

Culcheth Life

Magazine

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Picture: John Hopkins

It's a dog's life

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Editor's Opinion



IT made a refreshing change working on this month's edition seeing local councillors working together rather than calling each other out.

At Winwick, there was unprecedented co-operation involving borough councillors and three parish councils joining forces to issue a joint statement opposing the controversial plans for a biogas waste food plant on green belt land at Winwick.

Around the same time local councillors issued statements raising concerns about plans to create a House in Multiple Occupation at the Grey Horse in Glazebury.

I am sure, like me, many residents will be pleased to see our elected members putting political differences aside to work for the good of the local community.

This is how local politics should work.

Put away the political differences and work together for the good of the local community.

Far too much time is wasted

when local councillors try and score political points against each other.

When it comes to election time people can then decide to vote for the person they believe best represents them.

While August is traditionally the quiet time of the year for news, it seems to be busier than ever at the moment.

As well as the two issues outlined above we also have a new planning application for the former CPS centre in the village, which aims to prepare the building for future residential use.

There is significant opposition to this and it appears clear now why the owners wanted to evict the local

traders.

Whether they are successful with their planning application, only time will tell.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Go Ben Travel on bringing holidays back to the High Street in the village.

We wish them every future success – and if you can support a local business please do!

While shopping online for holidays may appear an easy option there is nothing better than the personal touch from a local travel agent.

Deadline for the September issue of Culcheth Life is August 19

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A new travel agent has opened its doors in Culcheth, bringing holidays back to the high Street.

With a successful business in Ashton in Makerfield, Go Ben Travel officially opened in Culcheth recently, with a prize draw raising funds for local charity Peace & Mind.

Director Ben Hughes said: "Our launch was a huge success with £290 raised so far for Peace & Mind charity. Three lucky winners will win either a £500 Jet2 holidays voucher to be booked through us, a Jet 2 European city for 2 or a £100 voucher for a fine dining Italian meal.

"We had a great turnout from the community to support us coming into Culcheth and it was lovely to meet so many people from the area. We had prosecco, cake and special visitor Jax from the series Hunted who cut our ribbon to officially open the new shop. Jet2 holiday also came to visit and support us giving us extra discount for the area, exclusive for Go Ben Travel.

"We are completely independent and have great contracts in place with the top tour operators and

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It's a dog's life at Winwick Carnival

IT was a dog's life at Winwick Carnival as crowds flocked to the annual event at the playing field behind Winwick Leisure Centre on Myddleton Lane.

Gates opened at 12 pm, offering a full day of family entertainment and community festivities with the Dog Show taking centre stage.

Organised entirely by local volunteers, this self-funded event channels any proceeds directly into supporting future carnivals and other community projects.

Dog Show by The Quirky K9 featured categories like Cutest Puppy, Best Rescue, Best in Show and more. A portion of the entry fees was donated to a dog charity.

There was also live music and DJ Sets: two local bands performed, supported by a DJ to keep

the energy high throughout the afternoon.

Family activities included donkey rides, dance performances, fairground attractions, and more, providing fun for all ages.

There were also stalls and local traders offering a wide selection of craft and food stalls featuring local businesses such as ACC Crafts, Chateau Gateaux, Bomb The Bath, Waggy Tails Bakery, and Pocket Money Toys & Games.

Although there was some rain, it didn't impact the event unduly.

Pictures: John Hopkins



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7th Oct 9.30am | 18th Oct 10.30am

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Ofsted May 2023

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Where Learning is Fun!

Unprecedented opposition to Biogas plant at Winwick

LOCAL councillors have launched a campaign against a planning application to develop and Biogas plant less than 300 metres from residential properties in Winwick, Warrington.

Five Warrington Borough Councillors and three Parish Councils, Cllrs Stuart Mann & Kevin Burgess (Burtonwood & Winwick Ward), Janet Seddon, Matt Smith and Neil Johnson (Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft Ward) as well as the Parish Councils of Winwick, Croft and Culcheth & Glazebury, have come together in one collective voice to oppose the development.

