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Ludwell Life

Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park



"Ducks on a Pond, Ducks on a Pond..."

Ludwell Life June 2024 Newsletter

This wasn't the only wildlife spotted on the scrape in Butchers Field - read on! Also in this newsletter, we meet the kite man, there is an update on the poor old Ludwell Life Oak. information on the annual DWT Bat Survey, a reminder about caring for the Park and to finish, a great photo.



Dragonflies

We were rather excited to hear that several of these dragonflies have been seen in the scrape on Butchers Field. They are called broad bodied chasers, with a reputation for being quite aggressive (to other insects, not to us!) And there are damselflies and darters (another type of dragonfly), not to mention newts and frogs.

If you can, why not go down there on a sunny day, when the dragonflies will be active, and see if you can spot them.



The Kite Man

Have you noticed the huge colourful kites sometimes flying above the Valley? Hard to miss really. Well, one day I met the kite man and found out a bit more about him and his hobby.

He is called Peng, a post graduate student at the University, studying some very technical computer design issues. He has always loved kites and since lockdown has been flying them in Ludwell. There are three different ones: each has different wind tolerance, so which one we see on a given day depends on

the wind speed and direction. They are a star, a heart and his favourite, Packman!

They brighten up the sky, so thank you Peng!



Ludwell Life Oak

Here we were, a year or more ago, planting an oak tree at the top of Burr ridge Hill. Unfortunately it didn't do so well, and was recently pronounced dead. But thanks to a generous Ludwell Lifer, it has recently been replaced. Linda had grown it from an acorn and Chris, the warden, kindly planted it for us. Let's hope it thrives!

Bats

Devon Wildlife Trust is looking for volunteers to help with its ninth Devon Bat Survey. We know that some of you have taken part in these surveys before but no previous experience is needed. It just involves having a small bat detector in your garden for three consecutive nights.

The survey is being coordinated by DWT's Lindsay Mahon and it will run until early October. To sign up as a volunteer or just to find out more, have a look at devonwildlifetrust.org/devon-bat-survey-2024



Caring for Ludwell Valley

We are all so grateful to the people who pick up litter as they walk round the Valley. If you don't already, maybe you could have a bag in your pocket to pick up any you see.

Also, everything is growing at a great rate at the moment - including the nettles and brambles! They are good, in their place, but not when they grow over the gateways. If you have secateurs with you - or just a pair of stout shoes on your feet, and can clear round gateways without risk to yourself, please do so.

Thank you.



And Finally...

I just loved this photo that Jonathon Hill posted on Facebook . His caption: “If your name is not on the list then you’re not coming in”.

(They are actually very tolerant of us humans and no doubt moved politely out of the way when asked!)

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

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