

# Delamere and Oakmere

## News

Number 6

April/May 2006

### Road Safety Petition

Early last month a mother delivering her child to the School House Nursery by Delamere School was involved in an alarming accident. As she was turning left into Stoney Lane a following vehicle, in attempting to overtake her, collided with her car forcing it off the road. Luckily no one was injured but the car was badly damaged and mother and child were badly shaken.

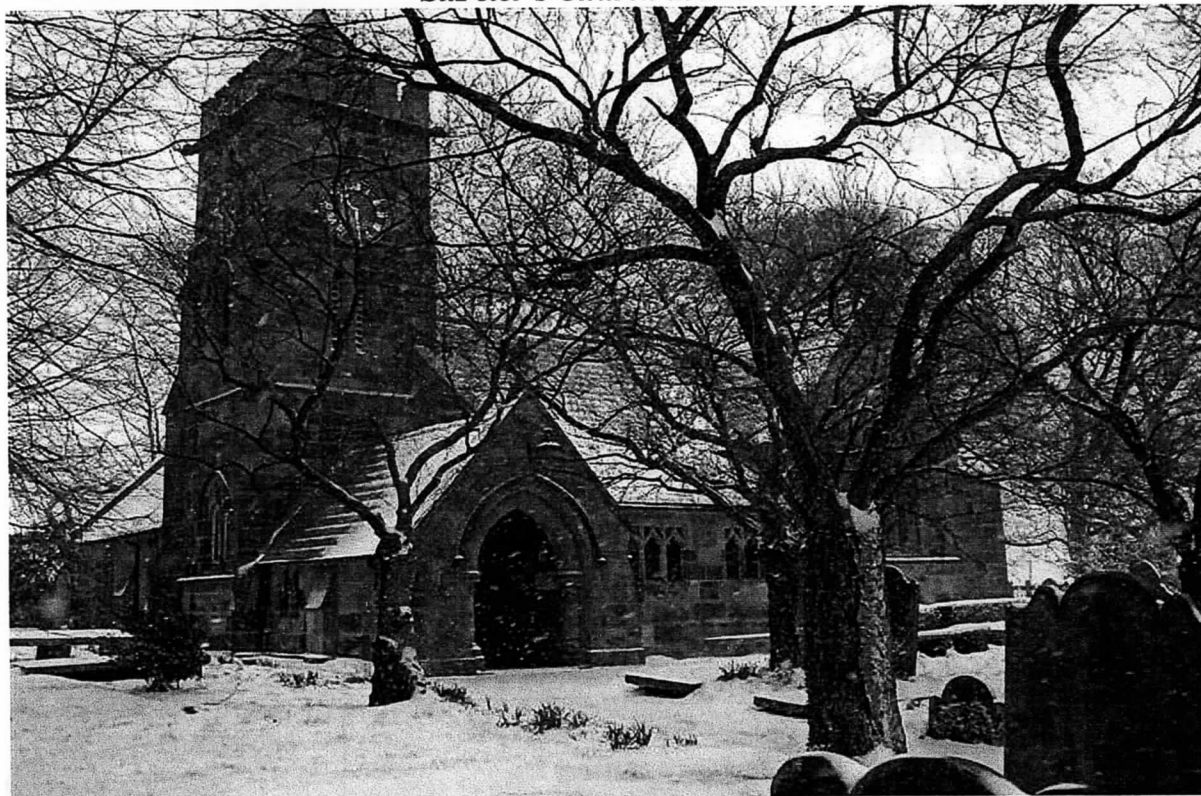
Everyone who uses this junction knows how dangerous it can be, particularly at morning and evening schooltime. Cars coming from the Chester direction often round the bend at high speed and emerging from Stoney Lane can be a risky business. When staff at the Nursery made this point to the traffic police who attended the accident they were told that action could only be taken by the Cheshire Highways Authority. They were further informed that action could only be taken after three fatalities had occurred. *What sort of mentality can view road safety in such a cold-bloodedly calculating way?*

We may be powerless to change the attitudes of those who are supposed to look after our welfare, but at least we can try. Alison Ruffles of the School House Nursery has set up a petition requesting a speed restriction on this stretch of road.

**Anyone who feels strongly about the issue can sign this, either at the Nursery or at Eddisbury Fruit Farm or at Delamere Stores in Station Road. Please do your bit to help support this petition.**

More traffic calming news on Page 4.

