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August 2015

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Editor's Comment



SENIOR police officers have been visiting parish councils spreading the word about the new policing system which came into operation across Cheshire early in July – and trying to allay fears that it could result in frontline police officers and community support officers spending less time “on the beat.”

The extent to which they succeeded seems to have varied from one area to another – but at Culcheth there is grave disquiet.

Councillors have expressed the view that the service will be diminished because of a requirement that officers must start and finish their shifts at a central point, meaning they will have to spend time travelling to

and from this central point – in this case, Warrington Police Station – instead of on their patch.

More than 1,000 people have signed a protest petition and that number is likely to grow.

Police have admitted the change is not just for operational reasons but also to save money. We have heard the argument put several times by different senior officers and remain unable to see quite how money will be saved. But we accept the police may not be able to go into too much detail about operational matters and that they presumably know what they are talking about.

We are relieved to know that

there are currently no plans to close police stations such as those at Risley, Stockton Heath and Frodsham. We are also heartened to know that new technology is enabling officers to stay on the beat longer without the need to return to base to report incidents as and when they occur. And we are also pleased to hear that the new system will be flexible enough to be changed if it falls short of expectations.

But we do worry a little when we hear one senior officer say they were faced with the choice of bringing in the changes or making people redundant.

The good news is that the changes should make response times to 999 calls three minutes quicker and that, for now at least, crime in Cheshire is at its lowest level for 25 years.

We just hope it will stay that way.

School to get new railings

GLAZEBURY CE Primary School is to get new, higher railings along its Warrington Road frontage.

Planning chiefs have given permission for the existing railings to be removed and replaced with new 1.5 m high railings on top of the existing wall. They will replicate the design of the existing fence but will be steel, powder coated blue instead of the existing cast iron.

The existing railings do not provide an adequate level of protection against unauthorised entry into the school grounds and are, in addition, defective in places. The new railings will provide an increased level of security for the school.



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1,000 sign petition over policing changes

ALMOST 1,000 people have signed an ongoing petition opposing changes to the policing system, organised by Culcheth councillor Chris Vobe.

The petition calls on Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer to "think again" over the changes which mean police officers and PCSOs have to start and end their shifts at police headquarters in the town centre.

Petitioners believe there will be a lesser police presence in the Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft area because of the time spent travelling back and to, Cllr Vobe and fellow Culcheth councillor Matt Smith are now expanding the petition's reach, by hand-delivering a copy to every house in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

Cllr Vobe said: "The response

to our petition to date has been overwhelming with hundreds of residents registering their dismay at the changes implemented by the Tory Police Commissioner.

"John Dwyer cannot simply pull the wool over people's eyes. His politically-motivated restructure is taking PCSOs and police off our streets, as we lose up to two hours of officer time every shift.

"Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft is most profoundly affected by this and the people I represent are outraged – the Tory Commissioner has let our villages down.

"Now, residents in areas such as Birchwood, Rixton, Winwick and

Westbrook, who will also be severely impacted, have weighed in behind our objections.

"There is little doubt that John Dwyer does not have public support for his proposals. The fact that he has failed to guarantee the future of Risley Police Station only demonstrates further his contempt for residents in Warrington North."

Police claim that the use of new technology will enable officers to stay out-and-about on the streets.



Superfast broadband arrives in village

SUPERFAST fibre broadband arrived in Culcheth with a short, simple "switch on" ceremony at a cabinet at the junction of Wigshaw Lane and Common Lane.

Borough and parish councillors and local businesses were invited and BT officials were on hand to answer questions about the project and specific broadband issues.

The Connecting Cheshire project has now brought Superfast broadband to more than 2,700 premises in the Culcheth area.

Culcheth and Glazebury parish councillor Paul Campbell said: "People will be delighted that faster broadband has arrived in the village. It seems to have been a long time arriving.

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It's official - Glazebury has a good school!

GLAZEBURY CE Primary School is a good school – and that's official!

