

WARWICK DISTRICT

# GREEN SPACES

Get out and about  
for free in our green  
spaces this May

## In this edition

- New Street Burial Ground
- EcoFest
- May events and activities
- What to look out for in May
- The Big Victorian Picnic
- Leamington parkrun
- Day in the Life of Russell Poulton, Green Spaces projects team leader



May 2019



## Green Space of the Month

### New Street Burial Ground

One of the more unusual 'green spaces' maintained by the Council is New Street Burial Ground, a walled garden in South Leamington. The garden is classified as a 'disused burial ground', having held no burials since the mid-1800s, when they were stopped due to over-crowding. It is believed that around 2,000 bodies were buried there, with up to five graves in one plot. Those buried at New Street included visiting adults and children who came to Leamington Spa for the sake of their health and also some founders of the new town.

In 1948 the site was gifted to the local authority as a public space. In 1958 some graves were exhumed and moved to the Brunswick Street Cemetery and most of the headstones were removed. Around 20 of the original grave stones remain which are located against the east wall.

In 2016, local community group ARC (Achieving Results in Communities) received funding from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme towards improving this neglected space. Over the past two years fortnightly gardening sessions have taken place led by a team of volunteers from the surrounding streets and further afield. They have worked together to transform the site, which had become overgrown with brambles, litter and dog mess. Some new plants have been purchased, but most have been donated by local residents, with the Council's Green Spaces team contributing bright and colourful bedding plants, which have been in full bloom since March. The group has also installed a bug hotel and have made some colourful mosaic stepping stones. An entrance sign was designed by the group to highlight the history of the project and a number of events such as 'Winter Warmers' have been held.

The burial ground still has a lot of undiscovered history and anyone with an interest in researching the site's history is encouraged to get in touch. Visit the Facebook page (New Street Nature Park) or ARC website (<http://www.arccic.co.uk>) to find out more and to join the fortnightly gardening sessions!

**Postcode:** CV31 1HT

**Parking:** On Street

**Public Transport:** Train-Leamington Spa Station, Bus- All Saints Parish Church





# Pump Room Gardens Programme Update

An exciting new event is heading to the new-look Pump Room Gardens on Sunday 5 May.

EcoFest will celebrate everything eco with a range of activities, a delicious choice of vegan & vegetarian food and a variety of music on the newly restored bandstand.

Come and join us to learn how to make more environmentally friendly and healthy choices whilst getting more active. Have-a-go activities will be available to help to decrease your carbon footprint, while free 'taster' sessions will allow you to try your hand at something new to support wellbeing and fitness – Thai Chi perhaps, or Laughter Yoga. You can even take the 'activity passport' challenge and see how many activities you can complete!

Our Green Spaces team has been working closely with local environmental charity Action 21 to organise this event, as part of the National Lottery Heritage funded restoration of the Pump Room

Gardens and bandstand. John Armstrong from Action 21 says "EcoFest is a huge step forward from last year's Eco Fun Day and will be an enormous help in furthering our aims to reduce the environmental impact of our local community and to raise awareness of the importance of this."

Come along and make an eco-brick, join a mindfulness session and check out Warwick District Council's own 'butterfly creation station'.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you there!

**Green Spaces Team**



**nationalgrid**



[www.warwickdc.gov.uk/ecofest](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/ecofest)

## What to look out for in May

- Spring bedding is at its peak now – look out for primroses, wallflowers, tulips and pansies across our parks and gardens. Now we have enjoyed the early spring crocuses and daffodils, the grass will remain uncut for 6-8 weeks to allow the bulbs to prepare themselves for next year's display.
- Bluebells are also out – the best place to spot them is in our woodlands, including Crackley Woods, Kenilworth and Oakley Woods. Don't miss this spectacular display!
- Grass cutting is now in full swing, and meadow areas will be establishing themselves across our larger parks.
- Paddling pools are being prepared for summer use and will be open soon, weather depending!
- Look out for swans nesting and signets hatching in Jephson Gardens – we provide them with straw on the islands to encourage them to nest in safe places.



