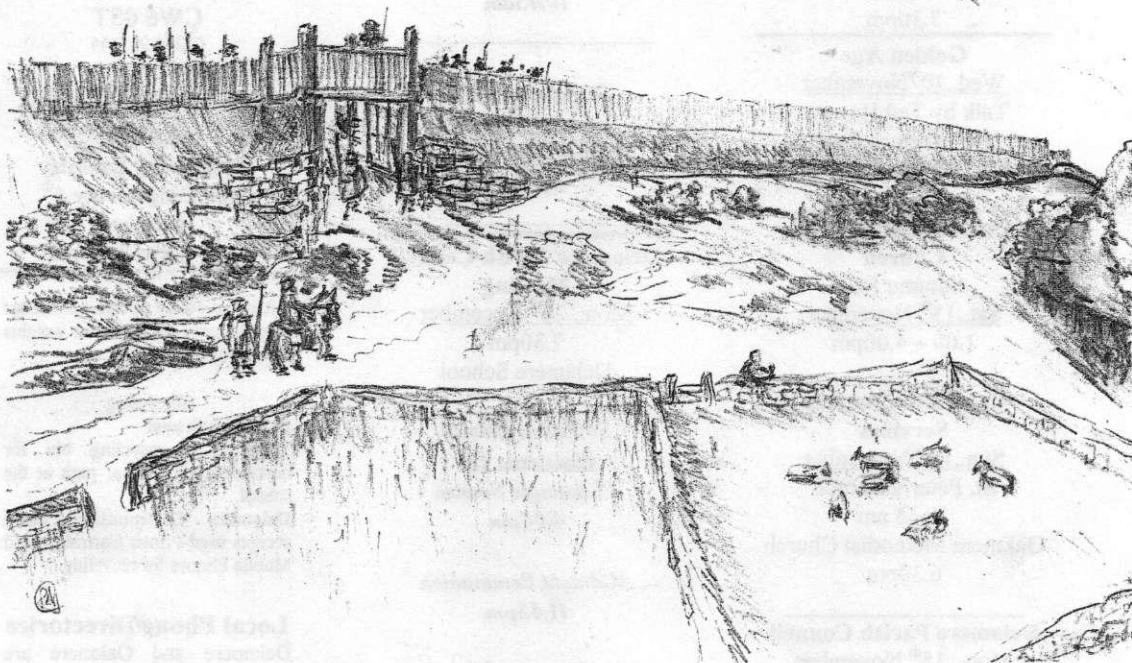


Delamere and Oakmere News

Number 23

November 2010



Eddisbury Hill Fort

The hill fort as it may once have appeared. The gateway is the main area excavated this summer.

The drawing by kind permission of Philip Culver of Mold.

Delamere's Big Society

The Community Association's Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday, 1st October was a resounding success.

Held to publicise the host of activities that take place at the Centre, the event, organised by DCA members Paula Cockroft and Winston Sherman, attracted over one hundred visitors.

Several of the Centre's activities were represented with tables in the hall, many attracting interest from newcomers to the Centre.

Apart from the fact that it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, the main purpose of the event was to advertise the variety of clubs that are based at the Community Centre and to awaken interest in an association that exists for the benefit of all members of the village.

[A full list of activities and further comment on page 4]

Victorian Christmas in the Forest

Thanks to the enterprise of the Cartwright brothers, Lee (of Delamere Stores) and Ryan, this year's annual Christmas tree pilgrimage to Delamere Forest, which attracts hundreds of visitors from far and wide, is to take on an imaginative Victorian appearance.

Together they have designed and built a period shopping façade to be situated at Whitefield Car Park, Station Road (opposite Blakemere Moss) where they will sell locally-produced hot and cold food, local beer and mulled wine.

Stop press:

The School Bell Fund now stands at an impressive £3,360 – well on the way to the target. Keep helping! (see page 13 for details).

What's On

Nov/Dec

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

Golden Age

Wed., 27th October

Lunch
Speaker on
Ghosts of Chester

Women's Institute

Tues., 9th November

AGM

7.30pm

Golden Age

Wed., 10th November

Talk by Ted Hawker
The Western Front
2.00pm

**Oakmere Methodist
Church**

Autumn Fair

Sat., 13th November

1.00 – 4.00pm

**Remembrance Day
Services**

Sun., 14th November

St. Peter's Church
10.45 am

Oakmere Methodist Church
6.30pm

Delamere Parish Council

Mon., 15th November

Delamere School

7.30pm

**Oakmere Methodist
Church**

Wed., 24th Nov.

