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Magazine

ISSUE 196 | JULY 2019
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WELL the chance to have your say on Warrington Borough Council's Local Plan has now been and gone!

I do hope you submitted your feedback, because our precious green belt and green field sites are under serious threat.

With so many unknown factors on the horizon, with HS2, with some saying this project will never get off the ground any time soon, along with the Brexit factor, planning for the future is more difficult than ever.

None of us have a crystal ball. But one thing is for certain - our road networks and pollution are getting worse and I certainly can't see anything looming on the horizon to help improve these growing issues in this part of the borough.

While many see a North/South divide in Warrington, the whole town is surrounded by the motorway networks - so an accident on the M56/M6 in the south can have repercussions right along the network to the M62 at Birchwood and Winwick, creating traffic issues across the whole town.

So with the possibility of HS2 creating chaos in Croft and Culcheth along with possible huge new logistic centres on green belt land in the south close to the junction of the M56, we could face a huge amount of development in the coming years along with thousands of new homes being built on green field sites.

While I fully understand the

council has to produce a Local Plan, my fear is they are trying to deliver too much too soon, without knowing what lies ahead.

We certainly shouldn't be allowing any large scale development on any Green Belt land in the borough any time soon, because once we allow it in one area more is sure to follow.

Yes some small infill developments for housing will have to be tolerated but let's ensure every brownfield site and empty building is brought back into life before building on our precious green fields.

Local MP Helen Jones has been campaigning hard to have Peel Hall removed from the Local Plan to help protect the last major green lung in that area - but for some

reason the council is reluctant to do this, which is quite worrying to say the least.

Development of this land would have a devastating impact on the local community and the road networks.

We need a Local Plan but we don't need more gridlock and pollution. Let's crawl before we walk and see what the future holds before ploughing up our fields!

**Deadline for the
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Culcheth Life is
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Surgeon in 500-mile cycle ride for child health charity

A PAEDIATRIC surgeon from Croft was a member of team of cyclists who took part in a 500-mile ride to raise money to improve child healthcare.

Harriet Corbett, 48 was among the cyclists touring six major children's hospital in five days who dropped off at Alder Hey hospital in Liverpool.

Miss Corbett didn't need to go training to prepare for the epic – she works at Alder Hey and frequently cycles there from her home in Croft.

Using funds raised via the "Thinking of Oscar" event the hospitals, including Alder Hey, will collaborate on innovative projects to improve child health care and well-being via technology with the charity.

Speaking at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, having completed 200 miles of the mission, she said: "It was a special moment to reach Alder Hey and see some of my colleagues welcome us. It was a real boost and re-confirmed to me the importance of Thinking of Oscar and the need to help fund innovation in child healthcare.

Challenge

"It's a big challenge to cycle 500 miles in five days, but we're managing the challenge well so far and really supporting each other along the way. We have some way go, but we're taking it one step at

a time."

David Cole, of the Thinking of Oscar charity, said: "It's great to reach Alder Hey Children's Hospital and spread the message that we need to work together to help support child healthcare.

Positive

"The welcome we received was fantastic and it means so much to us to receive such positive support from the staff at Alder Hey Children's Hospital. It was a particularly special moment for Harriet, it makes such a difference having people that share our passion and commitment to improve outcomes in child health taking part."

Iain Hennessey, clinical director of innovation at Alder Hey, said: "The Alder Hey innovation team is delighted to support Miss Corbett, one of our fantastic urology surgeons, undertaking a round-the-UK sponsored cycle to raise funds for Thinking of Oscar.

"Without this type of funding, children's healthcare innovation will continue to lag behind the adult sector."

Thinking of Oscar was set up by Hannah and David Cole in memory of their son Oscar who died

suddenly and unexpectedly on June 19, 2014. They founded the charity with the objective of enhancing the experience of children and their families in hospital care by investing in projects and innovations within child health which have the potential to benefit children nationally.

