

# Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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**Colour Run fun**

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Picture: John Hopkins

# Editor's Comment



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## RESIDENTS at Risley have been left stunned after Warrington planners approved controversial proposals for a large HGV distribution centre near their homes.

This will have huge implications for the surrounding area, with thousands of extra HGV movements taking place - and no planning restrictions on hours or days of operation.

While some modifications have been made to the original plans these are minimal.

Members of the planning committee followed officer advice, voting 7-2 to approve the application which will also include the demolition of the former Noggin pub, and historic World War II military buildings on the site.

Leader of the council Cllr Russ Bowden, who is also a member of Birchwood Town Council, who as an organisation opposed the application in support of residents, has assured me the decision was not a political one, stating "planning is quasi-judicial and not whipped."

He will have difficulty convincing many local residents of this, who left the meeting distraught and shouting that members of the committee who voted in favour of the application should be "ashamed of yourselves."

I understand members of the controlling Labour group may feel obliged to follow officer advice, because if they go against it and then the application is overturned on appeal - they can be accused of

costing the council money.

But officers aren't always right and local councillors are elected to represent their constituents.

Local residents had invested in their own planning consultants to oppose the application by St Modwen Developments which involves the demolition of existing dwellings at 689 and 689a Warrington Road and former Noggin public house and existing industrial premises and redevelopment of site to provide buildings for employment use, access and car parking, landscaping, and associated works on land at Trident Business Park.

A total of 333 letters of objection had been received in response to

4 consultation periods while there were 28 letters of support.

Judging by the resident's reaction and that of local conservative councillors, they don't feel their concerns were taken seriously.

It's not the first time the council has gone against public opinion on big planning applications in the borough and I'm sure it won't be the last.

With local elections looming next May, I suspect many distraught residents impacted by this planning application decision will not have short memories!

**Deadline for the August issue  
of Culcheth Life is July 25**



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# Reading initiative connects students with “Silver Listeners”

**A GROUP of Year 7 students at Culcheth High School are taking part in a reading initiative which connects them with older members of the local community.**

They give up their time to contact senior citizens weekly by telephone and read to them.

Silver Stories is a charity-based project which aims to enrich the reading experience of young and old and helps the youngsters develop their reading accuracy

and fluency. It also combats the loneliness and isolation that can be felt by some older people.

The students are the “Silver Readers” and the senior citizens the “Silver Listeners” and young and old both find the experience enjoyable. Readings are short

extracts from books or poems and can range from Harry Potter to cake recipes!

Listeners provide feedback and encouragement to help the youngsters develop their reading skills.

They welcome the contact and thoroughly enjoy hearing from the students each week, often having a chat and finding out the youngsters’ reading interest – which the students love to share.

Darcy, Brigid, Alice and Erin

have been taking part in the programme for a number of weeks, reading from a variety of texts and genres.

A school spokesperson said: “It is truly delightful to see the students building confidence and engaging with their listeners in such a positive manner. One listener commented on how eloquent and well-spoken the readers are – and this makes the school really proud. This is truly the positive power of reading making a difference.”



Darcy, Brigid, Alice and Erin.



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# Work progressing well on library project

**WORK is progressing well on the redevelopment of Culcheth Library – and it should be open soon.**

The library has been closed since March while work goes on to modernise the building in Warrington Road.

In addition to refurbishing the library frontage, creating a new community space, and improving the interior decor and shelving, the refurbishment will also create a new community event space.

Moreover, the revamp is aimed at providing greater flexibility for library and community activities using internal spaces. This will also help to promote pride in the library, which will encourage more people

to use it.

The plans for the redevelopment have been produced by Warrington Borough Council and LiveWire, - which manages the library – in conjunction with the Friends of Culcheth Library group.

During the closure period library users are being encouraged to use their nearest library services at Birchwood or via LiveWire's online resources which include free e-books and e-audio items as well as a wealth of online reference material available to use at home.



## Outline plan for 110 homes on land currently in the Green Belt



AN outline planning application has been submitted to Warrington Borough Council for 110 homes on Green Belt land at Rixton-with-Glazebrook.