Tea & cakes with
The Psalmists
2.00 – 4.00pm
Open to all.

Golden Age

Wed., 24th November

Delamere Derby

**Oakmere Parish Council
Meeting**

Mon., 29th November

Oakmere Cricket Club
7.00pm

Golden Age

Wed., 8th Dec.

Christmas Lunch 12.30pm

Women's Institute

Tues., 14th December

Christmas Party
7.30pm

Oakmere Methodist Church

Sun., 19th December

Carol Service

*Looking Forward to
Christmas*

*With Rev Pat Billsborrow
10.45am*

St Peter's Church

Sun., 19th December

*Nine Carols Service
6.30pm*

**Delamere Parish Council
Meeting**

Mon., 20th December

7.30pm

Delamere School

St Peter's Church

Christmas Eve

*Christingle Service
4.00pm*

Midnight Communion

11.45pm

Christmas Day

Family Service

*with Holy Communion
10.30am*

Delamere Parish Council

Mon., 17th January

Committee Meeting
7.30pm

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

Meets every 4th Sunday
in the month. All ages
welcome. For further
details please phone
Gloria Ackerley
on 01829 752723

**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
01244 981145

**DELAMERE BINGO
CLUB**

Bingo every Saturday

Prize Bingo every 4th

Tuesday

Eyes down 7.30-pm

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

Local Phone Directories

Delamere and Oakmere are
served by three different
telephone directories:
Manchester South (01606).
Chester (01829) - and even a
few Warrington (01928). Each
household is only issued with
the relevant phonebook; to get
a neighbouring one costs £10.

We could help each other by
passing on last year's
directories to people "over the
border". The same goes for
Yellow Pages.

If you have a last year's
Chester or Manchester South
directory to spare, please place
it in the labelled box in the
Community Centre hall and/or
collect the one you need.

Any comments, complaints, etc
please send to:
robin.ackerley@btinternet.com
or 'phone 01829 752723

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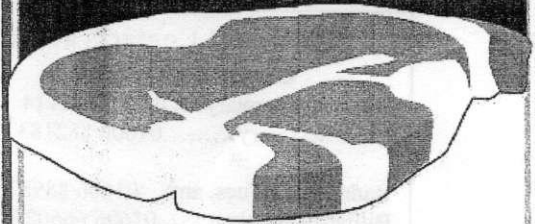
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More of the Big Society...

Like many others who are involved in local activities, the DCA committee has become increasingly aware of how difficult it can be getting things going in our area.

Oakmere and Delamere have a scattered population: as there is no true centre, to bring people together and give them a real sense of community is far harder than in most places.

It was an awareness of this very problem that led me to start producing this series of Newsletters back in the summer of 2005. I realised that there were all sorts of things going on that hardly anybody knew about.

Paula and Winston's determination to do something about this involved a lot of effort and they are to be congratulated on the success of the evening. Indeed so successful was the occasion that a subsequent DCA committee meeting agreed that it should become an annual event – so if you weren't there this year, there's always next time!

I'm sure all concerned would agree, though, that the Wine & Cheese Party was the *beginning* of an answer to the problem, not a solution in itself. It's what happens subsequently that will really count. How many people will have been moved to get involved in activities and to muck in when help is needed?

As a certain politician nearly said quite recently,

"Your village needs you!".....

...Many long-standing DCA committee members have given years of service to the community. They deserve our support.

R

Clubs and Contacts at the Community Centre

Booking Secretary.....01606 882114

DCA Secretary.....01606 882183

Badminton (Tues. am) 01606 889876

Billiards/Snooker.....01606 666029

Bingo (Sat. 8pm)

Prize Bingo (4th Tues) 01606 853861

Bowls Outdoor.....01606 889174

Indoor(Mon.7.30pm) ...01829 760420

Bridge (Mon pm)..... 01606 889872

Brownies/Guides(Wed) 01606 888449

Golden Age (Alt. Weds.) 01606 888249

Over 60s Keep Fit.....01606 882183

(Wed. 10am)

Whist (Thurs pm).....01606 888889

Whist (Fri pm)..... 01829 751429

W.I. (2nd Tues. 7.30pm)....01606 882183

Christmas Choir

Christmas is, of course, the traditional time for getting together and enjoying ourselves.

The Christmas Eve **Christingle Service** at Delamere Church (details on page 2) is an enjoyable festive gathering, especially (but not just!) for children.

