

ISSUE 47 | WINTER 2019



DELAMERE  
& OAKMERE

# NEWS



## IN THIS ISSUE

THE FOREST 120 YEARS AGO  
LOBSLACK TREE NURSERY  
RUGBY FROLICS AT THE SCHOOL

## ForestNet IT Service

Station Rd, Delamere

**Your Local Computer Support Service for  
the Home/HomeOffice/Small Business**

**PCs Laptops Tablets**

**Printers Routers Servers**

**Troubleshooting/Problem Solving/Upgrades**

**Software Installs/Upgrades**

**Anti-virus/Malware issues**

**Home/Office Networking**

**Router/WiFi issues**

**Broadband Security Controls**

**30 Years ICT experience**

**Courteous Professional Service**

**Competitive Rates Fixed Price No Fix No Fee**

Email: [enquiries@forestnet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@forestnet.co.uk)

Tel: 07856 222415

Web: [www.forestnet.co.uk](http://www.forestnet.co.uk)

## CG Pilates

*Pilates Class  
All Welcome*

*Delamere Community Centre  
Every Monday 11:30am and 6:30pm  
Thursday 6:30pm  
Friday 10:30am*

£8 per person - All mats and equipment provided



**A Class for improving posture, core strength, balance,  
flexibility and concentration to help in every day life**

*Please call, email or text for information or to book.*

**Claire Godwin**

**07795 833 323**

Email - [clairegoddy@aol.com](mailto:clairegoddy@aol.com)



## nicola gibson

ARCHITECTURAL  
DESIGN

ONE OFF HOUSES | EXTENSIONS & REMODELLING  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS | GARDEN ROOMS



All drawings prepared for and submitted to the Planning and Building Control departments on your behalf, including Listed Building and Conservation Area consent where necessary.



Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2020!

☎ Tel: 01606 301171 ☑ Mobile: 07813 034552

✉ Email: [nicola@njgdesign.co.uk](mailto:nicola@njgdesign.co.uk) 🌐 [www.njgdesign.co.uk](http://www.njgdesign.co.uk)



**I PERSONALLY DESIGN YOUR  
DREAM HOLIDAY WITH MY ONE TO  
ONE SERVICE AND LOOK AFTER  
YOU FROM START TO FINISH. FREE  
CONSULTATIONS AVAILABLE**

**travel counsellors**



*With us...it's personal*

Email:

[joanne.johnson@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:joanne.johnson@travelcounsellors.com)

Tel: 01606 570022

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| FOREWORD                              | 4  |
| ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ & CROSSWORD       | 5  |
| FORTHCOMING EVENTS                    | 6  |
| LETTER FROM ST. PETER'S               | 10 |
| ST. PETER'S NOTICEBOARD               | 11 |
| THE WAR MEMORIAL                      | 12 |
| OAKMERE METHODIST CHURCH              | 12 |
| COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS            | 14 |
| COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COFFEE MORNINGS | 15 |
| FRITH AVENUE FIELD                    | 16 |
| DELAMERE WI                           | 17 |
| PARISH COUNCIL NEWS                   | 20 |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN        | 21 |
| FLYING HIGH AT THE SCHOOL             | 22 |
| HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL                 | 24 |
| THE LOBSLACK TREE NURSERY             | 25 |
| UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE              | 25 |
| FOREST DEVELOPMENTS                   | 25 |
| WILDLIFE IN THE PARISH                | 34 |
| SILVER BIRCH, THE GOOD AND THE BAD    | 36 |
| RARE SPECIES RE-INTRODUCED            | 38 |
| MEMORIES OF THE BEELEY FAMILY         | 39 |
| CROSSWORD                             | 42 |
| QUIZ                                  | 43 |



Readers who lived in the village eight years ago will remember the uproar when the government of the time proposed to sell off the forest. Thanks to strident protests throughout the area, along with superb support from our local MPs, the idea was stopped dead in its tracks. It wasn't the first time that threats to the future of Delamere Forest have hit the headlines. In this issue we reproduce an article that appeared in the Manchester Guardian 120 years ago telling a similar story.

Nor was it the last time. After the plan to sell the forest was stopped, an alternative proposal was drawn up, to build holiday lodges in Kingswood and devote some of the proceeds to a new visitor centre at Linmere. This too met with strident protests in some areas, but strong support in others, and in 2013 the proposal was approved (see issue 28 for the details). Work on the project has now begun, and we have a brief update.

A key feature of the forest that tends to go quietly unnoticed is the tree nursery at Lobslack. We have an article on that too, giving something of the history of the site as well as current operations. Our much loved forest features elsewhere too, in David Wright's wildlife update looking at Plover's Moss, in two articles from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and also on the cover, with Ray Downham's striking picture of the centrepiece of Delamere Forest Park.

Elsewhere in the issue we have reports on the superb response when the war memorial was broken, on rugby union frolics at the school, and on a proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish. We also have a follow-up from Pat Wheeler to the story about the Oakmere police station and magistrates' court, together with yet more from our regular contributors. A big thank you to all of them, as well as to our advertisers and distributors.

Clive George  
Editor



*Photo Ray Downham ([www.elevenzones.net](http://www.elevenzones.net))*



The view to Kelsall Hill from the A54  
*Photo Bridget Austin*

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ AND CROSSWORD

### Answers to quiz

1. 2009, 2. Warrington, 3. Anderton, near Northwich, 4. Eleven (7 Labour and 4 Conservative at the last election), 5. Crewe Alexandra (at time of going to press!), although Macclesfield Town are also in League 2, 6. Cheshire Phoenix, 7. Gary Barlow, 8. River Weaver, 9. Shining Tor, near Buxton, which is 559 metres (1,834ft) above sea level, 10. 'wich', or 'wych', refers to brine springs or wells

### Answers to crossword

Across: 1. grouse; 3. rarely; 7. detergent; 9. stroller; 10. hob; 12. smart acting; 15. snug; 16. foragers; 18. hard right; 19. equine; 20 stoned.  
Down: 1. 1. garish; 2. settlers; 4. Amen; 5. yellow; 6. freemasonry; 7. Dartmouth; 8. thorniest; 11. straight; 13. estate; 14. Astrid; 17. Bran.

# Forthcoming events

## THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

| Date                   | Speaker              | Title                   | Competition                         |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>   |                      | Christmas Party         | Home made Christmas tree decoration |
| Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Kay                  | Delamere to Vladivostok |                                     |
| Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>   |                      | Games evening           |                                     |
| Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Michaela and Melanie | Their time in Iraq      |                                     |
| April 14 <sup>th</sup> | To be confirmed      |                         |                                     |

*President: Lorraine Roberts. Meetings are held at 7.30pm, every second Tuesday in the month except for August, at Delamere Community Centre. [delamereandoakmere.co.uk/delamere-womens-institute/](http://delamereandoakmere.co.uk/delamere-womens-institute/), [twitter.com/delamerewi](https://twitter.com/delamerewi), [www.facebook.com/DelamereWI](https://www.facebook.com/DelamereWI)*

## DELAMERE AND DISTRICT GOLDEN CLUB

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov   | Christmas Outing   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec   | 12.30pm, Christmas Lunch followed by Concordia Choir                         |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | Don and Jill Wilson: a talk with slides on one of their exciting world trips |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan   | Burns Night Celebrations (details to follow)                                 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb    | Hotpot Lunch and Beetle Drive  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | Indoor Games and hot crumpets  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> March  | Lorena Anderson: Cookery Demonstration                                       |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> March | Delamere Derby   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April  | Magician Pete Turner: "Heads I Win Tails You Lose"                           |

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!** We meet every fortnight on Wednesday afternoons, except August, at the Community Centre. No upper or lower age limit! For further information please contact Gloria Ackerley tel: 01829 752723.

# ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Delamere and Oakmere News is published three times a year with the support of the Parish Council. The next issue is due at the end of March.

## ADVERTISE WITH D&O NEWS!

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 to view on the Delamere and Oakmere Community website and you can also get a PDF file by email (contact us if you would like a copy).

## CONTACT

Editorial: [do\\_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:do_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk)

Advertising: [do\\_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:do_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk)

## SUPPORT US

All proceeds from advertisements go into the printing of the newsletter, so we really couldn't do this without you. Thank you!

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL DESIGN BY

**NEAVE  
CREATIVE**

Print & Digital Design



☎ 01606 566 202

✉ [info@neavecreative.co.uk](mailto:info@neavecreative.co.uk)

🌐 [www.neavecreative.co.uk](http://www.neavecreative.co.uk)





The Fishpool Inn

## IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

**Christmas Fayre dining from just £23.50 for two courses**

Celebrate the season of goodwill in style with our  
sumptuous Christmas Fayre menu, featuring Cheshire's  
finest winter produce.

