Delamere and Oakmere News

Number 17

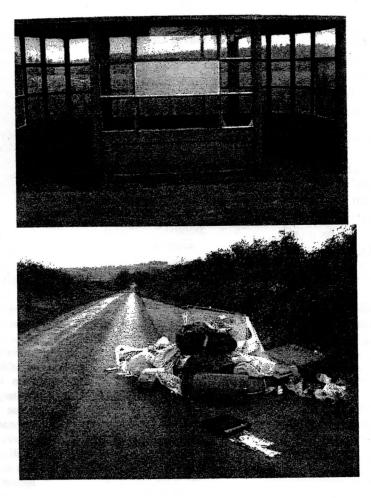
Feb/March2008

News of Post Office closure p4

All the new school community activities p6

What's Happening To Our Countryside?

The bus shelter opposite the school was re-glazed at the Parish Council's request just before Christmas. In no time at all it was vandalised once again. Where do the mindless yobbos who do this sort of thing come from?



Shortly after Christmas this load of rubbish was dumped overnight in Stoney Lane. Among the discarded items were three Calor Gas cylinders. The police were contacted as the load spread into the lane and was a traffic hazard. To their credit, the police arranged for it to be cleared within a few hours. Quiet lanes, of which there are plenty in our area, are an easy target for flytippers. Please be on the look-out for this kind of anti-social behaviour.

See p 4 for details of whom to contact should you have anything suspicious or anti-social to report.

What's On Feb/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 OSX

(*not Kelsall)

Mon.,6th Feb Golden Age

Hot Pot Lunch Members only 12.15 for 12.45 followed by talk by Rev. Burgess

Tues., 14th Feb. Women's Institute

Talk on Crufts by Yvonne Billows Competition for a Dog Ornament 7.30pm

Mon., 18th Feb. **Delamere Parish** Council

> Delamere School 7.30pm

Mon., 18th Feb. Oakmere Parish Council

Community Centre 7.00pm

Wed.,20th Feb. Golden Age Talk & Slide Show Mr.Perry 2.00pm

Wed., 5th March Golden Age Talk by Geoff Woods of the Primary Care **Trust** 2.00pm

Mon.,10th March Community Association Committee Meeting 7.15pm

Tues.,11th March Women's Institute **David Unsworth** "Terrified over Texas" 7.30pm

> Mon., 17th March **Delamere Parish** Council

Committee Meeting **Delamere School** 7.30pm

Wed., 19th March Golden Age "Something Different" **Ideal Home Exhibition** 2.00pm

Delamere Primary School

MUMS' AND TODDLERS' CLUB

Come and have FUN! Every Monday 1 till 3pm £1 entry including refreshments

Stoney Lane, Delamere, CW6 0ST 01829 751450

Imperial v Metric

It is the policy of this Newsletter to refer only to imperial weights and measures.

DELAMERE FOREST BIRDSONG GROUP

(formerly Fox Howl) Do join us for a spring evening walk, or come and share your knowledge and

experience.

Wed.,19th March ~ 5pm-7pm

Wed.,16th April ~ 5pm-7pm

Wed.,28th May ~ 5pm-7pm Meet for these at Delamere Community Centre, Station Road, Delamere for a hot drink before proceeding to the forest.

Also an early-morning walk at 5.30am on Saturday, 10th from Barnsbridge May break for sausage Gates, sandwiches c.7.30am, then on to Eddisbury Hill.

Please contact Kay George on 01606 882183, or better kaypgeorge@yahoo.co.uk to book.

Charge: £1 for evening; £5 for Saturday morning including breakfast.

Binoculars desirable.

WARNING

There were reports of attempted break-ins Sandiway Norley, Kingsley in late January. In the latter case a male attempted to gain entry to a house by posing as a police officer, though he had no uniform and identification.

On the morning of 24th January men called at a house in Utkinton and demanded money for roof

Full details of what to do if you see anything suspicious appear overleaf.

Letters, please....

Write in to the Newsletter (address/e mail above), if you have any opinions, articles complaints etc. that you'd like to see included in the next edition.

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Police 0845 458 0000

Use this number to report incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour, to request assistance or pass information. Your call will be assessed and may result in police attendance.

E mail: PublicContact@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Emergency Services 999

Serious incidents - ask for police

- A Danger to life
- Violence used or threatened
- Serious crime in progress (burglary)
- A suspect for a serious crime is nearby
- Road traffic collision serious injury, danger to road users.

Police Community Action Team Frodsham Area 0845 458 6393

For non-urgent, local advice. Leave your name & contact number. Your local CAT officer will return your call. This is an answer phone. Alternatively e mail to:

frodsham.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111

To pass information anonymously about any criminal activity. Your anonymity is guaranteed.

