

Culcheth Life

Magazine

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Devastating news for Wild Wings

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Editor's Opinion

**ONGOING issues at Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council have now culminated in a special meeting being called by independent Cllrs Neil Johnson and Bernie Kingston.**

While the independents say this is a unique parish meeting "to discuss the current governance and leadership of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council," the Parish council say it isn't.

They say the claim that this is an "unprecedented" or "unique" event, and that "there has never been a Parish Meeting held in Culcheth and Glazebury before," is incorrect.

They quite correctly say a Parish Meeting is not a new or exceptional occurrence, but a standard and longstanding part of local governance. Indeed, Culcheth and Glazebury has long held Parish Meetings on an annual basis, which is the legal required minimum.

So, who is correct - well reading between the lines they both could be.

From my own experience (and I have served three years as a parish councillor at Appleton and reported on parish meetings for four decades) an annual meeting normally takes place ahead of the normal meeting when a new Chair and deputy is elected.

So, while it is correct that a parish meeting is an annual event, it is also correct, from my experience, that a special meeting to discuss

the governance and leadership of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, is unique, certainly unique to Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council.

As the meeting is going to be chaired by the current Chair, it is unlikely to achieve what the independents are seeking, unless they can persuade other councillors to agree with them.

As always, I am trying my very best to remain impartial on proceedings at the parish council.

This becomes increasingly difficult when the current clerk makes false accusations to me of going "straight back to your money source who has quietly updated his Facebook post. Proper journalism," while also accusing me of printing "blatant lies."

If I have ever printed something that is not factually correct - it has been down to the Parish Council refusing to respond to my offers to give their side of a story.

While the parish council have chosen to discontinue their local advertising, Cllr Johnson, within his rights, has chosen to take space in the magazine to communicate with his electorate - like any elected member can do, if they think that is a better way of communicating than traditional leaflets.

As always, I will continue my best to be balanced - but one thing will remain certain - I will not be dictated to by anyone on how to run my business.

Let's hope the ongoing issues at the Parish Council can be resolved sooner, rather than later, as I suspect most people are now tired of it and want everyone to work together for the good of the community.

For the record, the parish meeting will be at Newchurch Parish Hall on Friday, April 24th at 7pm. If you are planning on attending, it may be a good idea to take your popcorn!

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Concern over anti-social behaviour at popular village venue

A councillor has expressed his deepest concerns over recent reports of anti-social behaviour at The Datan Sports and Social Club in Culcheth.

Cllr Neil Johnson has received feedback from members of the club and nearby residents regarding acts of vandalism and criminal damage by anti-social youths. The Datan's property has been damaged and there has been a notable uplift in the number of incidents over recent weeks.

Cllr Johnson said: "I am keen to work positively and pro-actively to address all issues of anti-social behaviour in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

"However, I was particularly concerned to learn what has been happening recently at The Datan. This popular venue in our village is well-used and loved by the community. To hear that a mindless

minority is damaging the building is very sad news.

"The increase in these incidents seems to have coincided with the use of The Datan by the Warrington Youth Zone 'satellite' service, which is funded at great expense by the Parish Council. We need a proper assessment of whether these two things are connected and then a real conversation about whether the 'satellite' service is being hosted in an appropriate location. We must all come together to stamp out anti-social behaviour while ensuring that we offer good quality provision for young people who contribute to our community."

In response to the concerns, a spokesperson from Warrington

Youth Zone said: "Warrington Youth Zone is running a satellite Youth Club at the Datan Sports and Social Club for Juniors aged 7 – 12 on Tuesdays between 5 pm and 8 pm, and for seniors, young people aged 12 – 17 on Fridays between 5 pm and 8 pm. We provide a range of activities to divert young people from less positive behaviour on those evenings. The incident highlighted happened on a night on which we are not running the provision for young people. We

continue to work with young people to challenge problematic behaviour and encourage them to understand the implications such behaviour can have for members of the wider community."

A spokesperson for Cheshire Police added: "Over recent weeks, we have been made aware of a small number of incidents relating to minor ASB at the Datan Club in Culcheth. Officers are working with the Youth Club to address the concerns raised."



