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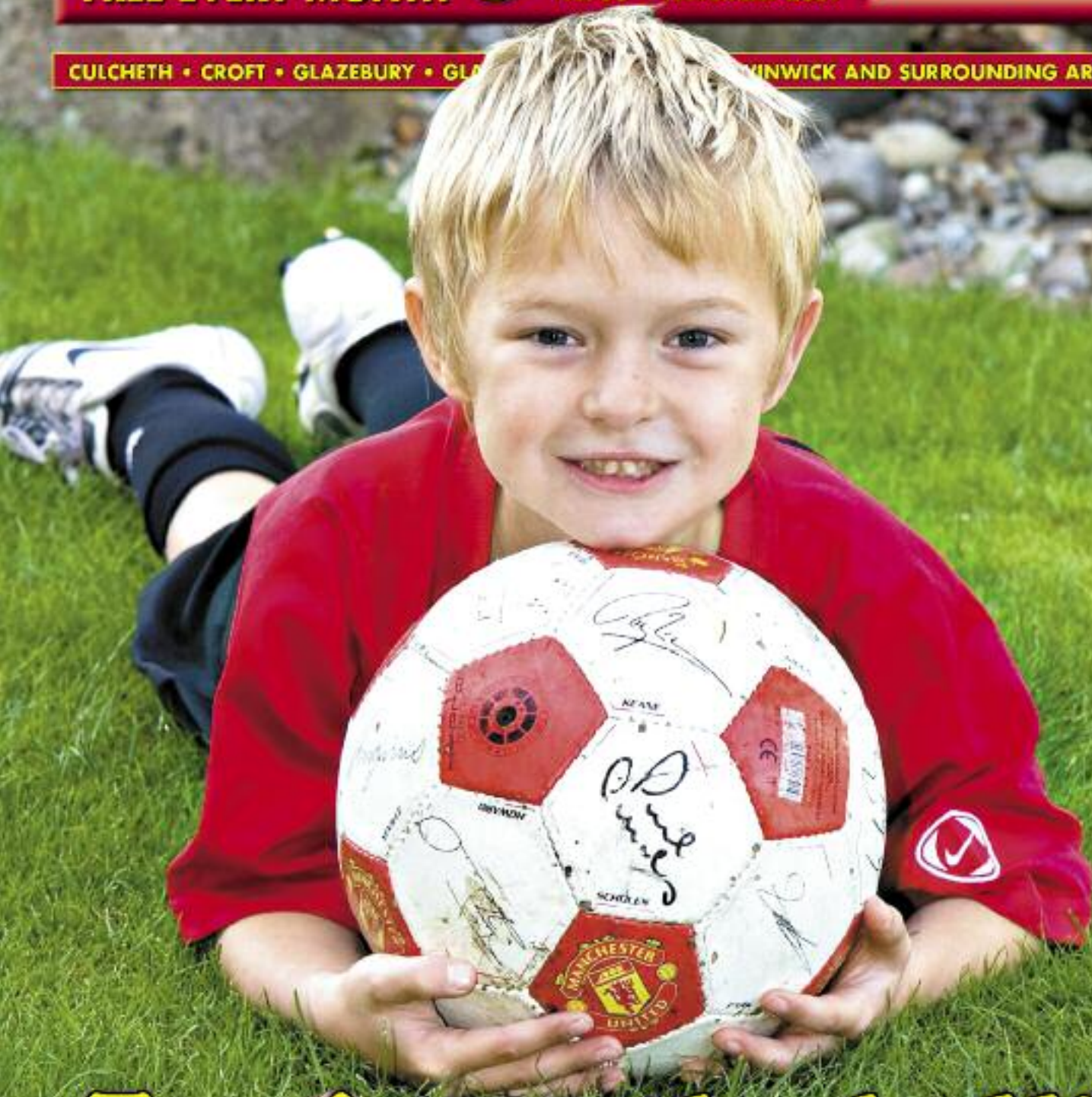
No. 80 November 2009

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Tom's on the ball!

