

ISSUE 48 | SPRING 2020



DELAMERE  
& OAKMERE

# NEWS

## IN THIS ISSUE

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE  
PARKRUN  
MEMORIES



*Looking north from the A556 just west of Delamere Academy School*

This superb photo by Ray Downham has generated huge interest on Facebook from all around the world! ([facebook.com/raydphoto/](https://facebook.com/raydphoto/))

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By happy coincidence Bridget Austin has given us her beautiful cover picture of St. Peter's church at just the right time for welcoming our new Rector, Revd. Angela Askwith. The Church Wardens have done a sterling job of standing in for Revd. Elaine since she retired, and can now relax again (a little). The "Letter from St. Peter's" they gave us for the Newsletter is now back to its previous title, "Letter from the Rector". A big thankyou to all of them.

St. Peter's church is part of the life-blood of the parish, and the main reason the parish even exists. Yet it's in danger of crumbling away for lack of funds to maintain it. In this issue you will find details of a '100 Club' scheme being launched by the Parochial Church Council to help finance its upkeep. Do consider joining the scheme, even if you are not a regular churchgoer, as the parish wouldn't be the same without its church. You might even win something!

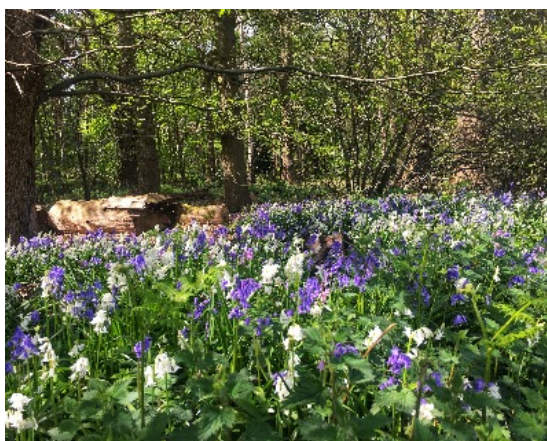
None of us was here when the church was built, but Jean and John Garner

have been here long enough to remember the Community Centre being built. They have shared some of their memories with us, in particular about the youth club they started. Memories of times past are the subject of a piece by Gloria Ackerley too, though in this case not recalling them but asking for them.

Another defining feature of the parish is of course the forest, which is much loved by people from far and wide as well as those of us who live here. That includes those who love running round it. Mark Flanagan of "parkrun" tells us what it's like to join in.

We can be extremely grateful for one thing we don't have in the parish: floods, like those experienced elsewhere. Yet we do have water, plenty of it. We take a look at where it is. And once again our thanks go to all our regular contributors for the photographs, the wildlife news, the crossword and the quiz

Clive George  
Editor



Bluebells at Abbey Lane  
*Photo Bridget Austin*



Pale Heights  
Photo Ray Downham ([www.elevenzones.net](http://www.elevenzones.net))

# ANSWERS TO QUIZ AND CROSSWORD

## Answers to quiz

1. Venice
2. Hertford College
3. Simon and Garfunkel
4. 1932
5. The Tyne Bridge in Newcastle-upon-Tyne
6. 169 kilometres (105 miles)
7. Tower Bridge
8. Denmark and Sweden
9. A hand with no cards higher than a 9.
10. River Weaver

## Answers to crossword

**Across** 1. inland, 4. look, 6. Scots estate, 10. offer, 11. skid row, 12. intent, 14. kneels, 17. revolts, 19. where, 20. breakfasted, 21. cede, 22. steers.  
**Down:** 2. nice fit, 3. after, 4. Lothian, 5. outer, 7. Elisa, 8. topiary, 9. twisted, 13. nil game, 15. eyewear, 16. as if, 18. verse, 19. waste.



# NEW to Kelsall Hill



**THE CENTRE IS DUE  
TO OPEN IN MAY 2020**

## **PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

- Open to general public
- Retail outlets
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# Forthcoming events

## THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Date	Speaker	Title	Competition
April 14th	The Hollies	The farm shop	Group competition to be announced
May 12th	Resolutions and Tasting evening		
June 9th	Karen Grimwood	Guide dog puppy training	
July 14th	Tytherington Treacles	Their calendar	Treacle tart
Sept 8th	Michaela	Stained glass angels craft session	Group competition to be announced
Oct 13th	Ellen	Svalbard adventures	

*President: Lorraine Roberts. Meetings are held at 7.30pm, every second Tuesday in the month except for August, at Delamere Community Centre. [delamereandoakmere.co.uk/delamere-womens-institute/](http://delamereandoakmere.co.uk/delamere-womens-institute/), [twitter.com/delamerewi](https://twitter.com/delamerewi), [www.facebook.com/DelamereWI](https://www.facebook.com/DelamereWI)*

## DELAMERE AND DISTRICT GOLDEN CLUB

March 18th	Magician Pete Turner: "Heads I win, tails you lose."
April 1st	Delamere Derby
April 22nd	Chairobics with Sheena Stallard
May 6th	Annual General Meeting with High Tea
May 20th	Talk by Charles Hardy of The Chocolate Box, Tarporley
June 3rd	Coach Outing to Port Sunlight
June 17th	"Play Your Cards Right"
July 1st	"Surprise! Surprise!"
July 15th	Speaker Jean Finney: "An Interlude with Joyce Grenfell plus summer tea."
Sept 2nd	Birthday Lunch with musical entertainment and quiz by Steve Lucas
Sept 16th	Keith Southern singer and entertainment
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Service with Rev. Angela Asquith
Oct 14th	Talk by Ellen Piercy: "A cold adventure: my journey to Svalbard."
Oct 28th	Card Bingo

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!** We meet every fortnight on Wednesday afternoons, except August, at the Community Centre. No upper or lower age limit! For further information please contact Gloria Ackerley tel: 01829 752723.



# ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Delamere and Oakmere News is published three times a year with the support of the Parish Council. The next issue is due at the end of July.

## ADVERTISE WITH D&O NEWS!

Articles, ideas for articles, news of recent events or forthcoming ones, advertisements, photographs and any other contributions relevant to Delamere and/or Oakmere are all very welcome (inclusion subject to editorial discretion).

The newsletter is available to view on the Delamere and Oakmere Community website and you can also get a PDF file by email (contact us if you would like a copy).

## CONTACT

Editorial: [do\\_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:do_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk)

Advertising: [do\\_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:do_newseditor@yahoo.co.uk)

## SUPPORT US

All proceeds from advertisements go into the printing of the newsletter, so we really couldn't do this without you. Thank you!

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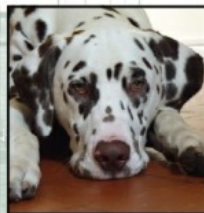


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# Need a dog walker?

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# LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Snowdrops herald the coming of Spring, in the "language" of flowers snowdrops are associated with purity, and are often planted around graves. I write this on the eve of Shrove Tuesday, in the garden the snowdrops and other bulbs have started to pop up their heads, crocuses, daffodils, and tulips. The trees, stoic and bare, are starting to whisper the tune of new life, bringing hope of greener and more vibrant days. Rebirth is patient, but it is ready to announce itself at any moment. This week we could experience a wintry flurry that catches us off guard, but the arrival of the snowdrop and the spring flowers, are a clear sign that spring and summer are on their way.

Lent and spring are synonymous, they herald an opportunity for us to change, offering time to reflect, to deny ourselves, to look back and find new ways to help ourselves and others. It is often a time of personal renewal, a quiet reminder that God is not distant, God the author of creation, who has every season beautifully planned has plans for us too, offers us this opportunity for birth and renewal, just like the seasons.

My induction as the Rector of Delamere is on St Patricks Day the 17th March. A song based on Patrick's prayer is this,

I arise today through the strength of  
heaven

Light of sun, radiance of moon

Splendour of fire, speed of lightning

Swiftness of wind, depth of the sea  
Stability of earth, firmness of rock  
I arise today through  
God's strength to pilot me  
God's eye to look before me  
God's wisdom to guide me  
God's way to lie before me  
God's shield to protect me  
Christ with me, Christ before me  
Christ behind me, Christ in me  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I  
sit down

Christ when I arise, Christ to shield  
me

Christ in the heart of everyone who  
thinks of me

Christ in the mouth of everyone who  
speaks of me

I arise today

As we prepare for Easter and reflect on  
God's resurrecting love, may you know  
God's strength protection surrounding  
you, may you feel Christ's presence with  
you, inviting you, like the crocuses, to  
herald new life as you journey on.

Amen

Rev'd Angela Askwith

## OAKMERE METHODIST CHURCH

In the main church at 10.45am every Sunday morning for a service led by a Methodist Local Preacher or Minister. One service a month includes the sacrament of Holy Communion, led by a Minister (Presbyter).

Contacts: Ann or Eric Wright (01829 732950) or Rev Andrew Emison (01928 733180).

## *St. Peter's Notice Board*

### **FROM THE REGISTERS:**

**We said Farewell to**

January: Mrs Ann Miller

### **REGULAR SERVICES**

Every Sunday

8 am - Holy Communion

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

10:30 am - Holy Communion

Every 3rd Sunday

10:30 am - Family Service

Every 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

10:30 am - Morning Worship

### **LENT AND EASTER SERVICES**

#### **Lent and Easter Services**

Every Thursday during Lent, from 5<sup>th</sup> March, Compline (Night Prayer) will be said at 7.00 pm. The Church bell will be rung to signal that we are offering prayers for our local community.

#### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April - Maundy Thursday**

7.00 pm – Holy Communion

#### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday**

10.30 am – Morning Worship

6.30 pm The Crucifixion by John Stainer, wonderful music with solos and a choir conducted by Dr Martin Cook

#### **Easter Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

8.00 am - Holy communion

10.30 am – Family Holy Communion, with Easter Egg Hunt from 10.00 am.



## 6 MONTH EVENT CALENDAR 2020

Delamere Station House is the perfect destination for relaxation, good food and drinks. Situated in the heart of Delamere Forest park.

### APRIL



#### THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

EASTER THEMED CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES (CHILDREN 6+ YEARS & ADULTS)

17:00 - 19:30

£20 PP

#### THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

EASTER SPRING BULB BASKET WORKSHOP, SUPPER AND PROSECCO

18.30 - 21.00

£45 PP

### MAY

#### THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

QUIZ NIGHT WITH THE TEAM (INCLUDES HALF TIME SNACKS) AND A PRIZE

19:00 - 21:30

(maximum of 6 in a team)

£6 per team

### JUNE

#### SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>

CHARLIE READER & INKONSOLABLE AFTERNOON MUSIC SESSION & A LOCAL BEER FESTIVAL

14:00 - 22:00

TBC

#### THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

'SAY YES MORE' A MOTIVATIONAL EVENING WITH 5 LADIES WHO HAVE ACHIEVED GREAT THINGS PLUS SUPPER

19:00 - 22:00

£10 PP

#### SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

A NIGHT OF MAGIC AND MUSHROOMS.

