

Delamere and Oakmere News



Number 34

Summer 2015



In this issue:

- **Two hundred holiday lodges at Fourways lake**
- **Delamere Forest Golf Club**
- **Royal party-goers**

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 with hymns
On the second Sunday at 10.30am	Family Service
On the fourth and fifth Sunday at 10.30am	Morning Worship

Oakmere Methodist Church

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

Wed. 22 nd July	2-4pm	Delamere Derby
Wed. 2 nd Sept.	2-4pm	Gloria and Robin: "The Adventures of Charity Workers in Romania", with a display of photos, handicrafts and other items.
Wed. 16 th Sept.	1-4pm	Birthday Lunch with musical entertainment by Stephen Lucas.
Wed. 30 th Sept.	2-4pm	Harvest Service (at the Community Centre) with Rev.Elaine. Please bring produce for the sales table.
Wed. 14 th Oct.	2pm	Bingo
Wed. 28 th Oct.	1pm	Harvest Lunch followed by in-house entertainment.
Wed. 11 th Nov.	2pm	To be arranged
Wed. 25 th Nov.	2pm	Delamere Academy Schoolchildren Choir.
Wed. 9 th Dec.	1-4pm	Christmas Party with entertainment.

New members welcome. For more information please telephone Robin or Gloria Ackerley 01829 752723.

W.I.

Date	Speaker	Title	Competition
September 8 th	Fiona Barry	China challenge	Group competition - wartime postcard
October 13 th	Tom Jones	Dark happenings in Chester - inexplicable and ghostly events!	
November 10 th		Annual meeting	
December 8 th		Christmas party	Home made Christmas table decoration

*President: Lorraine Roberts 889188, 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*

Answers to crossword

Across: 1. graceless; 6. Madison; 7. NT; 9. fb; 10. ear; 11. chart; 13. life; 15. buckram
 Down: 1. grate; 2. Avon; 3. eddy; 4. sisters; 5. conqueror; 8. hayrick; 11. corn; 12. Liam; 14. egg.

Answers to quiz

1. 21st June; 2. Paloma Faith; Tom Odell and James; 3. Grease; 4. Sliced white bread (preferably stale); 5. George Gershwin (lyrics by DuBose Heyward); 6. Skegness (in 1936); 7. Taunton; 8. Alfred Lord Tennyson; 9. Neil Dudgeon (John Nettles played Tom Barnaby was his older cousin); 10. 'Thou art more lovely and more temperate'

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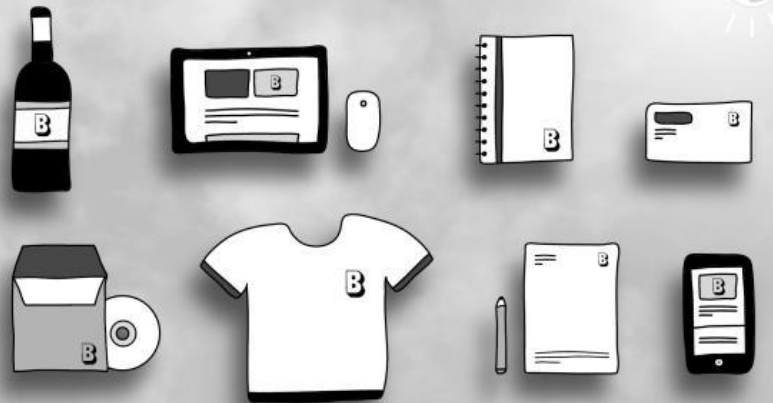
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Foreword

We start this issue with hearty thanks to the village school (Delamere Church of England Primary Academy), who volunteered to print the newsletter for us, at cost price, when CWAC had to withdraw their service. Our thanks are also due the reprographic unit at CWAC, who printed all the previous issues except the last (also at cost), and to the Neuromuscular Centre in Winsford, who printed the last one at ridiculously short notice. The NMC has to charge commercial rates, and although they gave us an extremely competitive price, it was still more than twice what we were paying before! As a result the last issue made quite a big loss, but thanks to the school, and to the ongoing support of all our advertisers, we are back on an even keel.

There is a story behind the cover picture for this issue. It was taken from the top of Eddisbury Hill, looking across the lake at the former sand quarry at Fourways. A planning application has been submitted to build 200 holiday lodges on the site, many of which would be visible from this viewpoint - on the far side of the lake towards the left of the picture, with newly planted trees behind them. There is more information on the proposal below, and full details are on the CWAC website.

Also in this issue we have an article on Delamere Forest Golf Club (our thanks to the club for the picture below), and another from three of our readers who have been honoured with invitations to go partying at Buckingham Palace! Other items include a tribute to one of our residents and a sad farewell to another, along with a crossword, a quiz from our Community Association quizmaster, and two more poems from the Golden Club.

