

Delamere and Oakmere

News



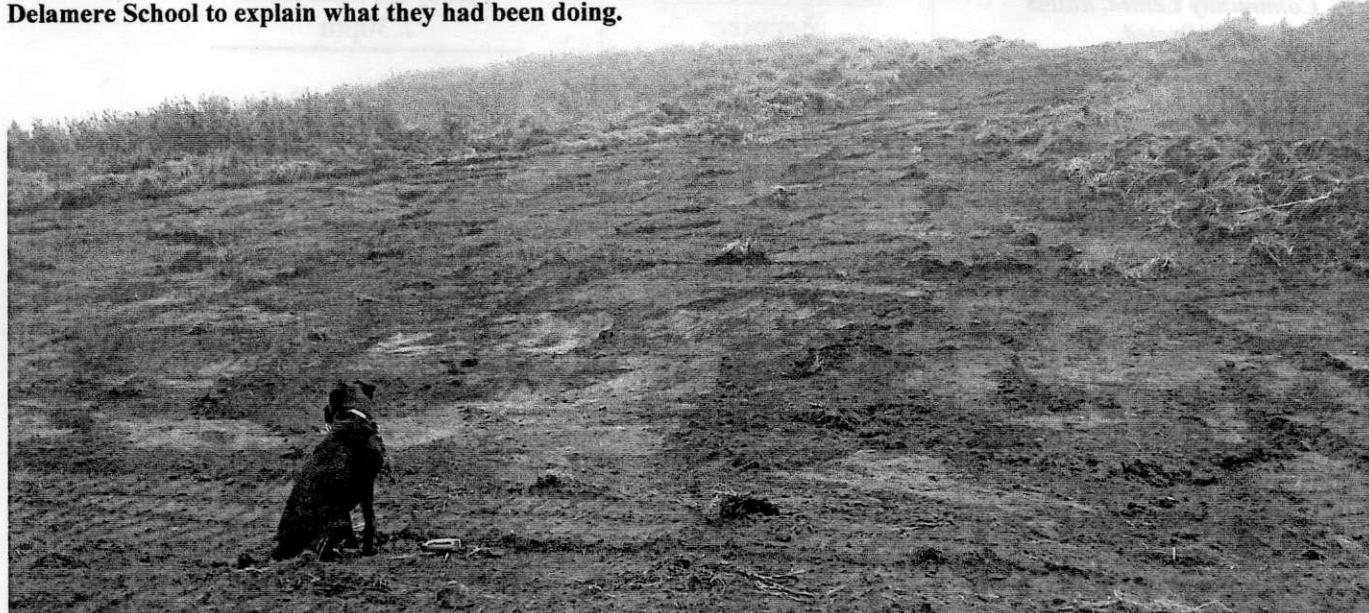
Number 10

Christmas 2006

A Very Happy Christmas to All Our Readers **TROUBLE UP AT THE HILL FORT**

CONCERN AT FORESTRY COMMISSION EXCAVATIONS

For the second time this year the Forestry Commission was invited to explain its actions in the locality. After the Go Ape furore in January, this time it was the bulldozing of land just below the Iron Age fort on Eddisbury Hill. Following enquiries from Delamere Parish Council, three representatives from the Commission came to the November meeting at Delamere School to explain what they had been doing.



Early in October a Forestry bulldozer gouged out a track some fourteen feet wide up the steep bank right to the edge of the earthworks. The track then proceeded at a right angle just below the earthworks before dropping down again, forming three sides of a rectangle. When asked what they were up to and why, their spokesman offered various explanations: to provide access for horse riders, to encourage butterfly conservation, to prevent the encroachment of bracken (there doesn't seem to be any there) and to fence off the area for cattle grazing. Of all of these only the last seemed at all plausible and even that could hardly justify the destruction of such a wide swathe just to put a fence up.

As the forestry spokesmen were quick to point out at the meeting, the land they were working on belongs to them and is, strictly speaking, outside the official boundaries of the fortifications.

At the request of the Parish Council the site had been visited by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Jennie Stopford, who had come out from Manchester and followed her visit up by sending a very detailed report to the Clerk to the Council. The report dealt with many of the objections to the Forestry Commission's actions. The assurance that their work had the blessing of English Heritage, that proper management of the land was considered essential; that rutted areas needed to be levelled off so that cattle could be moved on to the land to keep the grass down and that posts could only be sunk when an archaeologist from English Heritage was present went some way towards meeting the objections the Council had raised.

Whether the area in question is inside or outside the land owned by the Forestry Commission, however, is hardly the issue. The fact remains that the Eddisbury Hill Fort is one of the most important archaeological sites in Cheshire - and one of the most important of its kind in the country - and any activity that even begins to threaten either the Fort or the adjacent area must be a cause for alarm.

Picture: the editor's dog gazes forlornly at the desecrated hillside.

[continued on page 2]

[Hill Fort cont.]

The suggestion that the scar on the hillside, clearly visible from some distance away, will act as a beacon for the BMX fraternity was flatly rejected by the FC. We can only hope that its confidence is justified.

In her letter Dr. Stopford made one very positive suggestion – that the Commission and the Parish Council each appoint a representative to liaise with the other group so that all concerned might be kept abreast of developments. The FC has already acted on this. Once the Parish Council has done likewise, we should be able to look forward to much better relations between the two.

What's On

December/January

All events in Delamere Community Centre, unless indicated.

All club/society secretaries

Please let me know well in advance the dates of your meetings for the following two months (ie, by 16th January for February/March, etc. (if you would like them included in this diary.

Contact me on either:

01829 752723, or by e-mail:

robin.ackerley@btinternet.com

or at: The Paddock, Stoney Lane, Delamere, Tarporley CW6 0SX*

*(*not Kelsall)*

Tuesday, 12th Dec.

Women's Institute

Christmas Party

Home made Christmas
Cracker Competition

7.30pm

Wednesday, 13th Dec.

