

# Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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**Editor**

Gary Skentelbery

**Production**

James Bryan

**Advertising**James Balme  
01925 631592 opt 1**Editorial**

01925 631592 opt 2

**Email**

info@culchethlife.com

**Websites**www.culchethlife.com  
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www.lymmmlife.co.uk  
www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk  
www.warrington.tv**Address**New Media Centre  
Old Road Warrington  
WA4 1AT*Culcheth Life is published monthly by Orbit News Ltd.**The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and nothing may be reprinted or reproduced without prior permission of the publishers.**The publishers are not liable for any statement made or opinion expressed by third parties in this publication.**Printed by TwentyFourSeven*

# Editor's Comment



**THANKFULLY that rare commodity these days, common sense, has prevailed with Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council agreeing to help fund the road closures for the Remembrance Day parade.**

It is a shame this important occasion became a political football and let's all hope lessons have been learned.

Cut backs over the years have impacted on many important community events around the borough by the costs of road closures.

This has resulted in some being adapted, removing the need for road closures, while others have found ways of meeting the costs and/or providing volunteers to ensure highway safety issues are covered.

While plans are already underway to have volunteers trained for next year - I am sure few would begrudge a small increase in the parish precept to help cover any ongoing costs.

Meanwhile as we head towards the festive season it is sad that there will be no Christmas Market in the village this year due to the ongoing pandemic.

Having already attended a delayed Lymm May Queen event in September and plans for the annual Dickensian Day scheduled to go ahead in Lymm next month, I am sure many will be left wondering why the decision was made to cancel the event in Culcheth.

To be fair to the parish council there is still a lot of reluctance,

especially from older people, to attend large public gatherings and with rates still relatively high in the area it was probably the right call.

Thankfully after several weeks of rises COVID-19 infection rates in the area appear to be on the way down again, although with winter ahead none of us have a crystal ball knowing what the future holds.

But with Christmas tree festivals planned at local churches and Christmas fayres in local schools I am sure there will still be plenty of festivities to enjoy.

**Local Plan update**

Comments on the Local Plan have to be in by 5.00 pm Monday

November 15th.

Copies of the plan and the Proposals Map are in local libraries.

You can find these documents are on [www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk) which has a link to the plan. There is also a link to the Local plan display boards which were on show at the Halliwell Jones stadium in September.

Beyond that in the "Have your say" section there is more information including the evidence documentation.

**Deadline for the December issue of Culcheth Life is November 23**



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# School donates Harvest Festival collection to Helping Hands

**TWISS Green Primary School has donated a bounty of various food items to Helping Hands Culcheth, a community group set up during the COVID-19 pandemic that distributes essentials to those in need in the WA3 area.**

Under the leadership of Head Teacher Mrs Fuller the children, parents and staff collected over 30 bags of food items and arranged collection with Wendy Maisey the founder of Helping Hands Culcheth.

Wendy who is also a Borough Councillor in the ward of Culcheth

Glazebury & Croft said: "Harvest Festival is a time to reflect on what the land has given us and to think of those in our community who may be in need of help, or would benefit from a kind gesture. We are overwhelmed at the size of the donation. This will be despatched to families and individuals in the

WA3 area.

"In Autumn 2020 Twiss Green Primary also selected Helping Hands to donate their Harvest Festival collection to and we're extremely grateful they have chosen us again. I'd like to say a huge thank you to all at Twiss Green Primary on behalf of the Culcheth and Orford Branches of Helping Hands, you really have made a big difference with your kindness. We have a fantastic network of local volunteers who will be helping with

the distribution".

Helping Hands Culcheth will also be repeating the Christmas advent calendar appeal this year after the success last year.

Wendy says it's a great way for local residents to give back to their community. A list of 25 Christmas-themed food items will be published along with details of drop off points shortly on the group's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/hhculcheth/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hhculcheth/)



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# Closure of community leisure facility is a great disappointment say campaigning councillors

**CAMPAGNING** local Cllrs say the permanent closure of leisure services at Culcheth Community Campus has come as a great disappointment to local residents.