Enjoy some illusion tricks and magic followed by a fun and informal talk on all things Mushroom. Learn about important edible wild species, as well as the dangers of misidentification. Discover the many other uses of fungi from medicinal effects and aphrodisiac qualities, as well as their uses as fire lighters and natural plasters followed by supper and dessert.

18.30 - 22:00

£45 PP

### THEME NIGHTS

#### APRIL

3/10/17/24<sup>TH</sup>

FISH AND CHIPS

17.30 - 21.00



#### MAY

1/8/15/22/29<sup>TH</sup>

GOURMET BURGER FRIES & SIDES

17.30 - 21.00



#### JUNE

5/12/19/26<sup>TH</sup>

THAI NIGHTS

17.30 - 21.00



#### JULY

10/17/24/31<sup>ST</sup>

FISH AND CHIPS

17.30 - 21.00



LAST SUNDAY, EVERY MONTH

PAINT & PROSECCO

19.00 - 21.30

DELAMERE STATION HOUSE, STATION RD, NORTHWICH, CW8 2HZ

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So many people have spoken to me about times past, as they would have done with Robin, and it crossed our minds that these stories and memories will be lost one day, unless they are recorded. Pat Wheeler already looks after many unique records and is a fount of information herself. Let us add to that and maybe one day your own memories can be published, as one village has done, for posterity and as interest for newcomers and the younger generation.

Please send or bring your memories, however short, any photographs, sketches and recordings of local Cheshire accents and words/phrases to *The Paddock, top of Stoney Lane, Delamere CW6 0SX*. Please pass this information on to anyone who might have moved out of the immediate area. I am also willing to visit to help with jotting information down and recording any local speech.

## WHO ARE THEY?

I have come across this old photo and wondered if anyone could throw light on the gathering.



Has anyone got any suggestions as to the occasion or any of the people? Can anyone see a family resemblance?

## CHRISTMAS 2019



*Rosemary, Barbara and Olwyn with Becky, the Golden Club mascot and prospective therapy dog!*



*The Village Carollers outside Delamere Stores.*

The Christmas Carollers donated £30 each to St.Peter's Church, Oakmere Methodist Church and Delamere Community Centre. Thank you to all who gave their support, and thank you, Lee, for providing the Christingle oranges!

## Post Office

The Outreach Post Office operating from the Meeting Room in the Community Centre has reduced its working hours. It will still be open on Wednesday and Friday mornings, but only from 9.30 to 12 noon on each day. This has become necessary as the service continues to lose money so please remember to **keep using it** or we may lose it altogether.

## Keeping Trim

There are now even more ways than before to stay in trim by attending clubs and classes at the Community Centre. As well as the longstanding badminton and bowling clubs, and Action for Life for the Over 60s on a Wednesday morning, there are now a number of yoga and pilates classes throughout the week, some for beginners and some for the more experienced participant – more details can be found on the Community Centre Noticeboard.

Of course, if you feel you need to lose the odd pound or two before attending, then Tanya from Slimming World runs groups on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings!

## Quiz Night

The next Quiz Night will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April; further details can be

found at the Centre and elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## Bookings

The Main Hall is used most evenings during the winter months but is often available at weekends and during the day. Monday and Thursday evenings are available for hire during the summer months.

We also have the smaller Bowling Room and a Meeting Room that can accommodate up to 16 people; both are available for the majority of the week. If you want to book any of the rooms, either on a regular basis or for a one-off event, then please contact Lorraine Roberts, our Booking Secretary, on 01606 889188.

Paul Dean, Chairman, DCA  
Steve Lacey, Treasurer, DCA

## Bob Clipperton

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Bob Clipperton, who was a regular contributor to the newsletter until he left the village three years ago. Bob was a great campaigner on behalf of the community, and though not all his efforts bore fruit, he played an important rôle in bringing broadband to the area. We offer our condolences to Beryl and the family.

## HAPPY DAYS

*by Jean and John Garner*

Did any Delamere and Oakmere News readers attend or have connections with the Youth Club which we ran on a Monday evening in the Community Centre for five years in the mid-1970s?

We had no experience, just three sons and their friends who wanted something to do.

We started off in a small way, with table tennis, darts (aagh!), bagatelle and table snooker. We weren't allowed in the Snooker Room, but the Committee Room was for dominoes, cards and board games.

We had to have music, they said, so we acquired a tape deck and records. On a Saturday we shopped for records, and also went to the cash and carry for sweets and pop for the shop (the kitchen hatch). The shop was manned by the wonderful mums of the children, who gave up their time to come along and serve and give us valuable support.

It was as steep learning curve and we made mistakes, but we all pulled together.

The girls loved to dance and chat, while the boys mostly listened and talked boy talk.

We branched out into other activities. There were sponsored walks, ice skating, cinema and swimming trips. We had a talent competition, parent dances and discos. We had a group from Liverpool (not the Beatles!), and a fish and chip night when at half time we ordered in a meal which was a great success.

There was great sadness when three of our boy members were killed in motorbike accidents. God bless their memories.

There were lasting friendships made, and we know of marriages that have resulted from these.

We know we are looking back through rose-tinted specs, but one thing stands out - what fine adults that generation of children grew up to be. We are proud of them.

Jean and John Garner



## Quiz Night!

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

at Delamere Community Centre  
5 Station Road, Delamere CW8 2HU

**Doors open 7.15 - Quiz starts at 7.45**

**Tickets - £5 per person:**

- Includes quiz, tea, coffee and nibbles. Bring your own alcoholic drinks and glasses if you prefer – and extra nibbles!
- Quiz teams of between 4 and 6 people; if there are not 4 of you please do come along as we will find you a team.

