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Magazine

ISSUE 220 | DECEMBER 2021

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Sleeping Beauty**

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# Editor's Comment



**WITH the shadow of Covid still hanging over us, in its various variants, there is perhaps more cause than usual for us all to be wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

At times we must all be feeling that life will never return to "normal" – but there are also times we can only marvel at the resilience of people in the face of adversity. And that is true in Culcheth and district as elsewhere.

But we are reliably informed that there is one thing we can look forward to in the New Year – a

fantastic, re-shaped and improved Culcheth Library.

It was disappointing when we learned that we were not to get a completely new library. But then we were promised a refurbishment that would be as good as a new library. Now we are informed it is on its way and that soon details will be revealed.

What can we expect?

Well, there will be a new entrance porch, a patio area with fixed tables and chairs where people can sit and enjoy the open air. Inside, existing features will be retained and more space will be created with an atrium reading room.

All this is thanks to collaboration between the Friends of Culcheth Library (FOCL) the borough council and LiveWire. Funding comes from the local authority but we are told there is still a need to raise more money locally to provide valuable additional features. So when the FOCL come calling, please remember just how much Culcheth needs a good library.

## Mental Health survey of rural residents

LOCAL charity Cheshire Community Action is carrying out research on the mental health needs of rural communities to help it develop new mental health services in rural areas.

They are inviting residents to take 5 minutes to complete an anonymous survey by clicking this link [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/mentalhealthrural](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/mentalhealthrural)

The survey is open until 7th Jan 2022.

Depending on what they find, this will inform the development of new projects and services in mental health.

It could also inform their overall strategy by identifying where resources are most needed.

It will give provide valuable

evidence to influence other service providers and funders within the public and voluntary sectors to help improve service provision in rural areas.



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# Players prepare for first show at new home with Sleeping Beauty

**CULCHETH Players have started rehearsals for their annual pantomime – which will be their first production at their new home at Newchurch Parish Hall.**

And in another first, the panto – Sleeping Beauty – will be staged over two weekends – Saturday and Sunday January 15 and 16 and

Saturday and Sunday January 22 and 23.

There will be two performances on each day – at 1pm and 6.30pm.



Seating capacity in the hall is limited but with the show being performed over two weekends, if you can't get in on the first weekend you will have the opportunity of catching the next.

Culcheth Players describe Sleeping Beauty as "the pantomime of your dreams." There will be music, dance and laughs-a-plenty.

As in previous years, dancers from the Rosemary Powell School of Dance will be taking part. They are already hard at work, giving

up their Saturday mornings to perfect their routines.

To avoid the possibility of having to turn people away at the door, there will be no opportunity, as in previous years, to pay at the door. Tickets will only be available to purchase in advance and are available online only.

Tickets are £7 (no concessions) and can be purchased through the website [www.culchethplayers.co.uk](http://www.culchethplayers.co.uk).



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## Croft Parish Council News



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Mike Pope after over 10 years as Clerk to the Parish has decided to retire and his last day was on October 31st 2021. He has been dedicated and efficient in everything he has done, and with his advice and experience has made Croft Parish Council, what it is today, a well run and financially sound council. Whilst we are sorry to see him go, we realise that life must go on, so the council at its November meeting welcomed our new Clerk Helen Buckley. At that meeting the Chairman on behalf of his fellow councillors present Mike with a glass globe and a copy of his last meeting in October, which turned out to be his 100th. We wish him and his wife well in whatever they decides to do in the future.

In response to the illegal encampment on the CYAC site, the parish council had a meeting with officers of WBC with regard to making the grassed area more secure. One suggestion, which has been looked at, and being costed at the moment, is putting heavier wooden rails around the area. Unfortunately WBC say they have no funds to do this, however the parish council will be pressing for them to provide the funding. This needs doing sooner rather than later.

