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# Ludwell Life

Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...  
Ludwell Valley Park



## April 2022 Newsletter

Well, we held our first ever Friends meeting on Friday, which we'll report on in this newsletter. Also, more on Ludwell Life's volunteer award from DWT. As everything greens and comes back to life, new noticeboards, fields readied for wildflower planting, a reminder that the cattle will be back in the park this month, the scrape coming to life and a look at how the laid hedges are doing. A response to

a reader's question: "Who are the Steering Group?" and the first in what we hope will be a regular feature, 'Why I Love Ludwell'.

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## **Friends Evening, 8th April**

No photos to share, but 29 of us, Friends and the Steering Group, had a convivial evening at Countess Wear Village Hall last Friday to hear what Friends' subscriptions had been spent on, what Ludwell Life has achieved since it was formed in 2015 and to discuss where next. Lots of good ideas and suggestions to follow up!

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Matt Boydell, the Land Manager for DWT, sharing with us DWT's plans for the Valley, how they intend to increase biodiversity but also improve access for people, for us - and how they want to work with us, as partners.

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## DWT Volunteer Award

We reported on this award last newsletter, but here is a photo of our framed certificate - the only problem now is where to keep it! We did have the chance to share it with our Friends on Friday. There is a lovely piece about it on DWT's website, a citation as to why we won the award - do have a look, as it reflects on all of us who are involved with Ludwell Life, in whatever capacity. You can see the citation at: <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-action/volunteering-wildlife>

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## What's Happening in the Valley

Five things to mention:

1. Have you seen the new noticeboards? The old ones were getting rather sad, showing their age. We were able to have an input to the design of the new ones, so we hope you like them!
2. The fields have been ploughed up ready for wildflower seeding so that we will have our wonderful annual display in early summer.
3. The cattle are due this month - we're checking with DWT exactly when and will post the answer on Facebook as soon as we hear.
4. The scrape in Butchers Field: things are starting to happen! There are tadpoles hiding in the muddy water, dragonflies have been seen visiting already and the marsh marigolds we planted last autumn are making a bright display.
5. And remember how sad and mutilated some of the hedges looked after they were laid winter before last? Well, here are a couple of before and after photos to show how well they are responding to the treatment. Isn't nature wonderful?







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## Steering Group

So who are we? There are four of us - it was five until recently, so we'd love it if there is someone interested to join.

We work as team and all muck in together, but Andy Stapley leads on conservation; David Robertson on finance; Philippa Davies keeps us oldies in order and fills in the gaps; and I am Laurie Fentimen, leading on this newsletter and communications generally.

The person we've lost is Hannah, for whom work and family commitments became too much for her to stay on, although the last item in this newsletter is from her. Thank you Hannah.

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## Why I Love Ludwell

Each month, we want to share stories from our followers entitled 'Why I love Ludwell'. It's a chance to, well, share why you love Ludwell with others! If you'd like to contribute a piece, please contact us: [ludwelllife@gmail.com](mailto:ludwelllife@gmail.com). Do think about it.

This month, Hannah tells us why she loves Ludwell:

"When we were thrown into the pandemic and a daily walk became our daily escape, I realised how much I relied on, and valued Ludwell Valley Park. Northbrook had been my stomping ground during my maternity leave, where we would take walks around the brook to attempt to lull our son into asleep, now it was Ludwell's turn to look after us!

I live just around the corner, around a 5-minute walk to the park. I ventured into Ludwell during my lunch breaks to get some much needed time away from my desk. Getting up the hill was my challenge for the day, to see if I could do it a bit quicker than the day before and to get my heart beating a bit. One day I was

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lucky enough to see a Kestrel hovering over the field, with eager eyes on its prey. Another day I witnessed a Buzzard fly down and grab a rabbit right in front of me, before it retired to one of the fence posts to tuck in! I am often “the fool on the hill” and use it as my perch to grab a moment to myself. I feel so incredibly lucky to live so close to a green space, the fields look different every day and I have come to cherish their positive impact on my mental health, as well as my family's. It also means my son can inspect the newly created bank - good news, it passed his audit! (as the photo above shows!)

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

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