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Ludwell Life

Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park



March 2023 Newsletter

There has been a lot going on in the valley these last weeks, most of it good,

but everything dominated by the one terrible event of 18th February. Like everybody, we can only offer our heartfelt condolences to Lorna's family.

We were invited to a meeting of local community groups with the police a few days later and share their message in this newsletter. And we have included updates on the good things as well. We must do our best still to enjoy and appreciate the wonderful space on our doorsteps.

As everybody probably knows, on the afternoon of 18th February, our neighbour, Lorna England, was out walking in Ludwell Valley, down near the Panny, was attacked and sadly died. The suspect was arrested later that evening and has been charged with murder. He did not know her, was not local and it appears motiveless. As you may know, the previous evening there had also been an altercation between two boys, young teenagers, which resulted in one being assaulted with a knife and the other apprehended for this. The police were keen to stress that these incidents were unrelated and that both were, thankfully, very rare. They recognise how shocked and even scared people are as a result but wanted to reassure us that we are as safe now as we were before the incidents.



Tree Hub

On 29th January, we were up at the top of Perraton field, giving away tree whips (saplings). The trees were all provided by Devon Wildlife Trust as part of their "Saving Devon's Treescapes" project. We gave away over 300 native British trees for people to plant in their own gardens or fields and had a lovely morning meeting many of you.



The Community Orchard

Then, on 5th February, we planted four more fruit trees in the orchard. Devon WildlifeTrust paid for one, Ludwell Life for two, and one of our Friends, Sheila Stevens, sponsored one to dedicate to her grandsons, far away on the other side of the world in Australia.

Here's the team of planters, work done, and also Andy presenting Sheila with her certificate.

It was another happy morning - thank you to everyone who came along. The Orchard is really coming on: 37 trees, and the ones planted first are getting to a good size now. We look forward to the time when we can all start to harvest

their fruit!



Trees and Teas - Northbrook Park

Devon Wildlife Trust ran this event on 11th February. Local residents got the chance to get to work, planting the first new trees in what will become the wild arboretum in Northbrook Park. But in a way, the most important thing was the chance to hear about DWT's plans for the park and to be able to share thoughts and ideas. This is just the start of something that sounds very exciting!

Incidentally, the Ludwell Life Steering Group is meeting with DWT in a couple of weeks time to share news and ideas - let us know via our e-mail, ludwelllife@gmail.com, if there is anything you'd like us to raise with them.

(Photos courtesy of DWT)



Bird and Bat Boxes

Thanks to the support of Friends of Ludwell Life we have been able to purchase 6 tit size nest boxes, a tawny owl box and two bat boxes. With the help of Andrew and Jenny, Devon Wildlife Trust wardens (who clearly have good heads for heights!), we have installed them at suitable sites in Ludwell Valley. Hopefully, they will be checked out by potential residents this spring.

Why I Love Ludwell

Finally for this newsletter, and very appositely given what has happened, here is Sheila Stevens telling us why she loves Ludwell. Thank you Sheila.

" Ludwell Valley park is comprised of low fields, the waterway locally known as the Panny, small fields, steep hillsides, orchards and a wonderful plateau that opens up to amazing views of the

City centre, Haldon Hills, and the Exe Estuary which is now managed by Devon Wildlife Trust and is such an asset to those of us who live by its side.

Whether it's spring, summer, autumn or winter, it's a peaceful place to amble, watch the variety of wildlife and take in the views. It's a calm oasis in an increasingly hectic, technological daily treadmill whatever the weather or season."

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

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