



LDGS NEWS

We wish all the Greenspace groups a happy and busy Spring keeping our Green Spaces thriving.

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY 23RD APRIL from 5 pm

Our next GREEN SPACES FORUM for all groups and their members will be on Thursday 23rd April. We will be visiting Uggle Lane Green Space in South Lancaster, followed by our forum meeting, with the chance to share information about your Green Space, hear from a representative from Myerscough College about free horticulture courses; updates from Lancaster City Council, LDGS grants and other local projects.

For the walk, meet at the main entrance, off the A6, near Rays Drive at 5.00pm and/or come to the Forum at the Boot & Shoe pub at 6.30pm. Order any refreshments from inside the pub before 6.30 and register your car on arrival. Parking for the walk and the Forum available at Booths, the Boot & Shoe or Whinfall Drive.

WEBSITE

The website is active. Take a look! If you know of newer groups which would like to be included, please contact Zoe. zoemunby@gmail.com
<https://lancastergreenspaces.org/>

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT TO BORROW LDGS has a wide variety of things for groups to borrow for special events or activities. These include gazebo, table, chairs, post digger tools for fencing, saws, spades etc. Some groups also have extensive tool stores which may be available to borrow.

REPORTING DAMAGED TREES OR OTHER SAFETY ISSUES TO LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

<https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/enviromental-problems/report-a-problem>

YOUR LDGS COMMITTEE:

Trustees – Chair: Abi Mills, Secretary: Zoe Munby, Tim Newton, Jenny Reddell

Treasurer: Peter Fielding, Newsletter: Hilary Smith

News from the Green Spaces



FRIENDS OF UGGLE LANE

Until two years ago, UGGLE Lane in Scotforth was neglected, overgrown and muddy. But the Friends Group has been working hard to change all that.



The area historically used to be rich in orchards and allotments. Later, in the 1990s, it benefited from a tree planting and twinning scheme. During lockdown, walkers discovered they didn't have to travel as far as the Lakes to experience nature. And now, the group is creating a special local place: "A Place for Nature".

Lancaster City Council had already been improving the path and planting Spring bulbs. Now, with funding from Lancashire Environmental Fund, the Friends group has also been able to plant primroses, cowslips and other native flowering plants, thus making it a great habitat for butterflies and moths, which will in turn increase the numbers of birds and bats. The workdays to sow wildflower seed, were inspired by the Community Wings project (with free seed from them and from the council).

This year, the Friends Group would like even more people to know about UGGLE Lane. In Spring into Action Week, with the help of local artists, they will be doing some deep listening with hydrophobic listening devices - both in the lane and to the community compost boxes!

New members and connections always welcome: Find them on their Facebook page (search UGGLE Lane Friends Group), or on the lane during the next LDGS meeting on Thursday 23 April.

THE FRIENDS OF HAPPY MOUNT PARK

The Gardening Group managed to be in the Park every Monday but one over the winter. We have kept the beds in the Sensory Garden and Japanese Garden clear of storm debris. A large area in the Japanese Garden has been dug over to clear the ground elder which has been running riot for some time. We covered the area with cardboard, then woodchip. It won't be eradicated but hopefully weakened. The plan is to plant Acers later this year.



In the next few weeks we will remove some of the fallen leaves and add to compost heaps, split perennials and sow annual seeds...lots to do.

FRIENDS OF WINCHESTER FIELD AND NATURE AREA

Work is nearly complete on the new playground at Winchester Field, after delays due to extremely rainy weather over the winter. The group's fundraising has also paid for new paths and drainage in the field, as well as a new wildflower meadow to be planted by volunteers in March.

FRIENDS OF DE VITRE GARDENS

After a summer that produced bumper fruit crops, the winter storms meant that some serious pruning and staking was required by some of the trees. This work has been successfully carried out and we hope that 2026 will be as fruitful (excuse the pun!).

Volunteer sessions have carried on throughout the colder months and in addition to maintaining the orchard we have prepared and sown a large area with perennial wildflowers that will hopefully support the bees, moths and butterflies throughout the year - a temporary previous seeding with annuals provided a magnificent display and was much appreciated by visitors



Now that the early bulbs are beginning to bloom, we anticipate a large display of snowdrops, bluebells, crocus and various varieties of daffodils across the garden - additionally some rarer seen varieties including snake head, iris, allium and some special surprises.

