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Issue: 152  
November 2015

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## Green shoots of success

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# Editor's Comment



REPORTS in this month's issue that police officers and PCSOs are taking up to two hours to reach their patrol beats in the Culcheth area are a little worrying to say the least.

Crime Commissioner John Dwyer is adamant the new policing policy, which involves officers reporting in at Warrington each day, is helping provide a better policing service.

Well I suspect the proof will eventually be in the pudding.

I do struggle to understand the need for officers to physically attend briefing sessions centrally before they report to their respective beats in the modern world of email and video conferencing e.t.c.

We have yet to report on any

incidents involving police officers being delayed into responding to an incident due to having to travel from Warrington to Culcheth - but I fear it will only be a matter of time before we receive some complaints.

From our own perspective the centralising of the policing units in Warrington have not improved lines of communication - if anything they have become more fragmented.

We will be watching this issue with interest over the coming months.

Meanwhile it is hard to believe Culcheth Victorian Day and Christmas is only just around the corner!!

Where does the year go?

As always this is an important time of the year for local businesses and we urge residents to shop local whenever possible.

## Decision delay

PLANNERS have put off a decision on a retrospective application to change a piece of open land in the Green Belt into a domestic garden.

Applicant John Hawthorne also wants permission to build a workshop and carport on the site in Lady Lane, Croft.

The application - a resubmission of one made in March which was refused - came before committee a second time with a recommendation for refusal.

But members requested more information before reaching a decision and deferred the item.

## Message of Hope event

AMNESTY International Warrington are holding their Annual Write for Rights event at Newchurch Parish Hall on Saturday December 5 between 11 am and 1.30 pm.

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# Police take up to two hours to reach Culcheth beat

POLICE officers and PCSOs are taking up to two hours to reach their "beat" areas in the Culcheth area, according to a local councillor.

The delays caused by the new police operating model are, at best "worrying" says Cllr Chris Vobe.

But most people find them "astonishing," he says.

Cllr Vobe has already met Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer to voice his concerns. But he remains unconvinced by the explanation he has received

The new police working system requires officers to attend a 20-minute briefing session in central Warrington at the start of each working day.

Only after that do they travel to the Culcheth area.

### Assurances

Cllr Vobe says he has heard from officers who say they sometimes take up to two hours to reach their patrol areas following the briefing. The Police and Crime Commissioner had given assurances, but local people were not convinced.

"We've heard from officers in the Warrington East area that, on occasion, it is taking them up to two hours to reach their patrol areas from Charles Stewart House in the centre of Warrington.

"This is time that officers could spend on the beat. By blindly continuing to drive this programme forward, it is tantamount to him forcing police off our streets.

"We are told by officers that there is no defined way for them to reach their destination. Sometimes, a car is provided, most times it is not. PCSOs are having to 'catch a lift' from whoever is heading in the same direction as they are.

### Bus

"When a lift is not available, they are having to walk to the Bus Interchange and wait for the next bus to their patrol areas. The whole journey is taking as much as two hours.

"These delays are putting PCSOs and local officers in an untenable position, all for the sake of a 20-minute briefing which the Commissioner refuses to utilise new technology to deliver.

"Villages like Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft are feeling the effects."

But Mr Dwyer hit back.

He said: "I met with Cllr Vobe, and senior officers of the Constabulary, last month to discuss the implementation of the new policing approach in Warrington.

"At the meeting the Constabulary provided substantial detail and assurance about how centralised deployment was benefitting intelligence-led policing in the town. It was clearly explained that officer and PCSO time on patrol is not being adversely impacted by the changes. The local Chief Inspector also spelt out the positive impact that the new approach is having on the unit's productivity

and its ability to combat crime, which, as was explained, is at its lowest level for a generation.

"The changes which have been introduced have enabled us to make savings while investing more in the frontline. Across Cheshire this means committing an additional 130 officers to frontline police services, recruiting 53 new officers by April 2016, and maintaining the 220 existing PCSOs who work across the county.

"Cllr Vobe's ongoing attack on the operational effectiveness of the Constabulary does not reflect the reality of the brilliant work that is being done."



