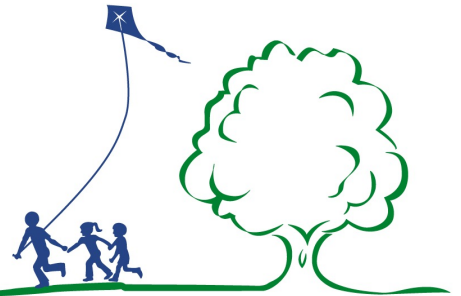


Warley Woods Community Trust



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

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

2nd June 2010

Press Release

Warley Woods celebrates its Hidden History

Warley Woods Community Trust will be holding a special event on Sunday 6th June to celebrate its history. While Warley Woods is a beautiful place to visit, many people remain unaware of its history because its important buildings have been demolished long ago. This event will bring the history to life again, sharing pictures and information about the park in the past.

Warley Woods was originally created as a private pleasure ground for Samuel Galton Junior and the landscape of the park was designed by the famous landscape gardener Humphry Repton. Its house, called Warley Abbey was built in 1820. After years as a private place it became a public park in 1906 when public donations saved it from being built on with houses. The Abbey became a public building with tea rooms and facilities for the golf club. The Abbey was demolished in 1956 and other important buildings including its lodges and stables disappeared soon after.

The Trust has recently installed a history trail around the park with a series of markers showing where important structures used to stand. Any day of the year visitors can collect a leaflet telling them about these structures and showing images of how they used to look. But, on Sunday 6th June, volunteers will be on site at all points of interest on the trail, with photographs and historical information about what is known about them. The trail includes both north and south lodges, the Doric Pavilion, the Rose Garden, the pool, the icehouse, Warley Tor and, of course, Warley Abbey. A copy of Repton's "Red Book", his design for the park, will be available at the Pavilion.

Anyone wishing to take the trail should register at the Pavilion on Lightwoods Hill between 11am and 2pm. The event finishes at 3pm. There is a charge of £2 for adults. Children can follow the trail for free.

For more information please call the Trust office on 0121 420 1061.

Ends

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.