

Culcheth Life

Magazine

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What the Dickens?

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Editor's Opinion



I'm sorry to say that the world of toxic politics has reached a new low in the Culcheth area – and it's not just me saying it – I am hearing it from lots of people across the whole of Warrington.

Sadly, social media has been rife with toxic posts, reaching a head with two local issues, The former Grey Horse pub being turned into an HMO and the chaos at a recent meeting of Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council outside Culcheth Library.

In more than four decades of

reporting even I have been shocked to see the content of some of the social media.

Trying to report on these local issues has been extremely difficult – and as always, we attempt to bring balance.

But if one person is more vocal than another, or one councillor is more active in putting information out, we can only report on either what we see or what we are told.

We always try to give both sides of a story but sometimes one side won't respond hoping it will go away – and then only reacts when we go to print.

Our job is a bit like being a

politician and we simply can't please all of the people all of the time – and that is where many politicians go wrong.

Here at Culcheth Life we will continue to try and report in a common sense way, while attempting to bring balance.

We urge everyone in the community to try and work together for the greater good, rather than wasting energy on social media rants attacking individuals. All it does is create a toxic environment.

**Deadline for the
November issue is
October 21**

Art Group ready to hold annual exhibition

CULCHETH Art Group hold their annual exhibition at Culcheth Community Centre, in Jackson Avenue, and Friday and Saturday, November 28-29.

Admission is free and refreshments will be available at the exhibition, which is open from 10am to 4pm.

The exhibition will feature art work created by the talented members of the group during the past year.

Culcheth Art group are a band of amateur artists who meet weekly at the Culcheth Centre, Jackson Avenue. New members are welcome, whether beginners or more experienced artists



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What the Dickens?

Culcheth Players are in the final few weeks of rehearsals for their most ambitious project to date.

After their very successful production of Ladies Day in May they decided to take on the ever popular classic Dickens tale of "A Christmas Carol." This production has been adapted by Mark Gatiss. His spine-tingling adaptation is faithful to the heart and spirit of Charles Dickens' much loved festive ghost story, but with a challenging and inventive script.

Culcheth Players are still keeping

their ticket prices held at £7.50 (plus booking fee) for online bookings and £8 on the night of a performance. Tickets are already selling quickly and can be obtained from www.ticketsource.co.uk/culchethp. Alternatively, you can reserve a ticket for collection on the night of a performance by calling 07943 517710. Or if you prefer, you can also just come along on the night and pay on

the door. However, the production is already proving popular so booking/reserving is advisable. Don't miss out! The performance dates are Friday and Saturday 17th & 18th October and the following weekend 24th & 25th at Newchurch Parish Hall in Culcheth (next to Sainsbury's). Doors will open at 7pm with curtain up at 7.30pm prompt. There is step free level access throughout the hall.

Culcheth Players are also on the lookout for young dancers to take part in their pantomime production of Jack and the Beanstalk in late January/early February next year. The children are always a delightful

addition to the panto's. Rosemary Powell has been training the dancers since 2007 for productions with many local girls taking part over the years, all of whom now have fond memories of their part in productions. If you have a child that would like to join the panto chorus you can contact Rosemary on 07840 536333. It really is a great local community event to be part of. She starts training the youngsters on Saturday mornings in the Parish Hall from around the end of November. Additionally, if you yourself fancy taking part in the panto let us know. We're always keen for new talent to take part.



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Glazebury C.E. Primary School and Nursery Open Afternoon Wednesday 22nd October 2025 1.00pm to 3.30pm

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- T - Teaching a knowledge rich curriculum.



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www.glazebury.eschools.co.uk

"Growing together at the heart of God's community"

Feathered friends visit day nursery

CHILDREN at Dunky's Day Nursery, Culcheth, had a very exciting and educational morning - thanks to a visit from some very special feathered friends.

One of the nursery families brought in their pet chickens, and the children were absolutely thrilled to meet Henrietta, Skye, and Olive.

