

# Culcheth Life

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December 2011

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# Editor's Comment



**IN a community dating back to at least 1200, and probably much longer, a 30th anniversary might be thought by some to be pretty small beer.**

But the 30th anniversary of the CPS Centre looms large in the history of Culcheth.

Where might the village be today, but for the foresight of the late William Nelson, who opened the original CPS supermarket in the 1970s and later, 30 years ago this month, added

the first floor shopping arcade which today houses more than 30 independent traders?

Many villages today have no shops and are little more than dormitories for nearby towns. As communities they have, in effect, died.

Not so Culcheth. It is a modern, busy centre with two supermarkets and a wide range of other shops and restaurants attracting people from miles around.

Of course, many of the facilities are unconnected to the CPS Centre. But would Culcheth have developed in the way it has if CPS had not arrived and acted as a magnet for

shoppers from a wide area? It seems unlikely.

Yes, we would probably have still had a shopping centre, but it is doubtful if it would have been as comprehensive as it is today.

The development of the modern shopping centre has, of course, left little of the historic Culcheth village intact. But CPS has retained an important link with the past - the name Sundial House. Many local people still remember the distinguished looking house which originally bore that name and was demolished to make way for the supermarket.

So, congratulations to CPS on its 30th birthday - and thanks for keeping the old name.

## Church festival

ST Luke's Church, Lowton is holding a Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of December 9-11.

On Friday and Saturday, the festival will be in full swing between 10am and 5pm while on the Sunday, it will be open from 12pm to 4pm.

There will be refreshments, a bring and buy sale, bran tub and raffle each day.

## High school reunion

EX-pupils of Culcheth High School are invited to a 80s Reunion Night at Culcheth Sports Club on Saturday 4th February with all profits from the event donated to Rett Syndrome Research Trust UK. Tickets are £5 each and available from the bar, at Culcheth Sports Club.

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# 'Pride in the Community'

**A TOTAL of 84 people - school children, parents, teachers and councillors - turned up at Culcheth's Village Green to show their 'Pride in the Community' by picking up litter.**

Phil Chadwick and Louis Banks, from Warrington Borough Council, supported the event by supplying litter pickers and bin sacks and helpful health and safety advice.

In total, 34 bin sacks of rubbish were collected from the village green and Millennium Gardens.

PCSO Steve Dodd said: "We never expected to see so many people come out and take part. It was great to see people of all ages

working together to improve the cleanliness of our village and a big thank you must go to the team of ladies who prepared the hot soup and rolls.

"Everybody wanted to know when we would be doing it again so we are looking to make it a regular event throughout the year."

Cllr Keith Bland, one of those who took part in the event, said: "This was

the best turn out we've ever had. A big thank you to our PCSOs, schools and councillors for taking part. Everybody really enjoyed the event and the village green has never looked so tidy. Well done to all."

Amanda Smith and Sara Lawrensen, head teachers of Culcheth Primary School and Newchurch Primary School, added their support and said the children who took part were a credit to Culcheth.



## Giant picnic for the jubilee

A GIANT picnic is to be held on Culcheth Village Green to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Residents will be asked to take their own picnics - but Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council will arrange entertainment, involving local groups.

The event will take place on Sunday, June 3 - and further details will be made known nearer the time.

Nationally, the Government has announced that June 2-5 will be a special, extended, Jubilee Weekend to celebrate the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

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# Harvest Festival bridges the generation gap

**Young and old came together in a Harvest Festival celebration, when the Rainbow group from Newchurch Primary School visited pensioners at Holcroft Grange, with a packed hamper full of gifts for the home's residents.**

The girls, aged 4-7 years of age, presented the hamper of biscuits, cakes and other goodies to the residents during their visit, and also performed a selection of well-practised dance routines as well as enjoying a sing-along with the residents.

Margaret Mann, activities co-ordinator at Holcroft Grange, said: "Everybody had a lovely evening, and we'd all like to thank the Rainbow girls from New Church for

their kind gifts and wonderful performances. We believe that intergenerational work, where children visit the home and interact with residents, is extremely beneficial for residents. We hold regular events with children and always have fun doing so."

