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Issue: 190  
January 2019

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# Editor's Comment



**IT is becoming more and more clear that the proposed HS2 rail network is going to have a major impact on the villages of Culcheth and Croft if the proposed route goes ahead.**

Mind you with all the uncertainty we are facing who knows what the future will hold!!!?

The current plans for HS2 will apparently result in the closure of Wigshaw Lane, thereby cutting off the main route between the villages of Croft and Culcheth.

As many Croft residents depend on Culcheth for their health care and shopping services, this will have a devastating impact on peoples' lives.

As a former Croft resident in my schools days this was a well used route for me when attending Culcheth High School, so I know it well.

It is vitally important that local people make their views on this proposal well known - and the ways to do so are reported on the

opposite page.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council have made their views known but the more opposition the better.

It has already been proven that making a strong case can make a difference.

When Taylor Business Park was under threat, strongly worded protests resulted in a change of route and while it will still have a major impact on the area, it will not be as devastating to the local economy as losing the business park would be.

Personally I just don't see any advantage of HS2 to the local area as it brings nothing to Warrington

other than disruption and heart-break.

You can already travel from Warrington to London in around 1:50 - do we really need all this devastation of the countryside and peoples homes and businesses to make the travelling times faster?

**Deadline for the February issue of Culcheth Life is January 22**



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# Parish council's strongly worded protest over HS2

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has written a strongly worded letter to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling asking him to take action to stop the closure of Wigshaw Lane to make way for the HS2 rail line.

They say the permanent closure of the road would seriously affect the lives of local people through effectively cutting off the communities of Culcheth and Croft from each other.

Parish council chairman Margaret Webber (pictured) said: "The recent consultations about the impact of HS2 on the local area have revealed particularly strong concerns about the negative effects of the planned permanent closure of Wigshaw Lane and the re-routing of traffic between Culcheth, Croft and Winwick, onto the already overcrowded A574."

The council says Wigshaw Lane is the only established practical route between the villages of Culcheth and Croft, and its closure would mean the two communities would be effectively cut off from each other.

"The residents of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft remain deeply opposed to the route of HS2 through the villages, which will seriously affect their lives. We understand this route is the current plan, and we believe that the changes to the

infrastructure resulting from HS2 should be designed to minimise additional damage to the area, not make things even worse.

"Recent consultations between the parish council and local people have brought out strong concerns about the effect of cutting Wigshaw Lane on the quality of life and economy of the area. When Wigshaw Lane has been closed temporarily in the recent past, local businesses have noted a sharp drop in income. Residents of Croft generally rely on Culcheth for shops, the medical centre, dentists, the high school, and other services. The closure of Wigshaw Lane would cause the loss of services and business for both villages.

"We call on the Minister for Transport to take action without delay to prevent the closure of Wigshaw Lane."

The parish council is also urging local residents to make their own individual objections.

Cllr Webber said: "Everyone who lives, works or has other connections in the villages will be deeply affected by the severing of Wigshaw Lane. It is now vitally important that, as well as individual residents, representatives and individual members of local businesses, schools, churches, health services, leisure organisations, sports clubs, etc.

send in separate responses to the proposed closure. If you represent a business or organisation which serves the community in any way, please send in a response on their behalf."

Representations must be made in one of the following ways:

1. By filling in the online forms: <https://ipsos.uk/environment2b> and <https://ipsos.uk/equality2b>

2. By email: [environment2b@ipsos-mori.com](mailto:environment2b@ipsos-mori.com) and [equality2b@ipsos-mori.com](mailto:equality2b@ipsos-mori.com)



3. By post: Freepost HS2 Phase 2B Environmental consultation and Freepost HS2 Phase 2B Equality consultation.

4. By filling in a form available from Culcheth Library.



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# Accountants announce successful merger

CULCHETH-based chartered accountants, Styles and Co, have announced a merger with Consilium Accountants and Business Advisers. To mark the occasion, the combined practice has launched its innovative, cloud based Styles Management Information (SMI) service - a package providing small business owners with the management information needed to make effective business decisions.

Styles and Co partner Graeme Hindley, says the biggest challenge for business owners in the UK is wasting precious time and money on areas of their businesses that will have no impact on their bottom line.

