

Delamere and Oakmere News



Number 32

Autumn/Winter 2014



In this issue:

- **Superfast broadband has arrived!**
- **Golden Club news**
- **Wildlife in the forest**

Forthcoming events

Church services

St Peter's Church, Delamere

Regular services

Every Sunday at 8am	Holy Communion
On the first and third Sunday at 10.30am	Holy Communion
On the second Sunday at 10.30am	Family Service
On the fourth and fifth Sunday at 10.30am	Morning Worship
Every fourth Sunday at 10.30am	Sunday Club
Children are also welcome at all the services.	

Christmas services

Sunday 21 st December	10.30am	Children's Nativity
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Christingle
	11.30pm	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Family Service with Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th December	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Carols and Readings for Christmas

Oakmere Methodist Church

The people of Oakmere Methodist Church meet together in the main church at 10.45am every Sunday morning for a service led by a Methodist Local Preacher or Minister. One service a month includes the sacrament of Holy Communion, led by a Minister (Presbyter).

Contacts: Anne or Eric Wright (01829 732950) or Rev Denise Harding (01928 733180).

Delamere and District Golden Club

Nov 26	Delamere Schoolchildren Sing
Dec 10	Christmas Lunch followed by the Frodsham Choir
Jan 17	Bingo and quizzes
Jan 21	One Pot Cooking (by the Healthy Living Centre)
Feb 4	Lunch and Beetle Drive
Feb 18	Indoor Games Afternoon
Mar 4	Delamere Derby
Mar 18	Learn to Relax (by the Healthy living Centre)
April 1	Annual General Meeting
April 15	Chair-based Aerobics (by the Healthy Living Centre)
April 29	Concordia Choir entertains
May 13	Coach Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Open to non-members.
May 20	Visit to Roberts Bakery

All ages welcome!

We meet every fortnight on Wednesday afternoons except August. For all enquiries regarding events and membership please contact Gloria or Robin Ackerley tel: 01829 752723.

W.I.

Date	Speaker	Title	Competition
December 9th	Christmas Party		Home made Christmas decoration
January 13th		Regular meeting	

President: Mrs B de Gaunza 01829 751788, Secretary: Mrs S Goodwin 888921, Treasurer: Mrs C Green 882264. Meetings are held at 7.30pm, every second Tuesday in the month except for August, at Delamere Community Centre

Santa's Grotto open 10am-5pm each weekend

Christmas is a big time of the year for everyone especially as Santa arrives to open his grotto and meet the children in our festive square.



Watch our new Christmas video!



- ❧ Themed Santa's Grotto
- ❧ Santa's land train for trips around our site
- ❧ A small traditional fun fair each weekend
- ❧ Free entertainment in the courtyard bandstand
- ❧ A wonderful and unique selection of great gifts
- ❧ Breakfast with Santa
- ❧ Large licensed restaurant
- ❧ Four great party nights
- ❧ Festive lunches
- ❧ Daily activities



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**We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers a
Happy Christmas & New Year.**



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Foreword

Our bit of Cheshire may not have the drama of the Scottish highlands or the picture-postcard charm of the Lake District, but it has its own quiet beauty, and plenty of variety with it. The scene on the cover will be familiar to many readers, the view along the Sandstone Trail where it leaves Nettleford Wood on the way to the forest at Linmere. The other views on this page are from the same area, with the colour version (on the website) displaying last of the autumn hues.

In this issue we are pleased to announce the arrival of superfast broadband (which enables better TV services as well as faster internet access), with some suggestions for how to hook up to it. Other items include reports on recent activities in the Community Centre (including a very successful coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support), another article on the Cheshire Wildlife Trust's activities in the forest, another crossword, more poems, and an article from Gloria Ackerley about, among other things, a dinosaur in her garden.



About the newsletter

Delamere and Oakmere News is published three times a year, with the next issue due in early Spring. Articles, ideas for articles, news of recent events or forthcoming ones, advertisements, photographs, and any other contributions relevant to Delamere and/or Oakmere are all very welcome (inclusion subject to editorial discretion).

The newsletter is available in **full colour** on the Delamere and Oakmere Community website. You can also get a PDF file of the colour version by email (contact us if you would like a copy).

do_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk
or ring Clive George on 01606 882183

Contributions always welcome!

Answers to this issue's crossword

Across: 1. poll, 4. stir, 9. cabbage, 10. bread, 11. entail, 12. secede, 13. effigy, 15. accept, 17. acuter, 19. grapes, 22. outer, 23. clanton, 24 newt, 25. name
Down: 2. orbit, 3. learning, 4. stew, 5. imbue, 6. accelerator, 7. severe, 8. advertising, 14. fruit, 16. certain, 18. eyrie, 20. prism, 21. scot

Letter from the Rector

November 2014

Dear Friends

As I sit writing this letter there is a real chill in the air, the trees in the garden and surrounding the church that just a week or two ago were in full green leaf are now almost bare the brilliant yellow and copper leaves swirling in piles on the church driveway. The summer is over and winter is nearly upon us. The cold nights, frosty mornings and icy roads will soon be here again.

I've been looking again at my mother's scrap book; on one page there is pasted this poem by Thomas Hood –

'No sun - no moon!
No morn - no noon -
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member -
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -
November.'

And underneath Mum had written in her neat hand 'The time to plant roses is November'.

