

WARWICK DISTRICT GREEN SPACES

November 2021

In this edition

- Green Space of the Month: Crackley Wood
- Pump Room Gardens Project Wrap up!
- Winter Events
- Celebrating the District's beautiful Green Spaces
- New 2nd Warwick Sea Scout HQ in St Nicholas Park
- EcoFest 2021
- Nature photo of the month
- Day in the Life of – Charlotte Sully

Green Space of the Month

Crackley Wood, Kenilworth

This area of ancient woodland jointly managed with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, is made up of shady paths, beautiful trees and grassy, open glades. It is a great place for wildlife spotting and has an accessible, circular path around the reserve.

Crackley Wood is home to sweet chestnut, sycamore, oak, silver birch, ash, beech as well as conifer trees.

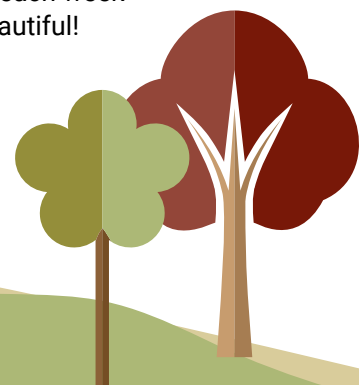
In May, it is a fantastic place to see brightly coloured bluebells and other flowers such as wood anemone, yellow pimpernel and common dog-violet. During the autumn you'll see vibrant autumn colours and amazing fungi including tawny grisette, dog stinkhorn and beefsteak fungus.

The wood features a brass rubbing trail as well as a Crackley Family Adventure - a short walk for little legs with a printable activity sheet to complete along the way.

Crackley Wood has recently received a fourth Green Flag award and we would like to say a huge thank you to the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's volunteer team who since 1991 have spent many hours each week maintaining the site and keeping it looking beautiful!

See more on the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust website

www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk





Pump Room Gardens Programme Update - Project Wrap up!



The restoration of the Pump Room Gardens and its iconic bandstand started in June 2018, and was funded by Warwick District Council, the Lottery Heritage Fund and the Friends of the Pump Room Gardens. The project has seen the restoration of the bandstand, improved paths, flower beds and benches, and the creation of a Victorian-style Rain Garden, as well as an 'activity plan' to engage the local community with the gardens.

Sadly, the project will be wrapped up at the end of the year. Despite the impact of COVID-19, which affected our planned programme of events and activities, there are many successes to celebrate and much to look forward to including:

- Two popular Ecofest events with a hope for more to come!
- New leaflets and free postcards – currently available at the Royal Pump Rooms Art Gallery and Museum reception
- New on-site information boards and website
- New events - Big Victorian Picnic, Big Garden Bird Watch and Bandstand Returns plus BandStand Together (online concert paying tribute to those affected by COVID-19)
- Free public performances on the beautifully restored bandstand

- A schools' programme at the Royal Pump Rooms which is currently being adapted into a collection of schools boxes (more details soon)
- Outreach talks and activities at local youth and community groups
- The creation of a stunning short film featuring the restoration of the bandstand, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3wBYdj4dgM>, if you haven't seen it yet!
- Storytelling sessions on the bandstand and guided walks around the gardens
- Postcards from home competition
- Photogrammetry technology featuring the bandstand and Linden Arches
- Three new plaques in recognition of the Heritage Lottery Fund Award – coming soon

A huge thank you to everyone who has worked on this project, including staff from across the Council, our Community Engagement Volunteers, event coordinators, project stakeholders and the Friends of the Pump Room Gardens group. Nicky Bellenger who has been covering the Community Engagement Officer role has now left following the return of Lucy Stockley from maternity leave, so a big thank you and good luck to Nicky as well.



New 2nd Warwick Sea Scout HQ in St Nicholas Park

On Saturday 18 September the new Sea Scout HQ was officially opened by adventurer Sal Montgomery with a day of celebrations, fun and activities for the whole community.

The team of dedicated volunteers behind this fantastic new facility have done an outstanding job raising over £1m; recovering from a devastating fire and continuing the building programme during the pandemic, to create a world-class new facility which will benefit our young people for generations to come. The Council is very proud to have played their part as a major supporter of the project from the outset.

The new T.S Norton building is not only used for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer meetings but can also be hired for community events, groups and activities on a not-for-profit basis... a brilliant new asset in our beautiful park.



