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# Editor's Comment

wants to demolish the Raven Inn at Glazebury and replace it with 10 houses has caused more anger in the village than any other issue in recent

Culcheth Life has been inundated with 'phone calls, emails and letters, mostly with a common theme: How is it that such a historic 16th century building, was not protected by a Grade 2 Listing many years ago?

#### Male Voice Choir to visit village

HAYDOCK Male Voice Choir is to perform at Croft for the first time in their 96-year history on Saturday, March 9.

The concert will be at Christ Church and will be in aid of church funds. Tickets at £10 include refreshments and a raffle. They can

be obtained from Barbara Laycock on 01925 763142. Formed in 1923, the choir is renowned for the quality of its singing and will perform a wide

We cannot answer that one, I'm afraid. We cannot believe that an application for Listing would have been turned down if it had been made at any time in the past. Now, it would appear, it is a different matter as Historic England has declined to List the building at the

present time.

Hopefully, the phrase "at the present time" is important. Perhaps the furore created by local people. will convince borough council planners that the proposed planners that the proposed demolition should not be allowed and this might persuade Historic England to think again.

Certainly the refusal to List the building does not mean it is doomed. There are surely plenty of grounds for refusing the planning

application.
Unfortunately, it has apparently

not proved possible in recent times to make the Raven pay and there is always a danger that any building, no matter how historic and how attractive, can be lost if it is not

"Use it or lose it" is an oft repeated saying when old buildings are in peril and we have to wonder how many of the people who are now belatedly trying to save the Raven, were among its customers

If the Raven is to be saved, a viable use must be found for it, if not as a pub or restaurant, then as something else appropriate for a unique building steeped in history.

Let us hope such a use can be



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# Culcheth Players to stage classic fairytale Snow White

CULCHETH Players will be staging the classic fairytale pantomime Snow White at Culcheth Sports Club (The Daten) starting on Friday February 15 at 7.30 pm.

On Saturday (Feb 16) there will be two shows at 2pm and 7.30pm while on Sunday (Feb 17) the show will be at 2pm

will be at 2pm.

This version of the classic and much loved fairytale has been written by Ben Crocker. As well as promising plenty of laughs the cast will be joined as ever by dancers from the Rosemary Powell School of Dance in Culcheth.

Last year's pantomime Aladdin was a great success and Culcheth Players are hoping to emulate that success with Snow White.

They have a new director in Dave McManus who many of the regular pantomime attendees will know as the actor who plays their "Dame" character. Dave has a wealth of panto experience and has some tresh and funny comedy ideas.

Come and see if Snow White

can survive the evil clutches of her wicked step mother. Will Danny Dumpling win her heart or will she

be charmed by Prince Frederick.
Tickets as ever are available
behind the bar at Culcheth Sports Club. They can also be reserved on the ticket line by phoning 07943 517710, or you can book online through www.culchethplayers. through www.culchethplayers. co.uk. You can also pay cash on the door. Tickets are £7 for adults and just £5 for children under 16.





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#### Snowdrops on show

RETIRED nurseryman John Bent will be opening his garden on Wednesday, February 13, to enable visitors to see his collection of rare and beautiful snowdrops.

Mr Bent, formerly of Bents Garden and Home, Glazebury, leads tours of

Mr Bent, formerly of Bents Garden and Home, Glazebury, leads tours of his garden at Weeping Ash every year.

The event starts at 2pm and continues until 5pm and includes a cream tea. Tickets are £10, which includes a donation to Warrington's St Rocco's Hospice. The event will depend on the weather and because of the terrain is unsuitable for wheelchair or pushchair use.

More details are available from www.bents.co.uk



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# Glazebury WI to celebrate 50th birthday

GLAZEBURY WI will be celebrating its 50th "birthday" in October. In the meantime, the branch launched the New Year with its normal monthly meeting, chaired by president Barbara Worthington.

Members and two visitors were welcomed and birthday and anniversary greetings were announced.

The branch has about 35 members, aged 50ish to senior member Mary Green, who is 97 and still attends all meetings.

Forthcoming events were discussed, including the producing of a collage made from waste plastic brought back from beaches visited on holiday.

The finished product will include the product of the produ

The finished product will highlight the problem of plastic

affecting marine wildlife.

