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Issue: 93
December 2010

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Editor's Comment



WE said it in this column exactly two years ago, but we will say it again.

"If ever there was a story to bring the planning system into disrepute, surely it is the continuing saga of the Risley Landfill site."

A passion for lavender!

MARY Dearden, guest speaker at Croft WI, gave an interesting talk extolling the many virtues of the humble lavender plant.

Grown 2500 year ago, the plant was held in esteem by the ancient Greeks and the Egyptians and a phial of lavender oil was found in the tomb of Tutankhamen. Lavender was also a favourite of the Romans who used the plant as an antiseptic, perfume, bath oil and Roman ladies even hung dried lavender near their beds to incite passion in their men folk!

Today it is still in demand, being used in aromatherapy, scented candles, alternative medicine, cooking, etc.

The monthly competition was for an unusual perfume bottle and this was won by Nicky Adams. Elaine Grundy was presented with a trophy for her success with the Bowls Group. The proceeds from the evenings raffle were being donated to St. Rocco's Hospice.

Then, we were complaining that tip operators Biffa, after losing an appeal against the refusal of planning consent, were still able to carry on tipping on the grounds it needed more time to complete restoration of the site.

Now we find ourselves reporting, elsewhere in this issue, that the company is doing almost exactly the same thing again.

No appeal yet, of course, because their application has yet to go before the borough's planning committee. But it seems likely they will be granted permission for another 18 months when it does so next month.

The problem is that we cannot have a landfill site left unfinished and,

possibly, unsafe, so as long as the operator can say he has not yet completed restoration he is likely to get his own way.

Two years ago our criticism was directly mainly at the company for what seemed a cynical manipulation of planning regulations.

Now we are more inclined to complain about the borough planners who, surely, if they had been monitoring the site properly, could have seen what was coming and done something about it.

And, by the way, when another 18 months of misery has passed by for local residents, the operator still wants another year to finish site restoration.

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New woodland will be home for wildlife

A NEW area of woodland, the size of five football pitches and planted by a Culcheth couple will provide excellent habitats for wildlife.

The trees planted by Tony and Rebecca Unsworth at Ratcliffe House Farm will also eventually provide a source of renewable wood fuel for the farmhouse.

The Unsworths received support from the Mersey Forest to help make their woodland a reality.

Mersey Forest experts advised on the choice of tree species and helped the couple secure a Forestry Commission grant.

Warrington North MP Helen Jones also took an interest in the project.

She said: "This is another example of how Warrington benefits from being part of The Mersey Forest, and

is great long-term thinking from the owners to provide a fuel for their farmhouse in the future."

Rebecca Unsworth said: "The woodland will be harvested using a technique known as coppicing every 10 to 12 years to provide a continual supply of wood for the fire.

"It's great to be able to plan ahead, and the support we've received to make it happen has been excellent."

More details about The Mersey Forest - a network of woodlands across the region - can be found by visiting the website www.merseyforest.org.uk or calling 01925 816217.



Left to right, are Helen Jones, landowners Rebecca and Tony and Chris Gibbard from The Mersey Forest.

Revealed - the great panto mystery!

NEWCHURCH Strollers have revealed the name of their landmark 10th annual pantomime.

The show, to be staged at Newchurch Parish Hall on January 27, 28 and 29 will be "Once Upon a Time" - a traditional panto by Paul Barron and Sarah Dyson.

The group indicated to Culcheth Life, back in September, that they were planning something special for their 10th panto.

But producer David Ramsdale kept the name under wraps. Even the cast didn't know what they would be appearing in!

The 10th production will be somewhat different to most pantos in that it begins where most of them end - with a wedding.

Over the years, more than 90 people have appeared in the Strollers' pantomimes and more than 3,500 have been to see them.

More than £13,000 has been raised for the Parish Hall development fund.

Tickets for "Once Upon a Time" can be obtained from Spotless Dry Cleaners on The Parade or by calling David Ramsdale on 01925 811265.

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Look at the website for more information on these courses and others that will be added shortly.

Molly the Donkey drops in

MOLLY the Donkey took time off from providing therapy for children with special needs to visit residents at the High Peak Nursing Home, in Main Lane, Kenyon in the run-up to Christmas.