Nursery Manager Vicki Foy said: "The visit from the chickens sparked curiosity and laughter as the children had the chance to stroke, feed, and interact with the chickens up close."

"They also learned some interesting chicken facts including why chickens have a comb on top of their head and a wattle underneath their beak. The children listened intently and asked thoughtful questions about how to care for them. This hands-on experience brought learning to life in the most exciting way."

"The visit wasn't just fun, it was also rich in educational value and supported several areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), including Social and Emotional Development."

"Caring for living creatures encourages children to develop kindness and empathy. The children showed amazing gentleness and respect while handling the chickens and asked lots of questions about how to care for them."

"Interacting with animals can help reduce anxiety. Some of our children with Special Educational

Needs (SEN) were especially engaged and calm during the visit, showing just how powerful animal interactions can be."

"Experiences like this help children build a relationship with the natural world and understand how we care for living things."

"We also talked about how chickens lay eggs and discussed the different foods we make at nursery that use eggs, encouraging the children to think about where their food comes from. Being involved in the care of chickens also promotes interest in nutrition and farm-to-table concepts."





CULCHETH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



2025 Open Days

25th Sept 9.30am | 1st Oct 2pm
7th Oct 9.30am | 18th Oct 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

Warrington Sports Award for 'The school that goes the extra mile'






Farm celebrates Best Farm Shop/ Deli award



KENYON Hall Farm, a Warrington farm, run by the same family for more than 500 years, has won a national award for Best Farm Shop/Deli.

Kenyon Hall Farm at Croft, run by Todd and Barbara Bulmer and their sons Simon and James, has been farmed by the same family since before 1500.

After being named Best Farm Shop in Cheshire back in the spring, they have collected a national award for Best Farm Shop/Deli by Muddy Stilettos, a UK-based luxury lifestyle website and online magazine for women living outside of London.

Commenting on the award, the family said: "We're absolutely blown away to share that we've been crowned the Muddy Stilettos... BEST FARM SHOP - NATIONAL WINNER!"

"We just can't believe it! For our

family, growing food, running the shop, and providing our community with the best local produce is an absolute privilege and this award means the world.

"Do pop in and celebrate with us! The shop is open every day 9-5 and is looking especially magical right now, full of pumpkins, squashes and all the autumn colours."

"From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who's voted, shopped, and supported us. And to James, Tilly & the team who do an amazing job of managing & running the shop.

"Love, Barbara, Tod, Simon, James & all of Team KHF."

 **Culcheth Players**



Charles Dickens!

A Christmas Carol

A Ghost Story

Adapted by Mark Gatiss

Friday 17th & Saturday 18th October 2025 at 7.30pm

Friday 24th & Saturday 25th October 2025 at 7.30pm

Newchurch Parish Hall, Common Lane, Culcheth

Tickets £7.50 (booking fee applies) or £8 on the door

Online bookings - ticketsource.co.uk

Enquiries & on the door ticket reservations 07943 517710



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Bents recognised as one of

The 2025 UK's Best Workplaces in Retail, Hospitality & Leisure™ list has been launched by Great Place To Work® UK, and recognises Bents Garden & Home among the organisations in the 'Large & Super Large' category.

This fantastic recognition follows the recent news that the family-owned and run destination centre was Certified™ as a Great Place To Work for the second consecutive year; an achievement which is the result of outstanding feedback from Bents' colleagues and gathered through the Great Place To Work's independent and confidential Trust Index™ survey.

The survey asked employees to comment on how their company supports their work-life balance, sense of fulfilment, job satisfaction, psychological safety and financial security. Evaluations also included an assessment of how well the organisation was able to deliver consistency of their employee experience across all departments and seniority levels.

Great Place To Work® UK administered their research-backed Trust Index® employee survey and analysed the responses of UK-based retail, hospitality and leisure employees to determine the Best Workplaces in Retail, Hospitality & Leisure™ list.

