

Culcheth Life

Magazine

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Editor's Opinion



WHILE I was congratulated on my opinion piece last month calling for common sense to prevail with ongoing issues at Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council and toxic posts on social media – it appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

In fact, I think it is fair to say that things have even escalated.

As always, I try and remain impartial and report on local issues in a balanced way.

But it improves incredibly difficult to do so when I only receive one side of a story, with others choosing to remain silent.

The latest issues involving security guards being on duty at

the last parish council meeting and independent members being excluded from a part two item, is just one example. To anyone looking from the outside these are important issues, which need investigating and an explanation.

Even if it contains sensitive information a trusted local journalist should be able to receive information "off the record" so they can decide how best to report on a local issue.

Most people who get elected at a local level want to serve their community – so everyone should be on the same page when it comes to organising things like the Christmas lights in the village.

As we approach the season of goodwill let's hope everyone elected to represent the people, can work together for the good of the people and the local community.

In the meantime, I will continue my best to report local issues in a balanced way – but I can only work with the information I am given on or off the record!

Scan for all the latest news



All set for Christmas Fairs

Culcheth Methodist Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday, November 29.

There will be stalls, Father Christmas in his grotto, childrens crafts and a cafe. The church is on Ellesmere Road in Culcheth.

Call Joyce on 07720 084193 for stalls & info

As usual, on the same day there will also be fairs at Newchurch Parish Hall and the Scout hut.

**Deadline for the
December issue is
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Petition launched to get church clock chiming again

A petition has been launched to get the Parish church clock at Culcheth chiming again after it was stopped due to noise complaints.

Local Independent Cllr. Neil Johnson says he is working diligently with the Borough Council and the Parish Church to resolve an impasse over the chiming of the village clock.

A petition has now been launched in support of the campaign and signed by more than 750 people.



The clock's quarterly and night-time chimes have stopped following a complaint that they represented a noise nuisance which led to the Council launching a noise complaint investigation. The decision has been met with dismay throughout the village, with many residents viewing the chimes as an important aspect of village life.

Now, Cllr Johnson has provided an update on the situation saying: "For some weeks now, I have been in contact with the Borough Council and representatives from the Church, including the Bell Captain."

"Following a recent complaint, the Church have agreed that the clock will no longer sound during the night, as this can be disturbing to people while they are sleeping. However, the request to turn off the quarterly chimes has become a real 'sticking point'. It is understood that this didn't actually come from the original complainant, which makes it even more of a frustration."

"Therefore, to try and resolve this, the Church have requested a meeting with relevant officers from the Council and myself as the local Independent Councillor. If the original complainant is willing to meet as well, then they would also be welcome to come along. Getting all parties around the table

seems to me to be the best and most productive way of reaching an accord."

"The Church has organised a petition to show that there is support locally for the chimes to continue. I would encourage all residents to add their signatures and show your support for this important aspect of village life. The more signatures we gather the better."

"The current situation does not affect the ringing of the church bells, which can continue to be

rung for weddings, services and other events."

"I will keep all parties apprised of the situation as it develops, but please be assured that I am completely committed to working with everyone involved to get this situation resolved. One way or another, the village clock will chime again!"

To sign the petition visit www.change.org/p/reinstatement-of-chimes-at-newchurch-parish-church-culcheth-warrington



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MP to challenge Peel Ports over unfair discount scheme for Toll Bridge

WARRINGTON North MP Charlotte Nichols says she is going to challenge Peel Ports over their unfair discount scheme for people living near Warburton Toll Bridge.

While some people living around four miles from the bridge qualify for a 50 per cent discount, others living only two miles away in areas like Glazebrook don't qualify.

Ms Nichols said: "The tolls on the Warburton Toll Bridge should never have been increased by Peel Ports, and I have consistently campaigned against this."

"Only a small number of post code areas were given a discount, and Glazebrook was not included. I agree that Glazebrook residents should also receive the 50% Warburton Toll Bridge discount awarded to residents of other areas."

"Currently, only Risley, Rixton, Lymm and Partington receive a 50% discount, but some of these places are further away than Glazebrook is from the bridge. This is not fair."

