

Delamere and Oakmere News

Number 11

February/March 2007

The United Utilities Site on Fishpool Road

Look here upon this picture.....



.....and on this!

Comment overleaf



Views of Fishpool Road

(see photographs overleaf)

The two pictures of the United Utilities site on Fishpool Road show it as it was last summer and as it was in January, when the second photograph was taken.

Granted the lower picture shows the field at its worst, an unfinished building site, but it also shows what damage can be inflicted upon the countryside when big business is let loose upon it.

Ignoring pleas from residents of Cote Brook, Delamere and Utkinton to build the filtration plant nearer one of its boreholes, where it would have been less of an eyesore, United Utilities was always going to site it here. To anyone attending the "consultation" meetings at Delamere Community Centre and Cote Brook Village Hall it was pretty obvious that U.U. had already made up its corporate mind and that little we could say was going to make any difference. After all, who are mere country people to try to influence a £30 million project?

It is by no means unknown for those in a position of power to go through the motions of consulting local opinion before riding roughshod over its views.

By the way, the smart new paling fence at the bottom of the January picture has replaced a hundred yards or more of nasty old hedgerow which once housed birds and other rural nuisances.

R.

Lest We Forget...

The two war memorial plaques in Delamere Church list 39 local people who lost their lives in the world wars, 36 in World War One and 13 (including one civilian) in World War Two.

As the years pass, less and less will be remembered about our war dead. I'm attempting to remedy this by gathering details to put into a future newsletter. If you have any information and/or if any of those named were related to you, could you please let me know. I'm sure you will appreciate that this is an important part of our village history.

To find the list of names simply look up *Delamere War Memorial* on the internet. Further details can then be found by entering names on the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* website.

R.

Poppy Sales

Hilary Powell of Dalefords Lane, Poppy Honorary Organiser for Delamere, Cuddington and Sandiway, reports that the British Legion raised £4,392.10 in the area last November.

Congratulations to Hilary and her team of collectors for their splendid achievement.

Gordon Fergusson

I regret to report the death of Gordon Fergusson of Sandy Brow on 21st January. An obituary will appear in the April/May edition.

Bill Twiss

Bill Twiss of Delamere Grove sadly passed away on 18th December. He was 86.

Bill and Wendy, his wife, met at Chorlton High School where they both worked, Bill as a laboratory technician, Wendy as a history teacher. They married in 1976 and ten years later on their retirement they moved from Sale to Delamere.

During the war Bill served in the RAF spending some time in Ceylon. Fond of reading, and especially interested in poetry, Bill's main interest was his family.

He played snooker at the Community Centre with a group of friends and was particularly fond of walking in the forest with his late friend Geoff Jefferson and Geoff's three dogs. There are plans to place a bench in the forest in memory of the two old walking companions.

Popular with all who knew him, Bill will be sadly missed by his wife and by his many friends in Delamere.

Wendy would like to thank the many people who were so kind and helpful during Bill's long illness and after his death.

Pub Quiz Answer

In December, filled with Christmas good will, I offered a free drink, a whole pint no less (in the pub of the contestant's choice), to the first reader to name the eight pubs that used to be within the parish of Delamere. Maurice Bettley wrote in from Cornwall, but just too late to beat Pat Wheeler of Station Road., who phoned in the correct answer. There were at one time, in fact, not eight but nine pubs within the parish bounds:

The Abbey Arms, The Fishpool, The Boot Inn, The Forest View and The Fourways – all still in Delamere. The others are: *The Farmer's Arms* (now in Kelsall), *The Forester's Arms* (now a private house), *The Cabbage Hall* and *The Fox and Barrel* (now both in Little Budworth). *The Delamere Forest Inn*, by the way, is just over the border in Norley.

At least I don't have to go all the way to Cornwall to buy Maurice a drink – but when you next revisit Delamere, Maurice, let me know and I'll buy you one anyway. It's so good to know someone's reading the Newsletter and actually writing in.

Robin.

Another question: the caption accompanying the front page photos, "Look here upon this picture and on this" is a line spoken by a famous literary figure.

Who is he and what is he comparing?

Mystery Call

Last December I had a phone call from a lady who told me that she had been due to move into a vacant house in Mere Crescent, but had had to change her plans at the last minute. She told me she would like me to pass on her thanks to all the would-be neighbours who had befriended her.

Unfortunately she didn't want to give her name, but by then I'd already agreed to her request. I realise that this is a piece of non-news – unless, that is, you happen to remember a lady who nearly became your neighbour just before Christmas, in which case consider yourself thanked. We aim to please...

R.

