

# **Culcheth Life**

## **Magazine**

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# **Park public meeting**

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# Editor's Opinion



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**AS I was contemplating this month's opinion piece, I was considering writing something about the ongoing war of words between rival factions on Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council.**

But as you will see, that is well documented on our centre pages and I suspect many people in the villages are fed up with the whole situation, wishing everyone could put their differences to one side and work for the benefit of the community.

So, instead, I have decided to focus on something positive about a business which opened up in the heart of Culcheth last year – Go Ben Travel.

We recently popped in to see Ben and the team to do a little promotional video, celebrating the fact that while many high street travel agents have closed in recent years – we have a local success story here in Culcheth – and with Ben and the team offering to

price match or beat any holiday costings you get on a Jet2 Holiday, what better way to book your forthcoming summer holidays by supporting a local business.

We wish Ben and the team every

future success for their business and as always would encourage everyone to shop local and support local when you can.

**Deadline for the April issue is March 17**



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# Residents urged to have say on plan to turn former café into dental practice

**A local councillor is encouraging residents of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft to have their say over proposals to turn the former Quench café on Lodge Drive, Culcheth into a dental practice.**

A planning application has been submitted for a change of use from a café/community hall into a dental practice, complete with new

windows.

Cllr Neil Johnson says: "This is a very important planning application which I encourage all

residents of Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft to engage with.

"The former Quench café is a key location right at the centre of our village, and so the views of the community must be taken into account by the planning department.

"I ask all residents to take a few minutes to log onto the Warrington Borough Council planning portal and submit your comments and thoughts. I am also very happy to receive any feedback from

residents so that I can pass these on to the Borough Council.

"Whatever your view, please have your say. The outcome of this application will be significant as the proposed practice will be situated in the biggest retail unit on the main row of shops in Culcheth."

The full planning application has been submitted by Benjamin Batrak (Draw Plan Ltd) for change of use from café/community hall into a dental practice including replacement windows.



## Five day road closure proposed

BEECH Avenue in Culcheth is set to be closed for up to five days from March 9th to allow Electricity Northwest to install a new service.

Warrington Borough Council has made an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of which is to introduce a prohibition of driving

on Beech Avenue for its entire length.

The Order will be effective from 9th March 2026 for 5 days, between 9am and 3pm, as and when signed on site. Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works.



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# Work starts on construction stage of new Warrington Services

**WORK has officially started on Extra MSA Group's latest development, Warrington Motorway Service Area (MSA) at Junction 11 of the M62 near Croft, marking a major milestone for both the project and the region.**

Following the appointment of Glencar and Bethell in November 2025, the site is now full of activity. Bethell Construction has launched a comprehensive programme of highway improvement works at Junction 11, designed to improve access and strengthen connectivity with the local community and wider region.

In parallel, Glencar has begun delivering the main amenity building and supporting infrastructure, following an initial phase of groundworks. This first phase of work will also include the diversion of Silver Lane Brook and the creation of a new peatland habitat zone, together with wider landscaping and site circulation infrastructure.

The new motorway service station on Green Belt land next to the M62 near Birchwood, Warrington, sparked controversy locally and was refused by local planners but approved on appeal by a government planning inspector.

The decision came as "no big surprise" to local Cllrs. who opposed the application which includes a 100-bed hotel, fuel filling station, electric charging station

and facilities building put forward by Extra MSA, after Warrington Borough Council decided not to defend the planning committee decision to refuse the application.

When complete in late 2027, Warrington MSA will provide a modern, high-quality motorway service area. The development will feature a diverse mix of premium food, beverage, and retail outlets, alongside landscaped spaces designed for leisure and community engagement.

Once completed, Warrington MSA will provide parking for all vehicle types. In addition, the site will offer extensive EV charging facilities to support local industry and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon transport network.

For all involved in the project, building strong community connections is essential, both during construction and beyond. Extra MSA Group, Glencar, and Bethell Construction are committed to ensuring this project leaves a positive legacy for Warrington. A targeted social value programme will create measurable opportunities for local people and businesses, including:

- New full-time roles and a wider

commitment to meeting local workforce targets.

- A commitment to working with Warrington-based SMEs and suppliers.
- Wider training through T-Levels, apprenticeships, and upskilling initiatives with local education providers.
- Partnerships with local education providers to provide school sessions, STEM activities, and site visits.