Carol singing gives a particular sense of occasion, wherever it takes place, and it's for this reason that a group are coming together to sing on the following dates before Christmas:

Sunday, 5th December 1.00 – 3.00pm

Saturday, 11th December, 10.30 – 11.15 am

Delamere School Choir

followed by

*Village Carolers**

until 2.00pm

Sunday, 12th December

1.00 – 3.00pm

All the above at Whitefield Car Park, Station Road

Christmas Eve 11.00 – 12.00 noon

outside Delamere Stores

At least 40 people have expressed an interest in taking part in one or more of these sessions – and there's room for plenty more singers of all ages.

** that's all of us!*

In keeping with the Victorian Christmas theme some singers are planning to dress up in Victorian costume. This is of course optional, but if you've anything vaguely appropriate (or like me just vaguely old) it would help add to the occasion.

Carol sheets will be provided.

If you're interested, and/or would like to know more, ring Gloria on 01829 752723 – or just turn up on the day.

Just in case you're worried, Simon Cowell will not be present at auditions (there won't be any auditions).

Any money collected will be shared between St.Peter's Church, Oakmere Methodist Church, Delamere School (in the last case to go to the Bell Restoration Fund) and the Community Centre.

R

Sunday School Christmas Party

at

The Paddock, Stoney Lane, Delamere

on

Sunday, 19th December

2.00 – 5.00pm

(to include a dress rehearsal for the Nativity Tableau at the Christmas Eve Christingle Service)

Enquiries to Gloria on 01829 752723

The Fishpool Inn

Christmas Menu

Available from 26th November to 24th December

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Please call to make a booking and to discuss your requirements.

£5 deposit required

Please send in your menu choices 10 days in advance

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No need to queue or panic

A £5 deposit when you order. Last orders by 12th December..

Order your fruit and veg to collect at the same time

[See fruit & veg order form on pp 19-20]

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

7.00am - 5.00pm Sunday

From Delamere Parish Council

Road Safety Issues

Fishpool Crossroads

Mr Jim Gibbins of CW&C road safety team, Mr Carl Farrow and Miss Angela Watts of CW&C Highways attended the September DPC meeting to discuss ongoing road safety issues in the parish.

A54 Fishpool crossroads. Mr Farrow referred to use of map-type signs that were installed there some time ago and 'high visibility' road markings put down owing to further collisions identified from analysis in the period 2007-09. These measures were acknowledged as not being effective in the light of the latest data. Funds have now been set aside to deal with the problems.

He referred to a proposal that the hedge to the right of the Abbey Lane/A54 junction be repositioned further back from the edge of the road. Clearly, though, legal aspects are involved with this proposal. It is also planned to re-site the telegraph pole at the junction. The 'map type' road signs will be re-examined. **The Speed Limit Review has identified that a speed reduction is required on the A54, from 60mph to 50mph.** Overhanging trees also interfere with the sightline from the right at the end of Abbey Lane. Visitors to the Fishpool Farm Caravan Park have also increased traffic flow at the junction.

Major junction improvements are due to be made at the A54/A49 crossroads in January 2011

Station Road

Mr Gibbins reported on the other area of concern, Station Road. Previous data showed that there had been 6 recorded collisions on the road, none due to excessive speed. In the period January - July 2010 there were another 4, including 1 fatality. The Speed Limit Review identified that no speed reduction was required.

The Parish Council maintains that the area between the railway bridge and the caravan park is potentially dangerous owing to a combination of pedestrian traffic, lack of pavement and a 60mph speed limit. It was suggested that the 40mph limit be extended to beyond the bridge towards Hatchmere.

A556 and Stoney Lane

There are plans to put a 50mph speed limit on the A556 from the traffic lights at the Kelsall by-pass to the top of Abbey Hill. Stoney Lane from Watling Drive to the A556 junction is to become a 30mph zone.

From Oakmere Parish Council

Fourways Development

Latest News:

Earlier this year **Wainhomes Developments Ltd** submitted a planning application for the

Erection of 36 Dwellings with Associated Landscaping & Parking (Demolition of existing Buildings)

at Fourways Inn, Chester Road, Oakmere.

When Cheshire West & Chester Council did not respond to the application within the required 6 weeks, Wainhomes appealed to the Secretary of State.

As a result it was decided in the first instance to hold a **Hearing** and this was announced in July.

In mid-October, however, this decision was changed and the Hearing has now been upgraded to a **Public Inquiry**.

No date has as yet been given for this inquiry.

When the application was first made CW&C received only five replies, three against and two in favour.

