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Marathon man!

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Editor's Comment



IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE PUB INDUSTRY HAS BEEN THROUGH TOUGH TIMES IN RECENT YEARS - SO IT IS REFRESHING TO REPORT ON CATH AND MIKE DAVIES WHO HAVE MANAGED TO CLOCK UP 20 YEARS RUNNING THE CHERRY TREE PUB IN CULCHETH.

Through hard work and determination they have ensured it has remained a friendly village pub serving the local community.

They have also ensured it has been a real family affair involving their children in the running of the pub.

Congratulations on a great milestone and keep up the good work.

While on the subject of hard

work and determination I would also like to congratulate James Love from Glazebrook on his incredible achievement of completing seven marathons on seven continents in seven days - and still being able to find the energy to complete his 100th 5k park run at the end of it.

I break out in a sweat just thinking of attempting one marathon, let alone seven in seven days on seven continents.

You can read about his incredible journey elsewhere in this month's issue.

Finally I am sure many of our readers must have been frustrated and angered by recent BT telephone

and broadband problems apparently caused by a flooding issue in the village.

Having experienced communication problems caused by lines going down in the past, I know first hand how debilitating this can be for a business.

Broadband in particular is essential for most businesses now - and when it goes down our world literally comes to a standstill.

For those of you seeking compensation good luck - I know when I tried seeking compensation I gave up trying as the actual return you get makes it more effort than it is worth.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this all your issues will have been resolved.

If not let us know!

Hospital staff reunion

MEMBERS of the staff at the former Newchurch Hospital, Culcheth are being invited to a reunion in the village next month.

Culcheth resident Helena Campbell is organising the event at the Village Club, Wigshaw Lane on Saturday March 21 at 2pm.

She said: "I am looking forward to meeting all my old friends and colleagues from my days at the hospital for a catch-up.

"I'm sure there will be a lot of tall tales and wonderful memories to talk about it."

Further details are available from Helena on 01925 766658 - or just show up on the day.

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Cherry Tree is a real family affair as couple celebrate 20 years in charge

CATH and Mike Davies are celebrating 20 years at the Cherry Tree pub in Culcheth.

The couple first met while working at The White Horse in Leigh in the late 1970's. Mike went to Llandrillo Technical College to study Hotel and Catering Administration, and graduated in 1981. Cath continued to work at The White Horse whilst raising her two children Lisa and Anthony.

Mike went to work at The Greyhound in Leigh, and Cath and Mike married in November of 1981.

Mike's career then took the family away from the area, working in Stockport, Cardiff and Lichfield, where the family grew to four children with the arrival of Simon and Louise.

In 1984 they became managers of their first pub in Tamworth, and in the following years progressed to run pubs in Rugby and Coventry.

In March of 1994, the Northwest called and they moved to the George and Dragon in Glazebury for a short while, before being offered the job at The Cherry Tree, and moved into "the best pub in the world" at the end of 1994.

You would definitely say that The Cherry is a pub for the whole family - All their children , Lisa

(Deputy Manager), Anthony (Chef), Simon (Kitchen Manager) and Louise (Front of House Supervisor) have all worked, or still work with them.

Mike said: "We are delighted to have been a part of so many lives over the past 20 years, and a part of so many memories. The old saying its not the pub that makes it a great place to come, its the people you come to meet there is so so true.

"Our customers have made the Cherry Tree the great place that it is and we are so proud to call many of you our friends."

Cath added: "We take great delight in seeing new generations appear...remembering mums and dads bringing their small children in to eat here.... dad bringing son on his 18th birthday for his first beer...young children we knew then, now grown up into fantastic young people and working for us.....the happiness of attending weddings and christenings, and the sadness of saying final farewells to dear dear friends....and the children of the 80's now bringing in their new families.

Its been emotional, its been amazing...here's to the years ahead of us all...Cheers!!!"



