



## Love Solihull - September 2021

---



---

***This month we have been celebrating volunteer milestones, supporting environmental projects, participating in 'Great Big Green Week' and helping residents to 'Step It Up' for Recycle Week.***

---

### **u3a volunteers spruce up Olton Library**

A small group of volunteers from the Olton & District branch of [u3a](#) carried out a tidy up of the garden which surrounds Olton Library on Thursday 16 September.

It was a beautiful, sunny day and the team got stuck in with cutting back overgrown vegetation, weeding, planting bulbs for next Spring, then finishing with fresh woodchip which was generously donated by [Fairways Limited](#).



The team also helped tackle the alleyway which runs along the side of the library between the car park and Warwick Road. The hedge, which had become a dumping ground for litter and glass bottles, was trimmed and cleared of rubbish to make it more inviting and safer for passing residents.

The group, organised by Rob Carmichael (u3a) with support from Love Solihull, were pleased to make a long-awaited return to group activities and enjoyed catching up with friends and taking part in an active morning.

---

### **5,000 bags for Castle Bromwich Litter Pickers**



Volunteers in Castle Bromwich have reached another unbelievable milestone, having collected 5,000 bags of litter since they formed.

The group gathered to celebrate on Monday 20 September at the village green, tucking into a beautiful home baked cake made especially to mark the occasion.

Whilst this is a fantastic achievement for a dedicated group of local volunteers, they recognised much still needs to be done to tackle the ongoing issue of litter in the area and they will continue to work alongside Love Solihull on future initiatives.

---

## Litter Picking Hubs to re-launch at libraries

By the end of October, litter picking hubs will re-open in selected libraries across the borough. The hubs will act as distributors of Love Solihull litter picking equipment for all new volunteers, as well as replenishing registered litter pickers with additional rolls of bags.

More information will be available on both our [website](#) and social media channels as soon as the hubs open in the coming weeks.

Any new volunteers should continue to [register online](#), after which you will be contacted by a member of the Love Solihull team with details on how and where to obtain your equipment.



---

## 'Step It Up' for Recycle Week (20-26 September)

The theme of this year's Recycle Week, brought to us by [Recycle Now](#), was 'Step It Up', which aimed to increase the amount of recycling in homes to combat climate change. A recent Recycle Now survey found that found 55% of UK households still put recyclable items in the rubbish bin.

The council's Waste & Recycling Team has been raising awareness about how to recycle properly and which items Solihull Council can collect for recycling from residential properties through Love Solihull's twitter feed.

For more information, visit the [website](#).

---

## Bench Restoration Project at Babbs Mill



An environmental project, completed by members of the community, has refurbished tired looking benches and picnic tables at Babbs Mill Local Nature Reserve.

The project, led by local resident and Solihull Council staff member, Derek Churchard, was supported by Jo Cole (Rainbow Alliance Kingshurst), Cllr Marcus Brain and Love Solihull. It has made a huge improvement to the park for the enjoyment of everyone.

Well done to all involved!

---

## Great Big Green Week (18-26 September)



### Friends of Shirley Park Event

On Friday 24 September, [Friends of Shirley Park](#) hosted an event as part of The Great Big Green Week, an environmental initiative to showcase actions being taken to help tackle climate change.

Students from Kingswood School visited Shirley Park to participate in various environmental educational activities, including tree trails and nature walks, with the children ranging from infants to juniors (5 to 10 years).

The Planting Our Future team (with support from Love Solihull and Friends of Shirley Park) assisted the children in planting over 70 cherry tree seeds in their very own bio-degradable pots which they got to take home, along with advice sheets on how to care for their seedlings.

Cherry trees were selected because they are easy to grow, are perfectly sized for the garden, look beautiful, have tasty fruit and encourage biodiversity. They were also chosen as a way of linking to the cherry trees planted at Hope Coppice last year as a remembrance to those affected by COVID-19. The cherry tree seeds planted by the children act as a symbolic milestone of the pandemic, mental health and wellbeing, acknowledging how far we have come and a sign for a green future.

