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October 2013

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Editor's Comment



THE PROPOSED ROUTE FOR THE HIGH SPEED RAIL (HSR2) WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY - NONE MORE SO THAN AT TAYLOR BUSINESS PARK, WHICH WILL BE "SLICED IN TWO."

Local MP Helen Jones and local councillors have pledged to fight Culcheth's corner during the consultation period which ends in January next year.

While there is opposition to the planned route because of the "devastating effect" it will have on Culcheth - there is no objection to the concept of HSR2 from the MP and indeed some of those most affected.

But judging by the feedback we have been receiving from local residents and comments posted on our culchethlife.com/

warringtonworldwide website there is growing public opinion that HSR2 should be a none starter.

It is a difficult conundrum to resolve - on the one hand we are told by supporters of HSR2 that it will provide huge economic benefits to the country as a whole, while those opposing it fear it will destroy countryside and create even greater debt and indeed be a waste of public money.

There will of course be many people who think 20 years down the line is a life time away and whatever the outcome it will have no impact on them.

It is a difficult issue but one has to look at the overall impact it will

have on our local community if there is no movement in the route - can those who are elected to represent the views of the majority continue to welcome it for the greater good of the country?

What comes first community or country? I'm glad I don't have to make that choice.

Closer to home in timescale is the forthcoming annual Victorian Day organised by Culcheth Lions and backed by the local parish council.

It is a vital trading period for many local small businesses and I would urge members of the public to get behind Victorian Day and in the run up to Christmas support your local businesses at every opportunity.

It has been a tough few years out there, especially for small retailers - and they need your support now more than ever before.

Choral concert

WARRINGTON Musical Society is performing a concert of choral music on Saturday, October 12 at 7.30 pm, at Culcheth Methodist Church on Ellesmere Road.

The programme is John Rutter's "The Sprig of Thyme", followed by Brahms' "Requiem" conducted by their music director Eric Silk.

The soloists will be students from The Royal Northern College of Music (by kind permission of the principle) and accompanied by Pam Silk together with a small orchestral ensemble. Tickets are priced at £7.00 and are available at the door.

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MP pledges to fight Culcheth's corner over HSR2 route

WARRINGTON North MP Helen Jones has pledged to fight Culcheth's corner if the proposed High Speed rail network route (HSR2) goes through the village, slicing a local business park in two.

Helen addressed the Culcheth and District Rail Action Group (CADRAG) during a special meeting at the Village Club following the start of a public consultation on the proposed route of High Speed Two.

The CADRAG group are coordinating the village's response to the "Initial Preferred Route", which was published earlier this year by HS2 Ltd.

The consultation on the route – one which has caused widespread concern throughout Culcheth and Glazebury due to its proximity to the Linear Park and the suggested "slicing" of Taylor Business Park – continues until January 2014, during which time residents from across Warrington have the opportunity to submit comments.

Whilst not opposing the HS2 project outright, CADRAG are campaigning pro-actively for changes which avoid damaging the village and local businesses.

During the meeting, Helen explained how the current Paving Bill will progress through Parliament, and went into great detail on the procedures used in Westminster to review and decide upon the current Bill. She also talked with campaigners about the various arguments that could be put forward to strengthen Warrington's case.

Helen also committed to tabling a number of Parliamentary questions

about the effects on businesses in Culcheth if the current proposed route goes ahead.

Helen (pictured below) said: "I was delighted to meet with the CADRAG committee. The committee is a professional, well-organised group who are a credit to the village and continue to represent Culcheth and Glazebury well. Our meeting was a useful and engaging opportunity to discuss and review the case that can be put forward to argue for greater benefit to Warrington if the HS2 project goes ahead. I was also pleased to be able to explain the way in which the Bill progresses through Parliament.

