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Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park

Want to have fun, feel good, exercise, enjoy nature...?
Put our autumn & winter conservation sessions in your diary!
Check out the dates below and come along to have a friendly, fun time.

Wednesday October 17th

10.30 - 12.30

**Removing 'alien'
trees & creating new
wildlife habitats**



Meet at gateway entrance to the park, by Grandisson Court, off Bishop Westall Road
Bring warm clothes, waterproofs, stout boots, a drink



www.ludwelllife.org.uk



Ludwell Life



@LudwellLife



LudwellLife@gmail.com

Conservation session dates

Wednesday 17th October, 10.30am. Removing 'alien' (non-native species) trees and building habitat piles with the debris. Meet at kissing-gate off Grandisson Court.

Sunday 25th November, 10.30am. Tree planting in Ludwell Valley Park. We

hope that this will be planting more trees in the orchard, subject to us finding funds to buy them!

Sunday 13th January 2019. 10.30am Hedge-laying in Ludwell Valley Park.

More details [here](#). If you are a [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) user, do please share these events.

Wanted - leads for conservation sessions

We are looking for volunteers to be 'lead' on our tasks. Being lead on a task is easy - it just means you make a definite commitment to be at the task and to say hello to people who turn up to help. We carry out some tasks with the support of Exeter City Council, and other simpler tasks working just with Ludwell Life volunteers, so you don't have to have any special skills.

The more task leaders we have, the more tasks we can carry out to improve Ludwell Valley. You are also welcome to be a 'shadow' lead, seeing what it is done before, during and after the task, to see if it's for you. To find out more, please email ludwelllife@gmail.com

Send us your Ludwell snaps

We would love to have more photos of Ludwell Valley Park to use in our newsletter, website and Facebook. If you have a nice picture that you are happy for us to use, do please share. Either upload straight to Facebook page, or send it to us ludwelllife@gmail.com.

Thanks!



New seating area in the valley park

An update on the new seating area opposite the community orchard. Chris Moulton, the Valley Parks manager tells us that contractors will clear the area before Christmas. We will give the area a bit of time for everything to settle, then install the benches around February next year.



Logging Ludwell Wildlife

We receive regular news on wildlife sightings, through Facebook and Twitter - thanks to the people who contribute these.

We want to encourage more of you to share your wildlife spottings and have created a new wildlife log page on our website <http://ludwelllife.org.uk/wildlife-log/>.

This page is starting to fill up, but there are lots of gaps, so do please send us any pictures of wildlife, plants, or insects you see or hear in the valley park. .

Hello Digby & St Loyes!

We were delighted to be approached by Digby Community Association, who want to encourage people to cross 'the Great Divide' (Rydon Lane) to discover the delights of the largest green space in easy walking distance of the neighbourhood. We have also met with the new community builder for St Loyes,

Josh Hamilton, who is also keen to ensure that people are aware of Ludwell Valley Park and the opportunity to join in with Ludwell Life's improvement activities, online wildlife log and the community orchard. If you live in St Loyes or Digby, do you think your neighbours know about the delights of Ludwell? Do please think about ways to encourage your neighbours to visit the park and of course to sign up to our newsletter at ludwelllife.org.uk

Tackling dog poo in Wonford Playing Fields

Thanks to local park user Jenny M and to the ever supportive Lou Harvey at Exeter City Council's cleansing department, a persistent dog poo dumping area, right on a heavily used path across the playing fields to access the Panny bridge, is to get some stencils on the ground. It's hoped that this will reduce the regular piles of dog bags left just over the Panny bridge on Wonford Playing Fields. The council will monitor the situation and if the dumping persists, a new dog poo bin might be considered.

Transfer of Ludwell to Devon Wildlife Trust - finally on the horizon?

In April 2016, Exeter City Council was due to transfer management of Ludwell and other valley parks to Devon Wildlife Trust. Exeter City Council tell us that the process has picked up a bit of speed and it is possible that the Wildlife Trust will be finally taking over early next year. Definitely a case of better late than never! Fingers crossed that we will have more definite news by the next newsletter.

History snapshot: Ludwell Valley 1844

We have one rather interesting snapshot of who owned and who farmed each of the old fields in Ludwell Valley nearly 200 years ago. This comes from an old map - the 1844 Tithe Map.

Tithes were a very old form of tax, going back to at least Old Testament times. The word 'Tithe' means a tenth. In England, one tenth of all agricultural produce had to be given to the church - or later, to the men who were given church lands after the Reformation in the sixteenth century. That is why you can still see massive old barns in places - for example Abbotsbury in Dorset; tithe barns, used to store the produce the church accrued every year.

By the early 19th century, this had become a very unpopular practice, against a background of industrialisation, religious dissent and agricultural depression. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1836, the Tithe Commutation Act. It required tithes to be converted to cash payments, called 'tithe rent charge'. A Tithe Survey was set up to find out which land was subject to tithes, who owned it, how much was payable and to whom. A map and schedule was drawn up for every parish.

Ludwell Valley was covered in the Heavitree parish map. (It is in very poor

condition but you can still see it at the Devon Heritage Centre). Seven fields in the valley were owned by the Reverend Arundell, and farmed by Samuel Melhuish. The old names for these fields were Buds (which has since been built on), Wood Meadow, Ridgeway, Little Longcombe, Barn & Court, 3 Acres (which is now the old Cherry Orchard) and 6 Acres. You can see some of them on this map.

Laurie.



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.

For more regular updates, please follow us on Twitter or join our Facebook group and like our
Facebook page

Ludwell Life Facebook group : for people who want to share news and views about the valley
park. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ludwelllife.org.uk/?ref=bookmarks>.

Facebook page which can be shared, especially when we put on events. [https://www.facebook.com/
LudwellLife/](https://www.facebook.com/LudwellLife/)

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