If you wish to let your views be known before the public inquiry, CW&C have issued the following advice:

*If you have already written to the Council expressing a view on this planning application, a copy of your observations will automatically be sent to The Planning Inspectorate and the Appellant. However, if you wish to submit further written observations three copies of such observations should be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/14, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, BRISTOL, BS1 6PN by 23 November 2010 and should bear the Inspectorate reference number (*see below). If you wish to be informed of the outcome of the appeal you should say so in your letter....*

The Planning Inspectorate has introduced an online appeals service which you can use to comment on this appeal. You can find this service through the Appeals area of the Planning Portal – see

www.planningportal.gov.uk/pes.

...If you wish to find out more about the appeal procedure the information may be accessed on the Planning Inspectorate's website at <http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk> or the Planning Portal website at www.planningportal.gov.uk

* 2 references are given: 09/02502/FUL or Board A 14.9.2010. Try both.

R

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Call us for any further information or details.

Community Centre Cheese and Wine Party

Friday, 1st October 2010

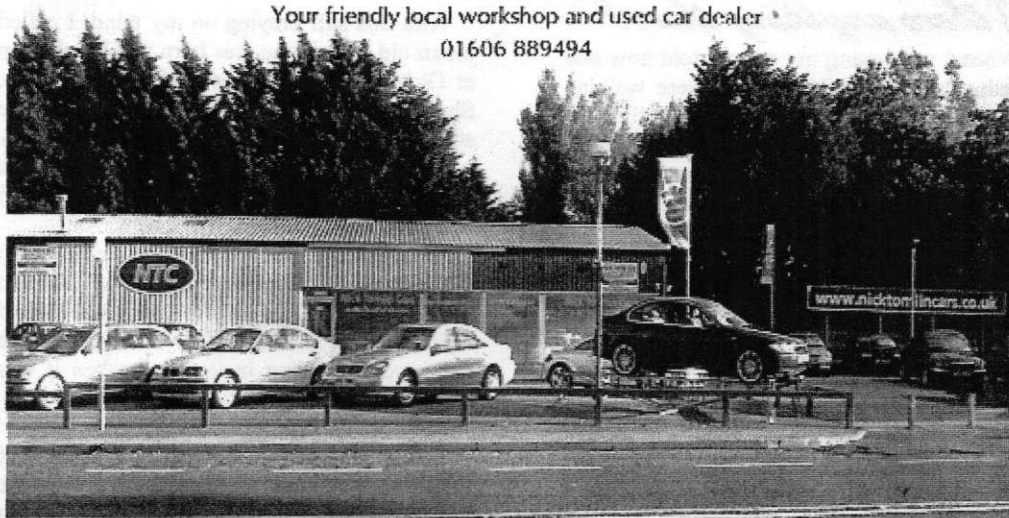


*The cream of Delamere and Oakmere society gathered for the event.
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Cheshire CW6 0PF
Tel: 01829 751145*

Is there anything there?

When I was young my parents told how one evening in the late 1930s they were walking back from church with a lady who lived at Organsdale cottages. As they were about to turn into the schoolhouse their companion said, "Just come with me until I'm past the school".

"Why?" asked my mum.

"On account of the Grey Lady," she replied. "I never like walking past here on my own."

It was not to be the only time my mum and dad – and later I myself – were to hear talk of the Grey Lady. Some said she haunted the school; others that she walked the pathway between the school itself and the schoolhouse.

All I can say is that never once in the twenty-odd years I lived in the schoolhouse did I encounter any trace of this mysterious lady.

I got to thinking of the alleged haunting quite recently when I was talking to someone who's lived not far from the Old Pale for the past thirty years. We were chatting outside his home.

"Tell me," he said, "you were born near here – have you ever heard of any tales of ghosts in the area?"

"Only the yarn about the Grey Lady down at the school," I said. "Why do you ask?"

"Well," he continued, "one summer night about twenty years ago I was walking down the lane not far from home [he pointed to an oak tree about a hundred yards from his house] when my dog suddenly stopped and refused to go an inch further. His hackles rose and he started trembling; the next moment he shot off home. Just then I felt the air change and, although it was a warm evening it suddenly turned icy cold. I felt a shiver run down my back and my hair stand on end.

"When I got into the house my wife could see something had happened to me and that the dog was still shaking."

He went on to say that he'd never suffered a like experience since.

A few days later I was recounting this to some neighbours who told me of a similar event more recently. An acquaintance of theirs was walking her dog along the footpath which leads from the top of Stoney Lane to Nettleford* Wood. She'd gone through the second gate and was by the bend near the pine trees when she heard a noise. At first she put it down to traffic on the main road, but then she heard voices and what sounded like carriage wheels. As in the previous instance the air turned cold and her dog was clearly very frightened.

