

Warden's Notes: July 2017

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.

Thelwall Rose Queen and Grappenhall Walking Day

Amazingly, both Thelwall Rose Queen and Grappenhall Walking Day on 17th and 24th of June respectively were held in bright warm sunshine helping to make great successes of both our main local summer festivals. Many people turned out to enjoy the sunshine and to take part in these celebrations of community spirit.

The Parish Council took a stall at both of the events to carry out a public consultation on plans to improve both Diamond Park at Thelwall and Jubilee Park at Grappenhall by the provision of new play equipment. Both stalls attracted considerable attention, not least from children taking the opportunity to vote for their preferred pieces of play equipment!



This picture shows our stall at Grappenhall Walking Day in the school field at St Wilfrid's School.

Community Litter Pick

Our latest community litter pick was held on Saturday 8th July at the Parish Council office on Bellhouse Lane in Grappenhall on yet another bright and sunny day when, as a litter picker said to me, "it was a pleasure to be out and about doing something useful".

Our next litter pick will be on Saturday 7th October so make a note of it in your diary now and come along. All equipment is provided and we finish off with free light refreshments.

If you wish to be reminded of the event nearer to the time, contact the Parish Council office (01925 264918) or email us at info@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk and get your name on our database of people who will be notified the week before a litter pick.

Rant of the month

I may be repeating myself here but plastic water bottles are the bane of my (litter picking) life. They're everywhere and are a particularly pernicious form of rubbish as they take anything from 450 to 1000 years to biodegrade - some people say they never biodegrade and will continue to pollute the earth for ever !

So if you do need to drink water while you're out and about, and I'm told its good for you to do so, please dispose of the plastic bottle in a bin or even better, take it home and refill it from the tap so you only ever need one bottle !

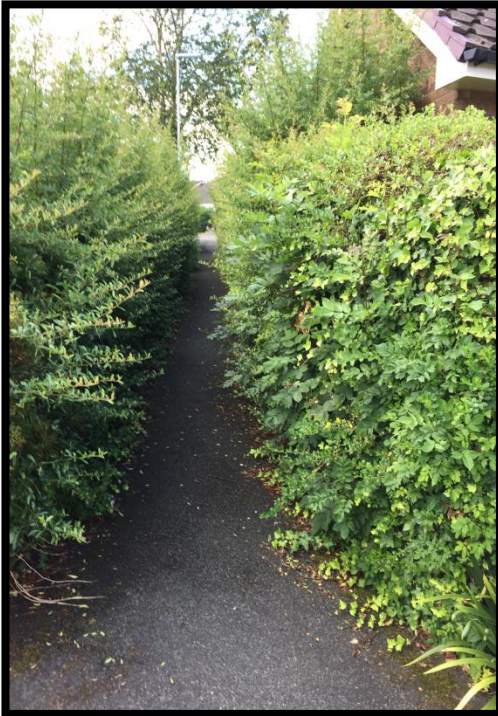
By the way, there's a brilliant phone app called '*love clean streets*' that anyone can download to their mobile phone. If you see fly-tipping or any other environmental problem you just take a photo of it, describe what it is and it sends a report to the right person in the local council along with a precise GPS location. It may vary in different council areas but Warrington certainly seems to act very quickly to clean up stuff reported through the app.

I'll end this section as ever with my usual plea, ***please take your litter home.***

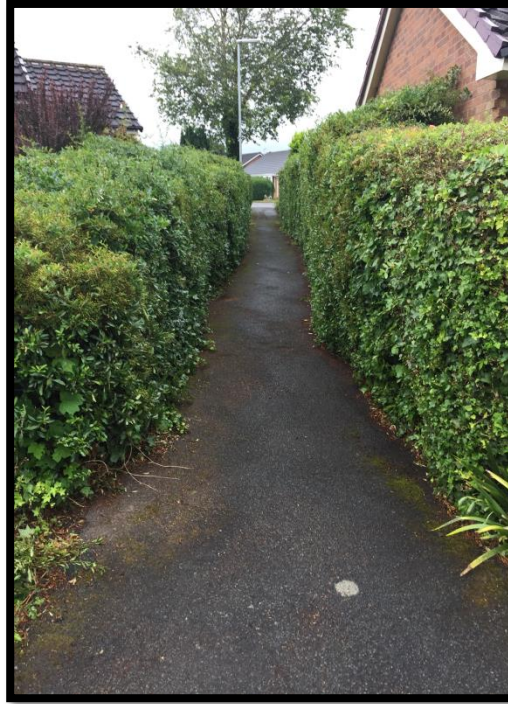
Hedges and Footpaths

I believe it's a sign of the good weather we've been having recently so won't complain but the hedges that border footpaths, particularly in the former 'new town' areas in parts of Grappenhall, have been growing furiously such that some footpaths have almost become impassable. I've therefore been kept busy cutting them back and taking away the hedge cuttings. See my 'before' and 'after' pictures below of one such footpath at Sharon Park Close which I believe residents had stopped using (not least because of the vicious thorns on the hedge) until I was able to cut it back.

A big thanks also to those kind residents who gave me cups of tea in this hot weather - most gratefully received. (And if you're asking, I take it white with one sugar!)



'Before'



'After'

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.