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Up to **80%** of heart attacks preventable, says cardiologist

This Heart Health Awareness Month, Spire Cheshire Hospital's Consultant Cardiologist Dr Joseph Mills is encouraging the public to take prevention seriously and recognise the early warning signs of heart problems. In this informative article, Dr Mills outlines the key risk factors and symptoms to watch for. He also took part in a recent interview on Cheshire Mix 56 Radio station to raise awareness on heart health issues to reach a wider audience across the community.

Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of death in the UK, with someone suffering a heart attack every two minutes. Alarmingly, one in four people die suddenly before reaching hospital.

However, up to 80% of heart attacks could be prevented through better awareness and management of key risk factors, according to Spire Cheshire Hospital's Consultant Cardiologist Dr Joseph Mills.

A heart attack occurs when one of the coronary arteries supplying blood to the heart becomes suddenly and completely blocked. Without rapid treatment, part of the heart muscle is permanently damaged.

// Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in men and the second most common cause in women (after dementia), **says Dr Mills.** **//**



Recognising the symptoms

Typical symptoms include discomfort or pain anywhere between the stomach and jaw, often spreading to the arms, and sometimes accompanied by breathlessness, sweating, or nausea.

Symptoms lasting longer than 20 minutes should be treated as a medical emergency.

// **Dr Mills comments**, one of the most common reasons for delayed treatment is mistaking heart attack pain for indigestion. New or unusual chest discomfort, particularly if you do not normally suffer from heartburn should not be ignored. **//**

Modern treatment saves lives

The key diagnostic test is an electrocardiogram (ECG), which determines whether the blocked artery needs urgent reopening. Treatment typically involves inserting fine tubes and wires through an artery in the wrist to restore blood flow.

Most patients recover well within days and can return to normal activities. However, lifelong medication is usually required, and the risk of further events remains elevated making prevention critical.

Prevention: know your numbers

Dr Mills encourages people to monitor the following five key risk factors:

1. Body weight

A Body Mass Index (BMI) below 25 is considered healthy. Nearly 70% of UK adults are overweight or obese. Dietary changes remain the most effective way to lose weight.

2. Exercise

Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Regular exercise increases protective cholesterol, lowers blood pressure, and reduces clot formation.

3. Blood pressure

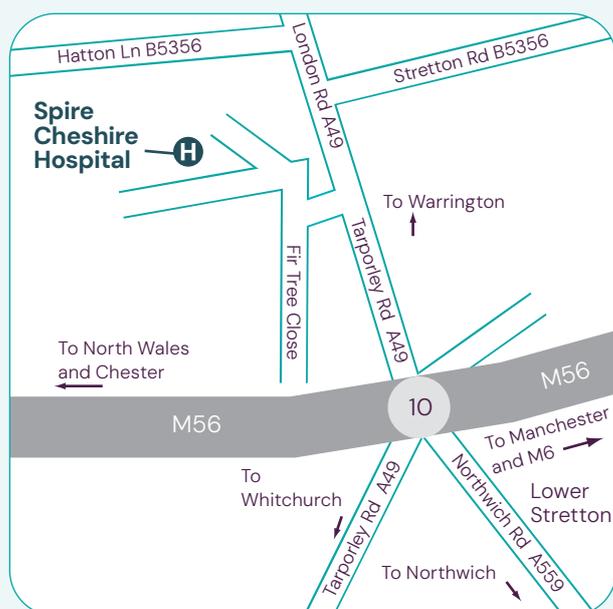
High blood pressure is the most common risk factor for heart attack and stroke. A reading above 135/85 (or 140/90 for those over 80) should prompt medical review. Reducing salt and alcohol intake and taking prescribed medication can significantly reduce blood pressure and lower risk.

4. Cholesterol

Cholesterol levels should be checked and monitored (yearly if high or receiving treatment). Lowering harmful LDL cholesterol through diet and, where appropriate, statin medication significantly reduces heart attack risk. Experts emphasise that statins are well studied, highly effective, and safe for the vast majority of patients. Genuine side-effects are, in fact, uncommon.

5. Smoking

There is no safe level of smoking. Quitting is one of the most powerful ways to reduce heart attack risk.



