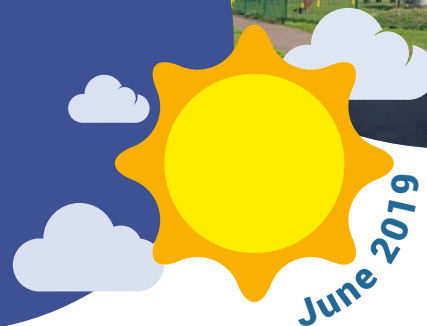


WARWICK DISTRICT GREEN SPACES



June 2019

Enjoy long summer days in our green spaces this June

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Green Space of the Month

The Holt

Located in Lillington to the north of Leamington, The Holt Recreation Ground is a wide, flat open space, ideal for playing sport and hosting community events.

The site is rumoured to have been an old Victorian tip, but we have no evidence to prove this. We do however know that the land was once in the ownership of the Waller family who lived at Woodcote, which is now the Warwickshire Police Headquarters in Leek Wootton. The site was then passed to Thomas Pratt, who is thought to have started Leamington Cricket Club, before it came into the ownership of Leamington Borough Council in 1948. It has remained a public space ever since.

To the far end of the ground is a spinney with vegetation around the boundaries which provides a valuable haven for wild life.

The Holt was redeveloped by the Council's Green Spaces team during 2018. The work involved moving and upgrading the playground, installing outdoor gym equipment and marking out a new football pitch with goals, all of which have proved popular with local residents. At the same time new footpaths were laid which has improved access, particularly from Cubbington Road and Hadrian Close.

The site is used annually for the Lillington Community Fun Days with activities for all ages to enjoy. The next event is on 20th July - visit the Lillington Community Fun Day Facebook page for more information.

Postcode: CV32 7AN
Parking: Cubbington Rd,
Hadrian Close
Public Transport: Bus 67,
The Holt



St. Nick's meadow



Pump Room Gardens Update

Sunday 5th May saw the launch of a new event in the Pump Room Gardens – EcoFest. Well over 1,000 people turned out for a day of activities, entertainment and inspiration for all things good for you and the environment, including laughter yoga, plastic-free alternatives, organic toiletries and vegan and vegetarian food. Music and entertainment came from local bands and poets.

'Activity Passports' kept the children busy with eight different challenges from creating butterflies out of coffee filters to making eco bricks and running the kids' marathon!

There were lots of lovely comments about the day and it was fabulous seeing the gardens come to life for such a well-supported community event.

Apart from some snagging issues, the physical works to the Pump Room Gardens are now nearing completion and the new planting is really taking hold. We are now looking forward to some warmer weather which will allow us to make the finishing touches to the bandstand including the final coat of render around the plinth.

We will also be installing new lamp columns along the central path to reinstate its former grandeur.

Come and join us for the Big Victorian Picnic on Saturday 8 June to celebrate the completion of the programme of works! We have planned a wealth of themed entertainment throughout the day, including live performances on the bandstand from Emilie Lauren Jones, BlindFaith, Chris Jenner Jones, Jazz Apples and Levi Washington as well as affordable Victorian-fete style activities and a range of stalls selling everything from cocktails, cupcakes and gin, to a spit roast, Irish bar and local brewery, a patisserie, Victorian sweets and chocolates, vintage clothing, ceramics, tea sets, candles, cycles and even a dog show!



What to look out for in June

Summer bedding is now going in at our 'destination' parks and gardens: look out for beautiful colourful displays appearing in Jephson Gardens (Leamington), St Nicholas Park (Warwick) and Abbey Fields (Kenilworth).

We are having a spring bedding give away during the last week in June – check the noticeboards in Jephson Gardens and St

Nicks for more information.

Hanging baskets and tubs are being put out in the town centre in preparation for Leamington in Bloom

Meadows across the district are starting to look fabulous – check them out at Abbey Fields and Parliament Piece (Kenilworth) and St Mary's Lands and St Nicholas Park (Warwick).

June Events & Activities

Throughout June:

Heartbreak productions are putting on a number of outdoor performances including Private Lives, Romeo & Juliet, Gangsta Granny and Wuthering Heights. www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk/theatre/whats-on/

Saturday 1 June, 10am–3pm
Warwickshire Plant Fair, Pump Room Gardens, Leamington

A charity event to raise money for Plant Heritage.

1–2 June, 10am–6pm
Thai Festival, Warwick Racecourse

Featuring craft stalls, food and drink, drumming, dancing, singing and cookery demonstrations. www.skiddle.com/festivals/warwick-thai-festival/

Saturday 8 June, 11am–3pm
The Big Victorian Picnic, Pump Room Gardens, Leamington

(See feature to the left)
www.warwickdc.gov.uk/events/the_big_victorian_picnic

Sunday 9 June, 9am start
Two Castles 10k Run, Warwick Castle to Kenilworth Castle

Organised by the Rotary Club of Kenilworth. www.twocastlesrun.org.uk/

Sunday 9 June, 10am–5pm
Brazilian Day Festival, Pump Room Gardens, Leamington www.facebook.com/brazilian-day-festival

