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Issue: 100
July 2011

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Editor's Comment



THIS MONTH sees us celebrate the 100th edition of Culcheth Life magazine, spanning more than eight years of covering local life in the area.

Looking back at our first ever issue it is good to see that Newchurch Parish Church and its associated people are still very much a centre of community life.

Being a former pupil at Croft Primary School and Culcheth High School and spending my formative years growing up in the area,

Culcheth Life always has a special place in my heart.

It is amazing to see how many people I went to school with who still live and work in the area - thanks to the likes of facebook I am still in touch with many former school friends.

Much has changed over the past eight years, none more so than the

demolition of the old Culcheth High School and the re-development of a brand new school.

I am sure much more will change again over the next 100 issues - and we look forward to reporting on it!



Gala will maintain tradition

THE annual Glazebury Gala will take place on July 9 - maintaining a tradition that dates back to 1928.

Gala Queen this year will be Jenny Cleworth and retiring Queen is Bethan McDermott.

The two members of the Queen's retinue are Libby Bowers and Megan Ellison, the petal girl is Emily-Jane Berrido and the page boys are William Patterson and Ben Cleworth.

The retiring Queen's retinue consists of Caroline Davies and Samantha Davies.

As usual, the Queen's cars will leave The Raven on Warrington Road at about 1.15pm and travel to All Saint's Church at about 2pm.

The Queen and retiring Queen will then process to the school grounds where the gala will continue for the rest of the day.

The Queen is to be crowned by local residents Alan and Dorothy Graham.

On the school playing field and in the school there will be a bar and refreshments and, an events arena.

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Biking Priest achieves ambition

WHEN celebrations were held at Newchurch Parish Church to mark the ordination as a priest of the Rev Barbara Alldred, the popular curate



achieved another, rather more unusual, ambition - a ride on a Harley Davidson.

The event was organised by the Newchurch Women's Christian Focus group at Newchurch.

Harley Davidson owner Alex Gall was on hand and, with his co-operation, Barbara got her ride on the iconic bike.

Earlier, at a service at Liverpool Cathedral, Barbara a curate at Newchurch Parish Church and Christ Church, Croft, was ordained Priest by the Rt Revd James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool. The preacher was the Venerable Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon of Northolt.

In total 14 new priests were ordained to serve in the Liverpool Diocese. Barbara's ministry will continue in Culcheth and Croft.



Charity jigsaw puzzle

A CHARITY jigsaw festival is being staged by Newchurch Parish Church, Culcheth over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Hundreds of jigsaw puzzles completed by local people will be on show - and on sale in aid of three charities - St Rocco's Hospice, Breast Cancer Campaign and the church.

There will be double sided puzzles, murder mysteries, wasjigs, children's puzzles, collectors' items and many more.

Refreshments will be available at the event at Newchurch Parish Hall. Admission will be £2, including a £1 voucher towards the cost of a puzzle. Accompanied children will be admitted free.

The festival will be open from 10am to 4pm daily Augst 27-29.

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Jack samples his own creation.

Jack's super sandwich

MORE than 100 pupils at Culcheth High School took part in a competition to design a super sandwich.

Winner was Year 9 pupil Jack Breeze with a mouth-watering creation he called "Leigh Town Soldier".

The competition was organised by the school's food technology department in co-operation with Le Brunch, the Culcheth sandwich bar run by St Helens and England Rugby

League star Jon Wilkin and Ian Barker.

Judges were Jon and Ian and the school's head of food technology Gabrielle Bimpson, who admitted the high standard of entries for the competition made selecting a winner difficult.

Jon Wilkin presented Jack with a special prize at a ceremony at the school - and the youngster's sandwich is on the menu at Le Brunch for the next month.

School's day of eastern promise



CHILDREN from a Culcheth school enjoyed a day full of eastern promise when they celebrated International Day.

Newchurch Primary School pupils marked the day with an Indian theme. They dressed in colourful costumes and took part in a range of Indian activities.

These included Bollywood dancing, designing henna art, making large rangoli patterns on the playground, acting out Indian drama and cooking Indian food.

They were also treated to an Indian feast as the school cook Maxine Richards made some delicious Indian dishes for lunch.

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Luke is student of the year

AROUND 400 students and parents attended an award ceremony at Culcheth to celebrate their achievement in mastering maths and English above their current school level.

The youngsters attend four study centres run by leading after-school education providers Kumon at Warrington and Lowton.