Analysis of the sector employee survey responses found: 75% of employees at the UK's Best Workplaces for Retail, Hospitality & Leisure™ say "I want to work here for a long time" compared to 56% at a typical company in this sector.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director at Bents Garden & Home said: "To be listed as one of the UK's Best Workplaces in Retail, Hospitality & Leisure is an incredible recognition and one that we are extremely proud

Rain fails to dampen spirits at Ukrainian

RAIN failed to dampen spirits during Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations at Culcheth, Warrington.

A special event took place marking the occasion on Sunday, September 7th, organised by the Ukrainian Family Hub Warrington at The Datsen club in the village.

Special guests included Warrington North MP Charlotte Nichols who said: "The weather might have been a traditionally

awful British late summer downpour, but it didn't dampen any spirits at the Ukrainian Family Hub Warrington celebrations for Ukrainian Independence Day at The Datsen!

"Filled with joy, music, food and dancing, it was lovely to see the community come together and to preserve the cherished traditions from home. Britain and Ukraine stand together, and I hope we will soon see peace and the process of rebuilding Ukraine after the devastating war.



TWISS GREEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL Open Days 2025

Join us at our open days for families interested in joining our Reception Class for September 2026 and our Nursery Class for Spring, Summer and Autumn 2026 intake.

Wednesday 8th October: 4pm - 6pm

Tuesday 21st October: 9.30am - 11am

Saturday 15th November: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

All open days will consist of a presentation followed by a tour of the school. Wednesday 8th October will have a presentation at 4pm and 5.15pm. Saturday 15th November will allow families the opportunity to take part in crafts and Forest School activities.



To book a place, please ring or email the school office on the below details:



Twiss Green Lane, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4DQ



twissgreen_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk



01925 762346

f the UK's best workplaces

of. It's a true reflection of the positive culture we have built together at Bents and, most importantly, the dedication and enthusiasm of our colleagues. Their feedback has been invaluable in shaping our workplace, and this latest achievement really belongs to them."

Benedict Gautrey, Managing Director of Great Place To Work® UK said: "In retail, hospitality, and leisure, where work is fast-paced and teams are often dispersed, staying connected can be tough. The top-performing organisations in this sector stand out by fostering regular, meaningful communication from leadership. Employees have told us they feel supported, heard, and want to stay at their employer as a result of working for a truly great workplace. Congratulations to Bents for earning recognition as a UK's Best Workplace in Retail, Hospitality & Leisure™."

Bents' inclusion on the 2025 list

highlights its ongoing commitment to building a workplace where people feel supported, valued and able to thrive — a culture that continues to underpin the company's success as one of the UK's leading garden and home destination centres.



Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations

Until then, thank you to our Ukrainian community and the local community who have shown them such a warm

welcome for inviting me to share in celebrating Ukrainian culture here in the UK."



The Gardening Guide



Now is a good time to extend water gardens or construct stunning waterfalls.

Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

- This is an excellent time of year to construct paths, patios and terraces. Remember they will look best if they complement the materials used for the house
- The last mow of the year will probably take place this month
- Plant traditional favourites such as Wallflowers, Forget-me-nots and Polyanthus in prepared ground for a colourful spring show
- Clean and oil your garden tools for storage. An easy way to do this is put some oil and sand in a bucket and then slide them in and out of the sand



Discover great garden and lifestyle tips from the Bents team. Visit our Bents Experts Instagram page or scan the QR code to find out more.

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

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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY

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Email: clerk@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk

Web: culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

CULCHETH WARD



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Cllr N Johnson
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GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



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janetseddon@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk



Cllr A Edwards
aedwards@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk

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.