The team will also work with Ahead Partnership to deliver a wider schools engagement programme, along with working closely with local charities and community groups in the area.

Tom Dobson, CEO of Extra MSA Group said: "Breaking ground at Warrington MSA marks an exciting step forward for Extra MSA Group and the local community.

This development is about more than creating a modern service area – it's about delivering long-term economic benefits, supporting sustainable transport, and building strong partnerships that make a positive impact well beyond the construction phase.

"We are really excited that construction on the site has begun and keen to update the local community as the construction progresses."

Tom Kearsley, North Regional

Director at Glencar said: "Reaching the construction phase at Warrington Services is an important milestone and one where progress on site becomes visible for the local community. Following a detailed period of pre-construction and enabling works, it's positive to see activity increasing and the project moving forward.

"We're working closely with Extra and the wider project team to deliver a development that supports the local economy, creates employment and skills opportunities, and provides high-quality facilities for road users. Our focus throughout construction will be on responsible delivery and ensuring the scheme leaves a positive and lasting legacy for Warrington and the surrounding area."



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# Discover Cantina, Culcheth's new weekend dining experience

**A fresh and exciting addition to Culcheth's dining scene, family-run restaurant Cantina, was launched in February.**

The restaurant is located upstairs at Il Cortile, offering a cosy and intimate setting that is ideal for friends, couples, or anyone looking for something a little different.

From the moment guests arrive, Cantina offers a relaxed and flexible dining experience, with the option to bring your own alcohol or enjoy drinks from the in-house bar and cocktail menu. Dining at Cantina centres around a fixed-price menu, with two courses priced at £25 or three courses at

£30, allowing guests to enjoy a thoughtfully curated selection of dishes in a welcoming and sociable atmosphere.

At the heart of Cantina is the food. Executive Chef Petar will be creating regularly changing menus inspired by cuisines from across the globe, using locally sourced products. This gives diners the opportunity to explore flavours that aren't widely available in the area.

General Manager Damian is looking forward to introducing

guests to these international dishes, showcasing the creativity and talent of the kitchen team and encouraging diners to try something new with each visit.

Cantina will open exclusively on Friday and Saturday evenings, making it a special weekend destination for both locals and visitors. With limited opening days, tables are expected to book up quickly. Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

The team are passionate

about bringing something new to Culcheth, creating space for variety, innovation, and a stronger sense of community within the local food scene.

Whether it's an evening out with friends or the chance to experience new flavours, Cantina promises a welcoming atmosphere and a culinary journey around the world, right in the heart of Culcheth.

The official opening was performed by local parish Cllr. Bernie Kingston, pictured below.





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# Council instructs clerk not to respond to emails

**ONGOING issues at Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council have resulted in the recently appointed clerk being instructed not to respond to emails from two independent councillors.**

Responding to calls from Independent Councillor Neil Johnson calling on the Clerk to Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council to "work with him, not against him" the parish council issued a statement saying the clerk had been instructed not to respond to any more emails from Cllr Johnson or another independent Cllr Bernie Kingston.

Reasons include the tone and language used in addressing the Clerk.

It follows on from the appointment of a new Parish Clerk, Ms Cheyenne Bower (who is also a Parish Councillor at Croft), who commenced the post at the beginning of January. Previously a Labour Cllr. she stood down from the party and is now an Independent at Croft.

Since then, Cllr. Johnson, who was also a member of the Labour Party before standing down to become an independent after exposing plans for a traveller/gypsy site on his ward, says he has sent a number of email communications to the Clerk with requests for information relating to Parish Council matters. These include a number of queries raised by residents, as well as requests for details of financial transactions undertaken by the Parish Council.

He is yet to receive a single reply. Cllr. Johnson said: "The Parish Clerk vowed to work with all councillors in her new role. Sadly, that has not been the case to date.

"I have sent a number of emails to the Clerk since she took up her role at the beginning of January. I have received no response to any of my communications.

"This is not acceptable. When I correspond with the Parish Council, I am doing so in my capacity as an elected representative of residents in Newchurch. A failure to respond is not a slight against me, it is a slight against the good people who I am there to represent.