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Croft woman awarded MBE

A CROFT woman was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List. Valerie Allen is a member of Croft Parish Council, a fourth year BSc (Hons) Business and management student at Edge Hill University, runs her own business, General Welding Supplies and has been vice chairman of Halton Chamber of Commerce for two years.

She received the award for services to the community and business in Warrington and Halton.

She said: "The work I do is very rewarding and I'm delighted to have been acknowledged in the New Year Honours – it's amazing and I still can't believe it!"

Valerie is active in encouraging businesses to take on apprentices, and identifying live projects for young people to work on.

She employs three apprentices at her own company and has helped one achieve an engineering qualification. She also asks local businesses to assist charities who help vulnerable young people into employment by offering services or expert advice free of charge or at reduced rates.



Her company has helped design a competition to engage 15 to 16 year old girls with engineering. The competition is run in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and local high schools, with pupils challenged to enter a team and to design a product that is made from recycled materials, using green energy with motion.

Valerie will receive her medal at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace this summer.

Lancashire evening

A "LANCASHIRE evening" at Culcheth's Village Club will raise funds for All Saint's Church, Glazebury and St Rocco's Hospice.

The event on Saturday, March 7 is being organised by local resident Janet Weir and will include music and comedy from Lancashire duo The Fettlers and a hotpot supper or curry.

Tickets will cost £10 and can be ordered from Janet on 01925 818647 or 07901 810604.

Food at the Culcheth Village Club

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Anniversary event supports charity

ANHAR and the team at The Raj restaurant, Culcheth, chose to celebrate their first birthday in their new home by hosting a fundraiser for The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, the local cancer hospital.

The night of entertainment, including Bollywood dancers, henna tattoo artists and live music, was a total sell out. A superb raffle and auction supported by businesses in the village raised over £1,200 on the night.

The team at The Raj very generously, donated £10 per ticket sale bringing the total raised on the night to over £2,600.

Jade Barrett, Area Fundraising Manager said "I was totally blown away by the support shown for our cause, by every business in the village. All manner of shops, hairdressers, cafes and florists donated really fantastic raffle prizes helping us raise so much on the night.

"Visiting each business to collect the prizes, I realised everybody had heard about the night and most had tickets, Anhar and his team at The Raj are certainly very popular and we are so grateful to them for their hard work in creating such a successful charity night. The total raised is incredible, thank you so much to everybody involved."

The money raised on the night will be spent helping fund pioneering cancer research projects, equipment and support services for over 30,000 patients each year. The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre treats patients not only at Wirral and Liverpool, but also at a network of chemotherapy clinics across the region, including one in Halton General Hospital.

In addition to the amazing care

already provided, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre have exciting plans to build Liverpool's first dedicated cancer hospital. This new hospital will provide expert care, groundbreaking research and clinical trials on the same site as the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and the University of Liverpool.

For more information about The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity, call the team on 0151 482 7948 or email fundraising@clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk.



New meeting facility for local businesses

TAYLOR Business Park has just opened a new meeting room facility which is available for hire.

It will comfortably seat up to 14 people in a boardroom setting and is available from just £60 for a half day and £100 for a day.

Paul Taylor, Managing Director of Taylor Business Park said, "We're proud to offer this premium meeting room facility along with our ludicrously fast, free high speed internet to local businesses here in the village, not just our tenants on the Business Park. We can offer a projector, video conferencing and can even let people use it as a hot-desking office for the day if they wish. We can plug in phones for them and get them up and running in no time."

The catering is being provided by the tea room at Spa Beautiful which can also be found at the entrance to the Business Park in the beautifully restored "Yew Tree House" which dates back many hundred years. A spokesperson for the spa said, "This is a great opportunity for us to show those



using the meeting room how good our afternoon teas are here at the Spa, and the cakes have proven to be very popular already!"

To book or arrange a viewing just contact info@TaylorBusinessPark.com

BT Phone and Internet chaos

THOUSANDS of lines in Culcheth, Croft and Glazebury went down because of flooding at a local exchange.

