

Delamere and Oakmere News

Number 22

Dec/Jan 2009-10

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Planting for the Future



Children from Delamere Sunday School planting crocuses in October

St Peter's Needs You

Regular attenders at St Peter's Church in Delamere have become increasingly conscious of the fall in numbers at Sunday services. In the past year or two the church has lost some of its regular communicants: a few have moved away into homes or sheltered accommodation; a few sadly have passed away.

Church attendance nationally has declined in recent years and those who do attend are for the most part elderly, which only adds to the crisis. In rural areas with small populations the problem is magnified.

In Delamere's case the Parochial Church Council, faced with the potential financial problems which the decline in attendance must inevitably produce, recently launched the *Friends of St Peter's* campaign. So far this has met with some success: printing the leaflets cost £151 and projected income from the project has so far realised between £800 and £900, which translates into approximately £1200 once gift aid has been added.

It's quite easy for all of us to assume that the church is a building which stands empty for five or six days a week and costs little to maintain. When I learned the true cost I was staggered: churchwarden David Unsworth tells me that it falls not far short of £100 per day and the only income to cover this is what comes from fund-raising and parishioners' contributions.

Chief claim on the church's income is payment to the diocese of the parish share (which includes the rector's stipend, clergy training and pensions and other diocesan costs). Services and the stipend, or salary, of the vicar* are shared with Ashton Hayes; without this, annual outgoings would be even greater. Daily maintenance of the church is also costly – and becoming increasingly so. The heating bill for the church is always in excess of £1000 a year.

In some respects St Peter's is very fortunate: much of the non-specialist maintenance work (upkeep of the graveyard is an example) is carried out by volunteers and the beautiful flower displays which

Continued on page 4

What's On

Dec/Jan

*All events in Delamere
Community Centre, unless
indicated.*

Golden Age

Wed. 25th November

Delamere Derby

Members only

2.30pm

Women's Institute

Tues. 8th December

Christmas Party

Table Decoration & Competition

7.30pm

Golden Age

Wed., 9th December

Christmas Lunch

Members Only

12.30pm

Delamere School

Thurs., 10th December

School Christmas Tree

*Lights switched on ~
mince pies and carols ~*

6-7pm

**Oakmere Methodist
Church**

Sun., 13th December

Carol Service

Looking Forward to Christmas

With Rev Pat

Billsborrow

10.45am

St Peter's Church

Sun., 13th December

Nine Carols Service

6.30pm

Delamere School

Fri., 18th December

Carol Concert

St Peter's

Church 10.30am

Delamere Parish

Council Meeting

Mon., 21st December

7.30pm

Delamere School

St Peter's Church

Thurs., 24th December

Christingle Service

4.00pm

Midnight Communion

11.45pm

Christmas Day

Family Service

with Holy Communion

10.30am

Golden Age

Wed., 6th January

Travel Talk &

Slideshow

Ted Hawker

2.00pm

Women's Institute

Tues., 12th January

Liz Weston

Poet Extraordinaire

7.30pm

Oakmere Parish

Council

Mon., 18th January

Committee Meeting

7.00pm

Delamere Parish

Council

Mon., 18th January

Committee Meeting

7.30pm

Golden Age

Wed., 20th January

Bingo

2.00pm

**St. Peter's, Delamere
Sunday School**

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month. All ages welcome. For
further details please phone

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Prize Bingo every 4th

Tuesday

Eyes down 7.30pm

Imperial v Metric

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

R.

Recycling

Delamere School

There is a recycling bin for
newspapers in the car park
at the school.

**Delamere Community
Centre** accepts used Printer
Cartridges and Mobile
Phones for recycling.

Any comments, complaints,
etc please send to :
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or 'phone 01829 752723

Affordable Housing

Delamere's October Revolution

Delamere parish councillors arriving at the Community Centre in Station Road for the monthly meeting in September may have wondered, as I did, what exciting event was taking place in the main hall. The car park was full and so was the hall.

The exciting event was the parish council meeting no less, an event which normally attracts an average of 0.05% of the population, if that.

News had spread that one item on the agenda was the application to erect "affordable houses" on land recently bought by a local developer behind the Community Centre and adjacent to The Ridge. As a result the massed ranks of Station Road and Frith Avenue had assembled to object, sometimes vigorously and often eloquently, to the proposal.

The principal objections were the effect on the immediate environment and amenities and the increased traffic problems in Station Road, particularly at the junction with the A556.

Faced with the strength of feeling and mindful of its need to reflect local opinion, the council voted to turn down the application.

In October there was virtually a re-run of the September meeting. This time the venue was, appropriately, Delamere School as the application was for a development on land off Stoney Lane just behind the school. [The choice of venue was in each case purely coincidental: the Parish Council alternates its monthly meetings between school and Community Centre]

The application once again attracted a large audience (over 70, as had been the case the month before), this time drawn largely from Stoney Lane and Watling Drive. Objections centred on the inevitable increase in traffic down Stoney Lane and the dangerous exit onto the main road and also on the fact that the proposed development would be on greenbelt land. Once again there were strong feelings, though the atmosphere was not quite as heated as it had been on the previous occasion.