People can donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/TOO500>



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Music teacher presented to Prime Minister of Nepal

MUSIC teacher Ben Coulson is passionate about his subject – and that passion has led to him being presented to the Prime Minister of Nepal.

Mr Coulson teaches at Birchwood High School but he also plays in a renowned brass band and, just lately has been working as a musical director.

His latest project, which was staged at the Royal Hall Theatre in Harrogate, was a musical based on a Nepalese fairy tale called "Monkey Boy" performed by children from North Yorkshire and Nepal.

The event was part of Harrogate Rotary Club's annual charity concert programme to raise money for international causes. It helped

provide aid for schools in the poor and remote Panchamul Valley in Nepal.

The UK Ambassador to Nepal was so impressed with the performance and the work that Mr Coulson had put into its musical direction that he was invited to the Nepalese Embassy to meet the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Right Hon Mr KP Sharma Oli, in person.

A spokesperson for Birchwood High said: "Well done Ben – your dedication is a credit to you and we are so proud to have you as a member of Team Birchwood."



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School wins a Green Flag Award

BIRCHWOOD High School has been awarded a Green Flag Award – and become one of only three per cent of schools in the country to win one.

This followed a visit to the school by an external eco-inspector who was taken on a tour of the school by Pedro Santos and Luke Richardson and shown the various eco projects.

After this, the school's Eco-Committee gave a presentation about their achievements over the past year.

The inspector then asked some questions and was really impressed with the answers the committee gave.

Josie Evans, the school's communications and events manager, said: "He thought our learners showed excellent commitment, leadership and passion towards the eco-schools project."

Village gardens to open for charity

TEN gardens across Culcheth and Croft will be open to members of the public on Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, to raise money for charity.

All money raised will be equally divided between St. Rocco's Hospice and Culcheth Methodist Church.

Tickets are obtainable from Poynton's Florists, Culcheth, for £5 in advance or £6 if bought on the day. They will cover both days.

In addition, a exhibition of paintings by Morag Burton will be on display at Methodist Church on the Saturday, from 10am until later in the afternoon.

The choir will sing during the

morning and coffee will be served.

There will be a plant stall at 29 Culcheth Hall Drive and tombola at 26 Cawley Avenue.

Teas will be served at 25 Cawley Avenue and cream teas at 8,

Langcliffe Close.

The 10 gardens – and the gardeners – are: Heather Boley, 26, Cawley Avenue; Viv and Dave Briney, 25, Cawley Avenue; Morag and Bob Burton, 29 Culcheth Hall Drive; Ann Green, 7 Culcheth Hall Drive; Jean and John Riley, 1 Chatsworth

Avenue; Andrea Atherton and Jackie Alderson; 2 Chatsworth Avenue; Gill Lomas, 44 Severn Road; Linda Kaye, 17 Beechmill Drive; Jane and David Bushby 8 Langcliffe Close, all Culcheth, and Elspeth and Phil Brighton 32 Wadeson Way, Croft.



£10,000 grant for new play area

CULCHETH Primary School has been awarded £10,000 lottery funding to develop an outdoor play area on the school site.

Artificial grass will be laid and goals installed to create a new activity space where children can play games and be active.

The money comes from the National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK.

Croft Parish Council News

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Croft Parish Plan Monitoring Group

We are looking for local Croft residents to join a small group to monitor / progress the new Croft Parish Plan. The group will meet possibly 4 times a year and will be independent of the Parish Council. If you are interested or need more information please contact the Parish Clerk.

Warrington Borough Local Plan and Warrington Borough draft Local Transport Plan

The Parish Council have joined with Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council to commission a Planning Consultant to comment and object on both plans. Croft Parish Council has always been opposed to any building on the Green Belt around Croft and are dismayed that the housing allocation in the Plan for Croft has been increased to 75 dwellings.

It was resolved at the last meeting that any development within Croft Village takes place on brownfield sites.

HS2

The latest report on the HS2 route has still not come up with a solution for the closure of Wigshaw Lane. The Parish Council has a meeting with an officer from HS2 in June to express our concerns that nothing has been done about this major problem for Croft since our last meeting with them.

