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Issue: 128
November 2013

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Editor's Comment



WE have already voiced concerns over the impact of the proposed HS2 high speed rail line on Culcheth and surrounding areas – and make no excuse for raising them again.

The proposed route runs right past Culcheth, through Taylor Business Park, Culcheth Linear Park and Leigh Golf Course.

This will be the main line from London to Glasgow and is designed for up to 18 trains per hour (almost one every three minutes) at 225 mph. Around 1000 local properties lie within 500 metres of the line and the effect on the village will be devastating by any standards.

A major consultation on the proposed line of the route, and sustainability impacts, is now running and will end on January 31 2014. As part of the consultation, the HS2 Project will hold a Road Show at Culcheth Sports Club,

Charnock Road on November, 21 from 12.00 midday to 8.00 pm. This is an opportunity for residents to talk to the HS2 staff and raise their concerns, although it will still be important for people to send a formal response to the Consultation itself.

Frank Allen, Chair of Culcheth and District Rail Action Group (CADRAG) says there are many areas of concern - the loss of Taylor Business Park with almost 500 jobs, the loss of the Linear Park, and the noise and other environmental impacts from the trains themselves which will degrade the quality of life in the village. The disruption during construction, including big new bridges on Warrington Road,

Wigshaw Lane, and Wilton Lane, will have a massive adverse effect on the village and local businesses. For many people of course the major concern will be the effect on the value of their property and their ability to sell it.

We echo those concerns and urge local residents to make their views known.

Meanwhile CADRAG aims to support local people in combatting the devastation that HS2 will cause and is raising these issues with HS2 Ltd, Warrington Borough Council and with local MP Helen Jones. They are also preparing a detailed submission to the Consultation. The support of the village is obviously crucial. Anyone who wants to help, or make a donation to the campaign, please contact Frank on 01925 765017.

Ladies' evening

A LADIES' evening at Twiss Green Primary School, Culcheth will raise money for new equipment for the school.

There will be "fizz and food", various stalls and pampering treatments with a free drink included in the ticket price of £5.

The event is organised by the school PTFA and more details are available from Julia on 07966 619809.

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New Raj now open

THE Raj restaurant which has been serving the people of Culcheth since 1998 has moved to brand new premises in the heart of the village.

Following a major investment the Raj has moved to new premises at 2a, Common Lane. The move was prompted by the fact that having been so successful over the past fifteen years it was decided that the Raj had outgrown its original premises due to its popularity as a top eating venue in the village.

The new bespoke restaurant close to Warrington Road has been created from scratch and offers a new dining experience to the

people of Culcheth.

With a unique and modern design the restaurant boasts eating on just one floor with free customer parking, full disabled access and seating for up to 400 diners at any one time.

Catering for many events the Raj can offer a great dining experience at an affordable price. Parties can be catered for and bookings are now being taken for Christmas and New Year.



Charity dinner raises £4,000 for Christie

A charity dinner at The Raj restaurant in Culcheth helped raise £4,000 towards a new teenager oncology unit at the Christie Hospital.

The event was organised by Marisa Menzies from Culcheth after she attended a fund-raising event in Manchester.

At the event Christie Ambassador Barry Thompson launched "Barry's project 150" which is to raise £150k to build a teenage oncology unit.

He handed out £5 to everyone at the event and they pledged to turn this into £150.

Marisa said: "I decided to organise the event and targeted myself to raise £2000.

"We all had a fab day, the food was great and the service from the

lads in The Raj was super!

"My dad, Rick Menzies, also provided live entertainment free of charge.

"Hopefully we will be able to do it all again next year!"



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Brave trio take the plunge!

A brave trio took the plunge with a 14,000ft sky dive to help raise an estimated £2,000 to buy life saving equipment for two local sports clubs.

College friends Chris Bibby and Lewis Smith, who both attend Culcheth College, decided to do the dare devil challenge as part of their 18th birthday celebrations.

They were joined by Chris's uncle Wayne Bibby, 47, who provides the catering at the Village Club and Leigh Golf Club.

Between them they have helped raise enough money to buy two defibrillators to be based at the Shaw Street and Oak Street sports

fields, the home of Culcheth Athletic FC and Eagles Rugby Club.

All three made the tandem sky dives at Grange Over Sands, falling at a speed of 142 mph for 45 seconds, through clouds containing rain and ice particles!

Wayne led the way, followed by Lewis and finally Chris, who was probably the most nervous of the three and clearly very relieved to reach terra firma!



