

# Culcheth Life

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No. 71

February 2009



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**Jamie's call up**  
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# Editor's Comment



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## DOES Culcheth need a parish plan?

Until we heard a presentation on behalf of Cheshire Community Action at a meeting of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, we had our doubts.

After all, with an active parish council, not overtly divided by party politics and more concerned with the well-being of the community, and with plenty of well-run community and

voluntary organisations, why is anything else needed?

But after hearing how a parish plan works and how other villages across Cheshire have benefited, we now feel a local initiative can do nothing but good.

We are pretty sure the parish council will be keen to press ahead with a plan. But it is vital that members of the local community get involved too.

Before anything can happen, a steering group must be set up which must be a separate organisation, with its own chairman, secretary, treasurer and other officers. The parish council should be represented - but should not be in control.

Herewith could lie the problem. In the past, Culcheth people have not showed much enthusiasm for 'getting

involved.' A few years ago, an attempt to set up a Village Design Group, which might have helped oppose some of the planning excesses of recent times, failed because of the apathy of the public. No-one would get involved.

This time it must be different - and it can be, particularly if the advice of Cheshire Community Action is needed.

They suggest launching the plan not with a formal meeting but with an informal occasion, such as a barbecue or social evening. "People don't go to meetings", they say. And they are probably right.

Culcheth Community Day, in May, is already an annual demonstration that the village does have a vibrant community spirit. We wonder if the launch of a parish plan could be linked to it in some way?

## Church concert

AFTER three previous sell-out concerts, the Pemberton Old Wigan (JJB) Band is returning to Christ Church, Croft, to present another varied programme of music to raise money for church funds.

The special St Valentine's Day concert will be on Saturday, February 14 at 7.30pm at the church in Lady Lane, Croft. Tickets will cost £10, including wine and refreshments and are available from 01925 767714 or 01925 764127.

## Council meeting

THE next meeting of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council will be on February 17 at Glazebury Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

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# Jamie's national call up

**RUGBY League starlet Jamie Hodgkiss, from Croft, has won a place in the England Under 15 squad and with it a chance of playing in a youth international against Wales on April 10.**

It's a just reward for months of hard work by the 14-year-old Culcheth High School pupil – but it could not have happened without a little help from surgeons at Warrington Hospital.

Orthopedic surgeons Dalton Boot and Riza Mohammed operated on a wrist injury Jamie sustained playing rugby and it was something of a race against time to get him fit for his first England training session on February 7.

Jamie said: "If it wasn't for Mr Boot and Mr Mohammed at Warrington Hospital, I know I wouldn't have achieved this. I would like to pass on my thanks to them."

Modestly, full-back Jamie has produced a lengthy list of other people he wants to thank for helping him get selected.

They include physios and coaches at Warrington Wolves, coaches and team mates at Rylands Sharks, his parents and teachers at Culcheth High, including his head of year, Mrs Helen Crinnion.

Between now and the match in Wales, Jamie will be training at the Leeds Rugby Academy.

Jamie has a good RL pedigree. His second cousin Tommy Martyn helped St Helens win the Super League

Grand Final and the Challenge Cup. Tommy Martyn Senior played for Warrington and Leigh while his grandfather Ian Hodgkiss and uncle Mickey Martyn both played for Leigh.



*Head of Year 10 teacher at Culcheth High School Helen Crinnion tests the rugby skills of student Jamie*






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# Residents fight stables plan

**RESIDENTS of the Twiss Green area of Culcheth and parents of children attending Twiss Green Primary School have joined forces to fight proposals for a stables development on Green Belt land at the rear of Petersfield Gardens.**

They are objecting to an appeal by the land owner against the refusal by Warrington Borough Council to grant permission for a stables block, storage/tack room and hard standing for vehicles.

Culcheth Parish Council is also opposing the scheme.

An earlier proposal involving a block of 10 stables was also refused but the new plan has been scaled down to eight stables.

### Inappropriate

But it was also rejected on the grounds it was inappropriate use of the Green Belt, too large and likely to cause traffic hazards.

Local residents and parents point out that the only access to the field is via a narrow access between two houses in a residential cul-de-sac, running in front of a primary school entrance and car park/drop off point.

There are no bridleways nearby, only footpaths and residential roads. Horses, food, waste materials, riders and vehicles will all have to pass this way.

They are concerned this would inevitably give rise to clashes

between horses, pedestrians and cyclists and motorists.

There are also worries about HGV movements or car and horsebox movements through the area.

Alan Hodgkinson, a local resident and spokesperson for 'Say NO to the Stables' said: "Eight horses each being tended three times a day, for feeding and exercising, could mean up to 17,500 additional vehicle movements a year along Twiss Green lane, which already suffers from congestion and currently has poor road surfaces.

