

Hedgehogs on the Park

Hello again! I hope you are all doing well and keeping safe.

First of all, a big 'thank you' to all those residents who have been in touch after the last Newsletter, telling me about hedgehogs they have seen on the Park. It is really interesting to hear about your sightings.



Although at the time of writing (mid-February) we are in the grip of a big freeze-up, it was rather mild for a few days towards the end of January, and I received several reports of hedgehogs seen around that time.

One of the sightings was by my wife who was alerted by the PIR light in our back garden being set off - unfortunately I didn't see it. Another was by a neighbour, who spotted one in her back garden mooching around a pile of logs.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, hibernation is not a continuous process, so it seems that the mild spell stirred some hogs to wake up temporarily. Well done to you if you've spotted one and have put some food out!

Also, a sad story: residents found a very small hedgehog out in daylight - a bad sign anyway as they are, of course, nocturnal. They took it to an animal rescue centre, but it was found to be infested with parasites and unfortunately died. It was reckoned to have come from a late autumn birth and hadn't reached the 600 grams minimum weight needed to have a chance of surviving the winter.

Back in November, my wife discovered inadvertently that a hedgehog had decided to hibernate in our back garden. Not in the wooden box under a pile of logs that we built years ago, but by digging a hole in the soil under the yew hedge and covering itself with leaves! Hopefully, it will survive the winter and emerge in the spring (a bit like all of us after lockdown!).

At the end of hibernation hedgehogs' fat reserves are nearly all exhausted. Come mild nights in March they will begin to emerge, seeking to feed up and replace their lost body weight. They'll be looking for slugs, worms and invertebrates like earwigs and millipedes, and these creatures live in piles of old leaves, stacks of logs and patches of long grass.

We can all do a little bit to help hedgehogs at this time, and the best tip is don't be too tidy in your garden and 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 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 June Newsletter.

'Lockdown in the Park'

**Most of our "oldies" have now received their vaccination jabs
Many of these made in Astra Zeneca labs**

**As folks go out for their daily walk
Comparing after effects of the vaccine is all the talk**

**Goodness some of our footpaths have now been mended
By men in yellow high viz jackets they have been tended**

**They are even going to repair the holes in the road
Chalked pink crosses in places with their own special code**

**We are all missing our activities at the Club
But especially not being able to go to the Pub**

**Some have family meetings on Zoom
Amazing to see people in their own sitting room**

**Some of us have even chosen to bake
Margaret's ginger biscuit recipe or a lovely cream cake**

**Kind volunteers help with shopping or it's done on line
Making a list and not forgetting the wine**

**Radio 2 is changing and seems to have gone "woke"
Especially annoying for us "Wogan type" folk**

**We've all been greatly amused by a Parish Council Meeting
With such abrasive characters and no polite greeting**

**Daffodils and snowdrops are now showing their heads
As they reach up from their frost free beds**

**At last we are moving out of winter and can look forward to the spring
The thought of sunshine and warm weather is enough to make our hearts sing**

So let us remember what Captain Tom did say.....Tomorrow will be a good day.



Message from the Events Group



Happy Thought!



*The world is so full of a number of things
And I think that we should all be as happy as kings*

(Robert Louis Stevenson - A Child's Garden of Verses - Poem XXIV)

As you read this we will have been in one or other form of lockdown for almost a year. No doubt for many of us it will have been a somewhat joyless year of restricted and constricted existence. Amidst the almost unrelenting doom and gloom that has bombarded us for much of these past 12 months (vaccine news aside), it is perhaps worth a moment to pause and consider the simple truth in the above tiny poem.

We have all had to make sacrifices and to change plans to help in the effort to get us to this point and possibly there will be more expected of us yet.

The Events Group would love to be able to say that we will be doing this or that event in the coming months but with the situation as it stands it is currently impossible to plan anything. Rest assured, however, that we are full of hope and ideas.

As soon as circumstances allow, we will be delighted to let you know about any events we are able to mount. And believe us when we say we will be more than delighted to see you there supporting them.