Molly was from the Elisabeth Svendsen Trust in Manchester, a charity which provides a home for donkeys which it uses to provide therapy - and fun - for special needs

and disabled children.

It also sends its friendly donkeys out to visit the elderly in nursing homes, day centres, etc across the North West.



Molly is pictured meeting resident Doris Johnson.

School's festive 'bake-off'

AS part of its Ruby Anniversary celebrations a Culcheth school invited parents, teachers and friends to join a Festive Bake Off.

This year Twiss Green Community School is celebrating its 40th anniversary and has already

held a series of celebration events.

The baking challenge was held during the Christmas Fair.

McDees, of Lodge Drive, sponsored the event and staff were on hand to "taste" the final three entries in each category.

Mathew offers an alternative

CULCHETH will have a Chinese restaurant again, with the opening of China Rose on Common Lane.

Well-known locally, host Mathew Tse and his team of chefs have more than 25 years experience of preparing authentic Chinese cuisine.

Mathew said: "We know local people appreciate good quality, fresh food and we believe we can provide it."

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Keith gets his 'gong' from The Queen

COUNCILLOR Keith Bland, one of Culcheth's longest-serving councillors, travelled to London and received his MBE personally from The Queen.

Accompanied by his wife, Sue - also a long-standing councillor - he was presented with the award at a Buckingham Palace ceremony.

Award

Coun Bland received the award for services to the community in the Birthday Honours in June.

He has been a member of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council for many years and is currently Deputy Leader of Warrington Borough Council.

He previously served on Cheshire County Council and is also a member of many other organisations in and around the Warrington area.

His wife said: "Keith received his award personally from The Queen and she was able to say a few words to him.

"It was a wonderful experience for both of us."



Coun Bland is pictured with his award in Buckingham Palace.

Police target pedal cyclists

POLICE in Culcheth are clamping down on pedal cyclists who ride without lights.

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Police are also carrying out speeding enforcement outside schools.

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Bufs' donation to pre-school

THE Withington Lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Orders of Buffaloes - 'The Bufs' - has presented Newchurch Pre-School with a cheque for £200 towards the cost of a new computer.

Active in Culcheth since 1928, the Lodge raises money to help local charities and organisations and in the past, when it had more members, has made donations to many organisations such as St Rocco's Hospice, the North West Air Ambulance, Green Lane Special School and others.

Bufs spokesman Dennis Davies said: "We like to do as much as we can to support local organisations. Unfortunately we are now only a

small Lodge, with six brethren, so funds are more limited."

Mary Taylor, who runs the pre-school with Ella Walker, said: "Newchurch Pre-school is very grateful to the Bufs for their kind support over the last four years. The children in our care have benefited enormously from the equipment that we have been able to purchase".

The Bufs meet every Wednesday night at the Royal British Legion. Contact Mr Davies on 01925 766697 for more information.



— Advertiser's announcement —

Clean up for Christmas

LOCAL oven cleaner Paul Clark is urging families to clean up this Christmas ahead of the infamous mother-in-law inspection.

As the big day approaches the fire will be roaring and the decorations will be glistening. But for many the oven will still forlornly be covered in the summer's barbecuing excess, even though it plays just as important a role in the celebrations as the tree.

A dirty oven could cause heartache and dread for many visitors sitting at the table waiting for what delights it conjures up, as the stale and nauseous cooking smells float on across the dining room.

Paul Clark from Ovenu Warrington, said: "Although many would argue the dreaded mother-in-law doesn't exist, they do and they will inspecting the house and sundry just to make sure it's still up to scratch, particularly if it's their first festive visit.

"To avoid any embarrassing moments or smells over the festive period it's important that people don't forget to clean their ovens. If it's one of those jobs you hate then get the experts from Ovenu in so it looks as good as new, and is ready to manage the turkey and all the trimmings."

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Hats off to Victoria

CULCHETH turned back the clock at the annual Victorian Day when local traders entered into the spirit of the occasion dressing in period costume.

Organised by Culcheth Lions and supported by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council the event starts the count down to Christmas.



Hunter Healey Chartered Accountants from left, Kayleigh Richmond, Nigel Healey, Alicia Flint and Karen Young.



Warinus Strobe's Fairground Organ was a popular attraction. Left, John Adams and Warinus.



