

ISSUE 52 | SUMMER 2021



DELAMERE
& OAKMERE

NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

THE BLOOM AFTER THE GLOOM
WORLD WAR II ARCHAEOLOGY
ODD GOINGS-ON

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER LOCAL PLAN

Cheshire West and Chester Council have launched a public consultation to evaluate whether the current Local Plan needs to be updated to reflect changing circumstances and new priorities such as the climate emergency, poverty and health. The Local Plan sets out, among other things, how many new homes are needed, where they should be built, where land should be protected, and what policies apply to the design of buildings and environmental conservation. The consultation will run until 5pm on Wednesday 15 September 2021. To take part visit:

[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/
localplanconversation](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/localplanconversation)



01606 882 219

*Motorcycles, Scooters, Trykes, Quads
Cars, Vans and Three Wheel Cars*

*MOTs, Tyres, Servicing, Repairs, Air
Conditioning, Diagnostics*

Collection from local area

Opening Hours:

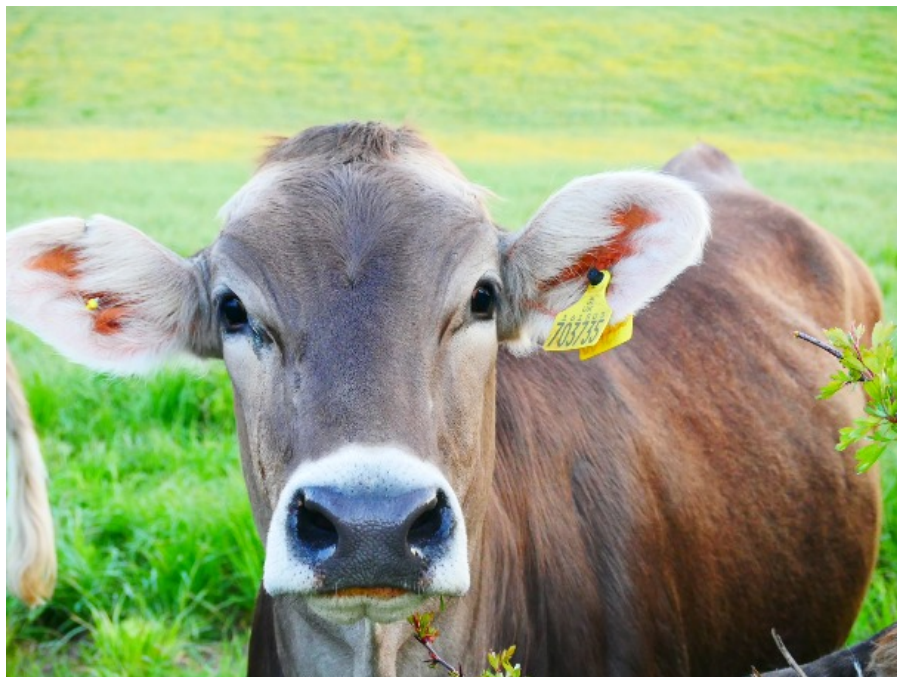
8.30 am – 5.30 pm Monday to Friday
8.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturday (MOTs only)

Tel: 01606 882219

Fax: 01606 881700

Email: spanns.garage@zen.co.uk
www.spannsgarage.co.uk

**Dalefords Lane
Whitegate
CW8 2BW**



*Curious cow from Middlewich Road
Photo by Bridget Austin*

IN THIS ISSUE

FOREWORD	5
ANSWERS TO QUIZ & CROSSWORD	5
DELAMERE AND DISTRICT GOLDEN CLUB	7
NEWS FROM THE PEWS	8
ST. PETER'S NOTICEBOARD	9
ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD	10
OAKMERE METHODIST CHURCH	11
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS	12
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS	14
DELAMERE WI	15
CHRISTMAS IN THE FOREST	15
POP-UP POOL FOR THE SCHOOL	16
THE CHESHIRE CHALLENGE	19
THE BLOOM AFTER THE GLOOM	20
PRISONER OF WAR CAMP ON EDDISBURY HILL	22
STRANGE HAPPENINGS	24
NATURE NOTES	27
TREES FOR CLIMATE	27
WILDLIFE IN THE PARISH	28
MORE PARISH WILDLIFE	29
WILDFLOWER PROJECT AT DELAMERE STATION	29
OUTSTANDINGLY BEAUTIFUL!	30
PALE HEIGHTS UPDATE	30
WORD SEARCH COMPETITION	33
CROSSWORD	34
QUIZ	35

CHÖSE

MARKETING

Local Outsourced Marketing & Business Support

Social Media

Business Support

Content Management

Sales Strategy

Customer Engagement

Digital Marketing

Direct Sales

Customer Service

*"Do What You Do Best
Outsource The Rest"*

Flexible/ Adhoc support or regular resource options available. Get in touch to find out more and to book a FREE consultation.

email:hello@chosemarketing.com

Tel: 07966 039056

WWW.CHOSEMARKETING.COM



The pieces in this issue give a strong sense of village life getting slowly back towards normal. Both churches are open for worship, the community centre is taking bookings again, and village coffee mornings are about to return. Diane Hodgson captures the mood nicely with a pictorial essay called 'the bloom after the gloom'. Claire Darlington follows this up with plans for a wildflower project at the station, Don Wilson aims to do something similar at St. Peter's, and the Wildlife Trust gives us details of a free wildflower guide we can download.

There's more on local wildlife in David Wright's regular piece, plus some splendid photos from Richard Eckton, Jackie Powell and Gordon Naylor.

Elsewhere Ellen Piercy gives us the next episode in her long distance 'Cheshire Challenge', Don Wilson explores the archaeology under one of Mike Platt's fields, and Gloria Ackerley gives us three completely unrelated stories of odd goings-on in the parish.

Alongside the crossword and the quiz we've got another challenge this time, with an eco-friendly word search from Ellie Peters.

As ever our thanks go to all our contributors, and just as important, our advertisers.

