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Issue: 124
July 2013

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**New
'lollipop'
patrol**

Page 3

**Important
Road Works
Notice
See Page 7**

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Editor's Comment



WHILE I applaud the campaign to get traders a rate reduction in Culcheth following the disruption caused by road works - I fear it is unlikely to happen, as it could set a precedent.

Over the years I have reported on or read numerous other campaigns to get rates reduced - but never heard of a successful outcome - and with the council's facing spending cuts and austerity measures - I suspect the last

thing they will want to do is reduce any business rates.

For those traders who have been badly affected I hope I am wrong - and of course just because something is unlikely to happen doesn't mean people shouldn't try to get the powers that be to have a change of heart - if you don't ask you don't get!

Meanwhile road works around the Warrington area seem never

ending, with more due to start this month (July) in Croft - hopefully these road works will not deter people from travelling into Culcheth to go about their business. Full details of the road works are being publicised in this edition of *Culcheth Life*, with brief details also outlined below.

It is good to see the council using the local publication for the area to publicise these road works - to alert those most affected.

Home extension approved

A CONTROVERSIAL plan for a two storey extension at the front of a house at Culcheth has been given the go-ahead by borough planning chiefs.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council opposed the scheme in Thompson Avenue, along with two neighbours. But the borough council's planning committee decided to grant permission.

Members were told the scheme involved introducing two habitable rooms at the front of the house. But a distance of more than 21m would be maintained to the dwellings directly opposite.

Planning officers said the extension would not project beyond the main front elevation of the house next door, because of the staggered nature of the houses. They recommended the scheme be approved.

The parish council had expressed concern about the size and height of the extension and the impact on the house next door.

Temporary road closures

A NUMBER of temporary road closures will come into force at Croft from Monday, July 8 while borough council contractors carry out resurfacing work.

Parts of Heath Lane, Wildings Old Lane, Croft Heath Gardens, Orchard Court, Sandy Lane, Sandy Brow Lane, Kenyon Lane and Main Lane will be closed between 9.15am and 3.15pm. The work will be carried out in phases to minimise disruption and alternative routes will be signposted.

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School to get new 'lollipop' patrol

CROFT Primary School is to have a "lollipop person" again.

The school crossing patrol is to be restored after a lengthy campaign by local borough councillors Chris Vobe and Les Hoyle.

The post has been vacant for about six months since the previous employee left the post.

Parents, governors and pupils joined in the campaign to impress the urgency of the situation on the borough council.

Cllr Vobe said: "The delays in this instance have been very disappointing but, after speaking with the council's chief executive, I have been pleased to reassure governors at the school that measures are now in place to make sure that the recruitment process is much speedier in the future."

"The end result is great news for Croft Primary School. Mustard Lane is a busy road, with a high volume of traffic at school opening times. Children's safety must always come first."

Cllr Hoyle (pictured right), who organised a 200-name petition calling for a new crossing patrol, said: "I am very pleased the borough council has been able to attract someone to fill this position."

"They should be in post before the end of the summer term."

Cllr Hoyle added that he would be continuing to campaign for a permanent "Zebra" crossing on Mustard Lane.

"It is an extremely busy road and it can be difficult for people to cross at time."



Eliza is Rose Queen

ELIZA Simpson-Forrest, aged 12, was crowned queen at Newchurch Parish Church's annual Rose Queen ceremony.

The Culcheth High School pupil is a regular attendee at the church, is a Guide and is keen on gymnastics.

In her role as Rose Queen she will also take part in Glazebury Gala and have a stall on Culcheth Victorian Day, in the run up to Christmas.



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Rate reduction campaign stepped up

TWO councillors have renewed their calls for Warrington Borough Council to provide a rates reduction for traders throughout Culcheth and Glazebury.

Cllrs Matt Smith and Chris Vobe are asking the authority to reduce the amount of business rates for each firm in the villages as a "goodwill gesture" following the lengthy closure of Wilton Lane last year.

Their renewed calls come following extensive electricity works throughout the area, which they say cut off access to business on Common Lane for long periods.

Cllr Smith said: "In Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft, we value our local businesses and the services they provide to the community. It is vital that we help our small to medium firms thrive, so that they can continue to offer jobs for Warrington people and, in turn, boost the growth of our economy. Traders have still yet to receive any recompense from the council for the loss of custom they suffered from the poorly-managed closure of Wilton Lane.

