



**Love Solihull - June 2022**



*This month we invite you to be part of The West Midlands Great Clean Up, showcase recent community projects, celebrate volunteers week and say thank you to those who helped bring together the Armed Forces Community Garden opening event*

## **Join 1,000 West Midlands Clean Up Volunteers this Summer**



West Midlands Combined Authority has partnered with environmental charity, [Keep Britain Tidy](#), to host The West Midlands Great Clean Up, ahead of welcoming up to one million sports fans and the world's media to the region for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

With 20 clean-up events planned across seven local authorities, the aim is to tackle litter on our streets and in our waterways in both urban and rural areas. Local residents, visitors, volunteer groups, schools, colleges, businesses, youth and faith groups are all invited to be part of the 1,000 #LitterHeroes who will be joining forces across the West Midlands.

Love Solihull is supporting this regional event by hosting a litter pick at Babbs Mill Park and Local Nature Reserve on Saturday 25 June between 10am to 12pm.

Babbs Mill, one of the Council's 16 [Green Flag](#) Parks, is located in Kingshurst, North Solihull and features a large lake, playground and skatepark with the beautiful River Cole meandering

through. The park also features as a key location on the Queen's Baton Relay route, when it begins its journey through Solihull on Tuesday 26 July.

For the clean-up, #LitterHeroes will assemble at the park's basketball court, where they will be provided with all the equipment needed to take part in looking after this beautiful outdoor facility.

First-time litter pickers, as well as regulars, are all welcome to attend and advised to register attendance [online](#). Children are also welcome and should be accompanied by a registering adult.

For more information on the West Midlands Great Clean Up and any other events taking place across the region visit: [www.WMCA.org.uk/wmclean](http://www.WMCA.org.uk/wmclean)

We look forward to seeing you at Babbs Mill to make a big impact ahead of the Games.

#WestMidlandsCleanUp #CleanWM

---

## Public Realm Team delivers a successful Armed Forces Community Garden opening event



On Friday 20 May 2022, the Council's Public Realm Team helped organise a fantastic event to celebrate the official opening of the Armed Forces Community Garden in Hillfield Park.

The garden, designed in collaboration with the Warwickshire & Birmingham County Royal British Legion, offers a natural environment which promotes the wellbeing of the Armed Forces community through nature-based activities.

### **Photo caption: A march past the Armed Forces Community Garden by the military**

The opening event saw more than 100 invited guests descend on the park, with Veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces present to see the formal unveiling of the archway and hear the remarkable stories of those impacted by combat and PTSD.

The garden was officially opened by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Professor Helen Higson OBE; the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ken Meeson; the President of Warwickshire

and Birmingham County Royal British Legion (RBL), Elaine Butler; and six Armed Forces Veterans.

The Public Realm Team, who are responsible for parks, open spaces and allotments, and manages campaigns such as Love Solihull and Planting Our Future, were supported by various organisations and community groups, including Friends of Hillfield Park, who all helped to make the event a huge success. With musical entertainment from the Bugaloo Babes, City of Birmingham Brass Band, Chandos Choir of Solihull and children from Monkspath School, the afternoon was rounded off with a traditional afternoon tea for the guests.

To read the full article, click [here](#)

Thank you to the Public Realm Team for pulling together this fantastic event and overseeing the garden project, which leaves a lasting legacy for the local community to enjoy.



**Back (L-R): Sarah Glasgow, Chris Barr, Barry Lowe, Adrian Crowe, Alison Lee, Adrian Butler, Chris Edgell**

**Front (L-R): Luke Beale, WO1 Mark Reynolds, Mayoress of Solihull Annette Meeson, Ben Parkinson MBE, Jo Williams and Shameena Villars**

---

## BNP Paribas UK volunteer at Monkspath School



[BNP Paribas UK](#) recently took part in a community project at Monkspath Junior and Infant School, as part of their corporate social responsibility pledge, which gives each staff member the opportunity to give at least one day of volunteering per year.

The group of Marketing colleagues, based at the Solihull office, got in touch with Love Solihull to offer their support and were paired up with the school who had plans to regenerate their garden area, and needed

support to make this a reality.

