

Culcheth Life

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Issue: 88
July 2010

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Wander the garden trail

VISITORS have the chance to wander through 11 private gardens as part of Culcheth Garden Trail on July 24 and 25.

The event is being organised by Culcheth Methodist Church and St Rocco's Hospice and proceeds will be divided by the two organisations.

Gardens will be open from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday and 2pm to 5pm on Sunday, and can be visited in any order on either or both days.

On Saturday David Scattergood will be playing the Methodist church organ between 8am to 8pm and the church will be open to visitors. There will be painting and photographic exhibitions in the church hall, with pictures for sale. There will also be a book stall, coffee stall and lunches served.

Afternoon tea can be enjoyed at 25 Cawley Avenue and plants are on sale at 26 Cawley Avenue.

Church members wanted to raise funds for the hospice in tribute to the work done there by staff and volunteers. Church member Jill Scattergood was a patient there for several weeks in 2007 and very sadly died a short time later aged only 58. It was David's idea to play the organ for 12 hours and he will end with some of her favourite songs.

Tickets cost £4 (children free) and can be bought in advance from the church or Poyntons the florist on Lodge Drive or, from any garden on the day.

The open gardens are at 5 Culcheth Hall Drive, 29 Culcheth Hall Drive, 1 Chatsworth Drive, 'Noyna' Common Lane, 107 Common Lane, 21 Clifton Avenue, 48 Twiss Green Lane, 102 Twiss Green Lane, 17 Beech Mill Drive, 25 Cawley Avenue and 26 Cawley Avenue.

Editor's Comment



I recently took a trip down memory lane when I attended the end of an era school reunion at Culcheth High School.

It brought back many happy memories and it was great to catch up with former classmates and old school friends, some of who I hadn't seen for more than 30 years.

It was especially pleasing to see how many former pupils are now successful business or professional people.

It was the last opportunity for former pupils to see their old school buildings in all their glory before the bulldozers move in to demolish the buildings.

Many, I am sure, looked at old classrooms and workshops with an affection they may not have felt years ago.

I will be carrying a full report with re-union pictures in next month's edition of the magazine.

Meanwhile a big thank you to all of you out there who congratulated us on **Culcheth Life** - it is especially pleasing to hear how well received the magazine is received in the local community.

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Keys to a better future

THE keys to the newly completed Culcheth High School have been handed over to the head teacher by the developer.

Costing nearly £30m, the state of the art school was Warrington's only school in the now axed Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Students will now have a taste of what's to come as they move in to try out the new building before the summer break.

Facilities they will enjoy include a recording studio, dance studios and technology suites. The local community will also be able to access to sports and

meeting facilities, a leisure centre and brand new Sure Start Children's Centre.

Coun Sheila Woodyatt, the borough council's executive member for education and young people said: "This is a very exciting milestone for us and in just a few short weeks learners will finally enter this fantastic building which will provide them with a flexible and stimulating learning environment. What I have seen of it so far is excellent and I am looking forward to the official launch in the autumn."



Martyn Froggett (Head Teacher, Culcheth High School) receiving the keys to the new school building from Stephen Roberts (Project Manager BAM Construction Ltd). Looking on from left to right are Stuart Piggott, Tony Brittain, Amanda Stevens (all school staff), Gerry McKinney (BAM Construction), Mathew Pendergast (Turner and Townsend) and Mike Coope (WBC).

Model boost for charity

VISITORS flocked to the seventh annual show organised by Birchwood Model Club at Croft Village Hall and helped raise £1,576 for charity.

Money will go towards designated charity, the British Heart Foundation, bringing the club's overall donation to £8,787.

The show was a huge success attended by scores of adults and children. Club spokesman Peter Gemmel said: "This year's donation was a bit more special as it went to the Children's Heart Appeal and helped to fund much needed equipment for the new Royal Manchester Children's Hospital."

He thanked everyone who attended for their support. A wide range of models made by members were on display.

Kwik cricket winners

WINWICK Primary School won the annual Kwik Cricket tournament, held at Glazebury Cricket Club - for the second year in succession.

The team, as well as being awarded individual medals, won for the school the J&M Distribution Trophy which they hold until next year's tournament.

Teams from Glazebury, Croft, Winwick and Twiss Green primary schools enjoyed fine weather and a fun afternoon of cricket with Winwick, who won all their matches, coming out on top. They now go on to represent the area at the Cheshire Kwik Cricket Tournament to be held at Warrington Sports Club.



