

Culcheth *Life*

Magazine

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Celebrating the double!

Page 10

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Editor's Comment



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CONGRATULATIONS to local Cllr. Keith Bland on his appointment as Chairman of Culcheth & Parish Council – again!

I have known Keith pretty much all my working life and putting politics aside, he is everything a local Cllr. should be and a great example for others to follow.

While he has represented a political party he has always focused on local issues and doing his best for the area he represents and never become embroiled in toxic politics.

He worked in coalition with another party when deputy leader of the borough council and I know he is held in high regard by other politicians from all parties.

Whenever I have needed help or advice on covering local issues, he has always made himself available and provided a comment whenever

necessary.

The fact he has been made an Honorary Freeman twice speaks volumes. Congratulations on your latest appointment as Chair of the parish Council Keith – and keep up the good work!

Meanwhile congratulations to Village FC on their recent League and Cup double success.

I have known skipper Chris Bibby for many years from his days when he played at Warrington Town FC when I was club chairman.

As a starry-eyed youngster, he was always full of enthusiasm and it is great to see him and The Village FC going from strength to strength.

Despite winning the league the club has chosen not to go for promotion – preferring to stay at

the same level so they can continue enjoying their local sport.

Not only do they enjoy their sport, but they also help raise funds for the British Legion, putting back into the community and helping others.

Well done to all at The Village FC and let's hope the trophies keep on coming!

Deadline for the July issue of Culcheth Life is June 20



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Veteran councillor elected Parish Council Chairman again!

VETERAN Cllr Keith Bland is back in the Chair after being elected Chairman at Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council again!

He took over from retiring Chairman Cllr. Neil Johnson, who had taken over from Keith the previous year!

Cllr Bland has been a member at Culcheth and Glazebury since 1982 and has been chairman several times previously and also done two stints on Croft Parish Council.

The veteran Cllr was awarded the MBE in 2010 for services to the community in Cheshire and Warrington and, almost uniquely has been made an Honorary Alderman twice!

He was granted the honour by Warrington Borough Council to mark 15 years membership and

also by the old Cheshire County Council where he served for 13 years.

During his time on the borough council, Cllr Bland was deputy leader for five years, leader of the Conservative Group and chairman of the Warrington Partnership.

He has also served on numerous committees and outside bodies, including Warrington Collegiate, Warrington Educational Trust, Culcheth Primary School and the Fostering and Adoption Panel.

Cllr Bland's wife Sue, has also been a long-serving member of the parish council.

Cllr Janet Seddon was appointed deputy Chair of the parish council.



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Art students enter Tower of London competition

MEMBERS of Culcheth High School's Key Stage 3 Art Club entered the Tower of London Competition.

They were asked to design a church bench for the King's Coronation, which gave students the opportunity to explore the

Coronation, discuss British values and symbols and also look at the history of the Royal Family.

The top 15 designs were

offered a VIP trip to visit the Tower of London in the summer and although not featuring in the top 15, the Culcheth youngsters will be entered into a ballot to win a visit to the Tower in the autumn term.

More than 1500 designs were

received and will soon be on view on the Tower of London's online gallery.

Culcheth High School is really proud of its Art Club members and the hard work and ideas they displayed during the competition.

Change of Chairman at Croft Parish Council

THE Annual General Meeting of Croft Parish Council recently saw the handover of the Chairman's position for 2023/24.

Outgoing Chairman Cllr. Paul Campbell presented the Chain of Office to Cllr. Phil Sharpe and wished him all the best for the

coming year.

Cllr Sharpe thanked Paul for all his hard work in what has been a busy year for the Parish.

Cllr. Val Allen MBE was elected as Vice Chair of Croft Parish Council for the coming year.



Art teacher Miss Rachel Cornish (left) and Miss Lucy Bettley, trainee teacher of design and technology (right), with some KS3 art students and their Tower of London artwork.

Croft Parish Council News



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cllrphilipsharpe@gmail.com



Valerie Allen MBE
(Vice Chair)
01925 767274
val@valallen.co.uk

New Chairman

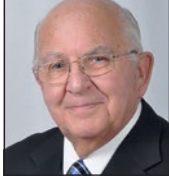
At the Parish Council AGM in May, Cllr Paul Campbell handed over the chain of office to the incoming Chairman for 2023/24 Cllr Phil Sharpe.

