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Issue: 85 April 2010

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End of an era

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Editor's Comment



IT has, by the standards of recent years, been a long, hard winter and the cold weather is still fresh enough in the memory to make it seem rather early to be talking about Culcheth Community Day.

But in fact, planning for the day is already well advanced and it is time to remind charities and other community groups in the area that, if they haven't already done so, it is time to get involved.

As usual, the event is on the May

Day Bank Holiday - Monday, May 3 - on Culcheth Village Green.

There will be plenty of attractions, including a dog display team, clown, veteran cars and motor bikes, a pet show, friendly, inter-pub/club tug-of-war contest and stalls galore.

But there is still room for charities and other groups to have their own stalls on the green - if they act now.

Anyone interested should call parish council chairman Sue Bland on 01925 766641.

Community Day, along with Victorian Day, Croft Carnival, Glazebury Gala and the various other festivals run by churches and other groups, is an important date on the local calendar.

Events like these help to make Culcheth, Glazebury, Croft and the rest of the area a cohesive community. Local life would be poorer without them.

So we urge everyone to get involved - and try and forget all that snow, picturesque though it was for a time!

School's £1,668 fundraising boost

LESLEY Stevenson took time out from her day job to get involved in fundraising at Culcheth's Twiss Green Primary School - and raised £1,668.

She raised £918 by organising a special raffle for the school and the money was matched pound-for-pound by the "charity begins at work" programme run by her employers, Barclays.

Gareth Lewis, a community relations officer for the bank, said: "We strive to strengthen local communities in which we live and work by supporting a range of causes from local schools to centres for older people."

"This is a fantastic example of Barclays staff fundraising with the local community to achieve something which we hope will

make a real and lasting difference.

"We're really proud of our community investment programme which added up to £52.2 million in 2008."

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3

School prepares for the end of an era

FORMER pupils of Culcheth High School are being invited back to reminisce about the "good old days" to mark the end of an era.

As the old school buildings disappear to make way for a new state of the art school facility former pupils and staff are organising a special re-union event which will include pupils from when the school first opened 79 years ago.

One of the former pupils helping organise the event is Helen Weight Nee Kember, who attend the school

in the 1970's with her twin sister Stella.

She said: "This summer Culcheth High will be pulled down to make way for the new impressive state of the art high school that has been built to replace it."

"To mark this historic occasion some ex-pupils have got together to organise a reunion to celebrate the closing of the old school and the opening of the new one."

The old school will be open on June 26 from 12pm to 4pm, free of charge, for people to go back and visit their old classrooms and reminisce with friends from the "good old days."

Each era from the school's history will be depicted in photos and memorabilia.

She added: "We will have an itinerary so that people will be aware of when pupils from the same era will be attending. In the evening we will celebrate with an end finale party."

The evening will be ticket only, priced £5,

and partners can also buy tickets.

Any profit made will go towards the purchase of a new mini bus. The evening will include several bands and a DJ.

She said many pupils disliked 'A' block, complaining of draughty old corridors and cold uncomfortable classrooms. But now it is being pulled down many have a "nostalgic" feeling about it.

Many former pupils still live in Culcheth and some have children at the school now.

One of those attending will be Dorothy Lythgoe, who was a pupil at the school when it first opened in 1931 along with four generations of her family who have attended the

school right up to the present day.

Former pupils are asked to spread the word so there is a good attendance.

Organisers are looking for school memorabilia including reports, photos, projects and tickets and anyone with items should contact Amanda at the school on 01925 762136 or at as@culchethhigh.org.uk

A special Facebook group has been launched to help promote the event called Culcheth High School "End of an Era" RE-UNION which already has more than 1,600 members!



Former and present students who attended Culcheth High School. Back row, left to right: Malcolm Ross, 1963; Sylvia Lythgoe, 1958; Wendy McCormack, 1981; Anita Perrin, 1983; Helen Weight, 1975; and Kelly Price 1983. Front row: Jessica Perrin, 2005; Dorothy Lythgoe, 1931; and Louis Perrin 2009.



