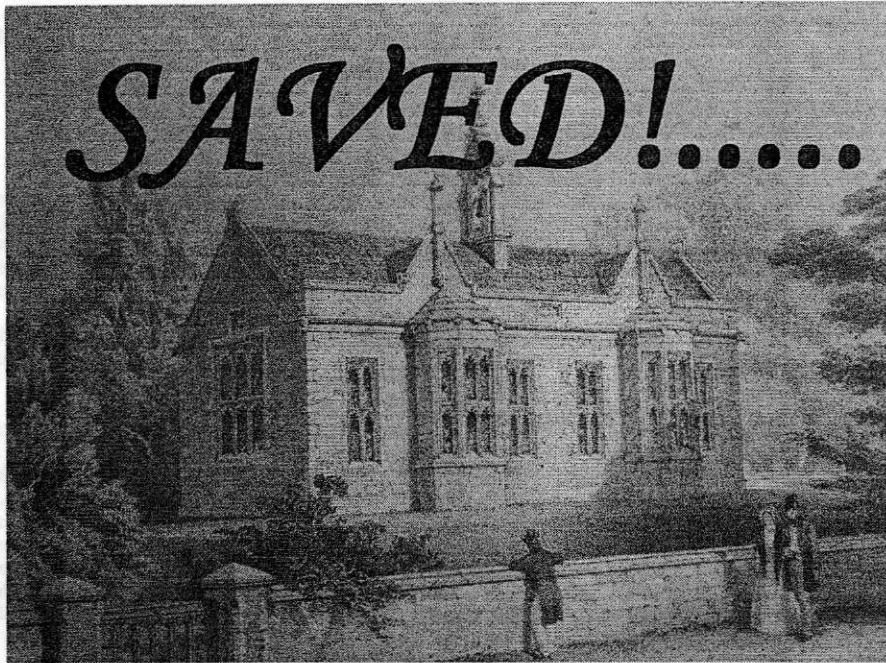


Delamere and Oakmere News

Number 14

Aug/Sept 2007



The picture is taken from a lithograph of the school which appeared shortly after the school opened in 1846.

As the whole world now knows, at a meeting of the County School Planning Select Panel held on Monday, 16th July members decided to recommend that the Executive Committee should not proceed with the plan to close Delamere C of E Primary School in two years' time. This decision was upheld at the Executive meeting ten days later.

The decision was a triumph for the Friends of Delamere School, a team comprising parents and governors that had worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to D-Day. As a member of the team (though I can claim little credit for what was achieved), I was overwhelmed by the commitment, enterprise and sheer determination that the rest of the team showed. Their attitude, moreover, was a reflection of that shown by *all* the parents - and children too - when the news of the threatened closure first broke.

It has to be stressed, however, that while we have won this particular battle, we have not won the war. The forces of darkness that would like to see the school closed are still there, waiting for any excuse to launch another attack in a year or so from now. Fortunately the school is aware of this and has set about an imaginative programme of development that bodes well for its future. Equally important is the need to increase the school roll - and this can only be effected by raising its profile in the community.

One positive outcome of the closure crisis was the way in which it served to bring together the whole community and unite the whole area against a common enemy. Many people - among them not only former pupils, but also many whose links with the school were only tenuous - were prepared to write letters of protest about the threatened closure.

Meanwhile a big thank you to everyone whose contribution helped to save the school!

**What's On
Sept/Oct**

*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 Sept for
Oct/Nov, 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, 5th September

Golden Age

Bingo
2.00pm

Monday, 10th September

Meeting of
**Delamere Parish
Council**
at
Delamere School
7.30pm

Monday 10th September

Meeting of
**Oakmere Parish
Council**
in the
Church Room
7.00pm

Tuesday, 11th September

Women's Institute
Talk by
Pat Hayes
on
Newton Hall
+ Group Competition
7.30pm

Wednesday, 19th September

Golden Age
Birthday Lunch
Members Only
12.00 for 12.30pm

Sunday, 23rd September

Harvest Festival

Oakmere Methodist Church
Rev. Charles Smith
10.45am

Sunday, 23rd September

Sunday School

Delamere Church
See p.4 for details.