Clive George
Editor

ANSWERS TO QUIZ AND CROSSWORD

Answers to quiz

1. Monkey Puzzle tree

2. Dahlia

3. Gooseberry

4. The plant is native to Japan.

5. Magnolia, which is named after a Frenchman (Pierre Magnol); the others are

named after British people (Buddieia after Reverend Adam Buddie; Fothergilla after John Fothergill and Forsythia after William Forsyth)

6. Dianthus

7. Yorkshire

8. Bridgewater, in Salford.

9. Sweetcorn, squash and beans

10. Alan Titchmarsh, Monty Don and Toby Buckland

Answers to crossword

Across: 7. arranged; 9. Imogen; 10. icon; 11. epoch; 12. Elisa; 13. Wales; 15. asunder; 17. yonder; 19. perils; 22. biology; 23. motel; 24. mint; 25. Blake; 26. sore; 27. flower; 28. silicate
Down: 1. trackway; 2. faun; 3. ogress; 4. high; 5. gone adrift; 6. lessor; 8. doodah; 14. London Town; 16. use; 18. ego; 20. saturate; 21. bypass; 22. bridle; 23. muesli; 25. bore; 26. sack

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 November, in the run up to Christmas.

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

Advertising: 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!

BASED ON AN ORIGINAL DESIGN BY

**NEAVE
CREATIVE**

Print & Digital Design



☎ 01606 566 202

✉ info@neavecreative.co.uk

🌐 www.neavecreative.co.uk

The Golden Club has not been able to meet for some time in the Delamere and District Community Centre, because of COVID restrictions. However, since up to thirty people are now allowed in gardens, for those that wish, we have been meeting every Wednesday afternoon 1.30-3.30pm at my bungalow The Paddock, top of Stoney Lane. So far the sun umbrellas have had good use.

Non-members from the village have been calling in with numbers up to sixteen so far. Activities include mainly sitting and chatting (bearing in mind the restrictions with masks at the ready) very pleasant refreshments, walking round the garden (Maggie and Betty turned up with their pruners and cut off my extensive climbing rose suckers), picking rhubarb, the

opportunity to play croquet and bowls of a sort, and Becky, the Golden Club mascot, performing some of her tricks. We shall continue in this way as long as we can, so please come along if you would like some company. Any age welcome to our social club. In the autumn we hope to resume our fortnightly programme, including meals, speakers and pleasant company.

In normal circumstances we meet every fortnight on Wednesday afternoons, except August, at the Community Centre. No upper or lower age limit!

For further information, including a copy of the programme as originally planned, or just for a chat, please contact Gloria Ackerley: tel: 01829 752723



The Golden Club celebrating Betty Spark's 90th birthday. She made the strawberry and cream birthday cake herself!

I wrote this on a morning when testing and vaccination in the North West had been increased, with the hope of slowing down the spread of the Indian variant, fortunately Cheshire hadn't seen a surge of new cases. Long months of isolation and a glimpse of an end to restrictions, have kept us all going, hope has been an important factor enabling us to soldier on. So I pose the question, how are you feeling today? Alone, isolated, joyous, worried, optimistic or despondent? I am sure that each of us has a different response dependant on our circumstances.

For some in the parish, an end to lockdown won't make a lot of difference to their lifestyle, due to their circumstances; people with health problems, people who live alone, people who for whatever reason, have lost touch with community. As a community, I appreciate we have a lot to offer; recently, I had the privilege of joining Gloria and the Golden Club, for their first meeting since the start of Covid restrictions; as we sat in her garden, eating delicious cake and drinking our mugs of tea, there was an air of normality about the place and all was well.

However, for others, going out and joining in aren't an option, maybe due to physical or mental health issues, situations that are out of their control. During my time as the Rector here in Delamere, I have met a number of residents, who from time to time just need a bit of day to day support. On the other hand I have witnessed overwhelming kindness and generosity from people who want to help others.

Which brings me to the question how we can we bring the two groups together?

I have been contemplating if we could start a village network, a list of people willing to phone, shop, or just drop by occasionally for a chat with someone. I think we are all aware after the last year and a half of the importance being in community has on our lives. The things we are a part of, our families, friendship groups, village shop, community centre, pubs, coffee shops and cafes, garden centres and local businesses all have a part to play in our wellbeing.

There are instances where community is discussed in the Bible, we are instructed to work together, it teaches us about the love of Christ, His ability to make friends with those in need and to build a sense of community. It challenges me to reach out to those in need, others.

'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Matthew 25:44-45

As Rector, I appreciate the importance of spending time with God, but I also know that my faith is active not passive, Jesus wants me to love others, with the same love God has for each of us.

It is with this in mind that I ask you to join me by helping those in our community who need support. I am only one person, my outreach is limited, but when we work together,

when we use the gifts and talents we have been given, we can make a tremendous difference. In my time here, I have been blessed by people who have loved, listened and supported me, enabling me to flourish;

so I'm asking you is this something you could help with, do you have a few minutes each week to bless others? If so please get in touch, so that others may flourish too.

Rev Angela

St. Peter's Notice Board



REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS

Every Sunday at 8 am - Holy Communion

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for 45m:

1st and 3rd week of the month - Holy Communion

2nd week of the month - Morning Worship

4th week of the month - All Age Family Service

5th week of the month - Celtic Communion with healing prayer

Every Thursday at 10 a.m. for 1h - coffee, chat and craft
On Zoom

Every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. - Compline via Zoom

ONGOING PROJECTS

Car Park

We are negotiating the lease of the allocated glebe land with the diocese and starting to open up the area. Hopefully the new car park will be in use from September. In order to progress we will need to widen the access to the church, if you can help in any way please get in touch.

Caring for God's Acre

A part of the churchyard is going to be given over to rewilding.

Tiny Tot's Tent

We hope to start a mother and toddler group in September and have bought a large bell tent which will be erected in the Rectory Garden to meet in. The tent will also be available to other groups in the week as The Tiny Meeting Tent or even The Tiny Tea Tent! I also have plans to start a young people's group in September on a Friday evening, do get in touch if you are interested in any of the above.

Fundraising

If all the restrictions are lifted we are planning an afternoon tea on the farm in July, which will be a bookable event on Eventbrite.

Church Clock

We have been given a generous donation towards the automation of the church clock, which is currently wound manually. We would welcome any donations towards the cost as we have a little way to go yet.

ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD *Don Wilson*

Many churchyards up and down the country realise the benefits of a wildlife churchyard in terms of the environment, aesthetic value and community involvement.

St Peters is considering rejuvenating part of our churchyard for wildlife and heritage, starting with the area to the north of our church, and if successful, other parts of the churchyard would be considered, including the older, original graves and new car park area. The area of more recent graves would remain in its current condition.

With advice and guidance from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, grasses and wild flowers, such as campion can be introduced and can be a haven for insects and wildlife as well as looking attractive.

This would be a community project involving local residents and school, remembering that St Peter's churchyard belongs to all of our community, and is our future and heritage.

