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Issue: 92
November 2010

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A lesson in bulb planting

See page 3

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Editor's Comment



CULCHETH has always been a nice place to live - and judging from recent events it should soon be a 'blooming nice place' to live!

Elsewhere in this issue we report on bulb planting initiatives. Three of our primary schools have been involved - Culcheth, Twiss Green and Newchurch. So has the parish council, the Stronger Together organisation, the borough's Park Rangers, Bents Garden Centre, the Horticultural Society and the Rotary Club.

Very encouraging when you consider it is only a couple of months

ago that we were reporting that some people were complaining that the wildflower planting carried out last year had been a waste of time.

In our September issue we asked readers what they thought and they left us in no doubt - they liked the wildflowers.

The parish council also received much positive feedback.

So now, in addition to more wildflowers on the Village Green, we can look forward to glorious displays of crocus, daffodils, bluebells and snowdrops. Subject to the approval of the weather gods, of course.

There will always be a few doubting Thomases who see no benefits in planting schemes around

the village but, by and large, we think most people will welcome the extra colour they bring to the local community.

Children's author to visit schools

CHILDREN'S author Guy Bass is to visit two local schools to talk about his work and run a workshop with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

The visits to Newchurch Primary and Glazebury Primary have been organised by forget-me-not toy and book shop where signed copies of Mr Bass' latest book, "Secret Santa: Agent of X.M.A.S." will be available from November 3.

'Deadly' is back again!

'DEADLY' Alan Dedicoat, BBC television lottery show's "Voice of the Balls" is again returning to Culcheth to raise money for the Children in Need appeal.

He will be at the Culcheth British Legion Village Club, on Wigshaw Lane, on Sunday, November 28 with his famously entertaining quiz nights.

Teams should be of four people and tickets cost £8 each which includes a hotpot supper. These are available from the Harrow or the Village Club, or by calling organiser Elaine Durrington on 01925 764697.

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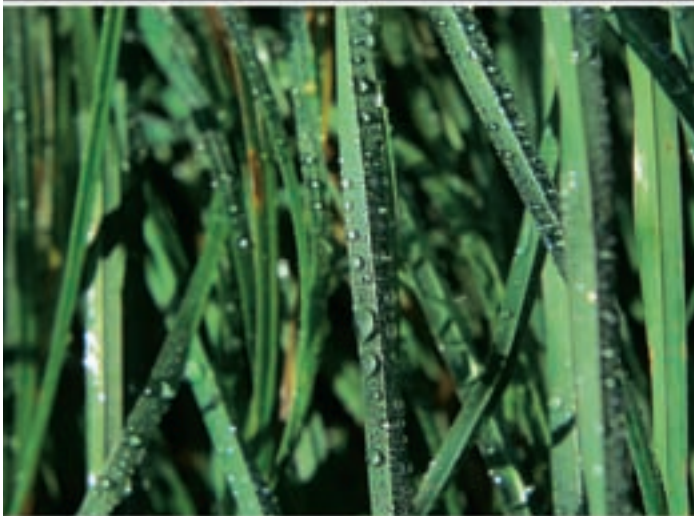
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A lesson in bulb planting

PUPILS from Culcheth and Twiss Green Primary Schools spent a morning learning about and planting bulbs on their local Village Green.

The event was sponsored by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and was supported by generous donations and support from Stronger Together Warrington, Bents Garden Centre and Culcheth Horticultural Society.

Andy Smith from the Linear Park Ranger team organised and ran the event supported by volunteers from the Parish Council and from Bents.

The Children enjoyed the "hands

on" experience planting hundreds of daffodils, bluebells, and snowdrops to further enhance the wildflower area of the Village Green."

Back row from left, Paul Unsworth of Bents Garden Centre, Robert Redford of Culcheth Parish Council, council chairman Helena Campbell and ranger Andy Smith. Front row from left, Culcheth Primary School students James Hopkins, Hannah Best, Hannah Mitchell and Calum Ireland all aged 10



Airport journey led to a new business

AN uncomfortable journey in a grotty people carrier, to and from Manchester Airport, gave husband and wife James and Sahra Melrose an idea for a new business.