Home Watch 01244 614291

Information about Watch schemes, reducing vulnerability to crime & anti-social behaviour.

E mail: liz.biddle@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Vale Royal Borough Council

Community Safety Wardens 01606 47642 (9 am - 10 pm)

The aim of the Wardens is to build confidence by:

- Reducing crime and fear of it
- Deterring anti-social behaviour
- Encouraging a sense of belonging within a community.

Wardens carry out the following:

- Patrolling neighbourhoods
- Reporting suspicious behaviour to the police
- Responding to minor incidents of antisocial behaviour
- Checking empty properties
- Acting as a link between communities, police & other agencies.

Vale Royal Borough Council Phone 01606 862862 for:

- Licensing
- Noise Nuisance

Phone 0800 435199 for:

Litter, Fouling, Recycling

Phone 0845 1111145

Lighting

Trading Standards

Phone 0845 1132500 for:

- Doorstep traders
- Unlawful alcohol sales.

Delamere Community Association Clubs & Contact Numbers

To Hire the Hall - 01606 882114

(note the new number)

01606 882183

Art Classes [Mon.mornings] _ 01829 751907 Badminton [Tues.mornings] -01606 889876 Badminton [Thurs.evenings] -- 01606 883515 01606 888877 Bingo [Sat.8.00pm] -Prize Bingo [every 4th Tuesday] 01606 301699 Bridge [Mon.afternoons] Bowls (outdoor) 01606 551905 01829 751429 Bowls (indoor) Brownies & Guides [Wed.eve] - 01606 888449 Golden Age [every other Wed.p.,m.]-01606 882094 Keep Fit [Wed.mornings] -01928 733783 Snooker [Club members any time] 01606 888029 " [Vets. Mon & Sat.afternoons] 01606 889872 Whist [Thurs.afternoons] -01606 888889 [Fri.evenings] 01606 43754 W.I. [every 2nd Tues. evening] -

Delamere Post Office

The post office has confirmed that the Delamere Branch is to close and a new office is to open at the Community Centre, Station Road. With just over a month to go it has not proved possible for the post office to arrive at a precise date for the change, but it is understood that "it will not be before 5th March".

Opening hours; Wed. 9.30am - 2.00pm Fri. 9.30am - 1.00pm

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A traditional village store and post office offering an extensive range of fresh produce, wines and beers. The store has recently expanded and now offers a wide range of delicatessen products, including an in-store bakery and a full menu of fresh hand-made sandwiches, which are prepared as you wait.

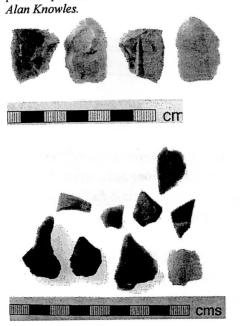
Come and visit us.

WE ARE OPEN: 6.30am – 6.00pm Mon. – Fri. 6.00am – 6.00pm Saturday. 7.00am - 2.00pm Sunday

The Quest continues....

Once more we come to the end of another year and that Roman coin still eludes us so we look forward to success maybe this year. Interesting finds overall have been a bit scarce in general due to both work commitments and availability of suitable sites to search. Just recently, though, I was contacted by our esteemed editor to help find a very important lost family heirloom. Fortunately Gloria had marked an area on a nearby footpath where the item was thought to have been lost in the grass. After a few minutes of searching the item was found and returned. The item? Robin and Gloria's grandson's toy car which looks just like grandad's big car.

It's nice to have had at least one success last year. Most of the written history of Delamere appears to start with the Iron Age Hillfort and then the Romans came etc. This is due to the fact that there are not many documented finds that pre-date this and without evidence you can only make assumptions. Until now that is. Whilst out walking some local fields detecting, I picked up a number of interesting stones. During a trip to the museum a couple of years ago with a collection of finds the archaeologist took one particular piece from the bottom of the box and informed me that it was a piece of flint from a Neolithic knife. During the last couple of years I have found in excess of 140 pieces, mainly flakes and chips but there are some The high number of finds has actual tools. prompted a visit by archaeologists to the find sites. They are now in the process of writing a full report which I hope to write about later this year, though it has been 2 years in the making already. Initial thoughts are that the items are both Neolithic and Mesolithic and could have belonged to groups of nomadic tribes who went from site to site in search of food. This would date some of the items as old as 5000BC. Attached are a few pictures that make up just a small part of the collection. This should provide proof of the first residents of Delamere.