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All the latest news: www.culchethlife.com

Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Advertising
Freephone
0800 955 5247

Editorial
01925 623630

Email
info@culchethlife.com

Websites
www.culchethlife.com
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Address
New Media Centre
Old Road Warrington
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Editor's Comment



WE applaud any move Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, or anyone else, may make to engage with the younger generation - and as we report elsewhere in this issue quite a few initiatives are being considered locally at the moment.

The idea of a special council sub-committee to discuss youth issues is a good one and we hope it will be accepted by councillors.

A youth shelter is also an idea worth trying as, apparently, they have

worked well in other areas. But we have some reservations.

It has to be sited in the right place. It should not be too close to houses or it could become a problem for some residents. But it should not be too isolated or it could become a target for vandals.

There are those, of course, who will question the need for such a shelter and we understand their misgivings.

People of a certain age will remember when all young people had a shelter - it was called their home. It was a time when young people and their parents seemed to

watch the same TV programmes, listen to the same music and eat their meals together around the same table. There was no need for televisions, music players, etc., in bedrooms.

We don't pretend to know what, for some families, has brought about a change, but it could be something to do with choice. The more you have, the more difficult it becomes to choose. Yet in those bygone days you heard fewer young people complaining about there being "nothing for us to do."

What we are unsure about is this: Who wants the youth shelter most - young people themselves or parents who don't want them under their feet?

And could it make the generation gap even wider?

Alcohol warning

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has agreed to purchase four "Alcohol Control Area" signs to display in the village centre.

The signs - which cost £25 each - will flag up the fact that police have the power to seize alcohol at their discretion.

Villagers have for some time been complaining about problems caused by the increased number of licensed premises in Culcheth, including noise, bottles and broken glass, anti-social behaviour, etc., by groups of people gathering in the streets.

Coun Sue Bland, chairman of the parish council, said: "The police already have these powers but the signs provide a warning to people misusing drink in public places."

"We are trying to put a lid on the problem. We don't want things getting any worse."

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Carnival AGM

THE annual general meeting of Croft Carnival Committee is to take place at 7.30pm on Thursday, November 19 at Croft Village Hall.

There will be a review of this year's Carnival Day and donations will be presented to local organisations.

Ideas for next year's carnival, plus offers of help on or before the day, will be welcome. There will be cheese and wine and all residents are invited.

Further details are available from Audrey Pearson on 01925 762860.

School's fundraiser

ORGANISERS hope 250 Culheth residents will attend an event to raise cash for Culheth Primary School and The National Autistic Society on November 27.

Local band "The Moo-fighters" will provide the entertainment, along with a male vocalist. Those who attend can also enjoy raffles and auctions at the evening which starts at 8pm. Tickets cost £6 (which includes hot pot) and are available from the school.

Night vision for CCTV

CULHETH'S CCTV security camera system is to be equipped with an infra-red facility to improve nighttime visibility.

Members of the parish council agreed to spend £650 on the facility.

The improved camera will be picked up much better images of youths who have been causing disruption around the play area on the village green.



Tom's eye is on the ball - even when he's in bed

SOCCER mad Culheth schoolboy Tom Shepherd has little time for anything other than football these days.

The six-year-old Twiss Green Primary School pupil (pictured) is having trial sessions with no less than three Premiership clubs – Manchester United, Manchester City and Liverpool!

That occupies three evenings a week and in between he plays at school and for Culheth Athletic, where he was first "spotted" by scouts.

Tom is following in the footsteps of his dad, Andrew, who used to play

for Rochdale.

Proud grandma Brenda Burke said: "Tom could kick a football before he could walk."

"He sleeps with a football and is mad about sport generally, taking the sports pages out of the newspaper before his dad can get at them!"

