

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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FREE EVERY MONTH

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Raven gets ever closer to re-opening

Page 6

All the latest news: www.culchethlife.com

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Editor's Comment



IT was great to catch up with some members of the Raven Inn's management team recently to discuss future marketing of the premises once open, hopefully in the very near future!

Now the historic building is being brought back to life following a huge amount of hard work, campaigning, and investment, it is more important than ever that it prospers, serving the local community and beyond.

Having followed the story from the very beginning it will be a magical moment seeing the premises re-opening.

In its hey day it was a great venue, but like many pubs, suffered a downturn in business.

I am confident the local community will turn out in force when it first opens, but the key to success will be keeping it busy all year round, especially during the traditionally quiet times in the pub industry during January.

I look forward to working with the management team to help make this new venture a success and it was good to catch up in another new business to the village at the former Spice Lounge premises, Leo's Bar & Grill. You'll struggle to

find a better value two course meal and a great venue for a business lunch with easy parking right outside!

Meanwhile a big thank you to Culcheth & Glazebury Parish

Council for agreeing to continue using Culcheth Life for their bi-monthly newsletter. It is much appreciated.



**Deadline for the May issue
of Culcheth Life is April 25**



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Protest petition opposing Local Plan

A petition signed by nearly 450 people has been presented to Warrington Borough Council by concerned Cllrs. representing Culcheth, Croft and Glazebury, opposing the Local Plan.

Along with concerned residents, the Borough Councillors for the ward of Culcheth Glazebury and Croft delivered the petition to the Town Hall.

Cllr. Wendy Maisey said: "There's a strong feeling in our ward about the burden of up to 600 houses being built here, and we're not going to accept this disastrous local plan lying down."

"We all know we need more affordable local housing, but the sites chosen in Culcheth and Deacons Close Croft are

totally unsuitable. We'll continue to work collaboratively cross-party with residents to stop these developments.

"The Government inspectorate has already commented with concerns about the overdevelopment of the Green Belt on sites in Warrington. Labour-run Warrington Borough Council had the opportunity to pause the local plan and review numbers following changes made in the levelling up act in relation to housing numbers. They've chosen not to do this."

Cllr Valerie Allen MBE, added: "This disastrous plan would cause real problems for villagers who are already concerned with traffic on narrow roads and the safety of children walking to schools. The addition of this number of extra housing would not only see green belt being taken unnecessarily but would put a strain on what are already limited services in this area. We will stand up for residents and continue to work with them to stop this development".

Cllr. Carol Benson concluded: "I am so saddened to see WBC trying to continue with their plans to build on our precious Green Belt,

much of which is prime agricultural land. They appear to ignore the will of the vast majority of residents, who have given very good reasons against building on this land. The Government have been clear that Green Belt can only be used where there are exceptional circumstances. We say there are no such exceptional circumstances. WBC chose to use Green Belt in Culcheth and Croft when they did not need to. We will continue to encourage WBC to rethink these plans and thank all our residents for their continued support. Our villages matter to us all."



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Public consultation starts on main modifications to 'unsound' Local Plan

AN online public consultation to try and ensure Warrington's Local Plan is 'sound' has been launched.

Leader of Warrington Borough Council, Cllr. Russ Bowden says it "is an important chance for residents to continue shaping our Local Plan."

Independent Government inspectors have previously told Warrington Borough Council its proposed Local Plan is not sound and will require some significant modifications, including reducing the impact on Green Belt.

Inspectors, Andrea Mageean and Kevin Ward's findings last December, in relation to the employment land requirement, The South East Warrington Employment Area (Policy MD6) (SEWEA), Fiddlers Ferry and Warrington Waterfront will have significant implications. They have also sought the council's views on the need for a travellers' encampment within the Local Plan.

Following the examination in public of Warrington's Proposed Submissions Version Local Plan ("draft Local Plan") in late 2022, Planning Inspectors made their initial view that with some modifications, Warrington's Local Plan can be found sound.

These modifications will now be consulted on publically for six weeks, up to April 26.

The consultation only relates to the Main Modifications

recommended by the Inspectors and not the wider Local Plan. The consultation's main questions relate to whether the Local Plan Main Modifications comply with legal requirements and meet the tests of 'soundness'. These are the key issues that the independent Inspectors will consider when assessing consultation responses. Comments should focus on whether the proposed Main Modifications comply with the legal requirements and can be considered 'sound'.

