

# Newsletter Winter 2025

Dear members, many thanks for your continuing support. We hope you're wrapped up warm for your park visits!

## Happy New Year!

We hope this newsletter finds members well at this chilly start to the new year - which looks to be a busy one for Centre Vale Park! Before we look ahead, we thought we'd look back to sunnier days and celebrate a couple of the highlights of 2024 - of which there were many!

In June we battled the elements and saw the sun finally come out for our picnic in the park. The steel band and children's entertainer delighted all those who joined. Remember the sunshine? Feels like a dim and distant memory!



Another high point of 24 was the fountain being fixed and back in action - a beautiful piece of Centre Vale heritage restored for subsequent generations to enjoy.



## Charles Flynn Dip. Ecology, NCH, PGCE

It is with sadness we share the news of Charles' passing just before Christmas. He was a longstanding Friend of the park and Committee member. He would often be seen watching, listening and record-keeping in the park. His knowledge of nature's diversity was incredible - he compiled a Park Biodiversity List in 2018 - read it on our website.



The list includes:

- 200+ flora,
- 100+ fungi, moss & lichen,
- 115 insects,
- 30 amphibians and mammals,
- 50 bird species!

## Park Work Volunteering



In December we were joined by volunteers from Ridge Consulting to clear invasive raspberry plants from the centenary garden. If you work for an organisation that offers staff volunteering hours, we'd love to hear from you.

We're planning some woodland management tasks in February before the birds start nesting. Thanks to a generous donation from a member, we will be able to purchase some coppicing tools for volunteers to use.

Upcoming Park Volunteering Days, meet at 10.30am:

- Thursday 30th Jan
- Sunday 16th Feb
- Thursday 27 Feb
- Sunday 16th Mar
- Thursday 27th Mar

Just get in touch with Rachel for more details:

[rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk](mailto:rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk)

## Welcome to our newest committee member!

Hi I'm Naomi, I recently joined the Friend's committee. I've lived in Todmorden for 5 years now and I love Centre Vale's history and wildlife. I'm there most days with my dog and really value it as a community asset.

I wanted to get involved with the work of the committee, to support the park to continue to thrive, and to encourage others to respect and protect the heritage and ecology it contains.



## Temporary School on the Meadow



Work begins by the end of January to install the temporary school and will continue for six months. Castle Hill pupils will move over to the temporary school in Sept 25, and be in use for 18 months. Pupils will move back to their permanent school at Castle Hill by Easter 2027.

Updates from our MP Josh Fenton are that the timetable for work on other Todmorden schools (Shades, Walsden St Peter's, and Tod High) starts April 25 and will not need the students to be relocated during the refurbishment. We have been assured the temporary school in the meadow will not be needed after Castle Hill - so the removal of the temporary school and return to meadow should be completed by the end of 2027.

## Calderdale Council and Friends Partnership Working Pledge



Friends persistence has finally paid off! After much discussion, a template pledge between CMBC and FOCVP has now been agreed. The pledge ensures that we work together as effectively as possible and our quarterly meetings are now scheduled. CMBC is now looking to establish similar pledges with all Friends groups across the borough

## Wetland Wildlife Project Update

We're excited to see this project moving forwards.

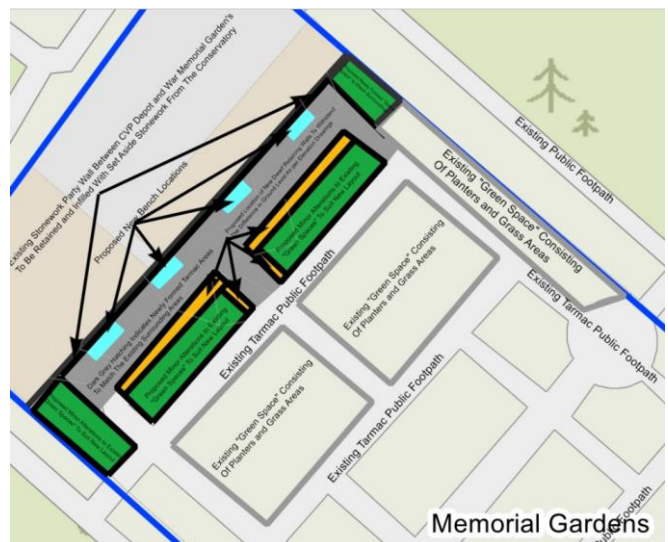
Through Active Todmorden, Calderdale Council has contracted Ridge Consultancy and Planit to carry out topography, hydrology and ecology assessments before drawing up the final plans. Included are cycle routes and upgraded lighting along the footpaths.



## Remembrance Garden Conservatory

Planning has now been approved to demolish the conservatory, retaining the bottom of the stone front wall and repairing 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 following consultation with Todmorden Veterans, FOCVP, Todmorden Town Council, Todmorden in Bloom.





## Town Deal Park Improvements

### Pavilion

The tender for construction was approved by Todmorden Town Council in November and - fingers crossed - we wait to hear news of the tenders received and the costings - more news in the Spring newsletter.



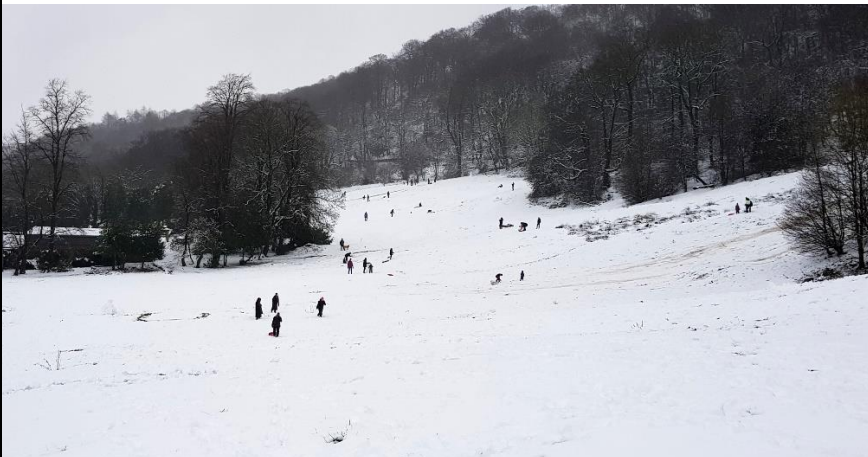
<https://todtcentrevalparkprojects.org.uk/>

### Bandstand

The tender was also approved by Todmorden Town Council for the bandstand. It is hoped the same contractor will be used as on the Pavilion. As with the Pavilion we wait to hear the costs of the tenders - watch this space.



## Snowy scenes in the park



**SAVE THE DATES....!!!**

**Park Work Volunteering 10.30am - midday**

Thurs 30th Jan, Sun 16th Feb, Thurs 27 Feb, Sun 16th Mar, Thurs 27th Mar

- For more information visit our website - [www.friendsofcentrevalpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcentrevalpark.org.uk)
- Rachel Terry, Park Work Volunteer Co-ordinator - [rachel@friendsofcentrevalpark.org.uk](mailto:rachel@friendsofcentrevalpark.org.uk)
- Leye Oladapo, Membership Secretary - [leyeoladapo@googlemail.com](mailto:leyeoladapo@googlemail.com)
- Karen Andrews, Chair - [karen.andrews495@gmail.com](mailto:karen.andrews495@gmail.com)
- Bob Still, Secretary - [stillbob@googlemail.com](mailto:stillbob@googlemail.com)

*Hope to see you all soon!*