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Issue: 138
September 2014

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment



ON the opposite page you will read about the fears circulating in Culcheth that someone out there is targeting pet cats with an air gun, using pellets specifically designed to cause maximum injury and death to small animals.

As a cat owner, and someone who has had a pet mysteriously disappear I know exactly what

those who have lost their family pets, must be going through.

It is bad enough when a pet disappears, but to think it may be lying somewhere fatally wounded, must be agonising.

While cats can clearly be a nuisance (I have been on the receiving end of neighbours cats), there is absolutely no reason to shoot them with the intention of killing or seriously injuring them.

There are plenty of products on the market to deter a cat from visiting your borders/garden - and a hose pipe can be a suitable "weapon" if you really do need to discourage a cat from visiting your garden.

I would appeal to everyone to be vigilant and if you believe you know the person or persons responsible for these shooting activities, please inform the authorities or your local councillor.

It is certainly very worrying that these kind of incidents have been taking place for at least 10 years and I would be most surprised if others weren't aware who was responsible.

Congratulations

Finally congratulations to all those living in the area who got the grades they desired in their recent exams and good luck for the future.

For those who didn't do as well as expected, don't despair, there are plenty of opportunities to try again - and it is never too late to learn!

Council bids for transport funding

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has submitted three bids for funding from the Local Transport Plan.

The fund - available to all parish councils across the Warrington East area - is designed to assist with local schemes that will improve transportation, sustainability and accessibility.

The schemes are:

1. Alterations to the path across the New Inn Gardens to allow wheel chair access.
2. Additional parking bays in Heswall Avenue.
3. Extra dropped kerbs in the village to enhance disabled access.

Cllr Chris Vobe and Cllr Matt Smith have pledged to attend the relevant meetings of the East Area Neighbourhood Board where these funding bids will be discussed, and make a strong case for the money to be allocated to Culcheth and Glazebury

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Fears cat killer targeting family pets

VILLAGERS fear a cat killer is targeting family pets in the Culcheth area, following the disappearance of four cats in recent weeks, with a total of 10 being shot or disappearing so far this year.

In March this year a Bengal kitten from the Derwent Road area of Culcheth, was shot and killed by an air rifle pellet and found dead in a neighbour's garden in nearby Severn Road.

Then in April a cat from the Shaw Street area was shot and injured by a pellet specifically designed for hunting and efficiently killing small animals.

There have been other shooting incidents in the area spanning a 10 year-period and now with four cats disappearing in recent weeks residents fear the cat killer is increasing activity.

Local resident Michaela Simpson, whose own pet Nelson (pictured right) has been missing for several weeks said: "Someone must be behind the missing presumed dead cats, so if more people are aware of what has been going on, then perhaps someone will see or notice something unusual and report it."

"The police have been made aware, but without evidence cannot follow up on any suspicions."

"There are two cats missing from Derwent, one from Bent a Lane and our cat from Medway. Only a few months ago a cat was shot on Derwent and another taken to the vets, also after being shot."

"It's horrendous that this is happening to much loved pets and it's causing significant upset and

distress," added Michaela.

Local Cllr Chris Vobe said: "I have spoken with a number of residents in the Newchurch area about this issue."

"It is very distressing for pet owners to learn that these shootings have been taking place, but we urge people to remain vigilant and report any matters of concern to local police."



Tibby who went missing from Bollin Close



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There will also be craft and gift stalls, lots of activities and rides for the kids, top chef demos, stir in a cake competition and the popular Men v Food, with lashings of excellent live music.

The main chef demo area inside the Crook Barn hosts great local

and regional chefs, all demos are free - as part of the admission ticket - to enter so everyone can pick up top foodie tips.

There are also regular Artisan foodie talks and the popular Great British Cake off.

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'Croft in Bloom' winners



WINNERS of this year's "Croft in Bloom" competition were Tony and Beverley Moran.

Croft Parish Council chairman Jeff Shelley presented the prize to the Millhouse Lane couple and their daughter, Shannah, along with councillors Merrill Cummerson and Chris Vobe.

The competition was sponsored by Bent's Garden and Home.

Cllr Shelley said: "It really is a beautiful garden – a pleasure to drive passed and well worth a special visit to look at it."

The Moran family were nominated by a fellow villager who had seen their garden while out walking.

All entries were then inspected by an independent judge – and the Moran's garden was judged the

winner.

The Croft in Bloom competition contest is organised each year by the parish council as a means of encouraging local residents to take an interest in the gardens and give the village more colour.

Cllr Vobe said: "It was great to receive so many nominations for this year's competition. People in the village take a great deal of pride in their environment and we have some fantastic gardens throughout Croft."