At the close of the consultation, the representations made will be passed to the independent Planning Inspectors for their consideration. Following a review of responses to the modifications, the Inspectors will then issue their final report before the Plan is then expected to proceed to Full Council for adoption.

The full schedule of main modifications can be found on the council website at warrington.gov.uk/main-modifications-2023

Cllr. Bowden said: "We are hopeful that following this consultation, we will be able to satisfy the views of the Planning Inspectors and put forward a Local Plan for adoption."

"This consultation specifically relates to the Main Modifications recommended by the Independent



Planning Inspectors. It's important to note that it is not an opportunity to raise matters that either were, or could have been, part of the earlier representations or hearings on the submitted Plan, and any comments received will be passed directly to the Planning Inspectors for consideration once the consultation closes.

"This is an important chance for residents to continue shaping our Local Plan so that ultimately

we have a framework in place to guide and support the considered development of our town."

Find out how to take part in the consultation by visiting warrington.gov.uk/main-modifications-2023

All representations must be received by the council no later than 5pm on Wednesday 26 April 2023. Late representations will not be accepted by the council, but they will be brought to the attention of the Inspectors.



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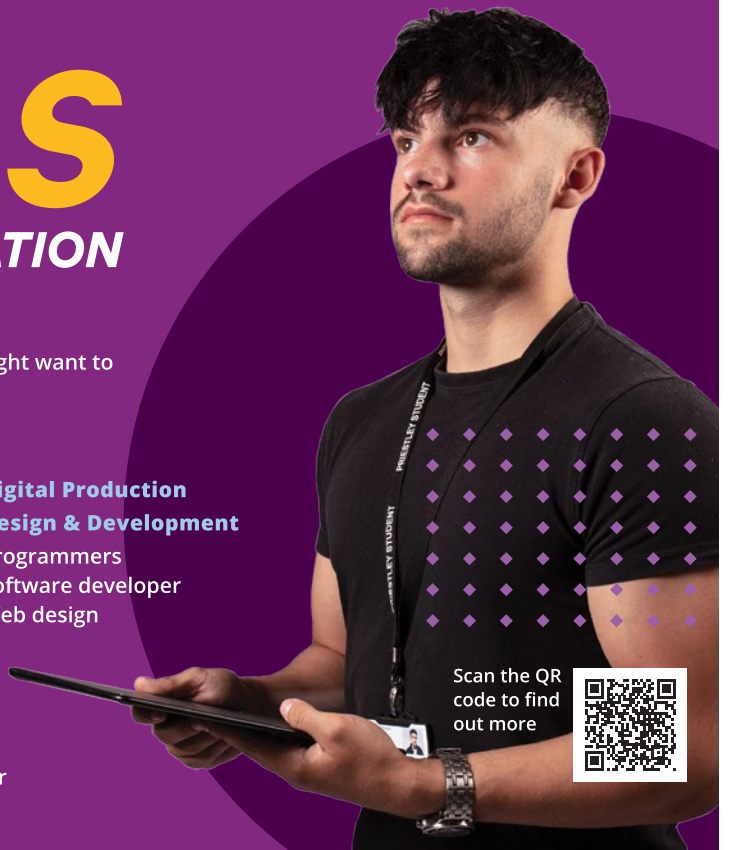
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Residents prepare for new Battle of Winwick

MORE than 70 concerned residents of Winwick attended a packed meeting at St Oswald's Church Hall to discuss a recent planning application by Bellway Homes to build 163 homes on land off Golborne Road.

The proposed development is close to the site of the famous Battle of Winwick – the last major battle of the English Civil War.

At the meeting, organised by residents themselves, the discussion, led by Stuart Mann and Andy Griffiths, covered concerns about the impact on traffic, schools and the lack of infrastructure in Winwick.

Stuart said: "The residents are rightly worried about the implications of this development on our small village. With over 1200 homes approved for Peel Hall, and another 50 across the Parish, together with this proposal our already over-used roads and services could become stretched to breaking point, and there is little mitigation in any of the proposals to address our worries."

Andy added: "In our opinion,

the planning application contains a number of errors that make it seem like our village has the ability to support these homes. Residents are already having issues registering with a GP or a dentist in the local area, with some having to travel as far as Manchester to get treatment".

Emma Lavender, who helped organise the meeting, commented: "A number of residents aren't on social media and may not even have Internet access. We wanted to make sure that everyone had the information they needed to understand the proposals and comment on them, as they will impact the whole of our village."

