

Culcheth Life Magazine

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Children dream of becoming a firefighter

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IT was good to catch up with Peter Sturman for a little bit of festive cheer just before the Christmas break.

Peter has stood down as Chair of the Raven Inn working group, set up to transform the pub into the fantastic community facility it has now become.

Having reported on this success story since day one, it is fantastic to see the outcome of all the hard work that has gone in over many years to ensure the dream became a reality.

I'd personally like to thank Peter, Bob and all the team for the way they have embraced **Culcheth Life** and our online publication **Warrington Worldwide** as their preferred media for news and advertising and it has been a truly humbling experience seeing all their hard work pay off.

It truly is a fantastic facility and it is vital the community continues to support it, especially during the difficult months of January and February.


We certainly don't want it to become another casualty in the licensing industry.

You only have to look down

the road at the Pack Horse, once a thriving community pub now standing empty.




Deadline for the February issue of Culcheth Life is January 21




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Culcheth actor set to star in another gangster movie

Culcheth-based actor Johnny Wilson is set to feature in another gangster movie on the big screen.

Rising star Pete Hirst is making waves in the film industry as he takes the reins in writing, directing, and starring in his debut UK gangster film, "Fall To The Top" and chose Warrington for some of the scenes.

Locally based Johnny plays one of the lead characters Kenny and suggested Warrington as a picturesque, friendly location.

Pete said: "I am a huge fan of promoting the areas we film in to create local buzz and to get people into the area. Warrington provided a mix of friendly locals who were willing to jump in and star and it offers the beauty of scenery needed to show everyday community life in the film's setting.

Special thanks to Graham, Blue Bell pub, James at Hideaway and Doherty's pub for the support."

With a wealth of high-profile credits under his belt, Pete has recognised it was time to step up and craft his own feature film, showcasing

his unique vision and talent.

Joining Pete in this exciting venture are a host of notable names, including Mason Antonio Fardowe from the hit Netflix series The Gentlemen, reality star Pete Bennett from Big Brother, and Joe Egan, a former professional fighter turned cinematic heavyweight. The film also features a surprising new side to Paul Chuckle, known for his comedic roots, who will take on a chilling role that audiences have never seen before. Additionally, George Newton from This Is England adds to the film's dynamic cast and Joe Rooney of Father Ted delivers a shocking new side of himself.

Pete shared his enthusiasm: "Having Paul in a darker role is something truly special. He's known for his comedy, but in Fall To The Top, audiences will see a completely different side of him that will leave them astounded."

"Fall To The Top" promises to deliver an engaging narrative

infused with Pete's distinctive flair, blending gripping storytelling with a stellar cast. As he embarks on this ambitious project, Pete Hirst is not just making a film; he's inspiring a new generation of filmmakers to follow their dreams and push the boundaries of storytelling.

With his passion and determination, Pete is set to leave an indelible mark on the UK film scene. Keep an eye out for Fall To The Top as it gears up to make its debut, and join us in celebrating Pete's remarkable journey.

The film is about a frustrated manual labourer (Stephen Reilly) who feels life owes him more. On a

chance encounter in a club, he meets Kenny (Johnny Wilson) and becomes a low-level drug-peddling foot soldier who wants it all. He feels he deserves it all, his arrogance leads him to believe he's the top man and he should have it all. What's he willing to do to get to the top? The price is high, The cost more. Seriously evil men stand in his way, Does he have what it takes? Will he take London's underground and the spoils of war? Or will he end up dead?

Warrington also provided the backdrop for another gangster movie "Geezers" also featuring Johnny Wilson.



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New plan for gypsy/traveller site at Croft

A new planning application has been submitted to town planners for a gypsy/traveller site at Croft.

The application for the Spring Lane Nurseries site is not connected with a previous proposal by Warrington Borough Council to create a gypsy/traveller transit site at Kenyon Lane Nurseries in the village.

The application is for a change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 5 gypsy/traveller families, each with two caravans including no more than one static caravan/mobile home, together with the laying of hardstanding and erection of communal amenity building.

The Spring Lane Nurseries is currently occupied by a commercial yard and existing buildings and hard standing and a log sale business.

Access would be from Spring Lane, Croft.

On behalf of the applicant Thomas Smith, Philip Brown Associates Ltd, says the proposal would improve the appearance of the site. They say the visual impact on the green impact would be minimal due to the modest scale of the site.

