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Issue: 103
October 2011

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Historic cup win

Page 3

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Editor's Comment



MUCH has been said and written about the anti-social behaviour of young people in the village over the years, although things have certainly improved in recent times.

We all know it is the mindless minority who cause the problems and make the headlines in the local and national media - the recent riots across the country being a classic example.

Regular readers will know that here at Culcheth Life we are extremely proud to report on the many outstanding achievements made by

the youngsters of Culcheth, Glazebury, Croft and surrounding areas.

So it gives us great pleasure to this month focus on the achievements of two local junior sports teams - Glazebury Cricket Club's and Culcheth Athletic's Under 15s teams.

The Glazebury Cricket Club team of youngsters are celebrating their first ever cup final victory - while the Culcheth Athletic teenagers had a successful season, also helping raise funds for a very good cause - St Rocco's Hospice.

Both sports teams have set a fine example in the local community and

should be rightly proud of their achievements.

But let us not forget the unsung heroes from the adult world who give up their free time to invest in these youngsters - the coaches and managers.

It is the time and effort they put into coaching and educating these youngsters that turn them into winners and outstanding young citizens we can be proud of.

Congratulations to you all on your great team work in our community - keep up the good work and help ensure we can continue to report on the positive achievements of the many, instead of the headline grabbing antics of the few!

Memorial service for lost loved ones

CULCHETH Methodist Church is holding its annual Memorial Service, when local residents can light a candle in memory of a lost loved one on Sunday November 6 at 3pm.

The Service is open to anyone who would like to come along to remember a loved one.

For further details please ring John Gregson (Lay Pastoral Assistant) 01925 762715.

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Historic cup win at the double!

GLAZEBOURY Cricket Club's Under 15s have made their own piece of history by winning a thrilling final against Kingsley at their home ground Hurst Lane, leaving the opposition thinking they were seeing double!

With the Glazeboury side fielding two sets of identical twins - Elliot and Thomas Croston and Harry and Jack Barton - the opposition could be forgiven for thinking they were seeing double!

It is the first time in its 12-year history that a Glazeboury team has won the North Cheshire Junior Cricket Association T20 knock-out cup.

Having lost the toss, Glazeboury were put into bat on a damp and

slow scoring pitch. Captain Gerard Southworth's 17 was the top score for the home side in their competitive total of 90 all out, but collectively every player scored runs for the team.

In reply Kingsley were always behind the required run rate, restricted by accurate bowling and wickets regularly falling. After 10 of their allotted overs Kingsley had been reduced to 29 for 5 and Glazeboury sensed it could be their day.

However, Kingsley's middle order batsmen rallied to force a thrilling and exciting finale. The turning point for Glazeboury came in the 16th over when Hakeem Dahou claimed 2 wickets in 2 balls, the second superbly caught off his own bowling. The final wicket fell in the 19th over, a deadly accurate throw from Gerard Southworth for a dramatic run out, followed by jubilant celebrations. Kingsley all out for 74.

Glazeboury's young cricketers did not disappoint the large crowd of parents, coaches, senior club players and officials who turned out in force to support and encourage the boys. It was a fantastic finish to the season for the team who have only been beaten once all season.

Anyone who would like further information about the club can visit their website at www.glazebourycc.org.uk or contact Mike Durrington at elmik2326@aol.com or on 07729853915.



Foreground left, Sam Hunt vice-captain and Gerard Southworth captain. Middle row from left, Elliot Croston, James Blyth and Thomas Croston. Back row from left, Hakeem Dahou, Harry Barton, Alex Macarthur, Jack Barton, Pat Hutchinson and Alex Ross.

Advertiser's announcement

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Access plan angers residents

PLANS to convert part of the old Culcheth High School into a business centre have triggered opposition from nearby residents.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council has also decided to object to proposals to create a second access to the old G Block from Withington Avenue.

G Block is one of the newer parts of the old high school and has been retained because of its suitability for officers or a business centre.

It has an existing access and car park close to the bottom of Withington Avenue.

But an application has been received for permission to create a second access, further up the road.

This would involve removal of a number of mature trees.