Spire Cheshire Hospital

Fir Tree Close, Warrington
Cheshire, WA4 4LU

Simple lifestyle advice

Despite conflicting dietary messages in the media, many experts agree on key principles:

- + Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables
- + Reduce salt
- + Limit alcohol (no more than approximately 7 pints of beer or just over a bottle of wine per week, spread out)
- + Maintain a healthy weight

While genetic factors can contribute to risk, heart attacks are rarely caused by genetics alone, with the exception of inherited very high cholesterol. For most people, lifestyle choices and untreated risk factors are the main drivers.

“ Dr Mills said, knowing your numbers is the first step. Small, consistent changes in weight, blood pressure, cholesterol, activity levels, and smoking habits can dramatically reduce your risk. ”

With heart attacks continuing to affect thousands of families every year, the message is clear: prevention is not only possible – it is powerful. You can't change everything overnight, and life isn't always easy. But small, steady improvements can dramatically reduce your risk.



Dr Joseph Mills

MA, MB BChir, FRCP, MD

Dr Joseph Mills is a Consultant Cardiologist with a special interest in coronary heart disease (prevention, assessment and treatment) and risk assessment. He is a Consultant Cardiologist/Interventional Cardiologist at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and undertakes private practice at Spire Hospitals in Cheshire and Manchester.



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Popular Easter Egg Hunt returns to Kenyon Hall with refreshed trail

Kenyon Hall Farm's popular Easter Egg Hunt, which attracted more than 15,000 visitors last year, is returning with a refreshed trail for 2026 featuring new photo opportunities and installations created with Warrington artist Rob Weigh.

The much-loved seasonal event, held at the family-run farm in Croft, has become a firm favourite for families across Warrington and the surrounding area. This year's trail has been updated with new creative elements, colourful displays and interactive photo spots designed to make the experience even more memorable for visitors.

Working with Warrington artist Rob Weigh, Kenyon Hall has introduced a range of new installations and visual features throughout the trail, giving families plenty of opportunities to stop, explore and capture photos along the way.

James Bulmer, owner of Kenyon Hall Farm, said: "We're really excited to be bringing the Easter Egg Hunt back this year with a refreshed trail and some fantastic new features. It's become such a popular event for families across the area, and working with a talented local artist has helped us add some

brilliant new photo opportunities that visitors will hopefully really enjoy."

The Easter Egg Hunt trail will take visitors on a journey around the farm, where children can follow clues and explore the countryside setting before collecting an Easter-themed prize at the end.

The refreshed event aims to build on the success of previous years, when more than 15,000 tickets were sold, reflecting the growing popularity of the attraction as a spring day out for local families. Tickets have also been kept affordable to make the event accessible, with adult tickets priced at £3.50 and children's tickets £4.50.

The Easter Egg Hunt runs every day from Saturday 21 March until Sunday 19 April and tickets are available now.

More information and tickets can be found at: kenyonhall.co.uk/easter-egg-hunt



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Easter fun is on the agenda at Bents

FAMILIES looking for ways to keep little ones entertained over the Easter break will find plenty to enjoy at Bents Garden & Home, with a packed programme of activities, events and hands-on experiences taking place throughout the school holidays.

From creative crafting sessions to animal encounters and a very special story time, there's something to delight children of all ages. Alongside the planned events visitors can also make the most of Bents' popular family attractions and dining destinations, making it the perfect place for a fun-filled family day out this Easter.

Tiny Tots Easter Parties: Before the school holidays begin it's all about the tiny tots with lots of Easter fun to be had for 1 - 4 year olds. Milly, the Easter Bunny's best friend, will be hosting a magical morning full of fun and games with crafting, music, dancing and a special Easter interactive performance. Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April, 9.30 - 10.30am (booking essential)

Mini Petting Farm: Get ready for some adorable encounters as Bents' popular Mini Petting Farm returns on Easter Saturday. Perfect for animal lovers of all ages, visitors can meet a variety of friendly, four-legged animals and enjoy a fun and feel-good Easter experience in a safe and welcoming environment. Saturday 4th April, 10.00 - 2.00pm (Free event)

Easter Crafting: Time to get crafty with ceramics to decorate, personalise and take home to treasure. 7th, 9th, 14th 16th April, 10.00 - 1.00pm

