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Issue: 140
November 2014

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Editor's Comment



I can't believe another year has almost flown by since the last Victorian Day!

Now organised by Culcheth & Glazebury Parish Council in conjunction with Birchwood Lions, this year's event takes place on Saturday November 29 and signals

An evening with Ricky Hatton

DATEN FC are holding an evening with boxer Ricky Hatton as guest speaker on Friday December 5 at Daten Sports Club.

Tickets for the fund-raising event cost £30.

For more details and tickets call 07742 171785 or email datenfootball@gmail.com

the countdown to Christmas!

Once again I would urge local residents to turn out in force and support this fantastic community event which is an important time of the year for local traders – if you can dress up in Victorian costumes – even better!

The road works taking place last year impacted on local trade and sadly some local businesses are no more.

Local retailers are the lifeblood of the village and will require a good Christmas to get through the tougher winter months.

Culcheth Life will be out and about covering this year's event and will be featuring the best dressed characters in our Christmas issue –

so make sure you dress to impress!

Meanwhile another important event taking place which deserves the support of the local community is the annual Remembrance Day parade organised by the Royal British Legion – please support the parade on Sunday, November 9.

There is also a fund-raising dinner at the Village Club on Friday November 7 – further details can be found elsewhere in this issue.

**Deadline for the
December issue
of Culcheth Life
is November 11**

Speed limits

THE controversial 20mph speed limits on residential roads across the borough have now been implemented in Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft – and local motorists have been warned to observe them.

A police spokesman said: "We want drivers to take extra care on residential roads and the 20mph signs are there to act as a reminder."

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House to be demolished – and replaced with three

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for the demolition of a large, detached house adjoining a golf course to make way for three new houses.

The borough council's planning committee approved the outline scheme at Noyna, Common Lane, Culcheth despite fierce opposition from neighbours, local councillors and Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council.

Although detailed plans have yet to be submitted, indicative plans show three detached, two-

storey houses each with a double garage, with access from a shared driveway from Common Lane.

The site is surrounded by residential properties with the exception of part of its north western boundary which adjoins Leigh Golf Course

The parish council objected to the proposals on the grounds

the development would be inappropriate for the location. The third house in particular would have a high impact on neighbours and there were other issues such as drainage, loss of trees, effect on wildlife, neighbour security and access.

Borough councillors Matt Smith and Chris Vobe argued that as the full details of the proposals were not yet submitted it was possible the development could have a considerable impact on

neighbours.

They were also concerned about highway dangers on a road where more than 60 per cent of vehicles exceeded the 30mph speed limit.

But planning officers said the principle of residential development was acceptable and the proposals should be of low impact, not causing demonstrable harm to neighbouring properties.

Satisfactory access could be provided without causing harm to highway safety.

'Deadly' is back again

FOR the 12th year on the run, radio and TV personality Alan "Deadly" Dedicat will be visiting Culcheth to host his quiz in aid of BBC Children in Need.

The familiar voice behind "Strictly Come Dancing" and the Lottery Show will be at the Royal British Legion Club, Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth on Sunday, November 16.

Tickets cost £10 including supper and are available either from the bar at the Legion or from Elaine Durrington – phone 01925 764697.

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



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School gets a touch of 'green'

TWISS Green Primary School's newly-refurbished main entrance was given a touch of "green" - thanks to staff from Bent's Garden and Home.

Pupils were involved in the operation at every step of the way - and helped clear up when the work was completed.

They were asked to guess how many bags of soil would be needed and use their senses to look, touch and smell the different plants.

They were told about root growth - and about the wildlife each plant would attract and what time of the year it would flower.

Headteacher Lesley McGann, whose office is adjacent to the new

area watched the morning's activities unfold and later said: "It was incredibly kind of Bents to provide so much time, expertise and even extra plants.

Transformed

"They have, indeed, totally transformed the main entrance to our school."

Pupils involved were: Jake Murgatroyd, Will Hewson, Jemima Dahou, Arabella Dahou, Elizabeth Mellor and Carmen Culbert



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Village Club marks Remembrance weekend

CULCHETH Village Club's commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of the start of World War One will commence with a Poppy Appeal Dinner on Friday, November 7.

Local residents are invited to join them for their most important occasion of the year, with first class food and entertainment, to raise funds for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Everyone is welcome.

Any one unable to attend the dinner then please support the annual Parade and Service of Remembrance on Sunday, November 9.

The Members of the Culcheth

and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be joined by the local cadet forces, Scouts and Guides and many others as they march from the Club led by the Band of 70 Squadron Air Training Corps, assembling at 10:00 am.

