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Issue: 84 March 2010

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Second time lucky!

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Editor's Comment



IF teenage shelters are provided in Culcheth they need to be well lit.

This was the view of youth worker Andrew Cronin when he addressed members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council - and we agree.

Andrew was giving a presentation on the youth work initiative in the village funded jointly by the Methodist Church

and the borough and parish councils.

The scheme has enabled Andrew to establish regular contact with around 150 young people, including many who congregate on the streets and do not attend organised youth clubs.

These are the very youths who may be attracted to a teenage shelter.

But, as Andrew said, if such shelters are unlit and hidden away in dark corners of the village, they will become places to avoid. Places where even those not easily intimidated will feel unsafe.

There is little doubt that the village green should be the location for such a shelter - in a location well away from houses but easily observed from afar.

Andrew also believes the skate park would be another suitable location.

But his main concern is that the shelters should be well-lit and accessible and in this he is clearly correct.

We don't want to create a centre for the very sort of activity it is designed to eliminate.

Moving account at Culcheth WI

CULCHETH WI heard a moving account of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, from a man who was part of the uprising, at their February meeting.

Dr Andrew Zsigmund told the meeting, at Newchurch Parish Hall, how he was a third year medical student and editor of his university newspaper at the time and subsequently took up arms to arrest Communist Party and Secret Police officials.

After the uprising was crushed, he escaped to Austria in 1957, then England and worked as an apprentice miner before qualifying as a doctor in Liverpool, where he has worked ever since.

Dr Zsigmund was thanked by Ann Hambleton who said all the members found his talk very emotional.

Members also heard about the recent outing to Gorton Monastery to see 'The Good Old Days', which 14 members had enjoyed.

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Art on show

VISITORS will be able to vote for their favourite painting at an art exhibition at the Age Concern building in Culcheth.

Culcheth Thursday Morning Art Group is staging its third exhibition on Friday March 12 from 5pm to 9pm and on Saturday March 13 from 10am to 4pm.

Visitors will be able to vote for their favourite painting and some of the works will be on sale.

The show is at the centre in Jackson Avenue and refreshments will be available. Admission, including catalogue, will be 50 pence.

Tug of war plea!

ONE of the three elements needed for a tug-of-war contest on Culcheth Community Day is available...the rope!

Members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council heard that arrangements had been made to borrow a special rope for the event.

Now all that is required is teams to take part.

Pubs and clubs are being invited to enter teams for the event - one of the highlights of Community Day on Monday May 3.

A couple of years ago the future of the contest was in doubt when the original rope disappeared.

But this year the council has made sure it has one organised in plenty of time.

Second time lucky for Scout Centre

COMMUNITY groups in Glazebury are celebrating after fundraising and a recycling grant helped them save their local scout hut for the second time.

Glazebury Scout Centre now has a new, pitched roof thanks to a £13,000 grant and £1,800 raised by three charity dinner dances held in the village.

This is the second time the Centre has been saved. Residents were thrilled when the Centre was built in 2004 with £50,000 funding from Waste Recycling Environment (WREN) Ltd, a not for profit business that helps people who live close to landfill sites by awarding grants for community projects.

Since then it has been used by community groups including the church, Beavers and Cubs as well as dance classes and private parties.

But in March 2009, the flat roof of the new building started to fail and leak and eventually caved in. Repairs were paid for by insurers but it was clear that a new pitched roof was needed.

Susan Leather, a local resident whose children use the centre, said:

"Although we managed to repair the flat roof, we knew we had a problem that wouldn't go away.

"It was going to happen again unless we managed to find the funds to build a pitched roof. We went back to WREN and asked for their help.

"They felt that the extra funds we needed were worthwhile because they would ensure a longer life for the Centre which they had originally paid for. They gave us a further £13,000 grant for the roof - we were thrilled.

"There was also a big fundraising effort from the village. We managed to raise an additional £1,800 for the roof and fundraising is ongoing. The Scout Centre is such an important part of the village and we want to do a few other improvements too."

Now the roof is finished and the Centre and plans to establish a new Scout group are well underway.



Scouts and Beavers from the 20th Warrington East 1st are pictured outside their Scout hut from left, Jack Maylor, John Hobson, Emily Maylor, Lucca Chadwick-Patel, Charlotte Wild-Redmond, Joe Will, Krishen Chadwick-Patel, and Joseph Wilson.

Music and laughter at the WI

'MUSIC and Monologues' kept members of the Newchurch Women's Institute singing and laughing at their monthly meeting - the first of the New Year due to the bad weather in January.

Guest speaker Jean Finney was assisted by volunteer Nora Cooper who had to keep pace with a series

of masks to show different characters. The group heard some favourite country and western songs as well as some original songs written by Jean.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 10 March at 7.30pm in Newchurch Parish Hall, Culcheth. Contact Jean Riley for more information on 01925 762 722.