After 18 months of speculation, Warrington Borough Council (WBC) confirmed that the facility run by community interest company LiveWire, will not re-open after closing at the start of the pandemic last year.

Now local councillors say that with the longstanding work needed for Birchwood Leisure Centre and Library the east of Warrington has been left with a distinct lack of support from the WBC and that the closure of Culcheth Community Campus will have a knock-on effect in areas like Glazebrook and Hollins Green, where many residents use these facilities rather than travelling into Cadishead or Irlam.

Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft councillors Wendy Maisy, Val Allen and Carol Benson, are raising issues about the lack of leisure services in the area when compared to the new facilities at Orford Jubilee Hub, Great Sankey Leisure Centre and the newly opened Bewsey and Dallam Hub.

Cllr. Maisy said: "Warrington's Labour-run council always insist

that their investments fund front line services. However, after a very loose consultation period, it is now confirmed that Culcheth will lose its LiveWire services. This is really bad news and concerning.

"Culcheth's borough councillors requested a meeting with Culcheth High School a couple of weeks ago to facilitate a survey with their students to see what services they want and need. We will do everything to help the youth in our villages."

She added that the latest strategy for leisure services was included in Warrington's new Draft Local Plan and public consultation on the new plan started on Monday 4 October.

Cllr Maisy says Conservative councillors feel that the strategy needs a lot of improvement and they are urging residents to get involved in the consultation and to make their views known about local services.

More information is available at [www.warrington.gov.uk/LocalPlan](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/LocalPlan)

Cllr Tony Higgins, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities, said at the time of

the announcement of the closure: "Whilst we know the decision to close the Culcheth Community Campus leisure site will be disappointing for many, we've not taken this decision lightly and unfortunately it was no longer viable to continue running the site at a loss following the coronavirus pandemic."

"Together with LiveWire we have identified a number of alternatives

to ensure that local residents still have access to a number of community, sport and leisure facilities both in the village, at the site through Culcheth High School and within a short radius. We know how important the Culture and Leisure offer in Warrington is to local people, so these savings will help to maintain and safeguard LiveWire services for the future."



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# Remembrance Day parade saved after parish council agree to fund road closures



**THE 70th annual Remembrance Day parade at Culcheth will now go ahead as planned after a campaign by local councillors and residents.**

After four weeks of "turmoil and uncertainty," it was confirmed at a recent meeting of Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council that the Royal British Legion procession to the Cenotaph in Newchurch would have the funding available to enable it to take place.

Warrington Borough Council was advised by Cheshire Police in 2019 funding would be withdrawn but no firm plans were put into place to ensure it went ahead.

However, a breakthrough at the Parish Council meeting saw funding allocated to ensure the cost of the road closures would be met.

Parish Cllr Keith Bland commented "Labour-run Warrington Borough Council's decision not to fund the traffic marshalling required was met with outrage in our village."

"Despite WBC having two years notice from Cheshire Police and ensuring there were provisions within the budget for this event, no action was taken."

"There was no consultation with the Parish, and it was looking very likely that the procession would be cancelled."

"At the Parish Council meeting, it was unanimously agreed that cost of £1,350 required to ensure the procession safely went ahead

would be made available from the Parish Council budget.

"We now have time to train up volunteers to assist us in 2022 and are looking forward to Remembrance Sunday with our Veterans and local residents in attendance."

Ward Borough Cllr Wendy Maisey added: "I'm thrilled that after a local campaign the 70th annual procession will now take place in Culcheth."

"It's the Centenary year for the Royal British Legion and we were all determined to see it come together. I made the case with other residents and councillors requesting funding be made available from the Parish Council. It's frustrating that there has been no provision made by Warrington Borough Council for such an important day when we all pause to honour our fallen and give thanks to all those past and present from the armed forces."

"I come from an armed forces family, both my parents were Royal Signals so the campaign was really close to my heart."

"It's been a difficult couple of weeks, but we're all delighted with the outcome and hope we won't meet similar issues in the future."

## Churches to hold Christmas Fairs again

NEWCHURCH Parish Church and Culcheth Methodist Church will be holding their Christmas Fairs again this year – but those attending will be asked to wear face masks.

