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Issue: 145  
April 2015

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**Editor**  
Gary Skentelbery

**Production**  
Paul Walker

**Advertising**  
James Balme

**Freephone**  
0800 955 5247

**Editorial**  
01925 623633

**Email**  
info@culchethlife.com

**Websites**  
www.culchethlife.com  
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**Address**  
New Media Centre  
Old Road Warrington  
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*Printed by TwentyFourSeven*

# Editor's Comment



AS Culcheth Life was going to press we became aware of some local concerns regarding the old firing range at Croft, which most refer to as the Battlefield.

After speaking with the owners we can confirm that the intention is that it's going to be used for livestock, as it has been previously being farm land.

In order to do so the trees from the centre of the field had to be removed as part of the land management of the field which was ploughed a couple of years ago

## Traffic meeting

A PUBLIC meeting is to be held at Croft on April 16 to discuss the effects of traffic in the village.

Police representatives will be present at the meeting at Croft Youth Centre which starts at 7pm.

## Car boot sales

CROFT Parish Council has given permission for two car boot sales to be held on the village playing field during May.

Christ Church Croft will be holding a sale on May 4 and Croft Bowling Association are to hold a sale on May 25.

and maintenance is carried out on a regular basis there.

This does not involve the nearby beautiful wooded area that has paths where people walk their dogs.

It is a separate piece of grassy land with no public access or right of way into, or through the land.

We have been told that no trees with preservation orders or any of the lovely, old, established oak trees around the edge of the field have been touched and there are no plans to do so in the future either.

It's a field and is likely to have livestock on it soon and as such the owners have requested that people stop trespassing, walking their dogs on it, or using it for access, or pulling down signs on the land

as they have been doing recently.

Having grown up in the village with many happy memories of playing on the battlefields I am only too aware of how quickly rumours can get out of control here sometimes!

Meanwhile election fever is starting as we countdown to May 7 - with local and national elections on the agenda.

Let's hope for a good "clean fight" amongst our local candidates rather than political point scoring against the opposition.

I am sure most people want to hear how politicians can make things better rather than listening to personal attacks on the opposition.

Let's all work for the good of our villages and try and focus on the positives!

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# High school head's shock resignation

PARENTS, teachers and pupils at Culcheth High School were left reeling following the shock resignation of the headteacher – less than a year after he took up the post.

A letter was sent to parents by the governing body informing them of the resignation, by mutual agreement, and for personal reasons, of headteacher David Terry.

Mr Terry (pictured right) arrived at the school in May last year, on the second day of an Ofsted inspection which subsequently judged the school to be "good."

At the time, he said: "It was a completely unique situation and I

have never heard of this happening before.

"But whether you have been at the school for five minutes or five years, this is a school which everybody can be proud of."

Prior to moving to Culcheth, Mr Terry was head at Sutton Academy, St Helens, which was judged to "require improvement" while he was there and also again earlier this year.

Before that he was at Oasis Academy MediaCityUK at Salford until he resigned at Easter 2010 – six months after being named as the best headteacher in the North West.

Deputy head Chris Hunt is taking

on the role of acting head teacher at Culcheth.

Borough councillors Chris Vobe and Matt Smith, who represent the Culcheth area issued a joint statement as follows: "We are aware of the resignation of David Terry from the headship of Culcheth High School.

"We give our full support to Chris Hunt, who will assume the role of acting head teacher.

"As local councillors, we will continue to work closely with parents, the governing body, and the education department at Warrington Council to ensure that our local high school remains one of the best in the town."



Mr Terry arrived at Culcheth shortly after the controversial decision to close the school's sixth form.

## Resident wins planning battle

A CULCHETH resident has won a planning battle with Warrington Borough Council over proposals to erect three dormer windows to the front of his bungalow.

An inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has allowed an appeal by Mr E. England against the council's refusal to grant permission for the windows at his home in Layland Avenue.

The inspector, Mr L Nurser, said the council had not objected to a single-storey rear extension also proposed by Mr England. But they had objected to the front dormers because of the impact they would have on the area.

He noted that the council's supplementary planning guidance did not allow front dormer windows in a close of bungalows. However, Layland Avenue, while a very short road, was not a close.

