



Love Solihull - June 2021



In this month's issue we have a report back about the Great British Spring Clean, a video competition for schools, latest news on the Armed Forces Community Garden, information about Planting Our Future, a tree trail in Shirley Park and how you can become a volunteer walk leader!

Great British Spring Clean

We had a fantastic response to the **Great British Spring Clean** which took place between 29 May to 13 June this year.

The annual campaign from Keep Britain Tidy is a great way to encourage people to consider litter picking, individually or as part of an organised group, to support their local community.



We had volunteers of all ages taking part, with many trying litter picking for the first time, including a number of beaver and cub scout groups, staff and residents from Solihull Community Housing, service users from various charities like Social Life Opportunities and Colebridge Trust, as well as various schools who took part in the Great Big School Clean.

One resident-led group - Cars Area Together (Smith's Wood) - used the litter pick as an activity to engage with local residents, getting together afterwards for half-term games and refreshments on a nearby field.

Several of our established community groups and friends of parks organisations also took the opportunity to carry out their first in-person group litter pick of the year, and had a great time catching up with friends in the fresh air.

Love Solihull provided support throughout the campaign, loaning equipment to various groups and arranging bag collections, making the 2021 Great British Spring Clean another huge success for Solihull.

A special thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who help keep Solihull looking litter-free all year round. We now have over 500 registered individual litter pickers in the Solihull borough, which shows just how many people are passionate about taking pride in where they live.

Caption - Year 7 pupils from Langley School taking part in the Great British Spring Clean

Competition for Schools

Following the success of the Great Big School Clean, we would like to invite all schools in the borough to join our litter free campaign by entering a video competition.

We would like schools to come up with a short, engaging video which features young people getting their message across to the wider community about litter and the use of bins in public areas, like parks and neighbourhoods.

Video entries will be judged by an independent panel, taking into consideration the number of likes and views on YouTube, with the winning video being shared by Love Solihull as part of the campaign.

The competition closes on **Wednesday 14 July 2021**, with the winning school announced by the end of Summer term. Prizes will include school litter picking equipment - kindly donated by Helping Hand Environmental - and Touchwood gift vouchers.

For full details, download the [competition guidelines](#) or email Alison Lee (Community Engagement Officer) on alisonlee@solihull.gov.uk

Best of luck!

Armed Forces Community Garden

The Armed Forces Community Garden at Hillfield Park is now open for visitors to relax in beautiful surroundings with newly planted trees, wildflower carpet and raised flower beds. The seating area provides a quiet place for veterans, serving personnel and local residents to sit and reflect.



The Opening Ceremony was due to take place on Friday 16 July but in accordance with Government guidance can no longer take place.

All parties are committed to rearranging the ceremony and creating a meaningful event later in the year when it is allowed, more updates will be released by Solihull Council in due course - <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/news/armed-forces-community-garden-16-july-opening-ceremony-postponed>

Planting Our Future

The Council has pledged to plant 250,000 trees over the next ten years as part of its commitment to tackling climate change. To help achieve this goal we are calling on landowners (including schools, hotels, golf courses and private landowners) to come forward and offer land for tree planting.

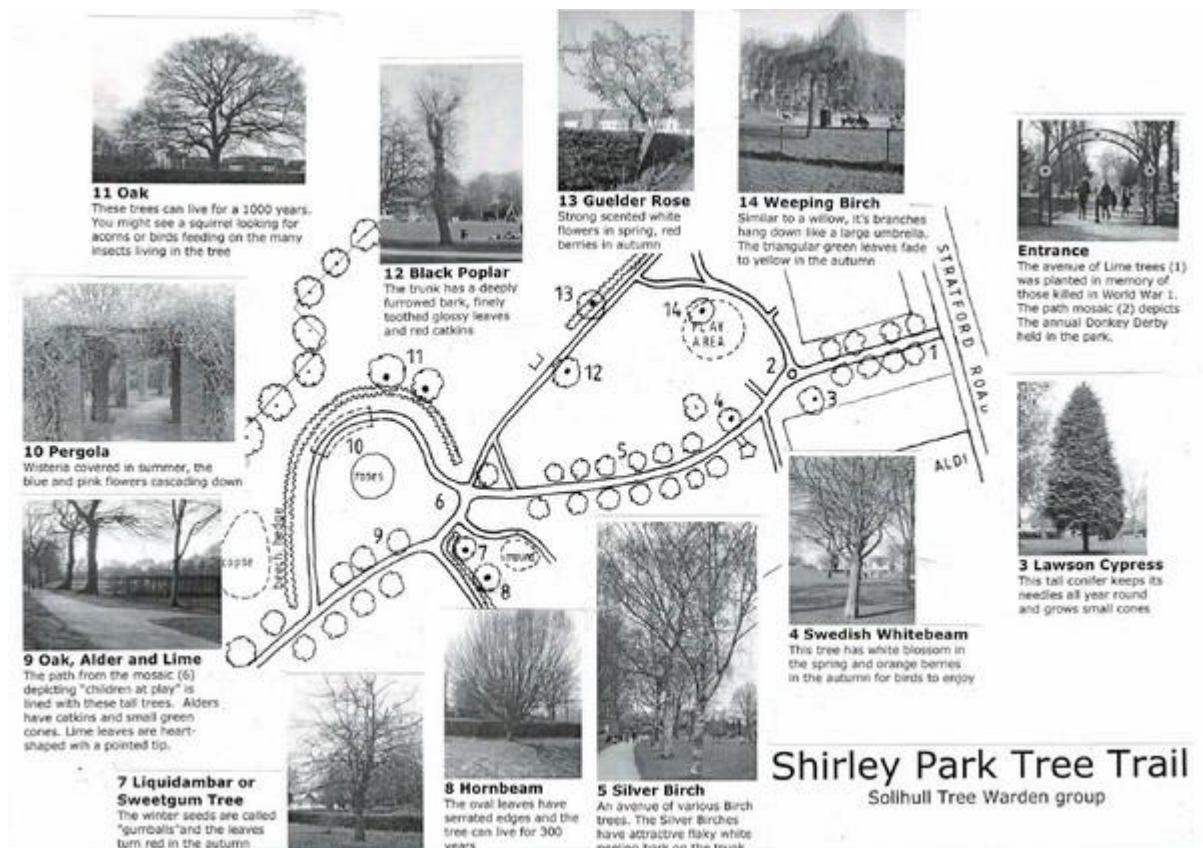
If you would be interested in pledging some land, please email plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk or fill in an [expression of interest form](#).

Solihull Tree Wardens

The Solihull Tree Wardens are volunteers who help to conserve trees and woodlands in the borough.

They recently put together a fantastic tree trail around Shirley Park. This takes includes over ten different species of tree which not only provide beautiful foliage throughout the year, but form an important part of the park's biodiversity.

Download a copy of the trail to follow on your phone by visiting our [website](#) and find out more about the Solihull Tree Wardens group.



Volunteer Walk Leaders – Solihull Active

If you enjoy regular walks through our beautiful parks and open spaces, you may want to consider supporting others to get active and stay healthy through walking too.

Solihull Active is looking for volunteer walk leaders and assistants at locations across the borough to support the Striders and Strollers Walking programme. This is a great way to stay active and volunteer in your local community, with full training and support provided by Solihull Active.

Click [here](#) for more information or email Les Nash, Solihull Active: les.nash@solihull.gov.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

COVID-19
Let's take this next step, safely.



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

