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Issue: 90  
September 2010

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New Media Centre  
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# Editor's Comment



## NOWHERE will there be more rejoicing over the proposed ban on wheel clamping on private land, than in Culcheth.

Over recent years, we have been repeatedly approached by angry motorists who have found their cars clamped in Culcheth's shopping centre.

## Dog hydrotherapy

BOROUGH council planners have granted permission for the change of use an outbuilding at Woodlands, Cross Lane, Croft to a dog hydrotherapy business.

## Planning refusal

PLANNING chiefs have refused permission for alterations and extensions to a house in Newchurch Lane, Culcheth.

The scheme involved the removal of an existing garage and construction of a two storey side extension, a single storey rear extension and a porch canopy at the front.

The parish council has similarly been contacted and several attempts have been made to resolve the problem.

In fairness, the problem seems to have lessened in recent times, presumably because the clamping firm involved has been persuaded to adopt a less aggressive approach. But the fact remains that signs displayed around a shopping centre - albeit not that prominently - warning shoppers they are likely to be clamped, are not exactly good for business.

The Government has decided to introduce the ban in a bid to tackle rogue clamping operators who exploit drivers by charging exorbitant fees. Private firms will be banned from clamping or towing away vehicles but will still be able to ticket parked cars and landowners will be able to install

barriers to prevent parking.

We accept that clamping was introduced in Culcheth in an attempt to protect parking spaces intended for shoppers from long-stay parkers, but we have always thought it was taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut. It has been made worse by the inflexible attitude of the clampers and the fact that the car parks involved look like public car parks rather than private ones.

The ban could be in place early next year when, presumably, the "clamping signs" will have to be removed. We would suggest that before they are replaced by some other restriction, consideration be given to allowing time to see if any restrictions are needed at all.

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# Were the wildflowers blooming waste of time?

**WAS the 'wildflower meadow' created on Culcheth's village green worthwhile?**

Members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council want to know what local people think - before deciding whether or not to plant more next year.

Coun Keith Bland said: "People seem to have differing opinions. Some have come to us and said how pleased they were and how beautiful the flowers were.

"Others have said they were disappointed and did not think much of the display. A particular criticism was that the flowers were predominantly yellow, rather than a mix of colours.

"Last year we got a grant from the neighbourhood board to pay for the flowers. If we are to do it again we will

have to fund it ourselves and the cost is around £1,200.

"We would really like people to let us know what they would like."

Wildflower planting in other parts of the borough has proved a great success - even benefiting the wildlife.

But at Culcheth the flowers appear to have been trampled down in some areas leading councillors to wonder if they are only suitable for traffic islands where few people go.

Anyone with views on the subject can contact the parish council by emailing [culcheth.clerk@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:culcheth.clerk@ukonline.co.uk), contacting their local councillor or through [Culcheth Life](http://Culcheth Life).



## Boutique's big expansion

CULCHETH'S Zarina Boutique has almost doubled in size, expanding its range of fashionable clothing and becoming more wheelchair and pushchair friendly.

Owners Morris and Helen have taken over an adjoining unit in the CPS Centre and have issued an invitation to customers old and new to drop in and see the improvements.

Morris said: "The new unit is enabling us to increase our range of clothing, footwear and accessories, in more spacious and friendly surroundings, enhancing the shopping experience for wheelchair

and pushchair users as well.

"Our fashion ranges have new lines arriving weekly and we endeavour to give customers the best possible price, selection and service.

"Our shoe selection blends comfort and fashion - we don't just sell shoes we fit them as well."

"In addition to current size 10-22 rangers, Zarina is increasing its offer for size 16-plus customers.

Helen said: "We have sourced fashionable clothing at affordable prices. Look for our Ex Elle range from the end of September."



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# A chance to be Stronger Together

**STRONGER Together** – the borough council initiative which gives local people a chance to improve services and tackle issues in their area, is visiting Croft, Rixton and Culcheth this month.

Residents are invited to attend and speak to people from the police, borough council, health and fire services and community and voluntary groups.

Stronger together meetings give people an opportunity to find out what's happening in the area, tell the

authorities what's good about the area, what needs improving and how this might be achieved.

Meetings take place at Croft Memorial Hall on September 7, St Helen's School, Rixton-with-Glazebrook on September 15 and Newchurch Parish Hall, Culcheth on September 29. They all start at 7pm.