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# Lucky 13 for Deadly Dediccoat

THE BBC's Alan 'Deadly' Dediccoat, the voice behind Strictly Come Dancing and the Lottery Show, will be visiting Culcheth for the thirteenth consecutive year on Sunday, November 16 to host his quiz in aid of BBC Children in Need.

The venue as usual is The Royal British Legion Club, Wigshaw Lane. Tickets cost £10.00 including supper and are available either from the bar of the Legion or from Elaine Durrington - phone 01925 764697. All proceeds from the quiz go directly to BBC Children in Need.

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"Have you been doing this because you're a member of a gym that promises you the earth takes your money and forgets about you unless they are trying to sell you something."

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## Victorian Day is c

THE annual Victorian Day at Culcheth takes place this year on Saturday, November 28, kicking off the Christmas season with Santa switching on the lights and a massive firework display sponsored by Taylor Business Park.

As well as the usual Craft and

Gift Fayres, Santa’s Grotto, Art Exhibition, Children’s Activities and Competitions, and of course the fairground rides, there will be some brand new attractions.

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Cllr Matt Smith switches on the lights last year.

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# Coming to Culcheth

organisations rely on it to raise both much needed funds and public awareness, and of course, our local traders are ready and waiting to welcome you - put the date in your diary now!

There is still time for businesses to support the event by taking space in the Event Programme which is distributed to homes in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft.

It a great opportunity for those

businesses (even those that do not deal directly with consumers) to demonstrate their support for the local community.

A quarter page is just £50, including artwork! - email [culchethvicday@mail.com](mailto:culchethvicday@mail.com) for details, or call Lion Frank on 07760 178989.



Santa's Grotto

Arresting times for Victorian Policeman

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Their website aims to give people a small insight into their dogs' school life and a glimpse of what they have to offer. Only by visiting, will people experience the true atmosphere created by the staff and dogs themselves.

In these ever changing times of Social responsibility Wags are aware that as the leading force in Dog care they too are responsible. They aim to help guide the legislative bodies to create any new laws for dogs and their owners, which is inevitable in the next few years.

The Wags Team would be delighted to show people around the centre to witness how much their dogs enjoy learning.

Their love for dogs has made them very successful at what they do and whilst Wags Doggy Day Care is a business, it is a business very much based on ensuring that their furry friends are not only happy but loved just as much by us

as by their parents.

Having now got the 1,000 members at Worsley it wasn't rocket science to find a beautiful place like Taylor's Business park for our next centre.

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Wags Doggy Day Care is now waiting and ready to welcome furry friends to their new centre for a great time whilst parents are at work or play.

Please feel free to come and view their new facilities.



## Councillor tells developers to "get their act together"

A COUNCILLOR has called on developers to "fulfil their obligations" following completion of a housing estate on a former wartime camp site at Croft, Warrington.

Cllr Chris Vobe, a member of Warrington Borough Council and Croft Parish Council, says developers Elan Homes must "get their act together" and deliver on promises they made before completing the estate off Lady Lane.

He said: "It is not acceptable for them to ignore the surrounding community now that their development is complete.

"We want to see the village environment kept at a high standard and I will be holding the developers to account in this regard."

Elan Homes recently completed work on the Gosling Park Estate but a number of residents have complained that work has been left undone.

Cllr Vobe said: "I am very strongly supporting residents on Lady Lane, Emerald Drive and Latona Close, who have put up with a great deal of disruption whilst Elan Homes have developed their new estate.

"We warmly welcome the new residents on the former HMS Gosling site to our village community and we are sure that they will find that the village has a great deal to offer.

"However, now that development is complete, Elan Homes have outstanding obligations which they must fulfil. A large section of the pavement on Lady Lane has been dug up during the construction and hasn't been relayed - it looks a disgrace.

"This is a very-well used route through the village and pedestrians are currently having to struggle across rough stones where tarmac should rest.

"There is a large section of open space between the new housing development and existing properties on the lane. This is overgrown with shrubbery and Himalayan weeds.

There is no sign of any swift action on the part of Elan Homes in removing this unsightly overgrowth.

"On the new housing estate itself, part of the public footpath has been uprooted and cones laid around the kerb. It has simply been left like this for weeks on end with

no sign of any reinstatement work.