Planning Application for 98 Homes Deacons Close. No: 2023/00201/FULM

The Parish Council are objecting to a recent planning application for 98 homes taking in the area Heathcroft Stud Deacons Close. The objection that some of this building will be on Green Belt land which the Parish Council has objected to for the last five years. The Parish Council alongside our three Borough Councillors held a Drop-In session for residents at the Memorial Hall at which around 70 people attended to receive information about the application and advised on how to put in objections to the Planning Department at Warrington Borough Council.



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cllrpaulcampbell@gmail.com



Keith Bland MBE
01925 766641
keithbland1@gmail.com

Coronation of King Charles III

The Coronation of King Charles III took place on Saturday 6th May. The Parish Council supported residents with a Picnic in the Park on Sunday 7th. Great fun was had by all and the weather made it all the better with sunshine all day.

Local Issues

1. We have installed two new Speed Indicator Units on Heath Lane these provide DATA which we can pass on to the Police highlighting times when the speeding issue is most prevalent allowing them to better use their resources to tackle this serious problem.
2. We have started to plant trees on the Croft Playing Field to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeths Jubilee to be a lasting memorial to her 70yrs of service.
3. We will be placing a new Defibrillator outside the Plough with the owners blessing.
4. Work continues to repair and paint the Benches throughout our village.
5. Road Traffic lines have been painted at the Kenyon Lane Junction with the Plough Public House.
6. The Parish Council voted to keep the local Parish Precept at the current rate with no increase in the coming year.

Dates For Your Diary

The famous Croft Carnival is back and will be held on Saturday 1st July.



Norman Partington
01925 765144
normanpartington@gmail.com



Gary Farnsworth
garyianfarnsworth@gmail.com

Residents may contact Croft Parish Council's Clerk on Email: croftparishcouncil@gmail.com
The Parish Council issues updates and information on Twitter: [@croftparish](https://twitter.com/croftparish)
Web: www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk

New plan for mobile phone mast at fishery

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant EE is seeking planning consent for a 20-metre high mobile phone mast on land within Partridge Lakes Fishery in Glaziers Lane, Culcheth.

The proposed mast would replace a temporary mast on the fishery car park and is proposed as an alternative to a mast at the fishery which was given planning consent last year.

A report to borough council planners says the proposed lattice mast would be of similar appearance to the existing temporary mast and mirrors the design of the replacement tower which received planning approval last year.

But the revised location would be more screened and hidden by surrounding vegetation than either

the current temporary mast or the previously approved mast.

A number of alternative sites in the Culcheth area have been considered including Leigh Golf Course, Howards Transport, Culcheth Linear Park, The Royal British Legion, Culcheth Library, and Taylor Business Park.

All have been discounted for a variety of reasons.

EE say the proposal will form part of a new 4G emergency services network and should be considered critical infrastructure with the UK to support the local community.



Homes plan for farm site

OUTLINE planning consent is being sought for up to three dwellings on land at Three Acres Farm, East Lancs Road, Glazebury.

Existing kennels and a garage building would be demolished as part of the proposals.

The scheme has been submitted to borough council planners who are considering the proposals.

Three Acres Farm consists of a bungalow and a number of outbuildings providing storage, kennels, pens and a garage. The site is accessed by a single track road from Lately Common, alongside an area used for caravan storage, belonging to a

neighbouring property.

A report submitted to planners say the scheme would not result in any significant impact on traffic flows, given the previous use of the site for kennels. The new dwellings would be served by the existing driveway and access from Warrington Road.

The proposals are for the existing barn and storage building to be replaced by two dwellings. An additional dwelling would site to the north west of the site in place of the existing kennels building.

The amount of development would be limited to ensure safe and practical use of the site

and development land without any detrimental effect and no greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and surrounding

properties.

All existing boundaries and hedges would be retained and only two trees would be lost.



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National beauty pageant

CULCHETH businesswoman, Holly Pirrie, is bringing the sparkle back to Warrington with the annual finals of the Miss International UK beauty pageant at Parr Hall on Saturday June 10.

