

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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THERE are two pieces of goods news in this month's edition – both with the motto "use them or lose them!"

Firstly, it is fantastic to be able to report on the re-opening of the new look refurbished Culcheth Library.

Congratulations to all those involved in this lengthy campaign to help ensure the much-needed facility remains open following a much-needed and long overdue facelift, especially to the Friends of Culcheth Library who have worked so hard to achieve this aim.

Christmas Fairs!

Culcheth Methodist Church is delighted to be having their Christmas Fair once again this year, on November 24, in conjunction with events organized by 3rd Warrington Scouts in the Scout Hut on Jackson Ave and the fair in Newchurch Parish Hall on the same day.

Come along to the Church on Ellesmere Rd 10.30am-3pm to meet Father Christmas in his grotto, enjoy children's Christmas craft activities, refreshments, and take a stroll around the stalls in the hall for games and Christmas gifts.

To book a stall at the Methodist Church, call 01925 765561

These are hard working members of our local community who deserve praise for their endeavours.

But we must also congratulate LiveWire and the council for having faith in the facility. It is now down to you – the members of the public to continue to support it.

Secondly Warrington's Own Buses have also provided much-needed additional late night bus services for Culcheth.

Along with the discounted £2 (£1 for under 19s) bus fares, this ensures public transport is affordable and available to access the town centre late into the evening.

What's important now is that local people use these services or run the risk of losing them – so I will

finish as I started – use them or lose them!

The facilities and services are now in place – now use them!

Deadline for the December issue of Culcheth Life is November 21



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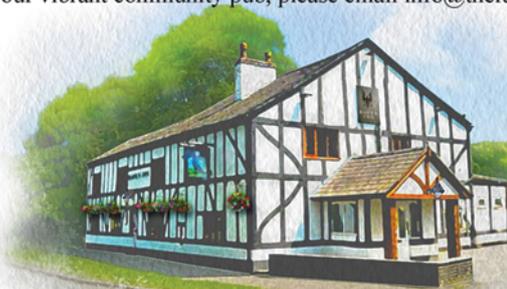
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Official opening for updated Culcheth Library

THE refurbished and updated Culcheth Library is to be officially opened on Friday, November 10.

Children's author and scriptwriter Frank Cottrell-Boyce will perform the opening ceremony together with Professor Steven Broomhead, chief executive of Warrington Borough Council.

Other council officers have also been invited to the event and also present will be members of the Friends of Culcheth Library, who campaigned for the library upgrade and raised money towards the cost of the scheme.

The project has involved infilling an existing courtyard to create an additional room, removing the existing entry porch, installation of a gantry canopy to service the

library entrance and an extension to the front entrance.

Children from local primary schools and Culcheth High School will give presentations at the opening, which will start at 2pm.

Frank Cottrell-Boyce is a screenwriter, novelist and actor known for his children's fiction and his collaborations with film director Michael Winterbottom.

He was the writer for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics and has won major awards for his children's books. He was at one time on the writing staff of Coronation Street.



Memorial Service at Methodist Church

THE annual Memorial Service at Culcheth Methodist Church will be on Sunday, November 26 at 3pm – and as usual there is an open invitation to anyone who has lost a loved one, whether recently or in years gone by.

The service will be led by the Minister, the Rev Katharine Bland and will offer an opportunity for anyone to attend and remember someone special to them, whether by sitting quietly with their memories or by lighting a candle.

The pain of losing a loved one can be overwhelming and grief has no time limit. Such emotions are even more acute at certain times of the year, particularly during the build-up to Christmas, which is why the service has been timed just before the start of Advent.

After the service, people are invited to stay on for tea and cake.

More details can be obtained from the Rev Bland on 01925 763218 or Janette Hutchinson 01925 766819



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2023 Open Day 11th Nov - 10.30am

Individual visits warmly welcomed

Please ring school to arrange your visit.
Further information can be found on our website.

