

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

ISSUE 228 | AUGUST 2022

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The 'good old days' at Croft Carnival

Centre pages

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Editor's Comment

**It was fantastic to see Culcheth and Winwick Carnivals back in full swing providing a much-needed boost to community life.**

While the pandemic is far from over, we are starting to live with COVID-19 and with all the other issues going on in the world it is great to see things starting to return to normal, or as normal as can be expected in these testing times.

Croft Carnival in particular has a special place in my heart as a former resident in the village and it always provides an opportunity to catch up with old school friends – some involved in the organising committee.

I'm not going to mention anyone by name, as I would undoubtedly forget someone – but I know some long-time members of the organising committee are stepping down and retiring.

On behalf of everyone who has enjoyed your hard work over many years – thank you for everything you have done.

Organising anything by committee is never easy and can sometimes be a thankless task.

But without you guys we wouldn't have the events that make our communities so special.

So once again thank you for everything you have done and to those who are taking over – good luck and here at Culcheth Life we will do what we can to support your endeavours and showcase your great work by covering the event as

best we can.

Hopefully next year those stepping down will be able to sit back and enjoy the event, while providing a helping hand for those taking over.

Meanwhile in other news congratulations to the team at Bents Garden & Home for your latest award – Best Destination Garden

Centre in the North West.

It has been fantastic watching your business grow from small beginnings and it can't have been easy keeping going through a pandemic and the latest cost-of-living crisis with increasing overheads.

Congratulations on your 85th anniversary – and here's to many more!

Keep up the good work.

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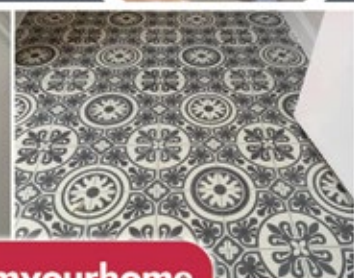
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Bents Garden & Home crowned best in the North West!

GLAZEBURY-based Bents Garden & Home has been named as Best Destination Garden Centre in the North West at this year's Garden Centre Association regional awards.

The announcement comes in a year when the family-owned and run business celebrates its 85th anniversary; 85 years since founders Alfred and Margaret Bent started to sell roses from their front garden just yards from the Centre's current location.

The title follows a strict audit of garden centres throughout the country with the results announced on a regional basis. The Garden Centre Association (GCA) comprises nearly 200 of the country's best garden centres and as a member each undergoes a strict annual audit process with judges assessing every part of the centre from plant and product quality to customer service and innovation.

Bents received a spot visit by the GCA auditors and recorded one of the top scores in the country, which not only saw them awarded Best Destination Garden Centre in the North West but also the regional title for Best Restaurant and the Creative & Innovation

award as well as runners up in Outdoor Living, Indoor Lifestyle and Customer Service.

Managing Director Matthew Bent said: "The GCA title is the one all garden centres want and we are delighted to be acknowledged as the Best in the North West, especially in what is our 85th year; a great way to celebrate our anniversary."

"It is a credit to all of our colleagues who work extremely hard to ensure our standards remain as high as possible throughout all areas of the Centre and we would like to say a big thank you to each and every one of them for their continued commitment and input."

The GCA awards are important within the industry as they are based purely on quality standards throughout every area of the centre. Garden centres don't pay to enter the awards or put themselves forward; members are all visited by inspectors with no prior knowledge of the exact date to ensure standards remain high at all times



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62% of students achieved a strong pass grade 5-9 in GCSE English and Mathematics
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Call to be vigilant over Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed

DESPITE improvements in tackling issues with Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, residents need to remain vigilant and report any sightings to Warrington Borough Council, says Cllr Nigel Balding, who raised concerns last year.

Last year Warrington Borough Cllr. Nigel Balding (Birchwood) campaigned for a better approach to dealing with the problems of Japanese knotweed. In Birchwood, two main patches of plants were of concern, one growing at J11 of the M62 and another beside the Birchwood Brook footpath.

Councillor Balding recently also reported an isolated giant hogweed

plant in Croft to the landowner Biffa (pictured below). This is the second case in two years, as he reported another plant in 2021 which the company successfully dealt with. He is urging residents to look out for the plants at this time of year and report them asap before they can cause any harm.

