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Issue: 184
July 2018

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Page 7

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment



WHAT is it about people that when it comes to taking part in surveys which could affect the place where, to slightly misquote the Bible, they live and move and having their being, they can't be bothered?

The population of Croft was asked to complete a survey on the Parish Plan – a document that could have a major impact on the future development of the village and, in particular, the fate of the local Green Belt.

Only about 180 of a potential 900 took the trouble to fill in the forms.

There is no reason for the people of Croft to feel embarrassed about this for when a similar exercise was carried out at Culcheth and Glazebury, some time ago, the result was pretty much the same.

Seemingly, people either don't care or don't think their opinions will make any difference.

Fortunately, not all people are the same. In Croft, the 10 people who volunteered to become members of the steering group drawing up

the parish plan – and only three of them are parish councillors – have shown great enthusiasm and are apparently on course to complete their work in time to influence the borough council's Local Plan, which should be out in November.

Their chairman went so far as to "accept a lift" in a microlight which flew high above the village while he took photographs to be used as part of the plan. Not too many of us would do that!

We understand that most of the villagers who took part in the survey have expressed opposition to more housing in the village – and in particular development in the Green Belt. We would hazard

a guess that most of the people who didn't take part feel the same, so their apathy in the face of a very real threat to the character of the village is all the more mystifying.

Whether or not houses will be built in the Green Belt at Croft remains to be seen, but if they are we will certainly not be able to blame the man in the microlight and his team!

Deadline for the August issue of Culcheth Life is July 17

New chairman

LONG-standing member Cllr Merril Cummerson has been elected chairman of Croft Parish Council.

She succeeded Cllr Keith Bland at the annual meeting of the council.

New deputy chairman is Cllr Carole Thewsey.



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Croft Beer Festival – a success beyond belief

More than 700 visitors from far and wide descended on Croft Village Memorial Hall for the first ever "Beer, Gin and Prosecco Festival".

Croft WI ran the food counter, there was live music on both evenings – the sun shone (most of the time!) there was a "lovely atmosphere" and the event was "perfect".

Co organisers Peter McCartney and Ben Mitchell, in conjunction with their good friends at Croft Youth Activity Centre (CYAC), were delighted with the outcome.

The event was held in order to raise funds for the continued upkeep of their respective buildings, as well as awareness of what they each provide in support of community groups and private hires – space for socialising, friendship and wellbeing.

"We took advice and guidance from Newton & District Jubilee Rotary Club – organisers of the

Culcheth Beer Festival - who kindly gave us the benefit of their wisdom from their events to date.

"Many helpers gave up hours upon hours of their time, in advance, over the weekend or afterwards. Numerous contributions large and small – serving, washing up, clearing drains, creating posters – the list is endless.

"All underpinned by the generous support of our lead sponsor - Dave Monks at 'The Horseshoe Inn' - along with numerous sponsoring businesses, social groups, families and individuals.

"It has been a dream come true and shows what you can achieve with a vision, a belief, a plan and the collective support of others. Roll on next year!"



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Fine food and fine wines at il Cortile Italian Bar & Grill

il Cortile Italian Bar & Grill has teamed up with Astoria Wines through Gerrard Seel wine merchants to bring a special taste of Italy to Culcheth.

To help launch the new wines the restaurant hosted a special five course wine and food tasting evening.

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The wines sampled were "Il Millesimato Valdobbiadene Prosecco" an extra dry sparkling vintage wine.

This was followed by "Alisia" Pinot Grigio Delle Venezie, a still white wine. For red wine drinkers there was "Il Puro" Merlot Venezia, followed by a sweet sparkling Aromatic Moscato Rosé.

Finally "Fervo" Colli Di Conegliano D.O.C.G Refrontolo Passito, a fine dessert wine, rounded off a superb evening of fine wines and fine Italian food.

If you are looking for a taste of Italy you won't go far wrong at il Cortile on Common lane Culcheth - and don't forget if you have a young family, kids eat free every day 5-7pm and all day on Saturday and Sunday.

For full details on opening hours or to book a reservation visit www.ilcortile.co.uk or call 01925 737733.



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School wins bronze eco-award

BIRCHWOOD High School has been awarded the Eco Schools bronze award – despite only setting up its eco-committee in May.

Ten pupils from across all year groups were selected to go on the eco-committee – and immediately started work.