The children also helped forage and furnish Shirley Park's newest addition - its very own Bug House! The Bug House was filled with the best the park had to offer and placed in prime location to provide habitats for a variety of wildlife in the park and support pollinators.

Wonder Woods Forest School was also in attendance at the event. Their nurturing ethos enables children of all ages and abilities to deepen their understanding of self, others and the natural environment surrounding them. The children took part in several activities including climate change-themed chalk drawings and nature-based storytelling, under the shade of the tepee. Follow [@wonderwoodsforestschool](#) on Instagram to keep up to date with all their latest activities and events.

Thank you also to members of the [Talking Rubbish in Solihull](#) committee who visited the event, armed with litter picking kit, to support Friends of Shirley Park.

For more from the Planting Our Future team, head over to Facebook [@PlantingOurFutureSol](#), Instagram and Twitter [@LoveSolihull](#)



## Young Litter Pickers

Thank you to all the amazing young litter pickers who headed out during Great Big Green Week, with special thanks to Shirley 6<sup>th</sup> Cubs and Dorridge Scout Group, who both went litter picking in their local parks and neighbourhoods.

## #SolihullACTION Week (20-26 September)

Love Solihull supported a week of action in the north of Solihull, attending a pop-up engagement event in Kingshurst alongside West Midlands Police, Solihull Community Housing and The Active Wellbeing Society.

Children took part in creating posters to raise awareness about litter and their families were able to tell us about the environmental issues causing the most concern where they live. It was a great opportunity to sign up some new volunteer litter pickers, and the council's Grime Team headed out during the week to cleanse areas of specific concern.

The week was rounded off with a litter pick on Sunday 26 September alongside Clean & Green, who recently reached a huge milestone of 600 followers on Facebook! The group, made up of Love Solihull, Solihull Community Housing and Kingshurst Litter Pickers, managed to collect over 15 bags of litter, as well as retrieve a trolley from the River Cole and various other fly-tipped items.

The week was a great opportunity to work with various partners and residents in the north of the borough and come up with some ideas to tackle environmental issues going forward.



## Armed Forces Garden at Hillfield Park

The Planting Our Future team in conjunction with the [Royal British Legion Warwickshire and Birmingham County](#) and the council's landscape team have created a 'healing garden' for veterans. .

The Armed Forces Community Garden (AFCG), completed in May 2021, is now open for the public to enjoy. It is home to a community wildlife garden, which hosts a relaxing seating area and leads to a walkway through a community orchard and a summer meadow filled with a purple haze meadow mix.

Beyond this, visitors will find a boardwalk and community woodland which follows the [RBL's Battle Back Centre](#) principles to create opportunities for active recovery.

On approach to the circular archway at the entrance to the garden, visitors will see a thought-provoking and assuring message which reads 'Courage Does Not Always Roar' – also revealed last month.

We hope everyone has the opportunity to visit and enjoy this beautiful garden.

[Read more...](#)



---

**Oaks & Shires Family Event - Saturday 23  
October**

This year sees the welcome return of the popular Oaks & Shires event, which will be held on Saturday 23 October 11:00am – 3:00pm at Yorks Wood Local Nature Reserve in Kingshurst.

This event for all the family promises to be fun and interactive, including the opportunity to meet a real-life working heavy horse used in woodland management. There will be children's activities, natural crafts and chainsaw carving, plus much more.

The event is completely free and brought to you by Solihull Council - no need to book, just turn up on the day!

**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:*

*Solihull Conservation Volunteers:* *Stick-nisticks:* *Chainsaw Carving:* *Willow Weaving:* *Craft Activities:* *Pole Lark:* *Marshmallow toasting:*

## Planting Our Future joins Facebook



Did you know that Planting Our Future is now on Facebook?

You can find us [@PlantingOurFutureSol](https://www.facebook.com/PlantingOurFutureSol) – give us a like and follow us for Planting Our Future updates and opportunities.

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



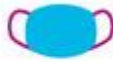
Email alerts will be sent out throughout the year giving information on environmental projects including what is happening in your area and how you can get involved.

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

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

