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Ludwell Life

Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park



July 2023 Newsletter

Well, the main news, which has disappointed many, is that the Golf Club has been granted permission to develop a practice ground on Martin's Field. But in the meantime the rest of the Valley is still there for us all to enjoy - and looking so good! So to celebrate that, there is a photo walk around the Valley in this newsletter. (Maybe that should be the main news?)

Devon Wildlife Trust have given us information to share with you: a note about the

cattle; advance warning of haymaking; a reminder about the risk of fire in Ludwell; and a brief update on Northbrook Park.

And from us, a thank you to our Friends, old and new.

But we start with the Planning decision:



Martin's Field

You probably already know that the City Council have given Exeter Golf & Country Club permission to develop Martin's Field (marked on the map) as a practice ground.

Although not accessible to the public, the field is part of the designated Valley Park.

A lot of local people expressed their concerns about this and put in objections.

There were, and still are, some strong feelings about it. Although permission was granted, at least it led to the Golf Club having to improve their plans in a number of ways, not least for biodiversity in the field.

But for all of us who care about Ludwell Valley, let's continue to enjoy our park; fill the community orchard with fruit trees, make the most of every field with wild flowers and native trees, enjoy and encourage the wildlife and do all we can to protect all this.

From Devon Wildlife Trust

Cattle: most people are taking notice of the cattle signs. Thank you to dog walkers for keeping their dogs on leads or not going into fields where notices are shown. It is good to see the cattle settled in the valley park.

Haymaking: advance warning: in late July or early August a number of the fields will be cut for hay; Perraton, Cuckoo Field, Beam Wood and Little Three Acres.

Preventing Fire:

Last summer, you may remember there was a fire in Cuckoo Field. Thankfully the Fire Service were at the scene quickly and the fire appeared to have caused only superficial damage. But it is a timely reminder to take extra care when out and about in the Valley this summer to avoid accidentally starting a wildfire by:

- Taking a picnic instead of BBQ
- Taking all litter home. Glass bottles can magnify the sun's rays and cans can reflect the light, both causing hotspots which can start fires
- Dialling 999 immediately if you spot smoke or flames, making sure you are safe





Northbrook Park

There isn't much news on Northbrook just at the moment but things will start happening soon! The management agreement between the City Council and DWT isn't quite finalised, which has slowed things down, but the action will start in late August. Two areas are to become wildflower meadows (similar to the ones we enjoy in Ludwell) and the ground will be scarified (or roughed up!) ready for seeding. It might look a bit drastic at first but we know how good the results will be. Planting for the community orchards will go ahead over the winter.

More news in our September newsletter.

A Walk Around Ludwell Valley

Over the last week or two, I have wandered around the Valley watching, listening and taking photos. Swallows swooping over Perraton - not as many as there should be, but swallows nevertheless. Occasional dragonflies. Clouds of butterflies enjoying the wildflowers and long grasses. Birdsong. The wildflower meadows. Wild cherries. Brambles in flower. Open views and enclosed pathways. Old oak trees and laid hedges. The Community Orchard. Join me and have a walk round now!

And we'd love to hear of other people's walks - e-mail us at ludwelllife@gmail.com, or, if you use Facebook, post there on the Ludwell Life Community Group: <https://>



...the wildflower meadows are getting better by the day, especially in the field up beyond the community orchard, next to the by-pass ...poppies!





Purple loosestrife flowering in the half empty scrape. Wild cherries - although not such a good crop this year. Brambles in flower promising a bumper crop of blackberries.





Open views and enclosed pathways. Old oak trees and laid hedges. Apple trees now fruiting in the Community Orchard...

Friends

In the last newsletter we asked people who were not already Friends to consider becoming one. Thank you so much to the people who responded. And thank you to all the existing Friends who continue to support Ludwell Valley with their subscriptions, but even more importantly, with their voices. When we can say

how many Friends we have, how many newsletter subscribers, how many members of our Facebook Group, we have influence, we are listened to. Thank you.

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

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