

Delamere and Oakmere



News



Number 4

Christmas 2005

A Very Happy Christmas to All Our Readers.

Let's hope that the spirit of good will extends even as far as certain gentlemen who have paid unwelcome visits in the area in recent months. Judging by their behaviour, though, it seems unlikely. The targets of these so-called "cold callers" are usually elderly people who are often duped, or even intimidated, into accepting their "offers" of assistance.

If someone knocks on your door without a prior appointment offering to cut trees or shrubs / mend or replace fencing / or carry out similar repair work to house or garden, you should telephone your local **Community Police Team** on one of the following numbers: 0845 458 6393 (Frodsham); 0845 458 6392 (Northwich); 0845 458 6391 (Winsford). Leave a message with details of: description of caller; the service offered; and, if possible, a description of the vehicle. Your call will be responded to promptly. Then inform your local Homewatch Co-ordinator* of what has happened. If you really *do* feel threatened, or have something more specific to report, don't hesitate to telephone the Police **0845 458 0000**. They are particularly interested in hearing about repeat or persistent callers.

One elderly resident in the area was tricked into paying out an exorbitant sum for ten minutes' work in her garden since when the caller has paid her a series of follow-up visits, his manner becoming increasingly aggressive. Be a good neighbour. If you see or suspect anything like this in your neighbourhood, inform the authorities.

These callers are, by their very nature, extremely unpleasant people. They need to be caught.

(*details in the October issue of *Delamere & Oakmere News*).

The High Billinge from Eddisbury,
Late November



What's On

*See School News on page
11 for Delamere School
events.*

Sat., 3rd Dec.
Carols in the Forest
2.00 - 4.00pm
[See page 4]

Mon., 5th Dec.
Meeting of
**Oakmere Parish
Council**
In the Oakmere Room,
Fourways
7.00pm

Wed., 7th Dec.
Community Centre
Committee Meeting
7.15pm

Sat., 10th Dec.
Delamere School
Christmas Fair
10.00am – Midday

Sat., 10th Dec.
Christmas Prize Bingo
Doors Open ~7.00pm
Eyes Down ~ 8.00pm
*Excellent Christmas
Fayre*
Entrance 50p

Sun., 11th Dec.
Christingle Service
Delamere Church
10.30am

Tues., 13th Dec.
Women's Institute
Christmas Party
7.30pm

Wed., 14th Dec.
**Golden Age
Members'**
Christmas Lunch
12.30pm

Fri., 17th Dec.
Christmas Ceilidh
Kelsall Village Hall
8.00- 12.00
Admission £6
Dancing to *Foxes Bark*
Call 01829 751573/741142 for
details.

Sun., 18th Dec.
Nine Carols Service
Delamere Church
6.30pm

Mon., 19th Dec.
Meeting of
**Delamere Parish
Council**
in the Church Room
7.30pm

Wed., 21st Dec.
Brownies & Guides
Extravaganza
Community Centre
6.30pm
Admission £1 includes
Refreshments. Raffle.

Christmas Eve
Midnight Communion
Delamere Church
11.45pm

Tues., 10th Jan.
Women's Institute
Talk by Bob MacGregor
on
Toys

Wed., 11th Jan.
Golden Age
Talk & Slide Show
By Ted Hawker
on St.Petersburg

Mon., 16th Jan.
Meeting of
**Delamere Parish
Council**
in the Church Room
7.30pm

Wed., 25th Jan.
Golden Age
Talk by Yvonne Billows
*So You Want to Take
Your Dog to Crufts?*

Eddisbury
Farmers' Market
Please note that the
**Christmas Farmers'
Market** will be held in
the Forest (follow signs
along Station Road)
from 9.00am to 5.00pm
on Saturday 17th &
Sunday 18th December

Change at The Fourways

On 30th November John
Lynch retired from The
Fourways to which he came in
1956. He has been a good
friend to the people of
Oakmere and Delamere for
nearly half a century.
Everyone, I am sure, will join
me in wishing him a long and
happy retirement.

Tom Wright's Book

I've just received my copy of
Three Parishes (see ad. on
page 7). Those who, like me,
share Tom's view that this is
"God's own country" will find
his collection of local
photographs plus the comments
that accompany them
absolutely brilliant.