"Finally, the council have been assured that the developers will bear the cost for the resurfacing of Lady Lane from Emerald Drive to the junction with Mustard Lane.

"This will be crucial in helping us to address long standing highway maintenance issues which have been heightened by construction vehicles' heavy use of the road."

A spokesperson for Elan Homes said: "Contractors are scheduled to complete all outstanding finishing

works to roads and footpaths at Gosling Park in Croft within the next few weeks. This work will include any resurfacing of Lady Lane that is stipulated in a legal agreement with Warrington Borough Council.

Work on the treatment of Himalayan weeds is ongoing and is being undertaken in accordance with the long term management plan required by the planning permission. We apologise for any inconvenience caused during the completion of these works."





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 f Wags Doggy Day Care Centre Warrington f  
 For more information call: 01925 640139



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*We look forward to welcoming old and new faces*

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Howard Doherty is Matt Finish's local branch owner based in Astley, near Worsley. He explains that being the UK's original kitchen re-spraying company they makeover hundreds of kitchens each year. In doing so they have come up with a system of painting a kitchen, in situ, usually in less than a week. By giving it a new lease of life and putting the WOW back, they leave customers astounded with the finished result.

They only use quality paints and almost any colour and finish is achievable.

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Howard further explained that 80% of their work comes from referral, so once a kitchen, bedroom or furniture are re-sprayed, the word spreads and the diary starts to fill up quickly. They are already taking bookings for the remainder of this year and into next, meaning now is a good time to make your enquiry to avoid any disappointment.

Visit [www.matt-finish.co.uk](http://www.matt-finish.co.uk) to read testimonials, view finished kitchens and watch a video of how it's done.

To speak to Howard and obtain your own no obligation quote, call him on 07905 811825.

## Green fingers show shoots of success at annual show

CULCHETH and District Horticulture Society held their annual show at Newchurch Church Hall recently.

Pictures show (front cover) Dahlia Judge Stuart Clensy and steward Jeff Johnson examining the Dahlias and right, Treasurer Celia Crow and Secretary and Vegetable Judge Don Booth weighing in a 9 lb 3.45 oz Onion!



# Alex's unforgettable passage to India

A CULCHETH girl is back home after taking part in a Girlguiding trip to India.

Alex Heald, a member of the 7th Culcheth Senior Section was part of the NWE Guiding Overseas Linked with Development (GOLD) trip to the sub-continent.

It started with a sight-seeing weekend in Delhi where the party saw the Taj Mahal and experienced many other things including an unforgettable ride in a powered rickshaw.

They then went to Jodhpur where they stayed for most of the trip, travelling by jeep every weekday morning to a local school to work on a project.

Alex said: "As a team we sanded, sawed, drilled, screwed and painted to create 14 desks and 14 benches for the children to use. As well as this, some members helped with the plumbing of a toilet so that there was a sink and running water.

"Inside the classroom we designed and painted a mural to brighten up the room and help the children learn some English.

"The afternoons were spent on tours where we would see a lot of the history through temples and forts as well as having a quick camel safari, a zip wire and a weekend trip to Jaipur for an elephant ride and a Bollywood film in an Indian cinema!"

After two weeks they moved on to the Sangam World Centre for two nights where they experienced different Indian crafts like henna, Bollywood dancing, traditional painting and games.

They then made a last stop in Mumbai before heading home.



Alex added: "It really was a truly amazing experience that I'm sure none of us will forget - although we have had enough curry to last a life time!

"I feel privileged to have been selected to go on this trip and have been sharing my experiences with anyone and everyone who is willing to listen."

## Glazebury Scouts but parish in the picture

SCOUTS from Glazebury were given an opportunity to put councillors in the hot seat when Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council hosted a special Q&A session for them.

The Scouts attended the monthly meeting of the council as part of their work on exploring the roles of local government.

They had earlier received a special presentation from Cllr Matt Smith on the workings of the parish and borough councils.

After the usual business was concluded, the scouts had the opportunity to take part in a special with councillors.

Topics they grilled councillors on ranged from bus services to broadband provision.

The scouts also supported calls for a new pedestrian crossing on Warrington Road near Bents Garden Centre and for

improvements to the play area at Eden Avenue on Mee Brow.

