



DELAMERE  
& OAKMERE

# NEWS



## IN THIS ISSUE

THE POLO CLUB  
THE CHAMPION!  
THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRY?

Fitness for **ALL**  
Fitness should  
be **FUN**  
**FAST** Results

**KETTLERCISE®**  
**Online**

Conditioning | Core | Fat burn | Bone  
strengthening | Flexibility | Low impact

[www.emmawilsonfitness.co.uk](http://www.emmawilsonfitness.co.uk)  
[getfit@emmawilsonfitness.co.uk](mailto:getfit@emmawilsonfitness.co.uk)

07971 596529

EMMA WILSON  
FITNESS

**30 minute  
sessions**



*More sleep, less pain, that would be BLISS.*

*BLISS*

BLISS Pain Relief offers a holistic approach to musculoskeletal pain conditions based on the biopsychosocial model of pain and modern neuroscience.

**Remedial massage** is a specialised, tailored treatment which targets the root cause of acute and chronic pain conditions.

Our approach uses a combination of East and West advanced bodywork techniques, including: soft tissue/fascial release, trigger point therapy, stretching, sports massage, hot stones and amma fusion.

Treatments can be incredibly beneficial to those that are wanting to reduce pain, relieve stress and anxiety, improve sleep or simply for those that are just wanting to experience something a little bit different and take some time out for themselves.

Find us on FaceBook: Bliss Pain Relief

## IN THIS ISSUE

FOREWORD	5
ANSWERS TO QUIZ & CROSSWORD	5
DELAMERE AND DISTRICT GOLDEN CLUB	6
RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS	8
ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD - A WILDLIFE GEM	10
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS	12
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS	12
DELAMERE WI	14
CHESHIRE POLO CLUB	16
THE BLOOM AFTER THE GLOOM PART 3	18
PALE HEIGHTS – THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRY?	20
HE'S THE CHAMPION!	24
YESTERYEAR	26
LOCAL HISTORY WALK	26
I'LL NEVER KNOW EITHER!	26
DELAMERE ACADEMY MOVES UP THE RANKINGS	29
SPRING PLANT SALE	30
WILDLIFE IN THE PARISH	32
CROSSWORD	34
QUIZ	35

# SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

**DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**, Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, provides food, water, shelter and healthcare to refugees and displaced families. Donations will be match funded by the government up to a total of £20m – [donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal](https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal)

**THE BRITISH RED CROSS** has launched an appeal to help the Ukrainian Red Cross to provide food, medicine, clothing and shelter, as well as first aid training in bomb shelters – [donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal](https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal)

**THE UNHCR REFUGEE AGENCY** is funding emergency shelters, repairs for homes damaged by shelling, emergency cash assistance, psychological support and warm clothing – [donate.unrefugees.org.uk/ukraine-emergency/](https://donate.unrefugees.org.uk/ukraine-emergency/)

**UNICEF**, the UN children's charity, is helping to ensure families have clean water and food and that child health and protection services continue – [unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/](https://unicef.org.uk/donate/donate-now-to-protect-children-in-ukraine/)

**SAVE THE CHILDREN** is providing cash assistance, food and other support to refugees crossing into Romania and Lithuania, as well as in Ukraine itself - [savethechildren.org.uk/where-we-work/europe/ukraine](https://savethechildren.org.uk/where-we-work/europe/ukraine)

## D&O CALENDAR 2022

Thank you to everyone who supported my 'Walking Out in Delamere and Oakmere' 2022 calendar. This year's charities were Action Aid UK and the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Your support raised a total profit of £366 to be split equally.

The Action Aid Arise Project supports female leadership in times of humanitarian crisis.

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust works across Cheshire and adjacent areas to protect nature's recovery across the region.

Each has now received their donation and been in touch to confirm their thanks and appreciation.

A special thank you from me to Delamere Stores for their ongoing and much appreciated support in selling my calendar - and thanks also this year to Delamere Farm Shop.

Bridget Austin



Tarporley & District u3a will be holding their next general meeting on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022** at Tarporley Community Centre from 10am (doors open at 9.45am). Speaker begins shortly after 10am following a few notices. **Our speakers this month are Mike and Mary Wilson who will talk about Sailing into Retirement Part 1 Around the UK.** As soon as Mary and Mike retired, they set off in Lockington Lady, to sail round the UK (well most of it) to see whether they would be able to tackle the journey to the Med. This talk describes the 3 month journey which produced challenges and a great training run?

You can find out more from our website at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley/home> where you will be able to read our newsletters and find out how to join.



It's almost exactly 10 years since issue 24 of the newsletter bore the title '**The Final Delamere and Oakmere News**'. As things turned out it wasn't the final issue, and I don't think this one will be either, although like Robin Ackerley in 2012 I've come to the end of my stint. It's time for a new approach, new ideas, and perhaps a new look.

We have two volunteers so far for a new editorial committee, but they won't be able to do it all on their own. **More help is needed** - so if you would like to contribute in any way contact Andrew Bell at [andrewrcbell@gmail.com](mailto:andrewrcbell@gmail.com) or on 07773512441.

Though we haven't had an editorial committee as such for the past

seventeen years, the newsletter could not have existed without the efforts of many people, some providing content, some distributing copies, and others paying for the printing costs through their advertisements. My heartfelt thanks go to you all.

A fresh start for the newsletter could fit rather nicely with a fresh start for life in general as it gets back to normal after COVID. Let's hope so, and at the same time let's spare a thought for those living in or escaping from places more dangerous than this happy little corner of Cheshire

Clive George  
Editor

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ AND CROSSWORD

### Answers to crossword

1. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor  
2. 1936, upon the abdication of King Edward VIII  
3. Tree Tops Hotel, Kenya  
4. Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester (after Prince Charles, Princess Anne and Prince Margaret)  
5. Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher  
6. 5 (1,000 guineas, 2,000 guineas and St Leger once each, Oaks twice but never won the Derby - came closest in Coronation year 1953 with second)  
7. Peter Phillips  
8. Sandringham  
9. 1976 in Montreal (Prince Philip opened the 1956 games in Melbourne)  
10. 54, and no, I am not going to list them all!
- Across: 1. Severn, 4. Bolton, 8. Erasmus, 9. ampoule, 11. byline, 12. sump, 13. due, 14. celerity, 16. airbuses, 18. fur, 19. idol, 21. noddle, 23. Sea Life, 24. fairway, 25. better, 26. eyelid.  
Down: 1. stray, 2. vestige, 3. route maps, 5. oomph, 6. trouser, 7. nilometer, 10. quicksand, 13. dried herb, 15. legendary, 17. bulblet, 18. federal, 20. gaffe, 22. least

### Answers to quiz

At Christmas we were happy to decorate a tree for the display in St. Peter's and, of course, the decorations were all golden!