More information about the meetings is available from Diane White, area co-ordinator on 07827232561 or by emailing [strongertogethereast@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:strongertogethereast@warrington.gov.uk)



## £2,000 boost for children's hospital

MORE than £2,000 was raised for Alder Hey Children's Hospital through a raffle held in Culcheth.

Mrs S.A. Cooch, of Hebden Avenue, Culcheth was the lucky winner of the first prize, a limited edition picture of England's World Cup winning team of 1966, "The Boys of '66".

It was presented to her by the local member of the team, former Liverpool player Roger Hunt.

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## Garden trail raised £3,660

ELEVEN keen gardeners who opened their gardens to the public raised a magnificent £3,660 for two Warrington charities.

The "Culcheth Garden Trail" attracted hundreds of people over two days and raised money for St Rocco's Hospice and Culcheth Methodist Church.



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# Friends get on bikes for charity

**BUSINESSMAN Matthew Bent and four friends are to tackle the Coast-to-Coast Trans Pennine Trail on bikes to raise money for charity.**

They will set out on Friday, September 24 and hope to complete the 170-mile ride in three days.

Matthew, managing director of Bents Garden and Home at Glazebury, will be joined by his brothers-in-law Mark Downton and Andrew Morris and friends Wayne Price and Christian McKenzie.

They will be raising funds for Ronald McDonald House at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool - Bents' charity of the year.

Said Matthew: "Ronald McDonald House is a cause that is very close to my heart as myself and my wife spent quite a lot of time there when our second child was rushed into hospital. The care given by the team was fantastic and we will never forget the way we were treated."

The Ronald Macdonald family support house is the largest such house in the world and as a completely independent charity depends entirely upon voluntary donations. Bents' customers and colleagues have already raised an impressive £5,800.

Matthew said: "We always put a lot of effort into fundraising for our charities of the year as each one is a very important cause. This year I wanted to give something a little bit extra on a personal basis as a special



Matthew Bent (left) and Mark Downton.

thank you for the care we received as a family."

The Coast to Coast team has set up its own Just Giving page at [www.justgiving.com/bentscoast2coa](http://www.justgiving.com/bentscoast2coa) st and all donations will be added to Bents' overall Charity of the Year total which will be announced in January.

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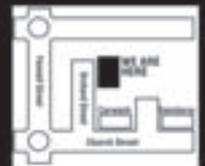
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# Bigger and better Garden Safari

THE annual Glazebury Garden Safari takes place on Sunday, September 12 - and this year it is bigger than ever.

Fifteen gardens in Glazebury will be open to the public between 1pm and 5pm to raise money for All Saints' Church, and Glazebury Methodist Church.

Admission will be by programme, which costs £5 in advance from either of the churches or Bents Garden and Home. On the day they will cost £6. Each programme will admit two people.

The grounds of both churches will be open. All Saints, built in 1852, includes the village war memorial and well-cared for flower beds enhancing the natural beauty and peace of the place. Glazebury Methodist Church will be serving tea and cake throughout the day, which can be enjoyed along with terrific views over the Culcheth cars.

Other gardens included in the safari include:

Wards End Farm: Robert and Janet Woolstencroft's immaculately kept garden with rare breed poultry, birds of prey and large fish pond.

Glazewood House: Andrew and Susan Wood's modern garden, created in 1990 from a quarter acre of former farm land, with American-style gazebo with firepit, a water feature and Scandian wood cabin.

Weeping Ash Garden: Adjacent to Bent's Garden Centre, where John Bent has created a garden over the last 20 years and which is still undergoing new developments.

Full details of all gardens can be viewed at [www.culchethlife.com](http://www.culchethlife.com)

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# Alan scoops photo prize

A PICTURE taken by a camera enthusiast when he was in Cornwall last year has won first prize in a nature-themed photography competition at Bent's Garden and Home at Glazebury.

Alan Jones, from Ashton-in-Makerfield took the picture at dusk in a country lane near the village of Trewellard in October.

He entered it in the competition and it was displayed in Bent's restaurant as part of a shortlist of 20 taken from some 400 entries.

Customers were invited to vote - and Alan's picture was the outright winner, earning him £50 in gift vouchers and a framed copy of the picture.

Alan said: "The colours of the sky were so vibrant, but I didn't expect the picture to come out so well. I am delighted to have won the competition and it is a great feeling to know that my image has been voted for by customers and captured their imagination."

Bent's managing director Matthew Bent said: "The quality of all the entries was extremely high and it was very difficult to choose the 20 finalists. I'm just glad we didn't have to choose the winner and would like to thank all our customers who took time to vote."