Our charming countryside inn, bedecked in its festive best for  
the Christmas period, makes the perfect setting for your festive  
family celebration or office Christmas party.







## RING IN THE NEW YEAR IN STYLE...

**New Year's Eve Buffet &  
Disco £58 per person**

Our BRAND NEW event  
for New Year's Eve will  
make the countdown to  
2020 unforgettable!




Start the year as you intend to  
go on and indulge in a glass  
of bubbly on arrival, followed  
by our delicious buffet and  
rocking disco.

For further details on all  
Christmas events and menus,  
visit [thefishpoolinn.co.uk/christmas](http://thefishpoolinn.co.uk/christmas)



**The Fishpool Inn**

Fishpool Road, Delamere, Cheshire CW8 2HP  
Tel: 01606 883277 [info@thefishpoolinn.co.uk](mailto:info@thefishpoolinn.co.uk)  
[www.thefishpoolinn.co.uk](http://www.thefishpoolinn.co.uk)

Find us on    TheFishpoolInn

Owned and operated by Nelson Hotels [www.nelsonhotels.co.uk](http://www.nelsonhotels.co.uk)

# LETTER FROM ST. PETER'S

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to, and attended, the St Peter's Summer Fair at the beginning of July. Over £1000 was raised for much needed Church Funds. We would also like to thank all those who donated tinned, dried goods and toiletries to St Peter's, the Golden Club and Delamere Academy at Harvest. The school minibus, with some of the older children, delivered all the donations to the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank for local families who are in need. The response to our new Boiler Fund has been wonderful and we have almost reached our target. We hope that a new central heating boiler will be installed in the near future, thus ensuring that there will be a warm and comfortable welcome in Church for many years to come. We are so grateful to the very generous response to our appeal.

As I write this the rain is pouring down, the wind is blowing and the leaves are rapidly dropping off the trees. Winter is certainly well on it's way, if not already with us. It is hard to believe that, by the time you read this, it will be 6 months since Revd. Elaine retired and St Peter's has been in vacancy. I'm sorry to report that, although we have advertised, as yet we do not have a new incumbent. However, we remain optimistic and continue to pray that the right Minister will, in time, be sent to St Peter's.

The good news is that, thanks to our wonderful retired clergy and readers, all Services at St Peter's have continued. Each class at Delamere Academy takes turns to hold a class Assembly in Church and it is lovely to welcome the children, the staff, parents and friends into St Peter's. The children are truly inspirational, the hard work and thought that they put into preparing their special Assembly, and

the confidence with which they present it, is truly heart warming. Messy Church continues in school once a month and the Crib Service and Nativity Play, both held in Church, are planned in the lead up to Christmas. The Nursery, at School house, will also be doing their Nativity Play in Church which, as always, will be a truly delightful occasion.

As the days draw in, and we are faced with darkness and cold and gloomy days, the thought of Christmas is like a beacon in the dark. The birth of our Lord is a light in the darkness. Jesus said 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' (John 8, 12.). At Christmas we gather together with our family and friends, enjoy good food, companionship and gifts but we should remember those who have no family, who are lonely and who are homeless.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Peter's over Christmas. I'm sure you will be interested to know that Revd. Elaine is coming back to take our Village Carols by Candlelight Service at 6.30 on Sunday 15th December. She is also taking our Christingle Service at 4.00 on Christmas Eve. It will be lovely to welcome her and Brian back to Delamere

If anyone in the Parish would like prayers said for them, or their loved ones, there are slips in the Church Porch for you to complete, and a box to place them in, or please contact the phone numbers below.

If anyone would like a visit from a member of the Church, for any reason, then please contact us.

Pat Tyson-Jones (Church Warden)  
01829 751757

Glyn Roberts (Church Warden)  
01606 889188

## *St. Peter's Notice Board*

### **FROM THE REGISTERS:**

#### **We welcomed by Baptism**

July: Abigail Lulu Ollman, daughter of Matthew and Deborah  
Charlotte Rose Thwaites, daughter of Adam and Annie

#### **We celebrated the Marriage of**

June: Graeme Wilson Parker and Lisa Margaret Fisher  
August: Matthew James Parsons and Megan Frances Gurney

#### **We said Farewell to**

July: Bridget Woods  
August: Valerie Chisholm

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Sunday 15th December at 6.30**

Village Carols by Candlelight Service

#### **Tuesday 24th December**

Christingle Service at 4.00

Midnight Holy Communion Service at 11.30

#### **Christmas Day**

Holy Communion Service for all the family at 10.30. Please bring a present to show the congregation.

#### **Sunday 19th January 2020**

Plough Sunday Service at 10.30

#### **St Peter's Churchyard**

In common with other local churchyards and cemeteries any Christmas wreaths and floral tributes remaining in the churchyard will be removed at the end of February 2020

#### **Lent and Easter 2020**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 26th February, Maundy Thursday 9th April, Good Friday 10th April and Easter Day 12th April.

There will be a Service of Holy Communion at 7.00pm on Ash Wednesday and, commencing on 5th March, Compline (Night Prayer) will be said each Thursday at 7.00pm. The bell will be rung before the service as a reminder that the service is taking place and that prayers are being offered for the local community.

Details of the Easter Services will be on the website and in the next newsletter.

Mothering Sunday is on March 22nd when there will be a special service, at 10.30, with a posy for all mothers, grandmothers and aunts.

# THE WAR MEMORIAL

Everybody has probably heard about the War Memorial by now. In case you haven't, it was discovered on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September that the memorial had been knocked down overnight and was broken into three pieces.



[www.northwichguardian.co.uk](http://www.northwichguardian.co.uk)

Once the news was relayed to the British Legion, Fiona Goodier put a message out on Facebook asking if anyone knew anything about it. The power of social media was proven once again as the story soon became known locally. Offers of collections to pay for the repair were received from several local businesses which was great and what was even more fantastic, Michael Gilani from Excel Granite and Marble, based in Winsford, offered to make good the memorial at no cost.

No sooner said than done. Michael took the stone away, repaired it beautifully and replaced it by the following Wednesday. How very grateful we are to Michael and his colleagues. Some posts and a chain or similar will shortly be fitted at the front of



*After repair: photo Fiona Goodier*

the memorial, hopefully preventing any similar accidents in the future.

We are very grateful to everyone who has offered support and advice. It is good to see the community coming together and showing their goodwill.

The memorial was erected in 1947, by public subscription, to commemorate the planting of the avenue of trees in memory of lives lost in the wars. Unfortunately some of the trees have since died but the remaining ones still provide shade for us, food for the bees that can be heard buzzing busily in the summer and lots of leaves for us to sweep up in autumn and winter!

Although it has not yet been confirmed, we are hoping to have the memorial rededicated on Remembrance Sunday and invite everyone involved to come and join us.

Peter Powell, Chairman, British Legion  
Lorraine Roberts, PCC Secretary

## 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: Ann or Eric Wright (01829 732950) or Rev Andrew Emison (01928 733180).



# EMMA WILSON FITNESS

HEALTH | NUTRITION | WELLBEING | FITNESS

*When it's time to look after you,  
get in touch!*

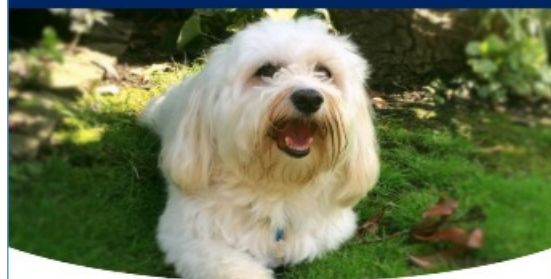


**Contact:** Emma Wilson-Dart **Email:** [getfit@emmawilsonfitness.co.uk](mailto:getfit@emmawilsonfitness.co.uk)

**Call:** 07971 596529

## Missing a dog in your life?

**Become a volunteer dog cuddler**



- Enjoy friendly dogs to visit for short stays and holidays
- Dogs to suit your lifestyle
- Completely flexible
- Full support and advice
- Dog companionship without the commitment of ownership



**01606 800506**  
**[BarkingMad.uk.com](http://BarkingMad.uk.com)**

## ClubClass

**01606 46666**

Available every day  
through the  
festive season!

Christmas  
shopping  
Christmas  
parties

**24-7 Cheshire Taxi**  
**From 4 to 16 seats**



## Trustees

The Association can have up to 5 trustees. We have been operating with only 4 trustees for several years and this was further reduced when Elaine Ollman retired.