FRIENDS OF DORRINGTON WOODS AND PLAY PARK

The birds in the woodland have some new, modern, woodcrete nestboxes this spring. We are looking forward to see if they are used. A pair of great spotted woodpeckers, our logo bird, have already been seen investigating a nest hole for this year!



FRIENDS OF SCOTCH QUARRY Orchard Trail

We are hoping you will join, Scotch Quarry, Claver Hill and Miss Whalley's field in an idea to get people visiting our orchards this spring. Inspired by the Japanese cherry blossom celebrations, we would like to get all Lancaster's orchards to take part in a blossom trail in late April (date tbc). Each participating orchard would put on any activities they like (examples might include building a bug hotel, pebble painting, sow a sunflower seed etc) and the participants will walk between orchards.



You can also use it as a way of signing people up to take part in harvesting activities later in the year, as well as promoting your growing area more widely.

FRIENDS OF WILLIAMSON PARK

On a very dull Sunday a group of eight intrepid birdwatchers gathered in Fenham Carr to undertake the annual RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch.

The unpromising weather kept the birds huddled and hidden, so numbers and species seen were low compared to previous years. Just 14 species compared to a high of 20 in 2019 although Rook and Pied Wagtail made a late appearance, species that had not previously been recorded for this survey.



After discovering that many of our wooden birdboxes had gone rotten or disappeared, we have started a programme to replace them with longer lasting woodcrete boxes, which the birds like, are easier to clean and will last longer.

Despite the buildings at the Williamson Park being closed as air source heat pumps are installed, the Friends are busy with keeping the Park gardens, the bird feeding and orchard tidy. Removing brambles around the thousands of bulbs we planted has paid off as they are coming into flower, and brighten up dull days.



HOT OFF THE PRESS
A fascinating read and detailed plans for the future.

FRUITY CORNER NEEDS HELP IN GREAVES, LANCASTER

This neglected area behind the sub-station on Dorrington Road is in urgent need of help. It was once a thriving fruit garden for the local people with strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, currants and apples. The key volunteer moved away, and no one has adopted it. It is a really challenging but rewarding project for someone with a bit of knowledge of fruit growing to take.

With a bit of energy, determination and love it could become as productive as Scotch Quarry Fruity Corner. Contact LDGS if you or your group can help.



CLAVER HILL

Volunteers at Claver Hill have been busy as usual, including running pruning and tool sharpening workshops. They are now registered on the WWOOFers (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) web site, hopefully attracting from all over the world. Loyne School and Beaumont College have started to bring students to Claver Hill.

FRIENDS OF GREAVES PARK

A very detailed wildlife report has been produced for Greaves Park. Last year they recorded nesting Dunnock, Song Thrush, Magpies, Jays, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Blackcaps, Chiff-chaffs, Sparrowhawk, and Treecreeper. It was a good year for insects with many species of bees, hoverflies and butterflies noted.

Common pipistrelles were recorded during the annual bat walk.



Mating Speckled Wood Butterflies

Hornet-Mimic Hoverfly



EVENTS and ACTIVITIES:

Friday March 13th Lancaster Seasonal Market **Claver Hill** will have a stall.

Friends of Regent Park, Morecambe

Wednesday 18th March - 10 am - 11 am. Litter Pick

Friends of Winchester Fields

Saturday 21 March 2-4pm: Great British Spring Clean litter pick. All ages welcome, all equipment provided! Contact fowfana@gmail.com

FOOD FUTURES SPRING INTO ACTION WEEK 20TH APRIL TO 1ST MAY - Lots of events

Friends of Uggle Lane

Saturday 25th April 11 – 12.30: Discover Uggle Lane by Listening!

Friends of Winchester Fields

Thursday 30 April, 6-7pm: Annual General Meeting Contact fowfana@gmail.com

Friends of Greaves Park

Sunday 10th May 2 pm: Tree Walk led by Steve Bullen, meeting by the playground.

Friends of Winchester Fields

Saturday 16 May 2-4pm: Wildlife survey with Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Contact fowfana@gmail.com

June 6-14 Wild Roots Festival will have events at **Claver Hill**;

Friends of Greaves Park

Friday 21st August at 8.15 pm, Bat Walk led by Gail Armstrong, meeting near the playground.

Is your Green Space registered as a Project on iNaturalist?



iNaturalist is an App on your mobile phone where you can identify and record any wildlife you spot. If you cannot identify it yourself, other users who may be expert in the field can check and update an identification.