Make Your Own Pizza: Budding chefs can roll up their sleeves and get creative with a Make Your Own Pizza experience, choosing their favourite toppings and creating pizza perfection before having them freshly baked in Bents' wood-fired pizza oven on the Alfresco Terrace. 7th, 13th and 14th April, 11.00am - 1.00pm (booking essential)

Little One Makes - Pressed Flower Pinch Bowls: Young creatives can enjoy a relaxing, hands-on workshop with Paintings by Nel, where they'll learn simple clay techniques to create their own pinch bowl. Once shaped, children can decorate their piece with beautiful pressed flowers, creating a unique nature-inspired design to take home and treasure. 7th April, 9.30am - 11.00am

(booking essential)

Story Time with Harriet the Helicopter Doctor: Little book lovers can enjoy a special storytelling session as a local author, Noamaan Wilson-Baig visits Bents to share the adventures of Harriet the Helicopter Doctor. Children can sit back, listen to the story and join Harriet on her exciting journey in this fun and engaging story time experience. 9th April, 9.30am

Crafting with Warrington Youth Zone: Little gardeners can get creative while celebrating their love of nature in this hands-on crafting session with Warrington Youth Zone. Children will make their own bee-themed plant pot sticks and plant calendula seeds to take home and grow. 17th April, 10.00am - 2.00pm

In addition to all Bents' planned activities, the Covered Beach and Outdoor Play Area are both free and open throughout the holidays. Jurassic Cove Adventure Golf is also a must-visit for all the family. The 18-hole course features pesky pirates and creatures of the deep, alongside life-sized, moving dinosaurs ready to challenge players young and old.

As well as entertainment for the little ones, Bents also provides the perfect place for grown-ups to relax and take time out, with a choice of delicious dining destinations offering everything from freshly made coffee and homemade cake to Mediterranean-style tapas or traditional fish and chips and freshly made pizzas served from Bents' iconic Airstream trailers.

Details of times and how to book events can be found at www.bents.co.uk



The Gardening Guide



Spring fertiliser can be applied to your lawn, but remember to water it in if there's no rain.

Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

- Spring vegetables such as peas, beans and lettuce seeds can be sown now.
- Try spring cleaning your houseplants; remove spent flowers, dead leaves and rinse the dust from the leaves with a sprayer as clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!
- Plant up hanging baskets with fuchsias and other basket plants and then hang them up in your greenhouse to establish.
- Many of the birds (that you put up nest boxes for!) will have young now and need help with food.



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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Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April



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New Winwick Dementia Café inspired by local councillor's family experience

A new weekly dementia café is set to open in Winwick this spring, offering vital support for people living with dementia and the families who care for them.

The initiative, inspired in part by Borough Councillor Stuart Mann's own family experience with the illness, will expand the growing network of dementia-friendly community groups across Warrington.

A Forget Me Not Café will soon begin running every Thursday morning from around 10 am to midday at Winwick Community Centre on Myddleton Lane, providing a relaxed and welcoming environment for people living with dementia and their carers to come together for conversation, activities and support.

The café is being organised in partnership with Winwick Parish Council and Warrington Borough Council, helping to strengthen the growing number of dementia-friendly initiatives across the borough.

The launch follows the success of a similar Forget Me Not Café hosted by 'Dementia Friendly Warrington' at Burtonwood Library, that Cllr Mann helped organise last year, which now runs every Friday from 10:30am to 12pm and has quickly become an important social lifeline for many local families.

For Cllr Mann, Borough Councillor for Burtonwood and Winwick, the initiative is deeply personal.

"Dementia is something that has touched my own family very closely. My father lived with vascular dementia, and seeing someone you love gradually lose memories and parts of themselves is incredibly difficult.

"It affects not just the person with the illness, but the whole family around them. It can be isolating and exhausting for carers, which is why local support groups like these cafés are so important."

Cllr Mann has long supported the work of Alzheimer's Society, one of the UK's leading organisations supporting people affected by dementia while funding vital research into treatments and care.

Across the UK, nearly one million people are currently living with dementia, and organisations like Alzheimer's Society continue to highlight the importance of community support networks alongside national research and care programmes.

