Warden's Notes: December 2025

Hello



This is the latest of an occasional series of personal notes by me, Martin Stuart, the Parish Warden, where I talk about what's happening in Grappenhall and Thelwall, what work I've been doing recently and bring you some pictures of the amazing wealth of natural beauty and wildlife that I come across whilst travelling around the parish.

I work 16 hours a week patrolling the highways, footpaths and public places in the parish keeping them free from litter and clear of overhanging growth and weeds along with any other tasks that need doing. I also act as the 'eyes and ears' of the Parish Council by resolving problems that occur or reporting them to other authorities. I like to think that I act as an ambassador for the Parish Council, being out and about around the parish and being able to talk to lots of residents. So, if you see me around (wearing my hi-vis vest that says what I am) stop and have a chat or at least say hello.

I also now have a role as Neighbourhood Plan coordinator for part of my working time, helping to put together the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish currently being prepared by a Steering Group of volunteers. (I was, after all, a professional Town Planner for the 40 years prior to starting this job.)

Community Litter Picking

Our final litter pick of the year was held on Saturday 13th September, based at All Saints Church in Thelwall.



As the picture shows, we were ably assisted by Grappenhall and Thelwall brownies who did sterling work in helping to keep the streets of Thelwall clean and tidy.

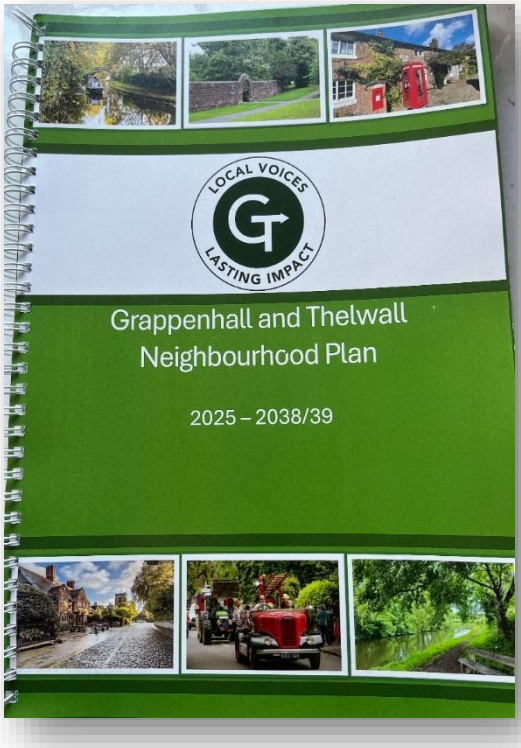
Our 2026 programme of community litter picks will be published early in the New Year so keep an eye on this website or the Parish Council notice boards for the dates when they will be held.

All volunteers are welcome and all equipment will be provided along with light refreshments to follow.

If you would like to be placed on our database so as to be sent an email reminder shortly before the next litter pick just telephone the Parish Council office on 01925 264918 or drop a line to info@gtpc.org.uk or alternatively, just keep an eye on the Parish Council noticeboards.

Neighbourhood Plan

As mentioned previously, I now work a few hours a week on helping to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. It is a community-led statutory document that allows local people to set out a shared vision for the future development of the area. This is seen as particularly important in view of the fairly large scale development allocated for this area in the Warrington Local Plan.



We are currently in the midst of the important public consultation phase of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This is where the first draft of the plan has been published to allow local people to comment on the draft policies and proposals of the plan.

You will have received a leafelt through the door telling you about the process for commenting on the plan. Drop-in sessions have been held at various locations throughout the parish. However, you can still read and comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan at https://gtnp.org.uk until noon on 1st January 2026.

Printed copies are also available for in-person viewing and feedback at the following locations:

- Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council Office, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall
- Grappenhall Library, Victoria Avenue, Grappenhall
- Co-op, Knutsford Road, Grappenhall
- Thelwall Post Office, Barley Road, Thelwall
- The Rams Head, Church Lane, Grappenhall

- The Little Manor, Bell Lane, Thelwall
- The Walled Garden, Astor Drive, Grappenhall Heys.

Leaf Clearance

Those of you that have been out and about around the parish recently will be aware of the nasty, slushy mess underfoot caused by fallen leaves, particularly when combined with the heavy rain showers that we've been having of late. Obviously we can't clear every leaf that falls but Bradley and I have tried to clear some of the busiest paths and those worst affected by fallen leaves.

The pictures below therefore show 'before and after' shots of paths at Elizabeth Park in Thelwall and the cricket club path to Grappenhall Heys.

Elizabeth Park footpath





Cricket Club footpath to Grappenhall Heys





Narrow Lane

Regular readers of these ‘Notes’ will recall my previous feature on the work we’d been doing on Narrow Lane in Grappenhall to reduce the height of the Hawthorn trees, that had originally been a hedge, in order to let more light onto the path and.hopefully, promote grass growth on the banking and thereby stabilize it to prevent soil slipping into the gulley.



We’ve now returned to the footpath at the top end, near the cricket club, and reduced the height of some of the larger trees up there. If you walk up the path I’m sure you’ll notice the difference and appreciate how much lighter it is there now.

Wolfe Close

Another pair of ‘before and after’ photos for you, this time at the pond at Wolfe Close, Grappenhall Heys where we’ve recently had the boardwalk re-surfaced.

This one is a bit of a mystery as the hole that appeared and which we filled in, on the edge of the boardwalk, is either subsidence or dug by a creature or creatures.





I’ll leave you to decide which it was and if a creature, what sort of a creature dug this hole ?

Nature and Wildlife

My final picture, taken by a local resident shows one of the mythical deer that occasionally manifest themselves around the parish, swimming in the Bridgewater canal.



Who knew that they could swim so well, never mind get themselves in and out of the canal?

I have seen the deer on one occasion but they are very elusive.

Fly tipping and litter

And finally, finally, if you come across examples of fly-tipping or large concentrations of litter within the parish that we can clear up (or where there are larger items involved which Warrington Council will move) please let us know by contacting the Parish Council on **01925 264918** or info@gtpc.org.uk

I can't promise to always deal with everything reported instantly but can usually deal with most things reported within the week in order to keep the parish as clean and shiny as we all want it to be.