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Issue: 126
September 2013

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monthly by Orbit News Ltd.*

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment



I applaud locally elected councillors who roll up their sleeves and tackle issues in the local community.

I have no issue with them highlighting these issues through the pages of Culcheth Life or any other media willing to cover grass roots issues in local communities.

But what I don't like is the party politics which comes into play.

All locally elected councillors should work together, rather than

pointing fingers of blame at who they believe to be responsible for pot holes in the roads, broken pavements, overgrown grass verges or street lighting which doesn't work.

These issues occur in nearly every village or town up and down the country no matter which political

party is in control, or whichever party is in control at Westminster.

I am sure a lot more can be achieved by working together than wasting energy on party politics – certainly at parish level.

The vast majority of people who live in Culcheth, Croft, Glazebury or surrounding parishes probably don't care which political party is in control – they just want the basic services, for which they pay their taxes, carried out efficiently.

Wouldn't it make a refreshing change if ALL locally elected councillors promoted themselves for election or the good work they do in the community – rather than which party political flag they are waving?

Soccer club set to celebrate 20 years

CULCHETH Athletic Football club is to mark its 20th Anniversary in style with a celebratory ball!

The club has grown hugely since its inception 20 years ago and now provides football for over 300 youngsters from Culcheth and the surrounding areas, from ages 4 to 17.

The club is particularly proud of its role in the community as it acts as a focal point for such a large group of young people, giving them a sense of pride in the area they represent, as well as developing their football skills and physical fitness.

The 20th Anniversary ball, to be held at the Village Club on the evening of Saturday September 28, will include a three course meal, a singer, a disco, and a casino.

Tickets, which are priced at £25.00 and are selling fast, are available by contacting Suzanne McGucken on 07846 828638 or Kathy Dahou on 07595 587777.

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New Head Chef at Pack Horse

A NEW Head Chef has joined the team at the Pack Horse Inn in Culcheth.

Lee Rigby has previous experience working in the village as he started work in Culcheth at Renatos (now Sopranos) in 1991.

He started training as a chef when he was aged 16, at Salford Technical College.

Lee has gained experience working all over the country and in Australia, chefing at fine dining restaurants.

He has now returned to Culcheth to run his own kitchen at the Pack Horse and takes great pride in homemade quality food at affordable prices.

Working with Monica and Ken and Colin and Carol, who have been at the Pack Horse for nine years, they are thrilled Lee has joined the team.



Groundbreaking news from Bents

Ground is literally being broken as extensive excavation work gets underway at Bents Garden & Home in Glazebury, to transform a piece of land next to the centre into extensive environmental gardens, as part of Bents' £10 million vision of the future.

When completed the environmental gardens will provide visitors with a unique nature experience, comprising approximately seven different wildlife zones and natural gardens.

Ron Bent, chairman of Bents Garden & Home said: "We are hoping that the new gardens and environmental zones will attract a huge variety of wildlife and insects, many of which are becoming harder to see and experience. It will also be home to a lot of moisture loving natural plants that I remember well from the ponds, bogland areas and fields I used to explore as a child."

Central to the project is a three metre deep pool, which is to be specially excavated and will gradually spread out into a natural bogland area.

Work to create the central feature and bogland area will involve the extraction of over 14,000 tonnes of topsoil and yellow clay until a layer of boulder clay is reached and will be used as a natural lining for the main pool and other wetland areas. The top soil and other layers will be used to form the contours and mounds that will create the divisions and pathways between the various types of and styles of wild gardens.

Ron added: "Boulder clay is a rich brown clay which is often used for brick making and is a great natural lining to help waterproof and seal the sides of the banks and other water retaining areas. The extraction of soil to reach the boulder clay will be a slow process to collect enough to cover the whole wetland areas, but we're committed to keeping this an entirely natural environment so will continue until the process is complete."

A similar process was carried out when Bents built its man-made reservoir in 1976. Now a beautifully landscaped lake located next to Bents outdoor decking area, the reservoir still collects all run off rainwater from the Centre and is used to recycle water. The lake holds 3 - 5 million gallons of water which is collected from all garden centre and nursery buildings as well as the extensive car park area and in turn used to water all plants grown on Bents' on-site nursery and Open Skies plant area.

The new environmental gardens are part of Bents' wider £10m



vision for the future which will be rolled out over the next 5-10 years. An extensive new car park, warehouse facilities and a new children's adventure play area are already complete as well as the Wild Wings Birds of Prey Centre.