The two fairs will be held on Saturday, November 27.

Newchurch will be holding its in the Parish Hall on Common Lane, starting at 10am. There will be bacon and sausage butties, hot dogs, Dutch pancakes and mulled wine outside on the car park, as well as refreshments indoors.

There will be a grand draw and all the usual stalls, including craft stalls. This year there will be an indoor family treasure hunt, 'Name the Pantomime' with a prize for every child.

It promises to be a fun day out for everyone.

At the Methodist Church on Ellesmere Rd from 10.30am until 3pm there will be a Youth Tent with activities for young people. Hot dogs and soup will be served and inside there will be stalls, including local art groups, Christmas gifts, Scouts, St Rocco's, and Warrington Hospital.

Father Christmas will be in his grotto in the church to put the FUN in Fundraising!

But people attending will be asked to wear face masks and observe any other Covid precautions to ensure everyone stays safe.

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# Former councillor's c by loss of histor

**FORMER** councillor Chris Vobe has launched his debut novel, "The Water Tower" which he says was inspired by the loss of Warrington's historic Garnett Tower from the town's skyline.

The Culcheth based author's The Water Tower is a two-volume epic and both parts have been released simultaneously.

The novel has been highly anticipated since the beginning of the month when a dedicated Facebook page in support of the book reached over 1,600 people in the first 24 hours.

Described as "equal parts heart-breaking and life-affirming", The Water Tower clocks in at over 500,000 words. It is being released in two volumes, which combine to tell a powerful story that offers a candid exploration of the way we deal with loss.

The Water Tower's primary setting is Little Bassington; a fictional village located somewhere between Hampshire and the South East coast. The story follows reluctant journalist Adam Chapman who returns home after the death of his great aunt to find a community on the cusp of war with a development company, whose plans to construct a sweeping estate of luxury homes would result in the demolition of the iconic Water Tower.

The campaign to save the Tower provokes a charged debate over issues of identity and heritage – while dark secrets long since consigned to

memory are poised to come to light...

The novel's style is unusual, in that it incorporates a wide variety of written styles. The Water Tower tackles a number of social issues – including the class divide; poverty; domestic abuse; drug addiction; self-harm and the consequences of infidelity, whilst simultaneously retaining a heavy focus on the nature of relationships.

Following The Water Tower's release, Chris explains how the epic novel came to be:

"Picture the scene. There I was in the summer of 2018, standing in Palmyra Square – approaching the anniversary of my grandfather's passing, in the wake of a friend's untimely death, talking on the phone to a colleague who was about to fly away to pastures new, and watching the Garnett Tower fall.

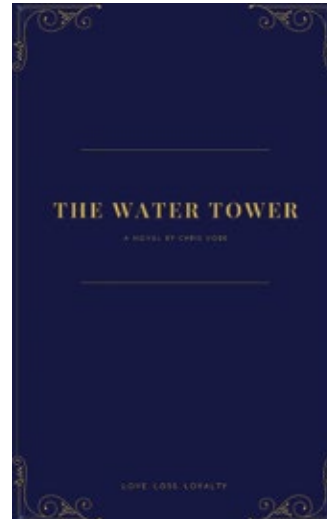
"That moment led me to start thinking about loss. How we deal with it, how we respond to it, and how it changes us.

"I wanted to explore the concept of 'losing something' not just through the prism of grief, but what it means to face losing your identity, or your sense of place. That was the genesis of the story which eventually became The Water Tower.

"As our principal cast come together to save their beloved Water Tower in the slipstream of their own private tragedies, they discover that Little Bassington is a village which harbours secrets. It's down to a reluctant journalist and the woman with whom he falls unexpectedly in love to bring the deepest of those secrets to light – for better or for worse..."

In addition to the fictional setting of Little Bassington, The Water Tower will propel readers into the London districts of Mayfair and Bloomsbury for some "pivotal flashback scenes", whilst the denouement to one storyline thread takes place on the Brighton seafloor.

Despite not setting out to write a "political" novel, Chris reveals that readers can expect to find themselves immersed in the trials and tribulations of an "unconventional political romance", which serves as the "beating heart" of the story.



