

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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Success on a world stage

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Editor's Comment



LOCAL MP Charlotte Nichols has accused the Government of more "broken promises," after the Bill for the Crewe-Manchester extension of the HS2 network was submitted to Parliament, including the controversial Golborne link, which would have a devastating impact on Culcheth and surrounding area.

While the prospect of high-speed journeys adding extra capacity into the rail network took a "giant leap forward" the Warrington North MP, who represents the Culcheth area, accused the Government and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of more "broken promises".

The Bill sets out legislation for the next phase of Britain's new high-speed, zero-carbon railway (known as the Phase 2b Western Leg), which will free up capacity on the congested West Coast Main Line and deliver significant connectivity, reliability and journey time benefits for passengers travelling between Scotland, the North, the Midlands and the South East.

The Bill, called the 'High-Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill', seeks powers to construct and operate the Phase 2b Western Leg.

On a more optimistic note Warrington South MP Andy Carter, who represents nearby Lymm, which will also be severely impacted, says that while the Bill currently includes the Golborne Spur, the Union Connectivity Review published at the end of 2021 has set out a programme to review this route.

He says he has spoken with the Secretary of State and made it clear

that it must be removed because there are better ways to connect HS2 to the west coast Mainline.

He says it will be possible to do this by making an amendment to the Bill, which he expects the Government to take once the connectivity review concludes its work.


What is clear is that if the Golbourne Spur/Link is still going to go ahead it will have a huge impact on Culcheth and the surrounding area.

Many residents are unhappy with the plan and still need to continue making their views clear.

Here in Culcheth and surrounding areas we will get all the pain without any of the gain with a huge impact on peoples' lives.

Let us all keep our fingers crossed that the Golborne Link is removed. Personally I still question the value of the entire project when you can already get directly to London from Warrington in under two hours!

**Deadline for the
March issue of
Culcheth Life
is February 22**





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Former Croft girl's success on a world stage

A FORMER Croft girl – now a grandmother aged 52 – competed in the World Championships of the internationally recognised sport of IPO in Spain.

Joanne Bridge won a place in the UK team in national competitions and helped the team to finish 8th overall – the highest finishing position it has ever achieved in the World Championships.

The former St Lewis' Primary and St Aelred's Secondary School pupil achieved the best overall position in the UK team – 18th. This has only been bettered once before in the past.



IPO, which stands for Internationale Prüfungs-Ordnung or International Trial Rules, is International Working Trials for Working Dogs and can be described as canine three day eventing, with dog and handler teams being examined and graded in three different disciplines – obedience, tracking and protection.

The sport originated in Germany about 100 years ago as an evaluation of German Shepherd Dogs but is now practised in 46 countries with many different breeds of dog taking part. The World Championships are both an individual and a team contest with

teams consisting of five competitors. The scores of the best three go forward to make the national total.

Joanne and her husband Chris Bows have been involved in IPO for many years and train at the South Cheshire IPO Club near their home in Moore – one of the most successful clubs in the UK.

It was Joanne's first World Championships and also a first for her dog, Xam, who is now four years old. Their success is regarded as a great achievement and was greeted with great enthusiasm by all fans of IPO and the working dog in the country who were able to watch the event via live streaming.



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Accident and Emergency departments are under severe pressure this winter, due to the latest COVID-19 surge meeting seasonal demand for emergency or urgent care. Warrington Hospital's Emergency Department is no different; with record numbers of patients seeking treatment.

Many of these patients, however, do have more suitable alternatives to Warrington Hospital's Emergency Department. NHS Urgent Treatment Centres in Runcorn and Widnes can often be the better choice when you need urgent but not emergency treatment.

Choosing to attend one of the Urgent Treatment Centres has many benefits this winter – not only will you experience shorter waiting times, but you will be freeing up resources at the Emergency Department at Warrington Hospital for more seriously ill patients.

Both Urgent Treatment Centres are open 8am to 9pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year (including bank holidays). Please arrive before 8pm to allow time to be seen before closing.

Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs) provide x-rays and you can be seen

here for a wide range of issues that require urgent treatment, but are not life-threatening, such as:

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Telephone: 01928 714567

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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.

A free shuttle bus service runs throughout the day, seven days per week between Warrington Hospital to Halton Hospital/Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre and takes only 25 minutes.

Not sure where to seek help or advice?

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 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.



Just think 111 online first

When you think you need A&E, go to 111.NHS.UK. We can arrange for you to be seen at an urgent treatment centre.