The branch meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm, in the Methodist Hall, Glazebury and new members are always welcome.

A coffee morning is due to be held at the Methodist hall on Saturday, February 23 from 10 am - 12 noon.

Guest speaker was Graham Stirrup who gave a talk and slide show entitled "GeorgianTimes", His portrayal of the royals in the Hanoverian period of British history was not only factual, but also amusing and an eye opener of the 'Royal Georges' especially!





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#### New strategic partnership



North West based Yellowbus Solutions Ltd and Cheshire Telecom Ltd have

joined forces in strategic partnership.
Yellowbus have joined forces with Warrington based Cheshire Telecom to form a strategic alliance to improve managed telecoms, connectivity and associated technology services to local businesses in and around Cheshire. Yellowbus already have a track record in offering Managed IT, connectivity and hosted telecoms with a strong technical offering and

With the introduction of Cheshire Telecom this bolsters the sales advisory and consultancy services around telecoms and mobile offerings

or to complement existing services.

"The team at Yellowbus are really excited about opportunities now available with this joint venture. Both Yellowbus and Cheshire Telecom have a strong background in providing connectivity and telecoms within the commercial property space, and this is an area we are looking to expect."

Mike Douglass – Commercial Director at Yellowbus said: "Cheshire Telecom have been looking to partner with an IT provider that has the capacity to deal with both large and smaller companies for a good while now and we were extremely happy to realise that the answer was right in front of us all this time! Yellowbus are a fantastic Warrington company and we're expecting a productive year ahead of us as the extra capacity that they bring allows us to expand our reach and offer larger companies

had niesy bring allows us to expand our reach and other larger companies the level of support they expect and deserve."

Paul Taylor – Managing Director at Cheshire Telecom said: "Going into 2019 Yellowbus and Cheshire Telecom are already working on some impressive projects for clients and are looking at several joint sponsorship and marketing efforts throughout the year.

#### Double garage plan refused

A PLANNING application for a double garage in a paddock at the rear of two adjoining houses in Warrington Road, Culcheth, to link with a garage proposed at the adjacent property, has been refused by borough planning

The applications were a resubmission of similar earlier schemes Officers refused the proposals under delegated authority.







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# Play area gets a £185,000 revamp

WORK has been completed on a £185,000 scheme to revamp the play area at Culcheth's Mee Brow Park.

The project - funded by the borough council, along with a £50,000 grant from WREN and a £20,000 contribution from

## Village school wins international

CROFT Primary School's work to bring the world into the classroom has been recognised by the award of the British Council's International School Award.

The award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international

education.

Croft Primary has forged links with other schools overseas and staff have gone on visits

and staff have gone on visits to schools in Sweden and Italy.
According to Sir Ciaran Devane, chief executive of the British Council, the school has done fantastic international work.
He said: "Embedding an international dimension in children's education possures that

children's education ensures they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council – has breathed new life into the play area.

Improvements include the replacement of all of the old play

apparatus with new equipment.

The play area – with a new "creatures that live in the park" theme – has been completely resurfaced, and a new knee rail has been put in place along Eden Avenue to limit vehicle access to the park, which had caused problems

historically.

Football enthusiasts will also be able to show off their skills, thanks to the installation of a new five-aside pitch, which will be ready for action once it is re-seeded over the

Spring.
And as part of the project, works are getting under way on the full refurbishment of the Mee Brow skate park, replacing all the current equipment with a new concrete skate area.

The borough council's lead member for leisure and community, Cllr Tony Higgins, said at the opening ceremony: "This is a fantastic project and yet another example of our ongoing investment in our parks and open spaces. "The new-look Mee Brow play area will be a fantastic asset for

the local community, providing the perfect environment for children and their families to get active and have fun.
"And there's plenty more for

local families to get excited about, with further work currently taking place to transform the play areas at Enfield Park and Longbarn Park. ar Entitle Park and Longbarn Park.
It's all part of our plans to build
inclusive play and activity into
every part of the borough."

WREN's grant funding of

£50,000 was awarded through their FCC Community Action Fund. The improvement works have been carried out by Kompan UK Ltd.