Future plans include the transformation of the existing Centre, creating a larger contemporary retail space with a 2 storey high glazed atrium, a Farm Shop showcasing produce sourced from Cheshire and Lancashire, and opportunities for like-minded retailers to join Bents. Also included in the wide plans is a 1,000 sq m Children's Play Area for Glazebury Village and nearly 4,000 sq m of Allotments.

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Housing scheme gets green light

OUTLINE plans for three houses on land off Hob Hey Lane, Culcheth have been given the green light by planning chiefs.

Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council objected to the proposals, but the borough council's planning committee decided the scheme was acceptable and would not cause harm to visual or residential

amenity.

The parish council expressed concern that the development proposed would not be of "low impact" due to the size and number of houses involved.

Councillors were told the area was poorly drained and subject to flooding. The site was a valuable stepping stone for wildlife and the development would result in a premature loss of a greenfield site. Hob Hey Lane was a much used narrow lane and a bus route and there would need to be more on-site visitor parking.

But planning officers said while

there would be a regrettable loss of some trees, two protected trees could be retained and replacement planting could be carried out to offset the loss of trees.

The proposal was acceptable in land use principle and no objection had been raised by the highways department. All other matters would be considered as part of a future reserved matters application.



John and Judith's garden wins them a meal!

WINNERS of the first-ever "Croft in Bloom" competition, organised by Croft Parish Council were retired teachers John and Judith Park, of Eaves Brow Road.

The competition was for the most colourful front gardens in the village – and the judges decided that Mr and Mrs Park's small but imaginative garden was what they were looking for.

Mr and Mrs Park have lived in Eaves Brow Road for 24 years but created the present garden about eight years ago.

John designed it – and Judith has tended it.

And their efforts won them the prize of a meal for two at the General Elliot.

It all adds up for Andrew

AMONG happy A Level students collecting their exam results at Culcheth High School was one with more reasons than most to celebrate.

Andrew Slattery, aged 15 achieved an A* pass in maths with a score of 579 out of 600 – 12 months before he can take his GCSE exams in all other subjects.

Andrew has shown an exceptional talent for maths from an early age.

While still a pupil at Twiss Green Primary School, he attended Culcheth High daily to study maths with pupils three years older than himself.

He took the GCSE maths exam while in Year 8 and achieved A*

Andrew is not only a talented mathematician but also an excellent musician who enjoys playing the piano and bassoon.



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Teacher retires after 24 years



JUDITH Park, reception teacher and assistant head at Winwick CE Primary School, has retired after 24 years at the school.

Although she says she was "ready to retire" she admits she will miss the children and fellow members of staff at the school.

Mrs Park, who lives at Croft, formerly taught at Hollins Green and Croft primary schools and says she found her career as a teacher very enjoyable.

She expects to keep busy in retirement, however. She is keen on gardening, swimming and walking and is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren – two boys and two girls and another on the way – and husband John, a retired deputy head.

Mr and Mrs Park had three daughters and even when away from school, Mrs Park still spent a lot of time with young people as a Brownie Guider and divisional commissioner in the Guides.



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Styles Warriors raise £1,000 for Youth Club

AN intrepid team from, Styles & Co Accountants completed a "Total Warrior" 10k course in 1 hour and 40 mins raising more than £1,000 for Warrington Youth Club.

The specially designed challenge incorporated obstacles with titles to terrify non-Warriors including the Human BBQ, Grand National, The Shocker, Dunking Time, Muddy Funster, Spiders Web and The Trenches. Details of the full course and descriptions of the obstacles can be found on the Total Warrior website www.totalwarrior.co.uk/course

The Lakeland course also meant there were a number of natural obstacles thrown in to create the ultimate test of strength, stamina, agility and mental determination. Team work was the name of the game and the four Styles Warriors helped each other throughout and crossed the finishing line together.