While he understood the council's concern that small scale changes could fundamentally alter the character of an area and make it harder to resist further developments, he did not believe the design proposed would significantly harm the appearance of the bungalow or the wider area.

He also did not believe the new windows would cause overlooking problems for a property in Birchall Avenue.

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# Local care home shines in survey

HOLCROFT Grange, the CLS-run care home in Culcheth, has returned outstanding results in this year's Your Care Rating survey – the nationwide survey designed to give care home residents a voice and to put their views about their care at the heart of understanding how well care homes perform.

The home, on Jackson Avenue in Culcheth, achieved an overall performance rating (OPR) of 909 out of a possible 1000 (91%), and a quality of life rating of 928 (93%). Both scores are well above the national average.

Home Manager Shirley Patton, said: "We are delighted to receive

such a resounding endorsement of resident satisfaction from this highly regarded and independent source. Above all else, we aim to make the home a fulfilling, happy, and safe place to be, and our success in achieving this is a huge credit to our staff. We put great emphasis on training and mentoring, and these results show just how much impact a quality workforce can have on resident well-being."

Holcroft Grange ranked highly across the four main themes of staff and care, home comforts, choice and having a say, and quality of life. The home achieved equally high ratings for understanding



individual needs of residents, and for treating residents with kindness, dignity and respect. Residents from the home overwhelmingly had confidence in the capabilities of staff in providing care.

The survey results come after CLS Group's recent success at the 2014 Great North West Care Awards, where the not-for-profit organisation won the 'Care Employer Award'. The group, which administers all CLS care homes, was given the award in recognition of its strong leadership and performance management, as well as its continuing commitment to investing in its staff.

Shirley added: "We are firmly committed to making CLS a great place to work, as well as to live, as we recognise that this is key to our success. We have been forging great links with local colleges, offering work experience for

students undertaking a Health and Social Care qualification. So far, our students have found the work highly rewarding, as it gives them a real insight into working in the industry. Hopefully, achievements such as the Your Care Rating results will help us to continue to attract new recruits who share our commitment to ensuring quality of life for older people."

The Your Care Rating survey was compiled by leading research company Ipsos MORI with input from the care home operators taking part, plus the National Care Forum (NCF) and the English Community Care Association (ECCA). As such, the survey is the most authoritative of its type, and is also the country's largest, capturing more views of residents than any other. Over 21,300 residents in 1,034 care homes across the UK took part.



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JUST a 15-minute drive from Culcheth, a £2 million regeneration project has breathed new life into a ruined station house which has been standing derelict for almost a quarter of a century.

Community and partner organisations joined local charity Hamilton Davies Trust to celebrate the official opening by Ian Stewart, City Mayor of Salford and Cllr Christine Hudson, Ceremonial Mayor of Salford, of Irlam Station House.

It was 122 years to the day since it first opened its doors.

The building, originally dating from 1893, has undergone extensive restoration work and now provides lots of new facilities alongside original architectural features, offering visitors a taste of the present and a flavour of the past. The transformation is part of a wider project to regenerate the whole site which had been in a poor state of repair for some time.

Irlam is the busiest unmanned railway station in Greater Manchester with more than 240,000 users every year. Rail passengers can now enjoy the station house facilities including 1923 café bistro, waiting area, toilets and meeting facilities, a cycle hub and a 60 space car park providing a more comfortable atmosphere for commuters, networking area for business and a leisure destination for the local community.

HDT founder and chairman Neil McArthur said: "The station



house was derelict and in a sorry state of repair. We wanted to help regenerate the district and create a landmark, so much more than a station.

"I feel we have done this, by not only improving the environment and introducing great new facilities, but by restoring the old station house to its former glory. Irlam Station will hopefully become a must-visit location for residents from neighbouring communities, whether for leisure or their daily commute. I'm delighted to have been part of this partnership to make this regeneration happen and I think it can only benefit Irlam for the future."

Salford City Mayor Ian Stewart said: "This is a great example of partnership working. Irlam Station has been totally transformed from an embarrassment to somewhere the whole community can be really proud of. The new free car park and secure cycle hub championed by local councillors will help residents to make sustainable travel choices while the refurbished station house will be a real asset to rail users and should become a real hub for the community."