Culcheth Community Primary School is a warm, welcoming, vibrant school that provides a first class education and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for all children. Full, flexible wrap around care is provided by school from 7.30am until 6pm

‘Pupils flourish at Culcheth Community Primary school – this is a school where pupils are cared for exceptionally well and encouraged to be their best.’
Ofsted May 2023

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Care home chef crowned champion in MasterChef-style competition

A CROFT care home chef has taken home the crown after cooking up a storm in a MasterChef-style competition run by not-for-profit care provider, Sanctuary Care.

Sarah Ashton, chef manager at High Peak Residential and Nursing Home in Main Lane, Kenyon, Croft emerged victorious amongst 13 finalists in the annual competition, which follows a similar format to

the popular BBC series.

The competition saw chefs from over 100 care homes in England and Scotland battle it out to produce a two-course menu in under 90 minutes.

A panel of judges assessed the dishes for taste, culinary flair, creativity, and presentation.

Inspired by her children's favourite cuisine, Sarah prepared a delectable chicken katsu curry with coconut rice as her main course. This was followed by one of the care home's most popular desserts, a rhubarb crumble cheesecake.

Sarah said: "The competition was fierce, so I am feeling very proud to have won! As a care home chef, it means a lot to have our culinary skills recognised."

"I've always loved cooking but working in a care home kitchen is a completely different experience, which brings with it unique challenges and a whole new level of satisfaction."

"Preparing menus which cater to our residents' wide range of preferences and dietary requirements requires a certain level of creativity, but knowing how much they look forward to mealtimes is incredibly fulfilling – particularly when they share positive feedback."

"It really was an honour to take part in the competition. I can't wait for next year already!"

Sarah was not only named

MasterChef champion, but Sanctuary Care, which has delivered residential, dementia, respite, and nursing care for over 25 years, awarded her a cash prize of £1,000.

Judge and Sanctuary Care's director of operations, Sheila O'Connor, said: "Sarah is an outstanding chef and deserving winner of our MasterChef competition."

"We introduced the contest 13 years ago to honour the amazing chefs who produce delicious food to enrich the lives of residents living within our care homes every day, and each year, the competition gets more exciting."

"Mealtimes play a really important role in our homes and have always been a focus for residents, which is why we are proud to invest in fantastic chefs who go above and beyond to create enjoyable dining experiences for our residents."

"It was great to see the contestants demonstrating their culinary flair during the competition. The judges were blown away by the creative menus and delicious food produced. All of the chefs should feel incredibly proud."

Weekend road closures confirmed at Croft

VARIOUS weekend road closures have been confirmed near the junction of the M6 at Croft to allow construction works associated with the Parkside Development at nearby Newton-le-Willows.

The closures scheduled in November, December and January, will come into force on a Friday evening from 9 pm to 6 am Monday, in a bid to minimise traffic disruption during the working week.

Warrington Borough Council has made an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of which will be to introduce a prohibition of driving on Winwick Lane from its junction with M6 junction 22 to its junction with Stone Pit Lane.

The Order will be effective from 9 pm on Friday 3rd November 2023 to 6 am on Monday 6th November 2023, 9 pm on Friday 1st December 2023 to 6 am on Monday 4th December 2023, 9 pm on Friday 26th January 2024 to 6 am on Monday 29th January 2024, as and when signed on site.

Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works. The alternative route will be via Winwick Link Road, Newton Road, Winwick Road, Mill Lane, Southworth Road, Newton Road and vice versa.

The closure is required to allow for the construction works associated with the Parkside Development.

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Celebrating language – in the kitchen!

STUDENTS and staff at Culcheth High School celebrated European Day of Languages – in the kitchen.

The Day is a celebration of the rich tapestry of languages which make Europe special.

Linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and, at Culcheth students and staff were proud to encompass this by showing off their baking skills in a European Bake-Off.

