



## Love Solihull - January 2022



*This month we bring you updates from various litter picking groups, look at ways to get active in your local park and prepare for this year's Great British Spring Clean.*

## Great British Spring Clean 2022



We are looking forward to once again supporting the Great British Spring Clean, a two-week nationwide campaign by [Keep Britain Tidy](#) which aims to tackle litter around the country and encourage more people to take pride in where they live.

The dates of the seventh annual #GBSpringClean and #GBSchoolClean are **25 March to 10 April 2022**, so we invite you to put them in your diary and get involved!

Further details about the campaign will be released next month, but in the meantime, we encourage all local schools, colleges, community groups, charities and businesses to let us know in advance if you are planning on taking part.

Love Solihull is able to loan equipment and provide bags for group litter picks, so please email [lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk) to make a request. Equipment is available on a first come, first served basis, and we recommend getting in touch **as soon as possible** with the date, time and location of your event.

You can still get involved as an individual by registering to be a [Love Solihull Community Litter Picking Volunteer](#) and subscribing to [Keep Britain Tidy](#) for updates. Once registered with Love Solihull, you can collect free litter picking equipment from your local library.

Additional support will also be available to schools and colleges wanting to get involved, including a variety of teaching resources to help engage with young people on the topic of litter and the impact it has on the environment.

Keep up to date with all the latest information by subscribing to our [Stay Connected](#) newsletter and following [@LoveSolihull](#) on Twitter and Instagram.

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## Nominate bearers for the Queen's Baton Relay



**Do you know somebody who is ready to step forward, make a change, and take it on?**

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games is coming to the region this year, and the search is on to find 2,022 Batonbearers, each with inspiring stories, to take on the special experience of carrying the Queen's Baton.

Batonbearers should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Always willing to take on a challenge and has a unique and inspiring story;
- Has made a meaningful contribution to sport, education, the arts, culture, or charity
- Is a figure of inspiration that positively challenges others to achieve their best
- Has taken on a challenge or cause and made a positive impact within their community

The Queen's Baton Relay will travel to every region in England and will head into Solihull before arriving at the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games on 28 July 2022.

To make a nomination, simply let them know how your nominee is making a difference in their community and why they deserve to take on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

For full details, visit the [Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay](#) website.

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## Olton Literary Litter Pickers make a welcome return



It was a positive start to the year for the Olton Literary Litter Pickers, with 16 volunteers turning up (in the pouring rain!) to take part in their first group litter pick in almost two years.

Founder, Chris Dunster, said: "We're back at it and it was a great vibe! We collected 19 bags and reported various fly-tipped items to the Council."

The group, founded in 2016, meets at [Olton Library](#) and offers a great way for local residents to meet new people, whilst making a huge difference to the local community.

If you want to find out more about the group and take part in their next litter pick, visit the Talking Rubbish in Solihull [facebook group](#) for details.

**Photo caption: Members of Olton Literary Litter Pickers meeting at the library**

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## Friends of Solihull Station reach litter milestone!



Friends of Solihull Station (FoSS) recently celebrated collecting 200 bags of rubbish from around the station in 2021.

Josie (pictured centre) joined the group to help complete the community service element of her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

The group regularly carry out litter picks to ensure the station is clean and welcoming for visitors to the town.

If you are interested in finding out more or volunteering with the group, follow them on [Facebook](#).

**Photo caption: Volunteers from Friends of Solihull Station (FoSS)**

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# How will you use your local park to stay active this year?

If you want to take control of your fitness in 2022, there are several ways to get active for free by making use of the facilities at your local park.

With over 1,500 acres of parks and open spaces in Solihull, there are plenty of locations to choose from - you can find a full list of public parks [here](#).

Naturally, parks provide ideal locations for walking, jogging or running, with circular pathways or more challenging off-path trails. If you need extra motivation, why not sign up to the [Brueton ParkRun](#) which is free to enter and offers a timed 5k course every Saturday from 9am.

There are several parks in the borough which have free-to-use outdoor gym equipment, so you don't need to splash out on an expensive gym membership to get back into exercise. Using bodyweight resistance stations, you can complete a varied workout at your own pace in the fresh air. Equipment can be found at: Babbs Mill, Damson Lane Park, Elmdon Park, Jacey Park, Knowle Park, Meriden Park, Shirley Park and Tudor Grange Park.

Community Cycling Hubs are preparing to launch early this year at selected parks, giving residents access to free recreational cycling, supported by volunteers and cycling groups. Watch this space for more information coming soon!

