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Magazine

ISSUE 198 | SEPTEMBER 2019
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**Ladies' Day for
feline charity**

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment



IT is good to see that Warrington Borough Council is taking a firm line on fly-tipping these days.

In recent months a number of offenders have been taken to court – frequently after they have at first tried to ignore a summons – and been made to pay dearly for their misdeeds.

In addition, the council has pledged to take strong action against anyone caught dumping rubbish in the Hermitage Green area of Winwick – the historic site of the Battle of Winwick in 1684.

It is bad enough when fly-tippers dump their rubbish in some back alley but even worse when they despoil historic areas of the borough.

Fines of up to £50,000 can be imposed when culprits are caught – and we don't think they are a penny too much.

Unfortunately, the council can only take offenders to court when they catch them and often they rely on help from the public to do that.

We urge anyone who sees fly-tippers at work to note their vehicle registration numbers and report them to the authorities.

They can also ask questions of anyone who offers to dispose of their waste – making sure they are a genuine waste carrier and not a fly-tipper.

Householders should be aware that if an unauthorised waste

carrier takes rubbish for them, disposes of it by fly-tipping and the material is later traced back to the householder, they may also be held responsible and fined.

Just why a fly-tipper finds it easier to dispose of an old mattress, a TV or a washing machine by the roadside, we cannot pretend to know.

But if it is to save money they should remember that if they are caught they could end up facing a life-changing debt. That's how seriously the law takes this offence.

It never ceases to amaze me how anyone can think it is perfectly acceptable to dump any form of waste – but there appear to be plenty of people guilty of it seeing all the fast food rubbish strewn alongside our roadsides up and down the country!

Finally I would like to wish the Save the Raven campaigners the best of luck in the coming months to save this community asset. It is not going to be an easy task but certainly a worthwhile one!

Deadline for the October issue of Culcheth Life is September 10



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Work starts on £20,000 churchyard drainage system

WORK has started on a new drainage system, costing more than £20,000, at Newchurch Parish Church, Culcheth.

Adrian Howarth's Culcheth Paving and Groundwork are carrying out the work which should alleviate flooding in the churchyard following periods of heavy rain.

Community involvement in the scheme will continue with the help of the local farmer at Ratcliffe House Farm, who will be delivering materials for the project to the back of the church across his land – preventing damage to church pathways and keeping disruption to a minimum.

The project will provide underground drains and soakaways to take away troublesome surface water and provide suitable pathways in the graveyard.

More than £20,000 has been raised to carry out the work, with David and Judith Charlton leading the fundraising campaign.

Donations came mainly through the generosity of people in the local community and from those who have connections with the village but live elsewhere in the UK and Europe.

Community donations have been boosted by funds from, among others, All Churches Trust Ltd,

Warrington Borough Council's Neighbourhood Fund, The Lions, The Rotary Club of Newton and District Jubilee, Cheshire Community Foundation, The Bishop Radford Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation.

The first Turf Cutting took place with the Rev Barbara Alldred and the Rev Pat Gray in attendance with the contractor and the churchwardens.

The churchyard at Newchurch Parish Church, Culcheth dates from the 16th century. It was extended in 1955 to provide additional space. This additional space was previously farmland and has no form of drainage. The soil is heavy clay and during prolonged or heavy rainfall becomes waterlogged.

During winter months the churchyard is often inaccessible. Unlike many churches the churchyard at Newchurch is still open to new burials and it is estimated that this will continue for many years.

But the waterlogged ground presents major difficulties during burial services. The installation of an effective drainage system is considered a major priority to maintain access and continued use of the churchyard.



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Six vital months in the history of 450-year-old pub



THE next six months could be the most important in the 450-year-old history of the Raven Inn at Glazebury, Warrington.

This is the view of Peter Sturman, spokesman for residents campaigning to save the old pub.

He said: "This is not as 'over the top' as it might sound.

"This time next year the Raven could be operating as a community pub, or it could be there but unrecognisable, or it could be gone forever. Anything is still possible."

The residents have secured the Raven as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), persuaded the developer to withdraw and seen the pub go on the open market.

But the ACV only gives them six months to move on to the next stage in safeguarding the Raven for future generations – raising enough money to buy the building.

Mr Sturman said: "Let's be clear, the Raven is far from saved. Any bid we make is just that. If we are unable to negotiate a purchase, we could be back to square one in January.

"Now is a pivotal time. The major means of purchasing a community pub is by offering community shares, alongside various loans and grants.

"We held a very successful public meeting, in January. A lot has happened since then. We

are holding our second public meeting on Thursday September 5 at 7pm at Culcheth High School. "This will be a hugely important meeting. It will be an opportunity to update everyone on what has been achieved, up to now. We will outline the way forward and answer any questions anyone may have."

