

# Culcheth *Life*

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Issue: 189  
December 2018

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# Editor's Comment



**IF you've got something to shout about in the Culcheth area, the best place to do it is in Culcheth Life.**

That's the only conclusion to be drawn following the article in our last issue by the Student Leadership

Group at Culcheth High School about their annual Christmas Party for local Senior Citizens.

The school has been holding the party for many years and it has always been extremely popular. Many pensioners return year after year. But in their article, the students expressed the worry that there might be people around who would enjoy the party but missed out because they were not on their mailing list.

Well it looks as if they were right to be concerned. The school got a "fantastic" response to the article and as a result have doubled the number of senior citizens on their mailing list!

Invitations are going out this month and it looks as though the students are going to be busy.

We at **Culcheth Life** are delighted. This is what the magazine is here for – spreading the word about what is going on in and around Culcheth. We've been at it for more than 15 years now and we know that most people eagerly await their monthly magazine – although many also read it daily online at www.culchethlife.com

As we approach the start of another year we wish all our readers and advertisers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, together with a reminder that if you want local people to know your business, get in touch with **Culcheth Life**.

We're only a phone call or an email away.

## Rotary club now meets in Culcheth

THE Newton and District Jubilee Rotary Club – which is the one that covers the Culcheth area – is now holding its meetings in the village.

The meetings are held at Culcheth Sports Club (The Datan) every Tuesday evening at 7pm for 7.30pm except after bank holidays.

They have dinner and guest speakers.

Currently new members are being sought to help with the club's important work supporting the local community.

Club spokesman Bernard Groom said: "Why not join us and put something back into society. We offer friendship, an active social life, a Ladies "Inner Wheel" Club and the knowledge that you are helping others less fortunate than yourself."

Anyone interested should phone Bernard on 01925 733893, or visit The Newton and District Jubilee section of the Rotary District 1285 web site.

The club is presently looking into the formation of an "on line club".

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# HS2: Time is running out to have your say

**TIME is running out for Culcheth and district residents who want to try and influence the plans for the controversial HS2 rail link that is set to run through the area.**

Closing date for representations following the HS2 environmental statement consultation is December 21.

The final series of public information events to be held before the deadline is already under way.

A drop-in event was held at Rixton-with-Glazebrook Community Hall on November 14.

Others still to be held are at Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club on Tuesday, November 27 between 2-8pm and at Culcheth Sports Club on Wednesday November 28, again between 2-8pm.

HS2 will have an impact on a much wider area, of course, and for people in the Lymm and High Legh

areas there is an event at High Legh Village Hall on Friday November 30, again between 2-8pm.

The events are all organised by HS2 Ltd and are intended to inform residents about HS2's latest proposals and designs for the railway and to encourage people to respond to the public consultations.

Reference documents are available at Culcheth Library, Birchwood Library, Golborne Library and Lymm Library.

Culcheth and Glazebrook Parish Council has always opposed the HS2 Golborne Link line because of the devastating impact it will have on the Culcheth area, without providing any benefit. They are urging residents to attend the events

and make their views known.

Warrington North MP Helen Jones is also urging local people to get involved.

She said: "I urge people to get involved and make submissions to

the consultation.

"HS2 have said that feedback will be used to develop their proposals and will help shape the report which will be submitted to Parliament in mid-2020."



## Where to see Santa and his float

FATHER Christmas and his Reindeer Float will be out and about in Culcheth and district again in the run-up to this year's festive season.

He shouldn't be too difficult to spot on his brilliantly lit float and his Christmas music will be heard far and wide.

But to make sure children young and not so young don't miss him, he will be visiting on the following dates and times at the following places:

- Saturday December 8 – Bents 10am-4pm.
- Thursday December 13 – Gorse Covert street tour 6-30pm-8pm.
- Friday December 14 – Sainsbury's 10am-4pm.
- Saturday December 15 – Bents 10am-4pm.
- Monday December 17 – Culcheth street tour 6-30pm-8pm.
- Wednesday December 19 – Culcheth street tour 6-30pm-8pm.
- Thursday December 20 – Fowley Common street tour 6-30pm-8pm.
- Friday December 21 – Croft street tour 6pm-8-30pm.