They completed a full environmental review of the schools, including areas such as litter, biodiversity and global citizenship.

Then they set out an action plan to tackle the issues around their selected focus area of litter and recycling, including providing more recycling bins, especially for

classrooms and for plastic bottles.

It was also agreed to invite guest speakers into assembly and to study the possibility of having a community eco-day next year.

The eco-committee has visited all year group assemblies to raise awareness of the issues and hope that all pupils will work alongside the committee to help improve the school environment.

Pictured: the members of the new eco-committee.

Croft Parish Council News



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Parish Plan

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Roger Lamming a team of local volunteers and Parish Councillors have been busy preparing a questionnaire to discover, amongst other things, residents' views on existing facilities and how the Parish area should develop. Unfortunately there was a problem with the distribution of the survey form, so Team members personally delivered forms to those who had not received one. The deadline for the return of completed forms was extended from 15th June to the 25th June to accommodate the late deliveries. The Team will soon start work on compiling the responses which will guide the direction of the Parish Plan. The Team has set itself the ambitious target of completing its work by October. The Team would like to thank everyone who has offered their support to this exercise as well as all residents who have completed and returned the questionnaire.

Croft Carnival

The Playing Field on Smithy Lane, Croft will again be the venue for the Croft Carnival. This year's event will be held on July 7th and an enjoyable family atmosphere is promised with entertainment to please all during the day. Adult tickets are £1.50 in advance or £2.00 on the day. Come along and join the fun!

Traffic Issues

The Parish Council has been active in its opposition to a weight restriction order placed by Wigan MBC on a section of Winwick Lane. The effect of the restriction may cause heavy goods vehicles to divert along the Parish's narrow and already busy lanes. A representative of Warrington Borough Council will be attending the July 17th meeting of the Parish Council to provide an update on the traffic flows measured before and since the restriction was introduced. Residents are invited to attend and hear the discussion.

Parkside Development

Together with Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council, Croft Parish Council retained the services of a consultant. The consultant's brief was to assess the various planning applications being made to St. Helens Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of the above site. The particular emphasis was to identify impacts on the Parish Council's communities. The consultant prepared detailed objections which were considered and supported by both Parish Councils before being submitted to St. Helens MBC.

New Chair of the Parish Council

At the Annual meeting of the Parish Council on May 15th, Councillor Merrill Cummerson was elected Chair for the municipal year 2018/19. Councillor Carole Thewsey was elected Deputy Chair.

Residents may contact Mike Pope, Croft Parish Council's Clerk on 01925 733766 or
Email: croftparishcouncil@gmail.com Twitter: @croftparish Web: www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk

Croft Carnival to celebrate British Summertime

PLANS are well underway for this year's Croft Carnival, which will take place on Saturday, July 7.

The 2018 theme for the scarecrow and street decoration competition is "British Summertime".

Organisers hope Croft residents will all be inspired to put on the usual fabulous display across the village making Croft Carnival one of the very best in the area.

Leading this year's procession will be Carnival Queen Ruby Marshall, aged 11, who is a lifelong resident of the village and attends Newchurch Primary School, where she is in year 6.

Ruby's attendants this year are Sarah Quinlivan and Evie Maloney.

Louisa Young aged 10, joins Ruby as this year's Carnival Princess. Louisa is in year 5 at St. Lewis' Primary School. Louisa's attendants are Claudia Hynes and Harriet Booth.

Rosebud this year is 7 years old Amy-Lee Simcock. Amy-Lee attends Croft Primary School, where she is a Year 2 pupil. Amy-Lee's attendants are Scarlet Booth and Leah Gibbs.

The Crown Bearer this year is 9-years-old George Thompson. George, a keen sportsman, attends Croft Primary School.

Organisers have been busy booking the entertainment for 2018. Among other activities, Jez Avery's All New Stunt Show will be there as well as comedy act "What a Palaver" and the Jazz band Dixie Deluxe will entertain along the parade and on the field.

Organisers have booked some giant garden games and invited Thelwall Morris Men, the donkey rides and Punch and Judy back to entertain both young and old.

The event has become a victim of its own success and as the Carnival continues to grow year on year with more organisations taking part in the parade and increasing visitor numbers, the small committee of 11 is frequently challenged.

Each year the legislative demands they face to run the event change and increase. They value the support of their Parade Coordinator, Field Planning Coordinator and Programme Coordinator who are not on the main Committee but work tirelessly to support the event.

