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Ludwell Life

Sharing Enhancing Enjoying Protecting...
Ludwell Valley Park



September 2023 Newsletter

There has been so many beautiful photos on our Facebook Group recently - thank you to everyone who has shared their images. A particular thank you to Rose Bushell for letting us use this evocative sunrise picture.

If you are on Facebook, you may have seen it already, but we wanted to share the map Devon Wildlife Trust has created with the old field names all marked.

Conservation: we are meeting DWT next month so will then know more, and be able to tell you more, about what conservation work is to be done over the autumn and winter. It will certainly include planting more trees in the Community Orchard. We also have quick updates on what is going on at the moment in Ludwell Valley and in Northbrook Park.

There is another in the series of "Why I Love Ludwell". And we're delighted to be able to say that, thanks to Ludwell Lifer Adam Ainsworth, we will soon have a new website, much easier to navigate, much more useful. Watch this space!

But first, a quiz:

The Quiz

These are all (well, almost all) birds you could see in Ludwell Valley, some quite common, some much rarer. How many can you name?

Answers at the end



Ludwell Valley Map





Ludwell Valley

The Valley is looking good, kept clear of litter (thank you everyone who picks up any litter as they walk round). Even if it hasn't been too sunny recently, as this photo demonstrates!

But there are so many blackberries, available to all foragers who don't mind the vicious brambles!

Hay cutting has been delayed because of the wet weather we have had throughout August but hopefully it will happen in the first couple of weeks of September. The cattle are still grazing in the valley but will be removed towards the end of October.



Northbrook Park

Progress is slower than everybody hoped as the legalities of the management agreement are finalised, but work has started.

Paths across the park are being kept mowed. The wildflower meadow near the top of the park is being prepared with the grass cutting and removal and the landscaping already finished.

The harrowing and seeding of the wildflower mix will happen at the end of this coming week.

Planting for the community orchards will go ahead over the winter.

"Why I Love Ludwell" - Jill Robertson

"We moved into our house on Parkland Drive nearly 40 years ago, having studied Exeter City Council's 10-year plan. We could see the intention to form the Green Circle of parks around the city and we had the opportunity to buy a house right on the edge of one of them. What a great decision that was. Every day I think how lucky we are to live here right on the edge of Ludwell Valley Park.

At first access was difficult but now there are miles of footpaths and styles have been replaced by gates. Copses and hedges have been planted and maintained and at this time of the year there is a bounty of free fruit. Some fields are now annually sown

with beautiful wild flowers: the display is breathtaking. I walk in the valley almost every day and can vary the length and the route depending on time and weather. The views over the city, out to the coast, over to Haldon and out to East Devon change with the seasons.

Over the years, benches have been suitably sited so that anyone can tarry a while to replenish their soul.

In the summer there is the cattle challenge: I walk with a dog; neither of us are scared or bothered by cows but, oh my! she does like to adorn herself with their fresh slimy green perfume which they cannot help but dump in abundance. It's an odour of which I am not that fond so I am more selective where we go - but that's part of the beauty of Ludwell: there is something for everyone.

I am glad that many people love it as much as I do and are willing to do their bit to look after it. We must be some of the luckiest people in the world."

Jill Robertson

Quiz Answers

1. Cuckoo
2. Chaffinch (female)
3. Coal Tit
4. Goldfinch
5. Greater Spotted Woodpecker
6. Wren
7. Red Kite
8. Lilac Breasted Roller

(this last one is a cheat - sorry! You'd have to go to Africa to see it, but it is my favourite bird)

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

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