"Any information I have sought from the Clerk is information that I am entitled to as a member of the Parish Council. Even if that were not the case, I have not even had the courtesy of a reply to explain why I am not entitled to it!

"This cannot continue. Paid

employees of the Council are there to serve all elected members and support them in carrying out their representative duties. Political disagreements are not a matter for the Clerk, who should engage in a scrupulously neutral manner with my enquiries.

"I consider this continued lack of response to be a deliberate attempt to obstruct my work as a councillor. The Parish Council cannot claim that there is a backlog of emails, as I know that message sent after mine have received replies. I can only conclude, therefore, that they are being deliberately ignored.

"I now call on the Clerk publicly to put her personal bitterness and political outlook to one side and work constructively and collaboratively with me, not against me. I ask her to respond to each of my emails in an impartial manner and provide me with the information that I and local residents are seeking.

"What possible reason could she have to say no to this request?"

After being contacted by Warrington Worldwide/Culcheth Life Culcheth Parish Council issued a statement via the clerk stating: "Cllr Johnson hasn't had responses to his emails because of his own behaviour and not because of the clerk or her ability to perform in her role.

Within four days of the clerk starting in her role, she had received two emails from Cllr Johnson and six from Cllr Kingston, which were deemed completely unacceptable by the Parish Council.

In particular, concerns were raised regarding:

- The tone and language used in



addressing the Clerk.

- The imposition of deadlines and demands outside agreed governance processes.
- Assertions of personal authority over the Clerk.
- Allegations of bias or incompetence directed at the Clerk.
- References to external enforcement or investigation made directly to the Clerk.

The emails questioned her suitability for the role, asked questions about her home, family and personal life and even advised her to go against advice from the Parish Council.

The clerk was advised on 8th January not to respond to any more emails from either Cllr Johnson or Cllr Kingston.

Following multiple further intimidating emails sent to the clerk on, an official letter was sent to both councillors from the vice chair instructing them to cease all communications with the clerk and to send all future requests to the chair and vice chair, who would deal with them accordingly. This was on the 18th January.

Both councillors have ignored this advice and continued to contact the clerk via email and discuss employment matters on social media and in the local press.

All councillors have a duty of care to employees and officers should be able to carry out their duties without intimidation or undue pressure.

If any councillor has a grievance with a member of staff, they should raise it with the chair using the correct procedures.

Responding to the Council's statement Cllr. Kingston said: "Firstly, why has the PC chosen to mention me in their response to Cllr Johnson, who hasn't mentioned me



in his statement?

"This is a clear act of targeting the two Independent Councillors who are just that...INDEPENDENT!!

"I question the timing of my involvement in the Council's response, following my revelation at January's Parish Council Meeting of a new bank account being opened in Oct 2025, which has never appeared in any Minutes and not on Feb Agenda, and furthermore, a former employee was included as a Signatory!

"Criticism and challenges are perfectly acceptable, sadly, eight Members of the Parish Council, along with the new Clerk and Temporary Admin Assistant, previously seem unable to respond to any and view a legitimate response as railing against me with attempted defamatory character assassinations in the media and socials.

"Since elected, I have been refused entry to the PC Office, have walked in on secret meetings, have been the subject of intimidatory humiliating cartoon posters pinned to Parish Boards displaying the Vice Chair's Facebook Profile pic, the same Vice Chair who the PC state sent a directive to cease all communications to the Clerk, been targeted in an abhorrent, vile PC Public Statement last week, been stonewalled at Council Meetings by other Cllrs when raising issues, shut down by the Chair at every juncture, challenged as to the validity of my comments even when witnessed etc.

"Now the "Parish Council" (no name attached to their response) admits to instructing the Clerk within four days of starting her role, not to respond to emails from two Cllrs!

"Public engagement and interest with the Council increased dramatically after I was elected on Sept 25th, however, the 8 Members mentioned earlier have agreed to change the rules to the Public Forum section of Meetings so only Agenda items can be brought up, Fire Risk Assessors were employed (never mentioned in Minutes) in a bid to reduce capacities at Meeting venues, have voted to make PC full Meetings every other month rather than monthly and have done their utmost in emailed responses to Residents not to engage!

