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February 2012

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**From catwalk
to business woman**

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I AM pleased to report that residents of Culcheth Hall Drive are feeling 'more positive' than any other time during the past 18 months following a meeting to discuss ongoing problems caused by pupils using the residential area as their main route for leaving school.

Following a meeting with representatives of the school, local councillors and officers from Warrington Council, residents say

they believe there has been a break through in relation to moving the footpath and therefore the route the pupils take away from the current exit.

Petition over junction

HIGHWAYS chiefs have drawn up a road safety plan after receiving a protest petition from 60 residents worried by a 'scary' junction.

But the scheme for the junction of Fowley Common Lane with the A574 Warrington Road at Glazebury, still needs checking out for possible drawbacks - and a lack of funding could mean it will not be implemented for some time.

Motorists living in Fowley Common Lane and Hebden Avenue feel they are taking their lives in their hands every time they turn right on to Warrington Road to drive in the direction of Culcheth.

Petition organiser Elaine Durrington said no-one declined to sign the protest to Warrington Borough Council.

She said: "Turning right onto the main road is really scary. Quite a few people admitted they turn left and drive as far as the Raven pub and then turn round on their car park.

"We think there could be a serious or fatal accident here if nothing is done."

Highways officers have come up with a plan to realign the carriageway at the junction, projecting the give-way line in Fowley Common Lane 2.5 metres into the main road.

The current exit route has resulted in a variety of complaints concerning the behaviour of pupils when leaving school, which residents say has made their lives a misery since the new school opened.

Various attempts to control pupil behaviour has had mixed results but now at long last it appears that common sense may prevail.

If nothing else residents feel their concerns are at least being addressed.

I would like to congratulate all parties involved in sitting down and discussing the various issues and concerns and hope that a positive outcome can be found sooner rather than later.

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From catwalk to business woman

FORMER model Holly Ikin has retired from the cat walk to launch her own boutique business in Culcheth.

During her days as Miss Cheshire and as a Miss England finalist Holly soon spotted a gap in the market after the many hours she spent searching for the perfect outfit.

The Dress Studio opened its doors last month and customers were amazed by their collections, which includes more than 600 incredible dresses – making it the largest selection of party and prom dresses in the northwest!

The Dress Studio offers a warm and friendly welcome, as well as a jaw-dropping collection of dresses! The boutique has dresses for all occasions - proms, parties, birthdays, engagements, pageants, weddings, cruises, races, nights out and more. The Dress Studio team also keep note of any special events or proms that the outfits are for, to help avoid any fashion faux pas!

Holly launched the boutique on Glaziers Lane, conveniently located next to Partridge Lakes Fishery – so, dads/husbands/boyfriends can enjoy a cup of tea in tranquil surroundings, while the girls are left to do what they do best! Holly has opened the store after struggling to find outfits that tick all of the boxes.

Holly explained: "When I competed in Miss England, I had a nightmare trying to find the perfect dress. Last year, I went to Aintree Races and had the same problem... I could never find what I wanted. And as all women know, if I found anything from a high-street store, it

was practically guaranteed there would be quite a few of us in matching outfits!"

"I decided to open The Dress Studio to solve this problem. Instead of traipsing from store-to-store, I have created a one-stop-shop for all women."

With prom only a few months away, The Dress Studio has hundreds of dresses perfect for the big event.

They are prom specialists and have every style of prom dress that a girl could wish for. For groups of five or more, The Dress Studio also hosts 'Prom Parties!' With music, canapés, drinks and of course, trying on the dresses of your choice, the Prom Party is a fun and special way to select your perfect gown.

The boutique also has a very convenient 'Saturday Night Range,' an ideal solution for any outfit dilemmas! Prices start at £25,

meaning you don't have to break the bank for a last-minute fashion fix!

The Dress Studio is open 10am-7pm on Thursdays and 10am-5pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Private appointments are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please feel free to contact Holly at The Dress Studio on 01925 766258 with any enquiries that you may have. Holly will be happy to help!



Holly Ikin (centre) and friends at the official opening



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Beaver Scouts celebrate with creepy crawlies

BEAVER Scouts at Culcheth celebrated their first birthday with a visit from the 'Reptile Man.'

Members of the 19th Warrington East group had lots of fun handling spiders, snakes, scorpions and skunks!

Since opening in January last year, the Beaver Scouts have enjoyed a range of weekly activities including trips to Manchester Airport, Kenyon Hall Farm and Gulliver's World and some members went on a summer

Scout Camp.

They have earned themselves several badges and certificates - and their leaders also went on some rigorous training, including some weekends away, to earn themselves their Wood Badges.

Anyone interested in joining the Beavers should contact Alicia at Alicia@hunterhealey.co.uk or call 07952 727232.



