



Hedgehogs on the Park

Hello again! I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the latest relaxations from Covid restrictions.

Spring has well and truly sprung! Hedgehogs are highly active now and I hope that you've seen some in your garden or around the Park's community land.

There are at least two individuals visiting my garden regularly in search of food and, judging by their behaviour, romance too!

The hedgehog food I put out most nights has been proving very popular; I managed

to get this photo of one of them going into the feeding shelter in my back garden. They also explore other parts of the garden looking for natural food such as slugs, worms and leatherjackets.



GARDENERS!! Did you know that slugs are one of hedgehogs' favourite foods and that they can devour masses of them each night? Slug pellets are poisonous to hedgehogs, so please don't use them to protect your delicate plants – get a hedgehog or two to visit your garden and they'll do the job for you.

But can they actually get into your garden? Our back gardens are typically fenced off from each other and this can be a major problem for hedgehogs as they travel around each night in search of food.

You can help them by ensuring there's a small gap or hole in your gate or fence. It only needs to be about 5" x 5" (about the size of a CD).

If there isn't a natural gap or hole why not cut one yourself – this is a photo of what I've done in my gate.



It's also helpful if adjacent gardens are connected together, so have a chat with your neighbour about creating a hedgehog 'highway'.

In the next couple of months hedgehogs will be breeding - hopefully in the box or log stack you've provided in your garden - so keep a look out for young ones from July onwards.

And, of course, don't be too tidy in your garden - leave undergrowth undisturbed!

If you are interested in helping hedgehogs thrive on Delamere Park, there's lots of information on the internet – here are two really good websites where you can find out more:

<https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/how-help-hedgehogs>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org>

And if you wish to share news with me about your hedgehog sightings or anything else hedgehog-related, please send an email to: parkhogs@gmail.com

If you don't have access to the internet and would like to help, please leave a request with Reception and I will get some printed leaflets to you.

Thanks for reading; I'll post an update in the September Newsletter.

Ken Blakemore

“Freedom is on the Horizon”

Have we now weathered the storm
Can life soon get back to some kind of norm

Nature is springing back to life
With trees and gardens a marvellous sight

Some of us recently turned out to vote
For a Police Commissioner, worthy of note

On warm afternoons, residents flock to the outside bar
It's easy to walk to the Clubhouse without taking the car

The Trustees have opened the tennis courts and swimming pool
But we do have to obey the “No Showers” rule

It will be great to sit inside a pub and enjoy a meal
Since shivering in a gazebo holds no appeal

Future programmes are planned for our many Groups
It's wonderful news, you can almost hear delighted whoops

Will we enjoy a foreign holiday from a list coloured amber, red or green?
Ah that decision remains to be seen

But we must at all costs avoid red
Or suffer 11 nights quarantined in a hotel bed

Best of all will be our very last task
When we can finally ditch the dreaded face mask.

“The Park Bard”



Cherished Memories of The Park

The Editors recently received this poem from Halinka Rajchel who lived on the Park as a very young child in the early 1950s when it was used as a camp for Polish refugees. In her covering note she says:

“I cherish my memories of Delamere ... the well to which I referred in the poem was a pit built to store water for the farms ... I remember vividly going to the church every Sunday and vaguely recollect a mobile shop, probably an old converted bus with provisions coming regularly to Delamere. My mother and one other lady ran the Polish nursery class there which I attended ... Overall, I remember it as such a peaceful and tranquil place, an ideal location for growing up in. The only time I went back there was as a schoolgirl in the 1960s and the huts or barracks had been demolished and all that remained were the concrete bases where the huts had stood.”

It is good to remember that even after the truly awful and turbulent years of WWII the Park offered itself as an “*idyllic country community*” to displaced families. As the poet hopes we are sure that we will all continue to ensure that it remains a beautiful and tranquil place for generations to come.

“ Childhood Memories of Delamere ”

*Living in a post-war displaced people's camp
Our garden was home to vegetables, herbs and my family,
On this small precious envelope of land we put our stamp
My childhood time spent in an idyllic country community*

*In that pre-school world, not shedding many tears
I ran out to meet my playmates after a meal
And cuddled Big and Little Michael, my toy bears
Enjoying those delightful days with zest and zeal.*

*One day I looked into a nearby disused well
Where a pram dumped was deep down on the ground
We never knew who threw it there and no one did tell
It was not meant to be there, owner was never found.*

*I hope future generations will respect surrounding beauty
Look after their parcel of land and fulfil their duty.*



CWAC Waste Collection ‘consultation’

I've just contacted CWAC Household Waste to check why as residents we have not had the results of the biased consultation to be advised that it will be late summer before results are available or I believe more probably implementation of their plans.

Plotholders need to be vigilant and continue to question what are unacceptable new plans such as 4 wheelie bins per house, 3 week green bin collection, green bin collection stopping between September and March and a fee of £70 for garden waste collection. (**Concerned Resident**)

News from the Trustees

Dear Resident,

We do hope that you have stayed well during this lockdown period and are looking forward to more restrictions being lifted.

