

Culcheth Life

Magazine

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First year celebrations!

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Editor's Comment



THE people of Culcheth, and in particular the members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, are to be congratulated on what must surely be described as a victory for commonsense, following the refusal of planning permission for a development in the village centre that would have meant the loss of 22 valuable parking places.

No sooner were the proposals made public than shocked local residents were expressing alarm. Just as quickly, the parish council were organising opposition and making sure the public were aware of what was proposed – the building of a two-storey mixed-use development on a car park.

In other words, a development that would attract more traffic to a village already struggling to cope with parked vehicles and at the same time robbing the village of 22 parking spaces.

It beggars belief that such a development could ever have been put forward – but it was and who can say it would not have been allowed if local councillors and members of the public had not made their feelings known.



Fortunately, Warrington Borough Council and the Planning Inspectorate both recognised the dangers the plan posed and said "No".

The episode is a reminder, if one is needed, that attractive villages like Culcheth will always be targets for unsuitable developments and that it is up to local people to stand ready to protect the local environment.

Meanwhile, the parish council is also due for some praise following the opening, just in time for the school holidays, of the super new play area on the Village Green.

This play area had been long

needed. The old one had become tired and was in sore need of replacement. This has now been done and the replacement is a top-of-the-range facility.

The work may have been done by the borough council, but without the £140,000 contribution from the parish council, it might not have been as impressive.

**Deadline for the
 September issue of
 Culcheth Life
 is August 20**



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Mock election was more startling than the real thing!

YEAR 8 students at Culcheth High School took part in a "mock election" shortly before the General Election – and the results were perhaps even more startling than the real thing!

The poll came at the end of a series of lessons in the Humanities Faculty on how the political system works in the UK.

The students had the opportunity to independently cast their votes on a ballot paper and post them in a ballot box.

When the votes were counted it was found 54 per cent went to Labour, followed by the Reform Party and the Green Party with 35 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats came fourth, followed by the Conservatives who won just one per cent of the vote.

The lessons – which took place as part of the History, Geography and RE lessons – covered the manifestos of the different parties, environmental issues and the importance of voting.

The work linked to the school's Year 8 Personal Development Curriculum.



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The Raven celebrates its first year

ON August 12 the Raven Inn community pub at Glazebury will be one year old.

The anniversary will be celebrated on Friday 16th of August, with a performance from the Harper brothers - the sons of Bobby Ball, of Cannon and Ball fame.

Spokesperson Peter Sturman commented, "This year has gone by so quickly. It hardly seems possible. Everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate.

"The Raven got off to a flying start last August. That was pretty much sustained for the rest of the year.

"There were blips along the way. It was effectively a new pub and a start-up business.

"The Raven is a fantastic place. The staff are incredible. There have been so many people working so hard, to make this all possible.

Peter added: "It is fair to say that after a very good festive period the start of the year provided some challenges. Not just for the Raven, but for just about everyone in a similar business.

"There are some very experienced people in the pub business who told us we were mad to start up a new pub when we did.

"For everyone involved, the Raven is a bit different, a bit special.

"Dedication, hard work, willpower and love of the place. The fantastic support of our shareholders and all of our customers. All those individual facets come together to provide a powerful force behind

our community pub.

"During the first year the Raven has, true to tradition, hosted community events, helped raise thousands of pounds for various charities, formed a rambling and a cycle club and built upon the Raven Horticultural Society. Some shareholders have pioneered the Monday jam nights. One of our shareholders writes and hosts the incredibly popular Tuesday quiz night.

"Everyone is welcome to join in any of these activities. No doubt there will be more community led events in the coming year.

"As we celebrate our first anniversary we must recognise the achievements of the last twelve months, whilst continuing to work hard to have a thriving community pub.

Peter concluded: "A true community pub will always require the support and patronage of its shareholders and the wider community.

"A true community pub does not have a brewery behind it.

"The Raven will always need that support and patronage. The Raven must always strive to earn and deserve such support.

"It will not always be plain sailing.

"It has to be a partnership.