### Objections

"We must stop this development from going ahead. It is a totally inappropriate use of the land, which will increase the dangers to all road and footpath users of Twiss Green Lane. I urge all local residents and parents to register their objections with the Planning Inspectorate, sign the petition and join our protest."

Leaflets are being distributed to more than 500 houses the objectors claim will be directly affected by the proposals.



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## Residents oppose bus service

THE majority of residents of Church Lane, Culcheth are opposed to a bus service along their road, members of the parish council were told.

Resident Mr B Taylor told the meeting he had carried out a survey of residents and found the vast majority did not want buses running passed their homes.

However, there would be support for a mini-bus serving areas such as Hampson Avenue, Thames Road, etc, using Newchurch Lane.

In December, the parish council resolved to press for the restoration of a bus service along Church Lane to cater for residents of the estates at the rear.

They agreed to ask the bus company to route every other bus passing through the village along Church Lane as they once did.

## Life savers under the spotlight

THE work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute came under the spotlight at the monthly meeting of Croft WI.

Speaker Don Schofield told how the RNLI was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary and now has 4,000 men and 600 women volunteers who risk their lives on a daily basis around the coastline of Britain.

He showed a film of the training each volunteer has to undergo before going on a rescue. Members were in awe of these very brave individuals who show tremendous skill and courage turning casualties into survivors.

President Doreen Clare welcomed 60 members and one visitor to the meeting on a wet, windy and cold night.

Details were given of forthcoming trips to the ballet Swan Lake on February 10, a meal out March 25 and, looking further ahead, a possible tour of Liverpool and lunch at the Adelphi Hotel in September. Sue Dewhurst asked if any members would be interested in starting a cinema club to meet once a month at Westbrook. Quite a few people were keen on the idea.

The competition for a nautical item was won by: 1, Barbara Cooper; 2, Louise Geekie; 3, Liz Threadgold.

Next meeting will be on February 18 when the speaker will be Matthew Lepp talking about Tigermuffin Soap, and the competition will be for 'an unusual soap'. Prospective new members should call 01925 766327 or 764555.

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# A shared vision for the future

**A PARISH plan, including a critical but constructive survey of the community by the community, may be launched in Culcheth and Glazebury – if the parish council gives the go-ahead.**

Members are to consider the idea in detail after receiving a presentation from Bron Kerrigan, parish plan development officer with Cheshire Community Action.

If it goes ahead, the plan will involve a process lasting about two years resulting in the development of a community voice which is then used to create a shared vision for the future and an action plan for turning that vision into the future.

In other areas, parish plans have resulted in villages benefiting from developments varying from a new £250,000 parish hall to launching parenting classes to combat youth hooliganism.

The parish council will have to

decide whether to press ahead with a plan - with the aid of a £250 starter grant.

If it is decided, following a launch event or meeting, to continue with the plan, further grants could be available.

Ms Kerrigan told the parish council that after the launch event, which could be a formal meeting or a more informal event such as a barbecue, volunteers would be sought for a steering group which could have representatives of the parish council but would be a separate body.

It would have its own chairman, secretary and treasurer and other officers and could set up working or focus groups. Ideally it would have representatives from different parts of

the community, including the youth and the elderly.

Throughout the process there would be widespread consultation.

After aims and objectives had been established an action plan would be drawn up containing realistic and achievable proposals.

Ms Kerrigan said Warrington Borough Council were prepared to support the plan and to treat it as a pilot for the borough.

Parish council chairman Coun Lleyne Hutchinson said members would now discuss the matter in more detail before deciding whether to go ahead with the idea.

## Takeaway shop can open later

A CULCHETH sandwich shop has been allowed to almost triple its opening hours – despite objections from parish councillors and a near neighbour.

Brunch 01, in Church Lane, Culcheth can now open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays and 11.30pm other days.

It will also be able to open on and Bank Holiday.

Previously the premises was allowed to open from 7am until 2pm - and could not open on Sundays and Bank Holidays at all.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council opposed the longer hours as being 'excessive and inappropriate'.

They pointed out that the premises was sited outside the core business area of the village.

Neighbours also sent objections stating the later opening hours would lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour and also litter in the area.

But planning officers recommended the application be approved. They said another takeaway in Church Lane already operated the same hours, as did a local pub. They said there was no record of anti-social behaviour in the area.



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# Anti-ram raid bollards approved

**PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for additional anti-ram raid security bollards outside Barclays Bank at Culcheth.**

The three extra bollards will match existing ones outside the bank in Lodge Drive.

Last October four men armed with hand guns rammmed a car into a side wall at the bank.