To date just over £1,000 has been raised by the team for the Warrington Youth Club and Styles & Co would like to thank everyone who has donated so generously.. and it's not too late to pledge your support by visiting <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/TotalWarrior>

For more information contact Styles and Co call 01925 761600 or www.stylesandco.co.uk. For details about Warrington Youth Club visit www.warringtonyouthclub.co.uk

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Culcheth High Community Campus

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Handmade Pottery Learn how to work with clay, create your own pots, plates and tiles, as well as developing your own ideas. Mixed ability, all welcome. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. Every Tuesday evening for five weeks starting on the 17th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Basic IT Computer Skills This course will give you the skills needed to type a letter, access the internet and send e-mails. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. Every Tuesday evening for five weeks starting on 17th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

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Vintage Floral Art Learn floristry techniques to create beautiful flower arrangements. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. Every Wednesday evening for five weeks starting on the 18th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Jewellery Making An introduction the craft of jewellery making. This course costs £40 with a cost of £15 for materials, however each learner is entitled to one free course each academic year. Every Wednesday evening for five weeks starting on the 18th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol

Introduction to Art Relax in a creative environment of our Art department and have taster sessions on Printmaking, handmade paper, drawing skills and 3D design. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year. Every Thursday evening for five weeks starting on the 19th September, 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

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Cooking Around the World Chef Paul Ratcliffe will guide you as you create a range of cultural foods. This course costs £40, however learners can access one free course this academic year, a cost of £15 for materials applies. One class every Tuesday evening for four weeks starting on the 17th September 6.30pm—9pm.

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For more information on enrolment please contact:

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5000 flock to carnival

Pictures by: Ching Lee and Alan Croston

THE annual Winwick Carnival has been hailed a great success after attracting over 5,000 visitors.

Organised by a group of dedicated villagers the carnival committee has worked tirelessly since Christmas – volunteering their free time to assist life-long Winwick resident and Chairman, Pete Howard of Falcondale Road, to ensure that local people had a fun-packed day.

The carnival was officially opened under a sun-drenched field by Winwick Resident and May Queen Milli Waterfield.

Bob Hogg's (pictured right) "Lamb National" was the highlight of the festival – with traditional breed sheep named Red Ram, Sheargar and Woolly Jumper racing for the chance to be crowned winner of the Winwick steeplechase.

M.A.D. mountain bike display team also amused the crowds with daring stunts and tricks.

Carnival Committee Vice-Chair,



David Shaw of Long Lone said: "The sun shone, the acts were great and the musical support was fantastic. We were delighted to see so many people come along on the day - it makes all the hard work and planning worthwhile."

Musical entertainment on the day was provided by young local indie band Loo A Los Heroes and folk singer Tony Gill.

As well as the usual fun of the fairground which included carnival favourites – the haunted house and the teacups - more than 30 stall-holders attended selling everything from jewellery to cakes and promoting a variety of charitable organisations.

Warrington Hospital Radio broadcasted a live show from the event to patients from 12pm-3pm on the day.

To get involved in the organisation of next year's carnival email info@winwickcarnival.co.uk

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hello Autumn

The Gardening Guide SEPTEMBER

- Now is an excellent time to choose and plant your new shrubs and trees for next year. The soil is warm and damp meaning they get off to a better start next spring!
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- Reduce watering and feeding of houseplants ready for the winter dormant period.
- Pot spring flowering bulbs for indoor displays and plant your outdoor bulbs now for a stunning spring display.
- Dig up any remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them.
- Always make sure your plants are well watered, even in this unpredictable weather!

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Saturday 21st September - Farmers' Market. 9am - 1pm.

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ART & CRAFT MONDAY Painting & Drawing, Jewellery Making
TUESDAY Oil Painting, Crochet, **WEDNESDAY** Book Transformation **WEEKEND** Pottery



LEISURE & PLEASURE MONDAY Psychology, Counselling Skills, Introduction to Family History
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WEDNESDAY Green Medicine & Herbal Remedies, Photography Club, Improvers Family History
WEEKEND Indian Head Massage, Garden Design



FUNCTIONAL SKILLS MONDAY Maths (Level 2) **TUESDAY** English (Level 2)

FOOD & DRINK MONDAY Come Dine with Me! **TUESDAY** Cake Decorating Beginners
WEDNESDAY Cake Decorating Improvers **WEEKEND** Festive Cookery Workshop

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Courses starting on a Monday	Wednesday 4th September between 5 – 7pm
Courses starting on a Tuesday plus the two cake decorating courses and the pottery workshop	Wednesday 4th September between 5 – 7pm
Courses starting on a Wednesday (except for cake decorating see above for details)	Thursday 5th September between 5 – 7pm
All Weekend Courses / Workshops (except for pottery see above for details)	Thursday 5th September between 5 – 7pm

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When is a charity not a charity?

When it is a Community Interest Company.

Whilst most people set up in business to make a profit, there are a growing number of business owners who want to actively give something back to society. More than donating to an existing charity they want to "do" something worthwhile and so charities, social enterprises and other "not for profit" organisations are becoming increasingly popular as business owners seek to do this.