**THE
FOURWAYS
INN**

at Delamere

CONFERENCE CENTRE * BANQUET CATERING * RESTAURANT * PUB

CALL IN AND SEE THE CHANGES

**SUNDAY LUNCH £8.95
2-COURSE STARTER AND MAINS**

CURRY NIGHTS EVERY THURSDAY

LUNCHE MONDAY TO SATURDAY ONLY £5 – OVER 15 ITEMS

**BRING THIS ADVERT. IN AND RECEIVE A FREE GLASS OF WINE
WHEN ORDERING A MEAL**

**CHESTER ROAD, DELAMERE, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE CW8 2HB
TELEPHONE 01606 882126. FAX: 01606 883334
EMAIL: fourways@thefourways.co.uk WEB SITE : www.thefourwaysinn.co.uk**

SWP ELECTRICS LTD

- SOCKET LIGHTS REWIRES •
- TESTING AND INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES •

NO JOB TOO SMALL, WE DO THEM ALL

- ✓ PROMPT RELIABLE SERVICE
- ✓ FREE ESTIMATES
- ✓ REFERENCES AVAILABLE

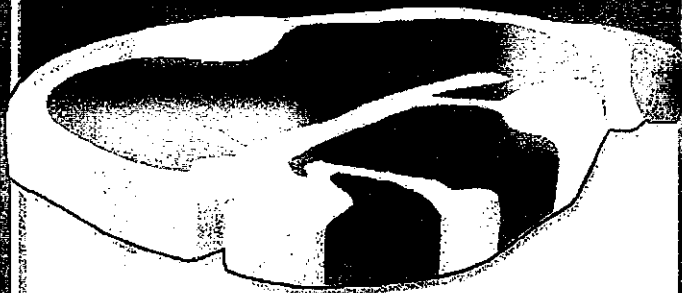
Tel 01829 781736 or 01928 740237

**Stephen Warburton
SWP Electrics
Common Lane, Duddon, Tarporley CW6 0HG**



BSI PART P DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL INSTALLER APPROVED

**OUR REPUTATION
IS AT STEAK!**



DUTTON'S
Quality Meats

**4a Church St, Kelsall
Opp. Dr Surgery**

01829 751355



What's On

February/March

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 March for April/May, 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)

Wednesday, 7th Feb.

Golden Age

Hot Pot Lunch

12.00 for 12,30

followed by

Songs of the 40s

Tuesday, 13th Feb.

Women's Institute

7.30pm

Brian O'Connor

Tales of Cheshire Folk

Wednesday, 14th

Feb.

Folk Dancing

Manley Village Hall

£2.50

8.30 – 10.45pm

Monday, 19th Feb.

Delamere Parish

Council

Meeting at

Delamere School

7.30pm

Wednesday, 21st Feb.

Golden Age

Talk with slides on the

Galapagos Islands

2.00pm

Wednesday, 28th Feb.

Folk Dancing

Manley Village Hall

£2.50

8.30 – 10.45pm

Friday, 2nd March

Barn Dance

See ad. on p.13 for
details.

Wednesday, 7th March

Golden Age

Talk on

Primary Care Trust

Geoff Woods

2.00pm

Monday, 12th March

Community Centre

Committee Meeting

7.15pm

Tuesday, 13th March

Women's Institute

7.30pm

Elaine Hanzak

Virgin Vie Cosmetics

Wednesday, 14th March

Folk Dancing

Manley Village Hall

£2.50

8.30 – 10.45pm

Monday, 19th March

Delamere Parish

Council

Meeting at

Delamere School

7.30pm

Wednesday, 21st March

Golden Age

Talk by

United Utilities

on

Water Filtration Plants

Wednesday, 28th March

Folk Dancing

Manley Village Hall

£2.50

8.30 – 10.45 pm

Friday, 13th April

Kelsall Youth

Support Group

is holding a

Spring Event

at

The Morris Dancer
for youngsters aged 12
to 18

10.30am – 3.30pm

Activities include:

a climbing wall (small charge),
hockey, football, timed races, art
workshop, make-up.

Hot dogs/burger lunch
provided.

Contact Louise Norris on
01829 751886 for details.

FOX HOWL

BIRDSONG GROUP

As series of sessions based on Fox Howl follows a pattern, established over many years, to recognise the wealth of birdsong in our woodland. Sessions are usually led by Prof. David Norman and Dr Joan Fairhurst. All are welcome, as we can break into smaller groups if appropriate. Binoculars and outdoor clothing essential. This year the sessions are being advertised through CAWOS and the Wildlife Trust to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge that can be shared. There will be a charge to contribute to equipment for the centre.

Wednesday, 21st March: 5-7 pm

EARLY BIRDSONG

Wednesday 25th April: 5-7 pm

EARLY MIGRANT BIRDSONG

Sunday 20th May: 5.30 am

EARLY RISERS*

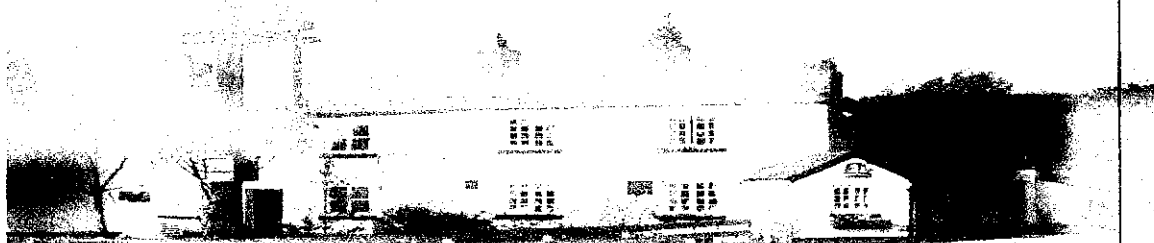
Wednesday 13th June: 5-7 pm

ESTABLISHED TERRITORIES

*Can you get to Fox Howl for 5.30 am for a spectacular morning? The rewards are immense, including hot drinks and bacon butties at 7.30ish. For those with time the morning continues with a visit to Blakemere. **Please book for this one**, so we know when everyone is there, by contacting Kay George on 01606 882183, or kaypgeorge@yahoo.co.uk

You are welcome to join individual sessions, although differentiating the songs does get more difficult as spring advances. For further information contact Kay George (see above).