Parish Clerk office

The Clerk has now moved office. The new address is Croft Parish Council, Croft Youth and Activity Centre, Smithy Lane, Croft, Warrington WA3 7JE

Residents may contact Mike Pope, Croft Parish Council's Clerk on Email: croftparishcouncil@gmail.com
The Parish Council issues updates and information on Twitter: [@croftparish](https://twitter.com/croftparish) Web: www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk

Croft Beer Festival - a true community effort and success!



PEOPLE from near and far, friends old and new, descended on Croft Village Memorial Hall in mid-June for the second annual 'Croft Beer, Gin and Prosecco Festival'.

Organisers also added in, last minute, the 'next big thing' - a Rum bar!

Entertainment across the two days was provided by returning bands 'The Reactions' and 'The Tones', along with local singer Simon Roscoe and a new group of young people, 'The Euphorics'.

A community centred event - organisers used local suppliers wherever they could - it depended

upon numerous sponsors and volunteers, without whom it simply wouldn't happen.

A great social occasion - bringing people together, making memories and raising funds in support of Croft Village Memorial Hall, Croft Youth Activity Centre and Croft WI.

So enjoyable, they are doing it all over again next year - 12 & 13 June 2020!



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Appeal for witnesses after raiders break into Co-op store through roof

DETECTIVES at Warrington are appealing for information and footage from members of the public after a cash machine was broken into during a burglary at a convenience store.

The incident occurred at The Co-operative Food store in Common Lane, Culcheth, between around 11.30pm on June 9 and 12.30am June 10.

The offenders broke in via the roof and stole a quantity of cash from the ATM and cigarettes from the store.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who was in the area

and witnessed anything suspicious to come forward.

They also want to hear from anyone who believes they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.

Detective Sergeant Tom Hall said: "We are determined to establish who carried out the burglary and bring them to justice."

"Enquiries are ongoing and as

part of our investigation we are appealing for members of the public to get in touch if they think they have information or CCTV or dashcam footage that may be relevant.

"Perhaps you were in the area and witnessed something suspicious, or maybe you have CCTV or dashcam footage of people or a vehicle that may have been involved in the burglary."

"We also want to speak to anyone who believes they may know who the offenders are."

Anyone with information or CCTV footage that may aid the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 424291, give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Dashcam footage can be submitted online at www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage.

It's carnival time at Croft again!

HEROES and heroines – that's the theme for the procession at the annual Croft Carnival on Saturday July 6.

The grand parade will start from the Plough, in Kenyon Lane at 12 noon and proceed through the village to the playing field for the official opening at 1.30pm.

It will be led by Carnival Queen Gracie Cripps, aged 11 and Alice Hughes, aged eight, the Carnival Princess.

Rosebud will be seven-year-old Jessica Bowen and the Crown Bearer will be Lewis Ashton, aged five.

All the attractions that have made the carnival a popular event for so many years will be there again – Punch and Judy, zorb balls, giant board games and, of course, the Thelwall Morris Men and the Dixie Deluxe Jazz Band.

But there will be new attractions as well, including The Blackrock Llama Display team and clown act Bluey and Conk.

Towards the end of the afternoon the famous egg throwing competition will take place!

As usual there will be stalls of various kinds, including those representing charities and local organisations.

Weather permitting it should be a great family day out.

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Crowning glory for Ne



Pictures: Paul Jackson

THIS year’s Newchurch Rose Queen, Ella Ross, was crowned on Sunday during a special 10.30 am church service.

On a dry but cloudy morning , in a tradition which the church can trace back to the 1920’s, the newly crowned Newchurch Rose Queen and her attendants Gaby Cox, Lilly Ross, Holly Radcliffe and Meryn Ebert along with crown bearer Tom Ebert were led into the Newchurch Parish Church by the Choir and the Parish banner.

After the crowning and Sunday service the new queen and her retinue led the congregation on a walk of witness to the Parish hall where refreshments were served.