A BT spokesperson said it was caused by third party contractors and was linked to the apparent flooding near the exchange next to the Forget Me Not Toy and Book shop in Culcheth on Saturday January 17.

Some phones are still believed to be affected at the time of going to press and some had just come back up with limited internet connectivity despite BT "aiming" to have the issue resolved by Thursday, January 22.

A lot of local businesses suffered over this prolonged period as their card machines would not function and many had to limit transactions to cash only.

A number of people who use the Careline service were also affected and many who cannot leave their homes felt particularly isolated during the period.

Information on claiming compensation can be found on the BT website but most are limited to only claiming for three times their



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Optician's US challenge provides New Year boost for St. Rocco's

WHILE most people were tucking into leftover turkey on Boxing Day, Culcheth optician Tim Crompton was throwing himself out of a plane in America in aid of St. Rocco's.

The sponsored skydive in Miami involved a free-fall for 60 seconds at speeds of up to 120mph, providing an unforgettable experience for Tim and raising much-needed money for the Hospice.

Tim, from Crompton's Opticians in Culcheth, was joined by staff in his fundraising efforts in the lead-up to the challenge and along with customers, friends and business partners brought in an amazing

£1,400.

Tim said: "The skydive was awesome and thrilling, and an experience I would certainly repeat in the future! The achievement I felt was magnificent - not only for myself but also for St. Rocco's and the kind people who donated and supported me throughout."

SpaMedica Ophthalmology Services donated £500 to the total, making it their first donation

from their new charitable trust. A spokesperson added: "We are delighted to have donated to St Rocco's Hospice and we all wish to congratulate Tim on completing this extremely daring sky diving challenge. Well done!"

St. Rocco's would like to thank Tim and everyone who contributed for their fantastic support and for helping provide vital care to people with life limiting illnesses.

Pictured: Tim (left) on the day of his skydive, flying the flag for St. Rocco's.



From horses to hairdressing

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI was Ian Black and his topic, "Hoofpick to Scissors" covered the two great themes of his life - horses and hairdressing.

Members were given a lightening tour through the history of hairstyles from ancient Egypt to the present day, with some alarming details about lice, mice and strange setting mixtures of lard and starch!

Ian showed some beautiful illustrations of wigs and explained the art of making hairpieces and switches, still a necessary part of the hairdresser's craft.

He spoke of his own training, including time spent in Paris, and

his progress in his profession until he had his own business and trained apprentices in his turn. He also gave sensible advice - the importance of good cutting, the careful choice of shampoos and the need to avoid harmful hair dyes.

His talk concluded with pictures of the beautiful horses he trained for show-jumping - the other part of his life.

Sylvia Brown gave the vote of thanks and after tea served by Margaret Wilkinson and Nancy Parkin, Ian judged the competition for a Fancy Pair of Scissors. Doreen Procter was the winner, with Olive Lee and Aileen Paterson coming

second and third.

The speaker on February 11 will be Morag Burton and her topic is "The Magic of the Western Isles."

Three new members were welcomed to the meeting and on a sad note the death was announced of long standing member Barbara Pinkney.

Forthcoming events include a coffee morning on March 18, Oklahoma at the Lowry on March 19, and a trip to Media City, Salford on April 21.

Lesley Lloyd, winner of the 2014 competitions was presented with a book token.

Inside the world of the private eye

THE exciting and surprisingly humorous world of private investigation was the subject of the talk given to members of Croft WI by former private detective George Hughes.

George related the history of private investigation, which was started by a British man named Alan Pinkerton, a cooper by trade, who in 1875 emigrated to the USA and founded the famous "Pinkerton Agency". The capture of many of the outlaws of the old west such, as Jesse James and Butch Cassidy were instigated by the Pinkerton Agency and the company is still in operation to this day.

Surveillance is just one part of private investigation, involving many hours of sitting in a vehicle, and the golden rule is to take along plenty of snack food, but not drinks, as "nipping to the loo" is not an option. The reality of surveillance bears no resemblance to its portrayal in films etc., where there is always a parking space available just opposite the suspect, rarely the case in true life.