The Fishpool Inn



Traditional Ales

Garden

Open: 11.30 – 3.00 & 5.30 – 11.00 Monday to Friday

All Day Saturday & Sunday

Food Served All Day at Weekends.

Senior Citizens Menus Available ~ £5.95

Telephone: 01606 883277

DELAMERE STORES

13 Station Road, Delamere, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2HU

Tel: 01606 882226



Visit our in-store bakery and choose from a full menu of fresh hand-made sandwiches, which are prepared as you wait. Free coffee with every sandwich ordered during February.

Come and visit us.

WE ARE OPEN: 6.30am – 6.00pm Mon. – Thurs.

6.30am – 6.00pm Friday. 6.00am – 6.00pm Saturday.

7.00am - 2.00pm Sunday

Pre-War Cricket

How many readers of this newsletter can remember when there was a Delamere Cricket Club?

The club ceased playing in 1939 with the start of World War II and, sadly, never restarted after the war.

The other day I called on Denis Gore of Frith Avenue to find out more about the club. Denis played for Delamere in his early teens and is now the only surviving player.

The ground was on the opposite side of the main road from Delamere Church on land owned by the Cleggs of Abbey Wood and the pavilion was still standing long after the war.

Denis recalls matches against Cote Brook, Cuddington, Kelsall, Oulton Park and Weaverham (all "friendly" matches: league cricket hadn't arrived at village level in those days). Delamere players in the 30s included: Bill Bragg, John Cork, Cliff Edwards, Bill Everett, Denis Gore, Bob Jeffs, Frank Jones, Albert Leech, John Leech, Raymond Lightfoot, Jack Povey, Norman Roberts and Philip Rutter. Teas were provided by Mrs Goulbourne and Mrs Lewis.

If anyone has any more memories of Delamere Cricket Club – fixtures, results, photos – please let me know.

Two Clubs in Delamere

Incidentally, one other club played in Delamere in the 1930s. Kelsall Cricket Club's ground was just off Morrey's Lane alongside the main road. Like Delamere C.C. the Kelsall club was disbanded in 1939 and the field ploughed up to help with the war effort. It now forms part of Morrey's Nursery. A picture of the ground and a c.1936 team picture appear in Harold Hockenhull's excellent *Kelsall & Willington – A Personal Collection* (see ad. on p.7)

Another Club is Born

Nine years after the war ended a group of local enthusiasts from Cuddington and Delamere got together to form a new club. The first games were played in 1954 and Denis Gore was elected captain, a post he was to hold for the next nineteen years. Over the years **Oakmere Cricket Club** has become one of the most active and successful in the county.

And what of Kelsall? The club was re-formed in 1989 and continues to play to this day.

Unlike in pre-war days, though, Kelsall no longer has its own ground. Many of its home fixtures in recent times have been played at Oakmere's ground in Overdale Lane

R.

From My Window

Birds and animals have survived the great gale and changeable weather conditions. Fifteen yellowhammers were feeding on the ground in early January.

Catkins were out on 7th January. A flock of chaffinches come every day as do two woodpeckers.

Nestboxes are being inspected by blue tits and great tits and peanuts are being scoffed at an incredible rate. Fatballs are also in great demand. Goldfinches are infrequent but very welcome visitors.

Rabbits have pulled up my pansies four times, so they have been replanted in tubs where the little rascals can't reach!

Our friendly crow family come twice a day for snacks – bread, fat, leftover chicken skin, etc. Three male blackbirds are coming every day; they love raisins and sultanas.

Daffodils are in flower, as are lavender and polyanthus. Global warming or global warning?

As I write, three pied wagtails are bobbing along eating seeds scattered on the front of our home.

The pheasants are coming to feed twice a day, three males and three females. At one time there were more females, but they must have gone to pastures new. The males stalk each other, but so far there have been no "fisticuffs".

Collared doves are regular visitors, as is the odd wood pigeon. Robins are singing, the sun is shining, nature is wonderful. Enjoy it!

D.D.

Crisis in the Countryside

[The following lines, written at the time of the foot and mouth crisis by Margaret Matthews of Eddisbury Hill Park, first appeared in a magazine in April 2001. With the arrival in England of bird flu, they seem particularly relevant today.]

Wordsworth-like I wander, not lonely but alone looking to the Old Man of Coniston from a seat above Tarn Hows. I experience my beloved Lakeland as I have never seen her before, devoid of people and cars. All paths forbidden, all car parks blocked. Sheep call in the clear morning air. Buzzards mew and circle, courting, catching the thermals. A lone napoleon gull, trim and spring smart, stands hopefully a few feet away deprived of scavenging trash food from trippers. One chaffinch answers another "chink, chink" and the blue distant mountains stand sentinel. The whole landscape seems to be taking a huge breath and sighing it

out as it breathes, free of feet trampling its valleys and hills. This is the uncanny beautifully eerie side of others' misfortune. I rejoice in my solitude but can also think poignantly of a Welsh farmer who in his despair hanged himself in his own familiar byre. He is free. His shocked loved ones are left to mourn and carry the heavy burden of this crisis.

A woodpecker drums, disturbing my reveries....