During the time the Clubhouse has been closed we have taken the opportunity to have the Bar, Lounge and corridor areas painted so it is now looking bright and fresh so we hope that you will be coming along to see for yourselves whilst supporting our Bar. Kris our Bar Manager will of course keep you up to date with plans he has for the future.

You may have noticed that the Defibrillator which was previously kept within the office is now fitted outside the Clubhouse so it can be available 24 x 7. There are some instructions on the wall but when the Defibrillator is opened it will give clear verbal instructions so can be used by anyone but of course the most important part is to call 999 immediately as your first port of call.

The Gardeners as always have been busy. In addition to the mowing and regular ongoing grounds maintenance, our gardeners have been busy this last month carrying out several shrub plantings at The Downs in two areas, a verge as you enter The Downs and also in a bed created on the right hand side as you enter The Dell. This will hopefully give some all year round interest, we hope to plant some bulbs in amongst the shrubs in Autumn to provide further colour in the Spring. They have also carried out planting at Hollow Oak Lane along the edge of the Park. A shrub bed has been created on the Green using last season's leaf mould which will be allowed to rot down and provide a more suitable planting medium. This will be planted up hopefully next year and should provide a splash of colour on the Green and also screen the rear of the grounds compound, where two lime trees had died and were removed last year.

They have constructed a raised sleeper bed at the end of Hollow Oak Lane which has been planted up with some specimen shrubs and seasonal bedding plants in side planters. This will hopefully flourish and enhance the entrance into the Park for many years.

Many of the stumps which were left after necessary tree felling was carried out, have been ground down by our tree contractors and will be reinstated and seeded in the coming months.

We are very pleased to have a new member of staff Mrs. Clare Birdsey joining us as the Office Assistant to Lucy Secker Office Manager, she will be joining the DPML team in June/July and will be working across the Office and Reception departments. We hope you will all give her a warm welcome when you meet her.

The Trustees

Coffee Mornings

We will liaise with DP Management, and hope to resume before too long. When we resume, we will meet on the first Thursday of each month (10.30 to 12.00). We will contact our regulars by phone when we know more. If you think we may not have your phone number, please do let us know by calling and leaving a message.

Maria and Paul (889728).

New - Ballroom Dancing for Beginners



Just to keep everyone informed, subject to the lifting of all Covid 19 restrictions on 21st June and upon agreement with the Trustees, we are hoping to start up the beginners (adult) ballroom dance class on the Park at the end of June/beginning of July.

It would be appreciated if you could email me at: jane.burdett1@btinternet.com if you are interested in joining the class. It is intended (subject to diary availability) that the class will be held on a Sunday late afternoon/early evening.

Park Pals – May 2021

Signs of Spring and the relaxation of some Covid restrictions made us all feel much better. The warm weather prompted a rash of six-people tea parties in our gardens. The tennis courts opened followed by the swimming pool, all much appreciated despite the regulations still in place.

Two ladies went to the daffodil farm at Whitegate, which had been unable to open to raise money for MacMillan. They collected armfuls of daffodils which they bought on behalf of members. These provided a welcome splash of colour before the blossom on the trees came into their full beauty.

Weekly Zoom meetings have continued so we have kept in touch and circulated news of those unable to attend. We even had a game and a couple of quizzes. We also have the prospect of a lunch at Nunsmere in July.

Members would like to give a big thank you to the unsung heroes of the pandemic, especially the postmen and refuse collectors who have kept the Park functioning smoothly, despite extra heavy parcels and waste. Thanks also to the staff of the Clubhouse who keep us all informed and in line!

On your own? Come and join us, phone, **Barbara on 882533, Christine 301699 or Pam 889665.**

Gardening Club

We hope towards the end of June to have our first meeting this year.

On Monday **28th June** we have provisionally booked a visit to Brooklands in Mouldsworth which is an NGS listed garden. Due to restrictions on group size we are aiming to organise two visits, an afternoon one followed by an early evening visit.

Our provisional program for the next few months is:

Jul 26th Summer Social

Sep 27th In the Shade

Oct 25th Enjoy your Garden in Winter

We would like to have a Garden Safari later in the year but will need volunteers to open their garden. If you would be willing, please leave contact details at Reception or email Gardening Club at the address below For more information about any of our meetings, please contact **Mike McNeal** via Reception or email:

garden@delamerepark.co.uk



WELCOME NEWS FROM THE LADIES' CLUB

Our world is reopening, horizons widening and although as I write a rather cold and wet Spring has sprung, a bit of damp weather will not deter us from getting on with our lives and renewing the companionship and friendships that we cherish.

To get the ball rolling, members are invited to an informal meet, eat and natter session on the Green on **Monday 14th June**. We are all looking forward to happy reunions, so bring your own chair, refreshments, a cheerful smiley face, and probably a blanket at 2.30pm. Let's get the season started in style.

July is traditionally Party Time for the Ladies' Club, so keep the date **12th July** for a summer buffet, (subject to Covid Rules). More information to follow.

On **13th September** we will resume our normal meeting format with a talk by Carole Codd, she was a registrar in Liverpool when that famous titifarious resident of Knotty Ash was married. Were the Diddy people the witnesses? To find out more about that and other no doubt memorable events at the Liverpool Registry Office, please join us for an evening of light hearted, colourful, interesting and amusing anecdotes. A great way to get back into the swing of things and make our grand reopening a success!!