They had both been made redundant from their jobs and their children Andrew, 8, and Aaron, 5, were at last both in full-time education. So the time seemed right to launch a business that would meet an urgent need - and Melrose Chauffeur Services was born.

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FRIDAY, October 22, was a day to remember at Culcheth High School.

Sixth Form students planned a day of activities to raise money for the Think Pink charity which supports medical research related to Breast Cancer.

Boys dressed as girls, girls dressed as boys and they all wore pink. Other fund raising schemes included a very competitive netball match where the male teachers beat the female teachers 9-1 !!

Staff supported the students by dressing in pink and everyone enjoyed the cake sale.

Sixth Form students selected the Think Pink charity because one of the school's former teachers died this summer after a long battle against breast cancer. Sue Ruffell (pictured above) had worked at Culcheth High School for 30 years and was a much loved member of staff. She held a number of posts in school during her career including Head of Sixth Form and she was a positive influence on all her students. The day of activities was enjoyed by all and raised nearly £400.00.

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Call to clampdown on clampers!

A SENIOR councillor has called on private landlords to stop using clamping firms to enforce parking regulations on their land.

Coun Paul Campbell said: "I call on all landlords who use clamping companies to take a lead for the rest of the country and use other legal

means of enforcing their parking, such as pay and display."

He was speaking after the government's announcement that it is

to bring in new laws to stop clamping on private land.

Coun Campbell, an executive board member Warrington Borough Council and a member of Culcheth Parish Council, said he had campaigned on the issue for some time.

Many clamping companies used tactics bordering on threats and intimidation.

This would now have to stop, with both clampers and landlords in danger of prosecution and large fines if they persisted.

"The people who use the shops and restaurants in Culcheth will be

only too pleased that they will be able to use the car parks on Lodge Drive without fear of finding their car clamped or towed away," he added.

There has been a long-running controversy in Culcheth over shoppers being clamped and then being forced to pay large fines to have the clamps removed.

Shopkeepers were opposed to the clamping because they believed it was driving shoppers away from the village.



Paul Campbell and those supporting the clampdown on clamping

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It's Victorian Day again!

CULCHETH turns the clock back to a more elegant age for the annual Victorian Day on Saturday, November 27.

Organised by Culcheth Lions, the popular event - now firmly established in the village calendar - promises to be bigger and even more fun-filled this year.

Lions members, shopkeepers and residents alike will be dressing up in Victorian costume to celebrate the occasion and there will be food, mulled wine and hot chestnuts on sale on The Parade.

A funfair will offer a range of attractions and there will be Christmas fairs in Newchurch Parish Hall and the Methodist Hall.

Victorian themed foods will be on sale at the Sundial Terrace coffee shop

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

On the day, Santa will be enchanting children at the Methodist Church and later will be there for the switching on of the Christmas lights.

The lights in the trees around the Village Green will be provided by the

Parish council, who are also expected to sponsor free rides on one of the children's roundabouts.

Alice In Wonderland will be attending and adding her own special magic to the occasion.

The daytime events will end with a spectacular fireworks display - weather permitting - but the fun will continue into the evening with fairground rides in the village centre.

Culcheth Art Group's exhibition in the Age Concern building in Jackson Avenue starts on Thursday November 25 and continues through to Victorian Day.

There is still time for anyone who wants to get involved to contact the Lions. Amateur street entertainers and



strolling players will be particularly welcome to use the venue to develop their skills.

Anyone interested in community stalls in the Methodist Hall should contact Celia on 01925 763021 or Daphne on 01925 765561.

For further information, phone Mike Barnes on 01925 762066.

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Simon's £3,000 climb for charity

A FORMER Culcheth man has raised £3,000 for charity - by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Simon Kelly, a former pupil at St Lewis' Primary School, Croft, climbed Africa's highest mountain with a friend.

The 28-year-old chartered tax accountant, decided to climb the 5895m mountain after a casual chat with a friend in a London bar in April.

He prepared with several months of training in the gym, running the streets of central London, where he works, and on climbing expeditions in Snowdonia and the Lake District.