If you already have your own bike, there are plenty of dual-use paths in parks, as well as dedicated cycle paths around the borough. There is also a fantastic 1km cycle track located at Tudor Grange Park and BMX track at Olton Jubilee Park.

If racket sports are more your thing, several parks have [PING! Table Tennis](#) tables and bookable [LTA Tennis](#) courts - all free to use when bringing your own equipment.

Head over to [Solihull Active](#) for more ideas on how to stay active during 2022.

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## Tree Planting at Lavender Hall Park

During the first week in January, the Planting Our Future team visited the Green Flag awarded Lavender Hall Park to plant trees with the help of volunteers from Touchwood Shopping Centre and 1st Balsall Common Brownie Guides.

Lavender Hall Park now has the addition of two tree-lined paths, consisting of over 40 trees, 20 of which are sponsored by Touchwood in honour of their 20th Anniversary, celebrated last year.

Volunteers from Touchwood joined the team on a brisk January morning to help plant the trees they had sponsored.



**Photo caption: Staff from Touchwood at Lavender Hall Park**

The Planting Our Future team was also joined by a fantastic group from 1st Balsall Common Brownie Guides on Saturday 8 January, who helped plant the remaining trees. The girls and the team had an active and fun morning planting the second tree-lined path in Lavender Hall Park, as well as talking about the wide variety of benefits trees offer to people and the environment.

Why not head over to the park and take a look during your next walk - we recommend a stroll through Katherine's Wood while you're there too!

Many thanks to the contractors who helped plant on both days, pre-digging holes for the Brownie Guides and providing general support with planting.

If your business would like to hear more about our sponsorship opportunities, please email [plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk). You can join us on our planting journey by following @LoveSolihull on Twitter and Instagram, or heading over to our [Facebook](#) page.

For more information, visit our website: [www.lovesolihull.org/plantingourfuture](http://www.lovesolihull.org/plantingourfuture)



Photo caption: 1st Balsall Common Brownies at Lavender Hall Park

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## CycleSafe Guided Ride - Sat 5 Feb at Babbs Mill



[CycleSafe](#) is a project delivered by Clean & Green in North Solihull, supported by Solihull Council, West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner, Sustrans and We Are Cycling UK.

Their first event will take place at Babbs Mill Park and LNR in the East Car Park on Fordbridge Road (B37 6LU) on **Saturday 5 February** between 9:30am - 12:30pm.

Join the group for a guided cycle around the beautiful Babbs Mill in a safe, fun and relaxing environment. The event is free to attend and you are welcome to bring your own bike or hire one of the free bikes available from the Babbs Mill Cycling Hub.

Please register your attendance via the [Facebook](#) event and message CycleSafe if you wish to hire a bike, as numbers are limited.

As well as the guided ride, there will be a Dr Bike station carrying out free basic repairs and maintenance on your bike, as well as security advice and property marking provided by West Midlands Police.

All ages and abilities are welcome to attend and it is recommend you bring your own helmet, where available.

All attendees should carry out a lateral flow test before attending the event and not attend if you test positive or are experiencing any symptoms of COVID, to ensure the safety of all participants.

Keep up to date with this event by visiting the CycleSafe [Facebook](#) page.

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## Solihull Fairtrade trail comes to town centre

Schools across Solihull have been busy creating handmade sculptures and artwork for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight theme of 'Choose The World You Want'.

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes - people who are often exploited and underpaid.

This year's theme encourages generations of all ages to think about the choices we make, how they will impact the planet and shape the future of our world; particularly important this year is the idea of agency and being mindful of our own actions.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 will be a show of solidarity with communities overseas on the frontline of the climate crisis. The climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Without a fairer income, they are unable to invest in the types of mitigation and adaptation techniques needed to protect the environment, and their businesses.

The Fairtrade Trail artwork will be on display from **19 February to 6 March** in various well-known shops in Solihull Town Centre and trail sheets will be available shortly. The trail features a quiz, so you will need to visit all of the locations to view the artwork and reveal the answers!

For more information about Fairtrade, visit the council's [webpage](#).








# Solihull Fairtrade Trail

19 February - 6 March

Solihull Town Centre

Spot the artwork in shop windows and complete the Fairtrade quiz.

Trail sheets are available from The Core Library or you can download them here:

[www.solihull.gov.uk/fairtrade](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/fairtrade)



Scan here for your trail sheet!



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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