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Fundraising Guides



ZOE Isles, 14, one of two Culcheth Guides busy fundraising for international trips next year, has been visiting Brownie Units telling them about her forthcoming visit to Siberia

She will be staying with a Siberian family and helping Siberian Brownie and Guide units during her stay.

After her talk, each Brownie made a Russian doll to take home and made a donation towards Zoe's fundraising.

Kate Davidson, 13, will be attending the Scout Jamboree in Sweden and is also busy fundraising at present.

The two girls have to raise £1,800 each to fund their trips.

Zoe is pictured with members of the 6th Culcheth Brownie Pack and their Russian Dolls.

Anyone for tennis - or croquet!

CULCHETH Tennis Club and Culcheth Croquet Club - both of which are sections of Culcheth Sports Club in Charnock Road - are joining forces to stage an open day on Sunday, April 25.

From 2pm to 4pm the two clubs will be showcasing their respective sports and there will also be tea and cakes.

The tennis section are particularly anxious to encourage more children to take up the sport and, for the first time ever, will have a full-time coach, Sean Dunstan, who will be available to give both individual and group coaching for all ages and abilities.

There will be a ball machine, service speed measure, coaching sessions, target games, racquet sales and mini-tennis for the under eights.

Racquets will be available on loan for those who do not bring their own.

Further details are available from secretary Ann Witter on 07890 708429.

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Model-makers are back

MODEL-making fans from the area are sure to enjoy a local show with exhibits including Meccano, war games, ships, toy soldiers and remote control tanks.

Birchwood Model Club is organising its seventh annual model show at Croft Village Hall, Mustard Lane, on Sunday May 16.

Proceeds will again go to its designated charity the British Heart Foundation (BHF) towards a 3D-Echocardiograph machine for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

So far the model shows have raised more than £7,200 for BHF and organisers expect this year's show to be a great success.

It will also feature a giant tombola, raffles, refreshments, trade stalls and free parking is available.

Admission is £2 adults, £1.50 seniors and £1 children. Opening times are 10am to 4pm.

One of the organisers Paul Gemmell said: "The exhibitors come from far and wide to help us put on a great show - Derby, Staffordshire, Liverpool, Manchester and Bolton - and everyone gives up their time to make the day the success it is."



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Celebrating five years in Culcheth

POPULAR restaurant Duckegg bluu is celebrating its fifth year in Culcheth with a series of special events over the coming months.

The restaurant has already helped raise thousands of pounds for local and national charities and is actively looking for people who want to hold an event to benefit a school, church, hospice or other good cause.

Whether it be a sportsman's dinner or a dinner dance, proprietor Paul Linderman and chef Paul Deakins will do their best to help.

They work closely together to source the best local ingredients and while the restaurant is used primarily for adult dining and businesses, families with children are always made to feel very welcome and are encouraged.

During the World Cup a wide screen television and men only conservatory will be offering soccer and serving Peroni and Carling on special promotion and ladies will be able to enjoy Champagne for only £15 per bottle and £9.95 for Prosecco,

So ladies who don't want to sit in the pub all day while the men watch the match can call in and take him too.

Log on to www.duckeggbluu.co.uk to keep up to date.

Grant for cricket club

GLAZEBURY Cricket Club has won a £600 grant from the Warrington Stronger Together initiative towards the cost of much needed equipment for the junior section.

The grant will enable the club to provide a new catching practice aid, an up-to-date coaching manual, special replacement cricket balls for coaching in nets, Kwik Cricket equipment, first aid packs and a wheelie bag to put it all in.

Junior co-ordinator Mike Durrington said: "This is very good news for the club. It will enable us to increase the variety of equipment we have and increase the quality of the training we give to our juniors. It also means we can continue to provide a sporting outlet to the young people of the community at a reasonable cost."

