

# Culcheth Life

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March 2012

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## Becky's mountain challenge

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# Editor's Comment



**IT seems somewhat ironic that if the super new £28 million Culcheth High School had never been built, and staff and pupils were still soldiering on in the old building, there would now be nothing standing in the way of what the governors clearly see as the next stage in the school's development - academy status.**

Last September we reported that the school's bid for academy status could only go ahead if agreement could be reached on the repayment of a £600,000 loan from Warrington Borough Council.

Now it seems that agreement cannot be reached - so the proposed conversion to an academy has had to be put on hold.

If the new school had not been built, the loan would not have been

taken out and Culcheth High could become the first academy school in the borough. The shortcomings of the old building would not have prevented conversion as a number of other local schools, which have not benefited from new buildings, are considering converting.

It is hardly surprising that agreement on repayment of the loan has not been reached as the borough council is resolutely opposed to academy schools. And it's not a political issue - the three main political parties are unanimous in their opposition to something they believe would lead to a two-tier education

system in the borough.

So what's best for Culcheth - the new school or academy status?

Well, the benefits of the new school are there for all to see. The best that can be said about academy status is that the jury is still out - and likely to be so for many years.

To use the modern parlance, it's a no-brainer.

## STOP PRESS

AS *Culcheth Life* went to press the village was rocked by the police shooting incident on Jackson Avenue which resulted in the death of Anthony Grainger, aged 35 from Bolton. Full details on [www.culchethlife.com](http://www.culchethlife.com)

## A taste of Spain

CULCHETH Wine Circle enjoyed a presentation by Brian Wilkinson when a selection of Spain's wines were tasted in the context of Paradores - the government-run luxury hotels dotted around the regions and mainly based in restored castles and monasteries.

Three white and three red wines were available, together with a display of photographs, posters and maps which showed off the delights of the traditional Paradores.

Culcheth Wine Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Culcheth Sports and Social Club at 8pm and welcomes new members.

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# Becky's mountain challenge

**A CULCHETH teenager is facing the task of raising more than £4,000 to enable her to go on an educational expedition to Tanzania next year which involves climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.**

Becky Daybell, aged 17, has already started fund raising - she raised £800 selling home-made chocolates and lollipops at local Christmas fairs - and is now embarking on a programme of fundraisers during the coming year.

On Thursday, March 29 she is running a pamper evening at Culcheth Sports Club when there will be many mini treatments such as massage, reiki, beauty treatments, hair, nails, etc.

Tickets are on sale at the club and various other businesses in Culcheth.

On April 20, local rock band Black Thursday are playing a gig, also at Culcheth Sports Club, where tickets are on sale.

Becky is also recycling used printer cartridges and unwanted DVDs and CDs to raise money.

The trip is being organised by World Challenge, a group with more than 20 years experience of running educational trips for teenagers and young adults in the development world. Becky will be one of a group of students and, in addition to having to raise £4,245 has to help organise the trip.

She said: "This is a month long educational experience which I'm sure will challenge me on a personal level."

"I'll be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and spending part of the time living in a local community, working on a

school-based community or environmental project.

"This is the part I'm looking forward to the most, as we will live alongside and interact with the local people, giving something beneficial to the community, whether it is helping to provide a much needed water supply, or working in the local primary school.

"I am sure that experiencing the culture first hand will make me reflect on my own situation, putting my privileged life into perspective."

Anyone who wants to support Becky can call her on 01925 766742 or email her at [beckysworldchallenge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beckysworldchallenge@yahoo.co.uk)



## Road safety operation

**POLICE joined forces with other agencies to target vehicles travelling along the A574 Warrington Road at Culcheth.**

The operation lasted for four hours and involved public protection officers from the borough council, HM Customs and Excise and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. Vehicles were given a thorough examination during the operation led by local police officers. The aim was to make sure motorists are complying with road safety legislation.

PCSO Steve Dodd, said: "We were checking the road safety of vehicles, driving without wearing a seatbelt, drivers using a mobile phone while driving as well as tax discs and insurance."

"A total of 19 vehicles were stopped for drivers not wearing their seat belts and dealt with accordingly and one car with no insurance was seized."

Six vehicles with defects such as faulty brake pipes, steering, chassis, exhausts and defective tyres were discovered. Six drivers were advised on their duty of care regarding the disposal of commercial waste and one person was given seven days to produce their authority to transport waste.