Once again the Parish Council voted against the application. To have done otherwise after the September rejection would have been inconsistent and would have had the undesirable effect of dividing the village.

* * * * *

The above resume of events is a simplification of the situation and of the difficulties facing the Parish Council and diversity of opinions among its members.

The issue of affordable housing has been discussed for a number of years. Few, if any, would disagree that building houses that local people can afford to live in is entirely desirable. Members had long taken for granted that *affordable housing* meant houses that local people could afford to buy. We were surprised to learn that under recent government direction "affordable housing" has now come to mean houses that are available to rent.

While in principle there is nothing wrong with building houses for rent, it does put a different perspective on the whole issue, particularly locally. The questionnaire put out earlier this year by the

local authority enquired about the *need* for houses in the area, rather than specifying whether it was to be for sale or rent. It is highly probable that many of the people who answered the questionnaire would have done so believing that it implied that housing was to be made available for purchase, or at least for some kind of part ownership scheme. This, it has since transpired, is not the case.

The whole attitude to housing and the type of housing that people expect to live in has changed unrecognizably over the last seventy years. In the 1930s our local authority, Northwich Rural District Council, built a number of council houses in the area (those in Stoney Lane in Delamere and Chimes Drive in Oakmere are examples). After the war, faced with the desperate need for homes, new houses were built in Watling Drive (Delamere) and Mere Crescent (Oakmere). These houses were occupied almost entirely by people who were employed locally, either on farms, on the forest or at Marley Tiles, which opened in the 1940s.

In the last thirty years, however, the rural housing landscape has changed dramatically. The 1980 Housing Act made council houses available for purchase by the occupants. Many chose to buy; many others, as was their right, chose to remain as tenants and some still do to this day.

The upside of this is that today many former tenants are now the proud owners of their own homes: the downside is that far fewer homes are available for rental to would-be tenants. The latter result is offset by the fact that far fewer people now *want* to be tenants; many more now aspire to become home owners.

What further complicates matters is the huge rise in house prices over the last twenty years. What was once a realistic aspiration has now become an impossible dream. Nowhere is this more evident than in rural areas and particularly in desirable places such as Delamere and Oakmere. The children and grandchildren of people whose home has always been here are now denied the opportunity of returning to the village they came from. For them the prospect of buying locally at an affordable price appears now to be fading.

Not for the first time the government seems to be out of touch with the needs of rural England and is applying inner city criteria to the countryside.

There may well be *some* need for rental, or social housing, but it must fall far short of the proposals we are now faced with that requires *all* affordable housing to be made available for rental only.

So what can your local parish council do about all this? Very little, I'm afraid. As Delamere P.C. Chairman Jeremy Weston pointed out at both the recent meetings, local authorities pay very little attention to our opinions – but then local authorities probably feel the same about Westminster.

Whatever the outcome, don't blame us. We're only the Parish Council...

R.

Stop Press: CWAC will consider the application to build on the Station Road site on Tuesday, 1st December.

R.

deck the church every Sunday are provided courtesy of a small but dedicated group of parishioners.

Perhaps the church's greatest good fortune, though, lies in the hands of the two Readers, Alan Downen and Philip Goodall, who regularly take services at Ashton Hayes and Delamere entirely free of charge. Without their time and effort it would be impossible to provide all the regular Sunday services that the church is fortunate enough to have.

These blessings apart there is still cause for concern. Seven years from now St. Peter's celebrates its bi-centenary and a building this old is never far from major demands on its resources. A few months ago the church endured an anxious few days. Specks of what looked like sawdust appeared to have fallen from the roof onto the floor of the aisle. Expert investigators were called in, but found no evidence of the infestation in the roof which had been feared. Though this turned out to be a false alarm, it does show what a perilously thin line any village church treads between survival and financial ruin.

In the past twelve months several churches in the diocese have had to close their doors. **To avoid this happening in Delamere help is needed.** Financial contributions, particularly through the *Friends of St Peter's*, would be greatly appreciated, as indeed would active involvement in the life of the church – which would be an added bonus!

