

# Culcheth Life

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Issue: 117  
December 2012

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# Editor's Comment



**WE must, it seems, be thankful for any crumbs of comfort which fall from Biffa's table, following their success in gaining another two and-a-half years to complete operations on the Risley Landfill site.**

It is not the first time the waste disposal giant has won extra time and its latest excuse - a shortage of restoration soil - is about as convincing as an earlier one of a shortage of materials for tipping due to the recession.

Still, the borough council has imposed strict conditions and we can only hope they will be adhered to. Restoration soil SHOULD be taken directly to the site from the M62 without passing through Culcheth or Croft. The Silver Lane access SHOULD be blocked off to prevent invasion by travellers.

And the new completion date, March 31, 2015, SHOULD be non-negotiable.

Of course, similar conditions in the past have been ignored, so we cannot be too optimistic.

On the other hand, Biffa have made grants available to the local community, which are extremely

welcome. Some £3,500 towards the cost of double glazing at the Glazebury scout centre is a recent example.

But overall we remain convinced that long-running sagas like this - the Risley landfill site is nearly 40 years old - do nothing but bring the planning system into disrepute.

**Copy deadline  
for the January issue  
of Culcheth Life is  
November 27**

## Rainbows fundraiser

MEMBERS of the three Rainbow units in Culcheth raised almost £300 for their funds with a sponsored bag pack in the village.

The youngsters spent four hours helping customers with their shopping, supervised by their leaders, Janet Bradshaw, Claire Balfe, Thelma Manning and Miriam Kleiz.

Culcheth Rainbows are thriving and a fourth unit is opening in January.

Anyone wanting to add their daughter's name to the waiting list for Rainbows, Brownies or Guides should contact Sara.Isles@btopenworld.com

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# Jake's hard work earns award

**CULCHETH High School pupil Jake Thompson has won a prestigious award from Cheshire Police.**

He took part in the Force's Cheshire Young Persons Good Citizen Award Programme, which rewards young people for their voluntary work.

Jake attended the nine week Fire Service Respect programme and then volunteered for the Police Youth Community Support Programme (PYCS).

For eight weeks Jake worked one day a week on various community volunteer projects, helping people with learning difficulties at the Long Lane community garden centre.

During this he learned about horticulture, planting seeds, taking cuttings, weeding, litter picking and other useful skills. He then worked at Holcroft Grange Care Home in

Culcheth, putting his new skills to good use in the community garden.

PC John Mather, Warrington schools liaison officer, said: "It was very humbling to see how hard Jake worked and the skills he demonstrated."

"I work with young people every day. The PYCS programme gives young people a chance to engage with the community in a very positive way, to learn new skills and develop as young people. Jake is a fine example of a young person who wants to make a difference, he is a worthy winner of the young citizen award and I wish him good luck in the future."



PC Mather presenting the award to Jake.

## Christmas Tree festival

THE annual Christmas Tree and Crib festival at Newchurch Parish Church, Culcheth - now in its seventh year - will be on Friday, December 14-Sunday December 16.

This year, the festival will be supporting The Children's Society - Warrington Project, as well as church funds.

Theme for the festival will be "2012 - a Year of Celebration."

As usual, local businesses and community groups will decorate a Christmas Tree or Crib and display them in the church over the three day festival.

Refreshments will be available across the whole weekend.

On the Friday, local schools will be in church to sing and in the evening Ellenbrook and Boothstown Brass Band will be holding a concert.

Tickets for the concert are priced at £7.00 and must be obtained in advance due to popular demand.

Over the last six years, the festival has raised about £2,500 for local charities. Entrance to the event is a £1.50 donation with children free.

### Craft & Collectors Fair

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# Festival of Angels

**A FESTIVAL of Angels is being held at Christ Church, Lady Lane, Croft, over the weekend of November 30 to December 2.**

Life size angels are being made for the event from card and paper. Adding the finishing touches are (left to right) Chloe McCreedy, Olivia Anderson, Fern Brackley, Georgia Brackley, Sarah Bilsborrow, Lucy Bilsborrow, professional paper sculptor Phil Cox and Rev. Chris Stafford.

