

# **EXPLORE.....**

## **SUMMER 2018**



***The free newsletter of the  
Friends of Telford Town Park  
Promoting. Conserving. Protecting.  
[www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org](http://www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org)***

# Get active with FOTTP



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 page 6.

Why not buy a memory leaf for someone special and have it hang in the Sensory Garden as a permanent reminder.  
See page 3 for details  
Profit to charity



We are very grateful to **Telford & Wrekin Council's Park Management Team, Great Dawley, Oakengates & Madeley Town Councils, Hollinswood & Randlay, Lawley & Overdale, Donnington & Muxton, St Georges & Priorslee Parish Councils and the Southwater Event Group** for their ongoing support of the Friends of Telford Town Park. Thank you all very much.

## **Cover picture:**

*A new Acer tree being planted in the Maxell Cheery Garden for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Telford at the Sakura Festival*

# Memory leaves



Actual 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 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 may 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 Sensory Garden within the Chelsea Gardens in Telford Town Park.



*Actual engraved leaf*

[www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org](http://www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org)





# *Sakura Festival*



*Some images from the  
Sakura festival on  
21 April 2018*

*To get a better flavour  
of the event go to our  
web site where you will  
find a You Tube link to  
a 20 minute video  
produced by  
**Laura Gardwood**  
**Videographer***



# *Sakura 21 April*

Telford's very first Sakura (Cherry blossom) Festival was held on Saturday 21 April 2018. The Maxell Cherry Garden, along with the Chelsea Gardens were open as usual from 10am until 4pm to wander round and admire the beautiful cherry blossom, that thankfully had mostly appeared by the Saturday after a very late spring!

From midday until 9pm there were also activities around the bandstand including, Japanese street food from Gresko-Bohdi which was so popular they ran out of supplies and had to replenish twice to satisfy demand! There was also a lovely pink caravan from Shropshire Ice Cream Company, selling not only cherry flavoured ice cream but also ginger and vanilla (yummy!) along with paninis teas, coffees and soft drinks. Visitors were also able to enjoy some eastern melodies from the Telford and District Light Operatic Players (TADLOP) as well finding out about how to make a Japanese garden from the Japanese Garden Society. As if that was not enough, the RSPB had a display along with a brand new Nissan Leaf and Toyota Auris cars to try on for size!

From 5pm entry to the Maxell Cherry Garden was ticket holders only (a bargain at £5!) to enjoy the delights of live Japanese music from Japanesque and the Taiko West Drummers. This proved to be very popular as all tickets were sold which also included free Origami demos, silhouette cutting and face painting. As dusk fell the gardens were illuminated with coloured lights courtesy of Stagecraft UK Ltd and Japanese style lanterns hanging from the pergolas. All in all a very successful day enjoyed by hundreds of visitors some from as far away as Worcester!

The Friends are extremely grateful to Maxell Europe Ltd for agreeing to be the main sponsor providing around half the cost of producing the festival. We are also grateful to the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the Southwater Event Group, Telford Repro and Fitzgerald's Construction for their financial support. Thanks must also go to Telford & Wrekin Council for allowing us to use the gardens for this unique event. We were constantly being asked by visitors will it be on again next year? The answer is probably no for now as it depends highly on obtaining funding. The overall cost of this event was around £15,000 with a small profit going to the FOTTP for future work in the Town Park. We should of course like to thank all our visitors who came along from far and wide and enjoyed the flavour of the day.

# Chelsea Garden NEWS



*The Summerhouse Garden sign*



*The Water Garden sign*

The new signage for the Chelsea Gardens and the Maxell Cherry Garden have now been installed. In fact, they were put in the day before the Sakura Festival on 21 April. They are a brilliant addition to the gardens, explaining as they do, the origins of the gardens with a little bit of history about why they are here. Do take some time out to visit the gardens and not only admire the new signs but enjoy the peace and tranquility of this area, just a stones throw away from our bustling town centre. It's a great place to relax with a sandwich and a drink before getting back to work!

The new fountain unfortunately has had some initial glitches but hopefully they are now resolved and you can enjoy the wonder of the musical illuminated fountain in the Water Garden.

Work by the Friends continues, to ensure that there is always something new to see and enjoy. **\* Please note that children should be accompanied due to the deep water in some of the ponds and we ask that the gardens are respected as a peaceful and pleasant space for all to enjoy.**

The Friends work in the Chelsea Gardens every Wednesday from 9.15 to 1pm and every **FIRST and THIRD** Saturday from 9.15 till 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 !



# 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

July	Sunday 15	Carnival - Arena and whole park
	Wed 18	Telford Athletics road race - park
	Sat 21	Disc Golf launch -Arena 10-12 noon
	Mon 30 - Tues 21 Aug	The Place in the Park - Arena
August	Thurs 23 - Sun 2 Sept	Funfair
October	Sunday 27	Dark Run and Hope House - Arena and park
November	Sunday 11	Armistice Day H & R Parish - Park Memorial
December	Sunday 2	FOTTP Charity Fun Run in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity
	Sun 9	Telford Athletics 10k run

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

**There may be other events not mentioned here.**

**[www.telfordtownpark.co.uk](http://www.telfordtownpark.co.uk)**

**Please check online before travelling or ring the  
Visitor Centre on 01952 382340  
as sometimes details can change at short notice.**

# The Friends of.....



The Friends of Telford Town Park started out in 2002 and were formally constituted in 2003. We are now in our fifteenth year and going strong with lots of projects under our belt. There is no doubt that in these days of cut backs 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 Stumperry 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. Membership is FREE and can carry some unique benefits.

