

# Culcheth Life

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May 2012

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# Editor's Comment



**WE have said it before and we will say it again: If ever there was a story to bring the planning system into disrepute, surely it is the continuing saga of the Risley Landfill Site.**

Tipping by site operators Biffa apparently ended in April – in accordance with the most recent planning conditions.

But before we rush to congratulate the company, we should consider two things. Firstly, the original planning consent in 1992 stipulated the work

should be completed in 2008. Secondly, the company now says it is unable to complete restoration work by the due date of October 19.

No wonder angry residents turned up at the monthly meeting of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council to express disquiet. How much longer, they want to know, will they have suffer noise, pests, traffic and other problems?

Over the years, through repeated applications for extensions, Biffa has managed to extend the life of the site.

When the borough council refused planning consent in 2008 for a further three years tipping, the company appealed and forced the council to spend some £75,000 fighting a public

inquiry. The council won – but the company still got its own way by persuading planners it needed more time.

There have always been excuses. The work has proved more difficult than expected. The recession has led to a shortage of materials for tipping. And, of course, getting tough with the tip operators is not easy, because who else is going to finish the job? An unfinished landfill site would be a blot on the landscape for years.

The fact remains that work is still continuing on a tip that should have been completed four years ago and the only people paying are the public. Either through living near to it, or through the public money wasted on an inquiry that made little difference.

## Gala day

**GLAZEBURY Gala takes place on Saturday July 14 and plans are already being made.**

As usual, the Gala Queen's cars, etc, will leave from the Raven pub on Warrington Road at about 1.15pm, travelling through the village to arrive at All Saint's Church at about 1.30pm.

The crowning ceremony will take place in church and at about 2pm the Queen, Retiring Queen and their attendants will move in procession to the playing field at Glazebury CE Primary School.

A wide range of activities will take place on the field during the afternoon.

More details, including the names of the new Queen, attendants, etc, will be made known later.

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# From scrap heap to charity challenge!

**A CULCHETH man is taking part in a 200-mile motor cycle charity challenge - riding an old bike he has rebuilt to rescue it from the scrap heap.**



John James and his old school pal Howard Dawson, from Teeside, both bought old Japanese bikes of less than 125cc which were "due for the scrapman."

They are riding them from Saltburn, on the North East coast, to Arnside, on the North West coast, and then back - a distant of about 200 miles over minor roads and crossing the Pennines.

A group of members of the Teeside Yesteryear Car Club will join them on the challenge, riding British motorbikes or 1940s cars.

John said: "We'll be riding from the North Sea to the Irish Sea and back again over two days, to allow for

minor problems en route."

The challenge is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care and all those taking part are covering their own costs so every penny raised will go to the charity.

Said John: "Howard and I have both got close relatives who have benefited from the help of the Macmillan Nurses and we believe they do a fantastic job for the community."

"We hope people will support us so Macmillan can continue to improve the quality of life for cancer sufferers."

Anyone who wants to sponsor John and Howard can do so at [www.justgiving.com/Coast2Coastx2](http://www.justgiving.com/Coast2Coastx2)

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# At the end of the Rainbow...

**DISTRICT Guide commissioner Sara Isles has made a plea for adult volunteers to help run local Rainbow units.**

The Rainbows are the section of the Guides run for girls aged 5-7 years and, like the Brownies, the Guides and the Senior Section, they have a growing waiting list - because of a shortage of volunteers.

Sara said: "The girls and young women of Culcheth clearly love all the things that Girlguiding offers.

"The activities and fun on offer are only possible due to the commitment of adult volunteers - and this is where our problem lies.

"Many of our current volunteers have been working with more than one unit to cover a shortfall in leaders and we have now reached a point where this can no longer continue.

"The problem is particularly acute in our Rainbow units."

Members of the Rainbows enjoy games, stories, crafts and working on the Rainbow Jigsaw programme.

"The volunteers we have can no longer be expected to work with more than one Unit - juggling work and their own family commitments at the same time. If we are to keep our three Rainbow Units open then we desperately need female adult volunteers who are willing to work towards their Girlguiding Adult Leader Qualification.