"I have also given assurance that I will be asking a number of questions to Ministers about what consideration has been given to businesses in



Culcheth if the proposed route for HS2 goes ahead. Last year, we saw the devastating effect the closure of Wilton Lane had on local traders. Under these current plans, all of the major roads in and out of Culcheth would need to be closed during the construction period. This would seriously affect the small businesses which play a vital role in providing jobs for local people, and it seems the Government has given them no consideration."

Parish councillor Matt Smith, who is a member of the CADRAG committee and attended the meeting added: "It is testament to the

professionalism and hard work of the CADRAG committee that they have already had high level meetings with representatives of HS2, officers from Warrington Borough Council and Helen Jones MP. The formal consultation on the "Initial Preferred Route" of HS2 began recently and will run until January 2014. CADRAG will be formulating a response in due course and would urge everybody in our community to respond."

For more information on how to submit comments to the HS2 consultation, or if you want to get involved with the CADRAG group, email matt.smith062@gmail.com.

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MP on the ball at opening of new school field

A SUPER new sports field has been officially opened at Culcheth's Twiss Green Primary School.

MP Helen Jones performed the opening ceremony – and immediately afterwards a football tournament was held in front of an audience of school governors, staff, parents and pupils.

A representative of Cheshire FA was also present.

The improvements to the field – previously subject to severe flooding – were made possible through the installation of a new

drainage system, funded with the help of a grant from the Football Foundation.

After the event, Ms Jones said: "It was a pleasure to visit Twiss Green Primary School and meet with the staff and children there before officially opening their new school field.

The governing body, and the whole school community, have worked tremendously hard to

secure the grants they needed for the pitch, which will now be a tremendous community asset for the village.

"During my visit, the children at

Twiss Green were a real credit to their school and I hope they will be able to enjoy the new field for many years to come."



Helen Jones on the ball at Twiss Green Primary School.

Village clock restored



THE historic village clock in Mustard Lane, Croft, has been restored by specialist firm Smith of Derby.

Newly painted in black and gold, the clock mechanism has also been given its annual service to ensure it remains in fine working order.

Croft Parish Council chairman Cllr Les Hoyle said: "The clock is an historic landmark of the village. We are delighted to be preserving this important part of the village's heritage."

The clock tower was originally part of the village school and was retained when the school was demolished and replaced with a modern building on the other side of the road more than 40 years ago.

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Fond farewell to "inspirational" Beryl

NEWCURCH Parish Church was packed for the funeral of popular local priest the Rev'd Beryl Smart who has died at the age of 80.

Beryl, who was appointed in 2002, served at Newchurch and Christ Church, Croft, appeared on the cover of the very first issue of Culcheth Life magazine following her appointment.

Tributes were paid by her brother-in-law Alan Sparks and current Rector Chris Stafford.

Alan said: "Within days of visiting her medical consultant for the last time Beryl started to plan her funeral. Those of us who were being called to take part, including the funeral director, were individually interviewed and tasked accordingly.

"She said "you will find all that you need in my Study". She was right, of course, but where in her Study was another matter. After 4 days I surfaced from the mass of papers, books, charity biros and the letters and cards of appreciation for support in both good and difficult times!"

After graduating in 1955 with a joint degree in Botany and Zoology, Beryl was appointed as an Assistant Teacher of Biology at Leigh Girls Grammar School and lived in Widnes with Mum, Dad and sister Deirdre. She played for the Chester Ladies Hockey Club. It was during this period of her life that she suffered a back injury which was to give her so much trouble in later life.

Travelling to Leigh on a daily basis was impractical by public transport. In those days family cars were few and far between and so her blue Austin A30 was conspicuous on the roads of South Lancashire and North Cheshire.

Beryl moved up the ladder at LGGS through Head of Department, Deputy Head and in 1973 was appointed Head. She was to be the last Head of that school before reorganisation resulted in its closure in 1976.

Vice Principal of Leigh College was her interim job for twelve months before she landed the prize of Head of Canon Slade School, Bolton. The first female and first lay person to hold the post, she was tasked with converting a three form entry Direct Grant Grammar School into an eight form entry Comprehensive.