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday 9th November. Your local parish councillors in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft are supporting and organising a Civic Parade through Culcheth to Newchurch Parish Church for the service of Remembrance on Sunday 9th of November. Details of the parade and timings will be clarified nearer the time. In the meantime, should you or your organisation wish to take part in the parade please contact Councillor Paul Campbell who will be the Parish Councils point of contact. pcampbell@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk

Looking ahead to the Christmas Lights Switch-on

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council are looking ahead to the Christmas Festive season and the switch-on of the Christmas Lights in both villages, starting with Culcheth on Saturday 29th November then Glazebury the following Saturday 6th December. The Council is asking for all community organisations and businesses to get involved in making both days a brilliant occasion. If you would like to know more or want to help, your Parish Council Contact is Cllr Alicia Edwards email: aedwards@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk

Warrington Youth Zone Culcheth Satellite Club Report

August was a positive month across both junior and senior sessions of the satellite programme, with a total of 85 engagements recorded across the month. We were pleased to continue welcoming many of our regular members, whose consistent engagement strengthens the club's atmosphere and sense of community. We were also delighted to welcome new faces. It has been encouraging to see newcomers quickly settle in, contribute to discussions, engage in activities, and form early connections with both peers and staff. Warrington Youth Zones focus remains on providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where young people feel heard, valued, and empowered to grow. The balance of established relationships and new connections positions us well for the months ahead.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Plan

The steering group met on Saturday 13th September in the Parish Council Office to discuss the outcome of the survey they have been completing over the past six months. The steering group is made up of two Parish Councillors and several residents who have volunteered to engage with this important review of the existing Parish plan.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th October in Glazebury Methodist Church at 7:00pm

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



Stepping back in time at The Battle of Winwick

MEMBERS of the public were taken back in time as part of Heritage Weekend events at St Oswald's Church to relive the Battle of Winwick, a key turning point in the English Civil War, on August 19, 1648.

Musket shots and the smell of gunpowder filled the air as members of the Battle of Winwick Society and the Sealed Knot were on hand with living history displays, period uniforms, and weaponry demonstrations.

The Battle of Winwick was a pivotal but often overlooked English Civil War engagement that occurred in the surrounding fields. The event, was part of the national Heritage Open Days initiative.

The Battle of Winwick, or Red Bank, was the final clash of the Second English Civil War. It saw Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army defeat a Scottish army that was retreating south after an initial loss at the Battle of Preston just two days earlier.

The pursuit: Having marched southwards, the exhausted Scottish royalist infantry made a desperate

stand at Winwick against the pursuing Parliamentarians.

The outcome: The intense, close-quarters fighting lasted for hours. The Scottish force was ultimately overrun, with thousands killed or captured. This decisive victory for Cromwell led to the surrender of the remaining royalist forces and sealed the fate of King Charles I, who would be executed a few months later.

The battleground, which includes the fields near St Oswald's Church, was added to the Register of Historic Battlefields in 2018. It is considered the best-preserved Second English Civil War battlefield.

St Oswald's Church, a Grade I listed building with a history stretching back to Saxon times, played a direct role in the 1648 battle. During the conflict, the medieval church was used as a

Pictures: John Hopkins

prison to hold hundreds of captured Scottish soldiers.

The church's tower still bears scars, possibly from musket ball impacts, though these may date to an earlier 1643 skirmish.

While many hundreds died

in the fighting, the only known battlefield casualty to be buried at St Oswald's was Major John Cholmley, a Cromwellian soldier. A new memorial plaque was unveiled in his and other fallen soldiers honour.



LYMM HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING



Thursday 2nd October 2025
5.00pm to 8.00pm

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Thursday 13th November 2025
5.00pm to 8.00pm

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01925 755458

Shock after residents excluded from parish council meeting

A councillor has expressed shock after local residents were prevented from entering a parish council meeting at Culcheth Library.

Independent Councillor Neil Johnson has expressed his shock after a video was circulated on social media showing what he describes as "chaos at the Parish Council".

The video, filmed outside Culcheth Library, shows a number of residents from the Protect Culcheth Village Campaign Group being denied entry to the Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Johnson had given his apologies for the meeting in advance, due to an urgent family commitment. However, he described the video as "appalling".