The photographs are an illustration of what can be achieved.



Oakmere Methodist Church has reopened for worship, currently on a fortnightly basis as we find our feet again. It is good to be able to meet again and share fellowship together.

Forest Church gatherings are starting to be planned. The first gathering was small with 9 attending from Chester across to Oakmere. Hopefully next time friends from Runcorn area will be able to join us as well. Those who came were very dedicated as just as we were due to start we had a torrential downpour, it didn't dampen spirits as we used the church for a

welcome and outline of the afternoon and everyone then went out in the rain for the activity.

We will hopefully gain momentum in the coming months.

We are also considering sessions which are specifically aimed at children and young people. If anyone is interested in attending or wanting to know more, do get in touch.

Please feel free to come and sit, reflect, pray or contemplate in the garden. It is a lovely spot which we welcome the community to use.

North Cheshire Forest Church

First in person gatherings

Sunday's 4th & 25th July at 4pm

In the garden at

Oakmere Methodist Church,

CW8 2HW



For the first time this year there will be gatherings in person in July, whilst continuing to follow current government and church guideline and ensuring that we are maintaining adequate social distancing.

• **It is essential to book your place.**

• Please bring your own refreshments. A garden chair or picnic blanket to sit on, and dress appropriately for the weather.

• **To book your place email Rev Jo at jo.brown@methodist.org.uk**



either Oakmere Methodist Church nor North Cheshire Methodist Circuit can accept any responsibility for personal injury or loss or damage to personal property. Each person participates at their own risk.

The Centre is slowly opening as Government guidance allows. Some groups have been meeting since May, including the Bowling Club, Slimming World and Pilates, with appropriate restrictions. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be operating close to normal again; as ever, please check with local organisers of the clubs and societies for more details.

The Booking Secretary, Lorraine Roberts, has started taking bookings from new users; should you wish to book any of the rooms at the Centre for a club or a one-off event then please contact her. We don't ask for a deposit and there are no cancellation fees – quite helpful in the current circumstances!

We are planning to have an Annual General Meeting this year, having had to cancel last year's.

All being well this will be on Monday September 6th, starting at 7.45; we hope to see many local people present. Further details will appear at the Centre, on the website and the Facebook page.



The Association is delighted to have received bedding plants from The Hollies to help brighten the summer. These have been put in the planters and we look forward to them blooming

over the coming months – many thanks to all at The Hollies!

Trustee

The Association is delighted to announce that Reverend Angela Askwith has accepted our invitation to be a trustee at the Centre, replacing Reverend Elaine Ollman who left us a while ago – welcome Angela, do you know what you've let yourself in for?

Book Swap

The Centre has a bookcase which is packed with books (funnily enough) which may be of interest to you. We operate it as a book swap so please feel free to bring along an unwanted or finished book along to swap with something you fancy reading. Some of our volunteers have recently cleared out a lot of the older and tattier volumes and sent them to be recycled, so please only leave books that you would be happy to take home and read yourself!

AmazonSmile

The Association has recently signed up to AmazonSmile, the charity arm of the home shopping giant. This works by their customers selecting a preferred charity; the company will then donate 0.5% of the value of any purchase to that chosen charity – hopefully this will be the Community Association!! More details will be published on Facebook and the Parish website.

Paul Dean, Chairman
Steve Lacey, Treasurer
Lorraine Roberts, Booking Secretary –
01606 889188; email
glyn@gdroberts.co.uk

THE RETURN OF VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS



We hope to return to our regular Friday morning coffee mornings on Friday 30th July from 10.30 – 12.00, government regulations permitting. They are held in the hall extension (bowls room), which is accessed through a small gate beyond the main entrance, the last Friday in every month (except in December when it is earlier).

We suggest that you may want to wear your face covering until seated. We plan to arrange the seating in a semi circle so that no one is face to face with another for any length of time. The proceeds (£1 per head) go to Community Centre funds.

Coffee, tea, and if hot, cold drinks, will be served plus a selection of cakes and biscuits, often homemade. We look forward to welcoming you back or seeing you there for the first time.

The August one will be on Friday 27th August.

THE MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



As usual (apart from last year) our September slot, Friday 24th September will be for the Macmillan Coffee Morning. It will be held in the main Community Centre Hall from 10 am – 12 noon. Come along and bring your friends!



Donations of cakes, biscuits, sweets etc will be welcome, so look out your favourite recipe!

Dear Residents

First of all I would like to thank Andrew Bell for all his work and commitment as our previous Chairman.

We do have vacancies at the moment on the Parish Council; if you would like to represent the area of Delamere and Oakmere then please get in touch.

Hopefully the Covid restrictions are going to be easier from now on. I would like to thank Lee and family of our local shop for all they have done in the past 18 months, as well as our local farm shop and local cafes. I am sure we can continue to support them.

We have considerably more visitors to our area now - I know that certain areas have had and still do have problems with car parking issues. Hopefully Delamere Forest is more able to cope with the numbers better now that they have some great new

facilities, and we can have a better relationship with them in the future.

The developments at the Marley site and the Old Courthouse are starting to welcome new residents to area - we welcome you to our beautiful countryside.

It's nice to see Kelsall Hill is certainly attracting equestrian people from all over to their excellent facilities and also Wildshore inflatables at the Fourways sand quarry site.

I would like to thank Joanne our parish clerk for all her hard work and all the Parish Councillors for their support and to Sabra Ralph who has recently left us due to work commitments.

By the time you read this we could be European Champions which would be great after the last 18 months!

David Rutter
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

For information about the Parish Council visit delamereandoakmere.co.uk/parish-council/

or contact your local Parish Councillor

I think I was somewhat over optimistic in my last report in the February/March issue of the D&O News. Unfortunately we have still not been able to hold any meetings, and we had to call off our plan to position a plaque by the WI centenary oak tree just in front of the visitors' centre in the forest. However we do still have hope and positive thinking.

The Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes were very good at running Zoom sessions for members. The series was entitled 'Inspirational

Women' and we had talks from women from many walks of life. These have now finished for the summer months, as have the various craft workshops.

I am hoping that we'll have more to report next time, having had lots of meetings and activities in the meantime!

Don't forget, when we are able, we meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre at 7.30 p.m. You will be very welcome.

CHRISTMAS IN THE FOREST

Forestry England plans to run a 2km illuminated light trail in the forest over the Christmas period, with temporary lights and art installations. Background music will be played along parts of the trail, which will start at the new visitor centre and go over the railway embankment and back. Hot and cold food

and drinks will be available, along with vintage Christmas rides. The trail is proposed to be open from Friday 26th November to Friday 31st December.