Planning battle looms over motorway service area plan

A PLANNING battle is set to take place over controversial proposals to build motorway services, including a 100-bed hotel, on Green Belt land near Birchwood.

Warrington Borough council planning chiefs refused permission for the development in June.

But developers Extra MSA Group have appealed against the decision – claiming there are very special circumstances to allow development in the Green Belt.

The matter will be thrashed out at a public inquiry.

Planning chiefs voted 7-4 to refuse the scheme in June – against the advice of their officers.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Croft Parish Council were both opposed to the scheme and altogether there were 16 objections.

The proposed service area would be on the M62, near to Junction 11.

Cllr Nigel Balding said the proposal would build on Green Belt land with significant visual and environmental impacts as well as adding traffic lights to the busy Junction 11 of the M62. It would be located only six miles from the existing Welcome Break Burtonwood Services.

He said: "It is a shame that this decision is being appealed. This development has the potential to cause traffic chaos at Junction 11, spoil the far-ranging views from Gorse Covert Mounds and ruin

the newly rewilded Biffa landfill site which is now extremely rich in wildlife.

"In terms of green belt, the current green spaces provide an important boundary for Birchwood on the edge of Warrington and halt urban spread towards Culcheth.

"While the site is planned to be alongside the proposed HS2 Golborne Spur, we hope that this may not happen. If these services are approved on the north side of the M62 it will provide a stepping stone towards further development along the peat-based fields east towards Manchester along the M62 as well as north towards Culcheth."

The planning application was originally rejected because councillors considered it to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

There were also concerns that the site was on an area of peat moss which provides a carbon reservoir which helps to combat climate change.

At the time, local councillors claimed it was a "victory for common sense."

Extra MSA already operate nine motorway service areas across the country.



Police hunt for Culcheth graffiti vandal

POLICE are on the hunt for a graffiti vandal that has targeted several buildings in the Culcheth area.

The unsightly spray paint, some of an offensive nature, appeared in Culcheth on the cycle shop on Warrington Road and the Dentist on Common Lane.

Police would like to hear from anyone who recognises the Tags or saw anything at the time.

Officers are also encouraging anyone who has found themselves a victim of paint spraying to report it officially using either the 101 number or the online reporting tool.

This will generate a Crime

reference number and enable police to join the incidents together.

To report a crime visit www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/



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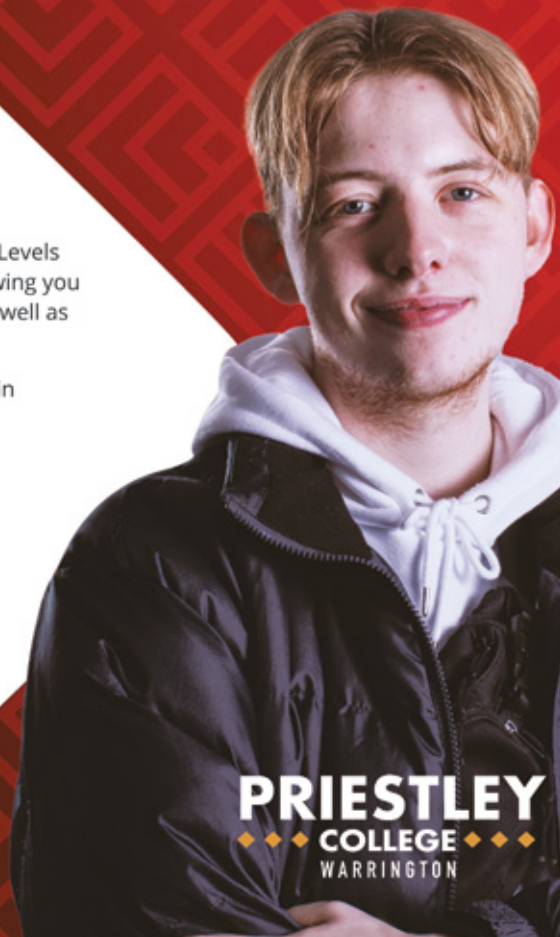
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The Dress Studio and Pageant Girl bounce

AFTER two years of uncertainty Culcheth business owner Holly Pirrie is planning for a busy year ahead for Pageant Girl and The Dress Studio, both heavily impacted by Covid-19 – although still able to raise over £50,000 for charity!

Like so many, the businesses simply had to stop trading for much of the pandemic.