### Global Warming Hits Delamere St. Peter's Church in March



## **What's On**

### **April & May**

**All events in Delamere**

**Community Centre,  
unless indicated.**

**All club/society secretaries:**

*Please let me know well in advance the dates of your meetings for the following two months; ie, by 16<sup>th</sup> May for June/July, by 16<sup>th</sup> July for August/September, etc.(if you want them to be included in this diary).*

Contact me on either  
01829 752723, or by e-mail:  
robin.ackerley@btinternet.com

**Wed.,5<sup>th</sup> April**

**Golden Age**

**A.G.M.**

**2.00pm**

**Mon.,10<sup>th</sup> April**

**Community Centre  
Committee Meeting**

**7.15pm**

**Tues.,11<sup>th</sup> April**

**Women's Institute**

**7.30pm**

**Mon.,17<sup>th</sup> April**

**Meeting of**

**Delamere Parish  
Council**

**in the Church Room**

**7.30pm**

**Wed.,19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Golden Age**

**Talk**

**"Behind the Scenes in  
the Theatre & TV"**

**by Fiona Martin**

**2.00pm**

**Fri.,21<sup>st</sup> April**

**Toddler & Baby  
Group**

**Kelsall Community Centre**

**10.00 – 11.30am**

**Second-hand Book Sale**

**Refreshments/crafts & toys**

**for toddlers / baby area**

**Entry £2**

**Contact Julia Timpson**

**(08700 668932)**

**for further details.**

**Wed.,3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Golden Age**

**Talk**

**"Life on a Barge"**

**by Mrs.Shaw**

**2.00pm**

**Fri.,5<sup>th</sup> May**

**Barn Dance**

**7.30pm**

**See Ad. on p.13 for  
details.**

**Tues., 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**Women's Institute**

**7.30pm**

**Mon.,15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Meeting of**

**Delamere Parish  
Council**

**in the Church Room**

**7.30pm**

**Wed.,17<sup>th</sup> May**

**Golden Age**

**Talk on**

**"Safety in the Home"**

**by a member of the**

**Fire Service**

**2.00pm**

**Fri.,19<sup>th</sup> May**

**Toddler & Baby**

**Group**

**Kelsall Community Centre**

**See above for details.**

**Wed.,31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Golden Age**

**Bingo**

**2.00pm**

**Repeat Request to  
all club secretaries:**

**This page needs  
details of your  
programmes. Your  
club will  
benefit. Please keep  
the information  
rolling in.  
Contact details  
above.**

## **Delamere Bowls Club**

The new season has begun with our Norley Evening League A team, having won Division 3, newly promoted to Div.2.

The Mid-Cheshire B team [home night Friday] is looking for players, regardless of ability. Contact Gerald Merry on 01829 733388.

## **Opening Delamere fixtures:**

### **Norley Afternoon League**

**Tues.,4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Delamere A (A) v Cuddington C**

**Thurs.,6<sup>th</sup> April**

**Delamere B (H) v Cuddington C**

**Tues.,11<sup>th</sup> April**

**Delamere A (H) v Goshawk A**

**Delamere B (A) v Tarvin Village**

### **Norley Evening League**

**Wed.,19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Delamere A (H) v Slow & Easy A**

**Delamere B (A) v Ring o' Bells B**

### **Mid-Cheshire League**

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> April**

**Delamere A (H) v Winsford**

**Cons.B**

**Delamere B (A) v Moulton British  
Legion B**

There is a vacancy for a  
**Homewatch Co-ordinator**  
For

**Eddisbury Hill Park**

**Ring John Gladstone on**

**01829 752651**

**Save the Children**  
are holding a

**Garden Party**  
with Exhibition &  
Sale of Paintings &  
Plants

**on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**  
**(Bank Holiday Monday)**

**at Norley Court,  
Marsh Lane, Norley**  
ring: 01928 788397  
or 01928 731512 for  
details.

## Newsletter Delivery

Thanks to a very good response to my appeal in the last Newsletter most areas now have regular deliverers.

Still looking for helpers are:

- A49 from Oakmere lights all the way to Fox Bank (this can be divided up);
- Racecourse Lane and Saddler's Lane;
- All houses to north side of A556 between Crabtree Green and Oakmere lights (including Oakmere Hall).

\* \* \* \* \*

## Station Road (B5152) Traffic Calming Measures

The problem of speeding traffic along Station Road is increasing with recorded speeds in excess of 85mph. The only way this will be resolved is by residents and users writing to the Police, Cheshire County Council (CCC) and our M.P.

The Police are carrying out random mobile speed checks and are having a good success rate with the offenders. Our M.P., Stephen O'Brien, is backing our campaign, but he needs a good show of support so that he can add more weight against CCC.

