



CROFT

Community News

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CROFT PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR MAY 2017 – APRIL 2018

This period has been a challenging time for the village of Croft and will continue to be for the next 12 months and possibly longer.

Warrington Borough Council produced a Draft Local Plan which indicated that they would need 60 houses to be built on the Green Belt around Croft Village, and also produced a list of developers who would like to build on the Green Belt, it came to over 1000 dwellings. The Borough are now looking into all these and will produce a Local Plan report, hopefully in October/November. We joined forces with Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council as well as Winwick Parish Council, who are also having the same problem and commissioned an expert Planning Consultant to send in a joint

submission objecting to the proposals of building on the Green Belt. We also sent in a separate one reiterating that the Parish Council, as they have always been, were totally against building houses on Green Belt land.

We have also sent in a joint objection with Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council opposing two planning applications on the Parkside site.

We are continuing to support CDRAG in their monitoring of the HS2 proposals for the Golborne Rail Link, which will cause huge problems for the village.

We are pursuing WBC with both the problems of fly tipping generally and with flooding on Lady Lane. We are also requesting that they look urgently at providing a pedestrian crossing at Croft Primary School.

We have now in the process of starting up a Parish Plan Steering group, which will be a useful tool when the Local Plan is produced. If anyone would like to join the group, please contact the clerk.

Our Village Caretaker has retired after 10 years of keeping the Parish litter free. Councillors and residents would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication and wish him well for the future.

Finally, the Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers who help run all the different organisations in the village, you really do sterling work.

Councillor Keith Bland MBE, Chair of Croft Parish Council.

NEW CROFT PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk

Croft Parish Council now has a new website. It is intended that this will now be the primary means of communication between the council and residents of Croft.

Previously, the council had a very limited presence on the general village website (www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk).

However it had become increasingly obvious that the council needed its own site, used and updated by the Parish Clerk.

The Local Audit and Accountability

Act of 2014 required that all smaller parish councils should be subject to a 'transparency code', whereby specified information about the council's operation 'must be published on a website which is publicly accessible free of charge'. Although Croft exceeds the Act's definition of 'smaller' (those with a turnover of less than £25,000), the government nevertheless made clear that larger councils were 'expected to follow' the code.

Of course, this formal requirement comes at a time when in any case there is a much increased public expectation that bodies of all kinds will be accessible over the web, and Croft

Parish Council has been no exception in responding to this.

The new website will be used to publish agendas and minutes of the meetings, financial reports, as well as news, events and notices. The site even has the capability of running a poll on a particular issue should the need arise. There is a link to Warrington Borough Council's 'Report a Problem' facility. You may also subscribe your email address (see the footer of the home page) to receive any news by email, including a link to the newsletter.

CROFT NEWS

Croft Village Memorial Hall

2017 has seen the Memorial Hall continue to develop as we seek to achieve our newly defined mission of providing a facility that, in summary, is safe and compliant, used by the broader community, accessible to all, an enjoyable experience and ultimately sustainable. This is all in the context of being in an ever evolving local village and wider societal setting.

There has been good use made of the building from regular and one-off users, along with our own events (Barn Dance and Twilight Market) which brought people together for a fun time. We are doing more in social and printed media to get the message out that we exist and further drive usage. A building is only what you make of it – people are needed for it to come alive, otherwise it is just 'four walls and a roof'. We journey into 2018 with a number of projects in motion, including implementing an audio visual capability in conjunction with our good friends Croft WI, and an ambitious aim of running our first ever 'Beer, Gin & Prosecco' festival (June 15th & 16th - volunteers and sponsors needed). Little happens without the help of others and we are very grateful to all building users and supporting organisations.

2018 will see us launch a new initiative to give something back to the community – a structured volunteering opportunity for a young person in Year 11 High School ('5th Year' old currency) to join our committee for a few months, bring ideas from a different perspective and get an insight into how businesses and buildings operate – all aiming at enhancing their 'Personal Statement' as they then progress on into further education.

Lastly, of recent times there has been a lot of press coverage regarding the problem of 'loneliness' in society, across all ages and circumstances. We as a committee are very aware of this and put a lot of thought into the fine detail of what takes place at the hall so that people feel comfortable during their whole experience. Croft has a lot going on – as evidenced in this newsletter – and I ask you to encourage anyone you know who feels alone to consider joining in with an event at the Memorial Hall or indeed any of the village organisations – they'll certainly get a warm village welcome.

