



Winter 2024



Hull City Council

# Newington & Gipsyville News

Ward news - information about your neighbourhood and community

## Veterans Bench

A bench has been installed by the bandstand in Pickering Park to commemorate the Falklands War. The bench was kindly donated by Keith Thompson MNM, a Hull Falklands veteran.

There are two plaques on the bench - the first dedicated to the nine Hull Falklands Task Force Vessels, MV Norland who carried the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, 11th Mine Countermeasures Squadron and the three deep sea tugs of United Towing.

The second plaque is dedicated to Roy Gibson who entertained the paratroopers on their way to the Falklands War.

An unveiling ceremony was held in April 2024 and was well attended by Falklands Veteran's, their families, and Falklander Islanders.



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## Pickering Park Paddling Pool

A consultation has recently taken place to decide on the future of Pickering Park Paddling Pool. Over 900 responses were returned and the overwhelming majority (75%) responded in favour of a combined paddling pool and splash pad. The Major Projects team at Hull City Council is now developing plans and aiming to open the pool in time for the 2025 summer season. Please follow our Facebook page [@hccwestarea](#) for further updates.

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## New grit bins

Now that the weather is getting colder, five new grit bins have been purchased from the Ward Budget. These are located on Kiplington Close, Longden Street, Plane Street/Anlaby Road, Wistow Close/Boothferry Road and Council Avenue. You can find the exact location of our grit bins and to request they are refilled at [www.hull.gov.uk/roads-pavements/paths-grit-bins](http://www.hull.gov.uk/roads-pavements/paths-grit-bins)

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# BOYRD

We have held three successful Bring Out Your Rubbish Days (BOYRDs) across Newington & Gipsyville so far this year. Nearly 60 tonnes of waste was removed during these collections and 97 fridge/freezers were also picked up.

We are currently looking into locations for future BOYRDs and residents in the designated streets will receive a letter approximately one to two weeks in advance.

If you haven't already done so, residents can take advantage of the council's free bulky item collection, where you can dispose of five items in one free collection every 12 months. So, if you have some household waste you need removing and haven't had a bulky item collection in the last year, why not arrange one? All you need to do is book it via the council's website [hullcc.gov.uk](http://hullcc.gov.uk), and search for "bulky items", where you'll find details of what can and can't be taken away.

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## Litter picks

Ward Councillors along with Love Your Street and the Neighbourhood Coordinator continue to complete regular litter picks throughout the Ward. If you think your area is in need of a litter pick, then please email [west.areacommittee@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:west.areacommittee@hullcc.gov.uk) to nominate your street!



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## Park improvements

This year has seen works to improve local parks funded by the Ward Budget. This is in line with our ward priority to maintain and improve local areas.

Arthur Street Park underwent a large cutback of overgrown bushes and trees to open up the area, improve visibility and reduce antisocial behaviour. In addition, we removed litter and fly-tipping, repainted the play equipment and had play markings installed on the path and the basketball court to encourage more families to use the park.

At Stirling Street Park a new multipurpose play system was installed for children aged three and over to replace worn out equipment.

It's great to see both parks now being used by local families.



# Wildlife Information

## Encouraging Wildlife

- throughout the UK our native plants and animals have been in a state of decline.
- pollinators including bees and moths have declined by 18%.
- species that feed on pests such as Ladybirds have declined by up to 34%.
- since 1970 54% of all flowering plant species have been lost.
- hedgehog populations have dropped from 30 million in 1950 to just over 800,000

So what can we do to stop this decline and make a difference.

The MP Emma Hardy declared Hull a Butterfly City in 2019. Search 'Hull Butterfly City' on Facebook and see web site for more information.

We are exploring ways to encourage wildlife in our public spaces by cutting grass less often so that wild flowers get a chance to grow and provide food for insects. Taking away the grass cuttings encourages wild flowers in the poorer soil. Did you know that seeds can lie dormant for upto 10 years so if you stop mowing you'll be surprised what pops up!

Within Hull there are over 1500 hectares of private gardens, making up the largest area of land, ahead of playing fields and almost 14 times larger than natural areas. So your garden or outdoor space could make a real difference to improve biodiversity. If you have a tenancy agreement check this before making any changes as you may need your landlords' permission.

Doing one of these simple steps will help:

- create a wildlife corner
- build a bughouse
- create a nature pond
- a pile of leaves or sticks for insects, reptiles, and amphibians to shelter over winter
- make holes at the bottom of fences 13cm x 13cm so Hedgehogs can roam for food
- put up bat or bird boxes
- sow wildflower seed into your lawns
- allow the grass to grow for longer before cutting
- plant native species, such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Buckthorn, Holly, Yarrow, Chamomile, Common valerian, Selfheal, Honeysuckle, Common comfrey, to help supply food and shelter for our native birds, mammals, and insects.
- Instead of feeding birds, plant fruit bearing trees and shrubs which can reduce the risk of spreading avian diseases
- put cat collars with bells on your cats, annually they kill over 55 million birds and are the largest threat to our bird population
- make your own compost and comfrey or banana fertilizer.
- collect water for use in droughts and to fill ponds.
- cut hedges every 3 years between December and February so that nesting birds are not disturbed and flowers and fruit are produced.
- plant flowers - most simple single petalled flowers like daisies and red valerian provide food for insects
- use downward facing, movement sensitive, outside LED lights to save money and reduce the affect of bright light on bats and insects.

More information on wildlife gardening can be found here [www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening)



## Duck feeder

A new eco-friendly duck feeder has been installed at Pickering Park.

Supplied by Feed the Ducks, and international environmental initiative, the duck feeder is made from 20,000 recycled plastic bottles. It's solar powered and takes payment by contactless only. The price of the duck food is £1.50.

The aim of the duck feeder is to reduce unhealthy feeding habits for the birds, improving water quality and duck health.



You can find out more at [www.feedducks.com/explore-the-feed-ducks-initiative](http://www.feedducks.com/explore-the-feed-ducks-initiative)

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## West Park Fun Day

We held our annual fun day on Sunday 25 August 2024 at West Park. Thankfully the sun was shining, and hundreds of residents joined us for a fun day of free activities and entertainment. We had face-painting, fairground rides, donkey rides and entertainment from stilt walkers and 'Max' the robot. Attendees enjoyed a free ice-cream too! It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and thank you all for joining us. Our thanks go to the Leader of the Council for his contribution to enable us to carry out this event.



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## Hanging Baskets

Summer saw lots of residents get involved with making hanging baskets at West Hull Community Hub and Edensand Road allotments. 100 hanging basket kits were provided, and residents took home their creations to proudly display in their gardens.

Local schools were also offered strawberry hanging baskets kits to encourage children to learn about growing their own food and healthier eating. Francis Askew Primary School, Paisley Street Primary and St Georges Primary School all took part in this activity with over 125 kits provided.



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