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Issue: 109
April 2012

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**Olympic ace opens
new health centre**

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Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Advertising
Freephone
0800 955 5247

Editorial
01925 623633

Email
info@culchethlife.com

Websites
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Editor's Comment



IT has been a long time coming, and it has not arrived yet, but thanks to the generosity of a local businessman, the initiative of a local councillor and the enthusiasm of a group of local residents, the village of Glazebury should soon have a children's play area.

What's more, it will be a play area with a difference, where local youngsters will be able to learn about nature and the environment while they play.

The lack of play facilities at Glazebury has been a sore point for years. An earlier attempt to provide one behind the Scout Centre, came to nothing. No other suitable land could be found.

Then, when Cllr Sue Bland heard that Bent's Garden and Home were to convert a former overspill car park into allotments, she approached managing director Matthew Bent and

asked if there would be room for a play area.

He agreed - and the result is that parish council will be leasing part of the site for a peppercorn rent and it will be transformed into an environmentally friendly play area.

Instead of the usual brightly painted metal swings, slides and roundabouts, there will be a small woodland, wildflower meadow, etc. There will be play things too, boulders to climb on, a willow tunnel, natural wooden features. Nothing metal.

Much of the credit for all this must go to the residents. They got together

with the village school and came up with the ideas. The borough council has pledged money for the wildflowers, the parish council will fund ongoing maintenance. And of course, Bent's made the land available. A fine example of local community teamwork.

It won't be ready this summer, but, if a grant can be obtained, it should be in use next year. While it may be on the fringe of the village, it will sit well with the adjoining allotments and fill a gap in local provision that has existed for far too long.

Congratulations are due all round and we look forward to seeing local children playing - and learning - on the site soon.

**Copy deadline
for the May
issue of
Culcheth Life is
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Olympic ace opens new health centre

FIVE times Olympic Gold medallist James Cracknell was on hand to officially open Culcheth's new health and wellbeing centre.

Based on Jackson Avenue, Culcheth, the centre is headed by Mark Airey former Lead Exercise Rehabilitation Instructor at Headley Court - the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre that deals with the injured service personnel coming back from Afghanistan.

Mark has teamed up with Culcheth Healthcare to provide health and wellbeing services, and preventative medicine services to the local community, including weight management, small group and Family Personal Training, one to one personal training, injury and rehabilitation clinic, fitness classes and nordic walking, smoking cessation advise

The GP partners at Culcheth Healthcare, Drs O'Loan and Gillanders and the Managing Partner, Christine O'Connor were delighted to welcome Olympic rowing gold medallist James Cracknell to launch, what they believe is a very innovative approach to personal care. Thanks go to Zenith and Matrix for working with them to create this opportunity

The studio is one of many facilities to be made available at Culcheth Clinic. Many people will know that district nursing services and podiatry operate from the building as do outpatient services from the hospital. The clinic is hoping to expand outpatient services this year so that more patients can be seen closer to home.

For those who are not aware Culcheth Healthcare covers three

practices in Warrington: Chapelford, Dudlow Green, Appleton and Warrington Road. There is also a fourth practice on Jackson Avenue and on April 16 there will be a full merger across both organisations to create one group providing services to the various sites across Warrington. Both Warrington Road and Jackson Avenue operate out of Culcheth Clinic and once the merger is complete will continue to do so.

Managing partner Christine said: "Our belief is that it is not just about seeing doctors; it is much more than that. We are committed to helping our population understand the changing NHS and how to get the best out of it; We believe passionately in person centred planning and we are just about to undertake a change in our working processes to better facilitate access for our patients.

"As a group we are totally committed to helping our population make the best use of NHS resources but we also wish to help them to understand how to take better care of themselves. The introduction of the Zenith Health and Wellbeing studio is an intrinsic part of our approach to achieving this. This is not a traditional approach to exercise or dieting this is much more about the well being of the whole person; its about tailoring approaches to enable people to achieve success in their goals and its also about bringing people together to enjoy the challenge of exercise."