Love Solihull visited Monkspath School earlier in the year to meet with Sharon O'Keefe, the school's eco-leader, as well as two children from the eco-club to discuss their vision for the garden.

The children decided to remove the garden's large disused polytunnel which had become overtaken by bramble, to make way for more plants which encourage biodiversity and attract different wildlife species. The children eventually would like the area to be a sanctuary where pupils can relax and enjoy the nature on offer in a safe environment, including natural seating and animal habitats.

The team from BNP Paribas UK met with Love Solihull on-site in May to start work by first cutting back overgrown vegetation and then carefully dismantling the polytunnel, which the school found a new owner for, ensuring it would be reused, rather than ending up in landfill.

It was a warm day with a mixture of sunshine and showers, and the team worked very hard to ensure the school now has a space where they can begin work on their new garden.

Thank you to BNP Paribas UK for your committed approach to supporting this project - the future results will no doubt be fantastic to share!

If your business is interested in taking part in volunteering, email [lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk) to join our database and hear about the latest opportunities available.



Photo caption: Volunteers from BNP Paribas UK working in the garden at Monkspath School

## BBC Gardener's World Live school wheelbarrow competition

To celebrate the arrival of the Commonwealth Games in the West Midlands, schools across the region were recently invited to take part in a [competition](#) to plant a wheelbarrow which represents one of the 54 Commonwealth Countries.

**BBC**  
**Gardeners'**  
**World Live**

Sponsored by:  LEXUS

Schools were tasked with looking at the flora and fauna, garden styles, national heritage, cuisine and cultures from the country to inspire their design, and were particularly encouraged to take a lead from the edibles of their chosen country.

A number of Solihull schools have taken part, with all the entries going on display at the BBC Gardener's World Live show which is due to take place between 16 to 19 June 2022 at Birmingham NEC, where the winners will be announced and prizes awarded.

We are very excited to see the entries from the following Solihull schools, including:

Balsall Common Primary School – Anguilla  
Blossomfield Infant and Nursery School – England  
Damson Wood Nursery and Infant School – Canada  
Dickens Heath Primary School – England  
Fordbridge Community Primary School – Cyprus  
Haslucks Green Junior School – India  
Langley Secondary School – New Zealand  
Light Hall School – Australia  
Merstone School – Canada  
Monkspath Junior and Infant School – Kenya  
Reynolds Cross School – India  
Shirley Heath Junior School – India  
St Margaret's Church of England Primary School – India  
St Patrick's Church of England Primary Academy – India  
Tudor Grange Primary Academy Yew Tree – India  
Widney Junior School – Jamaica  
Woodlands Infant School – New Zealand  
Yorkswood Primary School – UK

Photos of each barrow will eventually be put on display at The Core during the run up to the Commonwealth Games, so we encourage those schools participating to share their entries with us on Twitter or Instagram @lovesolihull

Best of luck to all schools taking part in the competition!

---

## Queen's Baton Relay route to pass through Solihull parks



The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will cover nearly the whole of the borough as part of the final stages of a route that has taken it across the world to Commonwealth nations and territories in Europe, Africa, and Oceania. The day will be marked by numerous community celebrations and events along the route.

The visit of the Queen's Baton Relay to Solihull and the rest of the West Midlands region will be the culmination of a journey

which brings together and celebrates communities across the Commonwealth during the build up to the Games.

As the Queen's Baton Relay tours around the borough, it will visit Babbs Mill Park, Lavender Hall Park, Hope Coppice and Shirley Park, and will see community events taking place at each location.

A map and a list of places you can see the Queen's Baton Relay can be found [here](#) with more details about each community event available via [www.visitsolihull.co.uk](http://www.visitsolihull.co.uk) closer to the relay.

We look forward to celebrating with you soon!

---

## Celebrating volunteers across Solihull



During National Volunteers' Week, we wanted to extend a huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers who have supported Love Solihull and Planting Our Future over the last 12 months; without you our ambition of making Solihull a clean, green and safe space to live, work and play would not be achievable.

The Planting Our Future team were supported by more than 300 volunteers during the last year who gave their time to support activities such as a tree planting.

