

NEWSLETTER

No: 208 October 2026

www.lhs.org.uk Registered Charity 1000852. Founded in 1984

Chairman:	Mike Brooke	9 Norbury Close	Redditch B98 8RP	
Vice-Chairman:	Jill Harvey	36 Rose Hill	Lickey B45 8RR	07733 385019
Secretary:	Baden Carlson	30 Beacon Hill	Rubery B45 9QP	0121 624 9464



Future Events

Annual General Meeting

The Society will be holding its **41st AGM** on **Saturday 21st November 2026**, starting at **2.00pm** in the **School Room** close to the Visitor Centre in Warren Lane. (Due to lockdown restrictions in 2020, the Society did not hold an AGM that year).

The AGM will include a presentation of the Society's activities over the last 12 months and an audited account of the LHS's finances. The meeting will be followed by light refreshments and a presentation by Steve Hinton entitled 'The Confessions of a Park Ranger'.

This is an important event in the Society's calendar and it would be good to see as many members as possible attending. We hope to see you on the 21st.

Officers and members of the Society's committee are willing to stand for a further year but we are always looking for new members to join us with new ideas and expertise. The only requirement being an interest in preserving and enhancing the Lickey Hills Country Park. There are normally about six committee meetings during the course of the year and so it is not too onerous or time consuming. If you would like to join the committee, just fill in the nomination form at the end of this Newsletter and send it to Baden Carlson, our Secretary by Saturday 14th November 2026.

Heathland Clearance Sessions

As mentioned in the recent flyer sent to members, Heathland Clearance sessions are being organised over the winter months. The first session took place on Saturday 17th October and dates of future sessions are as follows:

October –	Saturday 31st, 2026
November –	Saturdays 14th and 28th, 2026
December –	Saturday 12th, 2026
January –	Saturday 30th, 2027
February –	Saturdays 13th and 27th, 2027
March –	Saturday 13th, 2027

We will **usually** meet at the **Visitor Centre** in Warren Lane (B45 8ER) at **10.00am**. There may be future sessions on Rednal Hill, so watch out for possible changes of meeting place. Each session will last for approximately two hours but obviously, you do not have to stay for the complete session.

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear and if possible bring your own thorn-proof gloves. Tools will be provided. Please note that this is not as easy as pulling balsam. We will be removing brambles and invasive shrubs and young trees.

Recent Events

Guided Bat Walk



The Guided Bat Walk took place on the evening of Friday 25th September and was led by Steve Hinton. The event was well supported with over 80 people taking part.

The Society has recently purchased 10 bat detectors and they were in use on the night. Unfortunately, very few bats were detected during the walk and this is clearly worrying, hopefully not a long term trend.

Autumn Litter Pick

The Autumn Litter Pick took place on Saturday 3rd October. We were fortunate to be able to enjoy a beautiful autumn morning, mild and sunny. Although in many parts of the Country Park, the levels of litter are quite small, those taking part were able to fill a good number of bags making the collection well worthwhile.

As always, many thanks for those who supported this event, your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Some of those who took part in the Litter Pick.



Society Treasurer, Pete Harvey getting stuck in.

Photos: Facebook

News from the Country Park

Staffing on the Lickeys

Earlier this month Steve Hinton relinquished his post as Senior Ranger at the Lickeys to take up the post of Senior Parks Manager in the City's parks. Steve was promoted to this position many years ago and he has been covering both posts for many years. The Society has enjoyed a close working relationship with Steve during his time at the Lickeys and we are very grateful for all of the support and encouragement that he has given. We have shared many laughs together and have enjoyed lots of special occasions over the years. Steve's hard work and commitment to the Lickeys has been greatly appreciated. We wish Steve well in his 'new' post and hope that we will be seeing a lot of him in the future.

Ranger Perry has been appointed as the new Senior Ranger on the Lickeys and we look forward to working with him in the future. Ranger Warden Joe has been in position for a couple of months and we hope that both Perry and Joe will enjoy their time working in the Country Park.

Car Parking Charges

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, it was planned to introduce the charges in April this year, that was deferred until June and the latest information is that charges will be introduced in January 2027!

The Bilberry Centre

There have been no further developments since the last Newsletter.

New Play Area

As the photographs on the next page show, considerable progress has been made on the new play area. All of the play equipment has been installed and currently work is taking place creating the surface of the play area. The path to the play area has been surfaced giving easy access to the play area which is designed to be inclusive.