Paul McGerty, founder of Consilium, said: "I've spoken to dozens of business owners and the most common issue they all faced was spending far too long trying to get to grips with how their businesses are performing right

now and understanding what they need to do to generate more profit and cash.

"Our merger with Styles and Co has helped us to find a practical, workable and highly economical solution for our fast growing SME clients".

Business owners need useful data they can rely on to assist in making the important decisions which will drive their profits upwards. They need a coherent, yet effective management reporting system to readily identify the areas of business that will impact the most on their results.

The Styles Management Information service gives business owners 24/7 access to the information that really matters to them, and provides assistance from a team of professional, experienced accountants.

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related salary costs.

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## Looking forward to "Culcheth Characters"

MEMBERS of Newchurch WI are looking forward to their January meeting when Marlene Nolan will speak about "Culcheth Characters - and the first competition of the year will be "A picture of Culcheth."

President Eileen Griffiths welcomed members and two guests from Culcheth WI to the December meeting, which was also the Christmas Party.

The Craft Group had decorated Newchurch Parish Hall beautifully as usual. One wall design was completely new for 2018 - Santa and his reindeer descending by balloon and robins keeping cosy in Christmas stockings.

Eileen greeted the December "birthday girls" and announced that Lesley Lloyd had won the 2018 competition trophy. Warren Bibby and his team from the Village Club served a delicious Christmas dinner, and music was provided throughout the meal by Roger Brown and his keyboard.

After the meal members joined in a medley of songs and carols, accompanied by Roger and there were some raffle prizes to finish the evening.

## Raiders break into supermarket at 3am

POLICE were called to Sainsbury's supermarket at Culcheth following reports of a break-in at around 3am on December 5.

The store had been broken into and a substantial amount of cigarettes and alcohol stolen.

Enquiries are ongoing and anyone with information about the incident should call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 260011, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



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# Trees mark 100 years of the WI

TWO Hornbeam trees have been planted at Culcheth's Millennium Garden to commemorate 100 years of the Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes.

The two WIs in the village – Culcheth and Newchurch – Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Bents Garden and Home, who donated the trees, were represented at the unveiling of the trees.

It was a year ago that all WI branches in Cheshire were asked to plant a tree to commemorate the centenary.

Cllr Ileyne Hutchinson, a parish councillor and vice president of Culcheth WI, was asked to source two trees – one for each WI – and approached Bents, who readily agreed to provide two Hornbeams.

It just so happened that two trees were needed at the Millennium Garden – and the parish council agreed to pay for two brass commemorative plaques.

Cllr Hutchinson said: "All is now in place and the trees can be enjoyed by everyone as they watch the hornbeams grow and flourish."

Matthew Bent, managing director of Bents, said it was great to be involved with such a worthy cause and that he is always happy to become involved in projects that help the local community.

Pictured (left to right) parish council chairman Margaret Webber, Eileen Griffiths, president of Newchurch WI, Joan Jarvis, presidents of Culcheth WI, Cllr Hutchinson and Mr Bent.

## The Cherry Tree

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## "Walking Netball" at the WI

MEMBERS of Lowton WI are to hold their first meeting of the New Year on Thursday, February 7 – with a "keep fit" session of walking netball.

The members enjoyed their Christmas party on December 5 when Santa Claus was the guest of honour, handing out gifts to members.

After that there was a hot pot supper – followed by dancing to burn off the calories.

The WI meet at Lowton Social Club on Newton Road and anyone interested in joining should call Lin Hayes on 01942 207764.

## Still looking forward to Christmas meal!

MEMBERS of Glazebrook WI are still looking forward to their Christmas meal which is delayed to January to give them something to look forward to "when things can be a little flat" after the festive period.

But they did have a Christmas party at their December meeting, with a visit from Santa Claus and his little elf assistant, who handed out presents and kept members amused with little anecdotes about many of the members.

There were also cakes and tea provided by the president, Doreen, who also made beautiful flower arrangements for each of the tables.

Competition winners received their prizes, birthdays were celebrated and details of forthcoming events were given.

## New council leader elected

BIRCHWOOD based Cllr Russ Bowden, deputy leader of Warrington Borough Council, has been elected the new leader.