Golden Age

Christmas Lunch

Members Only

Wednesday, 13 Dec.

Folk Dancing

Manley Village Hall

£2.50

8.30 – 10.45

Saturday, 16th Dec.

Christmas Ceilidh

Kelsall Village Hall

Dancing to *Foxes Bark*

Phone: 01829

751573/741142

Oakmere Methodist Church

Sunday, 17th Dec.

Carol Service

2.30pm

Christmas Eve

Service

10.45am

St. Peter's, Delamere

Sunday, 17th Dec.

Nine Lessons with

Carols

6.30pm

Christmas Eve

Christingle Service

4.00pm

Midnight

Communion

11.45pm

Christmas Day

Family Service

Followed by

Communion

10.30am

Wednesday, 3rd Jan.

Golden Age

"Free and Easy" ~

Meet for Tea, a Chat

and Bingo

2.00pm

Monday, 8th Jan.

Community Centre

Committee Meeting

7.15pm

Tuesday, 9th Jan.

Women's Institute

Talk by Dr. Mike Hems

7.30pm

Wednesday, 10th Jan.

Golden Age

Talk & Slides on

Argentina

2.00pm

Wednesday, 24th Jan.

Golden Age

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2.00pm

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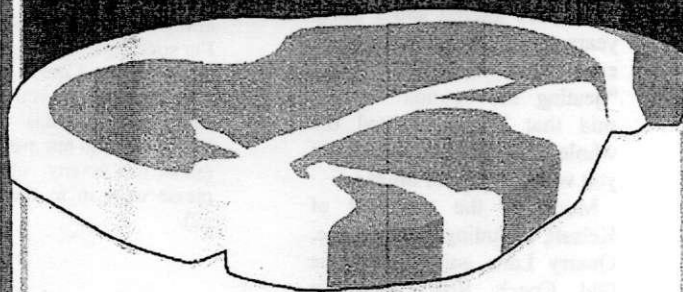
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Letter from the Editor

Thank you to all who have helped with the Newsletter over the past year – especially to all those who have helped with delivery in Delamere and Oakmere.

I'm also particularly grateful to the contributors to the Newsletter. Their efforts mean that I have to write less myself, providing a welcome relief both to myself and to the readers.

Back to the delivery matter: Delamere is now fully covered, but parts of Oakmere remain a problem. Granted Oakmere is more scattered but even so there are areas that could be tackled given a few willing volunteers.

The following are still in need of help:

- * A49 (Oakmere side only) from Oakmere Lights to Sandy Brow;
- * Hogshead Lane;
- * Houses on left from Crabtree to Oakmere Lights, including Oakmere Hall;
- * Stonyford Lane from main road as far as Stonyford Nursery.

If you know of anyone else who's still not getting the Newsletter, please let me know (Phone number & address on p.2).

Every household in the Delamere church parish should receive a free newsletter. The parish comprises Delamere, Eddisbury, Oakmere and most of Willington. Until boundary lines were altered about thirty years ago the parish used to be even bigger. In the old days of "beating the bounds" it was said that if you walked the whole of the parish's perimeter you would cover 26 miles.

Much of the top end of Kelsall, including Dingle Lane, Quarry Lane and part of the Old Coach Road were in Delamere. The parish used to lay claim to eight pubs (see below). For good measure there were once three chapels in the parish.

If you're over 60 there are some very welcome travel concessions available from Northern Rail, GHA buses Rural Travel Service and Whitegate Travel (see **Travel** News on p16).

Tom Wright's *Three Parishes* (available from

Delamere Stores) is still selling well and has obviously set a trend. Mark Bevan, the publisher, has recently brought out two others *Kelsall & Willington* (see ad on p.7) and *Tarporley & Beeston Country*, which also covers Little Budworth, Cote Brook* and Utkinton (on sale as above).

I'm sorry this issue is arriving a few days late. This is partly because we've been away and partly because I've been staying up half the night watching the cricket. As a result I'm now suffering from acute overtiredness – not to mention depression. If the Australians were really civilised they'd play during the daytime, but then if they were really civilised I don't suppose they'd be Australian. And if they weren't Australian, perhaps we'd stand a chance of beating them.

Oakmere Parish Council, in conjunction with the North West Ambulance Service, have come up with an ingenious way of solving the problem with emergency ambulances that get lost while searching for a property (see p6.)

I've had to redirect ambulances at least three times in Stoney Lane. Perhaps Delamere P.C. could adopt that same scheme.

R.

* I've already been taken to task over the spelling. It just about always appears as one word, but I'm sticking to the old, proper way of writing it ~ Cote Brook.

Incidentally, if you really feel strongly about this – strongly enough even to put pen to paper – (about this or any other matter), please write in to the address on p2).

R.

Delamere Pub Quiz

Can you name the eight public houses that were within the Parish of Delamere less than fifty years ago?

The sender of the first all-correct answer will win a free pint in the parish pub of his/her choice at the editor's expense. Send your answer by phone/post/e-mail to the address above.

R.

WARNING

Helpmates Ltd. has been advertising a door-to-door clothing collection in Cuddington and Sandiway. *Helpmates* does not have a permit for this and is being investigated by the Trading Standards Office.

Any information on them should be directed to the office on 01698 476222/3 or to the Charity Commission on 0870 3330123.

Maggie Matthews of Eddisbury Hill Park, one of our Newsletter deliverers, would like to wish a Merry Christmas to all her neighbours, friends and nodding acquaintances in the area.

The Romany Tearooms

(at Harringtons)

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BRING THIS TOKEN

Michael Rees

Shortly after moving to Delamere in 2005 Michael was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukaemia.

Undaunted, in July of this year on his 45th birthday he organised a Charity Cycle Event, starting at the Old Pale and going through the forest, in aid of Leukaemia Research. The event raised over £10,000. Mike himself was too ill to participate, but its success brought him a great deal of pleasure. Sadly, on 9th October he died.