Director, Holly said: "Our business relies solely on people being brought together. Our pageants are live events, they are about fun, making new friends and memories – with an audience... it's like one big party. However, there was no way these could be held in 2020 or in the first half of 2021. People kept suggesting that I hold virtual ones but for me, this would not have been close to the same. I spoke to the pageant finalists and they agreed, they all wanted that special moment to be on stage and to physically be together – and to hug!"

Holly and her team kept waiting and finally from July 2021, they were able to hold their events, including Miss Teen Great Britain.

"It has been a busy six months, it went from 0-100 overnight. I was continuously apprehensive that we may not be able to hold them but we did – and it was worth the

wait." Holly, who also runs the prom dress superstore, The Dress Studio at Culcheth, Warrington. Again, business completely stopped with proms being postponed or cancelled in 2020.

"My friends would say, you could just sell the dresses online... But our issue was that no-one needed the dresses because we could barely leave the house. I did go through all the different worries and concerns for the business but it was fantastic when we could re-open in 2021, prom was back on and everyone was ready to party."

The Dress Studio is now preparing for Prom 2022. They have hundreds of dresses instore and they know prom 2022 is going to be a memorable event for all! The store has over 30 changing rooms and so, there is plenty of space.

"After the two years that we have had, the students deserve the best prom and party. I am loving seeing all of their happy faces come into

the store and I know 2022 will be special for them," added Holly.

The company has raised over £550,000 for their chosen charities, including The Christie and Together for Short Lives. Their fundraising continued throughout the pandemic, raising over £50,000 – they plan to continue this into 2022.

For anyone looking to enter a pageant, you can visit www.pageantgirl.co.uk all events are

held in the Northwest and you can be aged 11 upwards – with no upper age limit!

"The pageants are the perfect opportunity if you are wanting to try something new, whether you want to build your confidence or make new friends, it's an incredibly fun experience," added Holly, herself a former Miss England finalist and previous holder of various Pageant crowns.



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BRIAN HAYES PHOTOGRAPHY

The Gardening Guide



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Simon Box,
Plant Area Specialist

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1,101 Miles and out!

Darron Bibby from Culcheth has put in the miles to raise funds for The Christie Charity in Manchester.

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

His journey started on 4th January 2021 with the aim of running 1,000 miles with his last run for this fundraiser being on New Year's Eve. 244 runs later he has completed 1,101 miles and more importantly has raised £2,931.25 for The Christie Charity.

Darren said: "I am delighted to have raised this money for The Christie Charity. Some of my early morning runs were quite hard especially on Christmas and Boxing Day but seeing the end result it has been so worthwhile. I would like to thank all 92 of my truly wonderful and very generous supporters who have kindly sponsored me and I would also like to thank every

single person who sent me lovely messages of support throughout the year this really helped me from a motivation point of view.



Plan to replace Green Belt farmhouse is thrown out

PLANS to demolish a dilapidated farmhouse in green belt and replace it with a new dwelling have been thrown out by planning chiefs at Warrington.

The scheme, put forward by Colette Gonzalez, involved Benefice Farm, in Mill House Lane, Croft.

It was supported by two near neighbours who said it would be good to see the old house brought back into use and would improve the appearance of Mill House Lane.

But Warrington Borough Council planners said the new house would be materially larger than the one it would replace and would have a detrimental impact on the openness of the Green Belt. It represented

inappropriate development in the Green Belt unless a case for very special circumstances could be made. No such case had been put forward.

Planners were told the farm had been the family home of the applicant's grandparents and she had fond memories of staying there during summer holidays when helping on the farm. The family had lived and farmed in the area for about 100 years.

But it had become dilapidated and was not habitable and it would not be economically viable to repair it. The applicant wished to return the farmhouse to a family home.



Volunteers wanted after four Girlguiding units forced to close

GIRLGUIDING in Culcheth has had to close four units – two Rainbow, one Brownie and one Guide – since the start of the pandemic.

This because of a shortage of adult volunteers and uniformed leaders.

But Guiding still has a thriving community locally, with more than 90 young members across Culcheth, Glazebury, Glazebrook and Hollins Green with a team of volunteers running meetings every week for Rainbows (girls aged 5-7), Brownies (aged 7-10), Guides (aged 10-14) and Rangers (aged 14-18).

Units meet weekly to get stuck into lots of fun and interesting activities - including crafts, cooking, games, outdoor fun and many more. There are also exciting days out and trips away, including camping, which the girls absolutely love.