The club has two artificial turf practice strips at their Hurst Lane ground although they have suffered from a plague of moles during the winter.

Mike added: "We have a mole catcher on the job and hopefully we should be up and running with dual nets by the start of the season."

The club is currently training at Culcheth High School on Saturday afternoons and anyone who would like further details can contact Mike on 07729853915 or email elmik2326@aol.com

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Triplets help launch charity appeal

GLAZEBURY based Bents Garden & Home has discovered the perfect family to front its fundraising efforts for Ronald McDonald House at Alder Hey, its charity of the year for 2010.

Proud parents Rebecca and Iain Jenkinson, who have triplets, have already experienced the care and support provided by Ronald McDonald House and to help celebrate the launch of the charity received some VIP treatment from

Bents.

Following the huge success of Bents' 2009 charity - raising over £7400 for Marie Curie Cancer Care - Bents has once again set itself a challenge and, with Rebecca, Iain and the triplet's help, hopes to beat last year's total and raise enough money to buy 15 beds for the family support house at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool.

Gabriella, Zachary and Alexander were born in Dec 2009 and Alex was immediately diagnosed with a congenital heart condition; at the time of diagnosis he was just a day old and was transferred to Alder Hey for intensive treatment. Having the opportunity to stay at Ronald McDonald House allowed the new family to stay as close as possible to Alex during his time in care.

Now fully recovered, Alex and his family are back home and are helping Bents with their 2010 campaign.

Rebecca said: "We are delighted that Bents has chosen Ronald McDonald House as their 2010 charity and even more pleased to be invited to help out with their fundraising this year."

"We received fantastic care and support from all the staff at the House, none of which could be done without constant fundraising as it is run on donations alone. To be able to stay on site at Alder Hey and be close to Alex when he was poorly meant so much. Bents raised a fantastic figure last year and we hope 2010 will be just as successful."

Online fundraising for Guides

ON-line shoppers now have the opportunity to help raise funds for the 7th Culcheth Guides as they buy.

The guide group has registered so that Internet shoppers, using their link, can raise cash for the youngsters whilst shopping with their favourite retailers.

Assistant guide leader Sara Isles said: "Our Guide Unit has registered with an online fundraising shopping website. This means that every time people shop on line via this website we get a cash back donation."

"It doesn't cost anything for people to register and their shopping will cost them exactly the same as it usually does."

The website is www.easyfundraising.org.uk/culchethguides.

Examples of donations include 3.5 per cent on a £25 spend at a high street book store to donations with car insurance. More than 2,000 brand names are available via the link.

Sara said: "If you already shop online, why not help good causes at no extra cost from the purchases you would make anyway."



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Matthew Bent managing director meets Rebecca Jenkinson who has used Ronald McDonald House with her nine week old triplets from left, Zac, Gaby and Alexander.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director of Bents Garden & Home added: "My family has had personal experience of the care provided by Ronald McDonald House so this year's charity is very close to my heart. We have set ourselves a target to raise enough money to buy 15 beds for the home so we need at least £5000.

"We look forward to being joined by Rebecca and her family at events throughout the year as our VIP guests and hope they enjoy being involved with Bents."

The Ronald Macdonald House at Alder Hey is the largest such house in the world and as a completely independent charity depends entirely upon voluntary donations.

The Gardening Guide

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WI hears publishing pitfalls

NEWCHURCH WI held its 51st birthday meeting at Newchurch Parish Hall on March 10 when members heard all about the pitfalls of publishing.

Guest speaker Jane Schaffer told the group how she had started out as a teacher before giving publishing a go at the age of 60, starting with her own work then expanding to publish other authors' writing.

Trudy MacDonald, speaker's secretary at NewChurch WI, gave the vote of thanks. She said: "She had some delightful examples to show us."

"She was very frank about the pitfalls in publishing and explained about printing, editing, cover design and selling techniques."

