



StayConnected



Love Solihull - November 2022



This month we celebrate the amazing volunteers across the borough, showcase recent corporate volunteer days and look ahead to the forthcoming tree planting season with 'Planting Our Future'

Celebrating volunteers across the borough



Last month we said a huge thank you to volunteers from around the borough by holding a celebration event at Solihull Indoor Bowls Club (SIBC).

Community members from Friends of Parks groups, Solihull Tree Wardens, allotment site reps and litter picking groups were invited to the event which included a drinks reception, buffet and awards.

A bowls taster was provided by volunteers from SIBC for those guests who wanted to try their hand at something competitive - the activity went down a storm and unearthed some hidden talent amongst several volunteers, including Vicky Wyton-Mills (Friends of Jacey Park), who was nominated as 'Star Player'!

The celebration was opened by Councillor Ken Hawkins, with Chris Barr, Head of Public Realm, as compère. It was the perfect opportunity for our team to recognise the efforts of volunteers who help to make Solihull a cleaner and greener place, through their support of the Love Solihull and Planting Our Future campaigns.

Speeches were given by community volunteers - Jenny Bright (Talking Rubbish in Solihull) and Jan Hiorns (Castle Bromwich Litter Pickers), alongside Chloe Parkes (West Midlands Police Cadets) and Sue Cummine (Veolia UK). Attendees had the opportunity to preview several promotional videos put together by the team which highlighted recent volunteer days with Touchwood, Solihull BID, u3a, Langley School Eco-Club and Hope Coppice. These videos are now available to view on our [YouTube](#) channel.

A number of awards were presented, including:

Litter Hero of the Year (sponsored by [Helping Hands Environmental](#))
Sue Quarterman, Elmdon

Community Group of the Year (sponsored by [Veolia](#))
[Friends of Hillfield Park](#)

Recognition Award
Ruth Meredith & Graham Waldron ([Clean & Green](#))

Recognition Award
[Friends of Shirley Park](#)

Recognition Award
Laura & Graham O'Brien, Coppice Road Allotment

Recognition Award
Tony Albutt, Chadwick End Allotment

Recognition Award:
Maggie Lukeman, Sylvia Gardiner and Sally Woodhall, [South Solihull Community Group](#)

A special thanks to [Touchwood Shopping Centre](#) and [Solihull BID](#) for generously donating a gift voucher and VIP cards, which were presented to a number of volunteers at the event.

Volunteers were also given a thank you letter from Councillor Ken Meeson, Mayor of Solihull, in recognition of their hard work and dedication to volunteering in Solihull.

We want to thank everyone who joined us and extend our gratitude to all the volunteers who have supported Solihull Council this year.

Photo caption: Volunteers taking part in the indoor bowls taster at SIBC

Goodrich Consulting supports conservation work at Brueton Park



A group of colleagues from construction-based business, Goodrich Consulting LLP, gathered for an employee volunteer day at Brueton Park in Solihull last month.

The team, who have an office in the Midlands, were delighted to take part in conservation work with the Council's Park Rangers, laying fresh woodchip in a small area of woodland affectionately known as 'The

Secret Garden'.

The woodland is a peaceful setting with carved wooden toadstools - perfect for young children to sit amongst the trees and explore nature.

The team also helped re-paint two picnic benches next to the car park and planted daffodil bulbs near the park entrance.

The team had a great day and are already looking forward to working with Love Solihull on any future projects.

Special thanks to *idverde* and Notcutts who donated the woodchip and bulbs.

Photo caption: Goodrich Consulting LLP in the woodland at Brueton Park



Photo caption: Fresh woodchip laid in the 'Secret Garden' at Brueton Park

Volunteers clean-up at Queen's Gardens in Chelmsley Wood



Another fantastic community clean-up day was organised last month by Pablo from [Clean & Green](#) at the Queen's Gardens, opposite Asda in Chelmsley Wood.

The green space, located next to the Kingshurst Brook, has been maintained by the group, alongside Love Solihull, throughout the year. There has also been support from other organisations like B37 Project, Marston Green Lions and Colebridge Trust, to name a few.

Volunteers recently set to work cutting back overgrown vegetation, re-painting benches, removing graffiti, as well as retrieving trollies from the river, to be returned to local stores.