At the end of the meeting, scouts got the opportunity to wear the ceremonial chains of office which are worn by the council chairman each year. They took turns to try on the chains and discussed the history of the parish with members, from its creation in 1212.

Speaking after the meeting, chairman Cllr Chris Vobe said:

"We were delighted to welcome Glazebury Scouts to our meeting and thank them for their superb contributions. They were polite, well-informed and articulate throughout.

"It was great to meet so many young people from the villages, and the interest and awareness they showed in the local community and the decision-making process was a real credit to our villages.

"Councillors were pleased to

be able to discuss a number of issues with them, and they've even sent us away with some follow up enquiries! The meeting provided a great opportunity, not just for the members of the Scouts to learn more about local government, but

for us as councillors to get their input and feedback into some of the many issues that the parish council is working on."

*Pictured: Scouts and councillors after the meeting.*



# A history of underwear!

NAUGHTY but nice – that was the theme of guest speaker June Corner's speech at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI.

She took along a very large suitcase to demonstrate the history of underwear in the last 200 years.

Before the 1800s knickers were not worn but she was about to show some early 19th century "drawers" as they were called, hand-sewn, long in the leg with the owner's name in ink and no gussets at first.

Later examples had pouches for bustles! There were early 20th century specimens, still long and bulky, and the 20s and 30s saw shorter styles in silk and rayon and pretty colours.

June's collection went right up to the briefs and thongs of the late 20th century. Her suitcase also contained beautiful undershirts, and all-in-one "combinations".

She produced stays (even toddler-sized) and early 20th century corsets and strange early bras. Twentieth century roll-on girdles were there as well and 19th century men's long underpants with knee-length versions to go under jodhpurs. June's amazing collection came from antique fairs and charity shops.

She was warmly thanked by Barbara Delve and then judged the October competition – A Pair of Naughty Knickers. Jean Riley took first prize, followed by Lesley Lloyd and Aileen Paterson.

After tea served by Maureen Draper, Joan Hunt and Helen Slattery the business meeting began with thanks to Dot Appleton from Doreen Procter for the vase and mixed bouquet given for the president's table and raffle.

Secretary Jean Riley reminded members of the Christmas Party and the November Photo Competition. Also there was an offer of holly from Lesley Lloyd's garden and a reminder of the Mosslands meeting on October 28 and the monthly walk. The AGM was held with reports on the Centennial Supper, fund-raisers and trips and outings.

Eileen Griffith is the new speakers' secretary. Finally Phyllis Longson proposed a vote of thanks to all the committee.

The November topic is "Women in the Mines" and the speaker is Graham Stirrup.

## Art exhibition tribute to founding member

CULCHETH Afternoon Art Group are holding their annual Art Exhibition on November 27/28, from 10am to 4pm on both days, at the Culcheth Centre, Jackson Avenue, Culcheth.

A tribute to Jean Hockenhull, a founder member of the group, who sadly passed away recently, will include many of her paintings and sketch books.

Refreshments will be available and an opportunity to buy many of the paintings.

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## Your Questions Answered

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**Q** "My house will be empty over winter, have you any tips to keep it maintained?"  
*Mr Ball, Glazebury*

*"Ideally it would be prudent to keep your central heating at a minimum of 15c for a few hours each day. If this isn't possible, we would recommend a complete drain down of your system to avoid any frozen or burst pipes - also don't forget to let your insurer know that your property is vacant!"*

*Answered by Courtyard plumber*

**Q** "I'm looking at a house to buy, but I've noticed some cracks around the windows outside, do you think this is a serious issue?"  
*Mr Parker, Culcheth*

*"This can be quite common in houses of a certain age due to lintel failure; however it shouldn't be too costly to overcome. If the cracks are only spreading from the windows, it is unlikely to be a serious issue and could just be as minor as the mortar being disturbed by recently replaced window. Feel free to call us and we can take a look - 01925 767000"*

*Answered by Richard, onsite forman*



If you have a property question, email the team on [info@courtyardhomes.co.uk](mailto:info@courtyardhomes.co.uk) and we will endeavour to answer some of them here each month.

# Courtyard

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