**The Local Plan** – The Parish Council are totally against the encroachment onto the Green Belt of a minimum of 75 homes in Croft Village. We have employed, along with Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council a planning consultant, to put together our objections to the plan. This has now been submitted. We also held an information session for the residents, especially in the area most affected. The turnout was over 50 residents. Hopefully somebody in the council will listen to us and change it.

**Bus Service 19** – We have had over the last month a number of Croft residents complaining that the 19 bus service is a total shambles Not turning up on time, not turning up at all, residents having to wait 2 hours for a bus, early morning in the cold. For far too long Croft has been cut off after 7.00pm and the council have written to the bus company and WBC to ask for urgent action to sort this problem out.

**On behalf of Croft Parish Council we would like to wish all our residents a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year**

Residents may contact Croft Parish Council's Clerk on Email: [croftparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:croftparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
The Parish Council issues updates and information on Twitter: [@croftparish](https://twitter.com/croftparish)  
Web: [www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk](http://www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk)



# Dismay at Parkside decision from local councillors

**LOCAL councillors have been left dismayed at the government's decision to allow the proposed development of the former Parkside colliery site near Winwick and its new link road.**

The decision was made by Michael Gove, Minister for 'levelling Up', Housing and Communities.

Croft Parish Councillor Norman Partington said, "The £40m Parkside Link Road will join the A579 Winwick Lane within our territory and has been a matter of particular concern to us, cutting through 93 acres of green belt."

A new roundabout is proposed at the junction, with a new dual carriageway to carry the additional volume of traffic up to junction 22 of the M6.

Councillor Gary Farnsworth added: "Not only will this mean

increased heavy vehicles and traffic queuing locally, it will also attract the development of warehousing/distribution centres in previously protected countryside."

The Parkside proposal was supported by St. Helens Borough Council but in 2018 Warrington Borough Council decided to object to it after a public outcry, including objections from the Parkside Action Group set up to oppose it. But they withdrew their objection two years later. Croft and Culcheth & Glazebury parish councils commissioned a planning consultant to oppose the scheme.

But then the government called

the proposals in for a public inquiry, which took place in January of this year.

The government's planning inspectorate conducted the inquiry and a decision has been expected

from the minister since then.

Cllrs Partington and Farnsworth say the decision will mean huge disruption with construction vehicles and roadworks going forward.



## Police continue to appeal for information following machete incident

POLICE are continuing to appeal for information and video footage following reports of a teenager with a machete style knife following an incident at the Shaw Street Recreation ground.

At around 9.30pm on Saturday 13 November, police were called to reports of anti-social behaviour on Shaw Street, involving a group of around 20 youths who were shouting and causing a disturbance.

The caller stated that they had approached the group and asked them to leave.

During the incident one of the group, a teenage boy who was stood approximately six to 10 foot away, pulled a machete style knife out of his pants.

No threats were made towards the victim and the teenager ran off over the playing field.

Inspector Ruth Atherton said: "I understand the concern this

incident is likely to cause and we are doing all we can to establish what took place.

"We've not any reports of any incidents of a similar nature, however patrols have also been stepped up in the area to provide reassurance local residents."

Officers investigating the incident have since arrested an 18-year-old man.

The teenager was arrested at around 12pm on Thursday

18 November at an address in Latchford on suspicion of affray and possession of a knife.

He has since been released on bail pending further enquiries.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and anyone with any information or video footage is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tua](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua), quoting IML 1131805.

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**Widnes Urgent Treatment Centre**  
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If you travel by car, there is onsite parking (sat nav WA8 7GD)

There is also an Urgent Treatment Centre in St Helens at the Millennium Centre.

**Anyone who has a cough, high temperature or any symptoms of COVID-19 should only attend Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre when they can provide evidence of a recent negative PCR test. This requirement applies only to Runcorn UTC.**

You can find current waiting times for Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre, as well as Warrington Emergency Department at [www.whh.nhs.uk](http://www.whh.nhs.uk)

**Not sure where to seek help or advice?**

If you're worried about your health this winter, don't delay, your local NHS is there to make sure you get the care you need.

