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Issue: 115  
October 2012

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# Editor's Comment



IT is hardly surprising that objectors to the borough council's Local Plan Core Strategy should identify Culcheth as a key area, functioning as a separate housing market.

Hardly surprising because the objectors are likely to be developers who see the village as an ideal location for upmarket detached

homes, with four or five bedrooms.

They want to build houses on land north east of the village and in Green Belt areas adjoining Culcheth.

The borough's strategy, which will eventually replace the Unitary Development Plan, currently suggests housing growth should be concentrated in the inner areas and that about 10,500 new homes should be built over the next 15 years. The objectors argue that around 17,000 homes would be more appropriate and that areas such as Culcheth should provide the land.

Who is right? And what do local people think?

An independent inspector, appointed by the government, will look at the borough's proposals and the suggestions put forward by the objectors, and can recommend

amendments which the borough will then have to consider.

Opposition to housing proposals on land adjoining Doeford Close, Culcheth and off Lady Lane, Croft, leaves little doubt that most people think there are already enough houses in the area. They have the backing of local councillors.

Whether this will be enough to counter the arguments of the developers remains to be seen - but developers usually seem to be able to get their own way in the end, so we are not hopeful.

One thing is certain. The borough council must adopt a strategy eventually or it will have less power to influence future development whether we like it or not.

## Craft and collectors fair

THE 5th Craft & Collectors Fair for 2012 takes place at Newchurch Parish Hall on Sunday, October 7 with two more planned for November and December.

Approximately 30 stalls with crafters and collectors from in and around the Warrington area will be selling their unique products. Crafts will include: homemade cupcakes, different types of handmade jewellery including gemstones, beads and costume, handmade cards and gifts, soap and bath products, sock monkeys and handknitted items together with handmade vintage household items. There will also be a selection of stalls selling a variety of collectable items on the day.

The doors open at 11am until 5pm - everyone is welcome to come along and admission is free. Hot and cold refreshments will also be available throughout the day.

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# Accountants give beer festival some oompah!

**CULCHETH Chartered Accountants Hunter Healey were out in force at Culcheth Beer Festival.**

Managing Director Nigel Healey and friends formed the oompah band especially for the event.

Nigel said: "After visiting the Inaugural Culcheth Beer Festival last year we thought it should have more of an Oktoberfest feel to it so decided to put a band together for the

event. The band featured some Hunter Healey clients as well as friends. We were well received by the audience and being a local firm it was great to be able to support this popular event in Culcheth.

"Congratulations to The Rotary club of Newtion & District Jubilee who did an excellent job organising the event once again and hopefully raised lots of money to support their charitable work."



## WI hears of messages in bottles

MESSAGE in a bottle was the title of a talk enjoyed by Culcheth WI.

Culcheth Lions member Tony Lewis described the message as a "best kept secret." Each member was given a small green and white bottle containing two stickers and a form to be filled in with personal details including medication, emergency contact, doctor's details etc. Stickers were for the front door and fridge door. He told members that the Lions scheme started in 1996 and operated in many countries. Police and ambulance workers are fully aware of the scheme.

Second speaker Alan Donahue told members how national and international travel for wheelchair users had improved over the years, but that there were still difficulties. He had amusing tales to tell such as being banned from china shops and seeking assistance from people who were listening to music.

A vote of thanks was given by Maura Appleby and this was followed by tea and biscuits served by Christine Rankin, Sally Taylor and Kathleen Totham.

Five visitors attended. Marian Simpson was thanked for the table flowers. Future events were announced including a theatre trip and Christmas Market visit.

## Craft & Collectors Fair

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## Brownies enjoy day out at zoo

CULCHETH Brownies enjoyed a fun filled day out to Chester Zoo as part of their work towards their Seasons Badge which the girls have completing this half term.

The girls have also completed a range of other activities including making bird baths and a treasure hunt at the Linear Park as part of this badge.

A guided tour was booked and the girls thoroughly enjoyed listening to all the interesting facts about the zoo. After an ice-cream, a play on the park and a lot of walking, the group were all tired out and ventured to the gift shop for lots of presents before returning home. The leaders of 6th Culcheth Brownies would like to say a

special thankyou to each of the parent helpers who assisted the leaders on this trip.

