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No. 73

April 2009

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Page 3

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment



NO security system will offer 100 per cent protection, but by general assent Culcheth feels a safer place since the CCTV cameras were installed at the junction of Common Lane and Lodge Drive.

So the parish council is right to take on responsibility for the system for the next three years.

The cost will be £3,500-a-year, but at the end of the three years the system will become the property of

the council and the annual cost will drop to £1,000 for maintenance.

This represents a good deal for Culcheth for the council will have the option of relocating the cameras up to four times a year should it be

thought necessary.

The police – who paid for the three-month trial period – are delighted with the performance of the system. High quality, pin-sharp images are obtained and can be monitored at Risley Police Station.

It is too soon to suggest that the presence of CCTV will mean an end to the serious robberies, etc., which have taken place in Culcheth in the recent past, but there is little doubt the cameras will be an invaluable additional detection tool for the police should there be further incidents.

They are also useful for deterring the more minor offences of social disorder, etc., which have also blighted the village.

For the village centre to prosper, people must feel secure and the CCTV undoubtedly helps achieve this.

Police dog on patrol

A POLICE dog has joined officers on routine patrols around Culcheth on Friday evenings – to the obvious surprise of the groups of youths gathering in the village centre.

"You could see the looks of amazement on some youths' faces and the dog's presence certainly brought about a general improvement in behaviour," PCSO Gina Dennett told the parish council.

Police have stepped up their patrols in the village centre on Friday nights because of the number of youths who gather on street corners.

They believe their increased presence has led to improved behaviour generally.

Speed campaign

POLICE are to target a number of "problem" roads in the Culcheth area with a tripod mounted speed camera. These include Twiss Green Lane, Wigshaw Lane, Common Lane and Warrington Road at Glazebury.

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Walk for water



NEARLY 100 people took part in the third annual 'Walk for Water' sponsored power walk at Culcheth to raise money for WaterAid – the charity which works to provide safe water, sanitation and hygiene education to some of the world's poorest people.

The walkers ranged from children to grandparents – with the youngsters having great fun carrying buckets on a short walk to collect balloons representing the water that people in some parts of the world have to walk long distances to gather.

The weather was good at the start, but then changed and the walkers had to battle through heavy hail storms.

One of the walkers said: "It made me think of the women in Africa, who may not be faced with hail, but have to go out every day, whatever the conditions".

The organisers expect to have raised at least £1200 once all the sponsorship is collected. This was the third Walk for Water at Culcheth and some walkers completed the walk wearing large blue buckets on their heads, while some wore colourful costumes, which helped to create a special atmosphere.

Plans are already being made for another power walk next year and anyone who would like to get involved or make a donation should visit www.angeld.f2s.com/walkforwater or www.wateraid.org for details.

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Comic Relief rocks high school

STAFF and students at Culcheth High School raised £1,500 for Comic Relief with an exciting range of activities on Red Nose Day.

A non-uniform day was themed on the colours of the rainbow, with each year group asked to wear a specific colour.

Sixth formers wore fancy dress – including many who attended in pyjamas and dressing gowns.

A cake sale at morning break time offered a variety of cakes made by

students, parents and staff.

Main focus of student activity was a 'Comic Relief Rocks' concert held at lunchtime. More than 150 students bought a £1 ticket to be entertained by four very talented school rock bands – Bazmaki, Signal Flare, Tixsi and Evil Sibling.

Headteacher Martyn Froggett said:



"The school enjoyed a carnival atmosphere and we all had a really great day. We raised over £1,500 for Comic Relief this year which was £200 more than we managed to raise last year.

"Well done to all staff, students and parents for their tremendous efforts and support."

Meanwhile at Culcheth Primary School parents and teachers staged a charity netball game as part of their Red Nose Day celebrations.



Top: Pupils at Culcheth High School give the thumbs up to Red Nose Day and above Culcheth Primary School's charity netball competitors.

