



Residents' Open Forum

The Trustees held their 3rd Open Forum on Friday 18th January when we welcomed about 75 residents. The meeting was chaired by Lester Bowman in the absence of Jeannine Kolodzieski who has taken "maternity leave" from her Trustee role and by the time you read this she and Richard may well have their addition to the family. Whether or not we are sure you will join the rest of the Trustees in wishing them and the new arrival well.

Sarah Gething outlined the progress on the bar refurbishment. Sarah explained that we had been working with an interior designer who, unfortunately, had not met her promised timescales and whilst we had a "mood board" showing the planned fabrics and décor no changes had yet been implemented. We are now working with other suppliers and will progress work as quickly as possible.

The refurbishment includes redecoration of the bar and **Volunteers are required if you can wield a paint roller or hang wallpaper.** If you can help please let Alan Baskerville have your name and contact details.

Lester Bowman covered the communication initiatives which we have taken to try to ensure that it is effective and two way. Apart from Open Forums we have tried to improve Park Talk, issued special Bulletins when necessary and held "Trustees Surgeries" in December and January. Attendance at the surgeries has been disappointing with only 4 residents in December and two in January. We will continue with surgeries but hold only one a month. The next will be on Saturday 16th of February between 10.00 and 12.30. Please either book an appointment or just call in.

Lester suggested that we could set up a "communication network" with volunteers covering a small number of their neighbouring properties who would act as disseminators of information and feeding back responses. To work effectively we would need



about 40 volunteers. Whilst those attending felt it was a useful idea they doubted that it would work effectively and there may be a lack of volunteers. If you would like to help please leave your name at the office. If you would like to comment on the proposal please do so. A further suggestion was that we should have a noticeboard solely for Trustees notices. Whilst we will look at this it would of course only reach the minority of people who go into the Clubhouse.

There are still a number of residents who have not signed up to receive Park Talk either electronically or remain with a delivered paper copy. If you know anyone in this position please ask them to contact the office as soon as possible. We are trying to contact this group by telephone to establish their requirement to ensure they receive all the news on the Park.

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Bus Service to Leighton Hospital

An environmentally friendly way of going to Leighton Hospital and avoiding the hassle of parking there is to catch the bus from stand G at Northwich. The Number 31 bus runs direct every ½ hour at 10, and 40 minutes past the hour. The journey takes about an hour. Alternatively the Number 29 bus runs every ½ hour at 20 and 50 minutes past the hour to Winsford Town Centre where you have to change on to another bus to continue your journey to Leighton. This lengthens the journey by about 4 minutes. This round trip gives me time to thoroughly read the newspaper! If you are one of the 'venerable citizens' it costs nothing after 9.30a.m. as long as you show your pass. Of course you could start your journey from Weaverham. This adds about another 20 minutes to the travelling time.

Books for Sale

Thank you to all those who have donated books and kept our bookshelves full. Please continue to donate – perhaps have a good clear out now that Spring is approaching!

We collected £64 in December – THANK YOU ALL.

Books can be left at Reception (889263), or contact Maria (889728).

Refuse Bins

Would residents please ensure that between collections bins are kept out of sight from the road.

Residents' Open Forum continued...

Finally on communication please remember that you can contact the office in person, by phone or by letter and email us at trustees@delamerepark.co.uk.

Lester then moved on to the security situation. We have a number of concerns including unauthorised access, security of residents and staff and the inadequacies of our CCTV system. We have also had requests from residents for access to the facilities, particularly the pool, early in the morning which we cannot currently accommodate.

To address these problems we propose installing an access system where everyone wanting to use the clubhouse would have a card or similar which would allow them to use all or parts of the club at specified times more flexibly than is currently possible. At the same time we would upgrade the CCTV system. Capital costs would be met from the current year's budget and the operating costs would be self financing as it would allow us to reduce reception hours.

There was a general welcome for this proposal and we will now move ahead to evaluate the different alternatives and get competitive estimates. Clearly before any implementation we will need to ensure that all our staff are fully trained and residents understand how the system will operate.

Keith Glover then covered a number of facilities issues. There are still a small number of items outstanding with the builder. He has been given a deadline to complete these failing which we will employ our own contractors and deduct the cost from our retention. We have recently had a couple of falls near the changing room doors and are waiting for a report from Slipstop who treated the pool and changing room floors. We will implement whatever action is needed to rectify the problem. We are planning to redecorate most of the clubhouse this year as the builders paint is wearing thin. Again volunteers are needed. Please leave your name and contact details with Alan Baskerville.