"Charities like Alzheimer's Society do incredible work supporting families and driving research," said Cllr Mann.

"But alongside that national work, we also need strong local communities where people feel supported, understood and never forgotten."

A Growing Network of Dementia Support Across Warrington

The new Winwick café forms part of a rapidly growing network of dementia cafés, memory groups and social activities taking place across Warrington, helping people remain connected and supported.

Across the borough, residents can now access a range of dementia-friendly groups:

Monday

- Monday Fun Social – Westy Community Centre (10:30am–12pm)
- Love to Move / Music & Memory – Salvation Army, Academy Street

Tuesday

- Forget-Me-Not Café – St Paul's Church, Penketh (10am–12pm)

Wednesday

- Reminiscence Café – Westbrook Library (10:30am–12pm)
- Memory Lane Café – Grappenhall Community Library (1:30pm–3pm)
- Lymm Memory Café – Lymm United Reformed Church (1:30pm–3pm)
- Dementia Activities Group – The Gateway, Sankey Street (1:30pm–3:30pm)

Friday

- Forget Me Not Memory Café – Sunflower Café, Culcheth (12:30pm–2:30pm)
- Fun Friday Social – Greenwood Community Centre (10:30am–12:30pm)
- Forget Me Not Café – Burtonwood Library (10:30am–12pm)

These groups provide a mixture of social interaction, music, games, quizzes, gentle exercise and conversation, all designed to support people living with dementia while also giving carers



an opportunity to connect with others facing similar challenges.

"One of the great things about the growing number of dementia cafés across Warrington is that people don't have to limit themselves to just one," said Cllr Mann.

"Residents are very welcome to attend whichever group suits them, and many people choose to visit several of them during the week. Each café has its own character and community, but they all share the same aim – creating a friendly space where people living with dementia and their carers can feel supported, relaxed and among friends."

Volunteers Needed to Support the New Winwick Café

To help make the new Winwick café a success, organisers are now appealing for local volunteers who may be able to spare a couple of hours on Thursday mornings.

Volunteers may help with:

- welcoming visitors
- making refreshments
- assisting with activities
- simply chatting with people attending

No specialist experience is required – just a friendly and supportive approach.

"These cafés work because of the kindness and generosity of volunteers," added Cllr Mann.

"Sometimes the most valuable thing you can give someone is

simply your time and conversation. Even a couple of hours can make a real difference to someone who may otherwise feel quite isolated."

Building a Dementia-Friendly Community

With the number of people living with dementia expected to rise significantly in the coming years, community initiatives such as the Forget Me Not cafés are becoming increasingly important in helping people remain socially connected.

Cllr Mann hopes the new café will play an important role in strengthening local support networks.

"Warrington has always been a community that looks after its own. The growing number of memory cafés and dementia support groups across the borough shows just how many people care about helping others."

"If starting the café in Winwick helps just one family feel less alone while dealing with dementia, then it will already have been worth it."

Residents who may benefit from attending the Winwick Forget Me Not Café, or anyone interested in volunteering to support the sessions, are encouraged to get in touch and help spread the word.

For further updates about the Forget Me Not Cafés in Burtonwood and Winwick, get in touch with Cllr Mann via his Facebook page.

or contact Winwick Community Centre directly www.winwickcommunitycentre.org.uk

Footpath closure extended to allow construction works

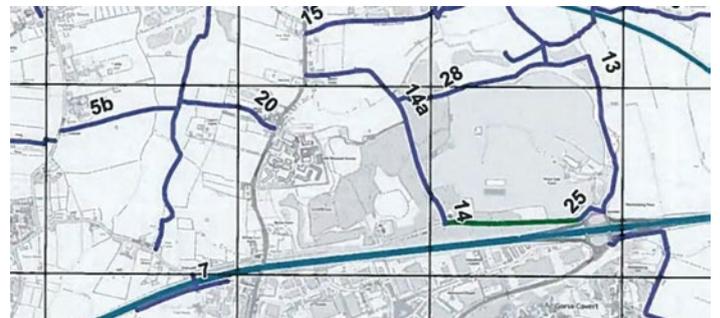
A public footpath closure has been extended by 18 months to allow construction works on the new Extra Motorway service station near Croft, Warrington.