As a Committee they are also extremely grateful for all the help and support they receive from the village every year. Without it the Carnival could not happen.

However, they would welcome any additional help from individuals or local organisation, within the community who are able to offer a small amount of time either before the Carnival or especially on the day. If anyone feels they are able to give a little of their time, even if it is only for half an hour, they would be extremely grateful and will be guaranteed a very warm welcome.

If anyone feels they can contribute in any way to the above, please contact Merron Mitchell for

more details – 01925 764500 or 07771837982

If any local group or organisation would like a float in the parade, please contact Parade Co-ordinator – Peter McCartney 07703 363201

Carnival committee member Jayne Doody said: "We look forward to seeing you all this year and, fingers crossed, the sun will

shine. As well as benefiting many local Community organisations, Croft Carnival is a great village occasion loved by both Croft residents and the many visitors from outside the village who come along every year."

The event can now be followed on Facebook – Official Croft Carnival and Twitter – @CroftCarnival



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Local Mum launches Making a Difference

A GROUP of parents and volunteers have been working hard to change perceptions of young people in Culcheth, Croft and Glazebury after a number of anti-social behaviour incidents in the area.

They say although the incidents were led by a handful of youths, all local young people began to get tarred with the same brush.

Groups of youngsters looking for somewhere to 'hang out' were assumed to be up to no good, when in actual fact they were just looking for somewhere safe and dry to spend time with their friends.

Many local parents leapt to the defence of their children, as they felt they were being unfairly represented.

Mother of one Lesley Cragg organised a meeting for residents, parents and youth organisations to air their concerns and look at how facilities and provision could be improved for young people in the area.

She said: "I felt it was important we address the issues in the local area and work together to ensure our children have services locally that they want to participate in. From this idea the Culcheth Youth Project was born".

Through a number of meetings, a core group of about 30 volunteers, led by Lesley, established that young people felt there was a lack of things to do in the area during evenings and weekends. With the

exception of uniformed groups, there was nowhere for young people to spend time with their friends.

By working in conjunction with the borough council Neighbourhood Team and Culcheth High School the group compiled a consultation questionnaire which was completed by 800 Culcheth High School pupils.

When asked what sort of places they would like to see in the local area, a café which offered Wi-Fi access came out top with 65 per cent of pupils selecting that as preference. Additionally, more access to sports facilities and groups was highlighted with 37 per cent asking for a kick-about area and 31 per cent hoping for 'turn up and play' sport sessions. Popular sports included football, rugby, dance, boxing, tennis, netball and basketball.

When asked what they felt would improve their lives the students top three answers were: being listened to / having a voice in decisions which affect them; feeling safe outside the house and having more opportunities to play sport and exercise.

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es MAD Culcheth - ce to young people

Culcheth Youth Group has been "re-branded" as MAD Culcheth - MAD standing for "Making a difference". A number of local businesses and organisations, including Culcheth High School, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, Warrington Borough Council Neighbourhood Team and Youth Services, Cheshire Police, Culcheth Methodist Church, Culcheth Community Church and LiveWire have got involved.

A pilot scheme is being launched at Culcheth High School every Friday evening during the upcoming summer holidays. The sessions will take place from 7.00pm - 9.00pm on the MUGA and within the community room.

Sessions will offer a café facility and will be supported by local youth workers and sports coaches.

The group is on the lookout for as much help as possible from local businesses, youth groups, volunteers and most importantly young people. While the project is aimed at young people, the team recognise that they also need a number of young people within the project group to help ensure the project is what young people want.

Anyone who feels they can help should get in touch with them at: MADCulcheth@gmail.com or call the borough council Neighbourhood Team on: 01925 443098.



The Gardening Guide



“Cut back your basket to give it a new lease of life - follow up by giving extra attention to feeding and watering”

Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

- July is the month for hedges - newly planted hedges will need watering regularly and if they are straggly they can be lightly trimmed to encourage growth
- Watering is crucial this month so remember to look after your containers and baskets
- You can still sow crops such as carrots, turnips and fast maturing salad crops
- Remember to sit down and enjoy what you have created - an ideal time to relax with friends, a glass of wine and a barbecue!

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Parish plan volunteers go above the call of duty!

MEMBERS of the steering group drawing up a parish plan for Croft have gone above the call of duty – quite literally.

