

ParkLife

Lichfield Historic
Parks Newsletter
Jan to Mar 2018



Happy New Year to all our ParkLife readers!

We hope you enjoyed all the festive events and activities across Lichfield District. We had a lovely time leading our Christmas wreath workshops, despite the snow! We also took the opportunity to say a big thank you to our hard working volunteers at a Christmas get together. We look forward to plenty of fun in 2018 with a whole host of park activities.

Despite the heavy snow, 23 people came along to our four Christmas wreath workshops in December.

The groups made a selection of wreaths with locally sourced greenery and embellishments, including pine cones, cinnamon sticks and slices of dried orange. Participants also enjoyed hot drinks and mince pies. Thank you to the parks team for hosting it and to our park volunteers who helped out over the two days. The resulting wreaths looked

lovely and will have given a personal feel to festive homes.

Our parks team also held a festive event to thank park volunteers for all their hard work over 2017.



In the past year 84 people have spent a combined total of around 4,000 hours volunteering across the district's parks.

From our Countryside and Parks Conservation Group, to our Neaten and Natter sessions, through to the Friends of Lichfield Historic Park and more volunteers who help with events and with gardening projects - thank you all! Find out more about volunteering at www.lichfieldhistoricparks.co.uk

Welcome to ParkLife
Welcome to our winter edition of ParkLife.

This is the newsletter that keeps you up to date with all that's going on across Lichfield Historic Parks, which includes Beacon Park, Minster Pool and Walk, the Garden of Remembrance and Stowe Pool.

We hope you find ParkLife interesting. Please get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions.

Lichfield District Council
parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk

Inside this issue...

- >> Lowering pool water
- >> Tree put to good use
- >> Fishing club sought
- >> New wellbeing events
- >> Upcoming in 2018
- >> Jan to Mar listings



Lichfield
Historic Parks

Lichfield
district council
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk



Tree put to good use

Back in October, a mature willow tree in Beacon Park's woodland blew down in hurricane Ophelia.

Students from Queen's Croft school visited the park in November to choose the best logs, which they helped to load into a truck. They later placed the logs in a circle to create an outdoor classroom in their school's woodland area.

Queen's Croft School has been working with us since 2016. Student volunteers carry out conservation and gardening tasks guided by our parks team, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Peter Freeman, Park Ranger, said: "We really appreciate all the hard work our student volunteers put into Beacon Park, so it's great that we could help the school by donating the logs."



We're seeking a club to take on the rights to fish Stowe Pool

We're inviting fishing clubs to apply for a rental agreement for the sole use of fishing at Stowe Pool.

Stowe Pool is a beautiful recreational and wildlife area in the heart of Lichfield. It offers a relaxing setting for course fishing, including roach, perch, carp, pike and tench. The rental agreement would see a fishing club deliver angling opportunities for local people and can be up to five years.

The application pack is online at www.lichfieldhistoricparks.co.uk/fishing and is available on request by emailing parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk. The deadline to apply is by 29 January 2018.

Minster Pool & Stowe Pool water lowering

As part of our programme of maintenance, we're planning to clear years' worth of debris from the Dam Street side of Minster Pool. In preparation, we've lowered the water levels in Minster Pool and Stowe Pool, to check that the works to Minster Pool can take place.

The clean-up works to Minster Pool will take place soon, and will include removing several tonnes of leaves and silt, which is expected to add up to two coach-loads of organic waste in just one day!

The work will also include emptying and cleaning the pipe (culvert) that feeds the water into Stowe Pool. The weir inside Minster Pool will also get the cleaning treatment.

The water level will remain at this lower level to allow the works to take place. Minster Walk is expected to remain open.

Councillor Iain Eadie, Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: "This de-silting process is vital to the long-term health of Minster Pool, which is a key destination for locals and visitors.

"It's incredible to think that so much waste has built up over time, and we're interested to see if there are any finds at the bottom of the pool. It's also a great chance to see a number of historic brick shafts in Minster Pool, which lowering the water will reveal.

