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Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park

Woodland clear up this Wednesday morning.
All welcome.
Good boots essential, hot drink a good idea

Woodland clean up

Litter pick in newly acquired wood,
prior to being opened for public use

Wednesday March 7th

10.00am - 12.00 pm



Meet at gateway on Ludwell Lane shown on
map above. 0797 4414613 if you can't find it!

Bring warm clothes, boots, a drink.



www.ludwelllife.org.uk



Ludwell Life



@LudwellLife



LudwellLife@gmail.com



Exeter Nature Challenge at Ludwell Sunday April 29th

Devon Wildlife Trust are holding Devon's first ever 'City Challenge' day at Ludwell Valley Park. This is an international initiative aimed at getting lots of non-expert members of the public out into their green space, to help identify and log the wildlife that is there. There will be experts on hand to lead walks, equipment to help you, and of course Ludwell Life will be there in support. We hope lots of you can come - its family friendly, designed for anyone and everyone to join in. We will have more information in the April newsletter, and watch out for more on the Facebook page too. You can read about City Nature Challenge here

The community orchard - what next?

Following a joint planning meeting with Exeter City Council and Devon Wildlife Trust about the community orchard field, we have agreed that next season's round of planting will continue down the same side of the central path and as the trees planted this winter. No definite decisions yet on what trees will be planted, but Devon Wildlife Trust suggested some mazzards - a form of wild cherry peculiar to the West Country; (see [here](#) for more information on mazzards).

We agreed to start fundraising to buy a few attractive, very natural benches that are worked logs, so there are some places to sit, but the natural feel of the orchard is maintained.

We were particularly pleased - because we know that many people would value more places to sit and enjoy the valley park - that we also agreed to create a new seating area just above the orchard. This will be on the other side of the path that runs from Wendover Way to Pynes Hill (see picture below). The idea is to clear the brambles that you see in the foreground of the photo, and put some benches in this space, with the fence facing the path being taken right out so it's easy to get in there. Because we are so close to the nesting season, we can't start work on this until the autumn, but there will then be some work party sessions to clear the brambles. This will take much longer than you might think, because natural bramble clearing takes

several goes as they are so persistent, and we don't want to install the benches until the land is properly cleared. So unfortunately, we won't have these benches this summer - and of course we have to raise the money to buy the benches too.



Be a Friend!

Ludwell Life is an independent community group, formed by local residents to protect and improve Ludwell Valley Park for people and for wildlife. We receive no funding, but have organised many conservation tasks, worked with local schools and organisations and secured over £3000 in grant funding - much of that for the new community orchard. Getting more money into our bank account means that we can do more for the valley park - and there is so much that could be done to improve habitats, paths and information.

We have a Friends scheme - just £8/year for an individual - that provides valuable extra money. Please consider becoming a Friend of Ludwell Life - it takes seconds to sign up on line [here](#) using Paypal, BACS or a credit card, or you can do it by post if you prefer.

Could we also remind people who are already Friends that some of your subscriptions have lapsed as you joined a year ago - renewals would be so much appreciated!



Birds in Ludwell Valley Park

Thanks to the people who post sightings on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ludwelllife.org.uk/>), we know that there have been lots of interesting birds in and over the valley park recently. Below are a fieldfare, hawfinch, sparrowhawk (seen in two gardens bordering the park) and golden plover - all reported by Ludwell Life tweeters and facebook poster in the past couple of weeks.

Thanks to all of you who share your sightings (especially Martin E !) - it's great for the rest of us to know what you have seen. If you spot anything interesting in Ludwell, so please share by email, twitter @LudwellLife or facebook.



History highlights

We have just updated the history section of the Ludwell Life website to make it easier to read and easier to find your way to the bits that interest you. Do have a look at that [here](#).

The pages help you understand why Ludwell Valley is special. At least one reason is historical. The valley is a place people have been drawn to since the Neolithic period. It has been continually used and occupied for 6,000 or 7,000 years. And there is nowhere else in Devon that can say this. Nowhere!

Our website pages can tell you something about the distant past right through to the modern day, but I am sure there are a lot more stories of the past than we have found so far, so if you know any good stories or any little snippets of information, do please let us know and we can add them to the page. Thanks to Clare from Websites Ahoy who has helped us with our website improvements.



What our wonderful volunteers have been doing.....

Special thanks to the small but perfectly formed team who turned out in terrible weather to plant 150 hedge whips to make a new hedge. Aply led by the City Council's indefatigable Chris Moulton.



and thank you litter volunteers...

Litter problems on Wonford Playing Fields continue to be fairly terrible, so thank you very much to the gallant team from Belmont Chapel who picked huge amounts of litter on a rainy Sunday. One member even went back to do more on his own, he was so keen to get rid of the litter he sees on his regular run through the playing fields. The team used Ludwell Life's litter pickers, gloves and trolley, and we liaised with Exeter City Council to collect the litter - a great service as always, so thanks to Louise and her team too.

Don't forget, if you know of any other team /social group who would enjoy a joint litter pick, point them in our direction!



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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