CCC Highways Dept. are reluctant, on economic grounds, to carry out any significant traffic calming measures. This is where we need some parishioners' efforts to pester CCC into doing something before, not after, someone is killed.

It is really up to the individual parishioner to do something sooner rather than later to have some type of traffic calming measures along our road.

Anthony Davies, Parish Councillor.

### Addresses:

Stephen O'Brien MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

### CCC:

Richard Flood, Area Traffic Engineer, Phoenix House, Clough Rd., Winsford CW7 4BD.

### Police:

Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson, Western Division, Police H.Q. Winsford CW7 2UA. Or Inspector Phil Hodgson, Frodsham Police Station, Ship St., Frodsham.

## ...And More Traffic....

A few months ago Joseph Fox, who lives at Kelsall Lodge on Gresty's Hill, launched a petition dealing with the speed of traffic as it passes his house on the main Chester Road. This is the main crossing point for walkers on the Sandstone Trail and in a very short time he had 1,000 signatures on the petition. Anyone standing by the Lodge or by Gresty's Cottage cannot help but be aware of the speed of traffic (coming from the Chester direction it has just left the dual carriageway of the Kelsall by-pass) and of the danger to the many walkers trying to cross the road there.

Put this and the problems at the school together and there is a good case for a speed restriction all the way from the lights at the end of the by-pass to the existing limit at the top of Abbey Hill. Or will the powers that be insist on adding 6, rather than just 3, fatalities to their macabre statistics before agreeing to do anything.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL Bowyers Waste - The Little Wood**

The Little Wood was acquired by Oakmere Parish Council in 1990, with the aid of public subscription and a grant from Vale Royal, to save it from development. It is an area of 6 hectares (15 acres) between Waste Lane and the Fourways Quarry.

Grants have become available, so Oakmere Parish Council is working with Vale Royal Borough Council and Cheshire County Council to improve the Little Wood for the local community and for wildlife. Many of the trees died due to waterlogging and where necessary these have now been felled to ensure that the site is safe for public access. Some of the trees have been left standing, as dead wood is important for insects, which in turn feed birds and mammals. If you use the site you may have noticed that some of the treetops have been left with crown-like shapes. This encourages bats to roost.

Having completed the safety work, the tree surgeon will come back to tidy the site. Some further trees will be felled to open up the wetland area a little more.

What else would you like to see on the site? Suggestions include a carved bench next to the boardwalk, a carved sculpture from one of the dead trees, and planting alder trees.

Please 'phone your ideas to Mrs. Mary Carter on 01606 883645.

Dear Robin,

*Reading your article on "Delamere's Tagic Loss" brought strong memories of my teenage years living in the neighbouring village of Cotebrook. At that time there was a flourishing Social club and many teenage boys and girls from Delamere were members (including most of the younger choirboys in the photograph with the late Rev. George Payne).*

*I well remember December 1949 and Rector Payne accepting an invitation to our Boxing Day lunch in Cotebrook village hall. He joined in the festivities, but told no one that his wife had passed away on Christmas Eve. My late husband Neville Bettley, who would then be 17, I know had the greatest regard and respect for the Rector, as did all the young Delamere people who came to the club.*

*I would like to add that the Social Club was run under the guidance of the late Mr. Richard Coy, a Manchester businessman who gave much of his time to organising social events in the village. He was also a keen Manchester United supporter and frequently took some of the boys to Old Trafford. I know some of them are still dedicated supporters!*

*I often think what a huge influence these two people had on the lives of all who were privileged to have known them, especially the younger generation of that time.*

*Happy Days!*

*Barbara Bettley  
Station Road, Delamere.*

## **An Easter Message from Oakmere Methodist Church**

Hello everyone,

I was recently asked to address the Women's World Day of Prayer in Nantwich. The theme was South Africa. I told them the story of the two black student ministers I met at a theological college I visited in Cape Town. One used to be a policeman while the other one used to be a freedom fighter. Both of them came from different sides of the track and, in the initial days, both hated each other. One was widely regarded as a traitor to his black kin while the other was regarded, by the apartheid authorities, as subversive.

It took many months for the men to develop an uneasy truce and even longer for them to begin to work together. This was a costly journey for them both. They had to let go of their old ways of thinking, hating and being. They had to start again. Both had to die to their old selves and start a new life in Christ. This is the story, the experience of Easter.

Jesus suffered what we suffer and conquers and transforms it. He died for us on the Cross and rose to life again. It was costly for Jesus, but he did it out of love for us. Jesus' sacrifice was extravagant – his life for ours but it brought us new life. We have to want this new life, this better way, this new friendship with God. Then we are given it freely.

