

Warden's Notes: June 2022

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.



Community Litter Picking



Here's a shot of some of the valiant volunteers that turned up for our latest Community Litter Pick on Saturday 21st May.

A total of 12 people took part (including some very small people) and we managed to clean and tidy up a considerable number of streets and open spaces in the parish.

Perhaps more importantly, most people thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to improve the local area at the same time as making new friends or connecting with existing ones.

Our next litter pick is on Saturday 16th July and is to be based at Thelwall Parish

Hall, off Bell Lane in Thelwall.

I'm hoping for a big turnout from Thelwall residents keen to tidy up their local area.

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

Thelwall Book Swap



You may have seen this 'box of books' fastened to the railings just inside Diamond Park at Thelwall. It is in fact the latest initiative from the Parish Council to provide a facility whereby people can freely swap a book i.e. take a book from the box and leave one in return.

It is based on a similar system organised by local residents that operated very successfully from one of the nearby shop doorways during the first covid lockdown.

The 'swap box' was designed and built by a pupil from the nearby Chaigeley School and generously donated to the community by them.

I was involved to the extent of collecting the box and, with the help of Bradley, the apprentice, fixing it to the railings in the

park.

Please be aware that, as it is within the park which is locked at nighttime, the book swap is only available during park opening hours, generally 8 to 8.

Jubilee Park Gym

Jubilee Park has also received new facilities recently in the form of the outdoor gym, shown in the photo below.

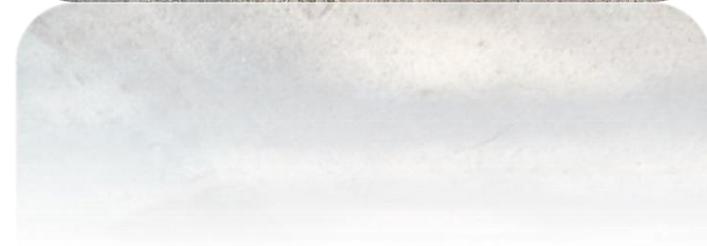
It consists of several pieces of fixed exercise equipment which can be used to build up particular muscle groups. There are labels on each piece giving instructions on how to use

the equipment or you can get a fuller explanation by clicking on the QR code on the equipment.

I am told that it is very useful stuff for general fitness and can be freely accessed by anyone. It is hoped that it's use will expand the age range of park users and help to make it a welcoming space for all of the local community.



The outdoor gym at Jubilee Park



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.

Actually, this is something that I should be able to make money from – it's car wheel trims that fly off moving traffic and are left buried in the grass verge, until I uncover them and take them away.

You wouldn't believe how many of them I collect. There must be scope to set up a shop to sell them back to their original owners, particularly as you can only buy them in sets of 4, as I know from personal experience.

Probably difficult to stop this form of littering as I imagine that most people aren't aware that they've lost them when it happens. The sensible car owner therefore makes sure that all wheel trims are secured with a simple cable tie to prevent such an expensive loss.

The Queen's Jubilee



The above and below pictures are my attempt to give a flavour of the recent Parade and Beacon held to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2nd June. We started with a parade led by a Scots piper from the parish council office on Bellhouse Lane and marched up to the Green at Grappenhall Heys. There we lit the Jubilee Beacon and were entertained by more Scots piping, a choir and a trumpet player.

The turnout was tremendous, estimated by some to be 1500 to 1600 people, many of whom joined the parade whilst others were already at the Green.

In terms of numbers attending, this must easily rank as the council's most successful event ever.

Credit must therefore go to the parish council staff, councillors and several volunteers for the many hours of hard work in setting up the event.



Nature and Wildlife



Wildlife often appears where you least expect it . I grabbed this shot of Peter Rabbit cheekily munching away in the graveyard of St Wilfrid's church in Grappenhall, alongside the Church Lane cobbles.

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 which Warrington Council will move) please let us know by contacting the Parish Council on **01925 264918** or info@grappenhallandthelwallpc.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.