

Tarvin Community Woodland is one of the best in the country

Keep Britain Tidy announces a record-breaking number of award-winning parks and green spaces for 2013.

Tarvin Community Woodland is one of the very best in the UK – and that's official.

The woodland is among a record-breaking 1,447 parks and green spaces that will today receive a prestigious Green Flag Community Award.

The national award, handed out by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to visitors that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

The one kilometre / thirteen acre woodland lies along the A51, Tarvin South-westerly by-pass. It was a piece of land left by the Highways Agency as a screened barrier between the new road and existing housing until the late Jim Grogan and village volunteers turned it into a Community Woodland. Hundreds of native hardwood trees have been planted, it has been brought back under management and wildlife is being encouraged, not least by over forty squirrel-proof nest boxes. It is a nationally recognised case-study of what can be achieved when competent and committed members of the community take over unused public assets.

Stuart Exell, chairman of the Trustees, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Community Award for the 4th year running.

"This Award recognises and highlights that people in Tarvin and its surrounding area are benefitting from a green space of the very highest quality. It reflects all the hard work that is done by the Trustees, volunteers and the individuals and local organisations that provide the funding.

"We are making great progress with our development strategy and this year we have attracted significant grants to enable a major enhancement to Grogan's Walk, the main path through the woodland."

The record number of awards across the country means more people than ever before will have access to well-managed, quality green space, which is vital to people's health and wellbeing.

Green Flag Award Scheme Manager Paul Todd said: "We are thrilled to announce yet another record-breaking year for Green Flag Award parks and green spaces.

"A Green Flag Award provides national recognition for the hard work and dedication of all the parks managers, staff and volunteers who have helped to create these fantastic places for all to enjoy.

"Quality green spaces are absolutely essential to happy, healthy communities. They are fundamental to our quality of life, whether in cities, towns or villages. That is why it is so significant that we have given out more awards than ever before."

Ends

Notes To Editors

Keep Britain Tidy is a leading environmental charity. We inspire people to be litter-free, to waste less and to live more. We are run programmes including Eco-Schools, the Green Flag Award for parks and green spaces and the Blue Flag/ Seaside Awards for beaches. To find out more about Keep Britain Tidy, our programmes and campaigns visit www.keepbritaintidy.org.

Keep Britain Tidy run the Green Flag Award scheme in the UK on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. It is run in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy, Tidy Northern Ireland, Keep Scotland Beautiful, the National Housing Federation and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.

Any green space that is accessible to the public is eligible to enter for a Green Flag Award. Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag status. A Green Flag Community Award recognises quality sites managed by voluntary and community groups. Green Heritage Site accreditation is judged on the treatment of the site's historic features and the standard of conservation.

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