

# Warwick District **GREEN SPACES**

November 2019



## In this edition

- Pump Room Gardens update
- Make an insect hibernacula
- Newbold Comyn Update
- Orienteering at St Nicks
- Meet Paul Garrison, Project Manager

## Green Space of the Month

### Twycross Walk

Twycross Walk is located in the Woodloes area of Warwick and offers a lovely open space and play area for the local community and those working at the neighbouring businesses. This green space came into existence when the Woodloes housing development was built in the 1960s.

Twycross Walk is also home to the 7th Warwick Scout Group and their Scout Hut. This group was established in 1977 and moved to their current location at Twycross Walk in the early 1990s.

The play area at Twycross Walk has recently been improved with a range of new exciting equipment which has enhanced the existing playground and features play apparatus to suit a range of ages and agility. New items include a zip wire, trim trail, carousel and a multi-play unit for over 10 year olds.

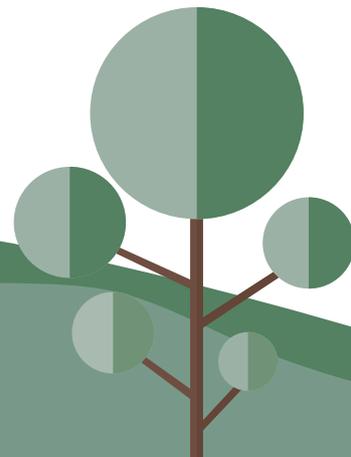
A 'Street Workout Unit' has also been introduced near the football pitch featuring a sit up bench, pull up bars and climbing bars providing visitors with more ways to get fit for free!

The park is close to the Grand Union Canal making it an ideal stop off for families enjoying a canal-side walk, with ample space for a picnic. The canal-side play area can be found a short walk away.

**Postcode:** CV34 5JR

**Parking:** Deansway

**Public Transport:** Bus 1 from Leamington via Greville Road and Woodloes



# Events and Activities

Every Saturday, 9am

**Park Run, Newbold Comyn and Warwick Racecourse**

In addition to the Leamington Park 5km Run there is now a 5km Park Run at Warwick Racecourse.

Race starts adjacent to Warwick Golf Centre.

[www.parkrun.org.uk/warwickracecourse/course/](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/warwickracecourse/course/)

Saturday 2 November, 5.30pm

**Warwick Town Bonfire, Warwick Racecourse**

[www.warwickbonfire.org.uk](http://www.warwickbonfire.org.uk)

Saturday 2 November, 5.30pm

**Kenilworth Round Table's Bonfire & Fireworks Gala, Kenilworth Castle**

[www.kenilworthroundtable.com](http://www.kenilworthroundtable.com)

Monday 11 November, 7pm-9.30pm

**Sports Development Networking Event**

**Warwick Trident College, Warwick**

Free networking event with information and opportunities for local clubs and groups. A buffet is included!

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

Sunday 17 November, 12noon-3.30pm

**Wild Food Identification Walk, Oakley Wood**

A guided walk identifying edible and poisonous plants and mushrooms. Experience new flavours and enjoy tasty samples.

Booking required.

[kerry@foragingcoursecompany.co.uk](mailto:kerry@foragingcoursecompany.co.uk)

[www.foragingcoursecompany.co.uk](http://www.foragingcoursecompany.co.uk)

Saturday 9 November, 9am-2pm

**Leamington Farmers Market, Pump Room Gardens**

The regular monthly farmers' market has over 15 producers selling meat, game, cheese, olives, honey, breads, cakes, fresh and smoked fish, and a large variety of fruits and vegetables.

[www.warwickdistrictmarkets.co.uk/leamington-farmers-market](http://www.warwickdistrictmarkets.co.uk/leamington-farmers-market)



## Pump Room Gardens Programme Update

### Free community workshops

Pump Room Gardens  
RESTORING THEIR HERITAGE TO HEALTH



As part of the Pump Room Gardens Restoration Programme and Activity Plan, The Green Spaces team is launching a new programme of free 'outreach' community workshops for groups across the district. Workshops are run in local community centres or green spaces and are targeted at groups working with young people, families with young children, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, and people with disabilities, learning difficulties or experiencing mental health issues.

Activities can include:

- Presentation about the heritage of the Pump Room Gardens
- Locally produced short film featuring the restoration of the bandstand
- Interactive wildlife activities such as bat spotting, sewing seeds for wildlife and mini-beast hunting
- Hands on heritage and art activities including drawing workshops and clay modelling

Workshops are free, run by trained leaders and supported by our volunteer team.

Subject to availability. To enquire, please email [greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk).



## What to look out for in November

Fountains in Jephson Gardens are being turned off for the winter because ice and frost could damage the stonework on cold days. Grass cutting has also stopped now that the growing season has finished.

Our teams are still busy though - sweeping and blowing the autumn leaves from paths in our green spaces. Some of the leaves are then added to shrub beds as the organic mulch improves soil quality and suppresses weeds. The leaves on the grass are mulched by a special mulching blade on mowers so that they can be absorbed into the grass sward - this improves soil structure, allowing water to permeate, and gives earth dwelling invertebrates such as earth worms something to eat.



