

# Culcheth Life

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Issue: 83 February 2010

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## 5 Star SUCCESS

Page 3



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# Editor's Comment



## SHOULD people in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft be concerned at proposals to downgrade Birchwood Fire Station?

We believe they should - in fact we believe they should be shouting their concerns from the rooftops. Cheshire Fire Service is considering ending round-the-clock

cover at Birchwood and introducing part-time, retained firefighters, at night. They would have to live within five minutes of the fire station. Birchwood provides cover for Culcheth, Glazebury, Croft, Glazebrook and Hollins Green, as well as back-up for the Warrington and Stockton Heath fire stations.

between life and death.

Retained firefighters, who would be alerted by pager, would have to leap from their beds, dress and get to the fire station. We think it unlikely they could do this in five minutes, no matter how close by they live.

So in fact, the delay could easily be longer.

We hear what the Fire Service say about savings of £400,000 and the need to be prepared for budget restrictions in the wake of the global financial crisis.

But when it comes to our emergency services, we do not believe safety should ever be compromised. The savings should be found elsewhere.

## Tug-of-war plea

**WANTED - strong men or women willing to put their backs into Culcheth Community Day this year...in the tug of war competition.**

Last year, only the Harrow Inn and the Cherry Tree pub entered teams and although they put on a thrilling contest - won by the Cherry Tree - the organisers would like more teams this year.

Coun Helena Campbell said: "Any pub or club, or any other organisation, can enter a team. We want as many as possible."

"The tug of war contest has always been one of the highlights of Community Day and we want to make sure it remains so."

As usual, Community Day will be on May Day - this year, Monday, May 3.

It offers an opportunity for all community organisations in Culcheth and Glazebury to promote themselves at the event on the village green.

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# Family celebrate 5-star success

**THE Culcheth based Bibby family are celebrating a hat-trick of successes after being awarded a Five Star hygiene award for the third time!**

The Village Sandwich Bar on Church Lane is celebrating after being awarded the highest score which can be achieved following a hygiene inspection from the Environmental Health team at Warrington Borough Council.

It follows hot on the heels of the Harrow Inn and the Elegance fine dining restaurant which have also received the 5 star ratings.

The Village Sandwich Bar, run by sister-in-laws Nicky and Gill, was taken over by the Bibby family in July 2009 and continues to go from strength to strength, taking great pride delivering great service and high quality food.

Being a local family they pride themselves on using local suppliers whenever possible, with sausages and pork pies supplied by Yates



Greens & Co and all their eggs are free range and supplied by a local farm.

They have a large selection of sandwiches made on fresh bread delivered daily and their sandwich fillings, hot panini's, salads and pasta pots are made fresh daily.

The Village Sandwich Bar's fantastic hot breakfast selection is a real favourite and their home made soups and oven baked loaded jacket potato's are a real winter warmer.



Sandwich platters are popular with office workers in the area and they also cater for childrens parties.

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## Musical treat

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## End of an era for high school

**CULCHETH High School is planning a special event to mark the end of an era - the end of the 'old school' and the birth of the new multi-million £ building.**

A reunion for former pupils is proposed - and the school wants to ensure as many as possible attend the event this summer.

School spokeswoman Amanda Stevens said: "We need help from ex-pupils and anyone else with an association with the school."

"We are holding a meeting on February 4 to discuss how we can mark

this occasion so we are asking anyone who is interested to come along."

The meeting will be at 8pm at Culcheth Sports Club (The Datsen) in Charnock Road.

Anyone who would like to get involved but cannot attend the initial meeting should contact Amanda at [as@culchethhigh.org.uk](mailto:as@culchethhigh.org.uk) or telephone 01925 761520.

## Builder Keith uncovers some history

WHEN builder Keith Lyon undertook to replace the roof of an ancient barn at Glazebury he uncovered a wealth of interesting examples of old English craftsmanship and materials.

The barn and other outbuildings at Great Stone Farm are understood to date from around 1760 but Keith, of Astraseal, soon discovered that remedial work had been carried out more recently.

The outer skin of brickwork - originally of handmade bricks - had been replaced by modern, wire cut bricks, possibly from the local brickworks at Rixton, around 1930 Keith said: "The remaining internal brickwork was clearly built on a budget as the bricks are not complete in some areas, but are half bats or half bricks. "This did not make a well bonded wall and now relies on the outer wall for support."