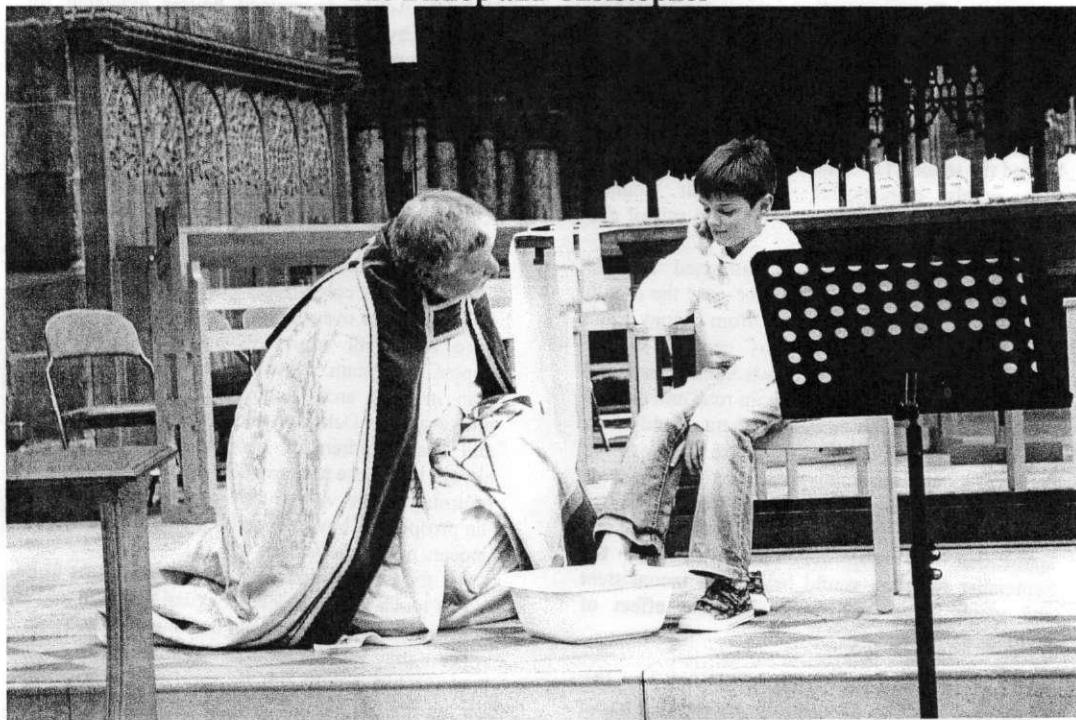
HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

- Strictly speaking Delamere, like Tarporley, has a rector, not a vicar, though the difference between the two is largely academic.

(Details of Christmas services appear on p.2)

• R

The Bishop and Christopher



Christopher Marlow has his feet washed by the Bishop of Birkenhead

Visit to Chester Cathedral

On Saturday 10th October two members of Delamere Sunday School, Christopher Marlow and Rebecca Whittaker-Axon, attended Chester Cathedral Children's Pilgrim Day for Sunday School children aged between seven and eleven

Children had the opportunity to explore the cathedral, participate in various arts and crafts activities and hear the organist telling them about the organ and giving a short recital. He explained that the organ had about five

thousand pipes, the tallest of which was over thirty feet high.

At the end of the day there was a service at which the children were able to meet the Bishop and receive a large candle for each of the Sunday schools who were represented.

During the service the Bishop asked for a volunteer to have his feet washed, a re-enactment of Jesus washing His disciples' feet at the Last Supper – and Christopher volunteered!

The Fishpool Inn

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If required, free parking is available at the Community Centre by their kind permission

WE ARE OPEN: 6.30am – 6.00pm Monday – Saturday

7.00am - 5.00pm Sunday

7.00am - 5.00pm Sunday

Letter from the Forest

After a busy summer autumn has proved to be the busiest yet. In fact October was the second busiest month of the year, thanks to the lovely Indian summer during half term.

Pale Heights Project

The main highlight of the autumn has been the completion of the County Stones project on Pale Heights. The stones have been greatly admired and well worth the visit, with stunning panoramic views. Facing each county there is a large engraved original stone from each county. They are very atmospheric, particularly at sunset.

Artists in the Woods

During half term we had the Delamere Big Draw, where children, mums and dads and grandparents helped to draw large bold pictures in charcoal of the forest in autumn, with leaves, fruits and fungi. Everyone had great fun, with some imaginative designs.

Christmas is coming...

Christmas is almost upon us and, as usual, trees will be available from the Whitefield Car Park from 28th November to 20th December, 9.00am to 5.00pm – late nights 10th & 11th December until 8.00pm.

Santa will be in his grotto on Saturdays and Sundays, 5th–20th December 9.00am to 5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm) with late nights 4.00–8.00pm on 10th & 11th December.

Simply Red

Looking ahead to summer, the first of the concerts was recently announced. On 2nd July we have *Simple Red*. Tickets can be purchased from the Information Centre, cost £38. They - are selling very well and will soon be sold out.

New Parking Passes

A new annual car park pass has just come on sale. It is called the *Discovery Pass* and will replace the current passes when they expire. They cost £30, allowing one year's parking in all Delamere car parks as well as discounts in the café, Go Ape and cycle hire. Unlike previous passes they will be valid for one year from the date purchased. There will also be a newsletter.

If you come here regularly, it is well worth considering a pass as all funds from these are used to make the forest the lovely place it is.

Don Wilson.

