

EXPLORE.....

Spring 2019

**The newsletter of the
Friends of Telford Town Park**

FREE

Promoting. Conserving. Protecting.
www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

INFORMATION

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**

We are grateful to the following for their
continued support of the
Friends of Telford Town Park

**Telford & Wrekin Council
Southwater Event Group
Madeley Town Council
Great Dawley Town Council
Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council
Lawley & Overdale Parish Council
TWINCL**



Join the Friends
www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

FULL Membership benefits include
a unique discount scheme.

Get healthy in mind and body
with the Friends

Cover picture: Spring in the Chelsea Gardens

Memory leaves



size is 17cm
(7")long

Purchase a polished stainless steel memory leaf to hang on the Sensory Garden tree forever for someone special. All profit from the purchase price (approx. £17) will go to a charity of your choice (excl. engraving)
Price £25 plus engraving*
**Special price of £10 only from Timpsons in Telford Town Centre.*

To order one of these special leaves please go to our web site where you will find full details with charity suggestions, or you may choose your own favourite registered charity.

Please note that the special engraving price of £10 regardless of the number of words is only available from Timpsons in Telford Town Centre branch by special arrangement. You can have it engraved elsewhere but costs may be higher.

There will only be 50 of these leaves available, so do not delay if you think you would like one to hang forever in the Friends Sensory Garden within the Chelsea Gardens in Telford Town Park.



Actual engraved leaf

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org



Littleford's Nursery

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VISITOR CENTRE

The Friends were asked if they could help in improving the corridor to the Education Room in the Visitor Centre.

We responded by offering to paint the walls and install some modern picture frames and some bright photos.

This work has recently been finished and the results are, we feel, fantastic.

The Town Park bought the paint and the Friends donated their time and paid for the frames and pictures. A total of around 3 people x 10 hours and nearly £400 for the frames and pictures.



Before

We hope that visitors will now find a trip to the 'loos' or the Education Room a somewhat more pleasant experience! Pop in soon and come and have a look.

After



Chelsea Garden NEWS



Well, we do not get that excited about our work in the park but we do get a great feeling of satisfaction of a job well done !

In these days of cutbacks it is so refreshing to know that there are people out in the big wide borough of Telford that feel they would like to help maintain our beautiful park. If you would like to help as well, see our details on this page below..



There is now a new small Karansansui (Zen) garden within the Maxell Cherry Garden. It is an area with fine white gravel stones and a lantern. The gravel is 'swept' into lines imitating the flow of water.

The design is for peaceful meditation and thought about the flow of water and life.

It is situated on the path between the Maxell and Chelsea Gardens.

The Friends work in the Chelsea Gardens every Wednesday from 9.15 to 1pm. If you think you might enjoy a spot of light gardening, pop along and have a chat with no obligation.

You might even get a cup of tea or coffee !



More garden news



The bubble fountain has had some issues with pebbles being removed and scattered all over the place. The intention this spring is to plant up the outer area with succulents and leave just the centre portion, pictured, with the pebbles. It is important that this is not interfered with so that the pump continues to work properly.

There are also some issues with the water lily feature with stones being thrown onto it and the drainage system interfered with. There are plans to install a low barrier in front of it to make it safer as the stones can be very slippery when wet and to try and deter the pebbles from being thrown onto it. We would ask visitors to respect it as they would if it were in their own garden.



The bug hotel installed by the Friends with a grant from the Postcode Lottery has settled in well and we hope lots of bugs enjoyed overwintering in its nooks and crannies. We will shortly be having some beehives in the gardens too.

Snippets !



Seen during a visit to the Japanese Garden Society conference in London. We have been assured that Nicola, our park manager does NOT run an off licence in Kensington! The conference was a great success by the way. See page 12.

supporting

Twinkl | Telford and Wrekin Community Lottery

LOTTO
Friends of Telford Town Park

Play Twinkl Lottery and support our cause!

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
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- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting, visit:
www.twinkl.co.uk
and search for: **Friends of Telford**
Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

The Friends of.....



The Friends of Telford Town Park started out in 2002 and were formally constituted in 2003. We are now in our sixteenth year and going strong with lots of projects under our belt. There is no doubt that in these days of financial difficulties everywhere, the Town Park included, we have made a difference to the ongoing maintenance of the park for the benefit of all the community.

Some of our projects have involved the restoration of the Crannog on Grange Pool, the replacement of the wind vane on the Queens Jubilee Monument, the replacement of the old sensory garden, doing a large amount of hedge laying and scrub clearing and built a large bug hotel in the Stumpery area of the Chelsea Gardens. The Friends were also heavily involved in obtaining the £49,500 grant funding from SUEZ to reinstate the 2 fountains and the waterfall in the Chelsea and Maxell Gardens, which are now complete, despite some initial glitches !

If you would like to be a part of this success story, contact us via our website or leave your details at the reception desk in the Visitor Centre. Full Membership is FREE and carries some unique benefits, or you can become a supporter member.

