Jiu Jitsu Club has been given a £400 boost by the Warrington Neighbourhood Boards Community Fund.

The money has been earmarked for new mats and pads and will help the club go from strength to strength according to organiser Gary Knowles.

He thanked the Neighbourhood Board and Culcheth and Glazebury parish councillor Paul Campbell, who help obtain the grant.

The club operates on Sunday evenings at the Village Club in Wigshaw Lane.

Cllr Campbell said: "What Gary has been doing for the young people in the area has been amazing."

"When he approached me for help in raising funds it was a no brainer and working together with the Neighbourhood Board I am glad to say that the funds have been made available to allow the club to have the special equipment it needs to keep going."

They were all people who had been nominated for the outstanding volunteering work across the borough.

The borough council's neighbourhood team and Warrington Voluntary Action teamed up to hold the event at Orford Community Hub.

Cllr Kate Hannon, the council's lead member for leisure, community and culture, opened the event and the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Ted

Finnegan, presented the group with certificates to commend their work.

Cllr Hannon said: "Following on from a similar successful event last year, the neighbourhoods team and Warrington Voluntary Action paired up for this year's event and it was absolutely lovely to attend and to hear the stories of people who really care about their community."

"Plans for next year's event are already underway and due to the large number of fabulous volunteers in the town, the 2015 event will be bigger and better than ever before!"



Volunteer Daphne Eastburn with the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Ted Finnegan

## Christmas floral displays

MEMBERS of Newchurch WI were treated to a talk and demonstration on Christmas floral displays at their monthly meeting.

Speaker was Samantha, of Makerfield Flowers, who created seven showpieces, from a decorated cracker to large arrangements, using different flowers and foliage for each.

As she worked she gave useful hints, based on more than 20 years as a professional florist.

Members learned that really fresh gypsophila doesn't smell nice and calla lilies can be supported on cocktail sticks. Any lily pollen is best removed with Sellotape and most flower stems should be cut on a slant. Samantha preferred one dominant colour at a time and tiny amounts of Christmas glitter and fake snow were used carefully to enhance the real blooms.

Barbara Delve gave the vote of thanks and Samantha carried out her final task by judging November's competition – a home-made cracker. She chose Margaret Hill as the winner, with Lesley Lloyd and Aileen Paterson coming second and third.

The meeting was Doreen Procter's first as president and she welcomed everyone, including a new member and thanked Nora Upton for the arrangement of bulbs given for the president's table.

Details were given of two events for the New Year – a visit to "Oklahoma!" on March 19 and the Spring coffee morning on March 24.

The evening ended with tea and box suppers served by Joan Hunt and Wyn Worthington.

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Saturday 13th December



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# Victorian Day hailed

**CULCHETH'S annual Victorian Day has been hailed as a resounding success, with visitors from across Warrington flocking to the village to enjoy the start of the festive celebrations.**

Local shops and cafes carried on the Victorian theme with Mulled wine and roasted chestnuts being sold on the shopping parade throughout the day.

The fair was a hit for younger visitors – the carousel was centrepiece on Lodge Drive, whilst Sudden Impact entertained teenagers and adults alike on Jackson Avenue. Visitors were amused when local councillors Chris Vobe and Matt Smith joined youngsters on the popular ride for a white knuckle experience during the afternoon!

Local schools were championed through the Art and Creative Writing competitions. Winners from Newchurch Primary School and

Culcheth Primary School had the chance to show off their creations to local MP Helen Jones who came to meet them in the Library, and had prizes presented to them by Cllr Smith.

Culcheth Methodist Church hosted a Christmas Fayre and a carol service, and the Art Exhibit in Jackson Avenue was highlighted as one of the most outstanding for many years.

The day finished as big crowds were then drawn to the Village Green where Parish Council Chairman Cllr Smith called on Father Christmas to help him switch on the village's Christmas lights.