During the last few months of his life I got to know Mike quite well, and the more I knew him the more I was impressed by his courage and cheerfulness in the face of a terminal illness. It was a privilege to have known him.

Our sympathies go to his wife Debbie and his little son Max.

R.

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A Christmas Message from Oakmere Methodist Church

Hello everyone,
It seems that the late summer has finally left us and we have finally been launched into winter and into the season of mist, fog and snow. Having said that, I have a rhododendron bush in my garden that thinks it is spring! Sometimes the seasons do seem to be a bit confused. However, there can be no doubt that we are heading towards the season of Advent and Christmas. There is still so much to do before the great day arrives. Most of us will tramp many miles to buy that special present or to increase the mountain of food that we already have.

These lines, written by Janet Lees, describe where we often find ourselves and the last two lines point us in a more helpful direction:

*As with madness we prepare
For this festive time of year,
As we rush and count the days,
Advent passes in a haze,
So may our feet take us to
Places where we will meet you.*

Do we need to stop for a moment to consider where we are and the way we need to travel if we are to find the Lord this Christmas? Where are the places where we can meet the Christ Child? Unless we find such places, how can we begin to reflect on Jesus' birth? The light of Christ came into the world to illuminate our lives and to show us the way to God.

From Advent haze to Christmas brightness is not a long and complicated way. It is but a short journey, though many never find the signs and so lose their way. How sad it is to be so caught up in 'other things' that Advent envelopes us like the morning mist and we never see the light of day, the great Day!

You can prepare for Christmas by joining us at Oakmere Methodist Church on 17th December at 2.30pm for our Carol Service. We will also have a service on Christmas Eve at 10.45am. There will be other services and events in the area that you can join in. It may be that you have not been to a church service for a long time. Maybe this year could be the time to come again and discover one of those special places where you might meet the Lord.

It's disappointing to open a beautifully-wrapped present to find only an empty box. Celebrating

Christmas without any thought of the Christ Child is exactly the same thing.

Whatever you do this Advent and Christmas time, take some time to look for Christ and open your hearts to him in a new way.

God bless,
Rev'd. Ann Kenton

An important message from Oakmere Parish Council

Light the Way for the Emergency Ambulance

How easy is it to find your house?

If you have had problems in the past with delivery drivers or contractors, then it is safe to assume that an ambulance driver might find similar problems. Add to that responding in the dark or inclement weather and it is easy to see how delays in emergency response can occur.

North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and Oakmere Parish Council have been meeting periodically for about two years, during which our response times have been continually reviewed. At the meeting in July it was suggested that we should try a way of making properties easier to find. As a result we have embarked on this glow stick initiative.

The idea is quite straightforward. If you need to call for an ambulance, activate the glow stick and place it on the pavement or in the opening to your drive, or at another suitably prominent roadside place. The bright yellow light will alert the responding vehicle to your property. The light will glow for up to eight hours, although it will probably diminish in strength after two hours.

Whilst this is a slightly unusual initiative, it bears some resemblance to the use of distress flares out at sea, and might well have some merit.

The first batch of these glow sticks are being supplied to Oakmere residents, free of charge, by the NWAS. We look forward to receiving your thoughts and feedback via the Parish Council.

From: Ian Moses, Emergency Paramedic Service Sector Manager, NWAS.

From My Window

Thursday, 12th October. 8am.
Four female pheasants and three males were feeding. One was a mature male; the other two didn't have their full plumage. And no little black ear tufts. These must have been this year's brood.

Collared doves have done very well this year. There are six at the moment visiting regularly, but they are at risk from attack by kestrels. A red admiral butterfly was spotted on the 29th October and one is hibernating in the house on the Venetian blinds in the lounge! Brown dragonflies were mating over the pond and two others were floundering in the water. I fished them out with a net and put them on a warm stone, where they greeted each other like long lost friends.

Bonfire Night is always a worry for animal lovers and owners. This year, after things had quietened down, I heard an owl call and saw two rabbits on the grass. So all was well.

15th November. A beautiful new female pheasant has arrived. She is dark mahogany brown, unlike the other females, which are much lighter in colour. She joined in feeding with the others and was accepted.

A fieldfare, a bird I had not seen here for years, stopped for a short time on a water feature.

Also on 15th November an oriental poppy appeared in full flower and another one in bud!

The hot summer we have had has brought out some strange plants. One in the garden is the deadly poisonous thorn apple. It has trumpet-shaped flowers and spiky fruit and grows up to three feet tall. Both flowers and seeds are poisonous. It is thought that its spread could be due to bird seed manufacturers adding its seeds to their mix. To stop the weed spreading the seed heads should be snipped off before they dry and burst open.

Another strange plant appearing for the first time and as yet unidentified grows up to five feet tall and has red stems and hairy one-inch long pointed green spikes at each leaf joint. The leaves are long and narrow. Have any of our readers found this plant in their gardens and do they know what it is called?

D.D.

Mystery Visitors

Did anyone else see the following strange sight one day in October? Four Land Rover 110 Defenders, all on hire from a national hire company, and each containing half a dozen gents in grey suits, were spotted in Station Road. Later they were seen travelling across some fields near Eddisbury Hill. What organisation could afford to send 24 people on a ride round the country? DEFRA? The EU? Who could afford such an extravagance and what were they up to?

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Familiar places and faces leap from every page ... the trades, the shops and businesses, the schools, the cottages, the churches and chapels, the pubs, the wartime memories, the charabanc trips, the celebrations, the sportsmen, the never-to-be-forgotten characters, even our own world champion.

"The changes over my lifetime have been incredible," says Harold. "I have tried to reflect what I have seen and experienced. The pace has obviously been slower in Willington, but Kelsall has expanded beyond anything we could possibly have imagined even fifty years ago."