In January, Severn Trent Green Energy announced that it proposed to build an anaerobic digestion facility capable of taking 75,000 tonnes of food and organic waste annually on Highfield Lane in the village.

That proposal has now become a formal planning application.

In an unprecedented joint statement issued by ALL WBC Cllrs and the three parish councils they said: "Whilst we understand the need for such facilities to reduce waste and carbon impact, the proposed development IS NOT for the waste of Warrington residents. The borough council already has a contract in place with another provider to collect food waste from 2026.

"This site would be for the importation and processing of residential food waste from OUTSIDE of Warrington, meaning the need for hundreds of HGVs and other waste vehicles travelling

to and from the location on a weekly basis.

"The transport network close to the location is already overcrowded and will see a huge increase in HGV traffic as it is the designated route for the new Parkside development and the proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI).

"The proposed size of the facility, both in height and overall scale, is completely out of character for Winwick or any of our rural wards. It will dominate the landscape on the North side of the village, despite attempts to reduce this impact through the design of the

structure.

"The location, which is within the Green belt, a designated a scheduled ancient monument highlighted on the Heritage Risk register, and on a single carriageway rural road was chosen mainly for economic reasons, such as the cost of connecting to gas infrastructure, with little concern for the impact on nearby residents, who will suffer with few benefits.

"We would encourage all residents who oppose the application to do so via the WBC planning portal."

You can post or hand deliver your objection to the new council office buildings in Times Square.

The planning application number

is: 2025/00859/FULM

Representations must be made by 11th August 2025 – unless you are informed differently.

For further information, including the dates and times of two public meetings about the application, please visit Winwick Parish Council's website at the following link www.winwickparishcouncil.org.uk/biogas

The application is for Construction and operation of an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility, including amended access, landscaping, parking and other ancillary works on land To The East Of Winwick Link Road, Winwick.

Officers will make a decision under delegated powers.



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Local councillors thank community for unforgettable centenary

LOCAL councillors have paid tribute to the organisers, volunteers and local residents who made this year's Croft Carnival – marking its 100th anniversary – a truly unforgettable event.

The milestone celebration drew large crowds and was filled with community spirit, colourful performances, and a deep sense of local pride.

Cllr Cheyenne Bower praised the dedication of the volunteers and committee behind the event, saying: "To see so many people come together to celebrate 100 years of Croft Carnival was genuinely moving. The carnival has always been at the heart of village life, and this centenary was a testament to the strength and spirit of our community. Huge thanks to the carnival committee for their incredible hard work – it was a joy to be part of such a historic day."

Cllr Matt Smith added: "The effort that went into this year's event was outstanding – from the floats to the entertainment, it was clear how much love and care had been poured into it. It was great to see local groups, schools and families playing such an active role. This is exactly what community is all about."

Cllr Janet Seddon reflected on the carnival's legacy and future: "One hundred years of Croft Carnival is a remarkable achievement. It shows just how important this

tradition is to local people, young and old. I'm so proud to represent a community that celebrates its past while continuing to come together and support one another."

The councillors hope the success of the centenary event will inspire more residents to get involved in local activities and help keep the carnival going strong for future generations.

Meanwhile, Mayor of Warrington Cllr Mo Hussain said: "It was a real honour to attend this amazing event – especially as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this wonderful community tradition."

"Having had the pleasure of attending last year as Deputy Mayor, I was absolutely delighted to return this year as Mayor of Warrington, to mark such a special milestone."

"For a century, Croft Carnival has brought people together – families, friends, neighbours – to celebrate all that makes this area so special. It's a shining example of the strength, warmth, and pride within our communities."

"A huge thank you to all the organisers, volunteers, and local groups whose hard work keeps this cherished tradition going strong."

"Whether it's the parade, the entertainment, the stalls – or simply the chance to catch up with loved ones – there's something

here for everyone.

