

Culcheth Life

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Page 8

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Editor's Comment



WE started the year in this column by complaining at the ease with which waste disposal companies appear to be able to manipulate planning law – and the borough council – to obtain permission to carry on tipping on sites which should have been closed and restored to nature.

Our complaints then were directed at Biffa, who should have completed the Risley Landfill Site last October but who, despite losing an appeal which cost the borough council £75,000, have managed to gain another three years to complete and restore the site.

Now another similar manipulation of the planning system has come to light on our doorstep - this time by Collier Waste, at their site off Moss Side Lane, Rixton.

They should have restored their site to nature by January but, because it is not completed have been granted

another 12 months for the almost unbelievable reason that they need the extra time to prepare an application for another six years!

Objections

This despite the objections of nearby residents sick and tired of noise, dust, disturbance, etc.

Planners argue that the companies should be given extra time because the tip is not completed and cannot be left as an eyesore. Well, that is true, of course.

But the waste disposal companies

know from the day they win planning consent the date by which they must finish. In the case of Collier Waste, they have known since 1996. In the absence of a shortage of materials to tip, it is clear companies fail to get the job done on time in the sure and certain knowledge they will be granted extra time.

Enforce

Surely the planning authorities should be monitoring progress on landfill sites and have the power to enforce closure within the approved timescales?

They are quick enough to act when Joe Bloggs extends his house by an inch or two too much.

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Council opposes prison plan

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has added its voice to the chorus objecting to any plan for a prison on the giant Omega development site.

Members agreed to write to the borough council calling for the original vision for Omega - as a high tech business park - to be retained.

Art exhibition

THE Culcheth Thursday Morning Art Group is to hold an exhibition on Saturday, March 28 following the success of their first exhibition last March.

The paintings, some of which will be for sale, will on show at the Age Concern Building on Jackson Avenue, Culcheth from 10am to 4pm. Admission, including a catalogue, will be 50p.

Schools review

NO changes are proposed at any of the six primary schools in Culcheth, Croft and Glazebury arising from a review of primary schools across the borough.

But pupil numbers will be monitored because of predictions that the primary age population will decline over the next few years. Glazebury CE Primary - parts of which date from 1882 - will require some investment for modernisation.

Skiing boost for Samuel

A CULCHETH boy with cerebral palsy is boosting his skills and strength by skiing trips partly funded by a local charity.

Four years ago Samuel Kletz, 12, went on a ski course to Austria with the help of a grant of about £500 from Culcheth Educational Trust - which offers small grants for educational purposes to individuals living in the village.

In February, he received a further £250 grant from the charity, to make a second trip to Schladming in Austria to improve his skills.

His parents Robert and Miriam, of Bent Lane, went on the trip with him - and his sister went on a school skiing trip to a different resort.

Samuel, a pupil of Birchwood High School, went on his first ski course in Austria with the Uphill Ski Club - now called Disability Snowsport UK.

Robert said: "Samuel did very well on that course. He did so well, in fact, that the following year we went on an ordinary holiday, thinking he would be fine -but he lost his nerve."

About 18 months ago Samuel had an operation to lengthen the tendons in his leg and had a bone graft in his ankle. He recovered well and had skiing lessons with Disability Snowsport in Manchester.

Robert said: "We considered consolidating what he learned with

another foreign trip with Disability Snowsport but they were expensive."

The family found an independent adaptive ski school in Austria, and arranged a private holiday for February half term.

"Of course, with the appalling value of the pound these days, the cost of the holiday proved to be equally appalling," said Robert.

The family contacted Culcheth Education Trust and it helped with a second donation, meaning the family could afford the trip "without too much scrimping."

Miriam said Samuel enjoyed his recent trip to Schladming and the



family is "really grateful" to the trust.

She said: "The trip was absolutely brilliant and Samuel has made excellent progress. He can now ski with us."

"Skiing is good for his personal development, co-ordination, balance and stamina."