Beryl served on a number of education boards and committees at regional and national level, including being a Governor of UMIST. She was known for her skills in management, strategic thinking, counselling and pastoral care. In 1979 Beryl was the first secondary school head to attend a General Management Course at the Administrative Staff College in Henley, being one of only three women, and the youngest participant by far, out of a course roll of 78. Her Fellowship of the British Institute



of Management was confirmed in 1983. Before being appointed Head at LGGS, Beryl was Senior Vice President of the AAM (the Association of Assistant Mistresses).

A highlight period for Beryl was when Margaret Thatcher was a member of the Cabinet. Beryl had great admiration for "Maggie", not particularly for her political views but for her achievements as the first female Prime Minister in Britain and for her promotion of the role of women in high office.

After ten years as Head at Canon Slade Beryl was seconded to the Manpower Services Commission as an Advisor with TVEI (Technical and Vocational Education Initiative) working across the North West. She retired from full time work in education some two years later and soon after committed herself to voluntary work in the church.

Beryl was a woman with a lifelong mission, not a "women's liber" but one who quietly but firmly promoted the role of women in society, in education, in management and in the church.

The "Beryl at home" retained her interest in sport, particularly football and was especially fond of her dogs. During her thirteen month stay in Cheshire Grange, Beryl's unshakeable faith was experienced by the thoughtful and caring staff who looked after her.

Rev'd Stafford said he first met Beryl back in the spring of 2003.

"I was looking round the parishes with a view to coming here. And Beryl was a great person to talk to... and I knew from that first meeting that she would be a good, loyal and hard-working colleague... and friend. Beryl has a long association with Newchurch. Back in the late 1980s early 90s, she was a churchwarden. Within the church she quickly developed into a first rate preacher and the potential she had to be a good parish priest was clear to all."

Beryl was Ordained as a Deacon in 2001, becoming a Priest the following year, 2002.

"When I arrived in July 2003, she was a great support – helping me to find my feet. It's not always easy to hand over the reigns when you've been in the driving seat. But she was a tremendous support from day one. She always said to me that her job was to support and to protect me as much as she could – and she did just that.

"Beryl was a wise, caring, discreet, non-judgemental and intelligent woman. Despite the health issues with her back – she was unflagging in her energy and commitment to whatever she did. An inspiration to us all."



Beryl meets Margaret Thatcher



Brolly good show - the girls from Hunter Healey who helped out at the beer festival

Beer festival success

HUNTER Healey were out in force again to support Culcheth Beer Festival.

The girls volunteered to serve behind the bar for the Friday evening slot bringing a cheery welcome to the event, which was gratefully received by the Rotarians.

Hunter Healey has a local focus and always likes to support local events.

Director Nigel Healey said: "We will be back next year with the Hunter Healey Beer band as well as the cheery bar staff!"

The event organised by Newton & District Rotary Club helps raise thousands of pounds for good causes.

Survey of traffic speeds

SURVEYS of traffic speeds on Twiss Green Lane, Culcheth, are being carried out by Warrington Borough Council.

The monitoring follows complaints from householders.

Cllr Chris Vobe said: "Over the next few months, the council have committed to assessing the problems with speeding traffic on Twiss Green Lane, a move which I welcome.

"This follows a number of requests from residents and local councillors who have reported many examples of excessive speeding in the area.

"Speeding traffic can be a serious problem which we need to face up to. These surveys should help to quickly identify the extent of the issue, and allow traffic experts to put forward measures which will help to tackle it."



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Basic I.T 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 12th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Cooking for Christmas Chef Paul Ratcliffe will guide you as you create a range of Christmas themed dishes. 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 14th November 6.30pm—9pm Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Christmas Crafts On this 5 week course you will learn a range of basic craft skills to create festive cards, gift wrapping and decorations for the home for the festive season. 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 13th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol

Christmas Floristry Learn floristry techniques to create beautiful flowers for the festive season. 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 13th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

Introduction to Art and Design Relax in the 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 for five weeks starting 14th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Call Registry on 01925 494494 to enrol.