If you would like to add your daughter to the waiting list for Rainbows, Brownies or Guides or if you like to volunteer then please contact Sara Isles on 766057 or via email [sara.isles@btinternet.com](mailto:sara.isles@btinternet.com)

## A harvest of talent

ANYONE with a skill, ranging from pottery to photography, can take part in a Harvest of Talent being held at All Saints Church, Glazebury on Friday October 12, (10.30am to 4pm), Saturday 13 (10am to 4pm) and Sunday 14 (12.30am to 4pm).

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# Keith's a 'double alderman'

VETERAN Culcheth councillor Keith Bland has been made an Honorary Alderman for a second time.

The award comes from Warrington Borough Council to mark his 15 years' service - and follows on from an earlier Honorary Alderman award from the old Cheshire County Council, where he served for 13 years.

Cllr Bland has also been a member of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council since 1982 and is currently chairman.

He was awarded the MBE in 2010 for services to the community in Cheshire and Warrington.

During his time on the borough council, Cllr Bland has been deputy leader for five years, leader of the Conservative Group and chairman of the Warrington Partnership.

He has also served on numerous committees and outside bodies, including Warrington Collegiate, Warrington Educational Trust, Culcheth Primary School and the Fostering and Adoption Panel.

He is also a Trustee of the Culcheth Educational Trust, member of Culcheth Age Concern and President of the Over 60s.

Cllr Bland said: "I really am delighted to receive this award. I have loved nearly every minute of being a councillor and even though I never went into public service to receive any of these awards I am proud and delighted to accept them."

Cllr Bland's wife, Sue, is a member of the borough council and a former member of the parish council.



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# Villagers lose battle over camp

VILLAGERS have lost a long-running planning battle over proposals to build luxury homes on a historic military camp site in the Green Belt.

Warrington Borough Council's development management committee has approved plans for 25 four and five bedroomed houses on the former HMS Gosling site off Lady Lane, Croft.

More than 400 residents had objected and many packed into the Town Hall to hear the committee debate the issue.

But despite strong objections from local councillors Les Hoyle and Chris Vobe and from Croft Parish Council, the committee granted permission to developers Elan Real Estate.

Councillors - who had visited the site previously - were told the developer had offered £30,000 towards the cost of highway improvements near St Lewis' RC Primary School and £240,000 towards the cost of affordable housing elsewhere in the borough.

The site is said to be the last of a number of wartime military camps that once existed in the area.

The parish argued there was no need for more housing in Croft and no sewage or gas supplies to the site, which is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

They believed there could be road safety issues arising from an unsatisfactory access to the site and that the development could lead to increased flooding in Lady Lane.

Additional housing could also exacerbate parking problems at St

Lewis' School.

Planning officers recommended approval and pointed out that although the site was in the Green Belt, the houses would replace existing campsite buildings, some of which were higher than the houses would be.

The planning consent is subject to a number of conditions, including archaeological work on the site, land remediation, landscaping and a scheme of tree/hedge protection.

After the meeting, Cllr Vobe said: "This is a shameful decision which once again shows a planning

department that is content to ride roughshod over Croft.

"These houses are not the kind we need and will price the sons and daughters of local people out of the village.

"Inept council officers flew in the face of local residents' wishes, steered the meeting from beginning to end, and acted as a second voice for the developer."

Cllr Vobe said he would be seeking a meeting with the borough council's interim chief executive, asking him to investigate a lack of impartiality by planning officials.



Cllr Hoyle said: "It was a disappointing decision. Unfortunately, recent changes in national planning policy have made it more difficult for the council to refuse permission on previously developed sites."

## ... but councillors show a united front

COUNCILLORS are showing a united front over proposals for a housing development on a former wartime camp at Croft, Warrington.

Conservative councillor Sue Bland (pictured) has supported calls by Labour councillor Chris Vobe for the coalition Government to intervene over the future development of the HMS Gosling site.

Planners have approved proposals by Elan Homes to build 25 four and five bedroom properties on the site.

Local residents are furious over the decision and have slammed the council's planning department for overlooking crucial details, including an infrastructure and drainage system which they believe will not support extra homes.

Cllr Vobe has called on the Secretary of State for Culture, Media

and Sport - Maria Miller MP - to intervene. He has written to her to call for the existing wartime training buildings to be added to the national list of Buildings of



Special Architectural or Historic Interest, which are overseen by English Heritage. Cllr Bland has counter-signed the letter to Mrs Miller.