*Culcheth Art Group and their WW1 display*

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# resounding success



Cllr Matt Smith switches on the lights



Stallholders at Culcheth Methodist



Arresting times for Victorian Policeman



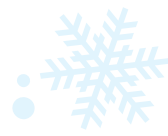
Santa's Grotto



The team from Spa Beautiful

More pictures online at [www.culchethlife.com](http://www.culchethlife.com)

## December...



### Winter Gardening Tips

- Christmas wrapping – remember to protect your half-hardy plants during very cold spells. Wrap the pot in bubble wrap for the entire winter and the plant with fleece when it falls below freezing.
- Christmas dreams – now is the ideal time to plan your perfect garden paradise for next year. Come in to store for inspiration or to talk to one of our team of plant experts.
- Christmas crackers – although a lot of the garden has gone to sleep for the winter, there are several stars still performing – Mahonia 'Charity', Sarcococca - Christmas Box and Helleborus - the Christmas Rose.

### Christmas Tips

- Many trees and shrubs in the garden or in pots can be dressed with lights for the festive season. LED lights are very economical with electricity – using up to 90% less electricity than conventional lights. They are also made of plastic rather than glass and therefore safer and less likely to break.
- When decorating your real tree, remember it will have more visual impact if you use several of the same thing rather than lots of different single items.

[bents.co.uk](http://bents.co.uk)



## A weekend of magical treats for both young and old...

With real reindeer, fairground attractions, face painting, a reindeer treasure hunt for the little ones and hot punch and mince pies for the grown-ups. Plus, we've got gift ideas galore - perfect presents for friends and family this Christmas.



#### What's coming up...

- Wed 3rd Dec 6.30pm - 8.30pm - Festive inspiration evening
- Sat 8th & Sun 7th Dec - Festive family fun weekend
- Evening Wed 10th Dec / Weekend Sat 20th & Sun 21st Dec - be inspired event
- Sat 13th & Sun 14th Dec - Children's planting activities

Discover more and shop online at [bents.co.uk](http://bents.co.uk)

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## Householder loses planning appeal

A RESIDENT of Landsdowne, Culcheth, has lost an appeal against the refusal of planning consent for extensions to their semi-detached house.

The proposal involved a single storey rear extension, a front porch and shower room extension and a new pitched roof over an existing flat roofed garage. It was turned down by the borough council in July.

Victoria Lucas-Gosnold, the Government-appointed inspector who dealt with the appeal, concluded that the proposed rear extension would be higher and longer than the existing situation and taller than the existing boundary fence, creating a dark and gloomy "tunnel" effect for the occupants of the house next door when using their living room. It would also obstruct their open sky views.

As a result, the proposal would lead to a loss of light and be harmful to their living conditions.

She also decided the front element of the proposals would be harmful to the character and appearance of the area.

Although neighbouring occupants may not have objected to the proposals, the absence of an objection did not necessarily indicate support.

# LiveWire support Children in Need

**LiveWire helped raise funds for this year's Children in Need throughout its six leisure facilities including Culcheth campus.**

Staff and customers were encouraged to cycle as far as they could on a static bike set up in each leisure reception area for a 12 hour period. Participants pedalled strong and hard throughout the day and managed to cover a total distance of 2242.78km, that's nearly the equivalent of travelling from Culcheth to Marrakech!

From generous donations, a grand total of £1000.00 was raised across the board. Kev Forester, Commercial Manager at

LiveWire said: "Everyone really enjoyed the challenge and got on board with supporting the event. It's great that local communities across the town can raise this amount of money for a fantastic charity. We are looking forward to setting ourselves another challenge next year which involves customers and staff."

To see pictures of people taking part in the cycling challenge head to LiveWire's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/yourlivewire](http://www.facebook.com/yourlivewire)



Ant Naylor at Culcheth Community Campus

## Memorial plaque unveiled

A MEMORIAL plaque has been in remembrance of 20 local soldiers who lost their lives during World War One.

The ceremony took place at Croft Village Memorial Hall and was attended by local dignitaries, members of the Royal British Legion, the hall committee, family members and local residents.

Members of Croft Air Training Corps were also present and one of their number sounded the Last Post and Reveille on the bugle.

This was following by bagpipe

music also played by an ATC member.

Instigator of the plaque proposal was Alan Sharpe, a local farmer,

who sadly died earlier this year.

His son, Philip, placed a wreath of poppies on the plaque.



## Day nursery celebrates 20th anniversary

STAFF and children at Culcheth Day Nursery celebrated its 20th anniversary with a party and cake.

Blowing out the candles on the cake from left, Harry, Georgina, owner Bebbie Byrne - Davies, Harrison and Poppy.





