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Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park

February 2021 Newsletter

We are still restrained by lockdown, so no conservation projects for us this winter, but DWT's contractors have been hard at work hedge laying - of which more in a moment - and it is great to see so many people and families walking and enjoying the Valley.

Signs of spring already, and some of my favourite photos from those you have posted on our Facebook group. Finally, the story of the medieval deer park...

Favourite Photos for February

With thanks to Dawn Colgan, Exe Nordic Walkers, Nicholas Seymour, Julie Bleasdale and Jane Martin for sharing these images.



Signs of Spring

All things must pass. There are plenty of signs in the Valley already. So much birdsong, with the song thrushes leading the chorus. Cherry trees budding, snowdrops, even good old stinging nettles making a start!



Hedge Laying

If you've walked in the Valley in recent weeks you cannot fail but to have noticed the apparently violent assault on many of the hedges. But of course it is hedge laying, a traditional approach used to thicken and strengthen hedges. (Even if it was done with chainsaws rather than billhooks!) The work is finished for this year, over 1,000 metres of hedging laid. It looks stark at the moment, but it is amazing how quickly the hedges regenerate and improve. They will become much more attractive to birds and other wildlife -and to us. Keep an eye on them this spring and summer - perhaps we should take photos from this same

spot in a few months time to see the difference?



Almost no conservation work possible this winter, but the Wildlife Trust has managed to plant these whips (young trees). Doesn't look like it was a fun job, with all that red mud!

They are in the space between the field with the pond and the new cherry orchard, in the area where the soil from the pond scraping was spread out



A Medieval Deer Park

Next time you walk along Pyne's Hill ridge, pause by this bench and look down

towards Lidl and just beyond to the right. There, in medieval times, was a moated manor house. You can see it on the old map below, marked as Wonford House. You are looking down across the two fields called Oak Close and Pine Close. And these two fields were the deer park for the manor! Down below where you are standing would have been a herd of deer, probably fallow deer, quietly grazing!



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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