

# Culcheth Life

Magazine

ISSUE 212 | APRIL 2021  
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# Editor's Comment



**SPRING is in the air, the roadmap out of lockdown is underway and the vaccine programme is being rolled out so hopefully, the light is shining brightly at the end of what has been a very long dark tunnel.**

We will have all been impacted in some way during what has been a terrible year for many but some worse than others, especially those who have lost loved ones, are still suffering the ill-effects of long COVID and those who have lost their livelihoods.

Spending a lot of time on social media, which is a necessary "evil" of my job, it has become clear there are a lot of angry, anxious and frustrated people out there and with local elections in the air, there have been some very toxic comments in circulation – so now it is time to spring clean the keyboard warriors – often with fake profiles.

Having been on the receiving end of some, which unfortunately goes with the territory, I know only too well how personal insults can impact your mental health.

It is easy to criticise from a keyboard and lash out at those in the community, who are very often just trying to do their best.

Most people involved in public life I have met, do it for the right reasons – to try and make a meaningful difference in their local communities.

Yes, I know there are some career politicians, who are financially rewarded for their endeavours, but the vast majority, especially

parish councillors and community volunteers, do it because they want to help people.

Healthy debate and being critical of manifesto policies is one thing, but personal toxic and abusive insults are totally out of order.

Freedom of speech is essential – but allowing people to be abusive and nasty and insulting is something we can do without.

So after a trial period on our Lymm Life Facebook group, we have now decided to include a Zero Tolerance policy on all our Facebook groups and pages that anyone who is abusive to others with personal insults or foul and abusive language will be blocked

– and the worst offenders reported to Facebook or even the police if deemed threatening and hateful.

We and the vast majority of like-minded people don't want these people spouting their poison in our community – no doubt I will be called a dictator by some – but the groups and pages are part of our business – and I believe if all media had similar principles the world would be a better place.

Sadly some of those in high places have not been good role models but having experienced hateful comments myself and knowing others who have been on the receiving end of toxic posts and comments it is time to draw a line in the sand – and hopefully, this article will start the cleansing process.

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# Betsy puts on an art show for animal charity

**A TALENTED four-year-old girl raised more than £70 for an animal charity by putting on an art sale outside her home.**

Betsy Healing, from Glazebrook, a pupil at the ABC Pre-School in Culcheth, painted a number of pictures and put them on show outside the house.

She then sat there all day – even having her meals outside – to draw attention to her exhibition.

Passersby soon spotted the show, recognised Betsy's talent and determination, and donate money.

The money went to the charity Animals in Distress.

Proud Dad Chris Healing said: "I don't think people could resist making a donation when they saw Betsy and her paintings."

"She certainly made sure people noticed her – even having her tea outside to make sure she didn't miss anyone."



## The refill mission!



The Refill Round's mission is to help residents of Culcheth and the surrounding areas avoid single use plastic with their "delivery with a difference" refill business.

So far as The Refill Round founder, Julia, is concerned, recycling isn't the answer to our plastic use. "Only a fraction of the single use plastic used is recycled and an even smaller fraction of that is done in the UK - and devastatingly vast amounts escape into our oceans. The Refill Round offers you an alternative to buying more plastic bottles. I deliver household cleaning and laundry products, plus a range of toiletries, in refillable glass bottles. Once they are empty and you are ready to order again I pick up the empties and drop off filled bottles, in freshly sanitised bottles. It is very similar to a milk round! I also work with amazing eco-friendly suppliers who also operate brilliant closed loop recycling systems".

Julia estimates since June 2020 over 2200 plastic bottles have been saved – "plus our products are eco-friendly and are cruelty-

free. We also stock a range of plastic free household extras, such as compostable kitchen sponges and reusable food wraps".

The Refill Round also wants to make refills accessible to everyone. "Even as a keen refiller myself I often forgot to take my empty bottles out with me or struggled to carry them all home when full. This way you can simply order through my website, [refillround.co.uk](http://refillround.co.uk), and I deliver them to you. Zero fuss and zero waste".





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# Residents fight back against 'selfish' Litter-Bugs

by Hannah Jones

**A group of Croft residents has taken to the streets to pick up litter following a surge in the amount of waste lining the streets during lockdown.**

Joan Hughes, a local resident, decided to kickstart the Croft Litter Network after growing tired of seeing the area covered in rubbish.