Cllr Keith Bland said: "Residents are opposed to this and, quite frankly, I agree with them."

"It seems to me that the existing

access is adequate - particularly as it is next to the car park.

The council is also supporting residents of Withington Avenue and Culcheth Hall Drive who are complaining about high school pupils using a passageway between the two roads as a short cut to and from the school.

Residents have complained of grass verges being trodden down and other damage caused by the pupils.

They want the school to consider creating a footpath within the school grounds to take pupils down to the bottom of Withington Avenue where there is a Puffin crossing which is being used by only a small number of pupils since the school moved to its new site.

Lottery voice helps Children in Need

THE voice behind The Lottery Show and Strictly Come Dancing, Alan Dedicoat, will be hosting a quiz in Culcheth.

Radio 2 announcer Alan visits the village for the ninth consecutive year to host one of his famous quizzes to raise funds for the BBC Children in Need appeal. It is on Sunday October 23 at 7.30pm at the British Legion Village Club on Wigshaw Lane.

Tickets cost £8 and include supper and teams should be of four people.

The event is always popular and anyone interested is advised to book early by getting tickets from the legion or from the organiser Elaine Durrington on 01925 764697.



'Open morning'

WARRINGTON North Conservatives are holding an "open morning" on Saturday, October 15 at Newchurch Parish Hall, Culcheth.

Visitors will have a chance to chat with senior Conservative councillors over a cup of tea or coffee, or raise importance issues.

More details about local Conservatives are available at the website www.warringtonnorthconservatives.org.uk

WI ladies learn about surnames

AN informative and amusing evening was enjoyed by members of Croft WI when David T. Grotorex gave a talk on 'The Origins of Surnames'.

David, a retired fire officer, proved extremely knowledgeable on his subject and, through a visual presentation, explained the inception of surnames in England from around the Norman Conquest.

Originally only the hierarchy had formal surnames, but eventually this was passed down to the peasantry who took the names of their village, local area, occupations, or even nicknames. The Welsh did not follow this trend, but took their fathers Christian names, hence the prevalence of such names as Roberts, Williams, Hughes, etc.

The meanings of some members' surnames were explained and proved hilarious, as did David's jokes and anecdotes. A vote of thanks was given by secretary Sue Birchall. A highly unusual flower container and arrangement by Barbara Cooper gained first prize in the competition.

The next meeting will be on October 19, when "Ghost Tales" will be the subject of the talk by Sheila Walsh.

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Volunteers transform care home garden

A team of green-fingered volunteers spent a day improving a care home's garden.

The good-willed bunch included a team of helpers from Long Lane Garden Centre, and a group of young people from the local police and fire service youth community support programme, delighted residents and staff at Culcheth CLS care home, Holcroft Grange.

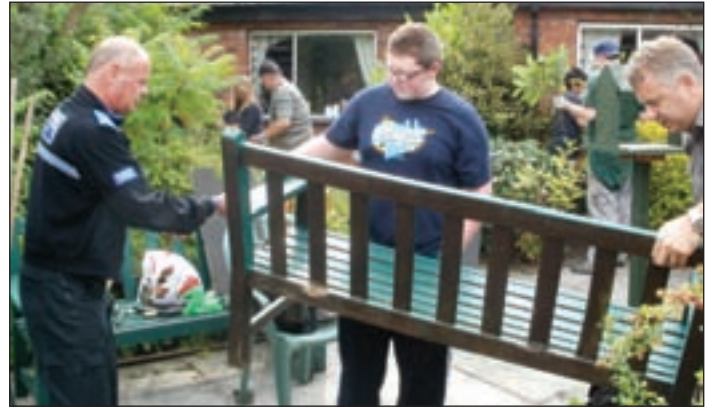
Supported by PC Jeff Mathers, the volunteers spent the day potting plants, weeding, trimming bushes and chatting to the care home's residents. The event was arranged as part of the youth community support group's eight-week programme designed to give young people an opportunity to put something back into the community, and to learn about showing and earning respect in their local area.