We are delighted that Mike Gore has agreed to become a trustee. Mike's father, Denis, was instrumental in the building of the Community Centre in the 1970's and, like Mike, was a keen bowler and it is especially pleasing to be able to maintain that link. Welcome, Mike!

## Improvements

The Management Committee has now replaced the curtains in the Main Hall, Bowling Room and Snooker Room with blinds and have completed the refurbishment of the Snooker Room by re-decorating and replacing the table lights.

The Bowling Club have started work on upgrading the rather tired green and we will be supporting them in that venture.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held in September and an operating surplus of £3,750 was reported for the previous financial year. Much of this surplus was invested in increased outside security lighting, refurbishing the snooker table . . . and getting some new Christmas decorations!

A surplus of £5,500 is forecast for this year, the majority of which has been allocated for new card tables, blinds and acoustic panels in the Bowling Room.

## Quiz Night

The Quiz Night will be held on Friday 6th December, in aid of Community Association funds. Further details can be found at the Centre and elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## Bookings

The Main Hall is used most evenings during the winter months but is often available at weekends and during the day. Monday and Thursday evenings are available for hire during the summer months.

We also have the smaller Bowling Room and a Meeting Room that can accommodate up to 16 people; both are available for the majority of the week. If you want to book any of the rooms, either on a regular basis or for a one-off event, then please contact Lorraine Roberts, our Booking Secretary, on 01606 889188.

Paul Dean, Chairman, DCA  
Steve Lacey, Treasurer, DCA

## *The Village Carollers*

will be meeting again outside Delamere Stores on Christmas Eve, 10am-12 noon, in aid of St.Peter's Church, the Methodist Church and Delamere Community Centre.

Just turn up for one or more carols, young and old and those in between. We say each year that the event is always the rehearsal for the following year!

Victorian costume optional.

*Gloria 01829 752723*

# COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COFFEE MORNINGS

The last Friday of each month a coffee morning is held in the Community Centre, usually in the Extension/ Bowling Room. It runs from 10.30 to 12.00 and all are welcome.



*The Macmillan coffee morning in September*

The September one is a Macmillan one, part of the national event. This year we raised £231.10 for the charity.

The Christmas coffee morning is held a bit earlier in the month, this year on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. In 2020 it will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Come and make new friends or catch up with existing ones.**

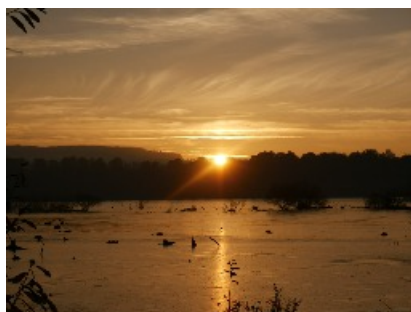
The coffee morning is run by volunteers. You can volunteer to bake cake/biscuits/ savouries or simply serve the teas and coffees and wash up.

Or you can do the whole thing. It is best if you can do it with a friend, but there will always be someone to help you if you're on



your own. If you would like to contribute in this way, please contact Kay George [kaypgeorge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kaypgeorge@yahoo.co.uk) or 01606 882183 and bag your month.

## Calendar for 2020



These two pictures from around the parish feature in Bridget

Austin's 2020 calendar, available from **Delamere Stores** or from Bridget at [bridget.austin@icloud.com](mailto:bridget.austin@icloud.com) or 07952041874

**Half the proceeds will go to St. Peter's church boiler fund**





# Quiz Night!

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**at Delamere Community Centre**

5 Station Road, Delamere CW8 2HU

**Doors open 7.15 - Quiz starts at 7.45**

**Tickets - £4 per person:**

- Includes quiz, tea, coffee, squash and nibbles. Bring your own alcoholic drinks and glasses if you prefer – and extra nibbles!
- Quiz teams of between 4 and 6 people; if there are not 4 of you please do come along as we will find you a team.

**There are several ways to enter:**

- Complete the entry form at the Community Centre
- Email Steve at [steve@slamonline.co.uk](mailto:steve@slamonline.co.uk)
- Phone Steve on 01270 780777

***Either pay by cheque (payable to Delamere Community Association)  
or cash on the door – see you there!!***

## FRITH AVENUE FIELD

To ensure that the Forestry Commission's field at Frith Avenue continues to be available as a community space the Parish Council has negotiated a long term lease on it. After much delay the solicitors have at last signed it off, and discussions have

been revived on how the site might be improved.

Meanwhile, residents of Frith Avenue and nearby properties are already using the field for informal community gatherings.





The year is racing on, summer is now over and we are feeling an autumnal chill and watching the trees change colour.

At Delamere WI we enjoyed an interesting summer programme, with Donna Burston teaching us some Tai Chi. Even those unable to stand for any length of time were able to do it sitting down.

We are very grateful to Cynthia and Barry Green for welcoming us into their beautiful garden for our August garden meeting. Everyone enjoyed relaxing with a cup of tea and piece of cake in the glorious sunshine that Cynthia had managed to arrange!

'Curiosity killed the Cat' was the title of Peter Turner's talk in September. He told us how his interest in magic tricks began as an eight year old and went on to give away lots of secrets. I am not sure how members of the Magic Circle would feel about it if they knew!

In October we welcomed the return of another old friend, Liz Weston from Ashton WI, who gave us the latest chapter of her 'Autobiography of a Common Woman'. Life doesn't always run smoothly for Liz but she always sees the funny side.

November is the month when we have our annual meeting. After the necessary business is completed, One of our members will be telling us of her travels to Antarctica earlier this year. We do have some intrepid explorers in our WI!

In December we will end a busy year with our Christmas party, a lovely time to share food and friendly chatter.

We have another interesting and varied programme for 2020 and we hope some of you will come and join us - our warm welcome will help to ward off some of the winter chill.

## GOLDEN CLUB

Golden Club members at the club's birthday lunch

*Photo Gloria Ackerley*





## Lark Rise Day Care & Home Boarding

Lark Rise is a family run, fully insured, licensed and ofqual level 3 qualified business offering Day Care & Home Boarding for a maximum of 10 dogs.

We are welcoming young puppies to join our crew

Home from home experience, a safe and perfect start for your puppy

We keep the number of dogs small for full enrichment

Dogs thrive in play and get the adequate quiet time and rest they need

Each dog receives lots of cuddles, pampering, games & training

We keep them safe, happy and thriving!

We have 4 acres of gardens, private woodland and a secure 1-acre field opposite Delamere Lake / Wild Shore Water Sports & Aqua Park on Chester Road.

Please contact Dawn & Andy for a free of charge familiarisation session on 01606 278738 or visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/lr.homeboarding/>.

We are also stockists of premium complete gluten free Dog Food which will help brain & bone development. Our dogs thrive on it and your dogs will love it. Discounted price of £21 for 15kg. Free delivery within 2 miles. (500g free sample, available at Lark Rise).



## DELAMERE STATION HOUSE

EAT. DRINK. RELAX

Hot food, warm drinks,  
seating inside and out.

Table reservations available and day/evening group bookings taken.

Themed evenings with a late alcohol licence on Fridays.

Availability to hire for functions, and bespoke parties.

Open 7 days a week

Delamere Station House, Station Rd,  
Northwich CW8 2HZ

1. 07375 892 872

e. [info@delamerestationhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@delamerestationhouse.co.uk)

f. [/delamerestationhouse](https://www.facebook.com/delamerestationhouse)





Embark on a magical  
adventure this Christmas

★ ★ ★  
**NEW**  
**FOR 2019**  
**BUILD-A-CUDDLY-TOY**



## Your ticket includes:

- \* Outdoor theatre
- \* Meet Father Christmas
- \* Build-a-cuddly-toy
- \* A small gift for adults
- \* Unlimited outdoor skating
- \* Meet Snowy Owl & friends
- \* Magical wand whittling
- \* 3-hour+ experience



**Ticket price: £30**  
**Under 3: £10**

BOOKING FEE APPLIES

**Book online now:**  
[christmaswoodland.co.uk](http://christmaswoodland.co.uk)

Chester Road, Sandiway, Northwich CW8 2EB T: 01606 883261  
f @BlakemereVillage    @visitblakemere    [christmaswoodland.co.uk](http://christmaswoodland.co.uk)

Dear Residents and Friends

The Summer has quickly flown by and as we now enter the Autumn and Winter Months, the forest transforms into a beautiful array of colours at this time of year, and certainly it is well worth having a walk around during these shorter days.