Delamere School News

We are always trying to find new ways to make our school even more "outstanding". This year one of our priorities is to improve communication and encourage parents and

carers to get more involved and find out what really goes on while their children are in school

Our project is entitled **H O U S E**:

Helping

Others

Understand

School

Experiences

The project will continue and expand on the successful projects and activities we have already undertaken, such as "Blokes on Board", and will provide parents, grandparents and carers with a variety of opportunities to come into school and either work alongside or simply observe their children during the school day.

Some of the activities we plan to offer parents include:

taking part in Friday afternoon PE lessons;

observing the teaching of Phonics and Maths in Reception and Year One;

joining us during Book Week to work with a poet

We will also be asking if parents would be interested in furthering their own learning by improving their ICT skills and would like some very gentle guidance (ie, learning how to keep up with the children) or learning some of the new maths teaching methods. (They never taught it like that when I was at school)

Regards,

Carolyn Oliver.

Forthcoming Events

Thurs., 26th Nov. – As part of Book Week we will be working with the poet David Horner

Sat., 28th Nov. – The School Christmas Fair 10am – 12noon, kindly organised by the Friends of Delamere School

Fri., 4th Dec. – PC Woodward in school – sessions on internet safety and stranger danger

Thurs., 10th Dec. – 6 – 7pm Christmas tree lights switched on. Mince pies and carols

Fri., 11th Dec. – 3.45 – 5.15pm Children's disco

Mon., 14th Dec. – Christmas performances of *The Lion King* at 2pm and 6pm in school

Fri., 18th Dec. – Carol Concert to be held at St Peter's Church from 10.30am and then parents are invited to join the children for School Christmas Dinner at 12pm

FRI., 18th DEC. TERM ENDS

Mon., 21st Dec. – School Choir singing at Delamere Golf Club

* * * * *

MON., 4th JAN. TERM BEGINS

Wed./Thurs., 6th/7th Jan. – Artist Julie Mitchell in school – ethnic patterns

Tues., 12th Jan. – Hoops for Health: Cheshire Jets basketball coaching

Mon., 18th Jan. – 4pm Governors meeting

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A Visit to a War Grave

In the October/November Newsletters of 2007 and 2008 I gave the details of all the parishioners who had died in the two world wars. I found where they were buried from the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which is responsible for the upkeep of 935,000 graves throughout the world.

One of these graves was in the Santerno Valley War Cemetery close to the Adriatic coast in Italy not far from where Gloria and I go on holiday each summer*. Having spent some time learning about the last resting places of so many of our local war dead, I felt increasingly strongly that I, like so many others, owed them a debt and that, given the opportunity, the least I could do was to go and visit one of the graves.

So it was that one day last June, leaving our campsite near Rimini, we headed north up the autostrada to Imola where I had read the cemetery was located. It turned out to be much further inland and we continued for several miles as the road wound its way into the Apennine mountains that run down almost the whole of the country.

At last we came upon the cemetery, set just off the road on a hillside and surrounded by the Apennines. As war cemeteries go Santerno Valley is quite small - it houses 287 British and Commonwealth war dead, quite enough, though, to give an idea of the dreadful carnage of war.

The first thing that struck us - and this seems to be true of all war cemeteries - was the air of peacefulness and calm. We gazed in awed silence at the white headstones set in ordered rows with immaculately-kept lawned pathways (unusual in Italy) between them and, touchingly, small shrubs and flowers (lavender, roses, pinks, carnations snapdragons - English cottage flowers) planted beside them... "some corner of a foreign field that is forever England".

On a plaque near the entrance we read the dedication:

THE LAND ON WHICH THIS CEMETERY STANDS IS THE GIFT
OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE FOR THE PERPETUAL RESTING
PLACE OF THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN WHO ARE
HONOURED HERE

As we walked beside the graves we could hardly help noticing how many were those of young men - men in their early twenties, a few even younger - and, equally poignantly, some older ones, some in their thirties who had left behind wives and children to rest forever in the peaceful Italian countryside.

Quite soon we reached what we had come to visit, the grave of Albert Ward of Willington.

I had already learned a little about him from Jim Weston of Watling Drive, Albert's cousin. Jim told me the sad story of how Albert had met his death. He had apparently turned back to help a wounded friend when he trod on a mine and was fatally wounded. Albert truly was a war hero.

People who attended Delamere School in the 1950s and 60s may remember Mrs Walczak, who was at the time the infants teacher at the school. Dorothy Walczak was Albert Ward's sister, something I only discovered as I was writing this article.