Some of the Beaver Scouts with creepy crawlies



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Business park invests in Green future

TAYLOR Business Park at Risley, Warrington, has taken a Responsible and Green step by investing in a <50kWp Solar Photovoltaic System. Their system has been installed by local MCS Accredited company National Solar Services part of the Roofing Consultants Group.

Photovoltaics is a process of generating direct current electricity (DC) to be used either on site, off grid or assisting the national grid through an inverter converting the DC electricity to AC. Through the governments 25 year Feed-in-Tariff Scheme (FiTS), the government and

supplier pay the investor for generating their own electricity. The level of payment is determined on the size of the system and tariff levels for that year. The FiT Scheme is also RPI Index Linked and goes up every year for 25 years once investors are on the scheme; 2011 RPI increase for those

already on the scheme was 4.8%. In addition, the investor can use the energy generated and therefore gain a further saving and reduction in their energy bill.

Taylor's first had the existing roof over cladded to ensure the integrity of it for the life of the FiT Scheme. Then 263 panels of 190 Watt output were fitted to the new roof providing 49.97kWp, generating an estimated 42894.25kWh annually, a 25350.5 kgCO2 carbon saving per annum and with the roof the entire project paying back in 7.3 years.

National Solar Services, who design and install domestic and commercial Solar PV systems and Solar Thermal, divided the system into 5x 10kWp systems (as shown in the pictures) for Health & Safety and future maintenance purposes. In



addition, Taylor Business Park's Solar system benefits from a remote and online monitoring service and records the systems performance.

Tim Bridle from National Solar Services shared, "Solar PV is still the leading renewable investment solution not just because of the FiTS or rising energy prices but because the generation is more consistent than other options, the diversity of the energy it generates and the property value it adds." For further information on the FiT Scheme and opportunities for Solar PV you can contact National

Solar Services on www.nationalsolarservices.com

Paul Taylor, managing director of Taylor Business Park said, "It's a great return for the investment and our tenant, Jungheinrich UK, gets to reduce their overall global footprint and at the same time it saves them money."

National Solar Services did a great job and as soon as this is paid off we'll be looking at putting another one on a different roof but I'll be getting one fitted at home myself first!"

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Charity carol crawl

CULCHETH based accountant Nigel Healey and friends performed their third annual Culcheth Charity carol crawl raising £286 for Help for Heroes.

After entertaining the residents of Holcroft Grange the group visited Culcheth pubs, clubs and restaurants spreading festive cheer.

Nigel said: "I would like to convey my thanks on behalf of the charity to everyone who generously donated to such a worthwhile cause and made the event a success."

No increases

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has approved a 'same again' parish precept.

This means the parish element of the council tax will remain at £16.82 for an average Band D dwelling.

Croft Parish Council has also approved an unchanged precept, meaning the parish element of council tax will remain at £70.06 for a Band D dwelling. The total council tax, including the borough council's charge and those of the police and fire authorities, is not yet known.



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Nigel Healey (centre) and friends at the event finale at the Raj Culcheth

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House plan given the green light

A CONTENTIOUS plan to build a house on an existing garage site at Culcheth has been given the go-ahead by planning chiefs.

Members of the borough council's planning committee visited the site, at the rear of Hob Hey Lane, to help them reach a decision.

The scheme involves the demolition of existing garages which have been converted for use as an art studio and construction of a one and-a-half storey house.

Four nearby residents objected on the grounds of loss of privacy, a loss of amenity, and because they believe the scheme does not conform to the Unitary Development Plan.

Outline permission for the scheme was granted in January 2004 but building never went ahead and an application to renew the consent

when it expired was refused because of an oversupply of housing land across the borough, which had not existed at the time of the original application. Later an appeal was dismissed.

But the site has now become a target for burglars and vandals and officers recommended the plan be approved to remove the crime problem.

One objector pointed out that merely removing the art studio would make the area less likely to be a target for criminals.

Vehicle access to the site will be from Radcliffe Avenue.

Public meeting over school parking

A PUBLIC meeting is to be held at Croft to try and resolve long-standing parking problems at St Lewis' RC Primary School.

The parish and borough councils, the school and local residents will be invited.

Highways officers have produced a plan which they believe will ease the situation, including moving the existing school crossing a short distance in the Winwick direction, constructing a footpath on the church side of Mustard Lane and introducing staggered parking areas on Mustard Lane, with some additional parking in Lady Lane. But residents are not happy with the scheme.

They believe a car park should be provided within the school grounds.

Cllr Les Hoyle said: "The parish council saw some merit in the borough's plan but the residents would not have it."

"A meeting is to be called of all interested parties to try and resolve the problem."