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## Focus on Education

# Sixth formers ce

**CULCHETH High School Sixth Form was celebrating its success on A level results day with a large number of students obtaining fantastic results and consequently a very high percentage gaining places at their chosen universities.**

A school spokeswoman said: "The students have worked extremely hard to get the grades required for the limited number of university places and it was great to see such success.

"There was a 100 per cent pass rate in 19 subjects with particularly good results in Psychology, Media Studies and History."

The students pictured are just a small group of students who were

successful in their studies.

Pictured left to right: Lois Hunt : Psychology - A\* - Business Studies - A, ICT - C, General Studies - C. Lois has gained a place at Edge Hill University to study Psychology.

Tom Vize : History - A, Media - B, Psychology - B, General Studies - C. Tom has gained a place at Hull University to study History.

Beth Hardman : Psychology - A,

## High school spelling success

CULCHETH High School just missed out in a national spelling competition - coming only one point behind the winners.

The Year 7 Culcheth Eagles team were runners-up in the Times newspaper's Spelling Bee held at the Institute of Education in London.

They finished just one point behind winners Newport Girls' High School after leading until the final moments of the competition.

More than 4,000 students from 1,000 schools entered the competition so the Culcheth team - Amy Barry, Andrew Slattery, Catriona Harrison and Rowan Tomsett had tough competition.

Rowan described the event as "adrenaline-charged, exhilarating and nerve-racking" and said the team felt lucky to get through.

He said: "The whole action of stepping up to a microphone, spelling words and hoping they would come out correct, was thoroughly terrifying."

Team manager Gillian Taylor said: "I am so very proud of the students, who have worked extremely hard to get this far in the competition.

"To lose in the final seconds is heartbreaking, but they can hold their heads up high as they have represented both the school and themselves with pride and dignity.



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## OPEN DAY

Thursday 14th October at 2pm & 6pm

Culcheth Community Primary School is an excellent school situated on the same site as Culcheth High School with extensive grounds and superb facilities for sport and ICT.



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If you would like to come and visit our school, or you would like to reserve a place for your child, please ring the Headteacher, Mrs A. Smith

**01925 764312**

or visit our website at [www.culchethprimary.co.uk](http://www.culchethprimary.co.uk)



**Focus on Education**

# Celebrate success

Health and Social Care - B, English Literature - C. Beth has gained a place at Salford University to study Psychology.

Another very successful student was Nicola White who has secured a place at Lancaster University to study Business Studies with the following results: Law - A\*, History - A, English

Literature - B and Economics - B.

The school spokeswoman added: "We, as a Sixth Form and School would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students well in their chosen career paths, whether going off to University or going into employment."





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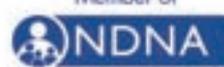
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# Mystery of the

**REHEARSALS will start at the end of September for the tenth annual pantomime at Culcheth's "Theatre of Dreams" - Newchurch Parish Hall.**

The Newchurch Strollers revived a local panto tradition nearly 10 years ago with "Cinderella" - wondering whether they would be invited back.

Since then more than 3,500 people have passed through the doors to see the nine shows so the Strollers seem to have had their answer.

Producer David Ramsdale is, for the time being, keeping the name of the landmark 10th production under wraps.

But over the years, the group have performed Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Aladdin, Jack and the Beanstalk, Babes in the Wood, The Emperor's New Clothes, Dick

Whittington and Little Red Riding Hood.

David said: "This year it will be our tenth panto so will be something a little special.

"But we are keeping the title secret for the time being - even the cast don't know what it is going to be yet.

"My aim is to play to four full houses - something we have never quite managed so far. So if there is anyone out there who has not been to see us yet, give us a try this time. I'm sure you will enjoy it."

• Pictures are from a previous production 'Little Red Riding Hood'.



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# e 10th panto!



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- Dig up any remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them.

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# Dining Out *with* Culcheth Life

## at The Plough Inn

**A VISITOR to Croft might easily miss The Plough Inn - and those that do are missing a little gem.**

It's right at the end of Heath Lane, well away from the main village centre and, in fact, almost in Kenyon. It rightly styles itself as a "country pub" and, indeed, has a bar which still attracts locals who want to chat over a quiet pint as well as a cosy area for bar meals and a bijou restaurant set out with tables with spotless white tablecloths.

On a busy night, it oozes with

character.

We dropped in midweek and found a surprisingly large menu for such a small hostelry.

Tasty

A tomato and basil soup took our fancy as a starter and we were not disappointed. Tasty and hot.