As the nights draw in are you feeling like Thomas Hood, do you feel that there will never again be warmth or cheerfulness, that no fruit or flowers or birds describes your life?

Our God and Father isn't remote from us living in some inaccessible citadel far away above the sky not caring or bothering about humankind. But a living, loving God who weeps with us when we are sad who supports us when we are weak who encourages us when we are disconsolate and who promises us his peace which transcends all understanding. He is the one who when we plant roses in November silently in the darkness transforms bare dead looking twigs and brings them into glorious flower. We worship our loving God who sent his Son to live among us and whose birth we celebrate at Christmas 'the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.' (John 1:5 NLT)

As you gather in your homes with friends and family or with your well-loved pet may the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmastide.

I look forward to welcoming you to St Peter's over Christmas; Brian joins me in sending you all good wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

With all good wishes

Elaine

The Rectory
Chester Road
Delamere, CW8 2HS

Community Centre News

Stephen Cockcroft

September Quiz Night



A special thanks to Steve Lacey for being our Quizmaster and for providing an excellent quiz.



Winning Team the "Duddon Duffers"
pictured with Steve Lacey

The next quiz is on Friday March 6th 2015.

Art Class scheme of work for 2014

For those interested in the art class, here is the schedule of work up to the end of the year.

Scheme of work 2014			
Start: Week Commencing Monday September 22nd.			
22/9	Week 1	Village in Snow Watercolour	Or Exhibition Work
29/9	Week 2	Village in Snow Watercolour	Or Exhibition Work
6/10	Week 3	Angel in Pastel	Or Exhibition Work
13/10	Week 4	Angel in Pastel	Or Exhibition Work
October half term week commencing Oct 20th			
27/10	Week 5	Still life/ Marbles on mirror glass Watercolour	Or Exhibition Work
3/11	Week 6	Still life/ Marbles on mirror glass Watercolour	Or Exhibition Work
10/11	Week 7	Insects on Flowers Watercolour	Or Exhibition Work
17/11	Week 8	Insects on Flowers Watercolour	Or Exhibition Work
24/11	Week 9	Lion in Pastel	Or Exhibition Work
1/12	Week 10	Lion in Pastel	Or Exhibition Work

Chris Beesley 0777 398 2996 www.chrisbeesley.co.uk

DCA Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

A big thank you to all who made cakes and supported the coffee morning. We raised £233.79.



The DCA coffee mornings are held on the last Friday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, all welcome.



Barn Dance Night

The next barn dance is on Friday 5th December, for details see advert.

Wanted – can u help?

We need a volunteer to act as Booking Secretary for new bookings at the Community Centre, and another to act as Minutes Secretary. If you can help please contact 01606 301762.



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WANTED! New Home Watch co-ordinators.

The parish of Delamere currently has a Home Watch Scheme in operation. With Delamere and Oakmere expected to come together as a single parish next spring, now is an ideal time to expand the scheme to cover both. Volunteers are therefore needed to act as local co-ordinators for Oakmere, and also for parts of Delamere that are not at present covered. A new overall co-ordinator will also be needed, to act as the main link between the local co-ordinators and the police.

The role of a local Home Watch co-ordinator is not onerous. It is simply to provide advice and support to a neighbour if they are unsure of what action to take on any concern they might have. Guidance is provided on how to deal with different kinds of problem, including when to dial 999, when to dial the police non-emergency number 101, and when it would be more appropriate to contact the local Police Community Support Officer (Phil Brandreth for Delamere and Ryan Reid for Oakmere). Our local Police Community Inspector, Keith Curbishley, provides regular updates by email to the overall co-ordinator, who passes them on to local co-ordinators as required.

The main aims of a Home Watch scheme are to:

- Provide reassurance to local residents and reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.
- Improve the quality of life for local residents.

The scheme does not in any way replace local policing, but works in partnership with the police by sharing information which may only be available to local residents. It serves an extremely valuable purpose, but cannot operate without local volunteers.

It was originally intended to re-launch the scheme at a public meeting in October, with a presentation from Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer. This has now been postponed due to a change in Mr Dwyer's other commitments, but the scheme still needs new volunteers!

If you would like to volunteer, either as the local co-ordinator for your immediate neighbourhood or in a wider role, please contact

Pat Tyson-Jones
01829 751757
patandgwyn@talktalk.net

Parish Council news

Delamere Parish Council Chairman's Letter

With only four months to go before they are replaced by two newly elected councils, one for Willington and the other for Delamere and Oakmere combined, both our parish councils have been giving some thought to the future. There are limits to what we can do without pre-empting decisions that are not ours to make, but we would love to hear your views. For example, what about the simple matter of boundary signs? Should the new Willington make a big splash with eye-catching signs on its borders? Should the new Delamere and Oakmere parish announce itself to the world in the same way? Or should we save money by leaving the signs as they are, marking the boundaries of the Delamere and Oakmere wards, but not the new parish as a whole? Or something in between? There is some money available for such things, but would it be better spent on something else? Tell us what you think, on this or any other matter related to the reorganisation, by telling your local councillor or sending a note to Joanne Monks, Clerk to both councils (delamereclerk@yahoo.co.uk, 9 Maori Drive, Frodsham, WA6 7BS).