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Parties contest parish council seats

ALL three main political parties will be contesting the Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council elections on May 3, with the Conservatives contesting all 10 seats and Labour making a determined effort to gain control of the council.

The Liberal Democrats will be fielding just one candidate.

A number of high-profile candidates will be taking part.

Borough councillors Keith Bland, Sue Bland and Paul Campbell will all be seeking re-election for the Conservatives in Culcheth Ward.

Well-known local accountant Les Styles, a partner in Styles and Co, chartered accountants, will be standing in Newchurch ward for the Conservatives.

He is chairman of the Village Club at the British Legion, treasurer of Twiss Green Primary School PTA, a passionate Warrington Wolves supporter and plays for the British Legion darts and dominoes teams.

He has lived in the village for 20 years.

Labour are fielding Mike and Chris Vobe - husband and son of Warrington North MP Helen Jones.

Mike is a former FE lecturer with a Masters Degree in Public

Administration. He has worked on the management committees of a Citizen's Advice Bureau and a Senior Citizen's Residential Home.

Chris has lived in Culcheth since he was seven, went to St Lewis' Primary School at Croft and Culcheth High School and is an enthusiastic campaigner on local issues.

Professor Eddy Estlin, a children's doctor who has lived in Glazebury for more than 11 years, is standing for Labour. His hobbies include football coaching and he has had a long association with Culcheth Athletic.

The full election line-up is as follows.

Culcheth ward: Conservative: Lilian Houghton*, Ileyne Hutchinson*, Keith Bland*, David Hutchinson, Paul Campbell*.

Labour: Peter Caswell*, Mike Vobe. Newchurch Ward: Conservative: Helena Campbell*, Christine Rankin*, Les Styles. Labour: Chris Vobe, Jacqui Johnson*, Matt Smith.

Glazebury and Mee Brow ward: Conservative: Sue Bland*, Marija Howarth. Labour: Angela Duncombe, Eddy Estlin. Liberal Democrat: Edgar Davies.

*Denotes sitting councillor.



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Guides make park bird boxes



EIGHT members of the 7th Culcheth Guides joined the Friends of Culcheth Linear Park and the park rangers to make 21 new bird boxes to be put up around the park.

It was the girls' first experience of woodworking - and for some, the work benches were nearly as tall as the Guides!

There was a lot of hammering, plenty of laughter but fortunately no damaged fingers or thumbs.

After the boxes were finished, the girls painted them to protect them from the weather.

The Guides also made two different types of bird feeder to take home for their own gardens, learning about the types of birds they could feed and mixing lard with seeds and nuts to make a nourishing food for their feathered friends.

Overall, 60 bird boxes have been made and the Guides have sponsored four of them.

Guides' district commissioner Sarah Isles said: "We are looking forward to returning to the Linear Park later to discover if any birds are nesting in our boxes."

Anyone requiring more information about Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Senior Section should contact Sara Isles on 01925 766057 or via email sara.isles@btinternet.com



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Johnny is Culcheth's Olympic hopeful!

WHEN Jonathan Akinyemi was a young boy, he wanted a motor bike. But his parents thought it would be too dangerous - and bought him a canoe instead.

Now, the wisdom behind their decision is becoming clear - with the 23-year-old former Culcheth High School pupil the African champion in the K1 kayak category and about to represent Nigeria in the London Olympics.

Whether or not white water canoeing is any less dangerous than motor biking is another issue!

Jonathan was born in Culcheth and started canoeing about 12 years ago at Warrington's Fordon Leisure Centre.

But his talent was soon spotted and by 2006 he was a member of Team GB.

It was then he decided to switch to Nigeria - by virtue of his father being born there.

Canoeing, and particularly slalom, is not well developed in Nigeria and Johnny, as he is known in the canoeing world, will be their first-ever K1 Olympic contestant.

But he sees a big future for the sport there and believes his appearance in the Olympics will give it a big boost.

Although he is studying accountancy at university in this country and training hard for the Olympics, he is planning to go to Nigeria after the Games to help identify suitable locations for white water canoeing there. Which means 2012 is a really busy year for him.