"I will be raising this matter with both Peel Ports and the Government to see what can be done to extend the discount area."

Ms Nichols was responding to a letter from Glazebrook resident Diane Dixon, who said: "Both myself and my husband regularly use the Warburton toll bridge on our commute to work. We are approximately 2 miles from the bridge."

"I work for the NHS and I use the

bridge 3 days per week."

"Many people living over 4 miles from the bridge can claim a discount, but those living 2/3 miles away are excluded."

"Peel do not seem willing to communicate with anyone on this matter, so I was hoping our local MPs would meet with Peel to discuss whether they can find a solution to this problem."

"I think everyone agrees that there should be a 50% discount

for local residents, but we need a scheme which is fair to all concerned."

After controversially gaining government approval to increase tolls from 12.5p each way to £1 each way, despite huge opposition, commuters are still currently benefiting from free crossings.

But charging, which Peel says is necessary for ongoing maintenance, is scheduled this autumn.

For the latest updates and to apply for discounts, visit www.warburtontollbridge.co.uk





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Ofsted May 2023

Warrington Sports Award for ‘The school that goes the extra mile’






The Raven Inn: A gem shining bright this festive season

Nestled in the heart of Glazebury, The Raven Inn has flourished as a community-run pub for over two years – and it's only getting stronger.

Recently, it celebrated a major milestone: in its biennial TripAdvisor review, the pub proudly retained its 5-star rating and its place among the top 10% of eateries worldwide, earning the coveted Travellers' Choice Award once again.

As the festive season approaches, The Raven Inn is embracing the spirit of Christmas with a selection of special seasonal menus, featuring mouthwatering creations like their homemade Mince Pie Cheesecake. Whether you're planning an intimate dinner or a lively gathering, the pub is ready to welcome groups of all sizes. Local favourites Culcheth Walking

Football have already booked a party for 40, and Christmas Day is fully booked with 150 guests expected to celebrate in style.

The Raven Inn is also the hub of local Christmas cheer, hosting events that bring the community together. Be sure to follow /TheRavenInnAtGlazebury on Facebook for updates on festive happenings, including the Christmas tree switch-on and the ever-popular Christmas market.

With its warm atmosphere, award-winning service, and commitment to community, The Raven Inn is the perfect place to celebrate the season.



One person taken to hospital and homes evacuated after car crashes into house

ONE person was taken to hospital and 12 homes were evacuated due to a gas leak risk after a car collided into a house at Glazebury, Warrington, on Sunday, October 26th.

Two fire engines from Warrington and Lymm and the major rescue unit from Lymm attended the incident at Millbrook Close, Glazebury.

Emergency services were called after a car crashed into a detached house on Millbrook Close, which led to concerns about damage to a gas main.

The driver of the car was taken to hospital, and three passengers were also checked over by paramedics at the scene.

As a precaution, around 12 homes were evacuated due to the gas leak risk. Residents were relocated to another property while the incident was dealt with. Cadent

Gas isolated the supply, and the vehicle was recovered.

The incident was left with the police to manage the scene, with support from local authority teams to check the building's safety.

A spokesperson for Cheshire Police confirmed: "At 3.23pm on Sunday 26 October, police were called to reports of a collision in Millbrook Close, Warrington.

"The collision involved one vehicle which had collided with a house and damaged a gas main. There were no reports of any serious injuries.

"Nearby residents were evacuated as a precaution while the incident was dealt with."

A cordon was put in place as a precautionary measure while the local authority evaluated the structural damage.

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Public greeted by security guards at Parish Council meeting as independents excluded

TWO security guards greeted people arriving at the latest meeting of Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council, while two independent Cllrs. were excluded from part two of the meeting.

Now one of those excluded, Independent Cllr Neil Johnson has slammed the parish council as being "undemocratic" and urged villagers to unite against what he has described as an "anti-democracy coalition involving local Labour and Conservative councillors.

A report emerged on Facebook from newly-elected Parish Councillor Bernie Kingston, who claimed that an unadvertised meeting of some Parish Councillors was taking place at Culcheth Library, in a room where the blinds were drawn. Cllr Johnson was unaware of this meeting being convened, or its purpose. He has written to the Administrative Assistant who is currently supporting the Parish Council in the absence of a Clerk to ask for more details but, so far, received no reply.

