

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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Editor's Comment



CULCHETH & Glazebury Parish Council have sent an open letter to the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps, urging him to review the need for the HS2 Golborne Spur which would blight Culcheth and surrounding areas if it ever went ahead.

The council, also writing on behalf of Croft and Warburton Parish councils, welcome the news it will be reviewed, together with his expectation that it might not be included in plans for the High Speed North rail system.

They say the cost of the entire Golborne Spur was estimated in 2015 at £1.9 bn; given the increase in HS2 costs since, current estimates are probably in the region of £2 – 3 bn.

In addition to its absurdly low financial benefit, the Golborne Spur will be driven through or close to many communities, heritage locations, high grade agricultural land and ecologically important sites, causing a huge amount of damage and permanent destruction with no discernible benefit.

This threat has been a blight on our local area for seven years and at one time threatened the destruction of Taylor Business Park before the route was moved slightly, but then impacting on other nearby businesses.

It can't be any fun for those living under the shadow of this threat so we need to know once and for all

and sooner rather than later, that this unnecessary and costly spur can be knocked on the head.

Those who have literally been living in fear of it deserve some peace of mind.

The parish council argue, and I agree, that the Golborne Spur represents huge costs both financial and environmental, but delivers appallingly low benefits.

Less disruptive and damaging alternatives exist in relation to the conventional rail network, and cancelling the Golborne Spur

would significantly reduce the overall cost of HS2 in its entirety.

Their letter concludes: "On behalf of our communities, blighted by HS2 proposals for the last seven years, we urge the Secretary of State to take speedy action to remove the Golborne Spur from the Phase 2b plans."

Here here!

**Deadline for the
April issue of Culcheth Life
is March 17**



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Village restaurant and bar wins planning approval

PLANS for a restaurant and wine bar in the centre of Culcheth village have been given the go-ahead despite opposition.

Objections were lodged to the scheme in Lodge Drive by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, seven neighbours and other nearby residents.

But Warrington's development management committee approved the application by Barry and Jane Tufts, which will involve the change of use of an existing retail hi fi and electrical store.

They imposed a condition that the premises should close at 11pm

on weekdays and 10.30pm on Sundays.

Objections related to fears of noise, disturbance, anti-social behaviour, parking problems and damage to residential amenity through longer opening hours.

The committee was told the premises would operate during the day, with evenings and weekends focusing on operating as a bar with a small range of cold food.

No external alterations or extensions to the unit were proposed other than repainting the shop front and new signage, which would be subject to a separate

application.

Planning officers said the proposal was an appropriate use in a sustainable location, accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and with adequate car parking immediately in front of the site and close by.

They did not believe the scheme would have a detrimental impact on the amenities of any adjoining occupiers.



New date for Culcheth Community Day

THIS year's Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Community Day will be different because it is on a Friday.

The event will take place on a Friday for the first time as Friday, May 8th is also the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

The Parish Council is well ahead with the planning and the charities and voluntary groups who usually have plots for their stalls will automatically receive information letters.

Any other charity or community group interested in having a plot contact Parish Cllr. Susan Bland on 01925 766641 or email sbland@culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk

So far the council has arranged a Stunt Show, Circus Whiz, Children's entertainer and a VE display in Culcheth Library.

More to follow soon



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Pupils get a chance to question the prime minister

Pictures Andrew Parsons



PUPILS from Culcheth Primary School got a chance to question prime minister Boris Johnson during a visit to 10 Downing Street.

Three pupils from the school were part of a "children's lobby" who quizzed the prime minister on the topic "Looking to the Future"

He faced questions from the youngsters on topics like Brexit, climate change, technology and what he wanted to be when he was a child.

The Culcheth pupils – who were accompanied by teachers and were the only Warrington children to be invited to go on the visit – asked Mr Johnson about climate change and how he was going to raise awareness of the issue within the Government.

They were invited to Downing Street because of the school's participation in the Primary Futures programme, which sees volunteers from the world of work talking with primary school children about their job and how they use different school subjects in their career.

The idea is to bring learning to life, raise aspirations and broaden horizons. Culcheth Primary have previously hosted volunteers from the world of work and will be hosting an event in Science week, March 6-15, when volunteers will attend a "What's My Line?" Assembly, when children will guess the jobs of the volunteers.

According to research by the charity behind Primary Futures, Education and Employers, children as young as six have already begun to form stereotypes about who can do which job. By meeting and asking questions to people from the world of work Culcheth Primary is helping to challenge these stereotypes and broaden their children's horizons.

