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Rags to riches

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Interesting times lie ahead politically, both locally and at Warrington town hall, with the formation of a new independent group.

But the new independent group in the corridors of power at the town hall, which features long-term independent Geoff Fellows, alongside his fellow Penketh & Cuerdley ward Cllr. Eunice Peters and Winwick-based Stuart Mann, will not feature Cllr. Neil Johnson.

The Culcheth, Croft & Glazebury ward Cllr. who resigned from the Labour party over the controversial plans for a gypsy/traveller transit site on his ward at Croft, has told **Culcheth Life** he will not be joining the new group.

Describing himself as a "lone wolf" following his much-publicised fall-out with Labour, Cllr Johnson says the local electorate has told him they like the idea of him remaining "totally independent."

Meanwhile regular readers will know we are fiercely independent here at **Culcheth Life** and our sister publications Warrington

Worldwide and Lymm Life, and while we welcome this additional Independent group to the corridors of power, we will treat them, and Cllr. Johnson, like all the other political parties as equals, reporting local news as factually as we can.

With the controlling Labour Group having such a large majority it is unlikely to make any difference in voting patterns at the town hall, but having independents as a group or individuals, will give a fresh pair of eyes, with no political bias, on activities going on at the town hall.

I understand one of the key issues they will be keeping an eye

on is the ongoing debt and budget overspend.

To be fair to Labour the independent group members have already been given seats at the table, so hopefully they can get a meaningful voice and see first-hand what is going on.

Here at **Culcheth Life** and Warrington Worldwide we will ensure their voices are heard in a balanced way, while we wish "lone wolf" Cllr. Johnson all the best in his endeavours to represent local people.

Finally we would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Deadline for the
January issue of
Culcheth Life
is December 10



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Culcheth Players in rags to riches story

Culcheth Players annual pantomime returns again in January with Dick Whittington, the rags to riches story of a young lad from the country that went to London to seek his fame and fortune.

He became Lord Mayor, not once but three times, and so a legend was born. His story has been told in books and pantomimes

throughout the decades and now it's Culcheth Players turn.

The production promises to be sparkling and exciting with plenty

of fun and fabulous costumes, lots of action and dazzling dancing from local girls from Rosemary Powell's School of Dance. There will also be a contribution from the very talented ABC Autism Rocks and a special appearance from the Culcheth Fairy. What's not to like? So why not come along and join in the fun but be prepared to cheer boo and hiss your favourite characters.

Ticket prices have been held again for another year and represent great value at just £7.50 when booked online (booking fee applies) or £8, cash only on the

door. The show is inclusive for all with step-free access throughout Newchurch Parish Hall (next to (Sainsbury's) and free entry for children under five (when not occupying a seat).

The performances are always a sell out so online booking is advisable at www.ticketsource.co.uk/culchethp

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Sunday 19th at 1pm
Saturday 25th at 1pm and 6.30pm
Sunday 26th at 1pm



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MP visits eleven schools as part of Parliament Week

Charlotte Nichols, Labour MP for Warrington North spent UK Parliament Week visiting schools across her constituency to speak to children about her role as an MP and answer all of their varied questions.

Between Monday 18th and Friday 22nd November Charlotte visited eleven schools that invited her as part of UK Parliament Week, the annual series of events to inspire interest in democracy and encourage young people to engage with our democratic system and institutions.

Charlotte has educated school children about the role of an MP, about democracy and her everyday life. She has taken questions from students from what motivated her to become an MP to the budget, the environment, international issues, meeting celebrities, and even what is her favourite dog breed (it's an Irish Setter!).

Charlotte said "It has been a privilege to be able to get around so many of our local schools and speak with the children, who ask such provocative and intelligent questions. They have been impeccably well-behaved and engaged, and made articulate and thoughtful contributions to our discussions. Many of our pupils have a keen interest in fairness, politics, the world around them and citizenship. Hopefully the visits this week will spark an interest in the many possible career routes ahead of them, which may even include

Parliament. It was great to see that the schools have their own School Councils, have fun and inclusive clubs covering environmental issues and are engaging with parents and the local community on local issues about road safety, litter, recycling and online safety.