The two students found new life together in Christ. It was because of their faith in Christ's Death and Resurrection that they could begin again.

In Matthew 16:3 Jesus tells a group to look for the signs of the times, to read the signs that tell them that God's Son is amongst them. Look for the signs around you that show you that new life is possible in Christ. Can you see them? Can you see them in yourself?

We have Holy Communion at Oakmere Methodist Church at 10.45 am on Easter Sunday.

Come and join any of the services in this area.

Happy Easter,

Yours in Christ,

*Rev'd Ann Kenton*

\* \* \* \* \*

## **From My Window**

As I write spring must surely have sprung. A beautiful sunny day bringing the daffodils into bloom.

The recent very cold weather has brought so many birds to feed. A welcome return were six long-tailed tits, a tiny bird with some fascinating adaptations to cold weather survival. It appears to be one of the few breeding birds in the British Isles which operate what is known as a 'co-operative breeding' system. They do not nest in holes or nest boxes. Instead they painstakingly construct fragile hanging pockets of cobwebs and feathers, within bramble thickets or other dense cover. They are very vulnerable to attack by magpies and jays. When a nest is destroyed the adult birds do not try again, but split up and do something that is quite fascinating. Each bereaved parent teams up with a related male bird and his partner to help feed their nestlings, improving their condition and survival rate. Nestlings may end up being fed by four or even more adults.

Two yellowhammers feed regularly, a breed greatly affected by changes to the countryside in the way in which we farm.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February two goldfinches were spotted and a bird not seen before was feeding on the ground. Black

head, white breast and belly and a white stripe down the nape. A coal tit! What a thrill!

Woody Woodpecker enjoys hammering on the old rotted gatepost for insects and birds are already inspecting nestboxes and enjoying small fatba lls -suspended on long strings (to foil squirrels and large birds such as jays and magpies). I had to smile when I saw Woody Woodpecker swinging upside down on one.

Two pairs of blackbirds are squabbling over raisins and the pheasants come every day when I bang two plastic beakers together.

No newts or frogs have come to our pond yet, but as it is only a recent installation I live in hope.

D.D.

## **Horse-Riding in Delamere**

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March saw the first One Day Event to take place on the new equestrian course on land at Organsdale Farm.

The course has been given the name "Kelsall Hill", which is rather strange as not one yard of it is in Kelsall – or anywhere near it for that matter. Nevertheless its attractions to the horse-riding fraternity are obvious: not only is it well designed and laid out but it is set in a lovely part of the countryside (all of it in Delamere, of course). Congratulations to Organsdale's Robin Latham for his enterprise in coming up with the project.

The inaugural day was a national event – the first of the season- and was apparently heavily oversubscribed with over 200 competitors coming from all over the country to take part in the Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country events.

The next event takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

If you live in Delamere and get fed up with being told you live in Kelsall and with having your post wrongly addressed, get in touch.



Almost certainly Delamere School's most distinguished former pupil is the gifted professional musician John Bradbury. I hadn't spoken to John since 1956, not, that is, until I looked him up on the internet and then e-mailed him. A phone conversation followed and shortly afterwards he sent me the following reminiscences of his boyhood and after. John's mother was the school infants teacher in the late 50s and his grandmother, Mrs.C.A.Johnson, as she was always known, often came in to do supply teaching in the 40s and 50s.

### **John Bradbury. A Violinist Remembers**

*At about ten years old I was sent from Manchester to live with my grandparents (Mr & Mrs Arthur Johnson) in Delamere where they lived in a pretty bungalow called 'The Laurels' perched at the top of a steep track behind the Post Office in Station Road. The view from here was truly spectacular, and has remained undimmed in my memory over the years. Also very close to my heart are the memories of Delamere School where the headmistress, Mrs Ackerley, had the unenviable task of preparing me for the 11+ examination*

*I used to walk to school, turning right at the Abbey Arms, always in the hopes that the lovely Jean Crawford (a very self-contained young lady in my class) would one day smile at me as she came cycling past along the Chester Road. But this was to be one of life's unfulfilled dreams, although I did manage to put my arm round her once during the School Nativity play*

*Many of the schoolchildren were from farming families, and it didn't take long for me to appreciate the importance of tractors in Cheshire life as there was much rivalry between the sons whose fathers owned a Massey tractor and those who owned a Ferguson. Then came the day when the unthinkable happened; Massey and Ferguson merged to produce Massey-Ferguson tractors which temporarily put*