From Don and Gill Wilson's fascinating travel talk we learnt that algebra originated in Uzbekistan.



Well I never knew that! Now we are turning our thoughts to our Golden Fiftieth Celebrations and plan to put together a history of the club. We have many albums and newspaper cuttings and are asking anybody with any memory of the Golden Club to

get in touch and help identify the many faces in our photo albums before it is too late. Also please get in touch about what the Golden Club meant to you or means to you now.

## Programme

- March 30th Delamere Academy Choir return to sing and then will be introduced to our unique Delamere Derby game.
- April 20th Talk on Pilates by Clare Godwin
- May 4th AGM followed by High Tea and entertainment
- 18th Coach outing.
- June 8th Cookery demonstration by Lorena Allinson
- 22nd Talk by Ellen Piercy: "A cold adventure: my journey to Svalbard" (or a talk on walking the Cheshire paths if adverse weather conditions have prevented the Arctic expedition.)
- July 6th Speaker Jean Finney: "An afternoon with Joyce Grenfell"
- 20th Garden Party at The Paddock, top of Stoney Lane by the Roman Road footpath.

(all at 1.30pm except Coach outing May 18th and Garden Party July 20<sup>th</sup>)

Please contact Gloria for further details about the Golden Club. All are welcome.  
01829 752723 / 0759444 4480



**Who are  
they?**

**Contact Gloria  
if you  
recognise  
anyone.**

I found Ash Wednesday particularly difficult this year as we witnessed the news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Our true natures wrestle with pain, regret, loss, unhealed wounds, loneliness, shame, and our own mortality. Lent is a time to lay ourselves bare – to hide nothing from a God from whom nothing is hidden. During Lent, we examine ourselves, our sins, all that separates us from the love of God and from each other. It is right to be penitent – a time to remember that God's judgement, God's justice is perfect.

Over the last week, I have watched with awe and humility as the Ukraine's neighbouring countries welcomed its refugees in at this difficult time. I have shed tears of admiration as Ukrainian Christians sang hymns of hope round the kitchen table, trusting in God to give them the strength to hold them fast as war encroaches. Sometimes all I can do is pray, my faith and hope is grounded in God's love for all humanity; it teaches me the importance of learning to love my neighbour as myself. I know that my prayers will guide me into action, as God touches my heart and Christ opens my eyes to ways I can support Ukraine and it's people.

Our Church will be open daily for prayer during Lent. St Thomas's, Hazel Grove are collecting and transporting much needed supplies to take to Poland and Ukraine and I have asked if we can pass items onto them. I am also here to listen and to pray with you during this difficult time. I leave you with words of hope, found both in the video on social media of a Ukrainian

family singing at the dinner table and the words that Jesus himself gave to his disciples as he prepared them for his death, passion and resurrection. May you know God's peace and find hope in Christ.

*Rev Angela.*

When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold;

He must hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost;  
His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied;  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life,  
He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight  
When He comes at last! -

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27.





[www.jsaccessories.co.uk](http://www.jsaccessories.co.uk)



# OAKMERE MEGASTORE NEAR YOU!



**32,000 SQ FT OF MOTORCYCLE  
CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES**

**COME AND VISIT US AND TRY OUT THE  
FOURWAYS CAFE AND GRILL TODAY!**

**RJH MOTORBIKE TRAINING SCHOOL  
ON SITE**



Churchyards can sometimes hold wildlife that has become rare in our wider countryside. So when St Peter's Delamere invited me to look at the wildlife of their churchyard last summer, I was delighted to find a wildlife gem, the grassland of the upper south churchyard. This is a good example of traditional grassland on acid soil, with many wild flowers typical of this habitat. These include Bird's-foot Trefoil, Heath Speedwell, Heath Bedstraw, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Sheep's Sorrel and Violets. Most are present in good quantities, so are easy to spot. The exception is the mouse-ear hawkweed, only present on one grave, but there is a good colony of this on the bank by the entrance onto the main road.



*Heath Bedstraw*

In Cheshire, nearly all traditional species-rich grasslands have been changed to modern high-yielding swards. With the old grasslands have gone their specialist wild flowers and insects. Heath speedwell is now rare in Cheshire. Invertebrates are suffering in many ways. Some studies of flying insects have found 75% declines since 1970. Invertebrates support everything larger than themselves - spiders, larger

insects, birds and bats. Pollinators (mostly insects) are needed for every third mouthful of food we eat, including all fruits and vegetables.

So it is important to look after the small areas of traditional grassland we have left, for our own sakes and for the species that live there. As Christians we have a duty to look after God's earth. In St Peter's churchyard, management of this area merely needs to retain what is there, letting it flower so insects can feed and people can see the special plants. This also allows the plants to seed to retain the plants long-term. No herbicides, no other pesticides, and no fertilisers to be used! These special plants thrive on infertile soils, they cannot compete with vigorous grasses on fertilised land. The church plan to try mowing just once a year in late summer, raking off the long cuttings for composting. Of course it will look different to a regularly-cut area, but do enjoy the flowers and look out for butterflies, bees and other insects feeding on the nectar and pollen. A particular find might be Small Copper butterflies, whose caterpillars feed on Sheep's Sorrel - are they present? Look for the adults on sunny days during June to September. Write down what you see and let the church know, so they can pass the records to Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust are preparing to put this part of the churchyard forward to Cheshire West and Chester council for designation as a Local Wildlife Site. That would be quite a feather in the community cap, and might help to attract grant funding, perhaps for some leaflets to help people to identify the flowers and insects.

The trees north and east of the church provide a different habitat. There are less wild flowers under them, but mainly spring ones such as dog-violets and bluebells. The bluebells are mostly the garden hybrid, not native, but still good for spring insects. Reducing spring mowing will let these bloom. Walk round the back of the church in April-May to admire these. It is important to have flowers for nectar and pollen throughout the season from March to September, as different insects feed at different times of year, and some insects need flowers over a long period to raise their offspring e.g. bumble bees. So the spring flowers under the trees complement the summer flowers on the open grassland.



*Heath Speedwell and bee...*

The active part of the graveyard, the lower south churchyard, obviously needs to be kept formal for current internments and families visiting graves. However, if you maintain a grave there, how about planting



*the bee*

flowers such as primrose, cowslip, violets, selfheal, forget-me-not, lavender or heathers? All will help to feed insects, especially pollinators.

