



EXPLORE

SPRING 2018

FREE

**The newsletter of the
Friends of Telford Town Park
Promoting. Conserving. Protecting**

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Get active with FOTTP



WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

Along with Telford Park Run and Ben Harper of Energize the Friends have succeeded in winning yet another best in the UK Award from Fields in Trust. The trophy cabinet is getting rather full now but that just encourages us to go for more awards again this year !

This award celebrates 'Getting Active' with both formal and informal activities. Park Run is a highly successful regular event in the park and Energize organised an app for phones to take you around the park. The Friends contribution is the regular gardening sessions every week. See page 8.

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 Southwater Event Group** for their ongoing support of the Friends of Telford Town Park. Thank you all very much.

Cover picture: Ben Harper, Energize, Chris Pettman, Chairman FOTTP & Jackie Jones, Visitor Centre, just after collecting the award at Lords Cricket Ground

Charity Fancy Dress Fun Run



Well done everyone

£4,000 !

- What a fantastic end to 2017. The final figure will not be known until after publication but everyone who took part raised a staggering £4,000 plus. This is even more amazing as we did not have the benefit of £1,000 sponsorship as in 2016.
- The day started out well with dryish but cloudy weather, however this certainly did not dampen the enthusiasm of all our entrants and helpers. There were over 300 Santas, elves, snowmen and even a chimney taking part !
- Afterwards the Mayor of Telford & Wrekin, Cllr Stephen Reynolds, handed out medals to all the entrants and this was followed by free mince pies and mulled fruit punch.
- As usual our resident silver surfer DJ, Karl got the proceedings under way with with festive music and our lovely Jo Burt took on the warm up exercises again.
- A big thank you to the helpers from Park Run and the Friends members for making this another great event raising money for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.
- Keep an eye out for the twelfth fun run on **Sunday 2 Dec.**

What to see - Sakura Festival

The art of silhouette cutting



Paper Magic!

*& Origami demos
with Steve and
Megumi Biddle*



Silhouettes

Cherry blossom



*'Japanesque'
live on stage*



*Taiko West Drummers
live on stage*



*Gresko-Bohdi
Japanese street food*

*Plus, the Japanese Garden Society, the RSPB,
Toyota & Nissan cars, Shropshire Ice Cream
and Telford & District Light Operatic Players
and more. Free programmes available soon.*

Sakura Festival

sponsored by **maxell**

10AM - 4PM FREE

5PM - 9PM TICKETED

TICKETS £5 - CHILDREN

UNDER 16 FREE IF

ACCOMPANIED BY A TICKET
HOLDER

Only 500 tickets!

Book online NOW at:

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Come and enjoy a variety of stalls and entertainment including live Japanese music and food, Taiko drums, Origami demonstrations and much more. The gardens will be lit up, including the waterfall.

**N.B live music and entertainment will be from 5pm.
Programme content subject to change prior to the event.**

SATURDAY
21ST APRIL

2018

MAXELL
CHERRY
GARDEN
TELFORD
TOWN PARK



fitzgerald
Civil Engineering Contractors



Chelsea Garden NEWS



MEMORY TAGS

Plans are afoot to cover the metal fish in the Maxell Garden with metals tags. These can then be engraved with the memory of a loved one or some other fond moment. The cost has yet to be decided along with details of how this can all be achieved. Let us know your thoughts via our web site please.

Last year before the group stopped work for the winter break the park manager took the opportunity for a quick photo by one of the stunning Acer trees in the gardens. They seemed to have been better than ever in 2017, so here's hoping that all the TLC they got will result in them being just as stunning in 2018. By the time you read this work will have recommenced for 2018 with lots of gardening and maintenance work to do before our Sakura Festival on 21 April. We hope you have got your tickets ! See our web site for details.



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 and Fridays	
March, April, September, October daily	10am - 4pm
May, June, July, August daily	10am - 5pm

TOWN PARK EVENTS

February	Saturday 17 - Sun 25	Graham Stokes Funfair
March	Sunday 25	Ironbridge Half Marathon
April	Wed 11 - Sun 15 Saturday 21 Sunday 22	Funfair Sakura (Cherry blossom) Festival Spring into the Park & St. Georges
May	Sunday 20 Saturday 26 - Mon 28	Telford Lions Teddy Bears Picnic Funfair
June	Sunday 3 Saturday 9	Race for Life Severn Hospice Colour Run
July	Sunday 15	Carnival
August	Thurs 2 - Tue 21 Tue 21 - Sun 2 Sept	The Place in the Park Funfair
October	Sunday 21	10k run
December	Sunday 2	FOTTP Charity Fun Run MAAC

ALL DETAILS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

**Please check online before travelling or 01952 382340
as sometimes details can change.**

The Friends of.....