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to two new members on the Parish Council, Rachel Gilbert-Bratt and Sabra Ralph, I am sure that they will both provide an invaluable contribution to the community. There are still two vacancies available, both for the Oakmere Ward, although anyone in the parish can apply. If you would like to join the Parish Council and help support the local community, then please contact the clerk ([clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk](mailto:clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk)).

Our community continues to undergo many changes. In Delamere forest, work has begun on the new Visitor Centre project, and is expected to be completed by late next year. The sales office at Earlsbrook is now fully open, and traffic lights have been introduced on Station Road to enable preparatory work for the new roundabout. Two-way traffic is expected to be restored in time for the Christmas tree sales!

In Oakmere, Wild Shore (The Watersports Activity Centre based on Fourways Lake) is now fully established and is attracting many positive reviews from residents and visitors alike, and renovation of the Old Courthouse is slowly nearing completion.

Over the years many residents have expressed concerns over the speed of

traffic on Station Road, and so the Parish Council has arranged for a vehicle-activated warning sign to be installed.

I would also like to extend special thanks to Michael Gilani of Excel Granite & Marble of Winsford, who has voluntarily restored the War Memorial at St Peters Church to its original condition.

2019 has been a very busy year for both Delamere and Oakmere, and as we enter the festive period, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families, festive greetings and a prosperous New Year.

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Bell  
Chair, Delamere and Oakmere Parish  
Council

## **Would you like to become a Parish Councillor?**

**Delamere & Oakmere  
Parish Council  
has vacancies for Parish  
Councillors**

If you would like to apply for this position please email your CV with a brief covering letter to Mrs J Monks, Parish Clerk at

[clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk](mailto:clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk)

For information about the Parish  
Council visit

[http://delamereandoakmere.co.uk/  
parish-council](http://delamereandoakmere.co.uk/parish-council)

or contact your local Parish Councillor

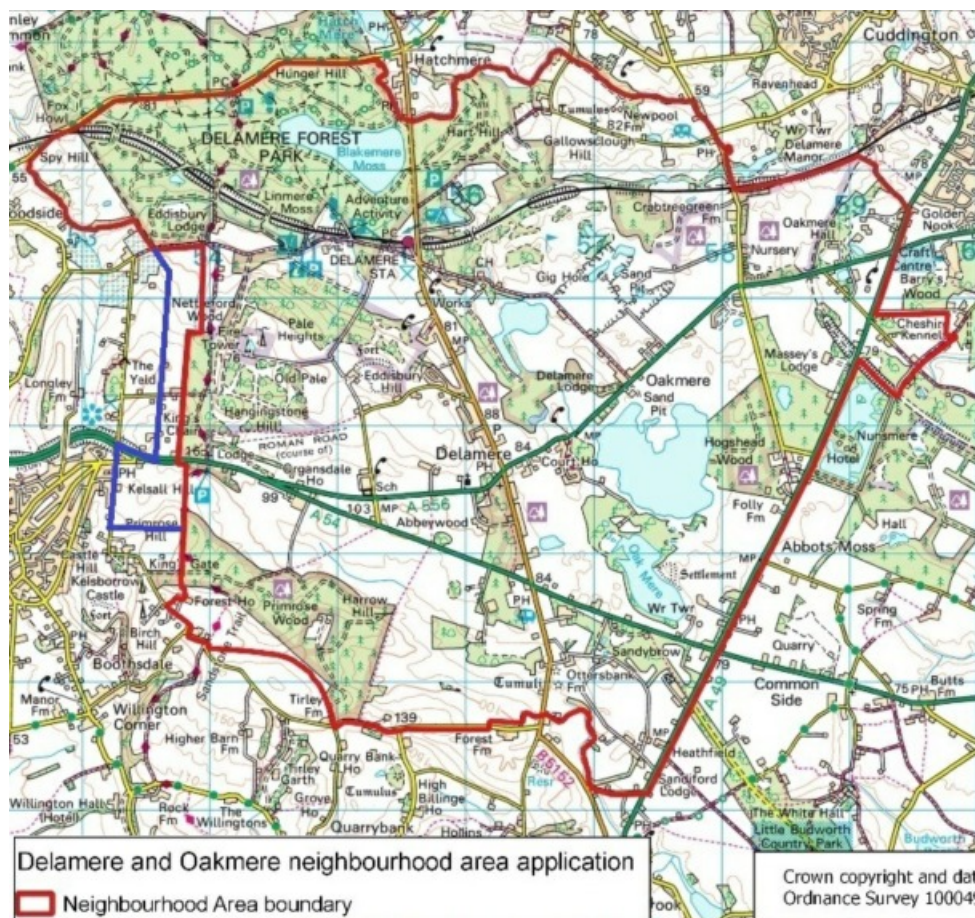


# NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Parish Council has informed Cheshire West and Chester Council that it aims to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan, or Neighbourhood Plan, which would give it greater influence over future developments in the parish. The boundary of the area to be covered by the plan (marked in red on the map) is the same as the parish boundary

except for the area around Morreys Lane, Nortons Lane and Waste Lane in the west of the parish, which is already covered by Kelsall's Neighbourhood Plan. The blue line on the map shows the parish boundary in this area.

If you would like to join a team that will develop the plan contact the Clerk at [clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk](mailto:clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk).



Pupils at Delamere Academy were flying high when rugby stars from the USA Sevens team dropped in for a visit.

The side, who were on their way to an international tournament in Chester, called in thanks to former England and British Lions ace Phil Greening, who is Sports Ambassador for the trust which runs Delamere Primary Academy.



To the delight of the youngsters, PE Teacher Tom Freeman also got launched skyward.



Pupils took part in a line-out, which involved the burly sportsmen hoisting the giggling children near to the ceiling, as well giving them hands-on experience of being part of a scrum.

Mr Freeman says: "Our sporting schedule is always exciting, but the children were extremely lucky to have the USA Sevens team here. It was a unique opportunity to meet professionals, and they made it great fun too. Some of our smallest children braved the scrum with some seriously big guys, and I'm still suffering with vertigo after taking part in a line-out! The team were fun and friendly and we appreciate them taking their time to visit and answer questions. It was truly inspirational for our children."

Ex-Gloucester, Sale Sharks and Wasps star Greening, who coaches the USA team, works with the North



West Academies Trust (NWAT), which runs several schools across Cheshire and Shropshire. Three of his four children attend Delamere, and he owns The Athlete Factory training facility in the grounds of Chester RUFC, where the international tournament was staged in October. The sevens teams of England, South Africa, Spain, France, Ireland, Hong Kong, Jamaica and Nigeria were also involved in the tournament, which is the highest level of sevens rugby outside the HSBC World Sevens Series



Greening says: "We held this event for the first time last year and it was a huge success. This year was even bigger and better!"

## Delamere C of E Academy PTA Christmas Market.

Friday 6th December @ 7pm  
Delamere Academy, Stoney Lane.

Why not come along to start your Christmas shopping ?

Entrance £2 (includes a raffle ticket).

Various stalls:

Beauty, gifts, fashion, jewellery and much more .....

Refreshments available.

This event gives the PTA the opportunity to support our local businesses whilst helping to raise funds for the school.

**If anyone would like to hire a stall** at the Christmas Market, please contact Jen Bowman by either e-mail

*[jen\\_bowman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jen_bowman@hotmail.co.uk)*

or on her mobile

**07736064161**

# HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL *call for contributions*

Gloria Ackerley has unearthed these old photos from Robin's records of the school and its activities. If you have any photos or other information about the school's history please contact her at

**01829 752723**



## BEGINNER PILATES *with Claire*

Delamere Community Centre

**Friday's 9am - 10am**

Suitable for all ages.  
All equipment provided.