Sunday, 30th September

Harvest Festival

Delamere Church
10.30am

Tuesday, 2nd October

Harvest Supper

Tickets obtainable from
Anne Bold (01606 882649)
£8 Adults/ £4 Children
7.30pm

Wednesday, 3rd October

Golden Age

Chairrobics
2.00pm

Tuesday, 9th October

Women's Institute

Talk with slides ~
Mr. Cummings
7.30pm

Monday, 15th October

Meeting of
**Delamere Parish
Council**
at
Delamere School
7.30pm

Wednesday, 17th October

Golden Age

**Harvest Festival
Service**

Produce brought by members
will be sold in aid of Golden
Age funds.
2.00pm

Wednesday 31st October

Golden Age

Hallowe'en Lunch
Members Only
12.30pm

Building Sand

I still have over a ton of building
sand which I don't need. Anyone is
welcome to come and help
themselves if they are in need. Let
me know first, please. Phone 01829
752723.

Robin.

Many thanks to everyone who has
kindly enquired after my health
during the last few weeks. I had a
successful heart operation in mid-
July and am now on the (slow)
road to recovery.

As a result this edition of the
Newsletter is running late. It should
have come out six weeks ago.
Apologies for this.

I'd like to pay tribute to the
wonderful care I experienced
during my two and a half weeks in
Broad Green Hospital, Liverpool. I
cannot fault my treatment both by
the consultant surgeon and the
nurses on the cardiac ward.

We hear so much about the
failings of the NHS - but it
deserves credit for the many things
it does so well.

Robin.

Lest We Forget.....

A reminder. I'm hoping to give
details about the Delamere
parishioners who lost their lives in
the two World Wars, starting in the
October/November newsletter with
the fallen in World War One.

If you can provide any
information (for example, if a
member of your family was one of
the fallen), please let me know by
the end of September.. All the
relevant names are on the War
Memorial in Delamere Church.
Photographs of the two war
memorials can be found on the
internet - just look up Delamere
Church War Memorials.

R.

Imperial v Metric

It is the policy of this
Newsletter to refer only to
imperial weights and
measurements at all times.

R.

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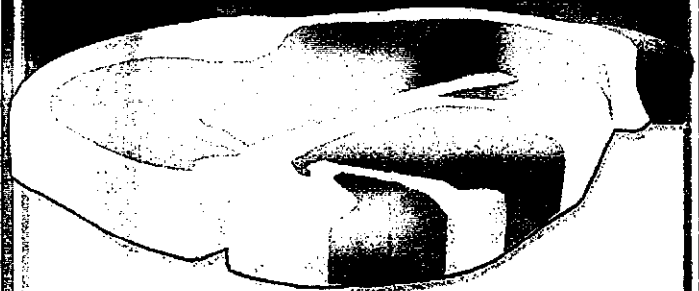
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Oakmere Parish Council

At the June meeting Mrs Sylvia Alexander of Farm Lane was co-opted onto the council to fill the vacancy created by Mr Tony Penney's retirement. Although his wisdom and experience is sadly missed, she is a worthy replacement. As a local businesswoman she brings a wealth of knowledge to the task. She follows in the footsteps of her late father-in-law, Mr Robert Alexander, a much-venerated member of the Parish Council for many years.

The current chief concern of the Council is the development to the East of Hogshead Lane. This huge project requires much work before a polo-ground can be created. The planning regulations about movements on and off site are strict. Councillors are keeping a close watch on the situation.

A grant from Vale Royal has enabled refurbishment of the steps in the Little Wood and the erection of a handrail.

At the July meeting, following a presentation by Mr Martin Harrison, the council decided to work with Vale Royal Borough Council towards achieving a Green Flag Award. This is the National Standard for Parks and Green Spaces.

Garden Party

The Delamere Church Garden Party on 7th July was its usual success, helped by the fine weather, which has become an almost expected feature of the day.

Money raised on the day came to about £2,200, but a substantial further sum was subsequently added to this thanks to the enterprise of one or two of the parishioners.