Anger grows over 'selfish' parking

ANGER is growing among residents of Shaw Street, Culcheth, over selfish and irresponsible parking outside their homes.

Motorists are parking both sides of the road and blocking driveways of an evening - sometimes "trapping" people in their own homes. A number of complaints have been made to Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council with some residents calling for yellow lines to be introduced to stop all parking.

Coun Sue Bland said: "The situation can get quite bad at night. Motorists are parking on the pavement, causing obstructions for pedestrians. Some people have found themselves unable to get off their own drivers because of inconsiderate parking. One of the solutions being looked at is the introduction of yellow lines."

The parish council has raised the issue with Warrington Borough Council.

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New board members

CULCHETH will have two faces on the new Neighbourhood Board to cover the North East of the borough.

Coun Helena Campbell will represent Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council while Culcheth councillor Sue Bland will represent Warrington Borough Council.

The first meeting of the new board is due to take place this month

Village Hall's new kitchen

CROFT Village Hall now has a spacious new kitchen – thanks to a generous grant from the National Lottery's Awards for All scheme.

The kitchen is the latest of a number of improvements at the popular hall which regularly provides a venue for local organisations.



Committee members in the new kitchen. Left to right, vice chairman Philip Birchall, secretary John Hilton, treasurer Joan Wilshaw, chairman Glynis Haynes and hall manager Debbie Heard.

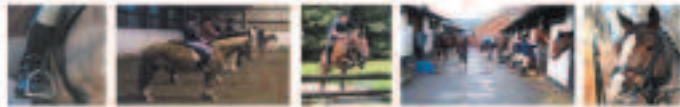
But the Village Hall Committee is looking for volunteers to join them.

Ten local organisations are entitled to have representatives on the committee - and some of them have failed to take advantage of this.

Some of the existing committee have served for more than 30 years and feel fresh blood is needed to provide continuity in the future and

ensure the hall remains a focal point of community life.

The annual general meeting takes place in April and the committee hopes some new members will come forward by then.



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Anyone for tennis?

CULCHETH Tennis Club is on the lookout for new members in readiness for the new season which begins next month.

The club - a section of Culcheth Sports Club - plays on four artificial grass courts within the sports club grounds.

Practice nights have been arranged when anyone, whatever their standard is welcome to turn up and join in. They are: Men: Mondays, March 30 and April 6, Thursdays April 2 and 9. Women: Tuesdays, March 31 and April 7.

All practice nights start from 6:30pm. Junior practice is every Saturday from 2pm. The club runs teams which play in the Warrington League.

Further information is available from the secretary, Ann Witter, on 07890 708429.



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Rosie's mercy mission to India

A 17-year-old local girl is to fly out to India - to work among street children and orphans.

Rosie Weir, from Glazebury hosted a function at Culcheth's Spice Lounge to raise money to fund her travel and accommodation during her two-week stay in Calcutta.

She is a sixth former at Loreto Grammar School in Altrincham and will be travelling with a party of 22 students and three teachers on July 11.

They will be teaching the Indian youngsters basic literacy and numeracy skills.

The event included a meal, bingo, raffles and entertainment.

Among those attending was Warrington Wolves star Matt King, who donated a signed Wolves' shirt.



From the left are Jane Beever, head at Loreto, trip organiser Mike Dunn, Matt King, Kath Cainen, Rosie Weir, Grainne O'Hagan and restaurant owner Hira Miah.

Advertiser's announcement

Spice up your life

WHEN you next visit Culcheth why not call in at 'The Spice Lounge' an exquisite new restaurant serving high quality Indian cuisine in delightful surroundings.

With 200 cover capacity, modern decor and an exciting new menu this new Culcheth restaurant is likely to delight all customers who visit and enjoy the wonderful and traditional Indian cuisine.

Excellent Food is served and the restaurant is superb. The staff are always very friendly looking after

all of your needs in a polite and courteous manner. The weekends are always really vibrant, with a great atmosphere and regardless of how busy the restaurant is both service and food are of the highest quality. Watch out also for special theme nights and various events that are held at The Spice Lounge on a regular basis throughout the year.