The scheme submitted by Richborough Estates involves 4.27 hectares of open land south west of Hollins Green – land currently in the Green Belt but proposed for removal from the Green Belt in the draft Warrington Local Plan.

Applicants say the site is currently open land along Manchester Road. But they say it is close to the Hollins Green local centre, where there is a wide range of shops and services.

The proposal is for a development of a high-quality homes with provision of significant open space, including amenity green space and children's play space.

Access to the development would be from Manchester Road.

Warrington Borough Council officers have indicated that while the site is proposed for removal from the Green Belt in the emerging draft local plan, any application made prior to adoption of the plan should be considered as development in the Green Belt, which would be considered inappropriate.

## House of "relatively unique appearance" approved

PLANNING chiefs at Warrington have given the go ahead for a house of "relatively unique appearance" – despite objections from a parish council.

Croft Parish Council opposed the scheme in Smithy Brow, close to the village centre, because of its impact on the Green Belt.

They also expressed concern that it would create a second row behind the existing houses.

But Warrington Borough Council planning officers – who recommended the scheme be approved – said there was no established building line in Smithy Brow and that the

development would have no impact on the Green Belt.

The scheme involves a single-storey H-shaped house consisting of two wings connected by a central porch. It would have four bedrooms and a detached car port for three cars.

Officers said while the dwelling would have a relatively unique appearance in the area, Smithy Brow was not characterised by one type, scale or design of dwelling.

As the majority of the development would not be visible from the highway, the scheme would fit suitably into its surroundings.



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# Celebrating 40 years of Birchwood with glorious suns

**WITH music, colour and plenty of entertainment Birchwood Carnival celebrated 40 years with glorious sunshine.**

The annual event at Birchwood Forest Park included a colourful "Coronation" themed procession around the park led by Batida Rio Samba Band.

There was also the fancy dress competition judging and prize-giving.

The afternoon's arena acts included Little Nippers Terrier Display, Batida Rio, and local acts such as Northern Starr Dance.

There was also a fun dog show running throughout the afternoon, a large funfair and more than 30 charity, craft and commercial stalls to visit.

Other attractions included a range of food outlets, Zoo 2 U Animals, a climbing wall and rodeo dinosaur, magic shows,

giant Lego, donkey rides and local history displays.

There was also the chance to join a range of workshops, including drumming, craft and circus skills. Most of the activities were free of charge so there was lots to do for the whole family!

Now in its 40th year, Birchwood Carnival is organised and run by Warrington Borough Council's Ranger Service and Birchwood Carnival Committee, with funding and support from Birchwood Town Council, Warrington Borough Council's Community Initiative Fund, Sellafield Ltd, Your Housing Group, Birchwood Park, Birchwood Shopping Centre, The Friends of Birchwood Forest Park, Birchwood Lions, and The Buddha Group.

Pictures: John Hopkins



## 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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# Wood Carnival shine



## The Gardening Guide



“Cut back your basket to give it a new lease of life - follow up by giving extra attention to feeding and watering”

*Simon Box,*  
Plant Area Specialist

- July is the month for hedges - newly planted hedges will need watering regularly and if they are straggly they can be lightly trimmed to encourage growth
- Watering is crucial this month so remember to look after your containers and baskets
- You can still sow crops such as carrots, turnips and fast maturing salad crops
- Remember to sit down and enjoy what you have created - an ideal time to relax with friends, a glass of wine and a barbecue!

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# Next chapter in history of Raven Inn set to begin

**AFTER four-and-a-half years of campaigning, community action and a lot of hard work, the Raven Inn at Glazebury is gearing up to reopen.**

Almost five years on from when the historic pub closed its doors, earmarked for a controversial housing development, the final touches are now taking place before the grand re-opening.

Spokesperson Peter Sturman said, "It is nearly five years since the old Raven closed its doors. Our pub has been through a lot since then, coming very close to being demolished.

"The amount of work, love, care and attention that has gone in to the Raven has been incredible.

"Anyone passing could not help but notice the fresh paint, new front door and the gorgeous hanging baskets. Inside there has been a complete transformation. Not quite

finished, but almost there.