Tom is the son of Andrew and Helen Shepherd and has a twin sister, Gabby and an elder sister, Haley, aged 15.



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OAP bungalows plan splits community

PLANS for eight elderly persons' bungalows on land which has been used as an unofficial play area for more than 60 years have split a community.

Warrington Borough Council wants to build the bungalows on the Mee Brow Estate at Culcheth and has consulted local residents about the proposal.

But local councillor Peter Caswell said the consultation process was flawed with many people apparently not taking part.

He said: "There are well over 100 houses on the estate. Only 32 responded to the survey, 18 of who support the scheme or did not oppose it and 14 who opposed it."

"I am strongly opposed to the scheme as there is another site nearby which is much more suitable."

"These proposed bungalows couldn't have been put further away from bus stops and the local shop. There is another available site which would be much more convenient for elderly residents."

"I am all in favour of building bungalows for the elderly but they have got to be in the right place. In this case, they are not."

Altogether 12 bungalows - the other four are in Charnock Road - are planned for Culcheth as part of a scheme under which the borough council will receive £5 million from the Government.

Coun Keith Bland said the scheme

was actually "good news" for Warrington as it would enable more older people to be offered smaller homes, freeing up three and four bedroomed houses for young families.

Coun Caswell said he supported more homes for the elderly but did not think the proposed site - a square of land bounded by Churchill, Eden, Atlee and Allen avenues - was suitable.

The land was a safe play area for young children and had been used as such for more than 60 years.

Residents who opposed the scheme were not opposed to homes for the elderly but did not want to lose the play area when there was another, more suitable, site available.

New youth initiatives planned



A NUMBER of initiatives to provide activities for young people are being considered by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council - including the possibility of the council setting up a youth sub-committee.

Coun Paul Campbell told the monthly meeting of the council: "We have various sub-committees, but not one to deal with issues relating to young people."

"I think we should consider having one - and I would certainly volunteer to serve on it."

He added that local schools could possibly be invited to become involved with the sub-committee.

The council is still considering proposals for a "youth shelter" (pictured) - possibly equipped with solar powered radio reception to provide music.

Coun Peter Caswell said he had been impressed by a youth shelter in another part of the country where the local council had found it a very worthwhile amenity. He did not believe the built in radio would be necessary and teenagers would take their own radios. But one feature which proved popular was a 'graffiti board' which had resulted in less graffiti elsewhere.

Local businessman Paul Taylor, of the Taylor Business Park, has offered to help finance the project if it goes ahead.

Two other initiatives were reported to the meeting. The Packhorse pub has offered the use of an upstairs room for computer and video games on Wednesday evenings and the Royal British Legion Village Club were to hold Under 16s discos on Sundays.

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'Deadly' is back again

FOR the fifth year running, BBC National Lottery show's "Voice of the Balls" Alan "Deadly" Dedicoat is to visit Culcheth to host a quiz night in aid of the Children in Need appeal.

Alan, a senior BBC continuity announcer, will be at the Village Club - formerly the British Legion - on Sunday November 15.

The event, organised as usual by Elaine Durrington, starts at 7.30pm. Tickets will cost £8 or £32 for a team of four, inclusive of a hotpot supper. They can be obtained from The Harrow pub or the club.

Alan said: "It's always worth coming up to Culcheth from London as the people are so generous and



we raise lots of cash for Children in Need whilst having a great fun evening. Last year we raised £2,000 on the night."

Advertiser's announcement

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Residents' anger over floodlights plan

ANGRY residents packed into a council meeting to oppose plans for floodlighting at a tennis club.

People living near Culcheth Sports Club - formerly known as the Datsen Club - in Charnock Road, Culcheth, said they feared bright lights would have an unacceptable impact on their homes.

They also expressed concern at noise pollution.

"The tennis players sometimes use

appalling language on court," one resident said.

The residents attended a meeting of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

Coun Roger Rankin, chairman of the council's planning committee said it was difficult for a parish council to oppose something that would benefit the community.