Richard Smith, WREN's grant manager for Warrington, says: "It's wonderful to see something we have funded open and ready to make such a difference to local children. This project is one of a number of play improvement projects being delivered with Warrington Borough Council and I am looking forward to seeing the other schemes completed soon.





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# Uproar over plan to den

A PLAN to demolish the historic, 16th century Raven Inn, in Warrington Road, Glazebury and build 10 homes on the site, has infuriated local residents.

At least two applications have been made to English Heritage to have the black-and-white, half-timbered building listed, a "Save the Raven" campaign group has been formed and held a public meeting and numerous people have contacted Culcheth Life

to voice their anger.

But the campaign has suffered an early setback because Secretary of State for Culture Jeremy Wright has decided not to list the building at the

A spokeswoman for the Save the Raven group, said: "The group will continue to oppose the plans. Whilst it's disappointing Historic England aren't in a position to list the building the group will continue to explore all its options and would again urge the public to contact Warrington Borough

Council to oppose the proposed development.

weveropment.

While the refusal to list the building is a setback, the council can still refuse permission for the scheme – particularly if there is major opposition from the public.

The inc. which accounts the property of the property o

The inn – which more recently has operated as a high class restaurant, closed in September, much to the disappointment of many local people.

#### Outraged

But the planning application from local developers Osborne and Co, still came as a bolt from the blue – and locals were outraged by claims in the application that the building was in a neglected, derelict and run-down state.

There was also surprise that the building was not already Listed for its historic and architectural value.

Osborne and Co, in their application for permission to carry out the scheme sais the building was not Listed and was in a neglected,

derelict and run-down state.

They said: "The demolition of the neglected and run-down Raven Inn provides an opportunity to redesign the frontage to Warrington Road and provides the street-scene with a new feature building.

"The new development would bring the site back into active use."

But nearby resident Neil Black said: "We were surprised it wasn't a Grade 2 listed building and I think

there was a plan to get it listed – obviously too late.

"A word used in the planning application is derelict. It is old, but certainly not that."

Culcheth resident Mrs S.A Cooch

"This must not happen. This historic building must be preserved and used for the benefit of the local community.

Local Businessman Paul Taylor said: "It was a fantastic restaurant, – the

best in the area in fact for the last

But he said traffic congestion on Warrington Road had led to a decline in the passing trade on which The

Rayen relied.

There's no footfall in that area at all. Until the end I used to have lunches and occasional evening meals there but local pubs and restaurants are like public footpaths. You use them or lose them.

or lose them."
"I must say I'm very surprised it isn't listed when you look at some of the local properties that are.
A packed meeting at Culcheth High School heard was urged by members of the "Save the Raven" campaign committee to send objections to the proposals to Warrington Borough Council.

#### **Objections**

The committee - made up of former customers of the pub/restaurant and concerned local residents - said the plans would rob the village of one of

plans would rob the village of one of its most iconic and historic buildings. They stressed their objections were founded on the loss of the historic building and canvassed local opinion for an alternative proposal should the planning application be unsuccessful. planning application be unsuccessful. Many people suggested that the local community should take over the building and develop it as a community pub and meetings venue. A spokeswoman for the campaign group said: "We understand fully the licencees' reasons for moving on. This is not about them this is about

Tthis is not about them - this is about a building which is of significant historical interest.

"Many of us have felt its loss and we want to make people aware of our feelings and of our intention to fight this proposal all the way.

#### United

"We are united as a community and will work as a community to breathe new life into the building and create a social hub for the village.

History enthusiast Van Hostetler contacted Culcheth Life to say he had applied to Historic England for the Raven to be Listed because of the imminent threat of it being demolished "with no regard to its heritage value."

Mr Hostetler claims to have saved a

number of other threatened buildings through painstaking research into



## nolish historic Raven Inn

their histories.

He says the Raven was built by the powerful Holcroft family in 1562 and is in good, solid condition.

There are direct links to the Holcroft family, Irish adventurer Colonel Thomas Blood, and King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn via the Holcroft family

He says the heritage statement included in the application to demolish the pub contains no details of the buildings long history, and that the application contains misleading statements.