The pageant will see over 50 families travelling to Warrington to attend and support the event. The event has also confirmed the attendance of the Mayor of Warrington, who will be watching the show on the evening.

The contestants of the competition will compete in the glamorous grand finals, with on-stage rounds such as Swimwear and Eveningwear, in the hope to become the next Miss International UK winner. Alongside an amazing prize package, which includes an official sparkly crown and voucher to spend at The Dress Studio in Culcheth, the winner of the Miss International UK competition at Parr Hall Theatre will win a trip of a lifetime to Japan. She will compete in the prestigious Miss International Official Pageant, against beauty queens from across the globe as the representative for the United Kingdom! The pageant has been running annually for over 60 years

and is amongst the top 5 pageants in the world.

The winner will also travel to India on a humanitarian visit with the not-for-profit organisation A-Sisterhood. The newly crowned Miss International UK will be an ambassador for the cause and support a host of Women's Charities such as Stop Acid Attacks over in India.

The reigning Miss International UK Evanjelin Elchmanar, who won in 2021, travelled to Japan last month to compete against other national winners from all over the world, for the official Miss International crown!

Each year, the Miss International UK competition receives hundreds of applications to the Warrington based office from all over the UK. It is one of 5 national beauty pageants organised by Holly and her team, who plan to bring more events to the town for 2023. Watch this space!



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Warrington North

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returns



Not long now for the Raven!

The community group who will be operating the Raven have now assumed responsibility for the pub.

It follows a lengthy campaign to save the community pub from demolition and ongoing restoration works.

Spokesperson Peter Sturman said, "We acknowledge it has been a long time coming, but we have now started our community work to renovate the Raven pub.

"We have been working in the background, setting up as many things as possible to allow us to hit the ground running.

"Our tradespeople are now working in the pub. Our main objectives are the toilets, kitchen, pub area, bar, new back office and

outside seating area.

"As well as the renovations we have the small matter of setting up a pub.

"Staffing, negotiating with various suppliers, arranging wi fi, CCTV, fire & intruder alarm systems, the till system. The list goes on.

"We do regret there have been a couple of false dawns as regards our opening date.

"However, having now started on our renovations, we are in a much better position to keep everyone updated and to predict when that work will be finished, therefore when we can open our Raven.

"Our intention is early July".



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Simon Box,
Plant Area Specialist

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- Watering is especially important during dry spells - also soak the ground before carrying out any new planting.
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PARISH NEWS

Here are some of the achievements of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council in the year May 2022 to 2023

- Cllr Neil Johnson as Chair of the Parish Council engaged with members of the local community to support the environment of the villages by litter picking at several sites on a weekly basis.
- As Chair, Cllr Johnson represented the Parish Council at several community events across the villages. He also ensured that the Post Office installed a new Post Box at Chatburn Close. Cllr Johnson read the proclamation of the Monarch's death at several sites across the villages.
- The Parish Council celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III by financially supporting celebrations in Primary Schools in Culcheth & Glazebury.
- Parish Councillors advised & supported residents to successfully appeal parking fines imposed by the owners of the CPS centre.
- Corresponded with Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner to enquire about the progress of the installation of average speed cameras on the A574 in Glazebury village.
- Successfully planned and ran 'Community Day' on the village green which was enjoyed by thousands of local residents on the 1st May 2023. There is a Gallery of photographs of the event on the Parish Council website.
- Held a public meeting to support residents with regard to the planning application (2022/42633) for the car park at the CPS centre. The Parish Council also commissioned a report from an environmental consultant which addressed residents concerns about this planning application.
- Supported many residents and businesses with planning concerns.
- Christmas lights switch on was celebrated by the Parish Council with the help of Culcheth Primary School choir.
- Successfully renegotiated the cost of the Parish Page in Culcheth Life after discussion with Gary Skentelbery.
- Continued to develop the Parish Council website so that it is a community resource for all residents.
- Completed the installation of two new defibrillators cabinets and defibrillators at locations in Culcheth and Glazebury, as well as the refurbishment of an existing defibrillator. These are available for use in emergency situations 24 hours a day to all members of the local community.
- The Parish Council supported Cheshire Police & Warrington Borough Council in the aftermath of the murder of Brianna Ghey.
- Continued commitment to keep the Parish Council Office in the library. This was vacated for several months due to the redevelopment and refurbishment of the Library building.
- Parish Councillors attended Remembrance services at Churches in Glazebury and Newchurch, wreathes of remembrance were laid at the war memorials at these Churches.
- Individual councillors have supported 'Friends of Culcheth Library'.
- Liaised with PCSO to ensure road speed checks are completed in Culcheth and Glazebury.
- Successfully completed the Annual Internal and External Audit of the Parish Council.