"We hope everyone will bear with us while we carry out these important works to one of Lichfield's most impressive landmarks."



Nature conservation with CPCG Our Countryside & Parks Conservation Group (or CPCG) meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 10.30am until 3pm and carry out conservation work at parks and open spaces across the district. All over 18s welcome - we provide the tools. Email Peter at parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk for more info.

Friends of Lichfield Historic Parks

The Friends group makes sure park users and locals are involved in discussions about Lichfield Historic Parks.

The group meets at District Council House (Frog Lane) generally on the last Thursday of the month, from 6.20pm to about 8.15pm. To find out more email parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk

Find the Friends on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FoLHP



Wonder Wanders - new event for 2018!

This year we'll be trialling a series of mindful walks throughout Beacon Park. They will run on the third Friday of the month from 1pm to 2pm, weather permitting. The walks are aimed at adults but all are welcome.

In a difference from nature ID walks, the idea is to take a slow amble around part of the park and to use our senses to focus on some fascinating part of nature that we might ordinarily miss as we rush about our daily lives. With a different focus each month, and varying the start points so we can get to good examples of what we will be looking for, we'll be connecting with nature.

Our first three walks:

19 Jan - **Letters in Nature** - start from Ranger Station and look closely to see if we can see any letters of the alphabet made by nature, for example a tiny caterpillar might eat the letter 'n' in the middle of a leaf. You could bring your camera and see if you can photograph your name.

23 Feb - **Signs of Spring Search** - start from the skatepark and look for buds on trees and early flowers such as snowdrops, daffodils, violets and lesser celandine.

23 March - **Eyes on Trees** - start from tennis courts and look for the trees that are looking at us!

The monthly walks are free and open to anyone, so come and join us for a mindful time!

Dates for your diary...

We've got our usual pages of listings, but we've also got three exciting events coming up later in the year...

Drive-in Movie at Beacon Park

Friday 10 & Saturday 11 August 2018

We'll be showing two popular classics this year.

We'll let you know what the movie is and when you can book your tickets in the future.

www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/drivein

Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park

Saturday 1 September 2018

This is our twentieth Lichfield Proms so not only will we have the stunning free entry outdoor concert and firework finale, but you can expect some surprises! www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/lichfieldproms

The Great Exhibition 2018 'Imagine Peace'

17 to 27 August 2018

Lichfield Cathedral will be exploring themes of war, reconciliation and peace through light and sound exhibits. The exhibition will include an installation of 1,918 trees, which our parks team is helping to grow/relocate. Then, from 11 Nov, the trees will be planted in Beacon Park to create a Peace Woodland near the poppy field by the golf course which will open in April 2019. www.lichfield-cathedral.org/peace

What's on at Beacon Park - January & February 2018

To find out more about these events, please visit www.lichfieldhistoricparks.co.uk/whats-on or call the parks team on **01543 308867**. Remember - children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Date/time	Event details
Tues 2 Jan 1pm - 3pm Community Garden Volunteer event	Neaten and Natter This volunteer activity is for adults who want to help us look after Beacon Park, which could include litter picking and weeding paths. Call 01543 308869 to confirm your place and to check the activity is running.
Wed 3 & 17 Jan 11am start Ranger Station Free	Lichfield Parks Health Walks These gentle walks over easy terrain are open to everyone of any age and are a great way to discover the city's parks and to enjoy some healthy exercise. Weather permitting.
Fri 19 Jan 1pm - 2pm Ranger Station Free	Wellbeing Wonder Wander A trial series of monthly mindful sessions using various senses to explore the amazing natural world within Beacon Park. In January we'll be looking for letters in nature.

Date/time	Event details
Sat 27 & Sun 28 Jan 10am - 2pm Ranger Station Free	Big Garden Bird Watch Collect your recording sheet from the Ranger Station and note down all the birds you spot in an hour for the RSPB's annual survey. 
Fri 2 Feb 1pm - 3pm Discovery Hub Volunteer event	Event Volunteers Help the parks team with its packed event schedule. Tasks will vary each month and include making props, resources and costumes for events. Beginners welcome.
Tues 6 Feb 1pm - 3pm	Neaten and Natter <i>See 2 Jan listing for details</i>
Wed 7 Feb 11am start Ranger Station Free	Lichfield Parks Health Walks These gentle walks over easy terrain are open to everyone of any age and are a great way to see the parks.