The site is said to be well connected to the wider region by excellent transport links, There is also shopping at the Gemini Retail Park, 4500m away, and at Newton-le-Willows, 3500m away.

Winwick Lesure Centre is only 800m from the site, offering sports facilities and social activities.

Bellway wants to build 163 houses on the site – including some affordable homes. They also plan to provide open spaces and

parking for the development.

The planning application can be viewed on the Warrington Borough Council at <https://online.warrington.gov.uk/planning/> by searching for reference 2023/00204/FULM



Commissioner-funded barriers protecting Croft Youth Activity Centre

POLICE and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer visited Croft Youth Activity Centre (CYAC) to speak to representatives from Croft Parish Council about how his Community Action Fund has helped them to prevent and tackle crime.

In August 2021 an illegal encampment on land behind CYAC and subsequent anti-social behaviour caused the local community in Croft a significant amount of distress. The site was left in a bad condition and residents were concerned that the same thing could easily happen again.

This led Croft Parish Council to apply to the Community Action Fund, so that kick rail barriers could be installed around the land to prevent further incidents. When he visited, the Commissioner was greeted with the news that so far there have been no repeats.

Mr Dwyer, said: "Preventing and tackling crime is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan, so it's great to be able to support residents in Croft with a simple crime prevention initiative through my Community Action Fund.

"People expect and deserve

to feel safe in their communities. I was really pleased to hear from the Parish Council that the kick rail barriers are delivering peace of mind and a feeling of safety for local residents and I hope this continues to be the case."

The prevention of any further illegal encampments and related anti-social behaviour has meant policing and local council resources have been able to be dedicated where they are needed more in the community.

Cllr Paul Campbell, Chair of Croft Parish Council said: "The parish council and people of Croft would like to thank the Police & Crime Commissioner John Dwyer for the financial support we received in our work to put in the kick rails and security barrier at CYAC."

For information about CYAC, go to: www.warrington.gov.uk/croft-community-centre-and-youth-activity-centre

To find out more about the Community Action Fund, see: www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-the-commissioner-does/community-funding/community-action-fund/



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RANA ★★★★★

Easter 'eggcitement' at Bents

SPRING is definitely starting to spring and Easter is nearly upon us. To keep the little ones happy during the school holidays, Bents Garden & Home have planned some very special Easter events to keep them entertained.

Chocolate Lollypop Workshop: Tuesday 4th April

Hosted by a professional chocolatier this fun chocolate themed workshop is ideal for children aged 5-12. Lasting approximately 90 mins, children will be indulged in a deliciously chocolaty demonstration and games before making and decorating three of their own lollypops using techniques including piping, marbling, shaping and decorating using coloured chocolate and sweets.

Places are £17.50 per child, 9.30 – 11.00am, with booking required at bents.co.uk

Easter Themed Creation Station: 5th, 12th, 14th April

Little ones can roll up their sleeves at Bents' Creation Station and light up someone's Easter by decorating an EGG-cellent Easter Egg Tealight Holder, using deco pens and crafting accessories. With a little LED tealight these homemade creations will make a the perfect Easter themed home decoration or a lovely gift for a loved one.

Places are £5 and can be pre-booked online between 10.00 – 10.45 and 11.00 – 11.45 (bents.co.uk)

Easter Family Fun Day: Saturday 8th April

There's entertainment in abundance

at this year's Easter Family Fun Day. Willy Wonka and his Umpa Lumpas will be putting on a number of special shows and handing out sweets between 12.00 – 4.00pm, whilst the Covered Walkway will be home to a Mini Farm featuring a host of friendly farm yard animals including calves, lambs, goats, rabbits and more.

The Mini Farm will be open between 10.30 – 4.00pm and both events are free to attend.

Bents' Big Bunny Hop: Sunday 16th April

Who doesn't love a chocolate reward? Hop along to the Big Bents Bunny Hop where all participants will receive a medal, drink and chocolate treat for completing Bents' annual charity 5k, all in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Whether you choose to walk, run or hop, let's do it together to help Defeat MND

Starting at 9.30am from outside The Pet Place with a donation to Bents' 2023 Charity of the year.

Add to this an Easter themed treasure hunt, which will be on throughout the break, a choice of dining destinations, outdoor play area, Indoor Beach and Bents' Jurassic Cove Adventure Golf there's every opportunity to treat yourself whilst the little ones play.