## Coffee cakes and carols

TWISS Green Primary School, Culcheth, is hosting Coffee, Cakes and Carols for the "more mature" residents of the village on Friday December 14 at 1.30pm.

Guests will be entertained with a variety of festive fun.

Parents bake a selection of cakes and mince pies to accompany afternoon tea or coffee, served by Year 6 pupils. There is also a free raffle and gifts for all.

Invitations will be distributed by the local churches.

## School Christmas fayre

SANTA'S Grotto will be among the attractions when St Lewis' School, Croft, holds a Christmas Fayre on Sunday December 2.

It opens at 12.30pm and offers fun for all the family including crafts, face painting, refreshments, tombolas, a raffle and fashion stalls.

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# Birthday celebrations raise nearly £800 for charity

**CULCHETH based 5th Avenue Nails and Beauty Salon on Common Lane, celebrated their 7th birthday by hosting a party with a difference - helping raise nearly £800 for charity.**

Owner Emma Ellis approached local businesses to join forces to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care in the form of a pamper and shopping evening.

The response was overwhelming with the majority of businesses in Culcheth being involved!

The 5th Avenue salon offered taster sessions of their new treatment lava shell massage and local therapist Gillian from Savannah Holistics also treated customers to mini reflexology sessions.

Samuel Peter Hairdressers organised the shopping area on the evening with lots of goodies on sale including cupcakes from Wilde About Cakes and ladies fashion from newly opened shop Room31 and lots more!

The multi award winning stylists treated customers to hair consultations and there was high demand for curls with a lot of ladies leaving the salon with hair up ready for a party!

Visitors to the event were treated to a goody bag packed with freebies including beauty products as well as special promotions from stalls by local and national lifestyle brands.

Other highlights of the night also included local model Sarah being spray painted as a pink Lioness - staying with the Breast Cancer theme - the Lion in the woman fights back against cancer collecting money for Breast Cancer Care and selling raffle tickets. The body spray paint was done by local make up

expert Melanie Doyle.

Also Daisy - Miss Teen Great Britain attended with Dress Studio Culcheth.

The event also had the help of Sue from the NHS to promote awareness and demonstrate to ladies on how to do very important regular checks.

Scrumptious Canapés were supplied by Le Brunch Culcheth.

"The event was a massive success and we have been blown away by the amazing response we have had from everyone who was involved, I want to thank all the support from local businesses and our loyal customers. It was certainly a birthday party to remember," said Emma.

"We are planning to make our pamper and shopping evenings a regular event and are already working on the next event".

Photographs were taken on the evening by Luke Sampson.





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# Croft Parish Council News

## Your Parish Councillors:



Valerie Allen  
(Chairman)  
01925 767274  
val@valallen.co.uk



Merril Cummerson  
01925 764127  
merrilcummerson@yahoo.co.uk



Jim Hilton  
01925 767358



Les Hoyle  
(Vice Chairman)  
01925 810130  
lhoyle@warrington.gov.uk



Jeff Shelley  
01925 764517  
j.shelley@btopenworld.com



Chris Vobe  
01925 419481  
chrisvobe@gmail.com  
Twitter @ChrisVobe1

### St. Lewis' School:- on-street car parking

This matter has been going on for far too long and the Parish Council is determined to get a solution as soon as possible. The Parish Council continues to work with local residents, the school, the Archdiocese of Liverpool and the Borough Council so that this matter may be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

### Croft Village's Christmas Tree

Children from the Village's primary schools will be singing carols around the Christmas Tree on Monday, 3rd December. They will be helping to celebrate the lighting up of the Village's Christmas Tree in the car park, opposite the Horsehoe Inn. Everyone is welcome to attend this event which starts at 6pm.