On a related issue, we have been keeping an eye on how Kelsall have been getting on with their Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is something that our new councils might well want to consider, because, in theory at least, it gives local communities much more power over proposals for new housing and other developments. Kelsall are hoping that once their NDP is in place (they are aiming for the spring or summer of next year), it will enable them to place limits on future developments, ensure that they only take place in locations that local people favour, and make sure that needs for schooling, medical facilities and other local services are taken properly into account. Good luck to them!

The planning application for up to 50 houses in Delamere near the border with Kelsall has been rejected by Cheshire West and Chester Council, following strong objections from both Delamere and Kelsall. We still await the outcome of the planning inquiry into the Forestry Commission's proposals for developments in the forest. The Secretary of State was due to announce his decision in November, but we haven't heard anything yet.

We are well aware that road safety issues are a concern for many residents. We have been working closely with CW&C Highways on this, and also with PCSO Phil Brandreth. Phil has been busy with his speed gun around the parish, which seems to be having a noticeable effect. CW&C Highways are on the whole very supportive, but we do have an issue with CW&C Council itself. Some long while ago Highways drew up a proposal for speed limits through the forest (where families with small children and dogs regularly cross a 60mph road), and along Abbey Lane and Stable Lane. Delamere and the other parish councils supported this strongly. CW&C Council then introduced a new policy, that no such changes to speed limits will be carried out unless local communities are prepared to contribute to the cost. As a result, Highways have told us that they are not allowed to implement their own proposals without funding from the parish councils along the route. We do sympathise with CW&C's need to save money, but consider their handling of this serious road safety issue to be totally wrong. We have taken this up with our Ward Councillors.

Parish council meetings can sometimes get quite exciting! Do come along if you would like to join in, and remember, in the Spring we will be needing nominations for two new councils (Willington, and Delamere and Oakmere).

Clive George
Chair, Delamere Parish Council

Oakmere Parish Council Chairman's Letter

Hello again, this is Bill McGibbon, chair of Oakmere Parish Council. Oakmere Parish Council welcomes Ceri Rothwell, recently co-opted as a Councillor.

The Community Governance Review process is now complete, as far as Oakmere & Delamere are concerned. The two parishes will be amalgamated into a single parish with two Wards. We know that Delamere's boundaries will change significantly, while Oakmere's boundaries will remain largely intact. The detail of the precise boundaries of Delamere and Oakmere are now known. The two councils will be dissolved on the 31st March 2015. An interim council made up of CWaC Councillors and a number of outgoing Delamere Councillors and Oakmere Councillors will form an "interim" council, to provide continuity from the 1st April 2015 until the new D&O Council is formed after the elections in May 2015.

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Some Oakmere residents may have had letters from United Utilities (UU), asking for access to their land, to facilitate a survey they are conducting. Recently UU asked for a meeting with OPC to explain what this survey related to. The EU has introduced new regulations, the Water Framework Directive, requiring amongst other things, that water companies meet improved standards for purification of water being returned into water courses from sewage treatment works. They also have to improve their carbon footprint by reducing their energy use. Another factor, the sewage treatment works in Northwich has been increased in size and is currently under-used, which is making the works less efficient than it could be. Oakmere and Cuddington currently have their own sewage treatment works. The UU plan is to introduce a pipeline from Oakmere to Cuddington and from Cuddington to Northwich. The two sewage treatment works at Oakmere and Cuddington will be turned into pumping stations to feed to Northwich Treatment Works, which will be upgraded further. This means that no purified waste water will be returned into Oakmere water courses and there will be no HGV journeys associated with the removal of sludge in our area. As you can imagine, UU have a substantial sewer network in place and the new pipeline will connect the existing networks, so there will not be a completely new pipeline over the whole distance. UU are only part way through their design phase of this project. A lot more work is needed to decide on the exact route of any new sections of pipeline. The design will minimise the uphill pumped sections of pipeline as this uses energy and maximise the downhill sections that use gravity. So, we can expect there will be some disruption on Oakmere's road network during this project. UU say they are very experienced in handling road restrictions and assure us that they will be kept to a minimum and for as short a timescale as they can achieve. This is early days in this project so very approximate timescales are: Design – 2015; Implementation – 2016/17; Online – 2018.

Crown Estates outline planning application, on proposals for a residential development on the Marley Tile site has been approved. We can expect that Crown Estates will select a building contractor and start work on a detailed plan for the site.

This is the first summer that the Oakmere Way has been open and it is proving very popular

with walkers, horse riders and cyclists. As we move into winter, a couple of sections of the route are becoming quite muddy and difficult to traverse. The Mid Cheshire Bridleways Association is looking at improving these sections of the route.

The planning application for the Forestry Commission redevelopment of the Linmere visitors centre and Delamere Forest cabin development is awaiting the outcome of a public inquiry. This outcome is due to be announced this month (November 2014).

The deployment of Superfast Broadband is now available on Station Road, but remains tantalisingly unavailable for parts of Oakmere, as I write. Further announcements can be found on the Connecting Cheshire website, www.connectingcheshire.org.uk.

Bill McGibbon
Chair, Oakmere Parish Council

Delamere Parish Plan update

Local firm helping beat the speeders. J&S Motorcycle Stores were asked if they would agree to local residents paying for a sign to be erected near their exit reminding visitors to respect our speed limits. Not only did they agree but their MD said he would also pay for it – a big thank you from the residents of Oakmere & Delamere!