**The fact that we take our annual holiday in this part of Italy has its own origins in the last war: Gloria's father, having survived Dunkirk, later landed in Italy and was eventually stationed in Rimini where he met his wife. Sixty-five years later, we travel there every year and visit Italian relatives, including one, Maria, whose hundredth birthday party we went to last January. Now having a one-year-old granddaughter in Italy gives us further incentive to visit.*

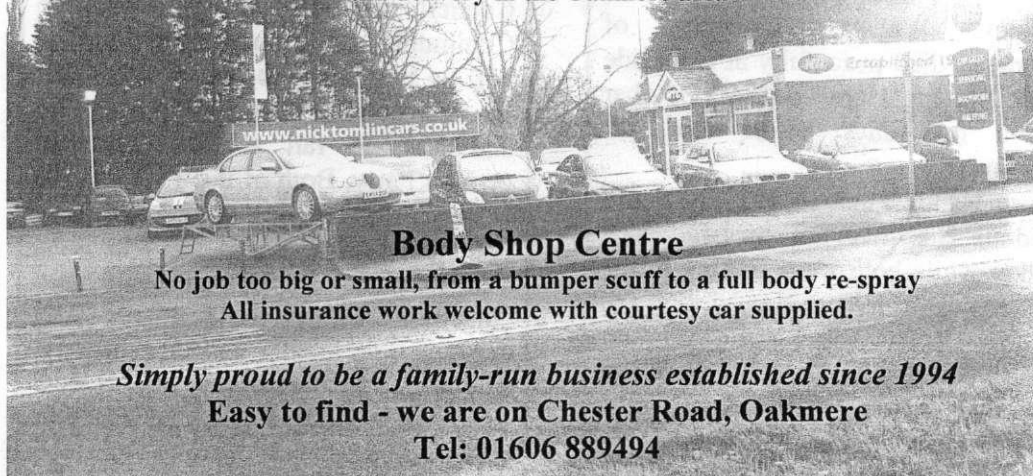
R





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Roy Everitt

Roy Everitt passed away in August. He was 67. A native of Delamere, Roy spent all his early years at the Abbey Arms where his grandfather Alf and then his father Bill were both landlords. Although Roy himself had hoped to follow in their footsteps, this was not to be, but he eventually came to be landlord of *The Carriers' Arms* at Hatchmere.

Nancy Walker

Nancy Walker, formerly of Delamere, died peacefully at Daneside Court Nursing Home on 26th October just a few days before her 91st birthday.

Born Nancy Pugh in 1919 in South London, she met her husband Reg Walker while both were serving in the RAF at Biggin Hill in Kent during the war.

Reg's family lived on the Yeld and after their marriage Reg and Nancy lived in Delamere. In 1948 they were among the first couples to move into the new houses in Watling Drive together with their four children, Brian, Rodney, Linda and Gordon; another four children, Susan, John, Carol and Jill followed and life was to say the least hard for their mother coping with such a large family. All of the children attended Delamere School before going on to Tarporley High School.

Reg passed away in 1987 and sadly the family lost Gordon in February, 1994 when he died of cancer.

Nancy spent much of the last ten years of her life in the nursing home suffering increasingly poor health.

Her funeral took place at Delamere Church with all of her large and loving family in attendance.

The family were anxious to emphasise how grateful they were to Canon Ken Harris for the caring way in which he conducted the service..

Ron Billows

Ron Billows of Oakmere died suddenly on Friday, 20th November. He was 57.

A native of Liverpool, Ron, who was a serving officer in the police force and was stationed in Northwich, had become a well-known and respected figure in Oakmere and Delamere since he and his wife settled here a few years ago.

He was a member of Oakmere Parish Council and was on the Delamere Community Centre committee, but he will be best remembered by many for the very popular Dog Shows which he and Yvonne ran at the Delamere Garden Party. Both of them were well-known judges at dog shows and have judged at Crufts.

Rural areas such as ours are sometimes blessed with people who come to live locally and then become involved in serving the local community and in Ron's case this was especially true.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Yvonne in her sad and sudden bereavement.

There will be a full funeral service at 11.00am on Friday, 4th December at St Wilfrid's Parish Church, Davenham CW9 8NF followed by a short service at Walton Lea Crematorium, Chester Rd., Walton WA4 6TB at 12.30.

Afterwards family, friends and colleagues from all walks of Ronnie's life are cordially invited to The Fourways Inn for lunch at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only. If people wish to make a donation, this will be given to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Donations should be sent to Robert Pope Funeral Services, 39 Hartford Road, Davenham, Northwich CW9 8JA.

William Kenneth Cork

Older residents of Delamere will have been saddened to learn of the death of Ken Cork in November.

One of five children Ken was born at Organsdale, where his father was the farm bailiff.

During the war he served in the Royal Air Force, spending some time in India. When he was demobbed in 1946 he was at first, like so many other young servicemen, unsure what to do next. However, his sister Nancy had become a nurse and Ken decided to follow her.

Having trained at Salford, he was advised to consider becoming a nursing tutor and took a two-year training course at Hull University. On the death of his mother he returned to live at Organsdale in order to look after his father while he himself worked at Clatterbridge Hospital.

When his father died, Ken lived for a while in Chester before taking up a position at Withington & Wythenshawe Hospitals as a nursing tutor.

He became an increasingly important and highly regarded figure in the nursing profession and in later years was a recipient of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for services to nursing.

He always retained links with Delamere and was a lifelong friend of Denis Gore with whom he had attended Delamere School*, often going on holiday with the Gore family.