"This is totally disingenuous

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# ails from Independents

to the people who elected me in September with a huge majority...I am being prevented at every opportunity from carrying out my duties as a Parish Councillor, my campaign was won on a ticket of transparency, accountability, visibility and demanded change to the Parish Council following issues I had witnessed during my tenure as Parish Clerk.

"I note the Parish Council has failed to display any evidence to back up their false allegations nor make any reference to Regulations, Policies or Governance!

"This all begs the question, why can't the eight other Members of the Parish Council be transparent and accountable?! The withholding of information, documentation etc is very concerning behaviour by a

Public Body and as such, sometimes needs calling out and addressing in the interests of democracy.

"I still await a lot of requested documentation on various issues the Chair announced at the October meeting that as a Cllr. I was entitled to and so should write in to the Clerk, there was no Clerk at that time and had no idea who I was communicating with.

"The Parish Council has been shrouded in mystery for many years, now they are being challenged by Independents and public to be transparent and DEMOCRATIC, they see fit to hurl personal attacks. Why? What are they hiding??"

"This is a deliberate attempt to discredit two Independent Cllrs rather than engage in debate!!

## Bents teams up with pet expert to help dogs live healthier lives



Bents Garden & Home in Glazebury has teamed up with the experts from PetMedics to launch a brand new, free of charge, dog weight clinic.

The new initiative is designed to help dog owners to understand whether their pet is at a healthy weight and if not, what can be done to help shed those extra pounds.

The bi-weekly weight clinics will take place at Bents' Pet Place every other Thursday between 10am – 12pm and will be run by a qualified veterinary nurse from PetMedics. During each visit dogs will be weighed and assessed, and owners will receive a professional evaluation of their dog's current weight.

Owners will be given advice as to whether weight management support is needed and if so a personalised plan, tailored to each dog's breed, age and lifestyle will be provided, alongside ongoing support and advice.

Says Matthew Bent, MD at Bents Garden & Home: "Just like humans, being overweight can have a serious impact on a dog's health and quality of life. Carrying excess weight can put extra strain on their bodies and can increase the risk of several health issues. The goal with these clinics is simple, to help our dogs live longer, happier and healthier lives!"

The new weight clinic is a great opportunity for owners to get expert advice in a relaxed and supportive environment or simply get reassurance that they are on the right track with their dog's diets.

And there's even more 'pawfully' good times for dog owners to enjoy when Bents' Bark Fest, returns on Saturday 28th – Sunday 1st March. This annual favourite celebrates all things dog-related and gives our four-legged friends centre stage for two fun-filled days.

Across the weekend, visitors will be able to enjoy exciting demonstrations, special offers and plenty of tips and tricks to help keep dogs happy and healthy. Bents' much-loved Mini Crufts will be returning, with prizes up for grabs for our canine competitors, while Bartley Studios will be on hand to capture those perfect pet portraits.

More details coming soon at [bents.co.uk](http://bents.co.uk)



## The Gardening Guide



Now is a good time to split your herbaceous perennials (cottage garden plants).

Simon Bax, Plant Area Specialist

- Now is the ideal time to mulch to retain moisture; suppress weeds and improve the appearance of your beds. Remove perennial weeds first!
- Early spring is an ideal time to plant herbaceous perennials e.g. Geraniums and Oriental Poppies
- If tender bulbs produce new shoots quickly, protect them with fleece or mulch until the weather improves
- Weeding should start in earnest! Weeding now will save you so much time later on in the year



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# Friends of Culcheth Linear Park plan Open Meeting

**THE Friends of Culcheth Linear Park near Warrington are holding an Open Meeting to gather views and ideas from members of the public about the park.**

The event is being held on Friday 13th March at 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Scout Centre in Culcheth.

As a group of volunteers the Friends continue to maintain and develop the park on behalf of the local community.

However they are keen to find out more about what people want for Culcheth Linear Park – so are holding this event to help generate ideas and get input.

The Friends want to find out more about what people like about the park and what they would like to see in the future.

If you want to get involved just go along to the event – everyone is welcome.

Meanwhile, The Friends of Culcheth Linear Park have received a donation of tools from home improvement retailer Wickes to support the work of volunteers at the park.