Celebrating the District's beautiful Green Spaces

Our Green Spaces team works very hard maintaining and improving the District's 179 green spaces. We are always delighted to receive positive recognition for the work we do. This month we are proud to announce that we have secured prestigious Green Flag Awards for **Jephson Gardens and Mill Gardens (a 15th consecutive green flag), Crackley Wood (4th Green Flag) and Oakley Wood (5th Green Flag).**

But our work isn't just about awards, the comments we receive from local people are even more important, and we were really touched by the following:

'May we say a massive thank you for the work your team has done in Leamington (and everywhere else) this summer – it was so good to see grass growing longer and the return of butterflies and bees and generally the simple sight and sound of long grass waving in the wind. Our baby daughter enjoyed toddling barefoot on the lawns but then venturing to longer grass and playing with it, exploring how it feels in her little hands (and occasionally her mouth too). As someone living in a flat, we rely on the town parks for everyday encounters with nature. I also liked that your colleagues didn't mow around the trees, I think it looks so much better this way, let alone providing habitat for the insects. It might just be a perception, but I feel we've heard more bird songs this year!'



Photo of the month

This image was taken by Nicola, featuring a photogrammetry Linden Arch from the Pump Room Gardens – reimagined in her own back garden! See September's newsletter for more about our photogrammetry project.

If you would like your photo to feature in November'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.

Winter Events

Every Saturday, 9am
Park Run, Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse
www.parkrun.org.uk/warwickracecourse/course/
www.parkrun.org.uk/leamington/

Saturday 6 November, 5.30pm
Warwick Town Bonfire & Fireworks, Warwick Racecourse
<https://www.warwicktownbonfire.org.uk/>

Saturday 4th December, 11am to 12.15pm
Hereburgh Morris Dancers, Jephson Gardens

Sunday 12 December, 9am-3pm
The Myton Hospices Santa Dash, Victoria Park

A 5km costumed run, walk or jog to raise money for a great cause. A fun event aimed at families – costumes provided!
www.mytonhospice.org

26 December, 12 noon
Kenilworth Lions Duck Race, Abbey Fields

Every Boxing Day an unusual ritual takes place starting at the Ford in Kenilworth, where 1,500 'ducklings' are launched into Finham Brook with the aim of crossing the finishing line in Abbey Fields. Prizes for the first four finishers. Tickets £1 each.
www.kenilworthlionsclub.co.uk



EcoFest returned to the Pump Room Gardens on Saturday 4 September 2021 following its cancellation in 2020.

The inaugural event took place in 2019 and attracted over 1,000 people who came along to find out how they could decrease their carbon footprint, increase their healthy eating and step outside more to explore beautiful local green spaces.

This year we made full use of the space at the Pump Room Gardens with a talk tent, have-a-go activities, music on the bandstand and a range of businesses and charities promoting everything good for you and good for the planet. In addition, the Council had a strong presence with staff on to talk to visitors about the many initiatives we're undertaking to become carbon neutral.

We're pleased to confirm that EcoFest 2021 attracted an estimated 2,500 people and we're hopeful that we can build on this success with future events.



A day **in the** life of

Charlotte Sully

Business Support and Events Officer



What does your job involve?

I'm a Business Support and Events Officer, I work closely with event organisers to co-ordinate and manage events in the district. It's a really varied and interesting job, each event brings unique challenges. I also jointly run the Safety Advisory Group; meeting with the emergency services and council teams, to assess event plans and give safety advice.

What were you doing before you started work with Warwick District Council?

I had my own graphic design business for 13 years, designing brand identities for fashion designers, restaurants, musicians, shops etc. I wanted to move beyond the page and screen, into designing for spaces, so I gained events experience organising a large food and film festival. I also volunteered as a Coventry Ambassador, stewarding events like half marathons and remembrance services. This role was the ideal next step.

Do you work independently or in a team?

I'm part of a team of four, we work together to manage larger sports and festival events like Pub in the Park and then independently on other events. The Events team assist in organising over 120 events a year. I joined WDC at the start of the pandemic, assessed and awarded business grants for much of my first year. It's great to be back working on events now.

What are you working on at the moment?

I'm the event's organiser for Warwick's much loved Victorian Evening, it's a huge event with lots of history behind it. I've focused on bringing back the authentic Victorian feel with the rides and entertainers chosen. Also insisting on the traders dressing up in costume!

In Summer 2022 there's the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The Events team will be hosting the live fan sites in our parks, and assisting with the Cycling Road Race, Bowls and Para Bowls events.



What's your favourite thing to eat at this time of year?

I love to cook and eat healthily, I really enjoy trying new recipes. Sushi or Italian food if I'm eating out.

What was the last thing you watched on TV and why did you choose to watch it?

Vigil on the BBC was great recently, but my favourite is comedy shows. I'm also really into science and history podcasts.

How will you be spending the festive season?

Relaxing after a very busy year, seeing family and I'll hopefully find time to make an elaborate gingerbread house.

Which is your favourite green space in the district?

Jephson Gardens - the flowers always look pristine and it's great for people watching. Lots of happy memories here watching my kids take first steps and learn to ride their bikes.

Event organisers can contact the team with ideas for new events here: events@warwickdc.gov.uk

To sign up to this e-newsletter, please visit:

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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www.warwickdc.gov.uk