We then had a good choice of meals and plumped for the roast of the day - we actually had a choice of beef, lamb or ham - and a smothered chicken fillet wrapped in bacon and topped with barbecue sauce and

cheese.

These were served in healthy portions and were well cooked and presented by a chef who clearly knew what he was about.

Among other dishes on the menu were a curry of the day, home made steak and ale pie, poached salmon with lemon parsley butter and Cumberland sausage. All were available with a choice of chips or a variety of potatoes.

It takes people with extremely healthy appetites to tackle three courses at The Plough but we managed an apple crumble and custard that was just like mother used to make.

Add to all this an interesting wine list and a constantly changing choice of cask ales and it becomes obvious why it is advisable to book in advance at The Plough.



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# Maxine looks good in specs



A LOWTON girl won through to the regional finals of the Spectacle Wearer of the Year competition.

Maxine Johnson, aged 23, who runs her own dog grooming business in Lowton, joined specs-wearing fashionistas from across the North West in the final in Liverpool.

She said: "I wear glasses for driving but sometimes wear them for fashion reasons because I think they look great."

"I was thrilled to get through to the regional final. When I entered, I really didn't think I would get through."

The competition raises money for the anti-bullying charity, Kidscape, which helps them continue with their valuable work with children and young people. So far this year, more than £1,000 has been raised in the North West alone.

## Learn to play Bridge

DATEN Bridge Club will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2012 - and is already gearing up for the occasion with a membership drive.

The 60-strong club - a section of Culcheth Sports and Social Club - wants to attract new members, particularly younger ones.

A new "learn to play Bridge" course aimed at complete beginners is starting, led by teacher Bernard Kaye, who has qualified through the English Bridge Union.

The course will start on September 28 at 7.30pm and will run for 20 weeks.

Bridge is a partnership game said to stimulate the brain and help slow the decline of mental activity with age.

It is also an excellent way of meeting people.

More details can be found at the club website [www.culchethdatenbridgeclub.org.uk](http://www.culchethdatenbridgeclub.org.uk) or contacting Joe Ridyard on 01925 767187 or 0772 931 8854 or email [joseph.ridyard@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.ridyard@gmail.com)

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# 'Naked' calendar raised £6,000



**THE 2010 "Culcheth Gets Naked" calendar produced by local businesses raised more than £6,000 for St Rocco's Hospice.**

A cheque was presented to hospice representative Malcolm Kindon at the offices of Courtyard Property Consultants in Culcheth.

It was produced by local business, along with Jo Heaton and Chrissy McAreevy in memory of local woman Sally Czerwinka.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005 at the age of 38 and from then on focused much of her time and energy on organising fundraising events for breast cancer charities.

But plans for a 2009 calendar were put on hold as her condition deteriorated and she sadly died in December 2008.

Her close friends, Jo and Chrissy, were determined to make her dream come true and set out convincing local businesses to get involved. The result was the unique calendar.

They have sent a big "thank you" to everyone who helped in the enterprise.

Pictured, left to right, are: Laura Benson (Culcheth Carpets), Durat (Sopranos Restaurant), Malcom Kindon (St Rocco's), Paul Linderman (Duckegg Bluu), Hazel Faid (Rigouts), Jan Haywood (Courtyard Property Consultants), Pauline Gilroy (The Old Victorian Sweetshop) and Chrissy McAreevy (fundraiser).

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## Should village have a 'green'

CROFT Parish Council is seeking old photographs - and memories - from villagers in a bid to win "Village Green" status for the piece of land which surrounds Croft Youth Centre.

They need to be able to establish the land has been used freely by local residents for sports, pastimes, dog walking, etc for at least 20 years.

Coun Les Hoyle said: "We want to protect this little bit of green land from development.

"We know it has been used by local people for at least 20 years.

"There are people who can remember it being used by the scouts and guides for camps and by local children for informal games and by dog owners, etc.

"But to get Village Green status we need proof - and this is where local people's memories and, even better, photographs, could prove invaluable."

Anyone who thinks they can help is asked to contact the parish council.



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**THE STYLES FILES** styles and co  
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Since TV chefs Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsey began crusading against bad diets and championing organic alternatives, there has been a steady change in public attitudes towards where food comes from and how animals bred for food are treated.

And the latest additions to the Styles' family are testament to that message getting through.

Meet Shaw Siree's newest residents, chickens Florence, Rocky (Balboa) and Bluebell and ducks Quacker and Crispy (so-called because of an initial dash for freedom towards the Chinese at the Pack Horse).