About the newsletter

Delamere and Oakmere News is published three times a year, with the next issue due in late November (in the lead-up to Christmas). 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!



Morning mist over the golf course (courtesy Delamere Forest Golf Club)

Letter from the Rector

July 2015

Dear Friends

Many thanks to everyone who supported the St Peter's Garden Party held on 4th July. It was lovely to see so many from our local community coming together to spend an afternoon in the sunshine. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun. Many thanks to all those businesses, companies, our local store and to all the individuals who generously donated items for the stalls and prizes for the side shows; your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you to Farmer David for allowing cars to be parked on his field. Over £1,400 was raised for church funds.

I have just been leafing through my mother's scrap-book and found the following:

One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He had no credentials except himself.

While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends, the twelve who had learned so much from him and had promised him their undying loyalty ran away and left him. He went through a mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Yet I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of men and women on this earth as much as that one solitary life.

(Author unknown but attributed to J A Francis)

When Jesus walked this earth he taught his followers through the words he spoke, through the things he did and through the way he lived his life. He wants us to trust God as a loving father, to pray to him in faith, following in his ways and living lives of generosity, faith, simplicity and love.

Even after all this time there are over 2 billion people who follow Jesus, who call him Lord. They believe that after his cruel death God raised him from the dead to demonstrate to all people, for all time, that goodness *will* triumph over evil; justice over injustice, love over hate. In Isaiah 43:4 God tells each one of us 'you are precious in my sight, and I love you.'

We warmly invite you to worship with us at St Peter's, each Sunday there are services at 8am and 10.30am. On the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10.30am, we have a service for all the family.

Do contact me by telephone or email if you would like me to visit or pray for you.

Brian joins me in sending good wishes and blessings

Revd Elaine
The Rectory
Chester Road
Delamere, CW8 2HS

St Peter's Notice Board

Bicentenary Celebrations

St Peter's was consecrated on 27th November 1817 and we are planning to mark the occasion with a series of special events throughout 2017.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest with a service for all the family on Sunday 4th October at 10.30am. Once again, as well as fresh produce we will be collecting dried, tinned and packet foods (and toiletries) for the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank to help support families in crisis in our local area.

Ride & Stride

People throughout Cheshire are being asked to get involved in a tour of some of our beautiful churches by foot, by cycle – or even on horseback.

It's all part of a big Ride and Stride event organised by the Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust.

The idea is to get lots of people out in the fresh air on Saturday 12th September on a sponsored journey around all the participating churches. The event will raise funds for the Trust to be used for repair and preservation work at churches across Cheshire. St Peter's will be open from 11am to 4pm – refreshments available.

From the Registers – January to June 2015

We welcomed by baptism:

February

Fraser Henry Wallace, son of Zoe & James

June

Alice Joan Hazlehurst, daughter of Sarah & Christopher and sister to Abigail

We celebrated the marriages of:

May

Amy Hitchen and Daniel Done

Sarah Wilson and Chris Wilson

We said farewell to:

January

John Samuel Swindells

February

Margaret Wendy Thomas

April

Frederick Anthony Penney

Richard Carter Rutter

June

Dennis Edmund Gore

Community Centre News

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings continue to be held on the last Friday of every month, between 10am and 12 noon. All are welcome.



All money made at the coffee mornings is for the Community Centre, except for September when it will be for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Golden Club



Golden Club visit to the National Arboretum



Freda and Anita at the National Arboretum



Barbara and Freda at the Golden Club indoor games

Community Centre diary dates

➔ Barn dance - 6th November ←

➔ Quiz night - 4th December ←

Club Class

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Parish Council news

Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council Chairman's Letter

New Parish Council - or Reunited at Last?

After so many years living apart but separated only by Station Road, Abbey Lane and Middlewich Road, Oakmere and Delamere have officially become one.

The original estrangement, occurring when civil parishes were created in 1866, gave rise to a number of anomalies. The school, the post office and the community centre are all in Delamere; even Oakmere Methodist Church is in Delamere. The post office, now in the Community Centre and previously at Delamere Stores, was once housed in Crown Cottages in Oakmere. St. Peter's Church, founded in 1817, has always remained aloof from these secular schisms: the ecclesiastical parish has always covered the whole of Delamere and Oakmere.

All this might make it appear that Delamere, with a larger population than Oakmere, has had more parish council matters to attend to than Oakmere. Until recently that may have been the case – but things have changed and changed quite significantly: most of Delamere, with large areas of forest and farmland, is designated as an "Area of Special County Value"; Oakmere, with the recent and ongoing development at Fourways and the proposed development at the Marley site has become the focus of considerable attention with Delamere its quiet country neighbour.

