



Love Solihull - August 2021



As Summer draws to a close, we look back over a month of activities, including Love Parks Week and Solihull Park Fun Days. As we head into Autumn, we discover how community groups can get involved in the Great Big Green Week and hear about plans for Hope Coppice.

Love Parks Week (23 July – 1 August)

Love Parks Week, a campaign by Keep Britain Tidy, provided the perfect opportunity for the teams behind Love Solihull and Planting Our Future to get out and about and meet with park users.



We had a great time at Malvern & Brueton finding out why people of all ages love their park and how they use them - whether meeting friends, family picnics, dog walking or playing sport. Parks clearly play an important role in everyday life, and deserve respect and protection.

During the week, we had the exciting opportunity to meet Perry, the mascot for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, who told us how they loved to see new trees being planted in the borough.

Thank you to all the community groups who got involved during the week with litter picking or conservation projects within their local park which helped to improve the park experience for others over the Summer.

Check out our wrap up video on Instagram [here](#)

School Competition Winners

Huge thanks to the schools that entered our Summer Term competition to create a video which highlights the impact of littering and the importance of using bins in public spaces.

Congratulations to **Merstone School**, whose video came first, winning their own classroom litter picking kit and Touchwood Gift Voucher.

The pupils at Merstone explained how they want to walk in a rubbish-free zone, and encourage everyone to help keep Solihull clean by taking rubbish home or putting it in the bin!

You can view and share the winning video [here](#)



Urban Growth Company

The Urban Growth Company based at the UK Central Hub in Solihull, recently held a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) afternoon for staff, getting together in person for the first time in 16 months!

The team - armed with litter picking equipment supplied by Love Solihull - spent a few hours

cleaning up nearby Marston Green Park.

Thank you to the team for getting involved and making a difference to the local area (while having some team-bonding fun!)

Park Fun Days

As part of the Summer Holidays programme of events, the Council hosted four park fun days at Bentley Heath, Meriden, Olton Jubilee and Shirley Park during August.

These free COVID safe events proved popular, featuring children's storytellers, entertainers, rides, food stalls, treasure trails and plenty of activities.

Love Solihull had the pleasure of attending the event at both Olton Jubilee and Shirley Park talking to residents about our litter picking initiative and challenging the children who attended to enter our bin sticker competition, with winning designs to be featured in the local park.

We had some creative entries with thought-provoking messages on why littering is bad for the environment - look out for the winning designs soon and remember to #KeepItBinIt next time you visit your local park!



Great Big Green Week

Taking place from 18 - 26 September 2021, [Great Big Green Week](#) is a national celebration of climate action with ambitions to be the biggest event of its kind. Brought to you by the Climate Coalition, community groups from across the UK are invited to host events which shine a light on the positive steps people are taking around the country to address the climate emergency.

The week precedes the UK hosting the [UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\)](#) from 31 October to 12 November in Glasgow, where it is hoped local action will influence world leaders on key decision making ahead of the conference.

In Solihull, Great Big Green Week gives local community groups a chance to host their own activity, with ideas such as an organised litter pick, climate cafe, conservation project or art project.

Love Solihull would like to hear from any community groups planning an event - please email lovesolihull@lovesolihull.gov.uk or tag us on Twitter/Instagram @lovesolihull and don't forget to register the event via the [Great Big Green Week](#) website.



Great Big Green Week Afternoon – Bentley Heath Community Centre

Date: Saturday 26 September

Time: 2:30 – 5.15pm

The event, hosted by [Packwood & Bentley Heath WI](#), is open to all ages, with cakes and refreshments available, activities for children, a raffle and various stalls providing information on

climate change and the environment.

The event will highlight the WI's contribution to the [Stitches for Survival](#) project. The group have been busy making sections of a scarf which will be taken to Glasgow to display in the streets ahead of the COP26.

They will also be showcasing their contribution to a mass-participation art project called [Moths to a Flame](#), by making dozens of moths out of used plastic milk bottles. These will go on display at Glasgow Botanic Gardens as part of an art installation in the lead up to COP26.

For more updates, register for the [Facebook event](#)

Balsam Bash at Cole Bank Local Nature Reserve

Volunteers from community group [Clean & Green](#) joined forces with [Tribal](#) for a 'Balsam Bash' in the north of the borough this month. They removed invasive Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Cole, as well as litter picking and collecting abandoned shopping trollies.

These two groups continue to support each other in the North, having recently hosted a Lake Life walk around Babbs Mill, spotting a variety of wildlife and discovering more about the ecosystem of the lake.

Great collaboration!

Planting Our Future
Solihull

Nature has been a lifeline to many during the pandemic, a backdrop to our daily walks and providing us with moments of peace and tranquillity and helping to rejuvenate our mental state.

Recognising the link between wellbeing and nature, the Planting Our Future team, in partnership with Copper Beech, are looking to enhance an open space situated on land predominantly in Dickens Heath Parish between Blythe and Shirley South in remembrance of those affected by the pandemic.

Earlier in the year more than 800 trees were planted to create a woodland, a community orchard and cherry tree entrance (19 cherry trees to reference Covid-19).

The next stage of works will be starting on 6 September, these will include the creation of board walks, woodchip paths, a specially designed archway and nature play – such as balance logs and stepping beams.

Hope Coppice will be completed within twelve weeks. You can follow the journey on Twitter and Instagram @lovesolihull and the new [Planting Our Future](#) Facebook page.

For information about other Planting Our Future projects, visit www.lovesolihull.org/plantingourfuture

Hope Coppice, Solihull

SMBC are planting a new woodland for residents and families in remembrance of those affected by Covid-19 and to make our community more resilient to Climate Change by creating further green corridors, increasing bio-diversity and creating new habitats. We apologise for any disruption to your visit during phase 1. Works on phase 1 are due to start September 2021 and last approx. 10 week.

🐦 @ Follow Love Solihull on Twitter & Instagram to follow progress.

Community orchard

Wildflower meadow

Boardwalk paths

Bulb planting

Secret woodland garden

Access for specialist contractor

Woodloes Road

Liquidambar

Planting of 19 cherry blossom trees

Woodland tree planting

N

red kite

Crowders
Growing since 1798

Planting Our Future
Solihull

WOODLAND TRUST

Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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](#).