Warrington Borough Council made an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 on 27th November 2025. The effect of which was to introduce a footpath closure on Croft Footpath 25 for its entire length.

The Order was to be effective from 27th November 2025 for 6 months, however due to the nature

of the closure the Secretary of State has granted permission for an extension of a further 18-month period to 27th November 2027, or such lesser period as determined by the earlier completion of the works. The closure will be in place 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 works.



Devastating news for Wild Wings Birds of Prey as landlord plans to develop site

WILD Wings Birds of Prey rescue centre at Risley, Warrington, has been delivered some "devastating news," which has left them seeking urgent help and support.

Back in December 2025, they were informed by the Landlords of Taylor Business Park that their Lease, which was due for renewal, would only be for a maximum of three years as they wished to build more commercial units on the piece of land they currently occupy, along with two meadows to the front of the site.

As part of the final lease renewal, they have also offered a small financial 'inducement' that decreases with each of the 3 years to supposedly help them relocate.

Leave before the end of year 1, £15k, Year 2, £10k or Year 3, £5k).

Based at Taylor's Business Park, Wild Wings Birds of Prey is run by Carole Rose and Ian Middleton at Risley, Warrington, and is a dedicated not-for-profit rescue, rehabilitation, and education centre for birds of prey. The centre houses owls, hawks, falcons, and eagles (including Logan, Koda, and Shannara) along with other animals, and offers visitors close-up experiences.

Sadly, the amount being offered by their landlord "is a drop in the ocean" compared to what they would need to find a new site, paying for another full Planning application, moving and fully rebuilding the whole Centre. They would then not be able to open until they acquired a new Zoo Licence following inspection, again

taking time and costing money.

Taking up the story, Carole said:

"We therefore contacted the Landlord immediately and asked them to reconsider but sadly we didn't receive a response for nearly two months, and then just a letter from their Solicitor with the terms of the new Lease. We have now finally had a response confirming their intention to develop the site.

"After having to re-locate and re-build 4 times, we thought we finally had a permanent home here and that the birds were at last safe."

Due to ongoing health issues, Ian & Carole had made the decision last year to pass the Centre into the care of new owners. Talks had been ongoing with possible new owners who would carry on the work that they do. The Welfare of the birds, Raccoon and Ferrets has always been their utmost priority and finding the right people was very important.

Carole added: "We have dedicated the last 17 years to Rescue and Conservation, working 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. Our Phone is on 24/7. Over those years, we have often had to deal with cases of extreme cruelty and neglect, with assistance from the RSPCA and the Police, and are proud to say we have managed to provide care and safe housing for all those birds.

"Our constant Rescue, rehabilitation and release of wild injured Birds of Prey contributes to the number of protected species such as Peregrines and Barn Owls, along with many other species.

"We are all Volunteers here, nobody takes a wage, our team of Volunteers help to make all this possible and every penny we make goes back into the running of the Centre and the care of our Residents and Rescues. In 2025 alone, we dealt with 71 Rescues. This was actually a quiet year due to Avian Flu restrictions. Since the start of the centre, we have dealt with over 2,000 rescues.

"We need to save the future of the Centre to ultimately save the lives of those that we care for. Yes, we may be able to find homes for some of them, but the majority would face the possibility of Euthanasia. We can't let that happen, so what can we do?"

1. Will the Landlords reconsider? (They will need Planning Permission to build on here as the Land is still designated on the Warrington Borough Council Adopted Local Plan 2021/22 to 2038/39 as Greenbelt (GB1) and HS2 Safeguarded Land).

2. Is anybody willing to take on the Centre now with the prospect of having to relocate within the 3 years?

3. Does anybody have a suitable piece of land, within close proximity, that the Centre could relocate to, Subject to Planning Permission?



4. Can we raise the funding and the bodies required to build a New Centre and also find the right people to run it? People who have the same ethics as we do.

Carole added: "So many questions and so much uncertainty, but we will do everything we can to protect our Birds, Raccoon & Ferrets and all the Wild Birds of Prey who need our help, every single day of the year. Wildlife never has a day off, and neither do we.