All this is, of course, a simplification: both councils have always had plenty to occupy their attention, but from now onwards the two are united and this can only be a positive step. Much business at the early meetings has been of an administrative and financial nature: each old parish council, for instance, had its own bank account; now the old accounts have been discontinued and a new one opened. Such were the apparent difficulties that I was left wondering whether we should have entered into some kind of pre-nuptial agreement. However, all the technical complexities were surmounted thanks to the efficiency and expertise of our clerk Joanne Monks.

As a result of the boundary changes Delamere has lost its westernmost part, in part to Kelsall and in part to the newly-formed Willington Parish Council. One consequence has been the

departure of five former councillors. This has left vacancies in the new joint council. When the new council began it was short of three members, one from the Oakmere ward and two from Delamere.

If you are considering standing as a parish council member you may stand for either ward, provided you live in the parish (or within three miles) or are employed in the parish. Ask any existing member for further advice. They will tell you, I am sure, that duties are far from onerous, but playing an active role in the life of the community can be most rewarding.

For further details please contact our clerk,
Joanne Monks:

delamereandoakmereclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Robin Ackerley

Chair, Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council

An outstanding councillor

by Bill McGibbon

One of Oakmere Parish Council's last actions was to express their appreciation for the outstanding service given by their longest serving member, Katherine MacVicker, by nominating her for a Cheshire West and Chester Local Council Excellence Award. Although the final award for Outstanding Service went elsewhere, Katherine's fellow councillors were delighted when her nomination was selected for the shortlist.

Dr Katherine MacVicker became an Oakmere Parish Councillor in 1989 and has been Chair three times and Vice Chair four times, in 25 years of continuous service. She came to Cheshire in 1978, moving to an Oakmere farm in 1982. In addition to her parish council commitments she is a committee member of Norley WI, which has included a three year term as President, when she founded the bike club. She is also a member of St Peter's Parochial Church Council.

Katherine brings a thoughtful and considered approach to council business, is extremely dedicated, and rarely misses any of the meetings of the organisations with which she is involved. She continues to serve on Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council, where her considerable experience adds greatly to the council's work and to the knowledge of newer members. She generally reserves her comments to the more salient features of any issues, but can be forthright if necessary.

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council would like to welcome you to a Cheese & Wine Launch Night



On Friday 4th September

At Delamere Community
Centre Station Road Delamere

From 7.15pm to 9.15pm

Please come along to meet your local Parish Councillors
and discuss ideas for the newly merged Parish of
Delamere and Oakmere

The Lord Mayor of Chester Councillor Hugo Deynem and the Lady
Mayoress Mrs Deborah Deynem will be attending, along with our new
MP Antoinette Sandbach, and other organisations such as the
Age UK Cheshire Casserole Club

Further information can be obtained from the clerk to the Parish Council,
Mrs. J Monks telephone 01928 732062 or email
delamereandoakmereclerk@yahoo.co.uk.

All of this has been undertaken while having a career as a doctor in the NHS, looking after a husband and three children, and helping to run a farm on which she ran equestrian events for local pony clubs and charities.

A Grand Day Out to a Royal Garden Party – Summer 2015

Elaine Ollman, Katherine MacVicker and Sue Goodwin

The oft quoted adage that something is 'like buses - none for ages then three at once' aptly describes events this summer. Reminiscences of one visit to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace would be good, two even better, but three is amazing! As our recollections are similar we have combined them into one account.

From the moment the stiff white invitation plopped through the letter box grandly engraved 'The Lord Chamberlain is commanded by Her Majesty to invite 'What to wear was the first decision to be made. The accompanying literature stated that day dresses, lounge or morning suit, national dress or cassocks could be worn with hats de rigueur for the ladies. Not certain as to what constituted 'national dress' for Delamere we all opted for day dresses and lounge suits.

When the much awaited day arrived we made our way to London and the palace, some by coach and some on Mr Branson's taxi from Crewe. We joined a good natured queue and at the given moment we were allowed in through the gates; passing through the front door and two large beautifully decorated rooms and out onto the Main Terrace.



Huge marquees serving afternoon tea were set up all down one side of the enormous lawn with a bandstand either end where two military bands played throughout the afternoon. There were about eight thousand people at each event and there was opportunity for many interesting conversations with people from all over the country indeed from across the globe.

The National Anthem heralded the arrival of the Royal party and over the three events we saw Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Philip, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Countess of Wessex, Princess Alexandra, the Duchess of Gloucester, Prince & Princess Michael of Kent, Princess Beatrice and Princess Ann. The "Royals" slowly made their way amongst us frequently stopping to chat the pathway to their tea marquee being designated by Yeoman Warders resplendent in red livery.



Then it was time for tea once more we queued but it was all good natured and somehow very British. The food was delicious finger rolls and dainty sandwiches, tiny cakes and tartlets some of the little cakes even had a royal crest iced onto them with tea or iced coffee to drink.