They say the development would satisfy all the council's locally specific criteria for the consideration of applications for new traveller sites.

The applicant owns an existing traveller site on Gorsey Lane which has previously accommodated their adult children.

This site has become overcrowded and can not accommodate more than the existing six caravans. The site has accommodated three additional

caravans and the applicant has purchased the application site for his adult children to establish a site of their own in the district where they have lived all their lives.

Local Cllr Neil Johnson said: "A planning application has been submitted at Spring Lane, Croft for a change of use to a residential caravan site for five gypsy/traveller families, each with two caravans. This application also includes the laying of hard standing and the erection of a communal amenities building. This is a private application and is not associated with Warrington Borough Council in any way.

"I will work with the community on this application to make sure the people of Croft are listened to. As your independent voice, I will actively work to ensure we are listened to. My fellow councillors are taking passive stance and asking residents to copy them in when they submit comments. Of course, I want people to do this, but I intend to be more proactive and take a leading role in representing the community.

"I encourage all residents to visit the Warrington Borough Council website and submit their comments. I invite everyone to get in touch with me directly with their comments and thoughts. I will then pull everything together and ask to meet with WBC. Residents can always contact me privately or ask to meet face to face if you would like to discuss this or any other issue in more detail."



Picture: Google Street View

Double success for Tories in by-elections

THE Tories pulled off a double victory in the Culcheth and Glazebury and Croft by-elections, which victorious candidate Sue Mitchell described as "strong backing for the Conservatives against the Labour administration and Labour government who are failing residents."

Commenting on the results she said: "This result sends a clear message that Labour's approach is out of touch with the community.

"Residents have had enough of Labour riding roughshod over their concerns, from the Kenyon Lane traveller site debacle to cutting pensioners' Winter Fuel Payments and taking our family farms out of existence.

"I am honoured by the trust placed in me and will work tirelessly to listen and deliver for

every resident across Croft and Culcheth, regardless of how they voted."

Also commenting on the election results, independent Cllr Neil Johnson said: "Congratulations to Sue Mitchell on a decisive win in both seats. I look forward to working with you for the good of the community.

"Local people have spoken and delivered a resounding verdict in today's referendum on Labour's gypsy site fiasco.

Croft Parish Council
Sue Mitchell Conservative – 240 (Elected)

Matt Smith Labour – 150

Culcheth Parish Council
Sue Mitchell Conservative – 419
Steve Voyse Labour – 294
Peter Charles Grundy Independent – 222



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Children dreaming of becoming a firefighter when they are older

A DAY nursery in Culcheth has noticed a surge in the number of children dreaming of becoming a firefighter when they're older – after a visit from the Fire Brigade.

Children from Dunky's Day Nursery, a nursery and forest school, were treated to a visit from local firefighters.

As well as being able to sit on the fire engine, they learnt about the equipment they use and the importance of the special uniform.

Nikita Withington, deputy manager of Dunky's Day Nursery in Thompson Avenue, said: "One of our parents, Martin, works for the Fire Brigade and very kindly brought along his fire engine and some of the firefighters he works with.

"The children were so excited to welcome them all to the nursery. They were allowed to sit in the front and back of the fire engine and we pretended we had just been called out to a real emergency.

"Martin showed us all the equipment that the fire engine carries. He told us that the fire engine carries a massive 1,800 litres of water inside the engine, showed us where the hoses are stored and all the special tools that are needed to help save people if

they are stuck inside somewhere.

"The children were shown how to correctly and safely put on a firefighter's uniform, starting with the very heavy boots and then the trousers which go over the boots to keep water and fire out.

"The trousers are held up using braces and a thick fireproof jacket goes on over the top. The children were fascinated by the helmet which had two different visors – one to keep the eyes safe and another which helps firefighters to see during a fire.

"It was a really successful visit and the children asked lots of interesting questions. Once the fire engine had left, we had lots of conversations based around people who help us. We spoke about calling 999 in an emergency and we practiced this in our role play area. We spoke about lots of different people who may help us in emergencies such as doctors, paramedics, nurses and soldiers.

"Lots of our pre-school children have now decided they want to be a firefighter when they grow up!"



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Culcheth opticians declared "best rated"

A FIRM of opticians at Culcheth has been declared the best-rated independent opticians in Warrington for their expertise and high standards of customer service.