"You don't need to have children in a unit to volunteer - in fact you don't need to have children at all! Many of our volunteers don't have daughters - they volunteer so they can give something back to the community and also because they make new friends and have fun themselves."

Sara said part of her role was to plan ahead to ensure the continued growth of Girlguiding in Culcheth.

"If more people don't make the time to volunteer then I will have no choice but to look at the future of at least one Rainbow Unit in the village. There is a huge demand from the girls for places but we can't run units without trained volunteer leaders."

Anyone interested in helping should contact Sara Isles on 01925 766057 or via email to [sara.isles@btinternet.com](mailto:sara.isles@btinternet.com)



## Speed warning

MONTHS of campaigning by residents and the parish council have resulted in a new, illuminated speed warning sign being installed at the entrance to Croft village.

Motorists travelling from the direction of Winwick are now warned by the automated sign if they are exceeding the speed limit.

  
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# Travellers play a cat-and-mouse game

**A CAT-and-mouse game involving police, borough council officers and members of the travelling community left many Culcheth and Glazebury residents fuming - especially after a local man was injured when he was struck by a van towing a caravan.**

The travellers were in the area over a period of several days, continually moving from site to site.

Eventually they departed for a destination believed to be in Lancashire - leaving angry and frustrated villagers behind them.

The travellers occupied a number of sites in the Birchwood area before moving into Culcheth and occupying the car park at the Shaw Street playing fields.

When police and council officers moved them on they re-located to the car park of the M&S discount store at Glazebury.

They then appear to have split up, with reports of them at Heyshoos Lane, Glazebury, on land near The Noggin Inn at Risley.

There was a confrontation with residents in Heyshoos Lane which resulted in a 54-year-old local man being taken to hospital with leg injuries.

A rumour circulated suggesting travellers were gathering in the area because they were negotiating to buy land at Croft.

Another suggested that one of the travellers' children was seriously ill and was being treated at Warrington.

Police said they went to Heyshoos Lane following a call from the ambulance service concerning a man having been struck by a van towing a caravan.

The man was taken to Warrington Hospital where he underwent treatment for a leg injury and was later discharged.

The van driver, believed to be a member of the travelling community who had voluntarily moved earlier the same day from the M&S site had left the scene prior to arrival of police patrols.

A white Ford Transit van and caravan involved in the incident were

seized by police for examination and investigation into the circumstances of the incident.

Chief Inspector Jon Ward said: "We have resources committed to investigating this incident and are keen to trace the driver of the van. I would urge the driver to come forward and make contact with ourselves so this matter can be progressed and the full circumstances of the incident can be established. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind local residents that the safety and well-being of our

communities, including the traveller communities in our area, remain our priority and would urge anyone with any information regarding this incident, particularly any witnesses who saw the incident take place, to contact Cheshire Police on 101."

In the past, travellers have succeeded in setting up permanent sites elsewhere in Warrington and across Cheshire after buying land and then winning retrospective planning permission on appeal because of the lack of official traveller sites in the area.

Travellers on the car parks at Shaw Street, Culcheth and the M&S discount store, Glazebury.



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# Faster broadband arrives in village

**FASTER broadband is now available in Culcheth, according to BT.**

The village has benefited from an ongoing roll-out across Cheshire which makes available download speeds of up to 20 megabits per second (Mbps) over copper lines - more than double the speed previously available.

By next Spring, around 90 per cent of homes and businesses in the region

will be served by an exchange which has been upgraded to deliver these higher speeds and the new service is available on an open, wholesale basis to all companies providing broadband.

Mike Blackburn, BT's North West regional director, said: "The rapid roll-out of faster broadband continues to

reach out to more communities across the region. This major investment is playing a vital role in the future prosperity of the North West.

"The technology is changing for the better the way we live and work, helping businesses work more efficiently and flexibly and find new markets. And households are better able to make use of the huge range of on-line educational and entertainment

opportunities available.

"But there is still much work to be done and we want to work with the public sector to find solutions for even the most challenging locations."