Deciding upon an appropriate structure from which to run this type of operation can be a more complicated decision than you might think.

Up until recently, obtaining charitable status has been the main route for most organisations. However, there is now an increasing trend towards Community Interest Companies (CIC's). A CIC is less restrictive than a registered charity

and has a number of advantages including:

a) You don't have to apply for registered charity status and comply with Charity Commission regulation but still gain from having a clear not-for-profit status.

b) You are able to remunerate yourself for the work you perform in the business, something for which trustees of a charity, in general, can't do.

c) The definition of "community interest" that applies to CIC's is wider than the "public benefit" test required for charities.

In addition to CIC's, the government have also recently announced a new not-for-profit structure called a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). A CIO offers many of the benefits of an incorporated charity: limited liability, corporate entity etc but is simpler to run.



Steven Norton

If you would like to discuss any of the above issues then please contact our senior manager specialising in charities and other not-for-profit organisations, Steven Norton on 01925 761600.

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

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

www.stylesandco.co.uk



Culcheth Community Primary School

OPEN DAYS

October 16th: 2pm and 6pm

November 20th: 2pm and 6pm

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British Dressage success for teenager

A 16-year-old Culcheth girl is celebrating success after securing a place at the prestigious British Dressage National Championships.

Louise Culling and her horse, View Houdini, have been a partnership competing in British Dressage events for just two years.

In that time Louise, with the support of her trainer, Darcas Lever, has won a succession of events and has represented British Dressage North West as a team member for both the Inter Regional Championships and the National Under 25 Championships.

However, her most recent success of securing a place at the prestigious British Dressage National Championships saw her compete in an arena with no age restrictions and

against professional competitors.

A delighted Louise said: "I cannot believe the level of achievement we have reached in such a short space of time – it has been worth all the hard work and sacrifice of my social life in order to achieve my goals - I am so proud of my boy!"

Louise, who is based with her trainer at Cockshot Farm Stables in Croft, has been offered a place at Culcheth Sixth Form College and is currently awaiting her GCSE results.

The British Dressage National Championships take place at BD Headquarters in Warwickshire in September.



Councillor accepts apology for planning mix-up

A CULCHETH councillor says he has accepted a personal apology from senior council officers who wrongly claimed he had been too late when he made representations over a planning application.

The application, for agricultural storage in Stone Pit Lane, Croft, was approved by officers under delegated powers, despite Cllr Chris Vobe requesting that the matter be dealt with by the development management committee.

After Cllr Vobe protested that it was "outrageous" that his request was not granted, the council claimed he had failed to meet the deadline.

A council spokesman said:

"Unfortunately Cllr Vobe's request for a referral to the development management committee was made extremely late and after the decision was made and the decision notice issued." But later the council issued another statement which said: "The council has reviewed the issues surrounding the above recent planning application. It is clear that Cllr Vobe's comments fell within the consultation period before the matter was delivered to the council."

Cllr Vobe's proposals on further improvements to councillor communication arrangements on planning matters will be considered shortly by the council's Planning

Improvement Board."

Cllr Vobe said: "I am grateful that council officers have retracted their earlier statement, which implied that my objection to the planning application on Stone Pit Lane did not arrive until after the deadline for submissions. This statement was untrue, and it was quite wrong that it was made. However, I have received a personal apology from senior officers for this error, which I have accepted. In light of their apology, I consider that aspect of the matter closed."

"There were a number of mistakes made in the way this application was processed. Steps are now being

taken to prevent these mistakes reoccurring, and I will be keeping a close eye on the implementation of these new measures over the coming months."



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400 celebrate 65 years of soccer

MORE than 400 soccer fans descended on Culcheth for a special family fun day to mark Dagen Football Club's 65th anniversary.

There was plenty of football – a youth tournament and two “friendlies” against high profile opposition – and lots of other activities too.

The event, sponsored by Room31, was made possible because of the strong links Dagen FC has with Liverpool Academy.

It started with an Under 9 and Under 10 youth tournament, with

teams from across the region. The games were keenly contested and ended with Tipton Community, from the west Midlands, as champions.

Liverpool Academy Coaches played a friendly against a Dagen team that included players from across the club, including the Veterans team. Despite losing the first half 0-2, the Dagen XI pulled it back to a 2-2 draw against a

side that included several former professional players.