The kitchen project was much discussed at the OGM and, as promised, we have reviewed the scope and cost of installing a kitchen. We have revised the specification and obtained competitive estimates and, in line with general consensus of those at the meeting, we plan to move ahead with a kitchen which will cost approximately £10,000 rather than the £15,000 approved in the budget. This will still allow the community groups to provide the range of food at their events and allow us to serve a simple range of bar snacks, something mentioned by many respondents to last years questionnaire. Thanks go to Michael Levy and Sarah Wass for helping with the planning of this project. We would also like to thank those Community Groups who have been fundraising to provide the crockery, cutlery etc. Their work is much appreciated.

Keith then moved on to the tree management programme, the recommendations for which were covered in the December Park Talk. There has been constructive feedback from residents and a revised plan has been drawn up which is elsewhere in this edition. Can we reiterate that this is a 3 to 5 year programme in order that there is no radical change to the appearance of the Park. Our trees are one of the outstanding features of our surroundings and we want them to remain that way. However, if any concerns remain please contact us.

Whilst on the subject of trees there are a small number of residents' trees overhanging footpaths or roads or obscuring street lights. The Local Authority recommends a minimum clearance of 2.5 metres above paths and 3.5 metres above roads. Can residents please ensure that all of their trees comply with these minimums. The Gardeners may be able to carry out this work for you at cost or, in the case of high trees which require work, we can put you in touch with reliable contractors whom we use. Since the Open Forum we have heard that VRBC will, over time, be replacing all the lighting columns on the Park for ones which will be easier to maintain. If you have a tree which is overhanging or obstructing the light from a streetlamp please ensure it is trimmed back. This is particularly important from a safety point of view.

We then moved on to Finance with Paul Rogers who summarised the current VAT position - copies of Paul's note on this are available from Reception - and explained the reasons for the various contingency funds contained within the current years budget. Paul acknowledged that the finance issues were not always easy to understand but feedback was that residents appreciated the more open approach.

Paul also covered progress so far by the Access and Commercial Use Working Group. Four meetings have been held and whilst there are disparate views on the subject it is hoped that one more meeting will allow the various options to be clarified for consideration by the Trustees and then a number put to residents for them to decide on usage for the future.

In the Open Discussion which followed a number of issues were raised and responded to by the Trustees, including whether, so far, we are on budget, which we are and whether the Trustees should develop a longer term strategy for the Park. The Trustees responded to this by again confirming that they have had two "away days" to consider the longer term aims we should have. The Trustees view was included in our presentations at the last OGM with our overall objective being "to facilitate the development of Delamere Park as a safe, secure and supportive community, in a high-quality attractive and spacious environment with a wide range of activities and facilities for all age groups." This continues to guide us and, as always, we welcome any feedback or comment on this or any other subject.

Finally a number of residents expressed their thanks to the Trustees for their work which was gratefully acknowledged.

Liverpool Concert

Our trip to the Liverpool Philharmonic Concert (The Strauss Family) on Thursday April 10 is now due for payment. The cost is reduced to £20 per ticket and not £25 as previously advertised as we have sold all 52 tickets. If you are interested in coming, but have not bought a ticket, we will have a stand-by list in case anyone has to drop out.

The cost includes the coach, and we meet at 17:45 at the Clubhouse for a 18:00 departure.

Payment preferably by cheque payable to Delamere Park Ladies' Club and left at Reception. For further details, ring Maria (889728).



Coffee Mornings

Our February Community Coffee Morning will be hosted by the Gardening Club on Thursday February 7. These mornings attract a regular core group, and new faces pop in each month too – a great way to get to know people, particularly if you are new to Delamere Park; and you may well meet up with old friends as well.

Come along and meet us in the Clubhouse Bar, from 10.30 to 12.00 noon.

For the Winter months, we are introducing an extra coffee morning on the 3rd MONDAY of the month; same place, same time.

Forthcoming coffee mornings are:

- Monday 18th February
- Thursday 6th March (39/45 Club)
- Monday 17th March
- Thursday 3rd April (Sports Association)
- Monday 21st April

Further details from Reception (889263), or ring Maria (889728).

EcoTeam Report

Following my attendance at the EcoTeam Facilitators Training Day in early November, an EcoTeam Group of seven households based on Delamere Park has been running since the end of November. We have so far met twice and will meet twice more.

Our aim is to record our recycling, waste and energy use and to increase the first and reduce the other two, hopefully with a corresponding saving on our bills. This is very straight forward and we have evolved our own methods to make it as easy as possible.

