



Dear Members, Happy New Year! FOCVP welcomes your involvement in 2024, an exciting and action packed year with new and existing projects in the park. Many thanks to all for your support in 2023.

Virtual Advent Calendar Clip

Alicia Easley, a new member of FOCVP had a first park work session back in October. She kindly shared why she wanted to get involved in FOCVP and her experience of volunteering for the first time, as part of a video clip she made. Although it was part of a virtual Advent Calendar, it can still be viewed:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/320515440746686>

Many thanks Alicia for the excellent clip, helping us publicise our work and attract others to get involved.

Picnic in the Park

The picnic this year will take place on

Sunday 16th June

Put it in your diary!

Also...the **Picnic in the Park Planning Group** is looking for more volunteers to help organise this popular and very enjoyable event. Getting off to a flying start in 2024, their next meeting is on **Thursday 11th January** @ 7.30 on zoom. If you're interested in getting involved or would like to know more, why not come along to the meeting?

Just contact Bob on stillbob@gmail.com.

Last year's picnic was popular, with a plant stall, Todmorden Brass Band playing a variety of tunes and various outdoor games. It has become a yearly tradition on Fathers' Day. Who knows what may be on offer this year?....



Picnic in
the Park
2023....

Town Deal Funded Park Developments



Above is an Edwardian bandstand. If not ours, then very similar in design. Todmorden Town Council has been awarded £250,000 towards the restoration of the bandstand, to add to the £1.1 m already agreed as part of the Town Deal money. This means work can go ahead to restore it to its former glory. Excellent news!

Congratulations to the Bandstand Group and all who have been working hard to make this happen! Buttress Architects will do the work to restore the Grade 2 Listed bandstand and improve its security and functionality. They will work with Todmorden High School pupils to encourage an interest in Heritage Construction, providing 5 work placements, and they're planning a Heritage Time Line for Todmorden within the park.

Bowling Pavilion - The tender for extending the Bowling Pavilion is out and grant money applied for, to make up the shortfall in funding needed. The grant bodies would respond well to evidence of public interest and support for the project, in which if successful, may provide facilities for a number of groups in addition to the Bowling Club, which may include Todmorden in Bloom, Friends of Centre Vale Park, Todmorden Veterans Association, the Cadets, and the Tennis Club. Please fill in this online survey to show your interest in and support for the extension of the Bowling Pavilion

<https://forms.office.com/e/Z,ROUQAUU33>

Taking a few minutes will greatly help towards a successful outcome for funding application. Further details about the other proposed improvements will be reported in the Spring Newsletter.

Productive Meeting with Calderdale Council

FoCVP Chair Karen Andrews and Secretary Bob Still met with Jonathan Cole, Corporate Lead for Greenspaces and Andrew Pitts, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods for CMBC. It's proposed that regular Park Walkabouts be resumed, and Quarterly Meetings with relevant key CMBC staff be held with FoCVP to check progress. Both parties will agree a Partnership Agreement so that clarity about how we work together can be achieved, and become more effective.

The woodland work that FoCVP has undertaken with the guidance, expertise and input of Committee Member Philip Marshall, and the co-ordination and leadership of Rachel Terry, has been acknowledged as a worthwhile and valuable contribution by CMBC who will in future, we hope, ensure the views and work of FoCVP will be considered in the woodland management of the park.

Exciting New Project in the Wetland



You may well have noticed just how wet the park's designated 'wetland area' is at present. The fence that supposedly surrounds it currently traverses a lake. An exciting new project aims to improve the area for people and wildlife, opening it up to the park's visitors and

making it a thriving wildlife habitat all year round. Our current wish list includes a boardwalk, viewing platform, ponds, info boards, and a feeding station for birds in winter. If you would like to join with Barry, Imogen, Philip, Alison, Rachel and Bob to get involved, please contact Bob - email: bobstill@gmail.com

Park Work Volunteering



Volunteers have been making the most of the plentiful rainfall over the last few months, improving the pond beneath the Japanese bridge. We got our wellies on, removed some sludge, and got the water flowing again along its feeder stream. We've introduced a water lily and some other water-loving plants, which should provide good homes for other aquatic life. We've continued to enjoy working with boys from Compass Community School, who have also helped to plant Spring bulbs in the centenary bed (opposite the former mansion). Something to look out for in March/April!



The Remembrance Garden Fountains have been fixed and are working again! Great news after so long out of action!

SAVE THE DATES....!!!!

Park Work Volunteering 10.30am - midday: Here are some future dates.

Sun 21st Jan, Thurs 1st Feb, Thurs 8th Feb, Thurs 29th Feb, Sun 17th Mar, Thurs 28th Mar

Pop up in the Park dates Sat 6th April, Sun 19th May

Here are our contacts. For more information visit our website - www.friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk

Karen, Chair - karen.andrews495@gmail.com

Bob Still - Secretary bobstill@gmail.com

Rachel, Park Work Volunteer Co-ordinator rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk

Membership Secretary Leye leyeoladapo@gmail.com

Very best wishes and hope to see you all soon..... Friends Committee