Kumon area manager David Hilton and children's author David Webb presented students with gold, silver and bronze medals and certificates in recognition of their achievements.

Each of the four centres had been asked to put forward one student for the Student of the Year award and this was presented to Luke Comer (pictured), from the Lowton study centre.

Kumon offers maths and English programmes for children of all ages and abilities to provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to learn, aiming to give them the best chance in life.



Luke's instructor, Cath Muscroft, said: "Luke started Kumon in 2006 at the age of three and has made great progress since, reaching long multiplication by last year when he was in Year 2. He was on his way to reach algebra well before the end of primary school when disaster struck and he broke his arm, but instead of taking time off from his Kumon work, he forged ahead, and is now multiplying fractions, a fantastic achievement for a student in Year 3."

New Brownies unit to open

FIFTEEN years after closing due to a lack of leaders and falling demand for places, the 7th Culcheth Brownies are to re-open.

The unit had to close in 1996 - but Girl Guiding is growing in popularity in Culcheth and, thanks to an increase in the number of adult volunteers, it is able to re-open in September.

There will then be three Rainbow Units, four Brownie Units, two Guide Units and a Senior Section Unit in Culcheth.

Every week, more than 200 girls will be enjoying all that Girlguiding has to offer.

Rainbows cater for girls aged 5-7 years, Brownies are for girls aged 7-10, Guides cater for those aged 10-14 and the Senior Section is for girls aged 14-plus who are interested in Leadership roles or possibly the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Queens Guide and International opportunities.

Anyone with a daughter who would be interested in joining any of these units should contact Sara Isles (District Commissioner) on 01925 766057 or via email (sara.isles@btinternet.com) to find out more.

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Barbershop delights for the WI

THE delights of barbershop singing were enjoyed by Culcheth WI when they welcomed speaker Brian Green.

In a talk called That's Barbershop he showed videos of barbershop singing competitions. He said its origins date back to Africa and the slaves, followed by Vaudeville and the 1920's Tin Pan Alley shows.

He said in the 1930s the Harmony Society of America was formed, and later groups such as the Osmonds and Dick Van Dyke enjoyed the art form.

British Barbershop started in the 1960's and there are 50 men's clubs and 60 women's clubs. Mr Green said he was the only British person ever to have sung solo in a barbershop competition.

He was thanked by Ann McCormick.

President Lillian Houghton welcomed members and visitors. There was a quiet moment to remember Joan Doorey, a long-standing friend and member of the WI, who had recently died.

Future events were discussed including a cruise on the Mersey and a visit to Port Sunlight.

Members enjoyed an afternoon tea served by the committee.

Raffle prize winners were Frances Watt, Myrtle Gerrard, Martha Head, Jean Coulton, Chris Lake, Chris Rankin and Margaret Langton.

The next meeting will be on August 16 when speaker will be Samuel Wright with the subject "Stranger than Fiction but True."



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Winter sunset scoops top prize

LOCAL camera enthusiast Chris Rose has been named winner of the second annual photography competition organised by Bents Garden and Home.

The competition attracted 931

entries, Chris's shot of a Culcheth Winter Sunset was shortlisted and attracted most votes among visitors to Bents' restaurant.

He said: "I've had a growing interest in photography for a long time now and have a particular passion for nature shots; capturing that one moment in time and being able to record it for others to enjoy."

Matthew Bent, managing director of Bents said: "The quality and number of entries in this year's competition was incredible. We found it so hard shortlisting from over 900 to just 20 so were glad to hand the responsibility for the final result to our customers! Chris's atmospheric shot of a local beauty spot was a really deserving winner." Chris won £50 worth of Bents vouchers and a framed copy of his winning image.

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Flower power a

FLOWER Power arrived in Croft village as the annual carnival celebrated its 40th anniversary since being re-launched in the 1970s.

The event was blessed with glorious sunshine as fifteen-year-old Hannah Manley was crowned Croft Carnival Queen following the traditional float parade through the village from The Plough Inn, followed by a wide variety of events on Croft

Playing field.

Carnival Queen Hannah, attends Culcheth High School and has just completed her GCSE's. She loves to read.

Carnival Princess was Rebecca Martin, aged 11. She attends Croft



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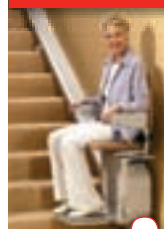
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st Croft Carnival

Primary School. Rebecca loves horse riding, bike riding and reading.