The Prime Minister was their highest profile interviewee yet. The three lucky pupils were inspired by the visit. They received a behind the scenes tour of Downing Street, including being able to sit around the cabinet table. They loved learning about the history of the building and about former prime ministers.

Interested schools and volunteers can find out more and register for free at www.primaryfutures.org



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Tributes paid to long-serving WI member

TRIBUTES were paid at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI to one of the oldest and much loved members, Dorothy Shawcross, who had recently died. She would have been 96 that week.

Speaker Eileen Pratt was in fact a "double act" with her husband, Steve and their subject was the long history of The Garrick Theatre, Stockport.

It started 118 years ago in a former church when special trams were laid on to take people to performances and ladies in the audience were asked to remove their hats.

One of the earliest actors was an ancestor of the celebrity chef Antony Worrall Thompson.

The society toured parts of the country with various plays. They had support from George Bernard Shaw, who did not charge them fees at this time because their theatre was for "private members."

But this all changed when he found they had done a 'public' performance of his 'Candida', at Buxton, in 1920 a converted mill, became the new Garrick, performing 5-6 plays a year and with 350 members.

The actress Wendy Hillier came to a gala performance. Other recent celebrities, and patrons include Sir Ian McKellen.

They continue to flourish, and had refurbishments carried out in 1984, and festivals in 1994. A 'youth theatre' now also exists.

The future looks bright. A recent L.S. Lowry painting sold for a great amount, showing Stockport Garrick in the background, which may help with needed publicity!



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End of the line for HS2 Golborne Spur?

SECRETARY of State for Transport Grant Shapps has cast doubt on the future of the controversial HS2 Golborne Spur which would have a devastating impact on areas of Warrington including Culcheth and surrounding areas.

Warrington South MP Andy Carter and fellow Conservative MP for Leigh, James Grundy, have welcomed a statement by the Secretary of State for Transport that casts doubt on the future of the HS2 Golborne Spur.

In response to questions from both MPs, both of whose constituencies are heavily affected by the Golborne Spur of HS2, Mr Shapps stated: "The Golborne Spur is currently projected to cost between two and three billion, but delivers very little for that sum. The writing is on the wall as far as the future of the Golborne Spur is concerned. We expect to make the final decision on it in months, not years."

In response, James Grundy MP stated, "I welcome the strong indication by Mr Shapps that the Golborne Spur of HS2 is to be cancelled. I have been campaigning against this poorly conceived idea for over seven years now, and it will come as a great relief to thousands of my

constituents in both Golborne and Lowton, including members of my own family, that this saga is finally coming to a close, and people can again have certainty when it comes to investing in their homes and local businesses."

"It is now time for Labour-run Wigan Council to withdraw their support for the misconceived HS2 Golborne Spur, and end the uncertainty and blight they foolishly inflicted on local residents by supporting it in the first place."

"We need instead to concentrate on re-opening local stations like Golborne and Kenyon Junction in order to reconnect Leigh back to the national rail network, and I fully intend that to be my next task."

Andy Carter added: "I've been clear that we need investment into local transport infrastructure to help with journeys to and from work or between town and villages. The £5bn investment in buses and cycling is excellent news and to hear that consultation on Northern Powerhouse Rail between Liverpool and Manchester will start soon is very welcome."

"I'm also really pleased to hear from the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps that the HS2 Golborne Spur is being revisited. This section of HS2 track is



Andy Carter MP for Warrington South and James Grundy MP for Leigh meeting Grant Shapps yesterday to discuss the Golborne Spur.

currently projected to cost between two and three billion, but delivers very little for that sum. The writing is on the wall as far as the future of the Golborne Spur is concerned. I expect the Government to make the final decision on it in months, not years."

"I'll continue to push for better links on Northern Powerhouse Rail so that Warrington residents have easier journeys for their daily commute."

Meanwhile Warrington North MP Charlotte Nichols said: "Warrington North Labour have long opposed the Golborne Spur being part of the HS2 route, because of the profoundly negative impact it would have on the constituency especially in Culcheth, Croft, Risley and Hollins Green - not least in cutting off Wigshaw Lane."

"While there stand to be a number of benefits to Warrington North from HS2 if delivered in the right way, I am clear that this is not a compromise we can be expected to accept for the project to go ahead. I am glad to have gained assurances today from the Prime Minister himself that this is being looked into and I will continue to hold him and the Secretary of State for Transport to account to ensure that they deliver on these assurances."