**There are several ways to enter:**

- Complete the entry form at the Community Centre
- Email Steve at [steve@slamonline.co.uk](mailto:steve@slamonline.co.uk)
- Phone Steve on 01270 780777

***Either pay by cheque (payable to Delamere Badminton Club) or cash on the door – see you there!!***





# The Fishpool Inn



*Idyllically* set on the edge of Delamere Forest, The Fishpool Inn is a cosy and welcoming gastro-pub celebrating the culinary character of the Cheshire countryside. Find traditional home comforts, modern British and European dishes and locally-sourced real ales at this welcoming inn, all served within cosy and comfortable surroundings.






Awarded Marketing Cheshire's 2019 'Pub of the Year' accolade,  
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It is incredible that we are now halfway through February as I write this report. Christmas and New Year celebrations are not quite forgotten yet - it doesn't seem that long ago really and I can still remember the happy time we had at our WI Christmas party and the lovely food that members provided. We are good at doing food!

We have a varied programme for 2020 and we started off in January with an illustrated talk by Kay of her journey by train from Delamere to Vladivostok. She took us through several countries, with some stops en route, for example, a chance to swim in Lake Baikal which looked beautiful from the shore! Pictures of the steam engine that pulled the Trans-Siberian Express brought back happy memories of steam travel and disappearing in clouds of steam, smoke and smuts. The lovely pictures showed a mixture of the old and the more modern and members were able to look at memorabilia during our refreshment break and also to sample some vodka!

February has become our games month. This year we played 'Beetle' which resulted in

some strange species of beetles, some cute and pretty and some less so. In the second half of the meeting we played 'Irish Bingo'. The silence of intense concentration was disturbed only with hoots of laughter when the caller (i.e. me!) got mixed up with the suits. I really do know the difference between a heart and a diamond!

The speakers at our March meeting will be Michaela and Melanie, two of our members who have served as nurses in the Territorial Army, and who will be telling us of their time in Iraq. This promises to be very interesting and informative.

We look forward to welcoming Mindy Cowap from the Hollies to our April meeting when she will tell us of the history of the Hollies and May will see us discussing the Resolutions and enjoying the goodies brought for our tasting evening.

I hope this gives you a little insight to what we do at WI. As I've said before, it isn't all 'Jam and Jerusalem' - in fact, there is very little of either - but please come along and give us a try. You'll be more than welcome.

## DELAMERE ST PETER'S - 100 CLUB LOTTERY SCHEME

In order to boost our income and help us finance the ongoing costs of running St Peter's, which amount to some £100 per day, the PCC have decided to launch a '100 Club' lottery scheme.

For an investment of £5 per month, members will be entered into a monthly draw with a first prize of £100, a second prize of £50 and a third prize of £25. In addition, there will be a further draw for a £100 prize in December, which will include anyone who has not won anything throughout the year.

It is our intention to launch the scheme in May, assuming a workable minimum number of supporters have joined. (Please note that as our numbers may be less than the targeted 100 during the initial phase, prizes will be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.)

Readers are kindly invited to join the scheme and help support the running and maintenance of our local church. To do so please contact Ian Howarth on [ianh33@btinternet.com](mailto:ianh33@btinternet.com) / 01606 883451 or any member of the PCC and we will provide an application form, set of rules and bank mandate if appropriate.

Dear Residents and Friends

The "New Year" is well underway, and the weather continues to be very changeable, especially over recent weeks with strong winds and heavy rain (I am certainly hoping that we shall be compensated in the summer months with warm sunshine!).

Work continues to progress well with the new Visitor Centre at Linmere, which is expected to be completed later on this year. Wilmott Dixon, who are in charge of the project, are offering free tours around the site in March. More details can be found on their website.

Repair work has also been completed within the walkways of Little Wood, following concerns raised by nearby residents. It is a lovely area to visit during the spring months, and a walk around it is highly encouraged!.

The Parish Council is also continuing to look at ways in which the field at

Frith Avenue could be developed and we are also hoping to launch a Neighbourhood Plan Project within the coming months as well (more information on this shortly).

We also have a new member who has joined the Parish Council, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to Cllr Justin Taylor, who has already been helping to address issues with school transport within the community along with our local Ward Councillors at Cheshire West and Chester.

Finally, I offer a warm welcome to the Rev'd Angela Askwith as the new rector of St. Peter's Church.

I hope you all enjoy the coming months and also find time to discover new things in the community.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Bell  
Chair, Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council

## **Would you like to become a Parish Councillor?**

**Delamere & Oakmere  
Parish Council  
has vacancies for Parish Councillors**

If you would like to apply for this position please email your CV with a brief covering letter to Mrs J Monks, Parish Clerk at [clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk](mailto:clerk@delamereandoakmere.co.uk)

For information about the Parish Council visit  
[http://delamereandoakmere.co.uk/  
parish-council](http://delamereandoakmere.co.uk/parish-council)

or contact your local Parish Councillor





Spelled with small p, parkrun is a free 5km time trial that takes place every Saturday (weather permitting) at 9pm in the forest just beyond the visitor centre. It's one of over 500 parkruns in the UK and over 1800 throughout the world. parkrun is open to everyone – though participants do need to be at least 4 years old. Otherwise we welcome all ages and all abilities. Most people run all the way, but many run/walk and many just walk. We have a mix of club runners, casual runners and very occasional runners. And while it's not all about speed, for the record our best times are 15:20 by Elliot Bowker and 17:29 by Holly Weedall.

Delamere parkrun was originally set up by Mark Bowden in March 2013, when 152 people turned up at the start, which was originally at Barnes Bridge. Increasing numbers meant we soon outgrew the car park there and had to move to the present start by the visitor centre. We have now had over 300 runs in total with the highest attendance being an amazing 644 last Christmas. Our lowest attendance was 32 in April 2013 when we had about a

foot of snow. These days, sadly, the forest would be closed, though we are grateful to the Forestry Commission for supporting parkrun in the forest.