The evening was the latest event put on by the home, as part of its varied activities and entertainment programme for residents.



*Residents Jean Ince (yellow jumper) and Georgie Robinson (blue cardigan) with two of the Rainbow girls, celebrating the Harvest festival.*



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# Lowton High School

## Adult Education Programme 2011 – 2012

# COMING SOON

On Friday 9th December Lowton High School will be launching the next phase of its new adult education programme. A complete breakdown of all the courses, enrolment details and costings will be available on the school's website from 9th December.

**[www.lowtonhighschool.co.uk](http://www.lowtonhighschool.co.uk)**



For more information please contact Stephen Toole  
the Director of Community at Lowton High School on

**Tel: 01942 767040 (Option 4)**

or email: **[stephen@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:stephen@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk)**





# Council officers 'biased against us' says campaigner

**BOROUGH council officers have shown bias against Culcheth and Glazebury for many years, according to local Labour campaigner Chris Vobe.**

His complaints came during an outspoken attack on Town Hall officers over what he described as "shambolic" treatment of people living near Culcheth High School in the aftermath of the major school building project.

He said Withington Avenue, Beech Avenue and Clarke Avenue had been left strewn with building materials, drains were blocked, an alleyway covered with graffiti and pavements and road surfaces pitted with potholes.

Complaints from residents have been met by "stonewalling" and "blatant disregard" said Mr Vobe.

He added: "Council officers have treated this part of the village with utter contempt.

"As it stands, this part of Culcheth is receiving appalling treatment from council officers. The planning department has already ridden roughshod over Culcheth, and it seems now that the highways department is going down the same track.

"When I visited Withington and Beech avenues recently, I was horrified at the state of disrepair the council had allowed this area to fall into.

"All people are asking is that the council takes some responsibility and restores this area to a proper standard. But Town Hall officers have been shambolic in their response."

Mr Vobe said when he contacted the council and was told that Withington Avenue wouldn't receive upgrades until 2013 - a year later than originally promised.

"This decision has been taken by an officer without any consultation with the political administration of the council," he said.

Sharon Walls, the borough council's public realm manager, said: "Withington Avenue was intended to be included in the 2011/12 programme of resurfacing works. Unfortunately, as works at Culcheth High School were completed later than anticipated and due to all roads having to be re-assessed following the two severe winters, it was necessary to amend the schedule, resulting in Withington Avenue work being postponed until next year. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay.

"In the meantime, the road will continue to be inspected on an ongoing basis. Any blocked road gullies will be cleaned out and potholes will be reinstated as necessary."

Mr Vobe retorted: "This response simply confirms my belief that council

officers simply sweep Culcheth's concerns under the carpet.

"They have sought simply to maintain a bias against those who live in Culcheth and Glazebury villages. It is clear officers are not willing to engage with residents constructively."

Cllr Sue Bland - a member of both the borough council and Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council - said: "Road surfaces in the Withington Avenue area have been in a poor state for some years - even before work started on the new school.

"We have tried for years to get improvements. The borough has promised to patch up potholes until the full resurfacing work is carried out next year."



Chris Vobe examines the pot holes

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## Spice Lounge's 5 star success

**THE Spice Lounge Indian Restaurant at Culcheth is celebrating a five star success with Warrington Council's 'Scores on the doors.'**

The purpose built restaurant has a modern decor and an exciting and extensive menu - and has been awarded the maximum 5 stars

following a council inspection.

The restaurant has achieved maximum marks for high standards of hygiene and structure.

Scores on the doors is a national system, operated by the council for the posting of food hygiene inspection rating information on the internet as a food hygiene star system.

## Parish shows true grit

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has changed its mind over an offer of free grit and snow shovels from the borough council this winter.

Originally, councillors declined the offer - but after hearing a revised "winter resilience" scheme from the borough council, they have agreed to join in the initiative.

Five grit boxes will be placed in the village and will be refilled by the borough council up to four times during the winter.

The majority of parish council across the borough originally turned down the offer - leading to the revised scheme.