Litter picking now goes live. Anyone wanting to help clean up our Parish can borrow a litter picking kit which comprises gloves, a high visibility vest, plastic bag holder and a pair of long handled pickers - plus a Risk Assessment form! Contact Robin Ackerley (01829 752723), Barry Green (01606 882264) or Winsor Fruit Farm (01829 751216). Happy Christmas picking!

Help to make the village flower!



Would you like to help make Delamere and Oakmere blossom next year? We have applied for some wild flower seed kits being offered free to local communities in a campaign led by the Royal Botanic Gardens. If you or members of your family (however young or old) would like to help sow them next spring contact Clive



Delamere Community Centre
(Registered Charity 504881)
5 Station Road, Delamere CW8 2HU

Barn Dance



Friday 5th December
7:45 pm to 10:45 pm
Live music featuring
"Flaxmere Ceilidh Band"
and Caller



Tickets £10
Includes Hog Roast supper
Complimentary tea, coffee & squash
You can bring your own alcoholic drinks/glasses
If you prefer
Raffle
Free prize draw

Further information can be obtained from:
Mr Robin Ackerley 01829 752723 email: robin.ackerley@btinternet.com
Mrs Evelyn Macpherson 01606 301762 email: doneveportus@talktalk.net



BARN DANCE and HOTPOT SUPPER!!

Kelsall Community Centre
Saturday 17 January 2015
7:30

Dance to the Black Cat Band with Mo Waddington calling!
Enjoy a fine Cheshire Hotpot with luxury Apple Pie and Cream!
Yummy!! (Veggie option available to order).

Bar and Raffle

Tickets: £15

Contact 01829 751967 or email KelsallRNLI@hotmail.com



Photo: Ray Brownlie

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea.
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Local Police Drop In

At: Delamere Community Centre
On: 11th December 2014
Time: 6pm

With: PCSO Phil Brandreth

Ask a question, report a problem in your area,
mention anything bothering you or simply just
meet your local Police Community Support Officer
(PCSO) for your area.



Cheshire and Wirral Partnership **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

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**Please ring 0151 356 6970 for further
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George (01606 882183) or Barry Green (01606 882264).

To find out more about the campaign go to <https://www.growwilduk.com/>, where you can also apply for more seeds for your own work group.

For gardeners with no garden

Would you like to grow your own but have nowhere to grow it? The plans for the proposed development on the Marley site include space for allotments, and there are other sites in Delamere and Oakmere that might be used for them too. If you are interested call Joanne Monks on 01928 732062, or send her a note headed 'Allotments - I'm interested' with your name and contact details. Joanne is Clerk to Delamere and Oakmere Parish Councils (delamereclerk@yahoo.co.uk, 9 Maori Drive, Frodsham, WA6 7BS). If there is enough demand the two councils will look at the possibilities early in the new year.

Forest mossland restoration

Earlier this year Katie Piercy gave us an article about the Cheshire Wildlife Trust's Lost Mosses project in Delamere Forest, which is bringing back to life some of its lost mossland habitats. Since then the project has been moving on apace, and Katie and two of her colleagues in the Wildlife Trust (Chris Meredith and Heather Hulse) have been kind enough to take a few of us on a guided tour.



Doolittle Moss

To get a glimpse of what the Trust has been doing, park at Barnsbridge Gate and head for Blakemere Lake, with Doolittle Moss down in the dip on your left. Keep on around the dip until you find a turn to the left off the main path, which takes you down to the southern edge of the Moss. Take care to leave only footprints,

and be careful where you leave them, as this is one of the main restoration areas. When Spring comes, keep an eye open for dragonflies, and see if you can spot a white-faced darter. This is one of the rarest dragonflies in the UK, and was once a special feature of Black Lake. It had disappeared by 2003, after the ecology of the lake had been inadvertently disrupted though the use of limestone chippings on a nearby track.

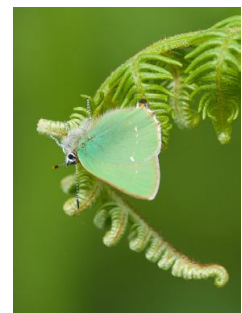


White-faced darter

As an alternative habitat for the species the Lost Mosses project has been improving Doolittle Moss by restoring the water level and reducing the area of moss raft, and has introduced white-faced darter larvae from similar mosses in Staffordshire and Shropshire. Many of these have already matured into adults, but 2015 will be the first year in which Delamere dragonflies will have produced more Delamere dragonflies. Even then there will be a lot more work to be done, but it is hoped that the population of white-faced darters in Delamere will be fully self-sustaining within the next ten years. By then they should also be back at Black Lake, whose ecology is already recovering. The Wildlife Trust aims to create dragonfly corridors between Doolittle and other moss pools in the forest by thinning out the trees.



Round-leaved sundew



Green hairstreak

The white-faced darter is not the only species getting a helping hand from the project. The restoration work is extending the area suitable



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for the amazing little round-leaved sundew, which lives on insects that it entices with a sugary coating on its leaves. On our guided walk Katie's eagle eyes found one for us on Black Lake. Other rarities that appear to be benefitting include the green hairstreak butterfly, spotted in an area of newly created heathland, the aromatic bog myrtle, and the highly specialist bog rosemary. The Lost Mosses project plans to put up information boards covering these and other features of the area's wildlife.