Mr Hostetler said The Raven is more important architecturally and historically than either the nearby Holcroft Hall and Hurst Hall, both of which have been extensively altered over the years, but which are Listed. He added: "The Raven Inn is the

He added: "The Raven Inn is the oldest surviving hostelry in the old village of Glazebury once known as Bury Lane. The Inn owes its origins in 1562 to the Holcroft family, who in addition to being powerful manorial lords existing as far back as the 13th century, achieved notoriety through

the marriage of their daughter Maria to Colonel Thomas Blood, an Irish adventurer.

"Thomas Blood served with Cromwell in Ireland and when he was stationed in south Lancashire the wedding took place at nearby Newchurch Parish Church on the 21st June 1650. A turbulent life of political intrigue was marked by a failed attempt to steal the Crown Jewels, when Thomas was imprisoned in the White Tower before trial. Surprisingly he was pardoned and eventually became a favourite of King Charles II, dying at his Westminster home in 1680.

in 1680.

"The old Inn sign showed the Holcroft Crest of a raven holding a sword and there is folklore of a secret passage leading from the Inn to Holcroft Hall some distance away on the mysterious land of Chat Moss."

Numerous other people have protested at the plan to demolish the pub and a number of objections have been made to Warrington Borough Council.





# The Gardening Guide Try something new and plant a summer bulb border. Explore your creative side and think about colours and heights for a stunning display. Since Eax, Plant Area Specialist Start providing nest boxes in anticipation of the new season This is an ideal time to plant bulbs Rake off any moss or debris from your lawn that has accumulated over the winter Sterilise pots and seed trays before using this year to stop the spread of fungal disease Houseplants will benefit from the first feed of the season now Bents Garden & Home, Warrington Road, Glazebury, Cheshire WA3 SNT. 01942 266300. Check online for seasonal opening times. For the latest events and online shopping visit baries, co. uk



# Coming soon at The Glazebury - exciting a la carte and tasting menus

NEW faces Ernst and Liz are very much looking forward to taking the reins at The Glazebury. The owners are equally as excited to have such a fantastic management team in place to run the business.

The pub will offer something for everyone whether that be a snack in the bar, a lovely meal from the new bar food menu or exciting dishes from the upcoming a la carte

and tasting menus.

Ever changing and seasonal produce will always take cented stage and the new wine wall and

wine list are very exciting.
Ernst van Zyl, (Ernie) Chef
Patron, moved over from his
native South Africa 20 years ago
and has since worked at some of
the best restaurants and hotels in the country including Radisson Manchester Airport, Stanneylands, Hilton Manchester, London, Belfast,

Etrop Grange, plus stages @ The Fat Duck, Frantzen, Noma, Le Manior & Maaemo. He is also Manior & Mademo. He is also the proud previous Head Chef / Patron of The Lord Clyde, where he gained 3AA Rosettes.

Elizabeth Kellett (Liz) has also been in catering for over 20 years, starting and growing up in Sutton

before moving all over.

Liz's impressive CV includes OP's manager of big hotels, managing

17 ski chalets in France, running

38 villas for a 5\* hotel in Cornwall and restaurant manager for an up-market establishment in Cheshire. Follow the Pub on Facebook The Glazebury

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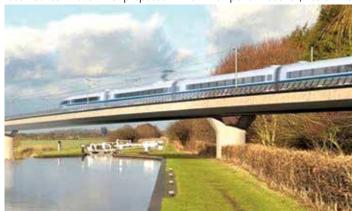




# **HS2:** Have residents won a small victory?

RESIDENTS of the Culcheth area may have won a small victory in the long-running "war" over the HS2 rail line and its impact on local villages.

The Department for Transport has informed Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council that it is aware of local concern over the proposed closure of Wigshaw Lane and is working to try and resolve the issue. Cllr Margaret Webber, chairman of the parish council, said the



council would like to thank residents for the way they had responded to the HS2 public information event in November.

She said: "The parish council and CADRAG (Culcheth and District Rail Action Group) urged the hundreds of people who attended the event to comment on

the proposals.
"They appear to have done so in

droves.

Representatives of HS2 Ltd and the Department for Transport were present at the information event and heard first hand the concerns of local people – particularly about the controversial proposal to close Wigshaw Lane – effectively rupturing the direct road link between Culcheth and Croft.