Visiting night clubs was often part of George's work and he told of his early naivety in the job when he had to sign in to a club in order to follow a suspect, but left his pen at the reception desk. One of the "bouncers" duly returned it to him and to his dismay George realised it had the name of the agency he worked for advertised in bold lettering on the pen!

Another case involved a locksmith having to drill out the lock on a front door which took at least an hour, a neighbour came along and said "Oh the local kids could have picked that lock in 5 minutes!" A further element of the work includes door to door enquiries, where apparently women are much more cautious than men when giving information, a fact with which WI ladies totally agreed.

Liaising with overseas operatives, the nuances of giving evidence in court all these subjects were part of the talk and George concluded by saying that every day was a challenge and having an understanding wife or partner was an absolute must, as popping out for a couple of hours could mean returning the next day!

President Doreen Clare thanked the speaker.

The competition was won by Glenys Haines, with Barbara Fazackerley second and Barbara Taylor third.

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



Joan Grime
01925 763631

CULCHETH WARD



Mike Vobe
mike.vobe2012@gmail.com



Peter Caswell
01942 671938



Keith Bland
01925 766641



Helena Campbell
01925 766658



Paul Campbell
01925 766658

Culcheth and Glazebury in bloom!

2015 will see the launch of a new Parish Council initiative – Culcheth and Glazebury in Bloom! We know that people in our villages take a great deal of pride in their environment and we have some fantastic gardens throughout the Parish. This competition will act as a means of encouraging local residents to take an interest in the gardens and give the village more colour. In Spring, the Parish Council will open nominations and people will be able to nominate either their own garden, or someone else's. Nominations can be made anonymously if you wish. When gardens are in bloom, an independent judge will visit all the nominees and select a winner for this year. That person will be awarded a prize which will be sponsored by one of our local businesses. More details on how you can nominate gardens will be available soon, both in Culcheth Life and on the Parish Council website.

Speed activated signs

The Parish Council has set its budget for the forthcoming year. When we speak to residents, we appreciate how significant an issue speeding traffic can be in certain parts of our village. That is why we have ring-fenced money to try and address this problem, through the purchase of speed activated signs. These signs can be placed at strategic locations where speeding is a problem, to warn drivers on the approach that they are over the limit. Speed activated signs have worked successfully in neighbouring villages like Hollins Green and Croft, and we are keen to replicate that success here. We are also on the lookout for any local businesses who may be willing to sponsor the signs, so that we can purchase additional units. The signs are movable, so do not have to remain fixed in one location and can be transferred between streets when issues arise. If you or your company would be interested in helping to make a real difference by sponsoring the speed activated signs, please get in touch with Mike Durrington, Clerk to the Parish Council, who can provide more information.

Culcheth Hall Drive planning application

The Parish Council is pleased to note that, just prior to Christmas, Warrington Borough Council's planning committee rejected proposals by Evoke Homes to place new houses on land off Culcheth Hall Drive. At the request of residents, the Parish Council submitted strong objections to the scheme and Parish Councillors Mike Vobe, Jacqui Johnson and Chris Vobe made representations to the meeting on behalf of the village. We will continue to monitor all planning applications closely and liaise with residents to ensure that your views are heard during the consultation process.

Community Day 2015

As we enter a brand new year, another Community Day is fast approaching. The Parish Council committee which helps to organise the day has held its first meeting, and we are looking forward to another exciting event which not only raises money for good causes, but provides the village with a day that can be enjoyed by all the family. As ever, we are keen to have your input. Your ideas for the kinds of things you would like to see on the village green this May are always welcome. We warmly encourage residents to get in touch with your local Parish Councillor if you wish to contribute or get involved in any way.

New grit bin requested

Parish Councillors have noted that the junction at Avon Road, Bent Lane, Church Lane and Shaw Street is particularly dangerous when there is ice on the road. A grit bin, which was located there, was removed some time ago and has not been replaced. Newchurch councillors Chris Vobe, Matt Smith and Jacqui Johnson have been in contact with the Borough Council to request that the bin is replaced in the interests of public safety.