Commemorations

There will be a Service of Remembrance at Newchurch Parish Church at 11:00, after which they

will march back to the club, to continue their commemorations.

If people can't make either of those occasions, they are welcome to come along to an evening with

Michael Boublé on November 28, 8:00 till late.

Last year's evening with Take That was sold out so don't leave it too late to get tickets.

Lewis pedals up £630

KEEN cyclist Lewis Sharman raised £630 for the Culcheth branch of The Children's Society when he took part in a two day, 70-mile road trip taking in more than 20 supermarkets.

Lewis, aged 20, from Birchwood started in Darwen and finished at Hazel Grove but passed through Culcheth en route.

Work colleagues and customers at the store where he has worked for the last three years helped with the fund-raising and there was also an in-store raffle which saw three people take away prizes of flat screen televisions.



Lewis passing through Culcheth with other cyclists who took part in the event

WI celebrates the war years

MEMBERS of Croft WI enjoyed a fun evening when Merron Mitchell, ably assisted by Linda Field, officiated at their Members Night meeting.

Theme for the event was "The War Years", commemorating both WW1 and WW2 and singer Sarah Chidlow from Birkenhead Operatic Society was the cabaret.

Sarah, kitted out in WW2 army uniform, sang songs from both eras and members enjoyed singing along to many old favourites. A quiz had been organised relating to the evening's theme, as were the snacks provided, along with tots of sherry, which probably enhanced members rousing rendition of Land of Hope and Glory.

Merron read out a quote by Winston Churchill – "I could not live without champagne – in victory I deserve it – in defeat I need it", which brought the evening to an amusing conclusion.

President Doreen Clare thanked Merron, Linda and helpers for a thoroughly enjoyable meeting.

The competition was won by Nicky Adams, 2nd Nora McCarty, 3rd Ann Tansey.

On December 10, members will have their Christmas party at Statham Lodge and on December 17 they are to attend a carol service at Chester Cathedral.

Friday 7th November 2014

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Victorian Day set to

CULCHETH'S annual Victorian Day is set to light up the village once again this year on Saturday November 29.

The event is organised by the Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council in conjunction with Birchwood Lions.

Councillors say there is a great deal to look forward to at this year's event, which will culminate in the traditional "switch on" of the village's Christmas lights.

Culcheth Library will be hosting a small exhibition, and local shops and cafes will be carrying a Victorian theme.

The Birchwood Lions will hold their annual prize draw, with tickets on sale throughout the days and weeks leading up to the event.

New fairground rides will be present on the shopping parade for younger visitors, Santa's Grotto will be located in the Methodist Church, there will be a Christmas Fair in the Parish Hall and carol singing will take place at the Methodist Church at 4.00pm.

For teenagers and older children, the popular "Sudden Impact" ride will once again be set up in the village.

The afternoon will culminate with the Christmas lights "switch on".

Local councillor Matt Smith – aided, of course, by Santa himself – will perform the switch on.

Preparations for the Day have been under way for some time now, with a working group chaired by Parish Councillor Mike Vobe leading the organisation.

Cllr Smith said: "Victorian Day is a staple event on our village calendar and serves as a very enjoyable start to the Christmas season.

"We are really looking forward to this year's event, and warmly invite everyone – wherever you live in Warrington – to come along and enjoy what's on offer."

After the Christmas lights are switched on, there will be a fireworks display on the village green to bring Victorian Day to a close.

As exact times are confirmed for events throughout the day, a programme will be distributed to every home in Culcheth and Glazebury.



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Horticultural Society winners

CULCHETH and District Horticultural Society held their annual show at Newchurch Parish Hall.

Pictured are first prize winners for their Dahlias left, Raymond Weeks for giant executive class and Steve Burns for small Dahlias.

Seventh Culcheth Methodist Church Brownie Heather Lambert aged 9 won a first for her animal made from fruit entry in the children's Section.

Doreen Hogston won first prize for her floral art entry entitled Memories.

In the garden produce section Jim Weedall won first prize for his basket of mixed garden produce and Nancy Smith took first prize with her Apple Pie entry.



Doreen Hogston won first prize for her floral art entry



First prize winners for their Dahlias left, Raymond Weeks for giant executive class and Steve Burns for small Dahlias



Heather Lambert aged 9 won a first for her animal made from fruit entry in the children's Section





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Nancy Smith took first prize with her Apple Pie



Jim Weedall won first prize for his basket of mixed garden produce

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Thanks to all of our clients who completed the survey, your

help is greatly appreciated and we will endeavour to keep up the good work and to focus on those areas most important to you.

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Landmark day for the WI

IT was a landmark day for Newchurch WI when five new members joined and president Sylvia Brown decided after 16 years to take a well-earned rest.

