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Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park

A first for Exeter
Come and be part of it!
Sunday April 29th

Ludwell Life are proud to be supporting Devon Wildlife Trust's landmark event.

We will have a stall in the community orchard - come and say hello

Discover amazing wildlife



at your local
Valley Park

#citynaturechallenge



Devon
Wildlife Trust

City Nature Challenge

Ludwell Valley Park

Sun 29th April, 10am - 3pm

Nearest entrance: Pynes Hill road between Redrow offices (Metrose House) and Aston Court offices.



Help us find and seek as much wildlife as we can! Everyone is welcome to come and discover the amazing wildlife that lives on our doorsteps.

Wild challenges, crafts, games, interesting trails and wild garden ideas

Bug hunting | Reptiles | Small Mammals | Tree Trail | Bird Spotting



@DevonWildlife



/DevonWildlifeTrust

www.devonwildlifetrust.org/whats-on



Orchards past and present

Thinking about the new community orchard, it is actually continuing in a long tradition for Ludwell Valley. This has been a fruit and flower growing area in the past.

There used to be an apple orchard on the land on the east bank of the Northbrook - where Woodwater Lane playground is now. The trees in the old Cherry Orchard are over 100 years old - maybe as old as 115 years, which is a very good age for fruit trees. Much more recently the City Council planted 20 or so cherry trees in the field on the corner of Ludwell Lane. This was the field that up until 20 years ago was full of old railway carriages, gates and vicious dogs; the field where pigs used to be kept by Bernard "Tiger" Hooper.

And now, in 2018, the community orchard is starting to take shape on the other side of the park.

Similarly, the fields that come alive with wonderful wild flowers early every summer - cornflowers, corn poppies and marigolds. If you could go back a hundred years, you would see much of the valley covered with carpets of daffodils. This was because the family who owned much of the valley until the 1930s, the Richardsons, ran a commercial flower growing business - daffodils and other flowers for the London markets. (They also owned the old Country House Inn on Topsham Road, now demolished and replaced with a row of four very modern houses).

So, nothing is new, but isn't it great to follow in the traditions of the past to make our Valley Park a more and more special place?

Laurie



Be a Friend!

Ludwell Life is an independent community group, formed by local residents to protect and improve Ludwell Valley Park for people and for wildlife. We receive no funding, but have organised many conservation tasks, worked with local schools and organisations and secured over £3000 in grant funding - much of that for the new community orchard. Getting more money into our bank account means that we can do more for the valley park - and there is so much that could be done to improve habitats, paths and information.

We have a Friends scheme - just £8/year for an individual - that provides valuable extra money. Please consider becoming a Friend of Ludwell Life - it takes seconds to sign up on line [here](#) using Paypal, BACS or a credit card, or you can do it by post if you prefer.

Thanks so much to those of you who signed up as Friends after reading our March newsletter. Those subscriptions have paid for us to renew our public liability insurance which enables us to run conservation and litter picking tasks, with the security of cover should anything go wrong.



Mud, mud, glorious mud?

Our valley park is suffering from the heavy rainfall of this winter, with many paths frankly impassable. A Ludwell Life supporter asked us about what could be done, and we have had a cheering response from Chris Moulton at Exeter City Council.

"The past winter has been extremely wet with some of the highest rainfall ever recorded for this time of the year in the Devon area and so the ground never really had time to recover following the departure of the cattle last October.

The Countryside Service this financial year are planning to increase the amount of work and capital spent on this issue and so more stoning / footpath construction will be carried out around the valley park than in recent years. A substantial amount of this work will be carried out this summer while the ground is dry and so digging machinery can easily be taken onto the fields, in preparation for next winter.

I cannot promise that the amount of work planned this year will completely solve the muddy issue, which will always require maintenance, but I will target the worst sections and hopefully improve the situation for all the people who use and enjoy the valley park for later in the season."

Logging Ludwell Wildlife

We receive regular news on wildlife sightings, through Facebook and Twitter - thanks to the people who contribute these.

We want to encourage more of you to share your wildlife sightings and have created a new wildlife log page on our website <http://ludwelllife.org.uk/wildlife-log/>.

Whilst the page is currently looking rather underwhelming, we hope that as you start to share your news and hopefully pictures of what you have seen, the page will become not only an attractive page to educate and inspire, but also a valuable resource for Devon Wildlife Trust and others.

Below is a picture, taken in Ludwell Valley Park, of the delightful fungus, Scarlet Elf Cup - thought so special that Devon Wildlife Trust encouraged people to visit a reserve to see it! And a sparrowhawk, (not this one) seen in a garden a few hundred metres from the park a few days ago. Plus chiffchaff, heard a week or so ago, and a redwing, spotted during the snow in the valley park.



A big thank you to Wynstream School pupils, Mrs Redmond their outdoor education teacher, and to Signs Express who squeezed an extra litter poster out of the budget. Thanks also to the Priory Ward Councillors who secured the grant to pay for the posters. These eye-catching posters are now around Wonford playing fields, though sadly, one has already been vandalised.

DO NOT  Litter!



! STOP !



What a load of rubbish!

A really keen team of adults and kids turned out on a damp Easter Friday to gather up huge amounts of dumped rubbish and litter along Wonford Playing Fields and the Panny path. It was lovely to see children having a such a good time - a positive result from the very sad levels of littering that are a regular feature of the playing fields.

We hope that our new anti-littering posters, produced by the kids at Wynstream Primary, might make a few people stop and think before they dump their stuff.

Thanks as always to Louise & her team at Cleansing, who came to pick up the rubbish piles we let for them.



Ludwell Life is an independent community group, set up to protect and enhance Ludwell Valley Park
Our mailing address is:

50 Well Oak Park, EX2 5BB

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