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"I didn't realise how many women felt the same as I did. This has shown me how we can all change the way we think about ourselves"

IT'S A woman THING

Do you lack confidence in yourself and your abilities and sometimes just don't feel "good enough"?

Do you put yourself down, avoid social occasions and struggle to say "no" to people?

If this sounds like you, you're not alone! Lack of confidence and low self esteem often is "a woman thing". We worry about things and feel anxious about what other people think of us.

Sometimes retail therapy, a new haircut or a trip to the gym can make us feel better about ourselves, but it's temporary (and expensive!). The only real solution comes from the inside out.

Real and lasting self esteem means that you are not dependent on anyone or anything to feel good about yourself. It means confidence in your strengths. It means understanding that no one's perfect, and we don't have to be.

Born and raised locally, Suzanne Wright has worked in several large organisations as a people manager and consultant. After speaking with many friends and colleagues she has launched "It's a Woman Thing" to offer help to any woman who wants to feel better about herself.

It's a Woman Thing will bring you together with women who are just like you for a one day workshop. We explore the reasons why we suffer from low self esteem, and most importantly what we can do about it.

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Guides go international

TWO Girl Guides from the same Culcheth group are planning a fundraising drive after both being given the opportunity to travel to different international Guiding events in 2011.

Kate Davidson, 13, from Croft will join hundreds of other Guides and Scouts from across the world at the Scout Jamboree in Sweden, while Zoe Isles, 14, from Birchwood will head for Siberia to spend time with families there and help set up new guiding groups.

Both girls attend 7th Culcheth Guide Group on a Wednesday evening at Culcheth Methodist Church and decided to apply for the trips after reading information about them there.

They both had to take part in a selection weekend last October and both beat scores of other girls to earn the opportunity to take the trips.

Now the girls each have to raise £1800 to fund their trips and a series of fundraisers is planned, including bag packing, sponsored events and appearances at local carnivals.

Zoe's mum Sara Isles is an assistant leader at 7th Culcheth Guides. She said: "We're really pleased for the girls. I don't think it's hit them yet because summer 2011 still seems a long way off."

"They will be travelling with Guides from other groups across the region so they are all meeting up soon to talk about what's involved in each trip."

"The Group has managed to send Guides on trips like this before but not for a long time. The last time a Guide travelled to the jamboree was three years ago so this is really exciting for us."

"There will be lots of benefits for them - it's a social thing but also they'll have the experience of travelling, fund-raising and keeping their accounts. When they return we'll ask them to do a talk about their trip."

"Now the hard work begins! There are some grants that we can apply for and we'll be looking into matched funding but we'll be doing lots of fundraising events over the coming months."

"We are a very active unit with 35 girls meeting every week so we'll have lots of help."

The 3rd Culcheth Girl Guides, which meets at the Parish Hall is in danger of closing as one of its leaders has left. The group of 20 is looking for volunteers to help out.



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Beryl, 80, weds her 'toy boy'

TWO elderly Culheth sweethearts are looking forward to their future together after tying the knot on Valentine's Day.

Beryl Massie, 80, and Roy Gaskell, 78, met when they were both on holiday in Llandudno last June and after a whirlwind romance decided to get hitched.

More than 50 friends and family - including Beryl's four children, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren - were in the congregation at Glazebury Methodist Church to wish them well.

The church was filled with freesias and Beryl, who has been blind for the last 11 years, carried a bunch of posies as a bouquet.

Her daughter Barbara walked her down the aisle. Her son, Alan, was Roy's best man and her granddaughter sang a song about friendship.

Beryl said: "Roy and I are very good friends. We have such a good laugh together. My friend jokes that he is my toy boy!"

"We both doze off sometimes while we're chatting but you're bound to at our age aren't you? If we ever have a disagreement, we always end up in fits of laughter."

Roy, who used to work in the cotton industry and is also partially sighted, moved into their flat in Culheth last September and proposed out of the blue while they were out shopping one day. Beryl was surprised but went on to say 'yes'.

She said: "I can hardly remember a thing about the wedding. It was all just too exciting. Roy kept telling me to calm down but I couldn't. I loved it!"

After the wedding, the couple celebrated with a reception at the Methodist Church Hall.

Beryl said: "We've done a lot together and we have plans to do more once the weather warms up. Roy's a great help to me around the house."

"I hardly used to go out before I met Roy but now we go shopping and visiting our friends. We know lots of people now and it was so good that so many of them were there at the wedding."



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Daphne Eastburn, project manager and Paul Kelly, of PK Tiling.

New facilities at church

FACILITIES at Culcheth Methodist Church have been completely refurbished using funding from two charitable trusts.

Work to revamp the ladies, gents and disabled toilets is now finished and improvements to the outside of the church, including creating secure fencing at the side entrance has also taken place.

