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Editor's Comment



PLACES only become communities through the activities of people and, looking back through recent issues of Culcheth Life, it is clear that people do much to ensure that the communities of Culcheth, Glazebury, Croft, Lowton, Glazebrook and Winwick are good places to live.

There will always be problems to be overcome, but it seems pretty obvious to most people that we live and work in a pretty good part of the

Deadline for

the February

issue is

January 24,

2012

But it is not because of the places.

Interesting they may well be. Attractive too - if you don't mind everywhere being pretty flat. But areas of great natural beauty they are

It is people and the things they do

that make the difference.

that make the ditterence.

In this issue we see the PCSO who is organising film shows for young people, the school teacher who has organised pensioners' parties for 26 years, the Rotary Club members who have raised \$8,000 for good causes. The list goes on - and it is the same most months.

Others make their contribution too perhaps in business or government, sport or education.

We confidently expect to be able to carrying on in the same vein in the coming year. Doubtless we will also have to report less positive aspects of local life, but on balance we think the overall picture will be attractive and, in these troubled times, that is something to be grateful for.

Charity open day

TASTERS sessions for Pilates and Yoga are being offered at a charity event in Culcheth. Coffee and cakes will also be on offer at Cheshire Pilates, in Glaziers

Proprietor Suzanne Rogers is throwing open her studio in the afternoon of Saturday, January 21. Everything is free - the coffee and cakes and the half-hour sessions - but donations to Breast Cancer Care would be appreciated.

Places in the class sessions will be limited so booking is essential.

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Council opposes campsite homes plan

CROFT Parish Council has thrown its weight behind residents fighting plans to build houses on the site of an historic war time naval camp.

The council believes the proposal by Elan Homes to build 26 houses on the site of the old HMS Gosling camp, off Lady Lane, would lead to unacceptable increases in traffic on local roads.

local roads.

Cllr Les Hoyle said: "We are opposed to anything likely to lead to increased traffic. In this case, we believe the development could cause road safety hazards at the junction of Lady Lane and Mustard Lane, because of the proximity of St Lewis' Primary School."

Residents of Lady Lane are

Residents of Lady Lane are opposing the scheme for four and five bedroomed houses on the footprint of

the old camp site.

They say the site is in the designated green belt and involves a historic wartime training camp site one the few remaining in the area. The land has remained fallow for 40 years and supports a wide range of wildlife, including bats, foxes, buzzards, newts, toads and various birds

There are no sewage or gas main and no plan to provide them, nor plans to improve the potentially dangerous site access.

Residents believe the development would lead to a significant increase in traffic with implications for road safety and the local community, which is already under strain. They say police and the borough and parish councils are already concerned about traffic problems during "drop off/collection" times at the school.

police and the borough and parish councils are already concerned about traffic problems during "drop off/collection" times at the school.

They say there is no demand for more housing in Croft, where they are currently more than 30 houses for sale, with many similar-sized houses having been on the market for years.

Pirates, thrills, laughter...it's panto time!

LONG lost treasure, pirates, thrills and spills along the way...Culcheth Players are presenting "Treasure Island" at Culcheth Sports Club for three nights from Friday, February 24 with a matinee performance on the Saturday.



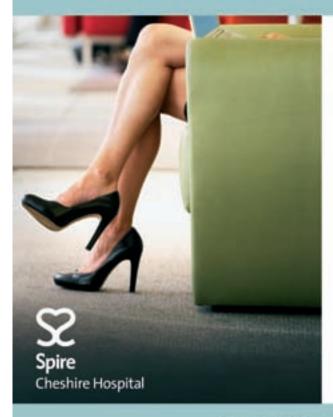
There will be plenty of excitement and fun in a show suitable for all the family.

The audience will have plenty of opportunity to get involved in the fun.

Tickets are available from the club bar, or you can pay on the door or contact the ticket line Tel: 07824 424



Free varicose vein information evening



Tuesday 24 January 7.15pm

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Spotlight on education



WELCOME to Culcheth Life's spotlight on education - with the start of a new year, education is at the forefront of many minds - whether you are a student wondering what to do next - or proud/concerned parents wondering what should be the next step for you child.

One thing for certain is that it's never too late to learn, whatever your age and in today's modern world it is more important than ever to make the right decision

- whether it be for your child's education or your own.

From choosing the right nursey and primary school, to the right secondary school and beyond it can be a minefield of difficult choices.

Parents have a choice in choosing where they send their children - although first choices are not always available

Then there is the choice between private and state education, colleges and universities - the list is endless.

With tuition fees kicking in this year it is more important that ever you make

Here at Culcheth Life and our associated magazines we aim to help you make the right choice and to help with your childs or your own education by highlighting a variety of education providers in the area.