Peter McCartney, Chair,
Croft Village Memorial Hall

Christ Church

Services follow a monthly pattern and are as follows:

1st Sunday 9:00am	Holy Communion according to Book of Common Prayer
10:30am	Holy Communion with Sunday School
2nd Sunday 10:30am	Morning Worship
3rd Sunday 10:30am 4:00pm	Holy Communion A short and informal all age worship service
4th Sunday 10:30am	Morning Worship
5th Sunday	Services as announced

Each Wednesday at 9:30am there is a short informal prayer service.

Sunday School meets in the church hall on the first Sunday of the month and children from the age of three are welcome.

Ladies Fellowship meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00am in the church hall.

The **Coffee and Craft Group** meets each Monday from 10-12am in the church hall. All are welcome to join us. Crafting is not compulsory, just come along for a coffee and chat if you want!

Family Film Club meets every other month on the first Saturday at 5:00pm. There is no charge for this but donations are gratefully received. Tuck shop refreshments are available.

Last year we joined forces with St Lewis and the Olive Branch to hold a service in the Youth Centre on Good Friday and also a Community Carol service in December. Both were well supported and we are hoping to be able to continue working together as churches to provide a service to the community of Croft. Watch this space! All services and events are posted on our Facebook page and on the church website and advertised in the church newsletter and locally.

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

With the long wet, grey and muddy winter behind us, we can hopefully look forward to our public rights of way (PRoWs) drying out and, if you are a dog walker like myself, can be spared the displeasure of repeatedly hosing down best friend and boots.

As well as flooding all of Croft's lanes and PRoWs, the never ending rain over the last

few months has been the cause of further delays in the opening of the former Risley landfill site. Wouldn't it be nice to give it a more attractive name. Suggestions are welcome - I know it has been a waste site but please keep them clean and avoid the obvious Donald Trump quote.

Further drainage work has proved necessary together with improved security and health & safety measures after repeated acts of vandalism. I have been reliably informed by Biffa's site manager that the site was to open in March and therefore, should now be open. BUT - there's always a BUT - temporary closure of part of the site may occur in the summer to allow plant to work in dryer conditions and finally resolve flooding problems.

In addition to the disturbance that will be caused by the proposed HS2, further threats to our PRoWs and the wider countryside have arisen following the publication of the Local Plan (Preferred Development Option) by the Warrington Borough Council. This issue is bound to taunt us as the Plan develops but the Ramblers Association is maintaining a watch and advising communities in preparing their responses.

The above issues apart, last year was relatively uneventful at a local level but if you do come across obstructions, over ploughing or can suggest improvements to signage and waymarking, please get in touch.

Roger Lamming
Footpath Secretary
Ramblers Association
North & Mid Cheshire Area

Mob: 07846 856 022
e-mail: rogerlamming@aol.com

CROFT WI PRODUCE SHOW 2018

To celebrate our 65th Anniversary, the Croft WI will be hosting a Produce Show in the Memorial Hall on September 16th September, 2018 for all residents of Croft and surrounding villages.

There are a range of classes in each category, so we hope there will be something to suit everyone. The Categories are preserves, baking, craft, produce, plants and flowers, art, flower arranging and a special section for children.

If you would like a copy of the schedule and entry form, or for further information please phone Gill on 07877477022 or speak to any member of Croft WI. This is intended to be a fun event, so roll up your sleeves and give it a go – we would love to see you there!



1st Croft Rainbow Unit meet at Croft Youth Centre each Thursday evening at 5 pm. Rainbows is part of Girlguiding and is open to girls who are five and six years old. When a girl turns seven she is usually ready to move on to Brownies. 1st Croft Brownie Unit meet at Croft Youth Centre each Thursday evening at 6.05 pm. Brownies is also part of Girlguiding and is open to girls when they turn seven years old.