*The new vicar was trying to
find his way around the parish
but eventually he had to stop a
young man and ask the way to
the post office. Having been
given directions, he tried a spot
of evangelism.*

*"Hope to see you in church on
Sunday," he said.*

*"Don't go to church, mister,"
the lad replied.*

*"We'll make a special effort this
week," said the vicar. "I'm
preaching on how to get to
heaven."*

*"That's rich," the lad replied,
"coming from a bloke who
doesn't even know how to get
to the post office."*

Courtesy of Freda French,
Eddisbury.

Christmas Newsletter from Oakmere Methodist Church

Hello everyone,
Some Christmas decorations recently reminded me of the journey of the Magi, or the three wise men. They must have set off on their quest to follow the star many months before the birth of their Saviour. Uncertain of the dangers they would face, they followed their star until they found what they were looking for, a new ruler and king. Many more characters in the accounts of the Nativity made journeys. As you know, they can be found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke in the Bible. Mary and Joseph were forced to travel to Bethlehem for the census at a time when, no doubt, they would rather have stayed at home and prepared for the new arrival. However, they had to make that journey and to seek out a place where God would become man.

As the Christmas period draws near, many of us will tramp miles to buy that special present or to increase the mountain of food that we already have. We're all making journeys of some sort. I would invite you to 'Walk the Way to Bethlehem' this Advent. It doesn't mean that you ever need to leave your armchair, but it does mean that you seek out the Christ Child. You could read the accounts of the various journeys that individuals took, e.g. Mary and Joseph or the Magi, and imagine their hopes and fears and, more importantly, what they found at the end of their journey. Imagine walking with them

and consider how their journey changed their lives and how finding God in a new way can change your life too. This is only one suggestion. Whatever you do this Advent and Christmas time, take time to look for Christ and open your hearts to him in a new way.

Some of our services during Advent and Christmas will be on this theme. **There is a service held at Oakmere Methodist Church every Sunday at 10.45 am. There will be a service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day at the same time.**

Christians Together in Crowton, Kingsley and Norley are joining with Oakmere Church to sing **Carols in the forest on 3rd December between 2 and 4 pm.** We are singing for Halton Haven Hospice and you are very welcome to join us. We are singing in the main forest car park where Christmas trees are sold.

May you find Christ wherever you seek him this Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Ann Kenton
Oakmere Methodist Church.

From My Window

Notes from a Local Bird-Lover

The overnight frost and a bright blue morning sky bring many birds to feed at my bird tables.

The male pheasant and four females are already feeding. What a beautiful fellow he is. An exotic bird with a long tail, a metallic dark green head, red wattles round the eye and small ear-like tufts on the crown, and a white neck ring. The back is mottled brown and the tail has black bars on brown. I must not let them see me. If they do, they run like the wind into the wood.

Four collared doves joust for position on the bird house.

Woody Woodpecker is already enjoying the peanuts. I know he is a male by the red patch on the back of his head. All greater spotted woodpeckers also have "red underpants". An old six-foot high gatepost leans against the wire fence and the woodpeckers love to strip off the old wood looking for succulent edible creatures.

Blue tits and great tits are to-ing and fro-ing from the trees to feed on the peanuts and wild bird food. Chaffinches are in good numbers this year.

Two cheeky grey squirrels arrived in the wood this year. They haven't discovered the suspended peanuts yet. I suppose it is only a matter of time! They do enjoy sitting up on their hind legs nibbling away at the bird seed.

A pair of crows visit morning and evening for chicken skin, bread, etc. They are "dunkers": if the bread is dry they find the nearest puddle and "dunk" the bread in it.

What a lovely autumn we have had! The trees have been glorious colours. Plants in the garden and hanging baskets, lovely throughout the summer, have continued to give us pleasure until the first frost.

We have been warned that we may be in for a hard winter, so please feed our feathered friends.

D.D.

No Reds for Delamere

It was announced recently that fifteen woodland areas in England and Wales have been designated special protection areas for the native red squirrel. The plan is to re-establish them by protecting them from attack by their larger American cousin, the grey squirrel.

Unfortunately Delamere Forest was not one of the chosen places, possibly because there are no longer any red squirrels left here. Yet the little red squirrel used to be a common sight in the forest. I wonder when the last ones were seen here.

