

Warwick District GREEN SPACES



JULY 2021



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Volunteering Opportunities

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games:

In just over a year's time the Games will be happening right here in Warwick District as we host the Lawn and Para Bowls competitions in Victoria Park and the start and finish of the cycle road races in St Nicholas Park.

So wouldn't it be great to be part of this fantastic, once in a generation event by becoming a volunteer?

Applications are now open for the volunteer programme. The majority of roles do not require any formal experience or qualifications with full training provided.

Roles include drivers, first aiders, meet & greeters, venue preppers and many more to help the Games run smoothly. Applicants must be aged 18 by 1 January 2022 and a young volunteer programme for 14-17 year-olds will begin recruitment in the autumn.

To apply and find out more, visit
www.birmingham2022.com/get-involved/volunteering

ECO
FEST
2021

Saturday 4 September:

We would like your help to make EcoFest 2021 a bigger, better, forward-thinking, hands-on, life-changing day for visitors!

We are looking for volunteer stewards to help on the day of the

event. If you'd like to take part, contact Kate Livingston, Event Coordinator, at Ecofest.warks@outlook.com



NEW! – Keep Connected with our Community Engagement Volunteers

This month our Community Engagement Volunteer Liz tells us all about how we can help to look out for and look after butterflies and moths, thanks Liz.

July is a prime time to spot butterflies and day flying moths in your garden or local green space. Nectar plants will also attract moths at night providing opportunities to spot moths after dusk using a torch.

On a recent walk in Wappenbury Wood organised by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, I learned about some of the amazing moth species that can be found there by exploring some moth traps. One of them is the impressive Poplar Hawk-Moth. Like many moths and butterflies, it has a clever trick to deter predators. If disturbed, it will flash red spots on its underwings to startle them.

Look out for butterflies that have eyespots to intimidate predators – the peacock butterfly is a great example you might see in your garden. If you have a garden, no matter how small, you can support butterflies and moths by growing nectar-rich plants such as buddleia, marjoram, valerian, verbena and lavender.

You can get involved and help to assess the health of our green spaces by counting butterflies as part of the Big Butterfly Count which runs from 16 July to 8 August: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Poplar Hawk moth



Leamington Society tree videos

The Trees of Jephson Gardens once again come under the spotlight in the latest in a series of seasonal films from The Leamington Society. Presented by its chair, Sidney Syson, 'Spring' features an array of trees including the stunning blossom of the Japanese Hybrid Cherry and Great White cherries, a glorious Magnolia and selection of interesting birches. Each tree has a fascinating story to tell. Impress your friends on your next walk, or just be more in touch with your local surroundings. The film, along with the 'Winter' version, is available on the Leamington Society's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUnCU4jBykY>



Green Space of the Month: Victoria Park

Works have been carried out in Victoria Park in preparation for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, when the park will host the Lawn and Para Bowls competitions.

The new developments have been managed by Warwick District Council and made possible by a grant of £1.8 million awarded to the Council by Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (including a sum of almost £1.6 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund).

Despite the challenges of the pandemic several notable enhancements have been made over the last year. These will not only provide an impressive welcome for visitors, spectators and participants during the Games, but will also benefit the local community now and in the future.

These include;

- The relaying of four main competition bowling greens to a World Class standard and the resurfacing of the footpaths around the bowling green.
- Extensive renovation of the inside and outside of the Victoria Park bowls pavilion and clubhouse including a comprehensive redecoration, new lighting, new flooring and new and improved toilet and changing facilities.
- Improvements to the bowling greens' PA system
- Renovation of the inside of the tennis pavilion (external renovation is planned for later in the year) including a comprehensive redecoration, new carpets and new and improved toilet and changing facilities
- Installation of public Wi-Fi facilities covering the café, bowling greens and tennis pavilion
- Tree and shrub planting, resurfacing of pedestrian footpaths, installation of ornate fencing in the park and around the bowling greens, renovation of the Victoria Park café patio.
- Enhancements to the scenic woodland walk that connects Princes Drive and Adelaide Road including the resurfacing of the path and significant tree and landscaping work.

A new outdoor gym facility funded through contributions from Leamington Rotary Club and AC LLoyd is already proving very popular, with free demo sessions planned once Covid-19 restrictions are eased. Check WDC's social media accounts for more details.

In addition to the above improvements, work on a new £300K play area is due to start in Autumn 2021 and will include a 6m high treehouse with slide, specially designed for this project, a double cableway, lots of swings and a large sandpit.



Packmores Community Garden

Nestled in between the Warwick rail line, Priory Pools Park and Cape Housing Allotments lies a green retreat for people and wildlife.

Packmores Community Garden has been rejuvenated recently with the help of weekly 'wellbeing in nature' sessions run as a partnership between ARC CIC and Packmores Community Centre. Come rain or shine the group supports mental health by spending time with nature, facilitating horticulture therapy and natural crafts. Since starting the weekly sessions in October 2020 the group has reinstated the paths, the bridge, installed new gates and boundary fencing and tended the garden by planting new herbs and pond plants. The busy and cheerful atmosphere every Thursday has welcomed members of the local community who have gifted wildflower seeds, bird boxes and plants to enhance the garden for all to enjoy. This spring the garden has certainly sprung into life with two successful nests fledging, one family of blue tits and one family of great tits, not to mention the teeming wildlife pond full of tadpoles and frogs. This garden has provided a sanctuary for members of the group to meet new people, learn about the changing seasons and develop new skills.



