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Issue: 181
April 2018

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Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Advertising
James Balme

Freephone
0800 955 5247

Editorial
01925 623633

Email
info@culchethlife.com

Websites
www.culchethlife.com
www.frodshamlife.co.uk
www.lymmlife.co.uk
www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk
www.warrington.tv

Address
New Media Centre
Old Road Warrington
WA4 1AT

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Editor's Comment



IN these times of austerity, when councils are being expected to save money at every opportunity, it is quite understandable that we see examples of temporary repairs being carried out to try and put off more costly work.

But how often does this "make do and mend" policy actually end up saving money?

We suspect not – and two local examples spring to mind.

In Warrington Road, Culcheth, local parish councillors are to press the borough council to do a proper job on replacing railings which are continually being demolished when speeding cars career off the road.

In Mustard Lane, Croft, local parish councillors are grateful for pothole repairs recently carried out

by the borough – but wonder if a full resurfacing job would have been more effective on this busy road.

The Warrington Road, Culcheth, situation is not new, of course. We recall the issue being raised several times over the years. Each time there is an incident the railings are replaced – but only with the same type as before. Each time, the opportunity of upgrading to a more suitable barrier is missed.

Whether this is to save money, we don't know. But we are pretty sure that in the long run it hasn't saved any. And if there should ever be a fatality involving a pedestrian being crushed behind the railings it will

certainly be shown to have been a false economy.

At Croft, local councillors were receiving complaints from cyclists finding the potholes difficult to negotiate. One, apparently fell from his bike as a result of riding into a deep hole.

The pothole repairs have been reluctantly welcomed by the parish council – probably on the basis that it was better than nothing. But we have already heard of one cyclist who finds the repair work has done little to smooth a bump ride. So one wonders how long it will be before the holes need filling again.

Make do and mend can be acceptable in some circumstances – but not when road safety is involved.

**Copy
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Council in new call for late night buses

CROFT Parish Council is to renew its call for a late night bus service for the village.

Councillors have, for some time, complained about the fact that there are no buses from Croft at 7pm. But their calls have been in vain.

Now a development on the other side of the borough has rubbed salt in the wound.

Bus company Network Warrington has announced a new service to Knutsford.

Croft Parish Council chairman Keith Bland said: "I'm all for new services and I have no doubt extending a service to Knutsford will greatly benefit people in Lymm and High Legh. But it is no good to us.

"We have been asked for buses later than 7pm for Croft for years. There is nothing in either direction – neither to Warrington nor to Leigh.

"If you live in Croft and you haven't

got your own transport, you are trapped in the village. Young people who might want to go for a night out to the cinema in either Warrington or Leigh just can't get home.

"I appreciate that there may not be many people using such a service, but sometimes services have to be subsidised.

"We don't begrudge people on the other side of Warrington getting an improved service, but it is frustrating when there is a need here that is being ignored."

A Network Warrington spokesperson said: "We will always take residents' feedback on board to look at how we can improve our service across the network.

"We would love to be able to serve all areas of Warrington with a

frequent service and are committed to connecting as many of our communities as possible, but the number of customers using the bus in Croft is declining significantly. It is important that people in Croft use the buses in order to keep them running – patronage has reduced by 8 per cent year on year. This means less income to cover the costs of operation.

"The Croft service currently operates hourly, including at weekends, but the small number of people who use the service are such that a commercial evening service after 7pm would be unsustainable



Road works welcomed – but more needed!

BOROUGH Council contractors have been busy filling in potholes in busy Mustard Lane, Croft and parish councillors have expressed their appreciation.

The work has been carried out along the lane between the General Elliott pub and the junction with Glaziers Lane.

Chairman Cllr Keith Bland said: "They have done a good job and we really are appreciative. The road was in a terrible state and we were getting numerous complaints – particularly from cyclists.

"One apparently fell off his bike after hitting a pothole.