We were free to wander at will around the Palace grounds the cerise and vermillion rhododendrons were stunning as was the lake, the rose garden and the arboretum.

Towards the close of the afternoon the royal party made their way back to the palace and for Katherine and David there was a fairy tale ending. Because of her difficulty with walking Katherine had acquired a 'rollator' for the occasion and making their way to the exit she and David came upon a parade of wheelchairs and scooters backed up against the wall an usher showed them to a space and presently the Queen arrived and addressed every trio of chariots. "Are you enjoying yourselves?" she said and Katherine blurted "yes thank you, very much". "How was the tea?" "Very good". Then Prince Philip "You know what happens next? We blow a whistle and you have to race for the gate." Then Princess Ann deep voiced and concerned if the wind was too cool. After the royal party had gone it was time for all of us to make our way through the palace and into the courtyard and out past guards on sentry duty back to reality. Our grand day out was nearly over.

It was such a special and not-to-be-repeated day but somehow it all felt familiar the people we

had met the sights we had seen it was as though it is all part of our collective DNA, part of our heritage and tradition; for us we had 'been up to London and visited the Queen.' Now we have wonderful memories and of course the stiff white invitation card now in perpetuity on the mantelpiece.

Elaine & Brian Ollman (20th May)

Katherine & David MacVicker (28th May)

Sue Goodwin (2nd June – WI Centenary)

Dennis Gore, a true man of Delamere

by Robin Ackerley

On the hot summer morning of 1st July Delamere Church was packed. People had come to pay their respects to one of Delamere's best-known citizens, a man whom many of us had known for all our lives. Dennis Gore had spent all his 89 years living in Delamere, a fact of which he was rightly proud.

David and Helen, two of his grandchildren, paid a most moving tribute to their grandad; they spoke of his own family, Dennis being the eldest of four brothers (he also had four sisters), of his longstanding association with Delamere Church (he was a member of the Parochial Church Council), of his post as stationmaster at Delamere Station and of his involvement in local sport, but what shone through their talk was Dennis's love of and pride in his family (his son and daughter-in-law, three grandchildren and four great-grandsons) and of their evident affection for him.

Like Dennis, Freda, Dennis's future wife, was Delamere born and they first met aged five when they started at Delamere School back in the days when Mr. Fugler was headmaster and Mrs. Lightfoot was the infant teacher.

Late in the war eighteen-year old Dennis served in the Dorset Regiment and was involved in the disastrous battle for Arnhem in September 1944. He was captured and spent the last eight months of the war in Stalag IVB near the Polish border, before it was liberated by the Russians. Ever after Dennis was reluctant to speak of his experiences as a p.o.w.

Soon after the war Dennis and Freda married. They spent part of their early married life in the newly-built houses in Watling Drive before moving to Frith Avenue.

Many of those attending his funeral would have known Dennis through sport. He played football and bowls for Delamere and cricket for both Delamere and Oakmere. As a talented player in his early teens Dennis played for Delamere Cricket Club whose ground was at Abbey Wood. The club didn't survive the war and few now can recall its existence.

But it was as a founder member and captain of Oakmere Cricket Club in the early 50s that Dennis Gore will be remembered by so many. His approach to captaincy was, to put it mildly, authoritarian. The slightest lapse in concentration at the wicket or in the field would earn a sharp rebuke. Many of us younger hopefuls were very wary of him.

When I started teaching I was given charge of my school's Under 13 Cricket XI. When I took them on their general conduct in the field was unimpressive: the players loafed around hands in pockets, gazing around them, chatting to their mates – not what one might expect of a proper cricket team. "What," I thought as I looked on this depressing sight, "What on earth would Dennis Gore have made of this lot!" Thus inspired I set about drilling the boys in the way I remembered and by the end of the season we had, if not the most naturally gifted, at least one of the most enthusiastic and willing sides in the district. We won all but one of our matches that summer. For Dennis's excellent example I was forever grateful.

Dennis's post-funeral gathering was at Oakmere Cricket Club in Overdale Lane. The "pavilion" of the 1950s, little more than a shed in a field, has now become a most impressive building, one well able to accommodate the many who gathered there on that hot July afternoon and to do so in style. What more appropriate tribute could there have been to a man who had given so much to the club and to the community!

Wildlife Spotters needed!

Love wildlife and enjoy being outside? Fancy your hand at a bit of wildlife surveying? The Delamere Lost Mosses Project and Delamere's Dragons survey a variety of species on a yearly basis, collecting data to assess the impact of the work being carried out. Training will be provided, no experience necessary. If you'd like to try your hand at floral, reptile, butterfly or dragonfly surveys please contact Katie Piercy on kpiercy@cheshirewt.org.uk or 07971052162.