Tougher

Simon decided to climb by the Machame route which is tougher and longer than others, taking seven days and six nights, but provides an

"acclimatisation day."

This turned out to be the third day when he had to climb up to 4600m and then back down to 3900m to camp for the night!

"Climb high, sleep low," was the advice.

Simon did the climb to raise money for MacIntyre Warrington, a charity which supports adults with learning difficulties.

His mother, Pamela, said: "He had never done anything like this before and spent a lot of time in training. He has raised about £3,000 and money is still coming in."



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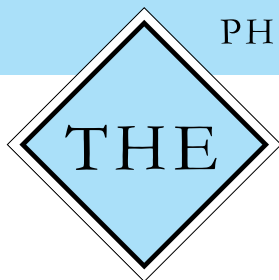
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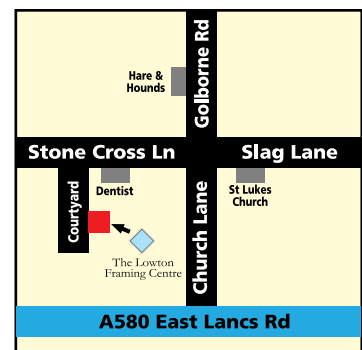
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New name for a new room

A NEW room at Culcheth Methodist Church is to be called the Wren Room - to acknowledge the £15,000 grant the church received towards its cost from environmental group WREN.

Project manager at the church, Daphne Eastburn said: "We really do appreciate this grant, which is why we decided to give this name to the room."

"The money was obtained through the Landfill Communities Fund of the Waste Recycling Group, administered by WREN."

The new room - which is due to be completed about now - will make

extra space available and can be used as an extension of the main community hall.

Mrs Eastburn said: "We have extended our community hall by adapting our quadrangle to make a conservatory-style meeting room."

"This space will be energy efficient, improve our inside environment and achieve sustainability."

Art group's annual show

THE annual exhibition by members of Culcheth Art Group will open at the Jackson Avenue Day Centre on Thursday, November 25 between 7-9pm, continuing the following day between 10-4pm and climaxing on the Saturday - Victorian Day - also between 10-4pm.

A large selection of paintings by members will be on show, in various mediums and many of them for sale.

Light refreshments will be provided and there will be a raffle to be drawn at 4pm on Victorian Day.

Visitors will also be invited to vote for their favourite picture and the winner will receive a prize.

Halle Orchestra return

MEMBERS of the Halle Orchestra will be returning to Culcheth for the sixth annual Roy Harrison Memorial Concert.

The concert, organised by the Rotary Club of Newton and District Jubilee, will be at Culcheth Sports

Club on Monday, November 22 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available by calling 01925 764370 or 01925 766087 or from the Sports Club in Charnock Road.

All proceeds will go to Rotary charity work.

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Left, South African Head teacher Veronica Ledwaba Welizbuko, pupil Charlotte Cooper aged 7, Year 3 teacher Gill Coon, pupil Luke Myers - Bennett aged 7, teaching assistant Pauline Russell and South African teacher Lungile Ndzondo.

School supports South African link

CULCHETH Community Primary School presented a cheque for £500 to special visitors from their link school Welizbuko Primary in Soweto, South Africa. The money will go towards the roof on a new school hall.



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Pupils show 'res

CHILDREN and staff at Newchurch Primary School enjoyed supporting local people and communities in other countries with a special 'Respect for Others' Day.

They planted 600 crocus bulbs in support of the Rotary Club who were taking part in a national crocus bulb planting scheme to raise awareness

for humanitarian work.

It is hoped they will be in bloom in time for "Thanks for Life" day on February 23.

The children were also thinking about Warrington soldier Tom Coleridge, aged 18, who was badly injured while serving in Afghanistan.

To show their support, pupils and staff raised money by tying yellow ribbons to the school willow arch.

As a way of supporting another worthwhile cause, Mrs Anne Stafford, her daughter, Catherine and some of the children from Year 6 helped to organise a Fair Trade stall in the school's entrance hall.