"As well as helping them know more about our country and how it is run, I have also

learned from them, hearing their important perspectives on how our decisions affect their lives. We have discussed their views on smartphones and social media, so they have a voice in how we shape the legislation to keep them safe. It is vital that we understand how this impacts their homework and other learning that involves screen-time; their personal safety when travelling to and from school, and ability to contact trusted grown-ups in an emergency; and whose responsibility it is to make sure they

have a safe experience online. The children also offered opinions on at what age they thought certain apps should be available, and if games should change how others can contact each other online.

"It is not only as citizens of tomorrow that it is important to involve children, but also to include them in our debates of today. They have given me much to think about as I return to Westminster to continue championing the needs of everyone in Warrington North, regardless of age."



A community Christmas planned at the Raven Inn

THE Raven Inn at Glazebury, Warrington, is looking forward to welcoming members of the community throughout December.

Spokesperson Peter Sturman commented: "As we approach our second Christmas at the Raven we are geared up for a number of community focused events.

"We intend to build upon a successful festive period, last year, and make this Christmas even more community focused.

"We kick off the month with our Christmas Fair on December 1st in the space above the Raven. This will be concluded with the turning on of our Christmas tree lights.

"There will be a community brass band, playing under the Christmas tree at 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th December, thanks to Cromptons opticians, Culcheth."

"Santa is visiting the Raven on the 14th of December.

"We have a special pre-Christmas menu throughout December and our Christmas lunch / dinner is proving so popular we will be holding two sittings.

"We have learned a lot from our first Christmas and have included a lot of community centred events this year.

Peter, who was actively involved in the campaign to save the community pub from demolition, says the Raven is always a friendly inviting place.

"This time of year, when it is cold and dark outside, the ambiance, our excellent staff, superb menu and (of course) the roaring log fire, all make it the must go to place.

"We look forward to welcoming patrons old and new, during December."





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School teams up with Friends of Culcheth Lib



PUPILS from Newchurch Primary School recently teamed up with Friends of Culcheth Library to help plant daffodils around the grounds of Culcheth Village Library.

Deputy Headteacher John Duckett came with two other staff members and 24 Year 5 children – all ready with gloves, spades and a positive attitude to plant the 250 daffodil bulbs.

The bulbs were donated by Helen Bent of Bents Garden and Home, who have been very supportive of the library.

Janet Evans and Jim Billington from Friends of Culcheth Library were there to welcome and help organise the children. They soon got to work although the hard soil meant a lot "spade work" was needed.

They managed it and after almost two hours the daffodils were all in. Now, all they need to do is wait.

Cllr Tony Higgins, Warrington

Borough Council's Cabinet Member for communities, culture and leisure, said: "We were thrilled to see local primary school children planting daffodil bulbs at Culcheth Village Library. These bright blooms will add a touch of beauty and joy to the grounds, complementing the fantastic new-look of the refurbished library building.

"The refurbishment of Culcheth Village Library has breathed new life into the building, providing a modern, flexible space for people of all ages. It's fantastic to see our community, through contributions such as this, helping the library be the best that it can be, as a thriving, welcoming space for everyone to enjoy."



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Warrington North

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Library to plant daffodils



Dog fouling no laughing matter

INDEPENDENT councillor Neil Johnson says helping local residents to tackle an epidemic of dog fouling in Croft is one of his absolute top priorities.

Neil has been out and about in Croft, where he rolled up his sleeves and helped to bag and bin as much dog fouling as he could find!

Neil said: "Dog fouling is no laughing matter. We have a bit of an epidemic in Croft at the moment which local residents are rightly raising concerns about. It can spread diseases and even cause blindness in children if they get it in their eyes.

"Over the weekend, I've spoken face to face with everyone who has contacted me about this issue. I've also been out and about helping to clear up some of the mess myself –

it's not a nice job, but someone has got to do it!

