

# **EXPLORE**

**THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
FRIENDS OF TELFORD TOWN PARK**

**SPRING - SUMMER 2025**

**FREE**





## Telford Town Park a place for all to enjoy

The Friends of Telford Town Park are supported by



(Formerly Henshalls Insurance Brokers)

**Plus several of the local town and parish councils**

# Chairman's Report

## 2024 - 2025

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### *An Exciting Year of Growth and Collaboration*

It has been an exciting year for the friends, with many projects started and firms coming on board to assist us.

We extend special thanks to Simmonds Transport, who are aiding us with the project at the Grange pool and Crannog within the town park. This area has not received much attention in the past, so we are working to revive it. With their help, we are creating a learning zone so that everyone can learn about the wildlife within the town park, from the bugs to the birds. We are also planning to replace the bridge over the Crannog to construct a bird hide. The willow arch is being extended, and more saplings have been planted within the hedgerow. The seating has been repaired in the "Onion" and all the benches have painted. Over the coming year we are planning to give the paths some attention, erect more bird and bug boxes and complete the learning zone.

Fujitsu has also been helping on another project to recreate a lizard and snake sanctuary, which will allow the community to observe and photograph the wildlife without disturbing it.

Lyreco has been instrumental in helping within the Chelsea Gardens by moving one of the display beds to a different position so that all may continue to enjoy it. They are also helping to repaint one of the bridges over the Silken Way this coming year.

We have also undertaken repairs to our shed, which has sprung leaks in the roof and developed holes in the floor!

Our next project within the gardens will be to build a polytunnel so that vegetables may be grown all year round and then given out to those in need. We are also creating a woodland garden, replanting another bank, and creating a Fuchsia garden.

My thanks go out to all the volunteers, old and new, who have supported me and given up their time over the last year to help make Telford Town Park a great place to visit.

Also our thanks go to our many sponsors- Brown and Brown (formerly Henshall's insurance brokers), Simmonds transport, Southwater event group, J&PR ltd, Lyreco, Fujitsu, Telford and Wrekin Council and local parish councils.

We look forward to another exciting year. For further updates on our progress please follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**Adrian Smith**  
**Chairman**

We would love to hear your views on the new A4 size of our bi-annual magazine.. Please view our Facebook site and just search for Friends of Telford Town Park. We look forward to hearing from you. If you would like to enquire about joining our award winning group lease see the 'contact us' page on our website: **[www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org](http://www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org)**



## Karesansui garden being moved to a new site



With brilliant extra help from Lyreco Telford, the Friends have moved the Karesansui garden from its old location to a new site on the northern edge of the Maxell Cherry Garden. Previously it was under the shade of a lot of trees. The idea behind this Japanese garden is that the white gravel simulates water and is raked to appear like flowing water around rocks. It is a great idea to just stand and look at it for several minutes and let your mind calm down and relax.



## Remedial work

Some vital work on an earth bank in the Maxell Cherry Garden to clear weeds and other unwanted growth.

The Friends get Involved in all sorts of gardening projects like this one. It all helps to keep our wonderful gardens in good shape and attractive for our many visitors. Come and visit soon!







**Our Treasurer and Secretary working out how to build an outdoor Scalextric track !!!**

**Not really, in actual fact this was working out how to put up some guttering on our long storage shed.**

**We have acquired a very large water butt so this will help fill it every time it rains, so quite often then !**

**See, I told you it would fit!**

**Peter is using our new super safe tripod ladder which has made a big difference to our regular working in the gardens.**

**We always knew he was going up in the world!**



## ***Improving the learning zone in the southern end of the Town Park***



With the help of a couple of our sponsors and some energetic work over some weekends an overgrown area in the south of the park is being improved to help it become a learning zone for youngsters and others.



# Would you like to help us in the park?

The Friends of Telford Town Park will always welcome more members to help maintain the fabulous space that is Telford Town Park. Whilst Telford & Wrekin Council have overall responsibility for the maintenance of the 450 acres funding is limited and therefore to help keep the park in pristine condition volunteers are employed. Sorry, no pay though !