This investment in the copper network is in addition to BT's £2.5 billion roll-out of fibre-based broadband, which will bring even faster speeds to around two-thirds of UK premises by the end of 2014.

## Becky's half-way there!

CULCHETH teenager Becky Daybell is now more than half-way towards her target of raising £4,245 to enable her to go on an educational expedition to Tanzania next year.

Becky will spend more than a month on the trip - organised by World Challenge - during which time she will spend time living in a local community, working on a school-based community or environmental project.

The 17-year-old will also climb Mount Kilimanjaro while she is there.

But first she still has to achieve her fund-raising target and on Sunday, May 20 she has organised a car boot sale at the Village Club.

Further details are available from 01925 766742.

Becky will be working on projects to benefit the local community and believes the experience will make her reflect on her own situation, putting into perspective her own privileged life compared with that of youngsters in the developing world.

Anyone who wants to support Becky in her World Challenge can call her on the same number or email her at [beckysworldchallenge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:beckysworldchallenge@yahoo.co.uk)



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# All set for Culcheth

**ORGANISERS of the annual Culcheth Community Day will be hoping for a repeat of last year's glorious weather for this year's event on Bank Holiday Monday (May 7).**

While the sun shone last year previous years have experienced high winds and torrential rain, so fingers crossed for this year and hopefully plenty of sunshine.

As in previous years Community Day will take place on Culcheth

Village Green and it a great occasion for local organisations and community groups to show case their activities.

There is still time for local organisations to book a stall, which is free. Call Cllr Sue Bland on 01925 766641 for further details.



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# h Community Day

This year the parish council has organised a raffle to help pay for the entertainment on the day.

Prizes include a BMX Bike donated by M.T.Cycles, Dinner for two

donated by Elegance Restaurant and a Food Hamper donated by the local Sainsbury's.

Tickets donated by PPM Printers can be obtained from Parish Councillors.



## The Gardening Guide

May...



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- Help the environment by composting all your garden waste.
- Plant vegetable seeds such as potatoes, carrots, peas & lettuce.
- Start planting new bedding plants to ensure beautiful summer colour.

May is BBQ month at Bents - pop in for some great offers & demonstrations.



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## 'My life as a Cabbage'

GUEST speaker at Newchurch WI spoke about the difficulties of living with a disability in a talk called 'My Life as a Cabbage.'

Jane Shephard told members that she had polio from the age of five months and faced long hospital stays and the need for callipers. She had a very busy childhood in mainstream schools and an even busier adult life.

She has been a medical secretary, social worker, researcher, reporter and presenter for the BBC and a role-player for corporate events. She also serves on disability panels and talks to schoolchildren about living with disability.

Olive Lee gave the vote of thanks.

The meeting at Newchurch Parish Hall started with president Sylvia Brown welcoming members and a visitor. Amy Williams brought a posy from her garden for the president's table as well as roses for the raffle.

Tea hostesses were Marjorie Pugh and Margaret Hill. Secretary Jean Riley gave out a list of theatre trips and outings and passed on an invitation from Culcheth WI for members to join in their outings.

Barbara Delve read out the draft of the national resolution for the 2012 AGM - the need for more midwives.

Jane Shephard judged the competition for "odd-shaped vegetables" and chose Jean Riley as winner, with Olive Lee and Sylvia Brown coming second and third.

Next meeting is the Resolutions Evening on May 9, with Raymond Rush speaking on "Fairs, Feasts and Festivals."



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# Dining Out with Culcheth Life

at The Plough Inn

## IT'S a pie lover's paradise – The Little Plough Pie Emporium.

A dozen different pies with either mashed potatoes or hand-cut chunky chips, peas or beans to be followed by...a choice of fruit pies of course.

Diners at The Plough Inn, Croft, need to have hearty appetites because mine host Mark does not believe in leaving his customer's short.

There are 10 different pies on the menu, including Steak and Guinness, Lamb and Garlic Mushroom, Chicken, Leek and Mushroom with Creamy Tarragon Sauce, Butternut Squash and Sweet Potato and – just in case Desperate Dan should pop in! – Columbian Cow Pie.