"A really good first year, a very good foundation. Now we must build on that."



Controversial plan to build five houses is thrown out



A CONTROVERSIAL plan to build five houses on a 0.14 hectare piece of farmland off Warrington Road, Glazebury has been thrown out by planning chiefs.

The scheme, submitted by Oaktree Construction, would have partly involved Green Belt land and its design, scale and layout would have been out of character with the local area, planners decided.

In addition, the proposals did not respect the living conditions of existing residents and could result in the loss of trees.

There was also insufficient information about the amount of internal space that would be provided in the dwellings.

A number of local residents objected to the scheme - which

involved two pairs of semi-detached houses and one detached house with an access drive and gated entrance - and it was also opposed by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

One house would have been within 30 metres of Chat Moss Bridge.

The applicants claimed the site is in an area identified for housing growth. Although in an area that could be affected by underground coal mining, it had not been worked since 1989 so it was considered that any ground movement arising from mining should now have stopped.

The application has been rejected by Warrington Borough Council planners.

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Award-winning student chef launches online business to sell popular pies

AN award-winning student chef has launched an online business to sell his popular pies.

Elliot Logsdon is also planning to expand into physical premises following on from success with a pop-up shop at town centre premises.

Elliot aged 19 from Croft said: "I recently decided to start an online business where I could sell my pies and other products on a website for local home delivery."

"The business I decided to call 'en Croûte' based on the fact that I enjoy the pastry side of cooking but don't want to only make pies so I felt the name sounded a bit different to other pie companies."

"The pies are currently sold on my website www.enroute.org which includes different flavours of pies all handcrafted and also includes extras like sauces, sides and even full meal boxes."

"The plan is to eventually secure 'En Croûte' a physical space to sell classic British dishes in a bistro/brasserie setting but until then we will be doing online deliveries via our website and also local events."

Last month Elliot did a pop-up restaurant night at Mamars artisan bakery at The Hive in Warrington town centre which was a big success as he got to serve food in a restaurant setting.

He will now continue to do the pop up restaurant nights with

Mamars with the next one being announced soon.

Elliot, a student at Warrington &

Vale Royal College won a bronze award in the Melton Mowbray British Pie awards.

Elliot works part-time around his studies at the Horseshoe, where his

dad, Wesley, is chef and co-owner along with Dave Monks.

He has been making pies at the Horseshoe for the locals who love them.



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Olympic effort at Croft Carnival

VILLAGERS put on an Olympic effort for the annual Croft Carnival as heavy showers turned into sunshine.

The annual event had an Olympic theme this year as the carnival parade set off from the Plough and through the village, followed by various activities on the local playing fields.

Winners of the famous egg-throwing competition were Stuart & Charlotte Beddall!

Thelwall Morris had a wonderful time as part of the carnival procession before half a dozen dances on the field.

After the event organisers said: "Hope everyone enjoyed Croft Carnival 2024 as much as we did. Huge thank you to all of the volunteers, local businesses, stall

holders, acts, friends and families for making it such a memorable day!

Carnival grandparents were Pam and Gary Robinson. Carnival Queen was Frankie, Princess was Chloe and Rosebud was Martha.

Scarecrow Competition winners
Winner – 26 Betsyfield Drive
Highly Commended – 30 Eaves
Brow Road and 11 Heath Lane
Best Street – Cornmill Court

Float winners
Most Elaborate Float – Croft
Carnival Queens
Most Original Float – Beavers
Most Entertaining Float –
Culcheth Eagles

Pictures: John Hopkins



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The Gardening Guide



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Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

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- 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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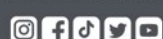
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Plan to build mixed-use development on shopping centre car park dismissed on appeal

A controversial plan to build a mixed-use development on the CPS Shopping Centre car park at Culcheth has been dismissed on appeal.

Welcoming the news local parish Cllr Neil Johnson said: "It was a great effort by all the parish councillors!" who opposed the application."