But in this case, he felt the residents had to take precedent.

He said the tennis club was

seeking 10 floodlights to illuminate its four courts. The lights would be 60 per cent higher than existing lights on the adjoining bowling green.

Although the club claimed it only required the lights to enable it to finish league matches in September and October, human nature being what it was, it was inevitable the lights would be used on other occasions, if only to justify the cost of the lights.

The parish council decided to oppose the club's planning application and chairman Coun Sue Bland advised residents to send in their own objections if the matter came before the borough council's development control committee.

Poet pens second book

PERFORMANCE poet William Malcolm from Culcheth has published his second book.

The new book, called "Wartime Poverty, Peacetime Poetry" contains 80 poems he has written as well as memories and anecdotes about his time as an evacuee during the Second World War in Haslingden, Lancashire.

William said: "It's a mixture of uplifting stories, humour and some more serious thoughts about war and my experiences."

"It's about the people I met as a child, the neighbours we knew and some of the quirky, funny and sad things that happened."

Mr Malcolm settled in Culcheth in 1967 and has spent the last few years reciting his poems to folk and poetry groups.

He previously wrote a book call "Pack of the Past", which told the story of the Pack Horse Inn, Culcheth, and its regulars.



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PAST, present and future pupils at Culcheth High School are being invited to "buy a brick" in a wall to be built within the new school.

Each brick will be engraved with the name of the donor.

Staff, friends and supporters of the school will also be able to buy the bricks at £20 each.

The project is being organised by the Parent Teacher Association and anyone who wants to buy a brick should email culchethpta@aol.com, or call 07783 380085 by November 30 to arrange to be sent an application form.

As an extra incentive, any brick purchasers who request one can receive an original brick from the school's A Block when it is demolished – a sort of "buy one brick get an old one free" offer.

Cancelled - Santa's village tour

YOUNGSTERS in Culcheth and Glazebury will be disappointed that Father Christmas will not be touring the area during the festive season - as he was unable to find a suitable vehicle.

But children need not worry as his float will be stationed at several locations in the run up to Christmas.

Bernard Groom, of the Rotary Club of Newton and District Jubilee, said: "Sadly this year, due to the lack of suitable vehicles we are unable to tow our Christmas Float, Father Christmas on board, around the streets of Birchwood, Winwick, Croft, Culcheth and Glazebury as in previous times."

The float, with Santa in attendance, will be stationed at several venues including Bents Garden Centre on Sundays November 29, December 6 and 13, ASDA Birchwood, Friday December 11 and Saturday December 12, Sainsburys (CPS) Culcheth, Tuesday December 22, Wednesday December 23 and Christmas Eve Thursday December 24.

Local schools are also being invited to join the Rotary Shoe Box Scheme sending toys and other gifts to children in Eastern Europe.

Bernard said: "They still suffer material shortages in the wake of communism and civil wars."

Anyone who would like further details about the activities or would like to join the club should contact Bernard on 01925 733893.

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Marathon effort

ST ROCCO'S Hospice volunteers and the charity's mascot Rocco visited Sainsbury's Culcheth to thank two members of staff for raising funds for the Hospice by running in the first ever English half marathon in Warrington.

Pictured from left, hospice volunteers Charles Wyatt, Mike Bloomfield, Rocco, store manager Ross Tutton and grocery team leader Hana Taylor.



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Autumn leaves to give way to wildflowers?

AUTUMN leaves add a touch of beauty to Culcheth's super village green.

But soon, the green may be given an extra splash of colour in the spring as well - with a wildflower meadow.

Borough council chiefs are to introduce wildflower areas in Culcheth to enhance the local environment.

Areas being considered for planting include the village green, along the footpath which links Warrington Road and Lodge Drive, the entrance to Withington Avenue and Shaw Street Recreation Ground.