"Our independent judge selected Mr and Mrs Moran as our winners for 2014, and we are very grateful to the team at Bents for sponsoring this year's prize."



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Civil War Soci

MEMBERS of the English Civil War Society helped lift spirits at an over cast and damp Winwick Carnival by entertaining the crowds with their spectacular displays.

They were one of the attractions at the annual event which helps raise funds for local community groups.



Left, Jacob Garrathy aged 12 has a go on the Kitten Karers Tombola run by Debby Hughes and Lily Gray

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Members of the English Civil War Society prepare a feast after putting on a display



Seven year old Leoni Taylor tries a go on the Leigh Arthritis Care Support Group Lucky Dip

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The Gardening Guide SEPTEMBER

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- Reduce watering and feeding of houseplants ready for the winter dormant period
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Learning For Life

Dr Who Rector leaves – but not by Tardis

AVID Dr Who fan he may be, but the Rev Dr Chris Stafford will hardly need The Tardis to return to Culcheth following his departure for pastures new.

He's only just down the road at Newton-le-Willows – so he could use more conventional transport to come back and look up old friends.

After 11 years at Newchurch and Christ Church, Croft, Chris has taken up the post of Team Vicar at All Saints, Newton and Schools Minister for the Newton Team.

He said: "I am excited at the challenge. Newton will be a very different experience. We have made lots of good friendships and are very sorry to be leaving."

After a well-attended farewell service and presentation in the Parish Hall, Chris, his wife Anne

and daughter Catherine left for Newton.

It was standing room only in the hall to see the gifts from the congregation – which given Chris' well known fondness for Dr Who included a Dr Who scarf and Tardis mugs, as well as an iPad, flowers, vouchers, etc.

Special Dr Who cakes were shared among the guests and refreshments were provided by members of the two churches.

The congregations of both Newchurch and Christ Church sent the family on their way with their best wishes for the future.



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It was for these reasons why here at Styles and Co we recently surveyed a sample of our clients to obtain a better understanding of what our clients want, and what they think about us and the service we provide.

We had some very complimentary results and can announce that of the responses received 100% of clients said we have a good understanding of their business. It was also

extremely pleasing to see that 100% of clients said our staff were friendly and approachable and 100% said we were easy to do business with – all extremely important factors in the continuation of our business relationship.

To discuss this article further or for any other accounting or taxation advice then please contact Ian, Graeme or Sarah on 01925 761600.



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Cheers! It's the Rotary beer festival again

THE 4TH annual Culcheth Beer Festival takes place on Friday and Saturday, September 12-13 at Culcheth Sports Club.

Organised, as usual, by the local Rotary Club, it will feature 40 cask ales, various ciders, wines and complimentary soft drinks for designated drivers.

A hog roast and background music completes an event that has become a "must" for connoisseurs of the hop and those who just enjoy a sociable pint with their family and friends.

Last year, with more than 800 people attending, the event raised more than £8,500.00 for Rotary charities - a sum which it is hoped to exceed this year.

The beer festival is just one event the Rotary Club organises locally.

They also sponsor prizes at schools, provide entertainment at elderly person's homes, equipment for Scouts and Guides and similar organisations.

The club has also built a good relationship with the Croft and Culcheth Air Cadets who help with Rotary activities.

Anyone who would like to join Rotary should call Bernard Groom on 01925 733893 or visit the Rotary District 1280 web site.

Table top sale for Guides

A TABLE top sale is to be held at Culcheth on Saturday, September 20 to raise money for local Girl Guides.

The event at the Scout Hut in Jackson Avenue, from 9am to 12.30pm, is being organised by Guide Leader Justine Doyle, of the 3rd Culcheth Guides.

Aim is to raise money for local Guiding, for Guides who are fundraising for international trips as part of Girlguiding UK and for Under 18s taking part in official overseas trips.

There will be about 15 stalls, mostly taken by Girlguiding units and including crafts, home bakes, face painting and second hand goods.

Bacon sandwiches and tea and coffee will be available.

Further details are available from Justine on 07857 609472.

Newton & District Jubilee Rotary Club Present

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War veteran's novel mirrors his own remarkable life

CULCHETH war veteran James Skelding has written his first book – at the age of 94.

"Reviving Echoes follows the lives of Albert and Gillian through war, peace and retirement from 1939 to 2013 but James – a former college lecturer – admits it is loosely based on his own life with

his late wife, Winifred, who died three years ago after almost 70 years of marriage.

So it comes as no surprise that James – like the fictional bus conductor Albert – met his wife in

Birmingham.

He was devastated when she died – and to try and fill the gap Winifred had left in his life, started writing his book.

Now that it has been published, he is already working on a sequel.

