



.....EXPLORE

Autumn / Winter 2016

FREE

**The newsletter of the
Friends of Telford Town Park
Promoting , Conserving , Protecting
www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org**

Get active with FOTTP



We always welcome more volunteers to assist with gardening, hedge laying, scrub clearing and other general maintenance tasks in the 450 acre Town Park. Just look online or leave your contact details with the Visitor Centre or ring 01952 382340.

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org



PR MANAGER

Have you got what it takes to be our publicity manager? We would like a volunteer with the ability to promote the Friends group and what we do in order to raise our profile with the general public. Please apply to Chris at

cpettman@blueyonder.co.uk
01952 270868

We are very grateful to **Great Dawley Town Council** for assisting the Friends with the partial cost of producing this newsletter and also to **Madeley Town Council, Hollinswood & Randlay, Stirchley and Brookside, Lawley & Overdale, Donnington & Muxton, St Georges & Priorslee Parish Councils, Oakengates Town Council, Southwater Event Group & Telford Cycle Experience** for their ongoing support of the Friends of Telford Town Park. Thank you all very much.

Cover picture: The unique carved pergola in the Chelsea Gardens

Charity Fancy Dress Fun Run



Sunday 4
December
11.30am
Town Park

This year will see our 10th charity fun run in Telford Town Park. We have a new partner this year with the **Midlands Air Ambulance Charity** and a new theme. It will be a FANCY DRESS FUN RUN, bring your own costume, which can be anything from a Santa suit to a gorilla in a tutu ! Let your imagination go wild and let us raise a really nice sum for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. If you want some ideas then search 'Fun Run' in Google images and you will find lots of good ideas. No military uniforms please, we want this to be a FUN run. You can run, jog or walk, wheelchairs, dogs on leads and pushchairs are welcome. The run will be started by the **Mayor of Telford & Wrekin Councillor Rae Evans** and we hope to have **Blind Dave Heeley** in attendance who is a remarkable marathon runner, including the **777 Challenge** and is now an ambassador for the **Midlands Air Ambulance Charity**. As last year, you can pre register online for **£5** and agree to try and raise at least **£20**, or you can fill out a form from the Visitor Centre.

However, do not leave registering until the day, as it will be £20 on the day to make up for the fact that you will have no time to raise sponsorship.

2016 is the 25th Anniversary of the Midlands Air Ambulance. The invaluable work they carry out in saving lives on a daily basis cannot be overstated and any one of us could need their services at any time. Each flight averages out a £2,500, so your support will be very much appreciated in helping to keep our Air Ambulance service flying. The Midlands Air Ambulance receive no government or other official funding, so voluntary support is essential. Please join in the fun on Sunday 4 December and do your very best to raise at least £20 and hopefully lots more. We'll see you there, in your fancy dress of course !

Details and apply at: www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

FOUNTAINS & WATERFALL



Success at last ! After 3 years of our lovely fountains and waterfall in the Chelsea and Maxell Gardens not working and a successful application for a grant to SUEZ (formerly SITA) work is now under way to restore them to their former glory.

The initial stage will be draining and relining the round pond to make it watertight and the Friends will be assisting with this part of the project.

The work is expected to be completed by the end of November and there should be minimum disruption for visitors to the gardens but we wish to apologise for any inconvenience during the essential works.

The eight stone troughs by the round pond will be moved to form a new Alpine Garden just beyond the bronze horse towards the rear of the gardens..

The fountain in the round pond will have the addition of being synchronised to music, as per the original, something a lot of people have asked if we could have again. Music to our ears !

The second pond further on will have a flowing bird bath as it was originally, which will greatly enhance the water quality as well as look attractive and provide a bath for wildlife.

The waterfall used to be a magnificent site in the Maxell Garden and once the trees are trimmed back will once again become quite spectacular and a big draw for visitors from all over the Midlands.

We are also hoping that next year we can obtain some new sculptures from the British Ironwork Centre for 2017 to bring even more added interest to the gardens.

Watch out for announcements for when it will all be officially opened.

Friends 4 Health



Friends 4 Health is a brand new scheme this year to promote, through health professionals, working outdoors in a garden or park environment to help patients recover from physical or mental ill health.

The scheme has been rolled out across Telford to GP's and Nurses and other health professionals and health voluntary groups so that people can be referred to the Friends group and take part in gardening, hedge laying, scrub clearing and other conservation projects.