## May Events and Activities

**Sunday 5 May, 10am-4pm**

**EcoFest 2019:**

**Pump Room Gardens**

Free entry. [greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk)

**Monday 6 May**

**The Mayday 10K,  
Abbey Fields, Kenilworth**

This annual event is a challenging 10k for individuals or 3-person relay teams and includes a challenge for year 5 and 6 children from local schools. [mayday-10k.co.uk](http://mayday-10k.co.uk)

**Sunday 12 May**

**Walk for Myton, Myton Hospice**

Help raise money for a great cause – choose between a 3 mile stroll, a 6 mile walk or a 12 mile hike, setting off anytime between 8.30am and 10am. Further family entertainment available throughout the day. [mytonhospice.org/our-events/event/walk-myton-free/](http://mytonhospice.org/our-events/event/walk-myton-free/)

**Sunday 19 May, 1-6pm**

**The Party in the Dell,  
Leamington Spa**

The Friends of the Dell would like to invite you to the 22nd Party in the Dell. This is a free family event organised for the local community by the community.

[facebook.com/events/the-dell-park-leamington-spa](https://facebook.com/events/the-dell-park-leamington-spa)

**Saturday 25 May**

**Fake Festival, Victoria Park**

A day of live music, rocking to SIX pro-level 'Fake Bands'... so good, they're almost the real deal. Come party with friends till late. Tickets: [fakefestivals.co.uk/2019/](http://fakefestivals.co.uk/2019/)

Leamington-Spa

# Leamington parkrun

Every Saturday morning at 9am, around 500 people gather at Newbold Comyn football pavilion to enjoy a 5k run, jog or walk. It's simple, it's free and the whole thing is organised by volunteers who marshall, time and organise the runners.

parkrun is totally inclusive and a look at our runners reflects that; some are in full running gear, others in jogging bottoms and baggy t shirts, some jog with children, others run with buggies, some with dogs on leads, some are fast, some are slow – it doesn't matter. It's all about getting out there and doing it. Parkrun is not a race; it's about improving your own performance rather than comparing yourself to others, and no one is ever last because that is the job of the tail-walker!

Leamington parkrun is so much more than just a run in the park, it's grown into a massive community, which is held together by a special lady, Kate, who runs our café.

Leamington parkrun started on 23rd April 2011 and since then 15,635 runners have run 134,852 runs. Younger runners (4 years and over) are welcome, but under 11s must be accompanied by an adult (at arm's length) for the duration of the run. Our oldest runner to date is in her mid-80s. As a parkrun we work hard to encourage everyone to take part. To this end, we now have links with two GP surgeries who prescribe parkrun to some of their patients, we support an active Mental Health Together Group which organises walk 'n' talk and running events and the set-up of a 5K 'Your Way' group which supports people who are living with and beyond cancer. We regularly have a signer, provide guides for a local blind runner and offer support to runners with

autism. An annual pink parkrun is held to raise funds and awareness of breast cancer and this year there will be a Pride parkrun. We are also lucky to have an excellent relationship with Warwick District Council who consistently promote and support our event.

To take part in parkrun all you need to do is register at [www.parkrun.org.uk/register](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/register), print out your barcode and bring it with you – it really is as simple as that. Your barcode gives you access to every parkrun anywhere in the world. There are currently 1447 parkruns in 20 countries, 599 of which are in the UK. For more information on Leamington parkrun visit [www.parkrun.org.uk/leamington](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/leamington) or find us on Facebook.