There are also pie specials on the chalkboard which vary from day to day.

All the pies are hand-made and baked while you wait. They come in different shapes and sizes and really would make a meal in themselves. But with five different flavours of mash, or the chunky chips, gravy and side orders of peas or beans, they deserve serious attention.

For those who don't like pies there are Lincolnshire or Cumbrian Sausages, which go equally well with the mash or chips.

Mark's obvious adherence to the pie extends to the dessert menu, with various fruit pies on offer. We can

certainly recommend the Cherry Pie with Ice Cream.

As a concession to the possibility that some diners might by this time be feeling replete there are also some

fruit sorbets on offer.

The Pie Emporium experience is certainly worth trying – particularly as it offers remarkably good value for money.



## Romantic novels of two world wars

NOVELIST Hilary Green was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Culcheth WI.

A writer of romantic novels set in the First and Second World Wars, she explained how she was inspired by the stories told by her mother who, with her father, was a member of a concert party in the 1930s.

There was a question and answer session and she was then thanked by Maura Appleby.

Several committee members were on holiday so the meeting was chaired by Joan Jarvis and Ann McCormick was acting secretary. Joan welcomed everyone including one visitor and thanked Joan Craven for the table flowers which were raffled later.

Barbara Hartley had a special birthday and was presented with a bouquet.

Tea hostesses were Lydia Howard, Martha Head and Olive Lee.

The meeting was told the resolution for this year's AGM at the Albert Hall would be to urge HM Government to increase investment in the training and employment of midwives. Suggestions were also needed for the resolutions for the 2013 AGM.

Next meeting will be on May 15 at 2pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

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## Youngsters show pride in community

MORE than 50 children from Culcheth, Newchurch and Twiss Green primary schools and their parents joined teachers and governors in a "Pride in the Community" litter picking event held on the Village green in Culcheth.

The event was organised by local PCSO's Wendy Stanley and Steve Dodd and was supported by Culcheth & Glazebury parish council, Sainsbury's, who provided hot soup and rolls and Louis Banks and Phil Chadwick from WBC Public protection and recycling team, who provided all the personal protective equipment.

PCSO Wendy Stanley said "It was a fantastic turnout considering the horrible weather. All the children had a great time and the green was spotless by the end with 27 bags of rubbish collected. It was a brilliant team effort and the green is ready for the Community Day to be held on the Mayday bank holiday. A big thank you to all who took part!"

Mark Slater, Customer Service manager for Sainsbury's said; "We are always keen to get involved in projects such as this which help our community. It was great to see so many people turnout and do such a good job on a rainy day."

## Barn extension rejected

PLANNING chiefs have rejected proposals for a home extension at Culcheth after hearing of objections from 12 nearby residents.

The proposal involved adding a two-storey extension to a home converted from a barn at Culcheth Hall Farm Barns, a development of 16 barn conversions off Withington Avenue

Mr Peter Marsh wanted to add a side extension to his property - but 12 of his neighbours had objected, along with Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, and nearly 60 people turned up when his application was considered by the borough council's development management committee.

A similar proposal by Mr Marsh was thrown out last year but officers recommended the new scheme be approved.

They said the previous application was refused because it failed to harmonise with the adjacent buildings and was not in character with the original barns. But the new scheme had been amended, with a pitched roof instead of a flat roof, new window designs and changed materials.

Committee members visited the site before making a decision - but decided the scheme still detracted from the character and appearance of what was an attractive development.

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# stylesfiles

## 10 Top Tips - Sources of Finance

By Ian Lloyd, Managing Partner Styles and Co

There are simply two main reasons for businesses looking for finance; to survive or to thrive!

Where to go for a cash injection for your organisation isn't quite as easy to identify though, as the options available to businesses can be plentiful depending on your industry, size and current situation. Sources of finance can include; bank loans, venture capitalists, business awards and grants, franchising, licensing, mortgages.. we could continue, but the list is almost endless.

