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Magazine

ISSUE 221 | JANUARY 2022
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High school musical

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

WITH the current COVID-19 situation likely to change at any given time it is hard to look into the future for the year ahead.

As we went into another lockdown last year after having Christmas Day together, little did we know that due to the Omicron variant we would all still be having restrictions on our lives this coming Christmas.

During the past year we have lost many of our regular clients, particularly the hospitality and leisure sectors, making it difficult to continue in print – but like many we have soldiered on to the best of our ability.

Sadly many people have also lost loved ones and my thoughts go out to all those who have suffered bereavement, especially as this time of the year.

Public New Year celebrations have already been cancelled in Scotland and London and I fear more to come as the new Omicron variant rips through the country.

At time of print the chancellor was again announcing grants to those in the hospitality sector who have suffered in the run up to Christmas due to cancellations – but I am sure there are many others, in lots of different businesses who have all seen a downward turn in trade.

Who knows what lies ahead as we hear talk and media speculation of further restrictions.

But let's not focus on the doom and gloom – let's celebrate all the great work that has continued at

pace within the community.

There has been some outstanding work by the Helping Hands team throughout the pandemic, supported by local school children and others, while the amount of money raised by Warren Bibby and the team at Culcheth Royal British Legion to support veterans, is simply breath taking.

Our local churches have also worked hard throughout the pandemic, along with our health providers and the NHS along with the various community groups and local council.

There is also great work continuing in our local schools and the many various community groups, all doing their bit to try and improve peoples' lives during

unprecedented times.

Let us try and look to the future with some optimism and hopefully this time next year we will have fully learned to live with COVID and return to some kind of normality.

Happy New Year from the team at **Culcheth Life** and a big thank you to all those who have continued to support us.

Deadline for the February issue of Culcheth Life is January 25



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Audiences were blown away by high school musical

THEY had to wait two years for it – thanks to Covid – but audiences at Culcheth High School’s annual Christmas Show were quick to say it had been worth the wait.

They were simply blown away by the spectacle, the dazzling costumes, the special effects and the talents of the students when ‘We Will Rock You New Vision’ was finally performed.

Twenty four of Queen’s greatest hits were performed between the acted scenes and cast and crew certainly entertained.

Songs such as ‘We Will

Rock You’, ‘Somebody to Love’, ‘Radio GaGa’ and ‘We are the Champions’ had the audiences singing and stomping their feet for the entire performance. There was even a surprise encore of ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ at the end of the show, which had the audience up on their feet and waving their arms.

The show was a sell-out. The cast

had a standing ovation on all three evenings from the audience and there were countless outstanding reviews from the local community.

The staff, cast and crew, led by Miss Vic Longden, head of drama and choreographer, and Mr John Morris, facilities manager and technical director, worked tirelessly for 12 weeks in preparation. They gave up lunchtimes, evenings and weekends, but every sacrifice of time was worth it and the audiences certainly agreed.

Despite all of the disruption of COVID and having to cancel the show in 2020, the school was determined that in 2021, with COVID measures in place, the show must go on.

The school is immensely proud of everyone who took part and the students really did embody the school values of Respect, Honesty and Excellence, conducting themselves in a manner to be applauded.



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During 2021 our work with our community partners plus NHS Charities Together has made it possible to deliver legacy projects which will continue to have a positive impact on patients for many years to come.

We have created a Remembrance Garden at Warrington Hospital which provides a calm place for people to reflect, relax and remember their loved ones. It features flowers, trellises and seating areas with wooden benches and a lovely stone birdbath at its centre which was donated in memory of one of our patients.

The charity and corporate partner also made it possible to create a new therapy garden just outside our Stroke Ward at Warrington Hospital. This provides a calm and

quiet outdoor space where patients who have experienced a stroke can socialise, receive visits from children and pets or participate in group therapy sessions – all of which are known to provide psychological and physical benefits for patients and aid recovery. WHH Charity funding was supplemented by a grant from Sellafeld Ltd and a £500 donation from Warrington Lions.

Our Community Hub at Warrington Hospital continues to support the experience of our patients while in hospital through providing Boredom Busters to keep patients occupied during long days in hospital. We also provide 'new clothing and toiletries' for patients in need whilst in our care.

Located in a portacabin off Kendrick wing, but external to the main hospital, the Community Hub is open Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm, please call the charity team 01925 662666 to further discuss any kind offer of donations.

Head of Fundraising at WHH

Charity, Helen Higginson, said: "There is so much we can do to support our patients, their families and even our staff, but we can only continue this important work with the support and generosity of our local communities.

"During 2022 we want to create as many different ways as possible to forge new partnerships with organisations, other charitable bodies and, of course, our local residents.

"We aim to make it as easy as possible to get involved and all support is welcomed. Whether it

is regular giving, a commitment to corporate fundraising or even a one-off donation – there are so many ways for individuals and organisations to get involved. Every single gesture of support, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated and makes a huge difference."

For more details of how to get involved and make a difference to your local hospitals visit www.whhcharity.org.uk. Or why not call us on 01925 662666 or email whh.charity@nhs.net







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Warrington Hospital also recently opened its new Remembrance Garden.