Mr Sturman said the campaign group would shortly be conducting a leafleting campaign of every household in Glazebury and Culcheth in order to ensure everybody was informed of both the public meeting and the proposed share issue.

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£50,000 fines for fly-tipping in historic area

WARRINGTON Borough Council is pledging to take firm action against anyone caught dumping rubbish in an historic area at Winwick – and is asking for the public’s help.

The council is beginning a new clampdown on fly-tipping in the Hermitage Green area, the site of the Battle of Winwick in 1684, which has been designated an historic asset by English Heritage.

Recent months have seen a small number of irresponsible individuals continually blighting the area by illegally dumping large amounts of waste on Hermitage Green Lane, including household items, electrical goods and car parts. The council, working with probation service users, has carried out a number of clean ups of the site, which is challenging due to the nearby slope.

Now, the council will be monitoring the area closely, and gathering all evidence from dumped waste which helps identify the people responsible. Anyone caught will face a fine of up to £50,000.

Local people are being asked to help, by remaining vigilant, and providing as much detail as possible about anyone they spot fly-tipping.

Residents can also help combat fly-tipping – on Hermitage Green Lane and across Warrington – by asking questions of anyone who offers to dispose of their waste, and by checking the individuals’

credentials, including the waste carriers’ registration number.

Some people, posing as legitimate waste removal companies, simply collect household waste and fly-tip it onto streets and green spaces. Householders are responsible for ensuring their waste is disposed of properly, and could face a fine if fly-tipped rubbish is traced back to them.

The council’s cabinet member for environment and public protection, Cllr Judith Guthrie, said: “These disgusting fly-tipping instances in the historic area of Hermitage Green Lane are an example of the huge impact this irresponsible behaviour can have on communities.

“Clearing this fly-tipping, due to the behaviour of a selfish minority, is a massive waste of resources, at a time when council services are already under severe strain.

“We are sending out a clear message to those fly-tipping on Hermitage Green Lane – and in all other parts of Warrington – that it will not be tolerated. There are a range of measures we use to tackle this problem, and we will have no hesitation in using the full weight of the law against environmental criminals.”

You can report incidents of fly-tipping at warrington.gov.uk/flytipping





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Lifesavers' mountainous challenge for paralysed colleague



Vikki and her partner.

LIFESAVERS have set themselves a mountainous fundraising challenge involving a former Birchwood firefighter who is paralysed from the waist down following a freak accident at a gym.

A joint team of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service firefighters and International Search and Rescue Team members have vowed to push Vicki Griffiths up the highest mountain in Wales on Friday September 6.

The 33-year-old broke her back and damaged her spinal cord at the gym in March 2017 when she was a member of the on-call crew at Birchwood Fire Station.

The mum-of-two lost her footing as she was lifting 130kg on a squat rack.

She was in hospital for three months and her house and car had to be adapted so that she could return home.

Firefighters have completed a range of fundraising activities to help pay for all the changes,

including car washes and cycling to every fire station in Cheshire.

Assistant Chief Fire Officers Alex Waller and Gus O'Rourke even had their heads shaved to raise funds for Vicki, as did Craig Frost, a volunteer gardener at Birchwood Fire Station.

Made by Gary Senior in the fire service's workshop, a bespoke chariot will be used for the latest fundraising challenge.

Vicki will sit in the chariot's seat, donated by Wrexham-based motorsport products company Demon Tweaks, as the team attempt to push it along the Llanberis Path to the top of Snowdon, which is 1,085 metres above sea level.

Runcorn and Widnes fire stations' manager Stuart Devereux, who is organising and will take part in the Snowdon challenge, said: "What happened to Vicki hit everyone hard at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

"We are one big family and Vicki, a popular member of the on-



call crew at Birchwood, will always be one of us.

"Following her accident she is no longer able to work as a firefighter, but she now works at Safety Central, our interactive lifeskills education centre in Lymm.

"Vicki is incredibly resilient and since coming home to her two sons from hospital she has been determined to live her life to the full.

"We have helped Vicki and her family along the way with various

fundraising activities and offered to raise more funds for them via the Snowdon challenge.

"But she wants the money raised to instead go to The Fire Fighters Charity, the UK's leading provider of services that enhance quality of life for serving and retired fire service personnel and their families, and Classrooms in the Clouds, which support sustainable education for children in the poorest regions of Nepal.

"The group of 12 people taking on the Snowdon challenge are determined to complete it and to raise as much money as possible for these two fantastic charities."

Vicki added: "I am grateful for all the help and support that firefighters and staff have given my family and I since my accident. The money they raised has enabled me to move on with my life and it is now my turn to be a part of a fundraising challenge, as opposed to the beneficiary of them.

"I am really looking forward to going to the top of Snowdon, something I thought I would never be able to do following my accident, and I urge people to donate what they can for the challenge and The Fire Fighters Charity and Classrooms in the Clouds."