Love Solihull also registered a further 470 volunteers during the last 12 months for the Community Litter Picking Initiative, making the total number registered just under 1,000! The scheme is embraced by those residents who regularly litter pick in their own time as individuals or groups, helping to keep our streets, parks and open spaces clean.

To all those who tirelessly give up their time to support our campaigns and the work of Solihull Council, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



---

## 'Chatty Benches' painted by Friends of Shirley Park



Members of [Friends of Shirley Park](#) recently took part in painting the first of two 'Chatty Benches' located in Shirley, with one in the park and the other close to the main entrance of Parkgate near the Royal British Legion.

The benches are part of a project supported by Citizens Advice Solihull Borough (CASB), Parkgate, Friends of Shirley Park, Solihull Healthcare Partnership and Solihull Council.

The aim of the project is to help reduce social isolation and loneliness by encouraging people to sit on the designated benches and chat.

We are super proud of Friends of Shirley Park for supporting such a worthy project and for getting

stuck in with the painting! To read the full article, click [here](#)

**Photo caption: Friends of Shirley Park getting the designated 'chatty bench' ready for painting**

---

## Meet The Funder - Community Green Grants



West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) are keen to see more applications from groups or individuals in Solihull for the [Community Green Grants](#) scheme.

The funding is intended for projects that will increase people's access to nature by improving green spaces or enhancing the local environment. Grants of between

£3,000 - £25,000 and £25,000 - £100,000 are available.

WMCA and [Warwickshire CAVA](#) will host a virtual workshop, giving you the chance to find out more about how the grants can be used and what makes a good application.

The virtual event will take place on **Wednesday 29 June** between **5-6pm**

[Register](#) online to receive a link to join the webinar and find out more about the fund.

We would also encourage any individuals or groups considering making an application to email [Love Solihull](#) with an overview of your application, so that we can offer our guidance and support.

---

## Free Nature & Wellbeing sessions offered by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Our friends over at [Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#) will be hosting four free sessions aimed at people who may be experiencing loneliness or social isolation, where you can learn about nature and wildlife, and how to harness nature as a tool for positive wellbeing.

All sessions will be based at Hams Hall Environmental Centre (B46 1GA) with free parking and accessible facilities are available on site.

You can attend as many or as few activities as you like. All sessions are suitable for beginners and remember to [register online](#) as places are limited.

**Session 1:** Thursday 11 August - try a guided walk around the local woodland and surrounding area to explore green spaces and how nature can be used for wellbeing

**Session 2:** Saturday 13 August - have a go at wildlife identification and take a look at the pond and garden.

**Session 3:** Tuesday 16 August - take part in practical conservation work around the local area, learning how to use hand tools and helping manage habitats for wildlife.

**Session 4:** Thursday 18 August - join the group to try some crafting activities, using natural materials to make tools and create art.

For more info email [enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk) or phone 01675470917



**Warwickshire**  
Wildlife Trust



**Tame Valley**  
Wetlands

# Nature & Wellbeing Sessions



**For people experiencing loneliness or social isolation**



Hams Hall Environmental Centre  
B46 1GA



Sessions running 11th, 13th,  
16th and 18th August 2022



## Get outside and experience nature

Explore local nature and green spaces, learn about wildlife, and use nature as a tool for positive wellbeing



## Try out different activities

Take part in guided walks, mindfulness sessions, beginners' conservation activities, wildlife ID and more



## Meet people

Join a group of other people and make new friends

*Scan me to sign up*



**FUNDED BY:**  
**Warwickshire**  
County Council  
COVID-19 RECOVERY FUND

For more information:



01675 470 917



enquiries@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

Love Solihull actively encourages residents and businesses to make a difference to the environment and support those who co-ordinate their own projects.

Email alerts will be sent out throughout the year giving information on environmental projects including what is happening in your area and how you can get involved.

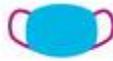
More information can be found at [www.lovesolihull.org](http://www.lovesolihull.org)

---

keep doing the  
**right thing**  
for Solihull



Hands



Face



Space



Fresh air



Get a test



Get a jab

## Solihull Fairtrade trail comes to town centre

For more information about Council services, please see our [website](#).