Life can flourish in a graveyard! Your garden might not have anything as unusual as St Peter's graveyard, but you can help wildlife in your own garden by avoiding pesticides, growing a variety of flowers with nectar and pollen, providing shelter for winter, and avoiding peat-based products. Plenty of advice on the web e.g.

[www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/](http://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/)

Hilary Ash MA, PhD, MCIEEM

Hon Conservation Officer

Wirral Wildlife

The Wirral Group of Cheshire Wildlife Trust

[www.wirralwildlife.org.uk](http://www.wirralwildlife.org.uk)

Wirral Wildlife is the Wirral group of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and was founded in 1971. In 2017 we were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary service for inspiring, informing, educating and encouraging people to protect nature in Wirral.

(both photos taken in Delamere churchyard by HJA)



## GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

The good news is that the Community Centre is now fully open for business and the only restrictions in place are those that individual clubs and societies decide on. There is, however, a plentiful supply of hand sanitiser and it would be much appreciated if users made good use of it and followed sensible practices as recommended by the Government. Most of our regular users have now returned, but there is plenty of opportunity for other regular or ad hoc bookings, particularly at weekends – please contact Lorraine by one of the methods below for further details.

The bad news is that recent repairs to the walls around the car park have been very short-lived as two of these repairs have been 'unrepaired'! So please take care when entering or leaving the Car Park and park sensibly as Centre funds do not allow for constant running repairs.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Community Centre building celebrates 50 years this year and there are 3 celebratory events planned so far, as follows:

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July  
Open Day and Celebration Evening

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
Golden Jubilee Quiz

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
70's Disco

There will, of course, be more details forthcoming closer to those dates but, if you have any photographs or other

memorabilia from before the current building was in place, or of significant events over the past 50 years, that you would be willing to lend us for the Open Day we would be delighted to hear from you. We will, of course, take great care of them.

Paul Dean, Chairman  
Steve Lacey, Treasurer

Lorraine Roberts, Booking Secretary  
01606 889188;  
email: [glyn@gdroberts.co.uk](mailto:glyn@gdroberts.co.uk)

**Delamere Community Centre**  
**The return of the village coffee mornings!**

## Coffee Morning

in the Bowling Room  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
from 10.30am to 12 noon



**Book Exchange**





Dear Residents

At the moment we have vacancies on Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council. If you are interested in coming to a meeting and finding out more about our area they are held at Delamere Community Centre.

Unfortunately Anita Gore has just resigned from the council and we thank Anita for all she has done for Delamere and Oakmere Council.

If you travel along Station Road near Earlsbrook estate you may notice

when we have any amount of rain we do have flooding by the new roundabout. Please feel free to contact United Utilities about this as more complaints about it might get this resolved.

We are looking at holding an event on the Queens Jubilee on the 5th June. More information will be available nearer the time.

David Rutter  
Chair, Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council

## 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](mailto:enquiries@forestnet.co.uk)

Tel: 07856 222415

Web: [www.forestnet.co.uk](http://www.forestnet.co.uk)



### Mount Pleasant Gardens

**10 acres of glorious gardens to explore  
from 2nd April to 28th September**

Open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 11am until 4pm

Yeld Lane, Kelsall, CW6 0TB

Adult £7 Child £5

[www.mountpleasantgardens.co.uk](http://www.mountpleasantgardens.co.uk)

Here we are again, February already, though it'll be March when you read this. We had our Annual Meeting in November and members had the chance to look at the reports from 1941, the year of our inception. These made interesting reading and many of the names are very familiar to several of our group, with families still living in the area.

In December we had our socially distanced party with tables spread out in a semi-circle and masks worn in between courses as we followed guidelines, but we were near enough to chat to each other without having to shout! The food was provided by members and, as always, was excellent. Good food and good company - what more can one ask?

In January we had a whistle-stop tour of India with Cynthia as our guide. The lovely illustrations showed us the variety of landscapes and buildings in the different areas, Delhi, Agra, Fatehpur Sikhri, Jaipur and the Ranthambore Reserve where they saw

many animals, even catching a glimpse of a tiger.

February was our games evening. We gambled on the human fruit machine and then tested our general knowledge with a quiz. I believe it was full marks all round on the food section - no surprise there!

Cheshire Federation are going ahead with the Annual Council in March, though it will be on a much smaller scale and of shorter duration. They are still providing Zoom talks and craft demonstrations for members. These are usually very well attended.

Ellen, our intrepid explorer, is still on track for her Svalbard adventure this Spring and we wish her luck with the rest of her training and, of course, the actual trip.

We will welcome Don Wilson to our March meeting and he will talk about and show some of the artefacts he has found in his garden and nearby. If you think you'd find this interesting, do come and join us. We look forward to welcoming you.



*The new visitor centre from Eddisbury Hill - Bridget Austin*





**Cheshire  
Polo Club**

**THE PURE THRILL  
of POLO**

**OPEN WEEKENDS FROM  
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER  
SPECTATORS WELCOME**

**FOR MORE INFO... [www.cheshirepoloclub.com](http://www.cheshirepoloclub.com)**



# CHESHIRE POLO CLUB

Have you ever thought of taking a picnic down to the Polo Club to watch the action? Everyone is welcome, whether you know anything about the sport or not. It is one of the fastest and most spectacular to watch, even if you don't understand the rules. It is also one of the oldest (said to have originated in China or Persia about 2500 years ago). And on most weekends **it's free!**



For the busier tournaments a charge of £10 is made for the car park, but otherwise you can just drive in, make



yourselves comfortable and watch the spectacle (to the accompaniment of thundering hooves). Bring a pair of binoculars if you have them, as the far



side of the ground is 200 yards away. To take advantage of the clubhouse facilities and the members' marquee you can become a Day Member for £5 per head.



The season begins at the end of April, with tournaments every weekend until mid September. Events start at 12.30 p.m.

Although the sport has a history of being played by kings it is certainly not exclusive. You might occasionally bump into a royal or two, but the Club's membership includes men, women and juniors from all walks of life. Many of them learned to ride as they learned to play polo. Lessons are available from the club coach, and ponies can be hired throughout the season. There is a sliding scale of membership, from a modest fee for social members up to full senior membership.

The five grounds are all accessed off the A49 between Cotebrook and Sandiway. Numbers 1 and 1a are via Coach Road, and 2, 3 & 4 (and the Marquee) via Longstone Lane. For more information ring 01948 861 020 or email [info@cheshirepoloclub.co.uk](mailto:info@cheshirepoloclub.co.uk).



