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Issue: 112
July 2012

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**Abbie's
art
tribute**

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All the latest news: www.culchethlife.com

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Editor's Comment



THE Diamond Jubilee weekend proved two things: Firstly, most people still regard the Royal Family, and the Queen in particular, with considerable affection and, secondly, they don't let a bit of rain spoil their fun.

It would be hard to imagine worse weather for street parties and picnics than that which arrived - particularly on the Sunday.

But street parties had been arranged - and, for the most part, they went ahead. Most organisers

had prepared for the worst and arranged suitable shelter in the shape of marquees or gazebos. Mums, Dads, Grandmas and Granddads produced food and entertainment and, perhaps more importantly, got to know their neighbours better.

Time and time again we have been told of people talking to neighbours they had known by sight for years but never spoken to.

A few events were badly hit by the weather. The picnics organised for the village green at Culcheth and the park at Croft had to be cancelled.

We rather liked the style of the folk at Mee Brow who decided a bit of rain was not going to stop their fun and went ahead regardless.

Celebrating at the double

MORE than 150 members of Girlguiding Culcheth District enjoyed a day of fun to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and the Diamond Jubilee.

A day of crafts, games and fun was held at Culcheth Community Primary School. Other attractions included a bouncy castle, disco dome and a Tea Party.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides had made bunting to decorate the school hall and were helped by the Senior

Section members to decorate cakes, make party hats and tiaras. They also took part in a treasure trail.

Anyone who would like to join the group or volunteer as an Adult Leader should contact Sara Isles (District Commissioner) on 766057 or via sara.isles@btinternet.com

Apology

IN our report of the 30th anniversary of Tapefox Ltd, last month, we wrongly stated the company had been launched by Mr and Mrs Frank Warner as a kitchen and bathroom company. This should have read: "kitchen and bedroom" company.

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Art tribute to an "extraordinary man"



CULCHETH High School GCSE art student Abbie Lynch recently completed her final project entitled "Ordinary and/or extraordinary".

Abbie, aged 15, wanted to feature an ordinary person whose achievements were extraordinary.

During the recent local elections, a leaflet came through Abbie's door which featured Keith Bland.

Abbie was intrigued by his position as a councillor and so arranged to interview him and take photos.

She was impressed by Keith's open-minded

views and the enthusiasm with which he talked about his work.

Quotes such as: "Young people and old people should come together and work together. Intimidation divides us. However, 99 per cent of youth is the same as it was years ago" meant a great deal to Abbie.

Following the interview, Abbie produced excellent photographs, pencil drawings and her final piece of work in acrylics.

When the work is released by the exam board later in the year, a copy will be presented to Keith and also displayed in school.

School business manager Amanda Stevens said: "This is only fitting given that Keith not only works tirelessly for the good of Culcheth but also played a pivotal role in the development of the new high school."

Picture left: Abbie with her completed artwork.

Lauren will be crowned Queen

LAUREN Wilcock, a pupil at All Saints Primary School, Glazebury will be crowned Queen on Glazebury Gala Day on Saturday, July 14.

Her attendants will be Jennifer Stephenson, Hannah Grundy and Rose Redmund with Mia Blears as the Petal Girl.

Liam and Thomas Farrington will be Page Boys.

Lauren will be crowned by the Rev Pat Grey, curate at All Saints Church at a ceremony in the church.

Retiring Queen Jennie Cleworth, will be attended by Libby Bowers and Megan Ellison.

As usual the day will start with a ceremonial drive from the Raven Inn to the church.

Afterwards there will be a range of gala activities on the school field, or in the school.



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Ironman Ian takes on his biggest challenge

CULCHETH businessman Ian Barker, who has raised thousands of pounds for charity by taking part in marathons and other endurance tests is to tackle his biggest challenge yet - Ironman UK.

Ian, owner of Le Brunch sandwich bar, will be raising money for the Scope disability charity.

Ironman UK is a testing one day event consisting of a 3.8km swim, 112-mile bike ride and a full marathon. It takes place at Bolton on July 22.

Ian said: "I will be raising money for Scope because I like to raise money for a different charity each time I test my body."

"The reason I do this is because I am fortunate not to be directly linked to a charity as all my family have a clean bill of health."

Over the last four years, Ian has taken part in 10k runs, half marathons, marathons and triathlons raising money for charities such as East Cheshire Hospice, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Bobath Centre, Steve Prescott Foundation, Christies, St Rocco's Hospice, Alzheimers and Willowbrook Hospice.