In this time we have also had over 14,000 separate participants at Delamere competing over 86 thousand parkruns to a total of 433 thousand km – a little more than the distance to the moon! parkrun tourism has become a new pastime with people trying to visit as many different parkruns as possible. It's hard to know each week how many we have, but typically we have had representatives from 28 different running clubs alone.



If you fancy joining us, then simply register at [www.parkrun.com](http://www.parkrun.com), print off the bar-code you will be assigned and bring it along at 9 o'clock.

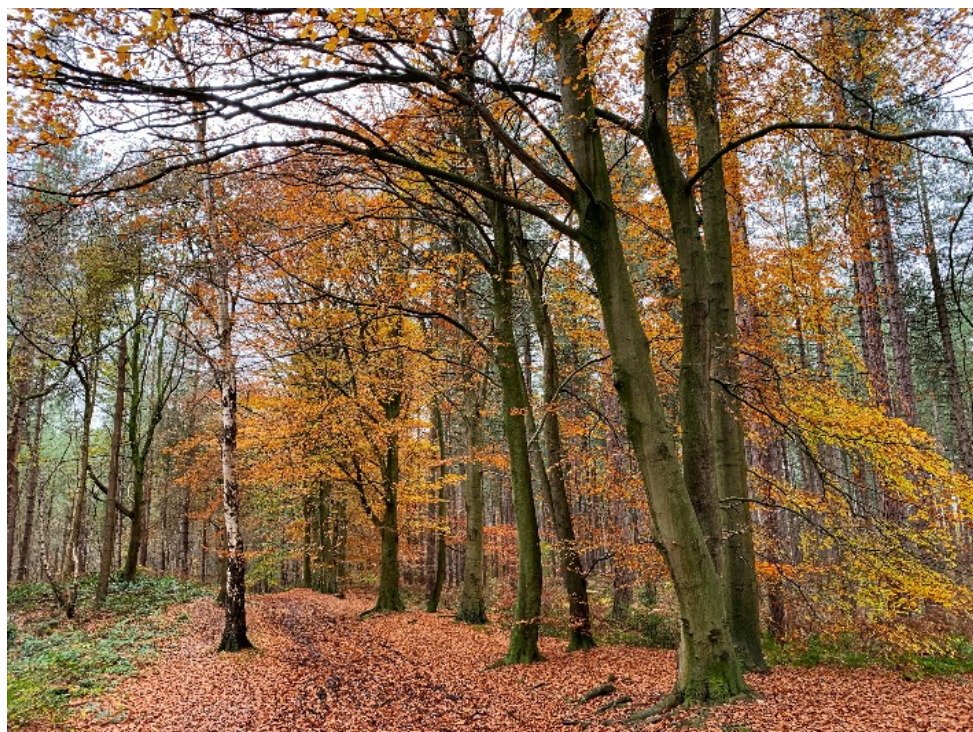
As well as competing we have a few people who come along to watch but critically we are also grateful to the band of volunteers we need each week in order to put the event on. There are a number of roles from marshalling to timing and runner scanning to briefing

the runners. It's really important that we keep the runners in the right place at the finish, which we do with a simple taped funnel – and funnel managers who keep a sharp eye out for funnel-duckers. We always welcome new volunteers and full training is given on the day. It's a great way to meet people and make friends. If you are interested please contact us at [delamere@parkrun.com](mailto:delamere@parkrun.com)

One of the really amazing things about parkrun is that when I arrive at 8:30, the start is deserted and very quiet.

Gradually the numbers increase to a hubbub of noise by 9:00. Off the runners go and it's all calm for 20 minutes until the stream of runners starts returning. Activity peaks about 9:30 then gradually eases off. By 10:00 there's no one left and the forest is once again deserted and quiet. You would never know we had been there at all.

Mark Flanagan,  
Delamere parkrun event director  
Photos by Emma Flanagan



*Autumn leaves in Delamere Forest*  
*Photo by Bridget Austin*

# WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE - AND PLENTY TO DRINK

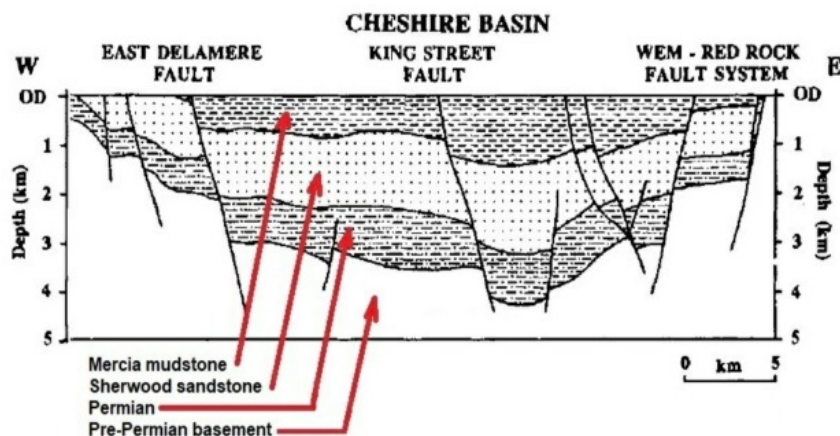
We live in a good place for water. While other parts of the country were devastated by the February storms, we just got a bit soggy. Yet we are rarely short of water. Most of what comes down goes on down and stays down, until we pump it up.