Newchurch Parish Hall management committee in their Victorian Day attire.



Staff from McDee's Cafe in Victorian Day dress. From left, Helen McVey, Lorna McVey, Catherine Dyer, Kerrie O'Neill and Ian Dyer.



Culcheth Methodist Church Bric a Brac stall from left, Daphne Eastburn, Rev. Paul Martin, Marlene Nolan and Heather Boley.

Victorian Day



Staff at Ma'am a Lady on Victorian Day. From Left, Victoria Simpson - Forrest, Eliza Simpson - Forest and Naomi Simpson.



Five year old Chloe Warburton gets a present from Santa at Culcheth Methodist Church.

The Gardening Guide December...



- At this time of year food is scarce for birds & wildlife so keep feeders well stocked.
- Look around your garden & plan in some plants to brighten up the winters for years to come.
- Houseplant arrangements are beautiful & very popular this time of year, they make great gifts.
- Covering less hardy plants with fleece will greatly help their chance of winter survival.
- Evergreen shrubs come into their own this time of year & are great for arrangements & displays.

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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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Paul Campbell
01925 766658



Mrs Lilian Houghton
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Mrs Ilayne Hutchinson
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Roger Rankin
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NEWCHURCH WARD



Mrs Jacqui Johnson
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Mrs Christine Rankin
01925 766357



Mrs Helena Campbell
01925 766658

GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Mrs Sue Bland
01925 766641



Peter Caswell
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Christmas Lights

The Parish Council are pleased to once again provide the Christmas Lights around the Village Green and a Christmas Tree on the Parish Garden at Glazebury. This year they were switched on by The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Mrs Helena Campbell, Alice in Wonderland and Father Christmas on Victorian Day. We firmly believe that the lights give the Villages a real touch of Christmas spirit and hopefully bring more people into the villages to spend their money at our local businesses.

Bulb planting

After the successful Bulb Planting event on Culcheth Village Green which was well attended by local schools, Bents Garden Centre, Parish Councillors and Officers, Warrington Borough Council Rangers and local residents we have some bulbs left, so we have decided to have another planting event on Saturday the 11th December 2010 starting at 10.30am on Culcheth Village Green. The event will once again be supervised by WBC Ranger Andy Smith. So weather permitting please come along and help.

Chairman's charity event

Cllr Mrs Helena Campbell would like to thank all those residents, artists and the Village Club who supported her Charity Evening which raised over £2400 for Claire House Children's Hospice.

Community Day

This is just an early warning to all our local charities and organisations that Community Day for next year is on Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2011. So if you need to raise funds or just showcase your organisation please make a note in your diaries. Letters will be coming out in the next few weeks. If you have any queries please contact Cllr Mrs Susan Bland on 01925 766641.

Parish plan

By now, most of you should have had the Parish Plan Survey, so please fill it in and drop it in the boxes provided throughout Culcheth, Glazebury and Mee Brow. It is vital for the future of our villages that the Parish Plan reflects your views for future generations.

**The Parish Council would like to wish all our residents
a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year**

Fury as waste company seeks tip extension

AN application by waste disposal company Biffa to extend the life of the Risley Landfill site by a further 18 months has angered people in Culcheth, Risley and Birchwood.

It is likely to go before borough council planning chiefs early in the New Year and officers are currently preparing a report for councillors to consider.

But in the meantime, tipping is continuing on the Silver Lane site - despite the fact that planning consent ran out in October.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, Birchwood Town Council and Warrington North MP Helen Jones have joined the chorus of protests.

If, as seems likely, Biffa's application is successful, it will mean tipping will not end until April 2012, with a further 12 months activity to restore the site.

Two years ago, the company angered residents when it successfully applied for a two year extension to their operations. Many people predicted that that Biffa would seek further extensions.

Helen Jones said: "I expressed my concern at that time that Biffa would

seek further extensions in the future and this is exactly what is happening.

"The borough council failed to monitor and regulate operations at the site in order to ensure the end of waste disposal operations by October 2008. It seems to have failed to do so again."

She said the council should now ensure the site was landscaped and closed next year in line with the last extension.

"People have a right to know how long this cycle will go on for - another two years, another five years, another 10 years? The tactic of securing extension after extension is simply not acceptable."