**Next Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 13th June
at 7:30pm at Glazebury Methodist Church**

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.org.uk



Croft council and residents celebrate Coronation

VILLAGERS in Croft came together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with a Picnic in the Park organised by Croft Parish Council.

The weather on Sunday May 7 was the best of the Coronation weekend making the day even more enjoyable for the around 400 people who came to join in the atmosphere and fun.

Croft Parish Council Chairman Cllr Paul Campbell, welcomed the visit by Warrington Borough Council Mayor Cllr Jean Flaherty and her consort husband Terry.



Six weeks of road closures for carriageway resurfacing

UP to six weeks of phased road closures have been confirmed at the Birchwood Park roundabouts this month (June) for carriageway resurfacing.

The closures will be in the evenings from 7pm to 1am as and when signed on site.

Warrington Borough Council has made an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of which will be to introduce a prohibition of driving & clearway as follows: Daten Avenue from the roundabout at Faraday Street/Trident Way to the junction at Birchwood Way; From the roundabout at Daten Avenue for 50 metres along the following lengths of road: Clayton Road; Leacroft Road; Risley Road; Ordnance Avenue from the roundabout at Oakwood Gate/Dewhurst Road to the junction at Redshank Lane;

From the roundabout at Ordnance Avenue for 50 metres along the following lengths of road: Admirals Road (South); Fire Station Access Road.

The Order will be effective from 5th June 2023 for 6 weeks, as and when signed on site.

The works will be undertaken in phases as follows: Phase 1 – 10pm to 5am – Roundabout at Daten Avenue, Clayton Road, Leacroft Road, Risley Road; Phase 2 – 7pm to 1am – Roundabout at Birchwood Park Avenue/Kelvin Close. Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works. The alternative routes will be as follows: Phase 1 via Birchwood Park Avenue, Birchwood Way and vice versa; Phase 2 via Dewhurst Road, Admirals Road and vice versa. The closure is required for carriageway resurfacing.

Spring music showcase

CULCHETH High School's Spring Music Showcase was held recently – and the concert left the audience stunned by the musical talent on show.

Many school ensembles and a number of soloists were involved and they all conquered their nerves to turn in a superb show.

It was a final concert for a number of Year 11 students who had been involved in school concerts throughout their time at Culcheth.

Head of music Chris Simms congratulated them all and wished them well in the future.



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The Village FC celebrate at the double!

CULCHETH based The Village Fc are celebrating a league and cup double - a first for the club formed in 2014.

After a nervous wait when their final league opponents were unable to fulfil their fixture The Village FC were eventually confirmed Warrington Premier League district champions.

It completed a league and cup double for the season, after also winning the Guardian Cup.

Club captain Chris Bibby said: "A massive thankyou to everyone who has supported us and sponsored us over a brilliant season."

The team play at Shaw Street and are based at the British Legion and help out with fund-raising for the Poppy Appeal each year.

The club was accepted into the Warrington and District Football League and played their first competitive game in division 4 with just 18 players signed on.

The Village now have three teams and an under 17 team with over 65 players signed on.



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One Time Only 7pm-9.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens.
Creating Adventures present a variety show with a difference: Live band, Choir, Singing and more. Licensed bar. Tickets £5 available on DAD website.

Wednesday 12th July

Ignite your Life 10.30am-3.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens
Merseycare NHS Foundation Trust, mental health and wellbeing event. Workshops, talks, activities, information stands Free refreshment available, including buffet lunch. For more info contact dennis.dewar@merseycare.nhs.uk or telephone 01925 664850.