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# Village green drainage work passes its first test

**THE long-awaited drainage work on Culcheth's Village Green has passed its first test – a night of heavy rain which the new drainage system cleared within an hour.**

Now councillors are hailing the scheme – carried out with joint funding from Warrington Borough Council and Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council – as a great success.

### Waterlogging

They are now hopeful that the repeated problems of flooding and waterlogging, which have resulted in several events being cancelled, are a thing of the past.

Cllr Margaret Webber, chairman of the parish council, said: "Culcheth and Glazebury are lucky to have the benefit of a superb public space, but for years the green has been blighted

by flooding, regularly making it unusable and often causing public events to be cancelled.

"That is why the parish council committed to joining forces with Warrington Borough Council to finance a major drainage scheme. Work started in June and was carried out over the summer. Now the project is complete and we look forward to the green's return to full use as our major public amenity."

### Investment

Warrington North MP Helen Jones, who joined local councillors last year in making the case for council investment, said: "People

throughout Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft know the value of our Village Green and this project is a great example of joint working by parish and borough councillors.

This investment has helped to deliver a community facility that is fit for purpose and which I hope will continue to be well-used for many years to come."



Local borough and parish councillors Joan Grime, Jan Davidson, Margaret Webber, Anne Roberts and Jacqui Johnson celebrating the successful completion of the drainage works on Culcheth Village Green.

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# Festive fun for all the family at Bents

**SANTA'S reindeer who will once again be visiting Bents Garden and Home for the ever popular Festive Family Fun Weekend; this year taking place on the weekend of December 8/9.**

The reindeer have been busy getting in shape for Christmas Eve, but Santa has agreed to give them some time off to relax. As a special treat he is bringing them along to the Bents' family fun weekend so they can take a break and enjoy some fun before returning to their reindeer training! And they will be joined by more of Santa's festive folk with his icy ball juggler and acrobatic elf jumping in on the action.

Saturday and Sunday December 8-9 will be hugely enjoyable days for all the family with lots of special treats in store. Bents' forest of freshly cut trees will lead to a children's entertainment area with fairground rides and reindeer treasure hunt. Father Christmas will also be joining in the fun which will take place throughout the weekend between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

Parents and grown ups can enjoy a glass of hot punch with mince pies, on sale for Bents' Charity of the Year, whilst finding inspiration in Bents' captivating collection of themed displays for both inside and outside the home.

Bents Garden and Home

managing director Matthew Bent said: "This is one of my favourite times of the year as it is really family focussed with lots going on for children. We always get great feedback about the reindeer from children and grown-ups alike, all of whom really enjoy seeing them up close."

Bents' Winter Food Market will also be in full flow, with this year's famous Yorkshire Pudding Wrap a new addition to the menu. All the festive favourites from last year return with sizzling sausages, mushroom sandwiches, vegan wraps and a selection of delicious sweet treats including hot chocolate with all the trimmings, crepes and cheesecake, making it the perfect place to dine with all members of the family.

Bents is also hosting a number of Festive Inspiration Evenings and How To demonstration events where visitors can pick up some great advice from the experts as they share their top tips for creating Christmas masterpieces. Visit [bents.co.uk](http://bents.co.uk) for details of times, dates and how to book.



## Croft Parish Council News



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I moved to the village of Croft in 1969 when two housing estates were built. I was attracted by the rural setting and by being near to the larger village of Culcheth and the nearby towns of Warrington and Leigh to provide all the amenities necessary for everyday life.

When I moved here, Croft was served by two general stores, a hardware store and a post office. Sometime later, a butcher and a hairdresser set up premises!

