

# Childwall Golf Club Ecology & Sustainability Newsletter August 2024

“From sustainability and conservation of wildlife, to health and well-being for all ages, to jobs and economic value through local supply chains, ***golf is good for nature and communities***” (Golf Environmental Organisation (GEO) Foundation)

## Wildlife News

- The Summer season has brought many birds to CGC including Kestrels breeding in a raptor nest box by the 13<sup>th</sup> fairway. Three young Kestrels have fledged.
- Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Blue tits, Great tits, Coal tits, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches (and many other birds) have been spotted breeding in nest boxes or shrubs and trees around the course.
- A pair of Blue tits have bred again in the cigarette box on the upstairs lounge balcony!
- The warm weather has brought out a number of butterflies including Orange Tip, Peacock and Speckled Wood.



Great Spotted Woodpecker (juv) on our feeders



Buzzard soaring over the golf course



Woodpecker nest hole on the 7th

Pictures courtesy of Steve Young



Coal tit at the feeding station by the 18<sup>th</sup> green

**Kestrels Breeding again at CGC  
(this time on the 13<sup>th</sup>)**



**Adult Kestrel inspecting  
the raptor nest box on the  
13<sup>th</sup> fairway in March**



**Young Kestrels in  
the raptor nest  
box by the 13<sup>th</sup>  
fairway**



**Three young Kestrels after  
fledging (above) and sharing  
a vole (right)**



**Pictures  
courtesy of  
Steve Young**



# Ecology Brochure

An Ecology Brochure has been produced by the Ecology & Sustainability Committee which portrays the diverse wildlife you can see at CGC during the four seasons.

The brochure has been 100% funded by a grant from Lancashire Golf.

A number of copies of the brochure will be available to view in the lounge area of the golf club in a few weeks' time.

The brochures have been produced for Childwall Golf Club members and their guests.

The brochure will be included in the welcome package for new members.



### Spring

The woodland copse are a delight in spring with an abundance of bluebells.



In spring birds are busy picking up and looking for suitable nest sites. You are likely to see Buzzards, Jays, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrests, Redwings, Field Tits, Robins, Wrens and many other common woodland and garden birds. We have over 10 nest boxes, providing homes for many of these birds.



### Summer

The wildflower zones are at full bloom by now and you will see poppies, marigolds, scabious, cornflowers, ox-eye daisies amongst other meadow plants providing a dash of colour insects will be collecting pollen including red Admiral, peacock and orange tip butterflies, buff-tailed and large red-tailed bumblebees, at orange hover flies and cockchafer beetles.

Summer migrant birds such as Sandalwood, House Martin and Swifts can be seen hunting for insects around the fairways.

Willow Wren and Chiffchaff can be seen and heard amongst the shrubs and trees. Buzzards and other raptors such as Sparrowhawk and Kestrel are to be seen hunting.




### Autumn

During autumn an abundance of fungi appear including fly agaric, honey fungus, wax cap and milk cap. The fruiting body appears above ground from a mass of threads (mycelium) underground. Millions of spores are produced from these fruiting bodies.

A profusion of fruit like Hawthorn appears on the shrubs and trees, providing food for our local populations of woodland and garden birds, and attracting many birds on migration.

Mistle Thrush at least five pairs with many young are to be seen. They are frequent visitors to the course trees dotted around the course during autumn to feed on berries. An early singer which can be heard from early December.




### Winter

Even though winter is regarded as a time of hibernation and dormancy, Childwall Golf Course is still alive with many birds foraging for berries, insect larvae and worms. Field-ford Geese are often seen and heard flying overhead on their way to the Mersey or Dee estuaries. Winter migrant birds like Redwing are not an uncommon sight on the fairways and trees. Flocks can often be seen feeding on acorns and berries.

Meanwhile, members can enjoy the honey from the on-site hives (see back cover photo). In 2021 the Ecology Committee contacted the Liverpool and Merseyside Beekeepers Association to see if some beehives could be located on the club premises.

A suitable site was agreed upon and late in 2021 we moved seven colonies on to the site and the bees settled in under the supervision of Ted and Derek.



## Wildflower Meadows and Seeds



Our wildflower Zones (all five of them) are in full bloom but have been affected by the adverse weather conditions during the Spring.

The meadows have been left, since last year, to re-seed. However, if you would like to provide or donate any wildflower seeds for next year's wildflower meadows, please give seed packets to Carl in the Pro Shop by the end of the year.



## Native Trees



Our dead and dying trees need replacing.

If you would like to donate any UK native trees (like Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Hazel etc) please bring, as seedlings in pots, to Mark Kofoed (Head Greenkeeper) or Carl in the Pro Shop.

Please check with Mark Kofoed which other species of trees would be suitable to donate.



## Sustainability News

- As mentioned previously, Carl is promoting sustainable golf accessories including water bottles, tees and 'biodegradable' leather golf gloves in recyclable packaging.
- A review is ongoing regarding the installation of solar panels.
- Thank you to all members who continue to use our recyclable bins for plastic and paper waste.
- Thank you to the "100 Club" for providing bird food for our feeders by the 18th

## Eco Team Photo Competition



### **Eco Team Photo Competition – 'Spring/Summer' season 2024**

Picture courtesy of John Fox – "Blue-Chested Hummingbird"

The deadline for the 'Spring/Summer' Eco Team Photo Competition is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 (in time for the November Newsletter). Photos can be taken anywhere and are not restricted to the grounds of CGC. Send your entries to Helen Gale ([h.gale27@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:h.gale27@hotmail.co.uk)).

Prizes courtesy of the Pro Shop



One of the competition entries by Anthony Higham

## **Childwall Golf Club Ecology Team**



***Gavin Brown***



***Pat Donnelly***



***Steve Douglas***



***John Fox***



***Helen Gale***



***Neil Martin***



***Frank Sanderson***



***Carl Smith***



***Mike Smith***



***Tom Kinloch***



***Indira Maddison***



***Steve Young***



***Mark Kofoed***

**Best wishes,**

**The Childwall Golf Club Ecology & Sustainability Team**