

# Culcheth Life

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## Friends tackle flooding

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# Editor's Comment



LANDFILL giants Biffa have, apparently, undertaken to be 'good neighbours' over the next two years, as work continues to complete and landscape the Risley tip.

This is all very well, and we applaud the company for its offer to make donations to local good causes.

But the recent public inquiry, which the company LOST, was not only into plans to expand the tip site over valuable farm land, but also into their wish to carry on tipping for two years.

So, under the terms of the original planning consent, tipping should already have ceased and the only work continuing should be landscaping and restoration.

In fact, we apparently face another 12 months of tipping before the restoration, which will take another 12 months, even starts.

So how much of a victory was the public inquiry, which cost the borough council in the region of £75,000?

Clearly, acres of farm land has been saved, and the benefit of this cannot be overestimated.

But much of opposition to the tip related to the nuisance suffered by nearby residents from the operation of the existing site, which is to continue for another 12 months.

Obviously the site cannot be left unfinished. But should not the company have ensured it was in a condition to be completed immediately in the event of them losing their appeal?

It would seem they gambled on winning, lost, but in the event WON an extra 12 months by default.

## 'New home for old' plan refused

PLANNING chiefs have turned down an application for permission to demolish a house in the Green Belt at Croft to make way for a new, larger dwelling.

The property, in Stone Pit Lane, was formerly a semi-detached dwelling, but has been separated from the re-developed adjacent property.

The application was to demolish the former semi and rebuild it as a larger detached dwelling.

Officers said the proposed new building would have a footprint 65 per cent greater than the original building. But they opposed the scheme because of a glazed front projecting element which, they said, would be out of character

with the rest of the property and the adjoining area.

There were no objections from Croft Parish Council, nor from nearby residents.



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# 'Friends' to tackle park flooding

THE first task for the newly-formed Friends of Culcheth Linear Park will be to try and solve the worsening flooding problems which make parts of the park unusable at times.

Sally Probert, chairman of the group, made this pledge after the inaugural meeting, attended by 40 people.

She said: "More water seems to be coming into the park from adjoining farm land.

"The problem has got worse in the last 12 months and it will be our first job to try and solve it."

The new group claims to represent 500 people and has elected a 10-

strong committee..

They have launched a website, www.thefriendsofculchethlinearpark.co.uk which is already attracting visitors from all over the world.

Sally said: "We don't want to see the park developed particularly - we want to keep it natural.

"But we would like to have a park ranger. The park was in much better

condition when we had one."

Coun Paul Campbell told Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council he had attended the Friends' inaugural meeting and had been impressed with the initiative shown by members.

"I think it will be a credit to the village," he said.

Coun Keith Bland - deputy leader of Warrington Borough Council - said: "We are hoping to be able to provide a ranger next year - but probably only a part-time ranger."

## Road closures

PARTS of Stone Pit Lane and Heath Lane, Croft, will be closed for temporary period from Monday, November 10 while road reconstruction work is carried out.

The borough council expects the work to last about six weeks.

Stone Pit Lane will be affected from its junction with Sandy Brow Lane to its junction with Kenyon Lane and Heath Lane from its junction with Kenyon Lane for 150 metres.

Alternative routes will be signposted.

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# Students' research published worldwide

TWO local women who are clinical health care practitioners of complementary therapies have had an article published in an international journal.

Julia Heath, from Croft and Wendy Lewis, from Leigh have both recently obtained a degree in health sciences from Salford University and Julia has also obtained her teaching certificate in adult and higher education.



**Integrated**

During their time on the degree, Julia and Wendy initiated an integrated healthcare practice between Wigan and Leigh College and the Renal Haemodialysis Unit, Boston House, Wigan.

A pilot study was undertaken and the findings of this research has been published by the International Journal of Clinical Aromatherapy.

They were also presented at the BRS/RA Medical Conference in Glasgow.