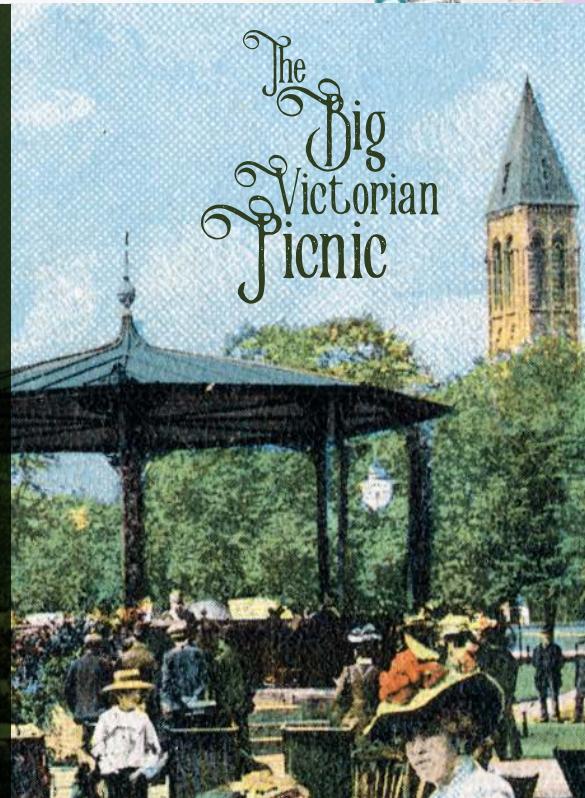
## The Big Victorian Picnic

To mark the completion of the restoration of the Pump Room Gardens, we are inviting local people to bring a picnic and a blanket and step back in time to Royal Leamington Spa's Victorian heyday!

The Big Victorian Picnic will be held in the Pump Room Gardens on Saturday 8 June and we are making plans for a wealth of themed entertainment throughout the day. The event is being part sponsored by the Council's

contractor idverde and will include live music and performances on the newly restored bandstand as well as Victorian-fete style activities, a range of stalls selling crafts and locally produced food and drink. For families and children there will be pottery making and face-painting and a Punch and Judy Show.

We are very much hoping that people will get into the true spirit of the occasion by dressing up in Victorian costume!



# A day in the life of

## Russell Poulton

### Green Spaces Projects Team Leader



#### Tell me a little about your position and what you do on a day-to-day basis?

As Green Spaces Projects Team Leader I lead or manage a number of projects across the district. Day to day, this ranges from developing new schemes and identifying possible sources of funding, to monitoring spend and liaising with contractors, Councillors, community and voluntary groups.

#### What are you working on at the moment?

Currently I'm overseeing the Pump Room Gardens restoration project which is nearing completion. I'm pleased to say that the site looks very different to when the work started. I'm also looking forward to reviewing the tenders for the upgrade of a number of the district's play areas which are due to take place over the next few months. We're also in the process of appointing a design team to create some proposals for the new Tach Brook Country Park, ... it's a very busy but exciting time.

#### What do you enjoy most about your work?

It has to be the opportunity to make a difference for our local communities for example seeing children having fun on new play equipment or getting involved in creating or reviving new green spaces.

#### What's the funniest/ strangest/ most memorable thing that has happened to you in your career?

One of the strangest times has to be whilst I was working in Birmingham and hearing about a tornado in the Balti Triangle, which was only 2-3 miles away from my office. I took a call from someone saying that there was a tornado going down the street which of course I didn't believe. It was incredible to see the damage it caused in such a short space of time in the middle of a city!

#### What would you be doing if you had chosen a different career path?

Who knows? My career to date has already changed since starting out in town planning a few years ago. I suspect that I would be doing something involving working outside or travelling which is probably revealing the geographer in me.

#### If you were an animal, which species would you be and why?

Probably a dog as I always enjoy a good walk especially around the district's wonderful green spaces!

#### Which is your favourite green space in the district?

I would say Victoria Park as it was the one of the first I visited when I joined the council 18 months ago. I started in winter so it has been great to see the seasonal changes and to appreciate just how much work it takes to get the parks into such great shape and to keep them that way.

To sign up to this e-newsletter, please visit:  
[www.warwickdc.gov.uk/gsnews](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/gsnews)

For more information about green spaces in Warwick District please visit:

[greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk)  
 [www.warwickdc.gov.uk/parks](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/parks)

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