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# Guides form two new groups

**A GROWING demand for Guiding activities in Culcheth has led to two new groups being formed.**

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and the Senior Section are becoming increasingly popular in the area and to meet the demand a new Guide Unit (for girls aged 10 to 14) and a new Senior Section Unit (for girls over 14) have been launched.

District commissioner Sara Isles said: "Guides take part in a wide range of exciting activities at their regular meetings, and at special events or holidays.

"Girls do everything from adventure sports to playing fun games, and from taking part in community action projects to the performing arts."

Guides work together in small

patrols and with the support of an adult leader, choose and run some of the activities themselves.

Those in the Senior Section can take part in a range of awards and qualifications such as a Leadership qualification and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. They can also enjoy international opportunities including attending guiding events abroad and volunteering on projects in developing countries.

Anyone interested in joining a unit or volunteering to help should contact Sara on 766057 or email [sara.isles@btinternet.com](mailto:sara.isles@btinternet.com)



*Some of the girls enjoying the range of activities*

## Re-surfacing work to start - at long last!

WORK has started on resurfacing one of Culcheth's bumpiest roads - after a wait of three years.

Borough council contractors were due to start work in Lodge Drive, between Common Lane and Culcheth Hall Drive, on March 5.

The project is expected to take about five weeks but to minimise disruptions to residents, motorists and shopkeepers, it will be carried out in phases, between 8.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Lodge Drive is pitted with potholes, largely caused by the last two severe winters. A diversion will be signposted via Common Lane and Warrington Road. Letters have been sent to residents and businesses in the immediate area and information boards also erected on site.

Labour campaigner Chris Vobe says he has been fighting for three years to get the work carried out.

He said: "This work is long overdue and much deserved for residents along Lodge Drive and the surrounding area. For years, we have had to suffer with a patchwork of pot holes that have left this part of the village looking unkempt and uncared for."



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# James Cracknell comes to Culcheth!

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**DATE**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

**PLACE**

Culcheth Clinic,  
Jackson Avenue

**TIME**

3:00pm

**PURPOSE**

To formally open our new  
health and well being studio



This new facility will make quality nutritional and lifestyle advice accessible. Managed by Mark Airey, who comes back to Warrington after his time at Headley Court, the Zenith studio will be a valued addition in helping the population of Culcheth get healthy and stay healthy.

**COME AND SEE US ON:** Tuesday 13th March and find out more.

## A view from the chair

'A VIEW from the Chair' was the talk given by Alan Donoghue at the monthly meeting of Croft WI - the chair in question being a wheelchair.

Alan contracted a virus at the age of 18 while at university in the early 70s and the consequences resulted in life viewed from the confines of a wheelchair.

Members were amazed at Alan's positive and jovial attitude. He even said he was glad disability had struck at the age of 18, as teenagers have a much more optimistic view of the future!

Primary school teaching was his chosen profession until retirement and he told numerous highly amusing tales relating to the children's attitude to his disability. There were also many stories about life in general for wheelchair users, the prime example - where people talk to the "carer", rather than to the person in the chair, although Alan did say that this attitude is not as prevalent as in the past. He also stated that in general everyone was extremely kind and helpful, even the most unlikely members of society, and that disabled facilities had extensively improved over the years.

Dates for the diary: April 23: Group Meeting at Croft Community Hall; May 2: Trip to Ironbridge Gorge.

# The oldest twitchers in town!

**ANNIE Bridge and John Flitcroft have been bird lovers all their lives.**

Now, at 98 and 89 respectively, they can surely claim to be Culcheth's oldest twitchers!

Both are residents of Holcroft Grange care home where they have decorated and hung new nest boxes to encourage more birds to settle in the garden.

Annie, who has fed the birds since she was five years old, said: "I really

enjoy watching the birds as it gives me something to look forward to and think about. My favourite birds are blue tits, robins and wrens as I love the colours in them."

John, who prefers starlings and sparrows, added: "I enjoy feeding the birds because I like to get a bit of fresh air every morning."

To make sure no beak goes empty,

John has devised a unique feeding system for the birds portioning the bread into small pieces.

Margaret Mann, activities co-ordinator at Holcroft Grange, said: "We support all our residents to enjoy all the pleasures and comforts they would in their own homes, here. That's why it's lovely to see Annie and John out in the garden with the birds, or overhear them talking to the other residents about our feathered friends."



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# James makes a name

**A FORMER Culcheth High School pupil is making a name for himself in the esoteric world of jazz with a collaborative band about to produce its first album.**

Tenor saxist James Mainwaring has formed the group Roller Trio with friends Luke Wynter, guitar and Luke Reddin-Williams on drums.