But he still found time to drop in at his old school in Culcheth and talk to pupils about life as an international canoeist.



Johnny in action



Wearing his African Champion's medal with pupils at Culcheth High School

Jigsaw festival is back

CULCHETH is to have its second Jigsaw Festival next month - with the aim of raising money for charity.

It will take place at Newchurch Parish Hall on May 26 and 27 - following on the success of last year's festival when £3,219 was raised for the church, St Rocco's Hospice and the Breast Cancer Campaign.

The Jig Saw festival was the idea of three local women, Irene Johnson, Irene Bromilow and Sue Kadodwala.

They organised volunteers to donate and complete jigsaws of all varieties and more than 500 were completed, with many on display.

Anyone interested in helping out should contact Irene Johnson (01925 733748), Irene Bromilow (01925 763126), or Sue Kadodwala (01925 765652).

Easter at the CPS Centre



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£50,000 boost for tennis club

CULCHETH Tennis Club has secured £50,000 of Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund.

The fund is part of the £135 million Places People Play legacy programme that is bringing the magic of a home Olympic and Paralympic Games into communities across the country.

Every sports facility that receives funding will carry the London 2012 Inspire mark - celebrating the link to the Games.

Culcheth Sports Club has used the funding to install floodlights to all four of its tennis courts which make it possible to play tennis all the year round and will help the club's plans to greatly expand its programme of attracting young

people from local primary schools into the sport.

It will also make it possible for younger players to stay involved with their tennis during the winter months. The floodlights are now available to be used by all members.

Anyone wishing to view the new floodlights and play tennis is invited to attend a Tennis Open Day at Culcheth Sports Club on Saturday April 21 between 2-4pm.

Culcheth Tennis Club chairman, David Ellis, said: "We are absolutely delighted to secure an Inspired Facilities

grant from the first round of applications.

"We have been working really hard to make the club one of the best in Warrington and have already succeeded in gaining Clubmark accreditation.

"The most important part of our improvement plans was the installation of floodlights which would ensure that all our members, especially our younger players, could get the coaching they need to let them fully realise their potential and play all the year round."

For information about Culcheth Tennis Club contact Ann Witter - Tel 07890 708429 or 01925 765189.



Loneliness of the last lighthouse keeper

BRITAIN'S last lighthouse keeper, Gordon Medicott, was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Croft WI.

Eighty two members and one visitor heard his "illuminating" talk on 32 years as a lighthouse keeper in 22 different lighthouses.

He told how three men would operate a lighthouse for two months at a time, sometimes in very basic conditions with no electricity or running water. To pass the time they would listen to the radio - and take up knitting.

Gordon's last year of service was at North Foreland, at Broadstairs, in Kent, which was the last lighthouse to be de-manned in 1998, after 500 years of lighthouse keeping.

The speaker then judged a competition for a nautical item, which was won by Ann Tansey, with Jill Hillam second and Katherine Watkin third. President Doreen Clare thanked Nicky Adams for providing flowers for the President's Table and the meeting was told the Croft team had come fifth out of 20 in the county quiz.

Forthcoming events include a theatre trip on April 4, a visit to Ironbridge on May 2 and a Group Meeting on April 23 at Croft Memorial Hall. The bowls group meets again on April 6 and new members will be welcome.

Next meeting will be on April 18 when the theme will be "An Afternoon at the Races" and the competition for a joke or anecdote "from the horses mouth." Anyone seeking more information should call 01925 764555.

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Woodland wonders

PARENTS and grandparents of pupils at Croft Village Pre-School got together to clear their woodland area and make it ready for the children to play in this spring.

The youngsters had presented their parents with something of a tall order when asked what they would like to do in the woodlands. Suggestions included "make dens", "grow beautiful flowers", "grow giant beans" and "make a space-ship."

Cricketers will see some familiar faces

MEMBERS of Glazebury Cricket Club will see some familiar faces when they play their first game in a new league on Saturday, April 21.