Winter conditions can be bad for our health, especially for people aged 65 or older, and people with long-term conditions.

If you need urgent medical advice

and are not sure which is the best place for you to seek help and advice, then please contact NHS 111 free at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) or call 111. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You will answer questions about your symptoms on the website, or by speaking with a fully trained advisor on the phone. Depending on the situation, you receive health information and advice and will find out what local service is right for you.

NHS 111 can also provide appointment slots for patients at local Urgent Treatment Centres, where appropriate.

If you're experiencing a 999

emergency, which means that it is critical or life-threatening, then phone 999 for emergency help.

Making the right choices helps us all. Please let's do it together this winter.





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# Volunteer scoops national award for dedication to Cancer Race for Life

**CULCHETH volunteer Veronica Hyland has scooped a national award from Cancer Research UK in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the cause.**

The charity's annual Flame of Hope Awards acknowledge remarkable efforts in volunteering made by people from all walks of life.

Veronica, aged 65, was named a Cancer Research UK Honorary Fellow in celebration of her exceptional loyalty and dedication to the cause over many years.

She picked up the award at a ceremony in Manchester hosted by Jenny Murgatroyd, Divisional Senior Manager at Cancer Research UK.

An audience at the Manchester Hall heard how retired IT professional Veronica has volunteered to help organise Race for Life and other Cancer Research events across the North West for over 12 years.

Veronica first got involved with the events following the death of her Mother in law. Since then she has taken part in races across the North West despite being diagnosed with cancer twice.

She said: "Receiving something like this is lovely and it feels really special. It was a wonderful day meeting all of the other volunteers

and hearing about what they do and how they raise money for Cancer Research.

"I've really enjoyed volunteering at Race for Life events. I first started helping out as it got to the point where I couldn't keep asking people for sponsorship money! So, I put myself forward to volunteer.

"Once you've been involved for so many years you can really step into any role and help the event organisers.

"It's wonderful to be involved with. I'm retired now and I love working with younger people and seeing so many families and groups of friends coming together to raise money."

Her most memorable moment from volunteering came when she stood on stage to launch the races at Haydock Racecourse in 2012 and Tatton Park in 2014, sharing her story with the thousands of runners taking part.

"It was an amazing feeling to be the person who stood on stage and told my story, which tends not to be too much about being ill, but about getting better. Being up on stage and seeing the thousands of people



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# National award for Cancer Research UK for Life



in front of you in pink and starting off the race was fantastic. It was a real highlight for me."

Michelle Mitchell, Cancer Research UK's chief executive, said: "The past 18 months has shown us – more than ever – how fortunate we are to have the support of our incredible volunteers."

"The Flame of Hope awards give us the opportunity to celebrate and say thank you to our dedicated volunteers for the fantastic work they continue to do."

"One in two of us will get cancer in our lifetime,\* and we can all play a part to help beat it. Cancer Research UK's pioneering work into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer has helped save millions of lives but this has only been possible thanks to the commitment of our supporters and volunteers, without whom we would be unable to fund outstanding scientists, doctors and nurses."

Veronica was among a total of 80 individuals and groups from across the UK recognised at the awards ceremony.

The 2021 Flame of Hope awards were held at six locations across the UK throughout November.

But for now, Veronica is looking forward to Race for Life events

beginning again next year.

"I can't wait. I'll probably do around 10 next year across the North West. We need to do the fundraising."

"Fundraising has been so, so difficult this past 18 months. I benefitted from the research for sure, some of the drugs I had, and the trials have been paid for and run by CRUK and all patients benefit from these things. I can't wait for the events to get going again."

Paul Boden, Cancer Research UK spokesperson for Warrington, said: "This is the first year we have celebrated our Flame of Hope award winners with events across the UK – making the occasions more personal for our amazing supporters."

"It's thanks to the support of the fundraising public and our amazing army of volunteers that we can continue to make a real difference and bring forward the day when all cancers are cured."