With this still preying on my mind, I called on an old friend who was born and brought up at Old Pale Cottages over eighty years ago. She could throw no light on either of these stories, but she did tell me how, when they were young, she and her friends never liked going down Black Hill alone. All of them believed it was haunted.

Even the name *Black Hill* (the name by which the road called "Eddisbury Hill" is still known to us natives of Delamere) carries an air of mystery about it. It must have been much more dark and forbidding in the days when it was largely uninhabited.....

.....The whole of the Eddisbury hillside is of course steeped in mystery and legend, from the Iron Age hill fort (the object of so much recent investigation raising so many questions, many remaining unanswered), to the Roman soldiers passing along Watling Street to and from Deva, the home of the twentieth legion, to the Saxon fortress built by King Alfred's daughter Æthelflæd, to the mediaeval hunting lodge The Chamber in the Forest whose abandonment and decay is itself the stuff of local legend.

Little wonder, then, that our hillside still throws up the occasional unaccountable happenings...

R.

**Nettleford Wood" is the name on all the maps of the area. Who remembers the other, local name "Timothy Wood"?*

Gritting Crisis on Black Hill

Ghosts aside, there have been numerous complaints from residents about the state of Black Hill in icy weather. Not only is the road very steep, but it gets little sunlight in winter and in cold weather often remains icy for most of the day.

Unfortunately the road does not meet the criteria needed to make it eligible for regular gritting by the highways authorities.

The matter was raised at the October Parish Council meeting. The clerk was asked to write to CW&C pointing out the true nature of the problem and explaining how there are over 70 dwellings depending solely on this road for access to their homes, adding that a good many of the residents are elderly.

We await a response...

delamere.eventsltd@yahoo.com

A Delamere Christmas

- Full Scale Replica Tudor Shops
- Santa's Grotto
- Home Made Local Foods
- Littlers Butchers Burgers
- Sue Cowards Famous Pies
- Cheshire Farm's Chunky Chips
- Mulled Wine
- Frodsham Brewery's Christmas Ale
- Home Made Traditional Sweets
- Land Train Rides Through The Forest
- Festive Male Voice Choir
- Cartwright's Tavern, Full Of Cheer!

Old English Christmas

Christmas Tree Sale!

From Sat 27th of November until Sunday 19th December • Late Nights Friday 10th & 17th of December

Forestry Commission

All Happening In The Amazing Delamere Forest!

*Come and hear the 40-strong
HIGHFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR
at Whitefield Car Park Station Road
4.0 to 8.0pm
on Friday 10th and Friday 17th December*

Ray Glover of Stoney Lane is a keen traveller, cyclist and fund-raiser. Below are accounts of his most recent adventures...

"Out of Africa"

In 2009 Ray completed a two-week scientific expedition to study the tidal forests of Kenya with the Earthwatch Institute. Ray, who works for Kawneer in Runcorn, was selected from over a 150 applicants from around the world from Kawneer's parent company Alcoa for the trip. He joined Earthwatch Scientists and other volunteers from around the world to work on the project in Gazi Bay, near Mombasa.

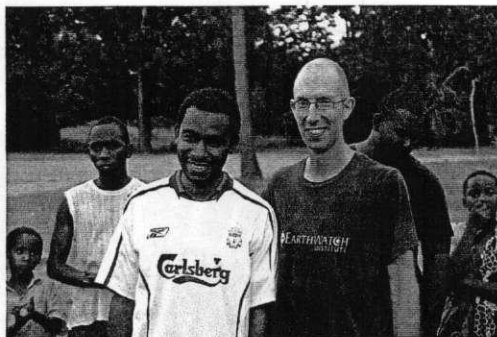


Children collecting water from the well.

The volunteers lived and worked with the villagers to help conduct scientific experiments and rehabilitate degraded mangrove forests. In addition to planting areas with mangrove seedlings Ray also helped to monitor rates of beach erosion and record data on the flora and fauna in these areas.

Land's End to John O'Groats

In September Ray completed a gruelling 1000+ mile cycle trip and helped raise money for the charity Arthritis Care. Averaging over 70 miles a day and staying in a mixture of B&Bs and Youth Hostels, the group of 14, all members of the CTC and raising money for different charities, set out on the 2-week trip under sunny skies, but soon encountered the worst cycling conditions they'd ever known. "The journey over Dartmoor coincided with a severe weather warning with torrential rain falling all day," said Ray. "Spirits were very low when we arrived in Exeter...I think we had 3 nice days the whole trip, but it was a great experience and everyone can look back and recall all the good times we had on the way..