So many contributed to the day's success that it seems unfair to single anyone out. Nevertheless it would be even more unfair not to mention the efforts of David Unsworth, the mastermind behind the whole show, and Mike Gore, whose organisation of the annual football tournament was only one part of his overall contribution.

The other major attraction was the Dog Show, as always professionally organised by Yvonne Billows and resulting in a surprise addition to the canine world.....

.....A Birth at the Garden Party

While everyone was busy playing football, showing dogs, selling goods and making teas, Brenda MacVicker went into premature labour behind the Plant stall. Luckily for her, expert help was close at hand. Three doctors in attendance made way for a veterinary nurse, who delivered the first small puppy, before sending the patient home.

Very many thanks to Yvonne Billows and her colleagues. Brenda and her puppies are doing well.

* * * *

Sunday School

St. Peter's Church

Sunday School will re-commence at 10.30 am on Sunday, 23rd September.

The school will subsequently meet every fourth Sunday in the month and will be held in the Parish Room behind the church at the same time as the monthly Service of the Word in the church.

The inaugural meeting will have a harvest theme.

All children will be welcome. For further information ring Gloria Ackerley on 01829 752723.

Forest News

Sunday, 16th September

British Heart Foundation ~ Sponsored Walk from Linmere through to Kingswood.

From 17th September for 4 weeks

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Youth Engagement TeTeam Building at Barnsbridge.

A Letter from Oakmere Methodist Church

Happy harvest time! I'm sure that many of you will be involved in harvest celebrations in schools and churches over the next few weeks. Giving thanks to God for the beauty of our world and for all that it provides us with has always been a particularly important festival in our rural areas.

In the Gospel of John (Chapter 13) Jesus uses the image of the vine and its branches. He tells us that He is the vine and that we are the branches and that by our faith in Him we bear fruit.

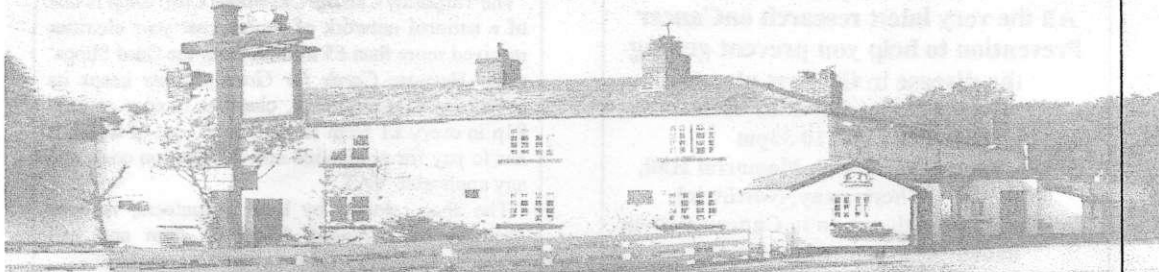
There are many truths in this passage for all of us, whatever our faith or beliefs. The branches of the vine are all connected to one another and they will only bear fruit if they keep their connectedness. In our homes and in our communities we need to be bound together in love and friendship so that we can live together in tolerance and harmony. If we do, then it could be said that we are bearing fruit.

If we do not and ignore the people around us then we, and others, can become lonely, isolated and disconnected. At harvest time we thank God for all that He has given us and pray that He will help us to bear fruit too.

Yours in Christ,

Ann Kenton

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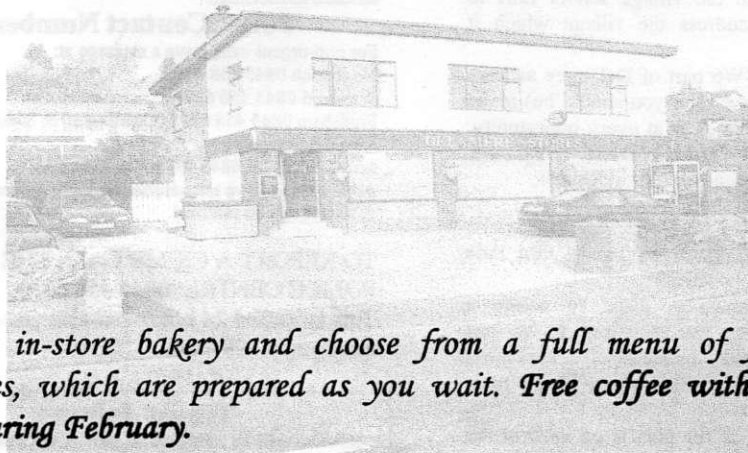
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Delamere or Kelsall?

