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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.



We are looking for volunteers to be 'lead' on our tasks. This really just means committing to be at the task and to be the contact point for Ludwell Life. 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

Conservation session dates

More details nearer the time in the next newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Wednesday 17th October, 10.30am. Removing alien 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.

Some snaps showing why our conservation tasks are such fun! Whilst vast range of homemade goodies not guaranteed, a break for tea and biscuits always included...



The Community Orchard More trees please?

Many of us were fretting about our precious young apple trees, planted with such care in the winter, then having to face weeks with no rain. But Our Local Hero Chris Musgrave, the City Council's Valley Parks Manager, once again went above and beyond his normal duties, to turn out and water the trees twice. Thank you so much Chris!

So the very good news is that the trees are doing fine, though obviously showing signs of stress. As you can see from the picture, the grass around the trees is very high now, but the cattle will be grazing in there over August, keeping the area between the trees clear - and reminding us all why we had to pay for really solid tree guards ie to stop the cattle breaking the trees by their sheer size and weight.

The next step is to **plant more trees** this winter; (see elsewhere in this newsletter for the dates for doing this). But we need money to buy more trees and tree guards - can you help?

Please send any donations, small or large, for our 'next steps' orchard fund. To ensure that your donation is kept for the orchard, please email us, or reference your BACS payment 'orchard'. Details on how to donate are [here](#).

If you work at Pynes Hill and think you could make raising money for the community orchard a staff activity or event, do please get in touch.



New seating area in the valley park

Regular readers will remember that Ludwell Life have agreed with the City Council, that the park needs an area where a few people can sit down together - to talk, have a picnic, or even a meeting, for those coming from Pynes Hill business park. We are delighted to say that the clearing work to create this new site - opposite the community orchard, will start in the autumn. Ludwell Life hope to fund at least two new rustic style benches, though there will be space for more in due course.



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 sightings 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. .

You might be lucky enough to spot a slow worm basking on a path, though the ones spotted in a compost heap the other day were rather quick! Has anyone seen a kingfisher on the Panny recently?



Walking the Northbrook (Panny)

A regular Ludwell Life supporter, Clare Bryden, walked the whole length of the Northbrook Stream - the official name of what many call 'the Panny'. This is a fascinating stream, not only because it flows through Ludwell Valley Park and is the only watercourse in the Valley Park, but also because it is the only stream or river in Exeter that both rises and ends within the City Council boundaries - a very Exeter river then. If this stream interests you, do read her blog here.

<http://clarebryden.co.uk/northbrook-mouth-to-source/>

New woodland within the valley park

Top marks for readers who remember that a new woodland area, off Ludwell Lane, is due to be open to the public within the valley park. This was due to have happened by now, but the opening has been delayed by the need to move a phone cable that is in a dangerous position. Once that has been sorted, we will bring you news of when the site is officially included within the valley park/

Transfer of valley park to Devon Wildlife Trust

In April 2016, Exeter City Council was due to transfer management of Ludwell and other valley parks to Devon Wildlife Trust. That process is still in

negotiation, making a difficult and long 'limbo' period for all concerned. Over that time, Ludwell Life has worked closely with both the Wildlife Trust as future managers and Exeter City Council as the ongoing managers. We will continue to do this and keep our fingers crossed that the situation will be sorted out before another 3 years have passed.

Bad and good news

Vandals sadly completely wrecked the much-loved 'fool on the hill' bench, which is well sited and so well used. The good news is that Exeter City Council will be replacing the bench - something we are all grateful for :).



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.

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/>

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