Entry will be by tickets sold in advance for start times between 4.30pm and 8.00pm. Visitors are expected to spend an hour and a half on the trail.



POP-UP POOL FOR THE SCHOOL

Julia Thorley-Morse

An ingenious plan to put a pop-up pool on their doorstep ensured Delamere Academy pupils were able to continue swimming lessons despite Covid restrictions.



The school decided not to take children to their usual venue because of the extra cost and time that would be involved to properly protect class bubbles and keep everyone safe. But they would not be deterred from their commitment to make sure every child received lessons in a healthy activity which boosts confidence, fitness and water safety for all. PE Teacher Tom Freeman says: "The school will never treat swimming as a second-class subject. Going from last year's data we had 100% of children in Years 4-6 who could swim a length of the pool".

So Delamere hired a portable heated pool and enlisted the help of Ryan Cartwright of Delamere Events in Abbey Lane, who supplied the venue, power generator and shower facilities.



Headteacher Julie Clayton says: "It was a challenge but the rewards are huge in terms of pupils' confidence, ability and health. For some in our reception class

it was their first time in a swimming pool. We have come across many obstacles due to the pandemic, but we are determined to give them all the opportunities they've missed out on, and more."

Ryan Cartwright says: "I was first asked by Tom about the possibility of Delamere Events lending the school a marquee or similar to be used as changing rooms. Both my children attend the school, and as I've lived locally all my life, I'm always happy to help with anything in our community, especially as the children have missed so much due to Covid. The pool couldn't be installed in the school's grounds so I offered our venue free of charge. It was fantastic to hear and see so many happy children enjoying the facility. They were all impeccably behaved and would be welcomed back anytime. With a constant stream of children being dropped and collected by the mini bus, it ran like a military operation to prevent any cross-over between year group bubbles."



Delamere Events is a wedding and events venue based on a private lake off Abbey Lane. For more information email: delamereevents@gmail.com or tel: 07868 514803.

For more information about Delamere Academy email: admin@delamere.cheshire.sch.uk; or tel: 01829 707 979



MOTORCYCLE CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

OAKMERE
MEGASTORE
NEAR YOU!

32,000 SQ FT OF MOTORCYCLE CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

COME AND VISIT US AT J&S OAKMERE

AND TRY OUT THE FOURWAYS CAFE AND GRILL TODAY!

RJH MOTORBIKE TRAINING SCHOOL ARE ON SITE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS HERE



SIGN UP TO OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER TO WIN GREAT PRIZES!

Sign up to our newsletter to receive automatic entry in to the #JSFREEBIEFRIDAY prize draw every week.
Just go to www.jsaccessories.co.uk and click on "sign up to newsletter" at the bottom of our home page.

★ **Weekly INDOOR** classes available in Sandiway Youth Club
and Sandiway Village Hall

★ **Daily ONLINE** classes accessible LIVE or on demand

★ **Monthly indoor** masterclass at Delamere Community Centre

★ **EWFit**
CLUB

Monthly online access to ALL classes
Live or on demand at your convenience



Monthly online women's health & wellbeing
Menopause, nutrition and wellness



Fitness classes
include:

Active Seniors | Legs, Bums & Tums | Kettlercise | Body Conditioning | No Kit HIIT | Body Blast | Purestretch



www.emmawilsonfitness.co.uk

07971 596529

getfitemmawilsonfitness.co.uk



Mount Pleasant Gardens

10 acres of glorious gardens to explore
until 26th September

Open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 11am until 4pm

Yeld Lane, Kelsall, CW6 0TB

Adult £7 Child £5

www.mountpleasantgardens.co.uk

nicola gibson

ARCHITECTURAL
DESIGN

ONE OFF HOUSES | EXTENSIONS & REMODELLING
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS | GARDEN ROOMS



All drawings prepared for and submitted to the
Planning and Building Control departments on your
behalf, including Listed Building and Conservation Area
consent where necessary.



☎ Tel: 01606 536101 📱 Mobile: 07813 034552

✉ Email: nicola@njgdesign.co.uk 🌐 www.njgdesign.co.uk

Back in February I wrote about the Cheshire Challenge, my goal of walking all 25 named long distance paths that start or finish in Cheshire. Since then, I have started four more, completed one and nearly hit the 30% mark. I've walked the Wirral Circular Trail from Hooton which is the furthest west and I've started the Gritstone Trail in the east of the county and have now climbed 6100 metres, more than the height of Kilimanjaro: not bad when a lot of walks have been along canals.

Watching the landscape change from winter through spring and now into summer has been glorious. The crops springing up in the fields, the trees bursting into leaf and ducklings paddling on the canals and for me the greatest pleasure of being able to walk with friends again. There have been the less than glamorous walks too: along the Shropshire Union Canal as it passes Stanlow refinery and where the Wirral Circular Trail follows endless rows of looming industrial warehouses of Bromborough. I wonder if some of this modern industry is one day preserved and painted as the heritage industry I have passed on the canals?

The reason for starting this challenge was to keep me motivated while my planned expedition to Svalbard delayed and delayed again, and I now have dates in the diary for April 2022. But that won't be the end of the Cheshire Challenge, I have gone too far to stop now! I'll pause over winter in search of snow in the mountains but will be back once the mud has dried a little in spring. I write up each of my walks, with links to the route and video at

www.randogirls.com

or follow me on:

[facebook.com/EllenRandoGirl](https://www.facebook.com/EllenRandoGirl)

Instagram and Twitter: [@randogirl42](https://www.instagram.com/randogirl42)



The North Cheshire Way as it crosses the Shropshire Union Canal. Hidden under the M53/M56 junction this is a more tranquil place than its location would suggest

On the Arrowe Park to Parkgate Circular walk



Racing to finish before the rain comes on the Wirral Circular Trail at New Brighton



On the Gritstone Trail approaching White Nancy

THE BLOOM AFTER THE GLOOM *Diane Hodgson*

It has been great to see so many flowers in bloom over recent weeks at our roadsides. The May Blossom (Hawthorn) hedges, Buttercup fields and Cow Parsley verges have all excelled. The woodland areas have had prolific displays of Wild Garlic and Bluebells. Now the blue Forget-Me-Nots, red, yellow and orange Poppies, Foxgloves and the pink Herb-Robert flowers are all emerging in the verges alongside the Dandelions to provide a beautiful spectrum of colour.