## Speed warning sign for village

A SPEED activated sign, warning drivers that there is a 30mph speed limit on Lord Street and Smithy Brow, Croft is to be provided by the parish council.

The £4,600 sign has been funded by the parish, with the help of a grant from the Warrington East Stronger Together Group.

Cllr Les Hoyle (right) said the parish council had been progressing the measure for more than 12 months following expressions of concern from residents about the speed of traffic passing through the village.

He said: "We are really pleased with the outcome." The borough council has also agreed to retain a crossing patrol at St Lewis' RC Primary School, Croft and that Croft Primary School will also

have its own independent crossing patrol.

This follows pressure from borough and parish councillors and local parents.



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# CCTV is here to stay

**THE CCTV security camera system which has kept a watchful eye on Culcheth village centre for the last three years has been purchased by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.**

Members agreed to buy the system - previously leased from the police with funding from the Neighbourhood Action Team - for £606.74.

It was just before Christmas 2008 that the system was installed at the corner of Common Lane and Lodge Drive.

Since then it has been moved around to various sites to make sure different parts of the village centre are covered.

From the outset, the parish council pledged to keep the system if it proved successful - and now it has done just that.

Cllr Sue Bland said: "We think the CCTV has proved its worth so we decided to make it a permanent feature. We will still be able to move it around various different sites."



## How to make a bath bomb!

NEWCHURCH WI members were shown how to create a bath bomb, lavender soap and a shower gel at their monthly meeting.

Matthew Lepp, who runs a company making soap, spoke on "the history of soap making and bathing".

He explained the mixing techniques and introduced basic ingredients, some of which were manufactured essences and "soap base" but others which could be found in most kitchens.

Matthew and his sister set up the company 10 years ago with only a handful of products but now have a range of more than 30.

The next Newchurch WI meeting is on 8 February at 7.30pm. Contact Jean Riley on 01925 762873 for more information.



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## After 30 years, Mike is still a key trader

**IT is now 30 years since the late William Nelson extended what was then Culcheth Provision Stores and added 17 retail units on the level above the supermarket.**

One of the first tenants was Harry Boocock - and his son Mike still trades there today.

Harry opened his shoe repair business on Warrington Road in 1960, and moved to the shopping mall on the November 14, 1981, where he expanded and began key cutting.

Mike joined his father in 1985 and took over the business when Harry retired in 1990.

The business continued to grow and in 1995 became ADB Locksmiths. Mike has continued to expand and along with Graham, who joined him in 1996, now provides a mobile call out service, free home security surveys and a 24-

hour emergency service alongside the shoe repair business.

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The shop has recently been undergoing a refurbishment, although it has remained open as usual and the work was due to be completed by December.

ADB Locksmiths and Shoe Repairs can be contacted on 01925 765204 or by visiting [www.adblocksmiths.co.uk](http://www.adblocksmiths.co.uk)

The CPS Centre can be contacted on 01925 762237 or visiting [www.cpscentre.co.uk](http://www.cpscentre.co.uk)

## History group wants war memories

A FOUNDER member of the Culcheth History Group is seeking information, memories or pictures from the families of World War 1 veterans.

Madelaine Kirk would like them to contact her directly with any information likely to be useful in a booklet to be published by the history group to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the war.

Anyone who can help with information about veterans from the Culcheth, Croft, Risley, Winwick or Glazebury areas who fought in either World War 1 or World should email her at [mkirkmad@aol.co.uk](mailto:mkirkmad@aol.co.uk)



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# Village turns

**VILLAGERS and shop keepers turned back the clock at Culcheth Victorian Day to start the countdown to Christmas.**

Organised by Culcheth Lions and supported by Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council, the event is now firmly established as part of the village calendar as Lions members, shopkeepers and residents alike, dressed up in Victorian costume in celebration.

Christmas Fayres were held in the Parish and Methodist Church Hall.

while Santa was enchanting children at the Methodist Church. There was also fairground fun in the village.

Culcheth Lions are proud that the event provides a focus for many other local organisations to raise funds, or simply raise their profile, and that the children of Culcheth can have a chance to meet Santa in familiar surroundings and without breaking the bank!