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For more information on enrolment or guidance regarding these courses please contact: Debbie Porrin via email:

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Pre-school's new home

AFTER three-and-a-half years of fundraising, Croft Pre School has moved into their own, purpose-built centre in the grounds of St Lewis' RC Primary school.

To celebrate the achievement they held a fun day and open day for prospective parents to view the new facilities, which include a well-equipped outside play area.

Peppa Pig was on hand to join in the fun and there was plenty of activity for the youngsters.

The move means the group now have a permanent home, after temporary homes at Croft Memorial Hall, St Lewis's Parish Hall and within the main building at St Lewis' School.



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Concerns over waste recycling at farm

MORE than 30 concerned residents packed into a meeting of Croft Parish Council to raise their concerns over the recycling of green waste at Diggle Hall Farm in nearby Culcheth.

Residents said they were concerned about plans to increase the annual tonnage of green waste being recycled from 35,000 to 40,000 tonnes per year claiming it was already causing smell and traffic problems.

They also raised concerns that there were proposals to bring in waste from a wider area.

Parish council chairman Cllr Les Hoyle said the parish council would be supportive of residents in their bid to get an open public meeting on the issue, even though the site in question was not within the parish.

The meeting heard that environment and enforcement officers were currently monitoring the situation.



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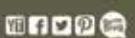
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Heart-warming story of Olympic horse owner

THE talk "Owning an Olympic Horse" given by Laurie March to members of Croft WI was a heart-warming tale of overcoming adversity to find eventual success.

Originally a farmer in Kent, Laurie went on to become manager of numerous large country estates enjoying an active, outdoor life until he was involved in a serious road accident which left him in a wheelchair.

But through steely determination he was back on his feet within six months.

Life carried on as normal for three years until fate struck another cruel blow when he suffered a stroke and was told he would never walk again. But again through will power, perseverance and encouragement from his wife Pip, he was eventually back on his feet using a walking frame and enjoying the relative freedom of his mobility scooter.

Through compensation relating to his road accident, Laurie and Pip were able to attain a lifelong dream of owning a horse by buying "Bugs" who was a "bag of bones" due to neglect, but had kind eyes and was cheap! After good food, care and attention "Bugs" showed potential in the show ring and proved quite a character.

He was eventually entered

into three-day eventing and a girl named Louise Lyons was chosen as his rider. "Bugs" and Louise proved a formidable team and went on to win many competitions.

Substantial amounts of money were offered for the horse from buyers who could see his potential, but Laurie wisely declined. "Bugs" and Louise carried on winning prizes in events throughout Europe. Transporting the horse and necessary equipment to these events was no mean feat, but again Laurie did not let his disability impinge in any way and told of meetings with many amazing people.

Inspirational

The pinnacle of success came when Louise and "Bugs" were chosen to represent Ireland in the 2008 Olympic Games in China!

An enthusiastic vote of thanks was given for a truly inspirational story.

To celebrate her 90th birthday, past President Joan Farrington, an active member of Croft WI for 50 years, was presented with a bouquet of flowers.



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stylesfiles

New Payroll reporting requirements are proving a real headache for some businesses

What's changed?

From April 6 2013 onwards employers have had to report Pay As You Earn (PAYE) income tax information to HM Revenue & Customs in real time – that's why this change is sometimes referred to as Real Time Information (RTI).

Why the change?

Previously employers provided HMRC with this information annually, but the system, which was introduced in 1944, wasn't designed for the sort of complex benefits and expenses packages that are increasingly common.

HMRC says the update to PAYE will mean the system is faster and more accurate, and will make it easier to detect fraud and errors and save hundreds of millions of pounds.

It also means that the Government's new Universal Credit system will be supported by up-to-date earnings

information, which they hope will make it easier to link benefits to earnings.

Who does it affect?

It affects all employers - every time they pay an employee they will have to send details to HMRC, using payroll software to send the information electronically. Quite an onerous task when you pay your employees weekly!