Chairman Roger Lamming and a local resident who owns a microlight flew above the village and surrounding areas taking aerial photographs for use in the plan.

The plan is due to be completed around October or November – in time to have some influence on Warrington Borough Council's Local Plan.

A consultation exercise in the village has been completed but despite the deadline being extended twice, only about 180 residents out of a possible 900 filled in survey forms.

Cllr Keith Bland (pictured) said: "It was disappointing more people did not fill in the forms. We did have a few problems distributing them but even so I would have liked to have seen more people take part."

"We have a very enthusiastic

steering group – all volunteers – and they are doing great work. But it would appear a lot of local people do not realise just how important the parish plan is for the future of Croft.

"The borough council's preferred development option (PDO) for the local plan suggests that 60 houses could be built on Green Belt land at Croft. The completed survey forms I have seen suggest that Croft people don't want them – they see the Green Belt as sacrosanct."

"We know developers have their eyes on Croft for some time – including big developers who will want to build a lot more than 60 houses."

"The whole character of the village could be changed – and not for the better."

The Parish Plan Steering Group is made of seven residents and three members of the parish council.



Bungalow extensions refused

PLANS for extensions to the front, rear and side of a bungalow in Layland Avenue, Twiss Green, Culcheth, together with an increase in the ridge height of the property, have been refused by borough council planning chiefs.



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Bents launch new App

BENTS Garden & Home has launched a brand new smartphone app, which will allow customers to keep up to date with what's hAPPening at the Glazebury based centre!

The new app showcases everything 'Bents' at the touch of a button. Customers can discover all the latest events taking place in-store; plan their visit using a handy store guide; and get their taste buds tingling with sample menus from the Centre's many dining destinations.

Customers will also be able to use the app to purchase Bents' gift vouchers, providing an easy and quick way to buy online and send a gift directly to friends and family. It also features gardening hints and tips and the Bents' Blog, with all the latest news, gardening advice and product guides.

Bents' be inspired members can

log into their own exclusive area, which will list their current rewards, exclusive member offers, along with a copy of their be inspired card!

Managing Director Matthew Bent said: "We are very excited about our new app as it provides our customers access to Bents at the touch of a button, whenever and wherever they are."

"People have so many different types of credit and loyalty cards filling their wallets these days, it's a good option to free up some space with our mobile app. And this is just the start. We hope the app will evolve quickly and provide us with even more opportunities to communicate effectively with our customers."

The app can easily be found by searching 'Bents' in the App Store or Play Store.



Residents urged to turn up in force for HS2 meeting

RESIDENTS of the Culcheth area are being urged to turn up in force at a meeting to discuss the controversial HS2 rail line's impact on the village.

Members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council fear the latest information made available by HS2 Ltd shows the environmental effect on Culcheth will be even worse than previously thought.

Maps showing the route, construction compounds, public rights of way and diversions and realignments will be available at the meeting on Monday, July 2 at Culcheth Sports Club.

They are already available online but are labelled "work in

progress" so are not necessarily the final versions.

Cllr Margaret Webber, chairman of the parish council, said: "We have always made it clear to HS2 that we are completely opposed to the Golborne Link – the section of HS2 that will effect Culcheth.

"But the latest information is very disturbing.

"It appears Wigshaw Lane will be completely blocked off.

"There will be tremendous disruption of Culcheth and of

communication between Culcheth and Croft and Winwick.

"We are very concerned – and we want to make sure local people realise how important it is that they attend the meeting on July 2 to make their views known."

The meeting – which will be a drop-in session – is scheduled to last from 2pm to 8pm.

Cllr Jacqui Johnson said: "The maps show more details than we have had before – whether, for instance, the line is on an embankment or bridge, on the level or in a cutting. But there are no elevations to show how high or deep it goes.

"But one thing to realise is that the line cuts across Wigshaw Lane which is to be stopped up.

"Traffic from Croft will have to turn right before Glaziers Lane and travel south of the railway and up an embankment to join the raised and realigned Warrington Road before turning left to rejoin Wigshaw Lane near the linear park.

"It will affect walkers and cyclists as well as vehicles.

"This stretch of HS2 will be of no benefit and will damage our villages and adversely affect residents and businesses.

"The problem is there is only the Warrington Road crossing point of HS2, other than Wilton Lane to the north or the A57 to the south."

