



***CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT
2016 - 2017***

Cover photo: The new Stumpery and Bug Hotel

Chairman's report 2016- 2017.

Well our year started well in 2016 with an award from Grass Roots grants via Telford & Wrekin Council for Voluntary Service for over £200 to purchase some more tools. This was followed by attendance at the 2016 Telford & Wrekin Council event, 'Spring into the Park' where we engaged with the public by offering gorilla masks for children to make and wear. A bit further on you will see why!

This has also been the year we launched the Friends 4 Health scheme aimed at helping people in Telford to get fitter by joining us for some fresh air and exercise in the form of gardening in the park. Several health conferences were attended and the local Clinical Commissioning Group helped to spread the word to all of Telford's surgeries.

We also launched our new special discount scheme for FULL members, that is members who are prepared to commit a minimum of 12 hours per annum to assisting us with the maintenance of the park. We are very grateful to the companies who have supported us in this venture. For more details see our web site.

This year saw the introduction of 2 sculptures of metal gorillas generously loaned to us by the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry. They were installed in the Maxell Gardens and proved to be a hit with the public, thus bringing many more visitors to our beautiful gardens. By the middle of the year the park was successful in obtaining a large grant from the SUEZ recycling and waste company in order to reinstate the 2 fountains (one musical) and the waterfall in the Cherry and Maxell gardens. This work is nearing completion as this report goes to be printed. The Friends group were very closely involved in the initial stages of obtaining this £49,500 grant.

The big event of the year for me as Chairman was to be invited at the expense of Fields in Trust to the Patrons Lunch in the Mall in London during June. This of course was to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday plus the fact that she is patron to over 600 charities. Despite the rain, it was a fantastic unique experience and I was very



*The Patrons Lunch
12th June 2016*



*Work on the Stumpery in
The Chelsea Gardens*



*Our two gorilla friends from
The British Ironwork Centre*

honoured and proud to be representing the Friends on this wonderful occasion.

Two of our members also attended a thank you event at the RAF Museum at Cosford put on by the High Sherriff of Shropshire, to thank volunteers for all the work they do in the county.

We also fitted in a visit to BBC Radio Shropshire in Shrewsbury to see how everything works and two members enjoyed their afternoon visit learning about our local radio station.

Unfortunately we were not successful this year in obtaining the UK's Best Park despite entering however we did have a very successful Charity Fancy Dress Fun Run in December which was raising money for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Over 170 runners raised over £3,500 which was helped by a generous donation from the Telford Cycle Experience. The input of help from Telford Park Run organisers was much appreciated as well.

Much improvements have been made in the park's formal gardens including the construction of a fence and a brand new bug hotel, thanks to a grant from the Peoples Postcode Lottery Trust.

We were lucky this year to be included in the ASDA green token scheme for local charities. Were competing with Madeley Guides and the Kaleidoscope Theatre for Downs Syndrome youngsters. As we go to print we are running second in the voting which will secure us £200 from ASDA's community fund.

We continued to have the support of the Park Manager, Nicola Allen and her staff, Telford & Wrekin Council and the Southwater Event Group (Telford International Centre, Holiday Inn, International Hotel and Ramada Hotel) and also many of the local town and parish councils around the park for which we are very grateful. We have achieved a lot in the last 12 months and the Friends will now look forward to the 2017- 2018 year with vigour and fresh enthusiasm particularly as we start a new venture with some new members growing vegetables, some of which will go to Telford's food bank.

Chris Pettman, Chairman, March 2017.



The musical fountain in the Chelsea Gardens c.1986



The site of the Maxell Garden waterfall soon to be restored



Promoting the Charity Fancy Dress Fun Run for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity with Maria Jones from the charity



***Please support the
Midlands Air Ambulance Charity***



***To join the Friends or find out more about us please
visit our web site at:
www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org
Or call 01952 382340
and leave your contact details***