**The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Residents may contact Mike Pope, Croft Parish Council's Clerk on 01925 733766 or by email to [pc@croftvillagecheshire.co.uk](mailto:pc@croftvillagecheshire.co.uk) visit the website: [www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk](http://www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk)



Culcheth High School

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## Author drops in at school

**BEST-selling author Robert Muchamore dropped in at Culcheth High School to talk to youngsters from Years 7 and 8 and selected primary school pupils.**

He explained what first inspired him to become a writer and why he decided to write for children and went on to describe the work of an author.

After a short reading from his first book in the CHERUB series, *The Recruit*, he opened up a question and

answer session.

Each pupil was given a free, signed copy of *The Recruit*.

Many pupils are now avid Muchamore fans and are queuing up in the school library to read the next exciting instalment of the life of teenage spy James Adams.



## Wood carving explained

**SPEAKER** Bob Holgate gave a talk on the intricacies of wood carving to members of Lowton WI.

He explained about the tools and equipment needed, and the various methods of finishing the carvings. Members were impressed by his carvings of birds and animals that were on display.

New president Lin Hayes welcomed everyone to the meeting at All Saints Social Centre, Golborne. She thanked Norma Clarkson for her work over the years.

Future events include a visit to Chatsworth House to see the Christmas decorations on November 29 and a Christmas Party on December 4.

New members and visitors are always welcome, contact Norma on 01942 601934.

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# Residents celebrate housing victory

**NEARBY residents are celebrating after planning chiefs threw out proposals for a controversial housing development at Culcheth.**

Members of the borough council's development management committee rejected an application by house builders Redrow Homes to build 26 houses on land off Doeford Close.

Nearly 50 residents packed into the meeting to hear councillors - who had already carried out a site inspection - turn down the proposals against the advice of officers.

The decision, by seven votes to two, with one abstention, was greeted with a round of applause.

Residents are now hoping to obtain village green status for the land which

forms part of the grounds of the former Newchurch Hospital.

They say it has been used as a public open space for more than 20 years.

The hospital site was developed by Redrow in the 1990s, when more than 200 dwellings were built.

But part was omitted from the original development because it was within a safeguarding zone for an explosives depot operated by Orica UK Ltd at Glazebury.

However, Redrow say they are now collaborating with Orica and no

development would take place in advance of changes to the exclusion zone.

Residents' spokesman Geoff Hardern, borough councillor Chris Vobe and parish councillor Mike Vobe expressed concerns over traffic, parking and road access - as well as continued health and safety concerns over the explosives depot.

After the meeting, Cllr Chris Vobe (pictured) said: "This was a

tremendous victory for local people, who have fought tirelessly to protect this important green space from development.

"The strength of feeling was plain to see in both the number of people who turned up to the Town Hall, and the sheer jubilation after the result was announced.

"Culcheth people have enjoyed the benefits of this great open space for over 20 years."



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# Dining Out with Culcheth Life

at The Raj

**A BUSY restaurant during the middle of the week is usually a good sign - so it was pleasing to see everything in full swing when we rolled up at The Raj Indian Restaurant in Culcheth.**

There is nothing worse than being in the only people dining out in a restaurant but there is little chance of that judging by our experiences at The Raj over the years.

There is nearly always someone else sitting at a table when you arrive - and very often, if you are known in the Culcheth area, you are likely to bump into someone you know!

The Raj has now been serving fine, traditional cuisine in the area for 13 years and whether you're just looking for a mid-week meal, or celebrating something special, The Raj is the place to be.

Awarded 5 stars on the council environmental health's "Scores on the Doors" scheme The Raj only use fresh ingredients to prepare mouth watering dishes.

Their renowned chef has been with the team from day one and has cooked for many celebrities and dignitaries including Her Majesty the Queen, alongside holding columns in London's Evening Standard and Eastern Eye.

During our visit we enjoyed a mixed starters, followed by the house specials Palak Murgh Makhani -Chicken tikka and fresh spinach cooked in an extremely buttery tomato sauce flavoured with Methi and Chicken Tikka Chilli Masalla, cooked with fresh green chillies, ginger, garlic and tomatoes with our special mix of freshly ground spices.

