

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

ISSUE 210 | FEBRUARY 2021
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**A penny a mile
for The Christie**

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THE ongoing global pandemic, a new lockdown and then flooding wasn't exactly the best start to the New Year.

However, with infection rates mainly showing a downward trend and the vaccine programme being rolled out, there is hopefully a glimmer of light at the end of what has been a very long dark tunnel for many, especially those who have lost loved ones, or suffered the ill-effects of this terrible virus which has now been attributed to more than 100,000 deaths in this country, including more than 400 in the Warrington area.

It has also shown some wonderful community spirit, bringing out the best in people who have stepped up in such troubling times.

In this month's issue you will be able to read about some of our local heroes who have gone above and beyond to help out.

You will also be able to read about some promising news about the future of Culcheth Sports Club, still known by many as the Daten with ambitious plans for a £100,000 all-weather sports pitch, to help secure the future of the facility which is a key focal point in the village.

I have many fond memories of the Daten from my younger days which was often the meeting place for a night out with old school friends. It would be a sad day if this facility is lost to the village, especially with a question mark still hanging over the future of the

LiveWire leisure facilities within Culcheth High School.

As nearly always these days, the ability to run these kind of facilities requires investment and money, which in the midst of a pandemic and austerity is not in a plentiful supply.

We undoubtedly face tough times ahead and here at Culcheth Life we have not escaped untouched, having to streamline and change to ensure our future survival as a business.

A big thank you to those in the community who continue to support us. We will endeavour to carry on providing a free local community news service, but with the vast majority of our clients unable to

trade we literally have to go month by month until we return to some kind of normality - whatever and whenever that may be.

**Deadline for
the March
issue of
Culcheth Life
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Dream comes true as HGV restrictions given green light

A "Dream come true" is what local councillors are calling HGV restrictions being given the green light on restricted roads in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

Following on from a consultation at the end of last year, Warrington Borough Council is due to implement a weight restriction on roads across the three villages which will prevent heavy goods vehicles from using local roads except for access to businesses within the area. New signage, due to be erected by March, will warn drivers of the new restrictions at all entry points to the villages.

Parish Councillor Ben Allred said: "One of the most frequently

raised issues with us as local Councillors is that of traffic. Residents have quite rightly raised concerns about both the volume and type of vehicles using our village roads, often throughout the day and night, and the detrimental impact they have on air quality. We have been consistently pushing for more action on the issue for years and are very pleased to announce that an HGV restriction is about to be put in place."

Councillor Jan Davidson added:

"the restriction will prevent heavy goods vehicles from accessing almost the entirety of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft. Crucially it prevents the route being used by HGVs as a short-cut between the East Lincs Road and motorway network."

Councillor Matt Smith explained: "Many residents are aware of the impact that an HGV restriction placed on a neighbouring road by Wigan Council had on the number of HGVs travelling through

Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft. We all recognised that this was unacceptable and worked closely with Council officers and residents on the Glazebury Traffic working group to develop these plans and bring them to fruition. Residents who have campaigned for years for action such as this have described the plan as "a dream come true" for the villages. The legacy of this decision will benefit the residents of our villages for years to come."



Parish Councillor Ben Allred, Councillor Jan Davidson and Councillor Matt Smith.

A Penny a Mile for The Christie

CULCHETH resident Darron Bibby is putting in the miles to raise funds for The Christie Charity in Manchester.

The charity provides enhanced services over and above what the NHS funds and help make a "massive difference" to the care and treatment they provide to patients and their families, says Darron.

He is aiming to run a minimum of 1,000 miles throughout 2021 averaging 20 to 25 miles per week and will also do a run on Christmas

& Boxing Day, his last run for this fundraiser will be on New Year's Eve.

