

# Childwall Golf Club Ecology & Sustainability Newsletter February 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)

## Childwall Golf Club gets a mention in the Guardian Newspaper

John Fox is pleased to report that a letter he wrote to the Guardian, defending the ecological value of golf courses, has been published:

"Phineas Harper has missed a serious point regarding golf courses (Building houses on Britain's vast, exclusive golf courses makes sense for everyone – even golfers, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023). They are corridors for wildlife and green havens for fixing carbon as well as providing a healthy leisure activity for local communities. At my golf club, in the past three years we have installed more than 80 nest boxes (including raptor boxes), developed five wildflower zones, encouraged wildlife with bird-feeding stations, left felled branches and logs in wooded areas for insects and fungi to thrive, and allowed grass to grow wild at the edge of fairways. My club has been accredited by the Golf Environment Organization for its sustainability and social responsibility. May I suggest that housebuilding policies should focus on using brownfield sites, which are more suitable for repurposing and reusing buildings and land that has previously been developed, rather than undeveloped land or greenfield sites. John R Fox. Liverpool"

Here is a link to the original Guardian article written by Phineas Harper:

[Building houses on Britain's vast, exclusive golf courses makes sense for everyone – even golfers | Phineas Harper](#)

### Building houses on Britain's vast, exclusive golf courses makes sense for everyone – even golfers | Phineas Harper

Such radical plans wouldn't just help tackle our chronic lack of housing, but also let the sport shed its elitist tag, says Phineas Harper, chief executive of Open City

Here is the link to the letter, and other letters, written about the same article:

<https://amp.theguardian.com/society/2023/dec/06/why-building-homes-on-golf-courses-is-a-terrible-idea>

## CGC Honey



Childwall Golf Club honey has become very popular with members and high in demand. When the bees become active again there will be more honey on sale in the Summer at £5 per jar.

We are reviewing our sales policy so 'keep an eye' on the noticeboard for more details.

Thanks again go to Steve Douglas for his liaison with the Liverpool Beekeepers who set up the beehives behind the car park.

## Water Bottles, Bamboo Tees & Leather Golf Gloves



We have mentioned this in previous newsletters: Carl is still promoting the use of re-usable water bottles (with the Childwall Golf Club logo) and bamboo tees as two of our sustainability measures to reduce the use of plastic. He is also selling leather golf gloves (biodegradable) in recyclable packaging. A more sustainable option than synthetic (plastic) golf gloves.

Please consider these sustainable options.



# Wildlife News

- **The Winter season has brought a few migrants to CGC** – Redwings and Fieldfares have been spotted on the golf course along with many of our resident birds



CGC after heavy snow last month



CGC bathed in early morning sunlight

Pictures courtesy of Steve Young

- **Recent Sightings at CGC**



Redwing



Fieldfares



Clockwise from the left:  
One of our resident Buzzards; Great Spotted Woodpecker on our bird feeders; Great tit and Blue tit braving the cold





Buzzard searching for a snack.....



.....and successfully finding one

Pictures  
courtesy of  
Steve Young

- **New Nest Boxes** – two more nest boxes have been installed at CGC. They are located in the copse behind the 15<sup>th</sup> green. Thanks to Dave Wooton who handmade them. We now have over 80 nestboxes around CGC (including Raptor nest boxes).



- **There has been an 'Irruption' of Waxwings in the UK** – these beautiful birds often migrate from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe to spend the Winter in the UK. An 'irruption' is an unusually large influx of birds due to harsh weather conditions and a lack of food (berries) in their resident area. They have been spotted around Liverpool in Childwall, the City Centre, Anfield etc. We have not yet seen any at CGC but keep your eyes 'peeled'!



Waxwings in Liverpool

(Pictures courtesy of Steve Young & John Fox)



## Sustainability News

- As mentioned above Carl is promoting sustainable golf accessories including 'biodegradable' leather golf gloves in recyclable packaging.
- A review is ongoing regarding a new boiler which would be more efficient and reduce heating costs.
- Thank you to all members who continue to use our recyclable bins for plastic and paper waste.

## Eco Team Photo Competition



Picture courtesy of Carl Smith  
– “Rainbow over CGC”

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

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



Thanks to all who entered the Eco Photo competition. The winner is the photograph (left) of the Robin held lovingly by Kathryn Kinloch. Photo taken by Connor our Head Chef. The Robin was captured flying around the upstairs lounge and released unharmed.



## **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***



***Issy Duck (Jnr  
Capt 2023)***

**Best wishes,**

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