"It is likely the original hand made bricks were made in Culcheth at the old brick works by the Liverpool-Manchester railway.

"The roof timbers were English Oak and very likely to be local. The construction is of a simple trusses, purlins and spars, all held together by trenails or tree nails.

"These were hand cut by the carpenter and used to peg the mortice joints on the trusses and to fix the spars to the purlins. Roman numerals used to identify each individual position of the timbers can still be seen today.

"As a traditional carpenter I was amazed to see such accuracy in the mortice and tenon joints, given there isn't a straight piece of timber in the whole roof! This is typical of English Oak as opposed to straight grained imported oak."

The roof covering was York stone slabs up to 30mm thick and again pegged to the spars by trenails. The stone roof covering has been reclaimed and used on a barn conversion in Lowton. The oak trusses and all the other timbers will also be reclaimed for sale.




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## School celebrates 40 years

**WARRINGTON Wolves mascot Wolfie dropped into Twiss Green Primary School, Culcheth to help celebrate the school's 40th anniversary.**

Wolfie brought along the Challenge Cup which Warrington Wolves won at Wembley and is pictured celebrating with pupils.

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# Coffee shop's 10th anniversary

**McDEE'S Coffee Shop is celebrating its 10th anniversary - and running a prize draw throughout February.**

The prize could hardly be better - £100 to spend on delicious food and drink at McDee's!

Anyone who spends £10 in a single transaction in the Lodge Drive coffee shop will be entered into a draw for a prize of 10, £10 McDee's gift vouchers.

When sisters Helen and Catherine opened 10 years ago, their ambition was to create a coffee shop with a friendly atmosphere serving home-made food using quality ingredients. Helen said: "We are delighted

with the way our family business has become an important part of village life.

"We always wanted to be at the heart of the community so we always enjoy taking a full part in Community Day and Victorian Day as well as supporting local schools and charities with prizes for their fund raising events.

"We have many regular customers who have become friends over the years."

McDee's have become particularly

well known for great breakfasts using bacon and sausages from the butcher next door - K and S Platt - and for homemade soups and desserts prepared by Catherine, a trained pastry chef.

They also provide outside catering, with anything from simple sandwich platters to an impressive knife and fork buffet.

Helen said: "Although we no longer open regularly in the evening, we are available for private functions such as a dinner party for up to 30

guests. We can provide a delicious three or four course dinner and we are licensed to serve alcohol with the meal."

The draw for the anniversary competition will take place at 4.30pm on Saturday, February 27.

Helen added: "We would like to thank all our lovely, loyal customers for their support over the last 10 years. We are looking forward to many more years in the heart of Culcheth."



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The McDee's team gets naked for Sal

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Estimated Partner Profit - £31,000.

**OPEN DAY 10th February  
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Walkers from last year's event approach the finishing line.

## Walk for water tops £6,000

**THE fourth annual Walk for Water event will be held in Culcheth on Sunday February 28 - and this year entrants can walk or run the circuit.**

The 8.5 mile (half marathon) circuit starts from Culcheth Sports and Social Club.

During the past three years Walk for Water has raised more than £6,000 for the charity WaterAid - which aims to provide access to safe water and sanitation to the world's poorest people.

The charity says that one in eight people do not have access to clean water, which together with poor sanitation results in more than two million people dying from water-

related diseases every year.

A number of local businesses are supporting the event.

Organisers are looking for people to take part and also volunteers to help with tasks like registering and marshalling.

There will be a marathon training race at 8.30am, followed by the walk and fun run starting at 11am. Entry forms can be obtained by calling 01925 766550, or visit [www.angeld.f2s.com/walkforwater](http://www.angeld.f2s.com/walkforwater) for details.

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### Valentine's Day Menu - Sunday 14th February

Show the one you love, or even your partner how much you care this Valentine's Day night by bringing them to duckegg bluu. A Kir Royale on arrival and romantic four course meal whilst listening to the soft voice of Emma Gilmour actress and singer.