"It is only right that the council acknowledges the impact of these works and offer assistance to Culcheth and Glazebury businesses. As local councillors, we will continue to support all our businesses and work to ensure they get a fair deal."

Cllr Vobe added: "The council should not be seeking to brush this issue under the proverbial carpet. The recent electricity works have only added to the problems with loss of trade. During the extensive works on Common Lane, the council failed to erect signs to tell motorists that the businesses were still open. That was nothing short of a blunder which should have been avoided.

"During the works, one restaurant faced an evening where, 45 minutes after opening time, they hadn't had a single customer through the door.

"The council must play their part in helping to give traders a much-needed boost. We are not seeking a permanent rates reduction - but it is right to give shop owners a 'helping hand'. That is why I extend an invitation for the council's Executive Director to come to the village and meet with the traders. Instead of polishing their CVs with elaborate forward plans, council officers need to ground themselves in reality and show business owners that the authority is on their side."

Both councillors have pledged not to let the matter rest and are writing to local traders to update them on the progress of their campaign.

They launched the scheme earlier in 2013 alongside Warrington North MP Helen Jones and the owner of Culcheth's "forget-me-not toys and books" Naomi Simpson.



St Lewis' summer fayre

DONKEY rides, Punch and Judy and a Bouncy Castle were among the attractions at St Lewis' Primary School summer fayre.

The event was well attended by children and parents, as well as other friends of the school.

The sun shone, there was a barbeque, scones and jam and other delights to keep everyone well fed and a good time was had by all.

Favourite activity, however, was the "soak the head teacher with a wet sponge" event!

The event was organised by the Parent Teacher Association and raised funds for the school.



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Jennifer will be gala queen



Jennifer Stephenson aged 11 of Meadow Bank Gardens, Glazebury is this year's Glazebury Gala Queen.

Jennifer, a pupil at Glazebury CE Primary school will be crowned at the gala on July 13.

Petal girls will be triplets Milli, Hope and Gabriella Bowers, Attendant will be Tabitha Ashton-Togher and the Page Boy Connor Glyn. Also involved in the proceedings will be last year's Queen, Lauren Wicock, Petal Girls Mia Blears and Rose Redmond Attendant Hannah Grundy and Page Boys Liam and Thomas Farrington.

The gala will be opened by Paul and Coleen Locket.

Thomas Cook update

FOLLOWING the closure of the Culcheth branch of Thomas Cook the nearest office is now at Birchwood where there are some familiar faces.

The manager is Audra O'Hara, while the Customer Service Manager Dawn Bellis and Jess Gorton have all worked at the Culcheth branch.

They are an experienced team who specialise in cruise, ski, long haul and family holidays.

Croft Parish Council News

Your Parish Councillors:



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thoyle@warrington.gov.uk



Jeff Shelley
(Vice Chairman)
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j.shelley@btoopenworld.com



Chris Vobe
01925 419481
chrisvobe@gmail.com
Twitter @ChrisVobe1

Croft in Bloom

Croft residents are invited to register for the Croft in Bloom competition. Judging will take place in July and thanks to Kirk Garbutt, proprietor of the General Elliot and the Plough Inn, the resident whose front garden wins the competition will receive a meal for two at either the above venues. Please submit your entry to the Parish Council's Clerk at the address below.

Summer Play Scheme

The Parish Council is again funding a summer play scheme at the Youth Base on Smithy Lane. ½ day sessions will be held from Monday 29th July until Friday 9th August. Places are limited and priority will be given to children attending Croft's two primary schools. Registration forms will be made available at the schools in the near future.