Ms. Hughes said: "I do think there's an awful lot more litter, everyone in the village has noticed because we're all out an awful lot more."

"We've got a lot of people walking the public footpaths who don't know the village and possibly don't care about the village and perhaps just dump it."

Since the groups creation in February 2021, they have gained 45 members, however,

increasingly, many more are independently doing their bit within the community.

Claire Hill, 37, and her mother, Chris Hill, 67, started the activity whilst on their daily walks.

Chris, a retiree and frequent church volunteer, said: "We find wine bottles, blister packs of painkillers; who do they think is going to clear this up?"

"We're lucky to live in a lovely village and we want to keep it that way, if we wait for other people to tidy it we could be waiting for years."

Formal clean ups have proven to be a difficult task within the area, Councillor Norman Partington, chair of the Croft parish council, said: "Trying to get anything done these days is difficult because of the austerity that's hit Warrington Borough Council."

"They've been hit by budget cuts since about 2010, we do really suffer in that respect and litter is a constant problem."

"People don't realise, they think the council can deal with it, but in a lot of cases, there's not a lot they can do because they haven't got the resources."

Ms. Hughes was keen to emphasise the importance of everyone playing their part, adding: "Every little helps, and I look at it that way, if we all just pick up one thing we see when we're out, it's one less thing on the street."

"It's the people taking back control over their community and it's another example of the crofters doing that'."



Chris Hill (L) and Claire Hill (R) during their litter pick in the village.



## Appeal to local businesses to support Culcheth Educational Foundation Trust

AN appeal has been launched to local businesses to support the Culcheth Educational Foundation Trust set up to support young people and help their educational needs.

The Culcheth Educational Foundation Trust was set up in 1935 to provide financial assistance to young persons under 18 for educational purposes or activities that promote or assist health and wellbeing, who reside in the Ward of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

The trust is made up of Parish and Borough Councillors from the Ward and the Rector of Newchurch Parish Church.

Cllr Val Allen is the representative for Croft and is appealing to local businesses to support the Trust with donations to ensure the Trust can continue to support young people.

Cllr Allen said: "The Trust has been going for many years and relies on interest paid on investments made from legacies made a long time ago, it is of particular importance during these turbulent times to ensure that our children can continue with their education and be given the support they need. Local businesses can play a big part in this by donating funds with the assurance that the Trust will give grants to individuals and organisations where needed."

She added: "Earlier this year the Trust gave a grant to a local school to fund 4 laptops to help children with home learning, please support this fantastic Trust so that we can continue with this support."

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## Parents launch appeal after teenage jogger struck by hit and run driver at Croft

AN appeal for information has been launched by the parents of a teenage jogger who was struck by a van in "hit and run" incident at Croft.

18-year-old Joshua Ainscough was struck so hard while he was jogging along Smithy Brow, Croft, the wing mirror came off the van and doctors feared he could lose his arm.

Now his parents Alan and Ellen are appealing for information from the public to help trace the driver and have already received reports that CCTV footage has captured images of a white van at the scene at the same time of the incident.

Alan posted an appeal on social media saying: "My 18-year-old son Joshua whilst doing his run was hit by a large white van on March 17 around 16.25 on Smithy Brow, Croft."

"The van hit him so hard the nearside/passenger wing mirror came off the van, and the driver stopped looked back then sped off. Joshua was taken to Warrington A&E but due to the severity of his injuries to his right arm he was then

rushed to the Countess of Chester hospital as he had no blood flow in his arm no feeling in his whole arm and hand and the doctors were concerned he might lose his arm."

"At this point, they have managed to restore blood flow but he still has no movement or feeling at all in his arm."

"I am asking if anyone has CCTV or dashcam from the area to please come forward, also if anyone knows what buses that run the route on that road could let us know as there was a bus there."

"The van driver swerved to pass the bus resulting in this hit and run."

"Police are involved and they should be able to get the CCTV from the bus company."

"Any and all help is greatly appreciated and will if required remain confidential."

"To the driver come forward now before the police have to locate you."

Anyone with information can contact the police via 101 and should quote incident number IML-940795.