The Raven gets ever closer to re-opening and returning to historic roots!

WITH new windows going in at the Raven, along with a lot of work inside, it is now very close to being handed over by the owners to the community.

The renovations have also taken the historic pub back to its Tudor and Georgian roots!

Spokesperson Peter Sturman said, 'It has taken longer than expected, however there were substantial structural problems that had to be addressed. During the course of solving those problems, the building had to be stripped of some fairly dodgy previous 'renovations'.

"That work revealed conclusive evidence of the rich history of the Raven.

"Having got to that point, the decision was made to renovate the building in a manner that took it back to its Tudor and Georgian roots. Whilst we are desperate to get the Raven open as soon as possible, we only get one chance to do this properly."

The cooperative responsible for running the Raven have plans in place to enable them to crack on with their renovation of the pub and kitchen once it is handed over to them.

At that point the estimate is six to eight weeks until the Raven opens its doors.

Peter added: "We have also had to go through a quite understandable process with the Department for Levelling Up, with regard to the Community Ownership Fund grant. We have just signed the final Grant Funding Agreement and returned it to the Department for Levelling Up. It looks like it will coincide nicely with the handover of the pub."



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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Bents named as finalist in North West Family Business Awards

GLAZEBURY-based Bents Garden & Home have been named as a finalist for Best Retailer & E-Tailer category of the North West Family Business Awards 2023.

Bents beat strong competition with a record number of family businesses entering the awards from across the North West region.

This first-class event will be held at The Concorde Conference Centre, near Manchester Airport.

Co-hosted by Dave Clarkson and Sue Howorth of The Family Business Community, alongside renowned food and drink writer, and presenter Nigel Barden, and will take place on Friday 19th May 2023.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "The whole philosophy of our business is of family and people feeling part of something special, so to be recognised as a finalist in these awards is a fantastic recognition for all of our colleagues. We're looking forward to meeting fellow family business finalists on 19th May and will be keeping our fingers crossed!"

Co-Founder and Director, Sue Howorth said: "We were inundated with some incredible entries, and we have been burning the midnight oil to get through them as they came in right up to the wire. The judges

had extremely difficult decisions to make so the finalists should be extremely proud of themselves!

Co-director, Dave Clarkson said: "A huge thank you to everyone who has taken the time to fill out an application form and enter. We've been absolutely blown away by the strength and diversity of applications."

Sue Bagguley from Siemens PLC near Manchester, and who were the hosts of our Judging Day, said: "The number and quality of applications from across the North West has been outstanding, the businesses are clearly proud to be family businesses and the detail in many of the entries has demonstrated that they are very progressive and innovative."

The finalists will now receive a visit from our specially selected panel of expert judges before the judges make their final decisions. The winners will be announced at a fun and vibrant awards celebration on Friday 19th May 2023. You can find out more at www.northwestfamilybusinessawards.co.uk

The Gardening Guide



“ Spring fertiliser can be applied to your lawn, but remember to water it in if there's no rain. ”

Simon Box,
Plant Area Specialist

- Spring vegetables such as peas, beans and lettuce seeds can be sown now.
- Try spring cleaning your houseplants; remove spent flowers, dead leaves and rinse the dust from the leaves with a sprayer as clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!
- Plant up hanging baskets with fuchsias and other basket plants and then hang them up in your greenhouse to establish.
- Many of the birds (that you put up nest boxes for!) will have young now and need help with food.

Bents Garden & Home, Warrington Road, Glazebury, Cheshire WA3 5NT. 01942 266300. Check online for seasonal opening times.

For the latest events and online shopping visit bents.co.uk



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Egg-cellent events to make your Easter special

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PARISH NEWS

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.

Residents' Voice: Warrington Local Policing Unit

Cheshire Constabulary have set up a survey where you can tell them about the things you would like them to focus on in your area. The QR code opposite takes you to the survey for Warrington Local Policing Unit. Alternatively, you can use www.cheshire.police.uk and search for Residents' Voice Warrington



Community Day Monday 1st May

Planning for Community Day 2023 is well underway and stalls for local charitable causes can be booked by contacting Cllr Sue Bland. The event will start at 12 noon and there will be music, entertainment, a funfair as well as a host of stalls fundraising for local charitable causes. Last year we saw a massive turn out from the local community to support this event, the Parish Council anticipates that this year's event will be equally successful.