Carnival Rosebud was Charlotte Bate aged 7. She attends Croft Primary School. Charlotte enjoys street dance, playing with friends and looking after ponies.



For more pictures visit www.culchethlife.com



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The winners of the under-17's tournament

A chance to play at Wembley

YOUNG players competed in a StreetWise Soccer tournament held at Culcheth Community Campus for the chance to play at Wembley.

The event, organised by the borough council and partners, involved 3 vs 3 footballers playing a fast-paced game with the focus on creative skills rather than winning at all costs.

Six winners from the under-13 and under-17 groups will now go on to play in further rounds for a chance to play at Wembley in the final.

Cllr Colin Froggatt, the borough council's executive member for children and young people's services, said: "Congratulations to the players who fought off stiff competition to go through to the next round. I wish them the very best of luck in the next stage and on their quest for the chance to play at Wembley."

"The whole event was a real success with lots of families and young people enjoying a great day out. I would like to thank everyone involved in organising the tournament for all their hard work."

Badminton club seeks new talent

NEW players for a new venue are being sought by Culcheth Mens Badminton Club.

A club spokesman said: "We are playing at Culcheth High School on brand new courts with a sprung floor and good lighting."

"We play with traditional feathers and are currently playing in the St Helen's Mens League."

Club night is Thursday from 7pm to 9pm throughout the year and sessions are usually well attended. Players range from medium to ex-county players. Current membership is 20 players with varying ages from 16 to 60s.

The spokesperson said: "We are not looking for beginners however we do encourage and coach young players who feel they have some early ability."

Anyone who is interested should contact Keith on 01925 763015 or 07860329315.

Lillian takes council chair

NEW chairman of Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council is Lillian Houghton - and her first duty after accepting office was to thank her predecessor Helena Campbell.

Cllr Houghton presented Cllr Campbell with a bouquet of flowers at the council's annual meeting.

It is the second time Cllr Houghton has been chairman during a spell of some 10 years on the council.

Formerly a magistrate, she has taken an active role in local community life, singing with the choir at St Lewis' Church, Croft, serving as a school governor and being a member of various local organisations such as the wine circle at Culcheth Sports and Social Club and Culcheth WI, where she is currently president.

New deputy chairman is Cllr Keith Bland.

Cllr Carole Thewsey has been elected new chairman of Croft Parish Council.



Club to celebrate Mike's 50 not out

GLAZEBURY Cricket Club is to host a special celebration evening to honour one of its longest serving members.

Mike Durrington played his first game for the club in 1961 and has been in continuous full membership for 50 years.

He last played about five years ago but is still actively involved in coaching members of the club's junior section.

Mike has served as skipper and club secretary as well as coach. His memories include playing cricket with Australian-style eight ball overs, helping to build the current pavilion in 1963 - during one of the coldest winters on record! - and being a member of a team that went unbeaten for three seasons.

Originally an opening bowler of considerable pace, he won the 1st XI

bowling trophy on a record 10 occasions. In later years he switched to slow, off-spin and continued capturing wickets.

Other players also have memories of him - including him hitting a century which included four sixes off successive deliveries into the adjacent cornfield.

He said of the despairing bowler: "If he keeps putting them there, I'll keep hitting them there."

Although normally a quiet, mild-mannered man, Mike's appeal for LBW was famous - and could probably be heard from the East Lancs Road!

The special celebration of his 50-year milestone will be at the Chat Moss Hotel at 7.30pm on July 23 and all members, their families and cricketers who remember playing with or against Mike are invited.

Junior soccer training approved

AN application by Culcheth Amateur Football Club for permission to use part of Croft Playing Field for their Under 8s team on Thursdays for about one and-a-half hours during the summer months (June excluded) has been approved by Croft Parish Council.

Rotary to roll out the barrel

BUSINESSES and individuals are being invited to sponsor a barrel at a Beer Festival in Culcheth on September 17.

The Rotary Club is organising the event at Culcheth Sports Club. It will feature about 30 real ales and sponsors will be able to advertise their details on barrels.

Funds for charities will be raised by the event and it will feature entertainment by local bands.

Rotary has two further events planned at the sports club - a Houghton Weavers evening on September 2 and a Thorntons Chocolate Evening hosted by members of Inner Wheel on Friday November 18.