*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 & 3rd Saturday of every month** 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.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org](http://www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org)***





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# More news



The new Maxell Cherry Garden sign which explains a bit about the history of the garden. It is situated just inside the garden entrance from the Chelsea Gardens. It was installed just in time for the Sakura Festival and paid for along with the Chelsea Garden signs by Telford Council.



There is also a new woodland walk which is just to your left as you enter the Maxell Cherry Garden from the Chelsea Gardens. This area was previously just an unloved wild bit of woodland which has now been planted up along with a bark chipping path. There will also be a small karesansui garden in one corner. What is karesansui? Come along and have a look and see!

A new Acer tree was planted on 21 April in the Maxell Cherry Garden as part of the Sakura Festival, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Telford.

Pictured are Chris, the chair of the Friends, Mr M.Ishiwata, MD of Maxell Europe Ltd along with Mr Ian Jamieson of Maxell, and Cllr Stephen Reynolds the Mayor of Telford & Wrekin. Cllr Shaun Davies leader of Telford & Wrekin Council was also in attendance.



**Our next newsletter will be  
published early 2019**



# ***TEDDY BEARS PICNIC***



*Sunday the 20 May saw the Friends showing visitors how to make a miniature bug house from old flower pots and other recycled material. The event was organised by the Telford branch of The Lions and held in the QE2 Arena in Telford Town Park. Great fun was had by all who visited on a lovely sunny day.*





# Southwater Event Group

## PROUD TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF TELFORD TOWN PARK

With three hotels, the UK-renowned Telford International Centre and event production specialists Stagecraftuk, the Southwater Event Group is within convenient walking distance from Telford's convention quarter and the stunning Telford Town Park. Join us for a drink or something to eat at our restaurants in the Ramada or Holiday Inn during 2018 and see for yourself why our customer service is consistently rated 9/10 and above.



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## Working with Industry

Capgemini 



*Once again, we were proud to have worked with Cap Gemini in Telford Town Park. Recently 7 volunteers spent several hours working in very warm weather around the Queens Jubilee Monument and the Twin Tracks, doing some much needed scrub clearing. This is an area of open heathland which unfortunately suffers from lots of young saplings growing up and doing their best to turn the area into a forest !*

*The Friends welcome this liasing with local companies who are doing their bit to help local communities improve their surroundings, particularly with regard to the environment. Well done to all concerned including of course our vice chairman Colin and Mandy Philips from Cap Gemini who organised the event. Also a big thank you Cap Gemini for raising £50 to go towards our work in the park. A new edging tool is needed I believe along with some new saws.*

*If you are reading this and think your company might like to get involved please contact us via our web site or direct to the park on 01952 382340.*

# More news

## *A sad loss*



*We are sad to announce that Rong, the wife of Harry Whitehead passed away on Sunday 13 May. Harry and Rong only joined the Friends towards the end of 2017 and were thoroughly enjoying getting stuck in helping us with the Chelsea Gardens. We wish Harry all the best and hope to see him again sometime in the park. Condolences from all at the Friends.*

***“ life is uncertain, death is certain”***

As this issue goes to press the Friends are working with Southall School showing some youngsters along with their teachers the workings of the formal gardens in the park and how important they are to local people and others. We will be working alternate weeks with the park rangers on a Tuesday for an hour or so in the Chelsea Gardens and the Community Garden. We feel it is very important for young people to understand how and why gardens and wildlife in general are so important to our general health and wellbeing.

If you are involved with a Telford school in any way and would like to help, please get in touch with Nicola Allen the Town Park manager. Nicola can be contacted on 01952 382340 or by email:

[nicola.allen@telford.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.allen@telford.gov.uk)

## **FUN RUN 2018**

This years FOTTP charity fancy dress fun run will take place in Telford Town Park on Sunday 2 December in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity

Ambulance Charity

Watch out for registration opening date on our web site.

[www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org](http://www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org)



# *Did you know ?*



The Maxell Cherry Garden was originally installed by Maxell Ltd, the first Japanese company to invest in Telford in 1983 with a state of the art factory producing audio and video cassettes.

Maxell Europe Ltd still have a factory in Hortonwood, Telford producing mouldings for the automotive industry and other technical equipment. Last April they generously supported the first ever Sakura Festival which is a Japanese tradition of welcoming the new life of the spring blossom.

The gardens were opened by the Lord Elton, TD in 1986.

## *Advertisement*



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# *Volunteering for health*



*Just one example of the varied work undertaken by the Friends of Telford Town Park. All our activities are guaranteed to make you feel better in mind and body! Give it a try !*



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