At the end of the project we will combine our records and submit them to Global Action Plan who will incorporate them into the national figures for the whole programme. Although the government funded programme is drawing to a close there are plenty of things we all can continue to do.

At our first two meetings we discussed ways of increasing recycling, reducing waste and shopping in a more eco-friendly way. Our final two meetings will discuss energy usage and ethical travel. As well as our local kerbside recycling scheme some other suggestions for a greener, more ecologically friendly lifestyle are available to share. We should also be pleased to hear of any ideas you may have that you would like to share with our EcoTeam members and other residents. Please contact Pat Sweetingham at sweetp_flower@yahoo.co.uk, 01606 888667 or 07787 543488.

Although the government funded programme ends in March 2008, it is still necessary and possible for us all to make the effort required for the benefit of us all especially future generations.

History of Delamere Park by David Coxhead

After dragging my feet for far too long at last I intend to publish some of my 15 years research in a book to be published in April or May.



The research documents and photographs are far too numerous to be published in full but will eventually be lodged in the Cheshire Records Office as proof of my statements. All too many of our local history books have been written on hearsay and can be wildly inaccurate.

The book will be edited and published by Mark Bevan of CCC Publishing. He is an ex-editor of the Northwich Guardian and writer of many histories of surrounding villages.

Establishing a title is difficult as there are so many different aspects covered; highlighting one of them does not describe the others. 'Old Cuddington' is a possibility but 'the Wilbraham's of Delamere Park' is limiting.

The subjects covered range over the geology of the area, the prehistoric and medieval village including the Kings Forest, the Wilbraham's of Nantwich and their building of Delamere Lodge, the conversion to Delamere House a grand Victoria Mansion and its eventual demise. Then follows the British, American and Polish Army camps, the post war council site and its eventual deterioration. The book will end with the building of Delamere Park as we know it and its recent history.

After much heart searching to find the best way to proceed we have decided to publish a limited edition of about 200 hard backed presentation books on quality paper to show off the photographs. With a colour jacket and about 220 pages costing £20 which will just clear printing costs if the whole edition is sold.

Anyone who may wish to reserve a copy can contact me on 01606 889438 or at dandf@uwclub.net. Mark Bevan has already taken 60 reservations on his website from clients other than Delamere Park. Hugh Wilbraham has reserved 20.

Dog Owners

Following several complaints, can we please remind owners to be considerate to others and clear up any excrement caused by your dogs placing it in the bins provided.

community groups

Committee Meetings 2008

March 11
July 8
November 11

May 13
September 9

Venue is the Lodge starting at 19:30.

39/45 Club

The speaker for our January meeting was Lyndon Taylor. He, as always, gave another interesting talk on optometry. His topic was the effect of diabetes on the eyes.

At the moment there are no speakers booked for the coming months.

Our annual dinner was again held at Frodsham Golf Club on Thursday 17th January. There were 44 members and guests at the dinner. As usual an enjoyable evening was had by all.

The usual Valentine Day's lunch will be held at The Cottage again. For those unromantics who don't know the date it is the 14th February! If you would like to go please contact Norman Shelley on 882988.

Once again the two visits to the indoor bowling centre at Prestatyn has been arranged for this year on April 10 and the September 11.

For more information ring our contact number 888926.

Babies and Toddlers Group

Sadly due to poor numbers this group has now closed. Over the past year we have had an excellent group meeting on a Monday afternoon. I would like to thank all of you who came along.

From the group over the year we have raised £200 for the Children's Christmas party. As a result we will be giving a donation to the clubhouse. Once again many thanks.

Mah Jongg

Sick of the same old card games? Why not try something different? Mah Jongg is an ancient Chinese game that uses tiles instead of cards, and makes for a fun, interesting game! It is very sociable and is a great way to spend a rainy afternoon. No need to bring anything – everything provided. Learn this addictive game in an afternoon!

We meet on the second and last Thursdays of the month from 1pm onwards, in the Park Room. Our next dates are Feb 14 and 28, March 13 and 27, April 10 and 24.

Interested? E-mail mahjongg@delamerepark.co.uk, ring Niki on 888959, or just turn up on the day – we look forward to seeing you!

Social Committee

We had a very successful Christmas Party on December 1 with 98 attending - a good start to the festive season.

We cancelled the Burns' Night on Jan 26 having considered the risk of running it too high. Apologies to those who were hoping to attend.