They failed to break through and

fled empty-handed after taking a van from a nearby butcher's shop after threatening staff.

Since then CCTV cameras covering the whole of the village centre have been installed outside the bank.

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# CCTV puts police in the picture

CULCHETH'S new CCTV system is up and running – and providing police with high quality images of what is going on in the village centre.

PCSO Steve Dodd told the monthly meeting of the parish council that the camera – mounted high up on the Barclay's Bank building – was providing good coverage of Common Lane, Wigshaw Lane, Lodge Drive and The Green.

Police at Risley Police Station were able to monitor the pictures, which were recorded round-the-clock.

The camera had proved useful already when an officer already in the village was alerted to a minor problem at the children's play area on The Green and was able to resolve it immediately.



PCSO Dodd said the new system complemented coverage already provided by cameras at the Co-op and Sainsbury stores.


Members of the parish council have visited Risley Police Station to see the system in operation.

## Precept rises three per cent

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council have approved a three per cent increase in the parish precept – which means a rise of just 49p to £16.82 a year for an average, Zone D house.

Chairman Coun Ileyne Hutchinson said: "We have done our very best to make sure the increase is as low as possible."

# Gardening tips

Provided by 

## February Tips

### Spring bulbs

Brighten up your garden with pots & containers of spring flowering bulbs. Look out for pots of growing bulbs, which will establish rapidly if planted now.

### Wildlife care

New nesting boxes should be provided for birds in anticipation of the coming breeding season.

### The vegetable garden

The first sowings of many vegetable seeds can be made at this time of year under the protection of cloches.

### Summer bedding plants

Now is the time to plan your summer bedding for the coming season. The first sowings may be made now in a heated greenhouse, or on the windowsill.

### Lawn care

Rake off any moss or debris that has accumulated. Drainage can be improved by spiking with a fork.

### Pruning of shrubs and roses

Many shrubs and roses will benefit from pruning at this time of year. If you are unsure of the treatment for any particular plant our Plant Area staff will be delighted to advise.

*A little extra... Don't forget to treat that someone special on Valentine's Day. A box of hand-made chocolates makes the perfect gift, or, if you're planning to make an intimate meal, make sure you indulge in the most decadent of ingredients. All available in our Food Hall.*



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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

Once again the Parish Council is holding the Annual Community Day which is on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2009 on Culcheth Village Green. Starting at 12 noon and finishing about 4.30pm.

If your organisation or charity would like to put a stall on and raise money, or just make the public aware of what you do then contact Cllr Mrs Sue Bland on 01925 766641.

## Children's Play Area

We are pleased to see so many families using the new facilities on the Village Green. We will be having an official opening by the Parish Council Chairman in the next few weeks. The Parish Council would like to thank Waterfields for making a donation towards the cost. It really is appreciated that a local business has come forward to support the local community.

## Look of the Borough Project

We have been informed that Warrington Borough Council will be spending seven weeks from 16th March 2009 in Culcheth, Mee Brow & Glazebury cleaning up grot spots, gullies, pot holes and generally tidying up areas which are a mess. This is additional to the normal maintenance work.

The Parish Council would like to hear from residents asap any areas that you feel need attention. So please contact any of your local Parish Councillors.

## Grants

The Parish Council has agreed to a request from our local Police Community Support Officer to purchase a new cycle. We do feel that all our PCSOs and the Police have and are continuing to do an excellent job in our villages and we see this as a way of supporting them.

## CCTV

The CCTV which has been installed on a temporary basis on the corner of Lodge Drive and Common lane is proving to be a huge success so the Parish Council will be looking at keeping it on a permanent basis in the next few weeks.

## Christmas Lights

We are delighted by the comments, not only from residents of the village but also from visitors, on this years Christmas Lights around the village green, but also at Glazebury on how nice they were. We do believe that it really does show off the centre of the village on some rather bleak and dark nights. We look forward to doing even better this year.

## Parish Clerk

Some residents are still ringing the previous Parish Council Clerk Sandra Barker. Would all residents please note that the new Clerks details are as follows: Mr M Durrington. 2 Hebden Ave, Culcheth, WA3 5JL. Tel: 01925 733619.





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- Buying a stronger whip.
- Doing nothing: "This is the way we have always ridden dead horses".
- Visiting other countries to see how they ride dead horses.
- Performing a productivity study to see if lighter riders improve the dead horse's performance.
- Modifying existing standards to include dead horses.
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- Rewrite the expected performance requirements for all horses.

Of course a dead horse to the Dakota Indians was one that could no longer perform to the ability required during a battle and was therefore running dead. They would simply dismount at an opportune time and a fresh horse would be delivered to them by a rider who had the sole responsibility of providing fresh horses to the warriors in the front line.