The Long Lane Garden Centre is part of a Warrington based charity called the Walton Lea Project, which supports adults with learning difficulties, physical difficulties and various mental health needs by helping them train and gain employment in horticulture. Their volunteers helped the less-horticulturally experienced young people with the gardening tasks.

The Walton Lea Project's woodwork group designed and built a bench for residents to sit out in the garden, as well as a bird table and bird boxes to bring some wildlife into the grounds.

Pauline Shaw, Home Manager at Holcroft Grange, said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity for us to gain some assistance in attending to the home's garden, which now looks just beautiful. The residents really value being able to enjoy the sights and smells of the garden, so they're over the moon with the improvements."

"It's been a pleasure to meet so many kind people and be involved in such a wonderful and uplifting programme. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers and everyone who donated pots and plants for everything they've done."



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For more information please contact 07773 077694 www.croftpreschool.com

Fundraiser for pre-school's new building

A DINNER dance is to be held to raise funds for a new building for Croft Pre School.

It will be held at Culcheth Sports and Social Club on October 14 and will include live entertainment.

Croft Pre School is currently based in the Community Room at St Lewis' Primary School, Croft with access to its own large outdoor area, as well as the school play area and facilities.

It opens from 8am to 3pm daily and can offer the option of a hot school meal for children at lunch time for a small additional cost. It also runs breakfast clubs at Croft Primary School and St Lewis' which open at 7.30am with breakfast provided, activities and games.

The pre-school aims to secure its own building next year. Tickets for the dinner dance are on sale now and can be obtained by calling 0773 077694.

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From Glazebury to California

RESIDENTS in Glazebury, have seen their long-standing campaign to correct a mistake on Google Maps go international!

Chris Vobe, Labour Party spokesperson for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft – was contacted by residents in Hawthorne Avenue and Heyshoot Lane who pointed out that many big organisations, including Google Maps, had the two roads labelled the wrong way round – leading to a series of mix-ups with delivery drivers, repair men, and even take-away orders!

Now, after highlighting the case with Google to try and get the error rectified, the two roads are receiving international recognition – because the case has been referred to Google’s headquarters - in Mountain View, California.

Chris said: “Residents in Hawthorne Avenue and Heyshoot Lane spoke to me about this issue earlier in the summer. At first, they thought that very little could be done, and that it was just a very inconvenient mistake - but I took the matter up with Google’s UK offices.

“Because of the way Google have labelled their maps, many Sat Nav users and delivery drivers have been directed to the wrong place. Residents in this part of the village have had to deal with various mix-ups, including repair engineers coming to the wrong house, deliveries going astray – and even receiving Chinese take aways that someone in the next road had ordered. All because of a simple error made by



someone in the glass towers of Google.”

Chris has taken up various issues on behalf of Culcheth and Glazebury residents, but he says that this is the first one he has ever known go international.

“Over the past few years, I’ve brought dozens and dozens of issues to the attention of the police, the council, or utility companies... but I’ve never had one travel all the way to California before!” he said.

“But I’ve always pledged to ensure that Culcheth and Glazebury are ‘on the map’ – so I hope that Google bosses will put this right as soon as possible. In the meantime, it’s nice to know that our community is being recognised over 3,000 miles away.”

School to become first Academy

THE new-look £28 million Culcheth High School will become Warrington’s first academy school - when agreement is reached on the repayment of a £600,000 loan they received from the borough council.

Council chiefs have agreed to give the school a 125-year peppercorn lease for just £1 a year, but say the “public money” must be repaid, with interest, before they agree to transfer.

Earlier this year the school’s governing body voted to seek academy status under the government’s education reforms and its application was subsequently approved by the Department for Education.

The council has now authorised the legal transfer and 125 year lease of the education property to the new school.

The school is hoping to officially become an academy on Saturday October 1. The government says academies benefit from greater freedoms to innovate and raise standards.

These include: freedom from local authority control, the ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff, freedoms around the delivery of the curriculum and the ability to change the lengths of terms and school days.

Only last March senior councillors from all three main parties and union leaders at Warrington joined forces to oppose any plans for academy schools - which they said would threaten existing educational establishments.