All the food was well presented and well cooked and washed down with nicely chilled Cobra beer.

If you are planning an outing to The Raj in the near future and especially for your Christmas outing, it is advisable to book as this extremely popular restaurant gets very busy - and not just at weekends!



Environmental Health Scores  
On The Doors Awarded 5 Stars!

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# Village turns

[Pictures: John King]



19th Warrington Scout Group Culcheth Methodist Church at their Tombola Stall. From left, Ethan Bent aged 9, Harry Crann aged 8, leader Tracie Cotton, Phoebe Holden aged 4, leader Amanda Holden and Reece Holden aged 7.



Culcheth Methodist Church Youth Club Victorian Sweet Stall from left, Jasmine Lowton, Anna Costello and Anya Thompson.

Advertiser's announcement

## When the oven is most important

NEW research has revealed that around a quarter of consumers hardly ever attempt to clean their oven - which in the run-up to Christmas is the most important appliance in the house.

As a result, they may find the oven covered in ingrained grease and grime from the whole year - which doesn't help when there's a turkey to roast.

Locally based oven valeting specialist Paul Clark says now is the time to call him in to ensure the oven is fit for purpose.

He said: "Many people will be anxious to ensure that their home looks as clean and tidy as possible, but they often neglect their oven, even though it plays just as important a role in the celebrations as the Christmas tree.

Paul, from Ovenu, added: "If it's one of those jobs you hate then get the experts in so it looks as good as new, and is ready to cope with everything you throw into it, including the turkey and all the trimmings."

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# back the clock



Culcheth Methodist Church Victorian Day Bric a Brac stall from left, Aileen Brown, Celia Watts and Daphne Eastburn.



Left, Tom Bird aged 14 and his grandfather Mike Charlton of Warrington, stoke up their 3inch scale Marshall Traction Engine.



Newchurch Culcheth held a Victorian Christmas Fair in the Church Hall. At the Tombola Stall from left, Jill Wheatley, Sean Davison, Rev. Chris Stafford, Betty Bentley and Carole Houghton.

For more pictures check out [www.culchethlife.com](http://www.culchethlife.com)

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## December...Winter Gardening Tips

- **Christmas wrapping** – remember to protect your half-hardy plants during particularly cold spells. Wrap the pot with bubble wrap for the entire winter and the plant with fleece while it is below freezing.
- **Christmas crackers** – not all the garden is asleep at this time of year and there are several stars still performing:  
Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn'  
Sarcococca - Christmas Box  
Helleborus – the Christmas rose
- **Christmas dreams** – now is the ideal time to plan ahead for an even more fantastic garden next season. Come in store for inspiration and ideas and talk to our team of garden experts.



## December...Christmas Tips

- Most LED lights use 90% less electricity than regular lights and as an added bonus they are made from plastic rather than glass so it's harder to break them when putting them up.
- When dressing your Christmas tree it is better to use more of the same item than too many different ones.



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FESTIVE INSPIRATION EVENINGS	WED 5TH & 12TH
FARMERS' MARKET	SAT 15TH
CHRISTMAS EVENING DINING*	MON 10TH - FRI 21ST

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## Dining Out with Culcheth Life

at The Black Swan

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There has been an Inn on the site of the Black Swan since the 1700's when Manchester Road was a main highway between the port of Liverpool and the city of Manchester.

The pub is a focal point of the village and while undergoing some modernisation and development work it still retains a traditional country pub feel with a fine selection of traditional meals and drinks.

The very fact it has been awarded The Community Pub of the Year 2012 by CAMRA North Cheshire, speaks volumes for the premises.

The venue is suitable for a general meal out or a special occasion.

We started with a tomato soup, which was freshly made and piping hot.

This was followed by Beer Battered Fish and Chips - Fresh beer battered cod fillet served with homemade chips, mushy peas and homemade tartare sauce.

