# Coventry's colourful parakeet population captivates locals



Coventry has become known for its thriving population of parakeets, a phenomenon that has piqued the interest of both locals and wildlife enthusiasts alike. The colourful birds can frequently be seen in various green spaces throughout the city, particularly in areas such as Longford, Aldermans Green, and Coundon Wedge.

While parakeets are typically associated with warmer climates and often kept as exotic pets, their presence in Coventry remains enigmatic. It is widely believed that the local population began with a few escaped pets, although there are intriguing legends surrounding their arrival. One such theory suggests that the iconic musician Jimi Hendrix may have played a role in introducing parakeets to the UK by releasing two of the birds in 1960s London. However, experts have largely dismissed this notion as a myth.

Despite the uncertain origins of these birds, it is clear that they have established themselves in Coventry, with no indications of declining numbers. Recently, amateur photographer Michael Lennon captured striking images of a pair of these parakeets in his local area, specifically near Bell Green and Woodend.

Michael, who has a background in industry working for Rolls-Royce and Halfords, took up photography after retiring 18 months ago. He explained that the habit of rising early each day, ingrained from years of working, naturally transitioned into his new hobby. "I only took up photography a few years ago," Michael shared. "I found myself still getting up in the morning at the break of dawn. So I'm off with my camera and see what I can get."

Living in Bell Green, Michael enjoys exploring the region in search of wildlife to photograph. He recalled his surprise upon learning about the parakeets two years ago, initially doubting their existence. "I was told two years ago about these birds and I thought the woman telling me was smoking something special - but then all of a sudden there are hundreds," he said. His recent photographs include a nesting pair that he noticed as somewhat isolated from the larger flock.

When asked about his family's reaction to his new hobby, Michael laughed, saying, "They love my pictures but they think I'm mad!" This lighthearted sentiment reflects the enthusiasm that surrounds the parakeet phenomenon in Coventry.

The Coventry Telegraph has reported on this local interest, inviting more residents to share their own photographs of the parakeets, further emphasising the community's engagement with these vibrant birds. As Coventry continues to be an enclave for parakeets, the birds' stories and their integration into city life are likely to unfold, drawing ongoing curiosity from both locals and visitors.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/parakeets-coventry-jimi-hendrix-myth-uk-b2036437.html> - This article discusses the myth that Jimi Hendrix introduced parakeets to the UK, a theory that experts have largely dismissed, which aligns with the article's mention of this legend.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-54417247> - This news piece covers the thriving population of parakeets in Coventry, mirroring the article's descriptions of the birds' presence in various green spaces throughout the city.
* <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/michael-lennon-photography-parakeets-bell-green-24627635> - This article highlights the community's interest in parakeets in Coventry, including the work of amateur photographers like Michael Lennon, which is consistent with the article's narrative about local engagement.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ring-necked_parakeet> - This Wikipedia page provides information on the ring-necked parakeet, a species commonly found in the UK, including their ability to adapt to urban environments like Coventry.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/parakeets-uk-invasion-london-oxford-b1921531.html> - This article explores the broader phenomenon of parakeets in the UK, including their origins and their establishment in urban areas, which supports the article's discussion of their presence in Coventry.