New Parish Councillor

Residents in Glazebury and Mee Brow have a new Parish Councillor, following the by-election held just before Christmas. The Council welcomed Joan Grime to her first meeting in January.



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Focus on nature photo



**Mark Blackledge
Photography**

The annual hunt for the very best in nature photography is back on in the 2015 "Focus on Nature" Bents Photography competition.

Once again Bents Garden & Home in Glazebury near Warrington is calling all amateur photographers to take up their tripods and focus their lenses and take images of nature which capture the beauty of our surroundings; from gardens and

flowers to landscapes and wildlife. The winning entry, as voted for by Bents' customers, will receive £50 worth of Bents vouchers and a framed copy of their image.

Says Matthew Bent, Managing Director at the family owned garden & home centre: "We always have

WI members enjoy hot pot

CULCHETH WI's monthly meeting started with a hot pot meal enjoyed by six tables of eight.

Before the entertainment began members sang Jerusalem and guests were welcomed from Glazebury and Newchurch. Eight members with birthdays in the month were congratulated.

The entertainment was both musical and poetical and was provided by Barbara Mayers and Sue Bradley and accompanied by Jo Busby at the piano. There were songs with a nautical theme and from shows such as The Mikado, Mary Poppins and Sunset Boulevard. The poems proved very funny and were spoken with an authentic Liverpool accent.

Members were reminded of outings including a Noel Coward play, Private Lives, in April. A card was read out from Fearnhead WI thanking Culcheth WI for organizing the WI Christmas Carol concert in the Parish Church.

The next meeting will be on February 17 when an auctioneer will be present and members will be invited to submit items they wish to have valued.

Photography competition



Last year's winning entry Otter and Mars Bar taken by Mark Blackledge.

an incredible response to this competition with some fantastic photographs submitted over the past few years. The growing number of entries makes shortlisting a very tricky task but also a hugely enjoyable one as the images are always so varied.

"We're looking for as many entries as possible again this year so get snapping and send us your photographs of your favourite piece of nature."

Bents would like to see a wide range of nature photography from sweeping panoramic landscapes to

close up shots showing the intricate beauty of plants and flowers, or animal shots which can be both beautiful and sometimes very amusing!

The closing date for the competition is Saturday February 28 and 20 short-listed entries will be displayed in store throughout March. Customers will be able to vote for their favourite image with the winning entry announced in early April.

Entry forms are available from customer services or entries can be made online at bents.co.uk

The Gardening Guide FEBRUARY

- Try something new and plant a summer bulb border – let your creative side out and think about colours and heights for a stunning display
- Continue feeding the birds as they get ready for the spring
- Check your frost prevention is still working
- Rake off any moss or debris that has accumulated on the lawn over the winter
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Probe into village flooding problems

ONGOING investigations are going on to try and solve flooding problems at Croft.

Residents of Kenyon Lane – including several local farmers – have suffered from flooding due to blocked drains for several years.

Now borough council engineers are carrying out a study of the wider area to try and resolve the problems.

Work has already been carried out in Kenyon Lane but the root cause of the problems has not yet been identified.

Warrington North MP Helen

Jones has taken the issue up with the council as have local councillors Chris Vobe and Matt Smith.

They are supporting farmers and other residents in their call for urgent action.

The MP said: "Resolving these flooding problems is of vital importance to the farming community in Croft, particularly my constituents on Kenyon Lane. Every effort must be made to find the root cause, and ensure that this doesn't

affect people's livelihoods. That is why I will be supporting residents in their discussions with the council."

Cllr Vobe said he had visited many residents on Kenyon Lane to hear about the problems first hand.

He said: "This is not the first occasion that we have seen parts of the village threatened by long-standing flooding issues."

A council spokesman said they were aware of the problems in Kenyon Lane and were working to find a solution.



