

Warden's Notes: February 2020

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 Picks

**GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL
PARISH COUNCIL**
Council Office, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington, WA4 2SG

**COMMUNITY LITTER PICKING
EVENTS 2020**

Saturday 25th April - 10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday 13th June - 10.00am - 12.30pm
Saturday 3rd October - 10.00am - 12.30pm

Are you able to give some time to help tidy up your local area? If so our Parish Warden, Martin Stuart, would be very happy to work with you.

Let us know if you can help by telephoning or emailing the Parish Council office (or just turn up on the day if necessary) and we will provide litter pickers, gloves, bin bags and high visibility vests etc.

www.lovesheresponsible.org/warrington

REPORT IT!
Litter, dog fouling and flytipping
01925 443322
environment@warrington.gov.uk

Please help to keep your parish tidy!

For more information tel. 01925 264918
or email info@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk
www.grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk

As you can see from this copy of our poster, we have now set out our programme of community litter picks for 2020.

The first one will be on Saturday 25th April at 10.00am and I'm hoping for similar glorious weather and consequent large turnout of volunteers that we got last year at our April Litter

Pick when collectively, we picked 48 bags of litter which, as the picture below shows, pretty well filled my vehicle on the Monday.



Everyone enjoyed this community activity which ended with cake and a drink provided by the Parish Council consumed in the sunshine outside the Bellhouse community centre.

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

Footpaths

One of the regular jobs that I do is to clear out the drainage channel alongside the footpath at Narrow Lane, Grappenhall which quickly gets blocked with leaves and other debris thereby obstructing the footpath itself.



The pictures above show 'before' and 'after' views of the path so you can see how much stuff accumulates in the channel and how quickly the leaves turn into soil.

I regularly patrol all the footpaths in the parish to make sure they are clear and accessible. There really are some wonderful walks around here with stunning views. These range from those leading up towards Appleton Thorn to those towards the ship canal at Thelwall.

Rant of the month

This is the part of these 'Notes' where I let rip about a specific type of litter that I'm having to pick up which is particularly irritating me. I've already mentioned (in previous 'notes') most of the commonest types of litter and plenty of people stop me on the street to discuss the curse of dog poo bags left hanging in hedges. However there is a less well-known litter source which is empty, unused dog poo bags.

I imagine that they get dropped by people trying to unroll a bag for use and then it blowing away on the wind. Either way, there's an awful lot of them out there. Surely it's not that difficult to take a bit of care when picking up your dog's poo not to drop spare bags ?

Nature and wildlife



Here's a picture to cheer us up in this cold, wet winter that sometimes seems never ending.

It was taken in our own Jubilee Park (off Euclid Avenue) and shows the first signs of spring in the form of snowdrops and daffodills springing up.

And finally, here's a rather atmospheric picture taken on Halfacre Lane one cold bright winter's morning.

If you haven't done it yet there's a lovely circular walk starting on the canal towpath at Cliff Lane and walking towards Lymm. Get off the canal at Halfacre Lane and walk up to the

junction with Weaste Lane, then turn right and follow Weaste Lane till you get back to your starting point.

I, of course, have the great benefit of doing walks like this as part of my working day !



Fly tipping and litter

And finally, 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.