"I hope to raise as much money as I possibly can for this brilliant cause and will try to exceed the minimum target I have set for the year. If anyone would like to sponsor me they can either make a one-off donation or alternatively sponsor me a minimum of a penny for every mile I complete. Donations can be made on my just giving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/darronbibby



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Residents urged to pool Government-backed vouchers to deliver ultrafast broadband

OPENREACH is inviting the Culcheth community to get behind a bid to bring ultrafast, ultra-reliable full fibre broadband to local homes and businesses in the village.

The company is planning Culcheth's new full-fibre broadband network and is urging residents and businesses to consider pooling broadband vouchers available from the UK Government to help extend the build even further.

Residents who don't already have access to a 100Mbps broadband service can check if they may qualify and pledge their voucher on the Connect my Community website.

The vouchers can be combined to extend the ultrafast, ultra-reliable network to premises in outlying rural areas which won't be covered by private investment.

Robert Thorburn, Openreach's partnership director for the North, said: "This is a really exciting opportunity for Culcheth to bring full-fibre infrastructure to the very hardest-to-reach local addresses.

"Because we've already committed to build full-fibre to the majority of the village, the UK government is supporting this incremental approach to help us to go even further. But it's only possible with everyone working together - you, your neighbours

and Openreach.

"Everyone who pledges a voucher will be doing their bit to help make Culcheth one of the best-connected places in Cheshire. Pledging couldn't be simpler, but we need residents to act quickly - as the scheme closes in March 2021."

Robert added: "Thousands of homes and businesses across Cheshire can already upgrade to the Openreach full-fibre network, and local people can use our online postcode checker to see what's now available.

"We're investing £12 billion to build full-fibre broadband to 20 million homes - and more than three million of those will be in the toughest third of the UK - but we can't upgrade the whole country alone. This latest support from government, alongside help to remove red tape and barriers that slow down the build, is vital."

To claim vouchers which contribute towards the cost of building the new network, residents are asked to commit to ordering a full-fibre service from a provider of their choice for at least 12 months

once the new network is available.

Eligible residents qualify for up to £1,500 for rural homes and up to £3,500 for small and medium-sized businesses under the UK Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme.

UK Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman said: "We're committed to levelling up communities across the UK with lightning-fast gigabit broadband that will improve lives and boost the economy.

"The broadband vouchers on offer provide immediate financial help for people to get next-generation speeds by helping to cover the installation costs of companies such as Openreach.

"I urge people to check online if they are eligible for a broadband boost."

Full fibre technology provides more reliable, resilient and future-proof connectivity; meaning fewer faults; more predictable, consistent speeds and enough capacity to easily meet growing data demands. It's also future-proof, which means it will serve generations to come and won't need to be upgraded for decades.

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Firefighters tackle barn blaze and outbuilding fire

FIREFIGHTERS were called out to tackle a barn fire which was well alight involving logs, gas canisters and a truck near Culcheth and a separate outbuilding fire at Winwick on Sunday January 17.

Two fire engines attended, one from Birchwood and one from Greater Manchester following reports of a barn fire off Holcroft Lane at around 3.45pm.

On arrival the crews found one barn well alight containing logs, gas canisters and a truck.

Two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used two hose reel jets to tackle the flames while a covering jet was also in place.

A large fan was used to clear smoke from the area.

All utilities to the barn were

isolated and crews used one hose reel jet to dampen down the area.

The crews were in attendance for around two hours and five minutes.

It is believed that this was an electrical fire.

Later in the afternoon two crews were called out to an outbuilding blaze on Townfield Lane, Winwick shortly before 5pm.

Two fire engines attended, one from Warrington and one from Lymm.

On arrival the crews found one outbuilding well alight. One hose reel jet was used to extinguish the flames.

The crews then damped down the scene.

They were in attendance for around one hour.

Residents lose planning battle over MOT test site

NEARBY residents have lost a battle to block proposals for a motor vehicle repair garage and MOT testing station at Glazebury.

Borough planning chiefs have approved the scheme for Unit 12 on Albion Park in Warrington Road.