Similar scheme have already been piloted in other parts of the borough, including Birchwood, and have proved successful.

Seven acts in talent contest

SEVEN acts competed in a talent show held at the Village Club, Royal British Legion in Culcheth.

Winning act, in the contest compered by Coun Paul Campbell, was talented Street Dance Zone.

The show was organised by Warrington North Conservatives

Coun Campbell said: "What I enjoyed the most was the quality of the acts and it was a real family occasion thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there."



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It's time for Victorian Day!

CULCHETH'S annual Victorian Day will dawn on Saturday, November 28 - and promises to once again be a fun-filled day for all the family.

Again organised by Culcheth Lions, the day will give the village the chance to turn back the clock to gentler times.

Lions members, shopkeepers and residents will be strutting their stuff in Victorian costume and there will be plenty of excitement for all.

There will be food, mulled wine and hot chestnuts on sale on the Parade and fairground attractions too.

Christmas Fayres are being held in the Parish and Methodist Halls. Staff in the Sundial Terrace Coffee Shop will have themed foods on sale.

The Lions Club will be selling raffle tickets through November for their Christmas luxury hamper and the draw will raise funds for local good causes including the senior citizens' Christmas party.

Santa will be putting in an appearance at the Methodist Church and later will switch on the Christmas

lights.

The lights in the trees around the Village Green are provided by the Parish council, who will also sponsor free rides on one of the children's roundabouts. The daytime events will end with a spectacular fireworks display but the Lions hope the fun will continue into the evening with fairground rides at The Harrow.

As usual, Culcheth Art Group will have an exhibition at the Age Concern building, which will start on Thursday, November 26 and continue until Victorian Day itself.

Amateur street entertainers and strolling players are expected to turn up to join in the fun while developing their skills.

Anyone who wants more information should call Tim Yates on 01925 762761.

Pictures show some of the activities at last year's Victorian Day



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Toy and book shop expands

CULCHETH'S go-ahead toy and book shop, forget-me-not, has moved into a larger shop within the CPS centre.

The move has enabled sisters-in-law Naomi and Victoria to press ahead with expansion plans and more than double the range of toys and books on offer.

It's now more than two years since they took over the business and the move means toys and books are together under one roof.

Victoria said: "Our new shop is fully refurbished and bigger and better than before. We will be

providing our customers with a wider choice of toys and books, while continuing to offer our unique brand of service that our customers have come to expect from forget-me-not.

"We are really proud of our new home and look forward to welcoming both new and existing customers."

The new shop was launched at the end of October with a day of fun-filled events.

Houses to be replaced

TWO Culcheth houses can be replaced by new properties, planning chiefs have decided.

A house at 6, Holcroft Lane can be demolished, together with outbuildings, to make way for a two-storey house with a new access.

A replacement two storey house can also be built at 75, Culcheth Hall Drive.

Three day art exhibition

CULCHETH Art Group is to hold a three day exhibition starting on Thursday, November 26.

The display will be at the Jackson Avenue Day Centre and will feature a wide range of paintings by members.

In addition there will refreshments, a raffle and a competition for the best picture in the show.

On the Thursday, the show will be open between 7pm and 9pm while on the Friday and Saturday, it will open between 10am and 4pm.

Most of the paintings will be available to buy.

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Dragon's lair - in a garden centre

STAR of BBC TV's Dragon's Den Peter Jones visited Bents Garden and Home in Glazebury.

The venue was transformed into a dragon's lair for the visit which was part of Dragons Den on Tour.

One of the guests Eddie Middleton had turned down an offer from the dragons for his eco-friendly patio heater Chillchaser.

Eddie was originally offered a deal by Peter and James Caan worth £255,000 for 48 per cent of his company.

He said: "The support from Peter and James would have been hugely beneficial but I am confident that I made the right decision and have enjoyed meeting up with Peter again today. He has been very supportive, providing me with a few ideas and wishing me all the best

for the future."