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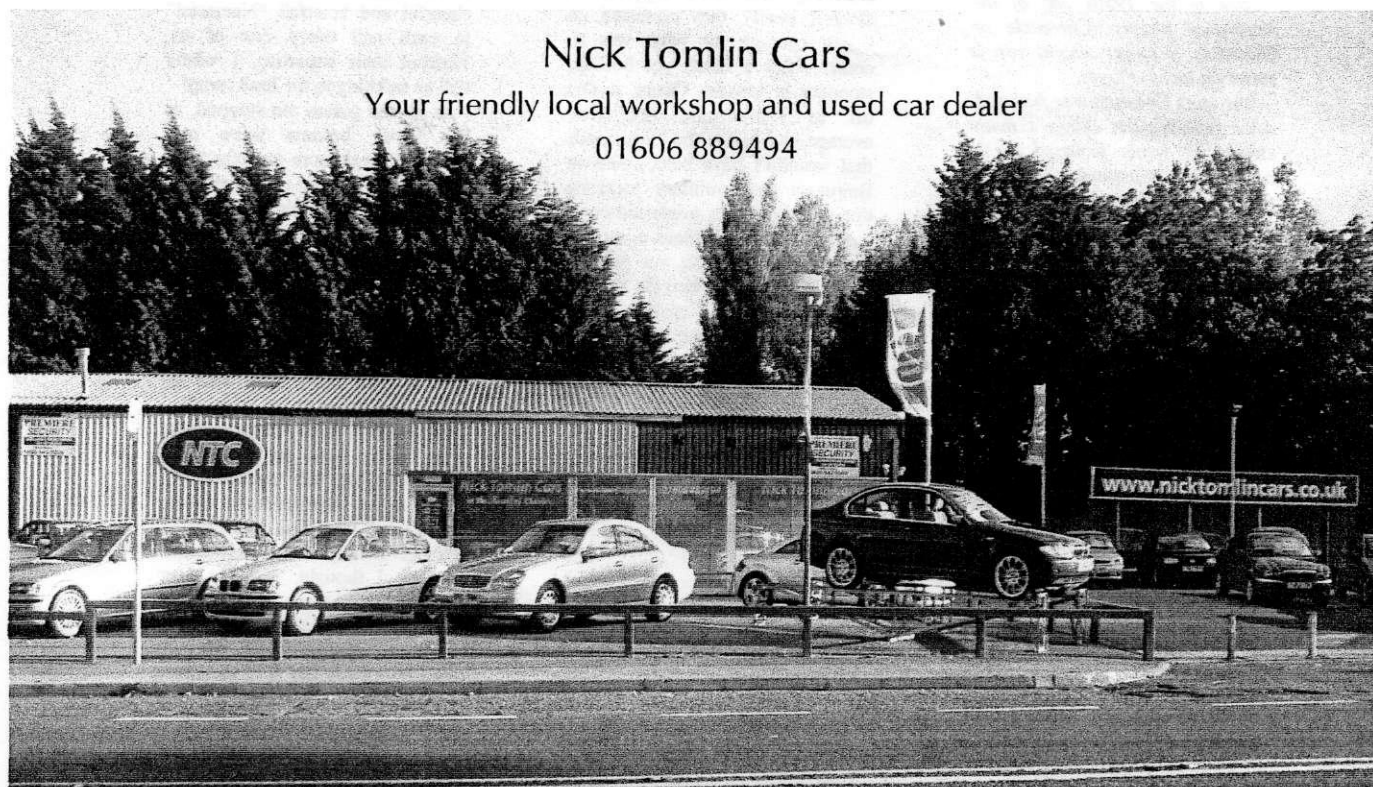
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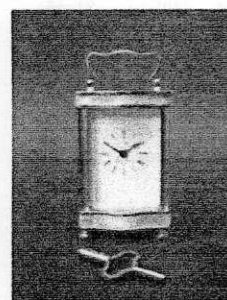
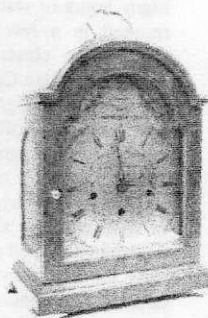
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Two Brave Adventurers

Back in the 1950s one of the Northwich papers (Chronicle or Guardian, I forget which) ran a series on local villages.

One week Crowton was featured. After praising the village's many virtues the writer focussed on its accessibility to important transport facilities in the area. "You can," he proudly claimed, and probably with Acton Bridge Station in mind, "get to anywhere in the world from Crowton".

Whenever I go through Crowton (which granted is not all that often) I start thinking of all the exciting possibilities of world travel that the village has to offer. But then, I think, you could do that from Delamere...or Eddisbury... or Oakmere... or even Utkinton...or anywhere.

Two people who have recently shown that if you want to see the world then Delamere is the only place to start from are law student David Gore, from Eddisbury Hill, and Delamere church warden David Unsworth, who is probably (and I stand to be corrected on this) the only Delamere church warden to have flown across America in a light aircraft.

R.

Everest Aborted!

David Gore

On the 8th of September, 21 intrepid trekkers set out from Manchester Airport with ideas of mountaineering feats in the Himalayas comparable with that of Sir Edmund Hillary, Sherpa Tenzing and Maurice Herzog; instead, it quickly became apparent that we neither had the skill nor fitness to emulate these famous adventurers, and so settled for the next best thing, getting to Everest Base Camp.

The party was going to Nepal to raise money for a new charity called CANtreat, whose main aim is to create positive, attractive and peaceful environments for cancer patients. It was primarily to raise funds for the new cancer wing at Leighton Hospital, Crewe through the charity. The trek involved people like me, who wanted to see Nepal and raise some money whilst I was at it, and those such as Andrew Gartside, the founder of the charity and himself an ex cancer patient. So it was with a scowl on my face (at having to wear a Bolton shirt, due to Andrew's father Phil being the Bolton Wanderers Chairman) and a spring in my step (due to the pre departure champagne) that I set off.