Schools and colleges who would like to feature in a future feature can contact us by email at info@culchethlife.com or by phone on 01925 623630.





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Tel: 01942 767040 (Option 4) or email: stephen@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk

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PENSIONERS from Culcheth enjoyed themselves at the 26th annual Christmas Party for retired people organised by school teacher Brian Malone at Culcheth High School.

Mr Malone, chemistry teacher at the school, organised 50 pupils to set out and decorate the school hall and prepare food for about 60 guests.

A variety of party games were organised and entertainment was provided by students singing carols and numbers from the school's recently performed musical "We will Rock You."

There were also a number of instrumental pieces from students studying in the music department.

A school spokesperson said: "It is

difficult to know who enjoys the day most, the guests, the students or Mr Malone!"

The event was supported by a number of local businesses including Taylor Business Park and Bates Turkey





Jubilee picnic takes shape

MORE details are now available about the 'giant picnic' planned by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council to celebrate the Queen's Diamond

It will be held on Sunday, June 3 on the village green and will turn back the clock to take the form of a Victorian picnic.

Villagers will be asked to take their own picnics and there will be acts put on by local entertainers.

The parish council plans to organise races for children and adults - including

sack races and egg and spoon races.

Some food is likely to be available for people who don't want to take picnics. Further details are being worked out by the council environment sub-committee.

Extra grit bins purchased

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council is to buy two grit bins, at a cost of more than $\mathfrak{L}500$, in addition to five they are already being given by the borough council.

They will be placed at various locations around the village where, in recent

years, motorists and pedestrians have experienced problems due to snow or ice.

The seven bins will be placed at Lowfield Gardens and Meadow Bank Close, The seven bins will be placed at Lowfield Gardens and Meadow Bank Close, Glazebury and Fowley Common Lane, Eden Avenue, Chatburn Court, Crofton Gardens and Medway Road, Culcheth.

They will be "topped up" by the borough council up to four times.

Grit will be spread by the borough council but will also be available to residents to help make roads and pavements safe during wintery weather.

Clir Keith Bland said: "All the sites have caused problems during the winter over the years, particularly the last two winters.

"Crofton Gardens and Medway Road have been particularly bad, with motorists sometimes unable to get out of them."

Originally, Culcheth and Glazebury, in common with most other parish councils across the borough, declined the borough council's offer of five bins. But after the borough put forward a revised offer, the majority of parishes changed their minds.

changed their minds.



Railway station plans kept from locals, says M

PLANS for a new railway station in the Culcheth area - also including housing development on green belt land - are being kept from local people, according to MP Helen Jones.

The scheme is one of five being considered for a station in the Culcheth area - primarily designed to serve Leigh, which has no station.

Warrington people are not being consulted, the MP claims.

She said: "I am particularly concerned that one proposal - Kenyon Junction - might involve building housing on the green belt when, I understand, Warrington has 13 years supply of housing land

available across the town.

"We need to have a proper discussion about these options, yet the details are being kept from local

The Warrington North MP has been concerned for some time about a study, commissioned by Wigan Council, Transport for Greater Manchester and Network Rail, which considers five options for a station.

These include a rail spur to a terminal station in the Pennington area. A second option is for the rail spur plus an additional station near Kenyon Junction on the Chat Moss line, using existing roads for access.

Further options include a station at Kenyon Junction with a road connection to the A580 at its junction

with the A579

The fourth option is for a station at Kenyon Junction with enhanced bus priority to Leigh, and the final option is for a station on the Chat Moss line in the Glazebury area.

Ms Jones said: "Yet again we see

that these discussions are proceeding without proper consultation with people in Warrington."

Previously Ms Jones has slammed Wigan Borough Council for not consulting Warrington people, accusing Wigan of treating accusing Wigan of Warrington with "contempt."

Wigan wants a new station to serve the Leigh area. Some of the sites under consideration are in Warrington, including Kenyon Junction and Glazebury. Ms Jones said there were serious

issues about traffic congestion and the impact on the Green Belt as well as accessibility,

transport accessionity, considered.

Pressure group Transport for Leigh, which wants a station in the centre of Leigh - the largest town in England without its own station - opposes the

Health services on the doorstep

PEOPLE in the Culcheth area can access some hospital outpatient services in their own community.

Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is providing clinic services at Culcheth Clinic, Jackson Avenue. This means patients can have an initial appointment with a hospital specialist without having to travel to Warrington Hospital.

Initially the service is providing clinics in paediatrics (children's services) and colorectal services. This

will expand into elderly care, diabetes, rheumatology and ear dressing in the coming weeks.

