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August 2018

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Editor's Comment



THE ability of the Culcheth and district community to pull together is well illustrated by the remarkable fundraising campaign which resulted in enough money being raised to restore the village War Memorial in less than a month.

Congratulations and thanks are due to all who helped out – and in particular to Village Hall chairman Paul Campbell who launched the campaign after noticing the urgent need for restoration work while attending last year's Remembrance Day service.

Similarly, although in an entirely different kind of cause, local people have put aside political differences to show a united opposition to the HS2 proposals as they effect the

local area. If the railway eventually runs through Culcheth it will not be because the powers-that-be are unaware that it is not wanted.

We hope this same sense of community will be apparent following the appeal by the Friends of Culcheth Library for people to make a voluntary £10 donation to help ensure the long-term viability of the library.

But we are a little concerned because the Friends have found it necessary to make their appeal twice – in addition to leafleting the whole village.

There may be those who believe that in these days of internet search

engines, online news and e-books, there is no longer a need for a library.

If so, they are wrong. Useful though the new technologies may be, they cannot replace the printed word, the knowledgeable and helpful librarian nor the vast archives of knowledge that libraries hold.

So come on – stump up that £10!

Deadline for the September issue of Culcheth Life is August 14

Litter bin that is too popular

A LITTER bin in a layby in Swan Brow, Rixton is the first, or last, bin seen by visitors to the village.

It is well used but, because it is popular with passing motorists and cyclist, it is often overflowing, despite being regularly emptied by the borough council.

This means that unsightly litter blows into Glamis Wood – and the bin is also frequented by vermin.

As a result, Rixton-with-Glazebrook Parish Council is asking the borough to either provide an extra bin – or a larger one.



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Friends renew appeal for £10 donations to keep library open

THE Friends of Culcheth Library have renewed their appeal for people to make a £10 donation to help keep the library open.

They have also stressed the need to find new and exciting ways of using the facility.

In a joint statement, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council chairman Cllr Margaret Webber and Friends' secretary Cllr Joan Grime acknowledge that many people in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft have worked hard to rescue the library from closure.

They say: "We now need to find new and exciting ways of using this tremendous community resource. Yes, we have guaranteed

continuing library services, subject to 'a robust business case' and new book stocks, etc., but we also now have the opportunity to develop the library for other uses.

"Friends of Culcheth Library volunteers have been trained by 'A Quiet Place' to develop a program of 'mindfulness' and stress-reduction sessions to help those in the community who are anxious, and possibly vulnerable, to cope with their problems.

"This is just a start. There are plans for supporting a whole range

of interests by opening up the library facilities to a wide variety of groups from the community.

"We can all support our library project by contributing £10 a year via standing order, or by making one-off donations. By now you will all have received a leaflet through your door explaining how to do this, and there are spare copies in the library.

"But we also need volunteers to help with planning and organising

other community activities in our library. Friends of Culcheth Library need more of us to join as members and become properly involved in the future of this wonderful project."

The two councillors urge more people to join the Friends and help them provide new services.

There is a form on the back of the Friends' leaflet or residents can contact secretary Cllr Joan Grime at joan.grime@hotmail.co.uk



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Morris Men bring history to life

A GROUP of Morris Dancers brought history to life at Culcheth by re-enacting an event of 172 years ago.

Thelwall Morris Men danced a short set in front of a small crowd of onlookers on Maypole Green – the same piece of ground where the making of history was celebrated in 1846.

Spokesman for the dancers Andrew White said that according to an 1846 article in the Manchester Courier and Lancaster General Advertiser there were celebrations in Culcheth on July 4 1846.

The newspaper reported: "The people of Culcheth celebrated the repeal of the Corn Laws, by rejoicings on a plot of ground belonging to the township. The plot in question was given by a member of the Trafford family, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in order that the villagers of the olden time might amuse and perfect themselves in the Maurice or Morris dance, which

was much in vogue at that time".

Mr White said: "The date of those 'rejoicings' was 4th July 1846 and on 4th July 2018, Thelwall

Morris Men danced on that very ground, Maypole Green, fulfilling the purpose of the initial donation."

Thelwall Morris Men is a small team who practice on Wednesday evenings from 8.15pm onwards at

Thelwall Parish Hall and are always on the lookout for new members.