"During construction and afterwards it will add to existing traffic problems."

"Man of Steel" George to represent the UK

A 15-year-old Birchwood High School pupil has qualified to represent Team UK in this year's Obstacle Course Racing World Championships in London in October.

It will be nothing new for George Houghton, from Locking Stumps, because he represented the UK in the 13-17 age category in the same championships in Canada last October.

He won three medals and was ranked 21st in the world for sprint distance – and back at Birchwood High he was dubbed "Man of Steel"

Obstacle Course Racing is

becoming increasingly popular and consists of events such as Spartan, Born Survivor, Tough Mudder and Total Warrior.

George has been excelling in such events for some time, developing his fitness and skills and has had strong finishing positions, winning a number of junior competitions and moving on to complete a 15k adult event, coming first in the under-18 category.

In Canada last year he faced the challenge of carrying a 40kg atlas ball for 7k and then taking part in a 15k race – a tough challenge for anyone but even more so when you weigh only 50kg.



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Parkside objectors get a boost from the borough council

OPPOSITION from Culcheth, Croft and Winwick to the controversial proposals to redevelop the former Parkside Colliery site as a major employment area has received a major boost.

Warrington Borough Council has also decided it cannot support the proposals.

Members of the borough council's development management committee decided they could not support the proposals put forward by St Helens Council – in whose area the Newton-le-Willows site is located.

Chairman Cllr Tony McCarthy said: "We can't support something like this when there is no infrastructure in place. We are very concerned about the likely impact on the A49 and the impact on the road network in Warrington generally."

The committee rejected a recommendation from their own officers that they should not object.

The outline application for the scheme will be dealt with by St Helens – but Warrington is consulted as a neighbouring authority.

The current application is for the first phase of the work – intended to be completed during 2020.

Phase Two would be completed in 2024 and a later proposal for a strategic rail freight interchange is targeted to be operational by 2030.

Based on the emerging St Helens Local Plan, the land would be

removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment.

But there is major opposition in the Winwick area because of the likely impact on local roads and the loss of Green Belt land.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Croft Parish Council have also lodged objections and it is understood that a number of local residents have objected directly to St Helens Council.

All set for Disability Awareness Day 2018

Work is well underway for the 27th annual Disability Awareness Day which takes place at Walton Gardens, Warrington, on Sunday, July 15.

Founder and event co-ordinator Dave Thompson, now Chief Executive of Warrington Disability Partnership, said: "In 1992, who would have thought that a disability information event organised by a very small, then unknown disability group, would grow in size and stature, and would influence the development of a now internationally-recognised Disability Awareness Day."

"This year sees the '27th Anniversary event', which has inspired people from all over the world and provided advice and support to 100,000's of disabled people, their families, friends and carers," added Dave, who helped co-found Warrington Disability Partnership after breaking his neck in a sporting injury.

More than 25,000 visitors are expected to attend this year's DAD, the world's largest not-for-profit, voluntary-led, pan-disability exhibition, which will once again be hosted at Walton Hall Gardens with the support of joint principal sponsors St George Healthcare Group and St Mark Universal Copts Care.

A huge tented village housing approximately 250 exhibitors – including equipment suppliers; transport; holidays; leisure and employment providers; and support groups and services – is set to attract visitors to travel from all over the UK and beyond.

Inclusive Arts is just one of the highlights of the event – with a number of disabled artists including nationally recognised performers such as the Ella Performance Group and Carly Ryan. The Main Arena will offer visitors a range of family entertainment including guide dog display teams, falconry displays and a number of marching

bands. Also on-site will be the fully accessible Sports Zone with have-a-go events including Scuba Diving in the temporary pool, climbing wall, shooting, archery, basketball and much more.

A free, accessible Park and Ride service is available from Wilderspool Park; plus a free bus service every 30 minutes starting at 9.30am from Warrington Bus Interchange; British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters; trained assistants; and a scooter / wheelchair loans service promises to ensure DAD is fully inclusive to all.

"The background story to DAD is a great example of just how far a 'can do' attitude can take you," says Event Founder and Co-ordinator, Dave Thompson MBE DL.

"What started out as a one-off event is now one of the highlights of the international disabled community's calendar – inspiring similar events as far afield as India, Cameroon, Uganda, Gibraltar and Thailand. Our team is also working closely with one of our sponsors St Mark Universal Copts Care teams based in the UK and working in Egypt and Sudan."