Advanced bookings are recommended as the restaurant is always busy. So why not make your booking today and experience for yourself a unique, sophisticated dining experience.

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Warren's recipe for success!

CULCHETH based entrepreneur Warren Bibby has launched his latest venture in the village - the new look Elegance on Church Lane based in the old Chinese Delight Restaurant, with the emphasis on keeping everything local - when ever possible.

Warren, who launched the highly regarded Cheshire Catering in 1989 with his brother Wayne and wife Nicky, has transformed the venue into a fine dine experience - with the emphasis on sourcing fresh local produce.

Having already successfully transformed The Harrow, Warren saw a gap in the market for a fine dine experience in the village, providing quality English food, home made desserts, fine wines with exceptional service for discerning clients - at reasonable prices, with set menus starting from less than £20 with no hidden extra for sides of vegetables

e.t.c.

With just over 40 covers, weekends are already nearly always fully booked.

"We aim to cater for discerning clients who want to eat out in a relaxed, high quality atmosphere while paying realistic prices," said Warren, who is keen to support the local community having also taken over management of the British Legion, which has been re-branded The Village Club.

"We source local produce whenever possible using Bridge Farm for our fresh veg and passionately believe in employing local people."



Warren Bibby and Thomas Wright of Elegance restaurant, Culcheth with some of the fresh vegetables from Bridges Country Farm Shop Holcroft Rd, Culcheth.

Elegance

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Music forges school links

MUSIC is strengthening the links between Culcheth High School and a school in South Africa.

Last year, Culcheth High head teacher Martyn Froggett visited Matseliso High School, in Soweto, on an exchange visit organised by Warrington Borough Council.

He was "knocked out" by the experience and in particular by the passion and enthusiasm of the South African students demonstrated through their music and culture.

As a result, Sybil Mehlape, head of art and culture at

Matseliso High was invited to visit Culcheth to share her expertise with local students and primary school pupils.

A series of music workshops were held over four days, culminating in a celebratory concert at Culcheth High.

Among those present were Brian and Irina Axcell, deputy Mayor and deputy Mayoress of Warrington, deputy leader of the borough council Keith Bland and Sheila Woodyatt, the borough's executive member for education.



Performing with Sybil at the concert are students from left, Megan Bunce, Alasdair McComb and Harrison Kaye.

Beat the credit crunch and get swishing

CULCHETH High School is claiming a 'first' for Cheshire - the first school in the county to hold a 'swishing' event.

Swishing is the new craze - the 'posh' word for swapping. Celebrities galore are at it.

A school spokeswoman said: "All you have to do to join in is bring as many posh frocks or such like, handbags, shoes and hats, all in perfect condition and clean, and hand them in to receive an exchange token ready for the Swish."

The school claims to be the first in Cheshire to hold a swishing event and are promoting it as a way to beat the credit crunch.

The event takes place on March 19 at Culcheth High School. Further details from 01925 762136. The 'swish' starts at 7.00pm



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Council aims for

MEMBERS of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council have agreed to press ahead with a 'Parish Plan.'

It will be launched on Culcheth Community Day on May 4, when a special stall will be set up to try and get public support.

At least one volunteer has already come forward - with considerable local government experience which will be useful to the project.

More volunteers will be needed, however, because a Parish Plan needs its own, independent organising body, with its own chairman, secretary, treasurer, etc.

Although the parish council will have representatives on the body, it will not be in control.

Coun Keith Bland (pictured) said:

Advertiser's announcement

Spring into action

Spring is the perfect excuse for homeowners to get their house in order and give a hardworking oven a well deserved clean, according to professional oven-valeters Ovenu.

For many homeowners, clearing out the clutter with an annual spring clean can be a very satisfying experience. Whether it's having a thorough clean through, catching up on the filing, or finally getting round to completing odd jobs around the house, it's a chance to prepare for the year ahead.