Tying ribbons onto the school tree arch to show support for soldier Tom Coleridge injured in Afghanistan. From left, Max Wilkinson - Gamble, Ben Kosminski and Millie Varner.



From left, Molly Hoggarth, Isobel Williams, Mrs A Stafford and Catherine Stafford.

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spect for others'



Planting crocus bulbs in the school grounds in conjunction with members of the Rotary Club. From left, Tom Wilkinson - Gamble, Rotarian Richard Ridings, Hannah Coley - Knowles, helper Sheila Glass and Will Hoggarth.

The Gardening Guide

November...



- Key bulbs to plant out now are daffodils, tulips, alliums & anemones
- Planting your bulbs together will help to give them protection & support from the weather
- As space becomes vacant, dig over soil, adding a good quality manure
- If you are planning a bonfire display in your garden, make sure to remove any debris beforehand
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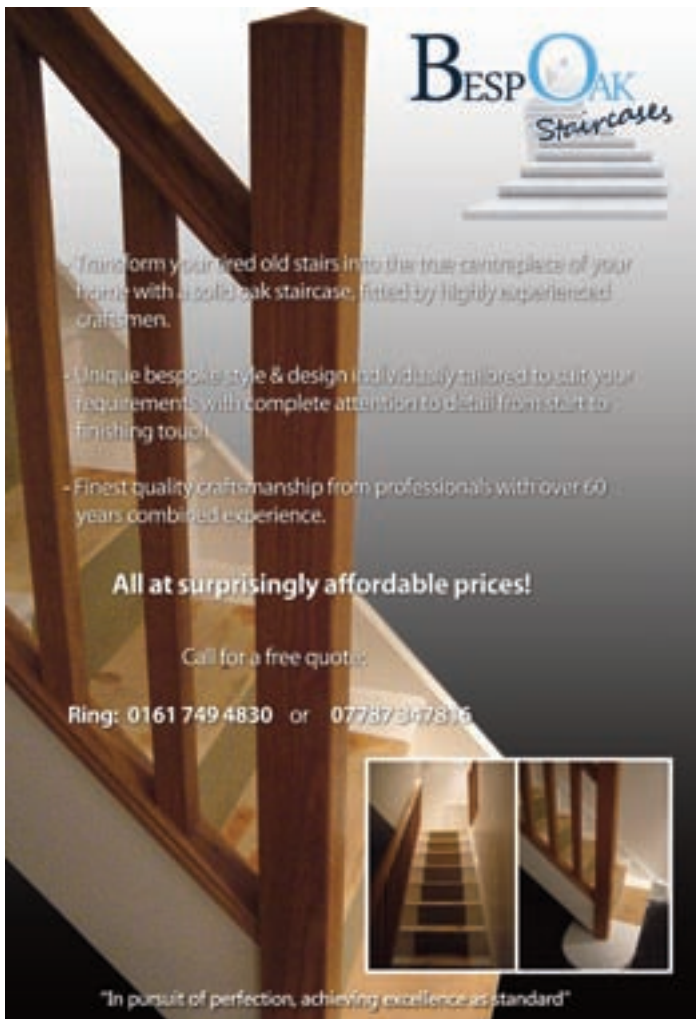
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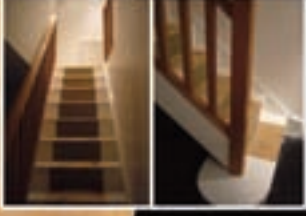
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Anna will help organise world conference

Anna Haigh, aged 14, a member of 7th Culcheth Guides has been selected as one of only six Guides from all over the UK to be part of the organising committee for the youth event running in parallel to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts' world conference.

The conference will be held in Edinburgh in July next year and Anna has been selected to be part of the team that will be organising the event.

Guides and Girl Scouts from every country in the world will be represented at the youth event.

Anna has already attended one planning weekend in London and has lots more work to do before the next in February.




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Tragedy that inspired a film



Alex directs a scene from "Dale."

A FILM inspired by a tragic death and made by a former Culcheth High School pupil was screened at the Long Shot Film Festival in Warrington.