Anyone interested in joining them should contact them at info@thelwallmorris.org.uk or check out their website.



Christine – a woman of inspiration

GUEST speaker at a meeting of Croft WI was Christine Munro, founder of "Christine's Preserves" – and she proved an inspiration.

She was born in Alderley Edge 80 years ago where her mother had two allotments and as a child Christine spent her time picking fruit and vegetables along with the rest of the family. Her mother taught her how to make jam, bottle fruit, pickle onions and salt beans and as an

adult she enjoyed teaching her own children these same skills.

In 2001 there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK and Christine became aware of the hardships local farmers were facing. She had the idea of setting up a farmers market at the garden centre where she worked to try and help farmers sell their produce. The farmers market was a big success and ten years ago, at the age of

70, Christine decided to run a stall there selling her own homemade marmalade, starting with just 18 jars.

Her produce won national awards and Christine appeared on television. Her son left his job as a maths teacher to join the business.

In 2011 Christine was nominated for Woman of the Year and attended the awards lunch in London.

Today Christine's Preserves is an international business but she says it's time for her to retire. No more getting up at 5am to get fruit from the market and being on her feet all day cooking!

The meeting ended with congratulations to Croft WI on winning the cup for Best Overall Float at Croft Carnival.

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Pupils celebrate prom night

YEAR 11 pupils at Culcheth High School celebrated all their hard work over the past five years at their Prom at the Hallmark Hotel, Grappenhall.

They arrived in style and certainly dressed to impress. There was a three course meal followed by a disco and the evening was enjoyed by all – on the dance floor and around the football on the television. The school is looking forward to seeing the pupils back on August 23 when they collect their GCSE results.



Rotary meetings now held in Culcheth

NEWTON and district Jubilee Rotary Club are now meeting weekly at Culcheth Sports Club.

The meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm for 7.30pm, except after Bank Holidays

The club is on the lookout for new members and offer friendship, an active social life and the opportunity to help others help themselves.

Lady members can join the associated Inner Wheel Club.
Anyone interested should phone Bernard Groom on 01925 733893 or visit the Rotary District 1285 web site

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Mayor attends school's art exhibition

YEAR Four pupils at Croft Primary School put on a display of their artwork in the school hall.

The exhibition – attended by Mayor of Warrington Cllr Karen Mundy and Wolves' mascot "Wolfie" – marked the culmination of the school's Arts Award application.

The youngsters will now complete their Arts Log and this will be externally assessed and, if they pass, they will be awarded the Explorer Arts Award qualification, which is nationally accredited.

Pupils treated their guests to a brilliant rendition of "The Greatest Show."

The guests were really positive about the artwork on show and enjoyed the range of art activities available in the hall.

The Mayor joined in the fun and created some recycled flowers

for the school's RHS Garden – and even Wolfie brought his own artwork along to put in the exhibition.



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Glorious Croft Carnival like second Christmas

Once nominated as Croft's "Second Christmas Day", Croft Carnival basked in glorious sunshine as the crowds enjoyed fun filled entertainment alongside a plethora of stalls and food and drink outlets.

The parade reached new heights with almost 30 floats, tractors, cars and bands making their way joyously through the village. Once on the field the crowd were entertained by jazz bands, Punch and Judy, Zorba Balls, Giant Games, retail and activity stalls and a fairground to suit all ages.

Arena 1 offered dancing from the Morris men, stunt shows from Jez Avery and clown acts from What a Palaver! Arena 2 held the schools' football competition and a display from Legends Cheerleaders.

The Mayor of Warrington Karen Mundry and her consort son Jason attended together with the Chair of Croft Parish Council, Merrill Cummerson.

Croft Carnival Queen 2018 was Ruby Marshall with attendants Sarah Quinlivan and Evie Malony. The Princess was Louisa Young with Claudia Hynes and Harriet Booth in attendance. Rosebud was Amy-Lee Simcock with attendants Scarlet Booth and Leah Gibbs. The Crown Bearer this year was George Thompson. Croft Grandparents 2018 were Alvin and Greta Morris.