The project depends heavily on volunteers to do much of the work, and on donations to cover the costs. Katie and her colleague Vicky Nall have themselves raised over £500 through a sponsored run in the forest (see separate article). If you'd like to volunteer to help with the restoration work or the associated wildlife surveys, contact Katie Piercy or Chris Meredith at info@cheshirewt.org.uk or 01948 820728. To donate to the white-faced darter appeal go to cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/white-faced-darter, or text DART14 to 70070 to donate £5.

Getting stuck in for wildlife

Katie Piercy and Vicky Nall of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust take their work seriously. Both have worked on the Trust's projects in Delamere Forest, and to help keep the projects going they have raised well over £500 in sponsorships by participating in a Hellrunner endurance event in the forest. "I always say I like getting stuck into my work", says Katie, "but this took things to a whole new level."



Made it!

Already keen runners, Katie and Vicky decided they couldn't miss the opportunity to raise money by taking on the aptly-named hellish event, as it passed many of the areas in Delamere Forest that are the current focus of Wildlife Trust projects. The Trust worked closely with the Hellrunner event team to ensure that the race left no lasting damage to areas of the forest that are in the process of restoration. "Events like this are an unexpected way to get

people interested in mossland habitats" Katie tells us. "To most people they are a mystery, too wet to explore, slightly threatening and scary. In the future we want to find other ways for the public to enjoy the mosslands too, giving them a chance to learn about the fascinating wildlife that lives there, and turn the idea that they are uninviting and gloomy on its head. We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported us on the day and pledged sponsorship for this crazy challenge." Out of almost 2,000 runners who were crazy enough to take it on, the two wildlife enthusiasts came an impressive 706th and 707th.



Katie makes a bid for 706th

You can support Cheshire Wildlife Trust's projects in Delamere by visiting their website (www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk), or make an instant £5 donation to the white-faced darter dragonfly scheme by texting DART14 to 70070.

photos by Austin Morley

Golden Club

Gloria Ackerley

There has been a good start to our autumn programme with strong support from our committee and members, whose numbers have swelled to twenty-nine, including four new male members. In September we had fun learning how the Delamere Derby was run and enjoyed a first class birthday lunch beautifully set out and provided by Mrs. Harvey's team and piping hot from the new DCA kitchen. Musical entertainment was provided by Steve Lucas, who joined in with the poetry reading including another entertaining one from our resident Poet Laureate Thelma Ashbrook, and with Robin reciting the first of the entertaining Albert and the Lion series of poems. As part of the poetry fun, Gloria dressed up as an ancient Briton (no comments please) and Robin as an invading Pict or Scot, complete with tartan Tam o'Shanter and scarf, which was rather appropriate, being the eve of the Scottish referendum. Robin has also gone through a baptism of fire as the bingo

caller and may have found himself a new calling in life. We were pleased to welcome Reverend Elaine when she took our Harvest Festival and met some new members. Hallowe'en lunch was greatly enjoyed and entertainment, including bob apple demonstrations by Steve, Gloria and grandson Andrew, followed. The Remembrance Meeting on 12th November will be an opportunity for hearing from members their own and their family's experiences of war, both near and far and with an exhibition table for photographs and other mementoes. We look forward to the children from Delamere School singing to us on the 26th November and the Frodsham Choir entertaining us after our Christmas lunch on the 10th December.

We welcome visitors and hope that it will lead to many more new members.

Gloria

Beat that!

Golden Club members were recently set a challenge to find as many words of 4 letters or more (no proper nouns) from the word DELAMERE. One member came up with 82 words. Can you beat it?

Garden art

Gloria Ackerley

I wonder how many of our readers have a hobby? Maybe it is something you do just for your own interest (making something, a sport or travel) or maybe it is something you do to share with others. Maybe it is a skill you are trying to develop or would like to share. My hobby (well one of them) is an attempt to improve my attempts at topiary, the art of trimming shrubs, small trees and hedges, probably stemming from my teenage desire to be a tree surgeon.... (my dream of being a ballet dancer having been thwarted by my lack of height!)



When, eleven years ago, we moved back to the family home in Delamere, I had to leave behind my dinosaur created out of a hawthorn hedge (to make up for that I brought my husband with

me). It (the dinosaur, not my husband) had started life as an ostrich or was it a peacock? Left behind, too, was a helter-skelter made out of a young holly tree. That had taken me five years to perfect. Finding at The Paddock an even taller and older holly tree casting a gloomy shadow over the bungalow, I cut through the thick branches with a saw and now you can view a basket with handle outside the kitchen window. That was only finished this year. Through the kissing gate at the top of Stoney Lane and along the hedge bordering the Roman Road you might also notice an emerging hen made of privet. Needless to say, its head has still to emerge during the next crowing (sorry) growing season. Further along still you will find a thick blob of holly. This started life as a dolphin, but Marion and her dog were convinced it was an elephant. It might look like a pot bellied pig just for now, but the more discerning amongst you will notice some elephantine features in the making. Next, by the wooden owl (not my work), you will find two cypress shrubs trimmed in Willow Pattern style. Across the lawn there is a long (now thick) wildlife hedge fashioned from a row of thirty foot leylandii cut down low and trimmed with shears four times a year to keep it thick yet manageable.