(This article, with different photos, first appeared in Issue 27 of D&O News. New photos courtesy Cheshire Polo Club)

Despite the vicious storms over the winter period, Spring seems to have emerged earlier than expected bringing lots of bloom after the pandemic gloom. It's been great to see the colourful crocus, snowdrops and daffodils all emerging along our lane-sides.

*Insert photos here*

Special thanks must go to all those residents, land-owners and businesses who have generously donated and made the extra effort to plant additional bulbs and sow wild flower seeds. Further plantings of natural primroses have also been promised by Phil Latham, the owner of the Kelsall Equestrian Centre, along their field edges on Middlewich Road.

Hopefully by mid-April we shall see the bluebell carpets and white wild garlic emerging as a start to some of the **patriotic colours for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year**. It would be great to see lots of **red, white and blue blooms** across our parish, ideally with some extra planters sponsored by local businesses to add cheer to our celebrations.

Did you know that according to the Cheshire Wildlife Trust **we live in the least wooded county in the whole of England ?**

**The Queen's Green Canopy** initiative is intended to leave a legacy to mark her historic 70 year reign. **The Cheshire Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and the Mersey Forest Foundation** are all encouraging tree planting and providing grants to enable and support projects across the county.

Locally I have expressed concern to the Parish Council about the state of **The Little Wood** situated off Waste Lane in Oakmere. It used to win the coveted "**Green Flag Award**". There seem to be ongoing maintenance issues with trees being blown down, boardwalks flooded and it all looking unkempt and in a very poor state of repair....I wonder if the Queen's Jubilee Canopy might be a catalyst to a renovation plan and the planting of additional new trees ?

We can all do our bit to off-set our carbon footprints by planting trees in our own gardens, creating hedgerows instead of fences or perhaps by making a pledge to give a tree as a gift this year to someone special, knowing it will be there for many years to come. I received one over twenty-five years ago from my husband and have watched it grow alongside our children. I hope one day somebody might build a tree house in it. It's a maple so it offers shade in summer and a golden canopy in the autumn.

My final plea is to consider the **Plant-life Campaign** to help wildlife by saying: "**No to the mow**" **during May**. Simply not cutting your grass for this one month can result in enough nectar for 10 times more bees and other pollinators. It might then be interesting to see what other flowers emerge to add to the bloom after the gloom.

Remember every tree and plant counts.....it doesn't have to be on a large scale, it can be a single plant pot, a garden tub or a window box.





# PALE HEIGHTS - THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRY? *Clive George*

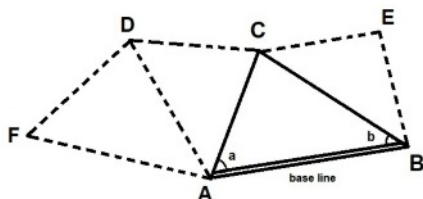
Several places lay claim to being the mid-point of the country, including Haltwhistle in Northumberland and somewhere near the middle of Morecambe Bay. Pale Heights should be on the list. The proposal to put an information board there (issue 52) has generated some extra detail about the hilltop's central role in mapping the United Kingdom.

The story begins in 1784 when the Ordnance Survey Office began its Principal Triangulation of the country, using a high precision theodolite three feet in in diameter made by instrument maker Jesse Ramsden.



*Jesse Ramsden's 'Great Theodolite'*  
© Science Museum

Triangulation is the process by which maps were made before the advent of communication satellites and global positioning systems. It begins with the measurement of just one distance that will be the baseline of the survey, represented by the line AB in the sketch below.

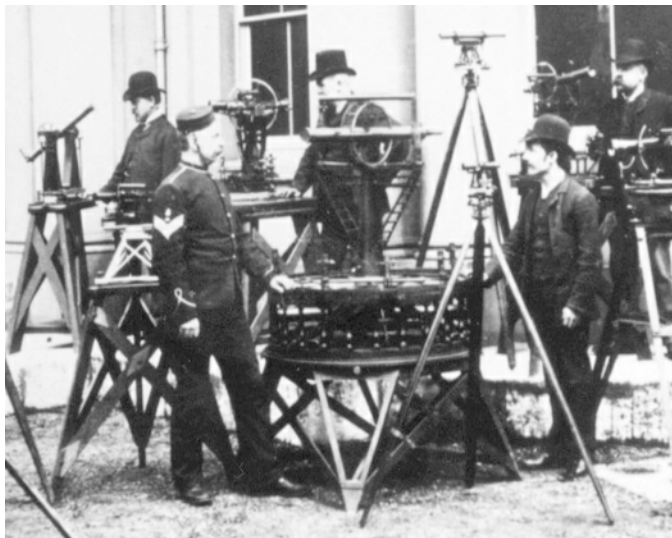


A theodolite is used to identify the position of a third point C by measuring the angular bearings to it,  $a$  and  $b$ . The position of C and the distances AC and BC can be calculated by simple trigonometry from the base line distance and the two angles. The process is repeated to create more triangles (e.g. ACD and BCE), then again and again (e.g. ADF), with no need for physical measurement of any distances other than the original base line until measurement errors accumulate enough to require it.

The Principal Triangulation began with the precision measurement of a 5 mile base line on Hounslow Heath near London (now the site of Heathrow airport). From each end of the line the first angular measurements were carried out with Ramsden's theodolite. Further measurements established a series of principal triangles between London and Dover, then across to France, before progressing westwards and northwards over the rest of England. In total the Principal Triangulation covered some 300 significant landmarks, to form a network of triangles with sides averaging about 35 miles in length. These provided the basis for local surveys through a network of lower order triangulations, using smaller and more readily portable theodolites to identify the positions of landmarks such as church steeples, windmills and even single trees,

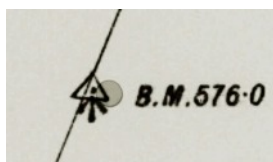
The OS surveyors brought Ramsden's theodolite to Pale Heights in 1805, and returned in 1840 to carry out more measurements. The 1840 location is marked as a 'trigonometrical station' on the 1898 Ordnance Survey map, available online from the National Library of Scotland. The NLS also provides maps showing current features on the hilltop, and a facility to superimpose one





*Military and civilian staff of the Ordnance Survey with Ramsden's 'Great Theodolite' and a selection of smaller instruments used for secondary and tertiary triangulations (militarysurvey.org.uk)*