Over subsequent years, our village shops have all closed and we have come to rely on Culcheth for our local shopping. As a consequence, the road from Croft to Culcheth has become a lifeline, providing easy access to the shops, doctors, health clinics, library and dentists.

When the footpath was extended to provide continuous safe passage from Croft, it was a great encouragement to take up the opportunity for some beneficial exercise. Unfortunately, the plans for HS2 are putting all of this under threat; the proposed line will result in the closure of Wigshaw Lane and also the public footpaths through the fields. The residents of Croft will be forced to take the road from Risley to Culcheth (A574) to do their shopping and visit the doctors etc. I am sure we all remember how inconvenient that was when Wigshaw Lane was closed for several weeks to allow the railway bridge to be repaired. As for walking to Culcheth, I can't imagine many would wish to take that detour. To make matters worse, the lack of a bus service from Culcheth after 7.45pm means those without a car will be virtual prisoners in the evenings.

Croft village has been told that we will have to agree to 60 more homes being built here in the near future. Furthermore, in anticipation of a relaxation of planning restrictions on building within the green belt, various property developers are already preparing plans for even many more houses than that. This will result in increased numbers of vehicles from within the village using our already overcrowded local roads not to mention those using Croft as a shortcut to Risley Science Park.

Croft Parish Council is taking every possible step to protect the village from these twin threats but we all need to play a part and I would urge residents to contact our MP, Helen Jones at the House of Commons or by e-mail at [jonesh@parliament.uk](mailto:jonesh@parliament.uk) and let her know your feelings on the subject.

### Good News

Have you noticed the cars slowing down as they travel along Mustard Lane as they see the new speed restriction signs that the Parish Council has had erected. The signs are making it safer for our children to enter and leave the two village schools.

The traditional 30mph signs are regrettably all too often ignored but the new signs certainly seem to re-focus drivers' attention on their speedometers.

Croft used to have a community speed watch team, which provided a much needed deterrent to the problem of speeding on our roads, if you would be interested in volunteering to help restart this valuable service please contact Croft Parish Council on 01925 733766.

Merril Cummerson (Mrs.) Chairman, Croft Parish Council.

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

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

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Smoked salmon fishcakes with lemon mayonnaise & capers

### Main Course

Butter-roasted turkey crown with "pigs-in-blankets" & sage stuffing  
Slow roasted beef brisket with red wine & portobello mushroom sauce  
Roasted parsnip & cheddar pie with real ale gravy v  
Lemon & black pepper-crusted salmon fillet  
Pork "t-bone" chop with spiced apple sauce

All main courses are served with roasted & mashed potatoes, chantenay carrots, brussel sprouts honey-roast parsnips and steamed cauliflower

### Dessert

Classic christmas pudding with brandy sauce v  
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# Culcheth Christmas Mar

**A cold nip in the air gave a fitting wintery feel to the Culcheth Christmas Market to start the festive season which proved popular and well supported.**

Locals and visitors were able to browse for unique and original gifts from gazebos and market stalls linking the two Gift and Craft Fayres taking place in the Parish and Methodist Halls. On offer were jewellery, collectables, antiques, cakes, fabrics, crafts, gift wrapping, boxes, ornaments, flowers, toys and more. Stalls and refreshments were also available in the Scout Hut and there was an Art Exhibition in the Culcheth Centre.

Keeping people entertained throughout the day were children's roundabouts and crafts, music, Bell ringing, carol singing and a fabulous barrel organ. The aroma of mulled wine and hot cider filled the air which helped keep the cold out. There were purveyors of traditional festive fayre such a mince pies, roasted chestnuts and

lots of other yuletide treats. Radio Warrington provided music and entertainment throughout the day.

In the Methodist Church was a photo booth set up by MAD Culcheth, a group of local people, youth workers and sports coaches on a mission to make a difference to the lives of young people in Culcheth.