Stoney Lane



Abbey Wood



Eddisbury Hill

Some residents have provided additional displays of Lilacs, Azaleas and Rhododendrons which have spilt over their walls alongside the Roses now providing drifts of seasonal perfume for passers by. It's also great to see many annuals adding to these perennial displays.



The Ridge

Cheshire West & Chester Council have been trimming back the grass verges at the roadsides leaving the opportunity for them to go wild. Hopefully this will provide the opportunity for people to sow wild flower seeds to emerge next year.

All such flowers will provide nectar for our hungry pollinators including bees and butterflies, and in turn will help

sustain our bird life.... every flower counts!

Cynthia and Barry Green have been busy at the Community Centre planting geraniums kindly donated by the Hollies Farm Shop, adding a splash of colour at its entrance.

All three of our village pubs have gone the extra mile with the addition of beautiful flowering tubs and hanging baskets, and so has the Station Cafe.



The Abbey Arms



The Fishpool

Sir John Timpson's gardening team will be planting new bulbs along Middlewich Road to add

some Spring cheer, and I have approached a number of other businesses to try to encourage local action towards planting initiatives, including the new roundabout next to the Earlsbrook development. Colourful troughs, planters and bedding plants would all make such a big difference.

All efforts across our community to enhance our rurality with floral displays - be they wild or cultivated are very much appreciated - helping us emerge from the gloom with our parish in bloom...

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL
THOSE CONTRIBUTING!**



The Forest View



Station House Cafe

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP ON EDDISBURY HILL *Don Wilson*

Not many of us are aware of the former WW2 Prisoner of War Camp and anti-aircraft site on Eddisbury Hill.

Some years ago I was told about the camp and the Italian POWs, but records of the camp are sparse, just a mention of its existence. I recently discovered an aerial photograph of Eddisbury, taken at the end of WW2, clearly showing accommodation structures and some large circular features.

Mike Platt, the farmer, between crops in the spring, kindly invited a group of archaeologists to investigate the site. With the aid of a drone, geophysics and satellite technology we were able to pinpoint areas of potential interest, and investigate what if anything, could be found.

We know the site was occupied by the Lancashire Fusiliers during the Blitz on Liverpool, when accommodation huts, searchlights and gun batteries were constructed. Later in the war the site became an Italian POW camp. It is not known how many prisoners were here, but there are memories of guards and prisoners with circular discs on their clothing. It must have been quite an easy life for a POW in England. They were well looked after, local farmers used to collect prisoners to help on their farms for the day. Close examination of the aerial photograph shows a garden between the huts and benches for socialising. (we found quite a lot of broken beer and wine bottles!).

For the "dig" we pinpointed a couple of the "circles" and with the help of Mike and his digger we were soon able to examine any evidence. The circle was approximately 6 feet deep, lined with a layer of black cinders and in the centre there were concrete blocks for supporting the legs of a gun/searchlight. We think the circle was surrounded by a wall of sandbags.

Being wooden, there was, so far, no trace of the buildings, however there was plenty of evidence of 1940s occupation. A couple of rubbish pits were found with broken glass, bottles, bits of machinery, a 1934 battery, an enamel cup, the sole of a boot, and the star find, an Art Deco style Brylcreem jar dating from the 1940s.



Elsewhere a military button and fragments of 2 shilling pieces, one complete, with a large dent in it, which must have been used for target

practice (2s in 1945 is the equivalent to 4 pounds today).

We hope to revisit the site in the autumn, after the harvest, and gather further evidence. It was a really enjoyable dig, a lot was learnt, and our thanks to Mr and Mrs Platt for their interest and hospitality.

The photographs below show the 1940s aerial view, one of which enlarged to show a garden area.



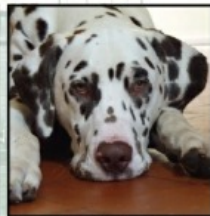


Hollybank

VETERINARY CENTRE



- ◆ *Independent small animal veterinary hospital*
- ◆ *Caring for pets and their owners*
- ◆ *24hr emergency service on site*
- ◆ *Exceptionally high standards of care, hygiene, facilities and equipment*
- ◆ *Professional, friendly, welcoming & kind*
- ◆ *Part of the local community*

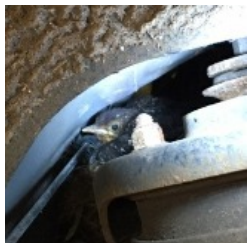


584 Chester Road | Sandiway | Cheshire | CW8 2DX

Tel: 01606 880890 | www.hollybankvets.co.uk

Stowaway blackbirds

These young birds were driven to the Children's Service at St. Peter's Church unknowingly by me. Carole Hassall (who took the picture) heard them twittering rather loudly after the service. I put my emergency flashers on and Carole followed me home in case the fledglings fell out and we had to stop and pick them up. When we got back to The Paddock there was a mother blackbird with a beak full of worms wondering where her brood had gone.



A forest fire

My dog Becky and I were walking home along the top of the plateau above the footpath to Kelsall with my friend Julie Horton and her dog Poppy when Julie spotted smoke coming up from the corner of the field near the waterfall/crag. Cattle were standing round the smoke, curious. I tried to ring the farmer but got no answer. It was 9.30pm, so I dialed 999 and a fire engine was dispatched. I got a phone call from the fire crew to ask if I could meet them and show them where it was. They parked in front of my bungalow and we set off along the footpath, with them carrying back packs and spades. When we got to the kissing gate they started climbing up the bank, while I went up on to the plateau to remember the line of vision when we spotted the smoke. It was amazing how voices carried. They were using their torches by now and the first fireman reached the corner of the field to the right of the waterfall and I heard him tell the others he had found

embers. They were quite a while and very thorough at doing what they had to do. I caught up with them again just as they were scrabbling back under the fence to the footpath. They told me they had found clinker and straw smouldering. Maybe it was the remains of a barbecue, but I don't suppose we'll ever know. The fire crew asked me to warn people about the danger of fires, especially at this time of year, whether it's wild camping in the forest or just youngsters messing about.

Two suns!

I was walking on the slopes of Old Pale with my grandson William at half term on Tuesday June 1st when I noticed there were two suns! It lasted about 20 minutes from 8.05pm. It had been a scorching hot day. The sun on the left seemed to be reflected in a smaller ball on the right, which at times consisted of rainbow colours.