New care unit opens at Ashberry House

ASHBERRY House in Woolston is a new purpose-built residential home for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

It stands on Longbarn Lane alongside Heathercroft Care Home, which has been providing excellent nursing and residential care at the heart of the local community for almost 20 years.

Tracey Perry is nurse manager of both Heathercroft and the new unit.

"With the opening of the new unit we are now able to offer a variety of care and support to local authority and privately funded residents on the one site. Heathercroft provides a home to 61 older people, while Ashberry House allows us to provide the type of specialised 24 hour care required by people suffering from dementia.

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Ashberry House can offer six places for privately funded residents who require EMI residential care. Please contact us to make an appointment, if you wish to look around the new unit or to obtain current fee rates.





Tracey Perry, RGN Registered Manager
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Tom and Matthew with Coun Bland, Coun Hutchinson and Anita Henderson.

Boys are poster contest winners

TWO pupils from Culcheth Primary School took the top prizes in a poster competition organised by parish council chairman Coun Ileyne Hutchinson to promote recycling.

The posters designed by Tom Frankish, who took the first prize and Matthew Cooper, who came second, have gone on show on public notice boards throughout the village.

Judges were Coun Hutchinson, Coun Keith Bland and local artist Anita Henderson and Coun Hutchinson arranged for the original posters to be framed and presented them to the two youngsters before the monthly meeting of the council.

She said: "The standard of the entries was extremely high, but these two stood out from the rest."

"I was particularly impressed by Tom's use of the 'Three Rs' in his poster - standing for Recycle, Reuse and Reduce."

Gardeners' question time

BUDDING gardeners are invited to pick up tips at a fundraising event organised by Glazebury All Saints Church.

A Gardeners' Question Time will be held on Friday April 24 from 7.30pm to 9pm at the church in Warrington Road.

Members of Newton-le-Willows Gardeners Association will answer questions from the audience. Entrance is £3 and money raised will go towards the church funds.

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'Host of golden daffodils'

A HOST of golden daffodils is to be planted at Glazebury - to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care's local nursing services.

The display will be planted at Bents Garden and Home as a 'Field of Hope' for the cancer charity which the company has named as its official charity of the year.

Visitors to the garden centre will be

able to "buy" a daffodil bulb which will be added to the field when it is planted on November 7 - Marie Curie's birthday.

There will also be a Book of Remembrance and everyone donating a bulb to the field can choose to add their own memories in a lasting tribute which will be held at the Centre.

Working with the Forestry Commission, Bents will plant its Field of Hope in Windy Bank Wood, located just behind the award winning garden centre.

Those donating bulbs will be welcome to join Bents, and teams from the Forestry Commission and Marie Curie, to help at the planting event.

The planting of the field is in line with Bents commitment to encouraging people of all ages to enjoy the great outdoors.

They will open two walks through

Windy Bank Wood - one family friendly and a longer ramble for more serious walkers. The walks will run past land donated by the Forestry Commission for the Field of Hope, which will be revealed when the daffodils appear in Spring next year.

There will be many more events throughout the year all of which will raise funds for the charity which provides free nursing care to cancer patients and those with other terminal illnesses in their own homes.

Managing director Matthew Bent said: "In 2004 Marie Curie launched a campaign to ensure more patients could make the choice to be cared for in their own homes. We have worked with Marie Curie to ensure that the money raised by customers and colleagues at Bents will be given directly to the local nursing services."



Matthew Bent with Anne-Marie Wynne of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Book shop's birthday - and author's visit

APRIL is a big month for sisters-in-law Victoria Simpson-Forrest and Naomi Simpson - owners of the Forget-Me-Not toy and book shops in Culcheth's CPS Centre.

On April 4 the book shop celebrates its first anniversary with the launch of a Children's Book Reward scheme - and on April 21 it brings popular author Erica James to Culcheth for a book-signing and talk about her new novel "It's the Little Things."

