

# Culcheth Life Magazine

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ISSUE 268 | DECEMBER 2025

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# Editor's Opinion

**The ongoing war of words involving Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council and local Independent Cllr. Neil Johnson shows little sign of being resolved.**

I say a "war of words," as things stood at time of going to press, the words were very much just coming from one side – as Cllr. Johnson remains frustrated by a lack of response.

He is not the only one – all issues I have raised directly with the parish council, regarding concerns raised by Cllr Johnson and local residents, have also gone unanswered, despite some off the record conversations.

As any good journalist, if someone tells me something off the record, it stays off the record.

But now my own reputation is being tarnished, as some have been accusing me of not being impartial and not giving both sides of the story.

As I keep explaining, I can only publish one side of a story if that is the only information I have been given. A no comment or unanswered emails is simply not good enough.

If allegations are aimed at the parish council, only the parish council can answer them.

At this stage they choose not to and are also refusing to respond to a Freedom of Information Request (FOI) (at time of press.)

Add to that the parish council has now decided to terminate publishing their regular newsletters via Culcheth Life, something which has been ongoing for more than 20

years!

The decision is based on a "review of advertising." The council spent £2,000 this year to use Culcheth Life to put out its messaging in print and digitally online.

This equates to just under £38.50 a week. So, the termination can hardly be based on value for money.

Meanwhile, I wish those in power would respond to our requests so we can give balanced reporting and keep the public up to date with what is going on in our communities.

We will continue to publish anything we believe is in the public interest. All we would ask is those who supply information fact check it before sending it out.

While Cllr Johnson has some valid points with his recent FOI regarding the cost of security guards at parish council meetings – individual Cllrs. cannot be fined for failing to respond to an FOI request.

As we approach the season of goodwill, let's hope the new year can bring some common sense with honest and open dialogue from our parish council to the local community however they see fit. It will be interesting to see how they intend to communicate with the local community in a cost-effective way now they have decided to alienate themselves from the only local news publication available in print in the area?



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# New life-saving kit fitted at Culcheth Linear Park thanks to Rotary

**A life-saving defibrillator has been fitted at Culcheth linear park thanks to The Rotary Club of Culcheth and District.**

Following an approach from The Friends of Culcheth Linear Park, the Rotary Club of Culcheth and District made a generous donation enabling the installation of a defibrillator at the park.

Located on the outside of the Ranger Cabin - the defibrillator cabinet, which also contains a bleed control kit, is accessible 24/7 and registered on the National Defibrillator Network.

If needed, a 999 call will provide the code for its use and alert the emergency services. Once the cabinet has been opened the defibrillator itself can be easily moved throughout the park -



leaving the casualty where they are and taking the defibrillator to them.

A defibrillator is a life-saving device that can help restore normal heart rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest by delivering an electric shock to the heart.

According to the British Heart Foundation, there are more than 30,000 deaths in the UK each year from 'out of hospital' cardiac arrests. Prompt CPR and defibrillation can more than double someone's chances of survival.

Alastair Baker, Chairman of The Friends of Culcheth Linear Park, said: "We had considered the possibility of hosting a defibrillator

for some time and are very grateful to the Rotary Club for their incredible gesture in donating this life-saving equipment."

David Smithson, President of The Rotary Club of Culcheth and District, said: "The Rotary Club aims to support local communities and this seemed a perfect way for us to add our support to Culcheth Linear Park and all those who use it. Access to a defibrillator can dramatically increase the chance of survival during a heart attack.

"We hope it will never be needed, however, we are proud to be able to donate one through our fundraising."

"We've our big Christmas fundraiser coming up in December when Santa will be out on his sleigh touring round Culcheth, Croft, Glazebury and Winwick. So donations like these enable people to see how the funds raised are put back into the local community at places like Culcheth Linear Park."



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# Work ongoing to tackle anti-social behaviour at Shaw Street Recreation Ground

**POLICE** say a great deal of work has been ongoing to tackle anti-social behaviour at the Shaw Street Recreation Ground in Culcheth.

It follows concerns raised by Independent local councillor Neil Johnson who says he is "appalled at reports of significant anti-social behaviour on Shaw Street Recreation Ground recently."

In the aftermath, he says he has been out speaking to residents to hear their experiences first hand.

As a result, he has pledged to step up his campaign to tackle the problem, since the severity of the incidents seems to have increased.

Cllr Johnson said: "I was shocked and appalled to hear reports of serious anti-social behaviour on Shaw Street.