Warrington Charities Trust put £775 towards the project and £2,000 from the WO Street Charities Trust also helped pay for the work.

Daphne Eastburn, project leader, said: "We would like to thank these trusts for the help they have given. It will benefit over 1,500 people every week and improve facilities for all our user groups."

Spring may be late

It is hoped that Culcheth will have its wildflower meadow in the spring - despite the unusually cold winter delaying seeding operations.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council has won a grant of £1,296 towards the cost of wildflower and bulb planting from the Stronger Together initiative.

It is hoped that spring will bring a splash of colour with wildflowers planted on the village green, along the footpath which links Warrington Road with Lodge Drive, the entrance to Withington Avenue and at Shaw Street Recreation Ground.

The wildflower planting is being carried out by the borough council.

Bulb planting will take place in the autumn when pupils from local primary schools will be invited to take part. It is hoped that members of Culcheth Horticultural Society will offer advice and supervision.

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Hat-trick of awards

A CULCHETH garden centre has won a prestigious national award – for the third time.

Bents Garden and Home, at Glazebury, has won the Garden Centre Association (GCA) Garden Centre of the Year 2010 award for the second year on the run.

It was chosen from more than 200 garden centres throughout the UK, following an intensive annual audit by GCA.

MD Matthew Bent said: "There are many awards available within our industry, but this really is the big one. It is not one that requires a written submission - instead the audit is something that is a requirement of our

membership of the GCA.

"It is based purely on quality standards throughout the centre, not only of products and departments, but also people and service, which makes it all the more special to receive it again this year."

Bents was visited by GCA auditors in spring 2009 and recorded one of the top scores in the country. Further spot checks were also carried out.

It was particularly praised for its disabled facilities, garden care department, Fresh Approach Restaurant, houseplants and seasonal plants.

Gillie Westwood, from the GCA, said "We are delighted for Bents. It is a

Thieves target meat and petrol as prices rise

CRIME rose in the Culcheth area last month - with meat and petrol particular targets for thieves.

Insp Richard Spedding told the monthly meeting of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council that rising costs were blamed for the increase in thefts of meat and petrol.

Shoplifters accounted for most thefts of meat while "drive-off" motorists were largely to blame for the increase in petrol thefts.

The filling station at the junction of Warrington Road with the East Lincs Road was a particular target for petrol thieves.

"It is right on the fringe of our area, but it impacts on our figures" he said.

Very often the offenders had false number plates on their vehicles.

Although crime generally has risen, Insp Spedding said he expected a reduction locally following the arrest of a gang from Merseyside who had been targeting Culcheth and Croft.

Police were praised for their work dealing with a burglary at Glazebury Methodist Church when a quantity of bacon, Fairtrade coffee and other property was stolen.

The offender has been arrested, the meeting was told.

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Ileyne goes on patrol with the police

CULCHETH and Glazebury parish councillor Ileyne Hutchinson was invited to go on patrol with the police on what was expected to be a busy Friday night.

This is her report:

"We had a very quiet night, but still very informative and a great eye-opener.

"I reported to Birchwood Police Station at 7pm. Then, after being given a heavy police jacket we set off. I was assigned to two officers.

"We drove around for a while, Shaw Street, Lodge Drive, Culcheth Hall Drive, down to Mee Brow and back to Common Lane. Because of the cold weather, the anticipated crowds did not appear, much to the relief of the police.

"Also on duty that night were four PCSOs, and also an inspector and another constable, who were checking a couple of public houses. People say they never see much police presence in Culcheth, but if they are needed, they are there.

"Mostly, the people out were youths. We moved some of them off the children's playground on the green, and sent them to the skateboard park. One boy was a bit cheeky and he was told that if he carried on, he would be taken home.



Point taken, and no more cheek.

"The reason the youths were so polite was that the police approached them in a proper manner. There was respect on both sides.

"Groups of youths were all around the village by 8.30pm, but all were just either on their way somewhere, or meeting friends. By 9pm, the streets were almost empty and I was told the 15 and 16-year olds were usually home by 9.30pm.

"So, a very quiet night for the police. Even so, most were on duty until 5am.

"We did one last round of the area at 10.15pm and saw a man of about 35 carrying a potted plant, obviously from outside a shop or restaurant. He was when told to put it back! Not all the problems are from teenagers.

"I was very impressed by the way the police spoke to people and also by the way the young people responded. With a local police force like this, we can all rest assured that we are safe in Culcheth."

'Horrendous' parking at school

PARENTS taking children to Twiss Green Primary School, Culcheth are causing "horrendous parking problems" councillors have been told.

Police and the borough council are considering introducing waiting restrictions, members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council heard.

But consultation will be carried out with residents first.

The meeting was told there were problems both in the morning and in the afternoon.