Our other main course was an 8oz Sirloin Steak served with homemade chips, garden peas, tomato and mushrooms.

Both meals were well presented and very enjoyable.

Sweets change on a regular basis and we went for the cheesecake which was again well presented on a slate board.



## Culcheth remembers

**The Sunday Remembrance Day Parade in Culcheth saw one of the biggest turn out of walkers for many years.**

Led by the ATC Pipe Band and the local Royal British Legion approximately 500 made their way through the village from the RBL on Wigshaw Lane to Newchurch Parish Church where wreaths were laid on behalf of the many organisations in the village.

The parade then made its way back to the RBL Club premises where everyone was treated to an afternoon of 1940s style entertainment. It was great to see the large turnout of people in 1940s type dress with both military and civilian dress of the day

helping make the occasion one to remember.

The RBL Club saw a weekend of functions aimed at raising funds for the Poppy Appeal.

Chairman Les "Mainwaring" Styles said: "On Friday evening a night of 1940s music and comedy, when everyone dressed for the occasion, set the tone for a very successful fundraising weekend and the Legion Committee and Warren Bibby and his team are to be congratulated for the great effort they put in to organise all the events."



*The 1940s Night at Royal British Legion with (L-R) Les "Captain Mainwaring" Styles his wife Commander April, WREN and Paul "Winston" Campbell show up for Poppy Appeal.*

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## One man play marks 90th anniversary

**A PLAY written to mark the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion (RBL) last year is being performed in Culcheth.**

Lawrence Nelson, of Penrith in the Lake District, wrote and performed the one act play, *The Ghost of Tommy Atkins*, for the first time last year.

It is about the first hour of the first day of the Battle of The Somme, and tells the story of two boys who enlist to fight for their country. Only one comes home, but the other returns as a ghost once a year to see his friend.

Lawrence said: "I was born and raised in a Lancashire cotton town and the devastating effect that the battles of the First World War, such as The Somme, had on the local population is still evident today nearly a hundred years after the war ended."

The play will be performed at the

Royal British Legion, Culcheth, on December 6. Admission is £10 and proceeds will go to the RBL and Hire a Hero.

Lawrence said: "The term 'Tommy Atkins' or more often just 'Tommy' has been used to describe a British soldier since at least the 1740s, perhaps earlier.

"The surname Atkins is thought to be old English for 'red earth' and it is said that this name was chosen because of the Redcoats worn by British Infantry. Others say that there actually was a Tommy Atkins, or several in fact, who served as private soldiers down the years."

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### Discover Pottery

Learn how to work with clay, create your own pots, beautiful plates and tiles. This is a free course with a cost of £25 for materials. One class every Tuesday evening for five weeks starting on the 15th January 2013, 6.30pm-8.30pm

### Discover Floristry

An introduction of how to create beautiful bouquets and button holes. This course costs £35, however learners can access one free course this academic year with a cost of £15 for materials. One class every Wednesday evening for five weeks starting on the 16th January 2013, 6.30pm-8.30pm

### Discover Digital Imaging

Learn how to upload, edit, print and save your photographs. This course costs £35, however each learner is entitled to one free course each academic year. One class every Thursday evening starting on the 17th January 2013, 6.30pm-8.30pm

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# stylesfiles

## Real Time Information (RTI)

There's less than 6 months to go before businesses have to start changing to the RTI system of reporting PAYE. This is the biggest shake up to the PAYE system since it was introduced back in 1944. Almost all employers must switch to the new system in April 2013.

Under the RTI system, data is submitted electronically to HMRC whenever a payroll is processed (whether monthly, fortnightly or weekly etc) rather than only at the end of the tax year and the submission has to be processed either before or at the same time that salary payments are made. The Annual Return (P35) is now no longer required but P6Os and P11Ds (and P9Ds) must still be prepared annually.

These changes will allow HMRC to have up to date information regarding all employees, which will assist them in implementing the planned changes to the benefit systems.