# Breakfast with Santa

Add an extra 'WOW' to Christmas

Enjoy a festive breakfast with Santa this Christmas. There will be plenty of festive fun and laughter including a Winter Train Ride and each child will receive a gift from Santa.

Breakfast with Santa dates

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Styles and Co offer a range of accounting and business advisory services. Rather than listing them, we think the best way of illustrating what we do is to give real life examples. In this article we focus on our Tax Planning services by explaining how we recently helped one of our clients restructure their company in a tax efficient way.

This particular company's activities include plant hire, general groundwork contracting and civil engineering. To sustain their business they have to maintain high levels of capital investment in machinery. Their goal was to ring-fence the plant and equipment, which retains and can increase in value, from the rest of their business, which can be subject to volatility in demand.

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If you are interested in ring-fencing assets from the rest of your business then contact Ian Lloyd, Graeme Hindley or Sarah Salton to discuss further.



The Styles Files are provided by Styles and Co, if you would like further information call 01925 761600

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# Homes plan for hotel site is rejected

**PLANNING chiefs have thrown out a housing scheme that would involve the demolition of a three-star country house hotel standing in its own wooded grounds at Glazebrook.**

Members of the borough council's development management committee voted unanimously to refuse proposals for 36 new homes on the site of the Rhinewood Country House Hotel in Glazebrook Lane.

The decision delighted local councillor Paul Bretherton and chairman of Residents Action Group Peter Fillery, who had both opposed the scheme.

Cllr Bretherton said: "The committee were rightly concerned over the lack of public transport links, the fact that the nearest amenities were nearly four miles away in Culcheth and that the three storey apartments would be completely unsuitable for a village like Glazebrook. We are thrilled for residents who would have been adversely affected if this had been approved."

The Rhinewood Hotel was originally built as a vicarage and dates from the late 18th century. But it has been completely rebuilt and for years has operated as a modern hotel and restaurant catering for leisure and business clients, weddings and other functions.

Objectors argued that if the hotel was not proving profitable, it would be more suitable for conversion to an old folks' home or convalescent home – either of which would provide jobs for local people.

There are also objections on the grounds of traffic problems, loss of trees, and impact on the openness of the Green Belt. Planning officers recommended the scheme be approved, however. They said the new development would have 292 sq metres less floor area than the existing hotel and would be restricted to parts of the site already developed, so would have no greater impact on the Green Belt than the hotel.



The hotel, as it was several years ago.

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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



David Robb  
01925 419481

### CULCHETH WARD



Mike Vobe  
mike.vobe2012@gmail.com



Peter Caswell  
01942 671938



Keith Bland  
01925 766641



Helena Campbell  
01925 766658



Paul Campbell  
01925 766658

## New Christmas Light at Lodge Drive

New Christmas Lights at Lodge Drive have now been installed by the Parish Council, with help from some generous donations from local businesses. However, these have only matched a small proportion of the total cost and the Parish Council is looking to involve more business in the Christmas lights upgrade problem. We would value any sponsorship that local businesses feel able to offer, however small. If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Parish Councillors, whose details are listed on this page.

## Grounds maintenance

The Parish Council will re-tendering its Grounds Maintenance contract for 2015 to 2018 early in the new year. If any suitably qualified local contractor would like to express an interest please get in touch with the Clerk to the Council, Mike Durrington.

## Victorian Day

By the time you read this, the village will have held what we hope was another successful Victorian Day. Our thanks and appreciations are extended to the many volunteers who help to make this day a huge success. We're also pleased that the festive season has officially launched with the annual "switch on" of the community lights. The Parish Council pays for the Christmas lights in the centre of both Culcheth and Glazebury, as part of our efforts to ensure that our local community remains an inviting and welcoming place for all. As we do after all local events, the Parish Council would particularly welcome any feedback that residents would like to offer. We hope to build on the success of this event next year, with 2015's Community Day the next significant event on the village calendar.

## Speedwatch and Ruralwatch

The Parish Council continues its strive to address issues of speeding throughout the villages. Along with local PCSOs, we are keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in Speedwatch groups throughout Culcheth and Glazebury. In addition, we are looking for any volunteers who may have an interest in joining a "Ruralwatch" group, which will keep a close eye on any problems which may arise in the rural parts of our community. A successful Ruralwatch group will also need a local coordinator, and any residents who would like further details on these roles should get in touch with Cllr Matt Smith, who can provide more information.

