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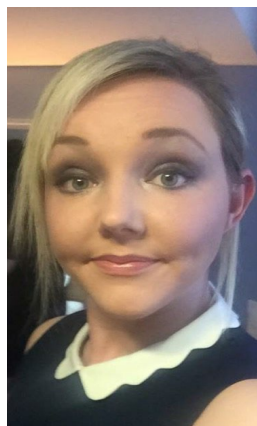
**The newsletter of the
Friends of Telford Town Park**
Promoting . Conserving . Protecting
www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Get active with FOTTP



We welcome Hayley Doherty as our new Secretary and wish her well in the post.

The role of Secretary is very important and greatly assists the day to day running of any organisation such as the Friends of Telford Town Park. Hayley's responsibilities include recording the monthly meetings and issuing them as minutes to the membership. We will also be updating our membership list and this will also be part of the secretary role. Hayley is also a member of the Friends Committee. Thank you very much Hayley.



We always welcome more volunteers to assist with gardening, hedge laying, scrub clearing and other general maintenance tasks in the 450 acre Town Park. Just look online or leave your contact details with the Visitor Centre or ring 01952 382340.

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

We are very grateful to **Great Dawley Town Council** for assisting the Friends with the partial cost of producing this newsletter and also to **Madeley Town Council, Hollinswood & Randlay, Starchley and Brookside, Lawley & Overdale, Donnington & Muxton, St Georges & Priorslee Parish Councils, Oakengates Town Council, Southwater Event Group & Telford Cycle Experience** for their ongoing support of the Friends of Telford Town Park. Thank you all very much.

Cover picture: The two gorillas in the Maxell Garden on loan for 2016 from the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry.

UK's Best Park 2015



Thursday evening 21st January saw the Friends and staff from the Park at The Place Oakengates for a full Telford & Wrekin Council meeting following an invitation from Councillor Kuldip Sahota, the then leader of Telford & Wrekin Council.

This was to thank the Friends formally for achieving the best UK Park 2015 award from Fields in Trust. Chris (Chair of FOTTP) gave a short speech thanking the Council and in particular Nicola Allen and her staff for the support they give us.

This was followed by a reception in the Holiday Inn sponsored by the Southwater Event Group. The evening proved to be very successful and around 36 people enjoyed reminiscing about past events in the Park assisted by a DVD. A special cake was made with the Fields in Trust award in icing on the top.

The Patrons Lunch



H M the Queen and Prince Philip

Chris Pettman, Chair, FOTTP

I was very honoured to receive a personal invite to the Patrons Lunch on Sunday the 12 June in The Mall, London by Fields in Trust. Last December the Town Park was voted Best in the UK by the general public on the Fields in Trust web site and following this, the Friends are now members of the Friends of Fields in Trust.

The day did not start well, with a 45 minute queue in the pouring rain before we were issued with a vinyl poncho. Having got through the 2 security areas, I then was given a Boots bag full of goodies, then wandered off to find my hamper distribution point.

I then found the Fields in Trust table, which was very near the Buckingham Palace end of The Mall giving a good view of the event.

The parade started on time and was a fantastic sight with lots of young people taking part from various different charities. The Queen is patron of over 600, most of whom were represented on the day. The whole event was a once in a lifetime experience and along with the contents of the hamper (delicious Marks and Spencer food and a can of Pimms) made sure that the day went off superbly well. Even the sun came out for a bit after the rain had stopped. This fortunately coincided with the largest Royal walkabout ever undertaken by the Royal Family. They all turned out except for Charles and Camilla who were at a function elsewhere. Fields in Trust were formerly known as the National Playing Fields Association and have enjoyed royal patronage since 1925.

Chris Pettman, Chairman, FOTTP.

Scrub clearing



Prince's Trust



Hard at work near the Queens Monument

June saw 5 members of the local Princes Trust programme along with 3 of their leaders enjoying some scrub clearing in the park.

The area selected was around the Queens Jubilee Monument and Wind Vane. This is open heathland and suffers a lot from saplings self seeding. If these are not removed, the area would soon become dense forest with the subsequent loss of habitat for certain species. One of these, the Dingy Skipper butterfly, enjoys the open areas of the park to feed and breed. Clearing the heathland is a never ending task of course and we cannot hope to clear it all but 'every little helps' as the saying goes.

If you would like to have a go at this important and enjoyable work we can arrange Saturday sessions as well as weekdays.

Just get in touch via our web site or phone the Visitor Centre on 01952 382340 and leave your contact details. This can also be a part of our 'Friends 4 Health' scheme run in conjunction with Fit for Life and local GP surgeries. See page 11.

Chelsea Gardens



Working in the Chelsea Gardens can be part of our new Friends 4 Health scheme, whereby you can be referred by your GP for gentle exercise. (See page 11)

You may have been aware that the fountains and waterfall have not been working for a long time now. Well, the Park currently has a grant application in to the SITA Trust, which if successful will see these features restored to their former glory including the musical fountain. We have everything crossed for a good outcome !

Meanwhile the Friends have been busy as usual not only on Wednesdays but also on our new 1st and 3rd Saturday sessions of every month. The area in front of the time capsule site and the bronze horse have had a big makeover and are now looking good. Please try not to tread on the plants on the far side of the horse there is plenty of room to admire it from the front.