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Historic war-time documents presented to British Legion

TWO historic documents, originally presented to a Culcheth woman for her wartime service, have been handed over to Culcheth Royal British Legion Club.

Vicky Selway presented two commendations she had received - one from the British and one from the Americans.

The first was from General Dwight Eisenhower thanking all personnel of No 5 Headquarters Signals for their outstanding service during the period February 1 1944 to April 1 1945.

During this period Vicky was part of a team that took part in the planning and preparation for the D-Day Landings that took place on June 6 1944.

The second commendation was a personal one made to Vicky, who served in the Royal Corp of Signals and reached the rank of Warrant Officer class 2 (WO2).

Signed by Field Marshal Montgomery, the certificate states: "You have performed outstanding good service and shown great devotion to duty during the occupation of Germany."

The two commendations were presented to the club via its president Chris Chapman. They are to be

prominently displayed in the club.

Also at the presentation was George Taylor who was part of the 1st Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment, who were among the first to land at Sword Beach on D-Day -

exactly 66 years earlier.

George, who was a local farmer before being called up, said: "I was a very lucky man - I never even got my feet wet."



At the presentation are (left to right) Chris Chapman, George Taylor and Vicky Selway.

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History group visit historic baths



A VISIT to the Art Nouveau-style Victoria Baths in Manchester was enjoyed by Culcheth Local History Group.

The visit was the group's annual outing and members were escorted around the site by two volunteers.

They saw the grand entrance, which was for first class male users only, and the two separate entrances for second class male and female users.

Members heard that the project won a restoration grant in a competition on the television. So far the frontage has been restored.

Volunteers are looking for further funding to continue the work.

The group's next meeting is on September 9 with a talk by Margaret Fellows on Warrington Clergy Institutions, at Culcheth Library.

WI members meet for afternoon tea

PRESIDENT Lillian Houghton welcomed members to the annual afternoon tea meeting of Culcheth WI.

Members discussed arrangements for future outings, including a theatre visit to see Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and a day out to Whaley Bridge with a canal boat ride.

The annual outing will take place on July 20.

Speaker for the afternoon, Jean Finley, who entertained with songs to her guitar, humour and some very

funny stories. One of our members - Mary - was asked to help by donning a series of masks to illustrate a poem. She did so well she nearly stole the show!

There followed a delicious tea of sandwiches, strawberries and cakes.

Next meeting is 2pm on August 17 in Newchurch Parish Hall when the speaker will be Jean Avraam on the subject "Children Say Funny Things".

Visitors are always welcome without any obligation to join.



Council chairman Helena Campbell, Coun Keith Bland (right) and Paul Hill and Bob Redford.

Stepping up the fight against litter

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has stepped up the fight against litter in a bid to keep the two villages clean and safe places for local residents.

The council employs two part-time workers to supplement the service provided by the borough council with the main aim of removing litter from popular recreational areas, footpaths and bus shelters.

Community maintenance officer Paul Hill works weekday mornings collecting from on and around the village green.

But he can also be seen in the Newchurch Ward on Mondays, Mee Brow on Tuesdays, in Glazebury on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and in the Culcheth Ward on Fridays.

Litter warden Bob Redford works

weekends, collecting from the village green and surrounding areas, and providing back-up cover when Paul is on holiday.

Parish council chairman Coun Helena Campbell said: "We feel it is very important to provide this service to ensure residents have an attractive and safe environment to live in, and we are fortunate to have two dedicated staff who share that view."

The parish council has also recently provided seven new litter bins for the area and hopes the public will show its support by using them.

New gardeners dig in

GLAZEBROOK has seen nothing like it since the war years when people were urged to 'Dig for Victory.'

Nearly 80 people - most of them local - have signed up for allotments on a nine acre site off Glazebrook Lane and have started to "grow their own."

The development is the brainchild of Patrick Moran, 42 and his partner Kam Dains, 40 who moved into the area nine years ago.

Named, "Betty's Allotments" after Mr Moran's mother, they were officially opened by Warrington North MP Helen Jones

According to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG), there are some 120,000 people on waiting lists for a plot of land for vegetable growing across the country.

So it's no surprise that most of the plots have been snapped up since

they became available in March.

Patrick said: "What we're doing here is more than simply offering people space to grow their fruit and vegetables.

"We hope to create a sense of community too. There's a field full of rescue horses and I'm planning to build a hay climbing frame. There are people of all ages, young and old, and families."

Donna McDaid, general secretary of the NSLAG welcomes the development.