**£7**  
PAYG

For all interest and queries  
please contact Claire on

**07968 077180**



**01606 882 219**

**Spanns**Garage

Motorcycles, Scooters, Trykes, Quads  
Cars, Vans and Three Wheel Cars

MOTs, Tyres, Servicing, Repairs, Air  
Conditioning, Diagnostics

Collection from local area

### Opening Hours:

8.30 am – 5.30 pm Monday to Friday

8.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturday (MOTs only)

**Tel:** 01606 882219

**Fax:** 01606 881700

Email: [spanns.garage@zen.co.uk](mailto:spanns.garage@zen.co.uk)

[www.spannsgarage.co.uk](http://www.spannsgarage.co.uk)

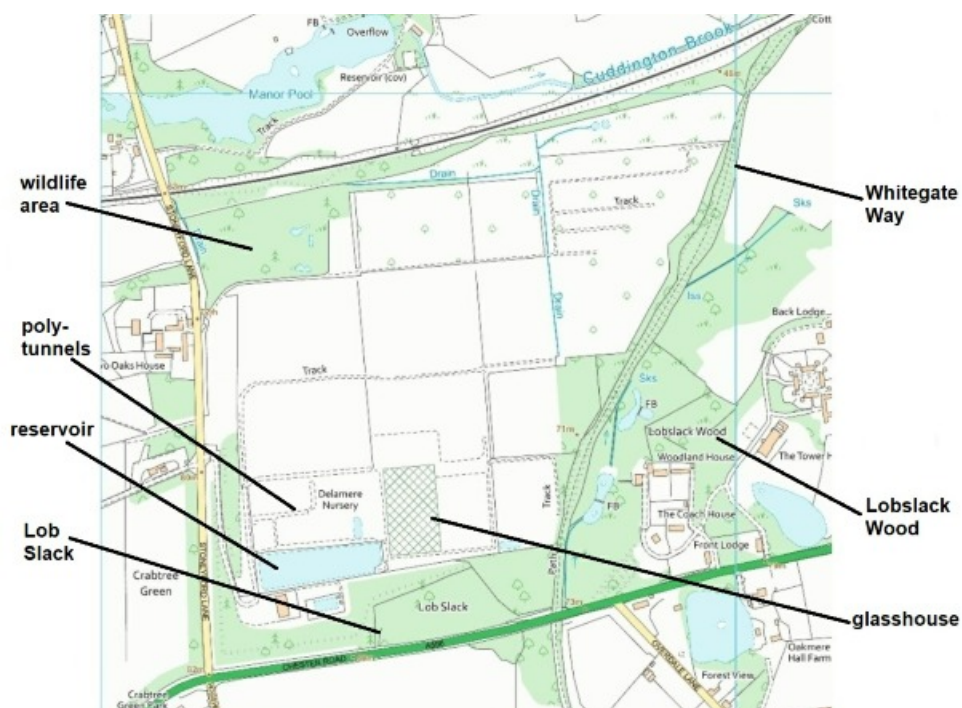
**Dalefords Lane  
Whitegate  
CW8 2BW**



When the Forestry Commission (or Forestry England, as its management agency is now called) clear-fells a part of the forest for timber and then re-plants it, where do the new trees come from? Delamere of course! And where do the country's other forests get their young trees? About half of them come from Delamere too. Take a walk down Stoneyford Lane and you'll see the plantations, polytunnels and greenhouses of Lobslack nursery where they are grown. Until recently some of the

polytunnels were at Linmere, but they have been moved to join the others at Lobslack in preparation for building the new Linmere visitor centre.

The 53 hectare Lobslack site occupies nearly all of the area bounded by the A556 to the south, the railway line to the north, Stoneyford Lane to the west, and the disused railway line to the east that is now part of the Whitegate Way. The footpath linking the Oakmere Way to the Whitegate Way passes through woodland along the northern boundary.



[maps.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cwac/webmapping](https://maps.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cwac/webmapping)

The Lobslack site takes its name from Lob Slack, a narrow gully (or slack) in the woodland between the south of the site and the A556, through which the route of the old Roman road from Chester to Northwich (Watling Street) passes. When Edward Kirk explored the remains of the road in 1885 he noted that Lob is an old name for the devil, and suggested that Lob Slack means “the devil’s hollow”, associating the devil with the Romans. We can’t be too sure of that, as Lob is also an old family name.

From the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the land now occupied by the nursery formed the eastern half of the Crabtree Green racecourse. In 1682 the Crabtree Green races played a minor rôle in the Monmouth Rebellion, a futile attempt to overthrow King Charles II (see issue 37). An Act of Parliament in 1766 allotted the land to George Wilbraham of Delamere Lodge in Cuddington, who was a founder member of the Tarporley Hunt. The hunt held its first sweepstake race there in 1776, and continued to hold regular races at Crabtree Green until 1818, when an amendment to the 1812 Enclosure Act for Delamere Forest enabled the Crown to sell the land for farming. The racecourse continued to be used intermittently until 1873, when the land was leased to a local farmer, Mr Harrison of Woodbine Cottage, who used a steam plough to break it up.



*Crabtree Green racecourse, Ordnance Survey 1817*

Lobslack continued to be farmed until the 1980s when it became a sand quarry. After restoration in 1990 the Forestry Commission adopted it as a tree nursery. Along with its sister nursery at Abbots Moss (behind Nunsmere Hall) it now employs 34 full time staff along with 50 agency workers, managed by Forestry England’s Vernon Stockton. Many residents, especially longer-serving parish councillors, remember Vernon fondly from when he was in charge of the Forestry Commission’s activities in and around Linmere, and hardly ever missed a parish council meeting. Now that the responsibility for forest management has moved to Sherwood, liaison meetings still take place, but, unsurprisingly, not quite so often.

Lobslack’s trees start life in the recently built, state of the art glasshouse from specially selected seeds, where they are covered in disease-free cork to keep the moisture in. The seeds are fed with fertiliser in the irrigation water, which is taken from

the aquifer via a 15 million-litre capacity reservoir to ensure a continuous supply. By taking cuttings every year for 3-4 years each seedling produces about 250 trees. The young trees are grown in cells in the polytunnels, then moved to open beds at Lobslack and Abbots Moss. Only the best seedlings are used, and those that fail to make the grade are composted for use on the outdoor plantation. Only certified disease-free compost is used in the glasshouse.



*Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey views seedlings in the glasshouse at the official opening. Defra Press Office.*

The nursery grows 25 species of conifers, including giant redwood as well as the highly productive sitka spruce, whose seeds are worth more than their weight in gold! Oaks are the main deciduous trees grown, along with smaller numbers of beech. Between them Lobslack and Abbots Moss produce over ten million young trees a year for planting throughout the country. Vernon Stockton says that wherever you go in the UK you are within 25 miles of a Delamere tree.

In the north-west corner of the site Vernon and his team have established a wildlife conservation area, parts of which have been sown with

wildflowers, and others with native trees including oak, blackthorn, rowan, hornbeam, alder buckthorn, crabapple and elm. The elm trees include the wych elm, said to be the only indisputably British native elm, grown from seed in the nursery by Forestry England's Jadwiga Gwizdek. They also include Sapporo Autumn Gold, which are particularly resistant to Dutch elm disease. Four new ponds have been dug towards the east of the area and stocked with aquatic plants, providing a habitat for the endangered great crested newt and other amphibians.

In his spare time Richard Eckton of Frith Avenue has been closely involved in the conservation work, having spent much of his career as a Wildlife Ranger with the Forestry Commission, both at Delamere and at Rockingham Forest in Northamptonshire. Like Delamere, Rockingham was a royal hunting forest in Norman times. Richard was instrumental in re-introducing the red kite there, a project that has been so successful that Rockingham is now a source of chicks for other re-introduction projects around the country.

For the past year or so the western boundary of the Lobslack site has been undergoing extensive work to lay the new United Utilities wastewater pipeline, but once this is complete this too will become a conservation area sown with wildflowers. Quietly, in its own way, without the huge public presence of Linmere, Lobslack makes just as big a contribution to the parish, and indeed to the whole country.



The Fishpool Inn

# STOP FLICKING!

## YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUR BIGGEST DISCOUNT OF THE YEAR!

Coming soon, we will be giving you  
the chance to **WIN** a special discount  
at The Fishpool Inn in the New Year:

either 25%, 50% or 100% off  
your food bill!

Register your interest by emailing  
[marketing@nelsonhotels.co.uk](mailto:marketing@nelsonhotels.co.uk)  
(subject: "Everyone's a Winner")

*Also available at:*





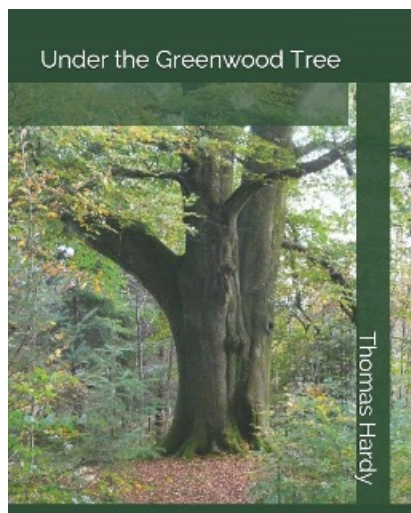
**‘To dwellers in a wood almost every species of tree has its voice’.**

*So begins Thomas Hardy’s romantic novel Under the Greenwood Tree. Echoing such sentiments the book’s title was borrowed for an article about Delamere Forest that was published in the Manchester Guardian 120 years ago, extolling the forest’s beauty and reporting rumours of its imminent demise.*

There is a widespread impression that wholesale clearances are being made in Delamere Forest, with the object of substituting for the beautiful but idle woods rent-earning farms and mansions. Delamere Forest is more to the people than any private park that may be opened or closed to them at the whim of its lord. The Forest is Crown property, and as such is administered by the Woods and Forests Department, and therefore, in the ultimate event, by Parliament. Thousands of delighted town folk lose themselves in its pathless shades every summer, and ask permission of no one where to go or how long to stay. Its removal by any process of tree-felling, however slow, would be a great disaster.