We love to welcome new members, please contact **Patsy Chuter** for more information:

Tel: **889140** Email: ladies@delamerepark.co.uk

Adult Swimming – Farewell

Dear Residents,

We moved here in 1977 and I quickly realised that we were living in a very special community, so I wanted to do something for Delamere Park. I began, with another resident, to give the children of the estate swimming lessons. I soon realised that there were many parents, some of them with a real fear of water, who also could not swim. So I started an adult evening class.

I only intended to continue teaching in the pool for a few years. Now, 40 years on, I have come to the decision that I will no longer continue to run the adult swimming group.

I wish to pass on my best wishes to all past pupils and the many friends I have made through the class. I hope that anyone who has attended has enjoyed the experience and has gained a new skill or improved an existing swimming ability. My aim was to help as many people as I could to enjoy the very special pool facility that we have on Delamere Park. I hope, in some measure, I have achieved this.

Lynne Shelley

Thank you **Lynne** for the time you have willingly given to teach many residents on DP how to swim. Some have also learnt how to life save, not forgetting the ladies who had fun learning to synchronize swim to music. You will be greatly missed.

Thank you also to **Norman** for your wonderful photography and for the annual DVD you produced for the synchronize swimmers.

May you both have a pleasant retirement.

Thanks must also go to **Jeff Prest** who is retiring after looking after the **Sport and Leisure Groups** for the past 15 years. Jeff and his wife Sandra have been a great help also on Bonfire nights organizing the Bucket Collection. Thank you both for volunteering. We wish you lots of enjoyment in your other interests, playing golf and going on wonderful walks together.

Iris Lyon Chairman of Community Groups.

Squirrels Pre-school



Firstly, we would like to thank all the DP residents and the Trustees who have helped and supported Squirrels Pre-school over the last 12 months. We are delighted to say that we have remained open five days (in term time) a week throughout the two most recent 'lockdowns' providing DP residents and 'key workers' with Covid safe essential childcare and early years education.

Quality Early Years provision is considered by all educational experts to be one of the most significant ways to ensure that a child has the best start in life; the benefits have been proven to last a lifetime. At Squirrels we aspire to provide the very best environment for young children and are constantly investing in new equipment, staff and training in order to reach this goal. It is wonderful to see the number of children associated with DP (50%) going up as new younger families move onto the Park & current residents grandchildren enjoy the pre-school some of their parents attended not that many years ago.

We are hoping to have an Afternoon Tea fundraising event as soon as current restrictions are lifted so please keep an eye on your emails from the office for details. We would love to see lots of residents, hope to be able to show them around the setting (in small groups and wearing masks if guidelines state) so they can see how things have changed. We will be serving scones, tea and cake to raise some money for more improvements (our fundraising opportunities have been dramatically curtailed since March 2020).

Squirrels provides places for pre-school children from 2 yrs-5yrs old (priority will be given to children/grandchildren of DP residents). We currently have 18 children on roll and places for September 2021 are limited; please contact the Manager ASAP if you have a pre-school child requiring a place.

The Squirrels team look forward to seeing you all very soon. Please make any enquiries to the contacts below:

Email: squirrelsprechooldp@gmail.com

Tel. 01606 888782

Mah Jongg



Hopeful that it won't now be too long before we can finally get together and resume our brilliant game. Although we could technically resume, seated outside the Clubhouse, this is far from a desirable option. Be patient, those Dragons, Winds and Jokers will soon be released from hiding and be with us.

Contact: **01606 889665**

Update from the Events Group



As yet another newsletter comes around we are reminded that, "Hope springs eternal". Let us however trust that lockdowns don't.

Once again we find ourselves in the situation of not being able to announce any plans for the coming months. Until there is complete certainty on when this lockdown ends – and with it all restrictions requiring mask-wearing, social distancing and restricted attendances – it is difficult to make concrete plans.

However, as we said last time, as soon as circumstances allow us to, we will be more than happy to give you news of any events we are able to mount and to welcome you at them.

Email: events@delamerepark.co.uk

Delamere Park Singers



Anne and myself are really excited and very much looking forward to seeing you all again. We hope everyone has their singing voices in gear as we get together. Delamere Park Singers will meet on **Wednesday, 7th July**, in the Park Room, 10.30am to 11.30am.

It has been a great sadness to us that over the past 16 months we have been unable to sing for ourselves and for others. Let us try to remedy this.

Anne and I welcome you all, past, present and new members – SEE YOU SOON.

Barbara Smith - 01606 888844

Iyengar Yoga



Due to restrictions on the number of people who can safely exercise in the Park Room at the moment, Yoga sessions are fully subscribed.

For further enquiries, please email: yoga@delamerepark.co.uk

News Team postscript ...

Dear Residents, the newsletter gives us all the opportunity to communicate with each other. If you have anything you wish to include in the next newsletter (Autumn) the deadline is Friday 13th August 2021.

Please contact Ella or Elizabeth via email to: news@delamerepark.co.uk