Police had received numerous complaints - particularly about the number of 4X4s which turned up at the school.

The most seriously affected area was Twiss Green Lane between its junctions with Petersfield Gardens and Layland Avenue.

Parked vehicles were obstructing footpaths and the road.

Coun Keith Bland said it was important to consult local people.

"We don't want to alienate residents," he said.

Silence is golden



PUPILS at Glazebury C of E Primary School raised a staggering £1,200 for victims of the Haiti earthquake by staging a sponsored silence, silly socks day and coffee afternoon where cakes toys and books were on sale.

Being silent from left, Kitty Webster, Matthew Connolly, Bradley Dean, Samantha Gerrard, Jack Bardsley, Olivia Eckersley and William Clews.

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Tax, tips and news

It is worthwhile periodically reviewing your personal tax affairs to determine whether you are paying the right amount of tax, or whether there are areas in which savings can be made. In this issue we highlight a few issues which may be of relevance to you.

Errors to new PAYE codes

Tax offices have started to issue 2010/11 PAYE codes for the tax year which starts on 6 April 2010. All employees or recipients of pensions will have such a code, and it is this which determines the amount of tax you pay throughout the year. The Inland Revenue has introduced a new computer system and there have been a number of errors to codes being issued. You should ensure that your tax code includes all the tax allowances and other adjustments relevant to you. If you believe there are errors, your employer or tax office should be able to help.

Capital gains tax dilemma

With the tax rate reaching an effective highest rate of 51% (income tax plus national insurance) from 5 April 2010, the discrepancy between the rate paid on earnings and the 18% payable on capital gains is enormous. Although the Chancellor has been silent over potential rises to capital gains tax, he has made it known that he sees the discrepancy in rates as a concern. Though it is a complex area, those taxpayers with high levels of earnings and capital assets may make significant tax savings if their affairs can be structured appropriately.

53 Mondays in 2009/10

There are 53 Mondays in the tax year ending 5 April 2010! Although Monday is the payment date for most state pensions, the tax office always treat the state pension accruing to each year as a 52 week period. Tax returns should be submitted on the assumption that all years accrue exactly 52 weeks. This is one of very few examples where taxpayers are not taxed on all their income!

Beware tax scams

There are a growing number of tax scams involving emails to taxpayers which purport to have Inland Revenue backing. However, the Revenue has not adopted email as a way of communication with the public so treat any email offering a tax refund as suspicious and report it to the Revenue. Certainly do not provide any bank, credit card or other payment details or make calls to help lines (which may cost £6 per minute!) before the legitimacy of the businesses sending these emails is verified.

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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Team make first final

FOR the first time in its history a team from Culcheth Athletic JFC has got through to the Lancashire Cup Final.

The Under 13A Team will play in the final on Friday March 19. A club spokesman said: "This is a major achievement as the teams entering this cup are extremely strong." The Under 13A Team, managed by Geoff Gould and coaches Ian Currey and Rob Harris, have played six rounds in the Lancashire Cup this season.

Among their successful results they beat South Shore, who are top of the Blackpool and District League, and Springfields, top of the Preston League.

The U13A Team now play Lytham St Annes YMCA, who are second in the Blackpool and District League, in the final.

Anyone interested in supporting the team can join a coach trip. A 49-seater will leave Culcheth at 5.30pm on Friday March 19 to take supporters to watch the team play in the Lancs Cup Final at the FA Ground in Leyland. It will depart from the lay-by in front of Atlas Interiors and Angelikas Flower Shop, and will return at about 9.30pm. Seats are available on a first come first served basis at £5 each.

Joan steps down

CROFT Village Hall committee's treasurer Joan Wilshaw has stepped down after 35 years in the job.

She said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as treasurer. It is not a big job and has always been interesting. The committee only meets once a month, so it isn't too demanding on your time."

"But everything is going online now so I think it is time for me to step down. I haven't even used a computer for the work, but no doubt my successor will want to."

Mrs Wilshaw has been succeeded by Colin Monger.

The annual general meeting of the hall committee takes place on April 7 at 7.30pm and members are hoping some new volunteers will come forward to swell their ranks.

Preparing for the 'summer game'

DESPITE the wintry weather, preparations are being made for resumption of the "summer game" in Culcheth.

Junior and senior members of Glazebury Cricket Club are attending weekly indoor net practice at Culcheth High School, with coaching for juniors run by qualified England Cricket Board coaches. All equipment is provided.

Head coach Mike Durrington will be pleased to hear from any youngsters, aged 8-15, who would like to join the club this year.

Further details can be obtained from Mike on 0772 9853915 or emailing him at elmik2326@aol.com or visiting the club website, www.glazeburycc.org.uk

The club runs three senior and three junior teams, competing in the Cheshire Cricket Alliance and the West Lancashire Cricket League.



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