Rainbows enjoy a lively programme of activities based on the four Jigsaw areas - Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. They gain badges as they complete a variety of Rainbow Roundabouts including 'All about me' and 'Festivals'. Brownies also enjoy working together, playing games and taking part in a wide variety of activities as they work through the Brownie Programme. Girlguiding is in the process of updating the programme and so we look forward to seeing what this includes but I am sure we will still have a lot of fun and games and badges.

July was Carnival time and the Rainbows joined the Brownies on their Carnival Float - 'Croft Bug Hotel and Garden'. We had an interesting variety of bugs on the float. The girls always enjoy being a part of this village event. Waving to everyone as we drive through the village on our float and then onto the field to run the 'Sand Game'. It is nearly Carnival time again and our thoughts are turning once again to the theme for our float!

Brownies and Rainbows help to look after the container garden outside the Youth Centre. They have helped with the planting and watering and we hope to develop this further this year.

In the autumn the Rainbows and Brownies completed the 'Clever Cogs' challenge. This included a set of engineering challenges developed by BAE systems and Girlguiding North West. We built towers, made a lava lamp, found out about floating and sinking and how materials react. The best meeting for both units has to be the one when we made our own slime! Last Spring we took the Rainbows to the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre where we were able to explore the galleries and try different activities, make soap and look at the amazing views from the Observation Tower including the new Mersey Gateway Bridge.

It is 30 years since the first Rainbow units opened and the local Rainbows celebrated this with fun at 'The Jungle' finishing

with party food and a big cake.

At the beginning of December some very excited Rainbows, together with the Rainbows from Locking Stumps went by coach to Pettypool, our County campsite in Sandiway, to visit Father Christmas. We had a busy time following a trail in the woodland, playing games and, the highlight of the afternoon, visiting Santa in his Grotto. As we got on the coach to leave it was dark and the lights in the trees looked magical.

The Rainbows also enjoyed a special Christmas meeting with the Brownies when they all wore their Christmas jumpers and enjoyed games and food together. The Youth Centre looked festive with the decorations we had made.

The Brownies have taken part in several sleepovers this year. A small group of girls joined Brownies and Guides from the local area for a sleepover at Victoria Baths near Longsight in Manchester. The baths opened in 1906 and were designed as a prestigious baths complex. At present the building is being restored and is used as a wedding venue, a film set and, for several years now, Brownies and Guides have slept in an empty pool there. Last May was even more exciting because we were able to swim there! It was very, very cold. We are going again this May and hope the water will be lot warmer.

In July the Brownies camped at Pettypool, and then in the New Year they had a sleepover in the Brownie House there. We always enjoy these nights away. The girls are able to relax and have fun in a peaceful woodland setting.

The Brownies also spent an energetic evening at The North West Face Climbing Centre in Warrington and are very keen to go again.

Kathleen Cheyne and I have enjoyed being part of Croft Rainbows and Brownies for a number of years now. We find it to be both fun and very rewarding. We are really grateful to Chris Dodd for her help each week at Brownies and for the support of parents as they take their turn on the Rainbow rota. As always we are looking for extra help!! Do you know anyone who would like to become involved in Guiding either on a regular basis or maybe once a month? Please ask them to contact us. If your daughter is interested in joining Rainbows or Brownies please look on the Girlguiding website <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter> or contact me at 1stcroft-rainbows@gmail.com or 1stcroftbrownies@gmail.com for more information. Judith Parker and Kathleen Cheyne.



We need your support now more than ever!!!

Some of you may have heard about the challenges we are facing here at CYAC, where potential changes to the way in which our funding structure currently works with Warrington Borough Council could be subject to radical change.

In essence we will need more funds coming in to cover increased levels of outgoings!

Those close to CYAC know that we do our best to ensure as many people are able to use the facility as possible by keeping the charges to a sensible level. We remain passionate about maintaining this philosophy, and are exploring all options to raise our income levels other than increasing charges to regular users of CYAC.

We are working closely with Croft Memorial Hall for joint fund raising options and our Committee is constantly on the look out for new grant opportunities. However, if anyone in the village has their own ideas then we are all ears!

Anyone interested in getting involved in our Committee should contact Ben Mitchell (CYAC Chairman) for a chat on 07971 687 267 or ben.mitchell@Ellerman.co.uk

Thank you Croft for your continued support of CYAC.



