



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2023 - 2024

Chris Pettman

Chairman

2006 - 2024

Cover

The Lord Lieutenant of
Shropshire Anna Turner
and the Mayor of
Telford & Wrekin
Councillor Raj Mehta



Well, 2023 and a bit of 2024 have been another wonderful and inspiring year for me and the Friends of Telford Town Park. After almost 18 years of chairing the group I am hoping to hand over the reins to a younger person this March 2024, who will I am sure bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the group. All our successes of course have been down to team work and all working for the same basic reasons, to enjoy each others company and do something worthwhile for the community and the population, even beyond our borough. I have always been amazed, that when talking to visitors in the park, they are mostly overwhelmed by the beauty and peace of our lovely town park. Quite often they come from towns that are not as well endowed as ours is, with so much green space.

We started the year off with a magnificent effort and the help of a grant, by building a Coronation Garden within the boundary of the Chelsea Gardens and opened officially by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner, JP. The then mayor, Raj Mehta, was also present and awarded the Friends group with a Building Bridges Award, much to our surprise! The garden has since been much admired by all who visit.



Our 20th Anniversary celebration in September 2023 at the Ramada Hotel, courtesy of our sponsor the Southwater Event Group. The High Sheriff of Shropshire Mrs Mandy Thorn, MBE, attended along with some members of Telford & Wrekin Council. A close up magician was also in attendance much to everyone's surprise and enjoyment!



Our 20th Anniversary Timeline on display in the Southwater Public Library for 2 weeks.



Part of the 20ft of new trellis during erection by the Friends in the Chelsea Gardens

I would like to thank each and every one of our members for their support over the 18 years or so that I have been Chairman, I could not have done it without that support. We must not also forget the support from our sponsors, Southwater Event Group, Henshall's Insurance Brokers and J&PR Ltd, along with Telford & Wrekin Council and several local Town & Parish councils. I know that you will all give the new Chairman as much support and success in the coming years that I have enjoyed.

There are several plans in the pipeline for 2024 and 2025, so please keep up the good work and long may it continue.

Best wishes, Chris Pettman. March 2024.