"There is a particular problem on the field near the youth centre. What I am now trying to do is persuade the Council to install more dog waste bins and signs in the village. Extra dog waste bags have been made available to the public but there could be more. The issue will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and I will be there to support any residents who have concerns.

"In the meantime I am calling on all dog owners to act responsibly and clean up after their pets. Residents can let me know if there are any areas of the village that are badly affected by fouling and I will go there personally to help clean them up."



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 Box,
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
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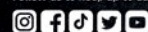
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Plan for large industrial bin and bike store opposed

Independent Councillor Neil Johnson is leading the charge against plans for a large scale industrial bin and bike store on the forecourt of the CPS Centre in Culcheth.

The landlords of the CPS Centre have submitted an application to build a large industrial size bin and bike storage on the forecourt overlooking the bus stop where Café Piccino currently have their outside seating. If the application is successful, it would mean that the café would lose (and its customers) would lose their outdoor seating which is well used throughout the year.

The unit would encompass six industrial size bins and 20 bike storage units.

Cllr. Johnson said "I am objecting to this planning application by the landlords of the CPS Centre. If this was successful, these industrial bins and bike storage units would be an eyesore in the middle of the village, in an area where people enjoy outdoor seating and often sit there to have their food and drink.

"It would also be harmful to one of our great local businesses who use this area for their customers. To take away this valuable space seems spiteful and not very community spirited!

"There will also be problems with smells and the bins are likely to attract anti-social behaviour in the evenings. It is totally inappropriate.

"I have put my objections forward and I am pleased that my fellow Borough Councillors and the Parish Council have followed my lead on this and have joined me in objecting.

"We need the Labour councillors on the planning committee to refuse this application. I'm giving the local businesses my full backing in opposing the plan."

Any residents who wish to join Cllr Johnson in objecting can email devcontrol@warrington.gov.uk and quote reference number 2024/01242/FUL or write to Development Control, Warrington Borough Council, East annexe, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH





CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Culcheth Library, Warrington Road, Culcheth, WA3 5SL

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Parish Clerk: 07426 958988

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PARISH NEWS

Planning Concerns

The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications. If you have an opinion on an application, please let the clerk or councillors know as soon as possible within the 21-day consultation period.

Remembrance Sunday Parade

This year's Remembrance Sunday Parade on the 10th of November was a welcome return, not only for those taking part, but for the many residents who came out to watch it pass through Culcheth on its way to Newchurch Parish Church for the service of remembrance led by the Rev Martin Cox. Your local parish councillors in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft helped plan and organise the event with representatives of the Royal British Legion. As well as the Royal British Legion veterans, the parade was supported by the Air Cadet Squadron from Croft and their band accompanied by a piper. It was also great to see so many young people from our villages taking part. As a part of the act of remembrance your parish councillors laid wreaths at the memorials in our three villages.

Talking Points

Talking Points are places you can go to get friendly, face-to-face information, support and guidance to help you to live and stay well in Warrington. Talking Points are based in the heart of communities across Warrington, ours is in **Culcheth Library, Warrington Road, WA3 5SL every Tuesday 2pm - 4pm**. You can be connected to people, places and services to support you in a variety of areas such as: Carer support, Loneliness and social isolation, Housing advice, Access to food or temporary shopping support, Energy advice, Transport and travel, Employment opportunities, Cost of living support, Mobility and adaptations advice.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council wish all the residents of the Parish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Next Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 10th December in Culcheth Library at 7:30pm**

Publication of Information

The Parish Council has adopted a publication of information scheme. Details of who we are, what we do and how the public can access information is published on the main notice boards, Common Lane, Culcheth and Culcheth Library and on our website:

www.culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk



Junior football club nets £500 sponsorship deal

A JUNIOR football club at Birchwood has netted a £500 sponsorship deal to fund kits for two teams.

Birchwood Juniors Under-7s Celtics and Rangers teams have received the contribution from housebuilder David Wilson Homes.