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Councillors welcome £10,000 investment to tackle parking chaos

A £10,000 scheme to provide additional residents' parking bays in Poplar Avenue, Culcheth will be carried out during the current financial year – following a lengthy campaign by local residents and councillors.



Residents were concerned that congestion caused by on-street parking in the road could prevent ambulances and fire engines reaching the area in an emergency.

Councillors Matt Smith and Chris Vobe, who took up the residents' cause with the borough council and Golden Gates Housing, are delighted with the result.

Cllr Vobe said: "Matt and I made the case in the strongest possible terms, and left the council and Golden Gates under no illusion that we viewed this as a top priority."

"The money has come from the Local Transport Plan – a fund which

is ring-fenced for improvements in the Eastern part of Warrington.

"I've always argued that Newchurch has not had its fair share from this allocation in the past."

Cllr Smith added: "It was simply unacceptable that residents were unable to park their cars safely, or were having to leave them on the road away from their own home because of the congestion."

"Even worse was the thought of emergency vehicles not being able to reach someone's house because of insufficient parking. The new parking bays that are now going to be installed will be a dream come true for many people in Poplar Avenue."

The two councillors sat down

with officers from the council and Golden Gates Housing to bring the two parties together after both initially refused to commit to the work.

Residents will be consulted soon about which of the grass verges should be converted to parking spaces.



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The Grinch
LOWTON Operatic and Amateur Dramatics are to stage a pantomime, "The Grinch" at the Rose Centre (formerly Lowton Civic Hall) on Wednesday, November 27 through to Saturday, November 30, with a 2pm Saturday matinee. Tickets can be booked by calling Sue on 07708 840843.

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It all adds up for budding mathematicians

BUDDING mathematicians at Newchurch Primary School got a helping hand from accountancy firm Hunter Healey during "maths week."

Practice manager Alicia Flint spent a morning with some of the Year 4 pupils, helping with various mathematical problems.

At the end of the session, the group discussed spend or save strategies facing business everyday as relevant to their pocket money and Hunter Healey piggy banks were gifted to the whole class to encourage them to start saving.

Alicia said: "It was great to be invited into the classroom to work with the children and we're hoping to see some young entrepreneurs as clients in the future!"

Art group's exhibition

CULCHETH Art Group holds its annual exhibition on November 29-30 – as usual at the Jackson Avenue Day Centre.

The exhibition will open from 10am to 4pm on both days and many of the paintings will be for sale.

Refreshments will be available and also visitors will get a chance to vote for their favourite painting.

Members of the group use various mediums for painting - watercolour, pastels and acrylic. The subject matter is also varied, from flowers to portraits and landscapes.



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November 2013



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Discover Pottery Learn how to work with clay, create your own Christmas ceramic lantern as well as other pots. Mixed ability, all welcome. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. Every Tuesday evening for five weeks starting 12th November, 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Basic I.T Computer Skills This course will give you the skills needed to type a letter, access the internet and send e-mails. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. Every Tuesday evening for five weeks starting on 12th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Cooking for Christmas Chef Paul Ratcliffe will guide you as you create a range of Christmas themed dishes. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. One class every Tuesday evening for four weeks starting 14th November 6.30pm—9pm Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Christmas Crafts On this 5 week course you will learn a range of basic craft skills to create festive cards, gift wrapping and decorations for the home for the festive season. This course costs £40 with a cost of £15 for materials, however each learner is entitled to one free course each academic year. Every Wednesday evening for five weeks starting 13th November, 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol

Christmas Floristry Learn floristry techniques to create beautiful flowers for the festive season. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. A cost of £15 for materials applies. Every Wednesday evening for five weeks starting 13th November 6.30pm -8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Introduction to Art and Design Relax in the creative environment of our Art department and have taster sessions on printmaking, handmade paper, drawing skills and 3D design. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. Every Thursday for five weeks starting 14th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Introduction to Holistic Therapy Relax and unwind while learning a new skill in Holistic Therapy. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. Every Thursday evening for five weeks starting 14th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

For more information on enrolment or guidance regarding these courses please contact: Debbie Porrin via email:

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All set for Vi

CULCHETH Victorian Day is set to take place on Saturday November 23, with events and activities planned throughout the day.

Arrangements for the day have been led by the Birchwood Lions who have merged with Culcheth Lions and a committee of the Parish Council.

The Victorian Day working group is chaired by parish councillor Mike Vobe, and also includes local business owner Naomi Simpson.