She believes allotments are becoming more popular because of interest in grow-your-own, the influence of TV chefs and the falling cost of gardening equipment and supplies.

She said: "Most of all, people are making a lifestyle choice. They want to take control of what they are eating. They don't want things that are genetically modified or chemically induced."



Helen Jones opening the allotments.

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Advertiser's announcement

Paul will bring barbecues back to life

PROFESSIONAL oven cleaner Paul Clark is offering help to people who have let their barbecues get a little worse for wear.

The weather men have again promised a barbeque summer and, so far they have not been far wrong.

Paul, from Ovenu Warrington, said: "For many households, taking advantage of the warmer weather and cooking up a feast to enjoy in the garden with friends or family is a much anticipated treat. But the thought of cleaning a grease-encrusted oven or grill is no-one's idea of fun. "When the weather's nice the last thing you want to be doing is staying inside to clean the oven! Barbeques also quickly become covered in meat juices, coal dust and burnt on debris, which can be very unpleasant to remove. "Many barbeques may have been left sitting idle in the shed for months on end, with leftover grease and fat creating an ideal breeding ground for germs.

"The good news is that even the worst offenders can quickly come up looking good as new and be ready to cook up a feast in no time." Paul will dismantle key components of an oven or barbeque and cleans them a process using non-caustic, environment-friendly products. He leaves even the most dirty and encrusted oven looking good as new and even the most tired barbeques spotless.

Store names 'charity of the year'

SUPERMARKET customers and staff have voted for their 'charity of the year.'

The Friends of Culcheth Linear Park have been selected as the local charity partner of Sainsbury's, Culcheth.

This means staff and customers at the store will support the group through volunteer work throughout the year.

The store will also organise various fundraising activities over the next 12 months.

Funds raised will go towards giving access to the park to disabled people, and to general upkeep and maintenance of the park.

Sainsbury spokesman Michael McHugh, who was involved in the selection process, said: "It's great to be supporting a local charity who we could really benefit through

volunteering and fundraising.

"We are proud to be associated with Linear Park and hope to have the opportunity to support other local charities in the future."

In-store collections will take place and customers will be invited to join in and support planned fundraising activities.

Store manager Jaine Bergin said: "We are really pleased and excited to support The Friends of Linear Park. The hard work starts now, but I can definitely see our store building a strong relationship with Linear Park and making a difference to their work."



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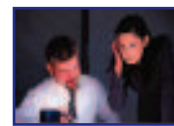


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Culcheth residents awarded MBE

TWO Culcheth residents were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Coun Keith Bland, deputy leader of the borough council and a long-standing member of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Anne Craig, a governor at Culcheth High School, both received the MBE.

Coun Bland received his award for services to the community in Warrington.

He said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been made an MBE. It is quite overwhelming to receive such a distinction. For the past 30 years I have done my best to make life better for local people in whatever way I can, and will continue to do so."

Anne Craig, a familiar figure around the village on her red mobility scooter,

received her award for services to the Knowledge Transfer Sector - the name given to the commercialisation of new ideas and technologies which flow from research and development in universities and innovative organisations.

She said: "One of the nicest things to happen amongst all the floods of congratulations was a wonderful bunch of flowers from a Culcheth resident who I had never met before."

"I'd like to say a huge thank you to Pauline who made my special day even more special."

Mrs Craig said the honour was a reflection of the part played by those working "at the coal face" in supporting

the economy. She was a director of Salford University's enterprise and business section and has supported the sector and those who work in it for over 20 years and has continued her involvement since her early retirement six years ago.



She was recognised for her work by being elected to council and chair of the Association for University and Industry Links.

Locally, she has been a governor at Culcheth High School for more than 16 years.

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Croft Carnival

ELEVEN-year-old Holly Mitchell was crowned Carnival Queen at the annual Croft Carnival, when hundreds of villagers, including school children and community groups paraded through the village.



Queen and attendants

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ival capers

Charlotte Aird, aged 10 was crowned Carnival Princess while Anya Morris, aged 5 was crowned Rose Bud.

A procession of floats set off from The Plough, parading through the village, passing many scarecrows enroute, which had the theme of 'Into the Future'.

A competition for the best float was won by Forget-Me-Not of Culcheth with the 'Gruffalo' float.

The parade was followed by various events on the Croft Playing field where Holly was crowned.



Mad Hatters and Alice



Croft Primary



Orange Brownies

For more pictures visit www.culchethlife.com



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Home improvements an

NOW is the time of year to once again turn your thoughts towards home services and improvements - not only to create a more comfortable and enjoyable place to live but also to add value to the property.