The most amusing float was won by Croft Primary School with their take on The Greatest Showman. Best Croft float went to Croft Village pre-school with The Jungle. Croft WI took the best overall float with a tribute to 70 years of the NHS. The Alan Sharpe Trophy for best scarecrow was awarded to 22 Pasture Drive with Blackpool. Highly commended were Oak Tree Lodge with The Last Night of the Proms, 27 Wadeson Way with The Royal Garden Party and 1 Gerard Road with Gone Fishing. The display of scarecrows around the village was stunning. The judges had a formidable task assessing such outstanding displays.

The best dressed street, receiving the Ron Wanstall Memorial trophy,

was awarded to Eaves Brow Road for their wonderful display of postcards from around Britain with accompanying scarecrow displays. Quite innovative! Highly commended were Wadeson Way and Gosling Road.

There were many outstanding contestants for the fancy dress competition from the floats and the walking parade. All deserved a prize! The individual winner was The Peacock with the The Greatest Showman as highly commended. The NHS stretcher bearers with their blow up patient took the group winner.

Claudia Hynes was awarded the Croft Filters Medal for her programme front cover design. John Inman won £25 for the quiz in the programme.

The afternoon came to a close with the Famous Croft Egg Throwing Competition! With over 200 contestants (some losing their eggs on practice runs!) and a good crowd watching, the title of champions was taken by Ed Darnton and Jo Haslam. Well done!

Once again Croft Carnival saw the Village coming together to have fun. Despite the clash with England's quarter final world cup match (which depleted the field considerably at 2.50 pm!) the acts kept calm and carried on to a select audience and the crowds reappeared after a good England result to continue to enjoy the activities.

The Carnival Committee wish to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and all the many helpers who work tirelessly to make it such a successful village event.

Tuesday 25th December 2018 is the next Christmas Day.

Saturday 6 July 2019 is the next Croft Carnival...please put it in your diary!



The Croft Primary float.

Carnival celebrates Christmas day!



Pictures: Robert Shaw



More pictures and video online at www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk

The Gardening Guide



“Continue to feed and water tomatoes regularly, making sure that the plants are evenly moist.”

*Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist*

- Dahlias will be at their best now and will need feeding, watering and dead heading to keep them performing for as long as possible
- The lawn will need mowing regularly but if you are going away try leaving the cuttings on the lawn to help retain moisture
- Animals are starting to prepare for the winter so ensure you are offering a wide range of food
- Stop feeding roses now as you will encourage them to produce soft sappy growth which will be more prone to winter damage or disease and dieback

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Bird's eye view of Croft Carnival



Local microlight pilot Steve Grimshaw captured this stunning Bird's eye view of the recent Croft Carnival!



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Pupils show plenty of enterprise

A TEAM of six Year 10 pupils from Birchwood High School got through to the final five out of 120 teams in the Ryman National Enterprise finals in Telford.

The team – Cory Sugden, Emily Severs, Niamh Allen, Charlie Edwards, Mollie Spillbury and Josh Bradbury - delivered an inspiring pitch for their product – Smart Box.

The panel of judges were impressed by the innovative stationery mail order delivery system aimed at GCSE students. The final pitch was delivered in front of an audience of 1,400 school children, teachers and business representatives.

Perri Kiely and Jordan Banjo from the dance group Diversity hosted the event in an impressive stadium style venue.

Cory said, "We were amazed that we got this far in the competition, but when we reached the final five we couldn't believe it. It was really frightening having to perform in front of so many people - especially since I had to sing a rap!"



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Councillors want to meet bus company chief

BUS company chairman Cllr Cathy Mitchell is to be invited to meet councillors to discuss the vexed question of bus services in Culcheth and Croft.

Members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Croft parish council are hoping the Warrington's Own Buses chief – who is also chairman of Winwick Parish Council – will attend a joint meeting of the two councils early in October.

Croft residents have been complaining about the No 19 bus service through the village for some time.

They want buses to run later – currently there are no buses for Croft residents after 7pm.

Cllr Keith Bland (pictured), a member of both Culcheth and Glazebury and Croft parish councils, said. "Our villages are getting more and more isolated.

"We have been pressing for a better service for a couple of years, but to no avail.

"People in Croft can't get in Culcheth, or go to Warrington, in

the evening, because after 7pm there are no buses.

"We appreciate there are not likely to be many people using the buses later in the evening. But sometimes it is right to subsidise services. We think more people would use them if there was a service to use.

"Young people in Croft can't even go to the cinema in the evening.