One of the key requirements of RTI is therefore ensuring that all employee information is accurate. This means employers need to ensure all the following details are correct for each employee:

- Full Name
- Date of birth

If you require any further information or assistance then please contact Scott Sumner or Sheri Beck at Styles and Co on 01925 761600.

- NI number
- Gender
- Address

Many owner managed companies, whose only employees are the directors/shareholders only pay a salary which keeps them below the PAYE and NIC threshold. Under the current system, as no tax or National Insurance is due for payment, only the annual P35 would need to be filed. Under the new system, every payroll run will need to be filed electronically with HMRC which means further work for the directors or their advisors.

### What else do you need to do?

1. If your business operates its own payroll in-house then ensure that your payroll software is RTI compliant, and your payroll staff are up to date with the changes.

2. If Styles and Co process and look after your payroll, then rest assured that we are prepared for the changes to RTI and will communicate with you leading up to the changeover.



*Please note the contents of our article 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, if you would like further information call 01925 761600**

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## What's On, Where & When...

Christmas Lights Switch On – Friday 16 November - Golden Square / Market Gate, from 3pm

St. Andrew's Day Festival – Saturday 1 December - Bridge Street / Market Gate

Christmas at the Children's Zoo – Sunday 2 December - Walton Hall & Gardens

Christmas Gift Cabins – 2-8 December - Market Gate

Street Animation – 1, 8, 15 & 22 December - Bridge Street

Santa's Workshop – 8, 15 & 22 December - Bridge Street

Vienna Festival Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* – Saturday 8 December - Parr Hall, 2.30pm

Walton Winterland – 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 December - Walton Hall & Gardens

Christmas Carvery Lunch – 9, 15 & 23 December - Walton Hall & Gardens

Warrington Lantern Parade – Thursday 13 December - Queen's Gardens, 6.30pm & 7.30pm

Light Spectacular – Thursday 13 December - Town Hall, 7.15pm

Ken Dodd – Thursday 13 December - Parr Hall, 7.30pm

Houghton Weavers – 13 & 14 December - Pyramid, 7.30pm

Christmas in the Cultural Quarter – 13-16 December - Queen's Gardens, from 7.30pm

Christmas Comedy Store – Saturday 15 December - Pyramid, 7.30pm

Kate Rusby – Tuesday 18 December - Parr Hall, 7.30pm

Mother Goose (Panto) – 4-13 January - Parr Hall

Radio Warrington 87.8FM at Christmas - Tune in from 12 November - 9 December

Plus... A range of exhibitions and activities taking place at Warrington Museum & Art Gallery, Monday to Saturday, throughout the festive period.

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[www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk](http://www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk)

All the details in this guide are correct at the time of print. For the most up-to-date information please visit [www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk](http://www.itsallgoingoninwarrington.co.uk)



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# CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Your Parish Councillors

### NEWCHURCH WARD



Chris Vobe  
01925 419481



Jacqui Johnson  
01925 763435



Matt Smith  
matt.smith062@gmail.com

### GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Angela Duncombe  
01925 419481



Eddy Estlin  
eddy.estlin2012@gmail.com

### CULCHETH WARD



Mike Vobe  
mike.vobe2012@gmail.com



Peter Caswell  
01942 671938



Keith Bland  
01925 766641



Lilian Houghton  
01925 762935



Paul Campbell  
01925 766658

## Living Wage Week

To co-incide with Living Wage Week this year, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council are proud to announce that its members voted unanimously to increase the wages of all our staff previously on the minimum wage to the Living Wage. Councillors value the work that Parish Council staff do and recognise the quality service that they help to provide for the village. We also know that increasing pay means more money in people's pockets, which they can spend in local shops and businesses, which will in turn keep our economy moving.

## *A new Parish Council website - how you can get involved*

Cllr Matt Smith has taken the lead on building and initiating a new website for Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, due to go live soon. The website is designed not just to keep residents up to date with the latest work of your parish councillors, but also act as a hive of information about activities in the village. Local clubs, services and village events will all be advertised and supported. The new Parish Council are keen to ensure that everyone reading the website knows that Culcheth and Glazebury remain great places to live and work.