"The garden has gently reintroduced me to meeting new people after lockdown and I have learnt a lot about the local trees and plants. The two hours of calm with the group is the highlight of my week!"

Please drop by and enjoy the garden and all the life it supports. You can book onto the wellbeing sessions if you live in Warwick by contacting Kristie@arccic.co.uk Or for more information on the progress of the garden go to www.arccic.co.uk/packmores-outdoor-wellbeing



Nature photo of the month

This month's beautiful photo was taken by Ignaty, who says:

'If only we treat nature around us with care and respect, it will roll out the blossom carpet for us!'

We couldn't agree more Ignaty!

If you would like your photo to feature in September's newsletter, please email it to

greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk, with the subject 'Newsletter Photo'.

- Please only send one photo at a time, but feel free to share a new one each month!
- Your photo must be of something in nature and/or one of our green spaces.
- Please include your name and 1-2 sentences explaining where you took your photo, which will be included in the newsletter if your photo is selected.



WDC joins Virtual Forest

In a boost to our Climate Emergency Action programme and tree planting initiative, we've teamed-up with the West Midlands Combined Authority to become part of a Virtual Forest. This initiative will help us understand how many trees are being planted across the region, so we better coordinate efforts to achieve the ambitious goal to plant a tree for every resident in the district. We're now all able to engage with tree planting activities and even register a tree that we've planted in our community.

www.wmvirtualforest.co.uk

All Saints' Churchyard regeneration

As part of the regeneration of the Old Town of Leamington Spa, planning permission has been granted to improve the area around All Saints' Parish Church. The churchyard of this enormous Victorian church is closed to burials and in 1940 a bomb fell there destroying many tombs. Now the area is an empty green space.

A labyrinth with 7 circuits will be built to provide a place of beauty and contemplation, accessible to the public. The design is inspired by the famous medieval labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral. (The drawing actually shows a labyrinth with 11 circuits which was our original design.) The existing footpaths will be moved slightly in order for the labyrinth to sit comfortably within the churchyard. At the side of each footpath there will be a row of ground-level lights for public safety at night. These lights will also be a visual asset to the churchyard.

Towards the boundaries of the churchyard the areas will be planted with native flowers such as oxeye daisy, foxglove and cow parsley. There will be a holly hedge and native trees like field maple, birch, hawthorn and rowan. This will enhance the ecological biodiversity of the churchyard, providing plants to attract insects such as bees and butterflies.

All of this work comes at quite a cost and so grants, sponsors and donations will be needed to turn the dream into reality.

For more information visit [Facebook ALabyrinthForLeamington/](#)



Brilliant Butterflies Quiz

Test your knowledge ahead of the Big Butterfly Count – we recommend asking a child to help! Answers on the final page.

Q1. How many legs does a butterfly have?

Eight, six, ten or four

Q2. What part of their body do butterflies taste with?

Proboscis, antenna, thorax or feet

Q3. Butterflies cannot fly if they are?

too hot, unable to see, too cold, unable to hear

Q4. What are people who study or collect butterflies called?

Dendrologists, Lepidopterists, Herpetologists or Ichthyologists

Q5. Can you put the following stages of a butterfly's lifecycle in order.

larva, egg, adult butterfly, pupa



A day **in the life** of

Helen Hancox, Green Space Development Officer (Planning)



Can you tell us a little about your position and what you do on a day-to-day basis?

I assess planning applications for compliance with planning policy in terms of public open space.

What do you enjoy most about your work?

Being able to make a positive lasting change to people's everyday lives by shaping the environment that we live in.

What key skills do you need to succeed at your job?

To be organised, thorough, creative and enjoy working with people.

What's the most unusual thing that has happened to you in your career?

I had to deal with a planning application at a very secure facility. I was escorted onto the premises, all bags searched, and had an armed guard escort me around the site. I then had to seek special clearance for any photos taken, which was denied.

If you could have dinner with someone famous, who would you pick and why?

Greta Thunberg, as I think that she has inspired many people, but especially young people to have confidence that their views and beliefs will be heard, listened to and acted on, whilst also giving credence to the idea that one person can make a difference. She has also brought the importance of protecting and encouraging sustainable living into the public conscious, which will hopefully leave a positive legacy for generations to come.

What do you think will be the greatest challenges in your industry/ job over the next few years?

The role of AI and how this can assist us, for instance BIM. The effects of climate change and the way people live and work within areas, given political and economic backdrops and how this influences places.

What do you do with your free time?

I enjoy swimming, and Pilates.

What was the last gift you gave someone

10 bright green 6ft alien shaped flashing balloons.

What is your favourite season?

Winter – it can be bleak and beautiful in equal measures.

If you were an animal, what would you be?

I would be the golden poison dart frog, as I adore frogs, and this is an especially beautiful example.

Brilliant Butterflies Answers:

1. **Six** - butterflies have six jointed legs, a pair of antennae and three body parts: a head, thorax and abdomen
2. **Feet** – butterflies drink nectar through their proboscis, but their taste sensors are on the bottom of their feet
3. **Too cold** – their body temp needs to be around 30°C and they warm up by basking in the sun
4. **Lepidopterists** - butterflies are of the insect order Lepidoptera
5. **Egg, larva, pupa, adult butterfly**

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www.warwickdc.gov.uk/gsnews

For more information about green spaces in Warwick District please visit:

 greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk

 www.warwickdc.gov.uk/parks

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