Vigil for Brianna Ghey

Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council extend their deep thanks to all at Warrington Borough Council who worked to a tight schedule to enable the Vigil for Brianna Ghey to take place in Culcheth. Warrington Borough Council carried out this to a very high standard, ensuring the safety of those attending, whilst being able to respect the purpose of the evening. The feedback on the vigil was very positive and helped bring the community together and remember Brianna.

Planning Application 2022/42633: CPS Centre 7-9 Common Lane, Culcheth

An objection to planning application 2022/42633 has been developed and agreed by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council in consultation with the local community. This objection has been submitted to Warrington Borough Council and can be viewed on WBC planning website. Many objections have also been submitted by local residents.

Next Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 11th April at 7:30pm at Glazebury Methodist Church

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



Care home with “open and transparent culture” rated good following inspection

A Culcheth-based care home has been rated good following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

High Peak Residential and Nursing Home on Main Lane, Culcheth is a care home providing personal care to up to 33 people.

The service provides support to older people, some of whom are living with dementia. At the time of the inspection there were 25 people using the service.

The inspection found High Peak Residential and Nursing Home was an organised and well-run service that had an open and transparent culture. The registered manager was clear about how the service should be provided and they led by example.

Staff were caring and treated

people with kindness and respect. There was enough staff on duty to meet people’s needs. Incidents and accidents were managed safely, the managers took necessary actions to keep people safe and minimise the risk of incidents reoccurring.

People were supported to access healthcare services, staff recognised changes in people’s health, and sought professional advice appropriately. Medicines were ordered, stored and disposed of safely.

People were supported by staff who completed an induction, received appropriate training and support to enable them to carry out their role safely. There was time for people to have social interaction and staff carried out activities to assist people.

Staff knew how to keep people safe from harm. The provider had systems in place to protect people from the risk of abuse and people told us they felt safe. Risk assessments were completed to help identify and minimise risks people faced. Infection control measures were safe. Steps were taken to learn lessons if things went wrong.

The registered manager provided good leadership and clear direction. Staff felt supported and were confident people received good care. Systems and processes for monitoring quality and safety were effective.

The inspection followed on from one in 2018 when the rating was also good.

Party time as Croft WI celebrates 70 years



It was party time at the monthly meeting of Croft WI when members came together to celebrate its 70th birthday.

Selina Prescott, chairman of the Cheshire Federation of WI’s, attended the meeting and Committee members served Prosecco and home-made cakes for members to enjoy.

Entertainment was provided by Magaly Flores, a qualified art teacher in Mexico, specialising in contemporary dance and education and, after gaining a degree in Education at Edgehill University, became a Spanish and Dance teacher in the UK. She is also the creative director of Colibri Mexican Folkdance UK an established dance company of native Mexicans showcasing traditional Mexican dance throughout the north west of England and beyond.

Being married to an English man, Magaly has lived in the UK for 30 years and her main aim as an artistic director is to educate Mexicans living in the UK to know and feel proud of their traditions and language and she was awarded by the Mexican Government in 2021 for promoting Mexican culture overseas.

She gave an interesting talk about her home country and the many celebrations and rituals held throughout the year.

Mexico is the 13th largest country in the world and the 10th most populous. It was ruled by the Spanish for three centuries

from 1500 to 1821 and the main religion is Catholicism. Mexican people are descended from many civilisations including Maya, Aztec, Toltec, Inca, African, French and Spanish.

Many traditions and celebrations have been passed down over the years, some date back to Aztec times long before Christianity came to that part of the world and things like blood and rain are considered sacred in many of these rituals. Christmas, New Year and Easter are all celebrated with lavish Christian festivals. One tradition which proved of particular interest was Dia Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. On this occasion families get together to remember the beloved dead who have gone before and to celebrate the circle of life. Towns and villages are decorated with bunting and flowers, faces are painted to resemble skulls and people enjoy lots of dancing, singing and wonderful food. A wonderful demonstration of Mexican dancing in full costume was given by Magaly as a conclusion to the evening and members were invited to join in for the Happy Birthday dance, which proved very popular. A vote of thanks was given by Louise Geekie for a most enjoyable and extremely enlightening evening.

The competition as won by Jenny Forshaw, 2nd Janet Hughes, 3rd Sue Murcott



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New Ukrainian family club café opens in Culcheth Sports Club

The Ukrainian Family Hub in Culcheth Sports Club was set up almost a year ago, after the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia on Ukraine.