Cancer Research UK has celebrated the achievements of more than 1,500 people since launching its Flame of Hope awards in 2013.

For more information about Cancer Research UK visit [cruk.org](http://cruk.org)

## The Gardening Guide



“If you are having a real Christmas tree keep it away from heat sources and in a water holding stand to keep it fresh for longer.”

Simon Box,  
Plant Area Specialist

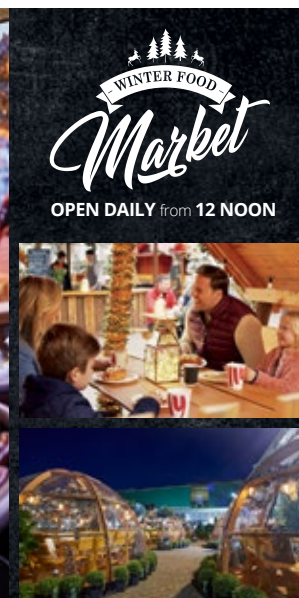
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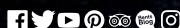
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# Rising Jazz star Chelsea releases her debut album

**FORMER Culcheth schoolgirl Chelsea Carmichael – now a rising star in the jazz world – has released her debut album.**

"The River Doesn't Like Strangers" is the first album to be released by new label Native Rebel Recordings and it features Chelsea on tenor sax, guitarist David Okumu, bassist Tom Herbert and drummer Edward Wakill-Hick.

According to the London Jazz News website, the album "sounds pretty special – modern, dubby, spiritual and vital. Carmichael's playing has the strength and personality to make the most of the highly produced soundscape and is at the centre of everything."

Chelsea first learned to play at Culcheth High School, where she was a member of the school's swing band.

She originally asked her Dad, Winston, to buy her a violin. But he didn't fancy the sound of someone practising violin around the house so bought her a piano instead. But as she found herself drifting towards jazz, she switched to tenor saxophone although she still plays piano for composing.

After leaving school, Chelsea studied at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London and, after graduating, became a professional musician in London. She had toured widely and played with many of the leading jazz groups of the day, including Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra.

She has also established herself as an educator and was musical director of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra Jazz Messengers, a group that toured the country helping to develop new jazz talent. During this time, she returned to her old school at Culcheth to help and encourage young music students.

The 10-minute title track of her album was inspired by something her Dad, Winston, said about the river, which flows through the centre of his home village, Grants Level, in Jamaica.

Chelsea said: says, "I feel the way that I play on this record draws inspiration from the lineage of black music making and the Caribbean Diasporas. It only felt right to reference my own lineage, and what has always been inside me even before a saxophone was put in my hands".

The London Jazz News review of her album ends: "What will be interesting is what comes next, as judging by her work with others there are more aspects of her musicality than are apparent here. But if a record is truly a snapshot in time, this will serve her well and, whatever happens, Chelsea Carmichael is surely on her way."



## Green Belt homes plan likely to go ahead

PLANS to build two dwellings on land at Barrow Farm, in Kenyon Lane, Croft are likely to go ahead following the refusal by Warrington planning chiefs to grant permission for three dwellings.

The planners have ruled that a development of three properties would be inappropriate in the Green Belt.

But an earlier scheme, approved in 2018, involving only two dwellings, remains valid and will probably go ahead, according to applicants Andrew and Bettina Sharpe.

Both schemes would involve the demolition of modern, steel-framed agricultural buildings of no historic or architectural interest.

Barrow Farm itself is a Grade 2 Listed building.



## Croft man shortlisted for national award

A CROFT man has been shortlisted for this year's RICS Young Surveyor of the Year award (Land Rural and Urban).

Jack Sharpe, aged 34, is director of Wigan-based property consultancy T Fazakerley and Son – the fifth generation of his family to work in the business founded by his great, great grandfather in the early 1900s.

He took over the business in January after being in practise for 10 years, working in Manchester and Cambridge where he worked for six years undertaking valuations of rural and residential property.