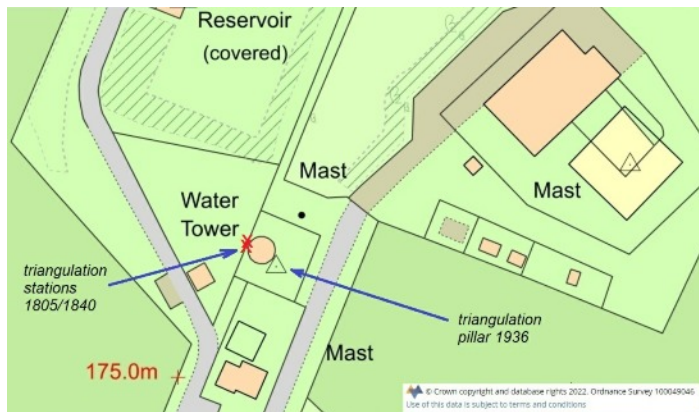
on the other. In the superimposed extract below, the 1840 triangulation station is shown as a dot in the centre of a triangle, with a benchmark arrow underneath it and the benchmark height (in feet above sea level) to its right. The shaded circle is the United Utilities water tower, shown on the modern map.



The water tower was built in the late 1940s, obliterating any markers of the old triangulation stations. The 1840 surveyors could find no trace of a marker

from 1805, but they knew roughly where the theodolite had been placed from the written records. Once they had taken their own measurements they were able to work out a more accurate position by comparing the 1805 angular bearings with their own. They calculated that the 1805 triangulation station was 3.7 feet from the 1840 one in a north-north-easterly direction.

Give or take a foot or two, those two triangulation points, marked as overlapping red Xs on the map below, represent the centre-point of the whole country. They were the origin of the Ordnance Survey's most widely used maps of Great Britain until they were superseded in the 1940s.



*Modern OS map from the CWAC website, showing the water tower, the present triangulation pillar, and the original triangulation stations.*

Pale Heights came to be identified as the centre point for mapping the whole country because of the way in which two dimensional maps distort reality. For example, a map of the world in the familiar Mercator projection stretches the single points at the north and south poles to horizontal lines across the whole map. The distortion is less in a map covering a smaller area, but even so it can be quite significant towards the edges.

The Ordnance Survey's first maps were of south-east England, with Greenwich as their origin and centred on the Greenwich Meridian (the great circle through Greenwich and the north and south poles). To keep the distortion within reasonable bounds other meridians were used as the work proceeded across the rest of the country. A meridian with its origin in Delamere (the Delamere Meridian) was chosen for mapping the north of England. The base line used for the Delamere block of triangles was at Rhuddlan Marsh near Rhyl, whose length was measured in 1806 as 24,514.26 feet (about 4.6 miles).

The use of different origins for different parts of the country, each producing different distortions near the edges of the maps, meant that adjacent maps didn't line up with each other. For large scale maps up to 25 inches to the mile there was no way round this. However, for the smaller scale one inch to the mile maps (the 'old series' popular edition) it was possible to use a single meridian for the whole country, provided that the chosen meridian was fairly central. Greenwich was much too far east, but Delamere's position near the central axis of Great Britain made it the perfect choice.

When the 'old series' Ordnance Survey maps were replaced by a 'new series' between 1872 and 1896, the northern 'Delamere' block of sheets was retained, and the sheets for the remainder of England and Wales were laid out as a

continuation of it. Scotland followed suit in the 1920s. From then until the new national grid system was introduced in the 1940s, the whole of the one inch map series of Great Britain was based on the Delamere Meridian, with its origin on Pale Heights.

About 30 feet away from the original triangulation stations, on the other side of the water tower, is the triangulation pillar that many readers will be familiar with. This was constructed in 1936 as part of the re-triangulation of Great Britain. The pillar is not particularly significant in itself, as over 6500 others like it were built throughout the country, but as the one surviving physical representative of the three triangulation stations that were located on Pale Heights it is something of a national treasure.



The possibility of putting up an information board about all this was raised several years ago by the Sandstone Ridge Trust ([sandstoneridge.org.uk/news/delamere-meridian.html](http://sandstoneridge.org.uk/news/delamere-meridian.html)). The proposal is still alive, but its value would be somewhat limited by the presence of the water tower. When the OS surveyors came to Delamere none of the present structures were there, leaving them with unobstructed views across the whole of the countryside they were mapping. It would be possible to get reasonably close to repeating that. United Utilities have no further use for the water tower, and would have no objection to it being knocked down. It would cost around £10,000, plus around £2000 for an information board. Might the Lottery Fund or some other cultural heritage body be persuaded to fund it?



From: *An account of the trigonometrical survey vol III, Plate I, Plan of the principal triangles in England & Wales and part of Scotland*, Mudge and Colby 1811

**Further information:** 'A History of the Ordnance Survey', WA Seymour 1980 ([ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk)); 'Account of the observations and calculations of the principal triangulation', Board of Ordnance 1858 ([www.hathitrust.org](http://www.hathitrust.org)); 'The sheet sizes and Delamere sheet lines of the one-inch Old Series', R Oliver 2006, ([charlesclosesociety.org](http://charlesclosesociety.org)), with thanks for the help of Richard Oliver (any errors are entirely ours)



Tommy, my eldest of 3 boys, is 9 years old and a Year 5 student at Delamere C of E Primary Academy. He's been racing bicycles since he was three and a half, in tarmac circuit racing, mountain bike (MTB) cross country (XC) and the rather unique sport of cyclocross. In cyclocross the races typically take place in the autumn and winter, and consist of many laps of a short course featuring a lot of mud, hard-pack tracks, wooded trails, grass, steep hills and obstacles requiring the rider to quickly dismount, run with the bike while navigating the obstruction and remount, so an all round challenge.



This winter he's been racing in the North Wales Cyclocross league where the children's races are run on a combined format with the under 12, under 10 and under 8's all together for a 30 minute race, Tommy is classed as an Under 10 rider. There were 6 rounds of the league this winter across a variety of venues in North Wales with points being awarded throughout the finishers with 200 points for 1st place, 199 for second and so on. The final league positions are calculated on a best 5 out of 6 results and this year in the under 10 league Tommy raced in five rounds, collecting 4 wins and a second place to finish the league with a

total of 999 out of a possible 1000 points and an average score per round of 200 to secure the league title.

Not only did he win the under 10 league, but he was also to top boy overall in the combined under 12, under 10, under 8 league, beating several boys who are up to 2 years older than him and in their first year of senior school!