She thanked Dorothy Hall for the pretty yellow roses donated to the president's table and the raffle and then a very busy evening continued, with notice of the monthly walk around Frodsham and the start of choir practice for the Christmas Carol Concert.

Secretary Jean Riley reported on the year's successful outings and fund-raising events and Irene Bromilow announced a trip to Hazelmere Gardens and nursery.

She also proposed the first theatre trip of 2015, to see "Oklahoma" at the Lowry on March 19.

Paddy Poulter's special autumn competitions - wild life photography and foliage arrangements - were set out to be judged by members during the tea break.

The speakers, Mr and Mrs Drackley, made a welcome return with "Tales of the Unexpected". These were five short audio-visual compilations which took members to Nepal, Australia, the South Seas and Lapland, with one stop nearer home in Wilmslow.

Mrs Drackley spoke of some sad surprises, a strange disappearance in Nepal and the deaths on 9/11, but also some happy events like David's chance to drive a husky team in Lapland and a marvellous walk on the spans of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

They then judged the monthly competition (A Holiday Postcard). Muriel Hotchin was the winner, with Paddy Poulter and Margaret Harrop coming second and third.

Doreen Proctor was chosen as the new President. The autumn competitions were won by Kath Hanley and Jean Riley, with all the proceeds going to St Rocco's.

Musical fireworks

A MUSICAL fireworks extravaganza is to take place in the grounds of Twiss Green Primary School, Culcheth on Friday, November 7.

Organised by the school's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association, the event is a fundraiser but also a community event where local people can enjoy a fun, safe and spectacular fireworks display.

There will rides for the children, refreshments and some special entertainment before the fireworks start.

The Raj will be providing food to purchase.

The gates will open at 6.30pm and the display will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Spotless Cleaners, The Raj, The Cherry Tree, Culcheth Newsagents, Forget-me-Not Toys & Books, The Daten and Poyntons Florists.

Residents oppose wind turbine

WORRIED residents have expressed concern over plans for a wind turbine at Glazebury, Warrington.

They say not all people who would be affected by the turbine at Lightoaks Farm have been consulted and believe the impact of the installation would affect the ecology of the area.

There would also be a risk of fires on moss land in the area and the turbine would also have an adverse visual and noise impact on the area.

The size of the installation is inappropriate for its proposed use, they argue and approval of the scheme could set a precedent in the area.

Members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council have decided to formally object to the proposals.

A tasty global challenge

CUB scouts in Culcheth are taking on the Global Challenge - part of which involves learning about the traditions, culture, food and religion of another country.

The 19th Warrington (Culcheth) cub pack particularly enjoyed one part of the challenge - a visit to the China Rose restaurant in Culcheth where they were entertained to a meal and enjoyed getting together and experiencing new tastes.

Cub leader Tracie Cotton said: "We were superbly entertained and the cubs had a great time."



Prom Dress specialists look to their Third Anniversary!

THE Dress Studio in Culcheth, is set to celebrate its third anniversary and has been so successful it is now providing outfits to the stars - and even their mums!

They dressed several of the Hollyoaks stars for the National TV Awards as they went on to win the award for Best Soap and they also dressed Anne, mother of One Direction's Harry Styles, when she attended the Brit Awards with him.

Owner Holly Ikin said: "The time has absolutely flown by, we cannot believe that it is now nearly three years since we opened our doors. It has been so exciting to see how the store has grown and we can't wait to see what the future has in store for us!"

Since The Dress Studio first opened its doors back in January 2012, the designer dress studio located in Culcheth has grown from strength

to strength. Last summer, the store underwent a significant extension - expanding to having nine changing rooms and even more stock.

Holly explained: "Choosing the right styles and dresses is really important to me. I travel to America for the launch of the collections so, I know that we are getting the very best dresses from each designer.

"Whilst I was there this summer, I spoke with Sherri Hill and Abraham Maslavi of Jovani (the two leading prom & evening wear designers in the world), and it was great to tell them about our store in the UK. We are a very unique shop in England and Sherri Hill & Jovani love that; we have hundreds of dresses under one

roof and that is quite rare over here.

"We are also thrilled to be prom specialists. It really is overwhelming how much prom has grown in the UK in the last 10 years. We now have our new collections for the 2015 proms and have been serving prom girls for next year since June! It is easier for them (and their families) to get the dress earlier, it saves hours of looking at photos online and once they have chosen the dress, they can focus all of their attention on to their GCSE studies.

Holly added: "After being open nearly three years, it is really lovely to see that people are recognising that we do have much more than just prom dresses. We have dressed many recently for balls, charity events and cruises, it has been great to expand our clientele.