Once airborne, the giddy excitement gave way to the moans,

groans and snores of the group, many of whom were eagerly attacking Gulf Air's supplies of alcohol, purely, they protested, as Dutch courage for what was to come. After a brief, yet boiling, stopover in Muscat, Oman, it was off to Kathmandu, not your average city to say the least: roads that wouldn't have been amiss in Beirut, a large military presence due to the Maoists, goats and cows ambling around without a care in the world, a smiling yet poverty stricken population and the rain all greeted us. For the Nepalese, it was a case of spot the wide eyed Western tourists.

In spite of our initial shock, Kathmandu was a lively, friendly and interesting place, with many Hindu and Buddhist temples to visit, endless shops to barter in, and all manner of tastes, smells and sights to satisfy the gaze of the tourists. Yet it still rained, and rained and rained. After three cancelled flights to Lukla (the nearest airport to Everest), and many an afternoon getting lost in the side streets of Kathmandu, it was decided to attempt another 8000 feet plus monster, Annapurna. So we set off, disappointment giving way to excitement, towards our new goal, with a brief, yet eventful stopover in the beautiful city of Pokhara. For ten days we trekked, up valleys, which always seemed to go on for an infinite amount of time, and then back down them, each one more beautiful than the last, and inevitably steeper too! Many hours of walking often only resulted in a few miles, but we edged ever closer to our goal, Annapurna Base Camp (ABC). As we moaned and groaned our way up, fighting off plagues of mosquitoes, marauding cattle, endless steps, and our ever worsening body hygiene, the sense of what we were about to see and experience pushed us on.

As the trek went on, the places became less populated, the people more rugged and mountainous, but no one place was ever the same, yet all were just as inviting and hospitable, especially to weary and hungry travellers. In every place we stopped, our own Sherpas and guides were there before us, encouraging us, laughing at us, and in some cases helping us to make the required distance by brewing up lemon tea for us, cooking our meals and all this after pitching the tents and carrying our equipment! It was a humbling experience to see these men and women, who work for a pittance, run up and down dale (or mountain!), without regard for personal safety and

shame us as we struggled to keep up. Yet they approached each day with a smile on their faces and a cheerful and heartfelt "Namaste!" to each and every one of us. Without their expertise, I would still be trekking to the base camp!

At all the places we stopped, as the views became more awe inspiring, ever more cameras were produced from overloaded backpacks, brimming full of bargains and mementos bought along the way, and the odd leech that had attacked you during the night. The closer we got, the less the legs hurt and the more you wanted to reach the goal. Illness, ailment and injury were now no bother; the desire to see Annapurna in all its glory took you through the pain barrier. And so after seven days' trekking, we reached ABC, an emotional experience for many, and a relief for a few, but disaster, it was cloudy! No Annapurna. Bugger, I thought. But our ever dependable Sherpas had brought the supplies and tents with them; we could stay until the morning and see it then, that is if we didn't get flattened by one of the unnervingly frequent landslides!

So, bleary eyed, somewhat grumpy and tired, I opened my tent the following morning, camera at the ready, to see a view that will stay with me forever. I was surrounded on all sides by mountains ranging from 6500 feet, to 8200 feet; with a clear blue sky illuminating the snow capped peaks and nature at its best. Braving the possibility of death by rock fall (which had been forgotten about in the excitement), we snapped away happily, knowing for a short time why the likes of Hillary, Tenzing and Herzog fell in love with, and conquered these peaks, and stupidly believing that we could do it too. This moment of fanciful dizziness was blamed at the time on the altitude, though the urge and desire to see and experience that view again will mean my student overdraft still has a few miles left to run yet!!

With the help of family and friends I raised £1,600 for CANtreat. If anyone would like to make a donation please contact CANtreat direct on 01606 892027.

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning to raise funds for the upkeep of Delamere Community Centre on Saturday, 4th November raised £265, a just reward for the efforts that the committee puts in. Equally encouraging were the numbers of local people attending the event. Local support is vital if the Centre is to continue serving the area.

Terrified in Texas

by David Unsworth

I've known my friend John since we were both 18 and started our working lives together at jet engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce in Derby. John came from Middlesbrough.

While John was later at Bristol University he was keen to fly and joined the University Air Squadron and flew Chipmunks, but was summarily drummed out of the Squadron when he cut a small power line to a nearby village so they had no lights that night.

We both left RR and joined ICI and, whilst I continued with the company, John and his family emigrated to America in 1973 and set up home in Charlotte North Carolina and worked for American Celanese.

When he retired in the late '90s he still wanted to fly, so he bought a flat-pack plane from a company called Europa based in Kirkbymoorside in North Yorkshire and had it shipped over to Charlotte. On one of the occasions when we went over to see John and his family about four years ago he was building the plane in his huge four-car garage. It had a fibreglass skin and had foam inside the wings to give them strength. I remember looking at it and thinking 'God bless all who fly in her, but I hope it's never me'.

Out of the blue, about last Christmas, John phoned and said he wanted to fly across America in his little Europa and would I go with him (I think it was for moral support). My wife, Ruth, was at that time having chemo and I thought that was a good excuse to get out of going and at her next visit to the oncologist I asked what he thought of my going. He asked her what she wanted me to do and, true to form, she said 'I want him to go,' so he looked at me and said 'You're going'.

Having played my best excuse and failed, I reluctantly rang John and we made arrangements to fly into the blue in last May, so I'd have time to get back home in time for Delamere Garden Party.

When I saw the plane it was even smaller than I had expected, small but beautifully formed in white fibreglass. John told me it weighed 800lb (about 7cwt), a third the weight of an average car, and had a 1300cc engine which took off at 5700rpm and cruised at 5300rpm.

We flew locally for a couple of hours on the first day to get the feel of it - certainly helps you to forget about your jet lag - and set off the following morning bright and early to the other side of America.

The only way to describe what it was like flying in the plane was that it was like flying on a leaf. It seemed to go in the direction the air currents took it both vertically and horizontally. Not at all like steering a car.