"Here's to Croft Carnival – and to the next 100 years of celebration and community spirit!"



Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

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Civil War retrace

WARRINGTON'S historic links with the English Civil War came back to life thanks to the Sealed Knot Civil re-enactment group.

Following on from the fantastic response to their first event in 2024, the Earl of Manchester's Regiment of Foote once again brought the sights, sounds and smells of the English Civil Wars to the close-knit community in the rolling fields of Culcheth.

Visitors were transported back in time with a tented encampment, displays of pike, musket and cannon action and demonstrations of traditional skills, discovering what life was like in the age of Roundheads and Cavaliers!

Over Saturday and Sunday, history was recreated outside the historic The Raven Inn on Warrington Road where Parliamentarians and Royalists once clashed in 1651!

The history: In September 1651, two thousand defeated Scots from the Battle of Worcester were escaping north, harassed and picked-off along the way. Five hundred Scots crossed the River Mersey at Hollin Ferry and, following the track just west of the Glaze Brook, traversed the next obstacle – Jibcroft Brook,

five miles north at The Raven Inn. The Scots were now deep in enemy territory. Alerted to the troop movements, Lord John Holcroft and his men ambushed them from land adjacent to The Raven. Given the difference in troop numbers, the ambush was probably little more than musket and small cannon fire. In 1905 a 'Minion' canon ball was found at nearby Moss House Farm (which must have been fired at point blank range) and in 1919 several musket balls were detected opposite the Raven by detectorist Sean Holcroft. The 3" diameter ball is on display in Warrington Museum.

One historical character associated with the site is Captain Thomas Blood who married one of the Holcroft daughters. Because the Raven Inn was later described in 1770 as 'ancient', it is more than likely that John Holcroft and Thomas Blood frequented The Raven for their ale. But that wasn't the end of Blood's story: he remained a military man, rising to the rank of Colonel and later hatched 'a dashing plan' to steal the Crown Jewels in 1671, which ended in abject failure. Surprisingly, he was not hanged for his crime but gained a good deal of notoriety.

Community for carnival

Pictures: John Hopkins



Turns to village

Pictures: John Hopkins



The Gardening Guide



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

Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

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



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Campaign launched opposing latest planning application for CPS Centre

INDEPENDENT local Cllr. Neil Johnson has pledged to lead the community's response to the latest planning application for the CPS Centre on Common Lane, Culcheth.

As reported on Warrington Worldwide, a new plan has been submitted to transform the former CPS Centre into living accommodation.

Cllr Johnson said: "As the independent voice of the people, I will be leading the response of the Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft community to this latest planning application. I invite all members of the public to get involved and submit their views, and I hope that other councillors will work with me and follow my leadership to present a united front.

"This application, if approved, could have huge implications for our village. Once again, we must all band together as a community and ensure our voices are heard. Whilst there is no residential accommodation proposed in this application, the long-term plans of the applicant are clear. I hope to hear from as many residents as possible so that I can reflect all of their thoughts and considerations in my own submission to the Council.

"I encourage everyone to visit the Warrington Borough Council website and submit their response to this application. It is vital that as many comments are tabled as possible so that the full extent of views can be considered by planners. If the CPS Centre were to be turned into living

accommodation, there would be a substantial impact on our other services, such as doctors, dentists, schools and highways."

Cllr Johnson is also encouraging residents to visit his Facebook page where a dedicated thread has been set up to discuss this matter.

Cllr. Johnson added: "I look forward to engaging with everyone in the community positively as we respond to this latest development."

The latest application for the CPS Centre on Common Lane, attempts

to address the issues which led to refusal of a planning application in November last year.

In January this year traders were left devastated after London-based owners Shivat Haminim Capital Ltd, who acquired the premises in late 2021, issued eviction notices, giving them a month to vacate the premises, which was later extended for an additional month.