Where do you *really* live?

Most (probably about 80 percent) of the people who receive this Newsletter live in the eastern part of the parish and have a CW8 postcode and a Delamere or Oakmere, Northwich address. With this there is no problem.

If, however, you live on the west side of Eddisbury Hill and have a CW6 (Tarporley) address then you will have been told that you live not in Delamere but Kelsall! Even Delamere School has its official address as Stoney Lane, Kelsall.

The Organsdale Equestrian Centre has even called itself the Kelsall Hill _____, when it's nowhere near Kelsall Hill.

It was alleged that one of the county officials in favour of closing the school made some snide comment about Delamere not having a community. It's difficult to mount a defence against such an accusation when even the village school fails to acknowledge in its address the village which it serves.

If you live in the CW6 part of Delamere and are proud of where you live (and you should be) make sure that you make this clear at every opportunity. Your address should read *Delamere, Tarporley, Cheshire*. There's no need to mention Kelsall.

View from the Heights

Did you know that from the top of Old Pale Heights you can see 8 counties?

The Forestry Commission plans to create a viewing area, showing the distance* to various points in Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Flintshire & Denbighshire.

An artist's drawing of the plan is on view at the Linnere Visitors' Centre. If you have any information or suggestions you think might be relevant to the project, please contact Simon Hough on 01606 882167.

It is hoped that the viewing site will be completed by next spring.

* In miles, we hope.

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

The Cards for Good Causes Multi-Charity Christmas Card Shop will be opening on **Tuesday 23rd October** at Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Church.

The Tarporley *Charity Christmas Card Shop* is one of a national network of shops. Last year charities received more than £5 million from the Card Shops' sales. Because *Cards for Good Causes* keeps its overheads to a minimum, charities receive at least 81p in every £1 from its card sales, out of which it has to pay for production and distribution costs and any applicable VAT.

The shop, staffed by local volunteers, is open **Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm** and will continue through to **Saturday 24th November**.

Cold Calling

Message from Cheshire Police

People have been calling the police recently regarding Cold Telephone Calls made to homes of residents in Vale Royal, offering appointments to demonstrate Home Security systems. In some cases individual products *may* have police security standard approval. However the police **DO NOT PROMOTE OR RECOMMEND** specific products as there are many approved products in the market place.

The following advice is given:

- Decline appointments to visit your home if you do not require these services.
- If you have started to purchase any goods or services following a cold call to your home, you can contact Trading Standards (0845 1132500), who will advise you about your rights.
- Consider asking the company to remove your phone number from their lists, or contact the Telephone Preference Service, who will add you to their nationwide No Cold Calling lists....

Cold Calling is not in itself a crime. However you can make personal choices and take action to deal with unwanted sales calls.

Police Contact Numbers

For non-urgent calls leave a message at:

Northwich 0845 458 6392

Winsford 0845 458 6391

Frodsham 0845 458 6393 (Cuddington & Sandiway, Kingsley, Forest)

Mickle Trafford 0845 458 6394 (MARA)

All the above have answerphones; leave a message and your call will be returned.

**TO REPORT A CRIME CALL THE MAIN
POLICE CENTRE: 0845 458 0000**

This is staffed 24 hours and also takes
emergency 999 calls.

Trevor Joinson

Readers will be saddened to hear of the death of Trevor Joinson in August. For many years Trevor ran the family's butchers shop just by the Farmer's Arms at the top end of Kelsall. He was 86.

Our sympathies go to his wife, Marjory.

