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Ludwell Life

Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park



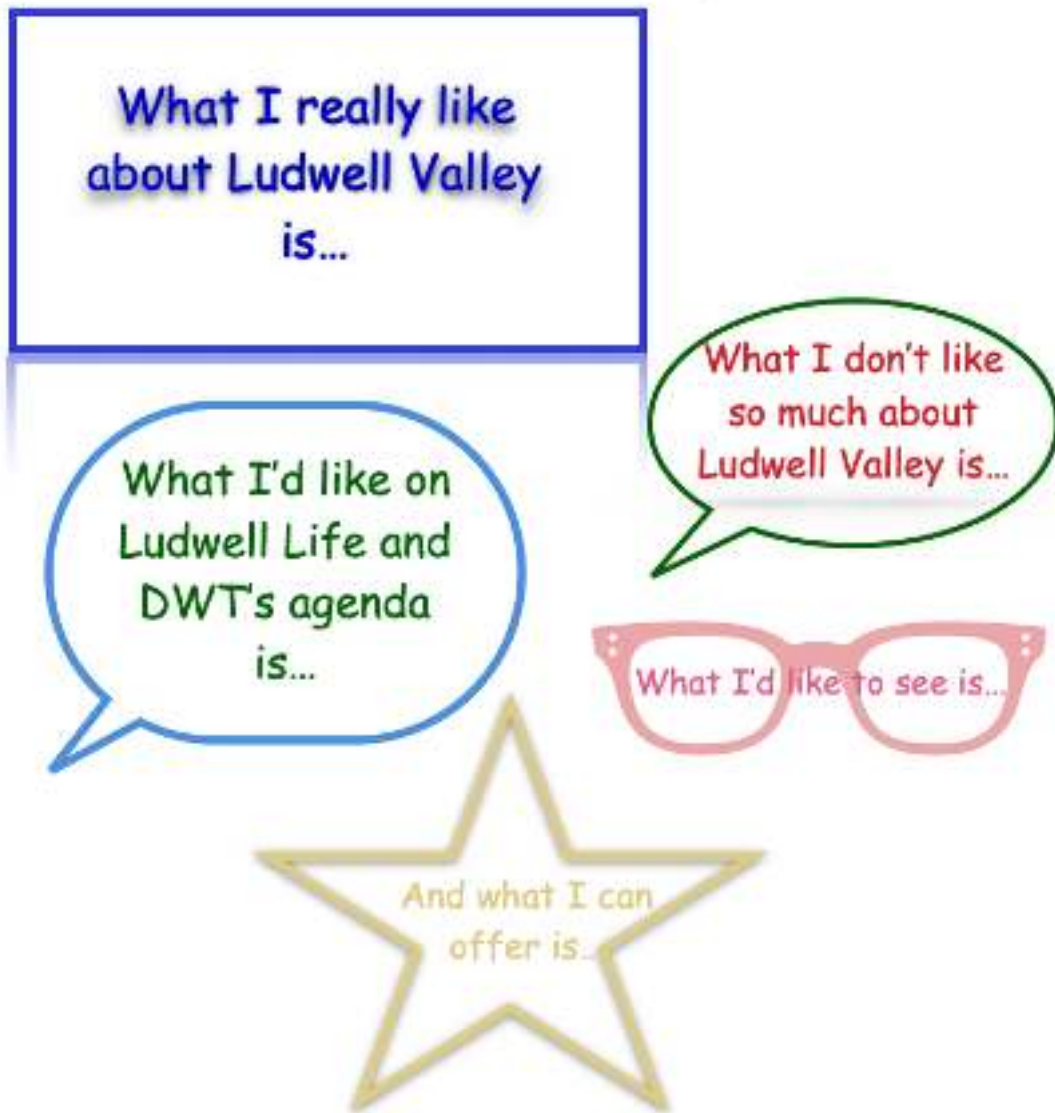
January 2024 Newsletter

And so into a new year... "*January, the first and oldest of the months*" (Martin Maudsley). The trees are bare, the paths may be just a little muddy (!) but now we have some beautiful frosty mornings - and evenings - to enjoy; the robins and blackbirds are more vocal; and the first bulbs are already starting to show.

We'd like to start this year by asking you for your views: what are the issues

you'd like addressed this year, what do you have to say about Ludwell Valley, what should we be saying to Devon Wildlife Trust? Then we have a piece about DWT's Youth Ranger scheme. Plus updates on the Community Orchard; the Ludwell Life Oak; and Northbrook.

Your Say!



Now that Devon Wildlife Trust is managing the park much more actively than was the case in the past, Ludwell Life's role is changing. DWT organise the conservation sessions now, so our role is more about communication. We share news from DWT with you all, but we'd like to make it a proper two way conversation.

So, what are the issues you'd like addressed this year, what do you have to say about Ludwell Valley? Please e-mail us on ludwelllife@gmail.com with your thoughts. You, as subscribers to this newsletter, are our core supporters. We will also ask the question of our Facebook Group members.



Youth Rangers

Devon Wildlife Trust's Youth Ranger Group have been busy over the year helping wildlife out in Exeter's Valley Parks. The group, formed of volunteers aged 13-18, have undertaken activities in Ludwell including litter picking, planting trees and most recently collecting seeds to be grown into trees at one of DWT's tree nurseries. In December, the Youth Rangers help to plant the Community Orchard at Northbrook.

At the moment the scheme is at capacity with 20 young people involved but any young person who is keen could register their interest and wait for a space to become free. To do this, just email Emily Bacon at DWT on: ebacon@devonwildlifetrust.org.

The group is supported by Southern Co-op.



The Community Orchard

The Orchard is coming on nicely - the new trees look well established and some of the older trees are getting quite a good size now. It's seven years since the first trees were planted!

We're rather sorry to say that we won't be planting more trees in the Orchard this winter. The priority has to be replacing some of the trees in the old and new Cherry Orchards. However, we'll try to make up for this next winter - maybe aim for at least four more trees? If you'd be interested in dedicating a tree to someone in your life, as several Ludwell Lifers have done in previous years, please get in touch: ludwelllife@gmail.com





The Ludwell Life Oak

You may remember we had a great day planting this oak sapling on the top of Burrige Hill a couple of years ago. If you've been up there in recent months,

you'll have seen it isn't looking too good. We'll keep an eye on it as spring approaches, looking for signs of life - but we aren't optimistic. We may need to replace it.



Northbrook Park

Things are accelerating in Northbrook Park. The management agreement between DWT and the City Council has finally been signed. The wildflower meadows have been sown, so should look good in early summer. And more trees have been planted.

Here we were, Steve, Carol, David and Laurie, in late November, helping with a marathon bulb planting up around the trees at the top of the park - snowdrops, wild daffodils, wild garlic and wood anemones. We should see some of them come up this spring, but the real impact will be the year after.

We just need the Environment Agency to get on with their work on the sluice and reopen the path along the bottom!

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