1st Croft Guides have had a busy year going from 9 members to 21 we have certainly grown.



We had a sleepover in Victoria baths and we were one of the first public groups to swim in the filled pool for 25 years. It was freezing but didn't stop us having fun! We also had a sleepover in the empty women's pool but not before a tour including a spooky walk in the basement! What an adventure!

In summer we enjoyed a weekend camping in Pettypool and learnt how to cook on Trangia outdoor stoves.



We had a creepy visit to Spooky world for Halloween and got to do pumpkin carving! In October we also attended concert in Manchester, went shopping and topped it off with a Costa hot chocolate on our train home.



For Christmas we did some community action and made up 16 shoe boxes of essentials for the homeless, these were distributed around Manchester.

We have also written letters to parliament and taken part in Parliament week to get our voices heard!

1st Croft Guides have places available for girls aged 10 -14, 1st Moss edge senior section is also open to girls aged 14-18. Both meet at the Youth Centre on a Thursday.



For more information go to girlguiding.org.uk/joinus or contact Jen on 07584 674785.



Croft Early Years is a Registered Charity and is managed by parents of the children who attend our setting. Children attending our setting are aged from 3 months to school age and we follow children's interests alongside their developmental next steps to ensure the provision, resources and activities meet each child's individual need. We are eligible to receive early years entitlement funding for two, three and four year old children who are entitled to receive this as well as the new 30 hour funding which became available to families in September 2017.

We have worked in partnership with parents and staff at Holcroft Grange in Culcheth to make monthly visits to visit the residents there. During our visits we have had some great fun making pumpkin pictures and playing with pumpkin play doh. We have had the parachute out and taken part in music and movement together and really enjoyed singing.. Our December visit saw us making edible managers with a jelly baby Jesus!! It was really good fun, which everyone enjoyed. A number of residents and staff made a return visit us at Croft to watch our Christmas Performance

and enjoy a cup of tea. We all worked hard on our Christmas Tree for Newchurch Christmas Tree Festival and the float for Croft Carnival. A massive thank you to all our children, parents and their families for their support on these occasions - we couldn't have done all this without your support.

We have taken part a wide variety of different events and activities such as Boogie Bambinos, Mini Moves, Tennis Tots, and enjoyed visits from our local PCSO Dean and Chris from Manchester Fire Service. We have developed regular Forest School sessions facilitated by Ace Forest School and regularly access the woodland area to support our learning. We have a large outdoor provision which includes sand and water as well as our mud kitchen. The children freely access our outdoor area throughout the day as well as having access to a wide variety of play resources and activities inside.

Croft Early Years meet all the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and we have positive links with all our local primary schools and have access to St Lewis' School facilities such as the ICT suite, school hall and large outdoor equipment.

Croft Early Years opens from 8.30 am - 5.00 pm every day during term time and you would be very welcome to come and visit.

For more information please visit our website www.croftearlyyears.com Find us on or contact us on 01925 764565.



St Lewis continues to grow and thrive within the community and has enjoyed another successful year in growing and developing young people who will look to make a positive contribution to wider society.

One of our priorities throughout the year, at Christmas and Harvest, has been to support Warrington Foodbank. We have a range of charities that we support across national and international boundaries but we were taken with the need for support so close to home.

We have had collection in which children brought an item in for a day of Advent each. The final amount was fantastic. We then repeated a collection for Harvest. Again, children and families were very generous.

This term, as part of our Faith in Action

programme for Year 6 children, they actually visited the Foodbank to find out more. It really touched the children to find out about real families and the way they are helped with our donations.

For Easter, we usually have an Easter Egg Raffle. This year, children can get 'free' tickets for the raffle if they bring in donations to the Foodbank. We are hopeful that the Easter Bunny might also add to our donations to the Foodbank as well.

I am sure our kind and thoughtful children and their parents will continue to be generous as we move forward. Our school Mission Statement is 'I did that. I said it'. We certainly did!

CROFT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on 23 February with an excellent turnout by members where the annual update of the Association business was presented and discussed. A cheese and wine session was enjoyed post the meeting.

The Association's committee and its members are custodians of this Croft Community facility and it is thanks to its committee and volunteers that its smooth running and upkeep is kept in 'tip top' condition for residents of the village and its wider conurbations.