"Residents have told me that there were a large group of youths behaving in an abusive and threatening manner, shouting and screaming, running into people's gardens, banging on doors and threatening anyone who confronted them.

"One of the gates at the exit to the car park has also been damaged.

"This incident has been reported to the police. I will be speaking to local officers as well as the Borough Council to expedite the response to this. As residents have rightly pointed out, anti-social behaviour on Shaw Street has been going on for too long. We need tough action

and a more visible police presence. "Anti-social behaviour, threats and violence in our community will not be tolerated.

"As your independent Councillor, I will work tirelessly with local enforcement agencies to stamp it out."

In response a spokesperson for Cheshire Police said: "A great deal of work has been going on in Culcheth in regards to the ASB. The local officers PC Jessica Shaw and PCSO Georgina Morris have been working on the issues for a number of months.

"There have been a number of young people identified as being involved. The officers have been working in collaboration with local High School and a number of meetings have taken place between police, the youths and their parents.

"Where appropriate intervention pathways have been set up as a way to try and address their behaviour moving forward.

"Officers have also been into the High School every morning for a week giving assemblies to each year group about ASB. We will continue to work with together to prevent further issues."



## Hunter Healey strengthens local presence with latest acquisition



Culcheth-based Hunter Healey Chartered Accountants, one of Warrington's most well-respected accountancy practices, is delighted to announce the acquisition of Accountancy Value Ltd, another established and highly regarded local firm.

The move marks an exciting step in Hunter Healey's continued growth and commitment to supporting businesses and individuals across the Warrington area. By bringing together two trusted local teams with shared values and a strong focus on personal service, the firm is further strengthening its position as a leading independent practice in the region.

The Accountancy Value team brings with them a loyal client base and extensive experience across a wide range of sectors. Clients can expect a seamless transition, with the same friendly and professional service they are accustomed to, now backed by the wider resources and expertise of the Hunter Healey

team.

Commenting on the acquisition, Alicia Flint for Hunter Healey said: "We are thrilled to welcome the talented Accountancy Value team to Hunter Healey. They have built a fantastic reputation for their client-focused approach, and their values align perfectly with ours. This is an exciting development that allows us to enhance our services while continuing to provide the high-quality, personal support our clients are accustomed to."

Both firms share a long-standing commitment to the Warrington community, and the newly combined practice will continue to operate locally, offering the same trusted advice with an even broader range of expertise.

Hunter Healey looks forward to building on the strong foundations laid by Accountancy Value and to continuing to provide proactive, professional, and approachable accountancy services to clients old and new.

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# Croft Parish Council News

Croft Parish Council would like to make all readers of Culcheth Life fully aware of a major issue on our doorstep which will affect us all:

## The Tritax Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (or 'Intermodal Logistics Park')



This proposal is currently going through a public consultation and it is important that we understand its implications and oppose it as strongly as we can!

- It will have the effect of completely industrialising our area.
- It will occupy 500 acres of current green belt land by Winwick Lane – bigger than the whole of Culcheth and 3 times the area of Croft.
- This area will be covered with warehouses 30 metres in height.
- There will be 1146 parking spaces for HGVs, and over 1300 movements per day of these vehicles on to surrounding roads, using both Jn22 of the M6 and Jn9 of the M62 via the Winwick link road.
- Soil dug up in building these warehouses will be dumped on agricultural land going right up to Kenyon Lane, disrupting farming for at least 2 years. The drainage on these fields will be affected such that flooding will be almost certain.
- A Lowton Lane Head bypass is regarded as necessary to accommodate the extra traffic and avoid the traffic build up there. This will mean the further loss of green belt.
- The functions of the Freightliner Terminal at Trafford Park are expected to be transferred here to accommodate the building of a new Manchester United stadium.

The decision as to whether this will go ahead will be taken by the government, not locally, within the next 2 years.

### Have Your Say!

Write to your MP! [charlotte.nichols.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:charlotte.nichols.mp@parliament.uk)

Provide your feedback by 23rd December via the QR Code or visit:

[www.tritaxbigbox.co.uk/our-spaces/intermodal-logistics-park-north](http://www.tritaxbigbox.co.uk/our-spaces/intermodal-logistics-park-north)



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# Primary school named a winner at Educate Awards

## LOCKING Stumps Community Primary school has been named a winner at this year's Educate Awards.

The school took home the Mental Health and Wellbeing Award, having fought off stiff competition from schools and colleges across the North West.