The parish council wrote to Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport and have received the following reply from the Department

for Transport "We are acutely aware of the

issues that this road alignment presents and HS2 Ltd are currently working on alternatives and have already engaged with Warrington Borough Council on the issue of the closure of Wigshaw Lane.

'We are very much aware of the strong response from the community in Culcheth, and the wider area, to the current road realignments proposed in the Working Draft Environmental Statement (WDES). We are keen to develop a design for the railway and the associated needs of both the local community and HS2."

Cllr Webber said: "We want to thank the very many people who sent in responses, whether as individuals, or as representatives of businesses, educational organisations, health services, churches or social and leisure groups, to the HS2 plans for the Crewe to Bamfurlong link."

#### Niamh's thank you to hospital that cared for her

AN 11-year-old pupil at Birchwood High School is the toast of the school after raising £170 to support a charity which is literally close to her heart.

Niamh Lake was diagnosed at two years of age with a hole-in-theheart and has spent a lot of time in Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool since then.

three She underwent major operations to help with the condition and always found the staff there brilliant.

No one likes to be in hospital but Niamh soon realised what an amazing job the staff do and now she is feeling better wanted to show her thanks and appreciation for all their care and hard work.

She raised money for the hospital in a number of ways, collecting unwanted books from family and friends and with the help of her Nan held book sales.

Niamh also made more than 60

keyrings, which she sold through a local shop.

After raising the money, Niamh decided to donate half to the cardiology department who cared for her so well and the other half to the intensive care department as she was touched by the story of little Alfie Evans, aged 23 months, who sadly passed away at Alder Hey last year from a rare degenerative brain disease.

She said, "It was hard work raising the money but Alder Hey are brill and I'm really proud that I could do a bit to help them after they helped me.

#### Work starts for Community Day

WORK has already started on planning this year's Culcheth Community Day – the 31st to be organised by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

Two new attractions have

already been signed up – a dog display team and a steel band.

A new clown has also been found to keep the youngsters entertained when the show starts at 12 noon on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6. As usual the event will be on

Culcheth Village Green – and as usual its main aim is to benefit local charities and voluntary organisations as well as provide

a great day out for locals Cllr Sue Bland said: "Each year Community Day gets bigger and better. We only had about three stalls the first year and since then it has grown each year.

'We have already sending out letters to charities and other organisations who might want to set up stalls or stage other fund raising ctivities. One thing you can be sure of – there will be a wide range of activities for all the family to enjoy.

Anyone wanting information should call Cllr Bland on 01925 766641 or email her at susanbland55@gmail.com

## Home extension approved

PLANS for a single-storey extension at the rear of a house in Fleming Drive, Winwick, have been approved by borough council planning chiefs.

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# LCHETH & GLAZEBURY ISH COUNCIL NEWS

#### Your Parish Councillors

#### NEWCHURCH WARD



Ben Alldred ben.alldred2016 @protonmail.com



01925 763435



Jacqui Johnson Margaret Webber 01925 762617

#### **GLAZEBURY &** MEE BROW WARD



**Anne Roberts** 01925 763047



Joan Grime 01925 763631

#### CUIL CHEMIE WARD



**Peter Holmes** Pdholmes4 @gmail.com



Keith Bland 01925 766641



Sue Bland 01925 766641



Valerie Allen 01925 767274



lleyne Hutchinson 01925 765131

#### Community Day Monday, May 6th, 2019

We are already planning this year's Community Day, the opportunity for local charities and voluntary and community groups to fundraise and for everyone to enjoy themselves.

We send out letters to those who came last year but of course any other charity, voluntary or community group can contact our clerk for an application form, preferably as soon as you can.

#### Culcheth Green

Following on from the drainage scheme for the central area, the path from Lodge Drive has been rebuilt and another seat added at the side. We are looking to make further changes. The current suggestions are to improve the children's play area and to add to the trees and shrubs in the non drained area. Several pieces of "outside gym" equipment have been suggested, what do you think?

#### Mee Brow play area

This is now finished and was officially opened on January 21st. There is work to be completed outside the playground.

Thanks again to those who attended the information event and responded to the consultation. We continue to oppose the Golborne Link.