We are a very mixed bunch of friendly people who have one thing in common. We are all passionate about what we do and it shows! Regular work days are every Wednesday morning from 9.15am till around 1pm, however any help in between those hours will be very helpful. There is always a break for tea/coffee/hot chocolate and a biscuit or two around 11am. Why not pop in to visit us during a break and see what is involved, you will be most welcome.

In addition we also organise some other working days, primarily on Saturdays, usually in the local nature reserve part of the park. We are often joined by staff from some of our sponsors.

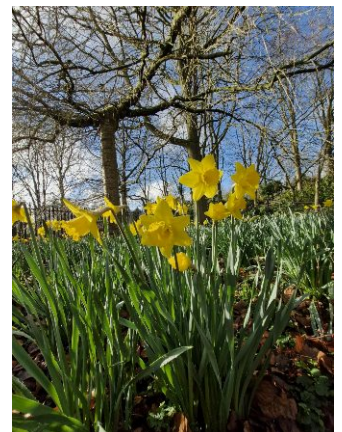
We are on Facebook (search Friends of Telford Town Park) and also have our own web site:

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

Find our 'contact us' icon and leave your details and we will get back to you as soon as we can.



A well earned rest !



**Our logo and our prestigious  
Queen's Award for Voluntary Service  
from 2020**

# Did you know ?

The Shropshire Canal used to run through the middle of the Town Park but was soon superseded by the London and North Western Railway (LNWR). However this company was taken over by the London Midland and Scottish railway in 1923 (LMS) and subsequently British Railways in 1948. The railway through the park closed to passenger traffic in 1952 and to goods in 1956. The original platform for Dawley and Stirchley railway station was restored a few years ago with help from the National Lottery. It now sits on what has become the Silkin Way, a walking and cycling route to Ironbridge.



Last passenger train 1952



Platform and bridge today

## Visitor Centre

Opening hours

**May June July August 10am - 5pm**

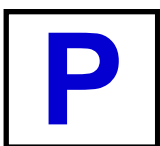
**March April September October 10am - 4pm**

**November December January February  
Closed except for toilets**

**Please check details before travelling**

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

**[www.telford.gov.uk](http://www.telford.gov.uk)**



The nearest car park is in Dark Lane to the south of the Visitor Centre

Alternative Car parks are available a short walk away in the Town Centre

**Please note that there are parking charges at all these car parks**





Take the family to Wonderland in Telford Town Pak

See web site for opening times and prices

[www.wonderlandmidlands.co.uk](http://www.wonderlandmidlands.co.uk)

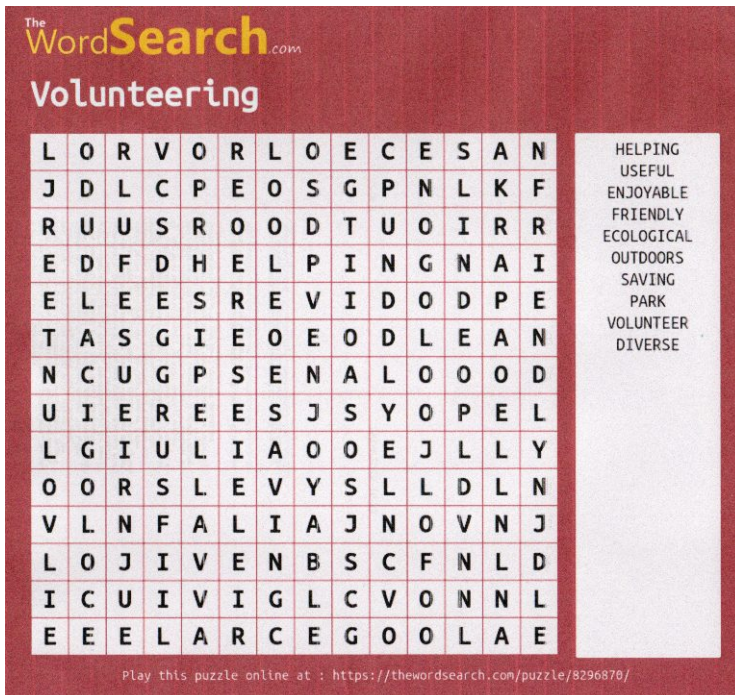


Find us in the middle of the Town  
Park just off Dark Lane Car Park

**WONDERFUL ANIMALS IN NATURAL SURROUNDINGS**  
**MUSEUM OF DINOSAURS \*\*\* CAFE**  
**WOODLAND WALK WITH WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION BOARDS**  
**TOILETS \*\*\* PICNIC AREAS \*\*\* LOW ENTRY PRICES**  
**[WWW.EXOTICZOO.CO.UK](http://WWW.EXOTICZOO.CO.UK)**