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on April 14, also in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome. For more details call Jean Riley on 01925 762722.

Nicola lives and breathes farming

NICOLA Watkinson lives and breathes farming. When she's not managing her parents' farm she is an active member of Croft Young Farmer's Club.

So when the Watkinson family decided to open a farm shop at Red Bank House Farm and to put Nicola in charge of it, she decided it had to be a real FARM shop.

She said: "We're not a mini-supermarket - we're a real farm shop with everything in it either produced on our own farm or from other local farms. We want everything to be local so you know where your food comes from!"

The idea for the shop came out of the popularity of the Watkinson's 28-day matured, home reared beef sold at the farm gates.

Nicola took on the responsibility for the on-site butchery, learning the trade from an expert and making all the sausages and burgers for the shop.

All the feed, barley, grass and beans for the animals is grown locally at Red Bank House Farm and the

breeds they use are mainly Limousin heifer cattle.

Their sows are Large Whites which give birth on the farm and the piglets are then raised on the farm to provide the shop with all the pork it needs.

Lambs graze in the fields behind the shop and this is hung for 14 days to provide tender and tasty meat.

Nicola said: "The idea of the shop was to sell our own meat and to provide other quality local produce such as milk, jam, honey, vegetables, etc, sourced from around the Burtonwood, Culcheth and Glazebury areas."

"We are considering opening a café and, if there is a demand, might sell crafts, postcards, gifts, etc - provided they are made locally!"

The shop is open from 11am-6pm Wednesday to Friday and 10am-5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

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A time to spend? A time to save?

If you are a borrower, you may currently be benefiting from lower interest rates than might have been expected at the time those borrowings (for example mortgages) were taken out.

Although your personal circumstances and personality will impact on what you decide to do with the amount you are saving, this is the perfect opportunity to use the current low rates to optimise your financial position!

Of those finding themselves with spare cash as a result of, say, lower mortgage repayments, some will choose to spend this on defined items such as a holiday or home improvements. Others will see an opportunity to use the surplus to pay larger capital sums off borrowings, thereby reducing the period they borrow money.

There are also longer term benefits which might currently be available to many borrowers.

It is impossible to know with accuracy when and to what extent interest rates will rise in future. However, some will see the benefit of 'fixing' their interest rate now at a relatively low level so that, when rates do rise, protection against the resulting

increase in monthly repayments has been secured.

Additionally, for those looking at some point to buy a first property or to trade up, provided that the right level of deposit can be paid, now might be a good time to make the move in the knowledge that borrowing money is relatively inexpensive.

The current economic climate has had some form of an adverse effect on every one of us. However, why not take one of the few circumstances which have had a positive impact on many (low interest rates) and use this to optimise your finances and provide a lasting benefit?

Professional advice should be taken before making changes to your financial affairs. Please note that the contents of this article 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.

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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

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Keith Bland
01925 766641



Paul Campbell
01925 766658



Mrs Lilian Houghton
01925 762935



Mrs Illeyne 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

Community day

The Parish Council is pleased to be organising our Annual Community Day which is being held on Culcheth Village Green on Bank holiday Monday May 3rd 2010 which is being opened at 12.00noon by the Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Susan Bland. As well as a large variety of stalls, all from local charities and organisations, there will be lots going on in the main arena including Children's Entertainer, Brass Band, Tug O War, Pet Show and our star attraction 'H & M Dog Display Team' which has performed at Southport Flower Show as well as Crufts. There are also a selection of Classic Cars as well as Motor Bikes and Fairground rides for the younger children. So there is something for everyone. So join us on the Village Green and have a nice hassle free day.

We are still looking for teams for the Tug O War, so if you are feeling fit and energetic why not get some of your friends together and make a team up. Contact Peter on 01942 671938 or Helena on 01925 766658 for further details. There is still time to book a stall so ring Sue 01925 766641 for further details.