Ella, who is 10 years old and attends Culcheth Primary School, takes over the role from Natalia Fuller who was last year’s Rose Queen.



Newchurch Rose Queen



The Gardening Guide



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

Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

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

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Overwhelming support for Raven to re-open as pub

A SURVEY of residents of Culcheth and Glazebury has indicated that 90 per cent of people would like to see The Raven Inn re-open as a community pub.

They have also said they would be likely to use the pub if it re-opened – and 82.7 per cent of them would like to see home cooked food served at lunch and dinner times.

More than 200 people have so far taken part in the survey, organised by the Save the Raven campaign group.

A total of 210 responses have been “positive” and only four “negative.”

The group has also applied to Warrington Borough Council for the pub to be designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

Spokesman Peter Sturman said they believed the council would take their application seriously.

“An ACV will help protect the Raven, help to ward off any future developers, allow us to bid for the Raven in any future sale and stipulate a six month moratorium to allow us to raise the funds to do so, when it becomes available to purchase.”

The campaign group still await news of what the developer plans to do next. The original plan, to demolish the Raven and build houses on the site was withdrawn.

Developers Osborne and Co later indicated they were proposing an alternative that would retain the pub building, converted for residential use. But as yet there has been no second planning application.

Mr Sturman added: “We continue to call on the developer to withdraw and allow the opportunity for a community purchase.”

The group stress that their

campaign is not simply about saving the Raven now, but for future generations.

Aim of the survey of residents is to assess the viability of the Raven as a community pub at some time in the future.

The responses suggest the following:

- A total of 90 per cent indicated they would patronise the Raven, at some time.
- The most popular “service” would be, Home cooked food (dinners and lunches) on 82.7 per cent
- There were a large number of additional “community services” suggested, of which, being dog friendly, was the most popular, on 38.6 per cent
- The most popular food is traditional pub grub on 90.2 per cent
- There were 53, varying “other” food related suggestions
- A total of 142 people answered “they, or someone in their household, would be interested in helping The Raven Inn Community Pub Project” (66 per cent).
- There were four negative responses and 210 positive responses, so a 98.1 per cent positive response.

The survey shows overwhelming support for the Raven being preserved as a community pub. Within that there is an appetite to be involved, in some way.

“The message from our local community is that they want the Raven to be traditional and friendly. Catering for locals, with

local people involved, considering their dogs and providing home cooked food.

“Interestingly, there were a number of comments asking for the Raven to be returned to the pub it used to be. To reinstate the events that used to be a regular feature of the Raven.

“One innovative suggestion was that the Raven should support local “up and coming” chefs / restaurateurs, by providing the facilities and venue, via a “pop-up”

restaurant. A total of 61 per cent of respondents were in favour of this.”

Mr Sturman added: “We are now five months into our campaign. It is a huge positive boost to see such an array of dynamic and constructive ideas.

“The resolve of our community is as strong, as ever, to save the Raven and preserve it for future generations. What’s more, for that to be done by the community, for the community”.



Cheerleaders home from world championships – with a medal

TWO pupils from Birchwood High School are back home after competing at international level in cheerleading in Florida – bringing back a medal.

Sophie Collier, 15 (pictured) and Niamh Rielly, 16 are both members of the Rising Stars cheerleading club in Warrington.

Sophie, who competes alongside her sister in the Rising Stars Ellipse International Level 5 Team, performed amazingly in the Florida

World Championships to become the IASF Bronze World Medallists.

Prior to travelling to Florida her team became national UK champions and are the first UK team to win medals at the world championships in 10 years.

In the second competition in

Florida, Niamh and her Level 4 team, Rising Stars Aurora, competed in the international invite only event. They narrowly missed a medal being placed fourth. Rising Stars Aurora, are, however, the

current UK national champions.

Josie Evans, communications and events manager at Birchwood High, said: "Congratulations to both girls – they have done so well and we are so proud of them."



WI walkers raised £200

MEMBERS and friends of Glazebury WI raised £200 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution with a walk around the village.

