

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

ISSUE 197 | AUGUST 2019
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CONGRATULATIONS to the campaigners fighting to save the Raven Inn at Glazebury who have been informed by Warrington Borough Council that the authority has accepted the 450-year-old pub as an Asset of Community Value.

This now means any developer who wishes to demolish or alter the building must give the local community up to six months to raise the funds necessary to buy it themselves.

Those who have been fighting to retain the premises as a community facility say they are now in a position to start discussion with the agents marketing the Raven, with the intention of securing a purchase.

Now the hard work really begins!

Those organising the campaign to save the pub say if agreement is reached, they will need to call on the local community to assist in fundraising to secure the pub for the benefit of local residents and future generations.

They tell me they acknowledge this will not have been an easy time for the owners and that they appreciate the opportunity for making a community purchase.

Subject to how their negotiations progress, they say they will keep everybody informed and will be holding a public meeting in the near future.

When this happens it is important that the whole community get behind this, not just to secure

the future of a community asset - but also to allow the current owners to move on with their lives.

We hope to be reporting on some positive outcomes in the near future.



Deadline for the September issue of Culcheth Life is August 13



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Parish to oppose farm house demolition

CROFT Parish Council is to object to plans to demolish a 172-year-old farm house and replace it with a new house.

The proposal, involving Eaves Farm House in Cross Lane, is also being opposed by nearby residents.

It is due to be considered by the borough council's development

management committee on August 14.

The parish council's objection is based on the fact that work has already started, that a newly built wall is causing problems for a nearby resident and that a cobbled drive has been taken up.

Cllr Keith Bland said an earlier application had also been

opposed but had been approved. But problems with the foundations of the building meant another full

application was necessary. The house is understood to date from 1847.



Save The Raven strawberry tea fund-raiser

CULCHETH parish councillors Keith and Sue Bland are organising a Summer tea party at their home to help raise funds for the Save the Raven Inn campaign.

The tea party will take place at their home on Charnock Road on Sunday August 18th from 1pm-4.30pm.

Strawberry Tea will be served, with as much tea and coffee you can drink, along with fun and games...plus some stalls as well.

No licence, but you can bring your own wine, if you prefer.

All are welcome. Tickets are on sale now. Contact Sue or Keith on 766641.



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Two people on a mission to provide affordable, ethical food

TWO people on a mission to bring affordable, clean, ethical food and drink to Warrington – that's Carl and Becky.

They run Powered by Plants, Warrington's first and only fully ethical plant-based supermarket at 7, Crown Street, near Central Station.

They are already attracting many people who want plant-based food without having to travel to Manchester and Liverpool – and wish to say a heartfelt thanks to them.

There are so many good reasons for shopping local with Carl and Becky.

They include a loyalty scheme offering 5 per cent back on shopping, certified organic and affordable fruit 'n' veg boxes, chiller and freezer foods, sourdough/spelt breads, artisan foods from local producers, many plastic free goods, bulk liquid refills, onsite plant-based BBQs, mini indoor markets hand-made organic onsite deli foods.

Carl has been in sports since his youth but found plant-based foods a revelation.

He'll never go back to what the governing bodies call a "balanced diet."

Becky is a qualified yoga

instructor and massage therapist and has followed a vegetarian diet for many years. She has observed the many benefits of following

a plant based diet, not only physically but mentally too, with increased energy levels and mental clarity.

Together, they don't expect to change the world but say to make a small impact locally would be a blessing in itself.



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Rail action group chairman co-opted on to council

FRANK Allen, chairman of the action group fighting the HS2 proposals, has been co-opted as a member of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

The local resident was unanimously adopted a member of the council following the recent death of Cllr Ileyne Hutchinson who

passed away after a short illness. Welcoming Cllr Allen, long-standing council member Cllr Keith Bland, said: "Frank will be a great

asset to the council. He has for some time campaigned against the planned proposals by HS2 to devastate our village. His knowledge as chairman of the railway action group CADRAG will be of great benefit to the council and the local community when challenging these plans which currently included

cutting off the main access road between Culcheth and Croft."