Lots of things have changed since then, and one of them is the new café, which was organised in the space of three months.

Volunteers, Leanne and Kate have been involved in the café project.

Leanne, who is running the café at the hub said: "I volunteer for the Ukrainian family hub, and I am one of the coordinators. We had the idea of setting up sort of community kitchen."

She says it will make the hub more self-sufficient and sustainable, as the non-profit organisation always needs to find money to keep the hub alive, and provide more events, like English sessions, which usually take place on Wednesdays.

The café did not exist before. What existed, was a room with a sink.

"We always provide refreshments for Ukrainian guests on Sunday and on Wednesday. We provide sandwiches, cakes, drinks, teas, and coffees."

Leanne added: "Obviously we need to pay for all of that. So, we decided to turn that into a working kitchen."

It took them only three months to completely reorganise space into stylish smart, functional kitchen with all necessary facilities, which was made thanks to donations and fund raising.

Now all the income from café goes straight back to the hub.

The hub also has a children's area, which is enjoyed by the younger visitors of the hub, yet Leanne and Kate have further plans, which include utilising the outdoor space.

"What we'd like to do is use the outside space. In the summer we can open the patio doors, have some tables out there. But the idea is that we can get some money to have a playground out there or something like that," Leanne explained.

The café is now open to all and welcomes anyone who wants to come and spend some time in their little corner of Culcheth.

By Yana Mytsko



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Success in Spain for golf club men



THE men's team of Culcheth-based Leigh Golf Club has achieved a remarkable third-place finish in what is reported to be the world's largest non-professional golf matchplay team competition.

The team, comprising Scott White, Ian Westwell, Allan Wain, John Taylor, Peter Bean and Dave Barrett successfully survived seven rounds of matchplay golf, outlasting over 400 other 5-man teams from across the UK to be one of the last four clubs standing.

Their reward was to play in the final held at the Montecastillo resort in Jerez, Spain alongside three other clubs from Durham in the North, and from Hampshire and Norfolk in the South. Leigh were beaten in the semi-final by Hampshire club Romsey, who subsequently went on to lose to deserved winners Kings Lynn from Norfolk.

However, in the third/fourth place play off Leigh were pitted against Durham club Consett in a tough but friendly match, in which Leigh prevailed to claim the prize of "Kings of the North".

Team captain John Taylor

expressed his pride in the team's achievement, saying "We are thrilled to have been placed third in such a prestigious competition. Our team worked incredibly hard to get to this point, and we are grateful for the support of our families, fellow club members and our professional Sean Blinkhorn throughout the tournament. We were particularly pleased that four of our wives could make the trip and to have our club captain Mark Riley and club general manager Derek Vaughan there to cheer us on".

The men's golf team success came on the back of the club's ladies team reaching the finals of the women's version of the same event last year. The team were keen to extend their gratitude to all the match organizers, fellow competitors and competition sponsors Annodata for making the whole event such a great experience.

Housing planned for farmland at Glazebury

PLANS have been submitted for a development of five houses on farmland in Warrington Road, Glazebury.

The scheme, submitted by Oaktree Construction, involve a 0.14 hectare piece of land near to Chat Moss Bridge.

Five houses are proposed – two pairs of semi-detached and one detached house

The site is in an area that could be affected by underground coal mining but, as it has not been

worked since 1989, it is considered that any ground movement arising from mining should now have stopped

The applicants say the site is in an area identified for housing growth and is a sustainable location.

Although one house would be within 30 meters of the railway, diesel trains do not use the line.

The proposals are being studied by Warrington Borough Council planners.



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Former counselling student starts her own practice.

Robynne Wood graduated from our Level 4 Therapeutic Counselling course last year and has since gone on to open her own private practice: Robynne Wood Counselling.

Robynne is asked a lot whether it was worth leaving her previous career in teaching to become a counsellor, to which her answer is always yes. She says: "It is 100% the best decision I've ever made. I've been reflecting on this graduation being so meaningful because I've worked so hard, but also how lucky I am to have found my calling in life."



Barbering student's new business venture is a cut above the rest.

Jamie Baines, who studies Level 2 Barbering, chose to study at the college as it's local to him and the course fits in perfectly with his other commitments.

Jamie has recently opened his own barber shop in Newton-le-Willows and feels the course and college facilities have thoroughly prepared him for this.

Upon completion of his course, Jamie hopes to progress on to level 3 to further develop his skills.