# Return to the great age of steam

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## Detached house plan thrown out

A PLAN to build a four bedroom detached house in the grounds of a former NHS care home at Culcheth has been thrown out by planning chiefs.

Members of the borough council's planning committee decided the site at the former Fourways home in Twiss Green Lane was not suitable for the proposed development.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council had lodged objections to the scheme and there was also opposition from neighbours and the borough tree and woodland officer.

Fourways has recently been converted into eight apartments and is now named Barton Mews.

Neighbours argued that this alone would lead to an unacceptable increase in traffic on Twiss Green Lane.

An additional four bedroomed house in a limited space and on a dangerous corner would lead to challenging traffic conditions, they suggested.

The area has been saturated with property over the past few years and the traffic on this stretch of Twiss Green Lane is bordering dangerous levels.

"This narrow lane is home to a local primary school and any more development of green field sites on this road should be stopped. Safety of our local children must be made paramount."

The parish council argued that the development would obstruct a junction that was the main exit and entrance for residents of at least half of Twiss Green Lane, also Twiss Green Drive, Ivy House Gardens and Stainforth Close and other roads.

The tree and woodland officer said there were protected trees on the site which were a valuable amenity feature.

Planning officers said the development would lead to the potential loss of an area of mature protected trees of significant value which contributed to the visual amenity of Twiss Green Lane.

## Road gridlock



CULCHETH and Glazebury are once again suffering traffic problems and gridlock caused by road works.

The road works are causing travel chaos for motorists with badly managed traffic lights once again on Warrington Road, says local businessman Paul Taylor.

"There are road closures, temporary lights and roadworks in three locations along a short stretch of road. One near Bents Garden Centre where they're digging up the road surface that has just been laid in order to locate a "gas escape".

"There is another set where the new housing development is being built near the Raven Inn on the old M&S Fire Salvage site, and we also have roadworks on Common Lane now. The lights in place are being controlled by staff but witnesses have reported seeing them sitting reading newspapers in their van while a two mile tailback is waiting

## A jungle tea party on Red Nose Day



CHILDREN and staff at Culcheth Day Nursery celebrated Red Nose Day by turning up dressed as jungle animals.

They enjoyed an afternoon "jungle tea party" and there was a cake sale, with cakes the children had baked in nursery.

Throughout the day there were jungle activities.

Overall a total of £118 in aid of Comic Relief.



# works causing block again!



from Culcheth and there isn't a soul waiting in the opposite direction at times!"

Mr Taylor added: "I've heard reports of the journey from Leigh to Culcheth taking well over an hour in peak times, and buses running over an hour late due to the disruption. A lot of traffic is heading towards Lane Head to avoid it but that raises its own problems and the backed up traffic there now can make the journey take even longer."

He added that things had not been helped by the recent resurfacing works to the Greyhound Roundabout. The road

markings have been applied to the roundabout and instead of there being three lanes onto the roundabout, like there used to be, there are now just two which has confused regular users of the road and caused more of a bottleneck than previously.

Mr Taylor added: "There is talk of introducing traffic calming measures in Glazebury and a roundabout in the small village of Croft."

"If anything it would seem that the flow of local traffic needs a shot in the arm rather than calming down!"

## An egg-citing time at Bents

EASTER is a time for eggs and one of Bents Garden & Home's most popular Easter events is back.

'Chicken Watch' returns to the Centre as six very special eggs are delivered to the Centre where they will be cared for before hatching in time for the Easter weekend.

The six ready-to-hatch eggs will be on display in Bents' new Children's Boutique where the chick hatching experience will begin. Once hatched the fluffy yellow chicks will be moved to a brooding box where customers will have chance to hold the baby birds and experience nature first hand. A dedicated webcam will monitor the chicks providing a live stream on the Bents website so every moment of 'Chicken Watch' can be observed.

A team of colleagues will be trained to look after the chickens as soon as they make an appearance and they will stay with Bents until April 12, after which they will be relocated to their new homes; a process which is co-ordinated with Eggsploring who are providing the eggs.