The school won the award, which recognises educational establishments that are effectively tackling mental health and wellbeing issues among both children and staff, after demonstrating a proactive approach to supporting its pupils' mental health and wellbeing.

Locking Stumps has implemented 'myHappymind', an NHS-backed mental wellness programme, that is designed to build resilience, self-esteem and happiness in children. Pupils across all phases take part in lessons, assemblies and events that proactively support their mental health and wellbeing.

The school also offers targeted support for its pupils experiencing mental health challenges. This is led by the school's certified mental health first aid trainer, who also

delivers training to staff to support them in identifying and responding to mental health concerns effectively.

Parents, carers and the wider community are involved in the school's promotion of mental health education too, and it hosts a mindfulness club to ensure wellbeing is part of both school and home life.

Now in its 14th year, the Educate Awards features 21 diverse categories and shines a spotlight on all aspects of education from sports and arts to literacy and the environment.

The shortlist recognises inspiring teachers, dedicated support staff and strategic leadership teams who continue to make a meaningful difference in their communities.

Kim O'Brien, founder of the Educate Awards, said: "Congratulations to Locking Stumps Community Primary School for its success at this year's Educate Awards!"

Entries for the 2026 awards will open in February, and schools, colleges and multi-academy trusts of all kinds are urged to get involved.

## Up to 24 weeks of road closures on Birchwood Way delayed

Up to 24 weeks of temporary road closures on Birchwood Way for improvement works to be carried out to the M62 Junction 11 have been delayed until January.

The closures on Birchwood Way from its junction with Moss Gate to the M62 Junction 11, now scheduled for January 5, will

take place from 9 pm to 5 am to minimise disruption.

Warrington Borough Council has given notice it intends to make an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 on 21st August 2025. The effect of which is to introduce a prohibition of driving on Birchwood Way from

its junction with Moss Gate to the M62 Junction 11.

The Order will be effective from January 5th, 2026 for 24 weeks, between 9pm and 5am, however the works have been delayed and will now start on 5th January 2026, 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 Birchwood Way, Woolston Grange Avenue, M6, M62 and vice versa. The closure is required to allow for improvement works to be carried out to the M62 Junction 11.

## Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

"I hold regular constituency advice surgeries. If you are a Warrington North resident who needs help or support, please contact my office to book an appointment."

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# Bookworm statue unveiled at Culcheth Library naming event



The event was to celebrate the official unveiling and naming of The Reading Child statue - an aesthetically beautiful addition to what is an already a beautiful village library, which was funded by fund raising events held by the Friends of Culcheth Library.

The event, which was attended by former CEO of Warrington Borough Council, Prof. Steve Broomhead, who previously received an MBE for his support of libraries, was also an opportunity to meet and talk to Andy Burgess, the woodcarving artist who carved the statue as a commission for the library.

Before The Reading Child was delivered Prof. Broomhead went to look at the statue and loved it.

He suggested it should be given a name, so, local residents, plus pupils from Culcheth High School, were invited to give suggestions.



## The Gardening Guide



If you are having a real Christmas tree keep it away from heat sources and in a water holding stand to keep it fresh for longer.

Simon Bax,  
Plant Area Specialist

- Natural food is at its scarcest at this time of year so keep your bird feeders stocked up at all times - look after your feathered friends
- Evergreen plants come into their own over the winter and stems may be cut and used in arrangements
- Improve the structure of clay soils by digging in plenty of bulky organic matter such as composted bark
- Remember to protect your half-hardy plants during very cold spells



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# Funds boost for Culcheth Linear Park thanks to Co-op

THE Friends of Culcheth Linear Park are celebrating after receiving £1,174 from the Co-op Local Community Fund.

This is on top of the £500 received earlier this year and brings the total amount raised to a fantastic £1,674.

Alastair Baker, Chair of the Friends of Culcheth Linear Park, said: "The Co-op Local Community Fund works to promote healthy and strong communities with members having a say on where they would like to see the support given in order to make a difference in their local area."

"We are so grateful to shoppers



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# Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Plan Update

**Work began back in January to update the Parish Plan – an action plan for the community, developed by the community, in conjunction with the Parish Council, through which, everyone in Culcheth and Glazebury can have their say about how we can all help to make our villages even better.**

A Steering Group was set up with ten volunteers including two of the Parish Councillors, who have both worked continuously through the year to support the progress of the plan.