To make a donation visit www.justgiving.com/teams/CheshireFire.



The bespoke chariot.

250 sign up to walk the Wong way!

A BIRCHWOOD couple who decided to get fitter by walking have done just that – and persuaded more than 250 others to do the same.

Just a year ago, Lisa and Andy Wong, went on their first walk – with two friends.

They enjoyed it so much they wondered how many more people in Warrington would like to get out and walk in the great outdoors.

Lisa said: "We formed a group and called it 'Walking the Wong Way' – as our name is Wong we thought it very fitting!

"Since then the group has gone from four to 252 members in just one year.

"All these people didn't even know each other. We have even had walkers join from across Trafford, Yorkshire and Wales, Merseyside, Lancashire and even two from Essex. We've taken over the North West!

"Our walks are free and all outbound so we don't walk local. There are groups that already do that. "So we go further afield and climb mountains, scale waterfalls, enter caves and generally get fit whilst meeting people and enjoying the outdoors.

"We've now changed so many lives as a result.

"Last year we had a dream, to take some active walkers up Ben



Nevis.

"In May we did Scafell Pike, June we did Snowdon and more recently we took 35 walkers and all of us took on the challenge and we conquered Ben Nevis.

"The terrain and weather were both awful on the day.

"But these people are amazing. Each and everyone bringing something to the group. From all walks of life. Cleaners, doctors and policemen to office staff, HGV drivers and children aged over five.

"We walk every weekend somewhere and now we are starting a waiting list. It's so amazing that we've brought these random people together. "What we have accomplished here is very special.

"These people are like family now. Next year we have a four-day walking holiday planned in the Isle Of Man."

Anyone who wants to walk the Wong way should email Lisa at lisasmith_36@hotmail.co.uk

Young Owls win sponsorship from local businesses



CULCHETH Eagles under 11's team – The Owls – have secured sponsorship from local businesses to supply them with a brand new training kit.

The kit will enable the team to look and feel professional while training as well as when in playing in matches.

Warrington Wolves star Joe Philbin visited the Eagles' ground at Shaw Street, Culcheth to present the team with their kit.

Local businesses McQueen's Dairies, Manflex, The Raj, Jalc Group and Winwick Road Skip Hire all chipped in to supply the smart new kit.

The Owls will wear the kits with pride and say "thank" you to their sponsors by promoting their businesses on their travels.

Their recent trips have taken them to Wembley and Yorkshire and they are currently fundraising to go to France and also hopefully Ireland.

The Owls are hosting a MacMillan coffee evening at Shaw Street on Friday September 27 from 5:30pm onwards and everyone is welcome to join them in supporting charity.

If any other local business would like to support the Owls in their fundraising campaign by making donations of prizes that can be raffled they would be gratefully received. Please contact Anna at Culcheth Eagles - Owls under 11's

They are putting Culcheth on the map by playing great rugby all over the country. Coaches Mick Hodgkiss and David Simmons have built great relationships with coaches from opposing teams. They are incredibly proud of their team, having developed great rugby skills and displayed outstanding sportsmanship when playing rival teams whilst building firm friendships and gaining a fantastic reputation along the way.

Due to their outstanding reputation and enthusiasm The Owls Under 11's have secured sponsorship from local businesses to supply them with a brand new training kit so that the kids can look and feel professional whilst training as well as playing the game they love.



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Ladies Day raised £579 for feline charity

THE fifth annual "Ladies Day" organised by charity group Kitten Karers raised £579 for the charity, which rescues cats and kittens and finds homes for them.

It was the first time the event, in the garden at Linda Miller's home in Winwick, had suffered rain but this did not deter the ladies who attended.

The event was supported by a number of businesses in the Culcheth area. Organiser Debby Hughes thanks all who had helped by giving donations, raffle prizes or attending.

Highlight of the day was the competition for the three best-dressed ladies. Winner was Sophie Capel, second was Karen Wilkinson and third was Paula Gradwell.

Kitten Karers is a small charity dedicated to rescuing cats and kittens. It is entirely self-funding and is always on the lookout for loving homes for its feline friends.

The charity can be contacted on 01744 735231 or on 07725858282.

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A warm baby welcome at Bents

NOW in its fourth generation, Bents Garden & Home is a business with a family friendly ethos, so its latest accreditation for being baby friendly is one which is very close to its heart.

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has welcomed the Glazebury based centre to its Baby Welcome scheme, in recognition of its warm and welcoming environment for young families.

Bents was visited by the Trust's Warrington Infant Feeding Team who checked out the facilities available for families with young children, in particular mums who choose to breastfeed. A key element of the baby welcome scheme focusses on Bents' commitment to providing suitable places to breastfeed babies in public and making mums feel comfortable in their environment when choosing to do so.