# Hibernacula

Hibernacula are 'winter quarters' or shelters used by hibernating animals. We have several across the district, including a large one outside the chapel in Oakley Wood Crematorium. This structure is made from logs, canes, stones, bricks and other sustainable materials with lots of holes for bats, insects, spiders and other 'minibeasts' to crawl into during cold weather. There are two in Jephson Gardens – near the Glasshouse and in the Sensory Garden. A hibernaculum doesn't have to be big – just some holes drilled in

a tree stump provides a great habitat. How to make a Ladybird Hibernaculum

1. Cut the top off an old plastic bottle
2. Stuff the bottle with rolled up cardboard, garden canes and twigs
3. Stick the bottle in a bush or hedge, open end pointed slightly downwards to avoid letting rain in

- This provides a great home for ladybirds, lacewing and solitary bees!



## New Orienteering Trails at St Nicks

Octavian Droobers Orienteering Club and WDC have recently introduced two orienteering trails around St Nicholas Park.

The maps complete with instructions can now be downloaded free of charge via the Octavian Droobers website and copies are also available from both the St Nicholas Park Café and Leisure Centre, giving families and participants of all ages the chance to have a go at orienteering any time! This is a great way to explore the park using the paths and crossing the grassy areas on either the short 1.9km course or the longer 3.6km course.

Both courses start and finish on a wall near the front of the Café (next to the Fun Park) and the aim is to proceed from control point to control point in order, noting down the code letter on to the map (a bit like a treasure hunt).

As Karin Kirk, from the Octavian Droobers explains: *"Orienteering is a fun adventure outdoor sport, and whether you choose to walk or run around the park it's a great way to get active."*

## Newbold Comyn

A new survey is currently taking place to help shape the future of Newbold Comyn.

The Sport, Leisure and Culture Consultancy (SLC) has been commissioned by the Council to look at the feasibility of new sport and physical activity facilities at Newbold Comyn following the closure of the golf course in 2017.

SLC have identified some initial options for new facilities following a survey carried in Summer 2018 which received over 3000 responses.

The options include a redesigned par-3 golf course, driving range, a new adventure play area, an outdoor activities area including high ropes, low ropes and zip wires, an extension to the nature reserve and a visitor centre/café.

SLC will now undertake a more detailed study to explore the viability of these facilities, and as part of this the public are being asked to give their views.

The survey responses, which form part of a wider consultation with stakeholders, will help to develop a draft masterplan for Newbold Comyn, to be considered by a cross-party councillor group.

For further information and to complete the survey, visit [www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newboldcomynpark](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newboldcomynpark)

**The consultation will close on 10 November 2019.**



# A day in the life of

Paul Garrison, Project Manager

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

I work for Neighbourhood Services, meaning I get involved with a range of projects across our area. Most recently I have been involved with car parks and green spaces. Day to day my job involves me working with people inside and outside of the council to plan, manage and complete projects. This can involve a lot of report writing and meetings but its all important stuff to make sure we get the final result right for the council and for the people working, living and visiting the area.



## What are you working on at the moment?

Over the summer Warwick District Council has been improving the play facilities in several parks across our district (including Twycross Walk - see front page). I've been managing this work.

## What is the first thing you do when you get to work in the morning?

I always need a coffee to get going so that's the first thing. Then I'll check over e-mails and make a 'things to do today' list. I'm generally working on several projects at a time so my 'to-do-list' helps me with planning what I need to do when!

## What's the most challenging part of your job?

No project is ever as easy as it might first appear on paper and I think one of the biggest challenges for any Project Manager is keeping calm and in control when things aren't going entirely to plan!

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

For a long time I wanted to work for the Secret Services but I think my dream of being the new 007 is fading! I love motor racing and music too so maybe an F1 mechanic or a rock star!

## What was the last gift you gave someone?

It was a Peppa Pig CD for my daughter! She loves watching the cartoon on TV and now she can listen to the stories on the go too!

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

Priory Park – it's a lovely big open space to go for a walk. It's not as busy as St Nick's and really close to Warwick town centre. It's also got a good play area for my little girl.

## Do you have any special talents/ a party trick?

'Talent' might be stretching it but I'm a wannabe 'bedroom musician' and play guitar and bass guitar at home when I find the time. I'm into metal, rock and blues music.

## What is your favourite time of year?

Spring – I'm not a fan of the short, cold winter days and it's lovely when the weather starts to change and you can see things starting to grow again.

## Green Spaces Newsletter – what do you think?

Whether you have been an avid reader since our first edition in October 2018, or if this is the first of our newsletters you have read, we would love to hear from you! We would like to know what you think of this newsletter to help us make it even better during its second year! Please spare a couple of minutes and visit: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/gsnfeedback/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/gsnfeedback/) to let us know your views.

Many thanks, Green Spaces Team



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)

 WarwickDCNews

 @Warwick\_DC