The 1970's folk-singer Bridget St. John took the little poem that appears at the top of this note and she used it as the opening lines to her song Fly High. That song concludes with the following two lines:

*So please remember all you have and not what you might lose
It isn't always easy, but it's better when you do ...*

Please keep well and we hope to see you sometime this year.

The Events Group

email: events@delamerepark.co.uk



News from the Trustees

Dear Resident,

We hope this Newsletter finds you in good health and spirits and free from Covid.

When we submitted our item for this newsletter, unfortunately it was too long for the space reserved so we have decided to issue it as a Trustee Update which will be issued at the same time as this Newsletter.

Regards,
The Trustees



DPML Useful Contacts

Office Hours

Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm

email: office@delamerepark.co.uk

Tel: 01606 - 212523

Property Changes:

email: property@delamerepark.co.uk

Trustees:

email: trustees@delamerepark.co.uk

Green Bin Collection

According to the CWAC website, they will resume Green Waste collection for Cheshire at the beginning of March, this will mean the next green bin collection for Delamere Park is scheduled for:

Friday 12th March.

CWAC are currently looking into all waste collection services, and are planning to make significant changes, residents have the opportunity to have their say on the options being considered. To do this logon to the CWAC website using the link:

<https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/waste-strategy-consultation>

The deadline to submit your comments is Thursday 18th March.

Sandiway Surgery - Danebridge update on focus groups

FAO: Residents who are registered with Sandiway Surgery.

Danebridge have just informed us that they intend to hold the Focus Groups for the Closure of Sandiway in the 2nd week of March, no further details as yet, but The Residents Group have been concerned at the low level of volunteers that offered to participate previously.

If you would like to attend, please contact Danebridge directly, then you should receive the details. Previously they intended to hold them at lunchtime and virtually (Zoom or similar).

Email: danebridge.surgery@nhs.net

SAVE OUR SURGERY IS VITAL FOR DELAMERE PARK PATIENTS OTHERWISE ANOTHER INFRASTRUCTURE IS LOST.

Coffee Mornings

Can we see light at the end of the tunnel? We certainly hope so, and look forward to resuming on the first Thursday of each month (10.30 to 12.00) as soon as we are able.

Keep well.
Maria and Paul (889728).



Ballroom Dancing



Just a reminder that we are still hoping to hold our beginners adult ballroom dance class when permitted to do so, albeit we might have to put certain protocols in place to make it work. Hopefully learning to dance will lift people's spirits.

Park PALs

Christmas for most of us was a subdued affair and we especially appreciated the outdoor decorations of homes on the Park.

We know Spring is coming – the birds are busy in the nest boxes, their twittering waking us in the morning and the days are longer. Our writer of odes keeps spirits up.



There is a Zoom meeting every Friday and usually a quiz. We exchange news, the main topic of conversation being the vaccinations carried out at Kingsmead, which gives us some hope of the lockdown being relaxed soon. It will be wonderful to have the Clubhouse open and the tennis courts and swimming pool back in use. Meanwhile we carry on with our walks, meeting friends at a distance and appreciating our surroundings.

We look forward to the new 'normal' when we can all get together again.

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

Squirrels Pre-school



'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.

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 9:00am – 3:00pm

Tues, Wed & Thurs 8.30am – 3:30pm
(Breakfast included from 8.30 am)

Email: squirrelsprechooldp@gmail.com

Tel. 01606 888782,
Mob: 07873 881622

Facebook: 'Delamere Park Squirrels'



Hi everyone,

The wonder has started again. All of a sudden it's there and it's lovely. We have been locked down and unable to go anywhere as has this lovely flower. It has been locked in the ground for a whole year and now the wonder begins a new cycle of life.

The white snowdrops followed by the dazzling yellow of daffodils are giving us their show of colour above ground again. Winter is drawing to a close and I'm sure you are all looking to get out into the garden again for barbeques, parties, games or whatever you do in your garden even if it's just relaxing in a chair with a nice cold drink.

If you sow seeds yourself then very soon will be time to start sowing, but beware of late frosts and snow, keep any seeds warm and cosy somewhere indoors while they establish themselves.

Hyacinths, Amaryllis and various house plants will be coming into flower and everything is looking set for the new year ahead.