To be accredited as part of the scheme Bents had to also demonstrate its colleague commitment to making breastfeeding families feel welcome, provide appropriate seating and areas for breastfeeding mums as well as a discrete, private area if requested. The centre was visited by a member of the team from the Trust who was able to confirm Bents' commitment and present the award, which will



now be displayed in The Fresh Approach Restaurant and family area.

Samantha Butcher, a Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Bosom Buddy Volunteer said: "The Baby Welcome Scheme was established in Warrington to help families identify the most welcoming places where they can feed their babies. It was great to visit Bents and see first-hand just how committed the centre is to supporting breastfeeding mums and young families. As a result, we had no hesitation in presenting the accreditation to Bents and welcoming the garden centre to the scheme."

To find out more about the Baby Welcome scheme and other breastfeeding friendly places in Warrington visit: <http://www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/warrington/breastfeedingfriendlyplaces/>

The Gardening Guide



“ Give evergreen hedges and topiary a final cut so they present a nice sharp profile throughout the winter. ”

Simon Fox, Plant Area Specialist

- Make sure that pests such as slugs and snails and diseases such as mildew are dealt with as soon as they are seen
- Fruit trees can be planted now as they benefit from the warm soil and the cool air
- When the autumn rain arrives fertilise your lawn with a slow release autumn feed
- Reduce watering and feeding in preparation for the winter period when most plants go dormant and just need keeping moist

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

For the latest events and online shopping visit bents.co.uk





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For the latest events and online shopping visit bents.co.uk






Film and TV company moves into Birchwood

A MAJOR film and TV company that works with ITV, the BBC, Sky and Netflix on some of the biggest shows around, is moving into Birchwood

Manchester Studios, a world-class production and studio company facility, operated by All Studios in the heart of Manchester, is taking two self-contained units in Cavendish Place, on Birchwood Park.

The move is due to growing demand for studio space in the North West and will provide additional high quality soundstages to complement the main complex.

Melanie Jones, managing director at All Studios said: "We're thrilled to be expanding into Birchwood Park – we have seen a huge growth in production across the region in the last three years, and it's showing no signs of slowing, with the demand driving the decision for us to expand out of Manchester into Birchwood.

"We needed to be situated within a 15-mile radius of our existing space, with good transport links to Liverpool and Manchester, that give productions access to a wide range of location filming opportunities between the two cities.

"We were attracted to Birchwood Park for its vibrant campus environment, variety of amenities and sense of community. It's a natural fit for our business, our clients and their teams."

Martin O'Rourke, commercial director at Birchwood Park, said: "The move by Manchester Studios introduces a new industry to Warrington.

"It's not just an exciting development for us at Birchwood Park, but also for the local area. Welcoming Manchester Studios to Warrington will provide an opportunity for the creative sector to expand and grow in Warrington and to hopefully create a new cluster of like-minded business in the area.

"We're excited to welcome Manchester Studios to the Park and the potential growth that can come from them being here."

Detectives release e-fit of man linked with historic Croft sex offences



DETECTIVES investigating historic sexual offences which happened in the summer of 1998 in Croft have released an e-fit of a man they would like to speak to.

The female victim was 11 when the offences, reported earlier this year, occurred in the Croft area.

Enquiries in relation to the offences have been ongoing since then and as part of their investigation detectives want to hear from anyone who recognises the man in the e-fit and believes that they may know who he is.

The e-fit depicts how the man looked in 1998.

Detective Constable Gareth French, who is leading the investigating, said: "We think that the man in the e-fit may have vital information in relation to our investigation into serious sexual offences which took place in the Croft area of Warrington in the summer of 1998.

"We believe that he may have had links to the horse riding community in Croft or the surrounding areas at the time the offences occurred and urge anyone

with any information regarding the man to contact the team here at Warrington Police Station.

"I would also like to appeal directly to the man to get in touch."

The victim has been supported by specialist officers ever since the offences were reported to the police.

DC French added: "Cheshire Constabulary takes all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, no matter how long ago incidents took place.

"I encourage anyone who has been a victim, or a witness, of a sexual offence to report it to the police – they should never feel ashamed to talk about what happened."

Anyone who recognises the man in the e-fit or believes that they may know who he is should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting reference number 19000015907, or give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Village to hold its first Scarecrow Festival

GLAZEbury will hold its first ever Scarecrow Festival this Autumn – with scarecrows on display in the village all week from October 6 – 13.

Application forms can be picked up at various places around the village but need to be handed in at All Saints Church or Glazebury School before September 29 along with £1 entry fee and the name or theme of the scarecrow. There will be a £50 prize for the winning entry.

A list of competitors with postcodes will then be compiled and can be picked up from All Saints Church at their annual Pet Service on Sunday, October 6 at 10.30am and at other locations around the village.