Ray presenting a shirt to the boys' team manager after the match

Ray said, "I got to see firsthand the effects of climate change on the environment. The results of our work will benefit not only the local community, which relies on these mangrove forests to provide fuel, building materials and to provide a habitat for the fishing grounds, but also to help the scientists understand the effects of climate change on areas of mangrove forest around the world.

"The hot and humid conditions made the work very tough at times, but we were well looked after by the villagers. As part of the expedition we made visits to the local primary school to meet pupils and teachers and talk about ourselves and our work in the village and present much needed materials and a few gifts for the children. We also played a football match against the village boys' club which was watched by a very excited crowd and also attended a series of lectures where we learned about life in a Kenyan village and the Kenyan education and health systems."

"The route, which took us through the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales and the Scottish Highlands, included some stunning scenery as well as several 1 in 4 climbs. It was a great way to see the wonderful country we live in. There were also some funny sights on the way including one of our hotels proudly displaying a sign saying *Members of the public welcome.*"

Having cycled in places as diverse as New Zealand, India and the Lofoten Islands in the Arctic Circle, Ray is now looking for a new adventure.

"I'd like to go to Vietnam or maybe Argentina, but will have to wait and see what the future holds."

Delamere School November/December Calendar

2 nd Nov	School Photograph	1.15pm
3 rd Nov	PTA Meeting	9.00 am
	Bag2school Collection	
4 th Nov	School Disco	3.30 – 5.00 pm
5 th Nov	Bonfire Day Lunch	12 noon
10 th Nov	Art Day	
	Years 5/6 Basketball	
	at Tarporley High School	
18 th Nov	PC Woodward, Community Police	
	Officer visits school	
23 rd Nov	Governors' Academy Meeting	6.30 pm
24 th Nov	Years 5/6 Cross Phase Day	
	at Tarporley High School	
24 th Nov	Girls Football Match	
3 rd Dec	School Christmas Fair and Tree Light	
	Switch-on Evening	
6 th Dec	Years 5 & 6 to watch <i>Oliver</i>	
	at Tarporley High School	
8 th Dec	Gymnastics at Tarporley High School	10.30 am
11 th Dec	School Choir to sing at Delamere Forest	
	Christmas Tree Sales	
14 th Dec	School Christmas Production	2pm & 6pm
15 th Dec	School Christmas Production	2pm & 6pm
15 th Dec	Bag2school Collection	
16 th Dec	School Christmas Lunch	12 noon
16 th Dec	Infants' visit to Santa's Grotto	1.30pm
17 th Dec	Whole School Pantomime visit	

Delamere School's 15 minutes of Fame...

.Well, it was really more like two minutes, but on 23rd September eight Delamere schoolchildren appeared on Granada News launching the new appeal to raise funds for restoring the School Bell.

The bell, last rung on VE Day in 1944 when the clapper fell out, has languished for many a year in the school entrance. Now, however, there are grand plans afoot to restore it to its rightful place in the belltower.

Thanks to the Granada feature the fundraising started in (literally) grand style with a cheque for £1000 from an anonymous donor in Hoylake who was impressed with what he'd seen on the news.

If you'd like to help, ring school on 01244 981145



Simon Gibson of EasyLife, one of the donors, displaying THE BELL with the children

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For all further enquires please contact:

Joanne & Alan Downes & Family
Morreys Lane, Delamere CW6-0SY.

Tel# 01829-759133 / Mob 07828307114

Email: downdalecattery@gmail.com

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Cards for Good Causes

Cards for Good Causes Multi-Charity Christmas Card Shop opens from 26th October at the Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Church selling cards on behalf of over 30 different charities.

It is one of a national network of shops and last year the charities received over £4.5 million from their Christmas Card sales. Because Cards for Good Causes keeps its overheads to a minimum, the charities receive at least 75p in every £1 from their card sales, out of which they have 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 be open until Saturday 27th November.

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Anne Bold

Members of Delamere Church were deeply saddened to hear of the death of their verger Anne Bold on 12th June.

Until not long before her death Anne had been an active member of St. Peter's community, singing every Sunday in the choir and being ever-present at christenings, weddings and funerals.

Those who knew her could hardly believe that she had gone: she had seemed quite well until Easter when she was still driving her car. Few of us would have suspected that she was eighty-seven years old.