But for even the most enthusiastic spring cleaners, donning rubber gloves and tackling the oven is still one of the most loathed chores.

Paul Clark from Ovenu Warrington, said: "Taking the time to have a good old clean can be very rewarding, but when it comes to cleaning the oven, most people would rather close the door and put it to the back of their minds!

"Whether you're cooking for love or necessity, the more you use your oven the more debris and grease can start to build up and this can affect its efficiency. Roast dinners enjoyed over the winter months may be long gone from the dinner plate, but remnants could still be lurking in the oven, hiding behind the panels, behind the fan cover or even dribbling by the heating elements in those hard to reach places.

"By regularly cleaning and maintaining your oven, you will ensure it performs at its best and even help prolong its life, as you shouldn't need to replace it as often."

The Ovenu valeting process involves dismantling key components of an oven such as the door, interior panels, fan and shelves and placing them into design-registered equipment, which uses non-caustic products to clean the oven parts.

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KUMON
50th ANNIVERSARY

a 'shared vision'

"We see a parish plan as providing significant benefits to Culcheth and Glazebury.

"We will be having a stall on Community Day and after that we will hold a public meeting to get things moving. Other areas have benefited greatly from having parish plans and we think Culcheth and Glazebury will also benefit."

The parish council has had a presentation from Bron Kerrigan, parish plan development officer with Cheshire Community Action, which will help with the scheme. Warrington Borough Council is also willing to support the project, which will be a "first" for the borough.

A steering group will be set up,

made up of volunteers from the community and representatives of local organisations.

The plan will take about two years to develop a shared vision for the future, resulting in an action plan.

In other areas, parish plans have resulted in villages benefiting from developments varying from a new £250,000 village hall to launching parenting classes to combat youth hooliganism.



Gardening tips

Provided by  **bents**

March Tips

In the greenhouse

Spring is the time for sowing many plants, both indoor and outdoor. Petunias & Marigolds will be particularly successful at this time of year.

Herbaceous perennials

This is an excellent time to plant new herbaceous perennials. They will have a long time to establish & will give a good display of flower in their first season.

Wildlife care

Place new nesting boxes out of direct sun.

Houseplants

Watering may be increased now for plants that have been kept just moist throughout the winter.

Lawn care

Lawns should be swept and raked prior to the first mowing. A first feed may be given towards the end of the month.

The shrub border

Shrub borders may be hoed and mulched in preparation for the coming season. Shrubs that flower on new wood, such as Buddleja, may be pruned now.

A little extra...What better way could there be to liven up your living space than with the beauty of an exotic bloom? Indoor plants are the perfect way to link your outdoor and indoor spaces whilst you wait for the warmer weather to arrive.

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Maurizio's new wheels!

Maurizio receiving the bike from Coun Hutchinson, watched by Inspector Richard Spedding and councillors Peter Caswell, Lillian Houghton, Jacqui Johnson, Sue Bland and Keith Bland.

POPULAR PCSO Maurizio Lucchesi has a new set of wheels - thanks to Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and Waterfields Bakery.

The special £690 police bicycle was presented to the PCSO by parish council chairman Ileyne Hutchinson.

It will enable the officer to cover more ground around his "beat".

The parish council agreed to purchase the bike and Waterfields chipped in with £200 towards the cost.

Garden centre is 'best in the country'



BENT'S Home and Garden has been named as the UK's best garden centre following an extensive audit by the industry watchdog.

The Glazebury garden centre scored an impressive 89.47 per cent - a figure which topped more than 160 other garden centres across the county.

The announcement came two months after Bents scooped six of the inaugural Best in the North West Garden Centre awards and tops off what has been a hugely successful 12 months for the family run centre.

The Garden Centre Association, which comprises more than 160 of the best garden centres in the country, presented Bents with the titles of: Best Services and Facilities; Lifestyle; Best Plant Area; Best Restaurant; Best Display Idea and the overall title of Best Garden Centre in the North West last year.