The seven-page article highlights the initiative of the two experienced complementary therapy practitioners who set up a team of therapist volunteers to work with end-stage kidney disease patients. The work

was carried out after an invitation from Dr Janet Heggarty, renal consultant at the centre.

Complementary therapy tutor Beverly Higham said: "I am very proud of the work Julia and Wendy produced during the last four years, however their work at the renal unit was ground breaking! You can imagine how pleased I was to hear that their article had been accepted by this world class journal!"

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# Naughty postcards at the WI

MEMBERS of Newchurch WI were almost rolling in the aisles with laughter when guest speaker Paul Martin visited their annual general meeting.

He spoke about and showed his collection of "Naughty postcards" - much to the amusement of members. He was thanked by president Sylvia Brown, who also welcomed members and two visitors.

Barbara Trevor provided the table flowers, which she donated to the raffle, and the tea hostesses were Edna Cutts and Lesley Carroll. Forthcoming events discussed included the Mosslands Group meeting, a walk around Rivington, a theatre trip to see A Taste of Honey on November 25 and a trip to Chester in December, followed by the Christmas Party on December 10.

After the treasurer's summary, there was an interesting resume of the year's events by the secretary and group reports from the literary, craft, bowls and walking groups. Paddy Poulter thanked Sylvia for agreeing to remain President for a further year.

During tea there was a display of articles made by the craft group for Jacob's Well and the Warrington neo-natal unit and also quilts made for terminally and chronically ill children.

The next meeting will be on November 12 in Newchurch Parish Hall at 7.30pm., when Bob MacGregor will speak about 'The Magic of Toys'. Further details can be obtained from Jean Riley (01925-762722).

## A brake on all-day parking?

SHORT term parking may be introduced on the Jackson Avenue car park - to stop shop and office workers parking there all day.

The scheme could be introduced in conjunction with the offer by Culcheth Royal British Legion to make their car park available for parking.

Talks are currently going on between the parish council and the borough council about putting a time limit on the Jackson Avenue facility.

The British Legion club has been sounding out local business about the idea for some months.

But the feeling is that people are unlikely to accept the offer of all-day parking at the club, even for a nominal fee, if free parking is available elsewhere.

Coun Keith Bland told Culcheth Life: 'The Legion are keen to do this and the parish council think it is a good idea.'

"It could free up about 20 or 30 spaces every day.

"We are not talking about pay-and-display at Jackson Avenue - simply a time limit which would be enforced by the borough council's parking wardens."



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## School's prestigious international award

**CULCHETH Primary School has been awarded the prestigious DCSF International School Award for its work in developing the international dimension in its curriculum.**

Headteacher Craig Richardson attended the award ceremony in London and received the school's award from BBC news correspondent George Aligiah.

The award, which is held for three years, is held by only 1,500 schools across the UK.

It celebrates the achievements and hard work of all the pupils and staff in forging links with overseas schools and developing children as "global citizens."

Culcheth Primary has links with Welizibuko Primary School, in Soweto, South Africa.

The school has also introduced French and is making links with a school in the Dijon region of France.

A school spokeswoman said: "We are extremely proud to have received this award."

Pictured is Mr Richardson receiving the award from George Aligiah.

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# Bank raid strengthens need for CCTV

**THE morning after a public meeting in Culcheth had given enthusiastic support for CCTV cameras in the village centre, raiders struck at Barclay's Bank in Lodge Drive.**

If the cameras had been in place they would have given a clear view of the four raiders as they reversed a car into the bank wall in a bid to break in.

Better still, say police, they would have been deterred from attacking the bank in the first place.

As it was, it was a bungled raid and the gun-toting robbers fled empty handed.

But it was only the latest in a series of raids on Culcheth banks - and residents and increasingly concerned that Culcheth has become a target for big city gangs because of its

proximity to the motorway network.

The parish council is currently exploring the possibility of installing CCTV along Common Lane between the NatWest Bank and Barclays.

Some years ago a similar idea was dropped because of the cost. But new technology has brought down the cost - and improved the quality of the cameras.