The new application is for additional windows at first and second floor levels. Provision of rooflights and roof enclosure. Construction / provision of bin and cycle storage. Alteration of existing

gate to servicing area and change to parking layout.

The applicant does have plans for CPS Centre which includes introducing residential accommodation on the upper floors. The bin and cycle stores could serve residential accommodation.



New Curate appointed to Winwick Deanery

Reverend Martin Fuller has been appointed as the new curate to serve in the Winwick Deanery comprising the three churches of St. Oswald's Winwick, Christ Church, Croft and Newchurch, Culcheth.

Following his ordination at Liverpool Cathedral he was welcomed by members of the three congregations at a celebratory service to confirm his appointment at St Oswald's Church led by Reverend Martin Cox, head of the Deanery.

Reverend Fuller's family home was in Huyton. The family had attended St Bartholomew's Church in Roby, as he did from baptism, for many years. He

described the church as very much an influential second home. "The members were just like family and the community spirit was uplifting and inspirational." He recalled becoming a Christian at the age of eleven and in his early teens joining a bible study group.

Throughout his career he has worked as a trained nursery nurse, and in outreach and youth work. Before beginning his ordination studies he had worked latterly with the Boys Brigade in North Yorkshire. His sister, Emma, is also a curate at Christ Church, Padgate after her ordination one year ago.



Reverend Fuller and his wife, Jess, are already happily settled in the locality. "I am really looking forward to assisting Reverend Cox and getting to know everyone in the church and community." Music is his main hobby and as an accomplished guitarist he is working on the production of an album of religious music and song he has composed.



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Civil War re-enactment will celebrate heritage weekend

One of the most iconic churches in the country, St. Oswald's Church, Winwick, will open its doors to the public to celebrate its Heritage Weekend and over 1,000 years of history on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th of September.

With the aid of the Winwick Battle Society, it will step back in time to feature one of the most dramatic periods in its existence, its involvement in the English Civil war, with a re enactment of a major battle fought in the church itself and in the surrounding fields, on 19 August 1648. Members of the Society dressed as soldiers in Cromwell's army will present the Civil War drill and demonstrate weaponry of the day. Members of Colonel Okey's Manchester Regiment of dragoons from the Sealed Knot Society will fire muskets at various intervals during the event.

The battle of Winwick occurred when a large Scottish army, supporters of King Charles 1st, fled from a defeat at Preston several days before and marched south only to be met by the soldiers of Cromwell's army in the fields by St Oswald's Church at Winwick. In the furious fighting which followed 1,000 Scottish soldiers were killed and a further 1,500 men were captured and held prisoner in Winwick Church for some months. Others were captured and held prisoner in nearby Warrington. It was a significant and highly important victory for the Cromwellian army as it ended the Civil war and led only months later to

the execution of King Charles the 1st.

Paul Wright, the Battle Society Chairman, said that the two days of the event will focus on the history of the church and the part it played during the battle and on the lives of the victorious Cromwellian soldiers – their dress, their weaponry, their training – to create a more in depth picture and a better understanding of the life and conditions of that time in history. During the course of the first day his two history talks will give details of the battle itself and the impact it made not only on the soldiers involved in the conflict, but its effect on the local populations of Winwick and the nearby town of Warrington.

He will also talk about the life of the church rector at that time, the Reverend Charles Herne, a Presbyterian, whom Cromwell held in high regard and the research into background of Major John Cholmley, a Cromwellian soldier from Carlisle, who was killed in the battle and is buried in the church graveyard.

Visitors will be warmly welcomed at the opening of the weekend event by the Reverend Martin Cox, priest in charge of St Oswald's Church and head of the Winwick Deanery. Reverend Cox will unveil a brass plaque engraved in memory of all

the soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of Winwick that day.

A large collection of treasures and relics from the church's past dating back to Saxon times will be on display. Refreshments will be available in the parish hall.

Opening times: Entry free.
Saturday 13th September: 10am to 4pm. History talks 11am and 2pm
Sunday 14th: 12 noon to 3pm.