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Delamere Forest Golf Club

Previous issues of the newsletter have featured the cricket club, the polo club and the equestrian centre at Kelsall Hill, but not, until now, the golf club. It's about time we put that right, since Delamere Forest Golf Club has a proud history and is widely regarded as one of the finest traditional heathland golf courses in the country. It has been rated 62nd in the Top 100 Golf Courses in England, and the best inland course in Cheshire.



The club was founded in 1910 when eleven local businessmen got together to raise sufficient funds to design and build the course and clubhouse on land leased from the Crown (the freehold was purchased some 50 years later). The club's first and only President was Hugh Grosvenor, the 2nd Duke of Westminster. One of the founder members was the prominent local architect Alfred Powles, who designed the stunning clubhouse with its traditional Cheshire black and white exterior. The original clubhouse, built over 100 years ago, has been substantially improved in recent years.



The celebrated golf architect Herbert Fowler was engaged to design the course, and a team of local farm workers was recruited to carry out the work. Fowler used the contours of the land to create a course that would test every aspect of a golfer's ability, with rolling fairways interspersed with heather and gorse, and fast, subtle greens. As a result the course offers a

fair but tough challenge to visitors and members alike.

Since its foundation Delamere has built strong links with the County, hosting the inaugural Cheshire County Meeting in 1921. In addition the annual Doris Chambers Ladies County Competition and the County Boys' Championship have been held at the club for over 30 years.

In 2012 the club took the momentous decision to strengthen the course and reinstate its original heathland character. The renowned golf architects Mackenzie and Ebert, who had recently completed the remodelling of Royal Lytham and St Anne's for the Open Championship, were commissioned to carry out the task. The work commenced in late 2012 and is now complete. Every bunker has been returned to the original Fowler design and all of the greens have been increased in size to provide additional options and run-off areas.



As a result the century-old character of Delamere has been reinstated, and a new Blue Course of over 6600 yards including 8 new tees is available for County and National events.

Visiting parties and societies are particularly welcome. For membership and all other general queries contact the Secretary, Mike Towers:

sec@delameregolf.co.uk

For catering enquiries contact the House Manager, Ian Wharmby:

iwharmby@hotmail.co.uk

For more about the course, the club and its facilities visit the club's website:

<http://www.delameregolf.co.uk/>





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Cheshire Wildlife Trust events in the forest 2015

Delamere's Brilliant Bogs

Saturday 25th July (9.30-12.30)

If you go down to the woods today you're sure for a big surprise! For instance did you know there are mosslands (bogs) within the forest that were created over 10,000 years ago? Or, that they shelter fascinating creatures like the carnivorous round-leaved sundew or the tiny creeping cranberry plant? Come and learn more about these fascinating habitats, their rare and unusual creatures and what we are doing to protect them.



The insect-eating round-leaved sundew, by Vicky Nall

Cost: FREE (booking essential)

Contact Katie Piercy, 01948 820728, or email kpiercy@cheshirewt.org.uk

Delamere dragon guided walk

Saturday 15th August (10am-3pm)

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's Chris Meredith takes us through the charity's ground-breaking project to re-introduce the white-faced darter dragonfly to Delamere Forest.

Cost: £3.00

Contact Chris Meredith, 01948 820728, or email cmeredith@cheshirewt.org.uk

Charcoal-making demonstration

Sunday 19th July (9.30-4pm)

Sunday 20th September (9.30-4pm)

Fancy trying your hand at making sustainable charcoal with a traditional ring kiln? Help prepare the wood, load and light the kiln and learn about how British charcoal can help restore some of the UK's rarest habitats.

Cost £5.00

Contact Katie Piercy, 01948 820728, or email tgibson@cheshirewt.org.uk

Get in the Bog

Sunday 16th August

Take a walk on the wild side on three of Cheshire's most inspiring and important mosslands; Abbotts moss, Flaxmere and Great Blakemere. Three guided walks will take place across the day, each between 1-2hrs, exploring the wonders of these strange and unusual places. Feel the earth move as you step onto Abbotts moss, a rare quaking bog, search for dragonflies amongst the heather on Great Blakemere or marvel at the carnivorous sundew on Flaxmere. Each session must be booked individually, places are limited.

Cost: £8 per session

Contact Katie Piercy, 01948 820728, or email kpiercy@cheshirewt.org.uk

Lost and found

- 1 grey tray, possibly left behind at St.Peter's Church coffee Morning and Plant sale last May.
- 1 fold-up umbrella with blue/white cloud motif, left in our car.
- 1 navy quilted gilet/short-sleeved jacket, left in the Community Centre.