The daughter of a miner, Anne was born on 9th January, 1923 at Backworth near Newcastle-on-Tyne. She met her sergeant husband during the war, when he was stationed nearby. He came from Widnes and after their marriage they moved to Chester and then in 1974 to Cuddington.

Anne's last visit to the north east was three years ago when daughter Margaret and son-in-law David took her back to visit her childhood village.

After settling in Cuddington Anne soon became involved with Delamere Church and was a member of the church choir for thirty-five years.

Following her retirement from Compass Aggregates in Oakmere in 1988, when she was sixty-five, the church became an increasingly important part of her life.

Her other great interest was, of course, her family to whom she was affectionately known as "Nana Bold". She was mother to Margaret, nana to two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren as well as step-nana to another two grandchildren.

One of the funeral hymns was the one which opens

O Jesus, I have promised

To serve thee to the end...

a promise which she had truly fulfilled.

Anne was laid to rest, fittingly, in the graveyard of the church she so loved on June 24th 2010.

The Future of Delamere & Oakmere News

I've been finding it increasingly difficult and more and more time-consuming doing the Newsletter – as the gap of nearly a year shows. Unless I can get some help (or offers of a takeover), this could be the last issue.

Contact me if you've any ideas.

Robin Ackerley (01829 752723)

A Sight to Behold

If you look up into the midday sky on any day you may chance to see the Airbus A380 on its descent into Manchester.

The Emirates airliner from Dubai lands at Manchester Airport every day at 12.35pm. It often passes over our area – the flight path depending on the wind direction (or so I'm told).

Identifying it is no problem: it's simply that much bigger than anything else.

Sponsored Swim

Gloria Ackerley would like to thank everyone who sponsored her on her swimming marathon at Moss Farm Baths, Northwich on October 7th.

She successfully completed her hundred lengths – and then did another five lengths for good measure.

She has now raised over £2000 in her efforts to send 24-year-old Romanian Adrian Nataru to India for treatment. Adrian badly injured his back in a diving accident four years ago.

See www.networkgloria.org.uk for details.

Cheshire's Pothole Pride

According to the *Fill That Hole* (I kid you not!) website,

"Cheshire West and Chester Council has become the top authority in the UK for fixing reported pot holes..."

It just goes to show you're better off staying in Cheshire.

Delamere Websites

Most villages now have websites (even Ambridge has got one). Delamere hasn't. Not at least until now.

There is a Delamere School website and the Church has one currently being updated (in the beginning was the Microsoft Word...) – but there's no official Delamere site. Delamere Parish Council has talked of one for years.

Now at last it seems likely that Delamere will be able to boast its very own website. Actually it's to be a Delamere and Oakmere website.

It could arrive in the very near future.

End of the (Roman) Road

It seems sadly ironic that, while so much of the past has been painstakingly unearthed and then carefully covered over again for posterity on Eddisbury Hill, part of Watling Street below in Oakmere is soon to be lost for ever.

The money to be made from sand, it seems, is far more important than a few crummy old Roman relics.

R.

This drawing shows the opposite view of Eddisbury Hillfort to that shown on the front page. Philip Culver produced the two sketches when visiting the site of the archaeological dig in August. This one looks north-eastwards. Anyone who visits the site can see what a wonderful vantage point it must have been for the Iron Age settlers.



The Hillfort Excavations

A report by Dan Garner, Project Officer Habitats and Hillforts

The main result of the excavation work was to expose and record one of the hillfort entrances and examine a section through the inner and outer defences of the hillfort. This has been entirely successful and we have recovered samples from the entrance way and the ramparts which we will be able to use for radiocarbon and OSL dating – providing a chronological framework for the monument that was hitherto unavailable.

There is a limit to what we can say about the results of our work until we have had our samples analysed and the radiocarbon dates have been produced – a process that will take several months to complete.

However in broad terms the key findings are:

- We found evidence for people occupying the hilltop since at least the Early Bronze Age, c.2000 BC
- The original hillfort appears to have consisted of a single rampart (clay and stone bank) that probably had a timber revetment at the front and an outer counter-scarp bank which would have created the optical illusion of a ditch. Dating one of these earliest hilltop defences will rely on radiocarbon samples but we expect an early Iron Age date, perhaps somewhere in the range of 600 to 500 BC.
- Subsequently, a ditch was dug between the rampart and the counter-

- work gangs had excavated different sections of the ditch.

- On the interior of the rampart there was a parallel cobbled track way which was interspersed with tips of rubbish which mainly consisted of charcoal and burnt stones that were probably derived from episodes of cooking within the hillfort.