In a joint statement, they said that opening the Academies Programme to all could disadvantage other schools in the borough and create a two-tier system.

Cllr Colin Froggatt, the council’s executive member for education, said: “The leaders of all three parties have said there is no appetite for academy schools in Warrington and this view has not changed.

“But government legislation has changed and as a responsible local authority we have to go along with the legislation for the benefit of Warrington people, in particular the children.”

But he added that the council had borrowed money to enable the new school to be built. This was public money and the council expected it to be repaid with interest.

This might create some difficulties for the academy conversion process, but the council was required to ensure that public money was used appropriately.

Culcheth High School

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 8th December 2011
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Presentations by the
Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form,
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Plan doesn't need permission!

COUNCILLORS are to visit the site of a planning application for a new driveway at a house in Culcheth - even though they have been told the householder doesn't even need planning consent.

Members of the borough council's planning committee will visit the house in Clarke Avenue before deciding if the owner can construct a new entrance drive from Culcheth Hall Drive.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council has objected to the proposal on the grounds it will have an impact on the street scene and trees and because there appears to be no need for an additional access to the house.

But officers are recommending the application be approved - and point out that the householder could construct the driveway under permitted development rights.

They say it would be unreasonable to refuse permission for something that can be built without permission - even if permission was refused.

Eight neighbours have objected and point out there is already an adequate access onto Clarke Avenue.

They say the extra drive will lead to increased traffic movements, pedestrian safety issues and the loss of mature trees.

A phone call from a coffin!

A MOBILE phone ringing in a coffin was one of the hilarious incidents recounted by guest speaker Carole Codd when she made a welcome return visit to a meeting of Newchurch WI.

Carole had a long career as a Liverpool Registrar and Civil Celebrant and the story of the phone in a coffin was just one of the anecdotes she had for members.

It was an undertaker's mistake, not a ghostly caller, she assured the meeting.

Another story involved a Palm House wedding where a tiny barn owl flew in to deliver the wedding ring.

The registering of births was of special interest, as registrars have to be very accurate about the parent's identity. Also, although many traditional names are very popular, some parents have their own ideas about spellings and others make some very strange choices in spite of the registrar's best efforts!

Members also learned that a new law now allows people who have changed gender to alter their birth certificates.

A vote of thanks was given by Barbara Delve.

The next meeting is the AGM on October 12 at 7.30pm

Council says s'no thanks

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has decided not to take advantage of an offer from the borough council for £1,000 worth of equipment - including shovels and grit - for "self help" snow clearing during the winter.

Cllr Keith Bland said: "We are all in favour of having more grit bins in the village, but we don't have the resources to clear snow and ice, nor anywhere to store the equipment.

"We think this is a job for the borough council

New pre-school opens

FORMER Chief Inspector of Schools Maurice Smith officially opened Croft Village Pre-School.

Children, parents and representatives from Croft Memorial Hall Committee, the Parish Council and Croft Primary School were present at the ceremony.

Mr Smith spent more than an hour chatting to children, staff and community representatives before performing the opening ceremony by cutting a red ribbon.

He said: "What a privilege to be asked to open such an important facility in this lovely village."

Pre-School manager Chelle Forber said: "This was a wonderful day to remember".

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Giant cake to celebrate 10 years

A giant cake has been created to mark the 10th anniversary of a Warrington based restaurant.

Bents Garden & Home at Glazebury is celebrating 10 years of delicious dining and to mark the occasion they have put on display a special 10 tier birthday cake; all homemade and decorated by the team from their Fresh Approach restaurant.

The impressive cake stands at 5ft tall and is decorated with themed sugar work all carefully crafted by Food and Beverage Manager, Andrew Bourne and his team of skilled patissiers.

Matthew Bent, Managing Director of Bents Garden & Home said: "We are all completely blown away by the cake. We talked about having something made which would be a bit out of the ordinary, but never could have imagined something so spectacular. It really is a showstopper and has definitely got customers talking."

The Fresh Approach Restaurant's official birthday took place on Monday, September 12, with morning customers treated to



complementary bucks fizz, coffee and cake, but celebrations continued throughout the month culminating in an extra special Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday September 30.