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# debut novel inspired ic Garnett Tower

"At its heart, The Water Tower is a love story – but not necessarily in the traditional sense. It challenges us to confront who we love, how and why we love them – and crucially, through the eyes of two of the most important characters, the lengths we're willing to go to for the one who means the

most."

The Water Tower (Volumes I and II) are available to purchase exclusively from Amazon.

Readers can follow The Water Tower's dedicated Facebook page via: [facebook.com/TheWaterTowerNovel](https://www.facebook.com/TheWaterTowerNovel)



## Councillors and PCSOs join forces to combat Anti-Social behaviour



COUNCILLORS and PCSOs at Culcheth have joined forces to combat Anti-Social behaviour in the area.

The joint initiative by Culcheth Glazebury & Croft PCSOs and Borough Councillors is to get behind local residents and find out what issues they're having when anti-social behaviour has taken place in Culcheth.

Cllr Wendy Maisey and Cllr Carol Benson joined the PCSOs on the doorsteps handing out resident surveys and finding out their priorities for policing in the area.

Cllr Val Allen commented: "Anti-social behaviour on Shaw Street car park has been an ongoing problem and we've been assisting a number of residents since becoming Borough Councillors in May of this year.

"We're looking at a number of initiatives at Parish level too to alleviate the problems there. There is no quick solution but we're delighted that there is now CCTV on the car park and whilst it's there for a trial period we're hoping it will become a permanent fixture.



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# Get ready for winter

*With the colder weather on its way, now is the time to take simple steps to look after your health*

**Cold weather can make some health problems worse and even lead to serious complications, especially if you are 65 or older or have a long-term health condition. Follow our simple guide to preparing for the winter months.**

## Make the right choices

An A&E department (also known as emergency department or casualty) should only be used for genuine life-threatening emergencies, such as loss of consciousness, chest pain, breathing difficulties, severe bleeding that cannot be stopped, stroke or major trauma such as a road traffic accident.

Less severe injuries can be treated in urgent treatment centres or minor injuries units.

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## Get help early

If you are 65 or over, or in another at-risk group, it's important to get medical help as soon as you feel

unwell. Please don't wait until your symptoms get worse.

If you are unsure what to do contact 111.nhs.uk online first, or call free from a landline or mobile. They're open 24/7, 365 days a year.

## Get to know your local pharmacist

Pharmacists can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines to treat a range of minor illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, tummy trouble and aches and pains to help you recover at home.

## Get vaccinated

Dangerous viruses, including COVID-19 and flu, spread quickly when we're all crowded together inside and it's easy for us to pass on these viruses without knowing.

Flu can make some people seriously ill, so it's important to get the flu vaccine if you're advised to. The best time to have the flu vaccine is in the autumn before flu starts spreading.

Some people may be eligible for both the flu and the COVID-19 booster vaccines. If you are offered both vaccines, it's safe to have

them at the same time. Find out if you're eligible now at [www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)

## Know the symptoms of COVID-19

COVID-19 is still circulating, so if you have a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, please get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Stay at home and do not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get your test result - only leave your home to have a test.

Visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) for information.



## Vaccines are our best protection this winter.

It's easy for us to pass on COVID-19 or flu viruses without knowing. This winter there are two essential vaccines you'll need to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Find out if you're eligible now at [nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](http://nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)



# WI pair raised £400 for cancer research

**CONGRATULATIONS** were due to members **Jill Hallam and Bettina Sharpe** at the well attended monthly meeting of **Croft WI**.

The pair had raised a magnificent £400 for Cancer Research by running the Race for Life 2021.

Cancer Research event manager Caitlin Holme said: "Even whilst we're still apart, we can unite against cancer."

Speaker for the evening was John Cotterill, the manager of Burtonwood Heritage Centre which is located next to Gulliver's World in Warrington, itself situated on part of the old RAF Burtonwood Airbase.