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First look at library

A FIRST look has been revealed of what the newly renovated Culcheth Village Library might look like.

It will include a remodelled, newly landscaped front elevation and a newly constructed Atrium reading room.

The exterior will merge a newly constructed entrance porch with a colonnaded, covered way and curvilinear patio area, which will catch the all-day sunshine. The patio area will link with the existing, but

newly landscaped grassed area at the front of the library.

Fixed tables and benches will enable people to use the area to meet and greet friends prior to using the library, or just to chat and enjoy the open area.

A more shady space at the left hand side of the building will be available for people of all ages to

Litter-picking councillor takes matters into his own hands – literally!

LITTER has become such a problem in Culcheth and Glazebury that it has prompted a parish councillor to literally take the matter into his own hands.

Cllr Neil Johnson and his volunteers now run a litter picking session every Saturday and estimate they have picked up at least 130 kilos of waste since starting their mission.

Parish council chairman Cllr Ben Alldred said: "The Parish Council funds street cleaning along

Warrington Road from Culcheth to the Greyhound roundabout, but Neil's work is still much needed."

"The council's contractor litter-picks the children's play area and the Green in Culcheth, and tidies up the youth shelter and bus shelters we provide.

"Neil's work ensures other areas stay safe and litter free."

Cllr Johnson said: "Please pick up your litter and take it home as it can become a dangerous hazard for pets, farm animals and wildlife."



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renovation project

sit and chat.

Inside, the library will retain its current facilities to include the multi-purpose room, but space will be increased and enhanced by the full enclosure of the currently unused outdoor garden area to form an Atrium Reading Room.

Janet Evans, of the Friends of Culcheth Library, said: "This architecturally designed, aesthetically pleasing space will enable people to read, relax and participate in the different and extra library based activities that will be taking place."

The Friends of Culcheth Library (FoCL), and now its fundraising arm, FoCL Fundraising Committee, have worked in close collaboration with Warrington Borough Council since the renovation ideas were first discussed.

Janet said: "The council has allocated a sum of money to carry out the work but further fund-raising will still be needed to provide things not covered by the local authority.

"This is going to be YOUR new village library and community space .. give it your support in terms of time, money and your presence!"

Residents can donate by scanning the QR Code in this article or by giving a one off donation to the Friends of Culcheth Library - bank account details: account number 66087341, sort code 01-09-17.

The library renovation project is a collaboration between the borough council, LiveWire and the Friends of Culcheth Library.



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- Recycle your Christmas tree. Shred it and use it as mulch – especially round acid loving plants
- Don't leave houseplants on windowsills behind curtains on cold nights as temperatures can drop suddenly
- Now is a good time to sharpen, clean and oil tools ready for the new season and check whether any of them need replacing

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Community Poppy Appeal raises a staggering £38,214



THE Royal British Legion Village Club at Culcheth has proudly announced it raised a staggering £38,214 for this year's Poppy Appeal in just 15 days.

Club members, local volunteers along with 70th Croft and Culcheth Squadron Air Training Cadets, Culcheth Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Culcheth Girl Guides and Brownies and Culcheth Eagles Girls team, all rallied around to collect in four major stores in the area, along with distributing over 300 poppy boxes in local shops, pubs, clubs, schools and local businesses.

RBL Culcheth and District Poppy

Appeal Manager Wayne Bibby said: "The Poppy appeal really brings our community volunteers together in Culcheth and District.

"This money raised, will make a huge difference to all our veterans in need of help and support. I'd like to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers and of course to everyone that has made a donation this year."

Schools unite to donate Christmas hampers to Helping Hands

TWO Schools united to donate Christmas hampers and festive goodies to the Helping Hands Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft community group.

St Lewis' RC Primary school in Croft and Glazebury C of E Primary School donated a festive collection of goodies to the Helping Hands a community group, run by volunteers that distributes essentials to those in need in the WA3 area.

Founder of Culcheth Glazebury & Croft Helping Hands, Wendy Maisey OBE, who is also a Borough Councillor in the ward of Culcheth Glazebury & Croft said,

"Christmas is a time when we get together with friends and family and think about those less fortunate in our community who may be in need of help, or those who would benefit from a kind gesture. Our hampers will be going out to people throughout WA3 and I'd like to say a huge thank you to all at the children, staff and Parents at St Lewis' and Glazebury C of E Primary school on behalf of the Culcheth and Orford Branches of Helping Hands, you really have made a big difference with your kindness".

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All-weather sports pitch plan thrown out

PLANS for a 4G all-weather sports pitch on the site of a former bowling green at Culcheth Sports Club have been thrown out by Warrington planning chiefs.

Planners ruled that the benefits of the proposed all-weather pitch would not outweigh the loss of the former bowling green.

They said no strategic need had been demonstrated, it would not be sustainable development and insufficient information had been provided showing the scheme could satisfactorily cater for potential parking demand. The scheme also involved proposals for a 5m high-security fence enclosing the pitch.

Sport England also opposed the proposal because of the loss of the bowling green, the loss of other bowling greens in the area, the lack of need for the proposed pitch and the fact that the scale and design of the pitch would not

conform with Football Foundation guidelines.