It is also a milestone year for Macmillan - Bents Charity of the Year - as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. To celebrate the two occasions Bents will be hosting a special Coffee Morning part of which will be the Centre's attempt to cycle from John O'Groats to Lands End.

Colleagues are donating their time to take turns on static bikes with the aim of covering the distance of 603 miles and raise even more money for Macmillan.

Visit www.bents.co.uk to find out more about the 10th Anniversary celebrations.

The Gardening Guide October...



- Herbaceous borders can be overhauled now. Dig up & divide plants, & improve soil with a conditioner.
- Many trees & shrubs can be planted now to provide autumn/winter interest for years ahead.
- October is a good time to plant waterside perennials & make a great feature of your pond.
- Encourage hedgehogs to overwinter in your garden by providing hibernation boxes in sheltered areas.
- The last mowing of the lawn should be no more than a light tipping of the grass blades.

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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

CULCHETH WARD



Keith Bland
01925 766641



Paul Campbell
01925 766658



Mrs Lilian Houghton
01925 762935



Mrs Illeyne Hutchinson
01925 765131



Roger Rankin
01925 766038

NEWCHURCH WARD



Mrs Jacqui Johnson
01925 763435



Mrs Christine Rankin
01925 766357



Mrs Helena Campbell
01925 766658

GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Mrs Sue Bland
01925 766641



Peter Caswell
01942 671938

Millennium Garden

The Millennium Garden has now had the re-setting, cleaning and re-sanding of the blockwork completed and we have just accepted a tender for the painting of the Sundial and the bollards, which will be done in the next few weeks.

We hope that you will agree that it is already looking a lot better.

Litter Grot Spots

The Parish Council have noticed that reports of small amounts of litter could not be dealt with promptly by Warrington Borough Council. It has been agreed that such requests should be passed on to the Parish Council litter warden for action via the Clerk.

Residents: If you have any litter problems, please contact any one of the Parish Councillors listed on this page.

Police

The police have reported to the Parish Council that there have been a number of incidents in various parts of Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft where motorists have had their car keys stolen during the course of a house burglary, in order to steal cars parked in their driveway.

Risley police station have issued the following advice:

- If you have a garage, please park your car in it.
- DO NOT leave car keys in an obvious place. At night time take your car keys to bed with you.
- If you have to park your car in the driveway consider fitting substantial gates or security posts.
- Remember not to leave doors or windows unlocked.

Youth Facilities on Mee Brow

The Parish Council are pleased that Warrington Borough Council are providing a Mobile Youth Base on Mee Brow Playing Fields every Monday and Tuesday from 6.45pm – 9.00pm starting on September 19th to November 22nd.

Grants

The Parish Council have donated £150 to the Culcheth Lions for the provision of a Children's ride on Victorian Day and £60 to the Royal British Legion for the purchase of two wreaths for Remembrance Day.

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**Email:
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THE STYLES FILES styles and co
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Funding for business- could your organisation make use of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme?

The lack of available credit has been given many column inches, but prior to the recession, it is now widely accepted that there was too much credit available in many areas.

How many of us have been offered a 'guaranteed' amount if we take out a personal loan or new credit card despite our personal circumstances being almost unknown to the potential lender?

At the heart of any offer to lend money, a bank should consider both the borrower's available security and their ability to repay the debt, their serviceability.

However, there are viable lending opportunities where full security cannot be provided by the borrower.

Many businesses have seen their banks focusing on reducing their exposure to debt rather than looking at new lending opportunities, but in order for the economy to grow, banks must now support viable businesses on realistic terms.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme (EFG) is intended to support SMEs with a turnover of up to £25 million. Although some restrictions

apply, loans of between £10,000 and £1 million are available through high street banks.

The government will guarantee 75% of the loan, enabling businesses without the levels of security normally required by banks to raise funding. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills warns: "EFG is intended to support lending to businesses that can ultimately repay the loan in full, and is a guarantee to the lender, not an insurance for the borrower in case of default."