Ella Summertime Special 7pm-9.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens
Top entertainment from the teams at the amazing Ella Performance Group. An evening of dance, singing and much, more. Licensed bar. Tickets £5 available on DAD website.

Thursday 13th July

Customer Vulnerability Summit 10am-3pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens
United Utilities present an event highlighting support services available to vulnerable customers, including Priority Services and much more. Open to staff working in welfare rights, advice services, social prescribing, etc. Contact Amanda.Phillips@uuplc.co.uk.

Carers Wellbeing Festival 10am - 2pm: Marquee 8, Walton Gardens
Warrington Carers Hub presents an event to thank carers with health and wellbeing activities including massage, mindfulness, music, crafts, dance and lunch. Contact deborah.fitzsimon@warringtoncarershub.org.uk or telephone 07734 872412.

Party in the Park 6pm-9.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens
A collaboration between Warrington Disability Partnership, Warrington Youth Zone, Warrington Wolves Foundation, and Warrington Carers Hub. A fun-filled evening of sports, arts, dance, chat and chill out, crafts, karaoke, music, silent disco and fun areas. Free refreshments and free admission. Contact Kate on 01925 240064.

Friday 14th July

Born to be ABBA 7.30pm-11.30pm: Arts Marquee, Walton Gardens.
Top tribute band perform a range of Abba's most loved hits. Dance the night away to great music! Licensed bar. Tickets £10 available on DAD website or Contact Ellen on 01925 240064.

The big event - Disability Awareness Day

Sunday 16th July @ Walton Gardens - 10am - 4:30pm

FREE PARKING

Available on site at DAD Week events from 11th July - 14th July

www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk
 Scan to visit our website



#DAD2023
01925 240064



Members' night at Croft WI

IT was Members Night at the May meeting of Croft WI and members enjoyed a fun evening of table games, chat and a keep fit, along with a delicious buffet.

Sarah Gough led a presentation of low impact keep fit exercises to pop music by members who attend her classes.

These classes are held at Croft Youth Centre on Monday mornings at 10.00am and Sarah also holds a class at Culcheth Community Centre on Fridays at 9.30am. She explained how the exercises are geared to keeping ageing joints and muscles supple and are meant to be fun and how anyone

attending her classes can go at their own pace and rest at any time. When invited to join in there was an eager rush by the ladies and Sarah is sure to have quite a few new attendees to her classes, as everyone had a big smile on their faces whilst participating. An enthusiastic vote of thanks was given by President Gill Coon.

The competition was won by Merron Mitchell, 2nd Janet Hughes 3rd Margaret O'Leary.

Patriotic start to WI meeting

THE monthly meeting of Culcheth and Newchurch WI started on a patriotic note – a beautiful Coronation Cake, organised by Freda Wilcock on display.

Doreen Procter then gave out red, white and blue hats to everyone, including the speaker George Pilkington.

Since retiring from the police George has taken up the cause of "Gardening For Wild Life" and he showed amazing slides and short videos taken entirely in his own garden.

He is against chemicals and aims to encourage small creatures by planting flowers, trees and shrubs to provide pollen and nectar and by maintaining garden

ponds. He now has a website and designs bee hotels, wormeries and hedgehog gates.

Members saw many kinds of bee, hoverflies and some of the 9,000 types of wasp in the UK. Bumble bees and their clever queens are favourites and headmires the wasp as a pest killer. He showed his "hedgehog gates" between gardens, with videos of hedgehogs feeding and hoglets on their first outings. His aim is to spread wildflower lawns in his own garden (and his neighbour's).

Jean Riley thanked George and he went on to judge the competition for a Rosette. Aileen Paterson and Margaret Jones were first and second.

Culcheth Open Gardens

Culcheth Open Gardens is taking place on Saturday July 15th & Sunday July 16th from 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm. The charity event will be held in support of St. Rocco's and Culcheth Methodist Church.

Tickets are available from Buds 'n Shakes on Warrington Road and Oliver's in The Courtyard Off Common Lane. Tickets bought in advance will be £5. On the day the cost will be £6.

This has been a well supported event over many years and the organisers are looking forward to welcoming old and new friends to their gardens.



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