#### **Parking**

The Borough Council proposed a four hour limit to parking on the Jackson Avenue and the Common Lane (Millennium garden) car parks. We are arguing that there would be an unwanted impact on other parking areas and also on road parking within the village centre

Parking is a major issue with development, and we always argue against on road parking that will impact on neighbours and through traffic

#### Holcroft Lane

A temporary works area for the smart motorway work on the M62 is being created on Holcroft Lane. Please be aware of the increase in traffic and take care. Report any problems to us and the Borough Council.

#### Planning applications

If you have concerns about any planning application, whether on content or procedure, contact the Borough Council at devcontrol@warrington.gov.uk and copy to the Parish Council, you can also contact councillors directly. We don't decide planning applications, but comment on them, so it is important to comment on applications to the Borough Council, either through the application website, or by email, as above, or by post to Development Control. 3rd Floor, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington WA1 2NH.

#### Interactive mapping

www.warrington.gov.uk has an interactive map where you can decide on map layers to find planning applications, green belt, tree protection orders, historical maps and other information.

#### 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-pc.org.uk

Soccer fanatic Charlie has eyes on US

coaching post

A FOOTBALL fanatic from Culcheth has become the first international intern at Indy Premier Soccer Club

in Indianapolis.

Charlie Hardern completed the six-week internship last year and now the former Priestley College student is in discussion with the club regarding a permanent coaching

He said: "I think I was playing soccer before I could walk. I instantly knew this would be the

instantly knew this would be the perfect opportunity for me."

Charlie achieved D\*D\*D\* in Sport and Exercise Science at Priestley College before going on to study BSC Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Science at Birmingham University.

The opportunity to so to

The opportunity to go to America arose through the university's Global Challenge Programme.

Priestley Sports tutor Katie Radford said: "Charlie was an exceptional student who produced great work and was hugely gifted,

but was also very humble."

During his internship, Charlie was involved in all aspects of was involved in all aspects of the club giving him a greater understanding of the maintenance and upkeep of running a club. However, he spent most of the time coaching all ages including the elite girls under 8s and under

13 teams.

Charlie also spent a week with a group of Real Madrid coaching staff as part of a coaching clinic.

The experience has given me a clear understanding that coaching is what I want to do," he said.

Now in his third year at university,

Charlie is planning to move to America later this year to take up a coaching post, hopefully at the Indy Premier Soccer Club.

"I think the best advice I could give is to 'just go for it'," said

"Be confident and believe that you have the skills to do whatever it is you want to do.



#### Students who want to make a difference

A FORMER Culcheth High School pupil who wants to make a difference in the world attended a conference designed to inspire

young women.

Gemma Kubiena is now a law student at Priestley College and attended the Westminster conference with fellow student Chantal Taylor, who is also studying

law at the college.

The conference to to celebrate 100 years of the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, which allowed women to become MPs for the first time.

During the event they heard from MPs and other women like Gina

Martin who led the campaign for a law to ban the taking of pictures

a law to ban the taking of pictures under a person's clothes without them knowing – colloquially known as 'upskirting'.

Gemma said: "It was inspiring to hear from people like Gina who I could relate to because they speak like me and they act like me because they are a bit younger. because they are a bit younger.

They might have faced barriers,

They might have taced barriers, but they have made a difference and if I can achieve that myself in future I would like to."

Gemma, who also studies Sociology and Religious Studies, hopes to one day represent women in court or as a campaigner.

Chantal, a former pupil at University Academy Warrington, currently studies English Literature and Fine Art alongside Law at Priestley College.

She also hopes to go into the legal profession after completing a university degree.

"What stuck with me from the day was that Gina is in her early 20s, but she has been able to make a change to the legislation so it just shows what can be done," she

"It was so interesting to be in a room with all these women and share our views."



#### Shared reading comes to Culcheth

A NEW "Shared Reading" group has been launched by the Friends of Culcheth Library.

It is to meet every Thursday afternoon from 12.45 until 2pm in the library when members can drop in to listen to a great story or poem

- without any pressure to read or

The Friends have come together with national charity The Reader to launch what is a new kind of reading group in the village.

The sessions are free and tea and coffee are provided.