Please contact Gloria 'Kleptomania' Ackerley 01829 752723

New Police Community Support Officer

Cheshire Police have re-organised the areas allocated to their Police Community Support Officers, and as a result Delamere and Oakmere will now have a single PCSO instead of two. PCSO Ryan Reid, who covered Oakmere, will now be looking after all of the Tarvin & Kelsall Ward,



including Tarvin, Kelsall, Duddon & Clotton and outlying areas, in addition to Delamere and Oakmere.

PCSO Phil Brandreth, who covered Delamere, will be responsible for Kingsley, Norley, Hatchmere and Sutton Weaver. Phil's efforts on behalf of Delamere residents are much appreciated, and we wish him well in his new post.

Ryan will be hosting a **drop-in event** at the Community Centre on Saturday 18 July at 2pm.

The village school

It is a long while since the school featured in the newsletter, and as it is now being printed by them at a very modest cost, it's high time we had a reminder of how fortunate we are. The school was threatened with closure in 2007, with only 43 pupils, but thanks in large measure to an intervention from Alex and John Timpson, plus the skill and determination of head teacher Steve Docking, it is now thriving again.

Delamere school dates back to 1846, when it was built on an acre of forest land donated by the Crown as a Church of England primary school 'for the education of the children of the poor'. Its original building remains one of the most distinctive architectural features of the parish.



When closure was threatened the Timpsons approached the Director of Children's Services, arguing that smaller schools are needed, and offering a grant of £150,000 to expand the curriculum and help establish the school as a centre of excellence for others to follow. The extra lessons included art, music, theatre, cooking, nature studies in the forest, and opportunities to go canoeing and orienteering. Within three years the school had become the smallest in the country to achieve outstanding status in its OFSTED report, pupil numbers

were up by nearly 50%, and the scene was set for a major modernisation programme. In 2011 the school became Delamere Church of England Primary Academy, and grants totalling nearly £1.5 million were obtained from the Education Funding Agency to completely remodel the old building and construct the new classrooms and the new hall.



With its extra facilities the school now has 168 pupils in seven classes from Delamere, Oakmere and surrounding areas, with an imaginative curriculum and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. To cap it all, in two of the past three years its Key Stage 2 results have put it top of the league tables in Cheshire West and Chester, and in the top 50 nationally.

Two hundred holiday lodges planned for Fourways quarry

Plans are afoot to put 200 holiday lodges on the site of the former sand quarry at Fourways, along with an entrance/amenity building and a sailing club. The landowner, William Fergusson of Oakmere House, has submitted a planning application to Cheshire West and Chester Council for the holiday lodges, while the sailing club and amenity building would come later under separate planning applications.



Retail - Leisure - Office - Domestic

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Tuesday & Wednesday contact Head Office on **01925 859650**

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If the application is approved it is likely to be at least ten years before the development is complete. Between 15 and 20 lodges are planned for the first year, followed by similar numbers in each of the following years.



The proposed lodges are similar in design to those in the nearby Oakmere Lodge Country Park, next to The Lounge restaurant. Of the 50 lodges that were proposed in the planning application for Oakmere Park, which was approved in 2003, twelve have been built so far.

The Fourways site was earmarked for tourist and recreation development in Vale Royal Borough Council's planning policy, and the designation has been retained in the recently adopted Cheshire West and Chester local plan. The policy specifies suitable uses for the site as "non-engine powered water sports (sailing, sailboarding, canoeing and fishing) and strictly ancillary development (water sports club with changing facilities and a fishing club) and timber chalets". A proposal to include a hotel in the development was withdrawn on the Council's advice.



The lodges would be built on the north eastern part of the quarry site, with about 60 along the lake shore and the rest in semi-wooded areas behind them.



The main body of the peninsula is identified as open recreational space, with lodges on its eastern shore and the sailing club on the western shore. Access to the site would be through the existing quarry entrance on Chester Road, with the entrance/amenity building in the neck of the peninsula.

The land to the east between the proposed development and Hogshead Lane, from which sand was extracted by dry-working, will be restored to woodland by the Forestry Commission.



Since quarrying ceased many birds have occupied the site, and a series of surveys has been carried out as part of the planning application. Birds showing nesting behaviour included Canada and greylag geese, great crested grebe, grey and pied wagtail, heron, kestrel, lapwing, meadow pipit, mistle thrush, oystercatcher, reed bunting, sand martin, shelduck, skylark, snipe, song thrush, sparrow hawk, tufted duck, wheatear and willow warbler. Wintering birds observed in and around the site included gadwall, golden eye, green woodpecker, smew and wigeon.



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WI is 100 in September

Help us to celebrate!
Delamere WI invites you to
Afternoon Tea at Delamere
Community Centre on
Monday 14th September at
3pm or 3.45pm



To reserve a place/table contact:
Brenda on 882338, Lorraine on 889188

or kaypgeorge@yahoo.co.uk

before Monday 7th September.