Eddie's product is now on sale at Bents.

Matthew Bent, Bents' managing director, said: "Eddie's new patio heaters are a fantastic concept, not only eco-friendly, but sleek and stylish in design; perfect additions to our outdoor living product range."

Takeaway plan thrown out

A PLANNING inspector has thrown out proposals to convert a semi-detached house in Church Lane, Culcheth, into a hot food takeaway - even though there is an existing takeaway next door.

He says the existing takeaway is long-established and its presence does not imply that another one is acceptable.

The proposal - rejected by borough council earlier this year - would increase noise and disturbance for nearby residents.

The house, along with the adjoining takeaway, already has permission to be used as a restaurant which the inspector admits will generate some activity. But he says a takeaway would cause more disturbance for the neighbouring house and those on the other side of Church Lane.

The scheme had been opposed by neighbours and Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

Four new members welcomed

COUNTY adviser Jill Holman and four new members were welcomed to the annual meeting of Newchurch VI at Newchurch Parish Hall, Culcheth.

President Sylvia Brown welcomed guests. The table flowers, donated to the raffle, were given by Joan Ellison and tea hostesses were Dorothy Fairhurst and Dorothy Sandford.

Future events discussed were a theatre trip on November 18 and a shopping trip to Chester on December 1.

Members heard the group were within budget but that coffee mornings and raffles were needed to maintain this.

A report on the year's activities and outings was given by secretary Jean Riley. These included the 50th birthday celebrations in March, the Craft Group's Cheshire Show entries and the collection of knitted caps for Eastern Europe.

The Literary Group, the Craft Group and the Bowls and Walking Groups all made their reports. Members welcomed Margaret Harrop to the committee and were delighted that Sylvia agreed to continue as president. Nora Cooper thanked Sylvia on behalf of all the members.

The speaker was the Rev Michael Burgess with a hilarious talk called "For Better, For Worse." He was thanked by Kath Hanley.

The next meeting is on Wednesday November 11 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Common Lane, Culcheth. Details are available from Jean Riley on 01925 762722.



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What can you do about rising taxes?

Taxes are on the up! Whether they have already been announced, or will be by the new government following next year's general election, most taxpayers can expect to have less cash in their pockets.

Summary of expected tax rises

- VAT rate to increase from 15% to 17.5%, or perhaps higher, on 1 January 2010
- Income tax for high earners to rise to 50% from 6 April 2010
- National insurance to rise on all those paying the tax from 6 April 2011
- Ongoing increases in duty on fuel, alcohol and tobacco

Can you avoid paying over some of the tax increases?

There are a variety of ways that savings can be made, the main ones are listed below:

- Individuals should make large purchases for items which include VAT before the rate rises
- Well paid individuals who are in business (or have some influence over the timing of their remuneration) may be able to accelerate some income to tax years when rates are lower.
- Pension contributions might be increased in earlier years before tax relief is restricted for higher earners
- With some tax rates rising faster than others, consider restructuring your business so that income is sheltered from those taxes which are rising most.

In addition, you should always be looking to reduce your tax bill.

Consider our top five tax saving tips to see if you can get more cash in your pocket:

- Is your tax code correct? If it is lower than it should be you are paying too much tax!
- Use all your tax allowances. Most of us know about income tax and national insurance allowances. But what about others such as mileage allowances for business use of your own car?
- Use non-earners' allowances. If your spouse does not work, or earns less than their personal allowance, consider moving income generating assets into their name
- Choose tax efficient savings. For example, investing in ISAs up to your annual allowance produces a tax free income; within certain parameters, pension payments obtain income tax relief; some investments generate gains which are chargeable to capital gains tax rather than the (generally) more expensive income tax
- Plan for inheritance tax. Making a will can dramatically save on the amount you will be taxed

Please note that the contents of this article are intended to inform rather than advise. Tax is a complicated subject 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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