As you can gather Tommy is an avid cyclist and is really dedicated to the sport. He trains mid-week using an indoor trainer and a virtual racing platform known as Zwift, and when he's not racing he regularly rides for 2 to 3 hours with me and my friends. He has been racing for a kids team for the past few years, but as a reward for his performances this season he's been given a place on a nationally based team that focuses on the development of young riders. The team is called Origin Race Team (@originraceteam on Instagram) and they can be seen up and down the country competing at regional and national level events. As part of the team Tommy is planning on racing - once he turns 12, in 2024 - National level cyclocross and mountain bike in the National Trophy Series and National MTB XC Series respectively.





DELAMERE  
STATION  HOUSE  
EAT. RELAX. DRINK

# The perfect destination

FOR RELAXATION, GOOD FOOD AND DRINKS  
AND OF COURSE SNUGBURY'S ICE CREAM

Situated in the heart of Delamere Forest park and at the Delamere Railway Station, we are easily accessible whether you are arriving on foot or bike off the train, or in the car. We have free parking for customers and plenty of outdoor space to enjoy your time with us.



Sustainable and environmentally friendly items available to purchase from us.



COME AND  
GET YOUR  
**fall**  
IN OUR SHOP

## Friday night menu themes

Starting from April with a special food menu each month. **Available until 8.30pm**

Available to eat in, eat out or take away.  
Check out our website for details.

WITH THE WARMER WEATHER COMING, WHY NOT  
SIT OUTSIDE IN ONE OF OUR OUTDOOR PODS

07375 892 872

[WWW.DELAMERESTATIONHOUSE.CO.UK](http://WWW.DELAMERESTATIONHOUSE.CO.UK)

DELAMERE STATION HOUSE  
STATION RD, NORTHWICH, CW8 2HZ



In the days before our Delamere Community Centre was built in 1972, a lot of social events took place at the then Delamere Primary School in Stoney Lane. The screens were pulled back in the main hall to make a large space for activities. Rummage sales were always popular, and it was usual for a queue to form across the playground and onto Stoney Lane! Clothes and shoes were very good sellers, and of course bric-a-brac, and in those days before Antiques Roadshow I wonder how many hidden treasures were bought for pence. The WI held their meetings there, quite formal, and still a few hats! There was country dancing, and of course the PTA and Parish Council meetings.

The most popular events were the whist drives, which were very well attended, with cash for games, and weird and wonderful prizes for the draw. At Christmas was the **Big One**, the Feathered Whist Drive, where the prizes were poultry: chickens, turkeys, geese etc. donated by local farmers. I didn't play whist but my husband attended, and he came home so pleased with his prize, which turned out to be two pheasants wrapped in brown paper and string, obviously newly killed and not dressed. My reaction was a scream, "Get them out of here!". I think he gave them to a neighbour. These days I'm told that pheasants are very popular - but oven-ready!

#### **JOIN US ON A LOCAL HISTORY WALK**

Come and learn about the amazing history and heritage of our parish, from prehistoric times to the present day, on an easy walk around Delamere.

On the way we will encounter the Iron and Bronze Ages, the Romans, Medieval times, the Victorians and both World Wars. We will see how the landscape has evolved over the centuries, and hear about a ghost and even a local scandal.

We will meet at Delamere Church, St Peters, for an introduction, drive up to the top of Stoney Lane, then walk over the fields to Nettleford Wood and back over the Old

Pale.

The walks will be from time to time over the Spring and Summer, limited to around eight participants and are Free of Charge.

To register your interest, or for further information, please contact-

Don Wilson 01829 752710,  
dontravcon@hotmail.com

I'LL NEVER KNOW EITHER!

*Sue Goodwin*

I enjoyed the little article in Issue 53 about the time when Delamere School was earmarked for closure (I'll Never Know). I was the Secretary of the W.I. at that time and was asked to write, on their behalf, to our M.P. Stephen O'Brien.

I still have the letter which Stephen sent in reply (on House of Commons headed note-paper and signed by Stephen himself). - it's dated July 3rd 2007.

Soon afterwards we heard that the school would remain open.....so "I'll never know either!"



STEPHEN O'BRIEN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Sue Goodwin  
Oakmount  
Delamere  
Cheshire CW8 2HU

For Delamere W.I.

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007

Dear Ms Goodwin

**Delamere CE Primary School**

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the future of Delamere CE Primary School.

Please be assured that I am deeply concerned about the proposals for Delamere School under the Transforming Learning Communities programme - I have already signed the petition myself and have met many people already in formulating a campaign in which I hope you will actively participate and support. As a matter of principle you can be assured that I entirely support you and all parents and other interested parties in resisting any proposal to close Delamere CE Primary School. Even if the Council's figures were correct about the decline in the school age population, (which I don't think they are, and I continue to contest them in relation to Harthill Primary School) I believe this represents a tremendous opportunity to invest in and improve the education at primary level and giving young children the best possible start. Under the outrageously named Transforming Learning Communities programme so far, I have been involved in all the campaigns where we have managed to save St Oswald's Worleston and Huxley Primary Schools but lost Buerton. The proposal to close Harthill has now been confirmed by the Council but as you will have read in your local newspaper I am campaigning vigorously with local people to pursue every avenue that might prevent Harthill's closure. This is a particularly pernicious attack against rural schools and rural communities.

I am presently speaking with those involved in starting the campaign to keep the school open and was pleased to address the public meeting at the school on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Please be assured of my steadfast support for Delamere to remain open.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen O'Brien MP

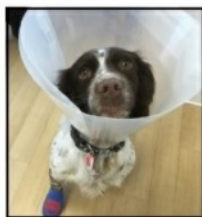
Working for the people of Eddisbury  
Westminster Office Telephone: 020 7219 6315  
Westminster Office Direct Fax: 020 7219 0584  
E-mail Address: obriens@parliament.uk  
Website: stephenobrien.org.uk  
Personal Assistant - Mrs Emma Węoda



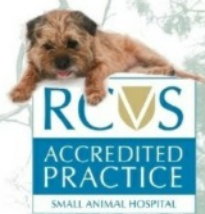


# HOLLYBANK

VETERINARY HOSPITAL SANDIWAY



- ♦ *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*



 **HOLLYBANK**  
VETERINARY CLINIC WINNINGTON

Now also open at Winnington!  
Unit 1b, 39 Walker Road  
Winnington  
CW8 4UD  
01606 717969



**584 Chester Road | Sandiway | Cheshire | CW8 2DX**  
**Tel: 01606 880890 | [www.hollybankvets.co.uk](http://www.hollybankvets.co.uk)**

Delamere CofE Academy has been ranked among the best 0.5% of all primary schools in the UK. That's according to The Sunday Times' Parent Power guide, which enables parents to compare schools' performance on both local and national levels.