Tensions rose at the Parish Council meeting at Glazebury Methodist Church, when two members of the public sought to ask questions in the Public Forum section of the meeting, but were told they couldn't do so because the issues they wanted to raise were not on the Agenda.

"Ridiculous"

Members of the public who attended were greeted by the sight of two private security guards who had been hired to marshal the event. Cllr Johnson says he received no notification that the Parish Council was planning to hire private security, or any details of the associated costs. He has branded the move "ridiculous".

Then, in what Cllr. Johnson describes as a "shocking" and "unprecedented" move, the Parish Council meeting was adjourned for a "Part 2" (Confidential) meeting, which he and Cllr Kingston (both Independent members) were asked to leave! Cllr Johnson has not been told what the confidential meeting discussed, or given any information

relating to his exclusion.

Cllr Johnson said after the meeting: "I am shocked at the latest turn of events. The Parish Council in Culcheth and Glazebury is now a totally undemocratic body, which seems to be operating as a closed shop. Input from residents is unwelcome, and opportunities for local people to engage and ask questions are being actively shut down.

"I am completely opposed to the new format of Parish Council meetings, where questions can only be taken in a 15-minute section about items already on the Agenda by prior arrangement with the Parish Clerk. This is designed to exclude residents from raising concerns and engaging with elected representatives. I am firmly in favour of reverting to the old format, where we conducted the business of the Parish Council and then opened the floor to members of the public, who could raise any issue they wished, ask questions, and didn't have to give notice in advance. That is proper

engagement and accountability. The way two residents were treated was frankly contemptable.

"Hiring private security to marshal a Parish Council meeting is utterly ridiculous. Who do these people think they are? Who paid for this and when was it agreed? I have certainly never been asked.

"Finally, in a shocking and unprecedented move, the two Independent members of the Parish Council were excluded from a Part 2 (Confidential) meeting, without warning or explanation. This is not only undemocratic, it may well be illegal. This was a meeting of the full Parish Council, to which all ten members should have been invited to participate. To simply ask us to leave, without giving any hint of what was being discussed, is beyond belief.

Anti-democracy

"It is clear to me that Labour and the Conservatives have united to form an anti-democracy coalition. The two main parties are working together to try and prevent scrutiny, and are now actively conspiring behind closed doors against Independent members. Whether

they agree with Cllr Kingston or I is irrelevant, we have a right to be present at Part 2 meetings and take part. I am astonished that the Administrative Assistant is party to any of this.

"The residents of Culcheth and Glazebury must unite against this affront to democracy. The Parish Council in its current form is placing self-interest ahead of the community. It is a closed shop, filled with Labour and Conservative councillors who are on a power trip at the expense of the people. Enough is enough."

Cllr Johnson has called for the Borough Council solicitor and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to instigate an investigation into the Part 2 meeting events, to determine upon what grounds he and Cllr Kingston were excluded, and upon whose authority.

Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council, The local Labour group and Cllr. Bernie Kingston, all declined to comment on Cllr Johnson's statement at this stage.



Charlotte Nichols MP Warrington North

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Mayor unveils Bents' Christmas experience



Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Mo Hussain, has helped unveil this year's spectacular Christmas experience at Bents Garden & Home.

Bents' in-house team of joiners and visual merchandisers have been working their magic to create 12 incredible themes, all of which were revealed when the Mayor and Matthew Bent, Managing Director of Bents Garden & Home, cut the ribbon and officially announced Christmas 2025 open!

Joining the Mayor for the occasion were two cheeky elves, who could be seen roller skating their way around the Centre helping to spread the festive cheer and making a return appearance, is the hugely popular Fat Cat Brass, a six-piece roaming band, who brought the festive beats in their own unique style.

Matthew Bent said: "It may still be October, but once Christmas at Bents is unveiled, the festive season can officially begin! This year's opening event was full of entertainment and we're looking

forward to customers being able to see and experience our magical wonderland, which has once again been delivered by our incredible team of colleagues."