Call for village traffic plan



BOROUGH Council chiefs are being urged to undertake a traffic management study at Glazebury as a result of growing concerns about traffic issues in the village.

Newly-elected parish councillor Joan Grime has joined borough councillor Chris Vobe in calls for the study.

Residents complain of heavy lorries causing vibrations through their homes, traffic congestion around the newly-installed roundabout, parking problems and speeding on parts of Warrington Road.

The councillors believe the issues need to be looked at "in the round" rather than individually and that a traffic management plan is the best way forward.

Cllr Grime said: "Many people have told me about the impact that various traffic-related issues are having on people's quality of life in Glazebury."

"Problems such as road safety, inadequate parking provision and the ongoing difficulties with HGVs all demonstrate a clear need for us to work towards implementing a traffic management plan for the village."

Cllr Vobe added: "We have met with senior council officers to set the ball rolling and are in the process of working a traffic management study into the council's work programme for this year.

"This will include a meaningful consultation with all residents about how we can improve the situation for everyone."

Warrington Worldwide Media Award

Media at GCSE and A Level is proving to be a popular subject to study at both Birchwood Community High School and Birchwood College.

It is now so popular the school decided it was time that there should be a prize for media to sit alongside the other awards handed out at the annual Presentation Evening. The school approached our sister magazine Warrington

Worldwide and were delighted when the organisation agreed to sponsor the award.

The first Warrington Worldwide Award for Media was presented to Olivia Hull at the Class of 2014 Presentation Evening by James Balme.

Olivia was one of 34 learners who successfully completed the two year Media GCSE course. She was described as being 'hardworking,

enthusiastic and extremely positive about Media and an excellent role model to others'. She also achieved the highest score in the GCSE examination and exceeded her overall target by two grades, a fantastic achievement.

Learners are now able to continue their media studies at Birchwood College where there is a new media suite to support their A Level studies.





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stylesfiles

Ready to grow your business further? Have you considered using GrowthAccelerator?

What is GrowthAccelerator?

GrowthAccelerator is a unique service led by some of the country's most successful growth specialists where you'll find new connections, new routes to investment and the new ideas and strategy you'll need for your business to achieve its full potential.

How will my business benefit from GrowthAccelerator?

If you've already built a thriving, successful company, GrowthAccelerator will help you get to the heart of the barriers that are holding your business back and work alongside you to identify the critical steps you need to take to achieve your next phase of growth- rapidly and sustainably.

You'll also have exclusive access of up to £2,000 match funding for senior managers to hone their leadership and management skills, getting your

team in the best possible shape to drive your business forward.

How is GrowthAccelerator different from other services?

GrowthAccelerator exclusively targets high growth businesses who want to enter their next growth phase and have the potential and determination to get there.

The help you'll receive with GrowthAccelerator is bespoke, with the package of support you receive focused on the specific needs of your business. It will involve a commitment of your time, but with support tailored to your business priorities and the way you work, time won't be wasted on issues you've already got covered. Your GrowthAccelerator coach will only work with you on what your business needs to realise its full potential.

How much does GrowthAccelerator cost?

Your contribution depends on

the size of your business, but for a business with 5-49 employees you would pay a one off fee of £1,500 plus VAT (for a service valued at least £3,500).

If you would like any further information on using GrowthAccelerator then please contact Graeme Hindley on 01925 761600.



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Three day adventure for pupils

YOUNGSTERS from Culcheth Primary School went on a team-building trip to Yorkshire – and had the time of their lives.

Nearly 30 Year Five pupils went on the three-day trip to the Robinwood adventure park in Todmorden where they swapped classrooms for climbing, zip slides and canoeing.

There were plenty of activities to enjoy, and the pupils tried all of them.

Head teacher Amanda Dodd said: "All of the children tried all of the activities – some of which were extremely challenging."

"They seemed to enjoy them all – but their favourite was the 'Piranha Pool' where they had to solve a series of problems to unlock the room before the 'piranhas' were released into the tank!"

