



Warden's Notes: Christmas 2021

Hello

This is the Christmas edition of warden's 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.



May I first of all take the opportunity to wish a very happy Christmas and a fruitful and healthy New Year to all residents of, and visitors to, 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 also 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

We have now completed our programme of community litter picks for 2021, the last one having been held on 2nd October.

The 2 litter picks that we managed to stage this year have been relatively successful with reasonably good turnouts at both of them, helped somewhat by the attendance of Brownie groups on both occasions. I hope we can build on this success in next year's events and will publish the programme for these litter picks early in the new year to give you the chance to get them in diaries in good time.

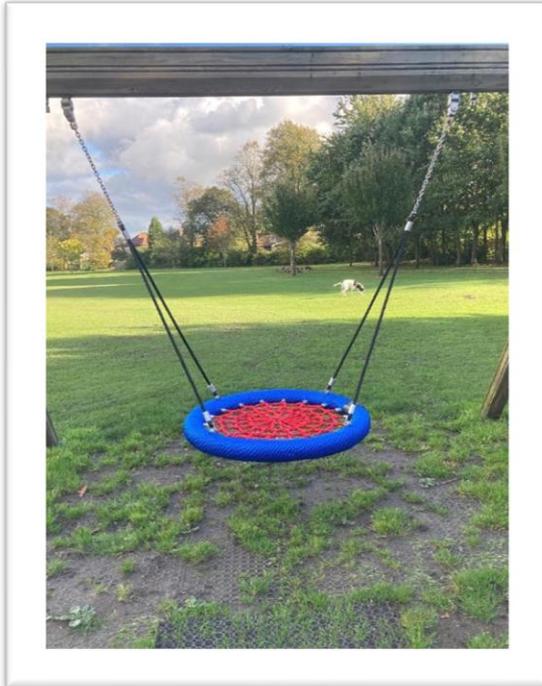
In addition to our organised picks, there are several individuals and groups that continue to carry out litter picks, not least the admirable Thelwall Grappenhall Litter Picking Group and Clean up my Community-Warrington who both do amazing work in the community.

Should any groups or individuals who have carried out litter picks within the parish need refuse bags collecting, simply send me a message in Facebook messenger telling me where the bags have been left (or, ideally, describing the location using the 'what3words' app) and I will collect and dispose of them.

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

Jubilee Park, Grappenhall

As the picture below shows, we have now managed to procure a new swing seat for the ever popular 'basket' swing in Jubilee Park. I fitted it straight away and, judging by the mud on it in this weather, it continues to be well used.



The previous seat had been condemned as unsafe as part of our annual safety check of the park so was replaced quickly as part of the ongoing drive to keep the parish council owned parks safe and enjoyable.

The outdoor gym/adult fitness equipment has now been ordered and will be installed in the Spring – so get your lycra ready for it !

You probably won't notice it but we've also installed a new part on the 'Carousel Supernova' in the playground area which had become detached, a sort of rubber

strip, which caused it to fail the safety check.

Bridgewater Canal



You may well wonder why I've put up a picture of a log alongside the Bridgewater canal? Well, I was walking along Canal Side in Grappenhall village the other day and noticed this tree floating in the canal and, as it was across the waterway, virtually blocking it for boat traffic

. I thought I'd better remove it before it damaged somebodies' boat but, easier said than done, as it was very heavy and waterlogged.

As you can see, after a bit of tugging and heaving I got it onto the canal bank and rolled out of the way.

Just an example of the sort of task that's no-one's specific duty that the parish warden can undertake!

Footpath Sign



The 'before' and 'after' shots above show the footpath sign at the corner of Canal Side in Grappenhall village which was totally obscured by vegetation. I cut the foliage back so that people will be aware that there are footpaths from there leading to both Broad Lane (through Grappenhall Wood) and Cartridge Lane (from Australia Lane.)

Rant of the month



Look at this one for the worst example of fly-tipping that I've come across – it's at the bottom of Cartridge Lane and it's a washing machine actually dumped in the roadway. Who knows what would have happened if someone had driven down there in the dark and bumped into it?

Fortunately, I was able to get out there sharpish and (with the help of a passing taxi driver) get it onto the back of the parish council truck to remove it.

I'm not even going to rant about this as it's such an outrageous and selfish action that it speaks for itself!

The Queen's Green Canopy



You may have seen this picture before as I posted it on Facebook in October. It shows the parish council vehicle loaded up with 6 young oak trees generously donated by Carole Cummings of the tree nursery on Church Lane, Grappenhall.

This will help the council to take part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative which aims to invite people across UK to plant trees to mark her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Watch this space to see where the council decides to plant the trees.

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**.

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.