I'm an employer – what do I need to do?

You must submit the payroll information to HMRC on or before the day you pay your employees otherwise you could face a penalty.

You will need to know the amount you paid your employees and any deductions such as Income Tax and National Insurance contributions. Full employee names, dates of birth and NI numbers must all be correct otherwise your online submission



Scott Sumner

could fail.

If you're finding the new reporting requirements time consuming then talk to Styles and Co about our payroll service for a more cost efficient alternative.

For more information, please contact Scott Sumner, Tax Manager, 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



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November 20th: 2pm and 6pm

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(If you are unable to make these dates, please contact the school)

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Individual visits to school welcomed – please phone to make an appointment
Further information about the school can be found on our website

01925 764312

or visit our website at www.culchethprimary.co.uk





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Bus service changes leave village "virtually cut off"

CHANGES to bus services have left villagers at Glazebury virtually "cut off" at certain times of the day, according to two local councillors.

Councillors Matt Smith and Chris Vobe, both members of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council, have expressed dismay at the changes.

They say they are working with bus operators Network Warrington to try and find a solution.

Changes to the 19 and 28 services, which run between Warrington and Leigh, mean the previous 15-minute service has been reduced to one bus an hour running through Glazebury between 10am-4pm.

Cllr Smith said: "This is a very frustrating situation, particularly for pensioners and those without cars. Whereas people in Glazebury would previously have been able to catch a bus every 15 minutes, there is now a wait of an hour between services.

"During the daytime, the number 19 bus has been reduced to an hourly service and the 28 bus service is turning round when it reaches Culcheth. In some cases, this means that people are having to catch two buses to get to and from the neighbouring

village!

"Whilst this creates a great deal of inconvenience, the most acutely affected area is Glazebury, where residents are essentially 'cut off' during the day. We are now asking Network Warrington to review their plans and have asked that they do not ignore Glazebury."

The two councillors report that they have spoken with dozens of residents who are affected by the service changes – and say that the decision to cut buses has resulted in overcrowded and cramped journeys for some.

Cllr Vobe added: "We recognise the severe financial constraints that Network Warrington find themselves in. If it is to be their policy that they can no longer afford to fund transport outside of the borough – for example, to neighbouring towns like Leigh – then they must at least stick to the boundaries of Warrington. We are encouraging residents who have been affected by these changes to let us have their stories."

The councillors can be contacted by email on matt.smith062@gmail.com or chrisvobe@googlemail.com

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CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Councillors

NEWCHURCH WARD



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Jacqui Johnson
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GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



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CULCHETH WARD



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Peter Caswell
01942 671938



Keith Bland
01925 766641



Lilian Houghton
01925 762935



Paul Campbell
01925 766658

Victorian Day 2013

Plans are now under way for Culcheth's annual Victorian Day, which will take place on Saturday November 30.

The Parish Council works in cooperation with the Lions to ensure that this enjoyable day will not only be a success, but that we have a variety of attractions throughout the centre of the village to encourage people to join in the celebrations and support our local traders. As people will know, Victorian Day traditionally marks the beginning of the Christmas festivities.

This year will be no different, and the "switch on" of the Christmas lights will take place during the afternoon. Parish Councillor Mike Vobe is chairing a joint committee comprising members of the Parish Council, the Lions, and a representative from the business community who are working collectively to finalise plans. As we did with Community Day earlier this year, the Parish Council is keen to ensure that this popular event remains both successful and inviting to all members of our community.

This year we are hoping to introduce a number of competitions which will take place on the run up to Victorian Day for schools and local young people to get involved with. More details on these will be circulated very soon.

Changes to bus services in Culcheth and Glazebury

Many residents are rightly angry at the recent changes to the Number 19 and 28 bus services which operate through the villages. These buses are run by an independent company called Network Warrington, and sadly local councillors can't instruct or oblige them to undo their changes!