The Friends of Telford Town Park started out in 2002 and were formally constituted in 2003. We will soon be 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 currently building 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. Just !

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





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NURSERY**

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Shropshire Star offices

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PLANTS
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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.



☎ 01952 527 385

🌐 southwatereventgroup.com

🐦 @SwEventGroup



More news

NEW SIGNAGE

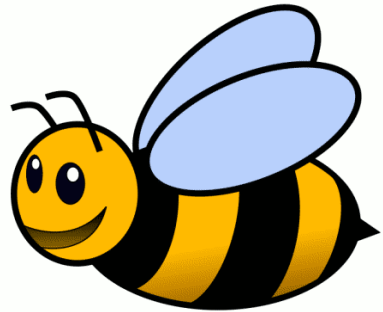
Following a meeting with the heads of department at Telford & Wrekin Council, the Friends have secured funding for the provision of some new information boards within the Chelsea and Maxell Gardens. The signs will hopefully be installed in time for the Sakura Festival on 21 April.

The original Chelsea gardens all had names and the intention is to rename them along with historical pictures and text.

Watch out for these new signs appearing some time in the spring. They will be similar in appearance to the one in the Stumpery.

Yet more plans afoot, with the hope that some bee hives can be installed in the Town Park. The location has yet to be decided but they will be operated by fully trained volunteers.

The hope is that it will be a further encouragement for bees to multiply and who knows we may have some park honey for sale ! Watch this space as the well known saying goes!



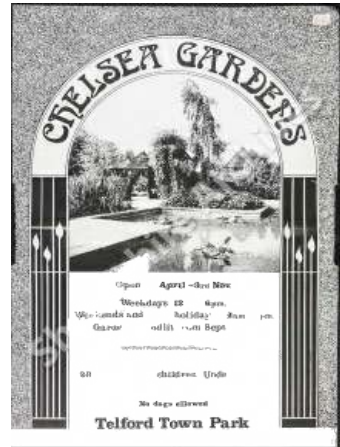
Tickets to Telfords first ever Sakura (Cherry blossom) Festival are going fast. Don't delay get yours now to enjoy the Maxell Cherry Gardens lit up along with live Japanese music and entertainment. Tickets are only £5 with accompanied children under 16 free. The festival is on Saturday 21 April from midday to 9pm. Ticketed entry to the gardens from 5pm to 9pm. See our web site for details and to buy tickets.

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

**Our next newsletter will be published
towards autumn 2018**

Did you know ?

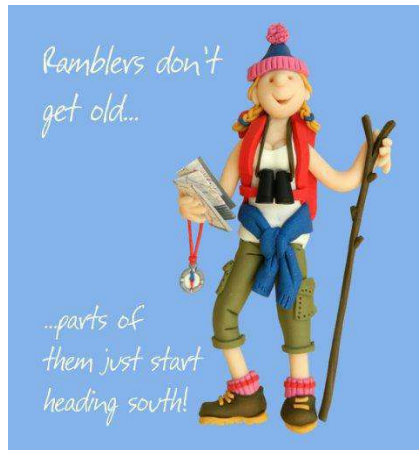
The Chelsea Gardens were originally three different gardens that were designed by David Wassell, MBE, in conjunction with Telford Development Corporation for the Chelsea Flower Shows of 1977, 78 & 79. The first two gardens won silver gilt medals and the third won a gold medal. It was then decided to reconstruct the gardens within Telford Town Park. The current Friends Sensory Garden was originally laid out as a rose garden but it was decided to turn it into a sensory garden to replace the one lost with the development of Southwater.



You can walk through Telford Town Park, go south along the Silkin Way all the way to The Gorge, the museums and Ironbridge itself.

It is about 7 miles and is mainly a downhill stroll of 2 - 3 hours depending on how fast you like to walk. If you are not up to walking back there is always the bus ! Or you could hire a bike from the Visitor Centre.

Why not invest in an OS map and enjoy lots of interesting sites along the way.



The Friends of Telford Town Park were started in 2003 with a group of just 5 people who were passionate about the protection and conservation of our beautiful town park. We now have around 50 supporters and members. To join see our web site or pick up a leaflet at the Visitor Centre.

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Volunteering for health



There is always time for a quick sit down, even when getting healthy !



Join the Friends
www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org
FULL 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**