A meeting of the controlling Labour group on the council, voted him leader by 29 votes to seven in a straight fight with former deputy leader Cllr Graham Friend.

He has taken over from current leader Cllr Terry O'Neill, who will continue on the council representing the Burtonwood area.

His deputy will be Burtonwood and Winwick based councillor Cathy Mitchell, who is also Chair of Warrington's Own Buses.

She was also elected by the controlling Labour group.

### Advertiser's announcement

## Free consultations on teeth straightening

HOB Hey Dental practice are running an open day on Thursday, January 24, offering free consultations and scans of patients teeth to see what can be achieved using Invisalign to straighten teeth in as little as three months.

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# Village unveils its bl

A PARISH plan for the village of Croft, setting out a vision of how its community is to be protected and enhanced over the next few years, has been published.

The document, prepared by a voluntary steering group made of residents and some members of Croft Parish Council, identifies how residents feel about

where they live and how they wish to see the village improved.

It has been produced over a period of seven months.

A questionnaire sent to all households gave residents an opportunity to provide feedback on their views on Croft's environment, planning impacts, recreation, leisure and other services and utilities.

Steering group members also visited the two primary schools in the parish to seek the views of younger members of the community.

Group chairman Roger Lamming said: "The information gathered allowed us to identify the key issues and generate an action plan. It is a plan generated by and owned by the community. By undertaking this process, Croft is in a better position to consider and influence future planning proposals and decision making at both parish and borough council levels. The outcome reflects the collective voice of the community."

Another group member, Steve Grimshaw, added: "Residents demonstrated how they valued the rural nature, the countryside and in



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# Blueprint for the future



particular the Green Belt, which protects the parish from being over developed. These were the main reasons for people choosing to live in the parish."

Parish councillor Norman Partington, also a member of the steering group, said: "The Parish Council has given full support to the plan and with the aid of an independent monitoring committee comprised of Croft residents, we aim to ensure that the parish of Croft is protected and enhanced in line with the needs and views of the community."

The plan will be presented to Warrington Borough Council

before it consults on the next stage of it's Local Plan, now expected to be in March next year, when sites for future housing development across the borough are likely to be proposed. It will also be distributed to all households in the parish.

Mr Lamming added: "I must thank the Parish Council for their support in helping us produce this Parish Plan and to all those that seized the opportunity to take part. I must also pay tribute to my fellow steering group members for their hard work, support and commitment allowing us to produce a quality document in such a short time."

## The Gardening Guide



“Pots and greenhouses can be cleaned thoroughly so they are ready for the new season”

Simon Box,  
Plant Area Specialist

- Hang up bird feeders if you haven't done already, look out for cat and squirrel resistant designs
- Recycle your Christmas tree. Shred it and use it as mulch – especially round acid loving plants
- Don't leave houseplants on windowsills behind curtains on cold nights as temperatures can drop suddenly
- Now is a good time to sharpen, clean and oil tools ready for the new season and check whether any of them need replacing

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# Students "truly inspired" by Baroness Tanni

STUDENTS from Birchwood High School's Youth Speaks Team picked up some useful tips on how to succeed when they met Britain's most successful female Paralympian – Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson.

The youngsters attended the Sellafeld Awards showcase event at Hinton House, Risley where Dame Tanni was guest speaker – and they found her "truly inspirational."

In her presentation, Dame Tanni talked about growing up with spina bifida and her decision to become an athlete.

She described the commitment and hard work needed to succeed in her field and the sheer joy of victory. Her message was simple: to succeed in anything you need planning, teamwork, determination and ambition.

Tanni Grey-Thompson's career began in the 100m at the Junior National Games for Wales in 1984.

Her international career started four years later at Seoul, where she took bronze in the 400m

In her Paralympic career she won 16 medals, 11 gold, four silver and one bronze. Her fifth and last Paralympic Games was in Athens in 2004.

In World Championships she won six gold, five silver and two bronze medals and she won the wheelchair section of the London



Marathon six times between 1992 and 2002.

She worked as a TV presenter and in many other fields and in 1992 was awarded the MBE and in 2005 a DBE.

In 2016 she was created a Life Peer, taking the title Baroness Tanni

Grey-Thompson of Eaglescliffe, Durham.