They started with a community workshop followed by an online and paper survey. They have collaborated with the schools through their School Councils and engaged as many community groups for all age groups as we could reach. They have also been into around one hundred local businesses to get input from them about the rewards and challenges of running a business in the villages. The response has been excellent, as has the support from so many different groups – around two thousand individuals have been represented and they wanted to share their progress so far.

Firstly, everyone was asked what they liked about Culcheth and Glazebury. Most responses talked about the rural nature of the villages, the countryside, the connectivity, the lovely people, and the strong sense of community. Most people felt that the accessibility of the facilities, in the centre of Culcheth, was important to them: special mention was given to the importance of the GPs and pharmacies, shops, pubs, cafes

and restaurants, the library and all the clubs and activities available.

Residents were then given the opportunity to give ways that the villages could be made even better. There were hundreds of suggestions. These ideas will be shared with the whole community again, in a new survey at the start of 2026, so that everyone can again have their say about which ideas we can develop.

What has been great about getting involved with this process, has been to find out how much wonderful community work goes on, often behind the scenes: volunteer litter pickers going out daily, collecting rubbish and cleaning up after dogs; a proposed new cycle path, linking Culcheth to Birchwood and beyond; new average speed cameras on Warrington Road; significant improvement in air quality following the introduction of Warrington's electric buses and a proposed new crossing near to the High School as part of the new housing development. All these ideas have been raised by residents answering the survey, and it is such good news to find that they are already underway.

Please look out for the next survey in January 2026. It will be shared via social media, QR codes on Council Noticeboards and in

public spaces such as the library. There will also be paper copies available in the library and shared at different groups. They hope to get responses from as many people as possible. There will also be a Community Workshop on the morning of Saturday 10th January between 10:30 and 12 noon, to

launch the new survey. Finally, the more residents who volunteer, the more that can be done to make our villages even better. Anyone interested in getting involved can email the Parish Clerk at [clerk@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk) or come along to their workshop in January.



## Footpath to close to allow construction works for new Extra motorway service station

A public footpath has been closed for up to six months to allow construction works on the new Extra Motorway service station near Croft.

Warrington Borough Council has given notice it intends to make an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of which will be to introduce a footpath closure on Croft Footpath 25 for its entire length.

The Order will be effective from 27th November 2025 for 6 months, as and when signed on

site. The alternative route will be signed and available on site. The closure is required to allow water course diversion works to take place to the footpath as part of the Extra Motorway service station construction.

Picture shows the path from the motorway junction along the side of the landfill.

A diversion order was made two years ago but the necessary link from this path onto a new line on the landfill itself hasn't been built yet.



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# Culcheth Walking Football raises the bar for Stroke survivors



**Culcheth Walking Football club has once again shown how sport can be a powerful force for good. Their much-anticipated annual charity event, the Culcheth Cup, returned with energy, excitement, and a record-breaking fundraising total of £5,079 – this time in support of the Stroke Association.**

Every day, around 240 people in the UK experience the life-changing impact of a stroke. The Stroke Association plays a vital role in helping survivors rebuild their lives, funding cutting-edge research, and campaigning for better stroke care. You can learn more or get involved at [www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk).

This year's tournament took place on Sunday 5th October, at the newly installed 3G pitch at Culcheth High School. The event welcomed 14 teams from across the region, competing in a lively group stage followed by knockout rounds. All three Culcheth teams made it to the quarter-finals, with

the Bolton team emerging victorious in a thrilling final against Blackpool. A huge congratulations to all the players for their sportsmanship and spirit!

Jane Guy, representing the Stroke Association's Warrington team, accepted the donation on behalf of the charity: "We are absolutely delighted and deeply grateful to everyone who supported this fantastic walking football tournament" she said. "Your generosity will make a real

difference to those affected by stroke."

Walking football is a fast-growing sport designed for those aged over 50, offering a safe, inclusive way to stay active, enjoy the beautiful game, and build lasting friendships.

If you're interested in joining or learning more about Culcheth Walking Football, visit their Facebook page or contact Yannis on 07774 922277 or [yannis0131@yahoo.com](mailto:yannis0131@yahoo.com)

## Culcheth Panthers receive new training jackets from housebuilder

A recently formed girls' football team, Culcheth Panthers, is sporting new winter training jackets courtesy of housebuilder Bellway.

With its Neptune development taking shape on Deacons Close in Croft, Bellway was delighted to support the Under 11s Culcheth Panthers providing cash towards the cost of warm and waterproof training jackets for the girls for the cold and wet winter season ahead.