We recently attended a Clinical Commissioning Group meeting in Wellington of GP's and Nurses to promote the scheme to health professionals.

It has been proven beyond all doubt that being out of doors in the fresh air and doing something that occupies you for an hour or two is wholly beneficial for anyone's health. The tasks will only be whatever the individual is capable of and carries no commitment or cost and this includes the NHS. So it is a WIN - WIN situation for all concerned.

The scheme is aimed at women over 25 and men over 50 and is supported by 'Fit for Life' and Telford & Wrekin Sport & Recreation Trust. However, anyone over 16 years of age can come along and give it a go, you do not have to be referred by your doctor or nurse. We have a selection of tools which are designed for the less able available and any essential protective wear such as gloves will be provided.

*The sessions currently run in the Chelsea Gardens, Telford Town Park every **Wednesday from 9.15am till 1pm** and every **1st and 3rd Saturday** at the same times. Just pop along and introduce yourself.*

Alternatively contact us via our web site:

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Gardening news

Several of the wood and tile gazebos have recently been spruced up and make the entrance to the Maxell Garden look a very attractive prospect! There is still another one to do, so volunteer painters will be most welcome ! The picture shows the main entrance from the rear of the SW 1 library to the Maxell Garden.



We have now replaced the fish sculpture that was vandalised a few months ago. It is being replanted with grasses including Zebra grass and should now be able to be enjoyed again by all visitors including the less able amongst us.

One of the original 1979 gazebo features is now suffering with wood rot and so it will be reduced in size and the whole area made to look attractive again shortly. The old ponds either side are being gradually turned into bog gardens.



Thanks to the generosity of David Austin Roses, Albrighton, the archways leading to the Maxell Garden and the Friends Sensory Garden will be graced with 4 new climbing roses.

Delivery of these is expected at the beginning of November as dry root stock, which will then be planted up by the Friends ready for a stunning display next year, hopefully.!

Information

VISITOR CENTRE WINTER OPENING HOURS

Please note the following:

From **November until the last day of February 2017.**

10am - 3pm only. Closed all day FRIDAYS and MONDAYS.

Also closed on Saturday December 24th until Tuesday 27th Dec.

Closed Saturday 31st Dec & Sunday 1st Jan.

**These hours will also apply to the
CHELSEA and MAXELL GARDENS**



**Don't forget to register for our Charity Fancy Dress
Fun Run on Sunday 4 December 11.30am
Telford Town Park. Mince pies and fun for all.
See page 3 and our web site for details.**

*The Friends operate regular gardening sessions in the Chelsea Gardens. If you would like to help out, just come along any **Wednesday** or a **1st or 3rd***

***Saturday of every month** between **10am and 1pm** and have a chat. No gardening experience is necessary and we have jobs to suit all tastes and abilities. The satisfaction of seeing your handiwork grow and bloom is a fantastic reward as well as lowering blood pressure and improving physical and mental wellbeing.*

If you feel you could benefit from helping out, either pop in one day, go online or leave your details on 01952 - 382340 and we will be in touch.

www.friendsoftefordtownpark.org

What's on in the Park



Last chance this year to take part in our Xplorer challenge, junior orienteering fun for all.

Saturday 29 October

FREE
1pm - 3pm

Fancy Dress Fun Run

Sunday 4th Dec
11.30am

TOWN PARK
In aid of the
MIDLANDS AIR
AMBULANCE
CHARITY



REGISTER NOW AT: WWW.FRIENDSOFTELFORDTOWNPARK.ORG
BRING YOUR OWN FANCY DRESS

Saturday 29th October **DARK RUN:** Details: www.darkrun5k.com

Thursday 1st December - Friday 23rd December
Christmas Market Southwater

Every Saturday 9.0am **PARK RUN.** Tel 01952 382340 for details

Every Wednesday 9am - 1pm **GARDENING** Chelsea Gardens.

Wed 9th Nov, Wed 14th Dec, Wed 11th Jan, Wed 6th Feb
FOTTP meetings at 5.30pm at the Visitor Centre. All welcome.