Club chair Letitia Harrison said: "Getting companies to invest in grassroots football clubs is critical in light of the rising costs, and it's fantastic that David Wilson Homes has agreed to become involved

and we are grateful for its support.

"The club approached the housebuilder in recognition that its upcoming development at Padgate Campus will bring the players of the future to our local area, something which is equally as important to the future growth and success of the club and we hope to build a strong partnership with David Wilson

Homes over the coming years."

Birchwood Juniors FC is located close to the upcoming development on the former University of Chester's Padgate Campus. It plays its fixtures in the Warrington Junior Football League at Birchwood High School.

Claire Jarvis, managing director at David Wilson Homes North West, said: "We're delighted to sponsor both teams at Birchwood

Juniors Under-7s and we wish them the very best of luck for the season.

"It's important to us to support local groups and organisations within the communities we build. Clubs such as this bring local people together and create an identity for all people involved."

The club is a key part of the community and encourages younger children to stay active while enhancing their social skills.



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Four flavours of ice cream at the WI

MEMBERS of Sundial WI had the choice of four flavours of ice cream at their monthly meeting, courtesy of guest speaker June Wilkinson.

She spoke about her background, working on her father's farm before meeting her future husband through the Young Farmers.

Then she became a dairy farmer's wife and mother of four. Once her family grew up she became a guide at Tatton Home Farm - but then thought about an ice cream business.

In 1993 she opened a little kiosk on the farm. Her daughters helped her and they bought a trailer to sell ice cream at functions. The big change was a café near her farmhouse and the business thrived, involving children and grandchildren.

They now take part in the

Cheshire Show and even her husband has been won over!

The ice cream recipe list now has 20 flavours as well as sorbets and gluten-free - and she brought four of them to share with members.

Marie Pickering gave a warm vote of thanks and June went on to judge the competition - for a Sundae Dish.

Brenda Pinion arranged the table flowers, there were two "Birthday Girls" and Linda King won the flowers.

A visit to see "Evita" is being planned in March and a Celebration Dinner is being arranged at the Village Club on January 23.

Glazebrook WI meeting

THE monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI was opened by the president Mrs Maureen Banner. She welcomed, Dorothy Pritchard, the teller for the meeting.

The meeting consisted of three parts - the usual WI business, the annual meeting, and the competition.

In part one, members heard minutes, Cheshire HQ events, social: Christmas lunch, at a golf club.

Local village activities were discussed.

Part two consisted of the

treasure's and secretary's reports, and presidents address. Voting commenced for next year's president, the teller conducting the proceedings.

Three names were, put forward. Mrs Banner was then re-elected president.

Part three. Many years ago, to encourage members to attend this meeting, they devised a four fold competition. This had proved to be most popular.

Tributes were paid to long time treasurer, Betty Evans, who had died in her 90s.

Croft WI's busy and successful year

A BUSY and successful year was reported by president Gill Coon at the annual meeting of Croft WI.

There has been a variety of very interesting talks including Hedgehog Rescue, Life as a Cruise Ship Speaker, Herbal Remedies, Liverpool Evacuees and Warrington Women an A to Z.

Gill recited a marvellous poem she had written in which she thanked the committee and all members who have given their time and support, particularly treasurer Gill Branford-White and secretary Louise Geekie who is standing down after two years of dedicated work.

Croft WI now has 76 members, in addition to attending monthly meetings members have enjoyed

taking part in Bowling, Bridge, Darts, Luncheon Club, Readers Group, Scrabble, Sewing, Singing for Fun and Walking Netball. The Sewing Group has been set up this year and the Walking Group plans to restart in 2025. The leaders of these activity groups each gave a short speech to let those yet to join know what they have been missing!

Members enjoyed a sing-along to a few favourite songs from the Singing for Fun group followed by a delicious array of puddings and desserts accompanied by tea or coffee.

The competition "A Handmade Christmas Cracker" was won by Jill Hillam, with Barbara Cooper 2nd and Janet Hughes 3rd.

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