In total he has raised about £5,000.

He hopes to raise £1,000 with the Ironman challenge and he can be sponsored at www.justgiving.com/IanBarkerIronman2012

A percentage of the takings at Le Brunch on the day of the event will also be donated to the charity.

Pictured right: Ian, in training for the cycling part of the challenge.



There's a worm at the bottom of the garden...

CHILDREN at Croft Village Pre School have created a wormery using worms they discovered in their woodland area.

The youngsters collected their own worms, soil and sand to create the wormery and had wonderful hands on experience investigating how worms move and what they feel like.

The children have access to a woodland area where they can explore nature, play safely and join in exciting play.

Amy Hardman (Deputy Manager) spent much time exploring the area and said: "The children really enjoyed this experience and fully involved themselves, they were fantastic. Over the next few weeks we will be enhancing this interest by hunting and investigating mini beasts!"





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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 this date, please contact the school)

If you would like to arrange a visit to the school please contact Ms A Smith (Headteacher) on 01925 764312
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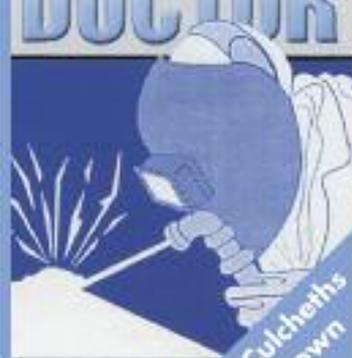
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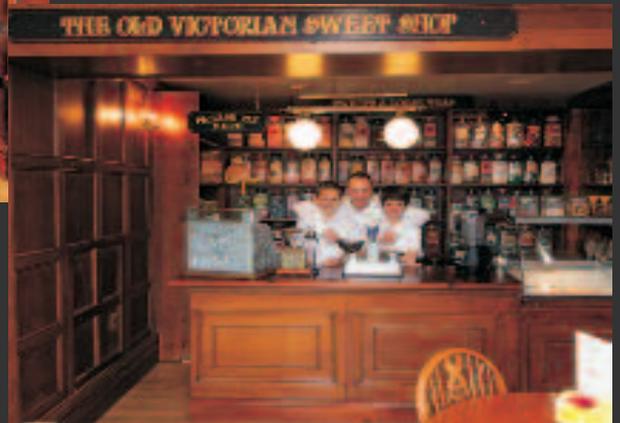
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Residents fight to save building society

HUNDREDS of people have signed a petition to try and save the Culcheth branch of the Cheshire Building Society.

The petition, launched by newsagent Janet Lee, calls on the society to reconsider its decision to close the branch on Jackson Avenue.

Among those signing the protest was borough and parish councillor Chris Vobe.

He said: "Cheshire Building Society is a well-used facility here in the village. The decision to close this branch is just barmy! That's why this petition is so important, because it shows the strength of feeling from people here against these plans.

"I'm pleased to have added my name, and I'd encourage everyone to take a few moments to add

theirs when they visit the Jackson Avenue shops. In these tough times, it is important that we make sure services and facilities are not taken away from our community.

"We can't force Cheshire Building Society to change their minds, but we can certainly make the case."

Cllr Vobe pledged to write to Cheshire Building Society to ask them to reconsider their decision, and also called for one of their senior representatives to visit the village to accept the petition.

Petition forms are available for Culcheth, Glazebury and Croft residents in shops throughout the village.



Jim, 80 this year, seeks old school pals



A RETIRED police officer who was a wartime pupil at the old Culcheth Secondary Modern School is trying to get in touch with any old school pals who may remember him.

Jim Sutton, who is 80 this year, left the school around 1945 and later left the village to join the Royal Navy, where he served for 12 years.

His family lived in Warrington Road while his grandparents lived in Withington Avenue.

Jim made a pilgrimage to the old school when he attended a reunion shortly before the old building was demolished. But he didn't meet up with anyone he knew - nor anyone of his generation.

He joked: "I suppose they could all be in the

graveyard now. But if there is anyone still around in Culcheth who remembers me, I would love to meet them."

He remembers pupils named Green, Clark, Unsworth, Whitfield, Taylor, Mort and Lewis.

There were also the Andrews Sisters - but not the singers, he jokes.

Jim served 22 years in the police after leaving the Navy and retired as a sergeant. He now lives on the Wirral.

He can be contacted by email at sailorbill@talktalk.net or by calling 0151 348 4398.