The football ended with Dagen taking on Northern Premier League side Burscough. In an open game the former FA Trophy winners showed their class with a 4-1 win.

Event organiser Gareth Pashley said: “The event was a huge

success for all the teams, the football club and the community as a whole. We are looking to build a legacy and grow this event into an annual tournament for players of all ages. We feel it is our duty as a local sports club to help continue the Olympic legacy created last year into the future generations.”

Beaver Scouts learn about biking

BEAVER Scouts from the 19th Warrington (Culcheth Methodist) Scout Troop were given an insight into the world of motor cycle racing when they visited the TST Performance and Racing Tyre and Culcheth Tyres premises on the Taylor Industrial Estate.

The youngsters were shown round the workshops, allowed to try on motor cycle gear and even sit on some of the racing bikes on the premises.

TST Tyres/Culcheth Tyres are owned by former motor cycle ace Tony Salt who in a 13-year career rode virtually every type and class of racing motor cycle, competing against the likes of Barry Sheene, Ron Haslam and Carl Fogarty.

The Beaver Scouts left with broad smiles on their faces and plenty of motor cycling goodie bags.



Former Liverpool goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence presents prizes

Call for action over village centre pavements

CROFT parish and Borough Councillor Chirs Vobe has called for an assessment of pavements in the centre of the village after conducting a walkabout with residents.

He says there has been a “clear and undeniable deterioration” in the condition of pavements in Croft, the blame for which he says rests with the previous council administration who did not provide adequate investment for the village.

Cllr Vobe said: “Croft residents are proud of their village, and everyone does their bit to help maintain a welcome environment that we can all enjoy.

But when I and local residents carried out a “walkabout” through Croft over the summer, it was starkly apparent that the condition of many of our pavements needs to be addressed.

“Over recent weeks, we have seen investment by the Labour-run council in many Croft roads, and work is now under way to fill the most immediate pot holes, with more of the same scheduled for the autumn and winter months. But pavements are sometimes a secondary consideration when we think about highways. We rightly expect to be able to drive through our town without encountering excessive pot holes on the roads, but I believe pedestrians also have the right to walk through the village without the risk of tripping hazards and uneven surfaces. This is particularly the case for children and the elderly.”

Local residents and Cllr Vobe identified their “Top 10 pavements” which they believe are in need of improvement, and have submitted this list to the Borough Council for consideration.

Cllr Vobe has pledged to add this issue to the agenda of future meetings he holds with officers to discuss road repairs in the village.



Councillor Vobe highlights the poor condition of Birchall Street, one of his “Top 10” for improvements.

Beat school holiday boredom

THE school holiday period has been here long enough now for boredom to set in – so Glazebury's Bent's Garden and Home has come up with a range of ideas to get little minds active.

They have created a "to do" list for children aimed at encouraging youngsters to enjoy their own back gardens.

The list consists of six simple and easy to achieve ideas, all of which can be accomplished in any back garden, no matter how big or small.

They are:

- * Get involved with the Big Butterfly Count – counting takes place until the end of August so check out the different varieties in the garden

- * Make a wormery – check out Bents "How to" sheet for making a mini wormery

- * Experience the Dawn Chorus – Set alarm clocks early and listen as nature wakes.

- * Design and plant a hanging basket or container – anything goes, but Bents have created an excellent child friendly recipe sheet.

- * Start a compost heap – Find a corner and create some compost. Discover Bents' top tips for a great compost heap.

- * Plant, grow and measure a sunflower – reach for the sky with a cheerful sunflower and compete to see who's taller

Bents have also introduced a programme of "Inspiring Children To Do" workshops which will take place throughout the summer holidays so keep a look out online for more details of dates and times.

And if ideas for the back garden run out, Bents have an outdoor adventure play area, birds of prey, treasure hunt and face painting.

The skys the limit!

TWO Culcheth High School sixth formers, Chris Bibby and Lewis Smith, will be taking the plunge to celebrate their 18th Birthdays by jumping out of an aircraft at an altitude of 13,500 feet to perform a charity Tamden skydive.

They will be joined by Wayne Bibby in the charity event taking place in Cumbria on Saturday, October 5.

The lads are hoping to raise enough funds to purchase two defibrillators with full training packages that will be donated to Culcheth Athletic Junior Football Club and Culcheth Eagles Junior Rugby Club.

If anyone would like to make a kind donation they can be made at The Village Sandwich bar, Culcheth or alternatively contact Darron Bibby tel: 07742 047663 for further information.

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