Footpath Improvement?

Work started in January on the footpath that runs from the top of Stoney Lane, Delamere to Nettleford Wood, where it joins the Sandstone Trail.

For many years the hedgerow dividing what was once the Old Pale farmland from fields belonging to Organsdale Farm has been neglected. Most of the hedge has disappeared, leaving a few scattered hawthorn trees which have remained an attractive, natural feature of the countryside.

What *has* survived has been the hedgecop, originally a low sandstone wall characteristic of the area on top of which the original hedge was planted. Like many in the area, over the years this has become so overgrown that it has disappeared from view.

A year ago the Forestry Commission put up a fence running the length of the footpath. This was professionally done and was erected along the top of the hedgecop all the way.

The recent work, an Econet project funded by EU money, has involved planting whips of hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, briar and holly at 8 to 12 inch intervals for the whole length of the footpath. This would be fine had it followed the proper line, as the fence does, but too often the whips have been planted at the foot of the cop so that when the hedge grows it will look untidy.

Even worse many of the old hawthorn trees, a haven for birds, have been cut down. The reason for this is that coppicing will improve the hedge in the long run. But try telling that to the birds and to the many walkers whose view will have been destroyed for a number of years.

Forest Paths Closed

The great January gale brought down so many trees that the Forestry Commission have had to close most of their footpaths to walkers as a safety measure. They are due to re-open as soon as possible.

Winsors WILLINGTON FARM SHOP

OPEN

**10 am – 4.30 pm
EVERY DAY**

**CHESHIRE HOME-GROWN
APPLES
HOME-PRESSED APPLE JUICE
CHESHIRE POTATOES
CHESHIRE WINTER VEGETABLES**

Plus a wide range of fresh fruit & vegetables,
local honey, Cheshire Farm Ice Cream, free
range eggs, jams & preserves, pre-pack
cheeses, Welsh farmhouse yoghurt, Cheshire
yoghurt

Signposted to Willington Fruit Farm
**CHAPEL LANE, WILLINGTON,
Nr.KELSALL,CHESHIRE
Tel: 01829 751216**

KELSALL & WILLINGTON A PERSONAL COLLECTION by Harold Hockenhull

From the personal collection of village octogenarian Harold Hockenhull, *Kelsall & Willington* is a treasure, a book not to be missed. The first pictorial history of Kelsall and Willington, it's a delightful walk down memory lane with anecdotes and information to complement over 175 wonderfully nostalgic photographs.

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."

PRICE: £9.95

ON SALE FROM NOVEMBER 1ST

ONLY AVAILABLE FROM THE PUBLISHER AND AUTHOR

To order please send cheque for £9.95 to CC Publishing, Martins Lane, Hargrave, Chester CH3 7RX.

Delivery in immediate local area free (cheques payable to CC Publishing)

Alternatively copies may be obtained from Harold Hockenhull, 2 Rushton House Mews, Chester Road, Kelsall. Telephone: 01829 751670.

J.W.Landscapes

Jamie Wright

- ❖ **BLOCK PAVING**
- ❖ **FLAGGING**
- ❖ **FENCING**
- ❖ **GATES**
- ❖ **DECKING**
- ❖ **TURFING**
- ❖ **TREE WORK**
- ❖ **FREE ESTIMATES**
- ❖ **RELIABLE SERVICE**



Little Budworth, Tarporley, Cheshire

Tel: 01829 760223 & 07955 219969

The Telephone Man

Experienced & Reliable

Installations & Repairs

Office Moves & Changes

**Telephone Extension Sockets
Anywhere Around Your
Home**

Please call Ken on

01606 888343

(Oakmere, Cheshire)

Mobile: 0776 4630088

THE NORTH-WEST'S FAVOURITE FOR CARAVANS AND OUTDOOR LEISURE

**SET IN OVER 10 ACRES OF
BEAUTIFUL CHESHIRE COUNTRYSIDE!**

- **MASSIVE SHOWROOM - OVER 35 CARAVANS UNDER ONE ROOF!**
- **GREAT CHOICE OF USED CARAVANS FROM ONLY £1995**
- **HUGE LEISURE SUPERSTORE - EVERY OUTDOOR ACCESSORY YOU NEED**
- **OUTDOOR CLOTHING - TOP BRANDS AT THE LOWEST PRICES**
- **1000s OF GIFT IDEAS - GAMES, BOOKS, CARDS & MORE**
- **ROMANY TEAROOM - DELICIOUS HOME-MADE MEALS & BREAKFASTS!**
- **AWARD-WINNING SERVICE DEPARTMENT**
- **AWNING SHOWROOM**



On the A556 Chester Road,
Delamere Forest, Nr. Northwich,
Cheshire CW8 2HB

Open 7 days

The Great Outdoor Experience!