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Alex is chosen for GB pentathlon squad

CULCHETH athlete Alex Wort, 19, has been selected for Great Britain in an indoor combined-events international against France and Spain in Cardiff on March 24.

This follows his success in being crowned champion at the National Indoor Combined Events championships at Sheffield.

Alex is currently studying B-tec and A Level Sport at Priestley College.

A member of both Warrington Athletics Club and Sale Harriers, Alex has been involved in athletics for five years.

His performances at Sheffield were 7.51 secs in the 60m sprint, 6.45m in the long jump, 11.79m in the shot, 4.04m in the pole vault, 8.63 secs in the 60m hurdles, 1.56m in the high jump and 2mins 50.01 seconds in the 1000m.

Alex comes from good sporting stock. His dad, Alan, played soccer and cricket and mum, Judith, was a county athlete.



Civic service

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council holds its annual Civic Service on Sunday, March 11 at St Lewis' RC Church, Mustard Lane, Croft.

The chairman, Cllr Lillian Houghton, is inviting representatives of local organisations and local people to attend the service at 11.30am.

Afterwards, guests are invited to a buffet at Leigh Gold Club, in Broseley Lane, Culcheth.

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

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CULCHETH WARD



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Mrs Lilian Houghton
01925 762935



Mrs Ileyne Hutchinson
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Mrs Sue Bland
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Peter Caswell
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Community Day

Once again the Parish Council is organising the Annual Community Day on Bank Holiday Monday May 7th 2012 on Culcheth Village Green starting at 12.00noon.

If you or you know of anyone who would like to put a stall on the Village Green to raise funds for any organisation or charity please contact: Cllr Sue Bland 01925 766641.

Queens Jubilee Celebration

Celebrate the Queens Jubilee with us, along with other celebrations across the country – residents are invited to join us – bring your own picnic + table and chairs, etc.

There will be family games (egg & spoon, sack race, mums & Dads races, etc) along with entertainment during the afternoon.

We are looking for Local Entertainers and talent. So if you would like to entertain the crowd on the stage. Please contact: Cllr's Keith & Sue Bland 01925 766641.

Parish Council Benches

The Parish Council will shortly be letting a contract to paint 17 Parish Benches. So if anyone would like to express an interest please contact the Clerk on 01925 733619 or Email: culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com

Grit Bins

We have now got 5 grit bins in place which are at the following locations: Lowfield Gardens Glazebury, Fowley Common lane, Eden Ave, Mee Brow, Crofton Gardens, Culcheth & Chatburn Court Culcheth. We have also placed an order for 2 more grit bins which will be placed at Meadowbank Close, Glazebury and Medway Rd Culcheth. Obviously it would be impossible to place bins to cover the whole of the villages, but the ones we have placed are at junctions with main roads, areas that have had particular access problems and areas with above average elderly population.

We have managed to recruit volunteers for spreading the grit and letting us know when they need re-filling in Glazebury and Medway Rd and we are looking to see if the warden will do the ones on Mee Brow and Fowley Common. If there is anyone willing to volunteer to look after Chatburn Court and Crofton Gardens would you please contact the Clerk on 01925 733619 or Email: culcheth.clerk@btinternet.com. These two areas in the mean time will be done by the Parish Council CMO.

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Time for a holiday?

If you have started a new business and taken on employees within the past 18 months, you could potentially save up to £50,000 through a regional National Insurance Holiday.

The government scheme is aimed at helping new businesses that start up between 6th September 2010 and 5th September 2013, whose principle place of business is based within any of the following areas: Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, East Midlands, North East, North West, South West, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber.

The saving is made through a reduction of up to £5,000 of the Employers National Insurance contributions that would normally be due for each of your first ten employees in the 12 months following the date your business started.

As National Insurance Holidays are considered to be a 'de minimis State Aid', not all new businesses are eligible.

Businesses in the coal sector and those involved in export-related activities are excluded. There are also sectors, for instance, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, which can only claim up to a lower set amount.

Most importantly, the NICs holiday is voluntary. This means that you do not have to take advantage of the scheme or, more to the point, the government will not automatically make you aware of the scheme! The onus is on you to check your eligibility and apply.

If the National Insurance holiday is something you would like to know more about, or you would like to know of other ways Styles and Co can help your new business, then 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.



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

The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co 473 Warrington Road, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 5QU

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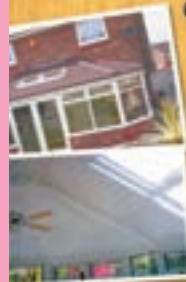


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Motoring

Motorists are more prepared - but only just!

MOTORISTS are more prepared to cope with severe weather this winter - but only just.