The event was a great success with many entries from Year 7 and 8 students, representing a range of countries including France, Spain, Greece and Italy.

The entries were of a high standard which made deciding the winners a difficult task for the judges, headteacher Mr Christopher Hunt and interim head of Spanish, Miss Zarah Keenan.

Joint winners were Sofia Haaland Alonso, with a London-inspired cake, and Carlota Haaland Alonso with a Parisian themed cake. Second were Jacob Walker and Jasper Parker-Kerner for their meatballs and spaghetti cupcakes and third was Indie Kirk, with her gondola cake.



The perfect Christmas present - tickets to Elton at the Daten

Saturday nights gonna be alright... when the Elton John tribute showcases at The Daten in Culcheth on Saturday 27th January 2024 at 7pm.

With over 300 million records sold, Sir Elton John is the most successful singer-songwriter of his generation. A flamboyant megastar, with a never ending back catalogue of incredible songs! If you want the most realistic Elton John experience then look no further.

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Croft Parish Council News



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Christmas Tree lights switch on

On Friday 24th November 2023 it's the Croft Christmas Tree Lighting event. This will feature singing from the children of both Croft Schools. Please all come along and gather from 5.30pm at the Christmas tree opposite The Horseshoe Inn.

CCTV and Defibrillators

The parish council has installed CCTV at Croft Community Centre and the public toilets at the Playing Field to help prevent vandalism within our community. A second defibrillator has now been installed outside The Plough Inn. Along with the defibrillator already installed opposite The Horseshoe Inn, we now have two lifesaving devices available 24/7 for our community.

Speeding and Police

The parish council is working with the police and Warrington Borough Council to try to reduce the speed of vehicles on our roads and increase road safety in our village. We are looking for volunteers to operate a community speed watch scheme – please contact the clerk if you are interested in helping.

Hedges and Flooding

We ask our residents to please keep their hedges bordering the roads and footpaths of our village well cut. This will assist with pedestrian and vehicle safety whilst using our narrow roads. Please do not park vehicles on footpaths as this too impacts on safety. We have also been working to reduce flooding throughout the village.

Croft Village Hall

The village hall is looking for a new chairperson. If anyone is interested, please come forward as your village needs you.

Residents may contact Croft Parish Council's Clerk on Email: croftparishcouncil@gmail.com
The Parish Council issues updates and information on Twitter: [@croftparish](https://twitter.com/croftparish)
Facebook: [@croftparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/croftparishcouncil) Web: www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk

Christmas at Bents unveiled

AFTER being kept under wraps Christmas at Bents has been unveiled with a bang!

Hundreds of customers joined Bents for the occasion and followed Father Christmas and friends – who were making a special guest appearance for the occasion – into this year’s magical wonderland.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director said: “Christmas has been a part of our family business for as long as I can remember and it never loses any of its charm or excitement, especially when we’re surrounded by such beautiful and inspirational displays.

“We have our very own team of set designers and joiners who work together to create our magical scenes and once again they have delivered another fantastic wonderland for our customers to enjoy.”

Bents were joined for the occasion by the Cllr Carol Benson, Deputy Mayor of Warrington, who helped with the opening and who drew the raffle for a beautiful Christmas hamper.

Bents 2023 entrance display, a tasty combination of gingerbread

men and candy canes with red and white decorations, is just one of many expertly designed show-stoppers, and sets the scene for more delicious delights further into the centre.

This year’s Winter Food Market features even more tasty treats and new for 2023 is Bents’ iconic Airstream trailer serving freshly made fish and chips.

Now that Christmas at Bents is open there is a full calendar of festive events planned at the Centre, starting with Father Christmas’ Arrival Parade on Saturday 9th November at 4pm. Father Christmas will be joined by a host of festive friends including the very mischievous Elf on the Shelf.