# Warrington's elections take place in May

You can vote in person at one of our COVID-secure polling stations or, if you'd prefer, you still have time to apply for a postal or proxy vote.



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# New package of the way at Cu

**LOCAL councillors in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft have reaffirmed their commitment to securing the future of Culcheth Library.**

They say working with Warrington Borough Council will help deliver a package of improvements to the well-regarded community facility.

The Library was threatened with closure in 2016, when LiveWire opened a consultation on its future. An initial meeting to discuss the proposals saw over 100 residents turning up to voice their concerns. Councillors Matt Smith, Ben Alldred and Jan Davidson, who were present at the meeting, understood the strength of feeling and were determined to retain the Library as an essential resource in the village.

Cllr Davidson said: "There has been an exceptional desire by local people to maintain Culcheth Library as a resource for our whole community. Over the past few years, it has been heartening to see so many residents organising, supporting and developing the Library's resources and infrastructure."

Following the closure threat, Cllr Smith invested time to recruit local people to form the Culcheth Library Working Group, which later became the Friends of Culcheth Library.

Cllr Smith said: "Local people have done an amazing job, organising and launching events at the Library, all of which have proved its value to our community. As a result, we were able to successfully lobby LiveWire to extend the library opening hours in 2019, enabling more groups to meet there. Following the first Covid-19 lockdown, we accelerated the reopening of the Library by three months from the initial proposals. We stand by our commitment to Culcheth Library, and now we want to go further."

Chair of the Friends of Culcheth Library and Parish Councillor Alldred added: "For the past five years, local Councillors have been working with a wide-cross section of the community. This community focus has helped to shape a positive vision for the future for Culcheth Library. We are now working with Warrington Borough Council on

plans to refurbish the building, both inside and out. We want to deliver a package of improvements to ensure that the library provides a resource for lifelong learning for the foreseeable future."

Wendy Maisey OBE, Prospective Councillor for Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft said: "I welcome LiveWire's commitment to investing into Culcheth Library. My colleague Cllr Val Allen spoke to LiveWire earlier in the year and put the case forward for more investment in Culcheth Library. Val was given assurances that funding would be made available and I am delighted that has happened."

"The wider issue is that the Council has underfunded community facilities in Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft for too long

## *Bold plan to restore c*

BOLD plans to restore a dilapidated building to its historic World War 2 roots have been submitted to Warrington Borough Council.

The scheme involves the former Glazebrook Country Club, in Bank Street, Glazebrook.

It has recently been plagued by vandals and police have been called to the scene to deal with anti-social behaviour.

But during the war it was a significant location for British, American and Canadian troops rehabilitating after active service.

Work has already started on tidying up surrounding land but the new application is to restore the derelict building to its original use as a rehabilitation centre for ex-military personnel.

A further phase would involve restoring the building – which is of historic significance – as a centre for the display of artefacts and military memorabilia.

According to the applicants, the building has retained its significance and still attracts many ex-services personnel and their families who visit to see the place

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# improvements on Culcheth Library

and the proposed closure of the Community Campus is the living proof.

"When I talk to residents they tell me they would like more facilities in the area, not the constant threat of closure as we're seeing with

the community services offered at Culcheth High School. My last employment before I set my own business up was working in a library and I have seen first-hand the benefits they bring to the whole community."



## Derelict WW2 building to its historic roots

where they spent a large part of their military lives.

Many of these are from North America.

Part of the plan is to provide a space to remember those who gave their lives in the conflict.

It is also hoped to display early radio communications technology and other military equipment.

Discussions have taken place with various uniformed organisations about the future use of the site, including the Royal British Legion, The Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Help for Hero's and

Walking Wounded.

There would be an enlarged car park and an outdoor space allowing veterans to congregate on significant memorial days.

According to the applicants, the facility would create about 30 jobs on the site and a similar number in the supply chain.

The surrounding grounds would be enhanced to benefit local wildlife.

It is believed the building is the only one of its type in the Warrington area.





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“Spring fertiliser can be applied to your lawn, but remember to water it in if there's no rain.”

