

Warden's Notes: September 2019

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 round 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.

Community Litter Pick



I'm afraid that our second Community Litter Pick of the year on 29th of June was not the runaway success of the previous one, with only 7 people turning up. Nevertheless we enjoyed sunny weather and had plenty of cake to go round!

Our next litter pick will be on Saturday 5th October at 10.am. 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@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk

.Alternatively, keep an eye on the Parish Council noticeboards or our website where forthcoming litter picks will be publicised.

I hope to see a good turnout this time and have ordered a good supply of cakes and drinks.

Rant of the month

I know I've ranted about this one before but it's so infuriating to me and others that I talk to and it's dog poo, bagged up and left or even hung in the hedge !



I can't understand why anyone would go to all the trouble of bagging it up and then NOT putting it in a litter bin. I hesitate to say this, but if you're not going to bin it, why put it in a bag where it will last for ages.

So please, please dispose of your dog waste in a bin or take it home with you.

Hedges and footpaths

As I'm sure you will have noticed in your own garden, hedges and green stuff have all grown like crazy this summer, with the weather we've had. I've been kept occupied cutting hedges alongside footpaths and strimming the edges where nettles have grown in profusion. Some footpaths, with hedges on both sides, were in danger of closing up completely with growth almost meeting in the middle.



Pigeons

My war on pigeons in the two parish council owned parks, Jubilee and Diamond parks, continues. I don't mean them any harm but they do tend to roost on swing crossbars and climbing frames and leave a dreadful mess of guano on the swing seats and on the ground around them.

To counter this I have fastened large cable ties with their uncut ends pointing upwards, as shown in the photo below, to discourage them from sitting there. This seems to resolve the problem but I recently had to double up the number of cable ties on the climbing frame at Jubilee Park as they were just sitting between the ties, making their mess.



Hopefully there will be no more pigeon problems but do let us know if pigeon poo becomes a problem again on the play equipment.

Wildlife and nature

Well the swans are back with another brood of cygnets in and around the canal at Grappenhall. I therefore had to put up my 'Slow down, swans in the road' signs along the bit of Bellhouse Lane in Grappenhall where they sometimes walk through from the canal.

Thankfully there's been no reports of swan casualties and hopefully they're all fairly grown up by now and have developed some road sense.

Another bird that I often see around is the heron which frequents these parts. The picture below shows him on the canal bank, presumably fishing for his lunch.



Fly tipping and litter

And finally, if you come across examples of fly-tipping or large concentrations of litter within the Parish that I can clear up (or where there are larger items involved and the Borough Council will move them) please let us know by contacting the parish council on **01925 264918** or info@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk . I can't promise to 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.