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House plan triggers wave of opposition

A PLAN to build a four bedroom detached house in the grounds of the former Fourways NHS home in Twiss Green Lane, Culcheth has been greeted with a wave of objections.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council opposed the scheme, there were objections from two neighbours and also from the borough council's tree and woodland officer.

Planning officers recommended the scheme be refused but members of the borough council's planning committee deferred a decision to allow an amended scheme to be submitted.

Fourways has recently been converted into eight apartments and is now named Barton Mews and neighbours claimed this alone would lead to an unacceptable increase in traffic on Twiss Green Lane.

An additional four bedroomeed house in a limited space and on a dangerous corner would lead to challenging traffic conditions, they argued.

"The area has been saturated with property over the past few years and the traffic on this stretch of Twiss Green Lane is bordering dangerous levels."

"This narrow lane is home to a local primary school and any more development of green field sites on this road should be stopped. Safety of our local children must be made paramount."

The parish council argued that the development would obstruct a junction that was the main exit and entrance for residents of at least half of Twiss Green Lane, also Twiss Green Drive, Ivy House Gardens and Stainforth Close and other roads.

The tree and woodland officer said there were protected trees on the site which were a valuable amenity feature.

Planning officers said the development would lead to the potential loss of an area of mature protected trees of significant value which contribute to the visual amenity of Twiss Green Lane.

The amended application will be considered at a future meeting.

Michelle's college award

A CULCHETH woman won a top award at a special ceremony involving staff at Oldham College and University Campus, Oldham.

Michelle Bradley is manager of Salon 7 – the college's hair and beauty salon in Oldham town centre.

As well as a certificate acknowledging her contribution to the college, she also won a £50 shopping voucher and a portrait of herself created by art and design students.

Students were represented on the judging panel which chose the award winners in eight categories.

Michelle has worked extremely

hard over the last three years to ensure the vision of Salon 7 as a new business model was successful in challenging times.

Staff achieved a 100 per cent success rate, with the majority gaining permanent employment within the industry.

Many local salons recruit staff from Salon 7 on a repeat basis.

A college spokesman said: "We acknowledged the fantastic input of all staff by hosting the staff awards at a special ceremony."



Rotary club raised £13,000

ROTARY club members at Culcheth raised more than £13,000 for charity last year.

Main fund raising events were the annual beer festival, the Halle Orchestra concert and the Christmas collection.

Among the organisations which benefitted from the club's fundraising activities were 70 Squadron Air Cadets, Croft/Culcheth Scouts, 1st Birchwood Scouts, 1st Culcheth Girl Guides, 2nd Croft Girl Guides, Culcheth AFC, Fyfe Rangers, Culcheth Eagles, Millgreen School, Culcheth Horticultural Society, TS Warspite Navy Cadets, Glazebury Old Persons Club, Winwick Old Persons Club, Warrington Integrated Sports Club, Warrington Disability Partnership, Warrington MENCAP and many other such organizations.

The club also sponsored prizes at local high schools, took students to annual "Excitement of Science Lectures" at Liverpool or Manchester Universities, provide illustrated dictionaries for primary school leavers, and sponsor high school students to take part in a public speaking competition.

Guides' presentation evening

GIRLGUIDING Culcheth held a presentation evening to celebrate the successful completion of 15 Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The event was held at The Village Club, Culcheth and was attended by the friends and family of

the successful candidates.

The awards were presented by Julie Bell, Chief Commissioner for Girlguiding North West.

The girls and young women of the senior section worked extremely hard to complete the required elements of

the Duke of Edinburgh Award learning new skills, volunteering regularly in the local community, undertaking a new physical challenge as well as complete a weekend expedition in the Peak District.

They are now focusing on working

towards the next level of DofE Award.

Anyone interested in joining Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Senior Section should register their interest via www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or telephone 0800 169 5901



Marathon man runs seven marathons in seven days on seven continents!

MARATHON man James Love is celebrating after completing seven marathons on seven continents in seven days!