Local GPs can refer patients to the new services through the "Choose and Book" system. Current clinic schedules are paediatrics on alternate Wednesday 'afternoons and the colorectal service once a month on Thursdays.

The move is part of the hospital's drive to work with GPs to try to provide services in the community. The hospital has been providing some outpatient services at Newton

Community Hospital for some time and non-maternity ultrasound services at Stockton Heath Medical Centre.

Chris Knights, director of business development and strategy at the Trust, said: "We're really pleased to introduce this service at Culcheth which we hope will prove popular." with local patients. It means that if they live in the area and the towns nearby they have the option to get their specialist appointment locally without having to travel to hospital. We are bringing the expertise of the hospital to them.
"We're working closely with GPs to

look at opportunities like this to make services as convenient as possible.

Garage sell-off could cause parking chaos

WORRIED councillors fear a sell-off of garage sites at Culcheth could lead to increased parking problems near the village centre.

The parish council has been consulted by the borough council, which is considering the future of more than 840 garages and garage plots across Warrington which could realise more than £2 million if sold.
One garage site is in Ellesmere Road, Culcheth - which is already

notorious for parking chaos. Cllr Keith Bland said: "We are concerned that if these garages were sold it could lead to even worse parking problems.

"Some, if not most, of the garages are currently rented by local people. If the garages were sold-off, would they remain available? If not, where would the people who currently use them park their cars?

"We have no idea what the site

might become.'

The borough council currently receives about £27,000-a-year in

house on land at the rear of Hob Hey Lane.

rent for garages across Warrington but this barely covers the cost of

repairs and management.

Officers have put forward a number of options for the future use of the properties, including selling them, retaining them as garage sites, using them for affordable housing them for affordable housing developments, allotments or gypsy/travellers sites.

A consultation exercise is being carried out before a decision is



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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 over-supply of housing land across the borough. Later an appeal was dismissed. But the site has become a target for burglars and vandals and officers are

House plan for art studio site

PLANNING chiefs are to visit the site of a proposed new house at Culcheth before deciding whether it can be built.

The project 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

recommending the plan be approved to remove the crime problem.

A neighbour has objected on the grounds the scheme would result in a loss of privacy. Vehicle access to the site would be from Radcliffe Avenue.





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Village 'cinema' for yo

YOUNG people in Culcheth will be able to enjoy a night at a 'cinema' this winter - thanks to an innovative idea from popular PCSO Steve Dodd.

What's more, they'll be able to choose what film will be screened at the shows to be put on every three weeks at Culcheth High School.

Youngsters will be able to vote for the film to be shown from a shortlist of the six most popular films of the week.

The first show will be on Friday,

January 20.

PCSO Dodd (right) came up with the idea after seeing the fully

equipped theatre at the school.

He said: "We no longer have a problem with anti-social behaviour by young people in Culcheth but there are still youngsters who don't want to go to a youth club and have nowhere else to go.

"This will provide an alternative once every three weeks during the winter months.

"The school have agreed, the police support the idea and it also

has the support of the parish council.

"The shows will be free - including

pop and crisps at the interval.
"Youngsters have to go into
Warrington or Leigh if they want to go

Borough to act on

HIGHWAYS chiefs have agreed to put traffic calming measures at an accident blackspot in Culcheth -

although they can't say when.

Borough council officers have agreed to a request from three local councillors, Keith Bland, Sue Bland and Les Hoyle for improved road safety in Warrington Road, near to the Thai Paragon restaurant.

Accidents

The three councillors called for action after a series of accidents in which a crash barrier was repeatedly damaged.

On one occasion, after the barrier had been repaired, a chevron was placed on it to try and slow traffic down - but despite this another crash occurred.

Cllr Sue Bland said: "We were because the footpath





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oung people

to the cinema - quite a long way on a cold winter's night. This will be on their doorstep - and it will be free."

Youngsters will be able to vote for the film of their choice through the school. The theatre is being provided free and funding for an expectation. school. The theatre is being provided free and funding for an operator who will screen the films will come from a small fund left over from the old Culcheth Youth Club which is administered by local councillors Keith and Sue Bland, who were members of the youth club committee. PCSO Dodd added: "I hope this will prove a success. The shows will shows will prove a success.

will prove a success. The shows will run until March, after which we don't think there will be a demand due to the light nights..



accident blackspot

which is protected by the barrier is regularly used by elderly people going to the shops and parents taking their children to school.



agreed to do the work but, of course, they have to find funding so it may be some time before it is done.



"We are pleased the borough has

The Gardening Guide

January...