A rural surveyor by background, Jack is keen to grow the business in the North West, embracing changes and investing in new computer systems. The firm has recently taken on Heather Sargent to assist with residential sales and lettings – although they still employ Jack's grandfather's secretary, who has been with them since the mid 1970s.

The business has a number of clients in Culcheth and Croft and have recently been instructed to sell some land at Glazebury and also sold nine acres of rural land in Wigan.



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### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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### PARISH NEWS

#### Glazebury Traffic

A meeting has been held between members of the Parish Council, Matt Smith (representing Glazebury Traffic Working Group) and Steve Jones (representing ChALC Cheshire Association of Local Councils) regarding a trial of an average speed camera system in Glazebury Village. The Parish Council has put Glazebury forward as a trial site. There were over 20 applicants for this scheme from sites across Cheshire. The Parish Council will fund the trial if Glazebury is picked as one of four sites to test the impact of this technology. It is expected that we will find out the results of this application in the next few months.

#### Glazebury Play Area

It was agreed at October's Parish Council meeting that the Parish Council would contribute towards the updating of the green play area in Glazebury. The contribution will come from the windmill fund and will partially fund the installation of new logs in the children's play area adjacent to Bent's allotments.

#### Law and Order

Speed enforcement has continued on Warrington Road in Culcheth and Glazebury. Several offenders were caught near Mee Brow. There has been an increase in requests from local schools for the Police to engage with young people. This is a positive opportunity for community policing after 18 months of online working. Crime generally was low in Culcheth and Glazebury over the past month.

#### Local Plan

The Parish Council in conjunction with Croft Parish Council funded a response to Warrington Borough Council's Local Plan from a Planning Consultant. This was submitted ahead of the November 15th deadline. Parish Councillors attended a briefing for the Local Plan which was hosted by Planning Officers from Warrington Borough Council. Parish Councillors questioned Officers on the implications of the Local Plan for Culcheth and Glazebury. There has been a display of the Local Plan in the Library in Culcheth.

#### Remembrance Sunday

Parish Councillors attended remembrance services in Culcheth and Glazebury Churches on Sunday 14th November. Wreaths from Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council were laid on the war memorials at the Churches. This was a poignant opportunity to remember those lost during conflicts, especially on the 100th anniversary of The Royal British Legion.

**Next Parish Council Meeting is on December 14th  
7:30pm at the Culcheth Centre**

#### 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)





# Silver medal for gymnast Charlotte



## A LOCAL gymnast picked up a silver medal after a finely-balanced performance at the Acrobatic IDP British Finals.

Charlotte Kerboas, who studies at Priestley College, finished second in the Women's Group competition with her teammates Hannah Guerin and Emma Green.

They were representing the North West and were only beaten by the North's number one team.

Charlotte said: "We weren't disappointed about finishing second because the other team could definitely have been performing at a higher level of competition."

The trio have only been practising together since August, but despite that came through with an impressive two-minute routine at the Fenton Manor Sports Complex.

They had to produce a series of three tariffed moves linked by some dynamic choreography.

Charlotte faced her toughest moment of the performance during the first balance section.

"I was about to fall over and had to fight to keep hold of it," she said. "I got cramp in my toes, but I told

myself 'I am not falling today'."

Charlotte started gymnastics when she was seven after giving it a go with a friend and discovering she had a talent for it.

The former Lowton High School student is studying PE, Architecture and Applied Science at Priestley College. She hopes to go into coaching after finishing her studies.

Her next step in gymnastics, however, is to qualify for the British finals again next year.

"We've got the prelims in March and maybe it will be a gold medal next time," she said.

Head of Sport at Priestley Nigel Howells, who also teaches Charlotte, said everyone in the cohort was proud of her achievement.

"It's always a great moment when one of our own is successful on the national stage," he said.

"We wish Charlotte well for her future in the sport and with her belief I am certain the team can win gold next year."

