

Newsletter Autumn 2025

Golden leaves a-flutter  time to enjoy the park

Green Flag 2025/26

Centre Vale Park has again been awarded the Green Flag. The wonderful park staff, joined by Committee member Sarah, were there to see the flag hoisted above the main entrance.



A Green Flag is an international quality standard for parks and green spaces that signifies a well-managed, high-quality public area.

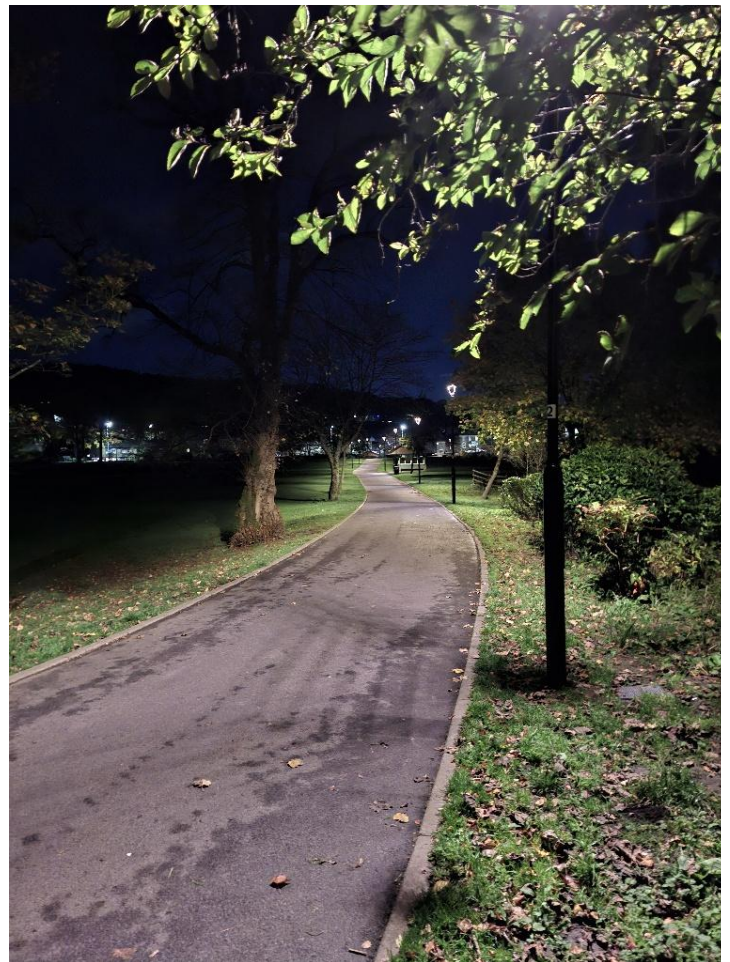
It is awarded annually to parks that are judged to be welcoming, safe, clean, well-maintained, and environmentally sustainable, meeting the needs of the community.

The award, which is managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, helps to raise the standard for green spaces across the UK and internationally.

New lighting along the main path

As part of Todmorden Town Deal, the lighting has been replaced along the main path from the children's playground entrance to the Sports Centre.

Concerns had been expressed over the years that the poorly lit park was deterring people, particularly women, from walking through the park after dark.



With the evenings getting darker as the clocks go back, let's hope the council resets the timer!



Park Work Volunteering

With thanks to our fantastic organisers, lots has been achieved in clearing and maintaining the park we love. As ever, weeding to be done in the bed near the Centenary Wall.



The plants we put in did well this year and gave great late summer colour.



Come and join in on one of the remaining dates this year:

Tuesday 4th November 10.30am - 12 noon

Sunday 30th November 2.30pm - 4pm

Tuesday 2nd December 10.30m - 12 noon

Just get in touch to join in:

rachel@friendsofcentralepark.org.uk

The pond under the Japanese Bridge was cleared of sludge and the lilies fixed down. Regular maintenance is needed to remove dead, tatty or fading leaves, so they don't decompose in the water; cut back vigorous plant growth - aim to keep half the surface clear; ensure the water is well oxygenated.



Baby newts were found!

Baby newt survival depends on a safe aquatic environment with food, followed by a transition to a damp terrestrial habitat with cover, as they are preyed upon by many animals.



Initially, young newts (larvae) need to feed on small invertebrates in the water, while later, as they transition to land (called Efts), they must find cover from predators like birds, and mammals in damp, vegetated areas.

Welcome Alicia!

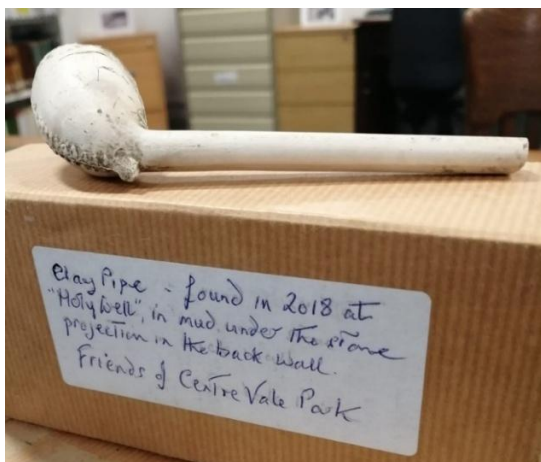
Hi! I'm Alicia and I joined the Friend's committee at its AGM in July. I've lived in Todmorden for 4 years and the park was a massive reason why we decided to live in Tod – it reminded us of the Link's in Leith! I'm their most days with my dog in tow and we really value the park as a way of meeting new people.