- Tools will benefit from sharpening & oiling to prepare for the coming season.
- New turf can be laid when the weather is mild. Stand on planks to avoid compaction.
- Keep up rooms humid for Houseplants by standing them on trays of moist gravel.
- Pots & bowls of Hyacinths, Daffodils, etc that have been outside may be given a little heat to encourage early flowering.
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Rotary's £8,000 for good causes

FUND-raising by Rotary Club members in the Culcheth area over the last year raised more than £8,000.

The Newton and district Jubilee Rotary Club covers the Culcheth, Croft, Winwick and Lowton areas and raised money for distribution to local societies, self help groups, schools, scouts, cadets, the elderly, a women's refuge, and sports and other organisations.

On the international front a series of natural disasters have created huge demand for Rotary Shelter Boxes which, assembled in the UK, contain emergency tented accommodation, tools, utensils and children's toys.

Some 2,000 boxes have gone to

the earthquake stricken city of Van in Turkey, a turther 500 boxes provided shelter in the flooded regions of Thailand.

An estimated 1,000 boxes are on their way to Central American victims of hurricanes and floods which hit that

A small part of local donations have been spent providing a Shelter Box as part of this worldwide rescue effort. The club itself has provided a second box.

Anyone interested in the Rotary movement should ring Bernard Groom on 01925 733893.

Home solar panels still a good investment

THE growing popularity of home solar panels is driving down the cost of materials - and that means it is still a good investment despite reductions in

the feed-in tarif according to local installers Hughes Brothers.

Britain still wants to get 15 per cent of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020, compared to three per cent when the 2009 Renewable

Energy Direction was signed up to.

The tax-free feed-in tariff is being reduced, but the falling cost of materials has compensated for that.

So homeowners who generate more energy from solar installations can still get paid for energy they produce and use themselves and extra for any they can put into the national grid.

According to the Energy Saving Trust, a typical 2.9 kWp household installation can give a return of $\mathfrak L1$, 190. This is split into $\mathfrak L1$,060 a year from the Generation Tarriff, $\mathfrak L40$ a year from the Export Tarrif and $\mathfrak L90$ a year from reduced electricity

The big winner for those who sign up is the Generation Tariff which currently delivers 43.3p per kilowatt hour of energy produced. This is index-linked for 25 years and will rise with Retail Price Index inflation.

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Long-serving cleaner retires

ANN Harvey, a member of Culcheth High School's cleaning team for 19 years, has retired.

She has seen five head teachers come and go, extensions and refurbishment

in the old school, the big move to the new school and demolition of the old. School business manager Amanda Stevens said: "Ann's work ethic is second to none. She never complains, works with a smile and is always prepared to help

Amanda Stevens (right) makes the presentation to Ann Harvey.

"She will be a difficult act to follow and the school staff and students have much to thank her for."

Amanda made a presentation to her at school and wished her a long and happy retirement.

Ann's reply: "I don't plan to be idle. want to travel - but not until some home renovation projects have been completed!"



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Time is running out for expanding businesses

If you are in business and considering investing in 'Plant and machinery', you need to be aware of some significant changes that are fast approaching.

Expenditure incurred between April 2010 and March 2012 on all items qualifying for plant and machinery allowances, including 'integral features' (but not business cars), up to an annual maximum of £100,00 qualifies for the 100% annual investment allowance (AIA). From April 2012, this allowance will decrease drastically to only £25,000. Where

£25,000. Where your business has an accounting year straddling 31 March 2012 the amount of the AIA is calculated on a pro rata basis.

However, any expenditure (even if it is made after March 2012) relating to the government's qualifying list of

energy-saving plant and machinery could be eligible for enhanced capital allowances (ECA's) of 100% of the cost incurred.

For example, a company installs a qualifying heating system for £45,000 in June 2012. If the company doesn't claim ECA's, it will only receive capital allowances of £25,000 from the AIA and £2000 writing down allowances. By making an eligible claim, it will receive the full £45,000 in ECA's and this would leave the £25,000 AIA available for any other qualifying expenditure.

Please contact Graeme Hindley on 01925 761600 to discuss capital allowances further; particularly if you are thinking of investing in this area of your business.

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 lan Lloyd, Les Styles or Graeme Hindley on 01925 761600.



The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co 473 Warrington Road, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 5QU For further details please telephone 01925 761600 or visit our website at www.stylesandco.co.uk





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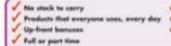
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"A slap in the face" claims campaigner

ONLY 48 street lamps across Culcheth, Croft and Glazebury benefited from a borough-wide upgrading scheme in which a total of 2,629 lamps were upgraded.