"However, it would have been better if the road had been completely resurfaced. The improvements carried out will probably only last for a short while, given the weight of traffic on the road.

"The parish council will carry on pressing for the road to be resurfaced."



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Club's new boardroom dedicated to memory of long-serving secretary

A NEW boardroom, dedicated to the memory of a long-serving Royal British League officer has been officially opened at Culcheth Village Club.

The Ian Ferguson Suite was opened by Ian's wife, Yvonne and grandsons Jordan and Benn.

Originally an office, the room was used by Mr Ferguson during the many years he served as secretary of the Culcheth and district Royal British Legion.

Village club chairman Paul Campbell welcomed the family to the club for the ceremony.

He said when the idea of a room dedicated to Mr Ferguson's memory was first raised it received unanimous support throughout the club and the local Royal British Legion branch.

The room will be available for hire and use by the club committee for many years to come and will be a fitting tribute to the many years of service provided by Mr Ferguson as secretary of the British Legion and as a member of the Village Club committee.

Mrs Ferguson thanked the club and in particular Warren Bibby for the effort and support to upgrade the room and unveiled the brass plaque naming it the Ian Ferguson Suite.



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Planners defer decision on caravan site

PLANNING chiefs have agreed to allow a long-standing site for touring caravans at Rixton to stay in business - but have deferred a decision on an application to allow the site to be used for permanent residential caravans.

Members of the borough council's development management committee put off the second decision at Holly Bank Caravan Park, in Warburton Bridge Road, after hearing there was an objection from Rixton Parish Council.

Officers recommended both applications for approval - but

admitted that at present it could only be concluded that currently the site operated mainly as an unauthorised permanent residential site, with only 21 out of 121 pitches being used by touring caravans.

Some 100 caravans were said to have been on the site for more than 11 years and it was assumed

they were the main, or sole, place of residence for their occupants.

The site is in the Green Belt - and Rixton Parish Council's objection is on the grounds that the site would become a permanent residential site and not, as permitted, a transit site for touring caravans for periods of up to 28-days only.

They suggested that if a change was approved, use of the site should be limited to a 10-month period with the site closed, possibly, during November and December.

The committee was told the site was granted permission for 30 touring caravans in 1978. Subsequently the number was increased and permission was given for five static caravans.

In 2005 permission was refused for an extension to the site - but no pitches were in fact created and an enforcement notice was served.

The owner now wished to regularise the situation but with a reduced number of pitches.



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Safety fencing needed

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council is calling for improved fencing at an accident blackspot where pedestrians are at risk from vehicles careering off the road.

The danger spot is in Warrington Road, near the former New Inn where railings on the left hand side of the road, heading towards the village, have been repeatedly hit by cars.

On one occasion, the railings were pushed inwards hard up against the wall of nearby flats.

Cllr Keith Bland said: "Parents walk along here, taking their children to school. If anyone had been there at the time of the crash they could have been killed or seriously injured."

"We have approached the borough council but have been told that neither they nor the police

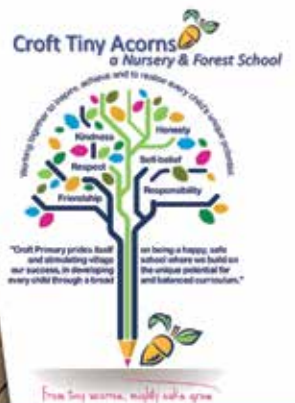
Five days of ski-ing for pupils

A PARTY of 22 pupils and three staff from Birchwood High School enjoyed an exhilarating five day ski-ing trip to Austria.

The group survived the 26-hour coach journey and ferry crossing without any travel sickness and there were no reports of injuries on the ski slopes despite a number of beginners in the party.

There were also opportunities for swimming and dancing and partying before the journey home.

Only complaint was of tired legs – and the staff contingent reported impeccable behaviour by the pupils who, they said, they would gladly take again.



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at accident blackspot

have any record of accidents at this point.