The range of tools donated included secateurs, shears, a pruning saw and a spade. And these were soon put to good use by volunteers during a recent 'work day' at Culcheth Linear Park as

they tackled overgrown brambles to unearth hidden benches, cut branches and twigs to create 'dead' hedges and cleared ditches to help improve drainage.

These tools were provided as part of Wickes' community programme, which aims to support groups and organisations by providing relevant products to assist with essential maintenance, renovation or new projects.

Alastair Baker, Chair of The Friends of Culcheth Linear Park, said: "When we found out about the Wickes Community Programme we made an approach and were delighted that they were able to support us. They invited us to go into their Warrington store to collect the tools we needed. We are very grateful to Wickes for their generous donation."

"Thanks to this support from Wickes, we've been able to provide our volunteers with some much needed tools to carry out the great work that they do at the park in improving this community space."



## Best Kept Station award goes to Glazebrook – again



GLAZEBROOK railway station has been honoured at the annual Cheshire Best Kept Stations Awards Evening – picking-up the Halton and Warrington Award.

It was the third time in-a-row Glazebrook had won this accolade.

A record attendance of 200 people watched 19 stations from across the former county of Cheshire "score" at Crewe Alexandra Hybrid Lounge, where the awards were presented.

The presentations took place before 12 borough and town Mayors, with the awards presented by transport journalist and rail industry commentator Tony Miles.

The Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Mo Hussain, and consort were among those present.

Romiley railway station claimed the coveted overall Best Kept Station Award, the first time the top honour has gone to the station.

Tony Miles said: "While

working for Northern to update its image bank of stations, I was especially struck by those where the community, alongside staff, had clearly made a real difference.

"There were flower beds, restored waiting rooms filled with pictures and historical artefacts, better

information, and notices from the groups involved inviting others to come and join them.

"A great many of those examples were in Cheshire.

"The dedication shown by volunteers across these stations in Cheshire is simply amazing."

On announcing the awards, Mark Barker, chair of Cheshire Best Kept Stations, said:

"Tonight is a celebration of you and your work as station volunteers. The care, commitment and pride you show make a tremendous difference, not only to the stations themselves but to the communities

they serve.

"Stations are part of our daily lives. They are where journeys begin and end – the routine trips to work or the shops, a day out, a night out, or the important departures for holidays and university. They are where loved ones are welcomed home or waved on their way. They are gateways to our communities and to our lives.

"What you do touches many people, including yourselves, because working together on something worthwhile, constructive and shared brings real benefits to physical and mental wellbeing, to self-esteem and to confidence. The pride you take in your station shines out into the community and is felt by everyone who passes through."

Glazebrook Station's group works well to keep the station at the heart of its community with colourful planters, attractive heritage displays and a celebratory

bench.

Their main project this year, inspired by Railway 200 was to restore a dilapidated 1872 water basin. This was a common feature at Cheshire Lines Committee stations, but only a few now remain. Funding was raised with the support of Warrington Borough Council and the Railway Heritage Trust. The community hall and shop, the village school, other local community groups and the parish council were all involved.

Julie Eastty of Friends of Glazebrook Station said: "The Friends of Glazebrook Station are very proud to have won the Cheshire Best Kept Stations award for Halton and Warrington for the third successive year. It recognises the hard work of our small, dedicated group of volunteers."

# Call for more action on potholes

**LOCAL Councillor Neil Johnson is making it his mission to tackle pot holes throughout Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft - an issue that has been raised with him in increasing frequency over the past few months.**

Cllr. Johnson is calling on Warrington Borough Council to take swifter action to repair pot holes across the villages he represents. He believes them to be a blight on the area, which cause damage to cars and lead residents having to incur unnecessary expense.

He said: "People are seeing more and more pot holes appearing on local roads throughout our villages. The lack of timely repairs is partially down to the financial mess that Warrington Borough Council is in, but the fact they are appearing in the first place also shows that some of the initial work on the road surface has not been done satisfactorily.

"Already, I have been on the case tackling pot holes that have been reported to me on:

- Chatsworth Ave, Culcheth
- Common Lane, Culcheth
- Twiss Green Lane, Culcheth

- Warrington Rd, Glazebury
- Lady Lane, Croft
- Mustard Lane, Croft
- Abbey Close, Croft
- Lord Street, Croft

"Now I want to hear from residents. Are there pot holes along your road or one nearby? If so, please let me know. I am compiling a list of all affected areas and I will present a comprehensive document to the Council, detailing the extent of the problem with a request for action."