There will be treasure hunt questions for children to answer as they walk round the trail of exhibitors. Treasure hunt questionnaires must be returned to Glazebury School by October 10 or All Saints Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 13 at 10.30am.

There will then be an afternoon tea in the Scout Centre at 3pm the same day where the £50 prize will be awarded to the best scarecrow entry.

There will be a children's gift hamper, donated by Bents Garden Centre for the first correct treasure hunt form drawn out of a hat.

More details are available from the Rev Jan Harney at jan.harney29@gmail.com or calling 01942 671481 or 07811 764355

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Birchwood College celebrate outstanding results

BIRCHWOOD College is again celebrating outstanding Year 13 exam results.

Of the BTEC Applied Learning entries, 73 per cent were either a Distinction star grade or a Distinction grade with an overall pass rate of 100 per cent.

The A-level pass rate, A*-E, was equally as impressive at 99 per cent for all A-level courses.

Moira Bryan, headteacher of Birchwood High School said: "Congratulations to all our students on these amazing results which is a testament to their hard work and commitment. We are so proud of them all."

Some fantastic BTEC Applied Learning successes from Birchwood College include:

- 100 per cent Double Distinction star in Music
- 100 per cent Distinction star in Acting
- * 100 per cent Distinction star in Applied Science
- 100 per cent Distinction star in ICT
- 100 per cent Distinction Star or Distinction in Health and Social Care Diploma
- 100 per cent Distinction Start or Distinction in Sports Studies Subsidiary Diploma and Diploma.
- Bethan Swann, received A-level grades of A in Geography and B in Biology and Chemistry. She will now be going on to study Medicine and surgery at Lancaster

University.

• Ed Parry received three outstanding grades of Distinction* in Level 3 BTEC Music and Acting. He is going to study Musical Theatre Performance at The Hammond, the North-West leading provider of performing arts education.

• Riley Dean received the highest grades of D*D*D* in his Level 3 BTEC Sport and Business qualifications, in the same week that he made his professional Rugby League debut for the Warrington Wolves in the Super League!

• Oliver Radley is heading to an exciting Zoology with Animal Behaviour degree course at Bangor University following some excellent results.

• Having achieved an amazing A, B and C grade in A Level Psychology, Law and Biology, Daisy Yemm is heading to the University of Liverpool to study Law.

Chris Burrows, Head of Birchwood College, said; "We are absolutely delighted that these excellent results reflect the hard work of the young people at Birchwood College. With the support of our specialist subject teachers, small class sizes and our personalised learning programmes, students at Birchwood College have again achieved highly.

"We are also pleased that these results cement our position as one of the top performing colleges in the North West for BTEC Applied Learning"



Riley Dean.



Oliver Radley

NEWTON & DISTRICT JUBILEE ROTARY CLUB PRESENT

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www.culchethbeerfestival.org

Save the date for Christmas Market - Saturday November 30

THE annual Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch-on will take place on Saturday, November 30, 2019.

The theme for the event is a "traditional" outdoor Christmas Market for traders which will take place in the centre of the village.

The Christmas Market will involve the whole of the village centre, including the two church Christmas Fairs taking place in the Parish Hall

and the Methodist Church.

The market will run from 11 am till 5.00 pm .

A variety of activities will take place throughout the day, including Fairground rides, live music, Santa's Grotto, culminating in carols and the Big Switch-On of the Christmas lights at 4.00 pm.

There will also be an art exhibition in The Culcheth Centre and an exhibition of art and writing by Primary School pupils in the library and Children's activities and

Police Museum in The Scout Centre.

Letters have already gone out to existing traders with all the details with a cut off date of September 13th. Any queries ring 01925 764666 for the Parish Council or speak to a Parish Councillor.

More information will be in Culcheth Life next month, but keep November 30th free!

www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk



Tea party fundraiser for The Raven

A GLOOMY weather forecast made local councillors Keith and Sue Bland change the venue for their summer tea party in aid of the Save the Raven campaign.

They switched the event from their own garden to Newchurch Parish Hall.

Sue said: "We thought it better to change the venue rather than have to cancel at the last minute because of the weather.

"In the end the sun shone on the day – but it made no difference to the event. It was a great success.