Too many people, a home is also an investment for the future - and despite all the doom and gloom of the 'credit crunch' this still remains the case.

Whether you are replacing draughty old windows you have been promising to change for years with brand new double glazed units, or whether you want a new wood or laminate floor fitting, there are plenty of outlets and skilled craftsmen around in the Culcheth and surrounding areas to help you.

From carpets to curtains, floors to ceilings, there are many improvements you can carry out to increase the value of your property without spending a fortune. Specialist flooring is very popular today with wood, laminate, stone and of course carpets and underlay. Fitted professionally a new floor surface can dramatically change the look and feel of your home enhancing other features around the home.

Once you have carried out the work, it makes good sense to protect your investment.

A new alarm system can be easily installed in your home giving you the peace of mind that your valuables are protected and that you feel much safer too and it's not nearly as expensive as you might have been led to think. All alarm systems are carefully planned following a visit to your home by a qualified alarm

engineer who will ensure that all access points are covered including windows. The cost of securing your home can be surprisingly lower than you may think and remember that a professionally fitted alarm system will also reduce your insurance premiums.

There are so many products and services available today to help you renovate or extend your home. The range can be baffling.

New windows, new carpets, new flooring. A special feature fireplace. The list is extensive and no matter what project to embark on there is an army of skilled people locally ready and waiting to help.

Remember, local traders depend on local reputations so they will be keen to provide you with the best possible service.

As well as home improvements inside the property, it is worth considering extending your home externally too - particularly if you desperately need more space but believe moving home will be too difficult in the present economic climate.

A well designed garden can provide an eye-catching feature that will impress visitors and neighbours while at the same time providing space to entertain guests in the open air. With the services of a landscape gardener just about anything is possible. A meeting to discuss ideas and to draw plans for the finished

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layout is essential. This will give the designer and yourself a much clearer idea of the goals you want to achieve. It's worth remembering that a garden can in itself be a great selling tool when you do finally decide its time to move to another property.

No doubt at some time we all require the services of a builder who is reliable, trustworthy and of course provides a quality service and professional finish to any project undertaken. A reliable building company will be able to arrange for plans to be drawn, building regulations and planning permissions to be sought making the whole process of extending your home a stress free situation.

With the housing market currently stalled and property prices falling by as much as 10 per cent in the past 12 months it may be an idea to consider extending and improving

your home rather than moving. However house prices go in the future, you can be sure you are adding to the value of your home, as well as making it suit your own immediate needs.



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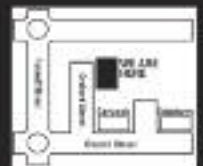
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Karate Academy celebrates 25th Anniversary



NWKA Instructors (L-R) Steve Scott, Bryn Charlton, Andy Osborne, Carl Massey, Zach Scott, Luke Scott, May Bateman

TO celebrate their 25th Anniversary Culcheth based North West Karate Academy is offering half price membership until the end of August with a free Karate suit.

The club trains at Newchurch Parish Hall, Common Lane, Culcheth on Mondays and Thursdays starting at 5.30pm for karate kids class ages 4-5, 6.30pm for junior karate class ages 6-12 and 7.30pm for the adults class for ages 13+.

People train at the club for all sorts of reasons. Some just to keep fit, some for self defence and some with a keen interest in the extensive syllabus. Many people enjoy the friendly social aspect of the club and many parents have gone on to train themselves. Last year the club celebrated their first Culcheth family of five all becoming black belts.

Members have also enjoyed enormous success on the competition circuit. The club has 35 major England, British and English British International Gold Medals. They have represented Karate at Commonwealth, European and World in Senior, Junior and Cadet level, winning a Silver in the Karate Commonwealth in New Zealand.

The club has a contract with the

education department to provide teaching in schools. They also are skilled at teaching people with special needs. They have been awarded Gold Standard Accreditation through a local council for their excellence.

The Karate Academy is run by Steve Scott, 6th Dan Black Belt, with over 35 years experience. His Senior Instructors are (in order of grade) Carl Massey 4th Dan and Luke Scott 3rd Dan. Assisted by Bryn Charlton 3rd Dan, Andy Osborne 2nd Dan, May Bateman 1st Dan and Zach Scott 1st Dan. All local people dedicated to the community who provide expert tuition.

The club offers children a healthy sporting environment with opportunity to achieve and develop confidence and a positive and optimistic approach to life and it's challenges.