After discussions with council officers, he was pleased to report

that Warrington Borough Council had updated its policies for treating Japanese knotweed and Giant Hogweed, with a new regime comprising of an annual four-treatment plan.

The council has said that the costs of treating these two notifiable species on its land between 2017 and 2021 have increased from £2,430 to £6,885 stating "The increase in costs reflects the increase in locations treated for the two weeds".

Following a question from opposition Conservatives last year, WBC published locations where Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed had been identified. These locations are all on council-owned land and include places in council wards from Appleton to Rixton & Woolston.

Cllr Balding says costs reported for Warrington seem relatively low compared to the national picture. In 2010 the estimated costs for treating Japanese Knotweed nationally were £166m and it is widely reported to have cost £70 million to clear from the Olympic Park in East London during building work for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Cllr Balding thinks that with a more rigorous herbicide treatment programme in place, Warrington locations should now gradually be cleared. However risks from spread from land not owned by the council or fly-tipping of building materials remain, even though it is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to allow these weeds to spread onto anyone else's property.

With the growing

season now in full swing, Cllr Balding is asking residents to report any council locations which are not on the known list. The sooner they are identified the easier it will be to treat.

Of the two plants, giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is the one that is most dangerous. The sap of giant hogweed is phototoxic and causes phytophotodermatitis in humans, resulting in blisters and scars. It contains furocoumarin, which makes skin extremely sensitive to sunlight. If the sap gets onto your skin and it's then exposed to the sun, your skin can blister badly. Blistering can then recur over months and even years.

While Japanese Knotweed is not harmful to humans the plant's vast root system exploits weaknesses in building foundations and drainage systems, often making buildings structurally unsound.



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Motability

Kitten Karers ball raises £1,200



THE Kitten Karers Summer Ball at Leigh Golf Club in Culcheth, was a great success raising nearly £1,200.

Organiser Debbie Hughes said 'a big thank you' to everyone who attended and who supported the event which was attended by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Chairperson Cllr. Neil Johnson, who came and helped out and gave his time to judge the event.

The winners of the best-dressed ladies, although they all looked immaculately dressed were Heather, Sandra and Jo who are pictured with Cllr. Johnson.

The money raised will be used to help care for neglected kittens.

Culcheth's first 'Jigathon' proves a success

CULCHETH Jigsaw Club's first-ever 'Jigathon' has proved a hit with visitors and also raised money to help with the renovation of Culcheth Village Library.

The jigsaw club is one of the groups that regularly uses the facilities at the library, and although the renovation is being funded by Warrington Borough Council, the group was keen to raise additional funds to improve the community facilities – such as tables, chairs, and storage.

At the jigathon a team of keen puzzlers aimed to complete four jigsaws in just four hours. There was also a range of fun activities for everyone to get involved in –

including a 'jigbola' – a tombola with a twist, a jigsaw guessing challenge, a puzzle hunt aimed at children and jigsaw puzzles for sale.

Julie Berry, one of the organisers, said: "We smashed our target – completing almost six puzzles. And we were joined by visitors on the day who were keen to help piece the puzzles together."

"The jigbola proved popular and the refreshments including home made cakes helped provide the opportunity for people to meet up

with new and familiar faces."

Chris Smith, from Friends of Culcheth Library, said: "The jigathon raised £258 for the renovation project – which is great."

"What is even better is the ability of events like these, along with the popular jigsaw club, in bringing the community in to see what the library has to offer."



Family pay tribute to teenage boy who died following collision

THE family of a teenage boy who tragically died following a collision at Culcheth, has paid tribute to him.

Ben Smith, 17, from Irlam, was involved in a collision on Holcroft Lane, Culcheth at around 9.30pm on Monday 18 July.

Sadly, Ben passed away at the scene. A 13-year-old boy was also seriously injured, with police renewing their appeal for anyone with information to come forward.

His family are being supported by specialist officers.

In a joint tribute, his family said: "08/03/2005 – 18/07/2022 – Ben Smith"

"The kind hearted boy who made everyone laugh. He was deeply loved and will be missed by so many people."

"Funeral details to follow. Family request privacy at this time. Always loved but never forgotten."

"A loving Son and Brother Xxxx." Officers are continuing to appeal to anyone who may have seen a moped and another motorbike around the time of the incident to come forward.

