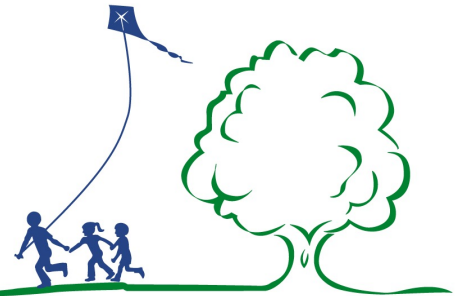


Warley Woods Community Trust



The Pavilion, Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 5ED

Tel: 0121 420 1061 Email: admin@warleywoods.org.uk Web: www.warleywoods.org.uk

19th July 2007

Press Release: Calling all Time Team Enthusiasts!

- Have you always wondered what was lurking under the grass in Warley Woods?
- Heard about “the Abbey” but don’t know where it was located?
- Have a desire to dig and pot wash?
- Want to make history by digging it up?

Birmingham Archaeology will be leading Sandwell’s first ever Community Dig on the site of the ruins of the 19th century manor house known as The Abbey, in Warley Woods. This is part of the on-going Heritage Lottery Project being managed by Warley Woods Community Trust.

The Abbey was built in 1819 by Samuel Galton Junior’s son, fitting it into the features of the landscape designed by Humphry Repton for his father. The house, which was designed to look much older than it was, in a gothic style, remained after the site became a public park in 1906. It was demolished in 1957 by Birmingham City Council.

Birmingham Archaeology dug several trenches in 2005 and found the foundations of the building, just under the layer of turf. They have been back in recent weeks to show groups of school children what a dig looks like, to whet their appetite for digging themselves.

Bookings are now open for the community dig which will take place from 6th – 17th August 2007. Participants can book in for a half day session and will have the opportunity to be trained in excavation, finds processing, surveying, photographing and lots more.

A booking form can be found at www.warleywoods.org.uk/archaeol.htm or can be collected from the Trust Office or Trust Golf Shop. Any enquiries can be emailed to admin@warleywoods.org.uk.

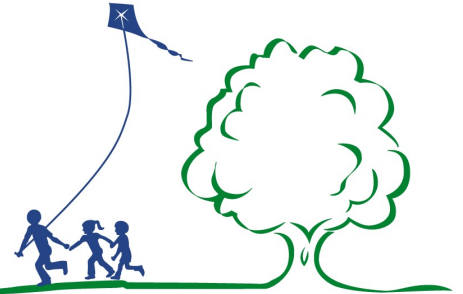
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Notes

- For further information contact: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, 0121 420 1061, 07947 805746, trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk
- Warley Woods Community Trust (WWCT) is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. WWCT is the only charity in the United Kingdom to have taken responsibility for an urban park. The organisation was formed to take action, following the long term neglect of the park by Birmingham City Council and to ensure local people had a say in what happened to their park.
- The park is leased to Sandwell MBC for 99 years and has been subleased to WWCT for the same period of time.

Patrons: Julie Walters OBE, Professor Carl Chinn MBE, Phd. Colin Buchanan. Registered Charity: 1092754 Company Registration: 04214547

Warley Woods Community Trust



- It is managed by a Board of Trustees which is made up of local people. The Trust's membership now numbers around 700 individuals and there are over 60 active volunteers.
- The Park was named the People's Park after it was saved from becoming sold for housing by public subscription in 1906.
- The work mentioned in this release is being funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and match funded by Sandwell MBC.