Culcheth Library

It was reported at the March Parish Council Meeting that Culcheth Library will be undergoing some refurbishment work which will include redecorating and recarpeting the main library area, changing the counter for a more modern one as well as introducing self issue machines. This will mean that the Library will be closed from Thursday 13th May until Tuesday 1st June 2010. WBC will be offering during the closure, a mobile library service as well as allowing users to take extra items on loan. Overdue charges will be waived.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan steering committee are still looking for more residents to join the committee especially from the Mee Brow and Glazebury areas.

If you feel you have the time and energy to contribute to this very worthwhile project please ring Keith 01925 766641

Grants

There has only been one application this quarter which was from Newchurch Parish Hall for a donation towards a new sound system to enhance the range and quality of their community activities. It was agreed to grant them £250.

Police

The Police reported to the Parish Council that they had carried out a number of enforcement operations at key locations in Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft, including the problem areas that residents had highlighted. They had great successes in tackling speeding in these areas, with more than 80 speeding motorists caught.

Also they have been tackling the problems of anti-social behaviour around the Common Lane and the Co-op area by more visible patrolling at key times such as evenings and weekends. There has been a noticeable reduction in reported incidents.

PCSOs track down young vandals

POLICE Community Support Officers have been praised by the owner of a day nursery for their prompt action in clearing up an offence of vandalism.

Young hooligans plastered mud all over the walls and windows at Culcheth Day Nursery in Warrington Road – pushing into an intercom system and putting it out of action.

Owner Debbie Byrne-Davies decided to report the matter to police because of the damage to intercom system – and the PCSOs were quickly on the scene.

A check of nearby CCTV cameras soon revealed the identities of the

culprits.

Debbie said: "They turned out to be very young so I decided not to press charges, but they got a good talking to and their parents were also spoken to. Hopefully this will mean they never put a foot wrong again."

"But I would like to praise the PCSOs. They often get a bad press, but they were wonderful and soon solved the case. I think the incident also illustrates how useful CCTV has become in the village as a deterrent to crime."

"If you are caught on camera you are caught!"

Poetry workshop



CHILDREN'S Poet David Horner visited Croft Primary School to do poetry workshops with the pupils.

Pictured from left, Eve Jenkinson, Alex Jones, David Horner, Rachel Kevern and James Mulvey.

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April 2010

Eagles soar to championship



Culcheth Eagles with the championship trophy.

CULCHETH Eagles Under 17s amateur rugby league team has secured the North West Counties Division one championship during its first full season wearing the kit sponsored by a Warrington Masonic lodge.

The team secured the championship with an impressive 14 wins out of 15 league games.

Their coach Paul Wilshire said: "This season has seen the Eagles go from strength to strength playing some excellent free flowing rugby reflected by a points difference of 440 points for Culcheth and only 96 against."

Members of Warrington Temple Lodge are pleased to have helped this locally run club and are proud to have its name associated with something so positive in the community.



The new kit looks a bit different at the end of a match.

Breakfast treat led to £100 prize



THE winner of the competition to mark the 10th anniversary of McDee's Coffee Shop in Culcheth came not from the village but from Salford!

Danny Jamieson decided to treat his mum and dad, Julie and Mike, to breakfast one Saturday in February - and picked up the winning ticket.

Customers who spent £10 were entered into a draw and Danny was the lucky one out of hundreds. The prize was McDee's gift vouchers worth £100.

His Mum and Dad have travelled from Salford for breakfast almost every Saturday for 10 years because they think McDee's do "the best breakfast in the North West."

Danny doesn't always accompany them - but thinks he will now use the vouchers to treat his parents to a few more breakfasts over the coming months.

He said: "It was my lucky week because two days later I was offered a job as a solicitor with a Manchester law firm."

Helen McVey, who runs the coffee shop with her sister Catherine, is pictured presenting Danny with his prize.

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