This will take place at Culcheth Library at 7pm because the book shop is too small to accommodate the expected number of visitors.

Tickets are on sale at the bookshop and library.

Erica James lives in Cheshire and has written 11 best sellers prior to her new book. One, "Gardens of Delight" won the Romantic Novel of the Year award.

The Children's Book Reward scheme involves children receiving a stamp on a reward card every time they buy a book. When they have collected 10 stamps they will receive a ForgetMeNot book token which can be redeemed in the shop.

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Local lad heads to Afghanistan

A SOLDIER from Culcheth has deployed on a six-month operational tour in Afghanistan.

The 4th Battalion, the Mercian Regiment, a Territorial Army infantry battalion, is deploying a company of 120 soldiers to provide force protection duties at Camp Bastion, the main UK base in Helmand Province.

All but one of the soldiers are Territorial Army soldiers, who would normally serve the British Army on a part-time basis.

The one Regular soldier is Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Steven Morrison, 36, from Culcheth, who will mentor and assist the TA soldiers throughout the important tour of duty.

The Company of 120 soldiers - known as Normandy Company - will deploy during the next few weeks, but WO2 Morrison has already departed for Afghanistan as a

member of the advance party.

The four MERCIAN soldiers will guard Camp Bastion, but will also often leave this camp to carry out patrols in the local vicinity and provide escorts for medical teams and convoys.

An experienced soldier, WO2 Morrison, a father-of-one and a former pupil of Culcheth High School, has served in the Army for 19 years. He has previously served in Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Iraq. This is his first operational tour of duty in Afghanistan.

He said: "My job will be to mentor the soldiers and sort out any issues that may arise. I will also be responsible for any in-theatre training. I will deploy out on the ground with them and give them guidance, where needed. They are all up for it and have adapted quickly. It is the usual mix - they come from all walks of life. We have police officers, students, a

postman and truck drivers."

The TA is an integral part of the British Army representing over a quarter of its total manpower. Hundreds of TA soldiers have deployed every year in recent years in support of British military operations, most to Iraq or Afghanistan. TA soldiers combine their everyday civilian lives and "day jobs" with a commitment to train as soldiers in their spare time, usually at evenings or weekends.



Self defence at the WI

SELF defence moves and advice on what to do if attacked were demonstrated to members of Lowton WI.

Speaker Mark Price from HKJ martial arts club gave a talk on personal protection. He told members how the law stated they could use 'reasonable force' to defend themselves in case of attack.

There was a question and answer session to clarify reasonable force. Then Mark and his colleague Terry Hudson gave a humorous demonstration of self defence moves which caused much laughter from the group.

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CULCHETH • LEIGH • ATHERTON

Culcheth goes

TRADERS and their staff have stripped off for a "Culcheth Gets Naked" calendar in memory of a popular local woman who died from cancer.

The calendar, to raise funds for St Rocco's Hospice, Warrington, is to be launched at the Duckegg Bluu restaurant in the village.

The calendar was the idea of Jo Heaton and her friend Chrissy McAreavey in memory of their friend Sally Czerwinka-Graham, 42, who was also involved in the early planning of the project before her death in December.

Sally was diagnosed with breast cancer more than three years ago and raised funds locally for cancer research before her death.

Jo and Chrissy have persuaded 13 businesses in Culcheth to each sponsor a page and staff from the businesses have pose naked for the various months.

Jo's friend, photographer Eleanor Lestrangle agreed to take the pictures.

Staff posed with strategically placed items associated with their business preserving their modesty.

Jo said: "It was quite emotional taking the pictures, because Sally could have been there. Now we just want to raise money for a really good cause."

The 2010 calendar will retail at £7.99 and the organisers hope to raise at least £4,000 for the hospice.

The calendar will be on sale in many shops in the village after the first week in May.



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Gardening tips

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April

Wildlife in the garden

Many birds will have families of young to feed, so ensure a plentiful supply of food is always available to them.