A petition supporting the scheme was received, but there were 14 letters of objection raising fears of noise, light pollution, insufficient parking, the proximity of homes, and the potential for alternative sites to be used.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council did not object but raised a number of queries regarding the proposed hours of operation and floodlights, as well as the purpose of the proposals.

A number of objectors said there was no need for the scheme as pitches were already available at Culcheth High School.

“Doggy Day Care” plan refused

A PLAN to set up a “doggy day care” centre has been thrown out by Warrington planning chiefs following strong opposition from nearby residents.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council also opposed the proposal in Warrington Road, Culcheth, which involved a change of use of a former printing works.

Six residents objected to the scheme, including local councillors Keith and Sue Bland and former councillor Jacqui Johnson.

Objections were based on the likely noise of barking dogs in close proximity to nearby houses, including pensioners’ bungalows.

One nearby resident said:

“I strongly object. Pensioners’ bungalows back directly onto the site and the rear garden is their only opportunity for fresh air. To sit there with ‘yapping’ dogs all day is unacceptable. Totally unreasonable to put dogs in such close proximity to bungalows.”

Fears were also voiced over the potential for smells and flies and how waste would be stored.

It was also suggested the development would cause congestion on Warrington Road and lead to dogs being walked on nearby Shaw Street playing fields.

The borough council’s environmental protection officer also lodged an objection.



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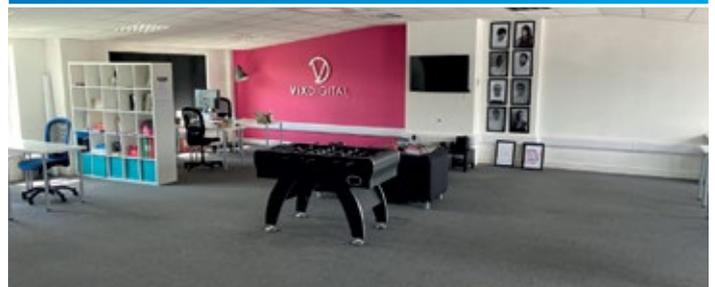
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Former Croft cadet is now GB Bobsleigh team elite athlete



FORMER Culcheth High School and ex Croft Cadet Alex Cartagena, who joined the RAF at 17 as a Mechanical Engineer, has recently become a member of the GB Bobsleigh team and is now an elite athlete and competing internationally.

Alex aged 24 has been competing in the European Cup consisting of two days of competition racing in Lillhammer, two days at Winterberg and finishes in January with two days in Igls in Austria.

After his first day of competing

recently, Alex (brakeman) and Adam Baird (Driver) competed for GB and out of 35 were 7th which proud mum Gill says "is amazing" with a fastest speed of 126.08 km/hr and three of the top six being from Switzerland.

Alex is new to the sport and

only got into a Bobsleigh approx 16 months ago after competing for the RAF in weight and power lifting when he was identified as showing good potential after speed trials, initially for the RAF at Cosford and then for the GB Team which trains at the University of Bath.

His team is now on the lookout for sponsorship after their best season so far.

They managed to get on 5 tracks and compete in four 2 man races

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They aim to go bigger and better, building the team in the off season to 4 man size (5-6 members).

The team got better every time they hit the ice and ended last season at the European championships with a 12th place finish in Konigssee!

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Electric vans will cut council's greenhouse gases by 40 per cent



BIRCHWOOD Town Council has added two electric vans to its fleet as part of its Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The two Maxus eDeliver 3 vans replace diesel vehicles that are no longer running.

Council chairman Cllr Russ Bowden said: "Our old vehicles had reached the end of their useable life and the new vehicles, while costing slightly more to buy, will bring down our running costs significantly. Our maintenance team operatives have already tried them out and have been very impressed by them."

Cllr David Ellis, who is also chairman of Warrington Climate Emergency Commission said: "It is great to see Birchwood leading the way in the changeover to electric vehicles, and we look forward to

seeing other parishes do the same. Diesel for our vehicles was the most significant source of greenhouse gases from Birchwood Town Council's activities and with this purchase, we have reduced this by about 40 percent, helping put us on target for our goal to be net zero emissions by 2030."

In June 2019 Birchwood Town Council was one of many local councils around the country to declare a climate emergency.

As part of its Climate Emergency Action Plan, the council pledged that all vans should be replaced with electric vehicles when they reach the end of their serviceable life.

Planning chiefs approve detached house on Green Belt site

PLANNING chiefs at Warrington have approved proposals for a detached house on Green Belt land at Glazebury.

The development at Wards End Farm, Lately Common involves demolition of an existing agricultural building.

Officers decided the development would be appropriate in the Green Belt after hearing the building had not been used for agricultural purposes for more than

10 years but had been used for storage of tools and equipment in connection with tree services and a livery business.

About 80 per cent of the building would be demolished and the rest retained for storage purposes.

There had been no objections from neighbours, nor from Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, although the council had noted it would be concerned about future developments in the Green Belt.



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wvr.ac.uk/adult **01925 494 400**

Subject to covid restrictions. Please ring in advance and check



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 required in the college's communal areas.