Frank has lived in the village for many years and says it is a great place to live. He will sit as a Conservative councillor.

He said: "I look forward to working with my fellow councillors to ensure it stays that way."

Sid frowns on speeding motorists

SMILEY Sid – the electronic speed warning indicator – looks set to increase his presence in Croft.

Sid, who greets law-abiding motorists with a warm smile but treats those exceeding the speed limit with a glowering frown, is credited with persuading drivers to stay within the limit in Mustard Lane.

Now he is likely to be brought in to solve similar problems in Heath Lane.

Residents have expressed concern about the speed of many vehicles travelling along Heath Lane from the direction of Kenyon – sometimes taking the blind bend into Sandy Lane at unsafe speeds.

Croft Parish Council has raised the matter with the borough council, which seems sympathetic to the idea.

Cllr Keith Bland (pictured) said: "The signs have proved very

successful at reducing speeds in Mustard Lane, near the schools.

"We think one could be equally useful in Heath Lane.

"The exact location will be up to the borough, but it will probably be somewhere near the junction with Sandy Lane."



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Fourth in the World at karate



A BIRCHWOOD High School boy has been rated fourth in the world in his age group at karate – little more than a year after taking up the sport.

TJ Parkinson, who attends a karate club in Irlam, was up against competitors from Canada, the US, Australia and the UK when he took part in a competition to get to the World Cup finals.

He got through to the final six and came fourth in the world in the

12-13 age group – just missing out on a medal.

A school spokesperson said: "We are very proud of TJ. His dedication and hard work is commendable and we look forward to him achieving his World Cup final dream next time."

Raven Inn designated "Asset of Community Value"

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save the Raven Inn at Glazebury, have won an important battle.

They have been informed by Warrington Borough Council that the authority has accepted the 450-year-old pub as an Asset of Community Value.

This means any developer who wishes to demolish or alter the building must give the local community up to six months to raise the funds necessary to buy it themselves.

A spokesman for the campaign group said: "We are absolutely delighted with the decision made by Warrington Borough Council.

"The council has obviously taken time to both consult and fully consider the merits of protecting the Raven in this way.

"The registration underlines the commitment of the local community

to saving the Raven. It also highlights the commitment of our council to protect the unique history and heritage associated with this iconic building."

The application to have the building designated an Asset of Community Value was supported by 22 comments of support from the local community. There were no objections.

The campaign group also claim the developer who wanted to redevelop the pub site for housing purposes has withdrawn from his contract with the owners of the building.

"Without doubt, this is because of the level and the quality of the objection from our local community," the spokesman added.

"In its 450 year history, this is a good day for the Raven Inn."

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Butterflies and burgers take centre stage at Bents

BUTTERFLIES and burgers will take centre stage at Bents Garden & Home with two brand new attractions now open at the Glazebury based destination centre.

Butterflies take centre stage in the Open Skies Glass House with Bents' very own Butterfly House. The new attraction is home to a variety of British butterflies and has been launched in time to tie in with the nation's Big Butterfly Count, which encourages spotters throughout the country to take part between 19th July and 11th August.

The carefully monitored Butterfly House is central to a celebration of these beautiful creatures, with added activities including a butterfly themed treasure hunt, a spotters guide and advice on the

best plants and products available to attract these colourful winged insects into the garden.

In addition to the Butterfly House is the lakeside Summer Grill, which brings another new addition to the Dining at Bents experience. Open every Wednesday to Sunday, from 12.00 – 4.00pm throughout the summer (weather dependant) the Summer Grill will send delicious and tempting aromas across Bents' outdoor seating areas and attractions.

This delicious seasonal food stall offers customers a choice of freshly made gourmet burgers including beef, pork and Ndjua as well as jackfruit vegan burgers all served with fresh salad garnish and an optional slice of smoked cheddar cheese.

A seasonal drinks menu includes homemade lemonade and bottled cold drinks as well as a range of beers or glass of Pimms, all providing the perfect indulgent seasonal treat.

Bents' Butterfly House will be open throughout the summer holidays with the Summer Grill open until Sunday 1st September.