Cllr Vobe said: "There can be no doubt that people in Croft are united in their desire to protect the land against this unwelcome development. Town Hall officers shamefully brushed aside the historic nature of the former HMS Gosling site in their briefing to councillors. That decision was

unquestionably wrong.

The Secretary of State has the power to add such sites to a national list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. This would stop the development in its tracks, and grant English Heritage the power to maintain and restore the site in the long term. I believe, as do people in Croft, that HMS Gosling fits these criteria as it remains the only surviving wartime naval training camp in this area. I am asking the Secretary of State to exercise the power she has to ensure that the wishes of nearly 400 Croft residents are placed above the developer."

The letter calls on the Secretary of State to intervene as a matter of urgency, since planning permission for the additional homes has already been granted.

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## Anger over footpath widening

ANGRY Culcheth residents fear they face an increase in anti-social behaviour near their homes after a footpath was widened and tarmaced.

People living in Severn Road and Thames Road say they already suffer problems with unruly youths congregating on the path, shouting, swearing, drinking and kicking fences.

They claim they were not consulted about the footpath improvement before the work was started.

One resident, Gill Lomas, claimed the work had also had a damaging impact on wildlife, with a number of hedgehogs disturbed and one dying.

The footpath leads from Thames Road to an old railway bridge nearby.

Residents have raised the issue with the borough council, the police and local councillors.

Gill said: "I would like to know why myself and my neighbours were not consulted about the widening and tarmacing of the path before the decision was made to do it."

"The path is now so wide it would easily fit the best part of 100 teenagers on the bridge."

"I'm also bemused as to why other more widely used public footpaths

that people want to use are ignored and left in a state that make them impossible to use."

"I have spoken to many neighbours whose properties back on to the path, who have told me there was no consultation - just a letter to say the work was going to be done."

"We are sure the path will now attract more youths, drinking and littering."

"Neighbours already have to endure fences being kicked in, litter thrown off the bridge and youths playing chicken on a ledge on the bridge."

"There is constant swearing, fires being started, explosions involving gas canisters and youths peering into gardens."

"I can't believe in a democratic society this has been allowed to happen with no consideration to how it affects people's everyday lives."

A borough council spokeswoman said: "We consulted households backing onto the footpath and did a letter drop."

"The footpath leads to a former landfill site which is now a nature reserve and with increased footfall we are upgrading the footpath to allow for greater access to the nature reserve."

## Fundraiser for historic church

AN evening of entertainment with Tony Berry, lead singer of The Houghton Weavers, takes place at Winwick Leisure Centre on Wednesday, October 17 to raise funds for the restoration of the historic St Oswald's Church, Winwick.

It is now some two years since the discovery of death-watch beetle in the nave roof and it is estimated the cost of repairs could be as high as £350,000.

Work has started - in fact the first phase has been completed. But the main body of the church remains out of use.

Although English Heritage has agreed to contribute to the costs of restorations, the church has to raise much of the money itself.

The entertainment will include songs, stories and plenty of humour.

There will also be a raffle with many prizes and supper.

St Oswald's is one of the oldest churches in the Warrington area. Part of a Saxon cross in the church is believed to date from 750AD.

The present building is thought to date from 1358, although the Legh chapel is older. The oldest part of the church proper is the bell tower, which contains a peal of six bells dated 1711.

More details can be found at [www.stoswaldswinwick.com](http://www.stoswaldswinwick.com)



# Hardwork paying off for village greengrocer

HARD work and long hours is starting to pay off for Glynn's Greens in Culcheth village.

The village greengrocers launched by Glynn Andrew after working 28 years in logistics, has now been trading for four months - and business is growing thanks to a loyal customer base. Glynn is passionate about supporting the local community and buys direct from local farmers whenever possible, keeping cash in

the local economy.

Produce is competitively priced to reflect good quality, freshness and locally sourced where possible.

All produce is sold loose per kilo or per item, so you can buy as little or as much as you require.

Glynn is now also offering pre ordered fruit and veg boxes for collection anytime with a local delivery service on Fridays.

"To start this type of business this year has been very demanding, working 15 hour days 6 days a week," said Glynn.

"It has been a difficult 4 months due to the really bad summer affecting the availability of some vegetables but with continued support from existing customers and potential support from new customer the village should be able to support a local greengrocer in the long term.