Everyone at the school is celebrating following a recent Ofsted inspection which gave them a "good" rating – which is a huge improvement since the previous inspection in June 2013.

The whole school community has worked hard to drive up standards and inspectors praised many aspects of school life following their inspection in June this year.

The report states that as a result of improvements in the quality of teaching, pupils make good progress across the school, teaching is good and pupils understand how to keep safe, including when using the internet, and say that they feel safe in school.

It also states that pupils have positive attitudes to learning and enjoy their work.

The inspectors noted that the

headteacher is supported well by staff and governors and they have a shared and determined vision to further improve the school.

There was also praise for positive changes made to the governing body and governance is now effective.

Cllr Jean Carter, Warrington Borough Council's lead member for children's services, said: "Well done to the school for working together and making positive changes which have resulted in this good rating from Ofsted. It is thanks to everyone working hard and being committed to carrying out the action plan and addressing recommendations for improvement that standards are now high. The council has supported the school with this journey and we are delighted to see that the school is

thriving."

Headteacher Elaine Morgan said: "The whole school has worked extremely hard to achieve this well-deserved outcome, of which we are both pleased and proud. The children, as ever, acted as great ambassadors for the school during the inspection; their behaviour and attitude to learning has been a

credit throughout."

The report also recommends areas for improvement including improving the quality of teaching further by ensuring that work is always hard enough and ensuring that teachers check that pupils follow up on the advice they are given.

Flower show is blooming success

CULCHETH and District Horticultural Society held their Annual Flower Show at Newchurch Parish Hall.



From left, Margaret Fern chairman with Judges Stuart Clensy and Philip Sayle.



Derek Brooks and Eileen Thornton are also pictured busy judging flowers.

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Day care centre for dogs wins approval

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for a day care centre for dogs in a warehouse building – despite opposition from the local parish council.

The scheme involves a building on the Taylor Business Park, Risley which can now be adapted to house up to 45 dogs.

Members of the borough council's development management committee heard concerns had been expressed by local councillors Chris Vobe and Matt Smith and by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Croft Parish Council.

Parish councillor Jacqui Johnson was concerned at the proximity of the proposed centre to houses in the Newchurch Lane area of Culcheth.

But planning officers said the nearest house was about 250

metres away and recommended the scheme be approved.

They said an environmental protection officer had visited a similar dog care centre run by the applicant in Salford and was surprised at the low level of noise emanating from the number of dogs present.

However, should complaints arise in the future about barking dogs a notice could be issued to ensure controls were put in place.

There were no objections on Green Belt grounds as there would be no external changes to the building.

Guide group seeks new members

THE 1ST Moss Edge Girl Guides group, which covers the Croft and Birchwood area, is on the look out for new members.

Senior membership has dwindled as a result of a number of girls leaving to go to university.

Additional leaders are also being sought.

Leader Jennifer Lyons said Girl Guiding offered all sorts of opportunities for girls to gain qualifications and make new friends.

Next year the group would be going to Copenhagen to celebrate the centenary of senior guiding and one member was going to Sri Lanka in October to work on a Girl Guiding development.

Leaders could also improve their own skills.

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Leah set to take the plunge

A 21-year-old Culcheth woman who is "terrified of flying" is to do a skydive for charity.

Leah Johnson will take the plunge from a aircraft next month to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

She has already raised more than £140 and hopes to more than double that Leah is a support worker for adults with learning difficulties and has also worked with people with dementia.

She was looking through gift ideas for a friend and spotted a skydive.

"I have always said to myself that I would love to jump out of a 'plane, even though I am terrified of flying.

"I decided to have a go."

At first Leah thought of raising money for a dementia charity – but then, because Guide Dogs for the Blind is a charity close to her heart, and that of her family, she changed her mind.

She said: "My dad and I helped raise two Guide Dog puppies, one named Tally and the other named Percy.

"Tally was with us in 2013 and 2014 and went on to become a fully-fledged guide dog, whose owner did his own skydive!

"Percy is currently being trained to become a pair of eyes for someone."