Crompton Opticians, on Common Lane, Culcheth, was founded 1988 and has formed strong relationships with patients in and around the local area.

Now the team at Crompton Opticians has been declared the best independent opticians in Warrington by the multi-national ranking website Three Best Rated.

Created in 2014, Three Best Rated aims to provide the public with the top three tradespeople, professionals, restaurants and healthcare providers across the UK, according to their 50-point inspection.

The inspection delves into the standards of 10 different aspects of the business, including its history, the team's experience, the standard

of services on offer, their online presence and patient reviews.

Judith Plant, optometrist at Crompton Opticians, said: "We are incredibly honoured to be recognised amongst the top three best-rated opticians in our area, especially as the highest-ranking independent practice."

"This achievement reflects our dedicated team's commitment to providing exceptional eye care and a personalised service to every patient in our community."

"We are grateful to our loyal patients for their trust and support, and we look forward to continuing to exceed their expectations."

Crompton's recently introduced OCT and Optomap technology. Only four per cent of practices

in the UK have Optomap, a technology which allows optical professionals a much wider and more comprehensive view of a patient's eye.

The team has also been working on expanding their

myopia management services for children. Myopia, also known as short-sightedness, is becoming an increasingly prevalent problem with half of the world's population predicted to be short-sighted/myopic by 2050.



Plan for alterations at CPS centre thrown out

A PLAN for alterations at the CPS Centre, Culcheth has been thrown out by planning chiefs after 29 objections were received.

The proposals at the shopping centre, in Common Lane, involved new windows at first and floor levels and a bin and cycle store on an existing footpath between the car park and the main building.

The objectors, who included Culcheth and Glazebury Parish

Council, Croft Parish Council, the borough council's highways department and three ward councillors, put forward numerous grounds for objection.

These included the location of the storage building in an area used for outdoor seating at a café, anti-social behaviour around the bin store, smells from bins, loss of car parking spaces and the fact that the application appeared to be a

precursor for further development on the site.

Planning officers said the bike and bin store would have a detrimental impact on the street scene and character of the area due to its size. It would also be inappropriate given the potential for foul smells and untidy appearance.

There was also insufficient information about the collection and servicing schedule for the proposed bin store and its possible impact on the adjacent highway network.

Applicants Shivat Haminim Capital Ltd argued that the storage building would be of high quality design and would be sited in a discreet position where it would not obstruct pedestrians. It would

be partially concealed behind landscaping.

There would be no overlooking issues arising from the new windows as neighbouring properties were not near enough to be impacted.

But the scheme was rejected by officers under delegated powers.

The existing CPS Centre comprises a shopping centre arranged over ground, first, and partial second floor, with hardstanding around it principally used for car parking and servicing. There are also pedestrian walkways and some soft landscaping. The ground floor consists of Sainsbury's supermarket, seven retail units and a solicitor's office.

At first floor level there are 33 small retail units. The second floor is currently vacant.



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Vandalism poses problems at library



VANDALISM and anti-social behaviour are posing problems at Culcheth's newly-refurbished library.

Rubbish, including empty drinks containers and beer cans, was strewn all around the back of the library building and some of the newly-planted plants were pulled up and thrown on the grass at the front of the building.

The covers on air conditioning "boxes" have been completed smashed – for the second time.

Groups of 13-14 year-old boys have been behaved badly inside the library, being abusive to staff and using bad language.

Library staff have reported the incidents on several occasions.

Dr Janet Evans, co-vice chair of the Library Friends and fellow member Jim Billington have met with police who have made a number of suggestions, including reporting the culprits to the relevant schools.

Dr Evans said: "The police strongly suggested that the library should have bright, strong lights at the back so that all is lit up - in tune with the lights at the front. At the

moment the back lights are fairly feeble although the electricians are in place so it shouldn't be too difficult or too expensive to change the light fittings to something much stronger.

"They also suggested that Crime Prevention officers could visit the library to make suggestions as to how the library and surrounding plot could be made more vandal proof."

Dr Evans also appeared on the BBC Radio 4 "Any Answers" programme, following an "Any Questions" programme dealing with libraries.

She said: "I do feel we need to try and engender a greater sense of ownership and pride in our village. We have so much to be proud of - particularly our library that we have worked so hard for. Today's good news is that the government is going to provide more police in local community areas, so hopefully Culcheth will be one of these."