The fruit garden

It is a good idea to spray fruit trees with an insecticide and a fungicide this month to ensure a clean start to the new season, do not spray when the blossom is open, as this will kill bees and other pollinating insects.

The shrub border

Shrubs will appreciate a feed as they start to come back into growth. Magnolias will be flowering this month and it is an excellent time to visit your local garden centre and select new plants whilst they are in flower.

Care of herbaceous plants

Dahlia tubers may be planted in the garden this month in their flowering positions, Weed, and mulch established borders. A liquid feed may be given to encourage vigorous new growth.

In the greenhouse

There is plenty of work in the greenhouse now. As the temperature rises, plants will require an increased frequency of watering. Cuttings of plants such as Fuchsias & Geraniums which were taken earlier in the season should be stopped by pinching out the growing points, this will ensure a bushy plant with plenty of flowers in the summer.

Pond care

Ponds should be given a spring-cleaning. Overgrown aquatic plants should be split and replanted, discarding the older portions. Fish also will benefit from feeding, giving no more food than is consumed in 5 - 10 minutes.

Lawn maintenance

New lawns may be sown this month, and established grass should be fed now, if weeds & moss are a problem, the lawn may be treated with a combined weed and feed.

And a little extra . . . Why not freshen up your flowerbeds and inject an early burst of colour using gorgeous bedding plants such as petunias and begonias. These beautiful blooms will last throughout the summer months so use them freely to enhance your garden's colour scheme.



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Steering group will launch parish plan

FORMER local government officer Roger Taylor will lead a steering group to kick-start the proposed Culcheth Parish Plan.

A local businessman has also expressed an interest in joining the group which will set up the plan over the next two years ago.

But more volunteers from the local community will be needed and there will be a "Parish Plan" stall at Culcheth

Community Day on May 4 when local people will be encouraged to get involved.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council will be represented on the steering group by councillors Keith Bland, Jacqui Johnson and current

chairman Ileyne Hutchinson.

But the Parish Plan will have its own, completely independent organising body with its own chairman, secretary, treasurer, etc.

The group will be assisted by Cheshire Community Action, which has experience of setting up parish plans in other areas, and by

Warrington Borough Council.

Over a period of about two years, the Parish Plan will develop a shared vision for the future and eventually produce an action plan.

In other areas, parish plans have resulted in villages benefiting from developments such as a new £250,000 village hall and initiatives to combat youth hooliganism.



A story of lost love...

MEDIA production student Daniel Briney has started work making his second film in Culcheth - a story of lost love and regret.

Daniel, who is a student at Staffordshire University in Stoke-on-Trent, has been filming at the Royal British Legion Club, enlisting a number

of local people to take part in his production.

"Reminisce" tells the story of an elderly man who finds an old piano in a warehouse and, when he plays a few chords, is taken back years to when he played piano in a club and fell in love with the barmaid.

The moody drama is in complete contrast to the film Daniel shot in McDee's coffee shop last year.

That film "Coffee" was a quirky

comedy about a girl working alone in a coffee shop who becomes infatuated with a regular customer.

Daniel, formerly a pupil at Twiss Green Primary and Culcheth High schools, is directing the new film and doing the camera work as well. But he is backed by friends from university as well local residents Damian Boddy and Sarah McIver, who play parts in the film.

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Revenue gift horse?

Cash for losses

It isn't often the taxman offers to write you a cheque but new provisions outlined in the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report last November will soon be formalised in the Budget on April 22. These could offer a cash lifeline to businesses that have recently started to struggle and be worth up to £20,000 as a repayment of tax. However, good things never seem to last and this benefit will only be available for the 12 months to 23 November 2009.

Background

When companies or unincorporated businesses make trading losses in a given year there are usually only two ways these can be used:

1. Against profits of the previous year
2. Surplus losses not used in this way are automatically carried forward to use against future profits

The temporary new rules allow an extension of the 'carry-back' rule above to profits of the previous three years, up to a limit of £50,000.