Coun Keith Bland said: "We are getting quotations soon and we expect the cost to be much less."

Police support the idea - as did the 25 people who attended a Community Action Meeting the night before the raid.

But support will also be needed from traders in the village.

After failing to break through the bank wall, the robbers - having apparently had their getaway car blocked in by parked cars - made off



in a van from the nearby butcher's shop after forcing staff to hand over the keys.

This van was found later in Twiss Green Lane where, it is believed, the gang transferred to a small, dark coloured car with a registration number thought to include PV03.

A number of people were threatened during the raid but, although badly shocked, none were injured.

Anyone who can help police with enquiries is asked to call 01925 613831 or the confidential Crimestoppers line 0800 555 111.

\*Police interview potential witnesses at the scene...pictured by a

Advertiser's announcement

## Ovenu keeps it clean in the kitchen

WARRINGTON businessman Paul Clark is celebrating reaching a business milestone, after completing over 500 professional oven valets.

Paul launched his Ovenu business in October 2007 and is part of a UK-wide network of Ovenu franchisees, which provide professional oven valeting services to more than 100,000 households nationwide.

In just over 8 months Paul has established a successful business with a loyal base of regular customers who prefer to employ a professional rather than take on one of Britain's most hated household chores.

Ovenu's environmentally-friendly service 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.

The whole process takes around three hours and leaves the oven, hob and exterior in immaculate condition. Equally important, a regular valet extends the life of the appliance and makes it more efficient.

Paul Clark said: "Reaching the milestone of over 500 oven cleans is a real achievement and I hope the business will continue to go from strength to strength."

Householders in Warrington who feel their oven is in need of a valet and would like to help Paul reach his next milestone can contact him on 01925 453377 or log onto [www.oveni.co.uk](http://www.oveni.co.uk)





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# Tip work will continue for two years

WORK is likely to continue on the Risley Landfill site for another two years - despite tip operators Biffa failing in their bid to win planning consent for an extension to the tip earlier this year.

But members of the Risley Landfill Opposition Group, who have been widely praised for their work in opposing the expansion plan, will not object.

They accept the company's claim that it will take two years to complete the tip and then restore the site to its former state.

Tipping will continue for 12 months and it will then take another 12 months to cap the site and landscape it

Coun Roger Rankin told Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council that Biffa had undertaken to be "good neighbours" during their final two years on the site.

Older parts of the site, at the rear of Risley Prison and near The Noggin Inn would be opened up to the public and talks were going on over restoring the public footpaths which originally crossed the site.

The company would also be looking to make small donations to local 'good causes'.

The Risley Landfill site has been operating for more than 20 years and, had the company's appeal been successful, would have been expanded over large areas of adjoining farm land and continued to accept waste until 2010.

Residents of Culcheth, Risley, Birchwood and Croft have complained for years about heavy traffic, noise and smells.

Advertiser's announcement

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Not forgetting that winter is nearly upon us, RigOuts has knitwear ranges from Olsen and Fenn Wright Manson

which, teamed with the famous Tummy Tuck Jeans, will keep you warm on those chilly days and the boutique is, as usual, up to date with the latest fashions for winter.



### Road repairs

RESIDENTS of Twiss Green Lane, Culcheth, are celebrating after learning that their road - the condition of which is generally considered to be one of the worst in the area - is to be resurfaced early in the New Year.

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## Turf cutting launch



THE Mayor of Warrington, Coun Graham Welborn, cut the first turf to mark the start of work on the new £28.5 million Culcheth High School.

He was joined by students and teachers, representatives of the borough council and Warrington North MP Helen Jones, for the ceremony.

Construction work begins this month on the two-year project that will see a new state-of-the-art school open in September 2010.

It will have improved learning spaces, a sixth form study area, a common room and sports facilities. There will also be a central "street" making up the heart of the school.

A high-tech humanities conference centre is expected to become a valuable resource for both the school and community. A sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite and synthetic and grass pitches will also be available for all to use.

