



### Hedgehogs on the Park

Have you seen any hedgehogs on Delamere Park?

Hopefully many of you will answer 'yes', as we are fortunate to have some of these lovely animals living amongst us. They have been quite active during the last month or so, feeding themselves up as they prepare for hibernation until next spring.

Hedgehogs can travel long distances each night in their search for food. Those that have been seen in The Dell for example could possibly be the same ones seen around Long Acre.

The weather has been quite mild recently (mid-November as I write this) and not really cold enough to trigger hibernation, so keep an eye out, you may still spot one or two around at night.

When it does get colder, hopefully they'll all be safely tucked up in their winter nest, a leaf-lined chamber they will have made in a quiet place such as an overgrown shrubbery with ground ivy / undergrowth, or in a pile of discarded branches or logs – what we humans might call an untidy area! Perhaps you've bought a pre-made hedgehog box and put it in your garden, or even made one yourself – well done you!

But did you know that hibernation is not continuous? Occasionally a hedgehog may wake up in the winter for a short time and may go wandering, possibly in search of food. There won't be many slugs about so if you do see one you could put a small bowl of cat food out, ideally in a place where cats can't get at it!



Hedgehogs are in severe decline, however, and in July this year hedgehogs were officially classified as 'vulnerable to extinction' in the Red List for British Mammals. One of the reasons is loss of habitat – they need undisturbed shrubbery, undergrowth, piles of branches and logs; places where they can rummage and forage for food, corridors to enable them to travel safely from place to place, and places to hibernate.

Places such as this already exist on the Park and we should aim to protect them by adopting appropriate gardening practices. There are so many simple things we could all do in our gardens that would benefit our lovely co-residents. At this time of year, the best thing is NOT to be tidy and leave undergrowth undisturbed – hedgehogs need plenty of leaves and brash!

If you are interested in helping hedgehogs thrive on Delamere Park, here's one website where you can find out more: <https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/ho-w-help-hedgehogs>

And if you wish to share news about your hedgehog sightings, please send an email to: [parkhogs@gmail.com](mailto:parkhogs@gmail.com)

I'll post an update in the March Newsletter.

Ken Blakemore



### Message from Santa Claus ...

**Ho! Ho! Oh Dear!!**

Sadly, due to COVID-19, Santa Claus, the Delamere Forest 41 Club Elves and Sleigh will not be able to visit Delamere Park this year to see all the children in advance of Christmas but will be keeping busy and safe in "lockdown" to make sure that all the presents are delivered to good girls and boys on Christmas Eve.

Should anyone wish to make their Christmas donation, to be distributed to the local charities of St Luke's and the Joshua Tree in lieu of our door collections, they can do so remotely and safely, by using BACS with the following details:

<b>Account:</b> Delamere Forest 41 Club	<b>Bank:</b> Santander
<b>Sort Code:</b> 09 01 53	<b>Account Number:</b> 48145489
<b>Reference:</b> "Charities"	

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

**Santa & the Delamere Forest 41 Club Elves**

### Events Group

Since the last newsletter we have been able to successfully host two events and facilitate a third.

On Sunday 6th September a number of residents gave a lot of time and energy to create their entries in the **Scarecrow Trail**. The standard of imagination and execution was amazing and you will see the results in the photograph below. Many thanks to everyone who took part and who attended.

The weather on the day was brilliant and it was heartening to see so many families walk around the trail and meet afterwards for a BBQ takeaway and drinks outside the Clubhouse, it almost felt normal.

There was a huge number of entries for the **Pumpkin Trail** and these kept coming in right up to the day the trail map was published. Again many thanks to everyone who participated in dressing their gardens and house-fronts and to the families who walked around with their children collecting treats as they went. Hopefully next year the children will be able to say "Trick or Treat" once more.

On Tuesday 3rd November we had a **Film Night** at which we screened **Knives Out**, an ever-so-slightly tongue in cheek homage to the classic whodunits of Agatha Christie. The evening went without a hitch, everyone was seated at socially distanced tables, the Bar provided table service and those who attended seemed to enjoy the evening very much.

We hope to, at the very least, show some more films as soon as restrictions are eased. When we are able to we will let you know.

As always, keep well and safe.

The Events Group

email: [events@delamerepark.co.uk](mailto:events@delamerepark.co.uk)



Theme: "CARTOON CHARACTERS"

### News from the Trustees

Dear Resident,

We hope you are staying safe and well during this lockdown. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you if you need any help please do not hesitate to contact the office who have a list of volunteers who may be able to offer assistance.

Just in case you missed the previous announcement the winners of the Fitzsimmons Trophy for 2020 were Isobel Nicholson and Marjorie Ruchat for looking after the flowers beds around The Park on a regular basis.