The scheme will continue until 2014-15, providing up to £600 million of additional lending to around 6,000 SMEs in 2011-12 and, subject to demand, over £2 billion in total over the next 4 years.

This scheme may benefit your business. If you want more details please contact Ian Lloyd, partner, on 01925 761600.

Disclaimer: please note that the contents of our Culcheth Life articles are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always take professional advice before taking 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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Soccer team's silver lining



A CULCHETH soccer team helped raise more than £600 for St Rocco's Hospice by doing what any soccer team does best - scoring goals!

Each time Culcheth Athletic U15s scored a goal, various sponsors pledged a pound - and together with match day donations inspired by the St Rocco's brand on their team shirt - the team raised a total of £615.27.

The money was presented to St Rocco's volunteer and former fundraiser Mike Bloomfield.

Money for goals was sponsored by The Village Sandwich Bar in Culcheth, The Jag Centre in Warrington, Nick Burley and his family and Ste Walsh and his family, who all agreed to pay £1.00 for every goal scored during the 2010/11 season.

"It has been a brilliant experience

to help this worth while cause," said team manager Darron Bibby.

"Not only have we raised money for St Rocco's but with our shirt sponsorship we have also helped to promote St Rocco's and gain awareness across Warrington which is great news for everyone concerned.

"We also had the opportunity for all the team players and parents to visit St Rocco's and this was a

fantastic experience with everyone learning so much about this charity.

"We had a great season and just missed out on winning the premiership title and also we had a great run in the cup competitions and we will definitely be working with Mike and the team at St Rocco's in the future and hopefully, we can raise more money and fingers crossed, win some more silverware!

Alarm over railway station proposal

ALARM bells rang at Culcheth - and in Leigh - at the prospect of a new railway station being built on a 'green' site on the fringe of the village.

The development, if it went ahead, would involve re-building the old Kenyon Junction station.

But it would almost certainly be opposed by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and has already angered an action group campaigning for a new station at Leigh - one of the largest towns in the UK without a rail connection.

Community transport group Transport for Leigh warned the development could open the door for a new 'Parkside-style' freight terminal on Culcheth's doorstep.

News of the proposal followed a meeting between Leigh MP Andy Burnham with Secretary of State for Transport Phillip Hammond.

Afterwards Mr Burnham said: "We discussed two separate options for linking Leigh with Kenyon junction as well as a less likely link from Glazebury."

A spokesman for Transport for Leigh said one plan under consideration would involve extending the Atherleigh by-pass to allow people to drive from Leigh to Kenyon.

"Our concern about this proposal is that once this road from Leigh to Kenyon is built it will lead the further residential and commercial development in the surrounding area across green and farm land.

"It would be pointless building a road at significant cost only to take people from Leigh to a station at

Kenyon."

A second option being considered is using the existing road network in and around Kenyon.

The spokesman said: "Anyone who has driven on the East Lancs Road in the morning or evening rush-hour knows how busy it is. The idea of generating more traffic, cars and freight, and adding to that congestion seems madness."

Transport for Leigh is firmly committed to another proposal for a

£52 million passenger-only station just outside Leigh town centre.

"A local station for Leigh delivers real benefits. It would be dreadful if all the efforts local people made to block 'Parkside' were in vain should a similar development be built on the back of a station at Kenyon, supposedly serving the people of Leigh.

"It is quite clear from our research that a station at Kenyon isn't wanted by the people of Leigh. It has no advantage over car journey times to existing stations such as Daisy Hill, Glazebrook, Atherton and

Birchwood."

Culcheth councillor Keith Bland said: "We don't think this plan exists. It seems to have just been a casual remark made by the Leigh MP. Certainly we haven't been consulted about it and would almost certainly be opposed to it, although obviously we would need to see the detail."

Kenyon Junction station closed in 1963 and nothing remains of it.

Over the years there has been occasional talk of re-opening Glazebury station, but this has always been ruled out as being unviable and because of likely traffic problems.

Cricketers step up county ladder

THE summer of 2011 must surely go down as the greatest in the recent history of Glazebury Cricket Club - the year when the club's 1st XI took a massive step up the Cheshire cricket ladder by winning promotion to the Meller Braggins Cheshire League at the first time of asking.