The same goes to anyone who may have dashcam footage from the area around the time of the incident to come forward.

Anyone with any information is urged report it to Cheshire Police quoting IML 1320718 via <https://bit.ly/3S1eq27> or call 101.

Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via <https://bit.ly/2IDcoVl>





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Villagers have a groovy time with the "Good Old Days"

VILLAGERS had a groovy time as they turned back the clock to the "Good Old days" for the return of Croft Carnival after an absence of three years due to the pandemic.

Colourful floats featuring local schools and community groups paraded through the village followed by the crowning of the carnival queens on the village playing fields which were packed with stalls and entertainment for all the family.

The parade had a multi-cultural flavour as Ukrainians who have settled in the area took part.

Croft Carnival Queen was Evelyn Mould who was attended by Mia-Rose Claber and Laura Cox, with

Crown Bearer Luca Culley.

The Croft Carnival Princess was Sophie Bellas, who was attended by Sophia Bishop and Crown Bearer was Zara Bishop.

Rosebud was Esther Gilbert, attended by Sophia Burns and Clara Longden. Carnival Grandparent was Joyce Mitchell.

The weather remained fine throughout the event as many villagers decorated their properties with scarecrows.

Pictures: John Hopkins & Gary Skentelbery



Raven Inn volunteers seek time detectives

THE community volunteers working on the historic Raven Inn at Glazebury have made an unexpected and interesting discovery.

A selection of old clothes, along with a fancy pillowcase were discovered during the ongoing works to renovate the building which was saved from demolition following a community campaign.

Work is now underway to have them dated, but they are believed to be late 19th or early 20th century.

Spokesperson Peter Sturman, said: "It's like a time capsule, tucked away and forgotten about in the loft space. Did someone once live there? Whose trousers were they? Who patched the knees?"

There are certainly more questions than answers. We have had a good response from our Facebook group and we are inviting any 'would be' time detectives to get involved.

"The type of clothing, along with a button held on with string, suggests perhaps a mill or agricultural worker. What about that fancy pillowcase?"

"A TIGER MAKE label does provide something to go on. The image has been found on iStock photos site. That avenue is currently being investigated."

Peter added: "Because the Raven had been left in the condition it was, there was really no option but to strip it back and renovate from there. That means you remove some of the more recent layers and sometimes get these unexpected

glimpses into the past history of the Raven.

"Now not only of the building, but those who once lived and, maybe worked there.

"It is, perhaps, appropriate that the Raven is now giving up it

secrets to people who genuinely love and care for the building.

"From here on in, those secrets will be preserved, investigated and will build upon the rich history of this magnificent example of our heritage."



Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

If you live in Warrington North and have an issue you need help with or would like to book a surgery appointment, please get in touch.

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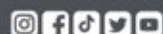
“Continue to feed and water tomatoes regularly, making sure that the plants are evenly moist.”

Simon Box,
Plant Area Specialist

- Dahlias will be at their best now and will need feeding, watering and dead heading to keep them performing for as long as possible
- Keep the pond well oxygenated when the weather is hot by running water features or spraying the surface with a hose
- Animals are starting to prepare for the winter so ensure you are offering a wide range of food
- Stop feeding roses now as you will encourage them to produce soft sappy growth which will be more prone to winter damage or disease and dieback

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PARISH NEWS

Christmas Market Event November 2022

Planning is underway for this year's Christmas Market event at the end of November. This will be the first time in three years that the event has taken place. The Parish Council intend to make the event as successful as it has been in the past. If you would like to support the planning of the Christmas market event for 2022, please contact the Parish Council clerk culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com to register your interest.

Warrington Local Plan Examination

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council in partnership with Croft Parish submitted a written response to Warrington Borough Council's proposed local plan earlier this year. The comments made in this submission on the final draft plan will still be considered by the inspector during the upcoming local plan examination. Cllr C Benson will be participating in the Warrington local plan examination.

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.

HS2 Hybrid Bill

On the 6th June the Government announced its intention to remove the Golborne Link from the High Speed Rail Bill 2022. The Government has stated that it is committed to exploring alternatives that deliver similar benefits to the Golborne Link, within the £96bn envelope of the Integrated Rail Plan. The Government intends to maintain safeguarding along the Golborne Link while alternatives are considered. This means you will continue to have access to the full range of HS2 property schemes that are currently available to you if you own land and/or property along the area of the Golborne Link.