Albert is called up for military service in 1939 and took part in the Dunkirk evacuation, serving later in India and Burma where he was wounded fighting the Japanese.

The story unfolds of how he and Gillian survive the war and the peace which followed. Times are hard, but they are happy.

They enjoy the hard-won peace, despite the nuclear threat which overshadows it.

As Albert reaches retirement, world events once more bring new threats and a personal crisis to surpass all others – one which must be overcome at the close of their story.

Like his fictional counterpart, Albert, James met his wife at a dance and during their first dance asked her "When are we going to get married?"

Her response, of course, is part of the story that should only be discovered by those that read it.

"Reviving Echoes" is published by Troubador Publishing at £7.50 but is also available as an e-book at £3.99. It can be purchased from Amazon.

Parish councillors quiz HS2 boss

MEMBERS of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council have expressed concern at continuing delays in deciding the final route of the controversial HS2 high speed railway line.

Councillors have met with senior representatives of HS2 Ltd and posed questions on the latest developments – including the suggestions tabled by Sir David Higgins in his "HS2 Plus" report.

Cllr Peter Caswell asked for more information on HS2's exceptional hardship scheme and urged the company to set up advice surgeries for local residents so people with houses are on the current proposed route could have their circumstances examined more closely and receive additional support from the company.

Cllr Mike Vobe was concerned

that the delay in announcing the final route of the line was adding "12 months of blight" for many residents in Culcheth and Croft.

Councillors expressed their dismay that the Secretary of State had "put off" making his final decision.

After the meeting, Cllr Vobe said: "The parish council appreciated the opportunity to meet with representatives from HS2 Ltd. We are committed to keeping this dialogue going, whatever decision the Secretary of State makes."

"We are dismayed that a final decision on the route has not yet been announced. For our villages, all this leaves us with is a further 12 months during which many people will suffer from blight and are unable to sell their homes."

"The Secretary of State has the power to stop us from remaining

in that 'limbo' and should bring the date of his announcement forward."

Cllr Chris Vobe, who chaired the meeting, said: "HS2 Ltd's commitment to hold advice surgeries with councillors to discuss individual circumstances will be very helpful."

"The biggest issue affecting Culcheth and Newchurch is housing blight. It is vital that HS2 Ltd help as many people as possible through their exceptional hardship scheme."

"If the announcement on the final route is going to be delayed then parish councillors will continue to support Warrington Borough Council's case for an upgrade to the West Coast Main Line and the removal of the 'spur' which currently runs through the villages."

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OPEN EVENTS 2014

Wed 22 Oct	➤ 5.30pm - 8.00pm
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Thurs 13 Nov	➤ 5.30pm - 8.00pm
Sat 15 Nov	➤ 11.00am - 1.30pm

www.priestley.ac.uk

Suzanne aims to swim the Channel



A WOMAN from Culcheth has vowed to swim the Channel in the name of charity - despite having a double hip replacement just two years ago.

Suzanne Crippin, 28, recently completed two big swims - the Great North Swim in the Lake District and the Great Manchester Swim in Salford - to raise money for The Richard Sharp Sensory Library.

The project is a tactile library, which is made up of themed boxes full of different textured items, such as a Christmas box with tinsel, crackers, baubles and more.

The boxes are designed to stimulate communication and memories for people who are both deaf and blind, in memory of Richard Sharp, who suffered from MELAS syndrome, a rare condition which took his sight, hearing and eventually his life.

Suzanne (pictured), who had to have a double hip replacement after developing Avascular Necrosis, said: "I met Sarah Sharp, Richard's widow, not long after the operation and was really touched by her determination and positivity."

"I got into swimming as part of my physiotherapy after having my hip operation and, after hearing about Sarah's project realised I could use my passion for it to make a difference."

She is also due to take part in The Great London Swim at Docklands in preparation for her end goal of eventually swimming the Channel.

Suzanne is taking her training seriously, practicing six days a week for at least an hour racking up two to three miles per day.

"I'm on a mission to raise as much as I can for the sensory library; I've already managed to raise over £1100 in just a few weeks."

"I plan to swim all five locations in the Great Swim Series next year and hopefully once I get to that stage I'll be ready to reach my end goal and finally swim the Channel. I'm determined to get there!" added Suzanne.

The sensory library will be based in Northwich, at deafness charity Deafness Support Network's offices there.

Hockey training

GOLBORNE Hockey Club, which runs three men's and two women's team, plus a junior section, has started training at Golborne Sports and Social Club in Stone Cross Lane, Lowton.

New and existing players will be welcome at training sessions, of all abilities.

Anyone interested should turn up on a Tuesday evening or visit the web page www.golbornehockeyclub.co.uk

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