*Daphne Eastburn checks out the Scouts stall at Culcheth Methodist Church*



*Crid Lewis and Rupert Rees on the flower stall at Newchurch Parish Hall*



*John Callaghan from JCal tries his luck with Church Warden Alan Wright on the lucky dip stall at Newchurch Parish Hall*



*Face painting on the Methodist Youth Club stall*

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# back the clock



Warren Bibby (right) with the team from Culcheth Royal British Legion on the BBQ stall



Lions Connie Bridge and Jon Graves check out one of the rides at Victorian Day



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- Houseplant arrangements are beautiful & very popular this time of year, they make great gifts.
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# CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Your Parish Councillors

### CULCHETH WARD



Keith Bland  
01925 766641



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

## Christmas lights

The Christmas Lights will be switched on by the Parish Council Chairman after Carol singing by Churches Together on Saturday 3rd December at 4.15pm at the Millennium Garden, Culcheth and on Saturday 10th December at 4.15pm at the Glazebury Parish Garden (opposite All Saints Church), Glazebury.

Everyone is invited to join in either or both of these events.

## Tidy up of the centre of the village

The Parish Council was pleased to support the Litter Morning on Saturday 19th November organised by our PCSO Steve Dodd. It was supported by over 80 young children and their families and teachers from the local Primary Schools as well as Warrington Borough Council Officers, members of the public and Parish Councillors who collected over 30 bags of rubbish, just from the village green and the surrounding area. A special thanks to Sainsbury's who provided us with soup and rolls and Newchurch Parish Hall for allowing us to use their kitchen for heating it up.

We are hoping to organise another one in March 2012.

## Bulb planting

The Parish Council organised a bulb planting session on Saturday 15th October on the Shaw Street Playing Field. We would like to thank 3rd Warrington East and 19th Warrington (Culcheth Methodist) Scout groups for assisting in planting nearly 1000 bulbs.

## Grants

£150 to Culcheth Lions to provide a Children's Ride on Victorian day.

£50 each to 3rd Warrington East and 19th Warrington Scout Groups in recognition of their community work, litter picking, bulb planting and helping out on Community Day.

## Warrington Borough Council Winter Service Proposals

The members noted comments from a meeting with Borough officers that proposals that they had sent to the Parish Council were meant to complement existing provision rather than devolve responsibility to Parishes. A new option was the provision of up to five free grit bins plus four free refills for 2011.

The Environment Sub-Committee of the Parish Council has agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that up to five grit bins and refills be requested.



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## THE STYLES FILES styles and co chartered accountants

### Proactive partner – Powerful results

We are very pleased to announce that Graeme Hindley has joined Les Styles and Ian Lloyd as a partner of the firm.

Graeme's journey to partner started when he first joined the company in July 2004. Initially recruited as a Graduate ACCA trainee, he quickly progressed and developed, becoming an integral cog within the Styles and Co practice. Since gaining his ACCA qualification in 2007, Graeme has decided to hone his skills within the Tax department and is currently working towards the Chartered Tax Advisory qualification.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity to be a part of the continued growth and success of the firm. I look forward to providing existing and new clients alike with exceptional proactive advice that will generate very powerful results for themselves and their businesses."



With the end of the year fast approaching, so is the deadline to file your Self Assessment Income Tax Return online. This is not something to do last minute, especially with the HMRC's new penalty regime.

#### 1 day late

A fixed penalty of £100.  
This applies even if you have no tax to pay or have paid the tax you owe.

#### 3 months late

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This is in addition to a fixed penalty of £100.

#### 6 months late

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This is on top of the earlier penalties. Minimum penalty £1300

#### 12 months late

£300 or 5% of the tax due, whichever is the higher.  
In serious cases penalty may be up to 100% of the tax due. This is in addition to the earlier penalties.