Literature is specially chosen by The Reader's volunteer leader, Laura Thomason, who is also a

member of the Friends' group
She said: "I'm so excited to
bring Shared Reading to Culcheth.
It's a fantastic initiative, which brings people together and brings literature to life.

"You can just drop in, sit down and enjoy listening to a great story or poem - there's no pressure to talk or read. There is no need to book, but if you wish to register interest you can contact Culcheth Library on 01925 763293.

The Reader (https://www.thereader.org.uk/) was launched (https://www. in Birkenhead a decade ago and now has more than 500 groups supported by an army of 1,000

#### WI members on a different sort of cruise

MEMBERS Glazebrook WI heard about "A different sort of cruise" from speaker Mike Kenwright at their monthly meeting

Mike and some friends embarked on a cruise to the rugged northern coast of Norway not on a luxury cruise liner but on a Hurtigruten ship - the MS Richard Whit

The ship used not only to take visitors to Norway but also deliver and pickup goods and ferry local people to surrounding islands.

Mike and friends flew to Copenhagen then Oslo and eventually boarded

their ship in Kirkenes very close to the Russian border. From there they sailed

south round the dramatic coast.

The trip was planned during the early summer when there is almost continual daylight. Mike, a very keen and accomplished photographer took full advantage of the light, sometimes out on deck in the very early hours to capture the amazing scenery of the mountains and breathtaking sunrises

Vardo was their first port of call and then Hammerfest, reputedly Norway's most northerly city.

From there they made their way south calling into many small ports to

drop off people and mail etc.

Tromso was next, and after leaving they sailed down to Stokmarknes where the first Hurtigruten ship is docked and is used as a museum. Leaving there they sailed around the many Lofoten islands and even saw some sea eagles on the way. The advantage of a smaller ship was the ability to sail down the very narrow straits of Troll Fjord and at their next stop they enjoyed Bacalas, a salted fish, produced in Norway and now enjoyed all over the

It was a very interesting presentation and members were fascinated by the journey and thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful photographs taken by Mike.

#### Committee served food at annual lunch

MEMBERS of the committee served the food when Culcheth WI held its

annual lunch at their January meeting.

Mary Latchford and Sheila Thompson from Glazebury WI and Doreen Proctor and Cath Hanley from Newchurch WI were welcomed and choirmaster Jo Busby, also attended and there was also one visitor.

Members stood in silence in memory of former member Christine Adams

Adams after her death was reported by vice president lleyne Hutchinson.

Speaker was Peter Mathot, on how to "Laugh at Life".

He entertained with clips of comedians from years ago, and miss-spellings painted on roads such as SOTP and CLAER.

He told the story of a supposedly true conversation between a lawyer and a pathologist, with the lawyer asking if the deceased could possibly been

alive when the autopsy began.

"'Did you check his breathing?" "No".

"Did you check his blood pressure?" "No".

"How then are you sure that he was dead?"

"His brain is in a jar on my desk. Of course, he could still be alive and

practising Law!"

There will be outings to the heritage centre at Burtonwood, on February 21 and 28. This is being subsidised by a bursary from Mossland Group.

The next meeting is on February, 19 at 2pm in the Parish Hall.

New members and guests are very welcome.



#### School hits a high note

BIRCHWOOD High School's Performing Arts department has been awarded Music Ambassador status by Accent Music Education Hub.

The presentation was made by Mayoress of Warrington Cllr Karen

Mundry at the Town Hall.

Music Ambassador status is awarded to schools in recognition of excellent music provision following a formal assessment of the school's curriculum offer, extra-curricular programme and performance opportunities provided

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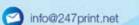
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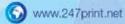
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# COURTYARD FOR SALE BOARD COMPETITION



Do you think you can take a good photo?

# Well now is the time to prove it!

This year our board competition is open to all budding photographers, if you think you can submit a photo worthy to be on our for sale boards, then this competition is for you!

You must supply images in black and white, horizontal only and preferably 300dpi 3300 pixels x 2300 pixels or any good smart phone quality image for any of the following categories:

#### Landmarks and Buildings • Animals or Pets • Local Landscape or Scenery

Closing date for entries is Wednesday 13th February 2019. Competition only open to amateur photographers aged 16+ Terms and conditions apply, for more details on how to enter go to our Facebook page @courtyardestateagents



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