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Jamie Wright

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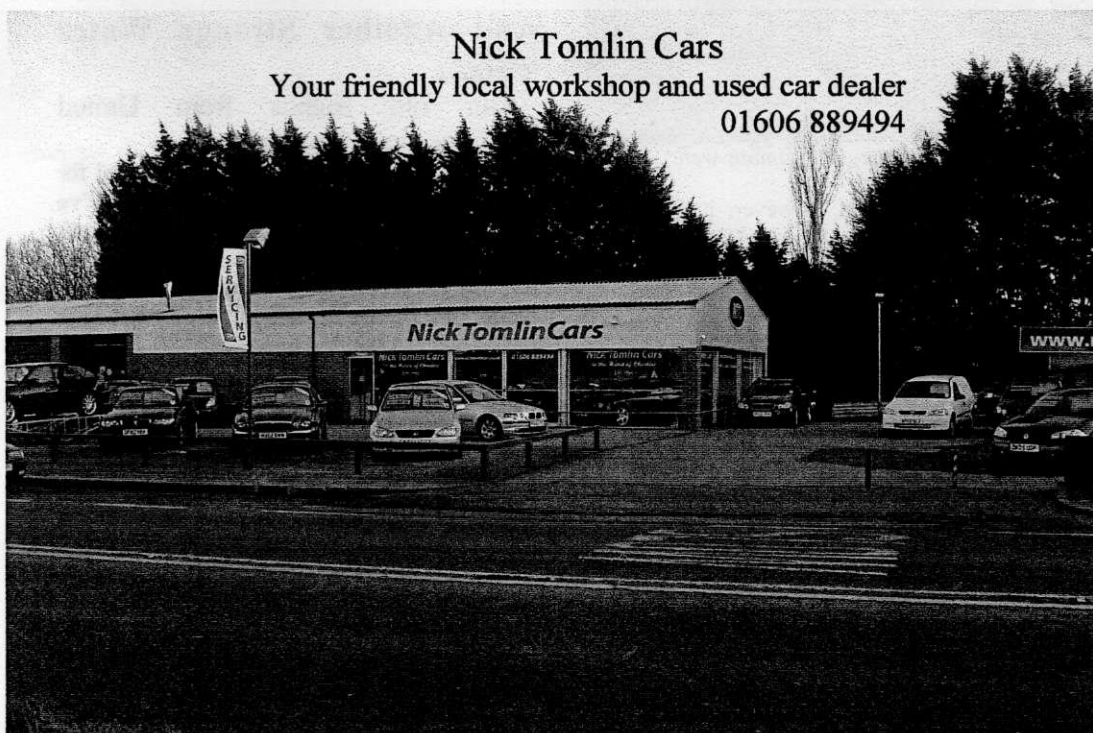
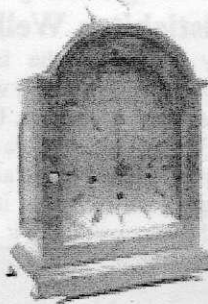
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The Strange Story of Whistlebitch Well

Just off Tirley Lane, on the borders of Delamere and Utkinton, is a small well whose water comes from a spring nearby. Unless you know what you're looking for, it's not easily found; even if you were to come across it by chance you might easily dismiss it as just a muddy pond and think no more of it.



What remains of the once-famous well.

Four hundred years ago, however, it was a different story. In the spring of 1600, so the story goes, a certain John Greenway of Utkinton, who had been suffering from fits, consulted a *learned Phisition* of Chester. The doctor advised him to *find out some good pure spring water, to drink of it, to bathe and wash himselfe with it* and he would quickly recover.

Acting on the doctor's advice, Mr Greenway found a *pretty purling fountaine* and by *drinking, washing and accomplishing what he was commaunded, in verie shorte time he was of his Ague thoroughly cured.*

Understandably news of Greenway's rapid cure spread quickly throughout the locality and further afield. People flocked to the well, coming not only from Cheshire but also from Lancashire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Flintshire and Denbighshire and even further. Tales abounded of the miraculous cures as a result of the water from the well, of how *one, Robert Bradley, who came out of*

Darbishire the 24. of July, being borne at Chappell in the Frith, was led hither blind, hath here reouered sight, and the fourth of august is gone home without leading...