The next Social Event will be a "Spring Bash" dance on Saturday, March 1 20:00 in the Park Room. There will be a wide variety of dancing from rock to ballroom with DS9 with Chris Cowap (he did the Valentine Dance music last year). Tickets will be £4 a head (no food - only nibbles) and are on sale now.

Looking further ahead we are holding a May Ball on Saturday May 10. More details in next Park News.

Even further ahead will be the Gala/Fun/Party on the Park on Saturday, 12th July.

Ladies' Club

Our December Christmas Party was very well attended, and everyone was sumptuously wined, dined and well-entertained. A good night was had by all!

In January, we had one of our own residents, Penny Tatt, who came to speak to us about her walk to Machu Picchu to raise funds for charity. Even the beautiful landscapes could not hide the fact that this was a gruelling walk at high altitude. Well done, Penny! A fascinating insight into Peru!

Our February meeting will be our AGM and Cheese Supper with wine – please come and support your committee as we decide the future of our Club. Tickets £5 (which includes the first glass of wine) are available at Reception UNTIL FEBRUARY 8 (to help us with catering).

We meet at 20:00 on the second Monday of the month; come along and give us a try – bring a neighbour or friend too. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

In March we will welcome Liz Hemsley who will come and talk to us about Virgin Vie Cosmetics – something to pamper ourselves with? A new look for Spring?

Forthcoming Meetings/Events

February 11 AGM and Cheese Supper
March 10 Liz Hemsley, "Virgin Vie"

If you would like any further information on any of the above, please contact Reception or Maria Rogers on 889728, or email ladies@delamerepark.co.uk or check the website www.delamerepark.co.uk.

community groups

Homewatch

Many of you will be aware of the criminal activity on the Park in December and January.

In the December edition of the Newsletter we printed some simple advice which is worth repeating in order to deter these opportunist criminals.

On the increase is the stealing of cars when the keys are accessible having been left on a hall table and are within reach of a fishing rod or similar. Please put keys out of reach and separate house from car keys. It is bad enough to have your car stolen but knowing they have your house keys will leave you feeling uneasy and with the expense of changing locks.

In addition please lock porch and back doors even when you are in the house. Many of these doors are of the double glazed replacement type which do not lock automatically unlike those with a Yale lock.

Please relay any relevant information to PC Paul Welsh at Frodsham Police Station on 0845 458 6393.

To report a crime to the Police call 0845 458 0000

To contact our HomeWatch Officer, Liz Biddle call 01244 614291

For further information or if you are interested in becoming a Homewatch co-ordinator, please email David Bowker at homewatch@Delamerepark.co.uk



Gardening Club

Welcome to a new gardening club year. We have a full programme for 2008 with these events being planned for the early part of year.

Monday February 25 Blue Bell Cottage Garden and Lodge Lane Nursery by Sue Beesley.

Monday March 17 A Spine Romance. A talk by Sue Lewis on Hedgehogs.

Monday April 28 Kitchen Garden Herbs. A Talk by Mrs Hurst of the Cottage Herbery

May 2 to 4 a 3 day 2 night trip to the Spalding Festival and Barnsdale, Geoff Hamilton's Garden. Cost is £149 per person.

For further information contact Reception on 889263, Brian Hoyland on 888550 or at garden@Delamerepark.co.uk

Squirrels

We always have spaces for any children moving onto the park and if anyone is interested or would just like to have a look around please call in and see us or phone on 010606 888782 and speak to Della or Lyn.

Whist

Drives are arranged for February 9 and March 8.

For further information please email Whist@Delamerepark.co.uk or contact Helen Pattison on 889263

sports clubs



Walking

20 residents turned out on a dull day to go on the first co-ordinated walk. Arranged by Hilary and Ian Heptinstall it starting off at the Club House, and headed out to the Whitegate way, then on to Kennel Lane and home via Cuddington. Covering just over 5 miles conditions weren't always good but we all came home smiling.

The way the club will work is that anyone can volunteer to lead the way and they will write their proposed walk details on the notice board just inside the club house doorway. Then anyone else wanting to come along just turns up at the appointed time and place and off they go.

sports clubs

Circuit Training

Government guidelines suggest that each of us should take part in 5 sessions of moderate exercise for 30 minutes each week. With dark evenings, get out of the house and make a circuit session part of your weekly exercise plan. Keep you and your family healthy and fit.

Aerobics, step, or stretch and tone classes; circuits bring it all together, and include the all important core stability training. This helps improve postural muscles, which can help reduce backache. Whether you want to get healthy or get fit, this session can cover it all. Comfortable clothing, trainers and a bottle of water required.