Delamere School Community Classes

Let's Go Salsa....

_The community evening classes organized by Delamere School have got off to a flying start. Both Pilates & Salsa classes have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

The Salsa classes have been so popular that a second class has been set up to accommodate the numbers wishing to attend; and there is the possibility of a third class on its way.

Already the students from both disciplines have shown their eagerness for the classes to be continued. Therefore the school is continuing the classes after the half term break. The classes will run for five weeks again at the same price. The start dates for the new classes are:

- Salsa Monday 18th February.
- Pilates Wednesday 20th February.

If you missed the first set of classes it's not too late to join in! If you require more information on either of these classes please contact Julie Marlow on 01606 882740.

The Saturday Watercolour Workshop was also a great success, and an ideal setting for budding artists! Don Wilson has kindly offered to run another one on Saturday 8th March. Again, if you're interested in joining the class, contact Julie Marlow on 01606 882740. There is a maximum of 10 places available, so early booking is essential.

There has been a delay in starting the Junior Sports Club on Saturday mornings because the coach, Scott Williams, had to go in hospital for a small operation. He is now recovering. The new planned start date is Saturday 16th February.

All classes require advanced booking and payment to ensure that there are the correct pupil/ teacher ratios and that the classes are not overcrowded.

Julie Marlow.

The Watercolour Workshop...

I found the morning very relaxing and the tuition, including individual attention and advice, first class. We were fortunate to have such a patient instructor.

Based on Don's own beautiful watercolour of a Lake District scene, we learnt how to produce cloud formation and use the side of a brush for the rocks in the foreground.

Each stage was carefully dried by Don using his hairdryer. He was relieved not to have affected the school's computers and I had the idea that perhaps we could have doubled up as a hair salon!

As one who was advised at school not to pursue an Art course I was very glad I decided to join the course.

Gloria Ackerley.

There is a booking form for all the school community activities near the end of this Newsletter.

BOOKING FORM



To register for any of the classes, clubs or the water-colour workshop please complete the appropriate boxes below and return your remittance to Delamere C of E Primary School, Stoney Lane, Delamere, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0ST.

The fee for the Water-Colour Workshop has increased by £2.00 to cover the charges for the School Hall and heating.

A discount of £2.50 will apply to a third child+ for the Saturday Kids Club.

Cheques should be made payable to Delamere C of E Primary School and enclosed with this reply slip.

An acknowledgement will be sent to you of the class(es) you have been enrolled in.

If you have any queries please contact Julie Marlow on 01606 882740.

| Tick | Class | Date Commencing | Time | Price | No of Persons | Sub Total |
|------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|-----------|
| | Come Salsa (5 Weeks) | Monday, 18th February 2008 | 7.30pm - 8.45pm | £17.50 | | |
| | Pilates (5 Weeks) | Wednesday, 20th February 2008 | 7.30pm - 8.45pm | £17.50 | (*) | |
| | Kids Saturday Sports Club (1st & 2nd child) (5 Weeks) | Saturday, 16th February 2008 | 10am - 11.30am | £10.00 | ÿ | |
| | Kids Saturday Club (3rd child +) (5 Weeks) | Saturday, 16th February 2008 | 10am - 11.30am | £7.50 | | |
| | Water-Colour Workshop | Saturday, 8th March 2008 | 10am - Noon | £10.00 | | |
| | | TOTAL | | | | |
| | Cheque Enclosed | | | | | |

| Name: | | Name of Participant(s): | |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Address: | | | |
| Telephone No: | | Mobile No: | |
| Email: | | | |
| 1st Child's Name: | Age | 3rd Child's Name: | Age |
| 2nd Child's Name: | Age | 4th Child's Name: | Age |
| | | | |
| Signature | | | |

Delamere C of E Primary School, Stoney Lane, Delamere CW6 0ST Telephone: 01829 751450 Head Teacher: Steve Docking BA (Hons), NPQH

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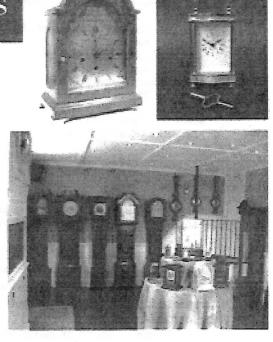
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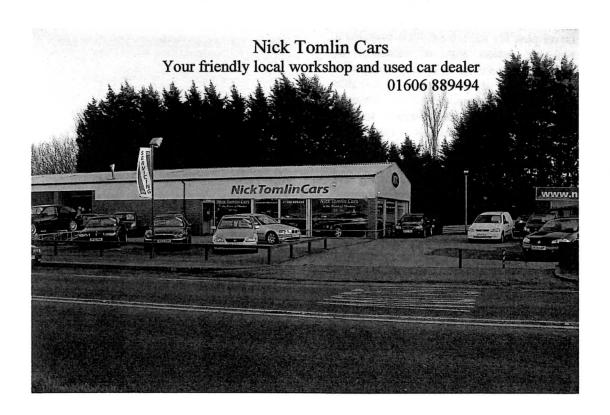
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Delamere School This Term's Diary

31st Jan.....Visit by Gripping Yarns Theatre Group 11th-15th Feb......HALF TERM

21st Feb......Scottish Power Electricity Education Session.