Cllr Frank Allen, chairman of the Culcheth and District Rail Action Group, said: "We are as yet a little unclear about what is happening. But it seems that Phase 1 is going ahead but that anything north of Birmingham, or possibly Crewe, is to be subject to further review."

"If the idea is to save money, then getting rid of the Golborne Link would make sense."

"There is talk of a six month

review of the northern part of the scheme, taking into account the implications for Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR).

"NPR says it sees no point in the Golborne Link so that seems to be an obvious opportunity to cut costs."

"We think there is still a chance of the Golborne Link being dropped. Certainly a further review would give an opportunity for a more sensible and careful approach that would save money."

"But only time will tell."

Family firm creates five new jobs

FIVE jobs have been created by family-owned lift company Pickerings Lifts, with the opening of a new branch on the Taylor Business Park at Risley.

The business now has 12 regional offices and is planning to expand across the North West.

They repair, maintain and install lifts, escalators, loading systems and mobility equipment and work with care homes, local authorities, and the NHS to supply, install, repair and maintain stairlifts, hoists, medical beds and other mobility products.

Newly appointed regional manager Paul Dixon said: "This investment and expansion will allow us to serve existing and potential customers in Liverpool and Cheshire, as well as North Wales and Stoke."

Charity profits from students' business sense

STUDENTS at Priestley College, including a former Culcheth High School youngster, have shown they have a head for business by raising £310 for charity.

As part of their courses, BTEC and A-Level Business students were tasked with a unit on event management and chose to put their time to a good cause.

They presented a cheque to St Rocco's Hospice after the events, which included various competitions, an auction and cake stall.

"We chose St Rocco's because we wanted to support a local charity," said Lewis Thorpe, a former pupil at King's Leadership Academy.

"I went to the hospice to get their approval for holding an event on their behalf and they donated a hamper to get us started."

The students' endeavours were supported by businesses in Stockton Heath including Sainsbury, M&S and M Jay's to name just a few.

Many donated raffle and tombola prizes and the highest value items were auctioned in a secret email bidding war.

Darcey Burbridge, formerly of Culcheth High, helped oversee the logistical challenges faced with running the event.

She allocated tasks to team members and helped make sure the fair was advertised around Priestley College.

"One of the biggest things we learned was the importance of organisation and how to manage a team," she said.



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Celebrating a decade of Pageant

LOCAL business Pageant Girl celebrated over a decade of working in the pageant industry by holding a night of glitz and glamour at their first ever Pageant Land Ball!

Beauty queens from all over the UK travelled to the Mercure Hotel in Haydock recently to party in their gowns and crowns. Attendees at the event included Miss Teen Great Britain and the international winner of Miss Galaxy.

Pageant Girl are an organisation based in the Culcheth area of Warrington and was founded by former Miss Cheshire, Holly Pirrie. The events were created to be confidence building and empowering hobbies for girls of all ages.

Holly said: "It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces from many different pageant systems at the ball and it shows how far the industry has come in the last ten years. Now, I am keen for more new faces from Warrington to enter the competitions. I had the time of my life, travelling the world

with different pageants and that opportunity is there for others too. We have competitions for all ages for teenagers upwards. If anyone is interested, we would encourage them to take a look at our website or email info@pageantgirl.co.uk. This year, we are sending our winners to the USA and Japan... this could be them!"

Over £500,000 has been raised by the Pageant Girl competitions for their chosen charities (The Christie, Together for Short Lives and Claire House) and the ball was a way for the girls to celebrate all of their achievements, make new friends from across the country and have lots of fun!

Pageant Girl also own The Dress Studio in Culcheth, specialists of evening gowns and prom dresses. Lots of show-stopping dresses were worn at the ball and The Dress Studio were proud to support the event.

You can see more information about Pageant Girl and The Dress Studio here - www.pageantgirl.co.uk/ & www.dress-studio.co.uk/



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Simon Box,
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Charity celebrates opening of 9th retail unit



WARRINGTON Disability Partnership celebrated the opening of their 9th retail unit with a new store at Birchwood Shopping Centre.

Mayor of Warrington Cllr. Wendy Johnson was joined by Leon Dougan, one of the charity's young supporters to officially open the latest Mobility and Independent Living Solutions Store at Birchwood Shopping Centre.

Charity Founder Dave Thompson said: "A big thank you to our Mayor and her Consort and young Leon for helping to cut the ribbon. Also Big thank you to everyone who joined us today, the team at Birchwood Shopping Centre for their help and support and for the support we have received from everyone during the past 29 years. Onwards and upwards!