The green was opened on 31 March 2018 with the well supported Opening Main competition for mixed pairs taking place on Sunday 15 April.

The financing of the Bowling Green is self-funded by way of membership subscriptions and organised fund raising events such as car boot sales, Spring social events and to some degree the annual President's Dinner and President's Presentation Evening.

The green is kept in excellent condition for play by the Association's Green-keeper who works selflessly throughout the winter period to ensure a good playing surface for the coming season.

The Association's thanks are given to the Croft Carnival Committee for their grant with which the Association was able to purchase a much needed new refrigerator.

There are many members of the Association who live in Croft and are hopeful of further new members in 2018. The green and pavilion is open seven days a week during the season for both competitive and social bowling. Sets of bowls are provided for beginners so come along and give it a try. The fees for 2018 are £28.00 for the sea-

son, £5.00 for social members and £2.00 for juniors (under 18). So come on, call our Membership Secretary Janet Bevin on 01925 764633 for all further information to join a great Community Facility and make new friends.

The Association is pleased to announce that it now has its own website which was built during the close season and allows anyone to access all of the attributes of Crown Green Bowling. Please go on line and take a 'peek' and I am sure it will give you an appetite to think about taking up a new pastime in a sociable, friendly atmosphere whilst taking exercise right on your doorstep.

CROFT CARNIVAL 2017

"Village life" was the theme of the 2017 Croft Carnival and what a life was portrayed! Someone in the village said "Croft Carnival is like Christmas Day to us. All the family come and we have a really good day". From the comments we received following the 1st July, I think Village Life hit the heights that day.

Unlike the Croftonbury event of 2016 when we saw mud, mud, mud, the weather in 2017 was kind....with sunshine!

Parking throughout the village was better managed this year thanks to the efforts of the many experienced and dedicated marshals. Thanks too, to all Croft residents who tolerated the increased parking on this day throughout the village.

The quality of our programme was raised this year making it comparable to a classy, glossy magazine! Many thanks to Signs Express for their innovation. Our Advertisers will benefit from this upgrade. We thank them all for their continued support.

The competition to design the front cover was deservedly won by Megan Powell, with designs from Rosa Sakhi, Evie Fenny, Reuben Watson, Keira Moyo and Grace adorning the centre pages.

The parade was as stunning as ever with many organisations adorning floats in original and amusing ways.

The Best Overall float was won by Croft Primary School with "The School Of Rock". Best Croft float was awarded to 1st Croft Brownies with "Bug Hotel", and Croft WI taking the title Most Amusing Float with "The Beatles", celebrating 50 years of the iconic pop group.

The fancy dress saw some amazing outfits with The Incredible Hulk, The Rock and Roll Couple and Mr. Tumnus and Fairy taking centre stage.

Eaves Brow Road took the title "Best Decorated Street" with excellent competition from both Gosling Road and Wadeson Way.

The Best Scarecrow, receiving the Alan Sharpe trophy, was awarded to 48/50 New Lane with their "Village People". The judges also highly commended "The Ice Cream Van" at 1 Gosling Road, "Dogs and Ducks" at 12 Gosling Road and "The Drunk Man in a Beer Tent" at 17 Gosling Road. Well done Gosling...you have committee members living there...you put Betseyfield to shame!

The entertainment this year was spread across two arenas; one hosting the acts and the second dedicated to sport and dance.

The acts included the traditional favourites: Punch and Judy, Thelwall Morris Men, children's donkey rides and the fabulous vocals of Neil Khristopher. The Mountain Bike display team and Elaine and her Dogs and Ducks showed off their skills in the main arena.

Arena 2 saw a lively football tournament followed by excellent dancing displays from Rosemary Powell's group and Northern Star Dancers.

As usual the day concluded with the much loved, famous Croft egg throwing competition, which again attracted a larger number of entrants than the previous year. All 140 eggs were kindly donated by Springfield Farm. The Broome brothers, from Eaves Brow Road were return winners...we may enter them for The Guinness Book of Records!