"It may be that there have been no accidents involving injuries but there have been three or four collisions with the fence in recent months. I am sure the borough council must have a record of the number of times they have had to repair the railings – and how much it has cost.

"What is needed is stronger, motorway-style railings which would prevent vehicles from coming off the road.

"We could also do with something to slow traffic down at this point."

The parish council is pressing the borough for action – before there is a serious accident.



Bungalow extension given the green light

PLANNING chiefs have given the green light for an extension to a dormer bungalow in Wellfield Road, Culcheth.

Members of the borough council's development management committee approved the scheme after planning officers had assured them a cabrio balcony window at the rear would not cause any significant overlooking for loss of privacy for neighbours.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council had not opposed the scheme but had suggested the impact of the balcony window on neighbours should be considered.

Councillors were told the

property had a small garden and area of hardstanding at the front but a large garden at the rear.

The extension would have a flat roof and uPVC roof lantern. It would enable a reconfigured kitchen and dining area to be created.

The loft conversion would be used for a new bedroom with en-suite but the property would still have two bedrooms as an existing ground floor bedroom would be replaced by an additional lounge area.

Three roof lights would be installed in addition to the balcony window.



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Simon Bax,
Plant Area Specialist

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- Plant up hanging baskets with fuchsias and other basket plants and then hang them up in your greenhouse to establish
- Many of the birds (that you put up nest boxes for!) will have young now and need help with food

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Celebrating 50 years making and breaking news

CULCHETH Life's publishers Orbit News Ltd is celebrating a golden year of making and breaking news in the town.

Founded by David Skentelbery in 1968, and now led by David's son Gary, Orbit News originally set up as a news agency breaking exclusives for the major national newspapers and continues to break news online via a daily online newspaper which runs alongside a range of free, monthly magazines read by more than 100,000 people every month, including its flagship publication Warrington Worldwide.

David – now aged 80 – stills works hand-in-hand with Gary on Orbit News' online and in print publications, which include Lymm Life, Village Life (serving Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Appleton and High Legh), Culcheth Life, Frodsham Life and Lifestyle.

"My father is an incredible man and, despite being 80, he continues to enjoy the cut and thrust of making and breaking news for our online and offline publications," said Gary, who launched the magazine arm of the company in 1999 with former Warrington Mercury colleague Paul Walker, who heads up production.

In the tradition of many family businesses, David and Gary have received incredible support from their wives Patricia and Janet in accounts, with Gary's daughter Hannah also recently joining the business to focus on digital content.

"News is in the Skentelbery

DNA, it's what we've always done in the 50 years since Orbit News opened its doors for the first time," added Gary.

To mark the company's 50th anniversary, Gary a former pupil at Culcheth High School will be raising funds for the Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Peace Foundation through a series of charity fundraising events, including 10k run and 24-hour tennis marathon later this year.

This year sees the 25th anniversary of the Warrington bombing, which claimed the lives of the two young boys. It is something incredibly close to the heart of Gary.

"I remember the day vividly," he said. "I was heading to play in a football match – so I was dressed in my goalkeeper kit – when I received the call into Orbit News from a national newspaper asking us to get to Bridge Street. I rushed to the scene, walking through the back streets and stepped straight into where the bomb had gone off. It was a scene I will never forget."

"Despite all the pain the town went through – and the families in particular – Colin and Wendy have since gone on to become special friends and we're incredibly proud to champion the charity and all the amazing work they do in our 50th year," said Gary, who is now the Peace Foundation's longest serving

patron. He also sits on the board of the town's Chamber of Commerce and Warrington Disability Partnership.

He also spent 10 years on the board at local football club, Warrington Town, serving as Chairman for several years before

retiring as a director last year.

As well as a series of fundraising challenges throughout 2018, Orbit News is sponsoring the Warrington Business Awards and will be giving back through a range of events and activities to support young people and businesses in the town.