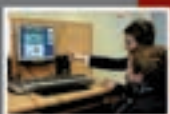
Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council has expressed its dismay over Biffa's new application and called for close monitoring of progress on the site to ensure the work is completed on time.

Coun Roger Rankin, (pictured left) chairman of Culcheth's planning committee said: "The problem is that we obviously can't have the tip left unfinished and unsafe so the operators keep getting away with these applications for extensions. But we have now had more than enough."

People living near the tip have complained for years about smells, dust, vermin, noise and flies, as well as heavy lorries pounding the roads in the area.



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Game, set and match for residents

IT'S game, set and match for nearby residents in the long-running planning battle over floodlighting on the tennis courts at Culcheth Sports Club.

Borough planners have refused permission for the lights at the Charnock Road club after carrying out a site inspection.

It is the second time they have thrown out the proposals. A similar application was rejected last year.

Planning officers had recommended the scheme, to erect 10 eight metre high floodlights around the courts, be approved.

They argued that there would be

negligible impact on nearby houses, nor increase in noise or disturbance.

But 20 householders lodged objections and the scheme was also opposed by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

Objectors claimed light spillage would effect their homes and gardens and there would also be a noise nuisance caused by players.

They also alleged a lack of consultation.

Pupils' poppy wreath

YOUNGSTERS at Croft Primary School worked together to make a poppy wreath to mark Remembrance Day.

Year 5 and 6 pupils made the wreath for the Remembrance Service at Christ Church, Croft.



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THE STYLES FILES styles and co
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Caption competition – your chance to win an iPod Touch



Styles and Co Chartered Accountants invite you to enter our caption competition with the chance of winning fabulous prizes just in time for Christmas.

We invite you to come up with a suitable caption for the photograph below to be in with a chance of winning an iPod Touch.

The photograph of our team and our colourful "Styles and Co" umbrellas was taken at our most recent Annual Review Day which took place at The Inn at Whitewell in the Trough of Bowland.

The day began with a review of the progress of our Corporate Plan, before Les stole the stage to reflect on Warrington 'Wolves' Challenge Cup victory (2009), which he assured us, would be happening again in the next 12 months! (and it did).

After putting our team's skills into action with a variety of team building

and leadership activities, we took part in a very educational wine tasting session hosted by the onsite Vintners. The wine went down a treat and was an excellent precursor to a superb three course dinner with a riverside view. We all certainly shared a great day together and are looking forward optimistically to the next twelve months at Styles and Co and to the next review day!

Please email your caption, along with your name, address and a contact telephone number, to caption@stylesandco.co.uk by Monday 20 December 2010.

We look forward to receiving your entries!



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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Grumpy old woman's view of the world

'GRUMPY Old Woman' Ruth Moore Williams gave a hilarious view of the changing world at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI, touching on issues as varied as fashion, television, light bulbs and underwear.

She accompanied herself energetically on the piano with her own songs in the style of Victoria Wood.

She was thanked by Ann Hambleton on behalf of the members who had all enjoyed her talk and empathised with her reminiscences.

In the absence of Lillian Houghton, vice president Joan Doorey welcomed members and thanked Sheila Stephenson for the table flowers, which were later donated to the raffle. Tea

hostesses were Dorothy Sandford, Sally Taylor and Barbara Van Russell.

Members were reminded about the annual lunch on January 11 at the Sports and Social Club. There were two dates for the diary; a carol concert at Lowton and a possible theatre trip to see 'Goodnight Mr Tom' at the Lowry.

Raffle winners were Barbara Van Russell, Sally Taylor, Ann Brew, Joan Doorey, Sylvia Morris and Sheila Stephenson.

Reader's Letter

Please send your correspondence to:
Culcheth Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT
or email: info@culchethlife.com

Eyesore is 'low priority'

Frances Fisher, Culcheth

THE recent wild flower and bulb planting which has taken place in Culcheth is extremely encouraging.

However, I wonder why nothing is ever done to improve the appearance of the small, muddy area opposite the lay-by and bus stop on the main road. I have asked the council repeatedly to give this small patch a "face lift" only to be told it is of "low priority."

Why? It is on the main road coming into the village and has been an eyesore for some years now. Even a few evergreen shrubs would make a difference.

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