



Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park

June 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to our June newsletter - although in a way, there isn't much news: coronavirus continues to dominate our lives and we are still limited in what we're allowed to do. But hasn't the Valley been beautiful through the spring and early summer? And how wonderful to see so many people enjoying the park.

Shame about the few who have littered and lit fires, but there you are. Most of us value and respect the park. Some of us were clearing litter from one spot at the top of Roly Poly Hill this week, and we know lots of you also pick up litter as you walk round.

But there is news and here you can read about wildlife in Ludwell Valley; Devon Wildlife Trust's great news; and more good news, the time about Ludwell Lane.

Lastly, we thought you might like to know who are these people on the Steering Group.



Wildlife in the Valley Park

Andy Stapley writes:

"It's been an interesting spring and early summer for wildlife in the Valley. The warmth brought out several species of butterfly which are always lovely to see.

The bird life has also been quite varied with the usual suspects of long tailed, great and blue tits. Blackcaps and chiffchaffs have been widely spotted and one of our followers posted a super video of a small starling murmuration on our Facebook page. When I were a lad I recall such gatherings being in the tens of thousands around Countess Wear.

Perhaps the strangest of the bird sightings I had was four ring-necked parakeets in the Spinney shortly after lockdown but I've not seen them since.

My final offering is the sighting of a slow worm which I was particularly pleased to see as had I heard there were some in the Valley but have never actually seen one here before.

Do let us know of any interesting sightings you come across whilst enjoying your outings and please use Facebook to let other followers know. I would caution against

reporting exact locations of sightings to minimise any disturbance."

And if you'd like to see more about the wildlife that's been spotted in the park in recent years, have a look at the wildlife log on our website at: <http://ludwelllife.org.uk/wildlife-log/>



Devon Wildlife Trust's good news

You probably already know, but what great news! We heard last month that

DWT had been awarded a grant of over £48,000 from Viridor Credits, to make Ludwell even better.

Their press release gives the details. If you haven't already seen it, have a look:

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/news/wildlife-haven-gets-boost>

It will mean transforming some of the 'species-poor' fields and sowing them with a rich mix of wildflower seeds. Much of the network of hedges will also get some attention with 1.5 kilometres of them being 'laid' – a management technique where they are cutback to stimulate new growth and create new nesting places next spring.

A new pond and the planting of apple and cherry trees is also scheduled to take place. This will add to Ludwell Valley Park's established orchards, some of which date back more than 100 years to when the area was farmland beyond the city's boundary.

DWT are keen to involve Ludwell Life and will look for opportunities for volunteers to take part in the work - within the limitations due to coronavirus of course!



Ludwell Lane

Another bit of very welcome news for all walkers and cyclists: Ludwell Lane will

be so much safer now the County Council has closed it off to all traffic, except for local access. There will still be some vehicles of course and some cyclists whizz down the lane pretty fast, so we still need to take care, but what great news! (Unless you were one of those who used it as a rat run to miss the rush hour traffic!)

It's part of a wider drive to make more roads safer for cycling: you can see the details on the County Council's website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/safe-travel/reallocation-of-roadspace-for-active-travel/exeter-proposals/>

The Steering Group

We have deliberately kept the Steering Group small and informal. There are just four of us. Lynn Wetenhall is the person who made Ludwell Life happen; Andy Stapley takes the lead on conservation and volunteers; David Robertson looks after the money; and Laurie Fentimen, communication - including this newsletter!

There are of course lots of other people who are very active in Ludwell Life, people like Philippa Davies, who also brings her wonderful colleagues from Good Gym along with her when we need.

Normally the Steering Group meets every couple of months, and also regularly with Devon Wildlife Trust. Of course we are in touch with each other lots in between as well. The Steering Group may be small but is not at all exclusive! If you would like to be more involved, or take on any particular role with Ludwell Life, do get in touch via ludwelllife@gmail.com

One yawning gap in our team: we are still in great need of someone who is good with social media and would be willing to help with our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please e-mail us if you might be able to help: ludwelllife@gmail.com

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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