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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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Community Day, Monday 7th May Taking Place on the Culcheth Village Green (Alternative venue Shaw Street Car Park)

Trapeze Artist Display- Children's Circus Workshop- Kevin the Clown

Programme of Events from mid-day (all times are approximate)

12.00 Official opening by the Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Chairman

12.15 Kevin the Clown

12.30 Circus Workshop throughout the day

1.00 Trapeze Artist Display.

Fun Fair Rides

1.30 Karate Display

Refreshments & Ice Cream

2.15 Kevin the Clown.

2.45 Trapeze Artist Display

Motor Bikes & Tractor Display

3.15 Pet Show and judging of Classic Cars.

3.45 Beat the Speedometer Competition

Classic Cars

4.15. Close.

Come and support the many charities and organisations who have set out their stalls on the Green. Music and interviews by Radio Warrington.

Newchurch War Memorial

In February the Parish Council agreed to make a significant donation to renovate the war memorial at Newchurch Parish Church. The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Peter Holmes confirmed "On receiving the request and viewing the monument it is clear that it deserved some attention, especially in regards to the names of the fallen, which needed to be made clear once more. Over the years the monument has weathered. I proposed that we made the contribution, which was unanimously passed, and we are proud to significantly contribute and assist the British Legion in renovating the memorial".

Speeding and Parking

We are rolling out a programme of Speed Indicator Devices as we are well aware of problems in the villages. We continue to argue for further solutions. An important issue in planning proposals is the necessary off road parking and we make that argument where necessary.

Law and Order

The Police hold Community Meetings/ Surgeries in Culcheth Library. For up to date information go on the Cheshire Police website and put in your postcode. Information is also in the Library.

HS2

The HS2 engineers and environmental researchers are preparing information on route 2b which includes the Golborne Link. Their report will go out for consultation in Autumn/ Winter this year. In the meantime if you have any information on the route, or questions, let us know. Plans are in the Library. There are also proposals being made by Transport for the North and other groups which are about East - West rail connections.

The Draft Local Plan

This will also appear later this year but we expect a new timetable from the Borough Council before then. The NPPF, the National Planning Policy Framework which our Local Plan has to satisfy, is currently being revised.

Logistics Proposals

We have objected to the proposals for Parkside and asked that they and Haydock Point be called in to be considered together because of the traffic impact on Motorways and Local roads. More generally there needs to be an overview of the combined impact of all large proposals that put even more traffic on our roads and motorways.

Publication of information

The Parish Council has adopted a publication of Information scheme. Details of who we are, what we do and how the public can access information is published on the main notice boards, in Culcheth Library and on our website www.culchethandglazebury.org.uk

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Champagne quiz night – howzat for a start to the cricket season!

GLAZEBOURY Cricket Club is holding a pre-season Quiz Night on Saturday, April 7 – with champagne on arrival and complimentary bottles of wine for each team.

The event at Glazebury Scout Hut is only the second of its kind held by the club and follows on from the great success of the inaugural event held last year.

Refreshments will be provided – soup and sandwiches, cheese and crackers and there will be a prize for the winning team.

Cost of entry is £50 per team of four.

To enter a team, contact Simon Green on 07392 840960.

GCC All Stars cricket for children aged 5-8 starts at the Hurst Lane ground on May 12.

The scheme offers boys and girls with eight weeks of non-stop fun with an activity and game-based programme suitable for all skill levels, providing youngsters with the foundations to begin a lifelong love of physical activity and cricket while making friends in a safe and enjoyable environment.

League cricket starts on April 21 when Glazebury 1st XI will travel to Bowdon Vale while the 2nd XI will take on the Bowdon Vale second string at Hurst Lane.

The Cheshire Cricket League season ends on September 15.

Pupils and teachers dress for World Book Day



FOR World Book Day this year, every class at Culcheth Primary School chose an author to focus their activities on throughout the day.

The children (and teachers!) dressed up as characters from books written by their class author.