The event was organised by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council. Birchwood Lions were out in force, bringing Santa and his Grotto to the Methodist Church.

The day was brought to a fitting



*Santa with Summer Wardle aged 5, she attends Newchurch Primary.*

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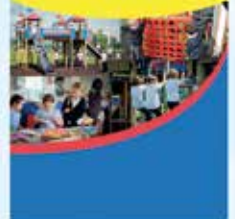
*"A caring environment in which pupils flourish", parents are 'overwhelmingly supportive of the school' and are 'delighted with the quality of education that their children are receiving' "*

Ofsted June 2017

#### Our School Values



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





# Market brings festive cheer

climax with carols from Culcheth Village Choir followed by the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr. Karen Mundry switching on the Culcheth

and Glazebury Parish Council Christmas lights. A fantastic, festive feast of fun was had by all.



Warrington North MP Helen Jones with Parish Councillors at the switch-on of the village's Christmas lights

Chair of the Parish Council Margaret Webber joins the Mayor of Warrington Karen Mundry in presenting prizes to the winners of the village's art and poetry competitions

## The Gardening Guide



“ Many trees and shrubs bring colour and interest to the winter garden and now is a good time to see where the gaps are. ”

Simon Box,  
Plant Area Specialist

- Natural food is at its scarcest at this time of year so keep your bird feeders stocked up at all times - look after your feathered friends
- Evergreen plants come into their own over the winter and stems may be cut and used in arrangements
- Improve the structure of clay soils by digging in plenty of bulky organic matter such as composted bark
- Remember to protect your half-hardy plants during very cold spells

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

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# Daniel's moving poem of the Great War



**AN 11-year-old Culcheth boy was so moved by stories of World War 1 that he wrote a poem about life in the trenches. Daniel Simmons is a pupil at Bolton School Junior Boys Division (Year Six) where his writing ability has impressed teachers.**

Outside of school he also plays the piano – currently working towards his Grade 2 exam – is a brown belt in karate, is an avid reader and has been playing rugby for Culcheth Eagles since he was six.

His mother, Sarah, said: "Daniel wrote his poem from the point of view of a soldier in the trenches and it is quite emotional."

Daniel's poem reads as follows: "Waking up to our day of hell

*The sergeant rang the waking bell  
I was scared for the day ahead  
All calming thoughts left my head  
Living off soup, meat and bread  
That was the food of the dead  
Germans shelling night and day  
All I do is hide and pray  
In the distance a small light glows*

*People scream as the gas bomb blows  
I pull down my mask before it reaches  
I am running as my friend screeches  
I'm lost in the trench. I curl up in fear  
I'm all alone, my death is near  
I wait in the dugout, let the death gas clear  
I miss my friends, I regret coming here".*

## 'Man of Steel!' George competes in world championships

BIRCHWOOD High School "Man of Steel" George Houghton competed in the three-day Obstacle Course Racing World Championships.

After day one George was placed third in the UK, and 40th in the world. The days race was a 3km course with 80 obstacles, all of which George completed on his first attempt.

Day two was even more gruelling; a 15km race over mud and 100 obstacles to complete. George was able to complete 97 obstacles on his first attempt. He was placed ninth in the UK and 26th in the world.

The third day was a team event which offered participants a chance to work together and have some fun. George excelled in the technical section and it was noted that his performance this year

showed huge improvement since last year in terms of technical ability, strength but also attitude and mental resilience.

Obstacle Course Racing, includes events such as Spartan, Born Survivor, Tough Mudder and Total Warrior and George has been competing in such events since February 2016.



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# Green Belt barn conversion approved



**A PLAN to convert a red brick Dutch barn into two four-bedroomed dwellings at Croft has been given the go-ahead by borough planning chiefs.**

The scheme at Barrow Farm, Kenyon Lane, had been opposed by Croft Parish Council on the grounds it would be an inappropriate development in the Green Belt and because of its proximity to the Grade 2 listed Barrow Farm house.

