



**Love Solihull - October 2021**



***This month we celebrate our 16 parks who have retained their Green Flag status, share exciting updates from Planting Our Future and highlight recent engagement with young people across the borough***

## **Solihull Council celebrates 16 of the best parks and green spaces in the country**

In a record-breaking year for the Green Flag Award – the international quality mark for parks and green spaces - Solihull Council is raising a Green Flag Award at 16 parks, cemeteries and green spaces.

In the last 18 months our parks and green spaces have played a vital role for people through lockdowns as places to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely. The Green Flag Award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the teams that make green spaces great spaces that everyone can enjoy.



And as the scheme celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> year, 2,127 parks and green spaces across the UK – the most since its launch - have been given a Green Flag for 2021.

**Deputy Leader for Solihull Council, Cllr Karen Grinsell said:**

“In the last 18 months many of us have rediscovered our parks and open spaces as places to meet, exercise, reflect and find peace. They have been crucial to our physical and mental wellbeing during these very difficult times.

“I am therefore not surprised that even more parks have succeeded in gaining their Green Flags across the UK this year despite the challenges faced.

“I am proud that we have been able to continue to manage and maintain our parks and spaces and that this has been recognised for the nineteenth consecutive year. It speaks volumes about the hard work and passion of both staff and the army of volunteers across the borough. Thank you and well done to everyone who has made this possible over the last year.”

Read the full article [here](#)

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## West Midlands Police Cadets combat litter in Chelmsley Wood



Earlier this month, we were invited to hold a workshop with the 1SH Chelmsley Wood, West Midlands Police Cadets. The evening focused on the issue of litter and the impact it has on local communities.

The cadets, aged 13-17 years, took part in a quiz to identify different types of litter and fly-tipping, followed by presentations of their own ideas on how to influence different groups within

the community to change their behaviour and attitudes towards litter. The cadets rounded off the evening by heading to Meriden Park to take part in a litter pick of the woodland and play area.

These young people showed a fantastic attitude towards problem solving and wanting to make where they live a better place for everyone. They are now planning a piece of art made from litter to further educate young people across the borough - keep your eyes peeled for more details!

If you would like to find out more about becoming a WMP Cadet or volunteering with the programme, visit their [website](#).

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## Litter Picking Hubs to re-launch at Libraries

From 1 November, litter picking hubs will re-open at libraries across the borough. The hubs will act as distributors of Love Solihull litter picking equipment for all new volunteers, as well as supporting existing litter pickers with additional rolls of bags.

All new volunteers are invited to [register online](#), after which you will be contacted by a member of the Love Solihull team to confirm when you can collect your kit from a library near you.

There are now over 600 registered volunteer litter pickers across the borough, so why not register and join our growing team of #LitterHeroes!



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## Local schools design bin stickers for community



Last Summer term, pupils from Langley Hall Secondary School and Sharmans Cross Infant School were invited to take part in a competition to create eye-catching designs for bin stickers to display in their local area.

The stickers help raise awareness of correct bin usage and aim to deter people from littering.

There were lots of fantastic designs with thought-provoking messages, showing just how important the issue is to young people.

The winners were unveiled this month. Designs by Langley School feature on bins at Langley Hall Park in Olton, and designs by Sharmans Cross School

feature on bins outside the shops on Prospect Lane and around the green space next to Woodside Way in St Alphege.

## Planting Our Future



The Planting Our Future team have had a busy couple of months with the opening of the Armed Forces Community Garden at Hillfield Park, as well as exciting work developments at Hope Coppice, you can read all the updates in their quarterly newsletter [here](#)

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## School Virtual Climate Conference - 11 November

[InterClimate Network](#) (ICN) will be supporting Solihull Council to offer a virtual climate conference open to all secondary schools. This will be modelled on the UN Climate Change Conference ([COP26](#)), which takes place in Glasgow next month.



The event will take place via Microsoft Teams on **11 November 2021** and schools can register one or more teams to represent a country in the debate.

Participating students will discuss progress towards the Paris Agreement and negotiate raising ambition for more action, as though they were at the UN itself.

In preparation for taking part, or to discuss climate change in the classroom, there are various school resources put together by InterClimate Network available [online](#).

To register your school and access the welcome pack, e-mail: [schools@interclimate.org](mailto:schools@interclimate.org) or for informal enquiries, contact Sarah Lardner (Sustainability Team) via [slardner@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:slardner@solihull.gov.uk)

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## Elmdon Heritage Exhibition at The Core Library

For anybody with an interest in the history of Elmdon and Elmdon Park, a visit to The Core Library is a must!

From 23 October 2021 to 8 January 2022, the library will be hosting an Elmdon Heritage Exhibition, organised by Elmdon Park Support Group - and it's free for everyone to visit and enjoy.



There will be over 20 display boards and cabinets exhibiting Elmdon's rich heritage, including:

- A history of Elmdon ranging from the Iron Age to the present day; 70+ artefacts unearthed in Elmdon Park;
- Elmdon's diverse wildlife
- Photo display from a recent competition held by the Support Group
- Information on Support Group activities, campaigns and appeals

- Drone footage of Elmdon Park, as produced by Love Solihull.

## Oaks & Shires Family Event - 23 October

Just a reminder about this year's Oaks & Shires family event, which takes place on Saturday 23 October 11am – 3pm at Yorks Wood Local Nature Reserve in Kingshurst.

This free event is suitable for all the family and promises to be fun, educational and interactive, with the opportunity to see a working heavy horse in action. There will also be children's activities, natural crafts and chainsaw carving, plus much more.

The event is brought to you by Solihull Council with the support of various organisations - no need to book, just turn up on the day!

For more information see [here](#)

**FREE ENTRY**



# OAKS & SHIRES

2021

## Yorks Wood

## Local Nature Reserve

Fordbridge Rd nr Babbs Mill Lake  
Solihull, B37 6LU

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

### 11:00am - 3:00pm

**Family Event**

**Woodland Craft Activities**

**Working Heavy Horse**

**Medieval Scale Cottage**

**Children's Activities & More.**

Learn more about our woodlands and wildlife

A free event for the whole family



*Heavy Horse:* **Further Information: 0121 704 8000**

*Meet the Green Man:*

*Chainsaw Carving:*

*Craft Activities:*

*Pole Lathes:*

*Marshmallow Tossing:*

*Stick Whistles:*

*Willow Weaving:*

*Solihull Conservation Volunteers:*

## Halloween advice for the elderly or vulnerable

Halloween can be a scary time for people who don't like surprises or callers at the door.

The following advice is provided by West Midlands Police:

- Place the 'no trick or treats' card on your door or in your window to help deter trick or treaters.
- If you do receive an unexpected caller at the door, don't feel pressured to answer it.
- If you are expecting a caller, always ask for ID.
- If you have a door chain make sure it is securely fastened at all times and be sure to use your spy-hole viewer if you have one



Don't forget to download the West Midlands Police ['no trick or treats'](#) window card for use this Halloween.

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**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)**

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**keep doing the  
right thing  
for Solihull**



Hands



Face



Space



Fresh air



Get a test



Get a jab

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