Croft Carnival – Saturday 6th July

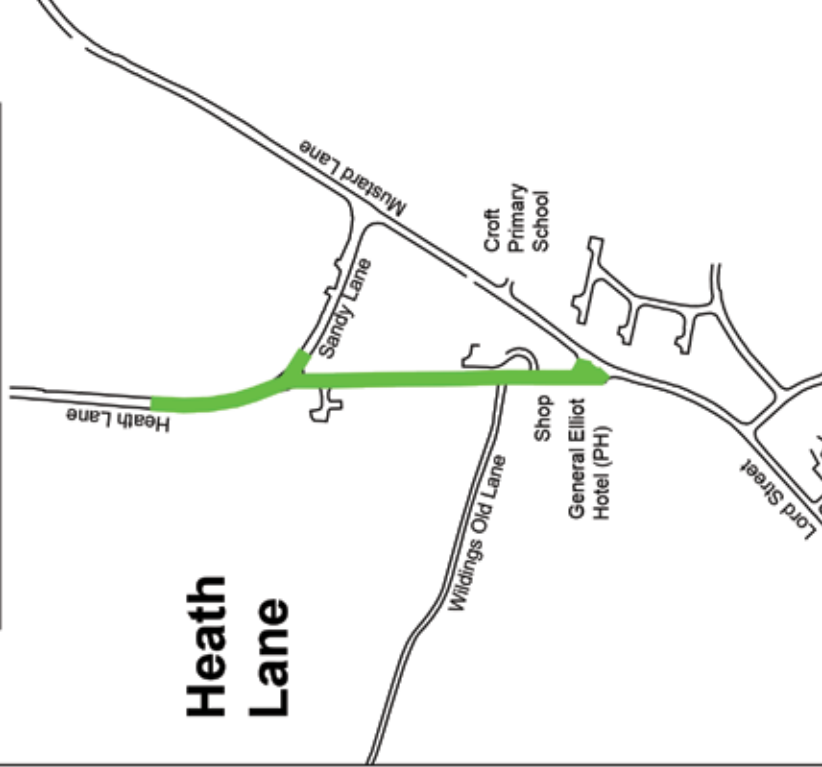
This fantastic community event takes place on the Playing Field, Smithy Lane and everyone is encouraged to come along and support its fundraising efforts. Get your tickets early for just £1, or pay £1.50 on the day.

Residents may contact Mike Pope, Croft Parish Council's Clerk on 01925 733766 or by email to croftparishcouncil@gmail.com visit the website: www.croftvillagecheshire.co.uk

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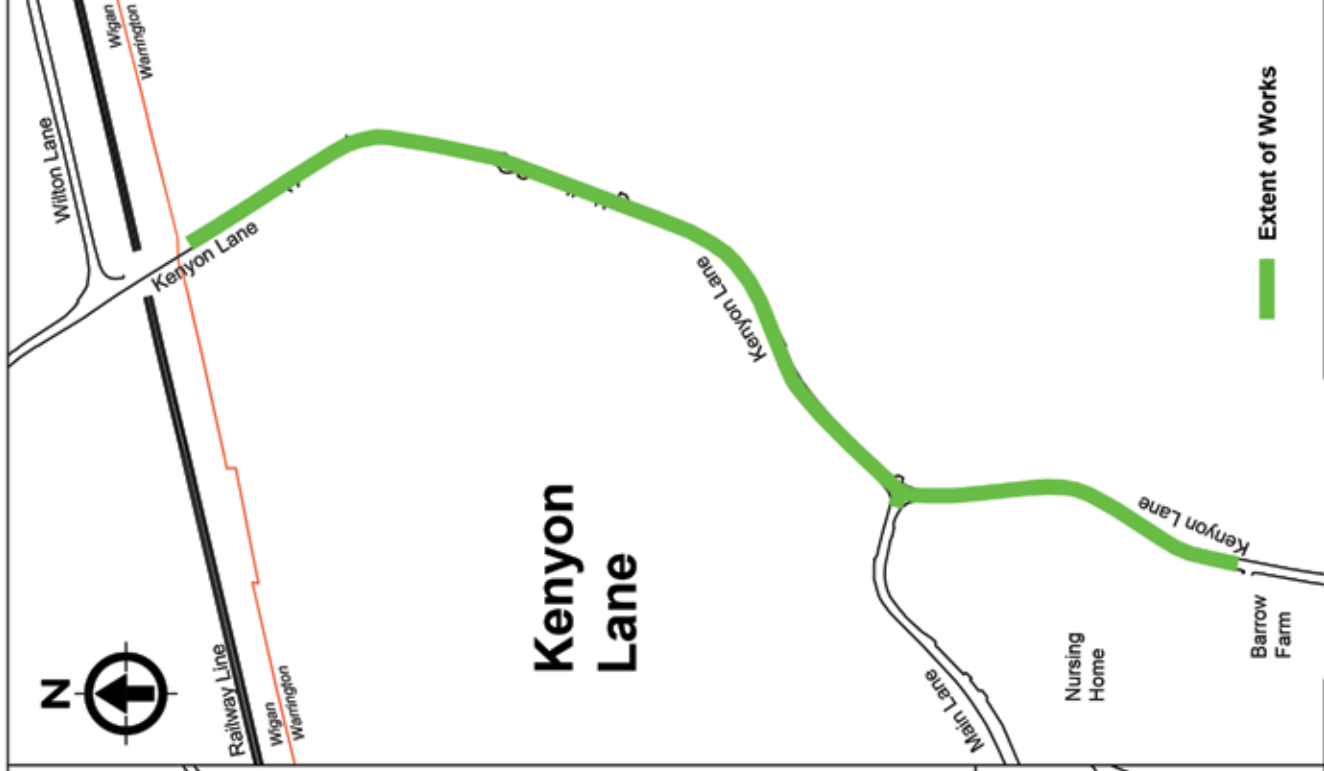