It was only last year the club was celebrating being promoted to the first division of the Cheshire Alliance. Never in their wildest dreams did they think they could earn promotion again in their first season at the higher level.

Promotion did not come until the very last game - and then only after strenuous efforts by the players to make a rain-sodden Hurst Lane ground fit for play.

And it was entirely appropriate that the hero of the hour was Jack Warhurst - one of the third generation of the Warhurst family to play for Glazebury.

Jack hit a superb 63 and then took four wickets to help dismiss opponents Hartford.

This was all the more remarkable because Jack is normally a wicket-keeper - like his Dad and Grandad before him!

The 2nd XI did not fare so well - but managed to avoid relegation with a string of good performances at the end of the season.

But the 3rd XI - which plays on Sundays in the West Lancashire League - won promotion to division one.

Mobile youth club

A MOBILE "youth club" has opened at Mee Brow, Culcheth for a 10-week period.

The club is in a single-deck bus provided by the borough council and visits on Monday and Tuesday evening to provide activities for local youth people.

There are tea and coffee making facilities, a computer, other games and space to sit and chat.

Cllr Keith Bland said: "Sixteen young people attended the first session and the numbers are growing."

Motoring

Partners aim to take the lead in electric cars

VOLVO and electrical giants Siemens are bidding to take the lead in the development of electric cars through extensive strategic co-operation.

The focus is on the joint development of electrical drive technology, power electronics and charging technology as well as the integration of those systems into Volvo C30 Electric vehicles.

The first electric cars of this model fitted with Siemens electric motors will be on the test tracks as early as the end of this year. Late next year, the

Swedish carmaker will deliver a test series of up to 200 vehicles to Siemens, which will then be tested and validated under real-life conditions as part of a Siemens internal test fleet.

The two companies' goals and core competencies in electric mobility are perfectly matched.

The partnership gives Siemens the chance to extend its industrial leadership in electric drive technology into the automotive market together with a top vehicle manufacturer.

Volvo will be relying on proven and

efficient Siemens technology for the electrification of its future vehicles.

Stefan Jacoby, president and chief executive officer of Volvo said: "We are very happy to have Siemens as a partner. Their world-leading knowledge and experience will bring the technology in our electric cars up to an entirely new level.

"We are moving ahead quickly in this area. Our aim is to be first with the latest technology within electrification. The partnership reinforces our aim to pursue the fast-growing market for electric cars."

Electric powertrain, battery

management and charging technology are regarded as key technologies in the development and production of electric cars and Siemens see co-operation with Volvo as an important milestone in the development of top-quality components and systems for electric cars subsequently intended for series production.

Volvo starts small-scale production of the Volvo C30 Electric this year, and next year the company will start selling the Volvo V60 Plug-in Hybrid.



Eye-catching concept coupe

THE Alfa Romeo 4C Concept only made its public debut at the Geneva Motor Show in April but by the time its special "fluid metal" version appeared at the Frankfurt Motor Show last month the eye-catching coupe had been refined and enriched.

Fluid metal refers to the exterior colour, which dynamically enhances the smooth lines of the car.

But the refinements do not stop there. Since April, Alfa engineers have been busy enhancing the technical contents to match the car's sinuous lines. Vehicle weight is confirmed at around 850kg, the engine delivering more than 200bhp and a power to weight ratio less than 4kg per hp - bringing it into super car territory.

The car showcases the formula of the two-seater, rear-wheel drive coupé with central engine, a length of approximately four meters and a wheelbase of less than 2.4 meters. These dimensions on the one hand emphasize the Alfa 4C Concept's compact attributes, while on the other accentuate its agility.

The Alfa 4C Concept uses technology and materials derived from the 8C Competizione - carbon, aluminum, rear-wheel drive - and technology from Alfa Romeo models currently on sale: the 1750 turbo petrol engine with direct injection, the ALFA TCT twin dry clutch transmission; and all the best of Alfa's DNA technology, obviously including the Alfa DNA dynamic control selector.

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