In a statement, Cllr Johnson said: "I am truly disheartened by what I have learned about this week's meeting of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

"I had given my apologies for this meeting in advance as I had to attend an urgent family commitment. I am truly sorry that I was not there, given what I have seen since.

"The video that has circulated is shocking and appalling. There was chaos at the Parish Council!

"Residents being locked out of the meeting and told they can't attend is plain and simple wrong. I have spoken about the attitude

and conduct of this Parish Council in the past. I feel justified in having done so.

"The Parish Council knew that a large number of people planned to attend. It should have been held in a bigger venue, as I expected it to be. I suggested as much, but this was obviously ignored.

"I will now be asking for an investigation into what transpired. I will also be asking whether there has been a breach of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Meanwhile, Gill Stott from the Protect Culcheth Village group circulated an "Open letter" to the parish council on social media, following the incident, raising several concerns and issues.

She said the Protect Culcheth Village group 'advertised' the Parish Council meeting on social media to raise awareness of the meeting.

"To claim that you did not expect the numbers that turned out is disingenuous.

"The Parish Council was fully aware of the number of people that attended the Community Meeting at the Daten on the 11th August (230 people) and only 3 of the 9 Parish Councillors attended that, the Town Hall on the 14th August



and at the photo shoot for the Culcheth Life Magazine on 24th August, at which only four parish councillors attended.

"It is not unreasonable to expect that you should have anticipated a higher than usual number of people and should have planned for that scenario accordingly."

She went on to say: "I also stated that the Protect Culcheth Village group want to work with the Parish Council, not against them, but the actions of the Parish Council last night does make me wonder if the feeling is mutual as no response was forthcoming from the Chair to working together."

Labour Cllrs. issued a statement after the meeting saying: "A public call to attend, organised by a local Facebook group, unfortunately led to an attendance that exceeded the capacity of our usual meeting space. Due to fire regulations, the room can only accommodate 24

people. We understand that this may have been frustrating, but please be respectful of your Parish Councillors and Parish Council employees.

"Your Labour Councillors are here to listen and help, as every Parish Councillor is. We share your concerns regarding the CPS Centre. It is important to note that this specific issue was not on the agenda for the meeting. At present, we are not aware of any new proposals from the building's owner. As soon as we have anything to share we will let residents know.

"To propose an agenda item to the Chair of the Parish Council, please contact the clerk at least 10 days prior to the monthly Parish Council meeting. Relating to the CPS Centre, this would be most beneficial once we have information about the owners' future plans."

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Open Events

Wed 8 Oct
Thu 9 Oct

NEW DATE ADDED...

Due to demand we have added a fourth date

Thu 6 Nov
Sat 22 Nov

For times - and to book your place - scan the QR code



Bents team complete "One more Lap" for Charity of Year

A team of determined Bents' colleagues recently laced their trainers and pulled on their waterproofs to take part in a 12-hour ultra-endurance charity running event, in aid of Warrington Youth Zone, Bents 2025 charity of the year.

Whilst the weather was not on their side and with gazebos abandoned, the team stayed focused on the challenge in hand and completed a total of 81 miles. Running from sunrise to sunset the team of six ran lap after lap in a relay style, starting at 8am and finishing 12 hours later at 8pm.

Bents' incredible team consisted of Zack Sargent, Ethan Bent, Melanie Sykes, Katherine Bent, Steven Burgess and a special mention for David Blott, who at 71 years old only started running at age 55.

Each team member completed 12 laps of the one-mile course at

Cheshire Polo Club in Tarporley and with guest appearances from Oliver Downton-Bent and Matthew Bent, the total number of laps completed the day totalled 81 miles.

Katherine Bent, Head of Culture at Bents Garden & Home said: "A massive thank you and congratulations to all our colleagues who took part in this event. It really was an incredible challenge not made any easier by the conditions on the day! I think the weather made the times when we weren't running even more challenging than the actual race itself!"



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