Happily, information locally collected shews that rumour has told but half the truth. Delamere Forest is in no danger. It is to retain its ancient character "more sweet than that of painted pomp," at least so far as that character has survived to our day, and it almost promises under present management to renew some of its lost glories.

The Forest has been the most conspicuous feature of Cheshire from



feudal times, and its history is a compendium of some of the most curious feudal customs. It yielded red and fallow deer, the doe, and chance wild beasts to Royal sportsmen and, more coyly, to reverend trespassers from Vale Royal Abbey, and it gave sound English oak for the building and repairing of Chester Castle and Frodsham Bridge. In that early morning of our history it was known as the Mara and the Mondrem Forests, and its limits extended over nearly the whole of the Hundreds of Nantwich and Eddisbury. Its big game cannot be restored, nor its great extent, but fortunately the impairment of these characteristics is not to be charged against the present generation. The Forest was in its last stage as a Royal chase in the time of James I., and when it was proposed to disafforest it in the following reign its then keeper and bowbearer "complained in respect of one of his perquisites that the wind-blown trees were but birch and a few dead oaks." It was not actually

disafforested until 1812, when the Crown retained the moiety which is now Delamere Forest. The great lopping-off is to be assigned to that date, when the total quantity of the Forest, exclusive of the old and new pales and the different lodges," was 7,755 acres. It had formerly been 13,000 acres, and it is now but 5,000. It is stated upon what appears to be excellent authority that during the last ten or a dozen years only two permanent clearances have been made in the Forest—one for a farm of 90 acres and the other for the Consumption Hospital which Mr. Crossley, of Manchester, is building on the Mersey side of the old Forest of Mara - and, further, that there is no present intention of reducing the acreage of timber.

"But," protested a farmer of the district to the writer, "I have no doubt seen hundreds of trees cut down in the Forest in these last two or three years." His calculation would have been more approximate to the reality if he had said thousands. The explanation is almost obvious. For an interval of 20 or 30 years in the present century the trees seem to have been left to grow as they would and could, and they inevitably contracted diseases from which the Forest suffers yet. Every forester knows that cutting down, as well as planting, must be practised regularly where there are many trees together; and the cutting down in Delamere Forest for the last year or two has been much above the normal rate, owing to the consequences of past neglect. Probably the trees have never been of any great girth or height

in this district, for the soil appears to be unfavourable; but if they had had skilful attention they would have been more imposing than they are.

The Forest is more beautiful than stately, and the first remark a visitor is tempted to offer is that the trees must all be comparatively young, they are so dwarf and alight. The evidences of disease are rank and palpable. In places the tops of oaks rot as they grow, and fall to the ground by their own weight. The thorough and systematic draining of the marshy soil which is now in progress, as any visitor may see, may ultimately save some of the more sturdy oaks, but in the meantime—and for some years past—the Woods and Forests Department has pronounced a ban upon oak-planting, and the day may, unhappily, therefore come when scarcely an oak will be found in Delamere.



*The stately Spanish chestnuts mentioned in the article almost certainly include this actual tree. It is still there, on the edge of the forest in Kingswood*

The Spanish chestnuts are the most stately trees in the Forest, but they too are suffering from a disease which is too far advanced to be stamped out.

They are still goodly trees, these chestnuts, and pleasant to the casual eye, but the forester tells us that the long strips of bareness which mark the trunks of very many of the Spanish chestnuts in the Forest are symptoms of rot within, and he knows that when trees so marked are cut down the heart will fall limply out and the trunk be found hollow. It is supposed that the diseases of both the oak and the chestnut are derived from the soil. That which has fallen upon the larch is more akin to strange epidemics in the animal world. The delicate shoots of the larch are all mottled over with greenish-blue spots, which the tree seems to exude and which, the experienced say, mark it for an early death. Explanation of the origin of this disease is not forthcoming, but the soil is exonerated. Many of the larches are affected, and as an attempt to apply a cure would only be a gigantic experiment, the larches, like the Spanish chestnuts and the oaks, are to be left on one side in future plantings.

After all this has been told, one may well expect to hear the question, What is to remain of Delamere Forest? The beautiful silver birches—which, to descend to mere utilitarianism, supply the soles of Lancashire clogs - show a clean bill of health, and in these June days their little shimmering leaves lighten the gloom of a thousand robust firs and firs. Happily the birch, like the fir and the pine, replants itself, and if man were to withhold his hand from the ground altogether there would yet be a forest. But if there is much cutting-down done there is also much planting.

For some years past fifty statute acres a year have been cleared and re-planted, and only last winter no less than 200,000 young shoots were put into the ground. Weymouth pine and Corsican and Scotch firs are to take the place of the less robust trees, and the few and scattered inhabitants of Delamere look confidently forward to the time when their great Forest will be a forest of the fir and the pine. Every visitor must acknowledge, after all has been said, that the Forest is now much more picturesque than it was formerly, and in a year or two it will be much more thickly wooded than it has been during all this century.

But some members of the public themselves are a menace to its future as a public resort. Last year dozens of young trees were pulled out of the ground and thrown down by visitors from the great towns, and fires were lit in the woods which more than once led to a good deal of damage. It is to be feared, if that kind of thing continues, that if the Woods and Forests Department has power to close Delamere Forest it will be closed. Such a step would of course provoke a public protest, but in the meantime would not the public best vindicate their rights by not exceeding them?

*The Chester Courant and Advertiser for North Wales, June 20 1900. Re-printed from the Manchester Guardian.*  
<https://papuraunewydd.llyfrgell.cymru>



# FOREST DEVELOPMENTS AT LINMERE AND KINGSWOOD

If you've visited Linmere recently you will have seen that preparations for the new visitor centre are well under way. The new building is expected to be finished by the end of June next year, together with the new access road, the coach parking area and associated landscaping.



Work will then begin on refurbishing the old visitor centre and the Forestry Commission offices, due for completion by the end of March 2021.

Construction of the associated holiday lodges at Kingswood is going on in parallel.



Forest Holidays are already taking bookings for November 2020 onwards.



*Layout of the holiday lodges in the northern part of Kingswood*



# FORRESTERS

Telephone: 01928 789217

Mill Lane, Kingsley, Cheshire, WA6 8HY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

INCLUDING BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY



## Place Your Christmas Turkey Order Now!



**British Boneless Turkey Crown £10.20 per kg**

**British Whole Turkey £3.18 per lb**

*The Caldecott Family are the producers of Forresters delicious Christmas Turkeys.*

*Robert Caldecott continues to raise Turkeys using the skills passed on to him by his Father.*

*They raise all of the Turkeys from day old and ensure that the birds are treated with the kindness, dignity and respect that they deserve. The Turkeys have clean bedding, fresh water and access to food at all times.*

*No growth promoters or additives are used and there is full traceability from farm to fork. The family uses age old traditional methods which are complimented by exceedingly high welfare and hygiene procedures to ensure that they meet the very highest standards.*