"Matt Smith, our Local Labour Councillor, has very kindly supported us in the past and has vowed his full support again.

"We would now like to ask for your support again, as many of you have very kindly supported us in the past. Any ideas, suggestions or offers of support are welcome and will be treated with complete confidentiality."

Please contact Carole at the Centre in the first instance on 07957416883 or email, to enquiries@wildwingsbirdsofprey.co.uk

Independent Voice

by Independent Councillor Neil Johnson



It has been another busy couple of months in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, but I have never been prouder to represent you all. I'm pleased to share a summary update of the work I have been undertaking on your behalf in the community, at the Town Hall and on the Parish Council.

In the community

Like many of you, I have submitted my objection to the latest application for residential accommodation in the **CPS Centre**. There are many challenges in opposing this latest scheme, but I am really pleased to see our local Residents Association up and running, helping people with their submissions, and providing a big boost to community spirits. Let's hope the Council listen to our arguments. Meanwhile, I've been **waging war on pot holes!** There are far too many of our roads which have been left in a poor state and routinely ignored by the Town Hall. I'm collating a list of the worst affected and I'll be calling for action. I've also been supporting residents in Croft affected by the recent road closures and diversions in Risley.

On the Parish Council

The Parish Council continues to be a local sore point. As some of you might be aware, I've joined with fellow Independent Councillor Bernie Kingston to call for a **Parish Meeting**. This is a special meeting, distinct from the Parish Council's monthly gatherings, to which all residents are invited to attend. Bernie and I have set the agenda: we'll be discussing the poor governance and leadership of the Parish Council and calling for change. We all have a right to express our lack of confidence in the current regime. I hope as many residents as possible will turn up and make their voices heard. The meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 24th at 7pm at Newchurch Parish Hall.

At the Town Hall

I voted against the Budget put forward by the Labour Group at the recent Warrington Borough Council meeting because I found the contents shocking. Proposals such as increasing council tax by more than 7%, closing vital facilities and switching off some street lights at night are unjustifiable. This all comes at the same time as some councillors voting to give themselves a pay rise (which I also opposed). I believe there are smarter ways to save money without residents having to lose out. There should also be accountability for the people who got the town into its current financial mess in the first place.

Whatever the issue, I am always on your side. If you would like to talk to me about anything locally or at the Town Hall, please just get in touch using the contact details below.

Neil

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Neil Johnson – Independent Councillor for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft

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Stables demolition will make way for three houses in the Green Belt

OUTLINE proposals for the demolition of stables at a livery centre to make way for up to three houses at Croft, near Warrington have been approved.

Croft Parish Council had opposed the proposed development off Mustard Lane – roughly half-way between Croft and Culcheth – saying it would result in the loss of buildings of a rural and equestrian character to be replaced by a “small housing estate.”

They said it could set a precedent for further housing.

Nearby residents also claimed the proposal would be damaging to the Green Belt.

There were also claims that there are restrictive covenants on the

site that it should only be used for agricultural purposes.

But borough council planning officers have given the green light after recommending the scheme be approved.

They said the application was for up to three dwellings and the scheme involved the removal of a large barn on the site. There would be some impact on the openness of the Green Belt but it was not assessed to be substantial.

The proposal has now been approved, with conditions.



The Raven comes through a difficult time for licensed premises

It is fair to say that many local businesses have come under pressure in recent times. It is also fair to say that the hospitality industry traditionally struggles during the first two / three months of the year.

The Raven is not immune to these pressures. The community pub has managed to keep open during this time due to the close relationship between the pub and its patrons.

As an example, a special Fish and Chip evening, every Friday, is proving to be a great success

Spokesperson Peter Sturman says, “So many people came

together to make the Raven possible. So many people continue to put their heart and sole into our community pub. Above all else, we must acknowledge our community shareholders and all our customers for their fantastic support.

“It is also vitally important we do not rest on our laurels. It remains a continuing quest to keep the Raven viable for our Community.”

The Raven reopened in August 2023 as what was effectively a new business. That was after over four-and-a-half years fighting off various developers who wanted to demolish the historic building and

replace it with some flats.

There was a huge public outcry and campaign to ‘Save the Raven’.