"We really look forward to receiving customer feedback good or bad so we can develop and improve the business to suit the requirements of the customers."

Glynn has lived in Culcheth for nearly 40 years and has family and friends who say they are fed up with supermarket multipack offers.

It's a friendly, family shop - wife Sue and daughter Charlotte help out - which also stocks eggs, jams, preserves, honey, oils, dressings, ice cream, cheese and pate. Specialist coffees and teas are in the pipeline



## Speed limit proposed

HIGHWAYS chiefs proposed to introduce a 40mph speed limit on a busy route at Croft, following complaints from local residents about speeding traffic.

Sandy Brow Lane and Stone Pit Lane are currently subject to the national 60mph limit. The proposed 40mph limit will be from the junction with Winwick Lane and a point 135 metres west of its junction with Kenyon Lane. All representations, in support or objecting to the proposals, must be made in writing either by post by October 4 to Craig McCarthy of Legal Services or delivered by hand to Quattro Building, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington

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## Musician stunned by Me

**A former Culcheth High School pupil was 'stunned' to hear that his band had been nominated for the prestigious Mercury Award.**

The awards, hosted by the BBC, will be judged on November 1 and first prize is £20,000. Previous nominees have included stars such as Elbow and Adele.

James Mainwaring (pictured

below) said his jazz band Roller Trio (right), were at a celebrity bash in London when the nominations were officially announced.

He said: "We were absolutely stunned. It is amazing. After the announcement everything went crazy and we were up late doing loads of television and radio interviews."

Tenor saxist James has formed the group Roller Trio with friends Luke Wynter, guitar and Luke Reddin-Williams on drums.

The threesome picked up the prestigious Peter Whittingham Jazz Award last year - an annual award for emerging musicians - and their debut album is on the Fire label.

James says the band combines contemporary jazz and rock traditions, creating a powerful and accessible blend of conventional and experimental sounds.

He says: "Our original compositions consist of beautiful evocative songs, groovy riffs, thrashy noise and electronic soundscapes creating seminal and atmospheric music."

The band earned praise from a range of critics earlier this year. The nomination means they will get major exposure in the music world.

James said: "For a jazz band to be nominated is amazing. We are really excited about our future."

The BBC praised their debut album, Roller Trio, for its "taut lines that have a staccato if not stuttering quality, yet unleash a sizeable energy rush through volleys of needling four-, six- and three-note phrases".



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# Mercury Award nomination



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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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## Boost for youth club

THE Styles and Co Bi-annual Golf Day held at Leigh Golf Club helped raise almost £1,500 for the Warrington Youth Club.

While the sun shone the 13 teams of 4 players took to the fairways with Lymm Insurance Brokers (Colin Lees, Duncan Clarke, Richard Ventre and Tommy Thompson) picking up the prize for the Winning Team and Barry Wilson of Eagle Travel receiving the individual award and the much coveted ILP Trophy.

A cheque for almost £1,500 was presented to Helen Stott, a Director of the Warrington Youth Club, at the Styles and Co Annual Garden Party.

Dave McNicholl, Senior Manager of Warrington Youth Club, said: "Thank you to Styles and Co for this incredible donation. The money will go towards a mentoring programme supporting two young people facing a tough time following alcohol dependency issues."

Meanwhile the 5th Styles and Co Annual Garden Party was a great

success attracting a record number of people. More than 150 clients, family and friends joined the Styles and Co team at Leigh Golf Club to enjoy a rare sunny evening.

Ian Lloyd, Managing Partner of Styles and Co said: "The Garden Party is our opportunity to say thank you to our clients, business colleagues, staff, family and friends for their continued support over the previous year. It's always an enjoyable occasion for all of us, and judging from the comments we have received, this year is no exception".



Where Learning is Fun!