The school, to be built by Bam Construction, will have new playing fields available by 2011.

Head teacher Martyn Froggett said: "We are excited that work can now begin on our new school. The building will revolutionise the learning experience for all pupils, providing a truly first class, modern educational facility."

Coun Sheila Woodyatt, the borough council's executive member for children's services, said: "We're looking forward to a new high school providing 21st century educational and community facilities for Culcheth students and the local community."

The development is being funded by the council, the school and via the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Building Schools for the Future programme.

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*Pupils celebrating the start of work on the high school.*



*Mayor, Coun Graham Welborne cutting the first sod.*

# Gardening tips

Provided by  **bents**

## November Tips

### Spring bulb plantings

There is still time for a final planting of spring flowering bulbs, tulips especially may be planted now for a superb display next year.

### Vegetable Garden

Peas can be sown for an early crop. If your cold frame is standing idle use it to grow a crop of carrots.

### Houseplant care

Remember that whilst houseplants may be dormant in the winter months pests and diseases are not, so examine plants regularly for infections and treat any problems discovered.

### Looking after wildlife

With the decrease in the availability of natural foods wild birds should be fed regularly, increasing the amount of fatty foods offered.

### Time to store your Dahlias

With the coming of the first frosts, dahlias must be cut back. As soon as the foliage is blackened by frost, dig up the tubers and store in a cool, frost-free place over winter.

### Clean up time in the herbaceous border

As late flowering perennials finish flowering, cut down and tidy the top growth before winter, weed and fork between plants.

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# Victorian Day will be bigger and



CULCHETH Victorian Day this year looks set to be bigger and better than ever - and should get the village off to a super festive season.

Organisers Culcheth Lions are confident of a great occasion, following on from the success of last year's event.

Lions members, shopkeepers and residents will be dressing up in Victorian costume as the village turns the clock back.

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

Christmas fairs are being held in Newchurch Parish Hall and at the Methodist Church halls.

The shops in the CPS Centre will be putting on children's competitions and Gallery Gifts are offering special

discounts on the day.

Staff in the Sundial Terrace Coffee Shop will be dressing in traditional Victorian costume and have themed foods on sale. The Old Victorian Sweet Shop will be handing out lollipops and selling old fashioned traditional sweets from a basket.

There will also be discounts at Pip Squeaks' new shop.

The Lions Club will be selling raffle tickets throughout the month for their Christmas luxury hamper draw, which raises funds for the Lions to help local good causes including the senior citizens' Christmas party.

On the day, Santa will be delighting children at the Methodist

Advertiser's announcement

## A bit of nostalgia

by Pauline Gilroy

HAVE you seen our new sweetie shop? This seems to be a very popular sentence that I hear as people walk towards the shop. It makes me so proud to know that folks in Culcheth and surrounding areas are pleased with what I have tried to create.. 'A bit of nostalgia'. The faces are so full of smiles and amazement when they step into the shop. The stories about childhood memories have been lovely. Some have said I have taken them back 60 years or more with the décor and the selection of old fashioned sweets.

I designed the shop using original Victorian panelling from a grand Victorian House together with the fireplace to give it that 'finishing touch'.

The 1907 cash register, despite not being in the Victorian period adds to the whole look. I am so grateful to everyone for helping me get the shop/cafe off the ground. If you haven't been to the CPS centre above Sainsbury's, come and visit us, there's a lovely mall of shops just waiting to be discovered.

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# better than ever!

Church and later will switch on the Christmas lights. The lights in the trees around the village green will be provided by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, who are also sponsoring 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.

Culcheth Art Group's usual exhibition in the Age Concern

building in Jackson Avenue starts on Thursday November 27, and continues through to Victorian Day.

Visitors will be able to get refreshments there and view and vote for their favourite pictures.

Anyone who wants to get involved can still contact the Lions if they want to help or take part. Amateur street entertainers and strolling players are welcome to use the venue to develop their skills.