RAF Burtonwood opened in 1940 to supply and maintain Spitfires and then in 1942 GIs arrived when the US joined the war. At its height there were 18,500 GIs at the base, which was the biggest in Europe. After the war the Americans went home but in 1948 they were back for the start of 'Operation Vittles' when supply routes to West Berlin were blockaded by the Russians. During the airlift planes carrying coal and food were landing in Berlin as often as every 90 seconds. After 200 hours flying time each plane needed full maintenance checks and these were carried out at Burtonwood with up to eight planes a day being processed.

In the 1950s Burtonwood was used for commercial night flights and it was a base for the V bomber, Britain's nuclear deterrent. US soldiers were based there in the 1960s but the base closed in 1969.

One story concerned Gail Halvorsen who was a pilot during the Berlin Airlift. One day Gail met a group of young children. He only had two sticks of gum in his pocket and when he gave them to the children he was moved by the way they shared it out amongst themselves.

He began dropping candy from his plane via miniature parachutes as he was coming in to land and this became known as "Operation Little Vittles". He had no authorisation from his superiors but over the next year he became a national hero with support from all over the US. Halvorsen's operation dropped over 23 tons of candy to the children of Berlin. He became known as the "Berlin Candy Bomber" and went on to serve as commander of Berlin Tempelhof Airport. He later said "Two sticks of chewing gum changed my life".



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# Green Belt plan refused – two years after being approved

**PLANNERS at Warrington have thrown out proposals to demolish Green Belt farm buildings and replace them with three dwellings – two years after approving a similar scheme on the same site.**

Borough council planning officers have ruled that the development at Barrow Farm, in Kenyon Lane, Croft would be inappropriate in the Green Belt.

The 2018 scheme involved only two dwellings.

Submissions to the planning department stated the scheme would involve demolition of modern, steel-framed buildings, conversion of a brick-built Dutch barn to form two

dwellings, conversion of another building to form a detached dwelling and construction of two detached garages.

The Dutch barn was the only building of any significance but had been "swamped" by mid-late 20th-century outbuildings of no architectural or historic interest.

Essentially the new scheme was similar to the one approved in 2018 other than the conversion of a vehicle shed to form a new dwelling.

It was considered the development would enhance the setting of the listed building.

But planning officers said the proposals would result in harm to the setting of the listed building

because of their layout, design and scale and the incongruous design of the detached dwelling.

The overall quality of the design had been diminished from that of

the earlier, approved scheme.

In addition, the public benefits were minor and would not outweigh the demonstrable harm caused to the setting of the listed building.



## A chance to meet a bestselling author



THRILLER addicts who turn up at Culcheth's Forget-Me-Not Toy and Book shop on Saturday, December 11, to meet bestselling author David Costa may be in for a surprise.

For David Costa is the pen name of Culcheth resident and Croft parish councillor Paul Campbell.

He will be signing copies of his recently published books "Tested by Fire" and "Light of the Sun" – part of the David Reece Black Ops trilogy.

The third book is likely to be published next year.

Paul decided to use a pen name for his novels because of his police background – he served 26 years in Northern Ireland, 23 of them in Special Branch.

He had been planning to write a novel for years and the Covid lockdown gave him the time to turn out "Tested by Fire" – a tense thriller set in Manchester when the Conservative Party conference was taking place and the central character, David Reece, and the SG9 Black Ops team are racing against time to thwart a joint Real IRA-Islamic Jihad plot to assassinate the British Prime Minister.

It became a bestseller on Amazon – which encouraged Paul to produce his second book in rapid time.

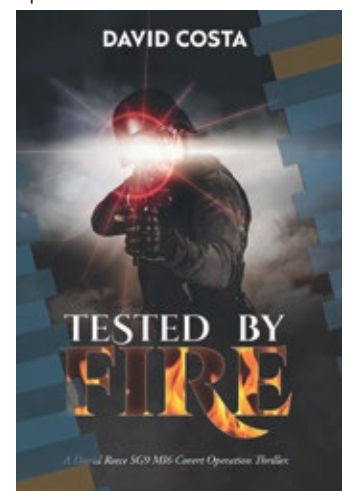
"Light of the Sun" again involves David Reece and his team, this time

trying to stop a terrorist plot to set off a dirty bomb in London.