We flew at about 130mph at 3000 feet and for the first 30 miles or so we rounded the southern end of the Appalachian range. It was solid pine trees for mile after mile and it made you wonder how the first settlers ever got through it on their way west. After about 250 miles from the start we touched down at a little airfield to refuel. John's plan was to cover this sort of distance and to take on about 12 gallons of 100 octane leaded each time. We wore head-sets to talk to each other because of the noise.

Finding a suitable airfield wasn't difficult because there are thousands of them, usually 25 to 30 miles apart. Each had its own designation, typically three letters and a number and on the GPS in the instrument panel. John just put in the designation we were aiming for and a line appeared across the screen to the point we wanted to go to. Each airfield had a proper tarmac runway, a petrol tanker and a pilot's planning room where John could log into the computer, plan the next leg and see what the weather was going to be like. This first part of the journey took us over North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

As we crossed Missouri and Arkansas the ground became flat grassland with a few farms, miles apart from each other and very little else. There were places down there like Memphis and Little Rock that we've all heard of, but we didn't see them. We covered about 700 miles in the day, which doesn't sound much, but for each of the three legs we flew in great discomfort for as long as it takes to fly on holiday to Spain or the South or France. We stayed the night at Fort Smith, a nice town and people at the airport were amazed at the smallness of the plane. It had to be tied down each time we landed to stop the breeze blowing it away.

The following day was over Oklahoma and Texas and flying was much worse. The ground is mostly dry earth with dry grass and small thorn bushes. With temperatures of about 100°F thermals were rising all the time and the flying leaf analogy for the plane became even more real and we went past a few small twisters, which was interesting. The landscape is unbelievably flat and we could probably see for 30 to 40 miles in every direction, with no

features at all apart from 'nodding-donkey' oil well heads and dirt tracks connecting them. We stayed the night at Midland where George Bush apparently has some homes. The small airport lent us a big old car for the night, free of charge, to drive to the motel.

We arrived in Carlsbad, New Mexico, about lunchtime next day and took a hire car for four days for the rest of the expedition (and to let my terror subside). There were very spectacular National Parks such as Carlsbad Caverns, caves which have so far been explored for 30 miles, the Gila Wilderness, about five times the size of Cheshire, and the impressive White Sands, large dunes of gypsum crystals, glistening white for 20 miles or more. Gypsum, is what plaster board is made of and it goes soggy if it's wet, but because it's so dry there it stays as shimmering sand which they have to 'snow plough' to keep the roads to the visitor centre open.

With the sightseeing completed it was back in the little plane to head eastwards. We retraced our westward journey to a large extent, but the wild weather had one more ace to play. Before we left Fort Smith, John, as he always did, checked the weather on the airport computer. There were thunder storms around amid the generally hot sunshine, but it looked as though we would be ahead of the front. But the weather fooled us and after we'd been flying for about half an hour there was this big black monster of a thunderstorm ahead of us and a rainstorm to our right. We flew between the two with lightning about half a mile to our left. It was scary even for John.

Anyhow, after that it was a bumpy ride home over the bottom of the Appalachians again and back to Charlotte. The last touchdown felt wonderful. We'd flown for a terrifying 3800 miles and travelled about 1700 miles in the car and seen some fantastic natural sights.

I was greatly impressed with my friend's flying ability and the little plane's ability to stay in one piece, but NO, I definitely wouldn't do it again.

Pictures on p.13.

Barn Dance

A Barn Dance on 6th October raised over £600 in aid of Network Gloria, a charity working with special needs families in Romania. Dancers of all ages filled the Community Centre and clearly these events are becoming increasingly popular.

Date for your Dancer's Diary: Friday 2nd March. Don't miss it!

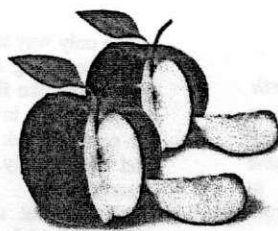
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17th February 2007



P&D (Executive)



Travel

Little Budworth

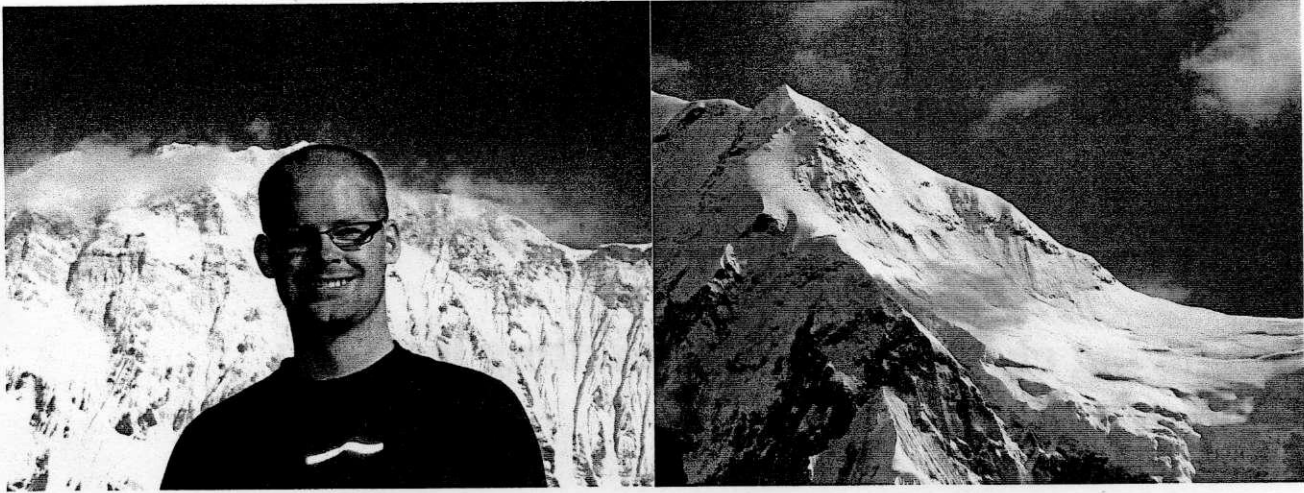
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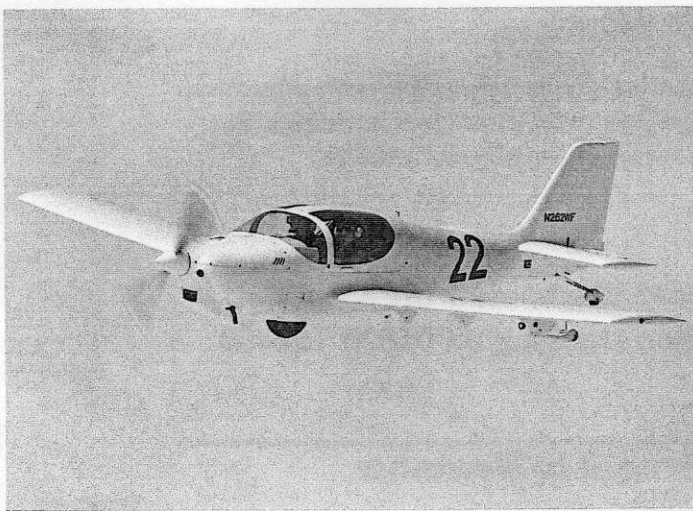