According to skyandtelescope.org it was a sundog, known technically as a parhelion, a patch of sunlight about 22° to the left or right of the Sun. They often form in pairs, when sunlight refracts through clouds containing hexagonal crystals of ice. They are often white, but are sometimes quite colourful, looking like detached pieces of rainbow.






The multi award-winning Fishpool Inn is a cosy countryside gastropub, boasting cosy interiors, a dog-friendly bar section, and a vast outdoor terrace and beer garden for al fresco drinking, dining and unwinding. Expect a warm welcome and inspired seasonal menus, which feature traditional home comforts, British classics and Afternoon Tea. The inn also offers click-and-collect takeaway service for those looking to enjoy delicious and freshly-prepared pub fayre at home.



The Fishpool Inn

Fishpool Road, Delamere, Cheshire CW8 2HP
Tel: 01606 883277 info@thefishpoolinn.co.uk
www.thefishpoolinn.co.uk

Find us on    TheFishpoolInn

Owned and operated by Nelson Hotels www.nelsonhotels.co.uk

Small family
run business

DELAMERE
STATION HOUSE

EAT, DRINK, RELAX

Late Night Fridays

PIZZA, BURGERS OR FISH & CHIPS NIGHTS | 16.30 - 20.30

SEE OUR WEBSITE EACH MONTH FOR DETAILS ON WHICH SPECIAL WE HAVE ON

Saturday Pizzas

PIZZA EVERY SATURDAY | 13.00 - 19.00

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
EAT IN OR TAKEAWAY

BOOK ONE
OF OUR
OUTDOOR
PODS!



WE NOW STOCK **fall**
PRODUCTS IN OUR
ECO ORGANICS SHOP

Fill products are designed to work great,
look cool & **reduce plastic packaging waste**



COME AND
GET YOUR
REFILL IN
OUR SHOP

DELAMERE STATION
ECO ORGANICS



NEW BARISTA STYLE COFFEE AVAILABLE

USING JAUNTY GOAT COFFEE

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday freshly baked pastries
available to enjoy with your Jaunty Goat Coffee.



07375 892 872 | DELAMERESTATIONHOUSE.CO.UK

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

Wonderful wildflowers

On warm sunny days, Britain's wildflower meadows hum with life, and it's not just meadows. Wildflowers grow in our gardens, woodlands, hedgerows and road verges if they're allowed. But they are increasingly rare. In Cheshire we've lost 99% of our meadows in the last 60 years.

But large or small, your own outdoor space can be a stepping stone in a wider network of wildlife havens. Let your garden grow and bring wildlife back where you live, work and play! The Wildlife Trust has launched a

new guide to the UK's wildflowers, showing how to identify them and how to make your own space a little wilder.

<https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/wildflowerguide>



TREES FOR CLIMATE

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is due to start a new project called trees for climate. The aim is to plant 200 hectares of new woodland over the next four years.

This is an opportunity for landowners and farmers to diversify their land.

All costs are covered and project management is undertaken by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. There are also landowner incentives that are competitive with farm payments.

For more information contact:

Kevin Feeney
Living Landscapes Officer
kfeeney@cheshirewt.org.uk
07793249438

ForestNet IT Service

Station Rd, Delamere

Your Local Computer Support Service for the Home/HomeOffice/Small Business

PCs Laptops Tablets

Printers Routers Servers

Troubleshooting/Problem Solving/Upgrades

Software Installs/Upgrades

Anti-virus/Malware issues

Home/Office Networking

Router/WiFi issues

Broadband Security Controls

30 Years ICT experience

Courteous Professional Service

Competitive Rates Fixed Price No Fix No Fee

Email: enquiries@forestnet.co.uk

Tel: 07856 222415

Web: www.forestnet.co.uk

The small dark mysterious creature seen in Stoney Lane in May, was finally identified as a female polecat hunting in daylight. This suggests she was feeding kits, in a nest, somewhere along the field hedgerow. She would be hunting small mammals up to the size of a rabbit, having made a nest in an old rabbit burrow, and giving birth to three or four young.



© Malene Thyssen, Wikimedia Commons

The polecat is a member of the Mustelid family (Stoats and Weasels) and is the same size as a domestic ferret. It varies in colour from brown to black and chocolate colour. All have a dark eye ring which looks like a mask. They were hunted to extinction in England in the 18th century, but are widespread now after recolonising from a stronghold in Wales during the 1980's.

The mystery of the hedgehog skins in the woods and fields around Organsdale are the work of a hungry badger. Badgers will eat hedgehogs by turning them over to get to the softer

parts and leaving just the tough skin and prickles.



© Gibe, Wikimedia Commons

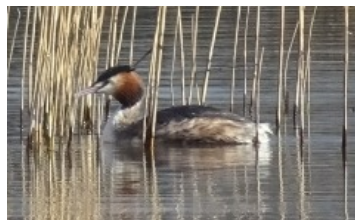
The hedgehog and the badger have evolved together in the British Isles since the last ice-age and the prey / predator relationship does not affect the hedgehog population. The decline in the hedgehog population is a national trend which is more than likely to do with the use of chemicals used in horticulture and agriculture and the destruction of habitats.

Hedgehogs need to move around fields and woods and from garden to garden. Modern fencing excludes hedgehogs from moving around to forage and establish a territory in which to build a nest to give birth and raise a family of young hogs. Access to a continuous food supply is vital during this time and our gardens are a very good habitat for hogs as long as we leave areas undisturbed, with gaps in any fence line to allow access and most of all chemical and slug pellet free. Water features and ponds should have a shallow area with a low bank to enable the hedgehogs to climb out safely if they should accidentally fall in.

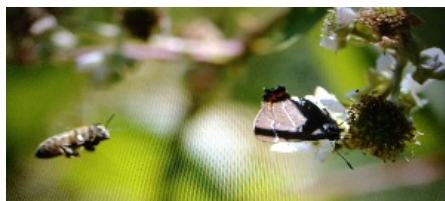
MORE PARISH WILDLIFE



Richard Eckton had a harvest mouse living in his garden for several weeks. This picture of it was taken by his grand-daughter Emily (aged 9).



Jackie Powell captured this great crested grebe in the reeds on the Marley lake



White-letter hairstreak butterflies have been spotted in the forest and on Old Pale. This picture of one, along with a bee, was taken by Gordon Naylor of Hatchmere.