## The Gardening Guide APRIL

- Spring vegetables such as peas, beans and lettuce can be sown now - or you can plant young plants for a quicker result
- Try spring cleaning your houseplants; remove spent flowers, dead leaves and rinse the dust from the leaves with a sprayer as clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!
- Plant up hanging baskets with fuchsias and other basket plants and then hang them up in your greenhouse to establish
- Many of the birds (that you put up nest boxes for!) will have young now and need help with food.
- Spring fertiliser can be applied to your lawn, but remember to water it in if it's dry

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**Easter is a time for eggs...** We have some very special eggs waiting to hatch in time for the Easter Weekend! Once hatched the fluffy yellow chicks will be moved to a brooding box and will remain with us until Friday 10th April for you to experience.

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- \* **Easter Monday** - Monday 6th April, **CLOSE 5.30pm**
- Bents Spring Fashion Show** - Thursday 23rd April from 6pm
- Easter Holiday Children's Activities** - see our website for details.

**Bents Garden & Home**, Warrington Road, Glazebury, Cheshire WA3 5NT. Tel: 01942 266300. Check online for seasonal opening times.

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Paul Taylor from Taylor Business Park with Ian and Carole at the Wild Wings' current home at Bents Garden Centre

# A zoo is coming to Culcheth

THE Wild Wings Bird Sanctuary is set to have a new home thanks to Taylor Business Park.

The sanctuary, which has a zoo licence and an on-site hospital to help treat and rehabilitate around 90 wild birds of prey has to vacate Bents Garden Centre where they are currently based.

With less than a month to find a new home they have been offered a piece of land adjacent to Taylor Business Park, just down the road from Culcheth.

Wild Wings are a not for profit organisation and plough back any profits they make back into the sanctuary. They are looking forward to increased visibility compared to their current location and a fresh start with some purpose built buildings and land that better suits flying the birds.

Local businessman Paul Taylor said, "We're delighted to have Wild Wings on here. They'll be a

great addition to the area.

"I've known Ian and Carole for some time now and the devotion they show to these birds is admirable. I'm sure they'll find plenty of local support and enthusiasm for this project. I must admit we never, ever though we'd ever be putting a sign up one day saying that we were applying for a zoo licence on site but we live in interesting times these days. We can't wait to have them here with us."

Wild Wings now urgently need financial support to help fund the move.

They require £30,000 for the buildings, and as much help as possible from local builders and anyone that can help erect aviaries and fencing.

To offer help or to sponsor an aviary call 07957 416883 and ask for Ian or Carole.

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## Veteran councillor retires

VETERAN Conservative councillor Jim Hilton has announced his resignation from Croft Parish Council after serving for 30 years.

Chairman Cllr Jeff Shelley said: "We are very sorry Jim has decided to retire. He has done wonderful service for the council over the last 30 years. But he has not been in good health recently and decided it was time for him to step down. He will be sorely missed."

Tributes were paid to Cllr Hilton by all members.

The council's newest member, Cllr Chris Vobe, (Labour) said: "Jim was the first member of the parish council I met after my election in 2012. Despite our political differences, he was warm and welcoming, and I have always admired the way he would often

'tell it like it is'."

"I will miss working with Jim, and I wish him all the best for the future."





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# Twiss Green are crowned recycling champions



PUPILS at Twiss Green Community Primary School, Culcheth, are celebrating after being crowned winners of RTL Technology Ltd schools IT recycling competition 2015.

Youngsters helped collect over one tonne of equipment to recycle and re-use. The school earned £150.00 towards their school charitable funds and were treated to a Manchester Phoenix ice hockey match.

The school eco team are pictured being presented with their certificate back row from left, Tegan Fadil, Freya Peake, Doug Brown managing director RTL.

Clare Reece parent eco team leader, Jack Lafferty and Myher Sener.



## New vicar for Glazebury and Hollinfare

A NEW vicar has been licensed and installed at All Saints Church, Glazebury.

The Rev Pam Swift will be a House for Duty Priest for All Saints and St Helen's Church, Hollinfare. She was installed by the Right Rev Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool.