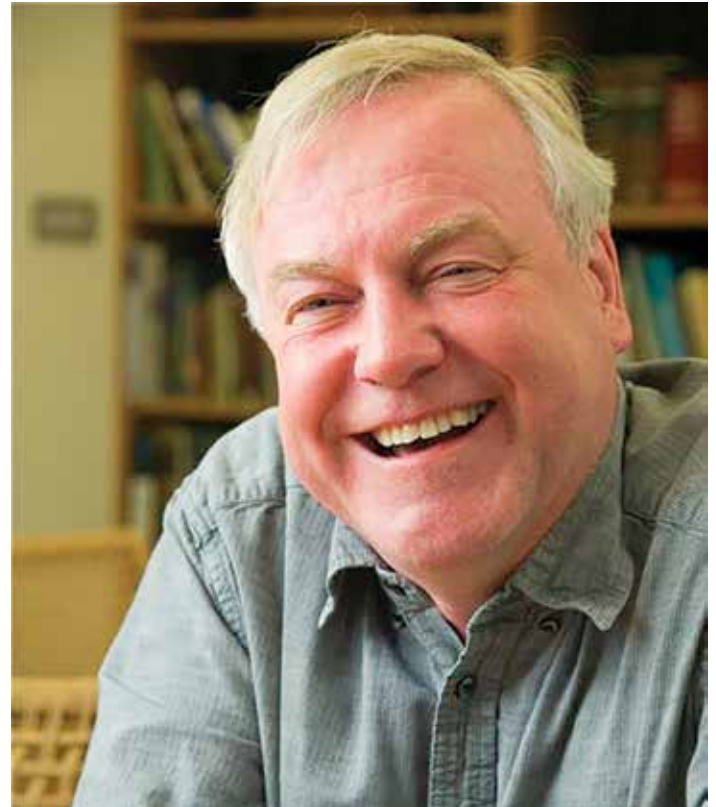
"We would like to thank everyone for their support.

"There are more events coming up in the near future – so watch this space!"

The party included a strawberry cream tea, as many cups of tea and coffee as you could drink, games and stalls.



University appoints local businessman as professor



THE University of Manchester has appointed Dr Robert Eden, managing director of Culcheth-based Rawwater Engineering Company Ltd, as an Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, within the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Dr Eden's appointment is in recognition of his work in the field of well integrity and geomicrobiology.

Before establishing Rawwater almost 20 years ago, Dr Eden worked at UMIST, where his technologies included corrosion, subsea engineering and oilfield souring. Within these areas, he raised several millions of pounds, attracting funding from the major North Sea oil operators, the USA, South America, the Middle East, the British and Norwegian governments.

He is currently leading a team of scientists and engineers at Rawwater in the development of a range of new alloys to provide secure, high integrity, metal seals for the repair of leaking oil wells and leak-containment in the nuclear industry. His team also operate the world's largest suite of pressurised bioreactors to simulate the extreme geomicrobiological conditions that cause souring deep inside oilfield reservoirs. It is when souring is poorly managed that wells and pipelines corrode and leak.

Dr Eden said: "I am truly delighted to have been made an Honorary Professor within the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at The University of Manchester. Thoroughly understanding human impact on the geosphere and biosphere is essential to the future wellbeing of our planet, and I look forward to working with the Department's distinguished staff, as well as assisting its students who, no-doubt, will become the next generation of leading scientists and entrepreneurs in these fields."

Rawwater Engineering Company Ltd's headquarters are at Culcheth Enterprise Centre.

Third series of Mindfulness training



A THIRD series of Mindfulness training courses is to start at Culcheth Library on September 16.

This follows the success of two earlier series in a dedicated well-being area set up in the library last year by the Friends of Culcheth Library.

The Friends also funded a Mindfulness training course for a group of local volunteers who were eager to learn about the benefits of Mindfulness and pass on their learning to the wider community.

The first series of six Mindfulness sessions was held In January, focusing on healthy attitudes and how they can help well-being. These were to be very successful and well attended, with feedback focusing on the very friendly, open and non-judgmental ethos engendered by the session leaders.

A second series was delivered during May and June and the group is now preparing to roll out its third series.

They would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to find out more about Mindfulness and how it can help mental and physical well-being.

The sessions are free and will run on six consecutive Mondays, beginning on September 16 from 12.45 - 1pm at Culcheth Library.

Courtyard Homes win Gold British Property Award



LOCAL estate agent Courtyard Homes are delighted to have just won the British Property Award 2019 for Warrington East!!

Their team performed outstandingly throughout the extensive judging, which focused on customer service levels.

Courtyard Homes has now been shortlisted for a number of national Awards which will be announced later in the year.

Agents who go that extra mile and provide outstanding levels of customer service are awarded with the Accolade which acts as a

beacon to highlight these attributes to the local Marketplace.

The British Property Awards team personally mystery shops every estate agent against a set of 25 criteria to obtain a balanced overview of their customer service levels the judging criteria is both comprehensive and detailed exploring different mediums, scenarios and time periods to ensure that agents have been rigorously and fairly judged.

Victoria Barlow Head of Courtyard Homes said: "We are thrilled to have received this

award. Our team work very hard with customer service being at the focal point of everything we do, its just so nice to be recognised for it.

"Not everyone realises we cover all of Warrington & Cheshire from our Culcheth based office and this award shows how far our customer service levels reach!"

