



*Friends of Dartmouth Park*  
**Walsall Golf Club Saturday 13th December 2025**  
**Christmas event**



You are invited to join our 2025 Christmas event. It will be held at the Walsall Golf Club on Walsall Broadway where an enjoyable evening was spent last year. The date is Saturday 13th December. For those who would like to attend an Application Form is enclosed with this newsletter. It includes all other relevant information about this event.

The venue is limited to 48 seats.

To reserve your place please contact Chris Burgess.

The price will remain the same as last year £28.00

A reminder that there are still seats available for our trip to Westonbirt Arboretum to experience the wonderful display of all the Autumn colours that the amazing trees have to offer. on the 29th October price £25.00

To book a seat Contact Chris Burgess 07940533507

Chris Burgess Chair	Yvonne Hayward Vice-Chair	Annette Welch Treasurer	Carol Hartill Secretary	Chris Blakesley Minute Secretary
	Margaret Geddes	Joan Burns	Mark Barrett Social Historian	

Please note new details for FODP correspondence:

New email address:

**fodp.1878@outlook.com**

New address for regular post:

**c/o 8 Dagger Lane**

**West Bromwich**

**B71 4BA**





Once again the Friends group enjoyed a lovely sunny day out in July at Castle Bromwich gardens.

We were made very welcome by the volunteers who run the gardens. The gardens had suffered from the heat but it was a pleasant day out. We ended the day by going to a lovely garden centre for a bite to eat.



Jacky and Chris taking a sit down with June and Graham



Pat, Chris, Mike and Chris



Jacqui and Sue



We are sorry to say that after only 7 years our beautiful bandstand has fallen into a bad state of disrepair. The plan is to take all of the wooden bannister off and just leave the main structure.

# Elliot John Ettwell

## The architect of the main entrance to Dartmouth park

By Mark Barrett



Elliot John Ettwell was born in Devizes, Wiltshire in 1847. By the 1860s he was resident in Portsea, Hampshire and training as an architect. In his early 20s he won a first prize for architectural design and drawing from the Birmingham Architectural Society. The press said that *“the honour was much coveted in the midland counties.”* and *“the letter accompanying the prize was couched in very flattering terms.”* In 1871 he was living in West Bromwich—as were his mother and step-father. He was employed as the managing clerk to an architect. It’s possible that his step-father’s job brought him here and Elliot



followed him with his own young family. By 1874 he had established an architect’s practice in his own right in the High Street. Following the 1870 Education Act there was a programme of school renovation and building across the country and Elliot was able to take advantage of that. He provided plans for schools in West Bromwich and beyond as well as domestic and commercial buildings.

**WEST BROMWICH SCHOOL BOARD.**—  
**To BUILDERS and CONTRACTORS.**—The WEST BROMWICH SCHOOL BOARD is prepared to receive TENDERS for ALTERATIONS and ADDITIONS to the BOARD SCHOOL BUILDINGS, Moor Street, West Bromwich, according to the Drawings and Specifications, which, with Form of Contract, may be inspected, and Forms of Tender obtained, on and after the 20th day of November inst., on application to Mr. E. J. Ettwell, Architect, High Street, West Bromwich.  
 The Builder whose Tender is accepted will be required to provide approved security for the due performance of the Contract.  
 Scaled Tenders to be delivered to me, at my Office, Hope Street, West Bromwich, at any time up to Five o’clock in the afternoon of the 3rd day of December next, marked “Tender for School Buildings.”  
 The Board does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender.  
 By order of the Board,  
**GEORGE FILLMORE, Clerk.**  
 1149  
 Nov. 8, 1877.

In 1876, at the age of just 29 years old, he was chosen to design the entrance to the town’s new “people’s park” which was then under construction. The plans

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were drawn up in three parts = first the lodge, then the pillars and gates and finally the tool shed behind the lodge. Unfortunately copies of the plans have not survived but the press report of the opening of the Park in June 1878 included the following description. ***"The entrance lodge containing six rooms is built in the domestic Gothic style, and constructed with hollow walls and faced with red brick relieved with dressings of blue and buff bricks, and the roof covered with red and blue ornamental tiles. The gates and railing at the entrance are designed to harmonise with the lodge. The builder is Mr. A. Sheasby,***

**LEGAL AND OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.**  
**WEST BROMWICH.**  
**TO BUILDERS.**

THE West Bromwich Improvement Commission has invited TENDERS for the ERECTION of a Park-keeper's LODGE and Outbuildings, on that part of Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, which adjoins Lloyd Street.

Details, Working Drawings, and Specifications may be seen, and further information obtained, on application to Mr. F. J. HowE, Architect, West Bromwich, who will supply Plans of Quantities and Form of Tender, on payment of one guinea, which will be returned on receipt of a bona fide Tender.

Tenders, enclosed "Tender for Park Lodge," must be delivered to me, at the Commissioners' Office, Town Hall, West Bromwich, on or before THURSDAY, the 10th January, 1877.

CHAS. H. BAILEY,  
Clark to the Commissioners,  
Town Hall, West Bromwich, December 20, 1876.

11109

***Leamington and the ironwork at the entrance is by Mr. G. Fletcher, Wolverhampton."***

The decorations at the entrance to the Park were entrusted to Messrs Legge & Co. of Birmingham; all being under the supervision of Mr Ettwell.

The appearance of the Park entrance is very similar in 2025 to what it was in 1878. Just some parts of the lodge have been modernised, also an external clock was added but this has not survived.

In conclusion it is sad to report that following the very successful start to his career Elliot Ettwell died at the young age of 35. By then his mother and step-father had relocated to Evesham and that is where his body was taken for burial.



Grave at Evesham



We are sure you all appreciate the hard work undertaken by our volunteers. We are always ready to welcome newcomers if anyone is interested.