Rev Swift was born in Liverpool and attended Liverpool University where she studied Maths and Physics. She was ordained deacon in 1988 and priest in 1994 and has served in parishes in London, Leeds, Glasgow and Hadrian's Wall Country.

She retired to Newcastle in 2010 where she was able to indulge her love for singing at Sage Gateshead and volunteered with Citizens Advice and Nightstop - a project giving temporary accommodation in private homes for homeless young people.

But she felt this was not enough and her return to ministry has brought her back to her roots in Liverpool Diocese.

House for Duty ministry is being increasingly used by the Church of England to maintain a presence in parishes where they would otherwise not be able to do so.

# 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



**Joan Grime**  
01925 763631

### CULCHETH WARD



**Mike Vobe**  
mike.vobe2012@gmail.com



**Peter Caswell**  
01942 671938



**Keith Bland**  
01925 766641



**Helena Campbell**  
01925 766658



**Paul Campbell**  
01925 766658

## Diggle Green Farm

Parish Councillors have received a high volume of enquiries from residents about the recent planning application submitted by Diggle Green Farm. We are very grateful for the comments and feedback sent to us, which have allowed us to submit a response to Warrington Borough Council which takes account of local opinion. The Parish Council has a number of concerns about the application and we have communicated these to the planning officers who are dealing with this application. If the matter goes before committee, then a member of the Parish Council will attend to make representations on behalf of local residents.

## Poplar Avenue parking bays and New Inn garden access

Work is taking place this month to install new parking bays on Poplar Avenue and improve disabled access across the New Inn Gardens in Newchurch. This work is being undertaken as a result of funding acquired by local councillors from the Local Transport Plan Fund. The bid for this money was strongly supported by the Parish Council, who submitted documentation in favour of the scheme. Work will commence on the installation of the new parking bays on 24th March 2015. The New Inn Gardens work will involve widening the footpath to approximately two metres, improving the surface over the whole length and providing a slight gradient to enable a step-free transition onto the existing footpath. Overall, this should make it much easier for pedestrians walking in and out of this part of the village.

## Culcheth Hall Drive planning application

Last year, the Parish Council was successful in defeating plans by developer Evoke Homes to build new dwellings on land adjacent to Culcheth Hall Drive. The plans were turned down by the committee of Warrington Borough Council. This month, we have received news that the developer has appealed that decision. The appeal will be considered by way of written representations. The Parish Council will be submitting a strongly-worded document to the Secretary of State to support our original objections and continue to re-emphasise the concerns of residents on this road.

## Glazebury Play Area update

Work continues to progress on the Glazebury Play Area. Two bespoke entrance gates have been manufactured and are due to be fitted during April. For now, the play area is still closed until the construction work is finished and an official opening will take place later in the year.

## Litter in the village

The Parish Council tries to pro-actively respond to any reports of litter in the village that we receive. In recent weeks, we have amended the rota of our maintenance staff so that we can target areas where problem littering has been reported. Litter problems on Church Lane and around Daisy Bank Mill Close have received considered attention from the Parish Council. If there are any other locations where you believe this problem needs to be addressed, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with your Parish Councillors using the details given on this page.

## Parking at the former M&S discount store site, Glazebury

At our recent Parish Council meeting, members noted a complaint from a resident about inconsiderate and dangerous parking on the pavements adjacent to the former M&S Discount Store development site on Warrington Road in Glazebury. It is believed that the problem is being caused by contractors vehicles. The Parish Council have contacted the local police to ask if they can be requested to park on the site rather than on the highway.

# Cricket pavilion named after club stalwart

GLAZEBURY Cricket Club will start the new season in the Cheshire Alliance on Saturday, April 18 – with its pavilion newly re-named in memory of former player and groundsman Tom Milmine.

Tom's sister, Rita Tongue, has presented the club with a memorial plaque to be displayed in the pavilion.

A distinguished all-rounder from 1985 until 2008, when he was forced to retire because of back trouble, Tom continued as head groundsman until his death, aged 64, in January 2013.