Further information can be found on the club website www.nwka.co.uk email address nwka@hotmail.co.uk Telephone 01925 827376.

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Cricket club's 17th annual fun day

THE 17th annual Glazebury Cricket Club Fun Day takes place on Sunday, August 1 - as usual at the Chat Moss Hotel.

A wide range of attractions has been arranged - with the main one the 'Bucking Bronco' sponsored by the Burtonwood Brewery. Others include beat-the-goalie, putting, tombola, hook-a-duck, etc.

The fun day is the club's main fund-raising event of the year and always attracts a big crowd to the attractive beer garden and extensive grounds at the Chat Moss.

Glazebury 1st XI - packed with talented youngsters who have come up through the ranks from the junior teams - has been enjoying a good season in the Cheshire Cricket Alliance, and is pressing for promotion to division one.

But the club's chief fund raiser, Anita Gibbons, says off-the-field the club is, as usual, seeking funds.

She said: "This year has seen some renovations within the clubhouse, the purchase of a new wicket mower and, after the catastrophic failure of the outfield mower, some much needed and expensive repairs.

"This has left our coffers in a poor state so we are hoping for a fine day and a good attendance."

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Budget review

We all knew that the emergency Budget on 22 June was going to take money out of our pockets.

It is estimated that the savings being made to repay the country's unprecedented borrowings will be met by a combination of tax rises (c25% of the total savings and as per the Budget) and cuts in public spending (c75% of the savings).

We already know that all but the lowest paid public sector workers will have a 2 year pay freeze and their pensions might be affected following a review. However, further public sector cuts will be announced this coming October.

In response to the tax changes announced in the Budget, most early views are that all individuals will be faced with higher taxes. However, businesses in the private sector will benefit from some tax breaks in an effort to allow this sector of the economy to grow in anticipation that it will fuel a recovery.

Some of the key points from the budget which affect individuals are as follows:

- The VAT rate rises from 17.5% to 20% from 1 January 2011.
- From April 2011, those earning between £6,475 and £7,475 will be taken out of income tax; those earning between £7,475 and £37,400 will pay up to £200 a year less; no impact for

those earning over £37,400.

- However, remember there is a 1% rise in national insurance from April 2011 which will fall on all those earning more than £5,720.
- The rate of Capital Gains Tax on personal asset disposals rises from 18% to 28% for higher rate tax payers.
- There is going to be a benefits squeeze with respect to child tax credits and housing benefit and some recipients will be affected.
- One group set to benefit will be pensioners with the state pension set to increase annually by average earnings increases, with a minimum annual increase of 2.5%.

Everyone is being asked to contribute to repaying the deficit. Hopefully, the tax breaks for businesses will lead to a return to economic growth.

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



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

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Robson Way, Lowton, Nr. Warrington WA3 2RD Tel. 01942 671138/678803
www.greenmeadowindependentprimaryschool.co.uk

Please call for a prospectus or pop in for a chat with our experienced staff. Affiliated to First Steps Private Day Nursery

*Some activities/facilities may cost extra. **Transport outside the five mile radius is available at a small extra cost.



first steps day nursery



Open 7.15am - 6.30pm

Come & see what makes First Steps so special - come and view us anytime of the day.

01942 678803 www.first-steps-nursery.co.uk

Mature highly qualified staff

Outstanding outside play areas

FULL & PART TIME PLACES AVAILABLE

- At First Steps Nursery we understand that having a baby is the most momentous event in any parent's life. We understand that you have done everything possible to give your baby the best start in life, and at First Steps we continue to do this.
- All staff are qualified, experienced and trained to meet our excellent standards, providing the highest quality care and education from 6 weeks to 5 years.
- After school and holiday club available for children aged 4 - 11.
- Stimulating & loving atmosphere. Identified key person system.
- Ranges of toys and equipment to enhance your Child's learning through the 6 areas of learning.
- Be stunned by our fantastic pre-school play area with its own pirate ship, adventure climbing frame, vegetable patch and much more.
- Separate play areas with safety flooring, swings and mini-climbing frames for younger children and babies.
- Curriculum development promoting Early Years Foundation Stage framework and supporting Every Child Matters
- Actively promoting Healthy Eating, providing fresh fruit and vegetable snacks and 2 homemade, hot meals throughout each day.
- Open 51 weeks a year.
- **NEW** Independent Primary School adjacent to nursery building now open. Places available, priority given to any child who has attended either our Leigh or Lowton Nursery. **BOOK NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE.**

Baby Room 1



Early Learning Room



Tinies Room



Pre-School Room

