

# Innovation in green spaces benefits all - Local green space, Tarvin

## Community Woodland, gets special recognition from national scheme

Tarvin Community Woodland Trust is celebrating after receiving a second Special Award for Innovation from the Green Flag Award Scheme.

The green space in Tarvin is one of just 15 inspirational parks and green spaces in the UK to achieve the award, which is presented to those of the nearly 1,700 Green Flag Award or Community Award winning sites that have made changes which have brought outstanding benefits to both their site and the local community.

The Community Woodland was created in 1997 when Jim Grogan, Parish Councillor, persuaded the Highways Agency, who then owned the land, to allow its use for the community. This was a unique arrangement at the time and was considered to be worthy of a Special Innovation Award in 2010. It was used as a national case-study of transferring assets from public to community use. Subsequently, the woodland's ownership transferred to the local highway authority and in 2015 Cheshire West and Chester Council sold the land, at nominal cost, to the Charitable Trust that manages it on behalf of the community.



Between 2014 and 2016 the Trust worked with housing developer Taylor Wimpey and Council planners to create a woodland extension that both enhances the development and benefits the community. The extension was sold to the Trust at nominal cost so that the whole woodland area is owned and managed by the community. It is the transfer of land ownership and extension of the facility in conjunction with a developer that has been recognised as Special Innovation. It reflects all the work that Trustees and Volunteers contribute every year and realises much of Jim Grogan's long term vision for the village woodland.



Stuart Craig, Sales Manager for Taylor Wimpey hands the deeds to Stuart Exell, Chairman of the Trust

Together with the extension, the woodland provides a walk of nearly 2 km. with links from the A54 by-pass to Austins Hill at the village's southern extremity. It also provides a means of access to Tarvin Primary School that can reduce traffic whilst providing fresh air and exercise to all. From 2010 to 2016 the Woodland has received 7 Green Flag (Community) Awards that recognise and reward the best parks and green spaces across the country.



Following the Green Flag Award judge's visit to Tarvin, Dr Stuart Exell, Chairman of the Trustees said: "This Innovation Award recognises the support the Tarvin Community has given to the Woodland Trust in developing and expanding its much prized and used green space facility. It clearly demonstrates how much can be achieved locally given the will, hard work and generosity of community members. In addition, the cooperation between the Trust and Taylor Wimpey the developer, leading to the extension to the Woodland, has been an object lesson in one way in which a commercial organisation and a charitable trust can work together for mutual benefit. In the current economic / political climate this business model offers very real advantages which hopefully other communities will be able to emulate. I congratulate all contributors."

Paul Todd, Green Flag Award Scheme manager said: "Congratulations to everyone involved in Tarvin Community Woodland, a worthy winner of the Special Innovation Award. Research has proved that quality parks and green spaces play a vital role within their local communities. Tarvin Community Woodland is a perfect example of this."

[Here is a full list of Special Innovation Award winners for 2016.](#)

[Samphire Hoe, Eurotunnel](#) – the creation of an Education Shelter and exhibition space

[Jubilee Meadow and Orchard, Bredfield](#) – creation of wildflower meadow and orchard hosting nature inspired events for the local community

[The Secret Garden, Chorlton Manor](#) – Opening of a Saturday morning community café selling own grown and locally sourced produce

[Parndon Wood Nature Reserve, Harlow](#) – Partnership with ECCO and Story Telling Book based in Parndon Wood

[Roe Green Walled Garden, Kingsbury](#) – Creation of a stumpery.

[Rutland Water, Anglian Water](#) – creation on a beach on the shore of the reservoir

[Lancaster University, Lancaster](#) – Edible campus student and staff engagement project

[Jephson Gardens and Mill Gardens, Warwick](#) – Redesign of sensory garden and Project Sunflower

[Happy Valley, Croydon](#) – Smartphone based nature trail

[Hatton Hill Park, Litherland](#) – creation of the Pavilion Community Garden

[Main Campus University of Bradford](#) – accessible sensory garden designed to provide horticultural therapy to students and staff

[Tarvin Community Woodland, Chester](#) – working with a housing developer to extend the community owned woodland

[Wirral Country Park, Wirral](#) – Barbeques 4 All, an innovative brick built disposable barbeque stand including safe disposal container.

[Wyre Estuary Country Park, Wyre](#) – 24 hour BioBlitz to raise awareness of the wildlife found in the Wyre Estuary.

[Winsford Gardens, Penge](#) – creation of community food growing space and a bog garden to increase biodiversity