By tackling pot holes, Cllr. Johnson is fulfilling his pledge to build a community fit for everyone, a place that we can really take pride in. As Cllr. Johnson has always said, even small improvements like these can make a big difference!

Residents who have identified pot holes can contact him on:

Phone: 07977 825 296  
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*Cllr Johnson inspecting a pot hole on Twiss Green Lane.*



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# Three years on from brutal murder, mother pledges to carry on working hard in memory of Brianna

**THREE years on from the horrifying murder of local teenager Brianna Ghey, her mother has pledged to carry on working hard in her memory.**

Esther Ghey, who has shown remarkable courage since the killing of her 16-year-old daughter in Culcheth Linear Park three years ago on February 11th, posted a simple message on social media on the eve of that fateful day saying:

"Tomorrow marks 3 years without you, Brianna.

"I still think of you every. single. day.

"I wish I could hug you and hear your voice, even just one more time.

"I will continue to work hard in your memory, because I have to do something with the love and energy I will forever hold for you.

Brianna Ghey, I will make sure your name lives on and you will continue to make a difference, bringing joy, peace and resilience to families for years to come.

Three years on, the tragedy continues to resonate far beyond the boundaries of Culcheth Linear Park.

On that day in 2023, the vibrant and "fearless" Birchwood Community High School pupil was lured to a park and fatally stabbed 28 times by two teenagers she believed were friends. While the brutal nature of the crime—perpetrated by Scarlett Jenkinson and Eddie Ratcliffe—shocked the nation, it was the extraordinary response of her mother, Esther, that has come to define Brianna's lasting legacy.

In the three years since her daughter's death, Esther has transitioned from a grieving

mother to a formidable national campaigner. Her efforts, initially launched under the banner of the Peace in Mind campaign, have recently evolved into the Brianna Ghey Legacy Project.

The project focuses on three core pillars:

**Mindfulness in Schools:** Working with the Mindfulness in Schools Project (MiSP), Esther has raised over £90,000 to train teachers in mindfulness practices, aiming to build mental resilience in young people.

**Phone-Free Education:** Citing Brianna's own struggles with social media and the "darkness" of online content, Esther has campaigned for stricter rules on smartphones. Just this month, her cause received a massive boost with a £250,000 donation from the Duke of Westminster to fund lockable phone pouches in Cheshire's state schools.

**Forgiveness and Unity:** In a move that stunned many, Esther has advocated for empathy, even meeting with the mother of one of Brianna's killers to discuss restorative justice and common ground.

As Warrington observes this anniversary, the community remembers a girl who was "unique and joyful". Following the success of previous vigils at Golden Square, today is a day of reflection on how one family's pain has been channelled into a movement for national change.

Esther's journey is also captured in her recent memoir, *Under a Pink*

Sky, released last year to share her path of love, loss, and the power of forgiveness. Her ongoing dialogue with political leaders like Sir Keir Starmer continues to push for mental health support to be a statutory requirement in the UK curriculum.

For those who wish to support Brianna's legacy, the Brianna Ghey Legacy Project remains the focal point for donations aimed at protecting the next generation from the "negativity" that Esther believes contributed to this tragedy.



## New life for recycled lighting rig

LOCAL music man David Warner has donated and fitted a recycled lighting rig from another venue in the village to the Daten sports club and ballroom and theatre.

David, who previously worked in the model railway shop at the CPS centre before the forced eviction, was aware that the Daten ballroom and theatre lacked decent lighting, due to his background as a musician and working as a stage and lighting engineer.

Working at the Culcheth Village Club, where he provides stage lighting and sound for the ABC autism rocks concerts held every other Tuesday, he had to replace

heavy lighting with lightweight modern led units.

He decided to donate some of my old fixtures to the Daten, including installation, to bring the facility to a better standard and attract more business.

He also cleaned and refurbished most of the existing facilities free of charge and in a voluntary capacity.

His donations, work and service comes on behalf of his web site - GLAZEBURYMUSIC.UK

David is pictured making the donation to Daten Manager Clair, stating: "I have taken great satisfaction and joy in providing and the fitting of this equipment."