The big day on Sunday July 15 from 10am to 5pm – will be a fitting finale to a week comprising a variety of complementary events to savour, which are guaranteed to attract many more visitors to events aimed at disabled children and young people, mental health, learning disability, carers and a cultural diversity evening.

For more details on DAD and 'DAD Week' and all the events listed, please contact Warrington Disability Partnership on 01925 240064 or visit www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk



Rugby cub's get new training tops

CULCHETH Eagles rugby cubs have been presented with new training tops by care home Cheshire Grange.

The Lymm care home has built up excellent links with the community over a wide area and regularly holds events and activities for residents and community groups.

Jon McLeod, chairman of Culcheth Eagles said he was delighted by the support from Cheshire Grange for the youngest members of the club, who can start training when they are four.

He said: "These tops will really make the boys and girls feel part of the club."

Allison Kennie, general manager at Cheshire Grange said: "We are always keen to show as much support as we can to local charities and organisations. I was delighted when I was approached to support Culcheth Eagles by our activities co-ordinator who is involved on the clubs committee."



50 more properties can upgrade to high-speed broadband

ABOUT 50 properties in Croft can now upgrade to high-speed fibre broadband – news that has been welcomed by Warrington North MP Helen Jones.

BT has completed work on Culcheth Cabinet 18, which is in Stone Pitt Lane, Croft.

Ms Jones, a long-time campaigner for the provision of improved broadband services,

welcomed the news.

She said: "This news, albeit affecting a small number of properties, is to be welcomed."

"Sadly, the roll-out of fibre broadband has been slow in Croft and other areas such as Burtonwood, Winwick and Culcheth. Some progress has been made but the position is still far from satisfactory."

"Having fibre broadband is crucial for many businesses, people who work from home and individuals."

"People still either receive or don't receive the service depending on which cabinet serves their home or business – a cabinet-code, rather than post code, method of selection."

"It remains my view that BT

should be aiming to upgrade every cabinet and provide a universal service rather than leaving some cabinets because they do not meet the supplier's commercial criteria."

People can check the Connecting Cheshire website <http://www.connectingcheshire.org.uk/> to see if their home or business can be upgraded.

Disability Awareness Day

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Promoting Independence Through Life and Work



Karate kids bring home the medals

THE English Karate Academy national team – including youngsters from local karate clubs in Culcheth and Lowton – took part in the seventh WUKE World Karate Championships at Dundee.

It was one of the largest karate competitions in history with more than 2,000 athletes from 41

countries around the world taking part.

The English squad did extremely

well, achieving the following results: Gold XII, Silver X4, Bronze X8, coming seventh in the World out of 84 karate federations.

Karate classes are run every day

of the week at Culcheth, with chief instructor Gary Foxwell, who has more than 35 years experience and is a multiple World and British Karate champion.

Fundraiser for cat charity

A "LADIES Day" is being organised at Winwick on Saturday August 11 to raise money for the charity group Kitten Karers.

The event, at Five Pines, in Myddleton Lane, will be the 4th held to raise money for the self-funding charity, which is dedicated to rescuing cats and kittens and is always on the lookout for loving homes for its feline friends.

Last year, the event raised £503 and organisers hope to better that figure this year.

Spokesperson Debby Hughes said: "We have been lucky with the weather up to now and are hoping the sun will be shining again this year."

During the event there will be a competition for the three best-dressed ladies.

The event will be supported by a number of shopkeepers in the Culcheth area.

Owen wins bronze for Great Britain

BIRCHWOOD High School pupil Owen Cheetham won a bronze medal while representing Great Britain in the Dutch Open competition for Tae Kwon Do in Holland.

Competition was tough with more than 100 entrants in the under 41kg weight group.

Owen has been practising the Korean martial art since the age of six and is coached by Rachel Buckley-Salt at the Kicks Club in Chorley.

His aim is to qualify for the Great Britain Olympics team and he travels to Chorley to train 3-5 times a week after school and at weekends.

As well as travelling to Holland he has also recently competed in Preston, Newcastle and Leeds in friendly competitions.

As a cadet for the GB team, he has completed two trials and has two more in January. If successful he will then qualify for the GB Tae Kwon Do Academy and could go on to represent Great Britain at Olympic level.