- The entranceway belongs with the original rampart, but it is unclear whether it was always there or added when the ditch was excavated. The entrance made use of the natural topography and in part consisted of a narrow channel carved into the sandstone rock. The sides were flanked by two rows of massive timbers which would have formed the main structure of the entrance and also supported a timber tower above. The gaps between the timbers were filled with short sections of dry stone wall that still stand to about 5ft in height (perhaps the oldest upstanding walls in Cheshire?) A pair of 'guard chambers' flanked the entrance and the floor of the southernmost 'guard chamber' was covered with the remains of burnt timber and clay which probably represented part of the superstructure. Clearly there had been a fire in the entrance and perhaps it was deliberately started during an attack?

- A second outer ditch was added to the hillfort defences and the up caste from this was used to raise the original counter-scarp bank to a similar height as the first rampart, in effect creating a second outer rampart. The second ditch was a mammoth effort as it was excavated to a depth of approximately 10ft into the solid sandstone rock.

- Stray finds (including a Roman glass bead) from the hillfort and the surrounding slopes indicate that the site was still being occupied in the Roman period (specifically during the second and third centuries AD), but we cannot be sure whether this was a military garrison or a Romano-British civilian settlement or farmstead.

- A small clay oven was found built into the top of the inner rampart bank

and this is unlikely to have been constructed while the hillfort defences were still in use. The oven is therefore likely to be either Roman or possibly Saxon in date – the results of the radiocarbon dating should clarify this.

We are now working with the Forestry Commission towards creating some permanent site interpretation in the vicinity of the entranceway - so watch this space....

Eddisbury – The Forgotten Fortress

A talk by

Dan Garner

Cheshire County Archaeologist

On the recent excavations at Eddisbury
Hill Fort

Thursday, 11th November

at

Kelsall Methodist Church

7.30pm

Admission £3

Refreshments included

A Bible Study Group

*for Delamere, Oakmere & Ashton
Hayes*

meets every other Monday

2.0 – 4.0 pm

at

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All are welcome.

Trains until 11th December

From Delamere to Manchester

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am: 6.17.6.51.7.15.7.51.8.19.9.19.10.19.11.19.
pm: 12.19 1.19 2.19 3.19 4.19 5.19 6.19
7.19 8.19 9.19 11.00

Delamere – Manchester c.75minutes

From Delamere to Chester

Mon. to Sat

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 and fares not included.

R

GHA Coaches

[Route 82] Mon–Fri ~ to Northwich

Abbey Arms **6.54am, 7.50 am*, 8.10am, ^**
9.10am then half hourly until **5.10pm** Last bus **6.20pm**

* During college term time only.

^ During college holidays only

[Route 82] Mon–Fri ~ to Chester

Abbey Arms **7.45am.** Then **9.05am** and half hourly until **5.35pm.** Then **6.06 & 7.06pm**
Buses leave Chester **30 minutes** and Northwich **25 minutes** before the above times.

Bus passes valid after 9.30am

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6.54am then **8.10am** and hourly until **5.10pm.**

Last bus **6.20pm**

Saturdays only to Chester

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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

Usual disclaimers apply to this information.

-VEGETABLES	QUANTITY*	SALADS	QUANTITY*
POTATOES		ICEBERG LETTUCE	
LEEKs		LITTLE GEM LETTUCE	
CARROTS		CUCUMBER	
CAULIFLOWER		SPRING ONIONS	
SPROUTS		RADISH	
CABBAGE		CELERY	
CABBAGE (white/red)		MIXED PEPPERS	
SWEDE		TOMATOES	
PARSNIPS		FRESH HERBS (specify)	
BROCCOLI		FRESH CHILLI	
ONIONS RED/WHITE			
MUSHROOMS			
CELERIAC			
FRUIT	QUANTITY*	FRUIT	QUANTITY*
APPLES (cox)		SATSUMAS	
APPLES (gala)		ORANGES	
APPLES (pippin)		LEMONS	
APPLES (crispin)		LIMES	
APPLES (bramley)		FIGS	
BANANAS		DATES	
GRAPES GREEN/DARK		COCONUTS	
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*Please specify quantity in either weight or in the number of mouths to feed

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The shop has recently been refitted and we hope it can continue to be an asset to our village for many years to come – but we do need your support.

Please come in on Christmas Eve and enjoy a complimentary glass of sherry and a mince pie.

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Boxing Day Closed*

*Christmas Day Closed
New Year's Day Closed*

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TELEPHONE NUMBER

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND THANKS FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY

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