Simon Bax,  
Plant Area Specialist

- Spring vegetables such as peas, beans and lettuce seeds can be sown now.
- Try spring cleaning your houseplants; remove spent flowers, dead leaves and rinse the dust from the leaves with a sprayer as clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!
- Plant up hanging baskets with fuchsias and other basket plants and then hang them up in your greenhouse to establish.
- Many of the birds (that you put up nest boxes for!) will have young now and need help with food.

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# CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY

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### PARISH NEWS

#### Community Day cancelled

This was announced earlier this year. It is a great disappointment for us and everyone concerned to have to cancel it again because of the pandemic. More detail was in the March Culcheth Life, found in magazine downloads on Warrington Worldwide, and in other media.

#### HS2

In November/December 2020 we encouraged residents to respond to the HS2 Design Refinement consultation. Since 2013 when the first route for HS2 was made public we, working with CADRAG, the Culcheth and District Rail Action Group, and our elected representatives, have put in detailed objections to the Golborne Link at each stage. Reasons are the impact on residents, businesses, traffic both in our villages and wider Warrington, the environment plus underestimating the cost and the difficulties involved. We continue to oppose the Golborne Link and will keep residents informed at the next stage.

The 2a route to Crewe has approval, but 2b, North of Crewe, has not. At the time of writing we are waiting for decisions on Northern Powerhouse Rail which concerns rail from Liverpool to the other side of the Pennines and is tied in with HS2.

#### The Play Area on Culcheth Green

Refurbishment was the next stage after the Mee Brow Play Area, but it was interrupted by Covid. We are now returning to discussions with the Borough Council.

#### Reporting

Please continue reporting pot holes, flooding, fly tipping, etc. Use the Borough Council website, [www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk) or phone, or contact councillors, or our Parish Clerk.

Note that occasionally everyone assumes someone else has made a report and in fact no-one has.

#### Law and Order

There have been some criminal incidents recently and again report them to the police as well as warning others. The police have been doing speed checks on our local roads.

#### Traffic in our villages

We continue to work with the Borough Council and Police to make improvements as well as opposing major planning applications that put more traffic on our roads.

#### Culcheth Library

A refurbishment is being planned.

#### Leisure Services

Parish Councillors have met with representatives of Livewire and Culcheth High School about the proposal to close the gym and facilities and made clear that this would be a serious and unwanted loss to our villages. We are waiting for their response.

#### There is no such thing as a poo fairy!

A few people don't bag it and bin it - if you know of an "event" which happens regularly, please report details to the Borough Council and the Parish Council.

We wish you all a better year than last, and again thank those who work so hard to make us safe. Take care, keep safe and follow the rules.

#### 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](http://www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk)









# WI members aim for a scarf knitting record

**MEMBERS of Croft WI are taking part in a WI knitting challenge to knit scarves 6ft x 6ins and then spread them around the whole of the outside Croft Memorial Hall.**

The scarves will then be measured and the measurement sent to Federation HQ in Chester who will announce which WI in Cheshire achieved the longest. At the end of the challenge Croft WI can send the scarves to a charity of their choice.

At the recent Croft WI Zoom meeting, speakers Linda Montgomery and Vicky Blackmore gave a wonderful, informative talk on the charity "Dogs for Good".

The charity was founded in 1988 by Frances Hay as a result of her personal experience with her own dog helping her overcome her own disability. In 2000 a successful application to the National Lottery resulted in the building of a training centre in Banbury, Oxfordshire, which, over time, expanded to centres in various parts of the UK.

The charity breed and train dogs to help adults and children with physical and learning disabilities, children with autism and adults with dementia. These highly intelligent dogs help adults and children lead more independent lives, at home and in the community around them.

Puppies are placed with volunteer families who look after them and take them to basic training centres which focus on socialisation to enable them to become happy confident dogs and where they are taught to respond to various commands, including obedience, pushing buttons, for such things as traffic lights, pulling, retrieving, alarm barking etc. At the end of their training, which lasts approximately 12-16 months, they are assessed to see if they have the right disposition to become "help" dogs and if not are found alternative homes, or they stay with their original

family. About 20 per cent of the puppies are found to be unsuitable. There are about 80 puppies in socialisation every year and most are Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Spaniels or Poodle crosses.