Four residents objected to the scheme on the grounds of the existing over-use of Warrington

Road by heavy lorries.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council also expressed concern about the possible noise impact on residents of Duke Avenue and Coronation Avenue.

Planning officers approved the scheme but imposed a condition that the facility should not operate on Sundays.

Please stay at home

Warrington is now subject to the national lockdown restrictions

This means you should only leave home to:

- shop for essentials, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work if you cannot do so from home
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- meet your support or childcare bubble
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Farmer clears 58,000 gallons of water from under a flooded bridge at Glazebury as community rallies

FARMER Dan Broster helped clear an estimated 58,000 gallons of water from under a flooded bridge at Glazebury as volunteers rallied to the recent flooding crisis.

Using a tractor and tanker Dan spent around 10 hours helping clear the A574 Warrington Road which had been flooded for three days

Dan from Diggle Green Farm, who has been praised for his his actions, said: "I was aware of the flooding because I live only 100 yards away from the Chat Moss bridge with my fiancé and stepson.

"I was tagged into a Facebook post about the flood and was asked to see if I could help because it had been three days and there was no progress being made it clearing it.

"I tried ringing the council on Friday night but it was out of hours and couldn't get through so by chance I was already home with the tractor on the drive. I made a few phone calls to my boss to see if I could hire the tractor for the day and my dad to see if I could lend his tanker. The next morning I set out and hitched everything up and set off to the flood. When I arrived there was already a highways agent assessing the flood and I offered my assistance.

"He wasn't up for it at first but after 10 minutes of chatting he rang his boss and asked if it was worthwhile me trying to move the water, as he thought it wouldn't make that much difference. It took about 3 hours and 7 tanker loads(which holds 2400

gallons) before we could notice any difference!

Dan added: " It took around 10 hours in all to clear the flood water with assistance from the council in the afternoon. I took 24 tanker loads of water out what equalled up to around 58,000 gallons of water!"

To compound his problems Dan managed to lose his car keys but after this was announced on social media kind donations were made to help pay for a new set for which Dan says he is very grateful.

He added: "I was glad to be able to assist, the response and gratitude from the community has made it all worthwhile".

Cllr Val Allen Parish Councillor for Croft and Culcheth & Glazebury praised Dan and the community response to the recent flooding in the villages during the heavy rains.

She said: "The community response has been fantastic, from providing pumps, filling sandbags and offers from local businesses such as free cleaning and meals, the people of the villages have been amazing.

Cllr Allen added: "I have urged the two Parish Councils to make sure that we liaise with the three agencies, Highways, WBC and United Utilities to get a joined-up response and



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58,000 gallons under bridge as to flooding crisis!



future plan to sort out our drains once and for all'.

Meanwhile, Wendy Maisey OBE Founder of Helping Hands Culcheth Glazebury & Croft said: "As soon as we saw the evening unfolding on Wednesday it was clear there would be people out there in our villages in need of assistance.

"As a volunteer at Helping Hands, I liaised with the other branches to see what was required. They were already on the ground in Longford as evacuations were underway.

"We have a number of vulnerable residents we look after in Culcheth Glazebury & Croft, so the following morning we made some welfare calls, checking on a number of

people.

"They were really grateful for the call which they found reassuring, and we were still able to get the majority of hampers out.

"It's been a really difficult and unsettling time on top of the Covid-19 crisis and it has been fantastic to see people like Dan pulling together and doing whatever it takes".

A flooding appeal fund has been set up by organisers of the Warrington Business Awards which has so far raised over £16,000 and donations can be made here

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/warrington-businesses-flood-appeal



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Campaigners remain confident they can save historic Raven Inn from demolition

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save the historic Raven Inn at Glazebury as a community pub, remain confident the latest application to demolish it and replace it with a small housing development, will be refused.

The Help Save the Raven Inn team is expecting a decision to be made on the most recent planning application, during February.

They say there has been a huge groundswell of support in terms of objections to the current planning application.