Members collected funds for the Rotary Shelter Box scheme at the recent Culcheth Community Day. The boxes, costing £500 each, contain a 10-person tent, cooking utensils,

basic tools, blankets and children's toys.

A Rotary spokesperson said: "We now know that the 10 boxes supplied by our club are to be found in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Haiti, the Philippines, Kenya and the Dominican Republic."

"Air lifted immediately to disaster areas, these boxes result from a UK Rotary initiative which has afforded emergency shelter to many thousands of people worldwide. Two more boxes have been purchased and will shortly be deployed."

The club also has an active social life and recent events have included walking and boating in Llangollen. Meetings are on Tuesdays at Birchwood Golf Club and anyone interested in finding out more should contact Bernard Groom on 01925 733893.



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Persistence: a key strategy to success?

It is deeply ingrained in most of us from earliest childhood that persistence is an essential ingredient of success. But is it?

Once upon a time, there were a hundred idiots who all set out to become rich by doing idiotic things. Ninety-nine of them soon failed and were never heard of again, but the 100th, by pure luck, became very wealthy. He then started a lucrative second career as a motivational speaker, telling people how they too could get rich quickly.

The logical error at work here is called survivor bias and fortunes have been made from exploiting it. But you cannot weigh up your chances of success on an 'it worked for me' or 'it worked for someone I know' basis alone. You also have to know how many others tried the same thing and failed.

Persistence can be a good thing if it is persistence towards an end, rather than persistence with a course of action. Thomas Edison famously needed 3,000 experiments to develop the light bulb, but they were all different, not the same experiment repeated 3,000 times.

Even so, persistence isn't all it's cracked up to be: if you have sent

your book to even 10 publishers and not had an offer, you might do better to stop and think about whether you are approaching the right people, or whether you need to come up with a better book.

If you invent a round peg, but find that the world is full of square holes, you can either try to think of ways to force the round peg into a square hole - or make a square peg...

A different strategy...

While persistence is a useful characteristic of any business person, in these economic times trying harder simply won't cut it alone.

If you have the feeling of treading water and your sole strategy for business survival has been one of persistence, you will be relieved to hear that you don't have to keep trying harder.

If you would like to develop a plan or discuss different strategies for growing your business please contact Les or Ian on 01925 761600.

Disclaimer: please note that the contents of our Culcheth Life articles are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always take professional advice before taking action.



If you would like more information on this or any of the previous subjects we have featured, please contact Les Styles or Ian Lloyd on 01925 761600.

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League and cup 'double' triumph

MEMBERS of Culcheth Athletic's Under 14 A team are celebrating after ending their season with a tremendous league and cup "double."

The lads, managed by Geoff Gould, beat Parkdale Sidac 3-0 in the final of the Warrington Challenge Cup and then went on to win their last game of the season 2-0 against Hindley to take them two points clear at the top of the Warrington Junior League Premier division.

Geoff said: "The team has been a long time in the making. Some of the original team members have been with me since they were five years old and now, finally at Under 14 - a very difficult and competitive age group to succeed in - they have proved they can beat the best.

"To win the Warrington Challenge Cup and then two weeks later clinch the Premier League title is an achievement which few teams can aspire to. It's testament to the boys' determination and resolve and the way in which they maintained their team spirit and nerve with the season going down to the last game. Together with our great coaches Ian Currey and Rob Harris we are so proud of the boys achievements"

Anyone interested in having a trial with the team can contact Rob Harris at rob.harris@tiscali.co.uk

Eagles aim to strengthen teams

CULCHETH Eagles Amateur Rugby League Club is looking for new players and coaches to strengthen their current teams and to form new teams at various age groups.

The Eagles already have in place for the 2011-2012 season teams for U8s, U10s, U12s, U15s, U17s as well as an open age team.

Culcheth Eagles have enjoyed success in the recent past, winning several trophies, most recently the U18s Warrington Cup, U17s division one championship, and U15s division three runners-up.

The club has also had several players feature at Warrington Wolves service area level and the U14s alone had three players included in that set up this season.

The new season starts in early September. Training runs throughout the year at Shaw Street recreation ground, Culcheth.

Details of all training times and relevant contact numbers can be found on the club website www.culchetheagles.co.uk or by contacting Jon McLeod on 07734 469443.

The club has managed to achieve Clubmark Gold status, meaning all coaches are fully qualified and all volunteers/coaches are CRB checked.