Many readers will be familiar with the pump house alongside the permissive path up Eddisbury Hill that goes through the United Utilities field on Station Road. The sign on the building tells us it was built for Northwich Rural District Council in 1941, though the borehole which it serves is a little older. It was drilled in 1935 and extended in 1939 to a depth of 229 metres, to

extract water from the Sherwood sandstone aquifer that lies beneath it. The Sherwood group of rocks were laid down in the Triassic geological period between 250 and 200 million years ago, on top of a layer of Permian rock laid down about 50 million years earlier. Whereas the Permian rock is relatively impenetrable the Sherwood sandstone is highly fractured, to the extent that some 25% of its volume consists of gaps filled with water. The water in the aquifer flows slowly towards the north-west, eventually to emerge in the River Mersey, except for what is pumped out on the way.

The borehole on Eddisbury Hill is about 0.5km to the west of the East Delamere Fault, where seismic activity towards the end of the Triassic period shifted the sandstone upwards by about 0.5km to form the hill and the rest of the Sandstone Ridge. To the east another series of faults shifted the sandstone up by a similar amount to form the opposite side of the Cheshire basin, whose underlying aquifer is one



*Solid geology of the Cheshire Basin  
(adapted from Chadwick & Evans, Geological Society, 1995)*



of the most important water sources in the country.



*East Delamere Fault*

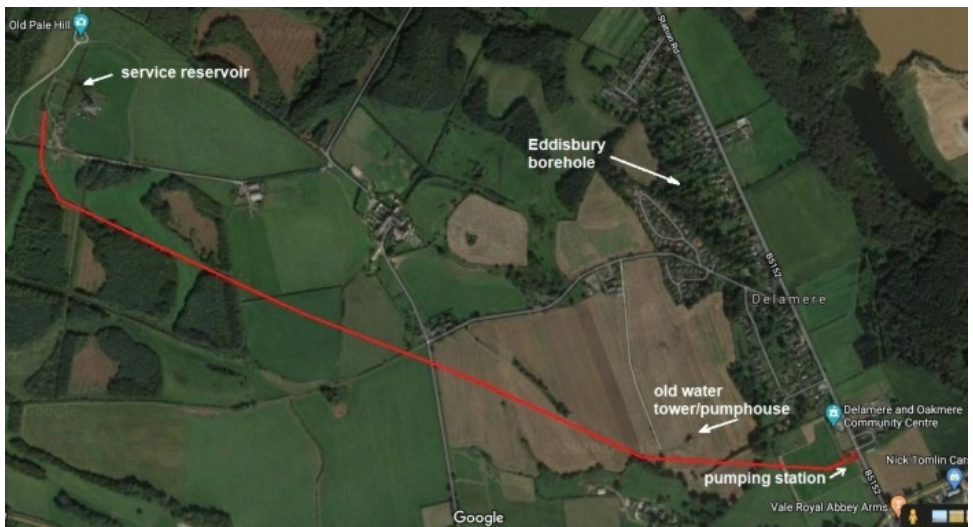
The aquifer has been providing the parish with water since long before the borehole was drilled. The 1881 Ordnance Survey map shows a well just a few metres up the hill from where the borehole building is now.

Before it goes into the public water supply the water is purified at the water treatment works on Middlewich Road (to the west of the Fishpool Inn and Blackbank Wood). The treatment plant also takes water from two boreholes

next to it, and from another at the corner between Middlewich Road and Stoney Lane at Organsdale.

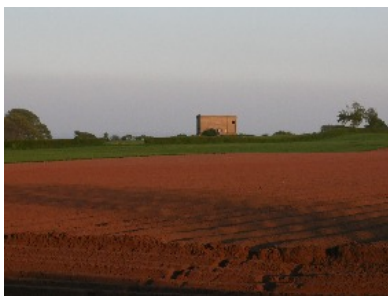
There is a second water treatment works in the parish at Sandiford on Fishpool Lane. This was built in 2006, taking water from its own borehole and others in Cotebrook. Between them the five boreholes within the parish provide over five and a half million cubic metres of water a year.

A pump house next to the bowling green on Station Road (the Abbey Arms Booster) takes the treated water up the hill to the reservoir on Pale Heights. The reservoir serves mainly to maintain the pressure in the regional public supply network. This includes the Vyrnwy Aqueduct that runs under the ground along the eastern side of Station Road. The aqueduct, whose massive pipes can be seen from the bridge over the railway at Delamere station, takes water to Liverpool from Lake Vyrnwy in North Wales (see issue 36 of the Newsletter).





On its way up the hill to Pale Heights the pipeline passes a large rectangular grey building in the middle of a field, that can be seen from Stoney Lane and Eddisbury Hill. Now derelict, this once served much the same purpose as the current reservoir and its associated pump house. It had a large water tank in the top of the building with a pumping system below it.



*Photo: Bridget Austin*

Many other boreholes have been drilled in the parish, some to provide water to farms and other major users, and many others as part of the sand quarry operations. Some have been drilled for geological or hydrological research, including one whose top is visible next to the public footpath through Abbey Arms Wood.

This is 150 metres deep, and was drilled by the Environment Agency as part of a research programme in 2002.



Until the 1950s there was also another waterworks in the parish, at Crabtree Green. The 1898 Ordnance Survey map calls it Cuddington & Hartford Waterworks, but by 1911 it had become the Sandiway Water Works. This took water from just north of the railway line at Stonyford and pumped it up to a reservoir on the edge of Hornby's Rough.

In 1934 a borehole was drilled at Stonyford, 350 metres deep. No record has been found of a borehole before then, so the water may originally have been taken straight from Stonyford Brook. The 1911 map shows a water tower alongside the reservoir. This was still there in 1964 but marked as disused. It has now gone, but the remains of the reservoir are still visible just off the Oakmere Way.