If your site is a project, fairly easy to set up, but if you can't work it out, contact LDGS. This means that anyone visiting your space can add to your knowledge, which can help future management.



Contact publicrealm@lancaster.gov.uk for more information or advice & follow the Parks & Open Spaces Facebook page for details of upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/LCCParks>

Great British Spring Clean 2026

If you would like to organise a volunteer litter pick, Lancaster City Council can help provide you with the equipment and bags to do so, just visit the 'Community Cleanups' page on their website:

<https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/environme.../community-cleanups>

Please note, as their stock is limited, they require 10 days' notice to ensure equipment is ready for collection at Morecambe Town Hall.

Once you have completed your litter pick, arrange for it to be collected by using the Love Clean Streets App: <https://lancaster.lovecleanstreets.com/reports/home> & choose the 'volunteer litter bin bag collection' option to log which council litter bin you have left the full bags next to.

CONNECTING GREEN SPACES.....WALK PART 1

In December, some of the Fairfield Volunteers who go on a monthly walk, decided to stay nearer to home, and investigate our local green spaces.

It was a fascinating and varied walk of around 5 miles, with coffee stop at the excellent cafes in the University of Cumbria (no dogs). Many of the walkers had lived in Lancaster all their lives and had never visited some of the Green Spaces.



The next project is to plan the next part of the walk to the north-east of the city. If you look after a Green Space in this area, please let us know and we can walk this together.

Green Spaces visited:

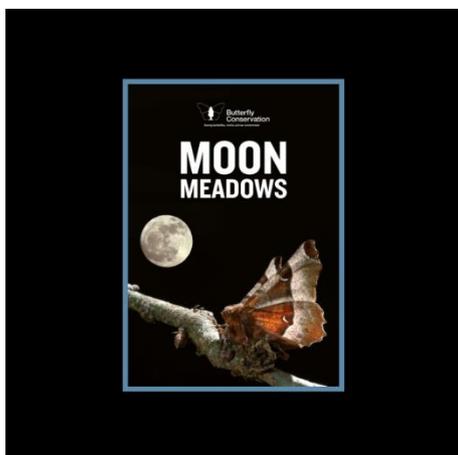
1	Greaves Forage Garden	6	Winchester Field @Nature Area
2	Dorrington Woods and Play Park	7	University of Cumbria
3	Palatine Park	8	Williamson Park
4	Barton Road Fields	9	Scotch Quarry
5	Hala Open Space	10	Greaves Park

COMMUNITY WINGS PROJECT

Lancaster District have adopted this project and want everyone's help to register their spaces, get involved in The Big Butterfly Count and National Moth Week, and do something to improve that area. It will also be a catalyst for bringing communities together through joint events, training in habitat assessment for butterflies and moths, moth surveying, and sharing their experiences.



MOON MEADOWS



This is a Butterfly Conservation initiative to challenge councils too recognise light pollution as a threat to biodiversity.

In Lancaster District, residents of the Butterfly Friendly Council have done just that. In 2025 the council encouraged locals to create butterfly and moth-friendly spaces across the city alongside their commitment to reduce light pollution and help moths thrive.

At Claver Hill, the community recognised the importance of moths as part of the ecosystem. They planted moth-friendly plants alongside their no-mow wild area, in an area free from artificial light. They've welcomed many moths, from the unmistakable Canary Shouldered Thorns to the tiniest Mint Moths.

Butterfly Moon Meadows A4 brochure DIGITAL.pdf can be downloaded free from Butterfly Conservation

BTO BIRDS IN GREENSPACES

Birds in Greenspaces is a new, UK-wide citizen science survey of birds that use our public-access greenspaces. These spaces play many important roles for both birds and people, particularly in urban areas.

Public access greenspaces include places like parks, cemeteries, and playing fields, to name a few, meaning a wide range of different habitat on offer. The way in which habitat is managed also varies, determining which birds (and how many of them) make use of these sites. If we can find out the importance of different greenspaces for birds, and people, we can use the findings to inform management guidance, so that decisions are made that benefit both.



The is open to people of all ages and experience levels, across the UK and we want as many people as possible to get out into their local greenspace and learn about and connect with the wildlife there, and help us to find out more about these understudied spaces.

<https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/greenspaces>

FUNDING

The Areti Charitable Trust

This charity was established in 2017 to encourage children and young people living in the administrative area covered by Lancaster City Council to engage with nature and the natural environment. Please click on the link below to the website of the charity for further information:

www.thearetitrust.com