Thanks to those who took part were given at the WI's monthly meeting, presided over by Delia Caswell, who also congratulated members celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.

Speaker was Diane Hawkins who gave a very interesting talk on a women's refuge she is involved with in Bolton. The name given to the refuge is Fortalice, which translates to "place of refuge" in French. It was first formed in 1977 when a young abused mother contacted the Samaritans for help. The lady she was referred to soon became aware that little or no provision was offered in Bolton for abused women and started to campaign for a safe house. Bolton Council offered a small two up and two down house, with very basic amenities, and 12 women and children moved in! In 2008 a new refuge was built and rented from Salford Housing Trust and, with the backing of the Outreach Support Centre and Irwell Valley Trust, continues to offer 25 individual self contained units for distressed families. Art therapy is offered to the children and a Freedom Programme offered to the women who's ages range from teens to late 60's!. Three years ago Fortalice was granted the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services and, because the funding from Bolton Council has reduced, they are having to rely on fundraising and voluntary donations to keep the refuge running, the yearly costs being £1 million a year.

Mary Latchford gave the vote of thanks.

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Birchwood Carnival beats the weather

Birchwood Carnival 2019 was a great success with large crowds dodging the early showers to enjoy another fun packed community event.

Despite a dull start to the day the Birchwood Carnival began at noon with the traditional parade into the carnival arena which was then followed by the fancy dress competition before the official opening at 1 pm.

This year's annual summer event, run by Warrington Borough Council Ranger Service with the assistance of the Birchwood Carnival Committee and part funded by Birchwood Town Council, offered a whole host of fun, entertainment and educational activities for all ages.

This year's headline acts were Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation with their eagle and vulture show and an amazing performance by Van Buren Variety Show featuring professional performers with shows crammed with magic, illusions, juggling skills, comedy, escapology, audience participation and a few surprises along the way.

Dozens of stalls included ferret walking, a rodeo bull, a climbing wall a coconut shy, a chance

to handle creatures and creepy crawlies from around the world, a fun dog show, and a local history photography exhibition to name but a few.

For thrill seekers the Silcocks fair was a fabulous attraction with traditional rides such as teacups and carousels for the smaller children and a Ghost Train and Dragon roller coaster for the more daring.

Birchwood Carnival is also an opportunity for charities and community groups to gain awareness and much needed funds for their good causes. This year saw stalls from Cats Protection League, The Warrington and Birchwood Lions and a whole host of others including the Warrington East 9th. and 12th. Scout groups who are raising money to send 36 young Warringtonians to the Eurojam in Poland and they were pedalling a static bike the equivalent distance to reach Gdansk where the jamboree will be held.

Pictures: Paul Jackson



Former councillor seeks to make come-back

FORMER Culcheth councillor Chris Vobe is bidding to be return to Warrington Borough Council – but this time representing the Rixton and Woolston.

Cllr Vobe – he is currently a member of Winwick Parish Council – is one of a number of prospective candidates for next May's "all out" borough elections named by Warrington North Labour Party.

He has previously served as a member of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council – where he became the youngest-ever chairman - Croft Parish Council and as a Culcheth representative on the borough council.

He stepped down from all three councils in 2016

Other candidates so far named include: Birchwood: Russ Bowden, Dom Breslin.

Burtonwood and Winwick: Cathy Mitchell, Terry O'Neill

Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft: Matt Smith, Ben Alldred, Jan Davidson.

Rixton and Woolston: Andrew Hill, Pat Wright

A spokesperson for Warrington North Labour Party said: "We are delighted to announce our superb candidates, who will contest the 2020 local elections in Warrington North.

"Labour will field a strong

team, from a diverse range of backgrounds and walks of life. All of them are united in their determination to deliver the best deal possible for our communities, in the face of devastating cuts to local services imposed by the Conservative government."



"Jerusalem" on the guitar – and behind the Iron Curtain

SPEAKER Neil Smith opened Newchurch WI's monthly meeting by accompanying "Jerusalem" on his guitar.