Tel: 01606 882032

Web: www.harringtons-caravans.co.uk

Email: enquiries@harringtons-caravans.co.uk

ROSE CLOCKS

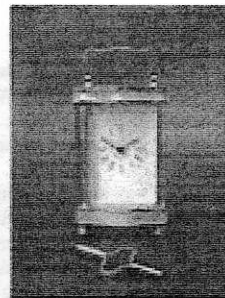
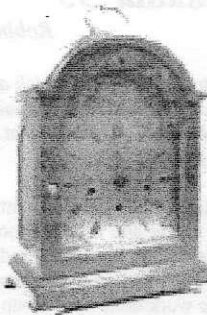
*Always a fine range of
antique and reproduction
clocks for sale.*

Quality clock & barometer
repairs by a
British Horological Institute
award winning horologist
Collection-delivery service

Tel 01829 741747

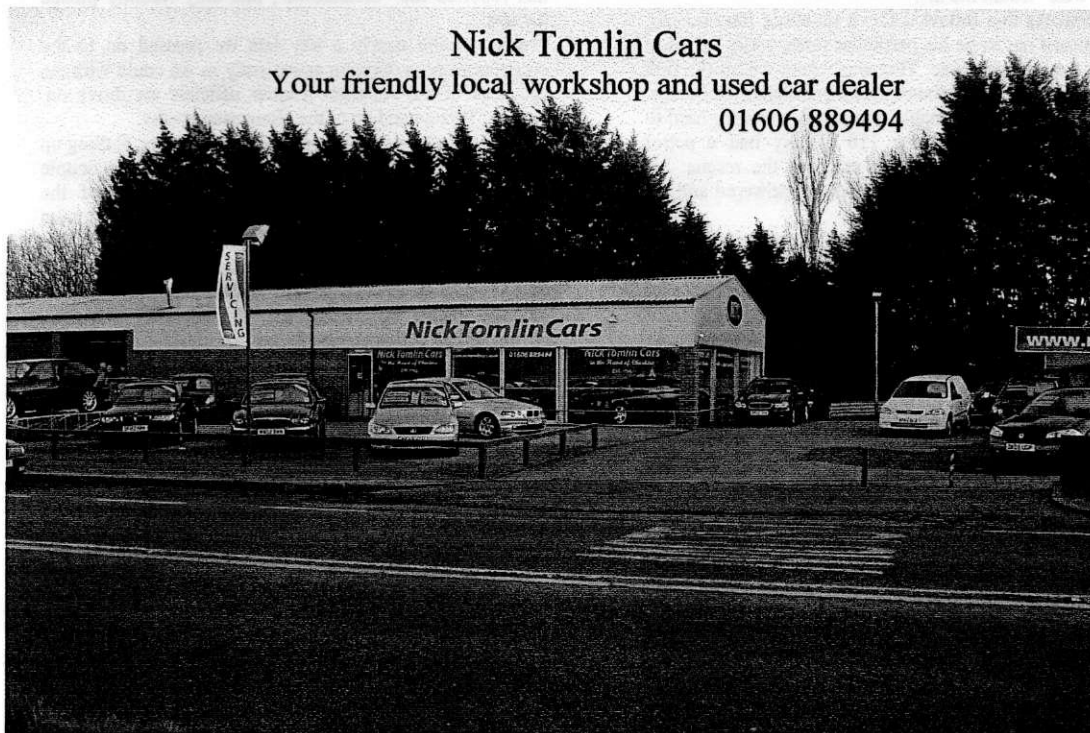
(Great Barrow, near Tarvin)

www.roseclocks.co.uk



Nick Tomlin Cars

Your friendly local workshop and used car dealer
01606 889494



Specialises in used BMW & Mercedes along with a wide selection of other used vehicles

- Car servicing offered at competitive rates.
- All makes and models catered for.
- Free collection and delivery in the Oakmere area.

Romania '93

Robin Ackerley

Prompted by the two travellers' tales which appeared in the last issue of the Newsletter and finding myself for once a little short of copy, I thought I'd have a go at recounting my own foreign venture fourteen years ago.

It was just after Christmas 1992 and I'd spent the festive season as I usually did, eating and drinking too much and generally indulging myself when I suddenly had this idea.

A few weeks earlier I'd watched a *Challenge Anneka* programme featuring the work done by a group of English volunteers in Romanian orphanages. Like many others I'd been shocked by the state of the orphanages and the terrible conditions in which the children were living.

Hence the idea. What if, I thought, I could raise some money and drive over to Romania in the Easter holiday with a load of aid? The more I thought about it the more this, in retrospect, crazy idea took hold.

The roads in Romania were by all accounts pretty dreadful – but

I had a Land Rover. No problem. I reckoned that I'd need roughly £2,000 to finance the trip, but, with a big charity-raising effort at school and a whole term to go, that shouldn't be a problem.

I'd need a co-driver. I thought of Steve. Steve was a chap I worked with who was noted for his willingness to go anywhere at any time. It was claimed that a trip never left school but Steve had managed to find his way onto the coach. Provided he was allowed to take his fishing rod, Steve was happy to travel. First day back I put my proposal to him. I didn't trouble him with all the carefully worked out plans, the detailed itinerary, the costing, the feasibility of the project, nor did Steve bother to ask. All he said was, "Count me in".

In the weeks that followed Steve set about fund raising, which turned out to be his particular forte, while I tried to sort out the transport side. This was where we hit the first snag. Romania, we had found, had a permanent fuel crisis. Diesel was *usually* obtainable, but petrol was very hard to find. My aging Land Rover 110 County had a petrol engine. Fortunately my brother came to the rescue; his otherwise similar Land Rover was diesel-powered and we arranged to do a swap.

Meanwhile we were beset by dire warnings about the difficulties we would meet if we went. Prominent among these were the dangers of driving in Romania and the problems in obtaining the right documentation. Apart from these were the minor considerations of exactly where to go when we got there and what exactly to take.