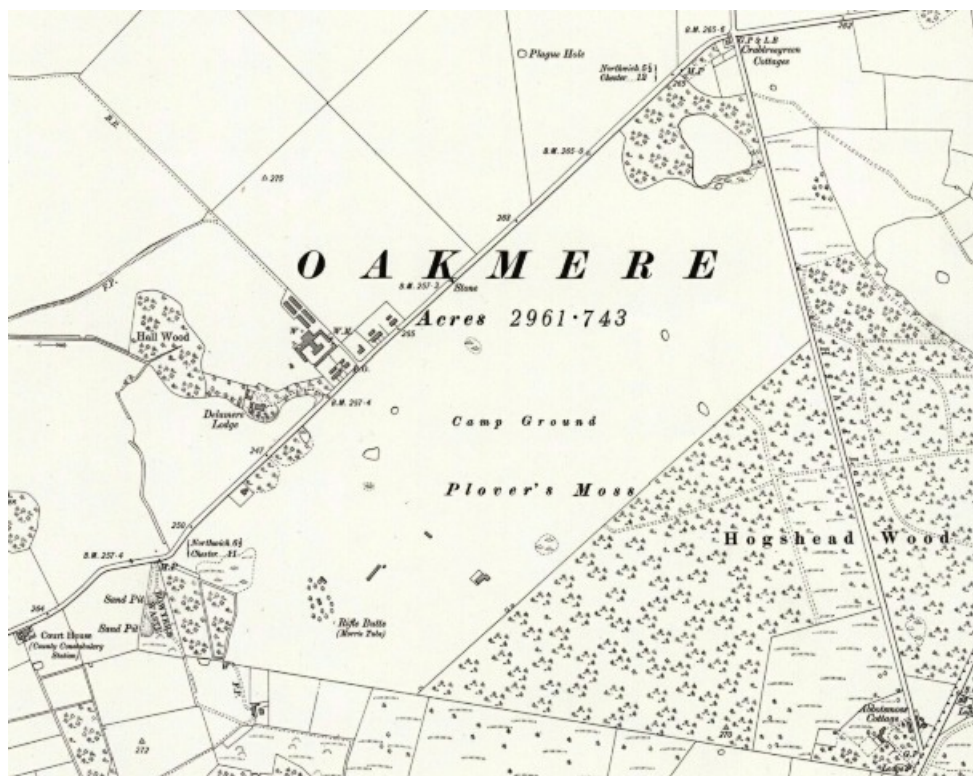
*Robert Caldecott—on the farm.*

**To place your order please call into the shop  
or telephone 01928 789217.**

## **Changes in land use**

Several people have asked me about my use of the name Plover's Moss and why no more bird sightings come from there. Plover's Moss is a large area of land opposite Crown Cottages, Oakmere, running parallel to the A556, between the motor cycle superstore and the restaurant at Crabtree Green.

What was left, reclaimed agricultural land, was lost with the sand extraction when it became Fourways Quarry. An area of open water and acidic grassland occupies the largest area, which is now private land used for recreation. The rest has been reclaimed to be used as a forest nursery. Most of the undisturbed



*Ordnance Survey 1911. The Plovers Moss Allotment (Crown land released through the 1812 Enclosure Act) covered the whole triangle extending from the A556 to the A49. Rifle butts are marked near the lower left corner.*

It was an ancient area of heath and wet mire drained along with the rest of the forest mires some 200 years ago.

transitional habitats have been lost or destroyed – this is reflected by the low number of records that now come out



of this area, if any, as most of the watchers of wildlife no longer visit the site.



*Male and female Smew (Andreas Trepte, Wikimedia Commons)*

Black tern and unusual ducks such as Smew and Scaup will still visit the lake, but the chances of seeing Short-eared Owl, Ring Ousel, Whinchat, Whimbrel and an assortment of other waders which sought solace in the undisturbed heath and wet mire have sadly gone.

Similar habitats are developing at another quarry site nearby, but nothing like on the scale of Plover's Moss. Nature conservation is never very high on the list of priorities when land use is being considered, unless it is already protected by SSSI or SBI status.

Plover's Moss was an open unfenced area of land in Victorian times and was often used as a camp ground and rifle range by the Cheshire Yeomanry and the Lancashire Hussars.



*Postcard of the Lancashire Hussars at the Plover's Moss camp in 1907. Crown Cottages can be seen in the background.*

Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) is a common sight amongst many of our woodlands in Cheshire, this attractive medium sized tree is given away by its paper white bark and distinct triangular leaves. This is a tree species that is almost entirely dependent on the wind, relying on what is essentially random chance for both pollination and seed dispersal. The fruiting bodies of the female tree develop into a mass of seeds within the autumn sending thousands of tiny seeds into the surrounding landscape, therefore overcoming the problem of random chance with sheer numbers.

With vast numbers of seeds Silver birch is capable of quickly colonising areas of suitable habitat, damp peaty soil is an ideal environment for a young birch sapling. In Celtic mythology birch symbolised renewal and purification, more truth than myth as Silver birch has been found to alter soil compositions creating more fertile and rich soils. These unique properties of birch trees allow it to act as a catalyst for succession and quickly change environments and habitats into primary woodland.



Left: Birch seed on a young tree. Right: Loose birch seed. – Jack Helsby

Silver birch has a lifespan of roughly 80 years making it a relatively short lived tree. Mature birches are up to 30 metres tall and can become quite thin and leggy competing for light in dense areas. It is not uncommon to see plenty of windblown and damaged trees in a Silver birch woodland; they are more susceptible to a wide range of fungi than most trees. In all life stages birch woodland provides an important habitat and resource for a whole variety of wildlife. Damaged birches are an important part of a woodland ecosystem providing a favourite spot for nesting woodpeckers, nuthatches and similar bird species. Decaying wood provides an important resource for a vast range of lichens, fungi and insects further facilitating food chains.

One thing that birch is not good for is wetland environments, with large amounts of seed and saplings birch can quickly regenerate through an established or recovering wetland environment. In damp areas with rich peaty soils such as Delamere's mosses birch saplings can quickly re-establish, each sapling rooting into the peat and acting like a chimney for water drying the surrounding area.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust has been involved with the restoration and creation of several mosses within the Delamere area for several years now. Keeping them wet is essential, sphagnum moss needs wet conditions to thrive and many of these ecosystems rely on sphagnum moss as a keystone species. Birch regrowth is the main cause of water loss within existing mosses and presents the biggest ongoing challenge when

maintaining these mosses, if left alone these seemingly harmless birch saplings would allow the mosses to revert back into woodland.



*Young Silver birch on Blakemere moss –  
Jack Helsby*

The mosses and peat basins of Delamere Forest, Hatchmere and Abbots moss are regionally and nationally important for the number of specialised species they support and the ecosystems services they provide. Peat basins such as Delamere's mosses are an effective store of carbon, more effective than trees. As outlined in the latest State of Nature report, the UK has lost 90% of its wetlands in the past 100 years.

These mosses are incredibly rare, important and sensitive sites and the

removal of birch regrowth is key to their survival, a job we could not manage without the help of our dedicated volunteers throughout the winter. The good news is that these mosses will continue to improve as they further establish. As we describe in more detail in the next article, a rare plant species, Lesser Bladderwort, has recently been re-introduced into our Black Lake Nature Reserve with the help of the North West Rare Plant Initiative. Previously the species only remained in Cheshire within one pool of Abbots Moss.

Jack Helsby,  
Living Landscape Officer

## Wilcox

### Rendering Specialists

Suppliers and installers of a wide  
range of rendering systems and  
insulation solutions



Contact Alan for advice and quotes on

**07511 781350**

alan@wilcox.biz www.wilcox.biz  
facebook: wilcox rendering specialists



A rare plant has recently been re-introduced into Cheshire Wildlife Trust's Black Lake Nature Reserve at Delamere Forest after the species only remained at one remnant bog pool at Abbots Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

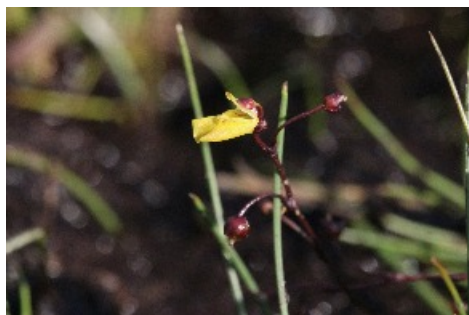


Lesser Bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*) is very rare in Cheshire, very sensitive to habitat change and has been lost from many of the peat basins across Cheshire. Black Lake is a haven for dragonflies and damselflies, from the impressive hawkers, to delicate darters and the chaser dragonflies.

The plant is a true specialist when it comes to living in harsh environments such as the acidic peat basins where it is usually found. These sites are low in nutrient and to live the plants must adapt. When insects such as zooplankton touch the tiny hairs of the stems they snap shut trapping their prey. These traps close in 0.002 seconds making them one of the fastest living organisms on earth.

Josh Styles from the North West Rare Plant Initiative (NWRPI) who re-

introduced the plant on site says: 'The one overarching aim of the NWRPI is to secure the prospects of a total of 43 target vascular plant species, declining rapidly/on the brink of extinction in North West England.'



'Plants are the fundamental basis of all life on Earth, with few exceptions. They are such fascinating and valuable organisms; they form habitats and we rely on them for so much; for our food, medicine, building materials and more! The intricate adaptations Lesser Bladderwort, whilst intriguing, have come about over millions of years of evolution.'