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Heroes and heroines Croft Carnival

HEROES and heroines were out in force at the annual Croft Carnival.

Despite over cast skies the rain held off for the annual carnival parade which made its way through the village.

Following the grand parade which started from the Plough, in Kenyon Lane the carnival queens were crowned at Croft playing field.

Carnival Queen was Gracie Cripps, aged 11. Her attendants were Jessica Cullen and Casey Skinner.

Alice Hughes, aged eight, was the Carnival Princess. Her

attendants were Claudia Hynes and Madeleine Taylor.

Rosebud was seven-year-old Jessica Bowen. Her attendants were Lola-Kate Regan and Chloe Hill. Crown Bearer was Lewis Ashton, aged five.

This year's theme for fancy dress and the annual scarecrow competition was heroes and heroines.

Joining in the fun was Croft Parish Council Chairman Cllr Keith Bland.



Costumes out in force at carnival



The Gardening Guide



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

Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

- Dahlias will be at their best now and will need feeding, watering and dead heading to keep them performing for as long as possible
- Keep the pond well oxygenated when the weather is hot by running water features or spraying the surface with a hose
- Animals are starting to prepare for the winter so ensure you are offering a wide range of food
- Stop feeding roses now as you will encourage them to produce soft sappy growth which will be more prone to winter damage or disease and dieback

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

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High school celebrates students' achievements

PROUD parents, guardians and staff from Culcheth High School gathered together for the school's awards night and celebration evening.

The academic, pastoral, personal and sporting achievements of students over the past 12 months were celebrated, recognising those who epitomised the school values of respect, honesty and excellence.

There were some spectacular performances of singing, dancing

and gymnastics – including that of dancer Isabel Dean (pictured right).

There were also special congratulations to Ruby Young and James Davies on their Headteacher and Governor awards respectively - the school's two highest accolades.



Students dress to impress for Prom

YEAR 11 students from Culcheth High School attended their Prom at the Hallmark Hotel in Warrington.

They arrived in style and were certainly dressed to impress. Everyone enjoyed a three-course meal followed by lots of dancing! A fantastic evening was enjoyed by all, a great way to relax and celebrate their time at Culcheth High School.



CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

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Sue Bland
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Valerie Allen
01925 767274

The Local Plan and Transport Plan

This is the Proposed Submission Version Local Plan. This and the comments made will go to a Public Inquiry with a Government Inspector who will decide if the Plan is "sound" and complies with Government and existing local policies. This Inquiry could be next year- we will pass on details when we get them. The Draft Local Transport Plan, known as LTP4, does not have a separate inquiry but has to be considered as part of the Local Plan.

Earlier this year we joined with Croft Parish Council to engage a planning consultant to comment on the two plans. In addition to objecting to Green Belt loss, wider issues such as traffic congestion on local roads and motorways, and the environment were commented on.

HS2 phase 2b

A design refinement consultation is ongoing until September 6th. The 11 changes do not include the route North of the Ship Canal but we understand that discussions on the issue of the closure of Wigshaw Lane are continuing. The 11 refinement proposals include passive provision for two junctions at High Legh. This is to enable future use of the HS2 line into Manchester for potential Northern Powerhouse Rail services.

Traffic through Glazebury

There has been an unacceptable increase in traffic, in particular HGVs, since Wigan Council imposed a temporary weight restriction on Winwick Lane. A group of residents, Councillors and Council Officers are working together to collate information and consider options. The Borough Council has produced a traffic survey and residents have organised a leaflet drop.

The old Garden Centre site on Church Lane

Warrington Borough Council granted planning permission for 10 dwellings on this site in October 2016. The only issue remaining as a "reserved matter" was landscaping. At the time of writing an application for the landscaping, ie planting, has been made. Surrounding residents and businesses have been consulted.

Culcheth Library

The Parish Council Office is now in Culcheth Library. The address is The Parish Clerk, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, Culcheth Library, Warrington Road, Culcheth, WA3 5SL.

Tel: 01925 764666.