If you would like more details about the above, or would like Styles & Co to help you submit your Self Assessment Income Tax Return on time, please contact Graeme Hindley 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.*

**The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co 473 Warrington Road, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 5QU  
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# High school's modest heroes

**A GROUP of Culcheth High School pupils came to the rescue of a woman who had collapsed in the street - and could have saved her life.**

The five pupils ran for help to a nearby restaurant, used their own coats to keep the woman warm and replied to missed calls on her mobile phone to let her family know what had happened.

They waited for an ambulance and members of the woman's family to arrive - and then modestly left the scene.

They did not mention the incident at school and staff would not have known anything about it but for a Facebook comment by Paul Linderman, proprietor of the Duckegg Bluu restaurant in Culcheth, where they went for help.

The incident was on November 5 and the youngsters were walking home from a fireworks party when they found the woman lying on the pavement in Warrington Road, Culcheth.

They could not rouse her - so one went to the restaurant for help.

A Culcheth High spokeswoman said: "The five students have been praised by school staff for their prompt actions, which could have saved the woman's life."

But they modestly don't want any further recognition."



*The modest heroes, left to right (back): James Brooks and Jonathon Atkinson; (front): Dan Brown, Amy Barry and Alex Henderson Sayers.*

## WI hears talk of scandals

THE scandals, the stories and the history of Dunham Massey Hall were put under the microscope at a meeting of Culcheth WI.

Guest speaker Peter Braun told some fascinating stories about the hall and of the Earls of Stamford, one of who married a bare-back circus rider, and the 2nd Earl of Warrington who, without telling his wife, wrote a book on the desirability of divorce!

Mr Braun's talk was illustrated by a laptop presentation showing the treasures and beautiful pieces of furniture contained in the house. He was thanked by Lydia Howard.

The meeting was Culcheth WI's 25th AGM and president Lillian Houghton welcomed members and thanked Crid Lewis for the table flowers, which were later donated to the raffle. The tea hostesses were Maura Appleby, Mary Bardsley and Kathleen Totham.

It was agreed that 2011 had been a good year during which days out and entertaining speakers had been enjoyed by all.

A raffle ended the meeting, with prizewinners being Martha Head, Edna Neiles, Joan Jarvis, Barbara Van Russell, Eileen Williams, Joyce Blair and Barbara Starkey.

The next meeting will be on December 20 at 2pm, following the annual luncheon at the Datan.

## 'Deadly' quiz raised £1,580

THE annual quiz held at Culcheth Royal British Legion Village Club in aid of the BBC Children in Need appeal raised a total of £1,580.

As usual, TV presenter Alan "Deadly" Dedicoat, from the Lottery show, hosted the event.

Organiser Elaine Durrington said: "Alan and I would like to thank everyone who supported the event."



*Alan with Warren Bibby and his wife, Nicky, from the Royal British Legion Club.*



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Friday 9 December, Warrington  
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call 01925 442399 for information.  
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**Vienna Festival Ballet presents  
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Saturday 10 December, Parr Hall,  
2.30pm

**Christmas Stress Buster**  
Saturday 10 December,  
Warrington Market, 10am – 4pm

**Lantern Parade**  
Thursday 15 December,  
Queens Gardens, 6.30pm

## Merry Christmas Countdown Friday 16 & Saturday 17 December

**Warrington Male Voice Choir  
Christmas Voices, Christmas  
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Friday 16 & Saturday 17 December,  
Parr Hall, 7.30pm  
For tickets call 01925 263951.

**Houghton Weavers**  
Friday 16 December, Pyramid, 7.30pm

**Crafty Christmas**  
Saturday 17 December, Hatters Row,  
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# New guiding unit launched

**A NEW guiding unit is being planned in Culcheth to cope with increasing numbers.**

More than 200 girls, young women and adults are members and there is a demand for new places - so the new Guide Unit is being formed.

At present there are three Rainbow units, four Brownie units, two Guide units and a Senior Section unit meeting in Culcheth.

In January plans are to open another Guide unit and an extra Senior Section unit to cope with demand.

District commissioner Sara Isles said: "In order to provide the girls and young women in Culcheth with the Girlguiding opportunities they so clearly want, we are always looking for adult volunteers. We especially need women who are willing to

become unit leaders and take the adult leadership qualification."