It has now awarded Bents with the prestigious title of Best Garden Centre in the UK.

Bents were also presented with national awards for Best Plant Area, Best Outdoor Living Department and Best Restaurant for the Centre's Fresh Approach Restaurant.

Managing director Matthew Bent said: "When we were last presented with this prestigious accolade in 2006 our winning score was 87 per cent, a figure we had already surpassed with our initial audit so we were quietly confident, but you can never be sure until the announcement is made!

"The GCA title is the one all garden centres want and we are delighted to be acknowledged as the Best in the UK.

"It is a credit to all of our colleagues who work extremely hard to ensure our standards remain as high as possible throughout all areas of the centre. We would like to say a big thank you to each and every one of them and are looking forward to another exciting year ahead."

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Leon goes back to his first school



Leon is pictured at the new entrance after cutting the ribbon with left, Anna Seferta year 2, Liam Hazzledine year 4 and head teacher Michael Boland.

AN international musician went back to his first school - to officially open a new extension.

Concert pianist Leon McCawley, who was born in Culcheth and brought up in Croft, opened the extension which provides a new entrance at the village's St Lewis' RC Primary School.

Leon regularly returns to the Warrington area to play charity concerts - giving local people an opportunity to hear him at a fraction of the cost they would have to pay to attend a major concert.

His visit home to open the school extension coincided with a local charity concert. Two days later he appeared at Lowton where he played works by works by Mozart, Chopin, Brahms and Schumann to raise money for Jacob's Well, a charity that sends medical and

humanitarian aid to Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa.

In May 2007 Leon gave a similar concert and raised more than £2,000 to help poor villages in Ghana.

During the past year Leon has been very busy and highlights include playing in Philadelphia with the Philadelphia Orchestra, performing at the Mostly Mozart Festival at the Barbican in London and a Christmas trip to Oman.

This spring, he will travel to Seoul, South Korea, for his debut with the KBS Symphony. His wife Anna, who is South Korean, will join him on the trip and take the opportunity to see her family.

'Bobby in the Lobby'

POLICE have launched a new crime prevention initiative in Culcheth.

'Bobby in the Lobby' will be a monthly event at the Sainsbury store involving police officers or PCSOs.

The first was a great success with shoppers keen to receive advice from PCSO Steve Dodd and PCSO Gina Dennett.

Gina said: "The day went very well

and shoppers were very interested in finding out about crime prevention ideas."

'Bobby in the Lobby' will take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month between 10.30am and 11.30am.

From the left, shopper Sandra Green, PCSO Steve Dodd, PCSO Gina Dennett and Sainsbury's staff member Jane Bancroft.



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Dismount strategies for dead horses part 2

Do you remember the North American Dakota Indians and their 'dead horses' from last month? Just how do you recognise a 'dead horse' and know when to dismount it?

Perhaps by asking yourself the following questions, you will discover areas of your business that need 'dismounting'!

- Processes – are your internal and external processes so inefficient or restrictive that you make it difficult for your staff to provide effective customer service?
- Products – are you relying on under-performing products or services that may have come to the end of their natural life cycle?
- Prices – are you relying on pricing and discounting alone as your main point of competitiveness and differentiation, rather than building value for the customer by other means?
- Policies – are your staff disempowered because your internal policies do not allow the authority and responsibility to resolve customer issues immediately?
- Personnel – do you have under-performing staff who just don't 'get it' and cause you on-going frustration
- Plans – do you develop business plans without spending time to develop strategies specifically related to on-going innovation?

- Promotions – do you restrict your marketing effort to advertising and promotions without having a measurable return for your investment?
- Positioning – have market circumstances and / or your service offering changed over time to render your current positioning strategy (how you want to be perceived by your customers) obsolete?
- Priorities – Are there issues having a negative impact on your business but you have so much on your plate that you don't have time to address them?
- Potential – Can you see the potential for improvement but you are too busy working in the business to take time out to work on the business?