The new stumpery has been absolutely wonderful this year and more is planned for this area including a huge bug hotel at the end of it. This will hopefully be on target to be built by the start of the summer holidays.

We have had a minor spate of vandalism, including the smashing of one of the fish sculptures in the Friends Sensory Garden. One day, these people may well be grateful for a sensory garden and we do not understand the mentality of trying to destroy something so beautiful and useful to those less fortunate than ourselves. We will however carry on regardless !

The 2 obelisks near the second pond have also had a freshen up with some black red and gold paint. Fantastic.



Left: Maria transforming one of the over-grown beds at the rear of the Chelsea Gardens.

This bed has really done well with the 2 Acers in them surpassing themselves in the spring. Just behind this bed is one of the original small ponds which now do not work well being underneath mature trees. The plan this autumn is to turn it into a bog garden with lots of moisture loving plants. Something to look forward to later on. Watch this space !



*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 or 3rd Saturday of every month** between **10am 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.friendsoftefordtownpark.org

Information



Carnival of Giants on
Saturday the 16 July,
11 - 4pm.

Admission is free and the
carnival will start from
Southwater and proceed to
the QE2 Arena in the park.

This year it will have a
dinosaur theme !
See back page

Friday 15 - 24 July
Come along and do
something great in
your park for Love
Parks Week
See next page



Southwater
EVENT GROUP

*The Friends have had the sponsorship of the Southwater
Event Group for the past 3 years and are pleased to
announce that this will continue for 2016/17.*

*Thank you to the **Southwater Event Group***

The International Centre, Holiday Inn, Ramada Hotel & International Hotel

What's on in the Park

Saturday 3 September 'T' Picnic

QE 2 Arena 11am - 5pm

A small charge will apply for this event

Sunday 4 September Kite Festival

QE 2 Arena 11am - 4pm

Free event

Sunday 4 December 12 noon

Provisional date for Telford's

10th Santa Fun Run



This popular junior orienteering event is back !

All sessions start from the Visitor Centre

Children must be accompanied

Wednesday 27 July

Saturday 6 August

Wednesday 17 August

Saturday 27 August

Saturday 29 October

All

Sessions

FREE

11am - 1pm

Funfair

Wednesday 3 August - Tues 30 August

Carriage rides Sat 23 July, Wed 3 Aug, Wed 10 Aug, Sat 13 Aug, Wed 17 Aug, Wed 24th Aug, Wed 31 Aug. Small charge applies.

"Telford Feastival" QE 2 Arena (charges apply)

Sat 30 & Sun 31 July 10am - 5pm

For Women over 25 and Men over 50

Tai-Chi & Yoga (outdoors - FREE - booking required)

Sat 16 July, Sat 23 July, Sat 30 July, Sat 6 Aug all from 11am - 12pm.

For Women over 25 and Men over 50

Angling Coaching (FREE - booking required)

Sat 6 Aug, Sat 13 Aug, Sun 14 Aug, Sat 20 Aug

All sessions 10am - 12 noon and 12.30 - 2.30pm.

To book: Contact Catherine Penney on 01952 - 382340



They have bikes for hire, cycle repairs and sales along with cycle training for ALL ages. They are situated at the rear of the Visitor Centre and open from 10am - 4.30pm Tuesdays - Sundays inclusive. Winter hours may vary, so please check with the Visitor Centre on 01952 382340 or the number below:

0845 - 4348451

Discount on bike hire for FULL FOTTP members

Aston, near Oswestry, SY11 4JH
Telephone: 0800 6888386

www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk

New showroom now open



Please support and visit the British Iron Work centre who have generously loaned us two gorillas for the park



Courtesy of the Shropshire Star

Town Park
Adventure Golf Course
Loads of fun for all ages

Tickets from the
Visitor Centre

01952 382340

Discount for
FULL FOTTP
members

Friends 4 Health



This is a brand new FREE scheme run by the Friends to help patients recover from physical and mental ill health, helping them to achieve a more healthy lifestyle through conservation and gardening.

It is aimed at women over 25 and men over 50 years of age and is supported by the **Telford Sport and Recreation Trust**.

The idea is to speak to your local GP who can then refer you to the Friends. No personal medical information is needed by the Friends so long as you are capable of carrying out the tasks involved.

We have many different tasks in the Town Park from light gardening to hedge laying and scrub clearing. You could even just come along and chat for half an hour or so to get you out in the fresh air and chatting to other people. There is no charge for this activity.

It is being rolled out initially in surgeries around the park but will extend it to the whole of Telford if successful.

For more information see our web site.

www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org

Advertisement

The advertisement for Littleford's Nursery features a background image of pink and white flowers. The text is white and positioned on the right side of the image.

Littleford's Nursery
helping your garden grow
Andrew Littleford
Proprietor
Sinclair Gardens
Ketley
Telford, Shropshire
01952-240400
mobile 07930680380
andrew.littleford@blueyonder.co.uk
Discount for FULL FOTTP members

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARK

There's always lots going on in the Park for people of all ages. With the summer holidays coming up there's plenty for children and families and a lot of it is free of charge. **Please double check dates and times on the day before leaving home.**



Visit us there. Our stall with plants for sale at bargain prices, will be outside the Visitor Centre from 11am - 4pm



Join the Friends
www.friendsoftelfordtownpark.org
Membership benefits include special 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

