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Ludwell Life

Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park



May 2023 Newsletter

Yes, despite the lousy weather of many recent days, spring is arriving - and the Valley is looking good! Blackthorn blossom is already going over, but May blossom, with a fine sense of timing, is just appearing and, as you can see, the cherry and crab apple trees are in full flower.

To start off, and see how well you know Ludwell, we have a photo quiz.

We met with Devon Wildlife Trust recently so have several things to update you on from that, including the arrival of the cattle and how to contact DWT if you see a problem.

And finally an article about the Friends of Ludwell Life and how important they are.



The Quiz

How many of these views do you recognise?

Using the Google map above, can you name the field each one shows?

Answers at the end of the newsletter



How to contact Devon Wildlife Trust

Many people are understandably a bit more cautious walking in the Valley after

recent events. But there are also sometimes minor issues as well. If you come across a problem, for example, vandalism, damage, anti-social behaviour or an animal or cow in trouble, these are the numbers to use to contact DWT (although, obviously, if it is serious enough, go straight to the Police):

During office hours, weekdays from 9am to 5pm, the phone number to use is [01392 279244](tel:01392279244). If you need to report an emergency on any of DWT's nature reserves or any of Exeter's Valley Parks out of office hours, please contact [07535 150543](tel:07535150543)



The Cattle

DWT has let us know that the cattle will be back in the park on or soon after 1st May, today. There are due to be between 15 and 20 of them. They will be released into the lower fields initially, but they do wander between fields, so it is difficult to say in advance exactly where they will be on any particular day.

They are an essential part of the management of the park, and generally seem very content to share the park with us, but we know some people are nervous of them.

You must of course make your own decision, but if you do feel uncomfortable with them, best to walk another way round. Either way, if you have a dog, please keep it under close control when you are near them, for your sake and for theirs. Thank you.

Pynes Hill Close

DWT recently entered into a five year management agreement with Wesylan Assurance, the owners of this field. A fence has been put up and planting has begun, as you can see from the photos. The plan is to create a good footpath and plant trees beneficial to space and nature. There will be some clearing to be done, but only where plants like dog-rose and blackthorn have got a bit too vigorous and invasive!

You can find Pynes Hill Close between Clarks Field/ Long Four Acres and Pynes Hill road - you can see it on the map at the start of this newsletter.



Why we need Friends

We have nearly 40 Friends, who each pay a small annual contribution (£8, or £13 for

joint membership). This support is so important and enables Ludwell Life to function and to contribute to maintaining and improving the Valley Park for us all.

It covers our more mundane admin costs, but more importantly, it has funded a number of projects, most recently:

- The 6 bird, 2 bat and 1 tawny owl boxes we reported on in March. DWT's two new assistant rangers, Andrew and Jenny, together with our own Andy Stapley, put them up, which also shows how Friends' contributions are worth more to the park as DWT supported the idea and provided the labour without charge.
- The cost of one of the trees planted in the Community Orchard in January. A second tree was funded by our Friend, Sheila Stevens, on behalf of her grandsons, and DWT paid for the third, (another example of how Friends' contributions are worth more to the park).
- And for the future, we hope to hold a wassail in the community orchard next January, as well as plant more trees, which will all need funding.

So if you'd be interested to become a Friend yourself and be part of this, please do have a look on our website at: <https://ludwelllife.org.uk/friends/> . Thank you

Quiz Answers

The five views are of:

1. Cuckoo Field (the new name for what were once five different fields)
2. Perraton
3. 3 Acres (the old cherry orchard and site of Pynes Hill Farm, bombed during the war)
4. Butchers Field
5. Pine Close

How many did you get? I reckon any better than two out of five is pretty good!

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

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