Whichever options you do consider, we would always recommend you discuss with your accountant who will be able to guide and advise you to solutions that are most advantageous to your business.

Here are my top tips when sourcing finance, in no particular order and based on over 30 years of accounting practice and working with businesses:

1. Be prepared to inject your own money in to your business
2. Always make sure you leave some of your business profits in the business
3. Keep tight control of stock, WIP, debtors
4. Offer the bank a debenture
5. Keep your spouse / partner away from the business (and own your house jointly)
6. Match your borrowings with the assets they are funding
7. Consider 'off balance sheet' borrowings to improve your credit worthiness
8. Consider all the alternative sources of finance carefully (use of a decision matrix)
9. Don't ignore Venture Capital as an option
10. Build a strong relationship with your bank (they are in business to lend money!)

To contact Styles and Co to discuss finance options, call 01925 761600 or visit [www.stylesandco.co.uk](http://www.stylesandco.co.uk)

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



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# Debbie's marathon effort for Stepdad

**A CULCHETH woman followed in her stepdad's footsteps by running the London marathon to help raise over £5,000 for the Alzheimer's Society.**

Debbie Taylor's step dad, David, has Alzheimer's disease and she has found the services provided by Alzheimer's Society immensely beneficial for both herself and her mother.

Alzheimer's Society supports people to live well with dementia today and funds research to find a cure for tomorrow. Alzheimer's Society relies on voluntary donations to continue its vital work.

Readers can still sponsor Debbie by visiting [www.justgiving.com/debbietaylor2012](http://www.justgiving.com/debbietaylor2012)

### Support

Debbie said: "The work of Alzheimer's Society is so valuable I just wanted to do my bit and raise some money to support their work."

Her stepdad was a runner and took part in the London marathon three times and so Debbie thought it would be a great tribute to him to take part herself, whilst raising funds for Alzheimer's Society.

She held a banquet at the Raj restaurant in Culcheth and with help from Anhar and all the staff there, the event was able to raise a huge amount. Sponsors of the night included Classic Drinks, Scoop Ice Creams and Gemma and Louise who provided musical entertainment for the evening.

### Donated

Debbie was able to add to the money raised by holding a raffle which included a great range of prizes donated from local businesses.

Alzheimer's Society champions the rights of people living with dementia and the millions of people who care for them.



## Pupils impress with Titanic poems

PUPILS at Newchurch Primary School, Culcheth, impressed judges in a "Titanic" poetry competition so much, they decided to increase the number of prizes on offer.

The competition, organised by forget-me-not toy and book shop in collaboration with Usborne books, gave Key Stage 2 youngsters the opportunity to write poems to mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

Naomi, from forget-me-not, said: "Originally, we were looking for a winner from each of the four classes.

"However, the standard was so high and we enjoyed reading the poems so much it was difficult to narrow it down. So we decided to award 12 winners with a Titanic sticker book."



The winners were: Year 3: Ellyse Platt, Ava Appleton and Joshua Avery; Year 4: James Davies, Adam Potts and Carla Yates; Year 5: Maya Bradley, Ellie Draper, Elise Simpson and Benjamin Smith; Year 6: Gemma Kubiena and Rio Krowner.

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Electricity powers the wheels of the Ampera at all times, with a 16kWh lithium-ion battery pack feeding an advanced 150PS electric drive unit, delivering between 25-50 miles of battery-powered electric drive and zero tailpipe emissions. What sets the car apart from other electric vehicles is its range

extender, which boosts the car's range by up to 310 miles.

A small 1.4-litre petrol-fuelled engine/generator runs at optimum efficiency, generating enough electricity to power the electric motor (but not the wheels) and operates seamlessly as part of the Ampera's powertrain. The results are a total driving range of up to 360 miles - equivalent to 235.4mpg and combined tailpipe emissions of just 27g/km.

The car costs around £1 to fully charge. It's a four seater, has a top speed of 100mph and accelerates from 0-60mph in just 8.7 seconds. Prices start from £29,995, inclusive of the government's plug-in car grant



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