*Ordnance Survey 1911 (National Library of Scotland)*

I was told by a bird ringing friend of mine, that of all the birds he had ringed, he had had very little feedback from anything further afield than his own patch or ringing area.

An example of that would be ringing and re-catching Reed Warblers at Rostherne Mere. Apparently, you have to ring and re-catch migrants especially waders, to be able to get feedback from around the world.



Reed warbler © Amy Lewis

I was quite surprised last Autumn, to find a dead Goldfinch at the feeding station, which had a ring on its leg. After a few emails and a telephone conversation with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) I found out that the bird was ringed in its second year on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at Hoylake Shore, Merseyside. It was found dead 616 days later in Delamere, 41km from the ringing site in ESE direction. The bird was very thin and died in the age range of 3.5 – 4 years. Other birds observed in the same flock also displayed rings on their legs and may well have been ringed at the same time as the deceased bird.



Goldfinch © aejames.com

Apart from the bird visitors to the feeding station, mammal visitors deserve a mention. These range from the unusual to the unwelcome. Domestic cats are attracted by the bird activities during the day. Foxes and badgers are unusual and must be attracted by the smell of grain and night time activities of Voles and Mice. Grey Squirrels and Brown rats are a complete nuisance and can cause damage to feeders and generally cause a health hazard to the whole site. Mice are quite common on the feeding platforms during the night and along with the occasional Voles can become part of the feeding process.



Field vole © barriekelly.com

Last year whilst under the glare of a floodlight, a Tawny Owl came regularly to hunt Mice and Voles that were feeding on the spillage from the feeders.

There are only two species of mice we are likely to encounter in Delamere, the Wood Mouse, with its large ears and long tail, and the Field or House Mouse. The Voles I usually see are Field Voles but depending on your location you could see a Bank Vole. Both species can be active during the day and can cause considerable damage to seedlings and tender plants in greenhouses and frames.

Despite the extremes of the recent winter weather, the first signs of spring are just starting to appear. Whether it's buds breaking, the flashes of bright white snowdrops or just the lighter nights; it definitely feels like spring is right around the corner. In fact, the appearance of wildlife throughout the year has been used historically for many generations to mark the start of seasons. Some people keep an ear out for cuckoos or skylarks in the summer months. Some people look for the return of swallows. Others enjoy the blooms of blossoms and flowers especially our native woodland plants such as bluebells.

Often overlooked as a colourful flutter amongst the winds of summer, butterflies offer up a whole calendar for the year. Various different species reach their adult phase at different times throughout the year, some even flying after a long winter slumber. If you are lucky enough through the early months of spring you may spot the striking comma, a deep orange butterfly with a distinctive almost torn looking wing shape. Or perhaps the well-known peacock with its large imposing eye spots. As spring moves forward, look out for the widespread orange-tip. The males are a pure white butterfly with bright orange wing tips as the name suggests and are a common sight around the Cheshire countryside.

The presence of certain species of butterfly can tell us a lot about the surrounding local plants as well. Every species of butterfly has its own

preferred food plants and niche while in the caterpillar stage, with some far fussier than others. A less picky butterfly, the peacock – a common sight amongst gardens, can be seen in bundles of dark black caterpillars devouring nettles in the summer. Whereas the rarer green hairstreak, which gets its name from the green underwings that can be seen once resting, thrives off bog plants such as bilberry and cranberry.



*Green hairstreak at Flaxmere – Natalie Webb*

Over the winter Cheshire Wildlife Trust volunteers have been busy across a wide range of sites including the peat basins of Delamere Forest and Hatchmere. Recently we spent a day on the maintenance of Flaxmere Moss, removing birch and scrub which is encroaching onto the wetter more botanically rich areas of the moss. This management means that the bog plants such as bilberry and bog cranberry have the wet conditions and space that they need to thrive, which will undoubtedly be appreciated by the

green hairstreak population within the area.

A stone's throw from Flaxmere, brimstone butterflies can be seen in Norley Moss within Hatchmere throughout the summer months as flashes of neon-yellow amongst the glow of purple heather. The brimstone's caterpillar is particularly fond of alder buckthorn, a small tree found in abundance throughout the area of wet heathland.



*Gatekeeper in Hatchmere – Jack Helsby*

The heathland fades out into wet woodland and woodland where speckled wood butterflies can be seen establishing territories. Meadow browns and gatekeepers, small brown butterflies with bold orange markings, can be seen in other areas of scrub and along the footpaths of the nature

reserve. The reason there is such a number of different species is due to the mosaic of rare habitats and biodiversity within the local area.

The work we achieve with all our dedicated volunteers throughout the winter months ensures that there is a diverse range of habitats and food plants available for these and many other fantastic butterflies for years to come. As summer draws closer, be on the lookout for their first flights.

Jack Helsby, Living Landscape Officer, Cheshire Wildlife Trust

## Snowdrops on The Ridge



**Maggie Matthews took this picture of *Galanthus Nivalis*, or Candlemas Bells, at Candlemas, 2 Feb 2020. It happens to be a palindrome - 02022020!**





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MORE THAN JUST A FARM SHOP





# Oakmere Cricket Club



Oakmere CC have Senior Mens, Juniors (Boys and Girls) and Ladies teams playing weekend and mid-week matches and Qualified Coaches provide structured training sessions across all teams.

New Players (male and female, all ages), Spectators, Volunteers and Sponsors are always more than welcome!

