

## Warden's Notes: October 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.

### St Wilfrids School, Grappenhall

In June Elaine Welborn, Chairman of the Parish Council, and I gave a short talk to children at St Wilfrids School in Grappenhall village about litter, recycling and caring for the environment generally. They were a wonderfully receptive audience and seemed to take our message on board with enthusiasm. If we can successfully get the message across to the next generation about not dropping litter there may be no need for those parts of my job concerned with litter picking !

The postscript to our visit to St Wilfrids is that now I've been greeted by groups of children around Grappenhall with, "Hello, you're the litter-picking man that came to our school !"

### Community Litter Pick

Our most recent litter pick was on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, shown on the picture below. Rain before and after the event seems to have deterred people from attending although it actually stayed dry for most of the time between 10.30 and 12.30 for the hardy volunteers that did turn up. This was the final litter pick of 2017 and we will publish the programme of litter picks for 2018 early in the New Year.

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



## Rant of the month

This month I've been particularly incensed by the number of rubber gloves that I've picked up from the side of the road – you know the sort I mean, those surgical type of latex or nitrile gloves, often blue coloured that most service engineers and other tradesmen seem to wear these days. Yet again, just

because they're labelled *disposable* doesn't mean that you have to dispose of them there and then by dropping them in the street.

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 promptly to clear up stuff reported through the app.

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

## Swans



Recently there has been a large family of swans around Bellhouse Lane in Grappenhall. They often took up occupation of the pathway leading to the canal including spilling out into the road.

In response to the potential danger to the swans from passing traffic I erected a pair of signs, shown here, warning motorists to slow down.

The danger now appears to have passed as the swans have moved away, apparently to Walton but may well return at some stage.

## Local nature and wildlife



Autumn is well and truly here heralded by storms, rain and high winds. There have been the occasional sunny days just to keep us on our toes.

These pictures show just some of the bounty of the hedgerows that are to be found. To the left are some of the delicious sweet chestnuts that I picked up and are very nice when they are grilled.

To the right is a beautiful red emperor butterfly that I spotted one sunny day in the Bellhouse car park.



Below is a rather more deadly fruit, berries of the Belladonna or deadly nightshade. Very pretty but extremely toxic if eaten.





### Lorry litter bins

Has anybody seen these at the motorway service area (Pops)? I think they're brilliant, designed so that truck drivers can dump their rubbish easily without stopping or getting down from the cab. They seem very well used, as you can see from them bulging open!

All we need now is to see all the haulage firms on the Stretton Airfield industrial estate installing them at the entrance to their premises to avoid litter being thrown out on Broad Lane.

### 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](mailto: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.