Local photographer continues art journey with more portraits

LOCAL photographer Michael Berry from Cherry Blossom Studio, has been incorporating new ideas to his work over the past year, with a focus on sketches of people alongside his photography.

Since starting the journey of sketching people in August 2024, Michael, who is also a writer, has seen a huge improvement in his drawings. So much so, he has worked on sketches for several people in the area.

"I started drawing as a way of relaxing, but also seeing if I could teach myself to draw people which is very difficult.

"Each person looks very different, especially with the eyes,

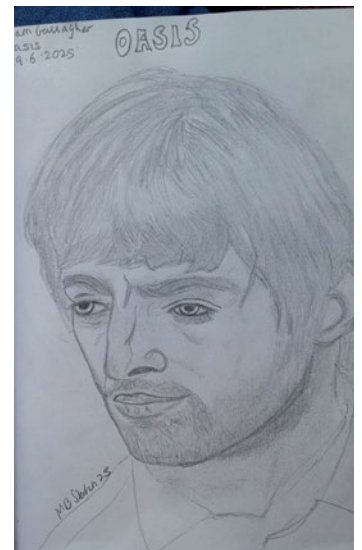
nose and mouth structure.

"I've been doing photography for many years, and I think it would be fun to introduce people sketching to my work."

Michael has drawn many famous faces including: Ncuti Gatwa, the 15th Doctor, Avril Lavigne, Oasis singers Liam and Noel Gallagher and anniversary posters of Jaws, The Goonies and more.

"It is a great way to relax and more people should take up drawing in their spare time.

"It would be nice to teach drawing sketches to people in the future as well, when I reach that level."



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High school's end-of-year Summer Fest



CULCHETH High School hosted its second CHS Summer Fest as an end-of-year reward for eligible students.

There was a range of large inflatables, including a 100ft obstacle course, a rodeo bull and a total wipe-out activity.

For those who preferred a less active reward, there was a chill-out zone, board games, Macrame and Crotchet corner and a visit by animals from Woodland Alpaca Farm.

Summer festival music was played during the event, and students also had the opportunity to buy iced treats from a visiting ice-cream van, sweets and drinks from the Young Enterprise group, face painting and hair feathers and headbands.

The students had a fabulous time and the school is already planning CHS Fest 2026.

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



Sign up for Bent's charity fun run and raise funds for Youth Zone

Get ready for a fantastic day out at the Bents Fun 5K on Sunday 3rd August when fun, fitness, and fundraising will come together in support of Warrington Youth Zone and the young people who benefit from this incredible facility.

Whether walking, running, dancing or simply exercising the dog, the 5k route through the beautiful Windy Bank Woods is perfect for people of all ages. Participants can pre-register online at bents.co.uk or join on the day with a £5 donation for a single ticket or £10 donation for a family ticket.

The Fun 5K event is all about good vibes, big smiles, and making memories with lots of fun planned for the occasion including face painting, football games and a tombola as well as a guest appearance from Warrington Wolves' Wolfie Mascot and the opportunity to meet Leigh Leopards' Jack Hughes.

Starting at 11.00am (11.00am registration, 11.30am race start) from outside The Pet Place,

participants will make their way through Windy Bank Woods before returning to Bents where rewards and medals await. The route will be fully signposted and is suitable for all ages and abilities and dogs are welcome too!

Every step taken will help support the incredible experiences provided by the Warrington Youth Zone; a vibrant, purpose-built centre dedicated to inspiring young people. With activities ranging from sports and music to cooking and enterprise, the Youth Zone helps young people aged 7-19 (and up to 25 for those with additional needs) build skills, confidence, and friendships in a safe and supportive environment.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home, said: "This is going to be a great event so it's time to grab your trainers, round up your crew, and come make a difference - every step taken will help build a brighter future for Warrington's youth. Let's move, laugh, and do some good together!"

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