Mobile: 07889 081639

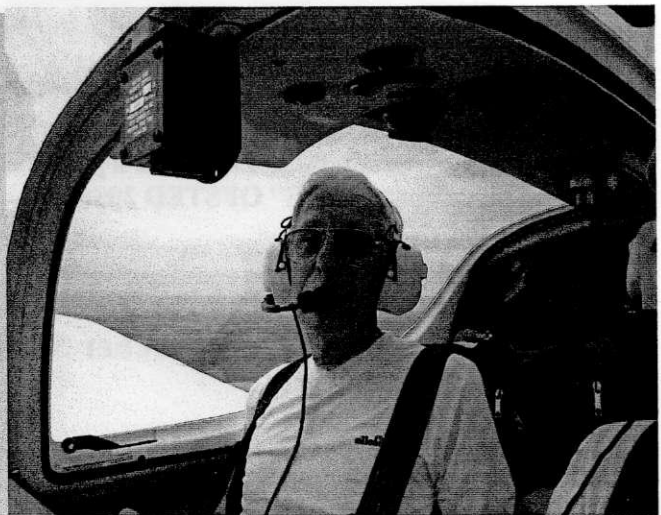


David Gore in the Himalayas.....

.....and with Annapurna in the background.



The Europa in flight....



....."Biggles" looking calm and relaxed.

Delamere C of E Primary School

Stoney Lane, Delamere, Tarporley CW6 0ST

Telephone 01829 751450

Head Teacher: Stephen Docking BA (Hons) NPQH

E-mail: admin@delamere.cheshire.sch.uk

‘Engaging children on their exciting learning journey’

Delamere is a small, caring school where children are treated with respect and nurtured to achieve their true potential. We offer you...

- **Small class sizes in which children’s learning thrives.**
- **A caring family atmosphere. “It feels just as though your parents are looking after you” OFSTED 2006**
- **Close links with the Church. “Through exposure to the arts and visits to places of interest, children’s wider cultural awareness is strongly developed and, in keeping with the school’s denominational status, they are spiritually aware” OFSTED 2006**
- **OFSTED-Inspected Before and After School Club**
- **Extended learning opportunities. “The curriculum enriches children’s education by providing a good range of visits, visitors and extra-curricular activities. These experiences enhance children’s physical, social, cultural and aesthetic development well” OFSTED 2006**

We welcome parental visits. If you would like to view the school, please contact the Head Teacher Stephen Docking on 01829 751450

What’s On at Delamere School in December

- 5th December ~ Junior Trip to Liverpool to visit The Beatles Story and the Tate Gallery
- 5th December ~ Collection of “Operation Christmas” Child Boxes
- 8th December ~ Children’s Christmas Party at The Fourways Inn
- 9th December ~ **Christmas Fair. 10.30 – 12.30 at school**
- 14th December ~ Junior Production of “The Happy Prince”. School 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 15th December ~ Christmas Lunch at school for children, parents & relatives
- 19th December ~ Infant Nativity Production. 2.00pm. St. Peter’s Church
- 20th December ~ Whole school visit to “Aladdin” at the Civic Hall, Winsford

The Quest 2 by Alan Knowles

The Quest

One of the things that I enjoy about this hobby is that when a find can be dated I like to look at what was happening at that point in history. I was not particularly interested in the subject at school and, apart from William the Conqueror and the present Queen, I couldn't tell you who ruled or when. However, the finds help to make it live. A recent find of an 1862 penny seems totally uninteresting, but when it was minted Abraham Lincoln was President of the USA and they were in the middle of a civil war. The coin pictured below is from a considerably older time. It is a

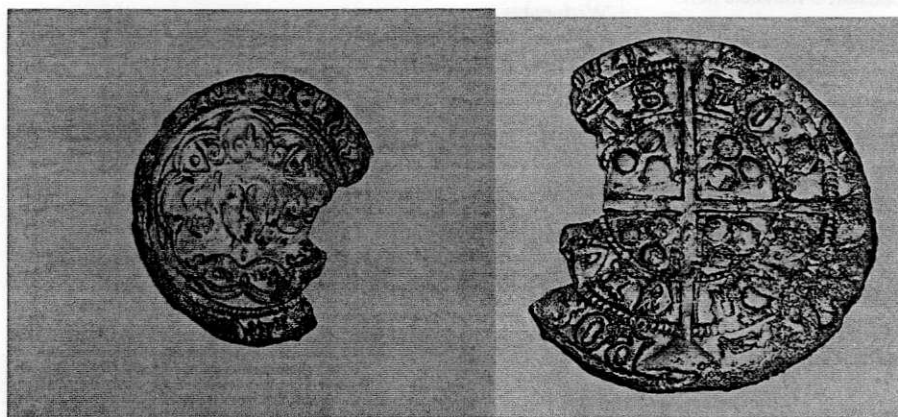
silver hammered groat of Henry VI minted between 1443 and 1445. Henry reigned from 1422 to 1471. He became King aged just 8 months old after the death of his father Henry V, of Agincourt fame. Henry came to the throne King of England and most of France, but the year of 1429 saw Joan of Arc on the scene and this heralded the decline of English fortunes. Joan was eventually captured, sold to the English and had the misfortune to be burned at the stake.