## HS2 update

Those following the plans for HS2 closely will note that Sir David Higgins has recently published a report entitled "Rebalancing Britain – from HS2 towards a national transport strategy" which brings new hope for those suffering from blight under the current proposals. The Parish Council has welcomed Sir David's report as a hopeful development. With a new station being proposed at Crewe, this gives HS2 Ltd a real opportunity to look at their plans again. Changes to the plans as a result of this report could ensure Warrington and the whole region receives a better service and will save £1 billion. Parish councillors continue to work closely with local groups like CADRAG and affected residents to make strong representations on behalf of the whole village.

## Planning applications - Culcheth Hall Drive

Parish Councillors are once again working closely with residents on Culcheth Hall Drive to support their opposition to plans for building on the former "Tithebarn" site. Councillors will join residents to speak against the proposals when they are put before the Borough Council's Development Management Committee. As is the case with all planning applications in the villages, your comments are hugely valued and help to inform the representations that we make on local people's behalf. Don't hesitate to get in touch with one of your Parish Councillors if you would like further information, or more details on what is being proposed. We will make sure to keep residents updated on the submissions that we make.

## And finally... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Last, but not least, as this is the final update from your Parish Council for 2014, can we use this opportunity to extend (on behalf of all members of the Council) our very best wishes to all residents throughout Culcheth and Glazebury. We wish all of you, and your families, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# Tories choose martial arts expert to fight election

**A JIU jitsu blackbelt who lives little more than a stone's throw from the border of Culcheth and Glazebury has been chosen to fight the next General Election for the Conservatives.**

Father-of-three Richard Short lives in Leigh – just 500 yards from the Warrington boundary – and has previously fought a number of local government elections in Leigh, increasing the Tory share of the vote from nine per cent to 35 per cent.

He will contest the Warrington North constituency seat currently held for Labour by Culcheth resident Helen Jones.

An environmental health officer working for a hotel chain Mr Short is married to Angela and has two daughters and a son.

He said: "I know the constituency well – my children were educated

in the borough and when I was at college and university I took holiday jobs for several years on farms in the Glazebury area."

Mr Short says he is a "science geek" with a keen interest in astronomy and science generally. He took up jiu jitsu through an interest in martial arts and as a means of keeping fit. His three children have followed in his footsteps.

"I told them the first rule of martial arts is not to get into fights at all. But it is a superb way of keeping fit which is particularly important in these days when there is so much concern about obesity among young people."

Mr Short worked in local government for 12 years before going into private practice, working in Wigan, Bolton and West Lancashire.

He believes the present Government has done a good job in strengthening the economy.

"We always knew it was going to be a slow process so it is important that the good work continues. Unemployment in Warrington North is down 49 per cent since 2010 and I want to see it continue to improve.

"I want Warrington to become the centre for enterprise that it was back in the 1980s – and for the town to succeed we must have a strong economy."

"I believe people should be able to be in touch with politicians so I will be working hard, out on the doorstep and elsewhere, to make sure they get to know me. I shall be asking what issues are important to them."

Mr Short opposes the HS2 high speed rail project as originally proposed – and is hopeful that it will be amended so that the spur line that would run through Culcheth, effectively slicing the local community in two and causing tremendous environmental damage, will be dropped.

"It would bring Warrington no benefits at all and cause devastation in Culcheth. But the signs are looking good and I am hoping the spur line will be dropped."

He supports the upgrading of the existing West Coast Main Line and also the idea of an HS3 – and east-west line linking the cities of the North.

At the 2010 General Election, MP Helen Jones held the seat for Labour with 45.54 per cent of the poll – down 7.3 per cent on the previous

election. Conservative Paul Campbell came second in a four-cornered contest with 30.23 per cent of the vote.

Clr Campbell said: "We had quite a few people interested in contesting the seat but in the end, unanimously selected Richard. He has everything we need in a candidate for the constituency."

## 'Sparkling' afternoon tea boost for charity

A "SPARKLING afternoon tea" fundraiser event was held at Culcheth, in aid of the Richard Sharp Sensory Project.

The event at McDee's coffee shop and bistro in Lodge Drive, featured live music from local singer Aimee Clare and homemade cakes, unlimited tea and coffee and a glass of sparkling wine all served in festive surroundings. There were also raffles with quality prizes.