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**Starter**

- Tomato and basil soup served with a warm bread roll
- Tomato and goats cheese tart with mixed salad and pesto dressing
- Chicken liver parfait with red onion and cranberry chutney
- Oysters with tabasco and lemon pickled shallots

**Main Course**

- Fillet of beef with a foie gras butter, mushroom tomato and home cut chips
- Wild mushroom and asparagus risotto with rocket and parmesan shavings
- Salmon fillet with asparagus, crushed new potatoes and hollandaise sauce
- Gressingham duck breast with black cherry jus, green cabbage and fondant potato

**Dessert**

- Trio of chocolate desserts
- Baileys cheesecake with strawberry compote
- A selection of cheese and artisan biscuits
- Winter berry brulee with a shortbread biscuit
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# Heavy snowfall tre

**HEAVY snowfall at the start of the year transformed Culcheth, Croft and Glazebury and surrounding areas into a picturesque Winter Wonderland.**

Like many areas in Warrington residents suffered from disrupted bin collections and dangerous road surfaces due to inadequate gritting.

Special thanks to **Culcheth Life** readers Paul Campbell and Chris Vobe for submitting their photos.

Many more are displayed on the [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk) website.



The village green, picture: Chris Vobe



Lodge Drive, picture: Chris Vobe

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# ransforms villages



Winter scene



Newchurch Church



Paul Campbell enjoys a winter walk



The Culcheth countryside, picture: Paul Campbell

## The Gardening Guide February...



- Summer flowering shrubs can now be pruned to improve their shape.
- Remember to check on tender plants outdoors during winter.
- Actively growing houseplants will benefit from a shot of liquid plant food.
- Roses can also be pruned now, especially hybrid teas & floribundas.
- Let your creative side take over when planning summer bulbs. Just consider colour, height & flowering time.

Good luck for the gardening year ahead!



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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 Illyne Hutchinson  
01925 765131



Roger Rankin  
01925 766038

### NEWCHURCH WARD



Mrs Jacqui Johnson  
01925 763435



Mrs Christine Rankin  
01925 766357



Mrs Helena Campbell  
01925 766658

### GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Mrs Sue Bland  
01925 766641



Peter Caswell  
01942 671938

## Community day

The Parish Council is once again organising Community Day which is held on Culcheth Village Green on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2010.

If you are an organisation who would like to raise some funds or just let people know what your organisation is about, then this is the event for you. Letters to local organisations will be sent out in the next few weeks giving details on how to apply to having a stall. So please look out for it.

We are also looking for a Morris Dancing Troop to perform on the day so if anyone has any contacts with one could you please contact Cllr Sue Bland on 01925 766641.

## Parish precept rate

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that there will be no increase in the Parish Precept Rate which is at present £16.82 per annum.

We have once again part funded the Police Community Support Officer as well as the Parish Maintenance Officer and have also put £2000 towards the Part Time Youth Worker who is based at the Culcheth Methodist Church.

## Wildflowers area grant application

We are pleased that our application for funding for sowing wildflower seeds in some areas of the village to the Warrington Neighbourhood Board for the East has been successful. So watch out for a colourful display throughout the village this year.

## Grant donations

£150 to Culcheth Lions for a Children's Ride on Victorian Day  
£100 to Glazebury WRVS Over 60's club Christmas Party  
£100 to Culcheth Age Concern to support the pensioners Christmas Party.

## Parish plan

The Parish Plan Steering Committee has now been formed with the following posts being filled:

Chairman Mrs Sally Probert  
Secretary Mr Roger Taylor  
Publicity Officer Mrs Ann Daybell  
Treasurer not filled yet

## Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 16th February 2010 at 7.00pm at Glazebury Methodist Church.

## Bank worker raised £850 for school

**BANK** worker Rich Coffey took time out from his day job to get involved in fundraising at Culcheth's Twiss Green Primary School.

Rich, who works for Barclays at Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, raised £850 by selling tickets at the Twiss Green Primary firework display. Barclays matched his fundraising

as part of their community investment programme "Charity Begins at Work" which means a total of £1,600 was raised.

Community relations officer Gareth Lewis said: "At Barclays we strive to strengthen local communities in which we live and work by supporting a range of causes from local schools to

centres for older people. This is a fantastic example of Barclays staff fundraising with the local community to achieve something which we hope will make a real and lasting difference."

The bank's community investment programme raised up to £52.2 million in 2008.

# Pupils inspired to raise funds for St Rocco's

**AFTER** year 8 pupils at Culcheth High School were given a talk on the work of St. Rocco's Hospice they were inspired to embark on a number of fund-raising initiatives.

As a result they handed over a cheque for £550.00 they raised from various functions to St. Rocco's fundraiser Malcolm Kindon who is pictured receiving a cheque from school council members left, Robyn Chilton aged 13 and Ellis Carney aged 12.