You may have noticed the Lagoons which are looking fantastic as the Gardeners have been planting shrubs in this area and will be planting elsewhere on the Park.

One of the biggest annual tasks for the gardening team is the collection of autumn leaf fall, which is substantial on an estate like ours. Aidan & Chris have done a fantastic job this year with the aid of a new piece of kit, a large commercial leaf 'hoover'. Unfortunately, it has broken down twice recently which has caused a delay in clearing away the large leaf piles the guys create ready for 'hoovering' up. Even if these leaf piles are left for a few days they will always be cleared away.

NB CWAC are responsible for clearing the road gutters, although in the course of their work Aidan & Chris often clear them of leaf fall. We have sent a request to CWAC to come out and clear the road gutters; please feel free to send in your own request for them to do so, then maybe they'll come out before Christmas.

Tree surgeons have been in the Park felling dead or diseased trees and will be back for two days in December to do more tree work. We realise that such work is noisy for Residents who live near to where the work is being carried out, however the work is years overdue and a necessary task on an estate like ours. New trees will be planted in 2021 to replace those which have been removed.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

The Trustees



### DPML Useful Contacts

#### Office Hours

Monday to Friday 10am – 5pm

email: [office@delamerepark.co.uk](mailto:office@delamerepark.co.uk)

Tel: 01606 - 212523

#### Property Changes:

email: [property@delamerepark.co.uk](mailto:property@delamerepark.co.uk)

#### Trustees:

email: [trustees@delamerepark.co.uk](mailto:trustees@delamerepark.co.uk)

### Coffee Mornings

We send you all our very best wishes for this unusual Christmas period, and look forward to resuming our Coffee Mornings as soon as we can.

Keep well. Maria and Paul (889728).



## Delamere Park Singers



Over the past few months, we have all tried to keep in touch with at least one member of our singing group, via email, telephone calls, perhaps a short walk with another member.

We have all been saddened by the fact that all our concerts have had to be cancelled and none more so now by the fact that **there will be no Carol Service on Delamere Park this year.** We encourage you all to sing your favourite carols in your own homes.

One of our Singers, Margaret Denton, is arranging for us to have a Christmas sing-along via Zoom. We hope 7 or 8 of us will take part in this, we will not be able to hear each other but at least we might see a few smiling faces.

Anne, myself and all the Delamere Park Singers wish everyone on Delamere Park, a peaceful, happy Christmas whatever the circumstances may be and look forward to singing again in 2021.

Barbara Smith

## Park PALs



Delamere Park has looked its best during the autumn months. Carpets of red and gold leaves, thousands of acorns crunching underfoot, red mushrooms peeping out and scurrying squirrels have brightened up lockdown.

We appreciated the few weeks when we could use the pool, the tennis courts and bar, but of necessity, our group has gone underground in this latest lockdown. We have been by no means idle and look out for each other.

We congratulate member Isobel Nicholson, who is a joint winner of this year's Fitzsimmons Trophy for tending the communal gardens.

Contacts are maintained at a distance on our walks, our composer of odes has kept up our spirits and every Friday there is a Zoom meeting where news and updates are exchanged. Covid has brought us together.

With the news of a vaccine the cloud is lifting and we look forward to the new 'normal' when we can all meet as before.

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

## PET DOGS ON THE PARK (Part 2)

As most of us are aware, since Covid and the Lockdowns there has been an explosion of people wanting to buy dogs especially puppies for companionship. This has certainly been the case on the Park where there are now considerably more doggie residents. Many of these owners and their well loved dogs can be found assembling on the Green for fun and chats around 9.30a.m. most mornings. A picture depicts just a few of them and I have included some more individual histories.



**NOODLE** is a Cairn Terrier, 2 years of age. He was rehomed from a farm in Wales by *Danussia*. When she got him, he had never been on a lead, had no bed and didn't even know how to play. He was very hesitant when meeting other dogs. Now this lucky dog has two pet beds, one upstairs and one downstairs. He has a furry toy elephant with which he curls up with in bed. He can now walk on a lead and has all the love in the world.

New residents to the Park are *Mike and Jacky*. They are keen on Motor Cycle racing. They have two Boxer dogs who are litter brothers from consecutive litters. Naturally they are named after motorbike racers **FOGGY** 15 months and **CASEY** 8 months. **FOGGY** has a tail but **CASEY** not, known as a bobtail. These lucky two are fed on chicken and kidneys. They do have toys but always want what the other one has got.

*Christine and Keith* have just acquired a new puppy having been several years without a dog. **FREDDIE** is a five and a half month old Border Collie. His favourite food is just everything. I am advised he is just food orientated, this boy even has a dog dummy. Yet another lucky dog who has landed on his feet.