WILDFLOWER PROJECT AT DELAMERE STATION

Claire is heading up and embarking on a project which focuses on habitat creation work, in particular clearing a bank next to the train station and seeding with native wildflowers and bulbs to provide a natural habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. She has teamed up with Northern Rail and Mid-Cheshire Railway Association and Cheshire Wildlife Trust who are also keen for this and similar work to be

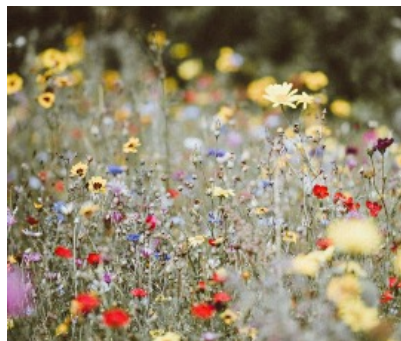
undertaken at many community railway stations.

A similar project was first undertaken when Claire's father renovated the Delamere Station House around 40 years ago when he cleared and planted the area. Over the years the area has been neglected and Claire is keen to clear the area of ivy and invasive weeds to make way for wildflowers.

The project will take place over a phased approach. The first phase involves clearing a smaller area freeing it from ivy and weeds and preparing the area for planting of seeds.

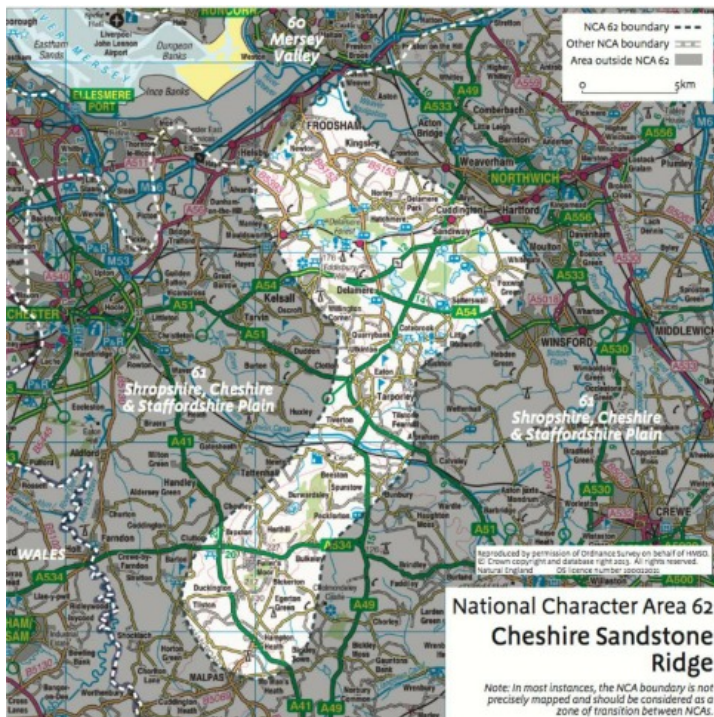
Claire has received plenty of support in the form of volunteers to help clear the area. The proposed date for clearing the area is Tuesday 10th August. If anybody would like to support this project please contact Claire on

info@delamerestationhouse.co.uk



The Cheshire Sandstone Ridge has been shortlisted for designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This would boost preservation efforts across the entire ridge, which runs from Malpas to Frodsham and includes the whole of Delamere and Oakmere. The proposal has been spearheaded by the Sandstone Ridge

Trust, which expects much more work ahead to complete the rigorous designation process. This is likely to take several years, but if successful it will give Natural England the authority to object to any development proposal it does not feel does enough to mitigate environmental harm.



PALE HEIGHTS - AN OUTSTANDING FEATURE OF THE RIDGE

Pale Heights is more than a spectacular viewpoint on Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge. It is the focal point of the Delamere Meridian, around which the whole country was mapped in the early 19th century (issue 50). Following discussions with United Utilities, the

land around the triangulation pillar has been cleared and access to it has been opened up. We are now in discussion with the Sandstone Ridge Trust about putting up an information board next to the pillar.

EASYLIFE

GARDEN MACHINERY

EasyLife Garden Machinery sells a whole range of garden machinery to assist you in making your garden the best it can possibly be.

Our mission is to provide you with good, honest, professional and impartial advice about the best products and services that are best suited to your particular requirements.

MANUFACTURERS

Mountfield

STIGA®

VIKING®

STIHL®



TORO®

Cub Cadet®

MITOX

HAYTER

SALES | SPARES | SERVICING | REPAIRS

EasyLife GM, Farm Road, Oakmere, Cheshire, CW8 2HB
01606 889833 | www.easylifegm.co.uk



MOWERS & MORE



Products Kinder to the Planet



10% Off
FIRSTORDER10



Eco-Friendly Home & Lifestyle Products

- Natural Household Cleaning Products
- Kitchen Products, Vegan Sandwich Wraps
- Eco-Friendly Pet Products
- Sustainable Home & Garden ideas
- Plastic Free Toiletries - Natural Deodorants, Shampoo & Conditioner Bars, Bamboo Toothbrushes

Gifts, Mini-Hampers and Eco-Starter Sets



www.lettyboo.com
hello@lettyboo.com

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
(shows at web checkout)



Less Plastic - Non Toxic - Natural - Refill - Reuse - Recycle



Eco-Friendly Fun Word Search & Competition.



Here's a word search just for fun. If you're feeling a little more adventurous, see below for a chance to win an eco-friendly mini-meadow Bee Mix (worth £20.00) by simply sending us your favourite eco-friendly tip?

Eco-Friendly Wordsearch

P X K X V U X K J A F K H I O
J M P F T N T L W G V E S N L
G D E B T X Q O N P K J G A U
K I N O N T O X I C C H Z T G
F J O S J R E C Y C L E G U E
I E C O F R I E N D L Y L R T
E N V I R O N M E N T Y P A R
R S Z I S U S T A I N A B L E
E B Q N Q D B Q S M F K E S U
F N P E T F R I E N D L Y W S
I K I N D N E S S A W B E A E
L N B H I F C P G G K C W P H
L W T E P K L Q L D M N D S C
P X P N H S A P C T N L L U A
J P L A S T I C F R E E Y R D

plasticfree	ecofriendly	sustainable	petfriendly
environment	Nontoxic	kindness	Recycle
natural	Refill	Reuse	swaps

Win a
Mini-meadow
Bee Mix
worth £20



Do you have a great eco-friendly tip? .