Anyone interested should contact Sara on 766057 or via email [sara.isles@btinternet.com](mailto:sara.isles@btinternet.com)

Recently 24 members of the 7th Culcheth Guides set off for "A Grand Day Out" at Blackpool Pleasure Beach organised by Girlguiding North West England.

More than 9,000 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members from across North West enjoyed the day. They enjoyed rides, an ice show and a world record attempt for the most people doing the "Cha Cha Slide" at the same time.



*A grand day out in Blackpool*

## Suzanne realises her dream



**FORMER bank worker Suzanne Rogers always wanted to work in health and fitness.**

From an early age she loved gymnastics and competed at county level.

Later she did the New York Marathon and several other marathons - and even met husband John while doing a charity sky dive!

Now, after 20 years of marriage and with two sons, Connor, 17 and Michael, 14, she has achieved her ambition by opening a Pilates Studio in Glaziers Lane, Culcheth.

Suzanne, 46, said: "I decided it was time to realise my dream.

"I love teaching Pilates and get great pleasure from seeing my clients progress in my classes.

"I am very excited by the future of the studio. I will be adding yoga to the timetable from January to compliment the Pilates and will continue to give my very best to ensure my clients have a great experience at Cheshire Pilates."

Suzanne's other passion is raising money for breast cancer charities by taking on challenges - the latest of which will be hiking the Inca Trail in Peru in April with her friend, Andrea Scott.

They will be raising money for Breast Cancer Care and anyone wanting to support them can donate by visiting [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and search for Suzanne Rogers and Andrea Scott's page.

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## Motoring

# Motorists in for a bumpy ride

**MOTORISTS in rural areas look to be in for a bumpy ride as eight in 10 councils experience a loss in funding.**

Eighty per cent of councils say they have suffered a real term loss in road funding over the last 12 months.

And 89 per cent of RAC patrols - who use the roads more than most people - say they believe current road conditions show the effects of under-investment in road repairs.

However, 80 per cent of councils are confident they are well prepared to deal with another harsh winter.

Research conducted by the RAC among councils and its own patrols has revealed widespread concern about the state of the road network, particularly in rural areas, as cuts to council budgets are increasingly hitting home.

### Maintenance

The survey reveals that a year on from the Comprehensive Spending Review, 80 per cent of local authorities have experienced a real term reduction in funding to their road maintenance budgets - with 55 per cent of councils seeing an outright reduction in funding.

A further 25 per cent reported that funding had stayed at the same level, meaning a loss in real terms due to

inflation in materials and labour costs required for road maintenance.

### Constraints

Even with the budgetary constraints, 50 per cent of councils reported a focus on permanent long-term fixes but 20 per cent reported they are prioritising short-term fixes for safety reasons. Looking ahead to this winter, 80 per cent reported that they are well prepared for another winter of extreme weather and 50 per cent mentioned their well stocked salt and grit supplies.

Three quarters of RAC patrols think the condition of rural roads is poor or very poor, with just two per cent saying they are in good condition. In addition, two-thirds of RAC patrols think that suburban roads are in poor condition.

Motorists are equally concerned about roads - 92 per cent of those questioned as part of the RAC's "Report on Motoring" said that they feel the condition of local roads is getting noticeably worse compared with 78 per cent who feel similarly about main roads.



## Five star safety rating

THE Hyundai Veloster has been awarded the maximum five-star safety rating by independent vehicle assessment organisation, Euro NCAP.

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The Veloster achieved a rating of 96 per cent in the "adult occupant" category, registering maximum points in the side barrier test and more severe side pole test.

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The Veloster is the sixth consecutive Hyundai model to achieve the maximum five-star score in the Euro NCAP safety program. The all-new i40 is the most recent car before Veloster to be awarded the top rating.

Allan Rushforth, senior vice president of Hyundai Motor Europe, said: "The five-star rating for Veloster further demonstrates our commitment to the highest levels of safety for Hyundai customers. Veloster is attracting a new audience, combining practicality and 'fluidic' design in a unique 1+2 door package. Recognition of its class-leading safety performance will further add to its appeal."

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