



*Friends of Telford
Town Park*

Chairman's Report 2019 - 2020

FREE, please take one



Telford Town Park, June 2020.

Well here we are another year flown by. This report is a little late this year due to the Corona virus restrictions. However the big plus is that we have been able to announce our Queens Award for Voluntary Service. This prestigious award is considered to be the MBE of the voluntary sector and is not awarded lightly. We are thrilled and delighted that the efforts of the members over the last 17 years has been rewarded in this way. We are extremely grateful to the British Ironwork Centre for nominating us and also to the Southwater Event Group and Telford & Wrekin Council for their letters of support.

Due to the current restrictions on social distancing, we cannot yet arrange a date and venue for the presentation of the award by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner JP. Hopefully this will be able to be arranged in a few months time at a suitable venue.

Well the rest of the last year was as busy as usual for the Friends.

The year started badly with the news that Joan Noel our founder, life time member and well known Telford Councillor over the years, had passed away. Her funeral was well attended and whilst she had not been so active in later years, she will be sadly missed.

April saw the Telford Council maintenance contract change from TWS to idVerde. Initially this got off to a good start with a relationship being formed with their Community Officer, sadly this role was not to last although we are still in touch with the company. Several of the stalwart employees of TWS transferred over and we are working well with them in the gardens.

We had another metal Gorilla on loan from the British Ironworks for the summer which has been enjoyed by lots of families when visiting the Maxell Cherry Gardens.

April also saw the judging of the Park by the Green Flag judges and a few months later the park was rewarded with its efforts by gaining another Green Flag for the year. Another great team effort.

The 2019 Spring into the Park event had to be called off on the day due to exceptionally high winds which was a shame but better to be safe than sorry! Also in May were the local Council Elections which saw Carolyn Healy become the Cabinet Member for Tourism, including the Town Park. We have had a very positive meeting with her since and look forward to much co-operation on park affairs in the coming months.

During May, our bank, the HSBC sent a few members of staff including the manager and did some sterling work on the paths in the local nature reserve with some help from the Rangers and a couple of FOTTP members
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Bees going into new home



Memory Leaf tree



Another busy day!



Stumpery & Bug Hotel

At the end of May a bee hive was installed for the first time in the park with the assistance of Alison Wakeman. Some of the Friends have had bee keeping training along with the park rangers. The long term aim is to have more hives and sell the honey in the Visitor Centre. I look forward to that! In June we started doing some embossing of recycled tin cans which have now been installed on the metal fish in the Maxell Cherry Gardens. This will be officially unveiled when conditions permit.

In August we had a PR photo shoot. This was to celebrate a local insurance broker supporting us by paying for our public liability insurance. So if you need a broker, Henshall's of Newport is the place to go! A big thank you to their management for that.

Several new tools were purchased this year including a cordless strimmer, very useful for keeping the grass down in the Community Garden!

After many meetings our nomination for the Queens Award was submitted in September by Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre.

Some members had some anaphylactic shock training in September: this has become more important since the introduction of the bees to the park.

In October the Revenue team from Telford & Wrekin Council returned and several members of the team helped us in the gardens.

Our memory leaf tree has been so successful that we are planning another one for later in the year. It has raised over £800 for various charities.

December saw the annual charity fun run again, this time run by the Midlands Air Ambulance with our support. This should be on again this year on the 6 December. Watch out for details later in the summer.

We commissioned a new map for our web site and it will go into the new park booklet when we publish it later this year and onto our website.

We attended the local Job Centre with a promotional stand and gained another couple of keen members.

In February we had a talk on composting by Trevor Davies, very useful and informative. We then did a stint with the Knife Angel in Southwater Square but then on the 16 March we decided to halt all voluntary work in the park due to the Corona virus. We look forward to yet another grand year in the park with thanks to all our supporters and visitors.



*The newly
refurbished fence
in the
Community
Garden*