Banners have been placed in Glazebury and Culcheth.

Help Save The Raven Inn spokesperson Peter Sturman said: "We are able to keep our community informed via Culcheth

Life Magazine and our Facebook group, indeed there have been nearly 200 new members join the group since news broke of this latest planning application.

"We have engaged the services of Dale Ingram, a specialist planning and heritage consultant whose expertise is specifically in the pubs and brewing space, to represent us.

"She is preparing a detailed submission against the application.

"Some considerable offers have

been made, to purchase the Raven, as a pub.

"Those offers remain on the table.

"We are confident the planning application will be refused. If so there are people who are ready to engage with the owners, to realise

a substantial profit, for them, over what they paid for the Raven," he added.

The latest proposal is for the Demolition of existing public house and construction of seven dwellings with car parking, landscaping and associated works.



Picture taken pre Covid-19 restrictions.



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PARISH NEWS

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council wish you all a better and happier New Year than 2020. We thank all those who have helped and will continue to help others.

We have had heavy rain causing surface water to remain: if there is flooding, blocked or broken drains please report to the borough council using their A-Z of services and contact us. There has now been large scale flooding in the Parish. The Borough Council, United Utilities, Environment Agency, Fire Brigade and Police work together, see www.warrington.gov.uk/flooding. The Environment Agency is on 0800 80 70 60.

After several years of campaigning traffic weight restrictions have been passed for our main roads and signs will be put up soon. Please let us know if there are large lorries using our villages as short cuts or rat runs. This does not apply to vehicles accessing our local farms and businesses.

There are a large number of planning applications and proposals in the pipeline. Given the Covid restrictions it is important that, if you are affected by a proposal, you please contact us - because although the Parish Council do not make the decision we are consulted.

HS2 -we continue to oppose the Golborne Link.

New Motorway Services proposal in the Green Belt at Junction 11 of the M62. We have opposed this and currently HS2 have put in a holding objection.

We have objected to proposals for more Warehousing in the Green Belt along the M6 at Parkside, and other locations, which is in addition to the warehousing already existing. We are taking part in the ongoing Public Inquiry because of Green Belt and environmental issues but also the more traffic there is on the M6 the more traffic goes on our local roads.

There are many proposals and applications of course to which we don't object - or we work to make changes that will reduce the impact on neighbours.

After meeting with the management team at Culcheth High School we have decided to object to the loss of LiveWire provision at Culcheth High School. There is a need for an overview of sports and youth provision post Covid.

By the time this is published you will have received more information from OpenReach about the proposals for Broadband / Fibre in our villages.

Note that we have new contact information for our Parish Clerk in addition to that for Parish Councillors.

Please take care and follow the important Government instructions to protect us all - those at home - Key Workers- and our NHS.

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 Culcheth Library and on our website:

www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk



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Local man helps flooding victims

CULCHETH resident John Wilson was part of community help hub and food bank Craft in Mind which teamed up with ASDA to help provide support for flood victims in Warrington.

Based at the Cockhedge centre in Warrington Craft in Mind, with the support of Asda Cockhedge has been supporting families affected by the flooding in the Warrington area.

The Asda Foundation gave Craft in Mind £3000 of funding to help families with food, toiletries, brand new bedding, towels and cleaning products.

Whilst food was distributed around the affected areas, towels, bedding and cleaning products are being given out from Craft in Mind director Emma Green's home in Dallam, which has been opened up to the community as a 'help hub' to make it easier for families to get the things they need without having to travel.

A lot of the residents' cars have been written off due to flood damage.

Craft in Mind Director, John said: "We have been working tirelessly and liaising with local groups to get these supplies to families as quickly as possible. It is very humbling to see how the community have pulled together. We have been inundated with messages offering to make deliveries, day or night. We'd like to thank ASDA community champion Liz Cotterill for working relentlessly and supporting us in our endeavour to help as many people as we can".