Station Road Speed Limit

How many drivers who are reading this can admit to having exceeded the 40 mph speed limit along Station Road, Delamere? With a long straight stretch and open land along one side it's so easy to forget you're in a restricted zone - even if you're familiar with the area.

No wonder so many people using the road as a short cut from the A49 to Frodsham and Runcorn travel along it at 50 to 60. There have been accidents - and there will be more - unless we can persuade the authorities to take action. More frequent reminders such as speed limit signs on the road surface are essential if serious accidents are to be prevented. And this will only happen if enough of us are prepared to badger the authorities.

Write expressing your concern to the following:

Inspector Phil Hodgson,
Frodsham Police Station, Ship
Street, Frodsham;

Stephen O'Brien M.P., 4 Church
Walk, Tarporley.

You Have Been Warned...

Don't believe everything you read in the press (not even in *Delamere and Oakmere News*) - it ain't necessarily so.

In an attempt to be helpful, in the last edition I gave my own telephone number - and got it wrong! How can *anyone* do that? The correct number (I think) is: 01829 752723.

Please use this number if you have any news for subsequent Newsletters and if you can offer help with

Delivery

We're still looking for help with distribution in the following Oakmere areas:

- Abbey Arms - Crabtree Green (inc. Crown Cottages, etc.)
- Crabtree Green Caravan Park
- Forest Road (A49) Oakmere Lights - Sandy Brow (inc. Hogshead Lane)

- Crabtree Green - Oakmere Lights (both sides).
- Chester Road: Fishpool Inn - Sandy Brow.

Get to know new places, make new friends, enjoy the fresh country air and recapture your youth by becoming a *Delamere and Oakmere News* paperboy or girl! (No age limit) Apply to the above number. No references or police checks required.

Unfortunately, unless volunteer deliverers appear, these areas may not receive future copies of the Newsletter.

Book Bus

The Cheshire County Council Mobile Library schedule for December and January is as follows:

on Monday 5th & 19th December and 2nd, 16th & 30th January at 11.15 - 11.35 ~ Frith Avenue
11.40 - 12.00 ~ Black Hill
12.05 - 12.20 ~ Watling Drive;
on Wednesday 7th & 21st December and 4th & 18th January at 12.30 - 12.45 ~ Hogshead Lane
on Friday 9th & 23rd December and 6th & 20th January at 10.40 - 11.00 ~ Chapel Lane, Willington.

For further details ring 01606 44221 or the Mobile Library's mobile number, 07860 426378.

Folk Dancing

There are fortnightly country dances at Manley Village Hall on the following dates:

December 7th, January 11th & 25th & February 8th & 22nd.

Dancing is to *Foxes Bark*, a local band with Doug Benyon the caller. Licensed Bar.
Ring 01829 751573/741142.

Jumble Sale Success

The Community Centre Committee would like to thank everyone who helped at the November 5th Jumble Sale. Thanks to their efforts the sale realised £294. This sum will give an invaluable boost to the Centre's maintenance funds.

A Chilly Prospect

The weather forecasters have promised us a cold winter. Let's hope MANWEB can get their act together and eliminate the power cuts that have plagued the area in recent times.

Many Thanks to all those who have kindly donated their old pairs of spectacles to Network Gloria. These are in great demand in Romania.

To find out more about the Charity see our website on networkgloria.org.uk, or telephone Gloria Ackerley on 01829 752723. Please keep sending the spectacles.

We will be holding a Quiz Night at the Community Centre on Friday, 3rd March. All proceeds will go to the Charity.

SAVE RURAL SCHOOLS

Cheshire County Council aim to close numerous schools over the next two years in a plan called Transforming Learning Communities (TLC). Small rural schools seem to be their target owing to highest costs per pupil. To find out more about this programme log on to:
www.cheshire.gov.uk/tlc/home.htm
www.norleysaysno.co.uk
www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk/sos/

Voice your objection by contacting your MP, local county councillor and education chiefs at County Hall, Chester. With your support we can fight these cost-cutting measures and not only SAVE OUR SCHOOLS but SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES as a whole. For more information contact fiona.goodier@gmail.com who will try to answer your queries.

UFOs over Eddisbury?

On 18th November a walker along the footpath between Stoney Lane and Timothy Wood claimed to have seen a stationary bright light which then moved away at top speed. Any other sightings?