Money raised goes to charitable causes in the community and none is kept for profit.

There will be a Santa's grotto in the Methodist Church on Ellesmere Road, a Grand Raffle, and a range of attractions in the centre of the village, many of which are being finalised as Culcheth Life goes to print.

As Victorian Day marks the beginning of the Christmas festivities, the annual "switch on" of the Christmas lights will take place at the

end of the day. Carols will be sung, and Santa will arrive in his sleigh to press the button!

Shopkeepers (and perhaps even members of the Parish Council!) will be attending the event in period Victorian costume, and there will be a number of popular rides and fairground attractions for younger members of the community.

Cllr Mike Vobe said: "It has been a pleasure to chair the working group comprising the Parish Council, Birchwood Lions, and Naomi Simpson to help coordinate the organisation of this year's Victorian Day. Part of the Parish Council's role has been to ensure that this popular event remains as successful as ever, which is why we are delighted to have arranged for some original



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Victorian Day

attractions and competitions to add to the festivities.

"We would encourage everyone to come along to the event, to support our local traders, and join in with the beginning of the Christmas celebrations."

Two competitions have been organised with local schools - an art competition and a creative writing competition - with prizes available for participants.

Details of these will be given to anyone interested through their school and judging will take place on the day.

And for those who prefer to keep up to date using social media, there will be a Twitter feed set up this year to help advertise the particular highlights as well as providing businesses with an extra opportunity to promote the stalls and attractions that they have.

A new feature at the Methodist

Church will be an exhibition of cribs and there will also be the usual community stalls.

Any organisation wanting to book a stall should call Daphne Eastburn on 765561 or Celia Watts on 763021.



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- If you are planning a bonfire display in your garden, make sure to remove any debris beforehand.
- Use leaves as mulch to protect sensitive plants from freezing temperatures.



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Dining Out with Culcheth Life

at The Pack Horse Inn

THE Pack Horse Inn in Culcheth has gone back to its roots with traditional home cooking.

The pub is still run by Monica and Ken and Colin and Carol, but now has a new head chef, Lee Rigby.

As the oldest pub in Culcheth it got its name from the days when Packhorses were used to transport goods and the men in charge would usually stop for and drink and sometimes stay over night.

The pub still retains its traditional olde worlde charm and is clearly popular with the locals who frequent the bar area.

The dining area is towards the rear of the premises and again is very traditional.

Our party of six visited for Sunday Lunch - and we were not disappointed.

Home made mushroom soup or vegetable spring rolls proved popular as our starters, while the main courses comprised of traditional

Sunday roasts with either roast beef or chicken.

There was also a selection of traditional puddings like crumble and custard, carrot cake, sticky toffee

pudding etc for those with a larger appetite.

The food was enjoyable and with the bill coming to just over £70 including drinks for a party of six - it certainly offered excellent value for money.



Deadly Dedicoat returns!



BBC Radio 2's Alan 'Deadly' Dedicoat, the voice behind television's Strictly Come Dancing and the Lottery Show, will be visiting Culcheth for the 11th year running on Sunday November 17 to host his quiz in aid of BBC Children in Need.

The venue as usual is The Royal British Legion Club, Wigshaw Lane. Tickets cost £10.00 including supper and are available either from the bar at the Legion or from Elaine Durrington on 01925 764697.

All proceeds from the quiz go directly to BBC Children in Need.

Beer festival raised £8,500

A TOTAL of £8,500 was raised for charity when nearly 800 people visited the third annual Culcheth Beer Festival held by Newton and district Jubilee Rotary Club.

The two-day festival at Culcheth

Sports Club featured a wide range of cask and bottles beers, wines and ciders with a hog roast and background music helping to produce a carnival atmosphere.

Main sponsors of the event were chartered accountants Hunter

Healey, while 53 other businesses also gave support.

Culcheth and Croft Air Cadet leaders were among others who helped man the pumps alongside Rotary Club members.

The Pack Horse



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stylesfiles

New Partner at Styles and Co

At the annual Styles and Co Garden Party in September Ian Lloyd, Managing Partner, announced to clients and guests that Sarah Salton would become a Partner in the firm as from 1st October 2013.

Sarah joined the Culcheth based Chartered Accountants in April 2012 as an Associate specialising in all aspects of tax including Estate Planning, Company & Group Reorganisation, Personal & Trust Compliance and Corporation Tax issues. She is a Chartered Tax Adviser with over 9 years experience of advising Owner Managed Businesses.