'Dale' tells the story of 18-year-old Dale Whitfield, who died after being attacked in Warrington town centre in 2005.

It was made by Alex Ashworth, aged 22, who attended Culcheth High and was a friend of Dale.

He collaborated with Dale's mother, Sharon Orr, of Winwick, who has campaigned against binge drinking since her son's death.

Alex completed a BSc (Honours) Media Production and Technology degree at the University of Central Lancashire after leaving Culcheth High.

His film is powerful docu-drama based on the events of Dale's tragic last night out.

He said: "The film was made to help boost Sharon's anti-binge

drinking campaign and aimed to make more young people think when out drinking in the town centre. I entered 'Dale' into the Long Shot festival in an attempt to bring the film to prominence and get our message out there.

"The film, shot mostly in and around Warrington, was very difficult to make having known Dale at school."

Alex is now living in Australia with his partner, former Culcheth High School friend Taryn Lowe, who has her own hairdressing salon 'Down Under'.

Last year's inaugural Long Shot festival was won by former Culcheth media student Daniel Briney with a film largely made in Culcheth.

He and Alex are due to meet up in New Zealand around now to collaborate on a film to enter in next year's festival.

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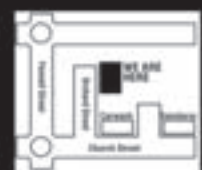
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Shop celebrates 25 years in business

A POPULAR shop in the centre of Culcheth is celebrating 25 years in business.

To mark the occasion, forget-me-not toy and bookshop, in the CPS centre, is raising money for Claire House Children's Hospice - a charity they have supported for the last three years.

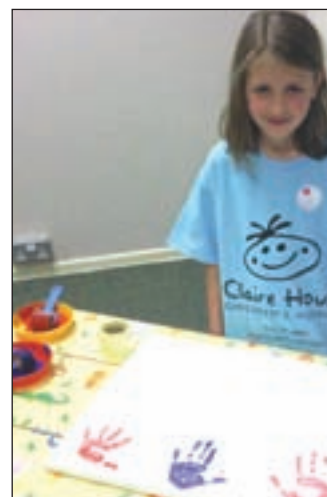
Current owners Naomi and Victoria have invited the original owner of the business, Maureen Donnachie, to drop in and put her handprint onto canvas.

Customers have also been invited into the shop to put their own handprints on canvas in return for a small donation to the hospice.

All the canvasses will be displayed in the shop and forget-me-not will also be donating £25 to the cause.

Forget-me-not was originally known as Options.

It has expanded considerably in



Clara Simpson-Forrest, aged seven.

recent years with Naomi and Victoria introducing numerous initiatives to encourage children to read and inviting authors into the shop for book-signings.

St Lewis' Christmas Fayre

ST Lewis' Primary School, Croft, is holding a Christmas Fayre on Sunday, November 21 from 12.30-4pm.

Local band ITZUS will be playing - and including some yuletide tunes in their programme - and Father Christmas will be dropping in.

There will be gift stalls, tombola, games of skill, a craft room and refreshments including chilli, mince pies and some festive tipples.

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Christmas lights switch on

Thur 18 Nov, 5.30pm - 7.30pm
Old Market Place, Golden Square
with a big screen on Bridge Street

Wire FM host an evening of family entertainment with special guest Bob the Builder and a 2010 X Factor finalist. Advance tickets required to guarantee admission to Old Market Place. For details please contact Golden Square on 01925 631387.

Warrington's vintage Christmas

Sat 20 Nov, 10am - 4pm
Warrington Market, Time Square
and Market Gate

Over 30 specialist traders will be in the market events hall with the best in retro fashion, handicrafts and collectables. Vintage vehicle display in Time Square and an ice sculpture at Market Gate.

Christmas market

Sat 27 Nov, 10am - 4pm
Warrington Market Forecourt,
Time Square and Market Gate

The three wise men are doing their shopping at Warrington's Christmas market. Come and meet them and their camels.



Warrington
Borough Council

Late night shopping

**Every Thur 18 Nov - 18 Dec and
Mon 20 - Thur 23, 9am - 9pm**

Free entry to Golden Square car park after 4pm and free exit from council car parks after 6.30pm.