Seeking advice from someone with experience I telephoned the main body dealing with Romanian Relief. This was based in Regent Street. I did wonder why a charity dealing with the poorest country in Europe should have its headquarters in the West End of London. The phone was answered by a rather self-important and unhelpful young man who told me in no uncertain terms to forget the whole thing. A certain bloody-mindedness, a trait I think I must have inherited from my dad, means that whenever someone in authority starts laying down the law my instinctive reaction is to do the opposite. It was thanks to the young man in Regent Street that we ended up going.

Fund raising was by now going well; we quickly passed our initial £2,000 target as the whole school got caught up in the enthusiasm for the project. A fashion show, an auction and a sponsored spelling test (which alone realised over £3,000) meant that we were well on the way to raising over £7,000 by the departure date. What's more three colleagues said they'd like to come along; then Steve said his fishing mate Geoff would like to come too.

We now had the means to take not just a Land Rover plus trailer but two seven and a half ton Ford Cargos as well. We'd also found a charity based in Essex which

could supply us with aid to take over. The charity, *Children in Distress*, had recently built a children's hospice in Cernavoda near the Black Sea and the organisers were confident they could make use of any capacity we could offer them. At that time almost anything we could take the Romanians were in need of and we were inundated with offers of a variety of things. Moreover we had managed to contact a school in Cernavoda and had started putting together boxes of what to us was redundant school equipment but was like gold dust to them.

We left school on the last afternoon of term with a crowd of pupils and staff making us feel as though we were off on a polar expedition as we headed for Dover and foreign parts.

The next morning, Good Friday, Steve and Geoff radioed from the Land Rover that the clutch was failing. We had no choice but to pull in to a service area just south of Frankfurt and send for the breakdown service. The mechanic arrived, looked briefly under the vehicle, indicated that there was nothing he could do and put it on to a low loader. We followed him slowly and glumly to the nearest town.

When we had loaded the lorries in Essex we found that *Children in Distress* had let us down rather badly. They had failed to let us have the full loads they had promised, but this meant that we now had room for the contents of Land Rover and trailer in the two Ford Cargos, while each cab took on an extra passenger.

There was a strange outcome to this episode. On returning to England I heard that the dealers where the Land Rover had been sent had found nothing wrong with it. One feature of the turbo diesel engine Land Rover then fitted was that if you tried to pull away in a high gear there was a feeling of loss of power not unlike that of a slipping clutch. I only learned (after we got back) that Geoff, who had reported the "breakdown", had only recently passed his test.

Now running nearly a day late we pressed on to the Austrian frontier. Coping as patiently as we could with the rudeness of the Austrian frontier officials we drove on, skirting Vienna and on to the Hungarian border.

This was where we hit our second major snag. Pulling up at the inevitable frontier queue we were joined by a couple of vans from Norfolk carrying aid on behalf of the Norwegian Red Cross. As we compared notes the drivers asked if we had our Hungarian documents ready. We hadn't. We had never heard of them. *Children in Distress* had let us down again. We were faced with the prospect of driving all the way home to England, our mission a complete and embarrassing failure.

The Norfolk group suggested we team up with them and enter Hungary on their paperwork. Somehow it worked and we followed them to Budapest.

They say Budapest is a beautiful city. I wouldn't know. Following signs to Szolnok and other unpronounceable places and avoiding Magyar motorists left little time for sightseeing. Nowadays a motorway skirts the capital, making travel easier, if less exciting.

After spending the night at a rather dubious wayside inn in eastern Hungary, we headed on towards Romania. At about 11 o'clock we came across a line of trucks. This was the queue of vehicles waiting to get into Romania. No one had told us about this either. After a few hours the queue started to move – and then it stopped. This was how we spent Easter Sunday. Eventually at about 11 at night we reached the Hungarian-Romanian border identified by a cluster of grimy sheds with a dirty, rat-infested ditch alongside.

Officials invited us into their shack where they offered us a print-out of a map of Romania. We'd already got one of those. They asked for our passports and visas, which we had. They also asked us for cigarettes; we were prepared for this, too: we'd been told you couldn't get past the customs people without a bribe. But when they asked i

we'd got any coffee (that month's currency, it seemed) or syringes, we couldn't oblige. Nor could we help when they demanded to see our letter of invitation from our destination office in Bucharest. *Children in Distress* had struck again.

It was now 1am. Despite the hour I decided the only thing to do was to telephone the charity's representative in Bucharest and ask him to fax the missing invitation to the border post. This he did and at long last, after 17 hours' queuing and negotiating, we were free to go! It was now 4am.

One piece of very clear and emphatic advice impressed upon us before leaving England was: *Whatever you do, never travel in Romania at night!*

After what we had endured our one aim was to put as much space between ourselves and the border and its officials as possible. We ignored the advice and headed for Arad, the nearest town, about 20 miles distant where we'd heard there was a lorry park. At about 5am, weary and dispirited, we parked up alongside a row of Turkish trucks and tried to snatch some sleep. The next morning about eight we wound our way down the muddy track from the lorry park to where we'd seen a fuel station. Petrol stations in Romania were identified at the time by the inevitable line of Dacia cars queuing hopefully, but usually in vain, for petrol. We eyed them sympathetically as we drove up to the diesel pump. As we got out to fill up the owner came over to us. With the little English he had – and it didn't take much – he indicated that there was no diesel and no prospect of any; what was more there was none to be had in the region.....Had we, after all, come all this way only to have to go back into Hungary for diesel and then return to England?.....