President Eileen Griffiths then greeted three "birthday girls" and thanked Jean Riley for the flowers on the table.

Secretary June Cope reminded members of the September trip to Ferraris and the theatre outing to "Guys and Dolls" in October.

Doreen Procter had details of a planned November visit to Boundary Mill and Worston.

Newchurch's craft group had prepared an exhibit for the Cheshire Show there was an invitation to join Culcheth WI on a

trip to Oswaldwhistle Mill in October.

Neil and his guitar then took over. He talked of his early career as an MOD engineer and his change to the music industry, performing in many countries.

His talk took members "Beyond the Iron Curtain" and included Russian tunes on his guitar.

Using slides he showed the huge size of the Russian territories, with many races and languages and he gave a quick outline of their troubled history. He also reminded Newchurch of their dreadful sufferings in World War 2 - over 30 million dead. There were photos of girl fighter pilots and a female sniper. In spite of some frightening

experiences while performing there he liked the ordinary people and their sense of humour.

Phyllis Longson thanked Neil and he judged the competition for a Russian Doll which was won by Aileen Paterson, followed by Kath Ellison and Barbara Alldred. After tea served by Ann Langridge and Margaret Hill there was an anagram quiz.

The next meeting is on July 10 when Ben Alexander will talk about the mysterious "Dark Lady of Shakespeare's Sonnets". Newchurch's Garden Party will take place on July 17 at 1, Chatsworth Avenue from 2pm to 4pm.

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'Dog on dog' attack led to owner appearing in court

DOG owners need to be more aware of a relatively recent amendment to the Dangerous Dogs Act which puts them at increased risk of prosecution if they fail to keep their pets under control.

This is the view of a Culcheth woman whose two black greyhounds – Samba and Lexie – were recently attacked by a black Staffordshire terrier.

Pia Johnson was returning home from a walk with the two greyhounds on their leads when the "dog on dog" attack took place.

The terrier, which was not on a lead, ran at Mrs Johnson's dogs, running up behind Samba and biting him in the groin causing him to cry with pain.

Her owner was calling her back but the terrier ignored her.

Mrs Johnson was screaming at the other dog owner to get her dog off. But the terrier then attacked her other dog, Lexie, biting her shoulder.

Both the greyhounds were screaming with pain and fear and Mrs Johnson, who was still hanging on to their leads in case they ran onto a main road, was jerked back and to violently and eventually fell over.

The terrier was right in front of her.

"I was terrified she was going to bite my face, which was at her level, as she was snarling and growling at me as well."

Samba managed to pull his lead out of Mrs Johnson's hand and ran home. The terrier's owner was trying, unsuccessfully, to control the dog.

Eventually she managed to catch the dog, told her she was a "bad dog" and repeatedly said: "I will pay, I will fix it."

The whole incident lasted less than five minutes.

When Mrs Johnson got home she realised both her dogs were injured – Samba particularly so. The wound in his groin was four inches deep.

Both dogs were taken to a vet who operated on them the same evening and kept them in overnight.

Samba's wounds took 60 days to heal and Lexie, who had nine stitches in her shoulder, took 20 days to heal. In total, the vet's fees were £3,000.

Mrs Johnson contacted the local dog warden and the police and the terrier's owner was subsequently prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act for allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control.

The court imposed a control order on the terrier for life and gave her owner a 12 month suspended sentence. She also had to pay costs – although her insurance had paid the vet fees prior to the hearing.

The control order requires Lily to wear a muzzle, a body harness,

both attached to a double lead not more than 1.5m long, and not be walked by anyone under age 16 in public for the rest of her life.

The owner has to attend dog training classes and ensure her house and garden boundaries are secure.

Mrs Johnson said the whole incident had been unavoidable had the terrier been on its lead.

As it was, the dog's owner now had a criminal conviction and her dog could potentially be seized and put down if there was a breach of the control order.