A delighted James from Holcroft Farm, Culcheth said: "I finished third overall in the event out of a field of twelve competitors, with a time that means I am the 5th person in the world to complete 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days.

"My first, third sixth and seventh marathons were all sub four hour finishes. In the whole of the seven days I slept in a bed for only four hours.

"All other times I had to sleep on the plane or in airports."

He received a boost when his wife and five friends surprised him by turning up to cheer him on for the fifth marathon in Marrakech, which give him a great boost as he was

feeling quite tired.

Not content with completing his seven marathons James then went on to complete his 100th park run in Sydney before the clock ran out on the seven days, meaning he ran 7 marathons on 7 continents and a 5k park run in 7 days.

James said: "I do this because I like to push myself. Most people think I'm mad but you can decide for yourself!".

During the event he ran 183 miles and spent 59 hours in the air and flew 38,000 km.

He started in Antarctica and then went onto Chile, followed by Miami, Spain, Africa, Dubai and finishing in Sydney, Australia.



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Dave Gibbons

Head of Courtyard Building

"My job is to oversee the building side of the business. So I meet with homeowners who are looking to extend or renovate their properties, and talk them through their options and budgets. I also advise clients on the estate agency side when it comes to getting work done pre or post sale."

Our services are available to anyone, whether that's general maintenance needs, such as emergency plumbing, or bigger projects such as a loft conversion.

Most importantly, I appreciate that a house is more than bricks and mortar – it's your home. And, along with the rest of the team, I do everything I can to help you make the very best of it."



Victoria Barlow

Head of Courtyard Estate Agency

"I'm here to run the part of business that sells your home for you. I oversee the team here in Culcheth, and also the staff in our new office in Northenden.

As well as going out and conducting property appraisals, I'm also available to give advice and guidance either over the phone or face to face in the home.

Selling a home is a big deal – with 15 years' experience in this field, I know that better than most. That's why I'm here for our clients, not just when it comes to your house – I stick around for the rest of the journey too, keeping things running smoothly right through to completion"



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Guide to Stamp Duty Reform

② How did stamp duty work?

Under the old rules, you would have paid tax at a single rate on the entire property price, so someone buying a home for £125,000 paid no tax, while someone buying a property for £125,001 paid 1% (£1,250).

Those buying a property for £250,000 had to pay 1% in tax (£2,500), while buying a property for £250,001 would incur duty at 3% (£7,500) on the whole sum.

③ What are the changes?

Stamp duty will be cut for 98% of people who pay it. If you're purchasing a home for less than £937,500, you will pay less stamp duty, or the same. Under the **new system**, you will only pay the rate of tax on the part of the property price within each tax band – like income tax. So you **will not pay tax** on the first £125,000 of a property's value. You will then pay 2% on the portion from £125,000 to £250,000, 5% up to £925,000, 10% up to £1.5 million, and 12% on everything above that.

For example, someone purchasing at £300,000 will save £4000, under the new rules they will now pay £5000 rather than £9000.

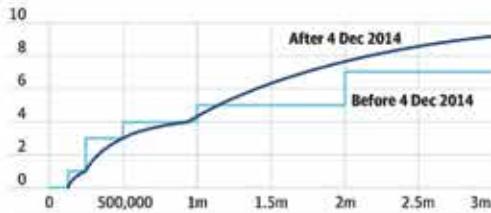
④ What does it mean for first-time buyers?

The move could be particularly beneficial to first-timers as the changes will reduce up-front costs for younger buyers and provide a further boost to Government-assistance schemes such as the Help to Buy, which has been extremely valuable in getting people on to the housing ladder.

On a £180,000 house purchase there will be no tax to pay on the first £125,000, then 2% on the remaining £55,000, which is a total bill of £1,100, a saving of £700 on the old rate.

Stamp duty rate

Effective SDLT rate, %



If you have a property question, email the team on ask@courtyardhomes.co.uk and we will endeavour to answer some of them here each month.

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