About five years ago he began to suffer ill health and he was eventually diagnosed with motor neurone disease. As the affliction developed he became more and more incapacitated and a year ago he was moved to a nursing home close to his surviving sister Betty's home in Glossop where he died.

*where he would also have been a contemporary of Albert Ward (see Santerno War Cemetery Headstone on page 8)

Welcome, John

After many years' loyal service to the church, Janet Kite retired as organist at St Peter's in the spring.

For a few months the church was without an organist, but then in September we were fortunate to acquire the services of an excellent young musician, John Williams from Chester.

Fortunately John is available to play at church on most Sundays and we are most grateful for all that he brings to the services.

Pine Martens in Eddisbury?

There has been a reported sighting of a pine marten on Eddisbury Hill. If this is so, it is an extremely rare occurrence as pine martens have long been considered virtually extinct in England, though they have been seen in Wales and North Yorkshire.

The pine marten is about the size of an average domestic cat. It has a creamy-yellow bib on its throat and chest, a pointed snout, prominent rounded ears and a heart-shaped face. Its fur is mid-brown in winter, but a little darker in summer.

It is not to be confused with a **polecat**, many of which have been seen in Cheshire in recent years. Polecats are slightly larger than stoats or weasels, to which they are related and not unlike ferrets. They are about 14 inches long with a tail of 7 or 8 inches.

Anyone spotting either of these should report sightings to the **Vincent Wildlife Trust**, based in Ledbury, Herefordshire (details to be found on Google).

DOWDALE CATTERY

*An all new purpose built
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Downdale Cattery is a small family run business, set within quiet and picturesque rural settings on the edge of Delamere Forest. If you're like us, your cats have become family members. When you can't be home for them, whether because of holiday, work, illness or other obligations, you want them to be taken care of with the same love and attention you give them at home. Here at Downdale we understand these needs and so we deliberately do everything ourselves so we can ensure individual attention and in return build a relationship with both our customers and their cats.

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Delamere Stores: What's in it for us?

The answer is - plenty! Anyone who's been in the Station Road stores recently can hardly fail to have noticed the transformation that has taken place over recent weeks.

Owner Lee Cartwright has invested a great deal of time, thought - and money - into making the stores an attractive and competitive place to shop in *and without the need to travel several miles to the nearest supermarket.*

Of course the supermarket giants are able to sell many goods at prices the smaller shops cannot match - but there are many products where Delamere Stores is genuinely competitive:

Fruit and locally-grown veg provide the most obvious examples - prices really are competitive! The store also has a large range of **price-marked stock** (Nescafe, Kellogg's Cornflakes and a full range of Euro-shopper items, to name but a few). Wines are keenly priced and there's a regular offer on red wines. Littler's meats are sold at the same price as at Littler's. And where else can you buy half a dozen eggs for 95p? If you don't believe me, go and check for yourselves!



Despite all this, with the loss of income from the post office, Lee is finding it a struggle to keep going. There is a real danger that the shop could close. Then where would we be? Delamere without a store would make life that much more difficult for local people and not just those without their own transport.

Moreover, recent research has shown that house prices in rural areas are significantly affected by the proximity of local shops.

Supermarkets have a lot to answer for: the state of many high streets today tells its own story as too does the loss of so many village stores.

It's not just Delamere and Oakmere that are faced with this problem locally. In their

November issue in an excellent article *Use It, Or Lose It!* the editors of *Norley News* made the same point about *their* village stores. The article states: *Our view is that the village needs to make up its mind. Do we want to travel the North West looking for slightly lower prices, with the costs of time and fuel that this incurs - or do we say that we believe in the value of our shop, both in terms of enriching our village and increasing the value of our homes?*

Rural areas seem to be perpetually engaged in a fight for survival. With us not so long ago it was the village school. Largely thanks to a vigorous and determined campaign by local people, Delamere School was saved.

Now it's the church and the local shop.

The solution, folks, is in our hands.

R.

Delamere Golden Age

The Golden Age Club is looking for new members. Meetings are on alternate Wednesdays at 2.00pm at the Community Centre [see *What's On* on p2 for forthcoming activities]

The Golden Age offers a range of activities - talks, outings, bingo, lunches...

Anyone interested in joining should contact Mrs June Budd on 01606 888117.

British Legion Poppy Appeal

With one or two collections still to come in, Hilary Powell, co-ordinator for Delamere, Oakmere, Willington and Manley, reports that this year's appeal has so far realised £1996.02 with one or two boxes still to come in. This is about £150 up on last year's figure.

Well done all those who gave so generously to this worthy cause!