Sandy Brow Lane



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Extent of Works

HEATH LANE, KENYON LANE & SANDY BROW LANE

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE

Works Commencing: 8th July 2013
for up to 4 Weeks,

Working Hours: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Essential Roadworks

Motorists, Residents and Businesses are advised that major road works to resurface large sections of HEATH LANE and KENYON LANE in Croft, are programmed to commence on 8th July 2013 and will take up to 4 weeks to complete.

Daily Road Closures between 9:30am and 3:30pm, Monday to Friday, will be used to allow resurfacing of the roads.

Whilst in the area the contractors will resurface the junction of SANDY BROW LANE where it meets Winwick Lane, and also the sharp bend as shown.

Alternative Routes: The alternative route will be as follows.

Heath Lane - Kenyon Lane, Wilton Lane, Brosely Lane, Hob Hey Lane, Wigshaw Lane and Mustard Lane

Kenyon Lane - Wilton Lane, Brosely Lane, Hob Hey Lane, Wigshaw Lane, Mustard Lane and Heath Lane

Sandy Brow Lane - Winwick Lane, Newton Road and Kenyon Lane

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times during progress of the works.

Vehicular access will be under the control of the contractor as directed on site.

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Council slammed

TWO councillors have slammed borough council officers in the wake of a stream of complaints about the maintenance of grass verges and open spaces in Culcheth.

Borough and parish councillor Chris Vobe says the lack of adequate grass cutting is now in "debacle territory."

Parish councillor Matt Smith has called on the borough to do more for residents in Newchurch, which he says has been the worst affected area.

Over the past month, a number of verges in Culcheth and Croft villages have been left to grow and – in some instances – have reached knee height.

The two councillors have received a significant numbers of complaints from residents.

Cllr Vobe accepted the borough had been forced to find new and innovative ways of delivering services as a result of "cruel and pernicious" cuts imposed by the government.

But he said: "Residents rightly

expect basic services to be maintained and we believe it is only right that grass cutting is kept up to standard so that the village continues to offer a well-kept environment, which is welcoming to all. Having the verges left in this untidy state recently is unacceptable – and, in some areas, has reached debacle territory!"

Cllr Smith added: "We are simply not content to allow Newchurch, or the wider communities of Culcheth and Croft, to be forgotten.

"That is why we have been pro-actively working with council officers to make sure that, from this point forward, the grass verges are well-maintained and that the errors we have seen recently are put right as soon as possible.

"We have secured a forward plan for maintenance in Newchurch which we believe will be as strong

Aiming to find the gardeners of the future

RESEARCH from the Horticultural Trade Association (HTA) suggests that gardening is attracting fewer and fewer young people – but Bents Garden and Home is aiming to change all that.

Its Ready Steady Dig programme has been enjoyed by school children all over the North West for 12 years and continues to prove popular.

Managing director Matthew Bent said: "The HTA raises the question as to what is being done to encourage today's younger generation to get involved.

"At Bents we are aiming even younger, trying to introduce primary school children to the joys of gardening in the hope they will continue to enjoy it as they grow up and become the gardeners of tomorrow."

The scheme is aimed at children in years 1–7 and includes a guided tour around Weeping Ash Garden, located just next to the Bents at Glazebury, where children learn about the different types of plants found in the garden. The tour is followed by fun, hands on activities with planting workshops designed to get little hands dirty.

Says Matthew: "The tour and workshops are a great way to introduce children to the joys of gardening and we hope they leave with ideas for their own gardens and enjoy enhancing their environment as they grow up."

Gardening is set to become a feature of the new school curriculum and Bents is hoping its Ready Steady Dig programme, as well as other child friendly ideas will encourage more and more children to enjoy the great outdoors and become enthused by possibilities that gardening can bring.

Groups of up to 30 children can be accommodated on the Ready Steady Dig workshops and bookings can be made by calling 01942 266 300.