This year's themes include Nature's Treasures, centred around a festive potting shed and featuring the biggest pair of wellies in Warrington; Merry Mischief, which provides the perfect place for a cheeky selfie spot; and Monochrome Madness with its giant keyhole and floating furniture providing a flavour of things to come with Bents' brand new Adventure Light Trail, based on the story of Alice and her magical adventures.

Places can now be booked for Alice in the Hidden Garden, Bents' Adventure Light Trail, which launches on 21st November. Visit Bents.co.uk to find out more.

Remembrance Day Civic Parade

This year's Remembrance Day Civic Parade at Culcheth will take place on Sunday November 9.

The parade will form up in the grounds of The Culcheth Village Club, Wigshaw Lane, starting at approximately 10:15am and proceeding along Wigshaw Lane and Common Lane, crossing over Warrington Road into Church Lane to Newchurch Parish Church for the Service of Remembrance beginning at 10:45 am. After the service, wreaths will be placed at the War Memorial in the graveyard, then the parade will form up and return in a reverse of the outward route and disperse at The Culcheth Village Club.

Information regarding the road closures that will take place on November 9 will be placed along the route at least seven days prior

to the parade date. These will be followed up with two main points of closure on the day, one at the junction with Wigshaw Lane, Common Lane, and the other on Warrington Road. These closures will only be for a matter of minutes to allow the parade to pass and will be monitored by a traffic management team.

The Civic Parade is being supported by Culcheth and Glazebury and Croft parish councils.

Any organisations who would like to take part should contact the parade co-ordinator Councillor Paul Campbell. Those organisations and groups wishing to take part should be at The Culcheth Village Club no later than 10am. pcampbell@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk

The Gardening Guide



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

Simon Bux,
Plant Area Specialist

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



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.

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Argyle expands with new Birchwood office

Argyle has further strengthened its presence across the North West with the opening of a new office at the Genesis Centre in Birchwood.

Strategically positioned in one of the region's key development hubs, the new office enables Argyle to support its growing portfolio of surfacing, civils, and adoptions projects across Cheshire, Warrington and the wider North West.

"Birchwood is home to many of our clients and partners, making it the perfect base to support our regional growth," said Ben Shaw, Director at Argyle. "Having a local base here means we can work more closely with our clients, particularly as neighbouring Birchwood Park continues to be a focal point for housebuilding and development in the North West."

The move follows Argyle's appointment to the Warrington Borough Council Highways Capital Works Framework, where the company will deliver key infrastructure and civil engineering schemes over the coming years.

It also builds on the acquisition of Lornford Construction in 2023, which has further strengthened the Argyle Group's geographical reach across Crewe, the North Midlands, and North Wales.

"This growth marks another exciting chapter for Argyle," added Ben. "By increasing our footprint in the North West, we can strengthen relationships, enhance responsiveness, and continue delivering the high-standard,

reliable service we're known for."

With this expansion, Argyle reinforces its commitment to building long-term partnerships, improving infrastructure, and investing in the communities it serves.

Argyle are award-winning civil engineering and surfacing specialists, delivering quality, sustainable, turnkey solutions across the North West and beyond.

Firmly established as a trusted

partner within the construction industry, Argyle provides a wide range of services including surfacing works, civil engineering, adoptions, groundworks, and specialist infrastructure projects for clients in both the public and private sectors.

Argyle works in partnership with blue-chip housebuilders, major civils contractors, facilities management providers, and local authorities.

The company has grown significantly in recent years, including the 2023 acquisition of Lornford Construction, which

expanded Argyle's reach into the Crewe, North Midlands, and North Wales regions. The recent opening of its new Warrington office further strengthens its regional presence and supports continued growth across the North West.

Passionate about social value, sustainability, and skills development, Argyle is committed to delivering positive outcomes for local communities. The company is also a Living Wage accredited employer and is fully committed to achieving net zero carbon by 2050.



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Bents announce new board member

AS a family owned and run business, Bents Garden & Home is planning for the future and has announced the promotion of Jo Derbyshire to Finance Director; a move which further strengthens the management structure at the Glazebury based business, which is now in its third generation.