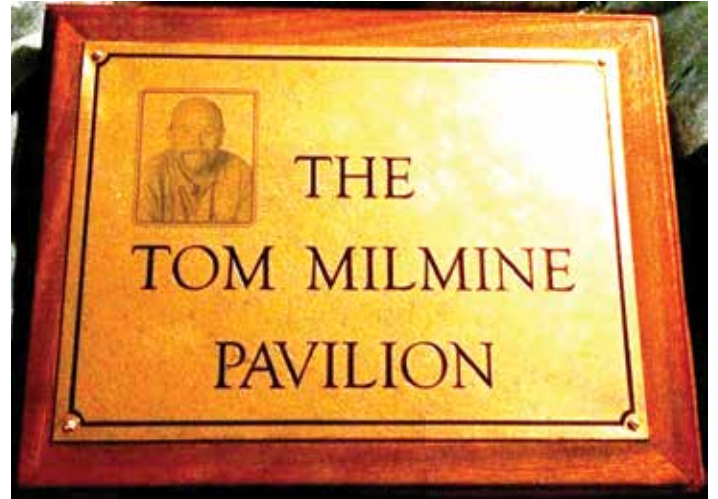
The club introduced a new trophy, for the leading wicket taker of the season, in Tom's memory at their last annual meeting and now it has named its pavilion after him. It was not possible to name the Hurst Lane ground after him because it is



already a memorial to Glazebury soldiers who fell in the First World War.

Glazebury's first match of the new season will be a tough one, away at Westminster Park while the 2nd XI will entertain Old Parkonians.

The club would welcome new players – particularly as they have lost about seven young players



from April to June because they have gone to university.

Work has already started on preparing the ground for the season – and this has presented the club with another problem. Without a regular groundsman, players are going to have to prepare the field each week on a rota basis. They have already been given basic instructions on how to prepare the

wicket and square before a match and how to repair and re-seed it afterwards.

The club would welcome new members, on and off the field. Anyone interested should call 1st XI skipper Sam Stanier on 07958 412757 (seniors) or Chris Lord on 07734 310743 (juniors).

## Mother-of-three's 7,970 ft challenge

A MOTHER of three is preparing for the challenge of a lifetime – climbing a 7,970 ft mountain in the Andes – to raise funds for Girlguiding.

Justine Doyle, a Guiding leader with the 3rd Culcheth (Newchurch) Guides is to trek to the 15th century Inca city of Machu Picchu in Peru in October.

She hopes to raise £4,000.

Justine has visited Peru several times on business but this visit, along with 25 other Girlguiding members and supporters, will be her first as a trekker.

She said: "I never had the opportunity to see Machu Picchu.

"The three day trek covering 26 miles will be the biggest challenge for me, but I have no doubt that the sight at the end of it will make it all worthwhile."

The challenging trek will take in well-known landmarks such as Dead Women's Pass and the Sun Gate.

Sometimes described as "The Lost City of the Incas", Machu Picchu was built around 1450 at the height of the Inca Empire. It was abandoned about 100 years later as a result of the Spanish conquest.



Justine Doyle.

It is considered important archaeologically because was never found by the Spanish and so survived the destruction wrought by them on most other Inca sites.

Justine decided to take on the challenge for Girlguiding because, having three daughters aged 14, 9 and 7, all of who have experienced the opportunities which Girlguiding offers, felt it right to help give those opportunities to other girls and young women.

The money she raises could support 50 disabled girls and young women to attend a camp with their friends, along with their carer or buddy, through Girlguiding's fund for members with disabilities.

Anyone who wants to support Justine can do so by visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/Justine-Doyle>

*Left: Rebecca Leech age 13 and Melissa McAreevey age 12 making Peruvian necklaces at a special fundraiser run by Justine.*



## WI ladies hear of "that certain age"

MEMBERS of Croft WI enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining evening when speaker Gay Rhodes gave an extremely hilarious account of "That Certain Age".

Gay proved to be quite a comedienne when relating her life experiences, from moving to Bradford from Epsom and marrying a Yorkshireman, to her many encounters when travelling to various venues as a hired speaker.