Cross Country Competition Staff First Aid Training

22nd Feb... Singing workshop with Bunbury School

27th Feb..... Netball Tournament 28th Feb......Drama Workshop

1st March.....Training for Let's Bike Instructors

4th March.....Training by PC Woodward

Community Police Liaison Officer on Road Safety

7th March.....Netball Tournament

17th March.....Eco cluster Meeting

19th March.....Football Tournament

20th March.....Easter Service at St. Peter's Church

24th March - 4th April..... EASTER HOLIDAYS

School News

During half term the school will be having a new cookery area installed in Class 2 and the children will get the chance to be a Junior Chef for the day.

After Easter an animation expert will be coming into school to show the children how to make and edit their own films.

The Delamere School Travel Plan Group have been working hard on developing a travel plan for the school. This contains a two-year action plan of measures to improve road safety, to reduce congestion and pollution by using more sustainable methods of transport and to improve children's health and fitness. In the summer term the school will be running a "Let's Bike" scheme to teach children about cycling proficiency. The travel plan grant will be spent on improving the school facilities with secure cycle storage, a parent waiting shelter and possible minibus transport. Other fun initiatives planned include a car-free day during Walk to School Week and a family cycling event in the forest.

Gas for Delamere and Oakmere?

A number of people have enquired about the possibility of a gas supply being brought to the area.

It seems there are no plans at present, though there remains a chance of it coming to the more closely inhabited areas at some date in the future.

Delamere Stores

Owner Lee Cartwright has reported a rise in sales, particularly of fruit and vegetables, since the publicity in the last issue of this Newsletter, but, with the imminent loss of the post office, the future of the stores must remain in some doubt.

Please continue to support your local shop. It's in everybody's interest to keep it open.

Fishpool Junction

There have been several accidents, including some serious ones, at this junction recently. Both Delamere and Oakmere Parish Councils have expressed their concern.

Cheshire County Council Highways Authority has now stated that a safety improvement scheme is "on the drawing board". Precisely what this means and how much urgency it has attached to the matter, however, is unclear.

Anyone who has used the junction regularly will be aware of the danger, particularly when attempting to cross from Abbey Lane to Fishpool Road.

NETWORK GLORIA: PARENTS FOR PARENTS U.K.Registered Carity No.1085365

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 4th April 2008 at Delamere Community Centre, Station Road, Delamere

7pm for 7.30 start. Tickets £4.00

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Robin Ackerley, The Paddock, Stoney Lane,
Delamere 01829 752723

NEXT EVENT:BARN DANCE ON FRIDAY, OCT. 3rd

New Caravan Site in Fishpool Road

Despite strong objections from three local Parish Councils - Delamere, Oakmere and Utkinton - and despite a petition signed by over 70 local residents, an application for a caravan site at Fishpool Farm was approved by Vale Royal Borough Council Planning Committee at a meeting just before Christmas.

When ready for occupation, the site will have pitches for up to 54 "touring" caravans and will officially be allowed to remain open for 11 months in the year. It is understood that occupants will be permitted a stay of no more than three weeks' duration.....

Oakmere Parish Council

At the January meeting Mr Ron Billows was co-opted onto the council and received a warm welcome. He replaces Mr Philip Cowap, who resigned in the early autumn owing to the heavy pressures of an expanding business. Philip has been missed, as his modern approach to the council's debates on financial or planning matters has been an asset. Ron Billows will bring a fresh new dimension to the discussions. As a full-time police officer his knowledge of life, both bad and good, will prove invaluable.

A further vacancy has following the resignation recently of Mr Eric Hodgson. Eric has served the council faithfully for many years. Having been a career administrator in the N.H.S. and also a magistrate, he was a 'people person'. Now in retirement his skills are in ever greater demand, and something had to go. It was with great reluctance that his resignation was accepted.