Family Circuits - Thursday 18:00 - 19:00 New Format

In the past, this session ran mainly for children who could bring their parents or an adult with them. The emphasis is now changing. The class will be open to both adults and children who can exercise on their own or as a family

Adults - Thursday 19:30 - 20:30

Low or high impact - if you want to keep healthy or get fit - Why not come and try circuits for yourself and bring a friend?

Afternoon Circuits - Monday 13:30 - 14:30

Come and learn how to circuit train and discover the many benefits. All ages and abilities welcome.

How much do you value your health?

Start TODAY. Make exercise a weekly habit by coming to circuits. If you are new to circuits, you can just turn

up, or another idea would be to phone first and arrange to arrive 15 minutes early to the class to have an introduction / demonstration of all the exercises.

All sessions cost £3 if you pay on the door or £24 if you pay in advance for a 12-week block. Comfortable clothing, good trainers and a plastic bottle of water recommended.

There will be no classes on February 11 and 14 due to half term.

For more information about the sessions look at the poster in the club or phone Hilary on 07812 684979 or email hilaryhep@hotmail.co.uk

Water Aerobics

Our combined Christmas Dinner with the Wednesday Walkers (all but three are Water Aerobics members) was a huge success, as usual, even though there is a new owner, the Forest View did us proud. The day ended with the Wednesday Walkers returning to Ann's to continue the party.

Party time is now over and we have all returned, as from January 9 to our twice weekly routine and already are feeling the benefits. If you would like to join us we are in the pool on Wednesdays: 11:00 to 12noon. Thursdays 20:00 to 21:00.

All residents welcome.

Please contact reception for further details or email sport@delamerepark.co.uk

Ballroom-Latin-Jive Dancing

Sunday Evenings from 19:30 in the Park Room.

The latest course of Dancing Classes has begun enthusiastically for the New Year and we have welcomed a new group of Beginners. We have a friendly class ranging from new starters and improvers through to intermediate level practising different dances such as waltz, jive, foxtrot, salsa, rumba, cha cha cha, quickstep, tango and more. Richard our teacher keeps the class fun and informal so that everyone enjoys the evening.

If you missed the start of this course, the next one will begin early March, you can try it for the first night before you decide to book for the whole course. Book now to reserve your place.

Open to residents and residents' guests, single or couples over 16 years.

Sundays 19:30 - 22:00 in the Park Room. £6 per session per person.

If you would like more information or book a place call Steve or Kathy 01606 301845 or email sport@Delamerepark.co.uk

Ju Jitsu

Ju Jitsu for Adults, Junior Beginners & Returners

New Class Structure Starting Wednesday February 20

Increase fitness and self defence at the Ju Jitsu class which is now to be extended to include Adults. This will run in parallel with the Juniors Session and is open to adults either with some martial arts experience or complete beginners. Classes will be run with qualified black belt trainer Sensi Forshaw and an assistant Black belt trainer.

Wednesdays 19:00 - 20:30 in the Park Room.

For information please contact Sensi Forshaw on 01606 882153 or email sport@delamerepark.co.uk



Logs, Woodchip and Leaf Mould Sales

Logs and woodchip £1.80 per bag (50p delivery under 5 bags)
£1.50 for 10 bags or more.
£25.00 per container load.
Leaf mould £25.00 per 1 ton bag.
£1.50 per bag.

Contact Reception on 889263 to place your order.

Clubhouse Bar - Casual Staff

The bar is looking for staff to work on a casual basis whenever the need arises. For further details contact Barry on 07903 460626.

Clubhouse - Park Room

This room can be hired for private parties at a cost of £50 for the evening. Should the bar takings exceed £100 then the £50 will be refunded providing the room is left as it was found.

Clubhouse Facilities - Bookings

In order to use the time of our administrative staff more effectively bookings for the club facilities (including squash and tennis courts) will only be taken after 2pm.

**Reception Telephone
Number 01606 889263**

Reception - Additional Services

We have a folder for babysitters, gardeners, tree felling, discos, taxis, electricians etc. If anyone has any services that they can personally recommend, please leave details at reception.

Lost Property

Reception has a number of items found both in the Clubhouse and in the grounds of the Park. If you have lost something recently it may well be in their possession.

Coffee and Chat

Coffee and tea is available at reception in the afternoons and evenings, please feel free to come in and have a chat and familiarise yourselves with what goes on in the Clubhouse. You may be surprised at the many activities on offer!

All contributions for future editions of this newsletter should be sent to news@delamerepark.co.uk or hardcopy via reception. Deadline for the next edition is **March 15 2008**.