The Birchwood youngsters were left in awe of her achievements and came away with a renewed urge to succeed.

## Art Group showcases local talent

Culcheth Art Group held its annual exhibition to coincide with the Christmas Markets in the village.

This year's Culcheth Art Groups exhibition took the theme "All the fun of the fair" and featured many and varied pieces of work from its members and featured a wonderful group work depicting a carousel.

### Adorn

As well as many fine paintings were superb examples of marquetry with members of all ages and levels of skill providing work to adorn the walls of the Culcheth Centre in Jackson Avenue.

The Mayor of Warrington Cllr. Karen Mundry visited the show accompanied by her consort Jason Mundry and the Chair of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Cllr. Margaret Webber.

The Culcheth Art group are a band of amateur artists who meet every Thursday afternoon at the Culcheth Centre, Jackson Avenue, Culcheth. New members are welcome, so whether you're a complete beginner or a budding Michaelangelo, you are welcome to call in to the Centre between 1pm and 4pm on Thursday for a chat and a cup of tea and see if you'd like to join the group.

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Our music students all achieved Double Distinction\* the highest grades possible, in their Level 3 BTEC Music Diploma course. Three of the students have gone on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music, which is an outstanding achievement.

100% Birchwood College Acting students gained Distinction \*, the top grade possible.

Sport continues to be a real success with many of our students progressing into the sports industry.



"The smaller class sizes give me the opportunity to develop my skill more in lessons."



"Birchwood College has improved my confidence and offered me great opportunities to develop."



# High school hosts Google education event

CULCHETH High School hosted an event for Google's "Education on Tour" initiative which allowed a number of other schools to visit and see the education tools available.

The Culcheth school is a Google Reference School, meaning it is an exemplar for other schools wishing to implement Google technology.

The focus of the day was broken up into three categories:

1. Reducing teacher workload
2. Leveraging efficiencies of the cloud
3. Keeping students and data safe and secure



The day was designed to inspire and help delegates get the most out of technology in education with Google and Chromebooks.

There were two hands-on workshop sessions which enabled users to see the tools available to schools free of charge.

There was also a question and answer sessions and Year 11 students gave presentations which "stole the show."

James Davies showed how easy it was to use Google to complete homework on a tight deadline, Matthew Middlehurst gave his honest opinion on Google tools and how they have enriched his student experience in school. Adam Swift finished with how impressed he is with Google and using their

collaborative tools across multiple devices.

All three-student speakers displayed the Culcheth High

School values of Respect, Honesty and Excellence throughout; they all received a huge round of applause from the delegates.

## Seven weeks of temporary road closures

TEMPORARY road closures will come into force in Croft village for up to seven weeks from January 14 to enable carriageway re-surfacing to take place.

The roads affected are the entire length of Smithy Brow, Southworth Lane from Delph Lane to Smithy Brow, Dam Lane for 50 metres from Smithy Brow, Smithy Lane for 50 metres from Smithy Brow and Lord Street from Smithy Lane to Mustard Lane/Heath Lane.

Access will be under the control of the relevant contractor for the duration of the works.



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\*2018 known destinations

# Village school celebrates conversion to Academy

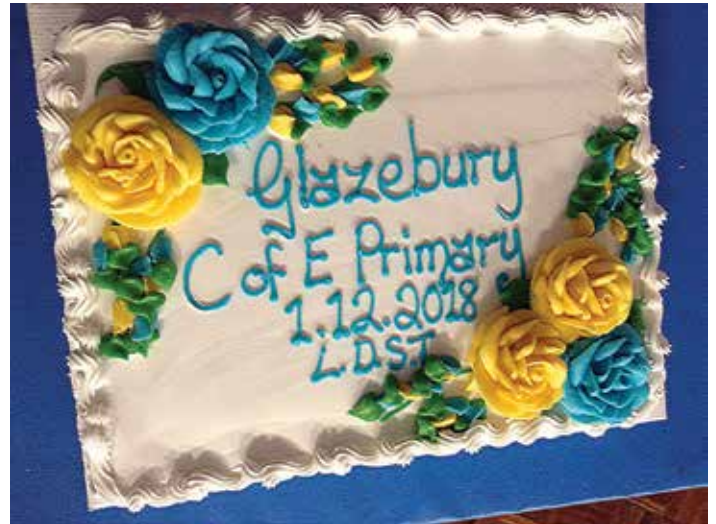
GLAZEBURY CE Primary School has converted to an Academy school and joined the Liverpool Diocesan School Trust.