[The story of what *did* happen will appear in the next issue]

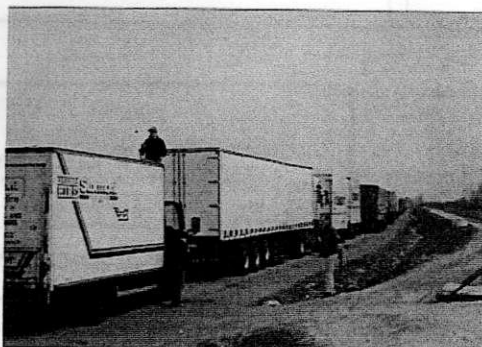
~~~~~  
On page 13 appears an advert for a Barn Dance. At Easter 1995 Gloria flew out to Romania while I was there (for the third time) to train a group of special needs teachers in Onesti. She has since visited the country on fourteen occasions

From her visits has sprung Network Gloria, so named by friends in Romania, which offers advice and sponsors families with special needs problems. Today, despite the country's apparent advances and despite having recently joined the EU, many Romanians suffer the kind of hardships we can only begin to imagine.

The Barn Dance in March is just one of a number of events the Network holds each year for our friends in Romania. Please support us if you can.

### HUNGARY-ROMANIA BORDER, EASTER 1993.

*These mad  
Englishmen...  
whiling away an  
Easter Sunday  
afternoon.*



Spot the ball.  
Nick practices his  
juggling skills on the  
cab roof,

(the line of wagons  
stretches into the  
distance...)



while Geoff goes  
fishing in a muddy  
ditch.

(The figure in the cap, who  
appears, Hitchcock-style, in  
both pictures, is the author)

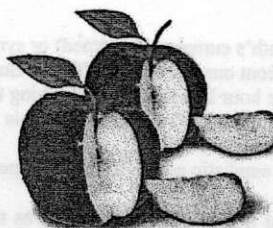
## ACKOMATICS



WASHING MACHINES,  
TUMBLE DRYERS  
&  
DISHWASHER REPAIRS

*Also New & Re-conditioned  
Machines available for sale or  
rental  
Reasonable Rates*

Call Paul on 07976 969223  
Or 01829 760355  
Cotebrook, Tarporley



## Cheshire Apple Juice

Cheshire's most pure and natural apple juice  
made from the finest quality apples grown on  
rich Cheshire Soils.

Ideal for a breakfast juice, or an aperitif  
at any time of the day or night.

Choose from over 10 varieties  
of apple juice all with their own individual  
character and flavour.

No artificial colourings or preservatives,  
no sugar is added.

Grown, Pressed & Bottled at Eddisbury Fruit Farm,  
Kelsall, Cheshire. Telephone 01829 751300  
[www.eddisbury.co.uk](http://www.eddisbury.co.uk)



## VALE ROYAL FARMERS' MARKET

EDDISBURY FRUIT FARM  
YELD LANE, KELSALL

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
26 Stalis Local Food & Craft

17<sup>th</sup> February 2007  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2007



**P&D (Executive)**



### Travel

**Little Budworth**

- Airport Service
- Contract Work
- Private Parties
- Golf Trips
- Plenty of Luggage Room
- 8 Seat Max
- Wide Seat
- Electric or Standard
- Wheelchair Access (Auto Lift)
- DVD and CD
- Fridge on Request



Tel: 01829 760445

Mobile: 07889 081639





### The Quest.

As a new year begins, just maybe this will be the year that turns up that elusive Roman Coin and so the Quest continues. That said it seems that finding the first one is the trick. Georgian coppers and the odd old sixpence turn up on a fairly regular basis but no three penny bits. One afternoon recently turned up 3 in a couple of hours but that's the way it goes. The coin shown in fig1. is a George III silver half sovereign dated 1817. Oh did it shine in the sun when it came out of the ground, well the silver dip did. It soon became apparent that it was indeed a forgery. 1817 mad King George on the throne, the battle of Waterloo had been only 2 years before, the country was broke after the Napoleonic wars and forgery was rife. Apparently in order to stop the forgers anyone found making or trying to pass on the coins could find themselves being deported to Australia or hanged. I have been told by one archaeologist that there are written accounts of the activity still continuing aboard the deportation ships. The culprits hanged from the yardarms. Some might prefer that option to the eventual destination even today.

So what of the coin itself? Did someone genuinely lose it walking, working or riding across the fields of Delamere? It would have been quite a loss in its day. Or were they returning from a day at the market or local fair when they realised what had been passed to them and quickly disposed of it. As a forgery it has a more interesting history other than just an everyday loss. Alas we will never know the true nature of its loss.

Genuine Gold guineas of George III dating 1787-1799 displayed the royal coat of arms on a pointed spade and hence acquired the description "spade guineas". The item

in fig2 is known as an Imitation Spade Guinea. Although dated 1789 it is a deliberate error to avoid a trip to Oz, or worse. They were actually used as gaming counters and were struck in brass with a gilt finish to make them look genuine. However, they weighed a lot less than their gold counterparts. They also usually had inscriptions which made it obvious and were never really meant to be counterfeit pieces. Scores of varieties were produced to make announcements or advertise. This particular one has, In Memory of the Good Old Days on it. Ironically it was found on the old Roman Road in Delamere and again an archaeologist has told me that there are examples of Roman forged coins with the same inscription.