What's on at Beacon Park - February to March 2018

Date/time	Event details
Sat 17 to Sun 25 Feb 9am - 3pm £1	It's Nearly Spring Nature Trail Use a map to find the signs of spring. Answer the questions and enter the prize draw.
Mon 19 & Tues 20 Feb 10am - 11.30am, 12noon - 1.30pm and 2pm - 3.30pm Discovery Hub £3/£3.50	Kite workshops Make and decorate your own kite and then challenge others to a mini-kite flying competition! Most suitable for age 5+. All children must be accompanied. Booking essential - call 01543 308869 . It costs £3 with a Leisure Activity Passport & £3.50 for non-members.
Wed 21 Feb 11am start Ranger Station Free	Lichfield Parks Health Walks These gentle walks over easy terrain are open to everyone of any age and are a great way to discover the city's parks and to enjoy some healthy exercise. Weather permitting.
Fri 23 Feb 1pm - 2pm Skatepark Free	Wellbeing Wonder Wander A series of monthly mindful sessions using various senses to explore the amazing natural world within Beacon Park. February's session is called signs of spring search.
Fri 2 Mar 1pm - 3pm Discovery Hub Volunteer event	Event Volunteers Help the parks team with its packed event schedule. Tasks will vary each month and include making props, resources and costumes for events. Beginners welcome.
Sun 4 Mar 11am - 1pm Community Garden £1 for two pots	Seed Sunday Make your own paper pot and plant seeds to take away. £1 for two pots. All proceeds go back into community garden area. All ages welcome.
Tues 6 Mar 1pm - 3pm Community Garden Volunteer event	Neaten and Natter This volunteer activity is for adults who want to help us look after Beacon Park, which could include litter picking and weeding paths. Call 01543 308869 to confirm your place and to check the activity is running.
Wed 7 Mar 11am start	Lichfield Parks Health Walks <i>See 21 Feb listing for details</i>

Date/time	Event details
Sat 17 Mar - Sun 15 Apr 9am - 4pm Ranger Station £1.50/£2	Easter Trail Self-guided puzzle trail around Beacon Park. Aimed at 3+ with adult assistance. There are two levels of clues - one for little ones and another for older children. Includes small prize. The trail costs £1.50 for Leisure Activity Passport holders and £2 for non-members.
Sun 18 Mar 10.30am - 12.30pm Behind the golf course Volunteer event	Create a Poppy Field Everyone is invited to help create a poppy field in Beacon Park. Please bring your own gardening gloves and rakes. All welcome but children must be accompanied. Please call us on 01543 308867 to let us know to expect you so we can make sure there are enough half-time biscuits!
Wed 21 Mar 11am start	Lichfield Parks Health Walks <i>See 7 March listing for details</i>
Fri 23 Mar 1pm - 2pm Tennis courts Free	Wellbeing Wonder Wander A trial series of monthly mindful sessions using various senses to explore the amazing natural world within Beacon Park. March's session is called eye-spy.
Sunday 25 Mar 11am Beacon Park Free	Cycle Rides for All Bring your bike to Beacon Park and be led on a fun group cycle ride. This ride is suitable for all cycling abilities. www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/cyclerides
Sun 25 Mar 11am - 1pm	Seed Sunday <i>See 4 March listing for details</i>
Friday 30 Mar 11am - 2pm Play area £1	Stride and Seek Follow the map to find the egg-shaped markers. Find all the colours in the correct order to claim your certificate.

Tennis for Free: Everyone's invited to take part in coach-led tennis sessions on Sundays at Beacon Park from 2pm to 4pm. Sessions will start up at the end of Jan. Register & check online at beaconparktennis.co.uk