"Both parish councils have received many complaints from residents for some years and we think something should be done."

A spokesperson for Warrington's Own Buses said: "As one of many bus operators in the borough but the only publicly-owned company, any money we make is reinvested into the area.

"We are committed to connecting Warrington's communities wherever and whenever possible, but to ensure the continued financial

sustainability of the company, this does sometimes mean having to run more limited bus routes in some parts of our network.

"Bus services in Culcheth and Croft struggle to be financially viable and so it is vital that local people use the buses in order to

secure a future for them.

"We haven't received a request or any correspondence so far, but we would be happy to meet with members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council to discuss the bus service provision in the area."



Halle musicians back in town

CULCHETH'S annual concert by members and friends of the Halle Orchestra will take place on Monday, November 26.

As usual there will be a programme of the more popular classical pieces, each announced humorously by one of the musicians, with interesting snippets of background information.

A mystery guest conductor is expected to arrive, taking charge of the latter stages of the concert.

More details will be announced nearer the time by organisers Newton and District Jubilee Rotary Club.

Fantastic Raffle here in the CPS Shopping Centre!

Amazing prizes to be won see inside store for a full list of prizes

1st Prize - £100 gift vouchers to be spent anywhere in the CPS Shopping Centre plus £25 gift voucher for appointment with Michael in Ian Blacks Hair Salon, Hand painted cushion, Headphones, Guess watch, Katie Loxton pashmina plus lots more.

2nd Prize - £50 CPS gift vouchers plus £30 gift voucher for aromatherapy massage with Amber Beauty Salon, £19 voucher for free ironing, Frenchic paint set from Heart & Soul and more.

3rd Prize - £25 CPS gift vouchers, ladies pink handbag from Ma'am a lady, free lunch for two at Sundial Cafe, Himalayan Salt lamp from Fantasia Mix plus lots more.

The raffle is to raise money for a lovely little girl called Freya Bailey who lives in Irlam, she was born with Cerebral palsy and two holes in her heart. Her father has been working tirelessly to raise funds to help his daughter. She has just had SDR surgery on her spine and now she needs ongoing physiotherapy which isn't funded on the NHS (one weeks physiotherapy costs £240) the ultimate goal is to help Freya take her first steps.

Raffle tickets are just £2 for a strip of 5 – that's five chances to win our great prizes. Tickets are available at Boutique 3 – Unit 29 (Over 18's only. Terms and Conditions apply)

Prize draw is being held at 12 noon on Tuesday 28th August 2018 and is being drawn by Freya herself.

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Culcheth Green

Well, it took a long time for us to get things moving, but with the help of Warrington Borough Council and United Utilities the drainage has been put in and the area levelled.

HS2

There was an information event at Culcheth Sports Club on July 2nd. There was a good attendance at the HS2 display and we had Parish Councillors in the foyer collecting opinions. If you were not there you can find the information by searching for Phase 2b 2018 information event maps: MA05 Risley to Bamfurlong | High Speed 2

These maps are a "Work in Progress" and show the evolving design of Phase 2b including construction compounds, road realignments and public rights of way. They also show where the route is on an embankment or in a cutting, but there are no elevations showing how high or how deep. Wigshaw lane is shown to be stopped with no crossing. Traffic is diverted up a realigned Glaziers Lane, onto Warrington Road, going over the HS2 line and then returning to Wigshaw Lane via a new road across the field behind the old railway line. This means there is only one way to cross the railway in Culcheth. If it is blocked or congested the alternatives are either Wilton Lane or Holcroft Lane and the A57.

This of course, in addition to the disruption from the construction, will affect anyone travelling through the Eastern side of the Borough.

There were other leaflets available giving further information.

They are currently carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment. Later in the year they will consult on a working draft for us to see and comment.

More information can be found in Culcheth Library, also by contacting HS2 online www.hs2.org.uk or hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk or 08081 434 434 or High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, Two Snowhill, Snow Hill Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6GA

One thing is not clear -tho much has been said about journeys from Warrington Bank Quay to London, little has been said about the journeys North. Will what is now a direct journey to Scotland involve changing trains at either Wigan or Preston after HS2? How will the timetables change?

As before, please let us know of any historic or environmental problems along the route.