The proposals submitted to Warrington Borough Council by Shavit Haminim Capital Limited involved replacing the existing CPS car parking area at the junction of Jackson Avenue and Common Lane with a two-storey mixed-use building consisting of two Class E units at ground floor level and three residential units at first floor level, new public realm and ancillary works.

The existing area contains 22 car parking spaces, two of which are designated for disabled users. The existing vehicle route allows vehicles to enter from Common Lane and exit onto Jackson Lane.

The Proposed Development would require the removal of all of the 22 car parking spaces. In their place would be a two-storey building.

The appeal was made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

against a failure to give notice within the prescribed period of a decision on an application for planning permission.

Following the lodging of the appeal, Warrington Borough Council considered the application and indicated in its Statement of Case (SoC) that they would have refused the application.

The Council's reasons for refusing planning permission would have been regarding:

- the effect of the proposed development on the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Centre; the effect of the proposed development on highway safety;
- whether satisfactory accommodation would be provided for future occupiers of the proposed development;
- the effect of the proposed development on the character and appearance of the appeal site and surrounding area; and,
- whether a risk of crime and/or anti-social behaviour would occur as a consequence of the proposed development.

The appeal inspector Mr W

Johnson visited the site and surrounding area on a Tuesday and Saturday at various times through mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Whilst they appreciated that it only represents a snapshot in time the visits indicated that parking at the site was at or very near to capacity on all occasions, and the site experienced a relatively quick turnover of vehicles.

In dismissing the appeal Mr Johnson said: "Consequently, there are significant issues surrounding car parking provision that could potentially undermine the viability and vitality of the Centre and the wider Neighbourhood Centre. Other factors would also weigh against the proposed

development in this regard, such as highway safety, the agent of change principle, character and appearance and the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour.

"For the reasons given above, I conclude that the proposed development would undermine the vitality and viability of the Centre and surrounding Neighbourhood Centre. Thus, the scheme would fail to accord with the strategic aims of LP Policies DEV4, DEV5 and INF4, which collectively seeks to support the employment area by making it more sustainable, attractive, enhance the vitality, viability and overall attractiveness of the centre and sustaining local shops and services, amongst other things."



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Scooby the Parrot helps raise money for charity

SCOOPY the Parrot dropped in on at Culcheth's CPS Shopping Centre – and helped raise money for three charities.

It was a joint initiative by Iconic Photography Studio and the Sundial Terrace Coffee Shop to raise money for Mind, Cancer Research UK and Peace and Mind UK, the charity started by Esther Ghey.

Aysha, Abdul and Nazir from the coffee shop brought in their parrot, named Scooby, for visitors to the centre to meet, have their photograph taken and raise money for the charities.

Aysha said: "We felt it a lovely thing to do to bring our Scooby for visitors to see and with their generosity, we raised over £70 for the Mind mental health charity."

"Visitors to the centre had a great

time meeting Scooby and enjoyed having their photograph taken by Iconic Photography Studio.

Scooby enjoyed sitting on people's arm and dancing throughout the day to entertain the visitors to the CPS Shopping Centre.

Michael, from Iconic Photography Studio said: "It was wonderful seeing people enjoying themselves and Scooby was very popular."

The Shopping Centre has a wonderful selection of shops selling flowers, local postcards, candles, toys and books, jewellery and much more.

Future events, such as Artisan Markets are being planned in the centre throughout the year with the next one planned for September.





CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY

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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.

Opening of the new Play Area in Culcheth

The Parish Council are delighted that the redevelopment of the play area adjacent to Common Lane in Culcheth is complete. Families in the Parish will be able to use and enjoy this rejuvenated community resource for many years to come. This project has taken several years to complete and has involved many different people and organisations, all of whom deserve praise for the successful completion of this community resource.

Millennium Garden in Culcheth

The Millennium Garden has recently had some of the bollards adjacent to the car park realigned after they were dislodged by parking vehicles. The Parish Council would like to make people aware that reversing too far in the car park (next to the co-op) can cause collisions with the conical bollards on the edge of the Millennium Garden. This damages the community resource and incurs a cost to the whole community. In the near future, the block paving surface will be cleaned, resealed and sanded.