However, we are not at all satisfied with their unannounced reductions in services, or the way in which they have been implemented. Your Parish Councillors have made very strong representations to the Chief Executive of Network Warrington to make certain that residents' views are known. We will be requesting a follow up meeting in due course to discuss the problems that these changes have generated, and the inconvenience being caused to residents.

We are committed to persevering with this issue and working towards the best outcome possible, particularly for people in Glazebury who are most affected.

The former M&S Discount Store site, Warrington Road

Earlier this month, the Parish Council received a presentation from a developer who intends to submit a planning application to construct 14 properties on the site of the former M&S Discount Store on Warrington Road.

There can be no doubt that this site is in urgent need of restoration to stop it becoming dilapidated and spoiling the scenic environment that our community offers. However, as with any planning application, your Parish Council will be studying the plans carefully before we submit our remarks to the council committee who will make the final decision.

We would particularly welcome the views of residents in Glazebury and Mee Brow who live near to the site, and in particular any comments they have about the proposed development – for example, whether or not you are in favour of the development, and what kind of housing you would wish to see built there if the application went ahead. Anyone who has not already seen the plans can request a copy from their Parish Councillor.

Extra litter patrols on Jackson Avenue

The Parish Council has commissioned additional litter patrols on the Jackson Avenue car park. As part of our commitment to tackle litter and improve street cleaning in the village, we are delighted that the car park opposite the shops will now benefit from extra litter picking. Residents reported to Cllr Matt Smith the problems with litter in the hedgerows around the car park, so this new programme of work should help to redress that swiftly.

Parking problems

The Parish Council has recently been discussing ongoing parking problems with residents in a number of areas throughout Culcheth and Glazebury.

We have committed to ensuring that this issue is a priority for us over the coming year. Since our last update, we have secured a commitment from Warrington Borough Council that traffic surveys will be conducted in areas like Heswall Avenue, Burton Close and other parts of Culcheth to gauge the extent of the problems.

Whilst we realise that parking congestion is not an issue that can be solved overnight, it is a growing problem which we are striving to combat. That is why it was important to us that the council commissioned these surveys as soon as possible, so that we can work with local residents to tackle the worst-affected areas.

We are the champions!

THE Culcheth-based Leigh Golf Club's Lady Vets team were crowned District Champions at Gathurst Golf Club, Wigan.

The competition took place in tough weather conditions, but the team dug in to post the best scores, supported by their caddies.

Members of the team were June Rowland, Pat Twist, Pat Evans, Chris Johnson, Patsy Wilcock and Kath Birchall.

Ilias is a junior champ



A SEVEN-year-old boy from Glazebury has been crowned Cheshire Under Eights Tennis Champion, after competing in the finals at Warrington's Birchwood Tennis Centre.

Ilias Hirani Worthington, a pupil at Croft Primary School, is following in the footsteps of his father, Robert Worthington, a professional tennis coach in Manchester and former professional player.

Ilias is coached by his father and various coaches at the Birchwood Tennis Centre.

He plays in competitions all over the North West, including the Northern Lawn Tennis Club at Didsbury and at Bolton Arena Performance Centre.

Players wanted

CULCETH Athletic FC under 11s is looking to recruit new players this season and would like to hear from youngsters in Culcheth and Croft who would be interested in joining the team or just coming to training to have fun, get fit and just see what being part of the team is like.

All standards are welcome but the team need a minimum of 9 players per game plus subs - so there should be opportunities for all to get involved.

For more details contact Julia Rathbone on 07785 708 013.

It was nail biting to the end with everything hinging on a good score from Chris Johnson and she came in, drenched but smiling.

Kath Birchall also won Best Nett prize as the Leigh ladies swept the board.

Captain Janina Travers said: "We are absolutely delighted. I had

told the team that I had written my winners' speech as a motivational strategy, but the girls took me literally and made sure that I had to use it.

"Leigh Golf Club has had a phenomenal year and I am so proud of them all. A fabulous team effort from a fabulous team."



The team celebrate their victory.

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