If only business strategy was that easy. However it is amazing how much time, effort and energy business owners will put into trying to breathe life into 'dead horses' instead of committing their valuable resources to more productive pursuits. Most would be able to reflect on specific things that they have poured considerable time and money into, only to achieve poor results.

While there is no doubt that running a business is about taking risks, there needs to be an appreciation that sometimes the only means of achieving the desired results is to adopt new strategies. In a way, persevering with poor strategy is like putting up with a car engine that is steadily going out of tune. It's not until you have it serviced that you truly understand how bad things had been. Perhaps if cars engines or business strategy were like horses the path to non performance would be a lot faster and we would be more ready to make the required changes.

In next month's edition of Styles Files we'll help you to recognise the 'dead horses' in your business and to implement effective ways of 'dismounting' them.



*Please note that these ideas 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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Ashberry House can offer six places for privately funded residents who require EMI residential care. Please contact us to make an appointment, if you wish to look around the new unit or to obtain current fee rates.



**Tracey Perry, RGN Registered Manager  
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# Shop Local

Welcome to our new look feature which is aimed at encouraging our readers to support local businesses. Any local business wishing to feature in future editions please contact us on 0800 955 5247. Please mention this publication when responding to an advertiser.

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# Linda in the driving seat



**A CULCHETH woman has become the first Chairman of The Lancashire & Cheshire Car Club in its 75 year history.**

Linda O'Neil is also one of the few women to Chair a Motor Sports Association Affiliated motor club in the UK.

The club runs sprints, autotests, trials and race meetings, and has links to all types of motor sport events run by other clubs.

Linda has been a member for 30 years and follows a family tradition as her father was past President and Chairman.

Her husband and two sons are also members of the club. She has personal experience of racing and has been involved in marshalling and officiating at meetings held in the UK. She also served as a Committee member and Secretary to the club for 25 years.

In her daily life Linda runs her own business Admin Answers a virtual PA service for businesses both here and in Europe, from her office in Cheshire.

The L&CCC holds social meetings at the Worsley Old Hall on the second Thursday of each month. People who would like to know more about the opportunities to take part in

motor sport as competitors, marshals and spectators, are very welcome to come and find out how to get involved.

For more information visit the club website [www.lancashireandcheshirecarclub.co.uk](http://www.lancashireandcheshirecarclub.co.uk)



## Time to get in the saddle

A RIDING school in Croft is planning a series of events to encourage people to get in the saddle and lead a healthier lifestyle.

New 'Leisurely Ladies' sessions are running at Croft Riding Centre, Spring Lane, every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

Cost is £10 per person and sessions can be booked by calling 01925 763715.

Organiser Helen Ferguson said: "People can come down to the stables, meet our horses, have a riding lesson and finish with refreshments in our cosy club house."

The centre is also offering free taster lessons to new clients and they must be booked in advance by calling the above number.

Helen said: "As part of our drive to encourage the local community to lead a more active lifestyle, the centre is offering free half hour group taster lessons to children and adults."

## Legion women raise £1,000

The Women's section of the Royal British Legion at Culcheth raised almost £1,000 for the Poppy Day Appeal with a raffle and tombola.

They would like to publicly thank businesses in Culcheth and Birchwood which provided prizes.



Advertiser's announcement

# Make a clean start in 2009

Giving your oven a clean start in 2009 could make it run more efficiently and also help protect your bank balance, according to professional oven-valeters Ovenu.

The festive season can be hard work for an oven, with entertaining family and friends seeing the workload of an oven increased by as much as 200%.

From crispy roast potatoes to basted turkey and meats, many of the ingredients traditionally used over the Christmas period can add to the build up of grease on the internal parts of an oven.

Paul Clark from Ovenu Warrington said: "The more you use your oven the more build up that can occur, especially when you're cooking particularly volatile ingredients such as goose fat, which may spit.

"When an oven becomes dirty and encrusted it can start to run less efficiently, as many internal oven parts are designed to reflect and refract heat and if these areas become covered in

grease or fat, they can start to work less effectively.

"January is a particularly testing time for bank balances and the last thing you want is to make a major purchase, such as a new oven. The good news is that in the same way that a car can benefit from a regular service, making sure you clean and maintain your oven regularly will also help prolong its life, so you shouldn't need to replace it as often."

The Ovenu process uses an environmentally-friendly valeting system of non-caustic products to clean oven parts. It involves dismantling key components of the oven such as the door, interior panels, fan and shelves and placing them into design-registered cleaning equipment. The whole process takes around three hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition.

Householders in the area who feel their oven is in need of a valet can contact Paul on 01925 453377 or log onto [www.oven.co.uk](http://www.oven.co.uk).

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