



Chairman's Report 2020-2021



Telford Town Park June 2021

Hello,

I am afraid my report this year is a little bit behind ! It has been a year of a lot going and not a lot going on but difficult to know when it was going on and when it wasn't !

Despite us not being able to work in the park for most of the year we nonetheless have had what could arguably be our best year ever. It started off early when in April we were told that we had been granted the Queens Award for Voluntary Service 2020. Fantastic news but it was embargoed for public knowledge until June 2, Her Majesty's Official Birthday.

In between lockdowns, the Lord Lieutenant's office managed to arrange a distanced presentation ceremony at the equine centre near Much Wenlock. Several of our members were able to attend but it was a very low key affair to what might have been. I was also hoping to attend, with my wife Brenda, a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace but these were all ultimately cancelled including 2021. However it was made up for by another astonishing event.

I received a telephone call from the Lord Lieutenants office asking me if I was sitting down ! I was told that HRH Princess Anne would be visiting Telford, partly to officially open the new railway footbridge at Telford Central Station but they had arranged for her to visit the formal gardens in Telford Town Park. Well you could have knocked me down with a feather !

It also turned out that not only was this to be in ten days time but I was expected to show her around as well. It was an amazing honour and I was extremely glad several full members of the FOTTP were able to be introduced to her as well.

Monday 28 September dawned bright and dry and thankfully all went to plan despite the short notice we had of just ten days ! Her Royal Highness was charming to talk to and was extremely interested in the work we do in the park.



Halfway through, a tree was planted to commemorate the occasion and the I handed over the baton to Councillor Shaun Davies Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council, to continue her tour.

A fabulous day and one to remember in the annals of the FOTTP. Despite the lockdowns we did manage to get back into the gardens and do some tidying up and minor maintenance and even managed to install a moon gate in the Maxell Garden, unfortunately just after the Royal visit.

With yet another lockdown in mid October we had to stop work again and did not resume until 21 April.

During this last period of working we were very pleased to gain the support of a Public Relations company who are happy to support us and help promote the Friends and what we do for Telford.

We are most grateful to J&PR Ltd, Wellington, for their support.

Through them, I had a radio interview with Paul Shuttleworth on BBC Radio Shropshire regarding our award and royal visit.

So, all in all a very mixed year but one we shall remember for a very long time. We have lots of plans and ideas for the future, so if anyone reading this would like to help us occasionally for a few hours a month, please do get in touch via our website or the Visitor Centre, Best wishes and huge thank you to Nicola Allen, Park Manager, the park staff and all our supporters and members in what has been a very difficult year for everyone,

Chris Pettman, Chairman.

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

June 2021

*Special thanks to all our supporters including:
The Southwater Event Group, The British Ironwork Centre,
Henshalls Insurance Brokers, J&PR Ltd,
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*The moongate during construction and
below some attractive blooms in the gardens*



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