So have you a hobby you would like to share with our readers? I, for one, would be very interested.

Gloria

Scoop the poop!

Attention all dog walkers: please remember that other pedestrians can find it very unpleasant when deposits are left in the middle of pavements.



If your dog hasn't yet been trained to 'scoop the poop', please do it for them, or get a 'stick and flick.

(picture by Jan Lewis, <http://hamptonroads.com>)



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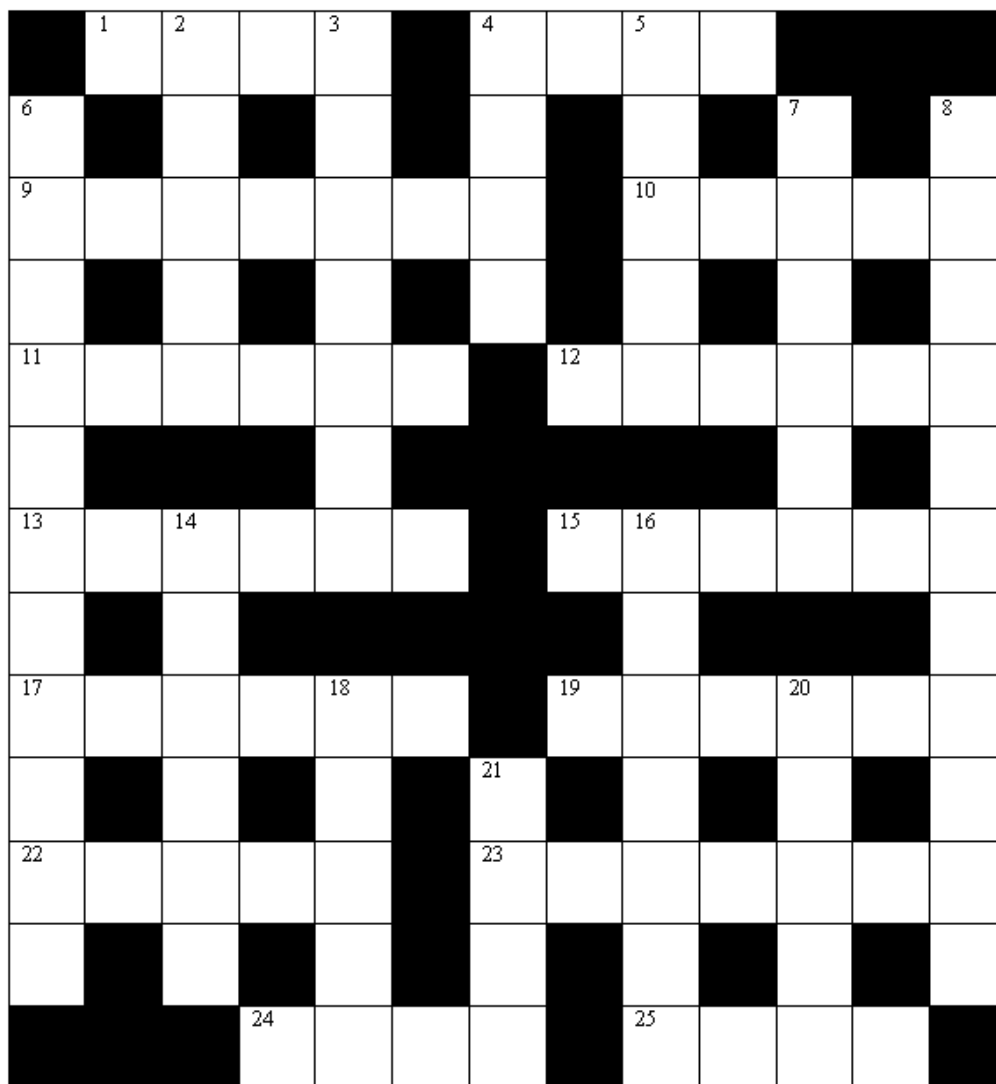
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Crossword no. 4



Across:

1. Survey sounds like a cold place (4)
4. Prison mix (4)
9. One of your 5 a day in a local pub (7)
10. Informal money even before it's baked (5)
11. Two points before end tie up the estate (6)
12. Heard seed is not from the northwest – withdraw (6)
13. Taboo word, I gave you first a personal likeness (6)
15. Take account before sound of autumn month (6)
17. Sharper pain for muddled curate (6)
19. Literarily angry fruit (6)
22. External, to be found in caribou territory (5)
23. Bordeaux wine drops French and gets electrical charge for trumpet call (7)
24. Novel for short time, this watery creature (4)
25. Called by this, horse hair in a tangle (4)

Down:

2. It sounds like Olga has lost a kilo going round and round (5)
3. Listing spare Dutch bank (7)
4. Moistens up for a warming meal (4)
5. I must be up early initially to permeate (5)
6. Clear C.E. rota – in a mess, needed to go quicker (11)
7. Cut off the English head – that's stern! (6)
8. Marketing vies with trading upset (11)
14. Saucy and so good for you healthy eaters (6)
16. It's gonna be in the concert ain't it? Sure! (7)
18. Sounds weird in that nest (5)
20. Neat and proper includes scientist's first, Newton's light solid shape (5)
21. Northern countryman's old tax (4)

Answers at the bottom of page 5



Four Oaks at Oakmere is a delightful residential development of 4 and 5 bedroom executive family homes, impeccably designed for practical, sophisticated, modern living, which blend beautifully with the area's established character.