Yoga – a way of life

KATYA Greer developed a passion for yoga at the age of 18 and moved on to training when she was 21, to get a British Wheel of Yoga teaching certificate.

A trained dancer, she particularly loves vinyasa-style yoga and likes to embed a flow aspect in her teaching.

Now, at her Lotus Flower Yoga

Boutique in Culcheth she offers one-to-one yoga sessions.

Katya firmly believes yoga helps people who have been made ill by today's stressful lifestyle.

She said: "I like to give my students a place to go...their yoga mat, to offer release and healing.

"Yoga is a lifestyle, not just an exercise."

Bridge for beginners

DATEN Bridge Club is to start Bridge lessons for absolute beginners on September 24.

The course will last for 20 weeks, with sessions starting at 7.30pm.

Organiser Joseph Ridyard said: "Place are strictly limited, so it will be case of first come, first served."

More details are available from Mr Ridyard, of 3, Pendle Gardens, Culcheth, WA3 4LU

over grass cutting

– if not stronger – than that which was in place previously. From this point forward, Newchurch will have grass cutting carried out every three weeks. This cycle will ensure that the proper levels are maintained and that the grass doesn't grow out of proportion

again.

"I believe that the council must do more for Newchurch residents, and environment officers must get to grips with the fact that we don't appreciate, and will not accept, this part of the village being left at the back of the queue."



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Dining Out with Culcheth Life

at The General Elliot by Gary Skentelbery

THE memories came flooding back as I took a trip down memory lane to visit the General Elliot in Croft, which was my regular watering hole from the age of 18, meeting up with my old school mates from Culcheth High School.

It has been many years since I visited - and I have got to say I was really impressed by the ambience of the venue as a restaurant and bar.

The General Elliot was built in the 1700's and has always stood as a public house or hotel.

Although modernised it has retained its original character and has a light and airy interior making it the perfect venue to dine whilst overlooking the garden.

Home cooked food, fine ales and wines are the key ingredients.

Run by Kirk and Anne Marie Garbutt, Kirk is also Head Chef and takes great pride in his cooking.

For starters I enjoyed the Yates and Greer Bury Black Pudding, topped with melted goats cheese and cranberry jam - simple but very tasty and well presented.

For main course I chose the rump steak, which was probably the most tender rump I have tasted in a long time, containing not an ounce of fat.

Again it was cooked to perfection and well presented.

The ample portion meant there was sadly no room for dessert!

I would certainly recommend the

General Elliot as the perfect venue to dine out for a special occasion - or simply a place to enjoy a great night out in a lovely pub restaurant in a countryside location.

The menu can be seen on line by visiting the pub's website www.thegeneralelliott.co.uk

There is also a 2 Course Special Monday-Friday 12-6pm and Saturday 12-3pm for only £10.95 although this great offer is not available on public holidays and through the month of December.



Kirk with his staff Lorraine and Jenny.

History inspires art student

A STUDENT from Culcheth delved into the past to help promote an art project that tells the story of a major Second World War battle.

Andrew Harrison, an Art Foundation student at Priestley College, was asked to design a promotional poster for 'Stranded' which revisits the stories of Merchant and Royal Navy seamen as well as the WRENS who served in Battle of the Atlantic operations during the Second World War.

The 19-year-old, of Doeford Close, Culcheth, studied posters from the period to help inspire his design which features a lone ship lit by the moon. It is surrounded by a white border, which was a common feature in Second World War posters.

"I wanted it to be the best it possibly could be," said Andrew. "It was for such a worthy event that I wanted it to work for them and it was my first real client so it was also important to me in that way."

"I visited the Maritime War Museum to look at the kind of styles they used on posters from this period and used similar blocky, hard-hitting fonts on my poster."

The result of his efforts won him

praise from the organisers Blind Spot Collective and approval from the Liverpool Art Council which had to agree his design before it was posted around the city.

Andrew, a former student at St Ambrose School, has wanted to become a graphic designer since he was 12 and will be heading to Manchester Metropolitan University in September to study it in further detail.

His main goal with the poster to promote Stranded – part of international photography festival Look13 held in Liverpool – was to have immediate impact.

"You only have a matter of seconds to make sure you make someone pay attention," he said.