Mrs Johnson said: "This conviction was possible because

of a relatively recent amendment to the Dangerous Dogs Act - dog owners should be more aware than they are of this amendment and what it means - which is that if you do not control your dog properly and it hurts or badly frightens people, or hurts another dog you can get in a lot of trouble.

"Dog attacks are something the police are willing to take proportionate action over now

"Irresponsible dog owners should not think (as many do) that just saying 'sorry' is sufficient no matter what your dog does."



WI members learn about the birds and the bees!

EX-POLICE officer George Pilkington gave a talk to members of Craft WI about the "Birds & Bees." George had always been interested in nature and while serving with Cheshire police gave in-house lectures on the subject and after retirement took up his interest in earnest, intently studying scientific journals etc. He now travels all over the country teaching organic wildlife gardening. He also designs bird and bee boxes, which have been shown on the TV programme "Springwatch" and have even been bought by Kew Gardens.

Members enjoyed a very

interesting and amusing computer aided presentation, which dispelled some of the myths surrounding birds. Apparently we like to translate animal behaviour into human terms, but actually some long held beliefs are not actually true. For instance most people think mute swans mate for life, but in fact they only stay together for as long as the female is fertile, once her fertility fades the male goes looking for a new partner. This behaviour applies to most of the bird population. Also many of our common birds are extremely promiscuous mating with various partners and even the smallest

birds are exceedingly territorial. George explained how different breeds of birds use varying items to make their nests, from moss, twigs, feathers taken from hawk and road kills and cobwebs used to stick everything together, some nests can take weeks to build. Male Birds sing and female birds just call. The dawn chorus is when the males have the most energy to sing and the sound carries the furthest to listening females saying "I am fit and strong, know the best food sites" and the females can determine the males fitness to mate from these songs.

Interesting facts were related

regarding bees, in particular Tree Bumble Bees, whose activities are truly amazing. The queen will crawl into birds nest whilst the nest is empty, burrow under the nest material and during the night start loudly buzzing, which scares the birds off and leaves the nest for them to colonise! Numerous other fascinating bee facts were explained by George and President Anne Lamming thanked him for a most enlightening evening.

The Competition was won by Janet Hughes, 2nd Jill Hillam, 3rd Bettina Sharpe.

Musical journey

GUEST speaker at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI was music lover Roger Browne with a talk entitled New Orleans to New York.

This was a musical journey that included many of his favourite songs.

Born in Salford his love of music was established by the age of three when his parents would take him to one of many parks to listen to the bands that performed every week, and Roger would enter talent competitions and entertain with his rendition of Al Jolson songs.

His participation in competitions came to an end when he won a voucher for a Toni Perm - not something an eight-year-old boy really wanted! However his love of music continued through listening to and enjoying various popular radio programmes, such as Family Favourites and Housewife's Choice.

Roger's love of theatre and shows started when working for the Gas Board. Their choir required

a male to perform in Camelot at the Palace Theatre and theatre became his passion. As president of Stockport Operatic Society he had many amusing stories to tell, such as accidents with scenery and costumes. During his talk Roger played and sang many much loved songs from long ago, music from musicals like No No Nanette and 'S' Wonderful, and songs by artists like Nat King Cole - all music very fondly remembered and much appreciated by our members.

Village events this month include a talk entitled 'Wire, Women and Song' at Church House, coffee morning at Rixton Methodist Church, a litter pickup, and of course the annual Carnival on June 29.

Next months craft project is a rose flower arrangement.

Courtyard Properties community event

COURTYARD Properties are holding a special community event at Culcheth Village Club on Sunday July 7 from 1pm to 5pm

The family friendly event includes singers on throughout the day featuring the Boogie Babinos.

Also attending will be the one and only DUNKY from Dunkys Day Nurseries. Activities include face painting and hair spraying and the star of the show CHASE from PAW PATROL!

There will also be an indoor trade fair/market featuring local businesses with over 25 stalls!

Courtyard will of course be there for any property or housing questions and answers on the day.

Courtyard will also be donating 'our' proceeds to local youth volunteer group MAD CULCHETH!



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