Festive Wednesdays return on 8th November – 29th November when Bents’ experts share their top tips and inspirational ideas and a new date for Carols by Candlelight has been added on Thursday 23rd November. For further details of these and other Christmas events visit bents.co.uk



Chairman hosts MAN charity night at Village Club

THE Chairman of the RBL Culcheth Village Club, Paul Campbell, recently welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Wigan when they attended the club in support of the MAN Leigh CIC Charity night.

The evening raised funds for the Leigh based MAN Charity organisation which works to provide Peer-to-Peer support for men with maybe just a chat or a brew and biscuits and if possible, a laugh.

The night was a great success with ukulele band The Rockets playing a great mixture of music for everyone to enjoy.

Cllr Kevin Anderson has selected the charity in his year as Mayor of Wigan to highlight the wonderful work it is doing in the community. The mayor thanked the people from MAN especially Mark Smith the organiser for the important work they are doing. He also thanked the band and the Village Club for putting on a wonderful evening and for their support for the Chairty. Cllr Anderson was accompanied by the Wigan Mayoress Smanatha Lloyd and his Cadet for the year Cameron Weir.



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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METAS

The Gardening Guide



Now the winter rains have arrived remember to ensure better drainage in your pots and containers.

Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

- There are a surprising number of plants that perform well over the winter period, often they are well scented - examples include Sarcococca, Hamamelis and Mahonia
- Areas of the border, that are currently empty, can be dug over and enriched with blended manure for next year's planting
- Cut down any herbaceous plants that have finished flowering and that do not have a strong winter structure. Weed and fork gently between them

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



Our Winter Food Market is back with all your festive food favourites plus some exciting new additions. Visit our amazing Fish and Chip van or plan a cosy get-together in one of our Winter Globes. There is something to suit everyone's taste. You'll be glad you went to Bents.

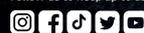
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Brownies organised a theatre trip – and ended up taking part

MEMBERS of the 7th Culcheth Brownies organised a theatre trip – and ended up taking part in a dance workshop with some of the show's cast.

Warrington's Centenary Theatre Company are to stage "Nativity the Musical" at the Brindley in Runcorn in November.

Rosie Clare, a member of the Brownie group, is taking part in the show so the Brownies decided to organise a trip out to see it.

As a thank you, Centenary visited them to do a dance workshop to teach them the show's finale number "Sparkle and Shine."

Choreographer Rebecca Mainwaring, led the session with enthusiasm while cast member Georgia Heyes joined in to help

teach the routine along with junior cast members Jasmine Dunn and Georgia Dunn.

They were joined by "Mr Maddens" (Andrew Dunn) and "Mr Poppy" (Dan Grimes) in character to interact with the Brownies and were a huge hit!

The Brownies had a great time both with the dancing and interacting with the characters, even coming up to them during a break to talk to them and ask questions.

The session was followed by a question and answer session with Mr Maddens and Mr Poppy as the Brownies asked questions about the show and had fun laughing at Mr Poppy's silly responses!

Dan Grimes, who is also chairman of Centenary Theatre

Company, said: "We had a great time joining the Brownies for the evening to answer their questions about the show and to teach them one of our dance routines. They made us feel very welcome and they certainly were quick learners! We can't wait to see them again when they come to see the show on stage."

"Nativity the Musica" is being performed at The Brindley in Runcorn from November 14-18 at 7.30pm nightly with a Saturday matinee at 2pm which will be BSL signed.

Tickets are priced at £22.50 for adults and £20.50 for concessions (this includes the booking fee) and can be purchased from The Brindley website or by calling the box office on 0151 907 8360.

More buses for Culcheth!

Visit warringtonsownbuses.co.uk or call 01925 634296 for details

All fares £2

£1 for under 19s



Warrington's
own buses

New bus services for Culcheth



NEW late bus services are now running into and out of Culcheth by Warrington's Own Buses.

