

Tarvin Community Woodland named as one of the best in Britain

More parks and green spaces than ever will be flying the Green Flag Award this year – more than 1,600 across the UK.

Tarvin Community Woodland in Tarvin, 6 miles east of Chester, is one of the very best in the UK – and that’s official.

The community woodland is among a record-breaking 1,686 parks and green spaces that will today receive a prestigious Green Flag Award – the mark of a quality park or green space. The award, now celebrating its 20th year, recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country..

The one kilometre long, five and a half hectare 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 now managed by a not-for-profit limited company, registered as a charity, which has replaced the previous charitable trust.

At the end of 2014, ownership was transferred from Cheshire West and Chester Council to the Tarvin Community Woodland Trust that manages the woodland. 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; see the government booklet “Community led spaces”.

Stuart Exell, Chairman, said: "We are truly delighted to receive our seventh Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy. People in Tarvin are benefitting from a green space of the very highest quality. The award recognises the more than 1,000 hours per year that volunteers and trustees donate together with the commitment of the Tarvin community to continue to support and use the facility. The award also helps to motivate all involved to continue to develop and grow our green space on behalf of all the community here in Tarvin and its environs."

International Green Flag Award scheme manager Paul Todd said: “We are delighted to be celebrating another record-breaking year for the Green Flag Award scheme, especially as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Awards.

“All the flags flying this year are a testament to the efforts of the thousands of men and women, both staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to maintain the high standards demanded by the Green Flag Award.”

Ends



Notes to Editors

The Green Flag Awards Scheme (<http://greenflagaward.org/>) is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Department of Communities and Local Government, in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and the National Housing Federation. 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.

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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