They also ran a school sponsored read event which raised just under £350 for the 'Read For Good' charity.

School wins 'silver' in maths challenge

A TEAM of four Year 10 pupils from Birchwood High School travelled to Manchester University to take part in a mathematics challenge.

They were up against some of the top schools in the Manchester area, including Manchester Grammar, Bolton Independent School and Urmston Grammar.

It was a very close run contest, with Birchwood scoring strongly in each round.

At the end, they had scored enough to come runners-up, claiming the "Silver" after being beaten by just one point by Manchester High School for Girls.



Culcheth Tyres on the road to further success under new ownership

CULCHETH Tyres based on Taylor Business Park is under new ownership following the retirement of Tony and Pat Salt.

New owner Iain Cameron says being given the opportunity to take over Culcheth Tyres was one he simply couldn't miss and is expanding the business to include MOTs and full servicing as it re-brands as Culcheth Tyre & Auto Care Ltd.

He said: "Tony and Pat have worked hard to build up this successful business but hopefully with my 11 years worth of experience in the trade and adding some new products and services we can make it even more successful."

"Tony is widely respected in motorcycle racing and I realise these are big shoes to fill but I have honed my skills working on prestige and performance cars in both a main dealer environment and at motor racing circuits."

"I pride myself on the wide verity of vehicles I've worked on, every thing from 1920's Rolls Royce to building GT3 Bentley Racers from the shell up at the multiple world rally championship winning team M-Sport!"

"Other vehicles I've worked on include Ferrari's, Porches, Lotus and Nissan GTR's - one thing that

unites them all is they all need tyres!

Meanwhile the company structure is not completely changing. Culcheth Tyres long serving Technician Dave Johnson remains with the company

Iain added: "Dave is one of the best tyre fitters I've seen and he's a real asset to the team".

Tony Salt was in motorcycle racing from the late 1960's and started importing Michelin Motorcycle tyres as they were not available in the UK at the time.

In 1997 he set up TST Tyres supplying and fitting motorcycle tyres. It was not long before he was inundated with requests to supply and fit car tyres. He renamed the business as Culcheth Tyres and Autocare.

Tony started racing motorcycles in the 1960s, and in the late 1970s started supplying racing tyres to fellow competitors. Over a period of time he developed a relationship with Michelin, which meant he was directly involved with their efforts in the Grand Prix arena, supplying tyres to many of the top class riders of the day, including Barry Sheene.



Labour celebrate election victory



LABOUR are celebrating after a 225-vote victory over the Liberal Democrats in a by-election for a vacant seat on Birchwood Town Council.

Julia Ellis claimed the seat for Labour with 73.3 per cent of the vote.

The result in Locking Stumps ward was:

Julia Ellis (Lab) 353; Matt Scott

(Lib Dem) 128.

After the result was declared, Julia said: "I am delighted to have been elected to Birchwood Town Council and would like to thank voters in Locking Stumps for the

trust and faith they have placed in me. I can't wait to get straight to work for our local community."

A spokesperson for Warrington North Labour Party said: "We are delighted with the election of Julia Ellis to Birchwood Town Council. Julia will be a passionate voice for

Locking Stumps and deliver on her commitments to local residents."

The turnout was 17.8 per cent and there were 11 spoilt ballot papers.

Picture shows new councillor Julia Ellis, celebrating with supporters.

"Women of World War 1"

SPEAKER Graham Stirrup gave an illustrated talk entitled "Women of World War 1" at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI.

The talk had been well researched and was well illustrated with old film, documents and facts provided by the Imperial War Museum and some were quite a revelation to members, although

others were well known.

Earlier, president Margaret Hornby had welcomed members who sang "Jerusalem". After tea the meeting continued with WI business and information about various sub-groups.

Social trips include a visit to The Brindley to see "Oklahoma" and the craft group are planning a

demonstration of an Easter flower arrangement for all to attempt.