## We're also keen for residents to get involved

The website is going to have a dedicated section about the history and heritage of our area, and we plan to include as many photographs of days past as we can. If you have any historical photographs of Culcheth and Glazebury that you would be willing to have published, whether they go back 20 years or 200 years, please get in touch with Cllr Matt Smith. The page should hopefully represent a strong visual document of how both villages have grown and thrived.

## *Planning Applications*

Parish councillors often receive enquiries from local residents about planning matters. We have recently launched consultations on a number of important issues and are always keen to hear your views. It is important to stress that Parish Councillors don't make the final decision about any applications, but we will always make sure that your comments and remarks (whether they are in favour or against a particular plan) are seen and heard by the right people at the Town Hall.

## Love Where You Live - an update

By the time you read this page, the village will have once again played host to a successful Victorian Day. During the day, you may have seen a stand advertising and promoting the upcoming "Love Where You Live" scheme. The Parish Council has pressed hard for this scheme to be run in Culcheth and Glazebury and we are confident that it will be a success. The scheme is due to begin in the New Year and is designed to help stamp out problems such as litter, dog fouling and fly tipping. Final preparations are now in place and comments from local people have helped to inform where the scheme will be targeted.

## *Happy Christmas!*

And, of course, as this will be the final edition of Culcheth Life in 2012, all 10 members of the Parish Council would like to wish the residents of Culcheth and Glazebury a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

# All set for 100th anniversary of the Messiah

**THIS year's staging of Handel's Messiah at Glazebrook Methodist Church will be the 100th performance of the work at the venue.**

The tradition of performing the classic work started in 1913 and has continued over the years. The special anniversary concert will be on December 9.

The choir is Glazebrook Choral Society (augmented) and numbers about 70 with singers and musicians who come from Glazebrook, Culcheth, Irlam, Leigh, Atherton and other places including Saddleworth and Anglesey.

Five rehearsals are held on Monday evenings. There is a small

orchestra, four professional soloists, an organist and solo trumpeter.

The event is unique as it is performed within a church service with part one at 2.30pm and parts two and three at 6pm.

Glazebrook Church is more than 100 years old and lends itself to be transformed into an auditorium for the performance.

No tickets are required but collections will be made at each service. Further details are available from David O'Leary on 01925 764707.



Left to right is David O'Leary, Glazebrook Choral Society, Anne Allen, organist, and conductor David Emery.

## Biffa win another two-and-a-half years

**WASTE disposal giants Biffa have won permission to continue operations on the Risley landfill site for an extra two-and-a-half years - despite strong objections from the Culcheth and Croft areas.**

But borough planning chiefs have imposed strict conditions on the consent.

All vehicles delivering restoration soil must access the site directly from Junction 11 of the M62, without

travelling through nearby villages such as Culcheth and Croft.

And Silver Lane - where a visitor centre is planned - must be blocked off to prevent unauthorised use by travellers.

The borough council's development management committee approved a number of applications despite objections and expressions of concern from nearby residents and from Culcheth and Glazebrook Parish

Council, Croft Parish Council and Birchwood Town Council.

These will allow the company to keep plant and machinery on the site until restoration work is finished, to continue using a site haul road and to put back the completion date until March 31, 2015.

Landfill operations finished in October last year and the site is now being restored.

But the company claims there is a shortage of restoration soils needed before trees can be planted and pasture areas seeded.

Nearby residents fear the company may continue to "work the system" by appealing for many years to come to develop or enlarge the site.

They say the scheme is imposing the "maximum visual intrusion" on residents of Culcheth.

For years, residents have complained of noise, smells, pests and traffic caused by the landfill site.

Anger has repeatedly been expressed that planners have allowed the original completion date for tipping to be extended on several occasions.