I wanted to get involved with the committee as a way to support the park, encourage others to use the park - as a way to come together for events and to build community.



Old clay pipe in the Library

Tobacco pipes are not something you see around so often now, but in the 18th century many people smoked. Pipes were disposable, thrown away once broken. This one was found in 2018 near Holy Well, just above Christ Church.



Todmorden Library was delighted to be gifted it by the Friends and it now forms part of their historic objects collection.

Balsam Bash 'n' Banter

A gang of 18 Friends turned out to pull up and bash the invasive himalayan balsam on the back bank of the cricket club - reducing the risk of its seeds spreading the plant, and it returning to our park woodlands. It was a fun afternoon in the sunshine ending with drinks from the club house.



Footfall Counters

The Footfall Counters completed their 8-weekend survey - it turned out Sunday 17 August and Sunday 7 September were the busiest days with over 400 people coming into the park. The Friends received £500 from Todmorden Town Deal for the work - which has gone towards buying spring bulbs, some plants, and less fun, but still needed - our annual public liability insurance!

£500

Loud applause to for the Footfallers:

Kara, Michael, Judy, Anne, Charlotte, Jane & Tristan, Miranda, Sarah, Dan, Naomi, Steph & Gareth, John, Antony, and Kathy and Bob!

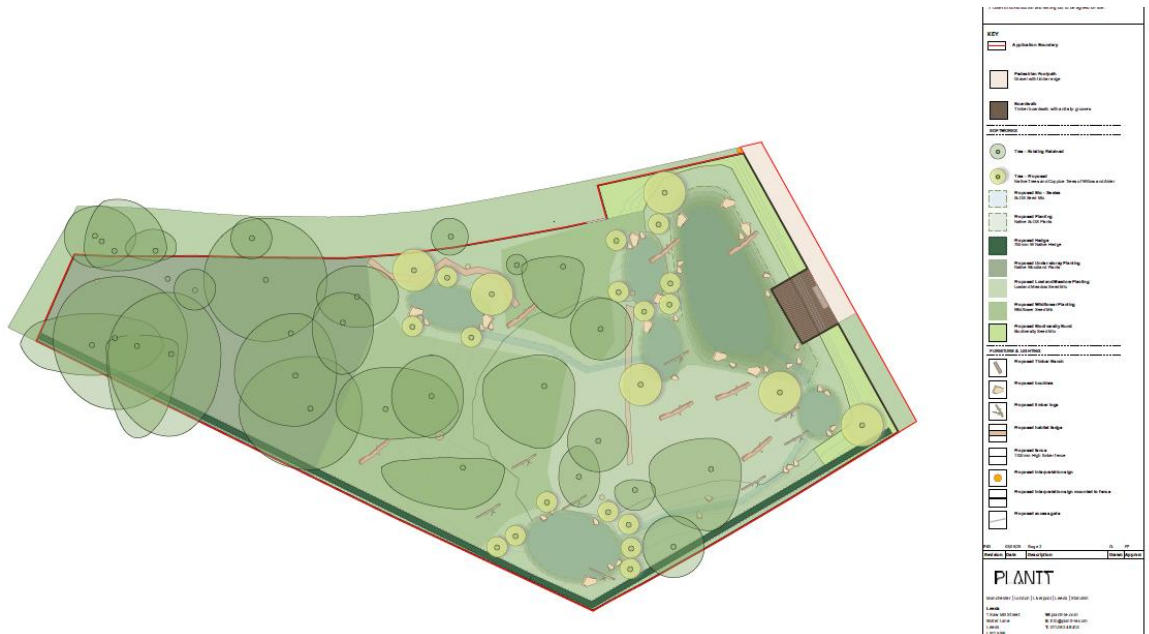
Bronze Award

Our Fruit Garden was given a Bronze Award by Todmorden in Bloom judges at its annual ceremony in the Methodist Hall on 1st October - well done!



Wetland Wildlife Area

After a long wait, the plans drawn up by PLANIT - in consultation with the Friends Wetland Wildlife Volunteer Group - have been approved by Calderdale Council - see details below. Final approval is now needed from the Environment Agency before we move to the next phase - watch this space.



- large pond and several smaller ponds and scrapes. These are designed to flow into one another, to respond to both flooding and drought. Logs provide entry/exit points for amphibians.
- accessible gravel path to a viewing platform with accessible signage/information, possibly using engraved metal signs to discourage vandalism.
- larger fenced area than the current one, with 1.5m timber fence all round to deter access by dogs, with holes for wildlife.
- the introduction of some trees and removal of others, with ongoing coppicing/pollarding providing opportunities for community involvement.
- Sowing of wildflower seeds suited to the habitat.

Saturday and/or Sunday 15 & 16 November



Look out for our next POP UP in the park
Weather dependent - we'll be by the playground - hot drinks and cakes - Heritage Trail Guides.
Come and say hello!

- For more information visit our website - www.friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk
- Rachel Terry, Park 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!