"But it's not only about how our community pub looks, it's also the warm and welcoming feel of the place. It's as though our community pub is reflecting back some of the love that has been lavished on it by so many people. We are very lucky to have The Raven Inn.

Peter added: "The refit of the kitchen is the last major job we have to do.

"When that is complete we will finally be ready to open the doors and welcome everyone who has been patiently waiting.

"It has been a long time, but the next chapter in the history of the Raven is about to begin".



## Presentation commemorating coronation of King Charles

CROFT Parish Councillors recently visited the two primary schools in Croft to present special plaques commemorating the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May.

The plaque's on behalf of Croft Parish Council were presented to

the headteachers and pupils of St Lewis' Primary School and Croft Primary School by Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Phil Sharpe.

Cllr. Sharpe told the pupils the names of the last four monarch and how it had now come that

King Charles III was our new King. Cllr. Sharp was accompanied by last year's Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr. Paul Campbell.

Both headteachers Kathryn Berry from St Lewis' and Anne Mains from Croft Primary felt this was

a wonderful contribution to the history of the country and the Croft primary schools. The plaques will be on display for future generations of students, teachers, staff, parents, and visitors.



Plaque presentation at Croft Primary.



Plaque presentation at St Lewis' Primary.

## Councillors name new locations for ward surgeries

THE three borough councillors for Culcheth Glazebury and Croft – Wendy Maisey, Carol Benson and Val Allen – have announced two new locations for their ward surgeries.

They are the Daten – formally Culcheth Sports Club – and the General Elliot pub at Croft.

Cllr Maisey said: "We aim to make ourselves the most accessible borough councillors and are delighted to secure two new locations for our surgeries. Not only are we adding new locations to give residents more choices of where to attend surgeries, but we're also doing our bit to help local businesses.

"The Daten has a new lease of life under the new management and has firmly positioned itself as a great community hub in the village. The General Elliot under the leadership of Henry has become a real asset to Croft and we're looking forward to holding our surgery there in September.

"It will also be superb to go back to Culcheth Library once the refurbishment is complete and we'd like to thank Karen at The Victorian tea room and sweet shop in Glazebury for her ongoing support and allowing us to use the tea rooms to meet with residents."





# Work well underway on 32nd Disability Awareness Day

**WORK is well underway on the 32nd annual Disability Awareness Day which takes place at Walton Hall & Gardens on Sunday, July 16.**

Organised by Warrington Disability Partnership, is the UK's and possibly, the world's largest voluntary led pan disability exhibition.

Event founder and co-ordinator Dave Thompson MBE DL said; "We are very pleased to announce that disability education specialists Expanse Learning Group and the North West's water supplier United Utilities, are leading our list of sponsors for DAD 2023".

The aim of this year's event is to promote independent living through the theme "It's what disabled people can do that matters". DAD 2023 exhibitors will highlight solutions supporting independent living and mobility, with equipment, products, transport, employment, education, training, health and social care, leisure activities, alongside over 100 charities/support groups.

Most of this year's exhibitors will be housed in a huge tented village of marquees that will be supported by; an extended Sports Zone, a Centre Arena, a huge Performing Arts Marquee, two further Arts Marquees for art and crafts, featuring Goofus Theatre, a Silent Disco, a children's fun fair and play areas. Entertainment will also be available adjacent to the entrance bridge and Heritage Yard.

On the day, visitors can gain an insight into the help and support that is available locally, regionally and nationally from statutory organisations, businesses and voluntary sector groups.

They can "have a go" at sports activities including Tennis, Cricket, American Football, Snooker, Rugby League, Martial Arts, Tai Chi, PowerChair Football, CrossFit and Scuba Diving in the on-site pool. In addition, Warrington Youth Zone's giant sports inflatables.

For those looking for those looking for a more relaxed day we will have a fantastic line-up of talent in the Arts Marquee with some of the UK's leading disabled artists including Ella Together, Carly Ryan, Creating Adventures, BSL Choir, Stars Drama, Wolf Print Dance and Groovy Movers. Supported by Rock Choir, Warrington Male Voice Choir, Signature Brass, Chester Ladies Choir and Wired for Sound. BSL interpreters will support all acts.