Culcheth Library

We continue to be part of the Friends of Culcheth Library Working Group.

MADCulcheth

We support this group through our Parish Plan.

Transport

We continue to make the point that our roads and motorways are regularly congested and blocked by accidents and roadworks, making journey times unreliable. Further development which puts more traffic on these roads, affects existing businesses, residents and commuters.

Christmas Market Day this year is Saturday, 24th November.

Publication of information

The Parish Council has adopted a publication of Information scheme. Details of who we are, what we do and how the public can access information is published on the main notice boards, Common Lane, Culcheth and Churchill Avenue, Mee Brow, Culcheth Library and on our website www.culchethandglazebury.org.uk

Prom was a night to remember

IT was a night to remember – the Birchwood High School Year 11 Prom.

Mocktails were served on arrival at the Hallmark Hotel, Grappenhall and then students and staff enjoyed dinner.

Afterwards they danced the night away, winning praise from staff and other visitors at the hotel for looking “wonderful” and behaving impeccably.

At midnight, after a fantastic

evening, they returned to school by coach.

A school spokesperson said: “As usual, our learners were a credit to us with many other visitors at the hotel commenting on how polite and pleasant they were.”

There was praise too for parents who supported the event at the venue and at school.





Culcheth Community Primary School
Where Learning is Fun!

OPEN DAYS

**October 17th and November 13th:
2pm and 6pm**

Saturday November 24th 10.30am

Culcheth Community Primary School is a warm, welcoming, vibrant school that provides a first class education and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for all children. Full, flexible wrap around care is provided by school from 7.30am until 6pm

Individual visits to school warmly welcomed – please call in or phone to make an appointment

01925 764312

Further information can be found on our website www.culchethprimary.co.uk

Our School Values

- Respect
- Teamwork
- Honesty and trust
- Friendship and kindness
- Creativity and courage
- Happiness, fun and enjoyment

“ A caring environment in which pupils flourish”, parents are ‘overwhelmingly supportive of the school’ and are ‘delighted with the quality of education that their children are receiving’ ”

— Ofsted June 2017 —



Cheers! The beer festival is back

THE annual Culcheth Beer Festival staged by Newton and district Jubilee Rotary Club will take place at Culcheth Sports Club on Friday and Saturday September 14 and 15.

This year there will be the added attraction of a "Gin and Fizz Bar" to go alongside the 40 different cask ales, bottled beers and lagers, a range of ciders, and the ever popular Prosecco bar.

There will also be live music and a hog roast to complete the scene.

The Rotary Club is looking for sponsors to help the event go with a swing.

Sponsors will have their name

displayed on a cask, get a mention in the programme and will receive four entry tickets, each with a commemorative pint glass and two half pint drink tokens.

Full details can be found on the website www.culchethbeerfestival.org or on request by calling 01925 763577.



The bar "ready to go"

War Memorial restoration completed

WORK on the restoration of the War Memorial at Culcheth's Newchurch Parish Church has now been completed – largely funded by members of the public.

The names of local people who gave their lives in two World Wars and which were becoming difficult to read are now clearly visible again.

Completion of the work has been accepted by John Hughes, chairman of Culcheth and district branch of the Royal British Legion, the Rector, the Rev Chris Jones, and the chairman of Culcheth Village Club, Paul Campbell.

Mr Campbell, who had led a campaign to raise funding for the work to be carried out, said: "We want to thank everyone who gave their support to our plan to restore the Memorial - especially in this year, the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War One."

It was while attending last year's Remembrance Day service that Mr Campbell noticed that some of the names on the memorial were becoming indistinct due to weathering.

He was concerned that some might soon be no longer legible and could be forgotten.

He launched an appeal for funding the work – and was amazed when the money was raised within a month.

Mr Campbell said, "We want to thank everyone who gave their support, the Rector and Newchurch Parish Church, John Hughes and the local Royal British Legion, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and the many members of the public who gave their support both financially and to what we were trying to do."

"We were amazed how quickly the funds were raised and we would like to thank Stretford Stonemasons and Colin Seddon for a wonderful job. The Memorial has been restored to its former glory and is now once again a fitting Memorial of Remembrance dedicated to those brave souls from our community who made the ultimate sacrifice and their names are once more restored in clarity for people to see for many years to come."