If the answer is YES to one or more of these questions then you may have a 'dead horse' on your hands and you may well be in need of a re-think as to your means of achieving future success - essential in today's current climate.

If you missed part one of this article or would like more information on how we can help you to assess your business strategies, please call Les Styles or Ian Lloyd on 01925 761600.

Please note that these ideas 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.

**The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co
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Why Cleopatra didn't bath in cottage cheese!

WHEN Cleopatra bathed in asses milk, why didn't it change to cottage cheese in the Egyptian heat?

Just one of the conundrums posed by speaker Matthew Lepp during an interesting and at times hilarious talk on the history of soap at the monthly meeting of Croft WI.

He told members how to make a bath bomb, miniature soaps and shower gel, ably assisted by Margaret Meachin and Diane Sims who were able to take home their samples. He made the history of soap from 2800B.C. to the present day so interesting that even the lavender used to fragrance the bath bomb didn't get members yawning!

The winners of the competition for an unusual bar of soap were Chris Hill with a cheesecake soap, Doris Friar with an acorn and Barbara Cooper.

Sixty two members and four visitors attended the meeting and

heard that the newly formed cinema club was planning its next trip to see The Changeling on March 10. Details of a trip to Boundary Mill on May 6 were finalised as well as to Liverpool on September 23, with many other dates planned, including the Emma Bridgewater Pottery in Stoke where you can decorate your own pot, and the Tilston Garden Trail.

Hazel Meakin gave details of Grappenhall WI's proposed resolution regarding increased funding for research into disease in honey bees which members were unanimously in favour of carrying forward at the Annual Council Meeting at Winsford.

Next meeting is on March 18 when Pat Marsden will be speaking about Rennie Mackintosh Furniture.

The Great Wall of China in colour

AN interesting talk, illustrated with colour slides, on the Great Wall of China was given by Ted Hawker at the monthly meeting of Newchurch WI.

Mr Hawker also told of the Terracotta Army, which was created to guard an Emperor's tomb - but which led to angry peasants smashing and burying the army. But a farmer's chance discovery led to the army being excavated and to a massive restoration of the life-size soldiers and animals.

Kath Hanley thanked Mr Hawker and he then judged the month's competition - A Toy Soldier. The winner was Aileen Paterson, with Amy Williams and Barbara Pinkney coming second and third.

President Sylvia Brown welcomed members and two visitors to the meeting and Trudy MacDonald was thanked for the table flowers. Tea hostesses were Wynn Worthington and Muriel Hotchin. Secretary Jean Riley reminded members of forthcoming events including 'Brief Encounter' at the Lowry on March 25, the Mosslands Group Meeting on April 22 and the 'St George's Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall on April 23.

On May 6 there will be a trip to the Royal Exchange to see 'Widowers' Houses'. Members were also reminded of the new genealogy classes planned at Culcheth High School.

The next meeting on March 11 will mark the institute's 50th birthday and the guest speaker will be Derek Thompson, who will speak about the Grand National. Further details are available from Jean Riley on 01925 762722.

Karen comes home - to set up business

TWENTY years after leaving Culcheth, Karen Thornton has returned - to set up a local business.

Her new baby wear shop is in the CPS Centre above Sainsbury's - a location where there were no shops when she first came to live in the village with her parents in 1977.

She said: "How things have changed. When I first came to Culcheth there were no shops above Sainsbury's - which was then Culcheth Provision Stores - and most of the shops in the villages closed on a Saturday afternoon."

Karen is now back living in the village with husband Mark and son

Robert.

Her new shop is "New Arrivals - Baby Wear and Beyond."

The couple have had the support and help of both their families in setting up the business but, on a sad note, Karen's grandmother died only a few days before it opened.

"She was so keen to visit the shop and offer her support and ideas," said Karen.

The couple are keen to do more than just sell quality baby wear at affordable prices - they want to provide a service to the community. So they have installed a community notice board inside the shop where locals can post announcements.

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