Well-wishers can support Leah

through her JustGiving page – www.justgiving.com/LeahJ1208

Leah added: "All the money goes straight to the charity and will help give a blind person the ability to almost see the world – possibly for the first time!"



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Rosa is crowned qu

JUNIOR Carnival Queen 8-year-old Rosa Sakhi was crowned Rose Queen at the annual Croft Carnival.

The youngster stepped up when there no applicants for Carnival Queen – becoming the youngest ever Rose Queen.

Rosa's attendants were Lexy Haslam and Sophia Houghton. Eight-year old Rianna Blood joined Rosa as this years' Carnival Princess. Rianna's attendants were Ruby Marshall and Sarah Quinlivan.

Rosebud this year was seven-year-old Casey Skinner. Casey's attendants were Madelaine Geraghty and Charlotte Hiley. The Crown Bearer was Finn Marshall.

Following a parade of floats through the village hundreds of villagers packed onto the village green where there were a variety of stalls and activities.



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Thousands attend Winwick carnival

THOUSANDS of people turned out for the annual Winwick Carnival which was blessed with fine weather.

Highlight of the day was again the popular "Lamb National" which saw sheep racing that was as exciting as it was hilarious.

St Oswald's Sunday School Rose Queens Kathryn Thomas, 15 and Megan Dawson, 14, and their attendants officially opened the carnival – and after that there was plenty of fun for everyone.

Fairground rides, competitions. Morris Dancing, archery, crazy golf, tombola and displays kept the crowds happy and there were numerous stalls selling cakes, refreshments and and handicrafts – many in aid of local charities.

Live music completed an event that was again voted a huge success by local people.





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Jazz star Chelsea comes home



CULCHETH'S up-and-coming jazz saxophone star Chelsea Carmichael is to perform in her home village on Sunday, August 2.

The 22-year-old former Culcheth High School pupil is bringing her six-piece band Yesa Sikyi to the Village Club in Wigshaw Lane - just six days before Chelsea will start rehearsals for a TV appearance with the Guy Barker Big Band at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

It will also be just two days before she appears, with Yesa Sikyi at the Manchester Jazz Festival.

Yesa Sikyi is made up of students from London's Trinity Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where Chelsea is studying jazz saxophone.

She co-leads the band with trumpet student Lily Carassik, from Lancaster.

At Culcheth, the band will be

mainly playing popular standards, interspersed with a few originals from their first album, which is to be released shortly.

Last time Chelsea played in Culcheth was probably when she was a member of the Culcheth High School Swing Band.

But since then she has played with the highly regarded Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra and with her own quartet at this year's London Jazz Festival.

In addition to that she has been signed for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra - and manages to fit in numerous gigs around the London music scene in addition to her studies at Trinity.

But she has wanted to play in her home village for some time.

The doors will open at 6.30pm with the concert starting at 7pm.

Vandals on the rampage



WANTON vandalism in Culcheth is angering local residents - including parish councillor Paul Campbell.

The bus shelter at the end of Culcheth Hall Drive has been smashed.

Three times in as many months and the BT phone box at the end of Newchurch Lane has had the interior equipment destroyed.

Cllr Campbell said: "This kind of activity only makes life difficult for the local residents and needs to stop. I am sure someone somewhere knows who these vandals are. They need to be caught."

"I will continue to work with the relevant authorities and police to ensure the residents of Culcheth and Glazebury are allowed to enjoy the amenities provided without the need of constant repair."

CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

NEWCHURCH WARD



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01925 419481



Jacqui Johnson
01925 763435



Matt Smith
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GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



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Mike Vobe
mike.vobe2012@gmail.com



Peter Caswell
01942 671938



Keith Bland
01925 766641



Helena Campbell
01925 766658



Paul Campbell
01925 766658

Victorian Day

Once again, the Parish Council will be working in collaboration with Birchwood Lions to host the village's Victorian Day. This year's event will take place on Saturday 28th November, and will culminate in the traditional switch-on of the Christmas lights by Cllr Chris Vobe. As we have done with Culcheth Community Day, the Parish Council are actively seeking to "refresh" the Victorian Day event, with changes and additions to the day's itinerary to encourage wider participation and increased footfall in the village centre. The "old favourites" – including Santa's grotto – will still be on hand, and there will be plenty for all ages to enjoy. As always, we would welcome input that residents would like to contribute. If you have any suggestions for activities or attractions that you would like to see hosted on Victorian Day, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your local Parish Councillors, who will make sure your ideas are fed in to the steering committee.

Culcheth and Glazebury in Bloom

The first annual "Culcheth and Glazebury in Bloom" competition has been a resounding success and Councillors would like to thank all those who took part in the nomination process. This contest gave residents in both villages the opportunity to recognise gardens which were particularly effective and eye-catching, and helped to promote the welcoming and inviting environment that our villages have to offer. The nomination process has now closed and the independent judges will shortly be visiting all the nominated gardens to decide on a winner. The competition has very kindly been sponsored by Bents Garden and Home, who will be on hand to award the lucky winner their prize!

Speed activated signs

Readers will know that one of issues which is always of particular concern, wherever people live, is the speed of traffic on our residential roads. Parish councillors are taking an active role in working with the police to put forward effective measures which control and manage speeding as effectively as possible. The Parish Council has committed to acquiring two "speed activated" signs for the villages, similar to those which are used in neighbouring Croft and Rixton. Money has been ring-fenced from the Parish Council's budget for this project and we are currently in the process of acquiring match funding from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillors were initially very disappointed that the Commissioner rejected our application for match funding, given the obvious need for these signs and the strong local concern that exists around speeding. However, following further representations from Parish Councillors, we note that the Commissioner's office are now re-considering their decision and we await the outcome with anticipation.

Seddon Homes development in Glazebury

The Parish Council is keeping a watchful eye on the Seddon Homes development, currently under construction on Warrington Road in Glazebury. We have responded to reports of litter on the pavement around the site and are in contact with the company's management team to ensure that they observe their obligations to keep the site tidy and litter-free. Councillors will keep in touch with nearby residents on this matter, and respond quickly to any reports.

Litter volunteers

The Parish Council has recently received a number of requests from local residents, who are keen to undertake litter picking on a voluntary basis. Their willingness to get involved encapsulates the strong sense of community that exists in our villages, which we can be rightly proud of. The Parish Council has undertaken the necessary insurance checks and we are happy to report that anyone who wishes to volunteer in this way can get in touch with the Clerk - all the necessary equipment will be provided for anyone who would like to volunteer.

Welcome to Cllr Anne Roberts

Councillors were delighted to welcome our newest member this month. Cllr Anne Roberts has been unanimously co-opted onto the Council to replace former councillor Mrs Duncombe, whose work for the community has been widely recognised. Cllr Roberts will represent the residents of Glazebury and Mee Brow alongside Cllr Joan Grime. She was welcomed to the Council at the July meeting and has also taken up her positions on the Planning and Law and Order sub-committees. Her contact details are provided on the left hand column of this page.

Vandals in mindless attack on cricket club

MEMBERS of Glazebury Cricket Club are pinning their hopes on a big turn-out at their annual fund-raising fun day following a mindless attack on the club by vandals.

The hooligans struck some time during the night only hours after the £3,400 wicket covers were delivered to the club's Hurst Lane

ground.

Club chairman Sean Caine left the covers safe and secure at 10.40pm but they were found



A close up of three gaping holes in one of them and below, the three wicket covers just after they were delivered.

vandalised shortly after 8am the following morning.

Sean said: "Quite simply I was left in a state of shock and feeling sick, to think that we had saved up for so long to invest in something worthwhile for the club, and on the very first night of the covers being parked on the field, someone could do such a callous act."

He warned that a repeat of such a costly act of vandalism could finish the club off – bringing to an end a proud village club that had been in existence since 1897.