Croft Carnival Queen for 2017 was Olivia Bellas, age 10. Olivia's attendants were Hannah Garbutt and Lisa Howard. The Princess was Evie Twist supported by Jessica Larley and Louise Young. The Rosebud was Alice Malony with Georgia Goulden and Sophie Bellas in attendance. Leo Goulden, Isaac Mitchell, and Harry Holme were Crown Bearers.

Croft Grandparent 2017 was Ernest Rudd from Winwick. His daughter and two grandchildren live in New Lane, Croft.

Plans are well underway for this year's Carnival, which will take place on Saturday 7th July. We will soon be delivering our information flyer across the village with more details of this year's event. For those of you who like to start planning early, the 2018 theme for the scarecrow and street decoration competition is "British Summer-time". Hopefully you will all be inspired to put on the usual fabulous display across the village making Croft Carnival one of the very best in the area.

We have been busy booking the entertainment for 2018. Among other activities, Jez Avery's All New Stunt Show will be there and a clown act. We have booked some giant garden games and invited Punch and Judy back to entertain both young and old.

We are taking bookings from local charities, organisations or small businesses who would like a stall on the field and from any organisation that would like to have a float in the parade. The relevant contact details are listed below.

Committee Contacts:

To Book a stall – Rachael Browning 01925 762851 or Judith Wallace 01925 765632
To book a float in the parade – Peter McCartney 07703 363201
Any other enquiries – Merron Mitchell 01925 764500 or 07771837982

We have become a victim of our own success and as the Carnival continues to grow year on year with more organisations taking part in the parade and increasing visitor numbers, our small committee of 11 is frequently challenged. Each year the legislative demands we face to run the event change and increase. We value the support of our Parade Coordinator, Field Planning Coordinator and Programme Coordinator who are not on the main Committee but work tirelessly to support the event.

As a Committee we are also extremely grateful for all the help and support we receive from the village every year. Without it the Carnival could not happen. However, we would welcome any additional help from individuals or local organisation, within the community who are able to offer a small amount of time either before the Carnival or especially on the day. If anyone feels they are able give a little of their time, even if it is only for half an hour, we would be extremely grateful and you will be guaranteed a very warm welcome.

The areas we struggle to cover and would appreciate any additional support you can offer are:

- Distribution of flyers prior to the Carnival around the village
- Selling Programmes around the village and surrounding areas
- Help transferring equipment to the field and set up on Carnival day
- Clearing the field of equipment at the end of the day and securing in our storage areas.
- Manning the entrance gates, and taking entrance money.
- Marshalling the parade

If you feel you can contribute in any way to the above, please contact Merron Mitchell for more details – Thank you.

We look forward to seeing you all this year and, fingers crossed, the sun will shine. As well as benefiting many local Community organisations, Croft Carnival is a great village occasion loved by both Croft residents and the many visitors from outside the village who come along every year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Croft Parish Council for their continued help and support and all our Sponsors and helpers from across the community, who help make Croft Carnival the great success it is every year.

You can now follow us on

Facebook – Official Croft Carnival
Twitter - @CroftCarnival

Remember

"IF YOU LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE; BE PART OF IT"

Looking forward to seeing you in the "British Summertime" on Saturday 7 July 2018

Merron Mitchell
Secretary
Croft Carnival Committee



CROFT WI

The WI started in Britain in 1915 with the North West Federation starting five years later in 1920.

Our Institute was founded in 1953. We have approx 100 members and very often our numbers are swelled by visitors who come to sample our evenings and then join us.

We have a varied programme and activities with something, which, we hope, meets everyone's needs.

The meetings are lively and interesting including talks covering a wide range of subjects with everyone enjoying home made cakes and a chance to catch up with old friends and make new friends during refreshment time.

We have a variety of groups including a Reading Group which meets the last Tuesday of the month and a Luncheon Group which meets the fourth Wednesday in the Horseshoe.

Our Darts Team meets every Tuesday, with Dominoes & Scrabble meeting the second Wednesday evening and fourth Thursday afternoon, all at The General Elliot. Singing for Fun meets first Wednesday of the month and Busy Bakers, a small cookery group meets the second Tuesday of the month, both at Christ Church hall.

Walking Group will be starting in April and running until September.

We have a Quiz Team and Crown Green Bowling Team who take part in competitions.

During the Crown Green Bowling season several members play each Monday afternoon.

