

Warwick District **GREEN SPACES**

December 2019



Green Space of the Month

Hatton Park

One of our more unusual green spaces, Hatton Park used to be the site of the old 'Warwick County Lunatic Asylum'. From 1852 the patients were cared for under Dr Connolly's regime of 'moral treatment', which encouraged them to participate in work and social activities. This resulted in the asylum being virtually self-sufficient with a farm, laundry, water reservoir and its own fire service.

In 1948, the asylum was integrated into the newly formed National Health Service and renamed the Central Hospital. The Hospital continued to treat its patients with care and compassion until its closure in 1995 and the transfer of mental health services to the newly built St Michael's Hospital in Warwick.

When approving plans for the new Hatton Park housing estate the Council ensured that large open spaces were left for residents to enjoy. The large grassy parkland in the centre features some fantastic trees, probably planted when the hospital was built. One of the most significant is a Mulberry tree near Mollington Grove.

This green space is well used by dog walkers, is a great location for families playing football and picnicking and when it snows the community gathers for sledging on the steep slope.

One of the smaller open spaces at Hatton Park was the site of the old burial ground for patients of the facility and this is commemorated with a memorial plaque.

The village of Hatton Park has its own shop, village hall, children's playground, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Community Orchard which is accessible to the public and has a variety of fruit trees such as apples, pears and plums.

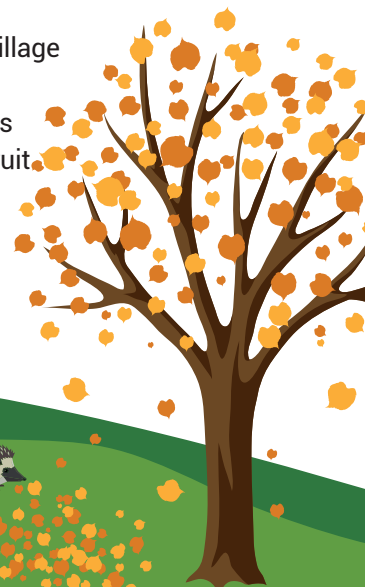
Postcode: CV35 7TR

Parking: On Street

Public transport: Bus 16 from Warwick Bus Station

In this edition

- Have your say on the Tach Brook Country Park and Abbey Fields and Castle Farm
- Community Veg Patch at Eagle Recreation Ground
- Meet David Adam, Friends of Victoria Park



Events and Activities

Sunday 1 December, 4pm

Lantern Parade, Pump Room Gardens

Create your own lanterns, then come and join us in lighting up Leamington Spa
www.leamingtonlanternparade.co.uk

Sunday 8 December

The Myton Hospices Santa Dash, Victoria Park

A 5km costumed run, walk or jog to raise money for a great cause. A fun event aimed at families – costumes provided!
www.mytonhospice.org

Sunday 15 December, 4pm

Carols in Christchurch Gardens

Enjoy some traditional carol singing and other festive tunes accompanied by a brass band and warming refreshments.

www.holytrinityleamington.org.uk

Saturday 21 December, 6-7pm

Kenilworth Lions' Carols, Abbey Fields

Kenilworth Lions' Carol Concert is a traditional, family affair, led by the Salvation Army band, with singing by local primary school choirs. Join in and get in the mood for Christmas. Free, donations requested.
johnkenilworthlions@gmail.com

Saturday 21 December

Farmers Market, Pump Room Gardens

Held at the bottom of the Parade on the second Saturday of every month, the Pump Room Gardens is home to a regular farmers' market. Over 15 producers sell meat, game, cheese, olives, honey, breads, cakes, fresh and smoked fish, and a large variety of fruits and vegetables.

Thursday 26 December

Boxing Day Cyclo Cross, Kenilworth Common

This is the 65th year running of one of the most challenging and enjoyable races of the year.
www.ukzcyclocrossevents.co.uk

Thursday 26 December, 12 noon

Kenilworth Lions Duck Race, Abbey Fields

Every Boxing Day an unusual ritual takes place starting at the Ford in Kenilworth, where 1,500 'ducklings' are launched into Finham Brook with the aim of crossing the finishing line in Abbey Fields. Prizes for the first four finishers. Tickets £1 each.

www.kenilworthlionsclub.co.uk

Pump Room Gardens Programme Update Ecofest 2020

Save The Date!! Sunday 31 May 2020

EcoFest is back! Following the very successful 2019 event we will be back again exploring everything good for you and good for the planet. There will be a taster tent where you can try a new healthy activity, live music, responsible food stalls, free kids' activities, ethical goodies for sale and information on different things you can do to get active and make a difference. 2020's event is being coordinated by Kate Livingston, who says:

"I am looking forward to bringing together a day of different environmentally friendly and sustainable lifestyle organisations. As well as a focus on the 'climate emergency' we will also be looking at healthy living and a healthy lifestyle that fits with you. The media has such a strong focus on the environment at the moment, and the amount of information out there can be confusing, but we need to make sure we are taking the correct steps for a better future. Ecofest is a brilliant platform for local community projects and business to help engage with the community, in one fun filled day."

Join us for a creative and inspiring Sunday in the Pump Room Gardens.



What would you like to see in the NEW TACH BROOK COUNTRY PARK?