The latest clean-up was well attended, with representatives from West Midlands Police, [Solihull Community Housing](#), Asda and the Council's Civil Enforcement team ([Marston Holdings](#)), really demonstrating whole community collaboration.

Solihull Council recently installed an accessible picnic bench in the circular area to be enjoyed by local residents and mounted a beautiful plaque in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which commemorates Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre in 1971. The plaque now serves as a centrepiece in the gardens, acknowledging the support of volunteers who help to keep the area clean.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Queen's Gardens this year, but especially the volunteers from Clean & Green, who helped to organise each event.

Photo caption: A plaque installed at Queen's Gardens in Chelmsley Wood

CGI tackle litter around Solihull town centre



Solihull based IT and business consultancy, CGI, recently contacted Love Solihull to let us know how their litter picking events went over the summer.

A group of colleagues from the Energy Transformation team took to the streets and parks of Solihull over several afternoons, clearing a total of 18 bags of litter.

The team enjoyed getting out of the office as a group and recommend litter picking as a way that businesses can support the local community, whilst bonding as colleagues.

Sophie from CGI said: "Everyone enjoyed themselves and we are proud to be supporting the local community in which we live and work."

Thank you to the team for helping to keep our town centre clean during the summer.

Photo caption: CGI employees ready to litter pick outside their office on Homer Road

Knowle Society get planters ready for winter



[Knowle Society](#) once again gathered at the raised flowerbeds in St John's Way Shopping Precinct in Knowle to help prepare the planters for winter, by removing weeds and adding new flowers.

Spring flowering bulbs, donated by [Notcutts](#) in Solihull, were planted in some of the beds, which will provide an injection of colour early next year.

The volunteers also litter picked local streets and Knowle Park, observing that litter appears to be on the decline, which is a positive step forward for the village.

Thank you to all the volunteers who ensure these attractive beds are well cared for all year round.

Photo caption: Volunteer planting Daffodil bulbs in the raised beds

BNP Paribas volunteer at Meriden Park

A team of colleagues from personal finance company, BNP Paribas, gathered at Meriden Park last month to take part in an employee volunteer day.

The team, who are spread across the whole of the UK, met up in Solihull to give back to the community where their offices are based. One of the team even travelled from Glasgow to take part, and it proved to be a great opportunity for the team to network, as well as do something really positive for the local area.

The day included a variety of tasks such as litter picking, bench painting and cutting back overgrown vegetation. The group was productive throughout the whole day, with several volunteers clearing large amounts of debris from inside the park's tennis courts. One group also managed to uncover a commemorative stone that had previously been hiding under a large patch of bramble!

We want to thank all of the team from BNP Paribas for their support and for travelling a long way to spend the day with us - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



Photo caption: Highlights from the day with staff from BNP Paribas at Meriden Park

Save the date for The Great British Spring Clean!



The Great British Spring Clean takes place next year from Friday 17 March to Sunday 2 April 2023.

We are once again looking forward to supporting Keep Britain Tidy by encouraging schools, businesses and residents in Solihull to take action by helping to remove litter from our streets, parks and green spaces.

Don't forget to save the date in your diaries for next year and start planning how you can get involved!

For more information, email lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk

That's a WRAP on Recycle Week for another year!



Recycle Week 2022 took place between 17 to 23 October, and during the week, the Council's Waste and Recycling team shared lots of tips and information on Love Solihull's Twitter and Instagram feed.

If you missed any of it, you can find out more information about how to recycle, what goes in your recycling bin and where your recycling ends up on the Council's dedicated [webpage](#).

Save the date for the next awareness raising campaign from [WRAP](#), [Food Waste Action Week](#), taking place 6 to 12 March 2023.

Look out for more information early next year on how you can get involved.

Tree planting season begins in Solihull



With the arrival of the winter tree planting season, the 'Planting Our Future' team is looking forward to engaging with lots of community groups, schools, colleges and businesses over the next few months.

You can keep up to date with all their latest news on [Facebook](#) and on Twitter @LoveSolihull. And don't forget to keep an eye out for the first newsletter of the season, published on the '[Planting Our Future](#)' webpage during [National Tree Week](#) - an annual campaign by [The Tree Council](#).

The week celebrates the beauty and importance of trees and takes place this year between **27 November to 5 December**.

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

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