We organise outings to the theatre as well as places of interest.

Croft Carnival is busy day for us as we organise a float for the Carnival and run a stall.

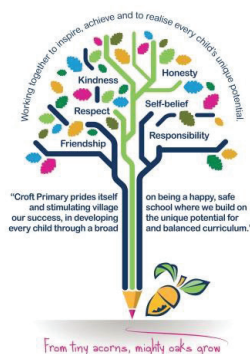
As part of our 65th Birthday celebrations this year we produced a calendar for sale and are now in the process of producing a book of our favourite recipes which we hope will be available from June 2018.

On Sunday September 16th we will be holding a Produce Show open to everyone, for further details please contact Gill Coon 078774 77022.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month in Croft Memorial Hall. Our meetings start at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome to come to 3 meetings as a visitor before deciding whether they wish to join. Ladies are welcome to come to any of our meetings at Croft Memorial Hall.

For further details contact Anne Lamming 01925766828 or Norma Owen on 01925817019





CROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

"From tiny acorns, mighty oaks grow"

This year has been a busy but exciting one at Croft Primary School. Our Year Six pupils took an exciting step into their new schools and a lovely group of Reception pupils took their place. Our pupils continue to perform well in tests as well as having a broad and balanced curriculum.

We have been able to support many charities again this year. We have supported Hope Tea, Diabetes UK and St Rocco's this year. We have been learning about the wider world and have achieved the Intermediate International Schools Award. As part of this we have enjoyed working with partner schools in France and Northern Ireland. We are also working with UNICEF on the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Our wonderful PTA have provided a real treat this year. We are now one of very few Primary Schools to have a 3d printer. We have been designing and printing already and are excited to develop the ways in which this equipment can enhance the curriculum. We held a Halloween Disco, Beauty Evening, Summer and Christmas Fair this year as well as a 'Jim, Jam Jog' and other fundraising events. We also benefited from a Golf Day held in support of the school that is financed by local businesses. Using funds from the Golf Day and PTA, we have been able to provide ipads in all of our classes.

We continue to build a garden for RHS Tatton and this year we received a highly commended for our Wind in the Willows garden. We love to 'potter' in our grounds and teach children how to grow their own food. We have enhanced our gardens further with some raised beds. This year we will be growing food to share with foodbanks in Warrington.

The children from Year four, five and

six all enjoy a school holiday to various outward-bound centres. This year we went to Robinwood PGL and Kewplewray. Children work together and co-operate as well as developing their physical skills.

We enjoy singing and music at Croft. We have Choir who have performed in various venues over Christmas. We also held some fantastic Christmas performances for all children. Reception had their first Nativity, Year One, Two, Three and Four took part in some lovely traditional plays and Year Five and Six showed of their singing skills in a musical extravaganza. Children in Year four have continued to learn the violin with a specialist teacher and some children in Year Five have carried on this year in an after school club.

Future Events

Sports Day 18th June 2018

Summer Fair 16th June 2018

RHS Tatton 17th to 22nd July 2018

Contact Details

Headteacher: Mrs Anne Mains

Chair of Governors: Mrs Heather Hiley

Telephone: 01925 764276

Email: croft_primary@warrington.gov.uk

Website : www.croftprimary.co.uk

CROFT SCOUT GROUP

Croft Scout Group provides scouting opportunities for young people in Croft. We have approximately 65 youth members across the 3 sections of Beavers (ages 6 to 8), Cubs (ages 8 to 10.5) and Scouts (ages 10.5 to 14); where we aim to deliver a balanced programme of activities in line with the Scout Association values and objectives.

Across the three sections over the last year our youth members have taken part in canoeing, sailing, rifle shooting, archery, night hikes, climbing, bike rides and judo to name just a few of the activities; they have visited a fire station, a mosque and an airport; and they have slept out in cardboard boxes for the homeless, attended District Camp and even made wooden reindeer!

Many of these activities have lead to the award of specific activity badges, but we also work towards achieving the Chief Scout Challenge Awards - the highest award available in each section. Last year we had 3 children achieve the Bronze Award (Beavers),

5 children the Silver Award (Cubs) and 2 children the Gold Award (Scouts). A fantastic commitment and achievement for those individuals.