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Poetry corner

We all have our dreams
by Thelma Ashbrook



I'd love to be common
and eat fish and chips
without having to care
if it showed on my lips.

I could follow those horses
with shovel and bucket,
with our big back garden
we've got room to chuck it.
We'd grow wonderful rhubarb
and what a surprise,
we could open a shop
and bake pies, lovely pies.

I would maybe eat yogurt
and lick all the lids,
when they make too much noise
bawl "Shurrup!" at the kids.

I have to make speeches
that bore me to tears.
"Phil, let's go down to the pub
for a couple of beers.
We could have a real snog
right outside our front door,
get them all cheering
and shouting for more".

You think it's all nonsense,
I know by that look.
"Well, you are the Queen, dear,
and I am the Duke".

Dusk and what Swifts do
by David Keogh

Sleeping clouds cross a sleeping land,
The moon half-sleeping peeps in
Seeing the bustle of traffic, bustling nowhere.
The sun sets westwards,
Its time consuming light gracing the moon,

Revealing the one eye which space's hand has
left uncovered.

A rebellious cloud breaks the sun's inferno,
And the moon sniggering, sits on the drawing
darkness.

Now neither is the master;
Only youth of night and old of day.
The black swifts like rejected angels
Spin, glide and roll,
And dance the dance of peace
Whistling to the clouds to pass on,
To save the sun for tired dusk
And leave them play on,
Spinning their webs of speed to catch flies,
Spinning webs to draw clouds to the sun at their
pleasure.

As kissing the heavens and the earth they go,
Unheeding the will of tomorrow.
The sun unveiled of its pall
Glow's brilliantly as if as a reminder to fearers of
damnation,
But really to prolong its stay, for the sake of
swifts,

Who now in thoughtless abandonment leave
To sleep upon high in the pure air,
For they have heard the warning chant of
landbirds

Telling them that the sun is entangled in webs,
And will soon nestle into buildings to sleep.
Darkness draws on, only slowly,
New saviours arise from shadows;
The gulls circle frantically to break the web the
swifts left,

But they too are drawn into the sun.
Peace prevails, birds calling are fewer,
The moon is supreme,
And the day ends.

The sun's job on this side done, it rests its case,
And I thankful for seeing it, from the window
turn.

(written in 1969 when David was 18 years old!)

Policing Delamere

PCSO Phil Brandreth

Since my arrival I have been very active in the community. I have been attending events at the Community Centre, carrying out foot patrol along Station Road and through the Forest and engaging with the community. In terms of speeding motorists I have been trying to offer my services and help reduce this problem. I carry out speed watch with a speed gun at least once a week down Station Road, as well as in other areas where speed issues have been reported. On days where I can't use the speed

gun, for example if a colleague has it, I try and deploy a speed activation device which smiles where the motorist is sticking to the speed limit and frowns when they are speeding. I am sure a lot would have seen this along Station Road and through Hatchmere by the Carriers Inn. I also hold monthly Police drop-ins in the Community Centre, where members of the community can stop by and report a problem, ask a question or just meet me.

Local herd wins first prize!

A Delamere herd has won a first prize at this year's Cheshire Show, and again at the Newport Show. Hearty congratulations to Thomas Hassall of Fishpool Lane Farm, and to the all-conquering Moss Hall Emily.



Moss Hall Emily and owner Thomas Hassall with the judge at the Cheshire Show

Broadband update

Superfast broadband got its first mention in these pages two years ago, when the Connecting Cheshire Partnership was launched. Thanks in no small measure to the efforts of Dr Bob Clipperton, who led the local effort to make sure that our part of Cheshire didn't get left out, it has now arrived! Fibre optic connections were made available from the Kelsall exchange a few months ago. Now they are also available from the Sandiway exchange, except for two small areas around Farm Road and Stonyford Lane, marked on the Connecting Cheshire map (www.connectingcheshire.org.uk) as 'under evaluation'.

The new service isn't automatic so to take advantage of it you will need to get your broadband provider to upgrade you, or switch to a new provider. The Connecting Cheshire website lists over 20 potential providers, each

with its own website, each offering various options in various different packages, some with fibre connections and some not, each with its own special offer of short term prices to entice you in. If you decide to switch you will need to cancel your old contract and arrange the transfer (see <http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/internet> for advice). Be warned. Any of the providers may try and sell you more than you want, so finding the best deal for you may not be easy!

Mains Gas update

Dr Bob Clipperton

Last summer, Fulcrum, (the company who installed the mains gas pipe to Wainhomes in Oakmere), finally gave us, (a small group of CW&C reps. some local Parish Councillors and Ward Councillors looking at local mains gas installation), figures per household/business for pipeline connection to those side areas of Oakmere not close enough now to be directly connected. These are their budget estimates for new main pipelines and for services and meters at each property.

Project 1 – Waste Lane/Mere Crescent, 51 properties, £3,097.00 per property.

Project 2 – Stonyford Lane, 16 properties, £5,167.00 per property.

Project 3 - Farm Road/New House Farm, 14 properties, £3,114.00 per property.