Parish Council Noticeboards

The Parish Council noticeboards across Culcheth and Glazebury have been redeveloped to improve their functionality. This work has been completed by a local joiner who has done a great job to improve these noticeboards. A new glass fronted Noticeboard has also been placed on the Warrington Road in Glazebury, adjacent to the Scout Hut.

D Day 80th Anniversary

On the 6th of June 1944 the largest amphibious invasion in history took place when 160,000 allied soldiers landed on the shores and fields surrounding the French coast of Normandy. To commemorate this event the Parish Council organised a moment of reflection and prayer at the War Memorial at Newchurch Parish Church at 9pm on Wednesday 5th June. Wreaths were laid by the Royal British Legion and by the Chair of the Parish Council on behalf of the people of Culcheth and Glazebury.

Next Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 10th September
in Glazebury Methodist Church at 7:30pm

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.gov.uk



High School rowing students made a big splash at regatta

CULCHETH High School made a big splash at the All Aboard Youth Rowing Schools Regatta on the Mersey at Warrington – taking home gold and bronze medals.

More than 30 schools took part in the event at Warrington Rowing Club and the Culcheth High boys crew took 1st place and received gold medals – and also claimed the honour of winning the Schools Regatta Boys Shield with the fastest time of 1.25.4.

The girls crew claimed 3rd place and collected bronze medals.

Schools from Warrington, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire took part and competition was fierce.

Miss Rachael Creighton, pastoral support officer at Culcheth High and rowing coach said: "I am tremendously proud to be Culcheth's school lead for the rowing programme.

"Students wear their rowing kit with pride and thrive not just from the physical challenges they face and overcome, but their own personal goals they achieve;

developing new skills which will stay with them for the future.

"The students have done extremely well, and deserve to be very proud of their achievements".

All Aboard Youth Rowing, a charity formerly known as Warrington Youth Rowing, operates across six rowing clubs in the North West. The program currently has almost 400 students from 36 schools benefiting from weekly sessions, which take place as part of the school curriculum. The charity not only provides high quality coaching and facilities but it is deeply passionate about giving a wide range of young people new and enhanced experiences through the sport of rowing.

Culcheth High has been taking part since 2017 and past and present students have achieved many successes over the years.



New £200,000 play area opens – just in time for school holidays

A NEW £200,000 play area on Culcheth Village Green has opened – just in time for the summer holidays.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council have provided £140,000 towards the cost of the project which has breathed new life into a former play area on the green.

A wide range of play equipment is ready for use for children of all ages including a zip line, seesaws, swings, climbing frame and multi-play unit – all with new safety surfaces.

Cllr Neil Johnson, a member of the parish council and Warrington Borough Council said: "We are delighted the play area is open in time for the school holidays.

"This is top-of-the-range play equipment and it replaces the former play area which had become rather old and tired.

"It will be a real asset for the local community, providing a safe environment for children to play and have fun for many years to come."



End-of-year treat for high school students



AS an end-of-year reward for all eligible students, Culcheth High School hosted their very first in-school CHS Summer Fest on the penultimate day of term.

Students were able to spend time on a range of large inflatables, including a 100ft obstacle course, a rodeo bull and a total wipe-out activity.

For students who preferred a less active reward, there was a chill-out zone, an outdoor cinema and the opportunity see the beautiful visiting alpacas – Ted, George and Bruce.

Summer festival music was played during the event, and students also had the opportunity to buy iced treats from the visiting ice-cream van.

The students had a fabulous time and the school is already planning next year's CHS Fest 2025.

Headteacher Chris Hunt said, "We are incredibly proud of our students'

endeavours this academic year, and this was a wonderful school community event to reward those who had lived our school values, met our high standards and expectations, at the end of a year of very hard work."

The activity took place on the same day as the school's Patric Wilson Memorial non-uniform day where money is raised for Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of ex-student Patric.

Money is still being donated and the total raised is not yet known – however, the school is very proud of the student/staff contribution to this excellent cause and thanks parents and the community for its continued support.

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