There were instances of cures for all sorts of ailments, stories of how people had arrived at the well lame and had departed leaving their crutches behind as evidence of their cure. News of the well's healing powers spread throughout the country and at the height of its fame, so was claimed, as many as two thousand people would arrive daily.

Sadly the beneficial effects of the waters were not to continue. As part of Delamere Forest the site was on crown land and it was claimed that the huge numbers of visitors were causing damage to the Queen's forest. The well was closed to the public and before long its miraculous properties were largely forgotten, though it has continued to feature in local legend until the present day.

The name Whistlebitch Well is itself something of a mystery. It first appeared in 1813 in a *Plan of Delamere Forrest*, though there is no record of its having had such a name two hundred years earlier.

Today water from the well runs a few yards down to a holding tank which is used to supply water to Primrose Hill, the former keeper's cottage in the middle of the wood.

And Another Strange Water Tale...

Our old friends from United Futilities are at it again!

Not content with closing Fishpool Road for five weeks earlier in the summer, they've closed it to all traffic for another four weeks during September. Rumour has it that the road has had to be closed again owing to the water company's failure to obtain the correct water mains pipes in the first instance.

Meanwhile regular users of the road have had to suffer yet more inconvenience, no one more so than people living in the houses at the Stable Lane end of the road. For them a simple one and a quarter mile drive to Delamere Post Office now involves travelling along Stable Lane, back down the A49 to Jordan's Corner and along the A54 to the Fishpool before turning right down Abbey Lane.

How long does it take to lay a water main? And are United Utilities remotely aware of the inconvenience they are causing? Do they care?...so long as we continue paying our water rates.....

R.

Cricket

Oakmere So Very Close

After a wonderful season, in which they have had more victories than any other team in the division, with one match remaining Oakmere's 1st XI look like just missing out on promotion from Division One of the Meller Braggins League.

This coming Saturday (15th) they are away to Malpas and have a faint hope of finishing second behind Stockport Georgians, but all will depend on how Marple, who are currently in second spot, fare in their last game.

Whatever the outcome, our local club is to be congratulated on its performances this summer. All we can do now is to keep our fingers crossed for Saturday's final round of matches.

Delamere C of E Primary School

Dates until Half Term:

Weekly Events~

Monday afternoons - Swimming*.

Tuesday afternoons - Singing practice.

Friday afternoons - Sport.

Class 1 & 2 children will be going by coach to Moss Farm.

Friday 21st September: School Open Day
1-3pm 5-7pm.

Wednesday 26th September: Harvest Festival at Delamere Church. *Everyone welcome.*

Friday 5th October: Jeans for Genes Day.

Monday & Tuesday 8th & 9th October:

London Trip for Juniors.

Wednesday 26th September: 1-3pm Tag

Rugby at Tarporley High School.

Wednesday 17th October: School Photos.

22nd - 26th October: **Half Term.**

School Questionnaire

Questionnaires have been delivered door-to-door across Delamere and Oakmere in the past few days.

These are to do with the Delamere School's aim to

- (a) increase the school roll and
- (b) involve the school in the community by, for example, introducing extra-curricular activities that are open to the public.

The Friends of Delamere School have put a great deal of time, thought and effort into not only saving the school but also safeguarding its future.

Please support them in their efforts by completing whatever parts of the questionnaire are relevant to you and returning it to the school as soon as possible.

Barn Dance

in aid of

Network Gloria: Parents for Parents

(UK Charity No.1085365)

Helping Special Needs Families in Romania
on

Friday, 5th October 2007

at

**Delamere Community
Centre**

7.30-11.00pm

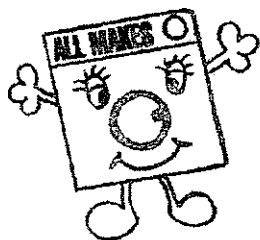
Tickets £7 ~ Under 14s £3.50

Includes dessert - Bring your own drinks

RAFFLE -Prize donations welcomed

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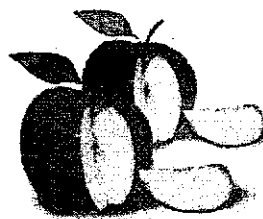
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20th October, 2007
17th November, 2007



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 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 Hl 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.