# The fun page



Answers on page 11

What do you call someone who saw an iPhone being stolen?  
An I witness!

What do you call black birds that stick together?  
Velcrows!

What do you call an insects with a pack of cards?  
Ant & Dec!

What do you call a witch who lives on the beach?  
A sandwich!

What do you call an alligator that wears a vest?  
An investigator!

What do you call fish with no eyes?  
Fshes!

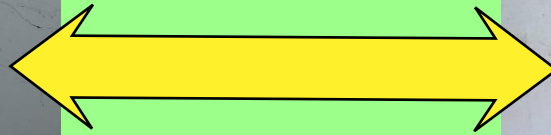
What do you call a broken pencil?  
Pointless!







**Spot  
The  
difference !!!**



One of our storage buildings getting much needed repairs and renovation by our volunteers. This has been a major undertaking and should be finished soon. Yet again the FOTTP are saving Telford & Wrekin Council loads of money!



## Gym ladies get a talk on park

Recently a community group had an interesting talk about the Town Park and the work of the Friends in helping to keep it a lovely place. Get in touch if your group would like a talk.



## Work started on repairing beds

One of the raised beds in the Community garden was in need of urgent repair so a decision was taken to completely rebuild it. However it is being reconstructed as two narrow beds with a poly tunnel over both. It is hoped that the FOTTP can then produce a range of vegetables for anyone that might have a need for them.



## More help from sponsors

On the left more help from one of our sponsors repainting the railings round the musical fountain. One day we hope the council will get it running properly again. On the right more help in the learning zone refurbishing one of the onion seats.





# Telford & Wrekin Community Lottery

Buy a ticket every week for a £1  
and help fund our work in the park



**TWINCL**



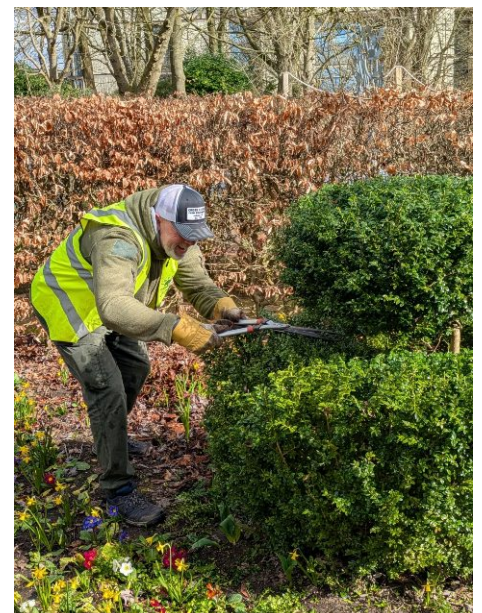
One of the park entrances

Wordsearch answer

L	O	R	V	O	R	L	O	E	C	E	S	A	N
J	D	L	C	P	E	O	S	G	P	N	L	K	F
R	U	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	I	R	R	
E	D	F	H	E	L	P	I	N	G	N	A	I	
E	L	E	E	S	R	E	V	I	D	O	D	P	E
T	A	S	G	I	E	O	E	O	D	L	E	A	N
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I	C	U	I	V	I	G	L	C	V	O	N	N	L
E	E	E	L	A	R	C	E	G	O	O	L	A	E



Visit and explore  
the park today



Jason, one of our recent  
members keeping in trim !



# What's on

## In Telford Town Park



**Telford Walk Week**  
**26 May - 1 June**  
**Various locations**

**Balloon Festival**  
**Telford Town Park**  
**Fri 22 - Sun 24 Aug**