Christmas grotto

**Sat 27 Nov and then weekends
in December until Xmas.**
Warrington Market

Contact Warrington Disability Partnership for opening times on 01925 240855.

Lunchtime school choir concerts

Weekdays Mon 1 Dec - Fri 17 Dec
Golden Square

Salvation Army Band

Sat 4, 11, 18 Dec and Fri 24 Dec,
10am - 12pm Market Gate

Christmas craft fayre

Old Market Place Golden Square
For details contact Golden Square on 01925 631387.

Warrington lantern parade

Thur 16 Dec, 6pm - 7.30pm
Old Market Place, Golden Square

Starts from the Old Market Place and takes in Horsemarket Street and Bridge Street before returning to Golden Square.

Free park and ride

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The triumphant Leigh team celebrate.

Andrew rolls back the years

THE Culcheth-based Leigh Golf Club's highly experienced and respected professional Andrew Baguley rolled back the years as he inspired his team to success in the Dunham Forest final - some 18 years after their previous success in the Manchester Alliance's top knock-out competition.

Leigh beat Worsley 4-3 in the morning semi-finals to book their date in the afternoon final against Prestwich who accounted for debutants Leek Westwood by a similar margin.

Then Baguley, who was a key member of the successful 1992 side, set his team on track for victory as he beat Prestwich pro Mark Pearson 7/6 to give his team a lead they never lost.

Mark Garrod pulled Prestwich level with a 2/1 win over Steve Dagger

but Mark Blinkhorn restored the Leigh lead with a 2/1 win over Chris Kearns and Dan Crook added another vital point with a 2-1 win over Phil Walsh.

A battling Prestwich reduced the arrears as John Hughes won by one hole against Stuart Harrison but Paul Sherwood bagged the vital fourth point with the match between Sean Blinkhorn and Barry Cuthbert left as a half as they played the 19th to see Leigh home by 4.5-2.5.

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Putting a business plan together

A well thought out business plan is an important strategic document. It is also an integral tool for any business wishing to obtain government funding, investment capital or bank loans.

The benefits of preparing a business plan include the following:

- Those involved in its preparation (the business owners) will be encouraged to stand back and objectively look at where their business is, where it is going and how they may wish to redirect it
- The business plan will document the owners' considered plans at a particular time and can be used to focus minds when driving the business forward
- Future performance can be measured against the plan, variances investigated and the development of the business put back on track

The level of detail included in a business plan can vary depending on the nature and complexity of the business. However, all plans should include a set of financial projections including profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and cash flows. This information will enable the owners of the business to determine where they are going and anticipate whether

there will be an associated funding requirement involved in achieving their goals.

Perhaps the owners anticipate growing the business by a certain percentage or entering new locations or industry sectors. The business plan and projections should cover the period over which this growth is expected to take place and will typically cover between 3 and 5 years.

Good business management will involve the business plan being regularly revisited and updated, at least once a year. Making this review part of the year end procedure will help focus the owners on the future and where their business is heading. *In addition to a long term business plan, a rolling 13 week (3 month) cash flow should be regarded as an essential business tool, irrespective of the economic climate.*

We have a wealth of experience in this area and will be delighted to help in the development of your business plan and strategy.



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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New dispute over tennis floodlights

A NEW bid for the erection of floodlights around the tennis courts at Culcheth Sports Club has again triggered opposition from nearby residents, local councillors and from Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

Twenty nearby householders lodged objections, as did borough councillors Keith and Sue Bland (both pictured) and the parish council.

Grounds of objections were light and glare spilling from the courts into the rear windows and gardens of houses near the club and noise created by tennis players.

Last year, similar proposals were thrown out by borough planners on similar grounds.

Officers recommended the new, revised application be approved and argued that the impact of light spillage on nearby properties would be minimal.

They pointed out that noise caused by play would be no greater than at present and that there were no existing restrictions on the hours of use of the courts.

The application was due to be considered by the borough council's planning sub-committee as **Culcheth Life** went to press.

To find out the result of the application, log on to www.culchethlife.com



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