At Appleton, almost 400 street lamps were upgraded, according to Labour campaigner Chris Vobe. He has lashed out at what he

describes as another example of Town Hall bias against the Culcheth

"This is a slap in the face to people here - particularly when we see that nearly 400 street lights were treated

at Appleton."

Mr Vobe said not a single elected councillor was consulted about the scheme.

"Every single light to be upgraded was hand-picked by unelected officers, who have no mandate from the residents of Culcheth.

"It cannot be right that 2,629 street lights have been chosen for replacement without a single word from an elected member."

Mr Vobe said he was particularly angry because not a single light had been upgraded at Newchurch, where poor quality street lighting remained one of the top priorities for local people.



"Enough enouah. inexcusable treatment must come to

A month ago, Mr Vobe accused council officers of showing bias against the Culcheth area over road maintenance

Jubilee facelift for village clock

IT'S all that remains of the old village school at Croft - and these days it doesn't

seem to be keeping very good time.

But this year, to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, it looks set to get a facelift.

Members of Croft Parish Council hope to arrange a refurbishment of the time

piece and its tower in Mustard Lane.

The clock tower, complete with bell, was the main feature of the old school, demolished more than 30 years ago when the new Croft Primary School was built just across the road.

Now it sits atop the last remaining bit of the old school, which has been

converted into a private garage.

Councillors hope that once restored it will again serve as a useful timepiece in the village

The council is also planning a community picnic on the village playing field, off Smithy Lane when residents will bring their own food and drink and games will be organised for local children.



Motoring

Friends and family who drive too fast

JUST over half of drivers believe they have a family member who drives too fast – while 56 per cent say they have a family member frightened to drive on motorways.

This is revealed in an AA survey which also finds that 35 per cent of motorists have a family member who drives while using a mobile phone, eating, shaving or putting on make-

Young drivers (18-to-24) are more critical of their friends' driving than any other age group. Almost three

quarters of 18-24 year-olds believe they have a friend who drives too fast; 70 per cent say they have a friend who "tailgates" and 79 per cent have a friend who drives while using a mobile, shaving, eating or

doing their make-up.

Drivers aged 65 or older are less likely to have a friend they think drives too fast (43 per cent), tailgates (48 per cent) or drives while using a mobile, shaving, eating or doing their make-up (50%).

AA president Edmund King said: "A worrying number of us think our friends, families and colleagues have illegal and dangerous driving habits.

"Young people are particularly likely to have noticed dangerous driving habits amongst their friends.

"There is no way someone would pass their driving test if they displayed

these types of behaviour, so there is no place for it on our roads.

However, , when questioned about their own driving skills, most motorists were confident of their abilities. More than 70 per cent said they were "quite" or "very" good at sticking to speed limits. Nearly 90 per cent denied tall gating and said they were "quite" or "very" good at keeping a safe distance from a car in front of

Crossover SUV with breakthrough technology

MAZDA have chosen its CX-5 compact crossover SUV to introduce its breakthrough Skyactiv technology to the UK.

The car arrives in showrooms in April and Mazda claim the Skyactiv technology helps make the CX-5 the lightest and most fuel efficient car in its class. The entry level 148bhp diesel will take the car from 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds but also return 62.8mpg, with an ultra-low 119g/km CO2 figure that means road tay is froe for the first year.

road tax is free for the first year.

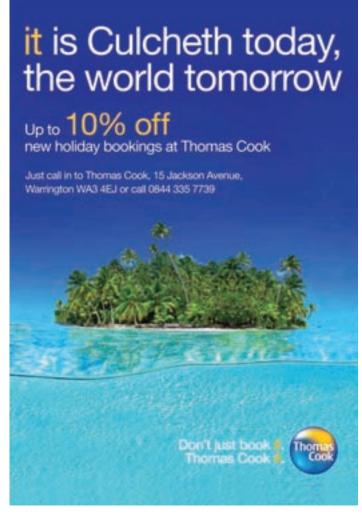
Mazda offers a choice of 148bhp and 172bhp diesels alongside a 163bhp petrol engine. The latter two can be specified with four-wheel drive, but the lower-powered diesel is only available as a front-wheel-drive model.

In Japan, the Skyactiv technology is already making waves. Mazda have won the Japan Automobile Hall of Fame "car technology of the year" award with a re-vamped Demio - known over here as the Mazda2 - equipped with the new

technology. Critics are already praising the diesel engines which they say feels more like a petrol engine than any other four-cylinder diesel on the market.

The CX-5 is also an extremely practical crossover, with a 503-litre boot and rear seats which fold flat into the floor at the touch of a button to provide a 1,603-litre load area. During the coming year, Skyactiv technology will be introduced in a whole new generation of Mazda cars







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