Craft in Mind will continue to support those affected by the flooding. Lots of families are still in hotels across Warrington and when they can finally go home, they will also need the support.

Anyone who would like to help Craft in Mind to continue supporting those affected by the floods should call Emma on 07307206877.

George Wesson Cockhedge Centre manager added: "Cockhedge Owners and Centre Management are delighted to continue to provide support and a base of operation for Emma and the Team. It is great to see the help they are continuing to offer to those within the Warrington community in light of the recent flooding and ongoing pandemic. We are also very proud to see two of the Cockhedge Tenants cooperating so closely to benefit those within the community."



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"The Daten" seeks planning consent for £100,000 all-weather pitch

CULCHETH Sports Club - "the Daten" - has applied for planning permission for a £100,000 all-weather playing pitch on its former bowling green.

The pitch would consist of two five-a-side soccer pitches which could be joined together to make a single pitch for larger teams.

But club secretary Stuart Nightingale, who last month told Culcheth Life the club had only a 50-50 chance of surviving the coronavirus pandemic, said: "We have applied for planning permission but it's a long term plan. We haven't got the money to pay for it."

"We need to have planning permission before we can think about raising the money. Once we get permission it will open up the possibility of getting grant aid."

The two five-a-side pitches would contribute to the club's ambition to establish a football academy at the Charnock Road club.

They will be named after local soccer legends, Liverpool and England World Cup hero Roger Hunt and Liverpool and Scotland goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence.

Mr Nightingale said the club had to alter if it was to survive. It had to concentrate on sports which were growing, not those that were in decline.

Sports such as badminton, snooker and darts were in decline. The bowling section, which closed early in the summer, generated £5,000-a-year when it had a full membership. But the operating costs of maintaining the bowling

green was £4,200 - and the bowling section did not have a full membership.

Soccer was thriving and the tennis section had doubled in membership during the lockdown and was planning to increase the number of courts. Other activities which were growing included dance, yoga and keep-fit.

Currently, the club's soccer team had to train at Birchwood but with improved facilities at Culcheth all training could be brought "in-house."

"Our problems, even before the pandemic, were that we were a club in a 60-year-old building with a poor business plan that was 30-years out-of-date. The building, which used to cater for wedding receptions and social functions, no longer meets present day expectations

"The new facilities will bring in customers and the income will cover the costs.

"But it will still be a community club - a facility for the people of Culcheth. If local people give their support it can become a superb local sports centre again..."

Originally a social club for employees of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, the "Daten" was purchased by the club in 1998. In the event of it failing, it would revert back to the UKAEA who would decide its future.



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Where are they now? Amazing Alumni

Last year at Warrington & Vale Royal College we celebrated a record number of Level 3 students progressing to their first choice university. We caught up with former superstar students Hannah Ruddle and Jade Ginger to hear how they are adjusting to life at university.



Hannah Ruddle

Level 3 Health & Social Care student Hannah Ruddle, who completed her course with us last year, has since progressed onto Liverpool Hope University to study Social Work.

Hannah says that, following an appointment with the college's Careers Team, she realised that she wanted to make a real difference and decided that Social Work was her dream career. Hannah feels that her Health & Social Care course helped prepare her for life at university, saying, "The work I've previously done in college such as communication and psychology has enabled me to complete work in university."

Following her degree, Hannah intends to undertake an MA in Social Work and become a social worker for the homeless.



Jade Ginger

Level 3 Childcare student Jade Ginger completed her course with us last year and is now at Edge Hill University studying Early Years Education with QTS.

Jade chose this pathway as she aims to become an early years teacher and decided that going to university would provide her with the best opportunity to achieve her goal.

Throughout her time at Warrington & Vale Royal College, Jade undertook placements in a range of childcare settings, which equipped her with valuable practical experience. Jade believes that her college course helped her prepare for university, saying, "My college course definitely supports my university course, as it is a preview of what teaching is like through placement, and the assignments set are like a practice run."

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