The last 19 leaves Warrington at 23:15 and turns around at Culcheth Library and heads back at 23:45 - the 28a runs onto Leigh with the last service heading to Leigh at around 23:30 - every journey costs a maximum of £2 (£1 for under 19s) and a day pass for £5 is available if you make multiple journeys.

Welcoming the news local resident Nick Taylor said: "This is a massive boost to those wanting to

access both Culcheth and the town centre and beyond in terms of the night time and leisure economy. I'm trying to use the bus as much as possible as it's now much more economic than the car - the app has a live tracker on so you know where your bus is at anytime.

"Many services have WiFi and usb charging on board - so I may sound like a sales person for them but I'm not - I just think it's time to get out of the car and support public transport and save some money and if we don't use this we will lose it - please support!"

Vandals running amok on village playing fields

VANDALS have been running amok on village playing fields at Culcheth – uprooting trees and smashing equipment.

Nearby residents say a group of hooded youths riding pedal cycles have been visiting Shaw Street Recreation Ground of a night and repeatedly vandalising the area.

Volunteer litter pickers who regularly clean up the area were shocked when they discovered the damage.

Cllr Sue Bland has tabled a report for the next meeting of

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

She said: "We have got to get something done about it. The matter has been reported to police, but nothing seems to have been done so far.

"Nearby residents say the offenders arrive almost every evening. Trees are smashed or uprooted and bushes torn down.

A shelter provided for users of a skatepark has been damaged.

"One parish councillor went down one evening with a video camera but, of course, the offenders didn't show up that night. They may

have seen him – I don't know."

Trees and bushes that have been growing for years have been smashed by the hooligans

Evidence of drug use has also been found in the area.



Art exhibition

CULCHETH Art Group will be holding their annual exhibition at the Culcheth Centre, on Jackson Avenue, with this year's exhibition running over two days on November 24 and 25.

Paintings and other works of art created by members during the year will be on show.

Admission will be 50p, or by programme and tea and coffee will be available.

Val voted in as president

VAL Barrow was voted in as president for the next 12 months at the annual general meeting of Lowtron WI.

The meeting was then treated to a performance by the Warrington Signing Choir who soon had members tapping their feet and singing along. To see the choir, who were unable to hear, signing perfectly to the lyrics was a truly humbling experience.

Lowton WI meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7.15pm in Lowton Social Club on Newton Road. More details from Val Barrow on 074193 35330

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Magnificent seven raise over £10k for Steve Prescott Foundation with epic cycling challenge

CULCHETH based sandwich bar owner Ian Barker was part of a team of seven cyclists to conquer the Mont Ventoux cycling challenge, helping raise over £10,000 for the Steve Prescott Foundation.

Ian, owner of Brunch Sandwich Bar in the village, recently completed the epic charity challenge with six other cyclists for the Steve Prescott Foundation established to provide funds for both The Christie Hospital and the Rugby League Benevolent Fund, which offers help to those who have been seriously injured playing one of the world's toughest sports.

Mont Ventoux has been stirring things up in the Tour de France world since it was first introduced over 60 years ago. It became

infamous when it claimed the life of the British rider Tom Simpson in 1967 and has since become a Mecca for cyclists from all over the world wanting to battle this iconic moonscape of a climb.

Commenting on the experience Ian said: "From my own personal point it was one of the toughest challenges I've trained for. We got lucky with the weather as Mont Ventoux often has high winds but we got clear blue skies. The relentless climbing took its toll going into the last climb from the village

of Sault as this was the longest ascent. At this stage the weather was 28 degrees and no real shade on the mountain. Personally I broke the challenge down into stages and when I turned at Chalet Reynard I knew I had 6km to go and although it was an average of 9% gradient for those 6km I just grinded it out and then enjoyed the descent

back to Malaucene. It was a great achievement by all seven cyclists and a challenge that if Stephen was still with us today he would have hugely welcomed. The support team was fantastic and made sure we was well fuelled (with a few Brunch Flapjacks as well). I'd like to thank everyone that has donated its hugely appreciated."