St Peter's Church, Delamere **GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW** Prizes

Food Hamper donated by the Hollies Farm Shop

Meal for Two donated by the Fishpool Inn

Christmas Cake donated by Summertrees Tea Room

Lunch for Two donated by the Fourways Inn

Wines & Spirits & Champagne

Shopping Vouchers

Toys & Games Christmas Pudding

Chocolates & Biscuits

Toiletries

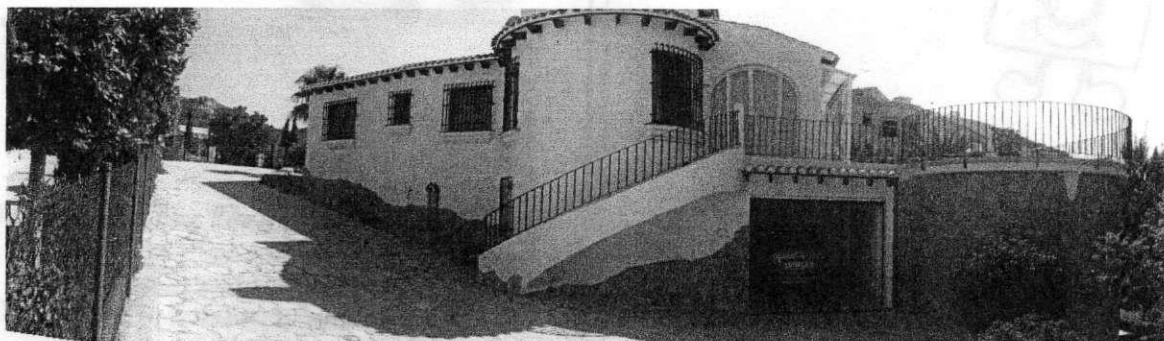
Christmas Crackers

Tickets £1

Available from: Mary Carter 01606 883645 or
Lorraine Roberts 01606 889188.

Draw to take place on Saturday, 12th December
2009

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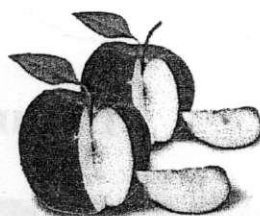
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19th December, 2009
16th January, 2010
20th February, 2010



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Oakmere Methodist Church

Following the departure of Ann Rigby-Jones earlier this year, Reverend Pat Billsborrow recently joined the local Methodist Circuit.

Pat "ceased to travel", to use the Methodist term for retirement, three years ago after twenty years of active ministry. For the previous eight years she was first a Circuit Minister, then Superintendent of the Birkenhead Circuit on the Wirral Peninsular.

She is married to Bob, who retired when they moved to Birkenhead; they have four children (three daughters and a son), ten grandchildren ranging from 28 years to 18 months, and three great grandchildren.

For a period of six months in 2008/9 Pat acted as Superintendent of the Northwich Circuit; then in September of this year she joined the Delamere Forest staff on a part-time basis, with pastoral care of Kelsall, Oakmere and Ashton.

She lives in the Castle area of Northwich and says that she is very happy to do God's work wherever she is called to be.

She has written us the following

Christmas Letter

Dear Friends,

As we approach Advent once more we look forward with hope, not just to a peaceful and happy Christmas with friends and family looking nostalgically at the story of a baby born in a manger. That story so often seen through rose-coloured spectacles enjoyed just for that – a wonderful, special story.

But looking forward to a time when God's purpose will finally be fulfilled and the message of the angels can truly be heard,

"Peace on earth, good will to all people".

It's so easy to get caught up with the magic of the season without realising the amazing significance of God's action in coming into the world as a vulnerable child in the most insignificant circumstances, to become a refugee as His parents fled to Egypt. A real live child, a truly living Saviour, fully human and yet truly divine.

May that child who became a man truly be alive to you this Christmas and may He lead you into a New Year more determined than ever to be Kingdom builders in our time.

Every blessing,

Pat Billsborrow.

Congratulations to The Ven. Donald Allister of Delamere Rectory. Donald, who has been Archdeacon of Chester since 2006, has been appointed **Bishop of Peterborough**. He replaces Rt. Rev. Ian Cundy, who died in May. The appointment will take effect early in the New Year.

We wish Donald and his wife Janice all the best in his new appointment and their new life in Peterborough.

Another significant appointment, which took place last May, was that of **William Fergusson** of Oakmere as **High Sheriff of Cheshire**. He holds the post for one year.

The position of High Sheriff is the oldest continuous secular office under the Crown. It dates back to Saxon times, although the first recorded High Sheriff of Cheshire was Robert le Grosvenor, who held the post from 1284 to 1287. The High Sheriff is the Sovereign's representative in the County for all matters relating to the Judiciary and the maintenance of law and order.

The last local High Sheriff of Cheshire was William, Clegg of Abbey Wood, who held the post in 1932.

On his appointment William Fergusson invited Rev. Brian Perkes to serve as his chaplain.

In early October a group of Delamere Parish Councillors and local residents attended a meeting at Peckforton Castle held by the organisers of the **Habitats and Hillforts Project**.

The aim of the project is to look at the hill forts which are found along the Sandstone Ridge and local interest was of course focussed on the Eddisbury Hill Fort.

It is hoped that, resources of both manpower and finance permitting, work will begin at Eddisbury in 2010. In fact a team of geophysicists paid a preliminary visit to the site in late November.