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Last minute street party

A LAST minute idea to have a Diamond Jubilee street party turned out to be a huge success for the residents of Chiltern Road, Culcheth.

Catering for 86 people, resident Jill Bibby from the Village Sandwich Bar brought creative flair to the buffet which was fit for a Queen!

Darren Bibby was master of ceremonies for the day's entertainment which included traditional games such as three legged race, flag relay, treasure hunt, family bingo, royal themed quiz, hook-a-duck and coconut shy.

icing on the cake was live music from talented residents.

Jack Keery aged 17 wowed the crowd with his selection of melodic acoustic numbers and Frank Lloyd, who is retired with the band

The Thursday Folk, provided more fabulous toe tapping numbers

Max Munro aged 11 from Twiss Green Primary School teamed up with Jack for a fantastic acoustic rendition of Ed Sheran's Lego House, and Mitchell Lloyd who is studying in Bristol sang with grandfather Frank Lloyd, who emotionally commented: "It was so special to perform for the first time ever with my grandson".

Evening entertainment was fuelled by a never ending conveyor belt of burgers, kebabs and other mouth watering delights. Flags and bunting completed a spectacular finishing touch to the scene. Even weather anxieties beforehand thankfully proved unfounded as the rain kept off and the sun came out to

Tea party for grandparents



CHILDREN and staff at Culcheth Day Nursery celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a tea party for grandparents.

Granddads and Grandmas enjoyed tea and cream scones and a good time was had by all.

Our picture shows staff, children and grandmas enjoying the day.

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Party dodged the rain



complement a super day all round.

Behind the scenes preparations such as official road closure, gazebos, table and chairs, BBQs, collecting funds, amplifiers, electrics, and doing leaflets, etc., were all covered by an army of eager residents.

Best thing of all according to resident Anne MacInnes was the way all the neighbours, young and old, got together to organise and enjoy the memorable day.

Not all Jubilee celebrations went so well, however - thanks to appalling weather.

The big picnic, organised by Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council on the village green was cancelled after heavy rain made the green - notorious for its poor drainage - unusable.

A similar village picnic on the playing field at Croft was also called off because of the weather.

Mee Brow Resident's Association organised their own picnic and this went ahead despite the weather.

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July...



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Dining out at the China Rose

THERE always seems to be something you have not tried before on the menu at Culcheth's China Rose restaurant, so it's a good place for adventurous diners.

Whether your taste is for a Bird's Nest special, stir fried Char Sui in Szechuan Sauce or the Chef's Special pan friend Sea Bream, you are in for a treat.

Add to that the friendly welcome from Matthew and his staff and you have the ideal place for an enjoyable evening out.

The menu is expansive and, of course, includes all the traditional Chinese favourites. Everything is freshly cooked and tastefully presented so you won't go far wrong whether you go for an old favourite or discover something different.

For two or more people there are set two and three course banquets which offer a chance to sample a variety of dishes but for those who want new experiences there are the Chef's Specials, a range of Bird's Nest dishes, Malaysian Satay, Kung Po - a variety of stir fried sweet and spicy dishes with nuts - and Spicy Singapore Vermicelli Noodles.

We started our meal with our favourite soups - hot and sour and chicken and sweetcorn - and found them delicious. For our main courses we chose the Chef's Special Sea Bream and Beef with Green Peppers and Black Bean sauce - both were boiled rice. Again, they were beautifully cooked and presented.

An ice cream dessert rounded off an enjoyable meal.



Molly to be crowned Carnival Queen

FINAL preparations for the annual Croft Carnival on Saturday, July 7 are now nearing completion.

The Carnival Queen will be 12-year-old Molly Fletcher, a pupil at Culcheth High School who likes art and drama.

Carnival Princess will be Laela Sakhi, who will be eight two days before the carnival. She attends Croft Primary School and likes swimming, drama, attending Brownies and playing with her friends.

Carnival Rosebud is six-year-old Ava Sumner, a pupil at Culcheth Primary School who enjoys gymnastics, swimming, football and doing her homework!

Queen attendants are Maisie Craddock and Olivia Pym, Princess attendants are Shannon Witts and Rosa Sakhi and Rosebud attendants are Ruby Marshall and Olivia Bellas.

Pictured: Queen Molly with Carnival Princess Laela Sakhi (right) and Rosebud Ava Sumner (left).