"Betsy" entertains the WI members

MEMBERS of Lowton WI enjoyed the story of Betsy the scullery maid at the monthly meeting.

The story was told by speaker Joanne Halliwell who told how Betsy was now married and trying to adapt to her new life with some comical and some touching moment.

The story was entitled "Betsy is Happy Ever After" and members are looking forward to the next time Betsy visit to tell the next chapter in her life.

It was the second meeting at Lowton Social Club – the group's new home – and several new members attended to "give it a go."

New members interested in attending can phone Lin Hayes on 01942 207764 for details.

NEWTON & DISTRICT JUBILEE ROTARY CLUB PRESENT

CULCHETH BEER FESTIVAL 2018

Friday & Saturday September 14th & 15th
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www.culchethbeerfestival.org

WIs get together for a day out

MEMBERS of Culcheth WI welcomed friends from Newchurch WI when they went on their annual day out - which this year was to Stonyford Cottage Garden and Nursery in Northwich.

Their driver took them on the "scenic route", through many beautiful Cheshire villages, then on to Stonyford, where they were welcomed with tea and biscuits in the marquee.

Next was a guided tour of the gardens, which are set among tranquil pools. Running through is a stream which was originally meant to supply water for the town of Northwich, but is now used by Stonyford.

The gardens contain many unusual plants, which normally are only grown at Kew, but they all seem to thrive. There is even a cutting from a fern, which was presented to a former owner by Charles Darwin.

One flower that caused much hilarity was Monkshead, which has been used in the past to make a concoction with which to kill husbands!

Then it was time for a delicious lunch provided in the marquee. Everyone agreed that the home-made quiche and fresh salad was

delicious, and the warm scones just finished it off nicely.

Culcheth WI's next meeting is August 21 in the Parish Hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Visitors are able to attend three meetings, then must decide whether or not to join. Most join after the first one!



Memories of Liverpool in the 1950s

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI was Jim Finn with memories of Liverpool in the 1950s.

He reminded members of the many sorts of music popular in the city at the time country, skiffle, folk and others. This was the time of variety shows with comedians like Ken Dodd and Jimmy Tarbuck beginning their careers.

Life for most families was simpler with some rationing still in force, no central heating and very few cars. Those that there were all black!

Jim enjoyed his childhood and teens, with errand boy work, family "do's", football, the Boys' Brigade, passing the 11-plus and some good radio shows.

As TV became more widespread teenagers began to follow the fashions, although Jim didn't much like some of the Teddy Boys.

At the close of his talk everyone joined Jim in his Grandma's favourite party piece - "Let Me Call You Sweetheart"

Phyllis Longson thanked him and he judged the July competition after tea was served by Barbara Alldred and Aileen Paterson. The winner (Beatles Memorabilia) was Lesley Lloyd, followed by Sue Kennerley and Aileen Paterson.

A talk was given by Aileen Paterson about the Craft Group's exhibit for the Cheshire Show - Land, Sea and Sky.

The exhibit was set up in the hall for members to enjoy during the evening.

History of Kenyon Hall Farm

LOCAL farmer Tod Bulmer spoke on 'A History of Kenyon Hall' at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI.

The talk outlined the history from the simple beginnings of the Kenyon Hall Farm to the present day with its on-line facility, its famous 'pick your own' produce and a shop and tearoom offering homemade produce.

The Hall has been farmed since the 1500s when it was leased to the family, and was used for mixed farming with animals as well as grain.

In 1919 it was purchased by the family and consisted of a single tractor and 10 employees, one of whom, Stanley, started as a lad, loaded the cart with hay and walked alongside his horse to Bolton and back, picking up a load of manure for his return to the farm. Even in his 'retirement' Stanley still helped out at Kenyon Hall.

Over the years there have been many changes with the introduction of mechanisation which resulted in better produce, and the farm has grown to include many more acres. It was a fascinating history of local agriculture and Tod surprised members by telling them that pumpkins are now more popular than strawberries at Kenyon Hall Farm.

After the talk tea was served and other business discussed, including many thanks to the Mossland group for a trip to Trentham Gardens, the weather was perfect and a great day out was had by all.

Future trips include Speke Hall on August 15 and a trip to Oswestry. Other events around the village include a strawberry tea in St Helens Church House and a concert at Rixton Chapel.

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