The hill fort last underwent an archaeological survey in 1936 and it is long overdue for the kind of exploration which modern technology warrants.

Apart from being the site of the largest and arguable the most interesting of the Cheshire hill forts, the site has other claim to historical fame. It was at Eddisbury that Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, built a fortress in the ninth century and it was later the site of the hunting lodge, the Chamber in the Forest, the remains of which have never been properly investigated.

R.

Strange Goings On At The Community Centre...

D & O News's investigative reporter took this rather alarming photo at a recent W.I. meeting. Clearly all is not what it seems at the home of this venerable institution.

Gentlemen readers will doubtless be shocked at the revelation and it must be stressed that this publication in no way condones behaviour of this kind. However, it was felt to be in the public interest to reveal what goes on behind the closed doors of the Community Centre on Tuesday evenings.

W.I. members will no doubt *claim* that the belly dancer in the picture is not one of their number – but readers are invited to judge for themselves.



Apologies for the quality of the picture, but the photographer's hands were trembling at witnessing these lascivious gyrations...

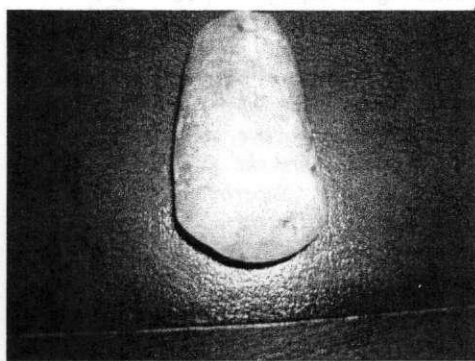
What is really happening at the W.I.? First "Calendar Girls" and now this – and in Station Road of all places!

Delamere Postcards

A set of 10 postcards, all showing scenes of Delamere, are on sale at Delamere Stores. They are also available direct from Gloria Ackerley (at The Paddock, Stoney Lane, Delamere; tel: 01829 752723).

They cost 45p each, or £4 for the set of 10.

Eddisbury Stone Axe



The axe pictured above was found by David Wright of Watling Drive a few yards from the public footpath near the Roman road on Eddisbury Hill.

It was discovered a few years ago and was originally thought to have come from Penmaenmawr where many similar finds have been made.

When it was shown to local archaeologist Dan Garner recently, however, he was certain that it was a glacial deposit found in a river bed and had been fashioned locally.

It measures about five inches in length and has been identified as belonging to the early Bronze Age – probably about 2000BC. Despite its age and the years it has lain in the ground the edge is as sharp and even as if it had been worked only recently.

Vale, Vale Royal

The previous 21 editions of *Delamere & Oakmere News* have been printed at the Vale Royal offices in Winsford.

From this edition onwards newsletters will be printed at the CWAC offices in Chester.

Without fail, if I took a newsletter into Winsford on a Thursday it would be ready on a Friday.

I cannot thank printer Tony Grant and his Vale Royal team enough for their helpfulness and efficiency.

R.

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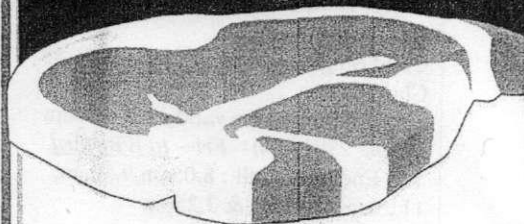
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From Delamere to Manchester

Return Fare ~ £11.20 [railcards not included]

Off-peak Returns ~ £8.90 Mon to Fri

am: 6.21 6.51 7.19 7.51 8.23 9.23 10.23 11.23.
pm: 12.23 1.23 2.23 3.23 4.23 5.23 6.23
7.23 8.23 9.23 11.04

Delamere - Manchester c.75minutes

From Delamere to Chester

Return Fare ~ £6.50

Off-peak Returns ~ £5

Mon. to Fri (Sat - some variations)

am: 7.26 8.26 9.26 10.26 11.26
pm: 12.26 1.26 2.26 3.26 4.26 5.26 6.16
6.54 7.26 8.26 9.26 10.26 11.26

Cuddington to Manchester: 4 mins. later

Cuddington to Chester: 5 mins. earlier.

Off-peak travel from 9.30am

Railcard information not included.

Winter Timetable not available at Station, so I rang Northern Rail who appear to use an Indian call centre. Communication was rather difficult - prices given in cents rather than pence - so I can only *hope* information above is accurate. Please check carefully before missing trains!

R.

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.

Adult single Delamere to Northwich /Chester £2.60

Adult return Delamere to Northwich/Chester £3.70

Child Single " " £1.55

Child Return " " £2.20

Bus passes valid after 9.30am

[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

Rural Bus Service

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

Fare: £2.60 each way (£1.30 concessionary before 9.30).

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Monday

9.00am 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

9.00am 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

9.00am 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]

9.00am 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.

Usual disclaimers apply to this information.