Gin bar proposal thrown out by planners



PLANS for a gin and cocktail bar offering occasional live music at Culcheth have been turned down by borough council planning chiefs.

The scheme involved the change of use of a former bridal shop at The Courtyard, off Common Lane, - but it was opposed by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and the occupiers of four other properties.

Planning officers had recommended the proposals for approval, but the borough's development management committee decided there were inadequate parking proposals and the scheme would have an impact on nearby properties.

The objectors had claimed there are already too many drinking establishments and restaurants in Culcheth. They were concerned about possible noise pollution, littering and social problems leading to serious harm.

The parish council also expressed concern about the cumulative impact with a proposed, adjacent milk bar.

The applicant indicated there would normally be background music but on about two occasions a month, there would be live acoustic music on Sundays from 4pm to 7pm.

Officers argued that the proposal was an acceptable town centre use, that would contribute positively to the character, diversity and vitality of the centre and to the village's day and night time economies.




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All set for another Culcheth charity beer festival

Newton & District Jubilee Rotary Club will be holding their annual charity Culcheth Beer Festival at Culcheth Sports Club on Friday and Saturday September 13th & 14th.

There will be over 40 real ales along with bottle lagers and draught ciders along with a gin and fizz bar.

Entry to the event is just £5 and includes a commemorative glass and programme with all profits going to Rotary charity work.

CAMRA members also receive two half pint drinks.

There is hot food available, five live bands and a complimentary soft drinks bar for nominated drivers.

Last year's event raised a record breaking £13,325 with over 1050 attendees, 2,371 pints of ale drunk, 501 pints of cider quaffed, 260 bottles of lager sipped, 84 bottles of sparkling wine sipped, 62 prosecco bottles popped and 564 G & T's savoured.

Planners defer decision on old farm house



The farmhouse before it was delmoished.

PLANNING chiefs have put off a decision on proposals to demolish and replace an old farm house at Croft – even though the property has already been demolished.

Members of Warrington Borough Council's development management committee deferred an application to replace the property in Cross Lane to enable more information to be obtained.

Croft Parish Council and a nearby resident had opposed the scheme.

The parish council claimed the scheme would represent over development of the site.

They said work had already started and that a wall had been built. But officers pointed out that planning permission had been given

for both the demolition and the wall on a previous occasion and that the house had been demolished because it was structurally unsound and dangerous.

A neighbour claimed the proposed development would result in a loss of character, that the new property would be overbearing and cause a loss of light but officers – who recommended the scheme be approved – said the proposed development would occupy the same footprint as the original building and was appropriate for the site.

Although it had been claimed the houses dated from 1847, officers believed much of it was of more recent origin.

Site manager wins top award again!

A SITE manager on a Culcheth housing development has won a top industry award for the second year in succession.

Darren Evans earned a Pride in the Job "Quality" award from the NHBC in recognition of his work on the Culcheth Green development.

He has worked for developer Elan Homes for five years.

Around 16,000 site managers competed for the prestigious awards, considered the site managers' equivalent of the Oscars.

Darren was one of just 450 Quality award winners, with only around 40 of them based on sites in the North West.

Judging for the awards covers every element of site management including technical knowledge, consistency in the build process and the quality controls site managers have in place and spot checks of the day-to-day running of the site.

Darren said: "Everyone who works on site at Culcheth Green is dedicated to delivering quality homes. The award might have my name on it, but it's a team effort.

"Being recognised for two years in a row is a real achievement. I'm proud of every home at Culcheth Green. Consistency is key and I'm committed to ensuring every home is finished to the same high standard customers expect from Elan."

On a typical day, Darren oversees 40 people working on site at Culcheth Green.

Vandals set fire to wheelie bins at Croft

VANDALS set fire to two wheelie bins at Croft, at around 8.50pm on August 19.

Firefighters from Birchwood went to the scene and extinguished the blaze at a vacant property in Lady Lane. They were at the scene for about 15 minutes.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call police on 101, quoting IML 490440.

Cheshire Fire Service has the following information about how to prevent bin fires.

Only place your wheelie bin out on collection day and return it to your property as soon as possible after collection.

Whenever possible, wheelie bins should be stored securely behind locked gates.

Do not overfill your wheelie bins or leave loose rubbish around them

Don't place hot items in the bin, for example: smoking materials, hot embers from coal/wood, hot ash, etc.

Don't store wheelie bins by windows or doors - any fire in the bin could easily spread to your property.

The weather couldn't stop the "wildlife wonders"

THE weather stepped in to disrupt matters when the Risley Moss Action Group (RIMAG) hosted "Wildlife Wonders" at Birchwood Shopping Centre.

The day started warm and sunny – but some gusts of wind interrupted proceedings around midday.