Henry was to grow up subject to attacks of mental illness but he eventually married Margaret of Anjou and they did have a son Edward. Most of Henry's adult life saw many battles between the

houses of Lancaster and York, eventually leading to the death of his son at 17 and his own execution in the Tower some months later. So ended the house of Lancaster.

The groat at today's value would be worth £10; although not a fortune, I'm sure its loss would have been keenly felt. Delamere at the time was a royal hunting preserve. One can only speculate whether the groat was lost by a poacher, forester or member of a royal hunting party. Found on the Roman road it would show that the road was still in use 1000 years after the Romans had left.

The Quest continues.



Travel Information

Trains

From Delamere to Manchester

Return Fare ~ £9.65. Snr. Cit. ~ £6.35.

Cheap Day Returns ~ £7.40-Snr. Cit. ~ b£4.40

(Mon to Sat).

dep. 10.15 am arr. 11.30am

then every hour until

dep. 5.15pm arr. 6.30pm

then: 6.12pm &

every hour until 9.12pm

Last train @ 11.00pm

From Delamere to Chester

Return Fare ~ £5.55. Snr. Cit. ~ ££3.65

Cheap Day Returns ~ £4.10 Snr. Cit. ~ £2.70

(Mon. to Sat).

dep. 10.31am arr. 10.52am

then every hour until dep. 11.31pm

Cuddington to Manchester: 4 mins. later

Cuddington to Chester: 5 mins. earlier.

Buses

Whitegate Travel

Single Full Fare: £2.40

Free Travel after 9.30 with bus pass.

(Tuesdays only - to Northwich)

dep. Frith Avenue 9.20am

Eddisbury HI Pk 9.30am

Abbey Arms 9.35am

then via Little Budworth, Whitegate,

Hartford to

Northwich Watling St. 10.37am

Sainsburys 10.40am

Return to Delamere:

dep. Sainsburys 12.20pm

Watling St. Stand D 12.23pm

arr. Delamere 1.35pm

GHA Coaches (formerly Arriva)

[Route 82] Mon - Sat ~ to Northwich

opp. Abbey Arms 8.00am. Then 8.12

am and 12 past every hour until 4.12pm

Last buses: 5.17 & 6.22pm

[Route 82] Mon - Sat ~ to Chester

opp. Abbey Arms 7.40am. Then 9.00am

and every hour until 5.00pm. Last bus

6.05pm.

Buses leave Chester 32 minutes and

Northwich 20 minutes before the above

times.

[Route 230] Mon - Fri ~ to Winsford

Top End of Kelsall: 8.05am, 9.50am,

11.20am, 1.20pm & 3.25pm

Dep. Winsford

8.30am, 10.15am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm &

4.35pm

[Route X20] Tues, Thur, Sat ~ to

Cheshire Oaks. Top End of Kelsall:

9.44am

Day Ticket Adult: £3.30; Child £1.60; Conc. £1.65

Rural Bus Service

01606 871990

To book a journey please ring between 10.00 & 11.30 am the day before you wish to travel.

Fare: £2.30 each way/ £1.15 concessionary.

Free Travel 9.30 - 4.00 on production of bus pass.

Monday

9.30am Cote Brook, Oakmere, L. Budworth, Utkinton, Tarporley, Delamere to Winsford. Return 12.00pm

10.30am Cote Brook, Oakmere, Utkinton, L. Budworth, Utkinton, Tarporley, Delamere to Northwich. Return 1.30 pm

12.00 Return from Winsford; 1.30 Return from Northwich.

Tuesday

9.30am Crowton, Kingsley, Acton Bridge, Norley, Delamere to Winsford Return 12.00pm

12.30pm Crowton, Acton Bridge, Kingsley, Norley, Delamere to Northwich Return 3.00pm

Wednesday

9.30am Cote Brook, Oakmere, L. Budworth, Utkinton, Tarporley, Delamere to Northwich

Return 12.30pm

1.30pm Tarporley, Oakmere, Delamere, Utkinton, L. Budworth, Cote Brook to Winsford

Return 3.30pm

Thursday (Bus 1)

9.30am Kingsley, Delamere, Norley, Crowton, Acton Bridge to Northwich. Return 11.30am

Other Routes

From Willington Corner ~ to Tarporley & Bunbury (via

Beeston & Peckforton):

11.47am, 5.01pm

From Willington Corner ~ to Chester:

9.33am, 10.32am, 12.43pm, 1.02pm.

Vale Royal's Concessionary Travel Scheme for Persons aged 60 & over and Disabled People

Bus Pass: Free Travel after 9.30am Mondays to Fridays and any time at weekends; half fare before 9.30am Mondays to Fridays.

Railcard: Cost - £2.50 for 12 months - gives one third off fares for most rail services.

Bus Pass Forms, to be returned with proof of age, address and passport-size photographs, available from:

Wyvern House, Winsford (01606 867928) or
Castle Park, Frodsham (01928 734440) or
Information Centre, 1 The Arcade, Northwich
(01606 353500)

Usual disclaimers apply to this information.

WANTED:

Pine dining table to seat 6 to 8 pupils.

Please contact Veronica McCabe at Greenbank Residential School, Hartford on 01606 76521.