They were also concerned over increased traffic on local roads already threatened by weight restrictions imposed by Wigan Council on Winwick Lane.

Officers recommended the scheme be approved. They argued that the development would not be inappropriate in the Green Belt because it involved the re-use of existing buildings.

A number of other buildings on the site would be demolished as part of the scheme and overall there would be a 60 per cent decrease in built form across the site. This would benefit the openness of the Green Belt.

Officers pointed out that Barrow Farm house was a listed building, dating back to 1763. It was a three-storey building with a prominent position, key to the overall appearance of the surrounding farm. As the application involved an existing agricultural building it would have a minimal impact on the setting of the farm house.

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## Woollen poppies for Remembrance Day

THE "Hearts and Hands" group at Culcheth Methodist Church marked the 100th anniversary of World War 1 by co-ordinating the knitting, crocheting and felting of more than 230 woollen poppies for Remembrance Day.

There was one for every five soldiers from Warrington who died during the Great War. There was also a display of wartime memorabilia, and 10 life-sized silhouettes of soldiers rested on some of the chairs, to represent the absence of those lost in conflict. The moving exhibition was open to anyone throughout the week leading up to November 11.

The group also completed a batch of the crocheted blankets to send to Manchester Royal Infirmary, to be given to people in palliative care.

Meeting every Thursday evening from 7pm for craft and fellowship, group membership is open to everyone.

The church is also providing a home to the MADCulcheth Youth Club on Friday evenings, providing activities and a place to meet for the young people in the village.

Culcheth Christian Fellowship on Hob Hey Lane unfortunately had an electrical fire a few weeks ago and were not able to use their building for their annual shoebox collection. They gather the boxes of gifts from schools and other organisations, prepare them for despatch and then send them on to Liverpool for shipping. The Methodist Church were able to open one of their rooms for them to use for this purpose for a few weeks.



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# CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Your Parish Councillors

### NEWCHURCH WARD



**Ben Alldred**  
ben.allred2016@protonmail.com



**Jacqui Johnson**  
01925 763435



**Margaret Webber**  
01925 762617

### GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



**Anne Roberts**  
01925 763047



**Joan Grime**  
01925 763631

### CULCHETH WARD



**Peter Holmes**  
Pdholmes4@gmail.com



**Keith Bland**  
01925 766641



**Sue Bland**  
01925 766641



**Valerie Allen**  
01925 767274



**Ileyne Hutchinson**  
01925 765131

## HS2 Environmental Statement Consultation

The Culcheth HS2 meeting on this is at Culcheth Sports Club ( The Datsen ) on November 28th 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm.  
Send comments in to HS2 by 11.45 p.m. on December 21st

One of the proposals that will affect residents of all our villages, and in fact anyone whose route to and from work or school goes through Culcheth, is the closure of Wigshaw Lane at Glaziers Lane. There will only be one crossing point of the HS2 route in Culcheth - a raised re aligned Warrington Road, the A574- roughly in front of the Taylor Business Park. Traffic from Croft will be diverted from Wigshaw Lane along a re-aligned Glaziers Lane to this point. If this one crossing is blocked or congested the alternatives are going to the Wilton Lane crossing point or to go to the A57 through Glazebrook. Information is in Culcheth Library, or online at "HS2 phase 2b working draft environmental statement" and to comment you can respond on line or on a response form ( in Library) or email environment2b@ipsos-mori.com or write to FREEPOST HS2 PHASE 2B ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

This is for any aspect of the proposal, not just the Wigshaw Lane Closure.

## Local Clubs, Societies, Organisations and Businesses

Please look at the HS2 proposals in terms of how the Wigshaw Lane closure will affect you and your members/customers and let HS2 know. There is also a Consultation on the draft Equality Impact Assessment Report. If you have views about how the closure will affect the young, the old, the disabled, access to education, services and health provision, for example, please let HS2 know.