The play area is scheduled to open in late October.

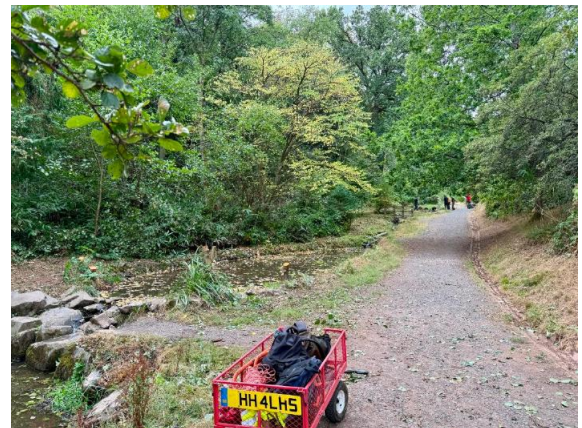
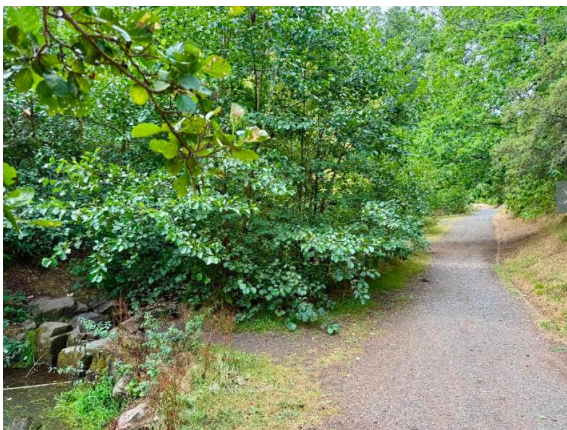


Photos: Mike Brooke The new Lickey Hills Play Area nearing completion

Habitat Heroes

The Heroes continue to meet every Tuesday to undertake invaluable work in the Country Park. Recently the group has been joined by a couple of new members which is always a positive.

Samples of recent work that has been undertaken by the Heroes.



Work at the pools above the Old Rose and Crown. The Heroes have cut back a number of self-set trees and brambles to help expose the pools. There is more work to be done but a start has been made. The group would like to remove some of the silt from the pools but restrictions on working in water mean that is not possible.

New fences



Fence above Warren Lane Quarry

Fence at Kendal End – a ditch had been blocked and also the pipe which carried the water under the path. The water poured over the path and damaged a section of the fence which has had to be replaced. The ditch has been cleared along with the pipe.

Photos: Nina & Stuart Smith

What's On

	Lickey Hills Society 2026	
Saturday 31 October 2026 10.00am	Heathland Clearance Meet at the Visitor Centre	Visitor Centre Warren Lane, B45 8ER
Saturday 14 November 2026 10.00am	Heathland Clearance Meet at the Visitor Centre	Visitor Centre Warren Lane, B45 8ER
Saturday 21 November 2026 10.00am	Annual General Meeting Meeting in the School Room close to the Visitor Centre	Visitor Centre Warren Lane, B45 8ER
	Events organised by the Lickey Hills Local History Society	
Tuesday 20 October 2026 7.00 for 7.30 start	'Clive of India' Max Keen From Tearaway Youth to Empire Builder	Trinity Centre - B45 8ES £4.00 for non LHLHS members
Tuesday 17 November 2026 7.00 for 7.30 start	'The Jewellery Quarter Still Birmingham's Gem?' Andy Munro It's history and transition to the present day	Trinity Centre - B45 8ES £4.00 for non LHLHS members
Tuesday 15 December 2026 7.00 for 7.30 start	'Breaking the Glass Ceiling' Professor Jonathan Reinartz The Life and Legacy of Professor Dame Hilda Lloyd, pioneer in obstetrical care. Plus mince pies and hot punch	Trinity Centre - B45 8ES £4.00 for non LHLHS members

Lickey Hills Society - Nomination Form for Committee Members November 2026 – November 2027

I, wish to nominate myself to join the committee of the Lickey Hills Society

Signature Date Tel

Declaration: I, declare that if elected, I am willing to serve as a member of the committee of the Lickey Hills Society. I understand that I may only be elected at the AGM where I shall be required to declare any financial or professional interest known or likely to be of concern to the Society.

Please return the completed form to;

Hon Sec. Baden Carlson, 30 Beacon Hill, Rubery B45 9QP by **Saturday 14th November 2026**