Established by Alfred and Margaret Bent in 1937, Bents will celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2027 and, whilst it remains a strong family business, it is putting succession plans in place for the fourth generation of the Bent family. Jo's appointment to the board is a significant step in this process and she joins Emma Kelly, Commercial Director as a non-family member to help guide its future direction and strategy.

Jo joined Bents in 2022 as Head of Finance and IT, bringing with her a wealth of experience from

Pets at Home and Missguided. Says Matthew, Managing Director: "From the moment she arrived, Jo fitted in seamlessly adapting to our culture and values with ease and bringing fresh perspective and energy to our business."

"She shares our family vision and standards and has introduced new ways of thinking that have strengthened our financial decision-making and positively influenced the way we operate. It is a hugely well-deserved promotion and we're excited to see what the future holds with Jo on our board of directors."

Jo said: "Having been part of the Bents family business for the past three years, I've seen first-hand the passion, creativity, and commitment that drive the business and family forward. I'm looking forward to building on this strong foundation and working with the team to support our continued growth and innovation, ensuring we remain a much-loved destination for our customers and community."

Jo's new role will include

additional directorship duties and deputising in the absence of the Managing Director. The appointment has been made following extensive and ongoing work with Juliette Johnson Consultancy, which is dedicated to supporting and advising families in business and are helping to plan and prepare Bents Garden & Home for future generations and independent growth.



Investigations ongoing as police identify youths involved in anti-social behaviour

POLICE have identified a number of youths involved in ongoing issues involving anti-social behaviour at Culcheth, Warrington.

Local officers are aware that there have been a number of incidents, where residents have been worried about the increase in anti-social behaviour from youths around the village.

A police spokesperson said: "Over the past couple of weeks, we have conducted knife sweeps and been in contact with local schools

to identify youths relating to anti-social behaviour happening across Culcheth.

"Whilst we are still completing more enquiries, along with other outcomes, we have managed to identify some of the youths involved, spoken with parents and youths about their behaviours."

"We will continue to work on this, if you wish to raise any concerns or have your say please fill in the resident's voice online."

Parish council helps Lydia celebrate 100 years

MEMBERS of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council dropped in on a local resident to help her celebrate her 100th birthday.

Lydia Kelly, of Glazebury has lived in the village for many years and was one of the main organisers of the local Over 60s Club for more than 20 years.

Parish council chairman Cllr Paul Campbell and councillors Chris Smith and Janet Seddon visited her and presented her with a birthday

card and bouquet of flowers on behalf of the whole council.

Cllr Campbell said, "What a wonderful lady with a great smile, and it was a great honour to be part of her celebrations. She showed us the special card she received from the King and Queen wishing her well."

"When I asked her what her secret was for such a long life she made us laugh when she answered, 'I tell myself off every day.'"



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"Watershed moment" as former Parish Council clerk elected

IN what has been described as a "watershed moment" former Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council clerk Bernie Kingston triumphed in a local by-election as an independent.

Commenting on the election result at Culcheth, Independent Cllr Neil Johnson said: "The election of Bernie Kingston is a watershed moment in Culcheth politics. It proves that the stale, out of touch status quo cannot continue.

"Residents have clearly been inspired by a community-focused campaign and the prospect of having a second Independent voice to represent them.

"Both Labour and the Conservatives were desperate to ensure Bernie did not win, but he ran an insurgent campaign and triumphed. If any of you are old enough to remember "The Golden Shot" with Bob Monkhouse, I'm

sure you will agree that he is worthy of the accolade "Bernie the Bolt"!

"This election has proved that an Independent vote is not a wasted vote. Now, many more Independent voices will follow and undoubtedly they will succeed.

"The tired old regime of Labour and the Conservatives is over. I look forward to working with Bernie on many issues, including challenging the secretive, closed shop Parish Council and bringing politics back to the people."

Commenting on his victory Cllr. Kingston said: "Huge thank you to all who voted, I'm truly humbled by the support and trust put in me to represent you on the Parish

Council. "It's clear the residents of Culcheth want change! My job now is to deliver it for you!"

Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council (Culcheth Ward)

Dorothy Cook (IND)

239

Chris Goddard (CON)

136

Bernie Kingston (IND)

641

Turnout 28%



Memorial service

CULCHETH Methodist Church will hold its annual Memorial Service on Sunday, November 16 at 3pm – providing an opportunity for people who have lost a love one to remember them.

Anyone who would like to remember someone who has passed away, whether it was very recently or many years ago, is warmly invited to attend this Annual Memorial Service. It will include thoughtful reflections and there will be chance to light a candle or simply sit quietly with memories of your loved one.

People who attend will be very welcome to remain afterwards for tea, coffee and cake.

Anyone who would like to know more should not hesitate to get in touch with Janette Hutchinson on 01925 766819.

China – ancient and modern

GUEST speaker Jean Jameson spoke on "China through Artefacts" at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI.

Her talk, following a visit to China, was in aid of leukaemia research, her husband having died of the disease. It focussed on China ancient and modern, a country now forging ahead with technology although constrained by its past.

The past – Chairman Mao, the "Gang of Three", the "little red book" and the one-child policy - led to an imbalance in

society. But today there are new buildings everywhere, cities of 30-40 million, the Bullet Train and much more.

Jean went on the Bullet Train and visited the City of Silk, with its 1,000 years of silk history. She visited the Terracotta Army, bringing back many pictures of this and also saw the Great Wall of China.

Her talks have so far raised £1,870.

Glazebrook WI is now planning a special celebration to mark its 80th birthday.

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Cricket club awards night – and invitation to new players



GLAZEBURY Cricket Club hold their Annual General Meeting and Awards Night at the George and Dragon on Thursday, November 27 – with an invitation for prospective new members to join them.

The meeting will start at 7:30pm and there will be plenty on the agenda, including celebrating the highlights of a challenging season and planning for next season.

Pre-season training will start on Saturday February 7 with indoor net practice at Culcheth High School from 3-4pm. New members will be welcome to join in.

The Hurst Lane club has two senior teams in the Cheshire Cricket League and will welcome new players of all ages and abilities. No experience is necessary - coaching will be available at the

training sessions.

Special mentions must go to Vijay Uppari as leading run scorer of the 2025 season and Ryan Warhurst, Sean Caine and Anirudh Anil as joint leading wicket takers. The First XI had some nail-biting results, including a nine-run win over Kerridge, secured in the final over and a one wicket win over Styal. The Second XI had some dominant wins throughout the season, including big margins over Brooklands, Heaton Mersey Village, Appleton and Mellor to finish fifth in the table.

WI members hear about search and rescue work

MEMBERS of Croft WI welcomed Barbara Broderick, from Cheshire Search and Rescue, at their monthly meeting – and heard about the work of the voluntary group.

Cheshire Search and Rescue first started in 2004 when a small group of hospital staff got together to help police search for a missing Warrington schoolgirl.

The group now has 72 members who are on call 24 hours a day to assist the police, ambulance and fire services as well as other lowland and mountain rescue teams.

Last year, the team responded to 42 call outs comprising 33 missing person searches, eight North West Ambulance assists and one snow rescue when a taxi got stuck near the Cat and Fiddle Inn! A call out could be to search for a vulnerable, young, old, lost, ill or injured person, particularly in areas not accessible by road such as forest, agricultural land or moorland.

The team use a control vehicle with access to the police mapping system and a larger van which can

carry kit and casualties if needed. A small boat team can be deployed and on New Year's Day this year they were called out to a flood rescue in Didsbury and helped bring 450 people and various pets to safety.

Unfortunately Cheshire Search and Rescue have no permanent indoor training space and their three vehicles are currently based in Widnes, Wilmslow and Winsford. The team cover the whole of Cheshire - an area of 2,343 square kilometres.

The volunteers train together once a week and must regularly take part in training courses provided by qualified professionals to remain active on the call out list. Members also commit to help with fundraising events as Cheshire Search and Rescue is entirely funded by donations.

Lesley Lloyd gave a vote of thanks to Barbara for an inspiring talk about her fellow volunteers.

The competition "A Torch" was won by 1, Anne Lamming, 2 Sue Murcott, 3, Louise Geekie.

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