Glazebury won promotion to the Meller Braggins Cheshire Cricket League in the final game of last season - a major step up the Cheshire cricket ladder.

But their first game in the higher league will be against Langley - the Macclesfield side who were promoted along with them from the Cheshire Alliance.

It could be a tough game though, for Langley were promoted as champions and Glazebury as runners-up.

The 1st XI travel to Macclesfield while the 2nd XI will entertain the Langley second string at Hurst Lane.

Glazebury 3rd XI, who play on Sundays, open their season at Newton-le-Willows on April 29.

Club chairman Paul Warhurst is optimistic about Glazebury's chances in the new league.

He said: "I think we will be able to hold our own. The general view is that there is not much difference between the 1st division of the Cheshire Alliance and the Meller Braggins League."

"We will have to wait and see, but I think we will be OK and we will be playing against quite a few clubs we have played before."

A number of players have left during the close season so there is room for new members - senior and junior - at Hurst Lane.

Indoor net training has been going on since early in the year. Juniors interested in joining should call Mike Durrington on 01925 764697 while seniors should call Jack Warhurst on 07780.

In addition to three senior teams, Glazebury have three junior teams, Under 15s, Under 13s and Under 11s and a number of ECB qualified coaches.

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Dinner raises over £8,000

A found-raising sportsman's dinner featuring Liverpool legend Phil Thompson helped raise an impressive £8,500 for Culcheth Athletic Football Club.

The club also teamed up with Mike Bloomfield from St Roccas to help raise funds for the charity and highlight the brilliant work they do in the community.

Commenting on the night MC Darron Bibby said it was the club's most successful dinner and was a complete sell out with over £8,000 raised for local childrens football.

Everyone enjoyed great food and service from the friendly team at The Village Club and this was followed

with some wonderful stories from guest speaker Phil Thompson - ex Liverpool and England footballer and Sky TV pundit.

The night was finished off with a brilliant performance from Shaun Styles one of the best comedians on the comedy circuit.

Culcheth Athletic Football Club would like to thank all their guests and kind sponsors for their continued support.

Best-loved club saved from closure

ONE of Culcheth's best-loved venues has been saved from closure.

Culcheth British Legion is a thriving, community hub, offering a variety of services and hosting a number of activities thanks to a dedicated committee chaired by John Hughes, managing director of Hughes Brothers Building and Joinery.

But little more than a year ago, the Wigshaw Lane club was on the brink of closure and had been earmarked for a possible housing development.

Realising its potential, the committee worked tirelessly to keep it open and make it a contemporary club that would still cater for its original members.

John Hughes' input has helped the club raise more than £30,000 during the last Poppy Appeal, open up to the community by hosting activities such as Zumba, swing and martial arts, and so increase its membership.

Mr Hughes said: "A couple of years ago, the club wasn't doing very well and wasn't recognised by the community.

"We were faced with the task of making the club viable whilst also helping to raise the £1.4m needed each week to help soldiers and their families.

"The future of the club is looking very exciting. We have lots of things planned and we are in talks to obtain more funding; a lot of that is down to key personnel such as Warren Bibby, Chris Chapman, Les Styles and Ian Ferguson.

"The committee members are all passionate about the Legion, all of them are business leaders or are high profile managers, so they know how

to make a business work."

Culcheth British Legion now regularly sees more than 500 people through the door; it now serves food and acts as a focal point for regular events and community fund raisers.

Mr Hughes added: "The club is now so vibrant and really is the place to be.

"We never really involved young people in the club before, but now we embrace them.

"They are the next generation who are going to keep this club going so we have to acknowledge them. Some have even become members."

The next step for the Legion is to build up its new website and mark its presence on social networking sites.





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Phil Thompson presenting a champagne hamper to Mike Bloomfield from St Roccas donated from Culcheth Athletic Football club supported by Bolo Lotay - Club Chairman, Darron Bibby - MC and Dave Wright - Club Welfare officer.