The Mossland group of WI's plan a trip to Trentham Gardens, and a social gathering featuring a magician. Village events were mentioned, also the Denman coffee appeal.

Some members are participating in a short course in the "Alexander

technique", and are looking forward to the benefits.

A photo of the carol concert was on view and the president showed a photo-map of her recent nine week tour of South America.

Next month will be Glazebrook WI's 72nd birthday party with a special tea and music from a GI themed WW2 group.

WI celebrates 59th birthday

NEWCHURCH WI celebrated its 59th birthday with tea and cake served by Ann Langridge and Joan Tilbury.

The evening's speaker was Zoe Chaddock, a retired librarian from Culcheth who gave an interesting and informative talk about the Culcheth Workhouse, built in 1749 and finally demolished in 1971 along with the School House.

Its inmates came from parishes all around Culcheth and in return for basic keep they had to obey strict rules. They had to attend church twice each Sunday and any swearing was punished by a penny fine each time. Their main jobs were weaving and cleaning and the working day began at 6 a.m.

In 1770 the workhouse had 50 inmates including children. They

all received free medical care, provided by three doctors.

Zoe's research on the workhouse is ongoing and she asked if any members had photos or information that they might share. Kath Hanley gave the vote of thanks and Zoe judged the March Competition (A Pair of Clogs). Lesley Lloyd was the winner with Barbara Delve and Doreen Procter coming second and third.

At the next meeting on April 11 Brian Tuohey will be talking about the "History of Birchwood". The meeting in Newchurch Parish Hall starts at 7.30 pm and visitors are welcome.

Reader's Letter

Please send Reader's Letters to: Culcheth Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT or email: info@culchethlife.com

Message for dog owners

TC, Culcheth

HOW can we get dog owners to appreciate that picking up their dogs excrement in a black plastic bag is not the end of their responsibility?

My walks around Culcheth are spoiled by those black bags discarded on the pavement or hanging from trees. After a time it becomes an obsessive hate. I cannot understand the mentality of dog owners, in an area like Culcheth, who think that this is acceptable behaviour. If you love your dog then take full responsibility for owning it.

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Landlords set to have their purse strings tightened further



THE FACTS!

It appears never ending, the constant attacks that threaten to drive your once thriving business into despair. So what's going on?

The three main things are:

- Tenant fee ban
- 3% additional stamp duty on second home purchases
- Withdrawal of mortgage relief

Fee ban changes

The draft bill awaiting parliamentary consent indicates that reference fees and indeed all fees normally charged by the landlord (or acting agent) other than contractual default fees will be banned. Furthermore tenancy deposits will be limited to 6 weeks rent and holding deposits are limited to one week's rent.

3% additional stamp duty

If you buy a property as a buy to let or a holiday home and you already own a property as a main residence then you are now subject to an additional 3% stamp duty on top of the standard stamp duty applied to property purchases.

Withdrawal of mortgage relief

This measure will restrict relief for finance costs on residential properties to the basic rate of Income Tax. This will be introduced gradually from 6 April 2017. Landlords will no longer be able to deduct all of their finance costs from their property income to arrive at their property profits. They will instead receive a basic rate reduction from their income tax liability for their finance costs.

Before April 2017, landlords could deduct their mortgage interest costs from their income when calculating their tax bill. And up until now, tenants have tended to foot the bill for tenancy agreements, referencing and credit checks. But under the announced changes, these costs would be passed on to landlords.

So what can be done to help ease the financial squeeze on landlords?

The number of landlords planning to reduce the volume of properties across their portfolios has hit a 10-year high – a trend which the National Landlords Association's attributes to tax changes. Whilst others are looking to up the rents to offset them, but is this really a good idea?

Here at Courtyard we are undertaking extensive research to assist landlords with the new perils they are facing. We have more information on our Facebook page: Courtyard landlord news forum, where you can join our landlord discussions, opinion polls and more.... or CALL 01925 767000 for expert advice.

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