The threesome picked up the prestigious Peter Whittingham Jazz Award last year - an annual award for emerging musicians - and their debut album is coming out on the F-ire label.

James says the band combines contemporary jazz and rock

traditions, creating a powerful and accessible blend of conventional and experimental sounds.

He says: "Our original compositions consist of beautiful evocative songs, groovy riffs, thrashy noise and electronic soundscapes creating seminal and atmospheric music."

They have earned praise from various quarters.

Jazzwise magazine said: "Roller



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# me in the jazz world

Trio mix epic rock-edged riffs, angular sax explorations, brooding beats and haunting dub-step style electronics all shot through with heady improvisation.

Jazz blog Bebop Spoken Here said: "Is there no end to the production line of gifted young musicians? Virtuoso stuff, not for the faint-hearted. A gig for the fearless."

Yorkshire Live Music Project: "Soaring sax over buzzsaw guitar riffs built on layers of looped melody and angular drumbeats have created a

sound they truly own."

James is trying to organise a gig in the Warrington area towards the end of May.



## Big band night

AN evening of live big band music is promised at Culcheth Sports Club - otherwise known as The Datsun - on March 17 at 8pm.

The Phoenix Big Band, lead by Dave Holden and with guest vocalist Mel Haddock, will be performing a programme of contemporary swing and Latin music.

Fans will be able to dance or just listen.

## More movie nights

FOLLOWING the success of the initial free 'movie nights' for young people at Culcheth High School, more have been arranged with the next one due on March 23 in the purpose-built theatre at the school.

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# Novel experience for youngsters

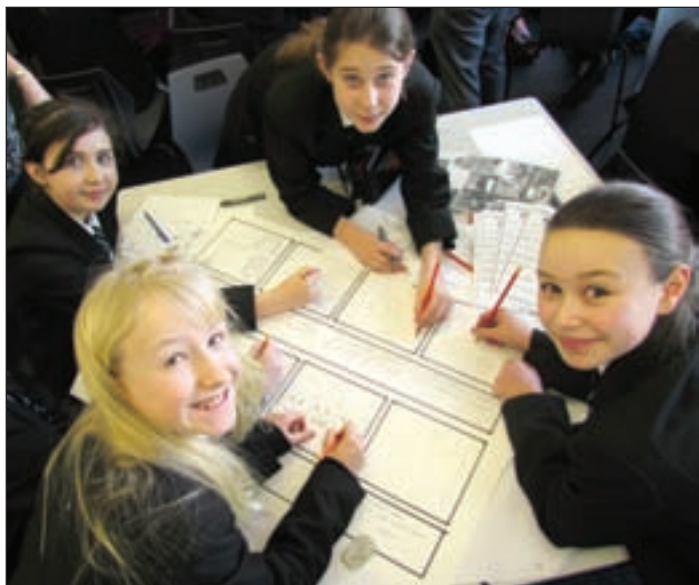
**YOUNGSTERS at Culheth High School were inspired to create their own Gothic graphic novel when they were visited by a local author.**

Curtis Jobling - perhaps best known as the designer for television's "Bob the Builder" - held a workshop for Year 7 students and started by explaining how he became an author and illustrator.

The students had a chance to show off their creative writing skills by continuing with a story called "The Box." They worked collaboratively as a production team to choose the best story to run with.

Some students worked as authors. Others worked as illustrators and using graphite, pen and ink went on to create and produce a Gothic graphic novel.

Gill Taylor, manager of the Independent Learning Centre, said: "It was a fantastic experience for the students working with such an accomplished author and one which the school hopes to repeat very soon with a different cohort."



## Beaten by the Eggheads!

GUEST speaker Betty Hayhurst told Newchurch WI about her experiences appearing on the television quiz Eggheads.

She and friends from the Inner Wheel enjoyed their trip to the BBC Television Centre in London, and as "Five Alive" had lucky breaks but lost to the regular Eggheads.

Betty said they enjoyed their day, but it was hard keeping the result secret until the programme was shown 10 months later.

She then judged the decorated eggs in the competition and chose Olive Lee as winner, with Paddy Poulter and Freda Wilcock coming second and third.

President Sylvia Brown welcomed members and several visitors and thanked Celia Crowe for the basket of flowers for the table. Ruth Briggs and June Osborne were tea hostesses.

There was sad news of the death of Barbara Trevor, a much-loved member of many years' standing.