If you come without a reservation,
you can be sure of a warm welcome
and a cup of tea/coffee, but will
have to take pot luck on food.

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The survey reports present a set of recommendations to minimise and offset the impact of clearance, and to secure the long-term presence of important bird habitats.

Full details of the planning application are on the Cheshire West and Chester website at:

<http://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications>

(enter 15/01803/FUL in the search box)

Casserole Club

Age UK Cheshire is setting up a new project to help people in the area help each other. Called 'Casserole Club', it will help people share extra portions of home-cooked food with older people who might not always be able to cook for themselves. The club aims to tackle issues around nutrition and loneliness, while providing a flexible way for people to volunteer their skills and time in strengthening local neighbourhood relationships.

All cooks have to complete a basic food hygiene test and a DBS security check, both of which can be done on line. Help is available for those who don't have access to the internet. The diner just needs to complete a short form.

Age UK will be making a presentation on the project at the Delamere and Oakmere Cheese and Wine night on 4th September. In the meantime, if you would like to join in the cooking, or the eating, contact Simone Cobbold or Yvonne Boyle on 07944 841873, or email

simone.cobbold@casserolecheshire.org.uk

Good lord, it's Hugo!

No, not Lord Hugo, but Lord Mayor Hugo. He may not have been elevated to the peerage, but it's quite an honour for all of us that one of our Ward Councillors, Hugo Deynem of Ashton Hayes, is now 'the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Chester'. You may well have met him outside the shop or elsewhere in the parish, finding out what matters to us so that he can do something about



it on Cheshire West and Chester Council. Along with our other Ward Councillor John Leather, Hugo does a great job for us locally, and we congratulate him on his new position. It is mainly a ceremonial role rather than a political one (the 'first citizen' of the borough), so if we get visit from royalty Hugo will be the one to don the robes and show them round. He will also be making use of the role to help raise funds for Cancer Research, the Wildlife Habitats Trust and OPAL (Older People Active Lives). During his term of office he will be holding open days at the Town Hall, where we can call in for a cup tea in the Lord Mayor's Parlour. Contact 01244 977701 or chestercivic@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Women's Institute

Lorraine Roberts

Many of you will know that the W.I. is celebrating its centenary this year, the first Institute having opened in Llanfair P.G. in Anglesey in 1915. It has gone from strength to strength over the years, boasting a current membership of 212,000. Fortunately, although some Institutes have had to close down due to falling numbers, many new Institutes are springing up everywhere, often with a youthful and energetic membership.



Celebrating the centenary with cake and fizz at Gawsorth Hall - photo Lorraine Roberts

Delamere W.I. meets every second Tuesday in the Delamere Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. So far this year we have had some interesting speakers, including two of our members telling us of their quest to witness the Aurora Borealis. In March, Mr. Len Tomlinson shared his extensive knowledge of daffodils when showing his slides of the daffodil walk in Whitegate. Not only do the flowers give pleasure to the many who visit the farm each year, but the entry fee is donated to Macmillan and plants are grown for medical research. Becky talked us through the work of Christian Aid in Ethiopia in



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April and in June Dianne Hall from Akesmere Farm, Little Budworth, talked about her alpacas and showed us some of the beautiful things she has made from the wool. We discussed the NFWI Resolution in May, the evening of our biennial mini show. We have more interesting and varied talks planned for the year and are now arranging the programme for 2016, the year in which we celebrate the 75th birthday of Delamere W.I.

We are a small Institute, very friendly and welcoming and would be delighted to receive visitors and, of course, new members. Why not come along and give it a try? We make a good cup of tea and there is usually a piece of cake to go with it!

Talking of tea and cake, *we are pleased to invite everyone to come along for Afternoon Tea at the Delamere Community Centre on 14th September* to help us celebrate one hundred years of the W.I. and help us to go forward into the next century as a vibrant and thriving organisation.

As part of the centenary celebrations, and to celebrate 95 years of the W.I. in Cheshire, all Cheshire W.I.s were asked to make a banner to represent their institute.



Delamere's was designed and worked by Cynthia Green in consultation with members, and will be displayed at the tea party in September.



**Cheshire
Constabulary**

Local Police Drop In

At: Delamere Community Centre

On: Saturday 18th July 2015

Time: 14:00hrs

With: PCSO Ryan Reid

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.

Poetry corner

Sod's Law

by Thelma Ashbrook

When you were a toddler
you'd have loved a cuddly toy,
but they went and bought you Lego.
Don't they know you're not a boy?

You see just the shoes you wanted
and can't believe your eyes,
but when you go into the shop
they haven't got your size.

You meet a handsome boyfriend
and for you life's really buzzin',
until your heart is broken -
he's been seen out with your cousin.