Although both books are fictional, they benefit from the authenticity Paul is able to provide drawing on his own Special Branch service in the RUC. Both are available in print and as e-books from Amazon.

How did Paul decide on his pen name? Well, it came to him when he was relaxing – in a coffee shop!

He will be at Forget-Me-Not on December 11 between 11am and 2pm.



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# Darron approaching last leg of his 1,000 mile marathon journey



**CHARITY** runner Darron Bibby from Culcheth is putting in the miles to raise funds for The Christie Charity in Manchester as he approaches the final leg of his marathon journey.

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.

Darron 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.

At time of press he had completed 914 miles leaving just 86 miles to

go to achieve his minimum target.

Darron said: "So far I have raised £1585.00 through my truly wonderful and amazing supporters who have kindly sponsored me.

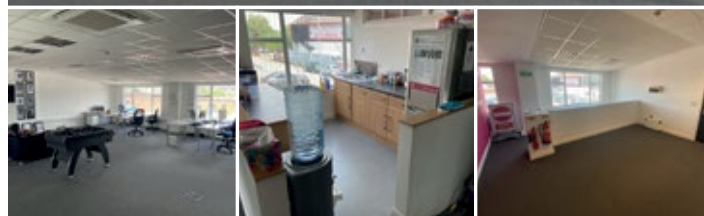
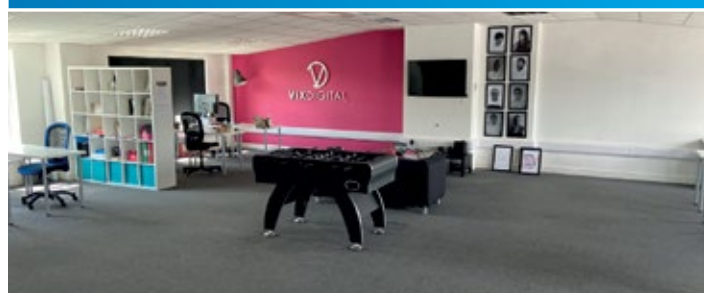
"If anyone would like to sponsor me they can either make a one off donation or alternatively sponsor me a minimum of a penny for every mile I complete."

Donations can be made on his just giving page as follows:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/darronbibby](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/darronbibby)

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# Discover what's on offer at your local college!



As the winter evenings draw in, you may find yourself pondering about 2022, your career and what that might look like.

Perhaps you want to aim for a promotion, but need to improve your management skills? Perhaps you are considering university, a change of direction and would like to study something new to help move towards that change? Or perhaps you would just like to finally learn a new skill?

Whatever your motivation, take some time to discover what's on offer this winter at Warrington & Vale Royal College.

We have courses planned across a variety of subject areas and offered either in college, distance learning or blended learning (mix of both). Many of our distance learning courses are FREE and can be studied independently and at your own pace at home or within the workplace.

Take a look at our website and give our Learner Services Team a call on **01925 494 400**, or attend our Adult Enrolment Evening on the **7<sup>th</sup> December, 5.00 PM - 8.00 PM** at our Warrington campus.

**With unprecedented demand for many of our courses this September, be sure to enquire early as places fill up fast!**

**wvr.ac.uk**

**01925 494 400**



## Your health & well-being is our priority.

Warrington & Vale Royal College continues to follow Government guidelines in ensuring the availability of hand sanitisers across college, regular cleaning of classrooms and the wider college, as well as close monitoring of the ventilation systems.

Face coverings are optional.\*

\*correct at the time of writing



**ELIZABETH BUXTON**  
Level 3 Childcare

"The best thing about studying here is getting to do what I love."



**HARRY LOWE**  
Level 2 Plumbing  
"The skills I learnt on my course have definitely helped me secure a job."



**LOUIS LIPTROTT**  
Level 3 Sport  
"I've really enjoyed my time here and I've been offered some great opportunities."

# SCHOOL LEAVER OPEN EVENING

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

**5.00PM - 8.00PM**

Register now: **wvr.ac.uk/openevenings**



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& Vale Royal  
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**TIMOTHY LEE**  
Level 3 Games Design  
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