*The Friends operate regular gardening sessions in the Chelsea Gardens. If you would like to help out, just come along any **Wednesday** between **9.15am 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



Fun Run Results



Final total
£2,470

A great effort by everyone considering there were several other charity runs on the day. Thank you.

A chilly but dry day welcomed all the entrants in the 2018 Charity Fancy Dress Fun Run in Telford Town Park on Sunday 2 December 2018.

A good crowd of over 200 runners, walkers and joggers made their way around one of 2 courses, 1.5km or 4.5km. Around £100 was raised from the raffle and casual donations on the day.

We would like to thank Jo Burt, our lovely fitness instructor who did our warm up session and our stalwart DJ, Karl Blithell of Silver Surf for providing seasonal music and chat! Provisional date for 2019 will be **Sunday 1 December**. Watch out for details later in the year.







A demonstration of how to support tall trees against the weight of snow breaking branches.



The Japanese Garden Society hosted a conference at Japan House in London on the 15/16 September 2018. It was attended by Nicola the Town Park manager and Chris (Chairman FOTTP) and his member wife Brenda.

The conference was arranged to promote the building and conservation of more Japanese Gardens throughout the UK.

One of the key guests was Masao Fukuhara a professor from the Department of Environmental Design, Osaka University of Arts.

Over the 2 days much was learned about the maintenance of Japanese gardens and what the meaning of the various features are all about.

Traditional Bento boxes were provided for one of the meals and comprised of various Japanese delicacies.

We also enjoyed sushi and cooked chicken along with plenty of vegetables. It was all absolutely delicious!

We also met Kate White the head gardner from Cowden Garden in Scotland and Katie Croft the head gardener from Hidcote Manor Gardens in Gloucestershire.

All in all a very worthwhile exercise and we hope it will help contribute some more ideas for our very own Maxell Cherry Garden.



Part of the Japanese Garden in Holland Park, London

News



The Chairman and his wife Brenda were recently with Sarah McManus of the British Ironwork Centre. They were making arrangements for another visitor from the Ironworks to have a stay at the Town Park. ??? Watch out for its arrival ! It should be settling in to the Maxell Cherry Garden before the Easter holidays.



Above: Alfie Bradley the designer and sculptor of The Knife Angel.
Left: The Angel on display in Hull.

THE KNIFE ANGEL

The British Ironwork Centre
OSWESTRY SY11 4JH

Following its successful deployment to Liverpool Anglican Cathedral the angel now stands over Hull City Centre to bring more awareness of knife crime to the general public. It should be moving to Coventry Cathedral in time for Easter and there are high hopes that it will eventually be on display in Central London.



STAINLESS STEEL MEMORY LEAVES

Remember a loved one or someone special by hanging a permanent engraved metal leaf on the Friends Sensory Garden metal tree.

For details see page 3



Did you know ?

Stirchley Grange

Stirchley Grange back in the 1980's used to be an Environmental Interpretation Centre. Various courses and training sessions were held there for both adults and children with a quarterly newsletter. Some of the sessions included Badgers in Shropshire, an illustrated talk by George Barker, a guided walk at Nedge Hill, Recollections of Stirchley an illustrated talk by Warwick Tart, Organic Farming by Richard Mayall and several wild flower talks and walks. All this was partly the work of Becky Eade, late of the Parks and Leisure department of Telford & Wrekin Council and is now working for English Heritage. It has now become a new small housing estate, although opposite is still the car park enabling access to the southern end of the Town Park with Grange Pool and The Crannog.

Advertisement



**www.tinacorfieldphotography.com
01952 240624 or 07816 278322
contact@tinacorfieldphotography.com**

Information

VISITOR CENTRE OPENING HOURS

November, December, January, February	10am - 3pm
Closed Mondays, Fridays, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.	
March, April, September, October daily	10am - 4pm
May, June, July, August daily	10am - 5pm

Telford 01952 382340

TOWN PARK EVENTS

Every Wed 9.15 - 1pm	Gardening in Chelsea Gardens
Every 2 nd Wed 12 noon (Except August)	FOTTP Meeting - Visitor Centre
Every Sat morning 9.0am	Park Run - Telford Town Park
Sat 27 April	Spring into the Park - Telford Town Park
Sat/Sun 11/12 May	Hot Air Balloon Festival - QEII Arena
Wed 22 May - Sun 2 June	FunfairQE 2 Arena
Sun 2 June	Race for Life
Sun 9 June	Colour Run
Sun 1 Dec (provisional)	Telford Town Park
Fun Run in aid of the Midland Air Ambulance Charity	



**ALL DETAILS CORRECT AT
TIME OF GOING TO PRESS**

There may be other events not mentioned here.

www.telfordtownpark.co.uk

**Please check online before travelling or ring the
Visitor Centre on 01952 382340**