Any new players and potential coaches will be made more than welcome and training will be provided. Signing on for the club includes a full kit and club polo shirt, along with after match refreshments for the players, which is served at Culcheth Sports and Social Club for home games.

Pre-school fundraising

CROFT Pre-School is to hold a series of fundraising events over the next six months to raise funding for its own building.

The pre-school is currently operating from a classroom at St Lewis' Primary School, Mustard Lane, Croft, where it moved in January.

Clothes maketh the man ...

CLOTHES maketh the man ...and the woman too, if the guest speaker at Croft WI's monthly meeting is to be believed.

Members were encouraged to improve their image by speaker Sally Inkster, whose talk "Boosting your Confidence through Clothes" gave an insight into how to dress to complement body shape and how to choose accessories.

Apparently when women look in full length mirrors they are looking for balance, but tend to focus on what they perceive as their worst areas. Sally gave numerous tips on how to overcome this trait.

Hilarity was introduced when members were asked to measure each other in a simple, but accurate way to ascertain actual body shape. There were quite a few surprises!

Sally's interest in the subject started after working for many years as a specialist cancer nurse and noticing immediate improvements in patients' physical and mental condition after simple treats like having their hair styled and wearing fashionable clothes.

An enthusiastic and amusing vote of thanks was given by Doris Friar. The competition was won by Barbara Cooper.

Diary Dates: July 6: Walk at 10:30 am from the Horseshoe; Next meeting July 20 - Details: Tel: 01925 764555.

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Motoring

Value for money estate car

THE new Hyundai i40 Tourer, which goes on sale from September, is a stylish, medium-sized family estate car.

It will come in three main trim levels - Active, Style and Premium - with a choice of three efficient engines and a starting price from £18,395 on the road. The company claim it has the lowest insurance group ratings in its class.

Tony Whitehorn, managing director, Hyundai Motor UK says: "The all-new i40 Tourer is a stylish yet uncompromised addition to the medium family estate car market. It offers exceptionally low CO2 emissions and high fuel economy; an intuitive, spacious and contemporary interior package combined with an unparalleled level of standard equipment for its class - all at an



accessible price.

"The i40 is a sign of how far Hyundai has come in recent years, and truly embodies where the brand is going. We believe that it offers a unique, value for money, customer proposition in this highly competitive market segment."

Standard features include 16" alloy wheels, Bluetooth connectivity with voice recognition, leather steering

wheel with audio controls, electric heated door mirrors with integrated LED indicators, electric front and rear windows and electric parking brake with automatic hold function.

Touch screen satellite navigation with rear view camera, front and rear parking sensors, cruise control and dual zone climate control are standard on the mid-point Style range. Premium models benefit further from

the addition of leather upholstery, panoramic sunroof, keyless entry and supervision instrument cluster with LCD colour display as standard, plus the option of the Lane Departure Warning and Smart Parking Assist, heated leather steering wheel and ventilated front seats.

Later in the year, the Tourer will be joined by a four-door saloon.



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Conveyancing Quality Scheme

Dootsons, who have offices in Leigh, Culcheth and Atherton, has become one of the first practices in the country to secure membership to the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme - the mark of excellence for the home buying process.

Dootsons underwent rigorous assessment by the Law Society in order to secure CQS status, which marks the firm out as meeting high standards in the residential conveyancing process.

Law Society President Linda Lee said that the Law Society introduced CQS to help to recognise high standards in the home buying process and deter fraud in the residential property market.

"CQS improves efficiency with common, consistent standards and service levels and enables consumers to recognise practices, such as Dootsons, that provide a quality residential conveyancing service."

"Buying a home is one of the largest purchases anyone will make in their lifetime, so it is essential that it is done to the highest standard by a solicitor. There are many different conveyancing service providers out there, making it difficult for home buyers to identify those which can ensure a safe and efficient level of service."

Ian Howells, Member of Dootsons LLP and Head of the Residential Conveyancing Department says: "Dootsons is delighted to have secured CQS status. It is recognition of the high standards we provide to our residential property clients and is a signal to future home buyers of the excellent service level we provide at what is often a stressful time for many people."

"The overall beneficiaries will be clients who use Dootsons solicitors when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self reporting, random audits and annual reviews in order to maintain CQS status. It is open only to members of the Law Society and to those who meet the demanding standards the scheme will set and has the support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, and the Association of British Insurers.

For more information on the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/cqs Or contact the CQS Unit on 020 7316 5550 or cqs@lawsociety.org.uk