## Uproar over training centre for excavator drivers

**ANGRY residents have lodged objections to a plan to open a training centre for excavator drivers on farmland near Warrington.**

They say the development off Kenyon Lane, Croft would cause an intolerable noise nuisance and also traffic problems.

Croft Parish Council has also lodged a strong objection.

Cllr Les Hoyle said: "I have put in an objection myself. There is nothing wrong with having a training centre for excavator drivers but this is not the right place for it.

"It is currently grazing land and in the Green Belt but there are about a dozen or so houses nearby.

"The residents are up in arms about it."

Two buildings would be erected on the site.

Activity would involve trainee drivers excavating areas of the site and it then being restored for another group of trainees.

Cllr Hoyle said: "It would be bound to cause a great deal of noise and disturbance."

## Youth centre may be handed over to village

**MANAGEMENT of Croft Youth Centre could be handed over to local people, under a proposal put forward by Warrington Borough Council.**

The borough has suggested making the centre the subject of a Community Asset Transfer.

This would mean responsibility for the centre would be handed over to the youth centre committee on a fixed term lease - to be run by the local community for the local community.

The borough has offered to visit the village to make a presentation on how such a transfer would work.

This could take place at a parish council meeting, to which members of the youth centre committee would be invited.

Similar transfers have already taken place in other parts of the borough including Lymm, where the Lymm Youth and Community Centre was handed over on a 30-year lease.

A secure lease enables the volunteer Youth and Community Association to apply for grants to improve the facility.

At Croft, volunteers from the youth centre committee have already carried out improvements to the building.

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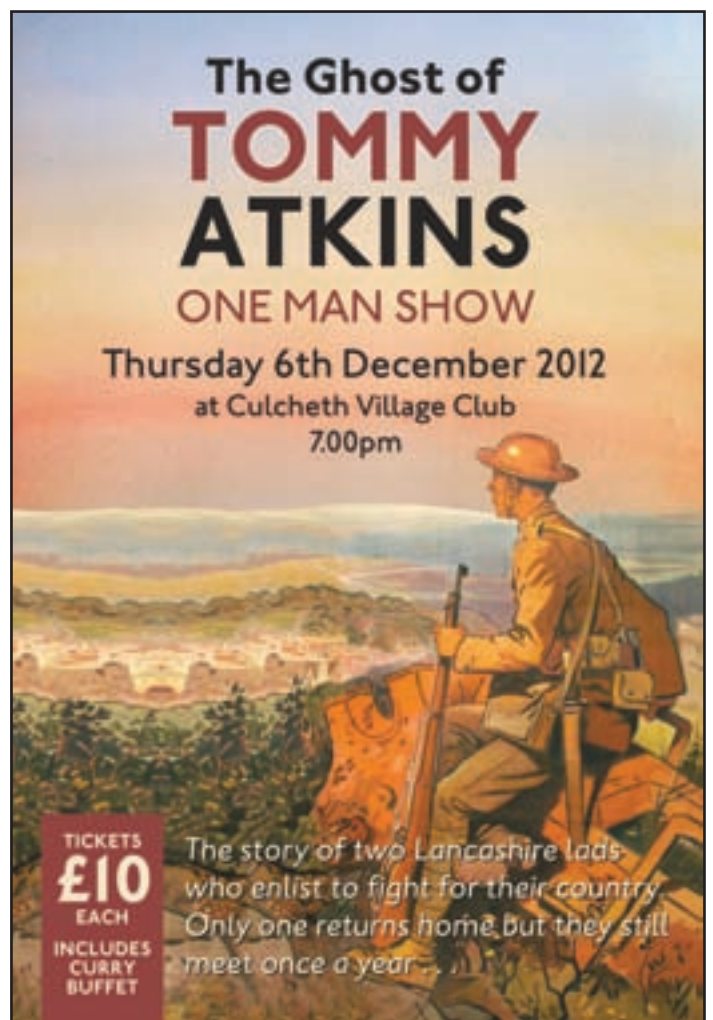
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