Alternatively, sit alongside the Main Arena watching Guide Dog display team, Reach Sled Dogs Display Team, Batida Rio Samba Band, Royal Marines Corps of Drums and sports demonstrations.

Children can visit the funfair rides or accessible onsite zoo, crazy golf, high ropes and pitch and putt.

DAD 2023 will be the finale of a week of complimentary events that includes Disability Confident Employers Workshop, Creating Adventures "One Time Only" variety show, Merseycare NHS Trust "Ignite Your Life", Ella Together "Summertime Special", United Utilities "Customer Vulnerability Summit", Warrington Carers Hub "Wellbeing Festival", "Party in the

Park" for disabled young people and young carers. The finale of the week will see the UK's top tribute band "Bjorn to be Abba".

Support services at DAD 2023 will include a free accessible Park and Ride service, free accessible buses from Warrington Town Centre, a free scooter and wheelchair loan service with trained enablers, British Sign Language interpreters, additional unisex wheelchair accessible toilets and over 100 trained stewards and helper's eager to make it a day to remember for everyone.

DAD continues to capture the imaginations of organisations around the UK and worldwide with events planned in Cameroon, India, Uganda, Abu Dhabi and more. It is no wonder that DAD continues

to be recognised as the world's largest voluntary led pan disability independent living exhibition and family fun day covering physical, sensory and learning disabilities and mental health, and all ages.

Dave recalls the day it all started from a brief conversation with the rangers at Walton Gardens back in 1992; he said "Nobody would have expected the event to still be running nearly 32 years later, and that it would have grown to be recognised not just locally, but now internationally. It is testament to all of the team involved who are aptly named DAD's Army".

For any enquiries, please contact Warrington Disability Partnership on 01925 240064 or visit www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk



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# Colour Run fun to raise funds for new facilities

**CULCHETH FC held a Colour Run event to help to raise funds for new facilities for the club.**

The club is in desperate need of new toilets and a welfare unit for referees, coaches and players to use and are bidding to raise £25,000 to renovate The Oaks.

More than 300 local children are registered with the club. Donations can be made online via [www.gofundme.com/f/culcheth-athletic-facilities](http://www.gofundme.com/f/culcheth-athletic-facilities)





## DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY

# #DAD2023

# SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY

10am - 4:30pm

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## DAD WEEK 2023

Disability Awareness Day 

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**Disability Confident** 10.30am-1pm Walton Gardens  
Event for employers. Recruitment & retention, reasonable adjustments & funding. For more info contact [J.Balshaw@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto:J.Balshaw@disabilitypartnership.org.uk) or telephone 01925 240064.

**One Time Only** 7pm-9.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens.  
Creating Adventures present a variety show with a difference: Live band, Choir, Singing and more. Licensed bar. Tickets £5 available on DAD website.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**Ignite your Life** 10.30am-3.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens  
Merseycare NHS Foundation Trust, mental health and wellbeing event. Workshops, talks, activities, information stands Free refreshment available, including buffet lunch. For more info contact [dennis.dewar@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:dennis.dewar@merseycare.nhs.uk) or telephone 01925 664850.

**Ella Summertime Special** 7pm-9.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens  
Top entertainment from the teams at the amazing Ella Performance Group. An evening of dance, singing and much, more. Licensed bar. Tickets £5 available on DAD website.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

**Customer Vulnerability Summit** 10am-3pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens  
United Utilities present an event highlighting support services available to vulnerable customers, including Priority Services and much more. Open to staff working in welfare rights, advice services, social prescribing, etc. Contact [Amanda.Phillips@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:Amanda.Phillips@uuplc.co.uk).

**Carers Wellbeing Festival** 10am - 2pm: Marquee 8, Walton Gardens  
Warrington Carers Hub presents an event to thank carers with health and wellbeing activities including massage, mindfulness, music, crafts, dance and lunch. Contact [deborah.fitzsimon@warringtoncarershub.org.uk](mailto:deborah.fitzsimon@warringtoncarershub.org.uk) or telephone 07734 872412.