Defibrillators

The Parish Council has funded the purchase and organised the installation of a defibrillator at the ESSO petrol station on Warrington Road in Culcheth. It is intended that the machine will be in operation from August 2022. It is planned that another defibrillator, funded by the Parish Council, will be installed outside the Scout Hut in Glazebury, in the next few months.

Next Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 13th September at 7:30pm
in 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



Not just jam and Jerusalem at Croft WI

MEMBERS of Croft WI enjoyed not just jam and Jerusalem but champion quizzing, doing the can-can on the carnival float and chutney too!

The president began the July meeting by congratulating the Croft WI Quiz Team who won the Cheshire WI 2020 County Quiz. Heats took place in February 2020 but the final had been delayed for more than two years due to the Covid pandemic.

There was a huge round of applause for team members Nikki Adams, Gill Branford White, Anne Lamming and Cath Watkin.

The Croft Carnival theme this year was "The Good Old Days" and Croft WI float entertained the crowds as the procession made its way around the village. To show how "Croft WI Can Can" members dressed up as cans of food and performed the can-can - aided by a few extra legs and some pieces of string!

Speaker for the evening was Melanie Latham of Holly Cottage Preserves.

She demonstrated how to make a spicy plum chutney whilst entertaining with jokes and amusing memories. Her grandmother Flo was the inspiration for Mel's business, she lived at Holly Cottage in Sandbach and it was her who taught Mel how to make preserves (as well as how to pluck a chicken and skin a rabbit).

When Mel's mother was diagnosed with diabetes in 2000 she found she couldn't stand the taste of commercially available

"diabetic jam" and so asked Mel to make some preserves for her that were suitably low in sugar. Mel's jams proved very popular with family and friends and soon she was regularly selling out of stock at local farmers markets. Mel had just completed a degree in criminology and criminal law but winning an award as North West Preserve Maker of the Year helped her make the decision to run her own business.

Mel describes herself as short and round and she likes to work in a very small kitchen. Everything is in easy reach and she can perform a kind of culinary tai chi, reaching out for anything she needs.

It can get very hot in a small kitchen and Mel described one highly embarrassing incident when she was busy cooking for a country show. It was so hot she had stripped down to her bra and pants but was still wearing an apron and shoes in case of spills.

She ran out of lemons for the lemon curd and quickly dashed off to the supermarket to buy some more. Everyone she met was grinning at her and saying hello but it was only when she felt a cold blast of air down her back at the checkout that she realised her big mistake!

After the meeting a selection of Mel's preserves was on sale with profits being donated to The Stroke

Association.

The competition 'Your favourite jam or chutney recipe' was won by Janet Hughes 2nd Doris Friar and 3rd Barbara Taylor.

Diary Dates: 10th September – Glass Fusion craft session at Julie

Langlan Glass, Ormskirk.

29th September – Outing to the Brief Encounter Experience, Carnforth

10th, 11th or 12th November – Provisional dates for an outing to Boundary Mill, Colne



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Welcome return of Winwick Carnival

GLORIOUS sunshine greeted villagers and stall holders as Winwick Carnival made a welcome return after an absence of three years.

Entertainment included Andrew Van Buren and his fantastic Victorian Theatre Of Wonders, Steve Kaos a brilliant circus entertainer, the ever-fascinating Vale Royal Birds Of Prey plus the wonderful boys & girls from Legends Dance Academy.

There was also Brian Gore's

Punch & Judy for the smaller children, side stalls, craft & charity stalls, wood carving and the thrilling fun rides of Silcock's Funfair plus much much more!!

Local authors Jackson Beck and Fiona Forsyth were also on hand to sign copies of their latest books.

Pictures: John Hopkins



Crime thriller inspired by church council minutes at Winwick!

LOCAL author Jackson Beck's third novel may be a crime thriller set in Cyprus – but its inspiration came from the minutes of the church council at Winwick.

"Nightfall in Famagusta" is a crime novel and, like Jackson's previous thrillers, features ex-detective Nathan Mason.