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Eddie carried the torch for Scouting



EDDIE Johnson, of Culcheth, was one of the 8,000 inspirational people selected to carry the Olympic Torch on its journey through the country.

A veteran of Scouting, Eddie celebrates his 70th birthday this year.

He has been involved in the Scout Association for almost 60 years and since 1960 has been a Scout Leader in Warrington, District Commissioner for 14 years and County Commissioner for Cheshire for eight years.

He manages the Warrington Scout Shop, which he set up and has run for 40 years, raising up to £15,000 a year for Scouting.

Eddie retired as County Commissioner two years ago but is still very involved in the Scout Association.

He carried the Torch in the Lowton area.

Tree planting marks 160th anniversary

MORE than 100 people attended a special service at All Saints Church, Glazebury, to mark 160 years of worship.

Guests enjoyed a buffet and celebration event.

To mark the occasion a tree was planted in the grounds by Rev Pat Gray.

Picture courtesy Martin O'Neill Studiofivefour.com



Grandchildren give play park the thumbs up

ELEVEN of the Bent family grandchildren gave the new adventure play park at Bents Garden and Home a "test drive" - and all gave it the thumbs up!

The youngsters, aged between one and nine, had a great time trying out the new equipment, which is now available to children and their families visiting the centre.

It includes a variety of areas such as sensory experiences, climbing walls, a "wonky walk", springy plank and adventure towers. All are landscaped and designed to fit in with existing surroundings and encourage children to enjoy nature and the great outdoors.

Matthew Bent said: "We have positioned the new play park immediately next to the outdoor decking area so parents can keep an eye on children whilst relaxing and enjoying a coffee and cake. We want a visit to Bents to be much more than just a place to shop, but rather a complete experience."

"Going by the laughter we've heard, I think it will be a very welcome new addition and will enhance our customers' enjoyment of a day out at Bents even more."



Family firm is anxious to please

FAMILY businesses will often go that little bit further to please their customers and Cute Little Me, the designer children's wear shop, which opened recently in Culcheth, go further than most.

They offer a warm welcome to visitors - and are keen to hear from them what brands they should be stocking in the shop.

Cute Little Me has been trading in Irlam for six years and also has a strong internet presence.

It's run by grandmother Elaine Redfean and her daughters Claire and Lucy who all have a strong feeling for quality and fashion.

Although they are not from Culcheth they have lots of friends and family in the village and live just 10 minutes away in Rixton

They say the response they have had from local people since opening in April has been fantastic.

The shop stocks Little Darlings, Sarah Louise, Eliane et Lena, Kate Mack, Dollcake, Emile et Rose, Baby Collection and Ben Sherman and will soon be adding S & D Le Chic, Fun & Fun, Mim Pi, Pom Pom and Timberland to their collection.

Elaine says: "We are really looking forward to meeting all our new customers and would love to hear their views on brands they would like to see in the shop."

Crime prevention

POLICE have organised two crime prevention events in Culcheth and Croft.

They recently visited the CPS car park at Culcheth, with an exhibition vehicle, crime prevention packs and an offer to security mark bikes, phones, laptops, etc, free of charge.

Representatives of Stronger Together were present demonstrating security devices and members of the Special Constabulary were also present, explaining their role.

On Monday, July 30, there will be a similar event on the car park at Croft Youth Centre from 9am-12 noon.

Motoring

New supermini offers more of everything

HYUNDAI'S new supermini, the i20, has arrived - aiming directly at the biggest selling sector of the UK car market.

Building on the reputation for reliability and cost-effectiveness established by its predecessor, the best-selling Getz, the i20 offers drivers more of everything.

It has enhanced functionality from the intelligently configured cabin layout, higher levels of luxury, convenience and safety equipment and engaging handling from its all-new chassis.

A line-up of new petrol and turbodiesel engines, plus the choice of manual or automatic transmissions further enhance the i20's credentials and make it an extremely competitive package in the supermini sector.

Designed and developed in Europe to meet the high expectations of European drivers, the i20 will prove capable of delighting them with new technology and low running costs.

Lower, longer and wider than the Getz, the five-door i20 rides on an extended 2525mm wheelbase, enhancing both its ride comfort and spacious interior architecture.

It has a bold chrome-topped grille flanked by and its modern lines are further strengthened by colour-co-ordinated bumpers, integrated door handles and chunky 15 or 16-inch wheels.

The i20 and the rest of the Hyundai range can be seen at Ryders of Warrington, in Athlone Road.



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