They belong to Jo Styles and her fiancé Jon Hall.

"After seeing programmes like Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's Chicken out! and The Big Food Fight, it's hard to carry on seeing food in the same way," Jo said.

"We've got a small bit of land at the back of our yard which we wanted to grow vegetables on, and getting some animals just felt like the next step."

According to the British Egg Industry Council, in the UK we consume 10 billion eggs a year and spend £700 million on them.

The hens will lay between 270 and 300 eggs per year, the ducks around 260.

Costing less than £10 to buy each bird, depending on how old they are, the average family could save more than £100 a year on chicken eggs.

Jon built the chicken run from two

doors and a bookshelf.

"The house is the most expensive bit, but you can find them second-hand online.

"They only need a square foot to sleep in and three square feet in the run."

Most chickens in battery farms live in a space no bigger than the page you are reading.

A new trend has emerged in rehoming rescued battery chickens, which can become depressed in their surroundings, lowering their productivity, meaning they would otherwise be sold for other purposes.

The family barely throws away any waste, feeding kitchen scraps and old vegetable plants to the animals.

And the animal waste, which Jon said makes the best fertilizer, is composted to go on the vegetable patch.

"The most important thing for me," Jon said "is that it teaches kids to understand where food comes from".

Jo and Jon have just welcomed their first child, Emily, into their ever expanding brood.

It is unclear how many people are shunning supermarkets to raise their own free-range poultry, but there is a wealth of information online and backyard coops are springing up across Culcheth.



**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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# Reader's Letters

Please send your correspondence to:  
Culcheth Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT  
or email: info@culchethlife.com

## Horse and public safety on the roads

Jill Mumford. Address supplied

On Saturday August 14 at about 2.30pm I witnessed a very distressing sight in Culcheth on Warrington Road at the junction near the Old Culcheth High School and I felt compelled to write to express my concern over horse and public safety on the roads in and around the village.

An old bay horse had been pulling a gold painted wooden wedding carriage out of Shaw Street. When we arrived at the scene the horse was on its stomach in the middle of the road still harnessed. The horse remained in this position for some time. As an experienced rider myself I approached the carriage drivers to ask if they needed help. They said that the horse had slipped and was all right. When they managed to get it up on to its feet, it hung its head low and seemed very shaken by what had happened.

The drivers then proceeded to get it to trot on at a fast pace out of the village a few moments later, even though the horse's front right leg seemed to have been affected by the incident. It would have been better for the horse if it had gone off at a steadier pace.

The wedding party inside the carriage did not seem to be aware of what was going on. I appreciate that this was a very happy day for them but it clearly did not look very safe. It is a very busy road, as many people know, and there could have been a more tragic ending for the horse or any other road user.

I hope that if any similar events that are planned in the future, more thought is given to the suitability of the horse to draw the carriage and to the particular route that is being used, with the welfare of the horse as a major consideration for all involved.

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## Victorian Day

Newchurch Parish Church Christmas Tree and Crib Festival Committee

We refer to your editorial in the August edition of "Culcheth Life" asking for people's views on the suggestion of moving the date of the Culcheth Victorian Day back by one week from 2011.

The date of the "Victorian Day" actually marks the start of Advent and is therefore an appropriate time to commence celebrations in the village by switching on the Christmas lights.

Some of the local businesses and organisations who support this event also support the Newchurch Parish Church Christmas Tree and Crib Festival which, at the moment, takes place a fortnight after Victorian Day. As a lot of preparation time is required for both these events, the suggestion to bring the two events closer together, we fear, could be just too much to expect of local businesses and organisations. To lose such an event as the Christmas Tree Festival, which has also become a regular occasion on the local Christmas Calendar, would not only disappoint local primary school choirs who come to sing at the festival but would be missed by the many people and does attract many visitors to our village.

We appreciate the point of trying to reduce running costs of the Christmas Lights but ask that the present date remains, being the last Saturday in November.



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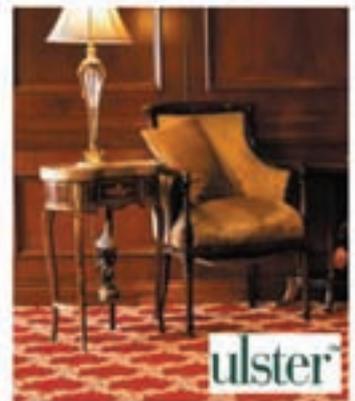
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