Older girls are even given the opportunity to take part in international camps with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from across Europe, and even the world!

Girlguiding is run for all girls, and inspires young members to be the best they can be. Girls are given their own space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills

and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities.

Girlguiding in Culcheth are always on the lookout for new volunteers to help lead and run units, but also to volunteer in supporting roles such as helping

with accounts and administration.

They receive training in first aid and safe space, and training costs are covered. Men can volunteer as unit helpers, administrators and accountants as well – and no previous experience is necessary.

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer with Girlguiding or with any questions at all, should contact District Commissioner Justine Doyle at justinedoyleguiding@outlook.com

Merged WI holds its first meeting

CULCHETH'S two Women's Institutes have merged - and started the New Year with the first meeting of the new Culcheth and Newchurch WI.

President Eileen Griffiths welcomed members and the meeting began with the visiting speakers, four ladies from Project Linus UK displaying their wonderful craft work – quilts, security blankets and some tiny caps for very tiny newborns- and told how these beautiful creations were used to comfort sick children (originally child cancer patients), newborns in intensive care, and other children suffering trauma, abuse and bereavement.

The movement began in 1995 in the USA and in 2000 it spread to the UK. The speakers meet monthly

in Padgate Methodist Church with other volunteers and have produced more than 7,000 articles since 2006. The quilts and blankets are delivered to hospitals in Warrington and Liverpool and to some Women's Refuges.

The group accepts and checks goods made at home and they have designed and made quilt covers for incubators after a request from Warrington Hospital. The quilts are given free and the group raises funds by talks and coffee mornings.

Their motto is "A Quilt is a Hug you can keep" and the group is named for the little boy Linus who always carries his security blanket in the "Peanuts" cartoon.

Barbara Delve gave the vote of thanks and the four ladies judged the members' handicraft competition.

Laraine Yates was the winner, followed by Lesley Lloyd and Gill Berry.

After tea served by Laraine Yates and Marie Haake, the president gave details of plans for 2022 - a Coffee Morning on March 30 and a Garden Party on July 20, plus a Fancy Hat Competition at the June meeting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Birthday Girls for December and January were remembered and two names were drawn from an envelope for two bouquets. Plans for next Christmas have begun, including a Tree for the Parish Church Festival. On February 15 Newchurch Primary School Choir will visit the Institute and it is hoped some members will bring their own school reports.

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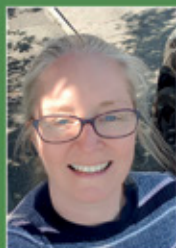


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PARISH NEWS

Community Day

Planning is underway for this year's Community Day in May. This event is an excellent way for local voluntary organisations to meet residents and raise fund for their causes. If any residents would like to be involved with the organisation and running of this year's event, please contact the clerk to the Parish Council to register your interest.

Planning Concerns

The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications. If you have an opinion on an application, please let the clerk or councillors know as soon as possible, within the 21-day consultation period. If you search on www.warrington.gov.uk the weekly lists section describes planning applications and decisions.

Christmas Toy Appeal

The Parish Council supported last year's Christmas Toy Appeal by publicising the event and organising a collection point within the village. 'Forget Me Not' collected over 5 trolley loads of gifts donated by local people. This year 847 children received at least 1 present, books and a selection box from the appeal. Thank you to all residents for their contribution.

HS2 Hybrid Bill

The next stage for HS2 is the Western Leg Hybrid Bill going before Parliament. Details about this can be found on the An introduction to the Phase 2b Western Leg Hybrid Bill process - High Speed 2 (hs2.org.uk). Councillors will be attending a hybrid bill briefing to keep upto date on the latest developments surrounding HS2.

Glazebury Traffic Group

Andrea Jeffries, one of the founder members of the group passed away recently. Despite her illness, she campaigned to reduce HGV traffic and speeding through the villages. Her tireless efforts as part of the group resulted in a Traffic Reduction Order become reality last year, improving the health and safety of residents. The Parish Council offers its condolences to Andrea's family at this difficult time.

Christmas Lights

Thank you to the members of Culcheth Village Choir for singing Carols on the millennium garden during the Christmas light switch on event. A large group of people assembled to participate in the Carol singing and celebrate the start of the Advent season. The Christmas lights in both Culcheth and Glazebury added a festive tone to the night scene in the two villages.