How does it work?

If a business has made losses for accounting periods ending between 24 November 2008 and 23 November 2009 (e.g. 30 June 2009) these can be used against profits without limit of the previous year (30 June 2008), as before. Furthermore, any remaining losses up to the £50,000 limit can be used against any profits of earlier years (ending 30 November 2007 and 2006) and generate a cash repayment of tax paid for those years.

For companies this repayment could be worth up to £9,500 if tax was paid at the small companies rate or even £15,000 if companies paid at the higher rate for these periods. For unincorporated businesses an income tax repayment of up to £20,000 could be available.

What next?

If your business has recently started to struggle and you answer 'yes' to the following questions it may be worth considering a claim for this relief:

- Will your business report a loss during the period between 24 November 2008 and 23 November 2009?
- Do your losses for this period exceed profits of the year before?
- Was your business paying tax in 2007 or 2006?

Feeling left out?

If your company's accounting period falls outside these dates but you think you would otherwise have been able to benefit from this relief it may be worth considering a change to your accounting date. If you would like any further information feel free to contact Styles and Co.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.



If you would like more information on this or any of the previous subjects we have featured, please contact Les Styles or Ian Lloyd on 01925 761600.

**The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co
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Your Parish Councillors

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Paul Campbell
01925 766658



Mrs Lilian Houghton
01925 762935



Mrs Ileyne Hutchinson
01925 765131



Roger Rankin
01925 766038

NEWCHURCH WARD



Mrs Jacqui Johnson
01925 763435



Mrs Christine Rankin
01925 766357



Mrs Helena Campbell
01925 766658

GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Mrs Sue Bland
01925 766641



Peter Caswell
01942 671938

Look of the Borough Scheme

Warrington Borough Council 'Look of the Borough' teams are now beginning to work for the next 7 weeks in Culcheth, Mee Brow & Glazebury. The work includes tidying and cleaning up local grot spots, filling in pot holes, removing graffiti and gully cleaning. They already have a list that they are working on, but if you have a problem in your area please contact your local Parish Councillor and we will try and get them done during this period.

CCTV

The Parish Council has agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting to lease the CCTV set up which is at present situated on the corner of Lodge Drive and Common Lane at a cost of £3500 per year for 3 years. After 3 years the equipment becomes our own. Also in the contract is a clause which allows us to resite the CCTV 4 times a year to anywhere in the villages.

Warrington East Neighbourhood Board

It was agreed at the first meeting of the new Warrington East Neighbourhood Board that a grant of £3000 would be made available to the Friends of Linear Park Group to improve the infrastructure in the Park. This group is doing an excellent job, so well done everyone concerned! Your Parish Representative is Cllr Mrs Helena Campbell and your Borough Representative is Cllr Mrs Sue Bland.

Community Day

Just a reminder that Community Day which is held on the Culcheth Village Green is on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2009 Starting at 12.00noon and finishing at approx 4.30pm. Lots of Entertainment including a Pet Show and Tug o War, lots of Stalls and Classic Cars and Motorbikes. **Come along and have fun afternoon out.**

Rural Rider

The Parish Council has enquired about the re-routing down Shaw St and along Church Lane of the Rural Rider bus which operates, at the moment, 3 days a week. Warrington Borough Council have said that they will look at this request as soon as the retendering process has taken place, which should be in the next few months. So watch this space.

Schools celebrate World Book Day

CHILDREN at Newchurch Primary School dressed as Egyptians to mark World Book Day at the school.

Author Andrea Gouk, from Winwick, whose first book "Tales of the Smiling Buddha" is partly set in Egypt, visited the school and read excerpts from her book.

She also told the youngsters something of the history and culture of

the country.

Meanwhile children's author Rea Hayes visited Culcheth Primary School the same day to talk about her book "Avacado to Zucchini".

The two authors are pictured with pupils from the two schools.



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