They have bikes for hire, cycle repairs and sales along with cycle training for ALL ages. They are situated at the rear of the Visitor Centre and open from 10am - 4.30pm Tuesdays - Sundays inclusive. Winter hours may vary, so please check with the Visitor Centre on 01952 382340 or the number below:

0845 - 4348451

Discount on bike hire for FULL FOTTP members

Aston, near Oswestry, SY11 4JH
Telephone: 0800 6888386

www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk
New showroom now open
FREE admission



Please support and visit the British Iron Work centre who have generously loaned us two gorillas for the park



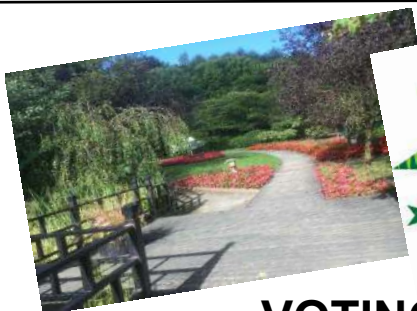
We are very grateful to David Austin Roses Limited for supplying 4 climbing roses free of charge for the Sensory Garden and the Chelsea Garden.

DAVID AUSTIN ROSES
Bowling Green Lane
Albrighton, Wolverhampton,
WV7 3HB
01902 376300
www.davidaustinroses.co.uk

News roundup



Telford Town Park achieved it's Green Flag Award again for 2016/2017. It now flies proudly from the flagpole in front of the Visitor Centre.



VOTING FOR 2016

Voting takes place between **9.0am on Thursday 20th October and Wed 9th November** on the Fields in Trust web site for the UK's Best Park. This year there will be 4 finalists from each of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the winner being picked from one of them. **So get your vote in and let's crack it 2 years in a row !**

Vote at:

www.fieldsintrust.org/bestpark/westmidlands#telfordtownpark



Please note that as part of Telford & Wrekin Council's cutbacks the Visitor Centre will be closed to the public every Monday and Friday November, December, January & February until 28 February 2017. Originally it was planned to close it Monday to Friday inclusive but the Friends objected to this closure and it got reduced to just 2 days a week. See page 7

News roundup



Shropshire Star

The British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry has now obtained over 5,000 signatures to try and get the Knife Angel sculpture by Alfie Bradley on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.

This amazing piece of art has been created from over 100,000 knives and other dangerous weapons handed in and confiscated by police forces all over the UK.

It will be available to view for a short time on weekdays at the Ironwork Centre on request at reception. Admission is free.

If you have never visited this amazing venue, go soon to be amazed at all the safari animal sculptures all set out in a field and perhaps enjoy the birds of prey displays at weekends. Full address page 9.

The area commemorating the opening of the Maxell Garden has been given a makeover by the Friends with a new wooden surround and fresh slate chippings.

The garden was opened by The Lord Elton T.D. On 4 July 1986, the Minister of State for the Department of the Environment and presented to the town by Maxell (UK) Ltd.



Giving nature a helping hand !

10 more bird boxes have been erected recently in the Town Park at 2 separate locations to further enhance the wildlife. Why not do some bird spotting in the park, there have been over 50 different species recorded.

See how many you can spot !



CHARITY FUN RUN

TELFORD'S TENTH CHARITY FUN RUN **SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 11.30AM** **TELFORD TOWN PARK**

Signing in opens at 10.30am

The run will be started at 12 noon by the **Mayor of Telford & Wrekin Councillor Rae Evans**. Also **Blind Dave Heeley** will be in attendance. This remarkable man has done some amazing runs including the strenuous **777 marathon challenge** and is now an ambassador for the MAAC. To take part in this great fun morning to raise funds for the **Midlands Air Ambulance Charity** go online to our web site and register.

Pre registering costs **only £5** (do it NOW as it will be £20 to register on the day) and is very easy to do. Alternatively, you can pick up a form in the Visitor Centre and post it off to us with your cheque for £5. Please allow 2-3 weeks for a response.

Our past 9 events have raised almost £20,000 for charity and we are hopeful of achieving a record amount on Sunday 4 December.

Please support this very worthy cause and **register NOW**, while it is in your mind ! See you there for another great fun morning with free mince pies and warm mulled fruit punch (non alcoholic).

Bring your own fancy dress for this event. See page 3



Join the Friends

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Membership benefits include unique
discounts for leisure activities

Get fit, get healthy with the Friends



Keep up to date with the Friends of Telford Town Park

Visit our website www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FOTTP>

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/FOTTP>

Call into the Park Visitor Centre or telephone 01952 - 382340