It is the 9th retail unit now opened by the charity as part of the Warrington Disability Trading Company which specialises in supplying equipment and aids so people can maintain independence.




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New technology opens up new guided tour of nature reserve

VISITORS to Risley Moss nature reserve can experience a unique guided tour – through the eyes of children- thanks to the introduction of new technology.

Rangers have worked with children from three local primary schools, Gorse Covert, Locking Stumps and Birchwood CE, to digitally capture the children's thoughts about the wildlife they have been studying during their visits to the reserve in Birchwood.

Now visitors can be accompanied on their walk by the thoughts of the children about a whole variety of wildlife such as woodpeckers, spiders and even lizards.

It's simply a matter of tapping your phone on the tag at the start of the trail and letting the children lead the tour. Risley Moss has introduced new NFC (near field communication) technology to provide an exciting new way of exploring the reserve and discovering its hidden treasures.

It means everyone setting off on the nature trail can access information, photographs and voice files created by children.

Warrington Borough Council's cabinet member for leisure and community, Cllr Tony Higgins said "This is a great addition to the set of trails which have been such a great success since opening at the nature reserve last year. It's about using new technology to enhance the experience of visitors and give them a new insight into the variety of wildlife around them

"I'm delighted that the rangers have worked closely with school children on this fantastic educational project. And with plans being developed to capture even more stories from children in the future, I'm looking forward to this project going from strength to strength."

Visitors can call in at the Risley Moss Visitor Centre to collect trail sheets and maps if they wish to have a go.

Rangers gain Duke of Edinburgh Silver awards

SIX members of 7th Culcheth Rangers celebrated achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award at a Presentation Night attended by family and friends.

Karen Forster, Cheshire Forest County Commissioner, presented the young women with their certificates and congratulated everyone on their success. To achieve the DoE Silver Award they had to commit to six months of volunteering work in the local community as well as spending six months learning a new skill and three months undertaking regular physical exercise. While working towards these three sections they also had to prepare for the Expedition section which involved a weekend walking in North Wales while carrying all their camping equipment.

Challenge Expeditions supported the Rangers through their Expedition and The Village Club, Culcheth donated the room and buffet for the presentation evening.

Rangers is open to all girls and young women aged 14-26 and is always looking for volunteers to work with all sections (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers). Anyone interested in volunteering, or would like to add their daughter to the waiting list for any section, should contact Girlguiding Culcheth District via email girlguidingculcheth@outlook.com or register via www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested



Advertiser's Announcement

Driving made accessible for all – and right on your doorstep

by Jo Bradley

It is fair to say that most people want to learn to drive, they crave the freedom and independence that driving gives you.

For a person without disabilities this is a fairly straightforward process; you find an instructor local to you (of which there will be many), you take your lessons, prepare for your tests and then, fingers crossed, pass. You are then on the road to freedom and independence. But what about those people with disabilities who can't drive a standard vehicle, is the process still as straightforward?

In the UK there are a limited number of driving instructors who have vehicles which are adapted to meet the needs of disabled drivers and I truly believe this is due to a lack of knowledge surrounding vehicle adaptations and what would be required to teach a person to drive who has a disability. Based on last year's figures there is a 43% increase in the amount of people on the Motability scheme who are having adaptations fitted to their new vehicles and this is set to increase year upon year. So, where to start?

There are a wide range of adaptations available to meet the varying needs of disabled drivers. One of the most popular adaptations available is the Push/Pull Brake/Accelerator. This adaptation brings the control of the foot pedals to the hands and is a simple operation where you pull to accelerate and push to brake. These are available as column mounted and also floor mounted, the floor mounted option providing the benefit of being able to adjust the steering wheel height, an important feature for a driving instructor who is teaching lots of different people.

In terms of hand controls there is also the Ring Accelerator which is placed under/over the steering wheel, a Twist Grip Accelerator which is used like a motorbike



handle and even a Thumb Touch Accelerator which is operated by either the left or right thumb.

A Left Foot Accelerator pedal is an excellent adaptation for those drivers who struggle to use their right leg. Fitted to the left of the brake, it is operated by a dash mounted switch which enables you to choose between left and right accelerator. As with many adaptations, this can be easily removed if required.

Another excellent adaptation for disabled drivers is a Secondary Remote Control, which brings the secondary controls such as lights, wipers, horns, indicators to the driver's fingertips. The device will also act as a steering aid, providing greater control of the steering wheel.