Now *Dave and Jayne* have two Rough Collies, **BAXTER** a 12 ½ year old male and **KIRI** a 3 year old bitch. When *Dave and Jayne* first came to live on the Park, **BAXTER** would find a hole in the fence and take himself off for a walk. He was a real escape artist. This gap was quickly filled in! As a youngster he would love to dribble a ball almost like a footballer. He is a quiet easy going character as most of his breed are. **KIRI** is a different kettle of fish. She is a another rescue dog who had been owned by an old couple whose health problems meant that they couldn't look after her properly. When she was collected, she was in a poor state, had never been walked, had no collar and was terrified of everything. Now she has overcome all her fears with the help of **BAXTER** and loves to chase any squirrels she sees. Between them they have a whole box of toys and just dib in and help themselves when the playing mood takes them.

**MILLY** is a 5 ½ year old standard Poodle owned by *Isobel*. She is very elegant and ladylike. She has a sister called **MABEL** who sometimes comes to visit with her. **MILLY** practically lives in the car, when taken out for rides by her owner she refuses to get out when she returns home and just sits there.

My own dog is a 7 year old white Samoyed bitch called **HOPE**. She was recently diagnosed with diabetes and has gone partially blind. However, she is fine and can still run and find her way about.

Did you know that Boris Johnson and Joe Biden also share a love of dogs? Both Boris and Joe Biden own a rescue dog. It is a known fact that owning a pet provides a reason to get up in a morning and aids both mental and physical health.

Finally just a plea for all dog owners around the Park to pick up on poo as sadly this is not always the case.

Pam Taylor



Remember, we are here for you if anyone needs help, and really looking forward to welcoming new members and reuniting with old friends next year.

An enjoyable programme is in place with our usual mix of fun, frivolity, culture and frolics so do join us.

Contact Patsy Chuter 889140 / ladies@delamerepark.co.uk

## Mah - Jongg

*Oh what a dull day  
For Mah Jongg we are still unable to play*

This game is rumoured to be 2,500 years old, however the real history is shrouded in mystery. It is thought to have originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in certain provinces near Shanghai where there are to be found links between the traditional rules of Mah Jongg and another popular game Mah-tige (hanging horse) as this game uses a similar set of tiles.

It is more popular than Chess in China. The original tiles were made of ivory, now they are largely made of wood. In the 1920's the British and Americans in China enjoyed playing this game and the rules evolved again. This was because the existing game was a little bit difficult for Westerners.

Living in Shanghai at this time was an American gentleman by the name of Babcock. He began exporting sets back to the United States. The copyright was sold and rules altered to suit the American market.

In the 1940's Mah Jongg was banned in China after the Communist revolution as it was seen as a pastime of the bourgeoisie. During this period, players were even arrested if found to be playing. This ban was finally lifted in 1985.

Here on the Park we play the American version with Jokers. This is because it was introduced to some of the present Mah Jongg Club Members by Nikki and Lester Bowman who had previously lived in America. At that time the Community Group granted Nikki a loan which enabled her to purchase four Mah Jongg sets from the USA. This money was eventually repaid by the Mah Jongg Group.

Today Mah Jongg is a favourite game played around the world.

## Gardening Club

Now the winter season draws near and the abundance of summer is a memory, even though the giant Cosmos are still flowering and the mild weather is still with us, the Gardening Club is unfortunately in lockdown and our social interaction is limited.

We must, however, look towards a new season so that we can fully reap the benefits of our own gardens.

In the meantime we can still enjoy the beautiful surroundings in which we all live.

I hope we will be able to enjoy some Christmas cheer and look forward to a brighter New Year.

Mike McNeal

Contact Gardening Club - Email:  
[garden@delamerepark.co.uk](mailto:garden@delamerepark.co.uk)





### Squirrels Pre-School Delamere Park



'The Lodge'  
59 Delamere Parkway West  
Delamere Park  
Cuddington

Tel. 01606888782  
Mob. 07873881622  
[squirrels@delamerepark.co.uk](mailto:squirrels@delamerepark.co.uk)  
Facebook: 'Delamere Park Squirrels'

**We have places available for  
2, 3 & 4 year olds from  
January 2021**

Open 5 days a week 39 weeks a year (Term Time)  
Monday & Friday 9am-3pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
8.30am-3.30pm (Breakfast included from 8.30 am)

'Squirrels' is a small pre-school (max 20 children) providing a safe, friendly, stimulating environment in which every child is encouraged to be happy, confident & caring whilst experiencing a wide variety of early years learning opportunities.



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 (Spring) the deadline is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Please contact Ella or Elizabeth via email to: [news@delamerepark.co.uk](mailto:news@delamerepark.co.uk)

Seasons Greetings from your Newsletter team