WDP'S SANTA'S GROTTO 2023

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- Sunday 10th December - 10.30am till 4pm
- Saturday 16th December - 10am till 4pm
- Sunday 17th December - 10.30am till 4pm
- Monday 18th December - 10am till 4pm
- Tuesday 19th December - 10am till 4pm
- Wednesday 20th December - 10am till 4pm
- Thursday 21st December - 10am till 4pm



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Per Ticket
*Includes Booking Fee, Visit to Santa, Present & Puzzle Trail

*Accompanying Adult Ticket - suggested donation of £1

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For further information, please contact Kate Picken on 01925 240064 or k.picken@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1113597, All proceeds go to Warrington Disability Partnership



Humbling experience of hearing signing choir sing perfectly

THE October meeting of Lowton WI was the AGM where Val Barrow was voted in as President for the next twelve months.

Once all the serious business was over, members were treated to a performance by the Warrington Signing Choir, the music certainly had them tapping their feet and singing along.

To see the choir, who were unable to hear, signing perfectly to the lyrics, was a truly humbling experience.

The next meeting will be John Winnard talking about a local favourite "Uncle Joe's Mintballs".

Lowton WI meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7.15pm in Lowton Social Club on Newton Road.

For any ladies out there who are looking for a new social interest, why not give the WI a try. To arrange a visit and more information, phone Val Barrow on: 07419335330.



Keep Taking the Tablets!

by Claire Hatton

THE speaker for Croft WI October meeting was Stephen Freeborn, a retired pharmacist, who entertained members with some amusing, enlightening and sometimes alarming anecdotes from his long career.

Stephen graduated as a pharmacist in 1974 and when he first started work medicines were still being prepared by individual pharmacists using ingredients listed in books called formularies. Before World War II these books were all in Latin but in 1955 the government produced the National Formulary which thankfully was in English. Nowadays pharmacists use the British Pharmacopoeia and the initials B.P. can be found on some tablets. The pharmacist's role has changed from preparing medicines to becoming a vital source of information for doctors and patients on the uses and side effects of medicines. A serious and responsible job, but pharmacists also need a good sense of humour to cope with the queries they have to answer. Stephen recalled some of these:

"When I take this medicine for my right hand how does it know where to go?"

"My wife's on these tablets and it says don't drink, drive or operate machinery, can she put the washer on?"

"These tablets say take in water but I haven't got a bath"

"I won't be able to go home on the bus because it says keep away from children"

"The paste says apply to the trunk but I haven't got one"

"I've put these suppositories up my nose but they're not helping with my breathing".

Stephen's job involved visiting a few patients at home and he witnessed some alarming solutions to the sometimes tricky problem of how to open a child-proof bottle

cap - he has seen a hole made in the cap with a drill, the base sawn off with a hacksaw and one old lady had even made a hole in the bottle with a red hot poker! None of these ideas are recommended and Stephen advised that a pharmacy should be able to supply a normal bottle cap if requested.

Another useful piece of advice concerned the storage of medicines. All hospital wards have two cabinets to store internal and external medicines separately. It is wise to do this at home as well - you really don't want your piles cream to be touching your cough mixture!

Laughter is the best medicine and Anne Lamming gave the vote of thanks to Stephen for giving such an entertaining talk.

The winners of this month's competition 'A medicinal joke or cartoon' were:

1st place Jill Hillam, 2nd place Liz Jones and 3rd place Janet Hughes.

Diary Dates:

4th November: Leather Craft Workshop at Croft Memorial Hall

1st December: Christmas Party at Culcheth Village Club

13th December: Christmas Luncheon at The Horseshoe

3rd January 2024: "Fantastically Great Women" Lowry Theatre outing

26th - 28th January 2024: Grand Hotel Blackpool outing

Croft WI meets at 7.30 pm at Croft Memorial Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, visitors are welcome to come along to meetings.

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