More than 20,000 primary schools across the nation were rated based on exam results and Delamere has been placed 84th overall – an improvement of 44 places on the previous year. The school was 128th last year and 366th the year before.

Headteacher Julie Clayton says: "It's a real team effort and something we can be collectively be proud of. Results like this prove that a nurturing ethos and a full and balanced curriculum really helps learners to achieve great things."

The primary continues to collect accolades. In December, resourceful children helped the academy earn an Excellence in Pupil Development Award, which is held by just a handful of schools across the country. The award

aims to boost self-confidence, resilience and self-discipline by building on a 'skills for life curriculum'.

In October, it was given an Artsmark Gold Award, which recognises its work to put arts, culture and creativity at the heart of the curriculum. The gold status is reward for the hard work of teachers and pupils to improve the arts provision, and another step along the way towards the ambition of turning platinum.



Delamere is run by North West Academies Trust, which places strong emphasis on giving children experiences outside the classroom in order to open their eyes to a 'wonderful world of possibilities'.

Steve Docking, CEO of NWAT, said: "Delamere is hugely successful, not only in terms of excellent SATs results but also because it is thriving with happy, engaged children. It is testament to the hard work of all involved, who recognise the importance of giving children the best possible education."



## 1<sup>st</sup> Tarporley Scout Group Spring Plant Sale 2022

We are pleased to announce we will again be offering summer bedding plants for sale this year. Our previous supplier will no longer be able to supply but we have found another local nursery that will be able to supply to us. So, you may notice that some of the items we have previously supplied are no longer available, but we have added some new varieties to compensate.

Unfortunately, we have had to increase the prices of the plants from last year due to rising costs for our supplier. But we believe that they will still be competitively priced against other outlets.

Due to limited fund-raising opportunities over the last couple of years this fund raiser is important for us to be able to continue covering the costs of running the group. So, we would be very grateful for your support. If you can get additional orders from friends/family or neighbours to support the group, we would be extremely grateful.

The Plants will be delivered to the Scout Hut in Tarporley on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022 for collection between 10:00 and 12:00 Noon.

Orders and Payment need to be received by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 latest.

We will be sending forms out by both email and a hard copy will be distributed on group nights.

To return the form you can either

- 1) Print off the form and put it in an envelope along with your payment cash or cheque made payable to "1<sup>st</sup> Tarporley Scout Group" and deliver to Jonathan Dorsett, 2 Springhill Tarporley CW6 9UL, **keeping a copy for your own records.**
- 2) As above but deliver to your child's section leader, **keeping a copy for your own records.**
- 3) Email your order back to our dedicated email account [tarporleyscoutsplantsales@hotmail.com](mailto:tarporleyscoutsplantsales@hotmail.com) either by returning the completed excel file or sending a picture of the completed pdf file. Then send the payment electronically to our bank account:

Name            First Tarporley Scout Group

Account Number    00306886

Sort Code            55-61-31

**using the reference "Plants Initial and Surname used on the order".**

Please note this is not the same account that your subs are paid into.



## Plant Sales Spring 2022

Collection Date: Sat 21st May 10:00 to 12:00 Noon from Scout Hut

Order and Payment to be received by 29th April 2022

Surname						
First Name						
Address						
Contact Phone No						
Representative Name (if applicable)						

Ref	Plant (variety)	Per Box	Price / Box	Boxes Req'd	Cost £
1	Alyssum (white)	12	£3.00		
2	Antirrhinum (mixed)	6	£3.00		
3	Aster (mixed)	6	£3.00		
4	Begonia (mixed)	6	£3.00		
5	Bizzy Lizzy (Impatien) (mixed)	6	£3.00		
6	Lobelia (blue trailing)	12	£3.00		
7	Lobelia (light blue bush)	12	£3.00		
8	Marigold (french mixed)	6	£3.00		
9	Mimulus (mixed)	6	£3.00		
10	Pansy (mixed)	6	£3.00		
11	Petunia (mixed)	6	£3.00		
12	Salvia (red)	6	£3.00		

Ref	9cm Pots	Price	No. Req'd	Cost £
13	Bacopa (Sutura) White, Blue, Pink	£1.50		
14	Begonia Double (tuberhybrida) Mixed	£1.50		
15	Begonia Trailing Bossa Nova Mixed	£1.50		
16	Calibrachoa (mini petunia)	£1.50		
17	Fuchsia Trailing	£1.50		
18	Helichrysum Silver	£1.50		
19	Petunia Trailing	£1.50		

Ref	Tubs and Baskets	Price	No. Req'd	Cost £
20	Wicker Hanging Basket 30 cm	£17.00		
21	Tuscany Planter Roman Round 25cm	£15.00		

<b>TOTAL COST</b>	
-------------------	--

There are very few winter visitors on the bird feeders at present, just a single Brambling.



*Male Brambling, mmllek, Wikimedia Commons*

On 12<sup>th</sup> February the first Woodcock of the winter was seen. Apparently there are not many about this year possibly due to climate influence.

Recreational disturbance is a major factor in our woodlands now. Delamere certainly has wet woods with its many meres and mosses that would be good habitat for Woodcock.



*© Lisa Geoghegan, woodlandtrust.org.uk*

I was talking to walkers on the top road near Summer Trees who were amazed to hear that the trees in the forest are not native trees. Spruce, Pine, Larch, Chestnut, Western Hemlock and even Beech are too far north here. The

walkers are probably not the only ones who think it is all natural.

Burdett's map of 1777, produced just before the last carving up and selling of large areas of land, shows the forest as being a wooded area, but most of it, at that time, would have been heathland with Birch and Oak scrub, Rowan, Gorse Broom and Heather species on the disturbed areas. Elm, Lime and native Oak would have grown in the heavier clay soils with a shrub layer of Hazel, Guelder Rose, Elder and Holly.

In 1812, along came the newly formed Department of Woods, with a plan to plant Oaks over most of the forest. Planting began in 1815, at a rate of 440 acres per annum and was completed in 1823. Concern about the lack of growth and wellbeing of the young Oaks prompted the planting of a nurse crop of Caledonian Scots Pine, Larch, Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Ash. Some concern was expressed about planting conifers on account of their supposed injury to the forest scenery.

What had been planted was English Oak, *Quercus Robur* suited for heavy clay soils. It was believed the species indigenous to this area of sands and gravels would have been Sessile Oak, *Quercus Petraea*, more suited to the forest soils.

