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Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park

April 2021 Newsletter

Spring arrived and the valley is looking beautiful, as some of the great photos people have been posting on Facebook show. Even if just now we are back to frost and Artic winds! But the main focus of this newsletter is wildlife. With, sadly, a piece about the problem with litter and damage. There is a reminder about the consultation on the future of Northbrook, and finally, the story of Pynes Hill Farm...

Favourite Photos for April

We are completely spoilt for choice this month!

But here's selection with thanks to Sarah Thomas, John Cook, Mark Gawthorne and Jane Turnbull for sharing these images.



A Quiz

Can you identify these four insects? And one mammal? Some easier than others...

Extra points for the names of any of the flowers the insects are feeding on - and bonus points for any Latin names!!!

Answers at the end of the newsletter

Thank you to Tasha James and to Phil Wright for the photos





Northbrook Approach

You may well already know about this, but the City Council and Devon Wildlife Trust are running a consultation on the future of the old pitch and putt golf course. The ideas sound really exciting and would create a green space which would act as a wildlife, and human, corridor between Ludwell Valley and Riverside. If you haven't already done so, do have a look and add your views.

You can give your feedback via the City Council website at: <https://exeter.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-and-petitions/northbrook-approach-consultation/> where there is lots of information, including a short film we contributed to.

The consultation runs until **3rd May**



Why?



Why?

Litter

Thank you to the people who responded to the request we put on Facebook to take a bag with them over Easter and pick up litter. And an especial thank you to those of you we know do this regularly. It isn't peasant to think how the Valley would look without you. Maybe it is something we all could do, although it is very disheartening to come across scattered plastic and debris. It is also of course dangerous for wildlife. And dogs.

These photos show the debris just one couple picked up at the top of Roly Poly Hill. What is the answer?



Pynes Hill Farm

If you pause at the bottom of the old Cherry Orchard, in the field marked on the map as 3 Acres, underneath your feet are the remains of a farm, Pynes Hill Farm. Now there are only a few scattered bits of rubble, humps in the ground and the granite gateposts to the entrance from Ludwell Lane. But the farm was here for many years and owned most of the fields in the Valley. In 1843 it was owned by the Rev William Arundell, rector of Cheriton Fitzpaine, and rented out to Samuel Melhuish. But 99 years later, on the night of 5th May 1942, German bombers attacked Exeter. One stray bomb fell on the farm. It was probably never repaired; the owner sold it soon after to the City Council, together with the right to the bomb damage compensation, and at some point it was demolished.

Quiz Answers

1. Small white butterfly (Pieris Rapae) on celandine
2. Gatekeeper (Pyronia tithonus)
3. Peacock (Aglais io)
4. Red tailed bumblebee (Bombus Lapidarius) on cornflower.
5. Brown rat (in the Panny). We hoped it was a water rat, but probably not!

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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