Among other groups at the event were the Carbon Landscape Partnership, Warrington Nature Conservation Forum, Friends of Gorse Covert Mounds, Friends of Birchwood Forest Park, Friends of the Walled Garden, Birchwood Plant and Seed Swap, Birchwood Hedgehog Rescue and Wild Wings of Prey.

The first casualty was the Hedgehog Rescue gazebo that was blown over and had to be dismantled. Ironically hedgehogs are an endangered species, but it was the lovely hand-made ones that needed to be rescued.

They were available for adoption at £5.

The second gust hit the next-door Friends of Gorse Covert gazebo a frog dip game was being enjoyed. The frogs took fright and dived below the water line.

Jenny Griggs, Carbon Landscapes community engagement co-ordinator said: "No sooner had we rescued the hogs than our gazebo flipped over backwards. We realised that the best way to stabilize it was remove the sides because they were acting like sails and carried on without further incident."

Geoff Settle, Warrington Nature Conservation Forum chairman said: "We were sharing Jenny's gazebo and our identification leaflets and books were scattered. The books are written by Rob Smith, local author and ecologist, about the birds and amphibians of Risley Moss.

"Rob is selling his books and donating the proceeds to a RIMAG fund that will go towards the costs of a replacement for the observation tower that was burnt down. A model of the replacement was on display at the RIMAG table.

"We are pleased to have achieved our main objective of raising people's awareness about the variety of wildlife in Birchwood and how to get involved."

Song and dance gave relief from dreadful weather

MEMBERS of Newchurch WI got welcome relief from the dreadful weather outside when they heard the life story of song and dance star Gene Kelly.

Guest speaker Brian Green illustrated his talk "Let's Dance" with excerpts from some of Gene's most famous films.

Gene came from a large family of dancers and before stardom he ran a dancing school but by the 1940s he was working with Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire and others, while developing his unique dancing skills, including ballet.

Kath Hanley gave the vote of thanks and Brian judged an evening top competition with Margaret Harrop and Aileen Paterson as winners.

Margaret Mellows and Kathleen Manning served tea. The meeting was attended by two visitors, Lesley Lloyd provider of the table flowers and there were seven "birthday girls."

Doreen Procter spoke about the November outings to Worston and Chester and president Eileen Griffiths showed a beautiful album of garden party photographs compiled by Marjorie Pugh.

The evening finished with a showbiz quiz

WI members learn about Children's Adventure Farm

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI was Rob Bashford, who talked about the Children's Adventure Farm Trust, at Millington near Lymm.

This small charity allows underprivileged or disadvantaged children, aged up to 17 to have the time to enjoy being children.

Back in 1985 the late DJ Tim Grundy decided to carry on the work of his father and came up with the idea of providing children with a holiday environment, a time and place to enjoy their childhood, create memories, make friends, somewhere they could experience the freedom to be children, something far removed from their everyday lives.

The farm was renovated by volunteers to provide accommodation for children with various needs, the underprivileged, those with special needs and the terminally ill.

All are catered for and up to 3,000 children per year can enjoy all the facilities available. These include sensory rooms, music rooms complete with pianos, drums and guitars, outdoor climbing frames and of course various animals, many of them donated, for the children to touch and hold.

They can even play football with the president, Sir Bobby Charlton, when he's available.

After a week's visit each child is given a video to take home as a reminder of their special time at the farm and whether the visit was a day or a week they all leave with a dinky duck soft toy.

Rob became involved in the trust after talking to Tim Grundy and works tirelessly to fundraise and raise the profile of this little known trust, he constantly organises events to raise the one million pounds a year needed to keep the charity going. Every Christmas the trust organise a special event for 600 children complete with trees, lights and even snow and it takes volunteers 6 weeks to wrap all the presents ready for the big day.

This is such a worthy cause and definitely worth taking time to find out more about the wonderful work done by this local charity for children.

As I'm sure everyone would agree special happy memories sustain us through the rough and tumble of life, and the Children's Adventure Farm Trust definitely fulfil that need.

Reader's Letter

Please send Reader's Letters to: Culcheth Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT or email: info@culchethlife.com

Praise for youngsters!

Philippa Hargreaves, Croft

THE young are always being criticized for anti-social behavior. I would like to do the opposite – praise them.

On July 8 I had a nasty accident whilst dog-walking in Linear Park in the afternoon. One of the two dogs I was walking ran into the side of my leg resulting in me being unable to walk. I crawled back to the main path and two young girls and a 23-year-old lad with a bike eventually walked past. I think the lad was called Josh and one of the girls Nicola. (She was starting at Molcroft Grange the next day).

To cut a fairly long story short, they refused to leave me until the ambulance came, which was over two hours later. They were so kind and I would like to thank them very much.

The result of my accident? Lateral tibial plateau fracture. Leg in a brace and no weight bearing for weeks!

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