Sarah Sharp, who works at McDee's, founded the Richard Sharp Sensory Project, last year in memory of her husband Richard Sharp, who passed away in 2012 at the age of 32 from a rare condition called Melas.

Sarah, with the help of many others, has already raised more than £10,000 towards her target of £50,000 to enable the opening of a dedicated sensory room within the Deafness Support Network (DSN) offices in Northwich.

Sarah, said: "I'm thrilled with McDee's supporting me with the Sparkling Afternoon Tea. Events of this kind help in promoting the project and bring further support to our fundraising efforts."

"Through his illness Richard faced many challenges, but losing his sight and hearing had the most traumatic affect on him."

"I worked alongside the Deafness Support Network, devising sensory boxes which would bring memories, energy and positivity to Richard's daily struggle."

"The affect sensory boxes had on Richard's life has inspired us to carry on the work so it can reach and benefit more people the way it did Richard."

Helen McVey, owner of McDee's, said: "We admire the work that Sarah has already done and are very happy to help in any way we can in raising money for this charity. We have already held a reflexology evening for staff and friends raising £100. We will be planning future events to support her in the New Year."

The day also launched McDee's new daily afternoon teas.



## By election for Glazebury and Mee Brow

A BY-ELECTION is to be held for a vacant seat on Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council following the resignation of Labour member David Robb.

Labour and Conservative will contest the vacancy for the Glazebury and Mee Brow ward and the poll will take place on Thursday, December 11.

Polls will be open between 7am and 10pm.

Mr Robb was co-opted to the council in February.

Labour candidate will be Joan Grime, a former further education tutor who lives in the village with her family.

Married with three grown-up children, she was deputy head of mathematics at Winstanley College.

She said: "I would be delighted to represent the people of Glazebury, Mee Brow and Fowley Common on the parish council."

"I'm standing for the Parish Council because I want to make sure that the voices of people here are heard."

She has already launched a "Five Point Plan" for Glazebury and Mee Brow, which is being delivered to every household and sets out her

commitments to local people – including a pledge to tackle speeding traffic problems, improve facilities for young people on Mee Brow, and protect the Green Belt boundary in the village.

Conservative candidate will be Sue Bland, a borough councillor for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft and a former long-standing member of the parish council.

She has been a member of the

borough council since 2000 and is a member of Culcheth Youth Centre management body and the Culcheth Centre management committee as well as Warrington and district Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Polling stations will be located at Glazebury Scout Hut (for residents of Glazebury village) and at a mobile unit on Churchill Avenue (for residents of Mee Brow and Fowley Common).



Sue Bland



Joan Grime



# The Centre for Reproductive Health to offer one year free egg storage

FOLLOWING on from the announcement that American-based companies such as Apple and Facebook are offering egg-freezing as part of their employees benefits package, the Reproductive Health Group also recognise that such opportunities are becoming increasingly more relevant and in demand as many women are facing the real challenge of having successful, healthy pregnancies later in life.

Egg freezing offers women planning to have children after the age of 37 the opportunity to effectively slow down their biological clocks by storing their eggs during their reproductive prime.

Mr Luciano Nardo, Consultant Gynaecologist, Subspecialist in Reproductive Medicine and Clinical Director at CRH Daresbury Park explains, "In the 21st Century and after nearly 40 years of IVF advances, egg freezing is no longer a novel fertility treatment. It carries excellent success rates for women that are not yet ready to start a family. Women have to realise that freezing their eggs at the right time is likely to afford them the opportunity to have their own biological child later on in life. The provision of a quality comprehensive and established service including specialist counselling coupled with laboratory skills are at the heart of the success of egg freezing."

Furthermore, women may benefit from egg freezing if at risk of premature ovarian failure or undergoing specific medical treatment that may affect their fertility such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy or surgical removal of the ovaries.

Reproductive Health Group are offering women one year free egg storage for all patients having egg freezing treatment at the Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park, between 1st November 2014 and 1st May 2015. For more details please call 01925 202180, email info@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk or see www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk



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*Mr Ball, Glazebury*

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*Answered by Matthew, plumber*

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*Mr Parker, Culcheth*

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*Answered by Richard, onsite forman*

If you have a property question, email the team on [ask@courtyardhomes.co.uk](mailto:ask@courtyardhomes.co.uk) and we will endeavour to answer some of them here each month.

# Courtyard

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