The library hosts groups and events as well as lending books, why not pop in and see what is available?

The library also hosts the Police Surgeries. Dates and times are available in the library and also from searching on line for Culcheth Police Surgery.

Dates

Christmas Market Day this year is on Saturday November 30th.

Community Day 2020 will be on Friday May 8th because the May Bank Holiday has been moved to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Parish Council meeting on the 9th July

Mr. Frank Allen was co-opted to fill a casual vacancy.

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

Prom students danced the night away

YEAR 11 students from Birchwood High School danced the night away at their Prom.

The sun shone but there was a gentle breeze to cool things down at the Hallmark Hotel in Grappenhall.

Mocktails were served on arrival and then the students enjoyed a delicious meal.

After the dancing, they all returned to school by coach at midnight.

A school spokesperson said: "Our young people were fantastic.

As usual, they were a credit to us with many other visitors to the hotel commenting on how polite and pleasant they were."

Special mention must be made of one student who was missing.

Poppy Lawson could not attend because she had been selected for the England Ladies Football Under 16 team to compete in the Nordic Tournament in Sweden.



Awesome performance by "Oarsome" rowers



A TEAM of Year 8 rowers from Birchwood High School were awarded a top prize at the final "Oarsome" regatta on the Mersey at Warrington, in competition with eight other local schools.

The whole team were awarded the Roger Chicken Memorial Trophy for "the best performance across all areas throughout the year."

Birchwood were the standout winners according to all the judges and Evan Wray and Amy Groves both took Gold medals for their doubles rowing.

The rest of the team were Hannah Holford, Summer Buchanan, Aqeel Adil, Dolly Hamilton Foster and Bartocsz Palicki.

Richard Sinnott, coach and head of youth rowing at Warrington

Rowing Club, said: "Amy was by far the best young lady rower across all schools. Her enthusiasm and dedication was a delight to see."

A spokesperson for Birchwood High said: "Congratulations to all our Oarsome team on their success and well done to those involved in making it possible for our learners to take up this fantastic extra-curricular opportunity, especially Mrs Paula Swift and Mr Ralph Johnson, who worked so hard taking and coaching the children each week."



Over paid and over here – US servicemen in WW2

MEMBERS of Lowton WI were encouraged to wear red, white and blue at their monthly meeting to mark American Independence Day.

The talk was entitled "Over Paid...Over Here" – a reference to the US servicemen stationed in this country during World War 2.

John Catterill and Bob Foster provided the entertainment with a short film and stories from the former US base at Burtonwood.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the Americans joined WW2 and the American forces arrived in Burtonwood at the end of 1942.

It was both a moving and interactive evening which members enjoyed, prompting nostalgic memories for many.

Lowton WI meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm at Lowton Social Club on Newton Road, Lowton.

The August meeting is titled "Heartbeat with Sian". More details from Lin Haynes on 01942 207764.

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Plenty to do at Bents Garden and Home during school holidays

THE school holidays are here and Bents Garden & Home has got the summer sorted with a lots of events to keep the little ones entertained.

Weekends at Bents and the Children's Boutique is the place to be for toy demonstrations taking place every weekend throughout the holidays. Children can get involved and road test the latest toys to hit the shelves.

Wednesday is the day to get creative with Wacky Wednesday craft activities, taking place from 24th July – 28th August

Thursday is Character Sing-a-long day. From 25th July – 29th August Bents will be joined by characters including Mary Poppins and Bert, toy cowboys and fairies and pirates for

free sing-a-long sessions and meet and greets. (starting 12 o'clock)

Thursday's throughout August and Bents will be hosting Professor Science Workshops where children can take part in this hands on, fun science session. (9.30-10.30am, booking required, £6.50 per place)

Other dates for the diary include:
Wednesday 28th August: The return of the Great Bents Bake Off. Budding bakers should bring their entries to Bents by 2pm when Bents' Head Baker will judge the winner. Once again there will be three age groups (under 8s, 9 – 16, 17 and

over) with a winner and runner up in each. Winning bakers will receive a hamper of baking goodies and runners up will take away vouchers worth £10.