## Culcheth Community Primary School

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October 16th: 2pm and 6pm

November 15th: 2pm and 6pm

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Our Open Days will be held on October 16th and November 15th. There will be a short presentation followed by a tour of the school. (If you are unable to make these dates, please contact the school)

If you would like to arrange a visit to the school please contact Ms A Smith (Headteacher) on 01925 764312  
Further information on the school can be found on our website [www.culchethprimary.co.uk](http://www.culchethprimary.co.uk)

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## Measuring your business success

By Graeme Hindley, Partner

In recent months we, as a nation, have enjoyed success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Tour de France and Tour of Britain. The successful athletes at these events have set goals and objectives, and can measure whether or not they have achieved them. This process helps them to become better, more successful athletes. If you are serious about growing your business then you too can adopt the process of success measurement within your business by using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

KPIs are commonly used by a business to evaluate its success and help to improve the performance and profitability of the business. Accordingly, KPIs are most commonly defined in a way that is understandable, meaningful, and measureable. To help drive your business forward you firstly need to understand the areas of your business which are most successful and profitable, only then can you identify the KPIs that will help to measure performance in those areas.

Once you have selected your KPIs it

is important to communicate them with the key employees who will be measured against them. This inclusion will help them to understand the goals and objectives you are setting, and ultimately will assist in the business growth and increased profitability.

Here at Styles and Co we can help

you understand and monitor the Key Performance Indicators of your business, and more importantly help you achieve your financial goals.

Please note the contents of our article are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always take professional advice before taking action.



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# CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Your Parish Councillors

### NEWCHURCH WARD



Chris Vobe  
01925 419481



Jacqui Johnson  
01925 763435



Matt Smith  
matt.smith062@gmail.com

### GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Angela Duncombe  
01925 419481



Eddy Estlin  
eddy.estlin2012@gmail.com

### CULCHETH WARD



Mike Vobe  
mike.vobe2012@gmail.com



Peter Caswell  
01942 671938



Keith Bland  
01925 766641



Lilian Houghton  
01925 762935



Paul Campbell  
01925 766658

## Thank you

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council would like to extend their thanks and best wishes to the Scouts for their help with the recent wildflower planting.

## *Extra street cleaning for Newchurch*

This month brings more good news for people living in Newchurch. Your Parish Councillors have secured extra street cleaning along Hampson Avenue and Walton Road. The schedule for our local Community Maintenance Officer has been amended to include these roads, giving the area the extra attention needed to stamp out litter.

## "Love Where You Live"

The Parish Council is backing the "Love Where You Live" campaign. Warrington Borough Council is working with Keep Britain Tidy on this scheme, which sets out to make our town a cleaner, greener place. The Parish Council has given an enthusiastic OK for the scheme to be implemented in Culcheth and Glazebury, to help combat littering, dog fouling and fly tipping. "Love Where You Live" has been a great success in other areas of Warrington, so we are delighted that it's coming to the villages at last. We hope that it will make a real impact over the coming months. In the meantime, if there are areas that you think would benefit from special attention, just get in touch with your one of your local Parish Councillors and let us know.

## *Risley Landfill Site Update*

Many residents will have received letters concerning the recent request for a further extension to restore Risley Tip. We are concerned and unhappy that the restoration is taking so long, but we have obtained assurances that these new applications are not about waste disposal - that finished last October. The new proposals come with a condition that was secured by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council; specifically, that no lorries using the site come through the village. In our discussions with the planners, we are maintaining that we want the site finished restored to a high standard as soon as possible.

## Local Plan Core Strategy

In June, we told you about the consultation on the Local Plan Core Strategy. Since then, the strategy has been submitted to the Secretary of State for an independent examination. You can follow the progress being made from Warrington Borough Council's website. The Parish Council have made sure that your views have been fed in, and have also examined the plans of neighbouring councils like Wigan for any effect they may have on us.

## *And finally... Victorian Day/ Christmas Lights*

The Parish Council will be giving its full support to Victorian Day this year and have committed to donating money for a free children's ride. The new Parish Council are also pleased to guarantee that, this year, the Christmas lights in the centre of the village will be switched on that day. We want to help make Victorian Day a real treat for local families and ensure it is a great start to the festive season.



## Motoring

# World's first plug-in hybrid SUV

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Using the plug-in hybrid EV system powertrain developed by Mitsubishi and derived from its line-up of all-electric models, the vehicle is due to be available some time next year.

The PHEV is, however, based on the Outlander, which made its debut in Russia in July and is being introduced in other European markets around now.

It uses electrical power stored in the drive battery by charging either at home, a charging station or when the system recovers energy when decelerating.

It aims to achieve more than 61km per litre and a cruising range in excess of 880 km, which is on a par with a conventional ICE-powered car.



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