Congratulations to Denis and Freda Gore of Frith Avenue, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 17th November.

Cheshire Born and Cheshire Bred

A Dying Language

*Cheshire born and Cheshire bred,
Strong in the arm and weak in the head.*

This rhyme always bothered me when I was little: why should we boast about being "weak in the head"? But then one day my mum told me of an old dialect word she remembered hearing when *she* was little, "wick", which meant sharp or quick-witted. Now the rhyme *did* make sense, and gave a much more accurate description of a Cheshire person – *wick i'th yed*.

Not long ago I was talking to someone who was neither Cheshire born nor Cheshire bred and seemed never to have heard the local language spoken, despite having lived some years in the area. Hardly surprising, though, when broad Cheshire is far less commonly heard than it was a few decades ago.

How many newcomers will have heard of a *corf*, a *rot*, a *rappit* or a *tuwerd*¹ (all animals, by the way), and how many bird-spotters can identify a *yarn* or a *sheppy*?

That last animal reminds me of a story of my dad's (if only I could remember half of them!). A rather posh lady was paying a visit to the home of one of her tenants. She demanded that the little boy of the house sing her a song. Under pressure the little boy reluctantly agreed. This was what he sang:

*A blackbird on a weshin' mug,
A tuwerd on a stuw.
I amner singin' for me-sen,
I'm singin' fer a fuw.²*

The lady, like Queen Victoria, was not amused.

It's not just words that are different. Many Cheshire vowels are different too. 'a' often turns to 'o', usually before 'n' or sometimes 'm' (rather as it does in Scotland). So, for instance, *bank* becomes *bonk* (honestly!), *man* is *mon* (which gives us the adjective *monny*, for which there is no standard English equivalent), a *hammer* is a *ommer* (note the missing 'h', a sound rarely heard in Cheshire). *Can*, of course, I like a tommy frog, only bigger.

² Translation next issue, but dunner ask me to sing. I conner.

becomes *con*, *can't* is *conner*, *shan't* *shonner* and *haven't*, sometimes, 'onner.

Meanwhile 'ay' and 'ee' swap places, so that a *tree* is for putting cups on, while a *tray* (an *ook tray*, for instance) grows *laves* (and also *eacorns*).

One of the most distinctive Cheshire sounds is *ew*, as in *brewt* (brought), *thewt* (thought) and *bewt* (bought), but not in taught.

When I was at school in Winsford in the 50s the Headmaster told how shortly after his arrival at the school he saw a boy coming through the gate eating a bun and throwing the wrapper on the ground.

"Where's the bin?" he demanded.

"I've bin to the shop, sir," the boy replied.

I tried telling that story to some schoolchildren in Kent – and nobody got it. As a piece of advice, *never* try explaining a joke that's failed; just cut your losses and move on. The point was lost on a class who'd never heard the old pronoun *thou* used and didn't believe it was still in use in parts of the North. We'd been reading a Shakespeare play and I was explaining (or *trying* to explain) how *thou*, *thee* and *thy/thine* were once commonly used instead of *you* when talking to a person you were on familiar terms with, in a manner not unlike that used in French and many European languages, where *you*, or its equivalent is just the polite form. The trouble with English is that over the centuries we have gradually become so polite to each other that we've stopped using *thou* altogether – except in dialect. So here *thou*, or more usually *the* or *tha*, is used between friends, but not when you're trying to show respect to someone.

What's more – and this is something I've never heard outside Cheshire – you can still sometimes hear the old plural form *ye* as in *Come on, ye lot!*

In the past no Cheshire man worth his salt (and there's a lot of it in Cheshire) would call a woman *she*. It was always *ew* or *oo*. The only time I've ever seen it in print was in

the poem "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight", supposedly written in Cheshire in the fourteenth century, where it appeared as *ho*. My uncle, who died twenty years ago, hardly ever used *she*, but how often do you hear the old form today?

* * * * *

How many of these do you know?
[Send in your answers for the February edition].