For further information, call Tony Lewis on 01942 261151.



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# Freedom of the parish for Joan

A FORMER member of Croft Parish Council has been granted the Freedom of the Parish to mark more than 40 years service to the village.

The parish council has also planted a special tree as a tribute to the service given by Mrs Joan Farrington.

In addition to serving on the council, Mrs Farrington was, and still is, involved in a number of other local organisations including the Women's Institute, Bowling Green Association, Naylor Trust, Village Hall Committee, church and, as a governor, Croft Primary School.

The tree planting ceremony – which came as a complete surprise to Mrs Farrington – was led by the chairman of the parish council, Coun Jeff Shelley, who praised the former councillor for her years of 'loyalty, dedication and commitment' to Croft.

Advertiser's announcement

## CCTV – What are the facts and benefits?

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Car related crime has been on the increase in residential areas partly due to cars becoming increasingly more difficult to steal without keys. Criminals are taking more extreme measures to get into homes for access to modern or desirable vehicles.

Separate Home Office studies have revealed. "In areas where cars are parked, there was evidence that CCTV led to a statistically significant reduction in crime of about 41 per cent". A totally different Government study observed "a marked reduction of 47% for burglary. As CCTV was not successful at detecting crimes, this data suggests that CCTV effectively deterred potential offenders from committing burglary in the area with cameras visibly present".

CCTV-Secure.co.uk is a locally based company with over 20 years experience in providing specialist expertise with proven results, offering a free of charge consultation, survey and design package.



## Tips on gift wrapping

TIPS on wrapping gifts for Christmas were given to Croft WI at their recent meeting.

Six visitors and two new members were present to hear speaker Marion Proudlove, who has appeared on Granada television demonstrating her craft skills. She gave tips on the benefits of using double-sided sticky tape and drawing bows.

Members set their next competition for a hand-made Christmas cracker.

The Walking Group ended its season and thanks were given to the organiser Sue Dewhurst.

Future events include a visit to see Calendar Girls at the Lowry and Sleeping Beauty at the Liverpool Empire.

A report was given on the recent group meeting and the Autumn Federation at Winsford, where details of next year's Cheshire Show were discussed.

The group's sick visitor Judie has ill so a delegation from the committee went to cheer her up.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Wednesday November 19, where there will be a light supper.

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**Tax Return deadline looming – you'll need to do it online**

If you haven't already heard, this year the taxman brought forward the deadline for filing a paper return to 31 October 2008.

If you have not already submitted your return for the year ended 5 April 2008, you must now do it online before 31 January 2009. If you do not submit by that date, you will incur a fine.

If you have never submitted your return online before don't worry - there are a number of benefits:

- More time to collect all the relevant information – the deadline is 31 January 2009
- Easier tax calculation - the online service has an automatic calculation
- Confirmation receipt – you can be certain your submission has been received
- Repayments are quicker – if you are lucky enough to be owed some tax back, it is repaid more quickly than when submitted manually
- 24/7 service – you can access the service at any time
- Account management – you can view an update on your tax account at any time

**Caution!**

If you have several income

streams, or your affairs are complicated in any way, you should consider carefully, how you submit your details, as the data you input could affect your overall tax liability.

Points to consider. There are several areas to consider when preparing the information for your tax return and a regular review of your status is a must.

- Employed by your limited company – are you affected by the new service company rules?
- Sole-traders – are you claiming all the expenses you are entitled to?
- VAT registration – if your turnover has changed considerably over a recent period, you should consider registering / de-registering depending on your future plans.

If you are still unsure about how you should go about your online submission, or would like advice relating to your income, and how to minimise your tax liabilities, our tax team are here to help you.



Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action

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

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## Youth Day triumphed over weather

ORGANISER David Slater has hailed Culcheth's Youth Community Day as an outstanding success – and has praised the various volunteer workers who helped stage the event.

The forecast was for heavy rain and the village green was already a 'soggy field' when the day dawned.

