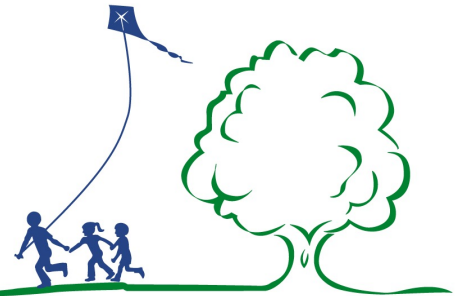


# Warley Woods Community Trust



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

Tel: 0121 420 1061 Email: [admin@warleywoods.org.uk](mailto:admin@warleywoods.org.uk) Web: [www.warleywoods.org.uk](http://www.warleywoods.org.uk)

29<sup>th</sup> July 2008

## Press Release

### Warley Woods Runners make fundraising debut at Birmingham Half Marathon

A group of runners who use Warley Woods as their base have decided to run the inaugural Birmingham Half Marathon in aid of the Trust that manages the Woods. The eight runners have already begun training for the event on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. The race route runs close to Warley Woods in Bearwood. They launched their running challenge at the Picnic in the Park on 15<sup>th</sup> July with Colin Buchanan, actor and Trust Patron (Photo attached).

Nigel Lloyd who co-ordinates the running group which meets every Saturday morning said “Warley Woods provides us with an inspiration training ground and following the recent improvements to the paths this has given greater access which make for a wonderful place to run.” He added “The challenge of the Birmingham Half Marathon provides us with a great opportunity to fundraise for the Warley Woods Community Trust to help continue the improvements to this wonderful green area on our doorstep.”

Viv Cole, Trust Manager, commented “We are so excited that our runners group is making this special effort to help the Trust and Warley Woods. People have no idea how expensive it is to run a public park, as they are used to green spaces being provided by their local authority. The funds raised by the group will help provide essential maintenance and upkeep. It is lovely that people who use the park, appreciate what is being done and are prepared to help in this way.”

The runners would be happy for new members, both at their regular sessions, or to take part in this event. A more restful approach would be to sponsor the team through the Trust Office or the Shop at Warley Woods. The Trust is also looking for a local business who might like to raise its profile in front of the hundreds of spectators at the event, by sponsoring the Runners’ kit.

Any one who would like to know more can call on 0121 420 1061

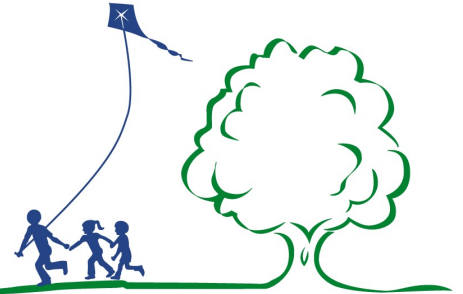
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## Notes

- For further information contact: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, 0121 420 1061, 07947 805746, [trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk](mailto:trustmanager@warleywoods.org.uk)
- Image attached: Nigel Lloyd with Colin Buchanan.
- 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

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

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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.
- 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.