## Brownies help crack crime



**BROWNIES** lent a helping hand to Warrington Police Community Support Officers when they took part in a crime prevention day.

Local officers PCSO Sarah Bradburne and PCSO Stephen Dodd from Warrington East Neighbourhood Policing Team held the event with 2nd Culcheth Brownies at Newchurch Parish Hall.

Residents were urged to bring along any new Christmas presents - bicycles, laptops, ipods, mobile phones and games consoles - so that they could be UV security marked.

PCSO Sarah Bradburne said: "The Brownies did really well and security marked many items that were brought along by the public. Many crime prevention packs were given out and advice on how to prevent crime was well received."

Alison Norris, Tawny Owl of 2nd Culcheth Brownies, said: "It was a very successful day and the Brownies learnt a lot. They were really enthusiastic and enjoyed helping the public security mark their items and this will now enable them to be awarded their community badge"



## Rotary club raised £3,400

**ROTARY** Club members managed to raise £3,400 with Christmas collections in Culcheth - despite having to abandon the usual tour of the street by Santa on his sledge.

The lack of a suitable towing vehicle prevented members of the Rotary Club of Newton and District Jubilee from taking their Christmas float around the village. But there were collections at Bents, Sainsbury's and Asda and thanks to the generosity of local people, £3,400 was collected. The money will be used to help various causes.

Other recent activities by the club include entertaining at Mosslands and Holcroft Grange elderly persons homes, sponsoring of prizes for pupils at Birchwood and Culcheth High Schools and a conducted tour of the Mersey Tunnel. Anyone interested in joining the club should call 01925 733893.

## Tony rolls back the years

**CULCHETH** tyre expert Tony Salt has been one of a number of veteran racing motor cyclists rolling back the years in the annual South African TT Revival this month.

Tony, of Culcheth Tyres, took part in a number of high speed parades in Pretoria and Cape Town and was in distinguished company, including seven-times TT winner Mick Grant.

Motorists who go to Culcheth Tyres, on the Taylor Industrial Estate - off Warrington Road, opposite Glaziers Lane - benefit from Tony's years of experience in the tyre industry. For when it comes to tyres, whether for bikes or

cars, there is not much he doesn't know.

Culcheth Tyres is run by experienced local people who treat every vehicle they deal with as if it was their own.

Tony's wife, Pat, who kept an eye on the business while he was burning rubber in South Africa, said: "So many car owners don't look at the four corners of their vehicle - the four round, black things! They don't realise it, but if the tyres are not in good condition they won't be insured."

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**THE STYLES FILES** styles and co chartered accountants

**Coming out of Recession**

IT is official; the UK is out of recession - just! The Office for National Statistics stated on 26 January that the recession officially ended in Q4 2009 when the economy grew year on year by 0.1%.

Now therefore seems to be the perfect time to consider both some of the challenges we will face over the coming months and also some of the opportunities which might be available.

It is normal following a recession that unemployment continues to rise for a period. Caution will therefore be a key watch word for many over the coming months as a state of uncertainty prevails. Statistics show that, in previous recessions, approximately twice as many businesses failed during the period of recovery than in the period of downturn.

Also, many will be conscious that this recession was particularly deep, partly because credit was too freely available. No one will want to overspend, thereby contributing to another 'credit crunch'!

Against this backdrop, there are many areas where we can benefit by taking action at this point in the recovery. These include:

- Consider potential interest rate rises. Although this is a complex area and we would recommend that appropriate professional advice is sought, there is a frequently expressed view by economists that interest rates are now at the lowest they will reach and that a rise is inevitable. It is therefore worth considering whether personal or business borrowings can be 'fixed' or 'capped' to ensure that

borrowings are protected against the full impact of potential rises.

- As it is predicted by many that it will take many years for the UK economy to return to its previous size, many businesses will need to replace the sales volumes they previously enjoyed with sales from other sources. As the pound is now relatively weak against most major currencies, including the Euro and US\$, exports are made more competitive than before. Considering export opportunities now will transform the sales and profit levels of many businesses.

- A large number of businesses will have been weakened by the recession. Acquisition opportunities may therefore be available at a significant discount and this will give the purchasing business a stronger platform to benefit from economic growth.

There will be opportunities for both individuals and businesses to improve their finances as the economy evolves over the coming months. We therefore recommend that all remain mindful of the opportunities which will arise.

*Please note that the contents of this article are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.*



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

**The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co  
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