In addition to all Bents' planned activities the Indoor Beach and Outdoor Play Area, are both free and open throughout the summer. Jurassic Cove Adventure Golf is also a must visit for all the family. The 18 hole golf course now features pesky pirates and creatures of the deep as well as life sized, moving dinosaurs, all ready to challenge players young

and old.

As well as entertainment for the little ones, Bents also provides the perfect place for the grown-ups to relax and take time out with six delicious dining destinations offering everything from freshly made coffee and home-made cake, to Mediterranean style tapas with a glass of wine. And with guided dog walks, wine tasting and a Ladies Evening event on 22nd August, the summer holidays are sorted for every member of the family.

Adventures aboard ship in the 19th century

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Croft WI was Ian Bellard, who gave a fascinating talk based on his great grandfather's journal "The 19th Century Sea Voyage of Joseph T Rowland."

This described adventures as a merchant sailor on the tall ship, the Cloch, from 1897-1899.

The Cloch was a three masted barque with a steel hull, used for carrying mixed cargo over long voyages.

They set sail from Liverpool bound for San Francisco with 25 men on board plus two stowaways who were quickly discovered and returned to shore by one of the tugs. Life on board was harsh; the men worked a four hour watch followed by four hours sleep which must have amounted to an 84 hour working week. The ship's carpenter, cook and sail maker didn't have to work watches and were called "idlers"!

The voyage took 152 days and the ship docked in San Francisco for several weeks. Sailors in a foreign port were vulnerable, unscrupulous ship owners paid gangs to entice them off the ship with promises of a better life. Then their drinks would be laced and they would wake to find themselves heading out to sea on a different ship. Sailors were only paid on return to their home port so this saved the ship owners money.

Joseph sailed on the Cloch for two years, sailing to Port Elizabeth in the Transvaal and Taltal in Chile to collect a cargo of saltpetre fertilizer. He rounded Cape Horn four times, only once encountering a storm which nearly capsized the ship due to the cargo of grain shifting in the hold. He spent two Christmases on board, celebrating with a ration of grog, biscuits and cheese.

On returning home to Runcorn, Joseph never went to sea again but worked on the canals for the rest of his life.

The competition "Amusing Message in a Bottle" was won by Jill Hillam, 2nd Barbara Hadfield and joint 3rd Louise Geekie and Lesley Lloyd.

Diary Dates:
September 23 – North Cheshire WI Group Meeting at Padgate Community Centre
"Songs from Broadway Shows" with Adam Smith

October 21 – CFWI Autumn Meeting at Mere Golf Resort
Speaker Rev Kate Bottley from Channel 4's Gogglebox

October 22 – Emma Bridgewater Pottery Tour

Visit the factory and paint a piece of pottery

Croft WI meets at 7.30 pm at Croft Memorial Hall on the third Wednesday of each month.



Childhood travels with the Army

MEMBERS of Glazebrook WI heard a fascinating adventure story entitled "Childhood travels with the Army" from speaker Camille Bradford.

It began long before Camille was born, with her father, born in 1913 in Bristol.

As a young man he joined the Salvation Army and later went on to join the regular army, and was posted to Egypt then Singapore and eventually Madras in India.

While attending Georgetown Methodist church in Madras he met his future wife, Camille's mother, whose family had lived in India for generations.

They moved to Rangoon in Burma to start their married life. However shortly after this war broke out and life changed forever. To try and avoid the conflict, Camille's mother moved to Mandalay and was taken in by a New Zealand girl. During this time Camille's mother went into labour and after a long treacherous journey through the jungle she eventually arrived at hospital half an hour before Camille was born.

Unfortunately the Japanese invasion continued and for the first

few weeks of her life, Camille and her mother spent every night in a trench to avoid the bombing. They were forced to move on and all the mothers and children were taken to a safer place by lorry. When they arrived all the troops had been relocated and the families were left without provisions, forced to boil water and add an Oxo cube for sustenance.