WI members get crafty

A CRAFT evening was organised by the hard working committee of Croft WI for their annual "Members Night".

Various crafts were demonstrated by members who are experts in the field of bead work, crochet, card making, needle felting, photography, flower arranging and social media. Individual tables were arranged around the room where members could try their hands at the different skills. Many were still eagerly working away during the refreshment break, where fresh fruit salad was served as a healthy option to the usual cakes and all agreed it was very refreshing and several second helpings were served! During the "business" section of the evening, President Anne Lamming announced that the recent Beer, Gin and Prosecco Festival, planned to raise funds by Croft Memorial Hall and Croft Youth Activity Centre, had been a great

success. Croft WI organised the catering and were kept extremely busy selling hot dogs, hot chicken buns, various sandwiches, snacks and drinks and were now classed as the "food pop-up".

Two new members have joined which now brings the membership of Croft WI to 100.

The competition was won by Barbara Taylor, 2nd Jane Adamson, 3rd Lesley Lloyd.

Diary Dates: July 4 - Singing for Fun - Christ Church Hall 2pm; July 10 - Busy Bakers - Christ Church Hall; July 11 - Theatre Visit - Liverpool Empire "The Play that goes Wrong"

Croft WI meet at 7-30pm on the third Wednesday of each month. More information: 01925 817019.

Roger brings music to the WI

MUSICIAN, singer and theatre impresario Roger Brown was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI.

He spoke of his life-long love of music and the theatre, having played the piano from the age of five, and entering talent contests as a singer. When, at the age of eight, he won a visit to a hairdresser for a perm, he decided temporarily to end the singing!

Roger spoke of his musical heritage, listening to all kinds of music on radio programmes such as "Housewives' Choice" and "Music While You Work".

One of his first loves was jazz, and he played a selection of Gershwin tunes on his keyboard. Next came songs from the theatre - music from "Calamity Jane" and composer Cole Porter. These went

down very well as most of our ladies knew them.

To end, there was an Al Jolson medley to sing along to.

Afterwards, members enjoyed the popular annual Afternoon Tea, consisting of sandwiches, fruit and cake.

A number of Newchurch WI members will be joining Culcheth on their annual outing, which this year is to Stonyford Cottage Garden. This will take the place of the usual monthly meeting, so members will next meet on Tuesday August 21 at 2pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, visitors and new members are welcome.

President Joan Jarvis welcomed two new members to the group and a one-minute silence was held to remember former member Betty Jones, who died recently.

WI women's sponsored walk for care home

MEMBERS of Glazebury WI took part in a sponsored walk to raise money for Holcroft Grange residential care home, Culcheth.

The walk took place at Risley Moss and 13 WI members took part - raising £160 for the

Residents' Comforts Fund.

Nicola Newens, activities co-ordinator for Holcroft Grange said: "We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in the walk."



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There are three main processes to follow

1. Get your house on the market ASAP

Don't wait around for your dream property to appear, as when it does you won't be in a position to go ahead for it, instead get the estate agent round, get photos and details done and get on with it! As long as you're honest with prospective buyers they often will wait and give you time to find a house, if the one you originally wanted should get snapped up.

2. Choose the right estate agent

Don't always opt for the cheapest fee, it can cost you in the long run. A great way of ascertaining if an agent is good is to go in to the office or ring them, check if they answer the phones do they sound enthusiastic? Are they keen to register your details? Are you confident they could they sell your home? Don't look how many 'for sale' boards an agent has in the area, instead check how many have actually sold with that agent.

3. Have your finances in place for your future home

Before you even begin to view properties you should check your affordability, there's nothing worse for a home owner than tidying up for a viewing for someone who can't afford it in the first place!

We are not all lucky enough to be cash purchasers, if you require a mortgage then it is in your interest to ensure you can get one and at what level, remember mortgage criteria changes frequently and just because you have always got one in the past doesn't mean you can now. Good news is though, that currently there are some brilliant deals at low interest rates and did you know you can even get a mortgage up to 75 years of age!

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A good solicitor may cost you more in fees than some, but save you thousands in preventing the fall through of sales and in time efficiency. Sometimes the easy part is finding a buyer but the hard part is keeping the sale together. This is where a combination of a good estate agent and a good solicitor who communicates and talks to others in the chain can make the difference between getting you your dream home or you losing it, costing you your survey and search money's plus administration fees to name but a few.

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