**Next Parish Council Meeting is on February 8th
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



A musical evening for the WI

MEMBERS of Croft WI enjoyed a musical evening courtesy of Roger Browne of Manchester Jazz band, and his colleague Kevin Sidall.

They serenaded members with songs from the Great American Songbook, interspersed with interesting information about composers such as Jerome Kern, Richard Rogers, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and others and how iconic singers such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Sammy Davis Jr, plus many more, became famous.

Roger related how Jerome Kern influenced the melding of black and white music in New Orleans and how his famous musical "Showboat" first demonstrated this mixing of different musical cultures.

Apparently the audience walked out in silence at the end of the first performance of "Showboat", being shocked at the references to slavery, drug abuse and alcoholism in the show. Kevin gave a terrific rendition

of "Ol' Man River", along with many other famous songs, as did Roger and these were greatly appreciated by their audience.

Born in 1943, Roger was brought up in Salford and from an early age had a keen interest in music.

As a child he enjoyed attending the many musical events in local parks and related an amusing story of winning a singing competition as an eight-year-old but being disappointed to receive a ladies home perm as his prize.

Roger's musical interests covered jazz, musical theatre, and grand opera.

President Anne Lamming proposed a vote of thanks and the competition was won by Jill Hillam, with Janet Hughes second and Anne Tansey third.

Council to relaunch popular events

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council is to relaunch popular events in the village which had to be called-off because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

First will be Culcheth Community Day on Bank Holiday Monday May 2. Next will be the "Picnic in the Park" when local families are invited to join councillors on Culcheth Green on June Sunday, June 5.

Finally will be the annual Christmas Market, when the village centre is transformed into a winter wonderland on Saturday, November 26.

Cllr Sue Bland said: "We have, sadly, not been able to hold these events because of the pandemic.

"But we now hope we will be able to go ahead with them this year." Anyone wanting to make enquiries about availability of stalls, etc, should contact Cllr Bland on 01925 766641.

The council is particularly keen to hear from local parents prepared to help organise children's games at the Picnic in the Park.

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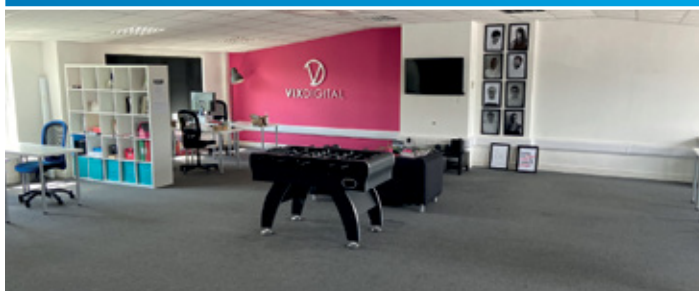
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Meet our students:

Phillippa Makinson - Level 2 Hospitality & Catering



Phillippa Makinson chose to study at Warrington & Vale Royal College due to the excellent reputation of the college and its award-winning restaurant. Phillippa, who previously studied at Culcheth High School, feels she has gained lots of confidence throughout the course, saying: "The course has definitely boosted my confidence. I really like working with the public, and it's a great preparation for the working world. My favourite part of the course is learning how to present the dishes to a professional standard."

Sean Bruce - Level 3 Sport



Sean Bruce has always been passionate about sport, particularly football, and knew he wanted to pursue a career in this field. Former Hope Academy student Sean is thoroughly enjoying his course, saying: "The course is really fun and the teachers are great and easy to talk to." After completing his course, Sean intends to head to university to study physiotherapy. He believes everything he is currently learning about the musculoskeletal system will help him to achieve this goal.

Matt Nash - Level 2 Carpentry & Joinery Apprentice



Matt Nash decided to enrol onto an apprenticeship after deciding university was not the right pathway for him. He has always been very hands-on and is now looking to secure a highly practical career. Matt is employed by Warrington-based construction company Emerald Bay and is really enjoying his apprenticeship. He says: "Apprenticeships are a great way to learn. I'm earning a wage as well as getting a qualification. What I learn in college ties in with what I'm doing in the workplace."

Layla Thorpe - Level 2 Media Makeup



Layla Thorpe has always had a passion for make-up and loves the opportunity to create new looks each day. Layla, who previously attended St. Edmund Arrowsmith school, especially enjoys special effects and plans to progress onto university to continue her studies. Layla believes the course has really helped improve her skills, saying: "My tutors are amazing and provide lots of feedback on how to improve. We get lots of free rein to be creative and bring our ideas to life."

Apprenticeships Presentation

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