*the whole school into a state of shock and disbelief.*

*Every Saturday morning I took the train (with proper steam engine, guard, flag, whistle and stopwatch) from Delamere Station to Manchester Central and walked down Oxford Road to the Northern School of Music for my weekly music lessons. Afterwards my mother would take me to lunch at the Kardomah Café and put me back on the train to Delamere. It never occurred to me to ask where my father was!*

*My grandfather was a keen amateur violinist and he made sure I never skimped on daily violin practice. We spent a lot of time playing violin duets which certainly taught me some of the secrets of good ensemble playing. Around this time Aunt Dilys returned from London after a failed attempt to become a professional violinist and she took my violin practice very seriously indeed.*

*Meanwhile in the school playground I learned the noble arts of marbles and conkers, managed to avoid the macho worm-eating competitions and watched in awe as somebody's father demonstrated the correct way to milk goats and kill chickens, and to crown it all Mrs Ackerley's dedication culminated in me passing the 11+. This was just as well because my grandmother had told me that, although nobody would be cross if I failed, I might like to bear in mind the disappointment that would be felt after all the sacrifices she and my grandfather had made on my behalf!*

*Armed with the 11+ I gained a place at Winsford Verdin Grammar School where the peripatetic violin teacher, Miss Ada Shaw, insisted on teaching me privately at her home in Northwich. This proved to be a turning point and led to gaining a music scholarship to the Royal Manchester College of Music as a Junior Exhibitioner with a further six years of full-time study with a star-studded selection of violin teachers.*

*My first job as a professional musician was at the back of the*

*2<sup>nd</sup> fiddles in the BBC Northern Orchestra and by lunchtime on the first day I was so fed up with the sound of a piccolo blasting away just two feet from my left ear that I applied for the job of Sub-Leader of the BBC Welsh Orchestra. Much to everyone's surprise I was offered the job and moved down to a Cardiff bed-sit on the Newport Road. This was to be another major turning-point as it was in Cardiff that I met my wife-to-be Eira West, who was a well-established solo pianist and a truly gifted teacher. We were married within six months and moved to Birmingham to enable me to take up my new position as Leader of the BBC Midland Light Orchestra. Then followed seven years as Co-Leader of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and another seven years as Leader of the BBC Concert Orchestra in London – with recitals and chamber music involving Eira along the way.*

*During my time with the BBC Concert Orchestra we bought a large Arts & Crafts property in Harrow on the Hill. It was in such a bad state of repair that nobody else would touch it, but we loved it – not least because one of the rooms had a music stage complete with a little door to enter from stage right. It has taken 25 years of hard labour and the major portion of my earnings to retore this property to its original splendour, but we don't regret it for a moment.*

*I turned free-lance on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and since then I have worked with many superb musicians and have been able to realise many wonderful opportunities in music and it can all be traced back to those early formative days in Delamere.*

*My sister Rae achieved Head Girl status (after my time) and we recently took a nostalgic trip together to the school where we stood by the gate near the bus stop on the Chester Road with tears in our eyes – each of us so grateful for the good start we had been given.*

## Delamere School News

Two events dominate the Summer Term this year – the opening of the new extension and the celebration of the School's 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Originally scheduled for April, the opening of the extension has been delayed by the bad weather, but it is now expected to be completed by May half term. As yet, however, no date has been fixed for the grand official opening. The following dates **are** now in the calendar:

Thurs., 27<sup>th</sup> April ~ Trip to Styal Mill

Fri., 18<sup>th</sup> May ~ Teddy Bears' Picnic\*

Thurs., 25<sup>th</sup> May ~ Staff-Led Walk\*

Wed., 7<sup>th</sup> June ~ Skipping Workshop

Mon., 12<sup>th</sup> June ~ Led Bike Ride & Earth Activities\*

Thurs., 22<sup>nd</sup> June **Victorian Sports Day**

Wk. beginning 26<sup>th</sup> June ~ Orienteering\*

**Fri., 14<sup>th</sup> July ~ 160<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY**

Wk. beginning 17<sup>th</sup> July ~ Tree Planting Week\*

\* - All these events organised by the Forestry Commission.

Further details of the anniversary celebrations will appear in the June issue.

## Delamere School Senior Boys. Summer 1949.

*With help from Peter Powell I've managed to name all but one in this photo. The boy on the far left remains a mystery. Any suggestions? The goat's name, by the way, is Pet.*

*Back:* Peter Powell Tim Bevan Maurice Bettley Herbert Craven David Langton

*Middle :* Tommy Robinson George Smith Jimmy Whitfield

*Front?* Tommy Davies Tony Prince Frank Powell Ken Pugh Doug Eaton Alan Mason Graham Rathbone Geoff Powell John Hassall