"We dressed several of the Hollyoaks stars for the National TV Awards and they went on to win the award for Best Soap so, we were

thrilled for them! We also dressed Anne, mother of Harry Styles, when she attended the Brit Awards with him. It is amazing to be serving customers from Warrington and then also have such big names joining us too!

The Dress Studio sells dresses for every occasion, including; parties, balls, proms and pageants! The studio hand picks their dresses from American and UK designers including; Sherri Hill, Jovani, Forever Unique, MacDuggal and many more!

The Dress Studio is open five days a week, Tuesday to Saturday, 9.30-5.30, and no appointments are necessary! All customers are welcomed by friendly staff who go above and beyond to help find the perfect dress.

With hundreds of stunning dresses to fit every size, style and occasion, The Dress Studio is the perfect place to find the perfect dress!



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Reproductive Health Group - free and discounted IVF cycles

THE Reproductive Health Group opened the UK's first integrated fertility hospital, the Centre for Reproductive Health, at Daresbury Park in April 2014. Feedback from patients and visitors has been highly positive.

Recognising that embarking on fertility treatment is an extremely important decision and that uncertainty about costs and the chances of success can cause concern, RHG have decided to take a unique approach to funding for IVF treatment which demonstrates their confidence in the exceptional quality of fertility care they deliver.

After undergoing a full set of diagnostic tests to identify the best course of treatment, patients can be offered one of two packages which include subsequent free or discounted cycles of IVF treatment should the first cycle not result in a pregnancy. RHG are the first clinic in the UK to offer such a scheme.

Free fertility consultations are also available at the Centre for Reproductive Health. To book or to find out more, call today on 01925 202180, email info@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk or see www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk.

Work starts on playing field project

WORK has started on improvements to the car park and entrance at Culcheth's Shaw Street Playing field.

Cllr Sue Bland, who has campaigned for years to get the work done, said: "I am pleased to see this work going on. It will not only bring about much needed improvements for users of the playing field but should also ease the problems of on-street parking in Shaw Street."

Improvements are also to be carried out at a later stage to the changing rooms.

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Although I am trained in sales and assist with this area from time to time, my role entails conducting appraisals, viewings, tenant referencing, preparing inventories and contracts, property inspections, handling maintenance issues.

I'm also on hand to give general advice to both landlords and tenants, either on the phone or face to face in the home"



Ella Gibbons
Head of Administration



"As head of administration it is important that property particulars, including photographs, epc's and floorplans, are all completed efficiently and promptly.

It is paramount that once all details are correct and approved by our vendors, that I upload them to the internet, including Rightmove and Zoopla, with immediate effect to maximise the marketing of our portfolio.

Visiting the properties enables me to write precise and accurate details and gives me confidence to describe each home in detail over the phone.

My other duties include producing all correspondence and managing the company accounts, however my role doesn't stop there, I am also trained in photography and viewings so when needed I can be on hand to assist in most areas of the business"

Your Questions Answered

With our combined wealth of expertise here at Courtyard, it seems only fair that we share some of it with readers of Culcheth Life.

Q "I'm thinking of moving, should I put my house on the market now, or wait until after Christmas?"

Mr E Davidson, Culcheth

"Although historically the market slows down before Christmas as many people are in the same mindset, there are fewer properties on the market, therefore less competition, so it can be the best time to secure a sale on your property. Last year we had a record number of sales in December!"

Answered by Victoria, branch manager

Q "I've just done my house up ready to sell, but I'm running out of budget to finish the garden. Is this going to affect my chances of selling?"

Mrs Todd, Culcheth

"Photo's sell houses and first impressions count, it is important that gardens are neat and tidy to help achieve the best price possible. It doesn't have to cost the earth, borrow outdoor furniture and pot plants from friends & family as a temporary measure. If more extensive work is involved, give us a call and we can help find a solution that works with your budget."

Answered by Ella, head of admin

Q "I have a quirky and unique taste in decor, I've been advised to de-clutter my home to sell, do you think this is necessary?"

Miss Collis, Glazebury

"Of course your house is your home and reflects your personality, but when it comes to selling, it is prudent to be mindful of what the majority will like as opposed to the minority. If it means storing some of your personal belongings and neutralising your colour scheme to achieve a sale fast, then it is definitely beneficial as it increases saleability and reduces the likelihood of low offers. However we would be able to advise you properly upon seeing your property."

Answered by Victoria, branch manager

If you have a property question, email the team on ask@courtyardhomes.co.uk and we will endeavour to answer some of them here each month.



Courtyard

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