Linda, who is herself disabled, described the process of getting her own dog "Obi" in 2014 and all the amazing tasks he is able to do to enhance her independence. Such things as collecting the post, bringing the telephone, pulling off socks and boots, reaching items from supermarket shelves and much more, enriching her life which previously had been very limited, in fact she hadn't been out of her home alone for 17 years before getting "Obi". It's not just the dogs who have to pass a test, in fact potential clients have to pass a test to show they will be responsible owners for the dogs.

In the case of autistic children, Linda explained how owning a dog helps the child to get up and do things like feeding and walking, where, in the case of walking, the dog is placed between an adult and the child and both hold a lead from a harness around the dog. Owning a dog helps the child integrate more with the world around them.

Fund raising, so essential to the charity, was touched on, such things as sponsoring a puppy for £5 per month, making donations etc., and how, by giving talks, Linda feels she is giving something back to help pay for the extremely expensive costs of training the dogs. Vicky, Linda's colleague who works for the charity, answered the many questions raised by members. Croft WI President Anne Lamming thanked the ladies for a thoroughly enjoyable presentation.

## From Bentley to the Rolls Royce of research in Culcheth

PADGATE man and former consultant to Bentley Motors, Graeme Martin, is the latest person to join Culcheth-based Rawwater Group.

A vastly experienced Research & Development Design Engineer, Graeme will be working primarily on the development of Rawwater's specialist techniques for use in nuclear decommissioning.

Before coming to Rawwater, he was involved in conducting engine durability tests for luxury car manufacturer, Bentley Motors.

Graeme is the latest highly skilled individual to join Rawwater in recent months. Shortly before Christmas, Kat Lennox, previously an account director with the National Nuclear Laboratory, was appointed to head up a new technology company within the Rawwater Group. "I am delighted to welcome Graeme to Rawwater," comments group managing director, Professor Robert Eden PhD. "This is a fantastic time for us, and Graeme's impressive skillset

will provide a further important step in taking our metal sealing technologies to the next level."

"To find out a little more about our work, please visit [www.rawwater.com](http://www.rawwater.com)," adds Professor Eden, "... we're always on the search for skilled local talent; freshly minted from university or unwilling to fully retire!"



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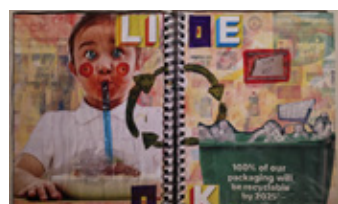


## Art & Design students secure fantastic offers at a host of universities



Warrington & Vale Royal College has a history of running successful art programmes which has nurtured the talents of young artists, helping them to progress onto a range of exciting destinations.

This year, we celebrate three exceptional young students who have all secured offers at university and have shown a real dedication to their work. All have had to overcome the challenges of lockdown, including being away from the studios in college and fellow peers, working from home with limited access to materials, and having to create a portfolio of work to be assessed in their UCAS applications.



**Zsafia Piukovity**  
Graphic Design,  
University of Bolton

Zsafia Piukovity, a Level 3 Art & Design student, has secured an offer to study Graphic Design at the University of Bolton. The former Beamont Collegiate Academy student says she has thoroughly enjoyed studying at college, commenting: "The course is really varied allowing you to experiment with hands-on techniques such as crafts and embroidery, as well as digital techniques. It has definitely helped to prepare me for university and it's a great foundation for further study. I really recommend it."

**Kirsten Jolley**  
Architecture,  
Northumbria University

Level 3 Art & Design Foundation student, Kirsten Jolley, has secured an offer to study Architecture at Northumbria University. Speaking of her time at college, the former Sandbach County High School student says: "There is a focus on you as an individual. The tutors recognise your strengths and help to nurture this. It's a great course for experimenting with different media and finding your own style."



**Molly Horrocks**  
Photography,  
Manchester Metropolitan University

Level 3 Art & Design student, Molly Horrocks, has secured offers at all four universities she applied for including her first choice, Manchester Metropolitan University. The former Padgate Academy student says: "I managed to achieve a Distinction grade in my work last year which I wouldn't have been able to do without my tutor Hazel's support. She has shown me new techniques to use in my photography and I've gained confidence in trying new mediums I didn't think I'd be good at."

A huge congratulations to all the students on their university offers!



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