Stretching across 56 hectares between Bishop's Tachbrook, Leamington Spa and Warwick, the new Tach Brook Country Park will be a haven for wildlife and biodiversity and with your help, will be a wonderful new open space with something for everyone.

Please help us realise that vision.

Visit www.warwickdc.gov.uk/TachBrook to complete our survey. Survey open from 25 November to 20 December 2019



Festive Bird Feeders

Tie a large knot in a piece of string and use a needle to (carefully!) thread on unsalted plain popcorn and fresh cranberries. Tie at the other end and hang up on a bush to give the birds a seasonal treat! Remember to take the string back once the birds have finished snacking.



Have your say on Abbey Fields and Castle Farm

Local residents and community groups in Kenilworth are being invited to have their say on three schemes 'Pools for our Future', 'Sports for our Future' and 'Fields for our Future'.

The public is being asked to give their feedback on new plans for Abbey Fields Swimming Pool, Castle Farm Recreation Centre and at the same time take part in a survey for Abbey Fields, set up by the Green Spaces team and consultants IDVerde, which will help to shape a management plan for the wider parkland.

The Consultation surveys can also be completed online until 9 December by visiting www.forourfuture.co.uk



Community Veg Patch at Eagle Recreation Ground, South Leamington

The Friends of the Eagle Rec have started a community vegetable garden. The aim of the project is to reclaim one of the old flower beds that has been left fallow and overgrown and plant it up with fruit bushes, vegetables and herbs.

The project is gaining momentum and volunteers meet every Thursday at 1pm and Sunday at 11am. A good start has been made clearing the nettles and brambles, preparing the bed for planting and discussing what type of produce to grow.

The volunteers have been engaging with different groups including students from Warwickshire College and also hope to link with Brunswick Hub's Secret Garden Project to grow and provide vegetables for healthy eating cookery demonstrations.

If you would like to get involved with the gardening or can provide seeds, plants or expertise please contact recfriends@mail.com or contact Romy Dixon 07891370777



NOW OR NEVER

STREET ACTIVIST PROJECT

Leamington Spa is the home of Now or Never - a behavioural change campaign run by Clean Up Britain. This campaign is supported by both Warwick District Council and the RSPCA.

Many people are familiar with community litter picks and lots will have taken part in them, however, unfortunately the litter often comes back.

Now or Never aim to prevent littering happening in the first place, to change people's mind-sets and to move towards a 'preventative' rather than 'clear up' culture.

The campaign group is working with the community to send out strong messages about the dangers of littering on wildlife and the environment. They have installed signage in many of Leamington's green spaces and car parks and are currently researching cigarette butt littering behaviour.

They have also launched a campaign song <https://youtu.be/0DF5zkGOBAC> with North Leamington School and musician Wes Finch and are visiting schools to give talks to local children.

The group would like even more people to get involved and support their projects to stop littering behaviour, here, right now!

For more information visit www.itsnowornever.org.uk

Clean Up Britain: www.cleanupbritain.org

Twitter: @NowOrNever_UK Facebook: @streetactivistsleam

Free Litter Kills and Pickup2 Pledge stickers are available at Leamington Town Hall (reception area) and the Golden Monkey Tea Company, Smith Street, Warwick.



A day **in the life** of

David Adams, Friends of Victoria Park Group

Who are the Friends of Victoria Park?

We're a group of local people who care about protecting and improving one of Leamington's premier green space. We have about 100 members, including families, dog walkers, tennis players and skateboarders. We started off as a campaign group, petitioning WDC to ensure that their plans for car parking in the Park during Bowls season were suitable, but our main objectives now are to improve the facilities and appeal of the Park.

What do you feel is the best thing about Victoria Park?

It satisfies so many different groups – families have the play area, dog walkers enjoy the open space, cyclists and runners have the circuit around the edge, and skaters have the skateboarders park. There aren't any other Green Spaces in Leamington with such a wide appeal!

What was your background before you got involved with the Friends?

Immediately before retiring my job involved lobbying and campaigning on behalf of the health food industry in Westminster and Brussels. This involved meeting with government and EU officials, which was useful experience for my current role.

The Council would like to put Victoria Park forward for a Green Flag. How do you think the Friends could get involved?

We are very lucky because Victoria Park is well looked after generally – it is one of the Spa Gardens and hosts the National Bowls Championships in 2020 and the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Our aims will be to help ensure the Council invests wisely in new facilities and protects the Park for the benefit of all of the local community.

What are some of the key challenges facing a 'Friends' group?

Maintaining patience can sometimes be a challenge. Right now many Park improvements are on hold awaiting news of the Council's bid for significant new funding for the park. Success could make the difference between affording good new facilities or brilliant ones. We also need to maintain absolute political neutrality!



How will you be spending Christmas this year?

I'll be spending Christmas day with family – 10 of us. My family all live in Leamington and I have taken my three grandchildren to Victoria Park regularly as they've grown up. On Boxing Day I'll be in London watching Crystal Palace play West Ham – I'm a long standing season ticket holder which can be nail biting but I'm hoping for a Crystal Palace victory as a late Christmas present!

Other than Victoria Park, which is your favourite green space in the district?

I particularly like running along the footpath by the Princes Drive Weir leading up to the canal. I can then run along the canal to the supermarket or the rail station.

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

 WarwickDCNews

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