But the three months of planning paid off and the day proved both educational and enjoyable.

As a result it is almost certain the event will be held again next year.

More than 250 young people and

about 80 adults took part, according to David, who organised the event on behalf of Culcheth Methodist Church and Churches Together.

A series of workshops scattered around the village gave youngsters an opportunity to see what it is like 'in the real world'.

This included radio workshops run by the team from Radio General, the volunteers behind the town's hospital radio station, with Jim Jeffries (pictured) and *Culcheth Life's* very own James Balme broadcasting their shows from the Methodist Church.

Said David: "Workshop leaders, helpers, stewards and the barbecue team all worked with amazing

results."

There were workshops on plastering, tiling, art, rugby and football, music and drama, writing, model engineering, media, jewellery making, broadcasting, etc.

In addition there was music, entertainment, bungee jumping, a bucking bronco and, to finish the day, a barbecue.

The Rev Paul Martin, from Culcheth Methodist Church, said: "Considering the appalling weather it was a superb event and very well supported."

"We have held a meeting since and everyone involved was keen to do it again next year."

"There is a very real chance it will be done, around the same time."



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# Daphne's 'outstanding' award

WELL-known Culcheth community worker Daphne Eastburn has been honoured for her 'outstanding' achievements.

Daphne of Warrington Road, Risley, was one of the 12 winners of the Cheshire Rural Women's Award 2008.

Her award, presented at a special celebration dinner at Byley Village Hall, was for "Voluntary and Community Service for Culcheth Methodist Church and the Village."

She received an engraved silver clock, a certificate and a bouquet. And she was named on the night as the most "outstanding" of the award

winners.

Daphne said: "I felt honoured to receive the award and am grateful for the support of my husband Bob. It was an absolutely fantastic night."

Daphne's guests at the ceremony were her husband, Rev Paul Martin, her supporters from the church's property committee Peter and Joyce Davies and youth leader David Slater and his wife Rachel.

Daphne was presented with the award by Maureen Walmsley, the chairman of Cheshire Community Action, for her efforts in securing grants for Culcheth Methodist Church of £130,000 during the last four years.

Grants have helped with improvements and repairs to the church. The building is used by more than 1,000 people from the community each week.

Peter Davies said: "Daphne has lost count of the number of hours spent filling in applications for grants and also of the times when her applications have not been successful."

"Fortunately for us, Daphne is tenacious and does not give up easily. She is a member of the Property Committee and she oversees the projects for which she has obtained grants."

She also helps with the Beavers group, the Rock Bus on a Monday night and has advised other groups on securing funding.





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# Another door closed on station plan

**THE door has been closed on a possible source of funding for the re-opening of Glazebury railway station.**

Sir Howard Bernstein, chief executive of Manchester City Council and clerk to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority has made it clear there will be no money available for the Glazebury station proposal in funding arising from the plans for congestion charging in Manchester.

Coun Keith Bland was among local council chiefs who met Sir Howard to discuss the availability of funding for transport improvements in the Warrington area to help deal with the impact of congestion charging.

They were told funding would be available for upgrades to stations such as Birchwood and Sankey.

But when Coun Bland asked Sir

Howard if funding might be available to re-open Glazebury station the answer was 'no.'

Sir Howard did suggest that there might be a possibility of funding from Network Rail at some time in the future when all other upgrades necessary for the congestion charging scheme had been completed.

Coun Bland said: "We have already been told by Network Rail that no money is available, so it seems unlikely that the station will re-open in the foreseeable future."

"However, as long as local people keep pressing, you never know what might happen."

## Reader's Letter

Send your letters to: Lymm Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT, info@lymmlife.co.uk

## Praise of Players' production

J. Salt, Culcheth

JUST a note in praise of Culcheth Players' recent production at the Dafen of John Godber's 'Perfect Pitch.'

Great performances by all the cast,

as usual. People were laughing about it after the curtain went down. I hope the locals continue to support these excellent entertainers.

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