They were then moved onto Calcutta where a member of the colliers' club took them into their home and looked after them. They remained friends for the rest of their lives. Their next destination was Rawalpindi in the Himalayas where the temperature was below freezing; a far cry from Calcutta. Fortunately they acquired a sewing machine and made coats from blankets, and kept warm by all living in one room.

Eventually they were sent to Bombay to board a ship to take them home. But this journey proved to be every bit as dangerous as the previous years as the ship was hit by a cyclone. Everything was lost including lifeboats, and they were reduced to living on biscuits. However after many months they arrived back in Bristol where they were reunited with Camille's father who had survived the war.

After the war ended Camille's father joined the military police, and the family, Camille and new baby brother moved to Brussels, where unfortunately they were burgled and lost everything once again! Later they all moved to Germany to settle for a few years.

Camille's was an amazing story of bravery and strength, going from the luxury of living with numerous servants and comfort, to existing with only the clothes on their back.

Camille showed members beautiful traditional saris and dolls and beautiful lace work and a traditional parasol that was gifted to her.

Birthday greetings for Glazebury WI

A CERTIFICATE of congratulations on Glazebury WI's forthcoming 50th anniversary was sent to the monthly meeting of the WI by the Cheshire Federation chairman, Jean Harding, on behalf of the WI Board. Thanks were given to the members for supporting the WI at the Royal Cheshire Show where three Glazebury members submitted entries and were awarded with 2nd place for Ann Houghton's Water Colour, also Highly Commended for Dorothy Sudding and Lois Worthington's knitted characters from Walt Disney's Fantasia. Birthdays and wedding anniversaries were acknowledged for July and August and thanks given for the table flower arrangement.

Dorothy Sudding read her report from the Conference held in Portsmouth and told of the conference venue being moved outside of the city because Donald Trump commandeered it for the visit to the D Day celebrations!

The talk was given by Paul and Paula who spoke about Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA's) Made Simple. They have 12 years of experience within the business set up by Christian Bale. It was formerly called Enduring Powers of Attorney which only looked after the financial affairs of the person involved and was superseded in 2007 by the LPA which includes Health and Welfare. They both explained in detail the possible pitfalls which can overtake people at any age eg. accident/illness/mobility restrictions and an LPA ensures care will be taken by the Executor(s) appointed to that duty. A Question and Answer Forum ensued when some of the members asked relevant questions. Definitely food for thought! The meeting closed with the wishes for a restful summer and looking forward to meeting in September.

WI members in a strange world of wealth

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI took members into a strange world of wealth and privilege and very few morals!

Ben Alexander's talk was entitled "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets and he had his own theories about the Lady's identity, based on long research into court life in the later life of Elizabeth I.

He had slides showing portraits of his heroine, the very talented but promiscuous Mary Fitton of Gawsworth Hall, and copies of the sonnets, full of word plays. He did not believe William Shakespeare wrote any of these poems.

Trudy MacDonald thanked Ben and he judged the July competition

for a theatre programme, choosing Jean Riley as winner, with Marjorie Pugh as runner-up. After Pat Bentham and Marion Elwell had served tea, the evening ended with a rather tricky True/False quiz.

President Eileen Griffiths had the unusual task of giving herself birthday greetings, along with three other "birthday girls". She thanked Rose Collins for the table bouquet and then went through a list of summer events.

The speaker on August 14 will be Brian Green and his subject is "Gene Kelly - Let's Dance".

Disabled drivers trapped in their cars by thoughtless motorists

THOUGHTLESS motorists are preventing disabled drivers from using the car park at Croft playing field.

The car park has only one disabled space which has a yellow-painted hatched area adjoining it so that disabled drivers can get out of their cars.

But other motorists are frequently parking on the hatched area, meaning disabled drivers are trapped in their cars.

Cllr Keith Bland said: "It is only a small car park with just one disabled space. "If the hatched area is left free, disabled motorists can get out of their cars and unload walking frames or buggies.

"It is very frustrating for a disabled grandparent to be able to park but not get out of their car to accompany their grandchild to the play area.

"We are planning to erect a sign asking people not to park on the hatched area, but in the meantime we would appeal to drivers to be considerate to the disabled."

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