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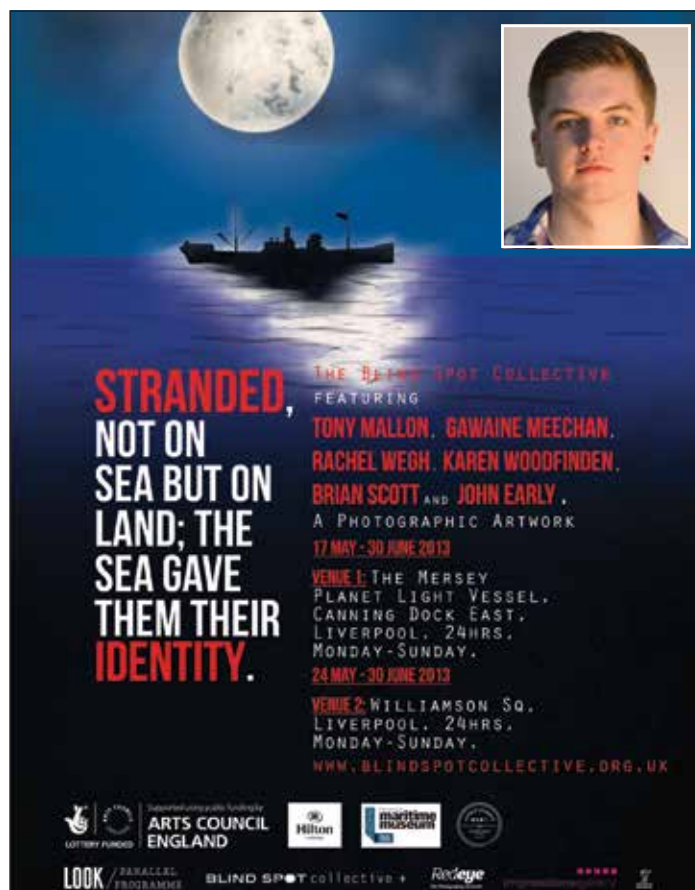
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
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A warning to holiday home owners - don't get caught out by recent tax changes

For many it's a lifelong dream to own a second home in the sun but it's a luxury that some can only afford by renting it out to other holiday makers.

The special tax rules for Furnished Holiday Lets (FHLs) have been around for a while but the tax breaks have been severely restricted since April 2012 when conditions were tightened and some of the income tax advantages were removed. Things got worse recently when a Tribunal regarding inheritance tax relief ruled in favour of HMRC.

For your holiday home to qualify as a FHL the key conditions include being available for commercial letting to the public for at least 210 days a year and actually being let out for a minimum of 105 days a year.

If this is the case then your letting income is treated as a trade but from April 2012 you can no longer set off

losses against any other income you receive in the year. This drastically reduces the usefulness of FHL status.

On the positive side, if you sell the property you could still be entitled to a reduced rate of capital gains tax of 10% (compared to the full rate of 28%) but there are further conditions to be met which mean that the sale of a single holiday property may not qualify.

The final blow came recently when a taxpayer lost their case in claiming 100% business property relief on a FHL and IHT became payable on its full value. Previously even HMRC guidance had stated that relief should be available.

This all adds up to holiday home owners being potentially worse off than they were just over a year ago!

If you own a holiday home and would like further advice on your tax position the please contact Sarah Salton on 01925 761600.



Sarah Salton

Please note the contents of our article are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always take professional advice before taking action.

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Aid for factory disaster victims

VICTIMS of the Bangladesh clothing factory disaster will receive extra aid as a result of a charity event in Culcheth.

Charity group the Epiphany Trust hosted the event at The Raj Indian restaurant on Common Lane and later staff from the charity and from The Raj flew out to Bangladesh to give the donations directly to families affected by the disaster.

The evening was supported by local councillors Matt Smith and Chris Vobe and included a raffle and an auction.

Items up for grabs included a tour of Manchester United's Old Trafford ground and a tour of the Palace of Westminster, including afternoon tea overlooking the Thames with Warrington North MP Helen Jones.

After the event, Cllr Smith said: "It was a pleasure to welcome The Epiphany Trust to Culcheth."

"The Raj hosted a fantastic meal and every penny from the ticket sales, along with raffle and auction sales, will go directly to families affected by the factory collapse in Bangladesh."

"As local councillors, we were delighted to give our backing to this great cause."

"The Savar building manufactured many of the brands that we are familiar with here in the UK and dozens of families have been affected by the tragedy. It was

great to witness the philanthropy of local people attending and bidding so generously in the auction."