The trials and tribulations of female ageing being the main subject of her talk, Gay had members crying with laughter with her stories of trying to squeeze into "slimming" underwear, how adverts in magazines such as "Saga" always show young, slim models trying to sell stair-lifts and how they always have a flirtatious expression on their faces whilst wearing plaid slippers fastened with Velcro!

The problem of mixing up the names of things was related in a tale where she attended a wedding and admired an older lady's hat. The lady said "It's not a hat, dear, it's a stimulator". Gay even caused laughter regarding her name, in the past when introducing herself she used to say "Hello I'm Gay", but now says "Hello, my name is Gay".

Ballroom dancing, gym attendance, the difference between how males and females approach ageing - all these subjects were approached in a light hearted manner making for an evening of fun and frivolity.

Judy Leah gave a vote of thanks and said the talk had been a real tonic for the ladies of Croft.

The competition was won by Joan Johnson, 2nd Sue Birchall, 3rd Christine Sylvester.

Diary Dates: April 9: Lowry Theatre "Rebecca"; April 15: Members Night.

## Council calls for bus diversion

PARISH councillors at Croft believe the 28a bus from Warrington to Leigh should run through Croft village – giving residents an improved service to shops at Culcheth.

At present the bus travels straight through Risley, missing out Croft. But the parish council has asked bus operators Network Warrington to amend the route so that the Leigh-bound bus would turn right at the Noggin Inn, travel down Cross Lane and New Lane and go through Croft village.

Cllr Les Hoyle said: "The bus could turn right by the Horseshoe Inn and would be extremely useful to Croft residents wanting to go to Culcheth.

"As yet, we have had no response from the bus company."

## Wheelchair friendly

FOOTPATHS on the former landfill site at Silver Lane, Risley, should be wheelchair friendly, Croft Parish Council believes.

Members have put in the request after being consulted about proposed amendments to the footpaths on the site.

# WI set to celebrate 100 years

MEMBERS of Glazebury WI are planning a special event this summer to celebrate the centenary of the Women's Institute movement.

Flowers and other displays will be on show at Glazebury Methodist Church on Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13 between 10am and 4pm.

Admission will be free, non-members will be welcome and light refreshments will be available.

Glazebury WI itself was not formed until 1969. But it is a thriving organisation, with a membership averaging between 40 and 50 and an age range from early 40s to 90s – five of who are founder members.

They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at Glazebury Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm and have a variety of speakers throughout the year.

Activities include theatre trips and other days out and social occasions.

There is a craft group, a darts team, a quiz team and a couple of members who have played in WI golf competitions.

New members are always welcome.

Further details are available from Sylvia Lythgoe on 01925 765852 or email sylvia.lythgoe346@gmail.com or Hazel Weston on 01942 672597 or email e.weston856@btinternet.com

# WI is "56 years young"

NEWCHURCH WI's birthday meeting was an occasion for celebrations – and president Doreen Proctor told members the institute was now "56 years young."

Speaker Josie Norris continued the celebrations with a wonderful talk and demonstration "Let's Make Chocolate!"

Her interest in chocolate began with Christmas truffles for her family and they paid for a course in chocolate-making, which set her on an extra career path.

She gave members the background to the cocoa tree, how it needs the heat and humidity of the tropics, and how its flowers grow on its trunk. It needs insects, not bees, for pollination and in its warm homelands it can give two good harvests in a year.

Josie then passed round samples of white, milk and plain chocolate and explained about cocoa-butter, the basis of really good chocolate. She then demonstrated how to melt and "temper" chocolate, using a microwave and a spatula with its own thermometer. Josie made two halves of an Easter egg and a high-heeled chocolate shoe. Margaret Mellows served tea and birthday cake and Josie judged the March competition (A Chocolate Box). The winner was Irene Bromilow.

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- \* Remove items that don't enhance the photo, i.e. letter racks, fridge magnets, kids painting
- \* If you have a lot of furniture in the room, consider moving some items of furniture for the shoot to allow the photos to show the space
- \* Clear kitchen worktops and draining boards of clutter
- \* Straighten bed linen and plump up pillows removing cuddly toys
- \* Take down posters and tidy away toys
- \* Remove all visible toiletries, dressing gowns and hairdryers
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Source: IBM Corporation & Tableau

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