Gardening Club will hopefully get started again later in the year with enrolment and some long awaited meetings in the Clubhouse.

Can we have a **Garden Safari 2021?** Hopefully for a Sunday later in the year.

What we need now is for some volunteers to open their garden.

All of the time spent in the gardens over the last year means we hopefully have some volunteers.

Please let us know as soon as possible so this event can continue,
email: garden@delamerepark.co.uk

Each year, the proceeds from program sales are donated to the charities nominated by the garden hosts..

Contact Gardening Club through David Cooper Email: garden@delamerepark.co.uk or Mike McNeal through reception for further information.

Happy gardening



Save our Garden Birds!



Message from concerned resident:

Please will you publicise these photographs of a nest found in the usual spot in the hedge.

We encourage our blackbirds and other songbirds every year trying to protect them from predator cats, magpies and squirrels but this is horrific.

The blackbird has collected various forms of plastic to make its nest not from our garden or recycling but from around the Park

Please could all residents be careful of allowing plastic to blow around or escape and could we all if we see litter even if it is not our own ,
(Anon) **** PICK IT UP AND BIN IT ****

News from Ladies' Club

Let me start Ladies by wishing you all a little over due, Happy New Year. The committee and myself can't wait until we can all be together again. We have come a long way since this time last year and even though we could never have foreseen what was coming, it has been wonderful to see how you all have coped and the amazing community spirit that has grown within the Park.

People have been helping and supporting one another in many different ways. I know a number of you have started keeping in touch using a variety of different ways including WhatsApp and Zoom and participate in things like online Quizzes and Bridge, what a versatile community we have become.

It has been very sad that we have had to cancel our Ladies Group meetings and last year's summer outing to Half Penny Green Wine Estate, Judy has rebooked it for this summer, so all being well we'll be able to spend a wonderful day together.

Once again I would like to congratulate you all for your amazing resilience, which helps us all to get through these awful times.

We must never forget the work of our NHS staff and all key workers for their endless hours of work to ensure and safeguard our health and well-being. Stay safe dear friends and members and we look forward to seeing us all back together soon. x

Patsy and all the Ladies Group Committee

For information about the Ladies' Club:

phone Patsy on 889140

email ladies@delamerepark.co.uk



Mah Jongg



Members of this small Group are all looking forward to getting back together and being able to play our favourite game.

Some of us are beginning to think we will have forgotten how to play. However Paul has designed our 2021 format rules so we now live in hope.

Interested? Contact: 01606 889665



The Art+Crafts Club has only run for 12 months during 2019 before sadly being shut down by the Covid-19 virus.

About a dozen enthusiasts, had faithfully come along, some just for a cup of tea and a chat, most bringing knitting items, toys, crocheting, tapestry work, patchwork quilt, felting, special occasion cards and others trying their hand at drawing/watercolour painting.

During this last year you may have tried your hand at an art or craft, and those who came previously will have managed to carry on painting / crafting during lockdown.

We hope we can meet again later this year and you also would like to join us. It will be held on 2nd and 4th Friday of month from 11:30am - 1:30pm in the Park Room.

Help and advice may be available from others members of the group who already have some expertise.

We will advertise the restart so why not come along and tap into your creative side.

It will be FREE of Charge to any resident.

See you then!

Delamere Park Clubs

Hopefully restarting soon !

Socializing and Leisure

- Art & Crafts
- Book Club
- Ballroom Dancing
- Coffee Morning
- Gardening Club
- Indoor Bowls
- Ladies' Club
- Mah Jongg
- Singers
- Social – Plot Draw
- Social – Quiz Night
- Whist

Health, Fitness & Wellbeing

- Adult Swimming
- Children's Swimming Lessons
- Exercise Class – PureStretch
- Exercise Class – Circuits
- Mindfulness
- Squash - Men's team
- Squash – Ladies' team
- Squash – Junior Coaching
- Table Tennis
- Water Aerobics
- Yoga

For further details about any of the clubs or activities listed above, please contact Reception or check on the Delamere Park website: www.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 (Summer) the deadline is Friday 14th May 2021.

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