15–16 June, 11am–6pm
Leamington Peace Festival, Pump Room Gardens

Leamington's annual festival promoting international peace and living in co-operation with others. www.peacefestival.org.uk/

Saturday 29 June, 9am–3pm
Making Waves 2019, Dragon Boat Regatta, St Nicholas Park, Warwick

A fun event to support Myton Hospice and Birmingham Children's Hospital. www.warwickboats.co.uk/charity-dragon-boating/

Saturday 29 June, 10am–7pm
SCBU Festival, Jephson Gardens, Leamington

A free summer fete to support Warwick Special Care Baby Unit. www.facebook.com/fundraisingforwarwickscbu/

Abbey Fields Wildlife Site Designation

We have recently secured 'Local Wildlife Site' designation from Warwickshire County Council for a large part of Abbey Fields, Kenilworth – this accreditation has been an ambition of the Green Spaces team for a number of years.

Local Wildlife Sites are areas of land which are of special importance for wildlife, and are identified and selected locally using scientific criteria and ecological surveys. They vary in shape and size and can contain important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species.

Abbey Fields is an important urban reserve with a significant historical past, and contains unusual habitats including sizeable areas of swamp, marshy grassland and hay meadow, in addition to a wide variety of uncommon grassland species such as Greater Tussock-sedge, Meadow Cranesbill, Yellow Rattle and the nationally red-listed Harebell, which is 'near threatened'. A number of rare birds have been spotted in and around the lake including Water Pipit and Grey Phalarope. Kingfishers and Grey Wagtails are regular visitors, and Water Rail also visit and may use the site for breeding. Song Thrushes, Mistle Thrushes and Spotted Flycatcher, which are also nationally red-listed, are seen on the wider site. Abbey Fields encompasses an important wildlife corridor linking the open fields next to the castle with the flood meadows at the back of School Lane, the allotments and Kenilworth Common.

Abbey Fields is accessible to all and gives children a chance to interact with nature and learn about the environment, especially duringz summer months. The grassland meadow areas are uncut in spring and early summer and have a late summer cut for hay. The varied habitats add an important rural character to the local area with stunning views of flower-filled grassland.

This new designation highlights the importance of the site for wildlife, and over the coming months the Green Spaces Team will be working on a management plan with stakeholders to provide a long-term vision for the future management of this stunning open space.



Tach Brook Country Park

This month we are seeking to appoint a design team to draw-up a detailed masterplan for the development of the new Tach Brook Country Park. The proposed country park will cover more than 62 hectares running from Oakley Wood Road and Grove Plantation in the east through to Europa Way and – potentially – all the way to Banbury Road and Warwick. An area of woodland off Europa Way has already been transferred to the District Council from the County Council

to form part of the new park.

Tach Brook Country Park will provide opportunities to connect new and existing communities and green spaces, enhance biodiversity and natural habitats and offer new recreational opportunities.

Over the summer the team will be speaking to local people to gather ideas to put into the plan. Watch this space for further information of times, dates and locations!



A day in the life of

Rachael Osmotherley

Community Engagement Volunteer



What does your volunteer role involve?

As a Green Spaces volunteer I am helping the team to organise a range of community engagement events and activities for the newly restored Pump Rooms Gardens. So far I have worked on Ecofest 2019 which included a range of support roles from making bunting, talking to the public and sorting recyclable waste by hand!

What are you hoping to gain from volunteering here?

In my other (paid) life I work as a community engagement consultant for the heritage sector, so by volunteering for the Green Spaces team I'm hoping to widen my experience. I love the outdoors and I'd like to find out more about how local green spaces improve the quality of life of local people.

What key skills do you need to succeed in the role?

You need to be a good communicator and enjoy meeting new people from all walks of life. You also need enthusiasm and an ability to get stuck in wherever you are needed most!

You recently helped out at our Ecofest 2019 event – what was your favourite part of the day?

The best part of the day was when children were bringing their completed activity passports to the Ecofest stall to claim their prize. They loved telling me about their favourite activities and I loved seeing their faces when they were given the prize... a pencil made from recycled CD cases!

What do you do when you are not volunteering with the green spaces team?

When I am not volunteering, I divide my time between paid work and time with my two children who are 9 and 7 years old. I also love getting out and about and my children have inherited my love of exploring outdoors, whatever the weather!

What is your favourite time of year?

I love all the seasons for different reasons but, if I had to choose, I would say Spring. I love it when the days start to lengthen, the weather improves and the gardens suddenly come to life again. I love to sit outside with a cup of tea and notice the changes. It really lifts my mood.

If you could have dinner with anyone from history, who would you pick and why?

That's a tough one... there are so many people from history I admire. I'd probably say Queen Elizabeth I. Imagine spending some time with this great English monarch to delve into her mind, and ask about her life. She almost miraculously came to power (after Edward and Mary) and began the healing process that made England great. I'd love to find out what she was really like as a woman.

Which is your favourite green space in the district?

I love Jephson Gardens. It was the first green space in Leamington I discovered when my children were younger and we used to come often to run around and feed the ducks. I love the glasshouse and the sensory garden.

To sign up to this e-newsletter, please visit:
www.warwickdc.gov.uk/gsnews

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

 greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk

 www.warwickdc.gov.uk/parks

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