The Raven reopened on the back of a raft of community shares giving it a unique place amongst local licensed premises.

Peter Sturman goes on to say, “It seems appropriate that, as we move into spring, the Raven is starting to display its own green shoots with many events planned for this month, starting with a special Easter menu”.



Croft Parish Council News

Mini Spring Update



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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS

Croft Parish Council has been working with the villages of Lowton, Winwick, Culcheth and Glazebury in its continued opposition of major developments that would affect the area, with Tritax being the biggest threat. Other larger planning applications objected to by the parish council include the proposed Severn Trent biogas plant and the conversion of the upstairs of the CPS centre into flats.

NEW BUS SHELTER ON LORD STREET

After liaising with Warrington Borough Council, the parish council has arranged for the bus shelter on Lord Street to be replaced. In line with our eco-conscious ethic, it has been fitted with a ‘living’ roof.

SPEEDING & TRAFFIC

The parish council is continuing to monitor traffic issues in Croft.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our council meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, with the exception of August. However, the July meeting has been pushed back from the 21st to the 28th due to the clerk’s holiday.

CONTACTING CROFT PARISH COUNCILLORS

Please find included your parish councillors and their email addresses, should you wish to raise any issues with them.

Residents may contact Croft Parish Council’s Clerk on Email: clerk@croftparishcouncil.gov.uk
The Parish Council issues updates and information on Twitter: [@croftparish](https://twitter.com/croftparish)
Facebook: [@croftparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/croftparishcouncil) Web: www.croftparishcouncil.gov.uk

Culcheth Players celebrate sell-out success

CULCHETH Players enjoyed sell-out successes with their panto Jack and the Beanstalk.

Members of the cast are pictured after one of their three successful shows at Newchurch Parish Hall

The hilarious panto was written by the talented Alan P Frayn.

There was also a visit from their special guest the wonderful Culcheth Fairy David Smithson.



Woman of 102 who escaped the Holocaust

MEMBERS of Glazebury WI are looking forward to a special speaker at their meeting on May 13 – 102-year-old Marianne Phillips who escaped Nazi Germany via Kindertransport just prior to the outbreak of World War 2.

Non-members are invited to the meeting to hear Mrs Phillips describe her memories and her survival from the Holocaust.

There will be a charge of £2 for refreshments.

Kindertransport was the

organised rescue of nearly 10,000 children, mostly Jewish, from Nazi occupied countries between December 1938 and the outbreak of war in September 1939.

Speaker at the February meeting was Mr Graham Stirrup, who spoke about Rouen in France, which used to be the capital of the northern region.

He discussed the lives of Joan of Arc, William the Conqueror, Edward the Confessor and King Harold.

WI members learn about Tai Chi

TAI Chi instructor Mike Ogden was the speaker at the monthly meeting of Croft WI. Mike has been involved in martial arts for 17 years and lived and studied in China.

Tai Chi is one of the best known martial arts from this part of the world. Initially created for combat and self defence, for most practitioners it has evolved into an exercise, a relaxation technique and a sport. This type of exercise is a way of life in China, creating a culture with huge health benefits for strength, co-ordination, balance and psychological mind calming. Based on Qigong and martial arts from thousands of years ago, it is characterised by contrasting and complimentary movements – slow and soft versus fast and hard. Qigong can show health benefits from day one aiding bone density, blood flow and much more.

There are many different styles of Tai Chi, but it should be a life long commitment. The adage "Use it or Lose it" was stressed as being very true, along with the fact that stress was one of the main enemies of life.

The various movements involved were demonstrated, also breathing techniques and members were invited to participate in a taster session, which they did with great enthusiasm. Mike holds Tai Chi classes at various venues throughout the local area and travels as far afield as Westhoughton. He has classes in Lowton St Marys Wednesdays at 10.30 am, Bents Garden Centre Mondays 9.30 am and even holds an outdoor class at Pennington Hall Park Bandstand in Leigh Tuesdays 10.00 am.

Lesley Lloyd gave a vote of thanks, saying she was sure members were going home calmer and slightly fitter that when they arrived.

The competition was won by Lesley Lloyd 2nd Jill Hillam 3rd Janet Woods.

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