As the wicket covers had been delivered on the same day they were attacked, the club had not had time to insure them.

Sean said all three covers had been attacked and the damage appeared to have been done with a knife.

"This points to someone with a vendetta against the club rather than just a random person passing by. We can only presume that this was done by someone local who had either been out earlier in the day in the area and had seen the covers.

"A lot of dog walkers use the field, apparently under the

impression it is a public space rather than a cricket club.

"We had purposely chosen the colour of the covers to be green as opposed to blue or white, to make them less conspicuous from the road, and so that they wouldn't be considered an eyesore by local residents."

The three covers had been chained together for security as the club has suffered vandal attacks before. Sightcreens have been damaged or destroyed and the pavilion has also been attacked.

Repairs have been carried out to the wicket covers, but the club is reluctant to leave them on the field in case the vandals strike again. They are looking into the possibility of having CCTV cameras installed on the ground.

The club's annual Fun Day at the nearby Chat Moss Hotel is on Sunday August 30.

It's the main fund-raising event of the year and usually raises money for ground improvements and other investments in the club's future.

But this year funds raised will be needed for repairs to the wicket covers.



Parish council welcomes new member

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has welcomed its newest member after councillors unanimously approved the appointment of Glazebury resident Anne Roberts.

She was co-opted to the council and has taken up her role as councillor for Glazebury and Mee Brow, following the resignation of Cllr Angela Duncombe earlier in the year for personal reasons.

Cllr Roberts was warmly welcomed by chairman Cllr Chris Vobe at her first meeting.

She said: "I am delighted to join my colleagues on the Parish Council and have the opportunity to represent the residents of Glazebury, Mee Brow and Fowley Common.

"Labour has already done so much for our community – and I will ensure that our strong record of delivering for local people

continues.

"I am looking forward to working alongside Cllrs Chris Vobe, Matt Smith and Joan Grime, and can't wait to get straight down to work."

Cllr Vobe said: "In Joan and Anne, Glazebury and Mee Brow residents are represented by two parish councillors who are unrivalled in their dedication, commitment and determination to get the best deal for our villages.

"Although councillors of both political parties were saddened by Cllr Duncombe's departure from the council, we are confident that Anne will continue her work admirably. She has already rolled up her sleeves and getting stuck in to her new role."

As well as attending meetings of the parish council, Cllr Roberts will also serve on the law and order and planning sub-committees.



Cllr Chris Vobe welcomes Cllr Roberts at her first meeting.

Unused land to become private gardens

PLANNERS have given the green light to a proposal to convert an area of unused land into private gardens at Culcheth.

The land – owned by the borough council – lies to the rear of houses in Wellfield Road and to the side of one house in Heswall Avenue.

It will become additional garden areas for two houses in Wellfield Road and a property in Heswall Avenue.

Planning officers said the change of use of the land would not cause any unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the area, or residential amenity.

Views of the site are limited from public vantage points, with the exception of some existing vegetation. Even though boundary fences, up to 2m high, could be erected, and the land would benefit from permitted development rights for the construction of outbuildings, the change of use would not have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the area.

Residents sing their old favourites

MEMBERS of Culcheth Choir spent an afternoon entertaining residents of Padgate House care home in Warrington.

They serenaded staff and residents – and the residents sang along to the well-known tunes, put in their own requests – and suggested the choir come back every day!

Staff from a local pet shop also dropped in at the home with a rabbit and guinea pig to let residents enjoy a cuddle with a furry friend.

Cllr Pat Wright, the borough council's lead member health and adult social care, said: "It's so important that care home residents feel part of the community and that we retain strong connections with partners.

"Our care services are such a valuable asset to the borough and these activities at Padgate House are just one example of the excellent work that goes into ensuring that some of our most vulnerable residents feel safe and happy in care settings across Warrington.

"I would like to personally thank all the dedicated staff at Padgate House and all our care homes across the town for their continuous hard work."



Residents sing along with members of the Culcheth Choir.

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