Formed last year, Culcheth Panthers is part of Culcheth Athletic, a junior football club in Culcheth, Cheshire. Initially starting off by playing friendlies, the Panthers soon joined the Wigan Girls League U11s and now play competitive matches every Saturday morning.

Training at Culcheth High School, the team offers a great outlet for local girls to develop their fitness, teamwork and social skills and has gone from strength-to-strength over the last 12 months with the objective of improving as players and becoming even more competitive over the next couple of years.

Warrington-based parents Chris Gee and Janine Bruce are the coaches, working with the girls at weekly training sessions and managing their participation in their Saturday matches.

Chris Gee said: "We're delighted with the new jackets and grateful to

Bellway for the kind donation. Not only do the jackets make us look more professional and feel more like a team but they are invaluable in the winter, helping keep the girls comfortable and dry when training and travelling to matches."

Sales Director at Bellway, Grace

Yarlett, added: "We were more than happy to provide the jackets for the Panthers; it's great to see the girls making good use of them now the winter weather has arrived and we hope they keep them warm and ready for action for their matches this season."

Offering a selection of three and four bedroom homes, Bellway's Neptune development is ideal for first-time buyers, young professionals, young families and downsizers, offering easy access into Warrington and onward across the North West.



# A Christmas Carol – a community collaboration!

Something very special happened at Newchurch Parish Hall in Culcheth when Culcheth Players staged a production of Charles Dickens' classic tale "A Christmas Carol".

This was their most ambitious project to date and brought together groups of people from the area making it a real community event. There were just four performances with each one being almost sold out.

The story was very much loved by a lot of people and in some cases quite precious to them so when people were leaving the show, very often with a tear in their eye, Culcheth Players knew they had got it right.

There was a huge cast of 21, including four children, and many actors had to take on more than one role which resulted in some very fast costume and character changes.

The technical team faced complex scene transitions and all within the limited space available. Lighting and sound had to be timed to perfection and there were some special effects

never used before including artificial snow, fog and projected ghostly images, all of which presented their own challenges. There were also dances to be learned and perfected, all choreographed by Karen Wilkinson who operates a Ballroom dancing class from the hall.

In the final scenes of the production members of Culcheth Village Choir appeared in period costume as carol singers and they were accompanied by Newchurch Hand Bell ringers all joining together singing and playing Oh Come all ye Faithfull, creating a feel good community event. And in a final comedy flourish cast members went amongst the audience handing out humbugs!

Holding everything together was the director David McManus who when everything seemed to become too daunting carried

everyone through with patience and good humour and his belief in the production.

Culcheth Players would like to thank Culcheth Village Choir and Newchurch Handbell Ringers for agreeing to take part in A Christmas Carol and making it a real community event. Both organisations welcome new members.

The choir meet at Culcheth Library on Thursday evenings 7.15 to 9pm. The handbell ringers can be found by contacting Newchurch Parish Church.

Culcheth Players next production will be their popular annual pantomime which always sells out. Jack and the Beanstalk is the one chosen for 2026. Tickets are on sale now so don't miss out.

Book online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/culchethp](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/culchethp) or phone 07943 517710 for further details or to join Culcheth Players. New members are always welcome.



## A busy and entertaining year for Croft WI

CROFT WI's annual meeting heard of a busy and entertaining year.

Secretary Sue Murcott reported on the many highlights of the year including a variety of interesting talks including beekeeping, high fashion corsetry, life as an RAF photographer, recycling waste in Warrington and a sing-along with the Hindley Ukulele Orchestra.

Members have enjoyed a ballroom dance night, a mosaic craft workshop, a guided tour of Liverpool and a visit to the Emma Bridgewater factory. A particular highlight of the year was the very successful afternoon tea to celebrate 100 years of Croft Carnival.

President Gill Coon thanked the committee and all members who have given their time and support, particularly treasurer Gill Branford-White and secretary Sue Murcott who are both standing down from their posts. Gill Coon is also standing down as president after successfully guiding the WI for the last three years.

Merron Mitchell was elected to become the new president. In addition to attending monthly meetings members have enjoyed taking part in Bowling, Darts, Luncheon Club, Readers Group, Scrabble, Singing for Fun, Walking Group and Walking Netball. The leaders of these activity groups each gave a short speech to let those yet to join know what they have been missing!

Once the formal part of the meeting was over members enjoyed a delicious buffet kindly organised by Anne Geraghty. The competition "A WI Photo" was won by Janet Hughes, 2nd Merron Mitchell and 3rd Jill Hillam.

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



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