More than one in three (38 per cent) say they have done nothing to prepare - and if that doesn't seem many it is better than last year when the figure was 42 per cent.

The last two winters came early and were more severe that we have been accustomed to in recent years, which is probably why 39 per cent of drivers expect local authorities to do a better job with road gritting this year.

But according to an AA Populus survey, while individual drivers expect councils to do better, they are less prepared to do much themselves.

Only four per cent have bought

winter tyres - one per cent more than last winter. Seven per cent have bought all season tyres, compared with four per cent last year.

Four per cent have bought snow chains or snow socks and 42 per cent put a shovel, blankets, in the car. Twenty five per cent have purchased sturdy walking boots and 12 per cent have made plans with friends or colleagues in case the weather turns bad suddenly.

But in spite of the chaos of the last two or three years, 38 per cent have done nothing. However, the survey showed that in Scotland and the North East, motorists had done far more to prepare for the worst!

Seven-seat comfort with more fuel economy



AUDI Q7 drivers can now use fuel more sparingly and savour seven-seat comfort more completely in the new Q7 3.0 TDI 204PS S line Plus.

Taking the lower output V6 TDI engine first seen in the A6 on board the Q7 for the first time, and combining its 39mpg capability with an exceptional new specification, the lavishly appointed newcomer is available to order now priced at £49,120 OTR.

At the same time, this punchy but remarkably efficient unit also appears in the most attainable lead-in Q7 model to date - the 3.0 TDI 204PS Standard priced at £39,995 OTR.

To strike its impressive balance between performance and economy the timing of the 3.0-litre engine's camshafts, its turbocharger and its advanced common-rail system (with an injection pressure of 2,000 bar) have been optimized specifically with fuel efficiency in mind. As a result, up to 39.2mpg is possible according to the combined cycle test, equating to CO2 output of 189g/km.

With the help of a super-smooth eight-speed tiptronic transmission, the latest V6 TDI uses its 204PS and its 450Nm torque reserve to power the Q7 to 62mph from rest in 9.1 seconds, and enables it to reach a 127mph top speed where conditions

allow.

In common with all Q7 models drive is channelled to all four wheels in a 40 per cent front to 60 per cent rear ratio by the quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system, and both on and off the tarmac the standard five-mode air suspension with its variable ground clearance of between 180mm and 240mm helps to iron out the most imperfect of surfaces.

£6,600 a year to run a car!

IT now costs the average motorist more than £6,600 a year to keep a car on the road, according to the RAC.

Over the past 12 months, the annual cost of owning and running a car has soared by 14 per cent to £6,689. This rise is almost three times the current rate of inflation.

Drivers now have to pay on average £128.64 per week, or 55.74 pence per mile, to own and run their vehicle.

This is £1,556 a year more than it was in 2007, before the financial crisis and subsequent recession.

Cricketers in training for big step up

WINTER net training has started for members of Glazebury Cricket Club - and with the club this year taking a big step up the Cheshire cricket ladder they are looking for fresh talent.

Anyone of any age and whether experienced players or absolute beginners will be welcome at the Hurst Lane club.

The training sessions are on Saturdays right through the run-up to the cricket seasons, finishing on April 7.

Senior players net from 1pm to 2pm, Under 15s and Under 13 from 2pm to 3pm and Under 11s from 3pm to 4pm. ECB qualified coaches will be present.

Last year, some Under 15s extended their sessions to net with the seniors and the club noticed a big improvement in standards of play as a result, so the same facility will be available this year.

The 1st XI were promoted at the end of last season to the Meller Braggins Cheshire League and this means the 2nd XI will go up with them.

Both teams can expect tougher opposition in future and will be playing many clubs they have not played before.

As a result, new experienced players will be welcome, as well as beginners.

Juniors wishing to attend the training sessions should contact Mike Durrington on 01925 764697 while seniors should contact Jack Warhurst on 07780 460500.

WI members on a 'high note'

CROFT WI's monthly meeting started literally on a 'high note.'

Guest Joe McGrath treated members to a demonstration of his extensive keyboard skills.

Joe had been teaching for 39 years and on retirement decided he would like to experience playing many different instruments. He found that through modern electronics, the keyboard gave him this opportunity.

He exhibited his skills by introducing different instruments into musical pieces, which ranged from classical Bach, through swing and jazz, right up to modern pop.

An enthusiastic vote of thanks was given by president Doreen Clare and members were keen to buy the various CD's on sale at the end of the demonstration.

The evening's competition was won by Diane Simms, second was Pam Schofield and third was Margaret O'Leary. Three new members were welcomed to the meeting.

Future events include a County Quiz at Appleton on February 20 and a theatre trip on April 4.

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