Road closure to tackle ongoing flooding issues

HIGHWAY chiefs at Warrington closed a road at Culcheth to tackle ongoing flooding issues.

Flooding issues have been occurring at Wigshaw Lane and Glaziers Lane for many months, since a new electricity main was laid between Croft and Culcheth.

A local resident who raised the issue with Warrington Borough Council said: "I have now reported this to WBC on two occasions (19/11 and 3/12) to be told that "work was scheduled" but they either didn't know or was not prepared to tell me what work or when!

"It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident with vehicles having to cross to the other side of the road to avoid the deepest part of the flood, not only is it on blind bend, it is also on a blind junction!

"It is my belief that nowhere near enough urgency is being attached to this issue."

A Warrington Borough Council spokesperson said: "Works on Glaciers Lane and Wigshaw Lane to identify the cause of flooding started on 28 November and are ongoing.

"We have worked with the local landowners who have cleared the open ditches on their land to help with drainage. We have also carried out excavation works on the drain, clearing and jetting the existing system."

The road was closed while works were carried out.



The Gardening Guide



“Pots and greenhouses can be cleaned thoroughly so they are ready for the new season”

Simon Box,
Plant Area Specialist

- Hang up bird feeders if you haven't done already, look out for cat and squirrel resistant designs
- Recycle your Christmas tree. Shred it and use it as mulch – especially round acid loving plants
- Don't leave houseplants on windowsills behind curtains on cold nights as temperatures can drop suddenly
- Now is a good time to sharpen, clean and oil tools ready for the new season and check whether any of them need replacing

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The Culcheth Codger is back – in search of the Booker Prize!

By David Skentelbery

HE'S back – the Culcheth Codger. The man who made use of the Covid 19 lockdown to write his first book and then insisted on giving it away free.

The response from readers was so good he has written another – this time without the assistance of a Pandemic.

“Still living the Dream” has a fine picture of the Codger – AKA Gordon Chesworth – wielding a cricket bat, wearing a Lancashire shirt and holding a ball which looks rather too shiny to have been hit very hard or very often.

Gordon’s first book led to me observing that he and I shared so many likes and dislikes he must be my Doppelganger. The new volume exposes the differences. True, we both hate airports, and for pretty much the same reasons. But having visited 38 countries on business and 19 on holiday he must be made of sterner stuff than me. Having seen Manchester Airport, I decided all airports were places to avoid if at all possible.

The Codger made one mistake in his first book. He drew up a list of “best-ever” guitarists and, predictably in my experience, aroused the wrath of fans whose heroes were omitted. You can argue politics, you can argue religion.

But argue music at your peril – particularly guitar music. It’s a wonder he can walk the streets of Culcheth in safety!

He hasn’t learned his lesson, however, for in the new book he includes another list of guitarists and tries to explain why they didn’t make the original list. Oh dear, oh dear!

Incidentally, the Codger reveals that his favourite guitar is the Gibson Les Paul but omits Mr Paul from either list. In addition to being a pioneer of multi-track recording he was probably a better guitarist than any of those listed – without any claim to being “the best-ever.”

“Still Living the Dream” is a worthy sequel to Gordon’s first book. It is full of humour and interesting facts. I understand Gordon is again offering to give it away free and I again suggest that if he refuses to accept payment you should offer a donation to some worthy cause.

He says if he isn’t nominated for the Booker Prize this time he will jack it in. But another title, this time featuring the Codger and his guitar on the cover, could be “third time lucky.”



Still Living the Dream!

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by

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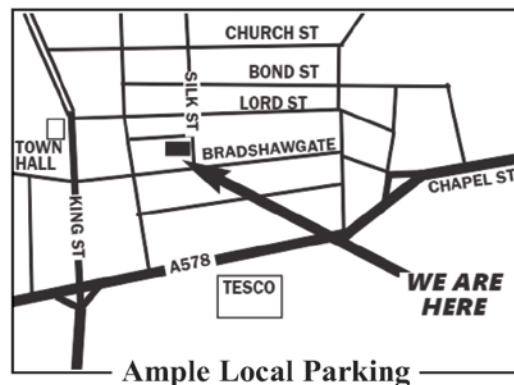
Sunday 29th Dec... 10 - 4

Monday 30th Dec...10 - 5

Tuesday 31st Dec...10 - 4

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Thursday 2nd January, Friday 3rd January
& Saturday 4th January.....10 - 5



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Support for Small Business Saturday

INDEPENDENT Councillor Neil Johnson showed his support for Small Business Saturday on 7th December 2024.