Ian Lloyd was quoted on the day as saying "I am delighted to announce that Sarah Salton has accepted our invitation to become a Partner. In addition to already helping many clients resolve their intricate tax issues, she has made valuable contributions to our continued growth at Styles and Co since her arrival." He went on to

also offer congratulations to Stuart Hurst and Steven Norton who have both been promoted to Senior Managers.

In her spare time Sarah enjoys playing club tennis, is a season

ticket holder at Manchester United FC and a regular attendee of the firm's Boot Camp training sessions where she is constantly knocking seconds off her personal best for the timed mile.



Ian Lloyd with Sarah Salton and Graeme Hindley.

The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co, if you would like further information call 01925 761600

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Club receives new life saver

CULCHETH'S Village Club now has a vital piece of life saving equipment thanks to the British Heart Foundation.

The venue was seen as the ideal venue for a defibrillator, which can help save the lives of people who suffer heart attacks.

As part of the presentation a team from the North West Ambulance called into the Village Club/Royal British Legion to give a talk on the value and use of an AED defibrillator.

The talk by Rob Sharples and Celene Walmsley was

accompanied by a demonstration on the use of the equipment.

Culcheth Councillor Paul Campbell who attended the talk afterwards accepted a new defibrillator on behalf of the Club.

Paul said, "This is something that will be of great benefit to the whole community of Culcheth and will be accessible to everyone. I have been supporting the initiative by the NW Ambulance service to

get as many of these defibrillators placed in accessible locations not just in Culcheth but throughout the North West. I believe that this life

saving equipment being accessible to everyone is something the Government should also support throughout the country".



Culcheth Councillor Paul Campbell accepts a new Defibrillator on behalf of the Village Inn/Royal British Legion, Culcheth from Rob Sharples and Celene Walmsley North West Ambulance Service with members of staff and local residents.

Sarah becomes a partner at Styles & Co

SARAH Salton has become a partner in Culcheth-based chartered accountants Styles and Co.

She joined the firm in April last year as an Associate, specialising in all aspects of tax including Estate Planning, Company and Group Reorganisation, Personal and Trust Compliance and Corporation Tax issues. She is a chartered tax adviser with more than nine years experience of advising owner managed businesses.

Managing partner Ian Lloyd said: "I am delighted that Sarah Salton has accepted our invitation to become a partner.

"In addition to already helping many clients resolve their intricate tax issues, she has made valuable contributions to our continued growth at Styles and Co. since her arrival."

He went on to also offer

congratulations to Stuart Hurst and Steven Norton who have both been promoted to senior managers.

In her spare time Sarah enjoys playing club tennis, is a season ticket holder at Manchester United and a regular attendee of the firm's "boot camp" training sessions where she is constantly knocking seconds off her personal best for the timed mile.



Picture (by Andrew Collier): Partners Ian Lloyd, Sarah Salton and Graeme Hindley at the firm's annual garden party.



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Bus chiefs in partial U-turn

BUS chiefs have performed a partial U-turn over cuts in services through the village of Glazebury, following a successful campaign by residents and two councillors.

Network Warrington have agreed to amend their proposals as "a gesture of goodwill to the people of Glazebury."

Culcheth and Glazebury councillors Matt Smith and Chris Vobe say their campaign to restore bus services should be hailed as "a success."

They wrote to the bus company after receiving dozens of complaints from villagers.

The 19 and 28 services had been reduced outside of peak times, with only one bus an hour running through Glazebury between 10am

and 4pm, compared to the previous 15-minute service.

But after the two councillors had pointed out the changes had left villagers feeling "cut-off" company chief executive Ann Marie Slavin replied with the changes.

In a letter to the councillors she confirmed that the 28 service would be extended from Culcheth to the Forrester Arms pub, and turn around at the East Lancashire Road roundabout.

Glazebury would have two buses per hour – the 19 via Croft and Culcheth and the 28 and 28a

via Risley and Culcheth.

Cllr Smith said: "I am delighted that Network Warrington have carefully studied the concerns of residents in Glazebury and made these amendments to their recent timetable changes."

"The lack of adequate bus services through Glazebury during off-peak hours represented a real inconvenience to people in our village, many of whom felt cut off and effectively 'stranded'."

"These proposals by Network Warrington will help to alleviate much of the anxiety that has been generated in recent weeks and we are grateful to the board and the chief executive for the time they

have taken to address this issue."