Share your Eco-friendly tips for a chance to win an eco-friendly mini-meadow bee mix (worth £20). Simply send your tip via email to ellie@lettyboo.com

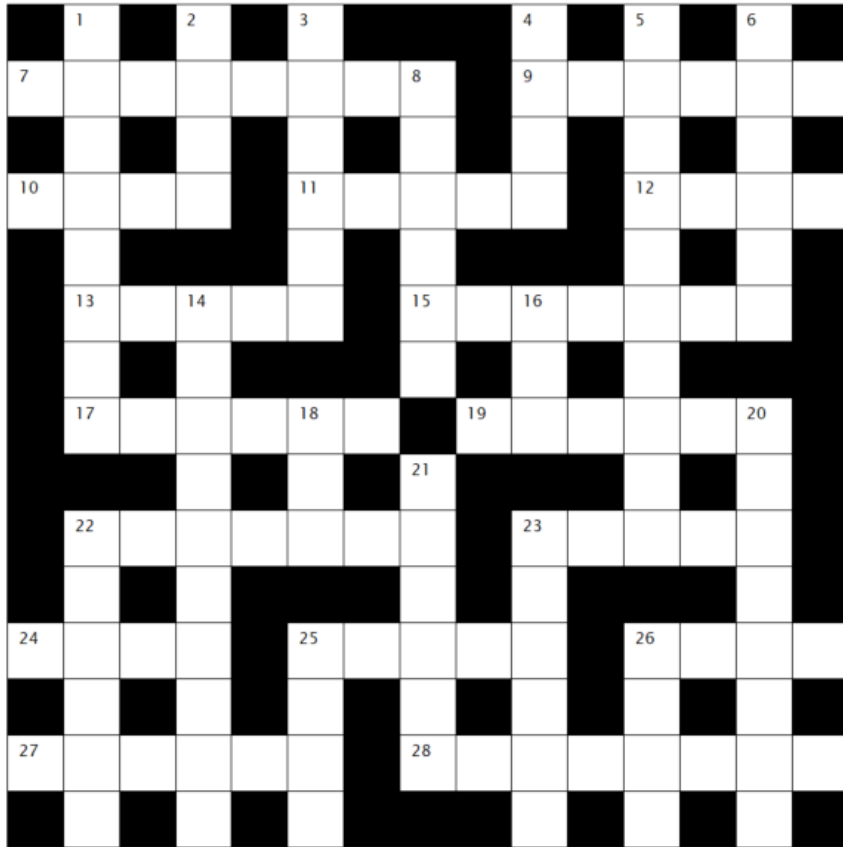
Here are a couple of examples:

- Re-use your pasta or vegetable cooking water to water your plants
- Fill a microwavable bowl with water - add a splash of vinegar and some lemon slices. Pop in the microwave for 5 mins for a sparkling steam clean



We'll share some of your tips in our next edition. It is great to share ways we can all do our bit to be kinder to the planet.

We will announce the winner of the best eco-friendly tip too! Good Luck!



Across:

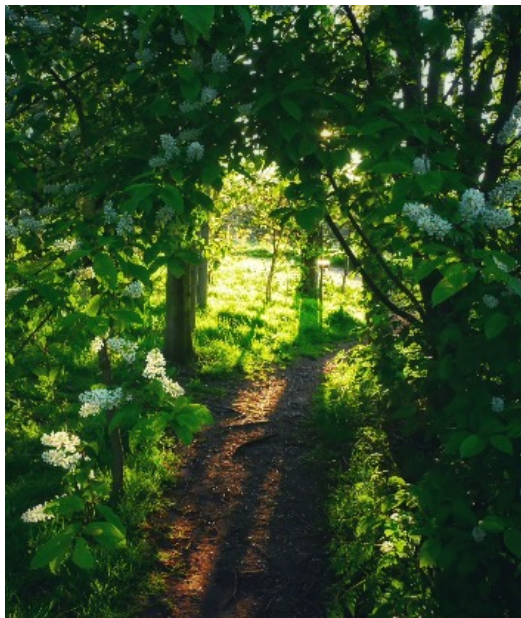
7. Organised Grand Era (8)
9. Girl's one second information(6)
10. Role model admits fraud (4)
11. Age of river between Spain and Switzerland (5)
12. Lioness at jumble sale (4)
13. I hear huge mammals swim in its waters (5)
15. Torn into pieces when below (7)
17. There's a confused young drone (6)
19. Dangers of inserting ladder's first in damaged spire (6)
22. Life record needs year to study scientific subject (7)

23. Second text omitting cross for anthem (5)
24. Pour rum in to detect common herb (4)
25. Did artist and poet paint local mere? (5)
26. Cutting tool can make you this! (4)
27. Water lily and where it might grow (6)
28. Told about foolish Kate's rock salt (8)

Down:

1. Follow route for ancient road (8)
2. Mr Tumnus sounds colourful (4)

3. Monstrous woman gets on in spite of cancelling publicity (6)
4. Tall – as a kite? (4)
5. Got a friend broken loose from moorings (4,6)
6. Letter L before arrangement of roses (6)
8. American lawyer in reversed hood on the road to 'De Camptown races'
14. Foggy capital, but not a city according to old song (6,4)
16. Sue rearranged employment (3)
18. Say round me (3)
20. Wet day you value (8)
21. Avoid this road which avoids village (6)
22. Sounds as though wedding party will need this for groom's horse (6)
23. Mary uses eggs, salmon, lemon in breakfast dish initially (6)
25. Tedious speaker carried on and on (4)
26. Bag of wine (4)



*On Eddisbury Hill
Photo by Bridget Austin*

QUIZ *by Steve Lacey*

(Answers on page 5)

During the pandemic, one of the few areas of growth seems to have been gardening (if you'll pardon the pun!) How much do you know about gardens?

1. How is the Chilean pine better known?
2. "Bishop of Llandaff" is a popular variety of which flowering plant?
3. Which fruit has varieties called Invicta, Leveller and Careless?
4. What does the word japonica indicate in a plant's Latin name?
5. Which of these plants is the odd one out - Buddleia, Fothergilla, Forsythia or Magnolia?
6. To what genus do pinks, carnations and sweet Williams belong?
7. In which county is rhubarb's Golden Triangle?
8. Where is the newest RHS Garden, opened in May this year.
9. Which vegetables are grown in the "Three Sisters" planting method, popular in the USA?
10. Who have been the last 3 lead presenters of Gardeners World?



DELAMERE
& OAKMERE

NEWS

ISSUE 52 | SUMMER 2021



Cover Photo by Bridget Austin:
Fishpool Lane Farm