**Party in the Park** 6pm-9.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens  
A collaboration between Warrington Disability Partnership, Warrington Youth Zone, Warrington Wolves Foundation, and Warrington Carers Hub. A fun-filled evening of sports, arts, dance, chat and chill out, crafts, karaoke, music, silent disco and fun areas. Free refreshments and free admission. Contact [Kate](mailto:Kate@01925240064) on 01925 240064.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**Bjorn to be ABBA** 7.30pm-11.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens.  
Top tribute band perform a range of Abba's most loved hits. Dance the night away to great music! Licensed bar. Tickets £10 available on DAD website or Contact [Ellen](mailto:Ellen@01925240064) on 01925 240064.

### The big event - Disability Awareness Day

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July @ Walton Gardens - 10am - 4:30pm

[www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk) Scan to visit our website





#DAD2023

01925 240064



# Keep smiling says Louisa, aged 100

**KEEP smiling and be happy – that’s the recipe for long life and good health according to Culcheth resident Louisa Langley. And at 100, she should know!**

She still lives in the bungalow she has occupied for the last 30 years, still gets out and about in the various cafes in the village and still enjoys making dolls, dogs and cats and other cuddly toys for her many friends and carers.

Before moving to Culcheth she lived in Long Lane, Warrington and worked in the offices at the Rylands wire works. Later, after her children, David and Maureen, had grown up she took cleaning jobs at Boots and the further education college across the road from her home, where she worked for 25 years.

Daughter Maureen said: “Mum has a good sense of humour and always has everyone laughing. Although she needs a wheelchair now, she still gets out and about.”

Surprise visitor on her 100th

birthday was long time friend and chairman of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Keith Bland, who presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the council.



## WI members hear about local history

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI was Janice Hayes, the well-known Warrington historian and author.

Her talk “From New Town to New City”, was extensive and informative and her knowledge of the town most impressive. It was illustrated with pictures of the changes to the town that have occurred over the years.

The business part of the meeting included Cheshire news and information. It was announced that the Autumn Council meeting will be held in Chester, at the Storey House.

The County Quiz will be held in July.

Members will visit the Lymm Fire Station, in July, with lunch afterwards nearby.

The craft group has a “Do it yourself” meeting next time.

## An introduction to the world of “Making Chutney!”

MEMBERS of the newly merged Culcheth and Newchurch (Sundial) WI were given an interesting talk on the world of “Making Chutney” at their June meeting.

President Eileen Griffiths welcomed Melanie Latham as speaker and after “Jerusalem” accompanied by Margaret Jones members settled down to enjoy an introduction to the world of “Making Chutney”.

Melanie had already set out her ingredients and an electric ring with a very big preserving pan. She began with tales from her past life while she worked away at the mixture in the pan, beginning with cider vinegar and salt. Her grandmother taught her the first basics. Melanie carried on with paring red onions and pears while she talked and members were told to avoid cutting into onion roots to avoid watering eyes. Melanie also learned to make pickles with a low sugar content for her diabetic mother and she always uses plain white sugar. Two oranges (zest and juice) and beetroot for colour went into the pan and lastly fresh ginger root. She told of her stalls at farmers’ markets and her degree in criminology and criminal law, as well as long journeys up and down the north-west. The chutney was almost ready now so Melanie

advised on sterilising jars and told members she filled her jars to the top and used modern British Standard lids (no more waxed paper). Amazingly nothing had boiled over! Brenda Pinion gave the vote of thanks and tea was served by Ann Hambleton and Freda Wilcock.

President Eileen began the business meeting with the new name – Sundial WI. She announced Melanie’s choice of Competition winners - Sylvia Brown followed by Aileen Paterson, and thanked Margaret Fletcher for the table flowers. There were eight “Birthday Girls” in June and June Jolley won the draw for the table bouquet. The Lunch Club will meet at the Cherry Tree on 28th June at 12.30pm. Doreen Procter’s lists for the autumn trips are filling up but members had sad news about their favourite driver John who will be unavailable for a while. Menu choices for the October trip to Gibbon’s Bridge are to be made in August. The Trading Stall had once more been a welcome addition to the Institute’s meetings, thanks to Shirley and Marian. The topic for the meeting on 18th July will be “The Crown Jewels” with “A Brooch” as the competition. After the raffle Eileen wished everyone a safe journey home.

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