They celebrated the occasion with a special "party" day with a number of activities celebrating the theme of diversity.

A number of trees, donated by the Woodland Trust, were planted in the school grounds and pupils designed, painted and placed pebbles in the school's "Only One You" inspired cross in the school garden.

Head teacher Mrs Karen Mowbray said: "It was a party, so there just had to be a celebration cake in our Collective Worship this morning."

Staff and governors were involved in the many activities at the school during the day.



## WI president steps down after 21 years

INSPIRATIONAL president of Glazebrook WI for more than 21 years, Margaret Hornby, has stood down to take a well-earned rest.

Margaret has worked tirelessly to maintain the branch and has been an enthusiastic leader.

Her experience will continue to be available to the branch as she continues as a member.

During her time as president Margaret has certainly been involved in quite a lot.

Her personal high-light was attending a Buckingham Palace Garden Party hosted by

Camilla Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Marina, the Countess of Wessex, and the Duchess of Gloucester, to mark the WI 100 years celebration.

This was followed the next day by attending the AGM of the WI, at the Royal Albert Hall, attended by the Queen, Princess Anne and Sophie Wessex.

Margaret had spoken previously at the Royal Albert Hall; the year the WI debated the "More Midwives" issue - a subject she knew intimately,

having been in that profession for many years.

Many people have come and gone at Glazebrook WI during Margaret's time, and many events have taken place.

She was presented with flowers and a card at her final meeting as president.

Members have all appreciated her dedication and support over the years.

She has been succeeded by another long-standing member of the branch, Doreen Thomason.

# Youngsters combining studies with water polo



TWO students from Carmel College are combining their studies with training for Water Polo.

Water Polo isn't the sport for everyone. It requires a great deal of resilience, strength and stamina. Two people who know all about what it takes to be successful are Brett Takemoto and Katie Bowater from Warrington.

The pair started training for the sport from a young age at the same club and have found themselves in the same Tutor Group at Carmel College, where they are now studying for their A Levels: Katie in Business, Economics and Geography; Brett in French, Spanish and Maths.

"Water polo is not an easy sport. Not only do you have to be a keen swimmer, you have to be mentally

and physically strong too." said Brett. "If you'd like to try something different, then it's the perfect game, but it takes years of dedication to get to where we both are."

Both Brett and Katie train at least five times per week so there's a lot of pressure, especially for Katie who is also Captain of the England team for her age category.

Both regularly compete for their own teams, based in Manchester and Liverpool and have also travelled internationally to compete.

In December, they attended the annual ESSA Schools Tournament.

The selection process for Team GB is solely based on their performance in this competition, so the pressure could not be higher! Good luck to them both!

## Jack and Sam clean up the trophies

BIG-hitting batsman Jack Warhurst and pace ace Sam Stanier cleaned up the 1st XI awards at the annual meeting of Glazebury Cricket Club.

Warhurst picked up the 1st XI batting averages trophy with 446 runs while Stanier claimed the 1st bowling prize with 61 wickets.

These performances were also enough to secure them the "run getters" and "wicket takers" awards for scoring the most runs and taking the most wickets for the club during the season.

Warhurst also came second in the bowling averages while Stanier came second in the batting averages.

Other awards went to Ian Black, for the 2nd XI batting averages and Jack Whitehead for the 2nd XI bowling.

Whitehead also picked up the Young Players of the Year and the Most Improved Player of the Year awards while Stanier earned the coveted "Player's Player of the Year" award.

Officers elected or re-elected were: president: Malcolm Chapman; chairman: Iain Wilson; secretary: John Acton; treasurer: Jack Warhurst; 1st XI captain: Anthony Meulman; 2nd XI captain: Wayne Hargreaves; grounds maintenance manager: Simon Green; club welfare officer: Chris Lord; junior co-ordinator: Nirpal Bansel; social media manager: Frank Pedigrew; website administrator: Sean Caine.

Still required: A volunteer groundsman, or groundsmen.

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