This time he embarks on a mission to recover vital documents from Varosha, the part of Famagusta that remains annexed since 1974, when the Turkish military invaded.

If Nathan is unsuccessful he could potentially lose his life and an ecological disaster could strike

the Island.

All three of Jackson's novels are influenced by the historic church of St Oswald's, Winwick.

He said: "Before I started this novel, I was looking through some old church council meeting minutes in the vestry. I came across an entry from the 70's which stated that a number of refugee children from Cyprus had been brought to the church."

"When I researched further into the war in Cyprus in 1974, I was taken aback by the movement of people on the Island. Overnight, lifelong neighbours became

enemies and communities were isolated or partitioned, all due to the polarising effect that the fighting had on the two different religions."

"As a result many people lost their lives and some parentless children were welcomed into the UK. Land and property also became a big issue. Buildings that were previously owned by Greek Cypriots or citizens from mainland Turkey. Land that previously belonged to Turkish Cypriots was now being farmed by Greek Cypriots."

"The land issue in Cyprus is the

backbone of the story in 'Nightfall in Famagusta' and it all originated from the church council meeting minutes at St Oswald's, Winwick."

'Nightfall in Famagusta' is currently available on Amazon in paperback or Kindle format.



New cancer support group launched at Culcheth

CULCHETH CANCER SUPPORT GROUP



A new cancer support group has been launched in Culcheth open to everyone affected by cancer directly or indirectly.

It has been started by local resident Janice Webb, who had stage 3 breast cancer last year.

Janice said: "We are a voluntary organisation, hoping to help people in the community who are dealing with or have had cancer. The cancer journey can be very frightening and lonely not only for the person who has the disease but for family and friends also."

"Having had stage 3 breast cancer last year and having chemo, surgery and radiotherapy, I felt that

there was nothing around here to support or just chat to people about what I was going through, it was quite a lonely journey.

Anyone interested can come along and join the group for Tea/Coffee and a chat.

The next meeting takes place at Gilbert Court, Ellesmere Road, Culcheth on Wednesday 24th August at 7.00pm.

For more details call Janice on 07764 529574 or Neil on 07977 825296

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Visit our Warrington campus to start your enrolment or visit our **WVR.AC.UK** today to find out more.

Enrolment Open Day Saturday 3rd September

Join us at our Warrington campus on **Saturday 3rd September from 10.00am - 1.00pm** for our Enrolment Open Day!

This family-friendly event is an opportunity to explore our Warrington campus, including the chance to participate in live demonstrations of our courses and talk to our expert staff about your options.

There will be plenty to keep the little ones entertained, with a variety of stalls and refreshments.

This is a free event and you do not need to register.

We look forward to seeing you!



Meet the stars of the Adult Summer Guide!

Future Counsellor

Julie Snell enrolled on a counselling course after she was involved in a life-changing accident. She said: "the college's team of counselling tutors are out of this world in terms of their teaching skills, support, and personal experience which they bring to each lecture and class."



Future Manager

Sean Conreen enrolled on the HNC Electrical & Electronic Engineering course to further his engineering knowledge. He then progressed onto the HND course which is preparing him for university. He said: "The HND makes it possible for me to progress into an even more technical role within my organisation as well as allowing me to one day progress onto a management position at ABB."



Future Nurse

Aveesha Collins enrolled on the Access to HE: Nursing & Midwifery course after a hugely positive previous experience studying at the college. She said: "My tutors have been very supportive. I have learnt so much and have more confidence in my ability!"



Future Actor

George Moore enrolled on the HNC Performing Arts course to follow his dreams of becoming an actor. He said: "There is so much to get involved with at Warrington & Vale Royal College, from pantomime to musicals. Coming to this college was the best choice I could have made!"



Future Social Worker

Claire Leech enrolled on the Access to HE: Social Work course as she wanted a change in career. She said: "The course has helped me to better prepare for the future. I would definitely recommend the college as you are learning from supportive tutors who have first-hand industry knowledge."



Future Hairdresser

Stewart Brown enrolled on a hairdressing course to follow his true passion. He said: "I like the fact that the course is so practical and allows me to do the theory element at home in my own time."



COULD THIS BE YOU?

Whether you are about to leave high school, are looking for a change in career or simply want to add another string to your bow; Warrington & Vale Royal College has the perfect course for you!

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