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Keith Bland
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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

Culcheth Community Day

Just a reminder that the Parish Council will be holding a Community Day on Culcheth Village Green on Bank Holiday Monday the 7th May 2012. There is still time for local organisations to book a stall, which is free, so if you need funds, this is a golden opportunity to raise some. Ring Cllr Sue Bland on 01925 766641 for further details.

Also this year we are having a raffle to help pay for the entertainment on the day. Prizes include a BMX Bike donated by M.T.Cycles, Dinner for two donated by Elegance Restaurant and a Food Hamper donated by our local Sainsbury's. Tickets donated by PPM Printers can be obtained from your Parish Councillors.

Part time Litter Warden

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a part time Litter Warden. Duties include removal of litter from the Village Green area of Culcheth village on Saturday and Sunday mornings between the hours of 8.00am and 10.00am as well as ad hoc litter clearance duties as required.

If you are interested in this job, please write giving your reasons for applying and contact details to; The Clerk, Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council, 2 Hebden Ave, Culcheth, WA3 5JL.

Jubilee Picnic on the Village Green

We are delighted that we have had five local people and groups from the village volunteering to entertain us on the day, but if there is anybody else who would like to take part, please contact Cllr Keith Bland 01925 766641.

Millennium Garden & Benches

The Contractors have now started the painting of the Millennium Garden which will be completed in a couple of weeks. They were also successful in their tender for the painting of the 19 benches so these should all be done in the next month or so.



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Is buy-to-let for you?

Reduced property values and strong rental yields are paving the way for a revival in the buy-to-let property sector; but how can you ensure that you avoid potential pitfalls and profit from buy-to-let property ownership.

Prior to the recession, city centres had plenty of empty new build apartments, however, we are now seeing demand for such properties outstripping supply. Your target yield here should be 7.5% or above, anything less indicates that the property is overpriced.

If you are looking for a short term investment, say a period of five to ten years, houses should be the focus as

they prove easier to sell with a larger target market.

Property location is an important consideration; properties in safe areas, with good schools and transport links are increasingly popular due to the growing number of renters with children. As ever, it is wise to consider an area that is "booming" or "up and coming" in order to benefit from capital growth as well as strong rental yields.

Targeting student areas with student lead accommodation provides consistent demand from renters and reduces void periods. These properties are typically more expensive to buy but return high rental yields.

Another tip to avoid your property standing empty is to not be afraid to accept a lower rent than your asking price, experience shows that a property that remains empty for two months is generally approached with caution by renters.

It is certainly advisable to consider your financial strategy when investing in buy-to-let property; spreading your investment over more than one

property for instance where yields exceed mortgage rates; targeting capital growth as well as strong rental yields; also consider your exit strategy and the tax implications of selling your property.

If you are going around the houses and would like some help with your potential or existing investment, then please contact any one of the Styles and Co partners on 01925 761600

Disclaimer: Please note that the contents of our Culcheth Life articles are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always take professional advice before taking action.



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

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include those who practice chiropody, physiotherapy, aromatherapy massage, acupuncture/acupressure, deep tissue massage, sports massage, shiatsu massage, yoga as well as plastic surgeons, chiropractors, hypnotherapists, and beauticians. Call Taylor Business Park on 01925 763851 if you wish to have a room for your company. There are only seven left, so hurry!

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Motoring

Another notch on the awards post

THE Audi A1 has earned another notch on its awards post by being named Best Luxury Small Car of the Year by CarBuyer's expert panel of road testers and reviewers.

Editor-in-chief of CarBuyer, Steve Fowler, explained: "The Audi A1 continues to be the best luxury small car for CarBuyer users. It's posh, but not too pricey, while running costs are super low. We love the way it looks, the way it drives and the quality for the cash is unbeatable."

The judges also highlighted the A1's "sleek good looks and an incredibly upmarket cabin" and build quality. The arrival of the more versatile five-door Sportback version means the A1 is now as practical as it is desirable.

It's the A1's second award this year and also its second consecutive CarBuyer award.

Prices for the A1 start from £13,420 OTR (1.2 TFSI 86PS SE model) and go to £21,810 OTR for the top of the range 1.4 TFSI 185PS Black Edition model.



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