## 2021 Christmas & New Year Bus Services

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Normal Service (school holidays)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Hybrid Saturday Service with 22/47/48/96/98/590 & 596 operating (with earlier evening finishes on 24 <sup>th</sup> )
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	No Service
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday Service
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday Service
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Hybrid Saturday/Sunday Service with 5/5A/47/48/96/590 & 596 operating (with earlier evening finished on 31 <sup>st</sup> )
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	No Service
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Sunday Service
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Sunday Service
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Normal Service (school day timetables)



## Walking Football group back in action

CULCHETH Walking Football Group is back in action following the COVID lockdown.

More than 20 members attended a social at the Tiffin Restaurant – who have sponsored the group for two years.

Three lady members have now joined the group and take part in training sessions at Culcheth High School on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

Formed in 2016 to encourage the Over 50s age group to get some exercise the team now competes in various North West competitions. They were due to play in the Euro Cup in Portugal in April, but this was cancelled because of COVID. But they hope to be in next year's contest in April.

Chairman Denis Sutherland said: "We offer exercise, companionship and a social life for the Over 50s community."



# WI members knitted scarves to keep a building warm!



**MEMBERS of Croft WI got busy with knitting needles when the Cheshire Federation set a challenge to knit scarves to surround a local building.**

They chose Croft Memorial Hall, where they have always held their meetings.

The scarves – knitted with wool provided at a discount by local firm Black Sheep Wools – will be donated to the YMCA for distribution to the homeless and an Afghanistan refugee charity.

President Anne Lamming gave her yearly report at the AGM and thanked secretary Gail Grimshaw, treasurer Gill Brandford-White and all members of the committee and helpers for all their hard work during another challenging year.

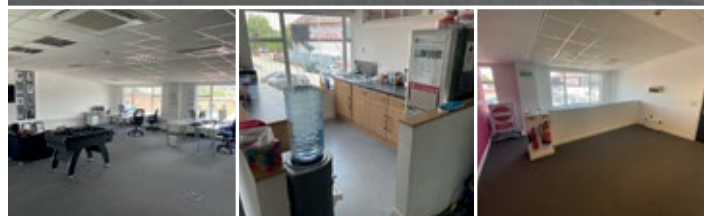
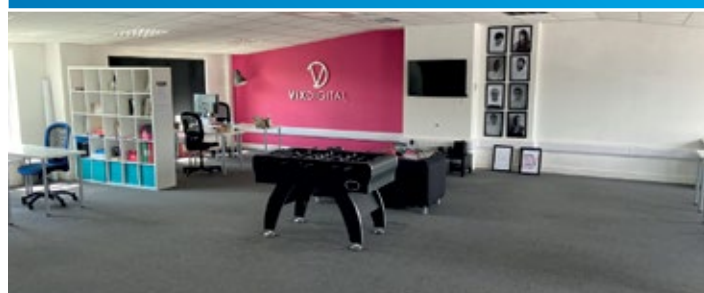
Due to the pandemic, face to face meetings were not possible and Zoom meetings, including speakers, were started in January. These proved extremely popular and enabled members to enjoy interesting talks and also to catch up with friends in the comfort of their own homes. A Zoom Craft Day was also organised.

Gill Coon was thanked for producing a monthly "Lockdown Newsletter" containing WI news and articles by members, which was sent out via e-mail.

In July, when Covid cases started to wane, it was decided to start face to face meetings for members who felt comfortable mixing in groups again, but at the same time continuing to use the Zoom facility for more vulnerable ladies. Activity groups were re-started including; Bowls, Knit and Natter, Busy Bakers, Darts, Scrabble, Luncheon Club, Readers Group, Singing for Fun and Walking Netball. Two trips were organised to RHS Bridgewater and Burtonwood Heritage Centre, which proved very popular. A successful produce show and special WI tree planting ceremony were held in September, so considering all the challenges, 2021 proved to be another successful year for Croft WI.

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## **ADULT ENROLMENT EVENING**

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5.00PM - 8.00PM**

**wvr.ac.uk/adults**

**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.