The Commissioners of Department of Woods were unhappy with the loss of revenue from the timber in the forest and by 1893 Delamere was starting to replant with Pines.

By 1908, 541 acres had been planted with stands of Corsican Pine and

Deeside Scots Pine. Spruce and later Western Hemlock were planted in the drained peat mosses.

Broad leaved trees were planted in strips along the road sides and railways to act as fire breaks, to reduce the risk of fire spreading through the resinous crop of conifers.

This pattern remains the framework of the forest we see today, with the planting completed by 1950.

Some of the information I have used is from the work by Joan Fairhurst BSc, PhD, A Landscape Interpretation of Delamere Forest, May 1988, who for many years was in charge of Fox Howl, the outdoor education centre in the forest.



*Near Nettleford Wood - Bridget Austin*

**nicolagibson** ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Experienced in all aspects of design, planning and building control

Remodelling

One Off Houses

Residential Developments

Extensions

Call us to discuss your project

Tel: 01606 536101 Mobile: 07813 034552

Email: [nicola@njgdesign.co.uk](mailto:nicola@njgdesign.co.uk) [www.njgdesign.co.uk](http://www.njgdesign.co.uk)

01606 882 219

**SpannsGarage**

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

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

Collection from local area

**Opening Hours:**

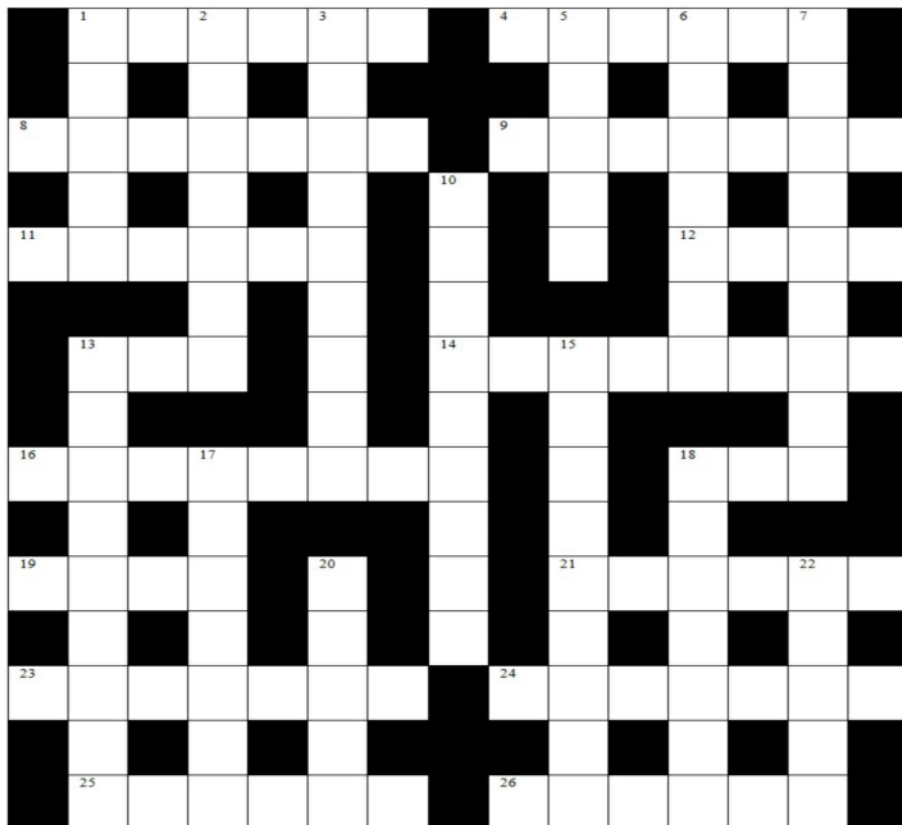
8.30 am – 5.30 pm Monday to Friday  
8.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturday (MOTs only)

**Tel:** 01606 882219  
**Fax:** 01606 881700

Email: [spanns.garage@zen.co.uk](mailto:spanns.garage@zen.co.uk)  
[www.spannsgarage.co.uk](http://www.spannsgarage.co.uk)

**Dalefords Lane**  
**Whitegate**  
**CW8 2BW**





**Across:**

1. River always flows between poles (6)
4. Fix to north western town (6)
8. Sums are organised for Renaissance scholar (7)
9. Small glass container, large enough to host Open University (7)
11. Name heading article on how to fish? (6)
12. Problem parking for drainage tank (4)
13. Time for early morning moisture, I hear (3)
14. A-lister drops note for speed (8)
16. Planes ventilate public transport (8)
18. Children push through these coats to come to homonymous trees in book (3)
19. Lido around adored stone statue (4)
21. Head led on randomly round last of crowd (6)
23. A seal if escaping is around the aquarium (3.4)
24. Beautiful track to drive on (7)
25. Gambler has improved (6)
26. It is said I allowed small hole to form (6)

### Down:

1. Resistance in support to wander (5)
2. Trace of undergarment I get incomplete (7)
3. Spam E-tour upset travel plans (5,4)
5. Vitality of our most precious hotel initially (5)
6. Part of bistro user's clothing (7)
7. Organised men toil re gauge for Egyptian river (9)
10. Fast dune material! (9)
13. Bred and hired, stirred in to flavour stew, say (5,4)
15. Mythological foot leads headless queen (9)
17. Odd blue label best for potential plant (7)
18. Starting Friday, each day Eric runs after lunch, national government becomes more devolved. (7)
20. Blunder by African mammal knocks out Irish (5)
22. Arrange to steal smallest (5)



*Snowy view from the hillfort - Bridget Austin*

## QUIZ

by Steve Lacey

(Answers on page 5)

As you will know, the Queen celebrated 70 years on the throne in February this year, so now is a good time for a few questions about her and her reign.

1. What is the Queen's full name?
2. In which year did she become heir to the throne?
3. Where was Princess Elizabeth when King George VI died and she became Queen?
4. Who was 4th in line to the throne when the Queen was crowned?
5. Which Archbishop of Canterbury crowned the Queen in Westminster Abbey?
6. The Queen is known as an owner and breeder of racehorses. How many classics have her horses won?
7. Who was the Queen's first grandchild?
8. What is the name of the Queen's home in Norfolk?
9. In which year did the Queen first open an Olympic Games?
10. How many independent countries make up the Commonwealth, at time of going to press?



DELAMERE  
& OAKMERE

# NEWS

ISSUE 54 | SPRING 2022

Cover Photo:  
Greylag goose on Blakemere Moss