Cllr Vobe added: "Once again, it was brilliant to see our

community rally round to support worthwhile causes. Hundreds of pounds were raised on the night, which will make an unimaginable difference to people in one of the most deprived parts of Bangladesh."

"They have also collected dozens

of items which will be donated to Bangladesh schools – many of which were given by Culcheth and Glazebury families. We want to give our thanks to everyone who supported the Epiphany Trust night."



Cllr Smith, Cllr Vobe, organisers from the charity and restaurant owner Anhar Mia.

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Les is chairman – again!

LONG-serving member Les Hoyle has been elected chairman of Croft Parish Council – for the eighth time!

Cllr Hoyle, also a member of Warrington Borough Council and a former chairman of Warrington Borough Transport, has been a member of the parish council for 34 years.

He said: "It's a real honour and privilege to serve the community of Croft village."

"I really do care about the community and try hard to make a positive difference. This coming year I want to push harder on highway safety for local residents, particularly children, and to try to get a greater visible police presence in the village."

Cllr Hoyle represents Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft on the borough council.

He is a governor of Croft Primary School and a member of the Playing Field Committee and the Warrington Association of Parish Councillors.



Culcheth Athletic win the big prize again!

BEFORE 2013 had reached its halfway point the boys of Culcheth Athletic U8s Colts team, for the second time this year, brought home the big prize from a major football tournament.

The annual Woolston Festival of Football at the beginning of June attracts teams from all over the north west of England, and from as far away as Wales, as teams are keen to test themselves against the very best in junior football.

A tough opening group saw the Culcheth boys doing enough to get through to the knockout stages of the tournament. A victory over Orford in the quarter finals led to the team facing a strong Birchwood side in what was to prove a nail biting semi-final.

The boys did just enough to squeeze past Birchwood and found

themselves up against tournament hosts Woolston in the final match of the day.

The final was a keenly fought, exciting match but the Culcheth boys produced a strong performance and found themselves lifting another winners trophy after winning the match 2 - 0.

Manager Mick Ryan said: "The boys got stronger and stronger as the tournament progressed and, as well as producing some fantastic football, showed great character to emerge victorious in a series of exciting knock-out games. The whole team are a credit to Culcheth Athletic Football Club".



Triumph for women golfers winning team

CULCHETH-based Leigh Golf Club hosted this year's Ladies District Championship - and had even more to celebrate when they won the 36-hole Nett Cup and came second in the 36-hole Gross competition.

Captain Janina Travers took the prize for the overall lowest 36-hole Nett score and also had the lowest afternoon Nett score, although the rules of the competition do not allow one individual to take more than one prize.

Other members of the Leigh team were Rachel Higson, Heather Pirrie, Rose Critchley, Penny Moorfield, Joanne Lennox-Warburton and reserve Mhairi Ferroll.

The club looked at its best on the day, the course was magnificent and had bright pink holes on the greens to match the team colours of the Leigh team.

Afterwards, Janina Travers said: "I am so proud to be Lady Captain and to be part of this winning team. The script couldn't have been

written more perfectly.

"It really was a wonderful achievement by the club and the team. We all pulled together and

I feel we repaid everyone for the supreme effort that has been made to make the event one to stay in our memories for a long time."



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Bees keep Steve busy as wasp season wings in!

LOCAL pest controller Steve Caslin has been kept busy in the spring and early summer, collecting honey bee swarms and bumble bee nests - relocating them unharmed back into nature.

Steve said: "I relocate the bumble nests - unharmed, to places who are kind enough to accept them. Allotments always welcome them as they are "super pollinators" of tomato plants. Many thanks as usual to Brian Webber who has allowed me to place many colonies in Moore Nature Reserve and Warrington Borough Council for giving excellent advice to residents with bee problems. Bees are protected and must never be treated with insecticides except in extreme cases.

Steve added: "Wasp season is upon us once again and the colonies of this rather unpopular insect are growing daily. Wasps nests can be treated with insecticide and once destroyed, the nest can be left in place as it's never used again. Have you ever noticed grooves in wooden garden furniture and fencing? Wasps remove very

fine layers of wood and mix it with saliva to make their paper nests."

Atlas Environmental Solutions are a Warrington based company, trusted by local people. Please be wary of some of the out of town or price comparison companies, their attitude tends to change once at your home and some have been known to be quite intimidating! Atlas charge just £35 for wasp treatment, it's guaranteed and only safe chemicals are used.

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