The next meeting will be on March 14 when David Tomlinson will speak about "The Staff of Life". Further details are available from Jean Riley on 76 2722.



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# THE STYLES FILES styles

## Survive and thrive

Last month the Office for National Statistics (ONS) announced that the UK employment rate had remained at 8.4%, the highest level since 1995. There were 2.67m unemployed, up 48,000 on the quarter, though the increase was the slowest since June 2011.

Although analysts have commented that 'this should lay to rest any concerns about the UK economy and that we had turned the corner with the worst news being in the past' when you drill down into the detail it shows the North West as a region, has had an increase of 6.9% unemployment; one of the highest increase areas in the UK.

This news highlights the need once again that company leaders should continually look at ways to grow their businesses and improve profitability in order to Survive and Thrive. This is the theme of the

Styles and Co seminar, being held at the Leigh Sports Village on Wednesday 21st March 2012.

Stuart Hurst, Client Service Manager at Styles and Co will provide constructive advice on 'improving your cashflow in the current economic climate', Ian Lloyd, Partner at Styles and Co will cover 'Sources of Finance for businesses (do's and don'ts)' and finally Scott Bordini from Warrington's Apple Centre will simply 'blow your mind away' with his interactive

presentation of making the most out of the technology available.

Places are only £15 per delegate, for more information or to book contact Lynne Hindley on 01925 761600 or at [lynne.hindley@stylesandco.co.uk](mailto:lynne.hindley@stylesandco.co.uk)

*Disclaimer: Please note that the contents of our Culcheth Life articles are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always take professional advice before taking action.*



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

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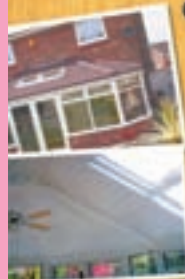
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# Fellowship's centenary celebrations

**CULCHETH Christian Fellowship is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its building in Hob Hey Lane in June - and is anxious to obtain memories and photographs illustrating the organisation's history.**

Over the years, the building has mainly been used as a Sunday School but at one time was used by the education authority as a day school.

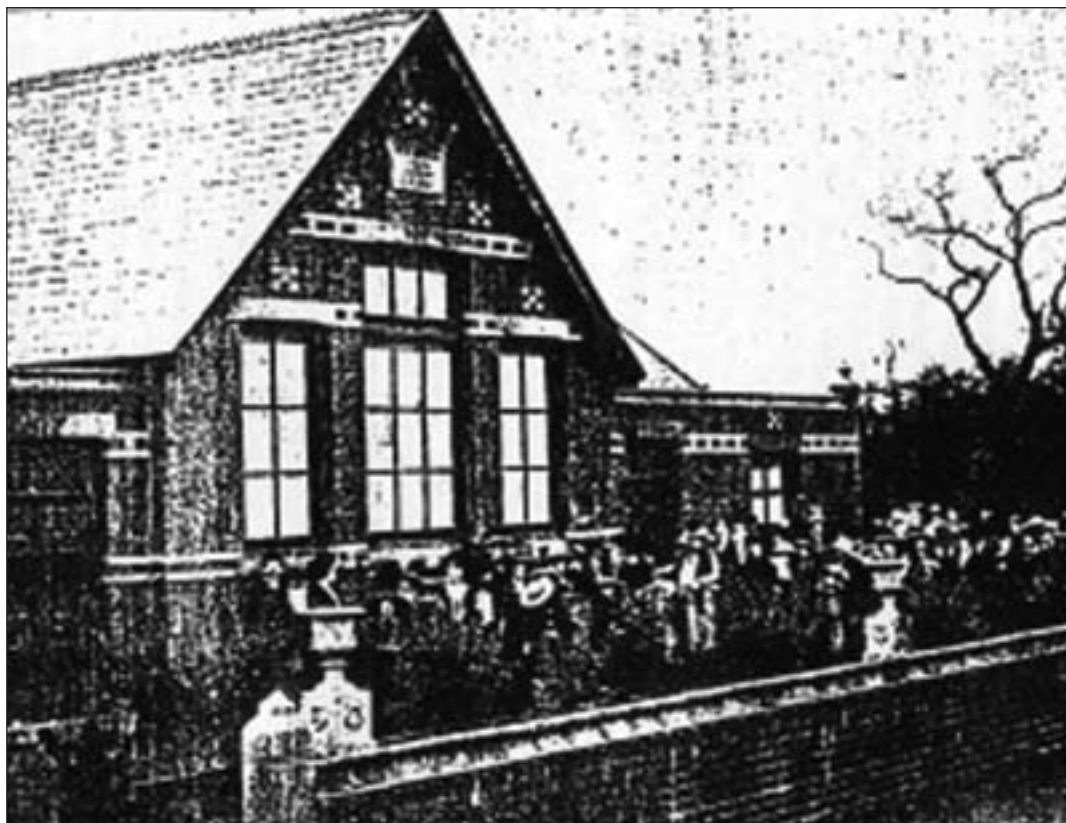
In recent years it has undergone renovation and, since the sale of what was the church building over the road, has been the main centre for the Fellowship's activities.