As a driving instructor who currently doesn't teach disabled drivers, this process might seem

quite daunting and complicated, but this really doesn't have to be the case. There are specialist vehicle adaptation companies who will provide you with all the advice and guidance needed on choosing the right adaptations in order to be able to teach people with a range of disabilities. Most of



the adaptations are designed to be removable, meaning that you can still use the original controls of the vehicle. Some of these companies will also provide 'driving school packages', which will give you a discount when choosing a selection of adaptations. There are also companies out there who will provide training on each adaptation, so you can feel completely confident when delivering your lessons.

Driving shouldn't just be a privilege for people without disabilities, it should be accessible for all and there's never been an easier time to make this the case!

For more information on any of the above you can visit www.basnw.co.uk or phone their office at Rixton on 0161 776 1594 and one of their team will be able to help you!



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The benefits of group exercise

While many people love hitting the gym by themselves and pounding the treadmill or lifting weights solo, for many people, group exercise classes are an integral part of their keep fit routine.

There's many benefits to group exercise classes – from the camaraderie among those taking part to the encouragement from the expert instructors.

Here's five top reasons to give group exercise classes a go at Culcheth Community Campus with LiveWire:

- They are supervised sessions: All the classes are led by an expert instructor, who is able to showcase the moves and help keep the class pumped

and motivated. Most classes are suitable for beginners and experienced participants alike and instructors can show how to adapt moves to suit different ability levels. Starting a new workout can be a bit intimidating if it's the first time you've tried it, and having an instructor on hand to offer guidance and support can be very reassuring.

- An easy way to try a variety of different types of exercise. If you're new to exercise, group fitness classes are a great way to try out lots of different forms of workouts. Body Combat is very different to Body Pump, and just because you like one, doesn't mean you'll like the other! Some people

love Zumba – others it's just not their bag! And this applies to lots of forms of group exercise. There's so many different types of classes that are on the timetable, you can try a few until you find the ones that tick your boxes.

- Structured routine. It's understandably easy in our busy lives to let exercise slip sometimes – there's always something that needs doing let's face it. So it can be helpful to commit to doing a couple of set classes every week, and building them into your regular routine. As classes have limited capacity, some really popular ones can book up, so you need to reserve your place in advance – a good way of committing yourself to

going.

- Atmosphere: From a pumping soundtrack to disco lights, group exercise classes have a fantastic atmosphere that really help keep you motivated and having fun. Get those endorphins released and you'll be feeling good and burning calories without even realising it.

- Social Element. A huge part of group exercise – if you want it to be – is the social side of things. Doing the same class with the same people every week means you can make new friends and get a good camaraderie going with your fellow group members. It's harder to skip a class if you know someone else is going along – so it's a good way to be accountable and commit. Of course some people like to go to the class solo, do their workout and leave – and that's ok too. But if you do want to embrace the social element of exercising then group classes are a great way.

There are a wide range of group exercise classes on offer at Culcheth Community Campus, ranging from high impact classes like HIIT, Kettlebells and Boxercise to more holistic offerings like Yoga and Pilates. You can even bounce your way to fitness in the fun and energetic Boogie Bounce that sees participants do an exercise on a mini trampoline.

So why not give one a try this month and see if you can find a new favourite to add into your wellness regime. For LiveWire Select members group exercise classes are included in your membership – but non-members can also 'pay as you go' and just play and play. And don't forget, if you're a LiveWire member you can use all sites so have over 350 group exercise classes every week across Warrington.





WI tree planting marks 100 years

MEMBERS of Birchwood WI gathered at Birchwood Forest Park for a tree planting ceremony to mark the centenary of the Cheshire Federation of WIs.

The event also marked the 30th anniversary of Birchwood WI.

Present

Those present included the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Wendy Johnson and her consort, chairman of Birchwood Town Council, Cllr Nigel Reeves, Mrs Jean Harding, chairman of the Cheshire Federation of WIs, members of Birchwood WI, the park ranger and some members of the Friends of Birchwood Forest Park.

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Part-Time Assistant Clerk to Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and computer literate persons to support the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer administer all aspects of Council business.

The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills (both written and verbal), will be computer literate, and will be flexible regards hours of work (evening meetings). Local government experience is desirable but not essential.

Salary – within the range £12.64 to £14.03 per hour, 43.3 hours per month (10 per week).

Applications by CV.

Full details from: The Clerk
e-mail culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com

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