Alan Knowles



### H.R.H. The Countess of Wessex visits Winsford

As Grand President of St. John Ambulance

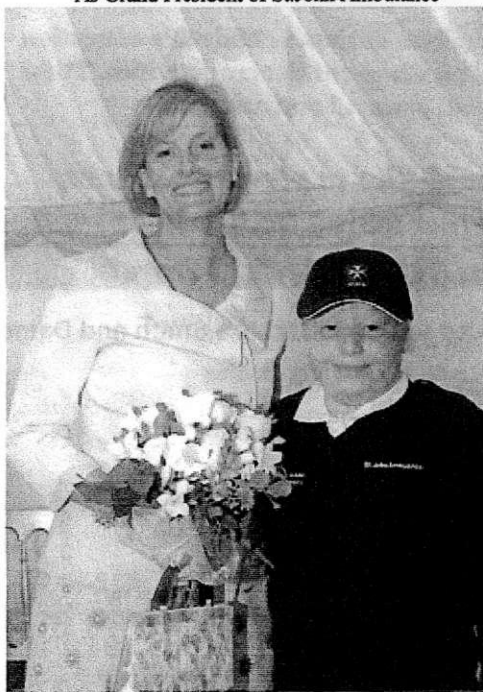


Photo courtesy of Cheshire St John Ambulance Newsletter  
*Rebecca Hassall of Fishpool Road,  
Delamere presents a posy to the  
Countess.*

## BARN DANCE

**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007**

**In aid of Network Gloria, a  
registered charity supporting special  
needs families in Romania.**

([www.networkgloria.org.uk](http://www.networkgloria.org.uk))

**at Delamere Community Centre,  
Station Road, Delamere  
7.30 until 11.00pm**

**Dancing to Foxes Bark  
(There will be a caller to teach the dances)**

### RAFFLE

(Donation of prizes welcomed)

*Nibbles and a dessert will be available, but  
please bring your own drinks*

**Tickets £7.00 Under 14s £3.50**

**From Gloria or Robin Ackerley 01829 752723  
The Paddock, Stoney Lane, Delamere.**



## ***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](mailto: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 February & March**

- 6<sup>th</sup> February ~ ‘Cook in’ at After School Club
- 7<sup>th</sup> March ~ PC Woodward in school to do road safety session
- 10<sup>th</sup> March ~ Challenge Saturday
- 14<sup>th</sup> March ~ Whole School Trip to Science Museum, Manchester
- 15<sup>th</sup> March ~ Cross Country Race
- 19<sup>th</sup> March ~ Governors Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> March ~ Self Defence Assembly
- 21<sup>st</sup> March ~ Chester City Football Coaching
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March ~ School Art Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> March ~ Sponsored Swim + Egg Rolling, Easter Egg Hunt, Tea & Cakes with Friends of Delamere.

**Homework, dance, art, hockey/basketball clubs run after school every week.**

**Keyboard and recorder lessons every Monday**

**The French Club will be starting again after half term.**

**The school hall is available for hire outside school hours throughout the year and the school field is available in the summer.**

## **Delamere Community Association**

(Registered Charity No.504881)

**Letter from the Treasurer**

### **The New '100' Club**

*Many of you will probably remember that some time ago Delamere Community Association (DCA) ran a '100 Club' which was extremely successful and ran for a good number of years, ending in 2002. Proceeds from that '100 Club' contributed towards the general upkeep of the Community Centre.*

*Members of the DCA should by now have received information about the Association's intention to run a NEW '100 Club', the information having been distributed to them through the organisers of the various Delamere Community Clubs or via post from the DCA Treasurer.*

*As has already been proven, this is a very simple and FUN way for the DCA and its members to fundraise, whilst at the same time giving its members the chance to win cash prizes during the four 'draws' that will take place throughout the year. With the NEW '100 Club' there is also the chance to win DOUBLE prize money in the July 2007 AGM 'Super Draw' and, additionally,....there is to be a further draw for 'non winners' at the end of each '100 Club' year. That's up to 6 chances in all to win cash prizes and also support the upkeep of your local Community Centre- all for the sum of £1 per month!*

**The NEW '100 Club' starts 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 and application forms should be with the Treasurer by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.**

**DCA Members can obtain further information about the NEW '100 Club' from the DCA Treasurer, Mrs Y.Billows 01606 888303.**

**The DCA Financial Year is 1<sup>st</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> April and Membership of the Association Is £2.50 per year.**

**Donate your computer's  
empty Inkjet Cartridges  
and your old mobile  
phones and help raise  
£££s for YOUR Centre.**

### **Computer Inkjet Cartridges**

- ✓ HP
- ✓ Lexmark
- ✓ Canon

**Any type of Mobile Phone**

**Collection Box is held at  
Delamere Community  
Centre**

**Please support this initiative.**

## **The School and the Community**

While the Community Centre does so much for the life of the village, just a glance at the opposite page will show just how much Delamere School itself does for the community and, in particular, for the young people of the area. They, of course, are our future.

A thriving village school is vital to the well-being of a rural community such as ours.

Long may it continue to thrive!

\* \* \* \* \*

## Travel Information

### Trains

#### From Delamere to Manchester

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

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

[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.