Cllr Vobe added: "This represents a great victory for people in Glazebury. The village will now have two buses per hour during the day, with the peak time service arrangements remaining as they are."

"Local residents petitioned very effectively on this matter, and both Matt and I were determined to make the strongest possible case to rectify the reduction in service. We will continue to monitor all bus services in the village closely and encourage people to make good use of public transport whenever possible."

Brothers running with the Wolves

TWO Glazebury brothers who started out as footballers are now celebrating success with Warrington Wolves.

Former Culcheth Eagles player Joe Philbin aged 18 of Glazebury has signed a first team contract for the Wolves while his younger brother Andrew aged 16 has

secured a place with the U19 Academy.

Joe was a skillful footballer, playing for Culcheth Athletic JFC from the age of 4 to 15 years old but joined Culcheth Eagles Rugby team, managed by John McCleod and Ian Pleavin in 2009.

Based on his performance in his

first year as a rugby player, Joe was invited by Alan Kilshaw to join Warrington Wolves scholarship.

At 16, Joe moved to Latchford Albion premier division club playing under John Wilkinson and Luke Savelio in the National Cup Finalist side.

During 2011-2012 he progressed to Wolves U18 Academy while attending Priestley College, Warrington, studying BTEC in sport (Performance and Excellence).

In 2012-2013 he progressed to the U19 Academy, playing in the second row and has now signed a two year full time contract with the Wolves first team.

Meanwhile Andrew started to play rugby for Culcheth Eagles at the age of 13 playing under Ivan Gristlethwaite and John McCleod.

Prior to this he too was a footballer.

He was a member of Hope Academy school rugby team and played at Langtree Park in the Secondary Schools St. Helens Cup Final in 2012.

He joined the U16 Warrington Wolves Academy in June 2013 and has now secured a place on the Wolves U19 Academy squad.

Andrew has also been successful in gaining an apprenticeship with United Utilities as a process controller trainee.

Proud mum Mary said: "We would like to thank the coaching staff at Culcheth for their dedication and encouragement they tirelessly display."

They are very much appreciated."

Ju-jitsu club is almost 40 years old



IT is almost 40 years since Culcheth Ju-Jitsu Club was founded – and the club goes from strength to strength.

A recent fundraiser to purchase some new mats won enthusiastic support from numerous local firms and organisations.

The club now runs two classes on Sunday evenings for juniors and seniors, starting at 7pm and 8pm.

Coach Gary Knowles, who took over the club in 1986, says the main focus is to encourage members to show respect for each other, improve their fitness and learn the art of self-defence.

But they also cover weapon training, which includes Nunchukas, Tonfa, Sat, Bo, Jo and Katana.

Gary said: "I would like to sincerely thank all the firms and organisations who supported our fund-raising event."

Anyone interested in trying ju-jitsu should contact Gary on 07779992516 or email garyknowles1970@gmail.com



Left, Joe Philbin and brother Andrew

Jemima signs for Everton



A CULCHETH schoolgirl has been signed by the Everton Ladies' soccer team after being "spotted" by one of the club scouts.

Jemima Dahou has been playing football since the age of three and now plays for Culcheth Athletic Under 8s, where she is the only girl in the team.

A pupil at Twiss Green Primary School, she is actually a Manchester City supporter. But football is her passion and she is delighted to have been signed on a one-year player agreement with Everton.

Jemima was spotted at the end of last season, when she was picked out by an Everton scout during a tournament at Earlestown.

Everton's youngest squad is Under 9s but half-way through a four week trial, the club told her they wanted her to join them and "play up".

Her dream now is to one day play for England.

Jemima is a real sporting all-rounder. She also plays rugby for Culcheth Eagles and plays tennis, netball, gymnastics and enjoys summer training at Glazebury Cricket Club.

She comes from a sporting family.

Her Mum, Kathy, was an England netball player from the age of 15 until 23, when she was forced to quit through injury. She now coaches at Culcheth Athletic.

Jemima's younger sister Arabella, aged six, also plays rugby for Culcheth Eagles and soccer for Culcheth Athletic where she has already been "spotted" by Everton and placed on their "to watch" list because she is too young to join.

Brothers Hakeem, 17, and Zane, 15, play cricket for Glazebury and youngest brother Zack plays rugby and soccer and has attracted the interest of Bolton and Crewe.

If any girls or boys are interested in playing football in Culcheth they can contact Kathy on 07595587777.

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