Project 4 – Hogshead Lane, 40 properties, £1,804.00 per property.

Project 6 – Overdale Lane, 8 properties, £13,486.00 per property.

These figures depend on 100% uptake so that if say, only 50% of households in any area wish to get connected, then their cost will be double those shown per household. On top of that is the cost of a new boiler etc.. Fulcrum agreed to contact every related household in Oakmere to determine their interest but they don't seem to have done that yet.

It cannot be denied that these costs are discouraging. However, there is clear evidence that mains gas is the cheapest form of energy, and the government has assisted new boiler schemes. In a competitive energy market it is also possible that some meters might be supplied and installed for free. The informal mains gas group referred to above are also looking to see if support funding is available



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from local or national government. We will keep you updated on any significant progress.

With respect to the main housing groups in Delamere, any mains gas connection depends entirely on whether the Marley Tiles development goes ahead. We have been assured by CW&C that Crown Estates have agreed to pay for a pipeline to the proposed development, which has recently been given outline planning approval. If and when that pipe is installed, we will begin a similar process to that for Oakmere, for properties along and off Station Road.

Finally, we have been told by Fulcrum in many meetings that properties within about 20 metres of the main pipeline should be connectable essentially for free. However, a resident who lives within that limit has recently applied for connection, and after some considerable confusion, was eventually quoted a ludicrous connection cost of many thousands of pounds. The above mains gas group are examining this anomaly, which may also have severe implications for the proposed Delamere pipe.

Station Bridge Pedestrian Issues.

Dr Bob Clipperton

Over many years, there have been two main proposals to improve pedestrian and passenger safety over Delamere Station Road Bridge. Firstly, there is the proposal to build a separate pedestrian bridge on the Station side of the road-bridge wall. All official meetings have agreed that such a new pedestrian bridge would be the safest option, but of course it is the most expensive. No appropriate authority, such as CW&C Highways, Network Rail or Northern Rail will fund such a bridge. CW&C Highways came up with a cheaper proposal to transfer the existing narrow pavement/footway on the east side of the road bridge to the west side (but still on the road) and this has been on CW&C's books for several years. Both proposals would include a new footway in front of the caravan park and a completely new footway sloping down to the Station car park entrance.

Over the last couple of years, discussions have been held with the Department of Transport, Network Rail, and the Office of Rail Regulation to determine whose legal responsibility it is to construct a separate bridge. Network Rail technically 'own' the whole road-bridge through agreements with the Dept. of Transport, but CW&C are responsible for changes on it and therefore for any new footways.

Through the Office of Rail Regulation and the House of Commons Transport Select Committee, efforts have been made to basically order Network Rail to construct a separate bridge, but both of those organisations say they do not get involved with specific local issues. There is, therefore an impasse on the separate pedestrian bridge option but MP Stephen O'Brien has been asked to discuss this further with Network and Northern Rail's Senior management. One last approach may be made through the Dept. of Transport, who fund Network Rail and the Office of Rail Regulation and issue rail operating franchises. CW&C have had no monies to complete either option, and are relying on getting contributions from either or both of the Marley development and the proposed Forestry Commission development, but neither of these would be available for at least 1-2 years. Efforts to get CW&C Highways to construct just the footway outside of the Caravan Park have also been fruitless.

Carols at the Stores

The Village Choir (made up of volunteers, Delamere Stores customers and passers by) will be singing again this Christmas Eve between 10am at 12 noon outside the shop in Station Road, Delamere. It should be fun, but wrap up warm. In Victorian costume or modern garb all are welcome to sing for a while or just listen. All donations will be shared with St.Peter's Church, Oakmere Methodist Chapel and Delamere Community Centre. Contact Gloria Ackerley, 01829 752723

Christmas lights

Delamere Academy's Christmas lights will be switched on on 28th November at 3.30 pm. The usual mince pies etc will accompany the ceremony. Open invitation to the village.

Unwanted rubble?

Robin Ackerley would welcome any rubble. Please contact him if you can help: 01829 752723

Update on Delamere Stores

From Lee Cartwright

As many of you are aware over the last year or so we have considered selling the store, but after 9 successful years running the shop we have decided to stay. As a resident of the area all my life I feel proud that Delamere has managed to retain its village store! Supermarkets are the norm now, but we have a well supported shop here in Delamere so we are going to be making some changes to adjust to the modern day marketplace.

In January the shop will undergo a facelift, with nearly four times our chilled offering and all the fruit and vegetables brought inside. There will be more meal solutions and fresh offerings, and the beer and wine section will be doubled. To

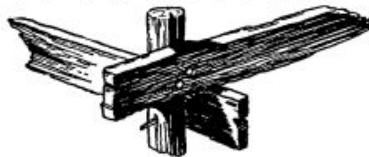
make space there will be a reduction in some lines that are clearly not needed for the top up between the supermarket shop. A lot of the work will be done whilst the shop is open but we may have to close for a few half days, with dates and times posted in advance. I apologise in advance for any disturbance and thank you all for your continued support.

WE ARE TAKING ORDERS FOR TURKEYS AND VEGETABLE BOXES AGAIN THIS YEAR. PLEASE ASK IN STORE FOR THE FORMS.

Kind regards and best wishes

Lee, Suzanne, Rowan and Flynn, and all of the staff at the Delamere stores

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