Over the past century, over 75% of the populations of the Lesser Bladderwort plant in the North-West and over 90% of the populations in Cheshire have been wiped out through habitat loss.

The NWRPI is reintroducing the species to suitable sites in the region in the hope that it's future can be secured. Without reintroduction in Cheshire, its last, small population in Delamere would probably go extinct in the next century.

*Photos by Joshua Styles*



*The article in the last issue about the Oakmere police station and magistrates' court triggered childhood memories for Pat Wheeler, who has kindly shared them with us. The article referred to Superintendent John Beeley, who came to Oakmere as the officer in charge in 1903, and lived in the police station's spacious quarters with his five children. He was a widower, and while in Oakmere he married his second wife, the young Mabel Turner. She was still only 28 when he retired in 1912. By the time Pat arrived on the scene Mabel was 'the old Mrs Beeley', and the first Mrs Beeley's daughter Lavinia was Mrs Isherwood. Pat Wheeler picks up the story from there.*

Mrs Isherwood was a confectioner and made the most lovely wedding cakes. She made my 21st birthday cake, and our wedding cake. She lived in Station Road at number 65 and I used to go round there as a little girl, where she taught me how to ice cakes. Mr & Mrs Isherwood had eloped to Gretna Green to get married, and their bungalow was called Lockerbie. They had no children.

Mr Isherwood had a garage at the bottom of Castle in Northwich, and the Beeley family had a café opposite. That was how they met. Mr Isherwood was very keen on stocks and shares, and had the pink Financial Times newspaper delivered every Tuesday morning, paying an extra six pence to have it before 6.30am. He retired at 52 years old and sold the garage, where he was in partnership with a Mr Gorst. They were both members at Delamere Golf Club. When Mr Isherwood retired he had number 53 built and they moved there. I have a lovely photo of Mr Isherwood and my dad taken in the old Fishpool pub. They used to go there every Thursday night. I have many happy memories of them both.

Mrs Isherwood's sister Elsie Beeley (she never married) used to live in Davenham with the old Mrs Beeley, who was a very big bridge player. She spent a few late nights playing. When she died Elsie moved in with Mrs Isherwood at number 53. John their elder brother lived with them for a short while. Elsie was very good at any type of needle work. Both sisters lived at number 53 until they were taken to Davenham Nursing Home around 1990. Elsie had to have one of her legs removed when she was in her early 80's. They had two younger half brothers, Edward and George. Edward was a bank manager in the Midlands, who moved north at some point to live in Nantwich. One of his daughters was married at Delamere, and some of the Beeley family are buried in Delamere churchyard.

Regarding the courthouse, every Wednesday evening one of the rooms was used as a library, and local people would help to run it. One of the policeman who used to be based there is still alive, and is well into his 90s.



# Christmas

## AT THE HOLLIES

*Taste Cheshire Local Produce Shop of the Year*



2019

...

WITH LOTS OF  
magical surprises

TREES | WREATHS | FESTIVE FOODS | CHRISTMAS MEATS  
GIFTS | HAMPERs | CARDS | DECORATIONS  
RESTAURANT | LUXURY LODGES | BOUTIQUE SHOPPING

• THE HOLLIES •  
Christmas

The Hollies Farm Shop, Forest Road, Little Budworth, Tarporley, CW6 9ES  
01829 760 414 | [info@theholliesfarmshop.co.uk](mailto:info@theholliesfarmshop.co.uk) | [theholliesfarmshop.co.uk](http://theholliesfarmshop.co.uk)



# Christmas & New Year

Find out more by visiting our website or  
calling us on 01829 738 958

# 32

BY THE HOLLIES  
Hotel | Restaurant | Bar

## Festive Menu

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

Group bookings available

2 Courses for £23

3 Courses for £28

(Must book set menu)

Bookings of 6 or more require a pre-order and  
deposit of £5 per person.

**BOOK NOW**

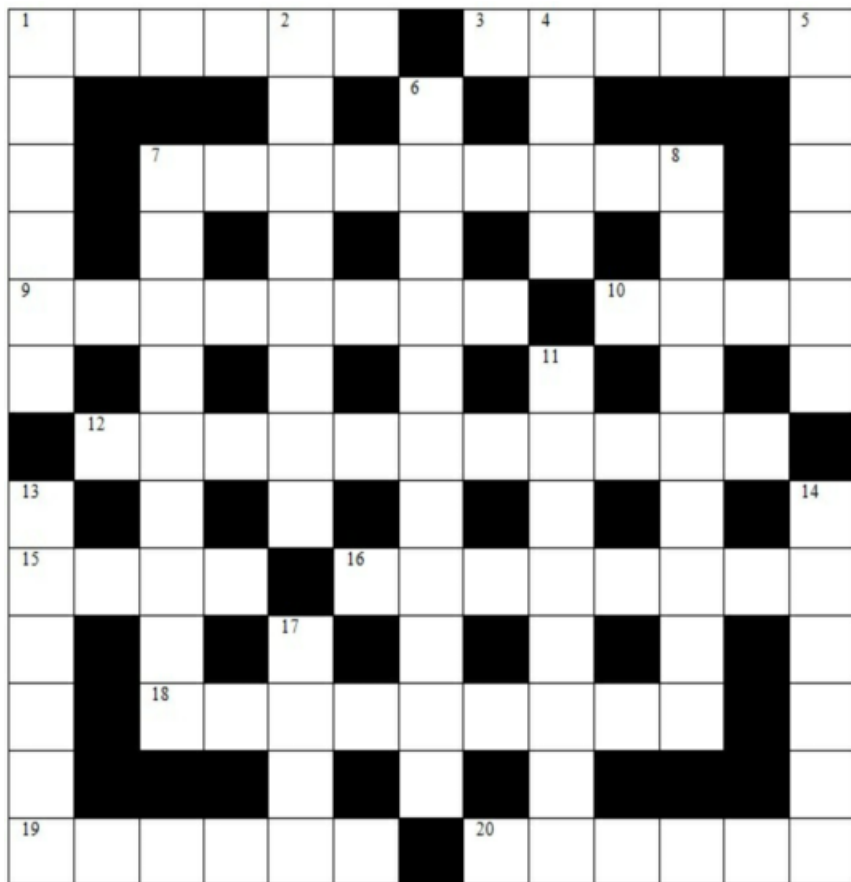


Have A Drink On Us

# 2 For 1 COCKTAILS

29<sup>th</sup> Nov - 24<sup>th</sup> Dec  
5pm - 7pm

01829 738 958 | [info@32bythehollies.co.uk](mailto:info@32bythehollies.co.uk)  
32 by The Hollies, High Street, Tarporley, CW6 0DY

**Across:**

1. Good wake up makes you grumble (6)
2. Seldom depend on artist first (6)
7. Put off man using it to wash (9)
9. Walker pushed by Americans (8)
10. Vagrant is smelly after half Santa's greeting (4)
12. Excellent stage performance though doing it is painful (5,6)
15. They backfire to be cosy (4)
16. Searchers for food are a long time outside, right? (8)
18. Sharp turn in tough direction (4,5)
19. Enquire if two moving to five loses right to be horsey (6)
20. Description of drunken martyr (6)

**Down:**

1. Gaudy heartless pike-like fish (6)
2. New residents' gundogs embrace left (8)
4. Sounds excited to see the chaps? So be it (4)
5. Cowardly shriek of pain (6)
6. Liberate stonework for this group (11)
7. Seafarers' college arrow hole (9)
8. Sit in throne, confused and most prickly (9)
11. Direct view includes the royal Academy initially (8)
13. A place to live – electronic country (6)
14. Heavenly body loses energy and ring for Scandinavian girl (6)
17. These husks may be mixed in barn (4)

## Q U I Z - 10 QUESTIONS ABOUT CHESHIRE *by Steve Lacey* *(Answers on page 5)*

1. In which year was Cheshire County Council abolished?
2. What is the largest town or city in the County?
3. Where in Cheshire is the only boat lift in England?
4. How many parliamentary constituents are there in Cheshire?
5. Which is the highest placed football club in Cheshire?
6. What is the name of Chester's Premier League Basketball team?
7. Which member of Take That was born and raised in Frodsham?
8. Which river flows through Nantwich and Northwich?
9. What is the highest point in Cheshire?
10. From where does the 'wich' derive in the place names Middlewich, Nantwich and Northwich?





DELAMERE  
& OAKMERE

# NEWS

ISSUE 47 | WINTER 2019

Cover Photo by Ray Downham ([www.elevenzones.net](http://www.elevenzones.net)):  
The setting sun on the Millennium stones