**This season's outdoor training will commence as per below:**

- Seniors: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 6.30-8pm
- Juniors: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April  
(Under 11's 6pm – 7pm / Under 13's & 15's 7pm – 8pm)
- ● Ladies: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 6.30-8pm  
Girls only (Y5-Y8) Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 6-7pm
- Minis (Rec-Y3) Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 6-7pm (Pre-registration only)

If you are interested in playing cricket or want to find out more about the Club please contact [secretary@oakmerecc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oakmerecc.co.uk) for more details or visit our website at [www.oakmerecc.co.uk](http://www.oakmerecc.co.uk)

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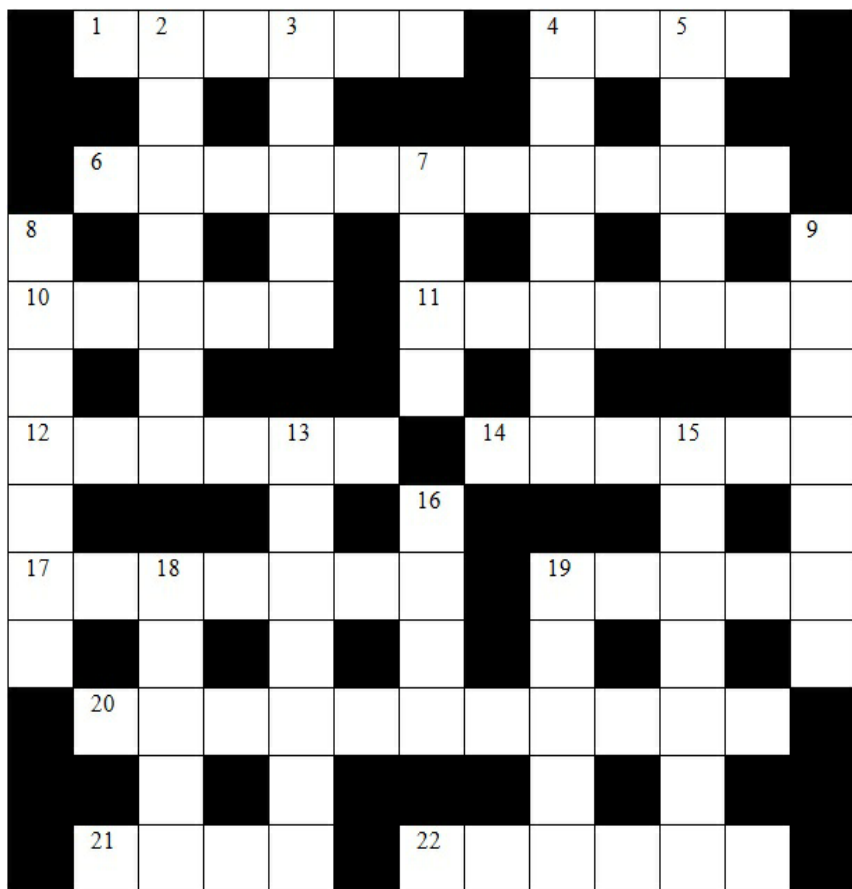
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## Across:

1. Home territory far from sea (6)
4. See! It's all right to watch (4)
6. Northern sporting land with heather, grouse and red deer (5,6)
10. Make a gift of French iron (5)
11. Swerve and slide before quarrel – a squalid place to live (4,3)
12. Aim to be camping (6)

14. Sleek, going west around Newton, bows down (6)
17. Mutinies about electrical units (7)
19. Ask location - reported to be Hertfordshire town (5)
20. Went without after interval – had an early meal (11)
21. Give in, something sown say.
22. Cattle drives

**Down:**

2. Just right, fine tic sorted (4,3)
3. Next, Queen follows back of boat (5)
4. Hearts in the centre of this Scottish region's football team (7)
5. Leave US A&E! Not the best on archery target (5)
7. Jumble sale for famous lion (4)
8. Best diary lost day initially. It's all about clipping plants (7)
9. Time for WI's bear – he danced 'like we did last summer' (7)
13. Nothing courageous makes for a dull match (3,4)
15. It's said I use spectacles (7)
16. Regular cat's tiff – unlikely (2,2)
18. Poetry opposed to the Irish language (5)
19. Top of trousers by the sound of it - rubbish!

## QUIZ - BRIDGES *by Steve Lacey*

*(Answers on page 5)*

Boris Johnson seems to think that a bridge between Scotland and Northern Ireland would be a good idea, so here are 10 questions about bridges.

1. In which Italian city will you find a Bridge of Sighs?
2. There is also a Bridge of Sighs in Oxford; it crosses New College Lane and joins two parts of which College?
3. Who first sang Bridge Over Troubled Water?
4. In which year was Sydney Harbour Bridge opened?
5. On which other bridge was the design based?
6. The Danyang-Kunshan Bridge, a railway bridge in China, is the longest in the world – how long is it?
7. Which bridge across the River Thames can open to let taller ships through?
8. Which two countries are linked by the Oresund Bridge?
9. In bridge, what is a yarborough?
10. Which river does the Acton Swing Bridge cross?

If you enjoy a quiz, why not join us at the Community Centre on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April for some slightly easier (mainly!) questions? Further details elsewhere in the Newsletter and on the Community Centre Noticeboard.





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**TUESDAY**  
**8-9 AM**

Delamere Community Centre.  
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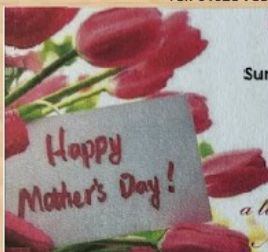
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# NEWS

ISSUE 48 | SPRING 2020

Cover Photo by Bridget Austin:  
St. Peter's in the Spring