## Warrington Borough Local Plan

The proposals for land use in the plan depend on a national formula that will establish the minimum number of homes that Warrington will need to plan for. The government has made further changes to this formula and are consulting on them. These will affect the Local Plan and so Warrington Borough Council has no option but to delay the Draft Local Plan until March 2019 prior to a further round of public consultation.

## Improvements in the villages

Following the drainage program for the Green the path from Lodge Drive to the bus stop has been relaid and widened and there are further improvements planned. New speed indicator devices are in place.

The Mee Brow play area improvements are also ongoing.  
Glazebury will have improved Christmas lights, switch on is 6.00p.m. Sunday December 2nd at All Saints Church.

## Parking proposals

We have met with Borough Council Officers to discuss parking in the village centre

## Police Surgeries in Culcheth Library

The dates are in the Library or on line -search Culcheth Police Surgery. Anyone can drop in to discuss local issues.

## Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Christmas Market

Remember "Shop Local " isn't just for Christmas, it is for all the year. We have a wide variety of local shops, restaurants, cafes, hostelrys and services that need our support.

## Parish Council Vacancy for a part-time litter warden

This is for Culcheth Green and surrounding areas. 8.00 a.m to 10.00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings, ie four hours per week, plus holiday cover etc. as required. Pay The National Living Wage applies, currently £8.75 per hour for adults, plus mileage allowance if appropriate. If you are interested in this job please write giving your reasons for applying and full contact details to The Clerk, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, 9 Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth, WA3 4LX or email Culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com

## Neighbourhoods in Warrington 2018 Christmas Toy Appeal

This is for new toys and gifts suitable for 0 to 16 year olds, more information on posters etc. Our Local Collection Point is Forget-Me-Not Toys and Books in the CPS centre above Sainsbury's.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved this year in events, groups, clubs and societies in our villages. To all our residents: Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

## 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

# School celebrates after "good" Ofsted rating

**STAFF, pupils and governors at Birchwood High School had cause to celebrate after being rated a "Good School" by education watchdog Ofsted.**

Pupils' personal development and welfare is said to be good, they make good progress and relationships among pupils and staff are "very positive."

Teachers are said to be committed and well qualified.

The report, following an inspection earlier this year, shows that the school has made significant progress since it was last inspected, when it was said to require improvement.

Other highlights from the Ofsted report are that bullying is rare, behaviour in lessons and social times is good, and that Birchwood "celebrates difference and diversity".

Turning to Birchwood College, the inspectors say: "Progress for general applied qualifications consistently remains significantly above the national average."

"Students in the sixth form are keen to learn and behave well."

"Lesson observations and work scrutiny by inspectors indicate that the quality of teaching in the sixth form is good".

Headteacher Moira Bryan said: "I am delighted that Ofsted have recognised the excellent provision for our students at Birchwood Community High School. The dedication of our staff and governors,

working alongside parents and carers, makes Birchwood a happy and caring school.

"Our students in school and college can achieve their full potential academically and have opportunities to flourish

and to develop as confident and independent individuals. We are very proud of the school which is at the heart of our community.

"We would like to say a huge congratulations and thank you to you all."

Ofsted says to improve still further, the school needs to increase the rate at which the attendance and

progress of disadvantaged pupils improve at key stage 4 by ensuring that actions and spending are more closely linked to pupils' specific barriers to learning.

In addition, the school needs to continue with plans to refocus the sixth form and ensure its long term viability.



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## Stables scheme clears planning hurdle

PLANS for a stable block and equestrian area on land at Rixton with Glazebrook have been given the go-ahead by borough planning chiefs.

The scheme is on land adjacent to Mount Pleasant Farm, in Glazebrook Lane and was opposed by Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council.

Members of the borough council's development management committee were told the application related to an area of green belt lane within the farm.