At last you've found your Mr Right,
the wedding day's all planned,
but the venue that you booked closed down,
fate's dealt another rotten hand!

Then after you had dried your tears,
found another place instead,
to the great delight of everyone
the wedding went ahead.

They always call it Sod's Law,
but if you put it to the test
and things don't work out badly,
sometimes Sod's Law turns out best.

Body Language

by Stephen Lucas

Where can a man get a cap for his knee,
or a key for the lock of his hair?

Can his eyes be called an academy
because he has pupils there?

On the crown of his head what jewels are
found?

And who travels on the bridge of his nose?

If he wanted to shingle the roof of his mouth
would he use the nails of his toes?

Can he sit in the shade of the palm of his hand,
or play on the drum of his ear?

Can the calf of his leg eat the corn on his toe?
Then why not grow corn with his ear?

Can the crook of his elbow be sent to jail?
If so, what did it do?

How can he sharpen his shoulder blades?
Hanged if I know. Do you?



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Summer quiz

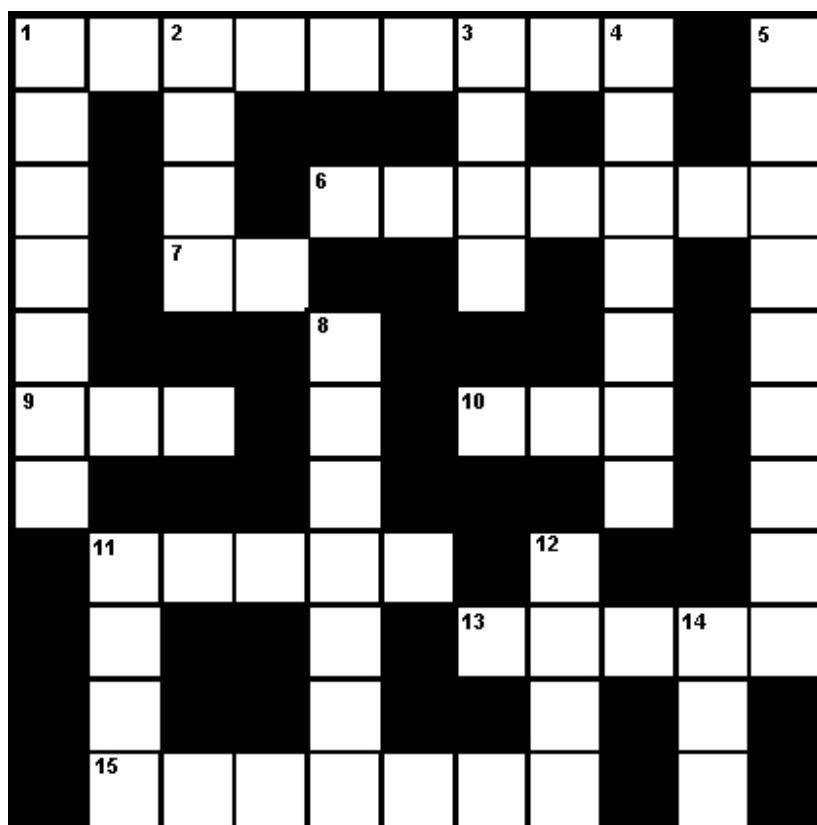
By Steve Lacey

- On which date was the summer solstice celebrated this year?
- Which three acts performed at the Delamere Forest Summer Concerts this year?
- From which musical does the song 'Summer Nights' come?
- With what is the fruit surrounded in a Summer Pudding?
- Who composed the song 'Summertime . . . and the living is easy'?
- Where did Billy Butlin open his first Holiday Camp?
- What is the county town of Somerset?
- Which Poet Laureate was born in Somersby Rectory in 1809?
- Who plays DCI John Barnaby in 'The Midsomer Murders'?
- What follows Shakespeare's line 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day'?

Answers at the bottom of page 2

Crossword

By Yeti



Across

- Fewer follow Miss Kelly without charm (9)
- Strange cycle race for crazy one boy (7)
- Initially cares for houses and landscapes (2)
- Detectives get mixed up leading to this untruth (3)
- What you with this if you drop your aitches (3)
- Two teas needed to make this map (5)
- Refill falls short, return for one with long sentence (5)
- Throw off male sheep for coarse cloth (7)

Down

- Is his neck too long for this restaurant? (7)
- Former county's ladies sold their wares door to door (4)
- A whirlwind with this young man (4)
- Anxiety about one's confused relations (7)
- William came here they say with uncooked nut (9)
- Stack in a field, heard greet Richard briefly (7)
- Groom stocky horse, male at heart (4)
- Letters come back to Irishman (4)
- Urge on breakfast!

Answers at the bottom of page 2

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Lee and the team

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Our new website should be online shortly