## Lady golfers learn about health and wellbeing – and raise funds for hospice

LADY members of Leigh Golf Club, Culcheth, held a special evening dedicated to health and wellbeing – supported by Holland and Barrett.

About 45 members attended what proved to be an informative, engaging and enjoyable event.

The evening focused on practical ways to improve general health, including advice on achieving a better night's sleep. Attendees

also had the opportunity to learn more about their own body composition, exploring fat, muscle and metabolism in an accessible and supportive setting.

Funds were raised in support of Lady Captain Amanda Reid's chosen charity for the year, St Rocco's Hospice in Warrington, helping to support the vital work they do within the local community.



# WI members hear about the work of St Rocco's Hospice

**AN enlightening and motivational presentation on the work of St Rocco's Hospice was given at the monthly meeting of Croft WI.**

It was given by Leanne Jones (Community Fundraiser) and Beth Allison (Fundraising Assistant) at the hospice.

The hospice motto is Making Every Day Count and their aim is to help adults with life limiting illnesses to live their lives to the full with dignity and choice.

St Rocco's is a 'hospice without walls', reaching out into the Warrington community to make every day count for patients, carers and their families. The running costs are £5.2 million each year, 80 per cent of which is donated by the community and 20 per cent by the NHS.

St Rocco's takes its name from Saint Rocco, a 14th-century figure who nursed those suffering from the plague and provided a refuge for the sick. The hospice logo is a tower which symbolises a 'tower of strength' within the community.

It was in 1978 that local GP Dr

Michael Thomas realised the need for a hospice in Warrington and formed a steering committee to raise the substantial funds required. The hospice first opened in 1985 and was based at St. Ann's Vicarage in Orford until moving to the new hospice building at Lockton Lane, Bewsey in 1999.

The current building houses a ten bed Inpatient Unit, with some double rooms and rooms for families available. There is an Integrated Palliative Care Hub providing telephone support for patients and carers and the hospice also provides counselling, physiotherapy and complementary therapies such as relaxation techniques.

The hospice runs two Bereavement Cafes which are open to all who are grieving and

suffering after the loss of a loved one:

Alexandra Park Cafe - second Tuesday of each month 9.30-11am  
Bank Park Cafe - last Tuesday of each month 10am - 11.30am

St Rocco's relies on volunteers to run its seven charity shops but volunteers can make a valuable contribution in many different ways such as serving refreshments at the hospice, volunteering at the bereavement cafes or the hospice gardening club, as a driver for patients, helping with Christmas tree collections and marshalling at events.

Committee member Jill Hillam, who has been a loyal supporter of St Rocco's Hospice for many years, gave the vote of thanks.

The competition "A fundraising suggestion for Croft WI this year" was won by Janet Hughes, 2nd Anne Sharpe and 3rd Jill Hillam.

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## Glazebrook W.I hear about "Warrington Women"

GLAZEBROOK WI president Mauren Banner welcomed members, and introduced guest speaker Philip Jeffs, who spoke to a full room, on his topic 'Warrington Women : An Historic A-Z Talk'.

This long talk consisted, of much information, gathered by much research, and time, by him and his team.

Little evidence initially existed, just 1-2 women! Their data base now has 100 and growing. Tracing names first, to gather information.

Names included Mrs G Hutchins ( first woman -in Lancs-Magistrate), Anna Barbould ( daughter of Warrington Academy founder).

Margaret Broadbent MBE ( assisted with Red Cross etc), Frances Tynwell ( Head of training college). Many were placed in order of categories too. Campaigners; Suffragettes, Medical, Teachers, Domestic-cookery, charity workers. Members had a lot of information to assimilate, and Philip was an enthusiastic historian.

Business was followed tea. The group is also looking forward and planning their 80th Anniversary in April. A quiz team ( Cheshire) is coming @ £14 per team. The Annual Council Meeting takes place in March. Mossland Group plans a talk.

The Craft group also gave information of its next meeting. Meanwhile, the village hall, is planning a 'Village Archives Exhibition', of Rixton-with Glazebrook, and Hollins Green, from the vast St Helen's church collection of archives on 6th March from 11 -4 pm. No charge (Donations appreciated).

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