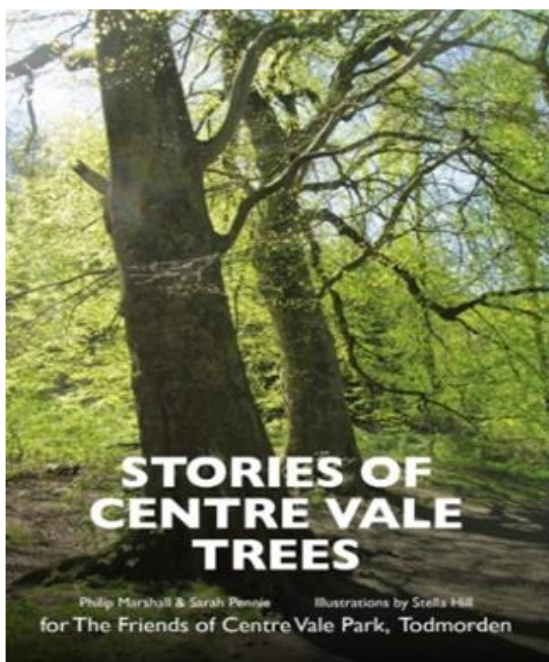


Newsletter Autumn 2024

Dear members, many thanks for your continuing support. We hope you're enjoying the Autumn colours in the park.

Stories of Centre Vale Trees

"The original idea for the booklet, 'Stories of Centre Vale Trees', was from member Sarah Pennie, who thought it a good idea to use the time when Covid lockdown was imposed. She asked me to write the text but then I wondered what on earth I could say; after all a tree is a tree - see one and you have seen them all.....



"But there is so much variety of species within the park. Where did the trees featured in the booklet come from and when were they planted? From this search, I discovered an intriguing story for each one.

A second printing of the booklet is now on sale, with an insert detailing the loss of three of the original featured trees, which have now taken on a different lifestyle!"

by Philip Marshall (co-author)

With very positive feedback: 'It's a beautifully illustrated book with excellent photographs, full of interesting information. An absolute bargain!'

Copies are £5.00 and can be obtained from Bob Still or Leye Oladapo (details at the end of the newsletter) or at Todmorden Information Centre.

Park Work Volunteering



Volunteers showed up in the rain to rake the cut grass off the wildflower meadow behind the tennis courts. This was to reduce the nutrient supply for the grasses and to encourage the wildflowers. It was a good physical workout, with blisters to show for it!

We continue to tackle the weeds in our other beds, while enjoying the flowers and insects that feed on them.

Barry has been keeping the duckweed in check in the memorial garden pond - look out for the water lilies that are starting to get established.

Come along to one of the sessions. Dates are listed at the end of the newsletter. For further details please email:

rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk

Tree Walk

Unfortunately, the Tree Walk had to be brought forward a day due to a forecast of bad weather on the Sunday morning. This meant that some people who had already booked found they could not manage to come along. Apologies to those who missed out - it is hoped another walk can be arranged. Perhaps next Spring? As always, any input from you is most welcome.



Thank you to those who did manage the walk. It turned out to be a lovely sunny day, showing the best of the Autumn colours.

As leader of the walk, I had tried to put together some thoughts about the trees, woodland, fungi and snippets of information that may provide something of interest for everyone.

Autumn in the Park 2024

Listen out for the Tawny Owls at dusk



Find the Hungarian Oak from the Trees of Centre Vale



The Green Flag is Flying at Last!

CMBC representative Grant Matthews, FOCVP members and supporters came along to celebrate Centre Vale Park's Green Flag status...and raising the flag at last! It was a great opportunity for a get-together with some refreshments.

Nick Cole, Deputy Lieutenant and Karen our Chair with the Green Flag now raised and flying over our much loved park!



Many thanks to all who came to celebrate

Updating the Heritage Trail



We have been working to re-establish and update the Heritage Trail to make it fit for purpose. It has been necessary to do this following quite extensive vandalism. Hopefully a relaunch in Spring 2025.

Wetland Wildlife Project Update

We're excited to see this project moving forwards with the support of CMBC and design expertise from Planit, with more detailed plans now under consideration.

We met to draft our vision for the project:

'to develop the wetland area into a site supporting a diverse range of native wetland plants and wildlife.'

This site will be easily accessible for people of all ages and needs, enabling them to experience wetland wildlife in their vicinity and develop their knowledge and appreciation of nature'.

If this is something you'd like to support, please consider joining the project. (You can contact Rachel on the email address above for further details).

New Poster Board



Due to the hard work, design and woodwork skills of one of our members Tristan, we now have a brilliant poster board and leaflet rack that we can use for display and housing leaflets at events and pop-ups.

Tristan...



Temporary School on the Meadow

The CMBC planning committee granted planning permission on 22 October to site on the meadow the temporary school to accommodate Castle Hill pupils. Members had voiced their concerns to CMBC throughout the process regarding the short, and possibly long-term detriment on the ecology of the area, the impact on Ewood Lane residents from the increased traffic and possible congestion and the dismissal of other potential sites. We were informed the Fields in Trust had agreed to vary the Deed for the temporary school for 18 months, after which the site will have to be put back as it was before work started with a 10% bio-diversity net gain, in accordance with planning policy.

Town Deal Park Improvements Update

Pavilion - The Environment Agency has objected to a polytunnel, needed by Todmorden in Bloom to be placed on the proposed site near the Pavilion due to flood risk so other locations are being explored. The tender for construction will go to Todmorden Town Council for approval in November and if approved, will start in Feb 2025, with a finish date of Sept 2025.

Bandstand - The same contractor will be used as on the Pavilion. The start date will be mid Feb and the finish date July 2025.



Tennis courts - They have now been tarmac resurfaced, lines drawn and nets are up... just in time for winter!

ACTIVE TODMORDEN Cycle Route: the EA have objected to the proposed cycle route through the park, so plans being revised - though new lighting along the route.

Conservatory - Following years of deterioration, some of which has been caused by vandalism, CMBC will demolish the structure and make good the area it occupies, once planning has been approved. Part of the proposed plan is to retain the bottom of the stone front wall and repair the back wall using stone from the front. Benches will be placed along the back wall. The area will be landscaped in keeping with the whole Remembrance Garden.

The Todmorden Veterans, FOCVP, Todmorden Town Council, Todmorden in Bloom and park staff attended a meeting in the Remembrance Garden with Adam Bush, Building Surveyor, to see how the above plan would work in situ. Phase 3 would be the enhancement of the area which CMBC does not have earmarked funds for. It's envisaged that interested community groups including those above would input ideas forward. Extra funding would need to be applied for.

<https://todtccentrevaleparkprojects.org.uk/>

SAVE THE DATES....!!!

Park Work Volunteering 10.30am - midday

Thu 23rd Oct, Thu 7th Nov, Sun 17th Nov & Thu 5th Dec & Sun 22nd Dec (provisional)

- For more information visit our website - www.friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk
- Rachel Terry, Park Work Volunteer Co-ordinator - rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk
- Leye Oladapo, Membership Secretary - leyeoladapo@googlemail.com
- Karen Andrews, Chair - karen.andrews495@gmail.com
- Bob Still, Secretary - stillbob@googlemail.com

Hope to see you all soon!