Neil said: "I visited several local businesses on Small Business Saturday. As Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft's independent councillor, I am working hard to support local small and medium businesses

across our villages. "I encourage all residents to shop local whenever they can and give our traders, business owners and shop workers as much support as possible."



Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Plan Relaunch

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Plan is to be relaunched and updated to reflect the wishes of the community for the next five years. The relaunch will begin with a Community Workshop held at Culcheth Village Library on Saturday 11th January, 10:30 am – 12 noon. All residents are welcome to give their ideas for the future under themes such as Environment,

Community, Public Services and Business. A display of ideas will stay up in the library for the rest of January, so that residents can continue to share ideas. There will also be an online survey available for residents to feedback. A Parish Plan is a document that sets out a vision for the future of the parish and identifies the actions needed to achieve that vision. It is

a local, action-based plan which addresses a range of problems and opportunities affecting our communities. A Parish Plan is based on information provided through survey, research, consultation and community participation. It is a statement of how the community sees itself evolving over the next few years. It reflects the views of all sections of the community

and prepares a plan of action to achieve identified objectives. The Plan will need a Steering Group, who will help to plan and drive forward agreed actions. For the Plan to work, volunteers for the Steering Group will be needed. Could this be an opportunity for you to get involved in village life in the New Year?

CULCHETH AND GLAZEBURY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

CULCHETH LIBRARY
SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY 2025
10.30am - 12noon
 Or drop-in to have your say until
FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 2025

What is good about living in Culcheth and Glazebury?

How could we make it even better?

Help to influence the future

Be a part of our plan

Could you be a part of the Steering Group? Let us know!



CULCHETH AND GLAZEBURY PARISH PLAN

Contact us to volunteer
 or to share ideas at: clerk@culchethandglazebury-pc.gov.uk

Independent declares support for farmers and urges Labour to stop Farm Tax



Independent cllr. Neil Johnson has been out and about meeting local farmers in the villages of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

He has used the opportunity to make clear his opposition to Labour's "farm tax", announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.

Cllr. Johnson said: "Farmers are the lifeblood of our villages. The contribution they make to our economy and food chain is immeasurable.

"I have made it clear to all the farmers I have met that, as their independent voice in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, I am completely opposed to the family farm tax introduced by my former Party. I am very disappointed that Labour would slap this tax on the farming community. It makes me despair. Along with the decision to scrap Winter Fuel Allowance, it feels like a betrayal of all the people who voted Labour in the General Election this year.

"The local Labour Party have posted information on Facebook which tries to minimise the effects of their tax. It is obvious that they don't have anyone who understands the economy running their social

media, because all the farmers I have spoken to know as well as I do that this new tax will threaten our food security, risk jobs and lead to food prices rising.

"At the General Election, Charlotte Nichols posed for yet another photo and said she was backing British farming. Now I call on her and my fellow ward councillors Matt Smith and Janet Seddon to join me in opposing this disgraceful family farm tax. I invite them to join me in a meeting with local farmers from Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft to hear their concerns and really understand the impact this tax will have. Will they take up my offer, or are they frightened?"

"It has been a pleasure to meet with and talk to many of the local farmers who I represent over the past week. Rest assured I will continue to be their independent voice and speak up for them and the contribution they make to our community."

Music and Food at the WI

MUSIC and food were the themes at Sundial WI's pre-Christmas meeting at Newchurch Parish Hall.

The music was provided by dancers from the group "Bollywood."

Some members joined in the dancing and others tried the hand moves from their seats.

The dances told stories about Diwali, the festival of light and Holi, the colourful spring celebration. There were tales of adventure and romance and the dancers showed the finger moves on the head to create lotus flowers. The tunes

got much faster but the team kept their balance. Their jewel-covered costumes came from Longsight Market and charity shops in the Midlands and the North.

The "Food" was a delicious Box Tea at the start of the meeting. The winter dinner will be at the Village Club on January 23 and members were reminded that the speaker at the January 21 meeting will be David Payne - "They Don't Write Them Like This Any More."

The competition is to be a joke or a piece of music.

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