Permission was sought to change the use of the land for a livery stable and small paddock area for the private use of the occupants of the farm.

The proposals included installation of post and rail fencing to define the paddock area and a concrete yard would be created within the envelope of the stable block and a new access track laid out to link the stables with the existing farm and the road network.

The parish council's objection related to the visual impact of the stables on Glazebrook Lane but planning officers said the use of the land around the stable as a small paddock would preserve the openness of the area.

## Cricketers hold annual meeting

GLAZEBURY Cricket Club will be holding its annual general meeting on Thursday, November 29.

This year the meeting will be held at the Village Club (formerly the Royal British Legion) in Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth and will start at 7.30pm

Afterward, the annual prize presentation will take place.

All members, including juniors and their parents, are being encouraged to attend – along with prospective new members.

A club spokesman said: "We would welcome new members for next year's season – beginners or experienced players of any standard."

Members will have an opportunity to discuss future plans – and a new of key positions are currently vacant on the club committee.

These include the club development officer, the league representative, the fixtures secretary, the press officer and, crucially, some groundsmen to work alongside grounds maintenance manager Simon Green.

First XI skipper Anthony Meulman and Second XI skipper Wayne Hargreaves are understood to be prepared to carry on, although this is subject to them being re-elected at the meeting.

# An early touch of Christmas at the WI

**NEWCHURCH WI'S** monthly meeting began with an early touch of Christmas - Aileen Paterson had brought a beautiful poinsettia for the President's table.

Vice President Doreen Procter welcomed members, coping bravely without a microphone. Secretary June Cope reminded members of coming events - the trip to Boundary Mill and Worston on November 28, the Christmas Party on December 12 and the Carol Concert on December 14. Treasurer Margaret Harrop gave the 2018 financial report and Doreen announced the final Luncheon Club meeting of the year at the Horseshoe Inn.

The Craft Group will be taking part in the Festival of Trees and Cribs at the Parish Church from December 7-9th. Doreen also reminded members that they had the job of choosing a winner in the Old Photos competition that evening. The business meeting ended with an appeal from Lesley Lloyd on behalf of Wild Wings bird sanctuary for worn-out towels for injured wild birds.

The evening's speaker, Elaine Cuzner, brought another touch of Christmas in her light-hearted talk "Gift Wrapping With A Difference".

Elaine has had over 20 years of practice in demonstrating her skills with awkward shapes. She collects boxes of all sizes and she covered one with plain brown paper, plain one inch wide Sellotape and narrow overlaps to avoid waste. Decorations and gift tags were made from remnants and "bits and bobs" and expensive paper was carefully measured to cover another box.

A bottle was wrapped to look like a shirt and tie and a large sweet tin ended up with frills on top! There were even little wallets for cash and cheques made from offcuts of coloured paper. Barbara Delve gave the vote of thanks and everyone enjoyed a close look at all the examples of Elaine's work. After tea, served by Joan Tildesley and Margaret Wilkinson, the members themselves judged the display of old photos. The winning entry was a portrait of a lady from 1860 - the oldest photo on show. The next meeting is the members' Christmas Party on December 12.

## School's moving assembly recalls World War 1

A MOVING Remembrance Assembly was held at Croft CE Primary School - the culmination of commemorations for the centenary of World War 1.

Artefacts from both World Wars were on display, provided by parents and loaned by the Fiddle 'it' Bag public house at Burtonwood.

Headteacher Anne Mains said: "We would like to thank everyone for their support with this project."

"A huge well done to our children for also making some beautiful poppies which are currently surrounding our WW1 Tommy."

Mrs Mains also thanked Office Bridge Supplies for providing materials free of charge and Bedford Fabrics for providing material at a discounted price.

At the end of the assembly, Mrs Mains, some pupils and family members placed a poppy wreath

at the Memorial at Croft Memorial Hall. A Remembrance Service took place at Christ Church Croft on Sunday, November 11.



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