In 2018 we are looking forward to a camping weekend in late April involving all 3 sections; where we will be teaching traditional scouting skills such as lighting and cooking on fires, shelter building, tracking, pioneering and map reading. We are also attending Chamboree 2018 in August - a scout Jamboree with Scouts and Guides from across the UK and internationally to be held in Cheshire.

In addition to the providing opportunities for youth members, Croft Scout Group also gives adults the chance to learn and develop new skills; together with meeting new people and putting something back into the community in which we live. Our adult leaders have undertaken a range of training to gain new skills including campfire and backwoods (without utensils) cooking, summer and winter hillwalking and navigation, first aid, and the use of axe and saws. These skills are being passed on to our youth members through the weekly programme and camp activities. If you have any existing skills that could be shared or are interested in gaining new skills then please do get in touch .

Any contribution you can make to the sections or the background running of Croft Scout Group would be gratefully received. Please contact either:

Group Chairman - John Hilton - john.hilton20@btinternet.com, or

Group Scout Leader - Nick Wild - nicholaswild@hotmail.co.uk

THE NAYLOR TRUST

It is pleasing to report that an increasing number of young people in our village have benefited from grants awarded by the Trust to help with their education and training needs.

One grant was awarded to Corwyn Hall to support him on a project where he led a team of 12 young people from across the UK to help construct a classroom and assembly hall at the Mother Teresa Academy Matriculation School in Vadamadurai, India. We were delighted to hear of his achievements in the letter and photographs we received from him on his return. The attached photo shows Corwyn hard at work.

A further grant was awarded to Eleanor Brear to help fund her attendance at the National Water Polo Academy at Lancaster University. She hopes to become eligible to represent England in this sport and we were pleased to hear how her skills developed at the Academy. The attached photo shows her in action.

We were also pleased to hear from Emma Stars whom we supported for her involvement in an ecological research project into bats in Honduras.

Further grants were awarded last year to one young lady for the purchase of a lap top computer to assist with her studies and another young lady to support her with travel to Nepal as part of her training as a children's nurse. This project was promoted by the Great Ormond Street Hospital. We look forward to hearing

about their experiences at some point in the future.

It is rewarding to hear how our young people are benefiting and developing through the support of the Naylor Trust. If you are resident in Croft, are 25 years old or under and would like financial support for your education or training needs, then please apply in writing to our Secretary: Craig Pownall, 5 Eaves Brow Road, Croft, craigcroft@hotmail.com

Roger Lamming - Chair



Churches & Schools

St Lewis' R.C. Church
Mustard Lane
Croft
Tel: 763171

St Lewis' R C Primary School
Mustard Lane
Croft
Tel: 762268

Croft Village Pre School
Croft Village Hall
Mustard Lane
Croft
Tel: 07961 840382

Christ Church Croft
Newchurch Rectory
Jackson Avenue
Culcheth
Tel: 766300

Croft County Primary School
Mustard Lane
Croft
Tel: 764276

Croft Early Years
Tel: 01925 764565

Village Community

Croft Youth Centre
Smithy Lane
Croft
Tel: 07971687267

Croft Memorial Village Hall
Mustard Lane
Croft
Bookings – Tel: 222715

Useful Numbers

Warrington Borough Council
Customer Services Help Desk
Tel:- 443322

Community Police Liaison Officer
Tel: 101

Emergency Services
Tel: 999

United Utilities (for water leaks)
0800 330033

Councillors and Parish Clerk

Cllr. Val Allen MBE
01925 767274

Cllr. Merril Cummerson
01925 764127

Councillor Keith Bland MBE
01925 766641

Councillor Norman Partington
01925 765144

Councillor Carole Thewsey
07742567055

Cllr. Martyn Griffiths
07982110490

Parish Clerk - Mike Pope
733766

Council Offices and address for correspondence:-

Unit K1, Taylor Business Park, Warrington Road, Risley WA3 6BL Tel 01925 733766 Email: croftparishcouncil@gmail.com

Website www.croftparishcheshire.org.uk Twitter @CroftParish

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month (except August) at the Village Hall, Mustard Lane, Croft.

The public and press are invited to attend. Please contact your local Councillors to raise issues.