The vacancy on Oakmere Parish Council has been advertised in the statutory way and no applications have come forward. Vale Royal has now given clearance for co-option. If at all possible the council likes to have a representative from every part of the parish. At present there is no one from east of Stonyford and Hogshead Lanes to the A49. If you are at all interested and reside anywhere in Oakmere, please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs Mary Carter, on 01606 883654. She will tell you what is involved.

From My Window

During December the bird population feeding on the ground and bird tables increased dramatically. I saw six blackbirds chasing each other and another male with white stripes on his head and back was chased away by the returned. hasn't and others ground mainly Yellowhammers, feeders, returned and goldfinches came to the niger seed feeder.

Robins love mealworms and their beautiful song continues throughout the day until darkness falls. Woody woodpecker is still a regular visitor, tapping away on the old wooden post. Tree sparrows are in greater numbers Chaffinches winter. greenfinches are doing well.

I had quite a surprise one morning when putting out seed - a little chap on the ground sitting bolt upright. He had a white chest. I said, "And who are you?" He gave me one last look and ran off. Could he have been a stoat? He was only the size of a rat.

Magpies and jays are such thieves and I am worried about baby birds and

eggs in the spring.

There are now a pair of squirrels still being a pest. What I thought was a black bin bag high in a tree on closer inspection turned out to be a dray, a huge nest which looked to be made of straw.

Amazingly daffodils have been in flower since late December.

D.D.

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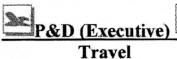
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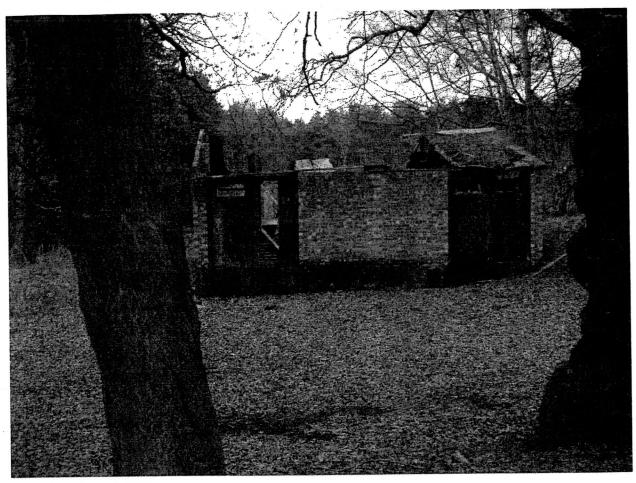
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Desirable Property on Abbey Hill

Easily visible and set just off the main road as you go up Abbey Hill is this tumbledown dwelling. It's stood empty and unloved for as long as I can remember (well over sixty years, that is), though I do remember John Wright, Contractors of Kelsall, having a sign at the front, I think in the 50s or 60s.

I tried consulting some of Delamere's more senior citizens, but no one could tell me much about its history. Mary Rutter of Rectory Farm believed someone once lived there, possibly in the 1930s, but it was certainly never intended for human habitation.

Trying to find out more I climbed over the stile and discovered another building, an older sandstone hut (a secluded, old world property estate agents would no doubt call it), a few yards further up the hill and hidden from the road, which I never even knew existed. This too lacked the usual modern conveniences, including a roof.

I know from an historical interest point of view this article can't rank with Alan Knowles's archaeological discoveries, but it would be nice to find out more about the building's origins. Can anyone throw any light on the mystery?

R.

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Company Registration No. 5661321 * V.A.T. Registration No. 843 9662 90 Saints Cottage Bed & Breakfast * Tel: 01829 760029 and 07905 506919

Travel Information

Trains from 10th December

From Del amere to Manchester

Return Fare ~£10.10.Snr.Cit.~£6.65. <u>Cheap Day Returns</u>~£7.40-Snr.Cit.~£5.10 (Mon to Sat).

dep.10.21 am arr.11.32am then every hour until dep.5.21pm arr. 6.32pm then: 6.12pm & every hour until 9.12pm Last train @ 11.00pm

From Delamere to Chester

Return Fare ~£5.80 Snr.Cit. ~£3.85 <u>Cheap Day Returns</u> ~£4.10 Snr.Cit.~£2.85 (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

[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:

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.

<u>Tuesday</u>
9.30am Crowton, Kingsley, Acton Bridge, Norley, <u>Delamere to</u>
<u>Winsford</u> 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, <u>Oakmere, Delamere</u>, Utkinton, L.Budworth, Cote Brook <u>to Winsford</u> 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 aged60 & over and DisabledPeople

OLD PASSES EXPIRE ON 31ST MARCH!

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

<u>Railcard:</u> 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.