It is hoped to organise an exhibition at the time of the anniversary and anyone who has photographs or memories of events over the years is asked to get in touch.

Anyone who can help is asked to call Liz on 01925 762065 or visit the website [www.culchethchristianfellowship.co.uk](http://www.culchethchristianfellowship.co.uk)



*Pictures show the building in 1912 (right) and as it is today (above)*



## School? C'est magnifique!

PUPILS at Culcheth Primary School had only one way to describe it: **C'est magnifique!**

The "French Week" at their school provided plenty of opportunities for fun, laughter and learning.

There were French lessons, cooking demonstrations, and opportunities to sample French cuisine such as pain au chocolat and crepes.

Youngsters also had plenty of fun making masquerade masks.

Parents got involved too - and were invited to a "French Café" to sample a selection of patisseries and enjoy a café au lait!

Afterwards, all they could say was: C'est bien! Merci beaucoup!



*Teaching assistant Joanne Baldwin, pupils Dominic Smith and Caden Scott*

### Advertiser's announcement

## Preparing for Spring - ovens deserve some special care

WITH the lighter nights approaching households across Warrington will be preparing for spring cleaning sessions to get homes in order for the summer months.

Paul Clark, from professional oven valeters Ovenu, is reminding people that after a long, hard winter, ovens deserve some special care during the spring cleaning season.

For even the most enthusiastic spring cleaners, donning rubber gloves and tackling the oven is still one of the most loathed household chores. If people are not thorough with their oven cleaning, fat and food can cause future problems, which could result in an oven fire.

Paul Clark from Ovenu in Warrington said: "It's really important to not forget the oven when spring cleaning - behind its door will be a build up of dirt and grease from continual use throughout the winter

that will not only affect its efficiency, but could be a potential fire hazard!

As outside temperatures plummeted during the winter many people turned to their ovens for hot wholesome meals, but more you use your oven the more debris and grease can start to build up and this can affect its efficiency."

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.

Paul adds: "Taking the time to get your house in order can be a very satisfying experience, but when it comes to cleaning the oven, most people would rather close the door and put it to the back of their minds!

By regularly cleaning and maintaining an oven, it will ensure it performs at its best and even help

prolong its life, and not need to replace it as often."

The whole process takes around three hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition. Ovenu is accredited by the British Accreditation Bureau to ISO 9001

and all cleaning products used by Ovenu are environmentally friendly, bio-degradable and conform to the latest government REACH regulations. Ovenu's Carbon Remover is also approved by the Vitreous Enamel Association.

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**HYUNDAI has announced full pricing and specification for its new generation five-door i30 hatchback, due for launch in the UK on March 12.**

Prices start at £14,495 on-the-road for the entry level Classic model, which comes with insurance ratings from Group 7E, making it one of the most cost effective C-segment cars to

own and run.

The newcomer builds on the success of its predecessor. First launched in 2007, the outgoing i30 was the first 'i' product in Hyundai's

range and introduced new standards of quality and driveability.

The new generation i30 brings with it a new level of style, interior quality and technology – adding emotional as well as rational appeal.

It will be available in four main trim levels including Classic, Active, Style

and Style Nav, while customers will also have the choice of either petrol or diesel engines – including Hyundai's latest ultra-efficient 1.6-litre diesel unit that emits less than 100g/km CO<sub>2</sub>.

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'Big 6' means the six major energy companies who currently supply over 95% of UK households, comprising British Gas, E.ON, npower, EDF, Scottish Power and Scottish & Southern Energy. Guarantees and price comparisons are based on the Ofgem standard domestic usage profiles for low, medium and high users on a 12-month basis and exclude Club membership fee, surcharge for gas customers using an independent Gas Transporter, fuelled discounts and other tariffs. Only applies to direct debit customers.

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