Aller Baggin' Blart

Blue i'the bushes Chats

Chilt* Chopse Coss Chunner

Davely Djed Donderin'

Ew/Oo Feoff Get agate o'

Hedgecop Key-pawed

Lads come ar'ouse (a flower)

Marefart Mester Mither/Maither

Monny Nesh Nuwty/a Nuwt

Okkert Pather Pissimote

Rit Raungin' Srike

Scutch Scutch Shippon

Skuw (a) Stale Stuws

Thrippers Wesh Weyter

Wick Yed Yokkerton

* *Chilt* (pronounced like *child*, but more specific).

If you get over half marks then you can truly say that you're
*Cheshire born and Cheshire bred,
Strong i' th'arm and wick i'th'yed*

* * * * *

Complaints, corrections, additions please to:

robin.ackerley@btinternet.com or
The Paddock, Stoney Lane,
Delamere, (not Kelsall), Tarporley
or 01829 752723.

Parish Council News

Delamere Parish Council is in the happy position of having £3,000 at its disposal. Any parishioners who have suggestions as to how this might be used should contact the clerk to the council, Mrs. Jenny Harrison, on 01829 752221. Any sensible, practical project would be considered.

Oakmere Parish Council have once again approached Vale Royal about the appearance and safety of the Courthouse. The Enforcement Planning Officer is to investigate.

Ambulance Service

Oakmere P.C.'s attempts to follow up complaints about slow responses to emergency calls elicited the following extraordinary reply. Merseyside Ambulance Service recommended that anyone calling in an emergency should: make sure their house number (if any) is clearly visible; have a note of their postcode by the phone; and, finally, have available the O.S. grid reference for the property. So be warned. If your grid reference is not immediately to hand, your life could be at risk.



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School News

Yet another exciting term is in progress at Delamere Primary School. The children have taken part in a wide variety of visits to the joyous yet wet hills of Snowdonia and to the far reaches of the ancient Roman enclave that is Chester!

At present the children are in the process of putting together their Christmas production called "Stable Manners", which will be performed in the last week of term.

The sporting prowess of the children continues to develop. Building upon the visit to Twickenham in April, a mixed team of boys and girls finished 2nd in a local tag rugby tournament against much larger primary schools than ourselves.

This term the football teams have made striking (literally!) progress. After a heavy 10-2 defeat by Duddon at the start of term, followed by four defeats in a tournament the teams began to improve. The boys won both their matches at Woodfield and then, in the last match of the term in November, the school entertained Thomas Wedge Primary School from Chester. Each school turned out two mixed seven-a-side teams. The first team won both its matches, 4-1 and 3-1; the second team, after losing the first match 2-4, got its act together and completely overwhelmed the opposition, winning 9-2.

In addition to the children's hard work Mr. Docking was invited to a champagne reception with the Education Minister and had the opportunity to meet Sir Bob Geldof when he addressed a conference of new head teachers in London at the end of November.

Next year we will be 160 years old! There will be celebrations planned for the summer term, but we would like to take this opportunity to ask, if any local residents have any idea how to celebrate this occasion, can they contact Mr. Docking at the school? He would love to hear from you.

Finally, we have a **vacancy for a mid day assistant**. Please contact Mr. Docking if you are interested.

Diary Dates for December

Choir every Tuesday. 3.15 - 4.15pm

Thurs., 1st Dec. Choir Trip to Young Voices. NIA, Birmingham

Mon., 5th Dec. Christmas Party. Fourways Inn

Sat., 10th Dec. Christmas Fair. 10.00 - 12.00

Fri., 16th Dec. School Christmas Dinner END OF TERM.

Mon., 19th Dec. Christmas Play. 2pm & 6pm

Tues., 20th Dec. Christmas Play. 2pm

Wed., 21st Dec. Carol Service at Church

Thurs., 5th Jan. **SCHOOL RE-OPENS.**

Delamere Infants 1959

Thanks to **Brenda Astbury** for the photograph and to **Neil Johnson** and **Jean Sheen** (Jean Fairclough) for helping to name the children. Can anyone help fill the gaps?



Mrs. Doreen Bradbury

?? ?? Rachel Gilbert Trevor Hignett ?? Kevin Nicholas ?? Neil Johnson
Stephanie Van Suchtelen Susan Walker Peter Martin (??) Andrew Walker ?? Peter Ankers
Brian Hassall Chris Pugh ?? Jean Fairclough Prowse French ?? Kevin Duxbury
?? Peter Curry Peter Astbury ?? Philip Smith Janet Smith Peter Rutter