



## Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 edition of the newsletter where I hope you will find inspiration if you feel you have the time to do something different and help with the Green!

## Desperately seeking....

We desperately need someone to take minutes at our Trustee meetings. We only have 3 or 4 meetings a year so it really is not a huge task, but it would help us enormously. Please email or speak to me if you can help.

We are also looking for one or two people to spare just a few hours a year to assist with the editing of the newsletter ready for printing, and/or the distribution of newsletters to delivery volunteers.

## Duck House

I am delighted to report that not only has the Duck House been a great success with the Moorhens again but also with Ducks. We had three ducklings survive and grow into adulthood! Let's hope they return next year!

I am sure that most of you may have noticed the "Heron" and other adornments perched on top of the Duck House. To try to deter a real Heron from eating the Moorhen chicks, we were advised to mount a decoy which has been the subject of much discussion and photos! We will have a think about what to do about this next year.

## Millennium Green 21st Anniversary Fete

Hopefully, you are all aware that this is the Woodcote Millennium Green's 20th anniversary of transforming this area into what you see today. It has really taken a lot of hard work to develop this area and couldn't have been done without all of your support!

As a mark of celebration, we had planned to hold a fete in early September this year. Alas, due to COVID-19 we had to take the decision to postpone this event until next year. So please make sure that Saturday 4th September 2021 is in your diaries as we'd like to celebrate our 21st anniversary with you instead! More information will be available in our Spring newsletter.

## Oak processionary moth (OPM)

When walking around the Green over the past few months, you may have seen a cordoned off area around a tree with a warning poster about OPM caterpillars. Unfortunately, this year was the first time we found these uninvited "guests" in our oak trees. OPM was first accidentally introduced to England in 2005 in the West London area. Since then, they have spread out year on year and have now reached us. These caterpillars are pests of oak trees and hazardous to both humans and animals. They develop tiny, irritating barbed hairs and, on contact with these hairs, they can cause itchy skin rashes, sore throats, breathing difficulties and eye irritations, hence why we cordoned off this area.



The caterpillars have gone, so we will be removing the cordoned off area and nest. Unfortunately, they will return next May onwards, so we'll have to watch out for new nests and do the same again.

## Farewell to Chris Frost

Chris was made Life President of the Trust some years ago in recognition for his inspiration to set up the Trust to save the Green.

Chris continued to be a Trustee but decided earlier this year that the time had come to stand down and enjoy a well-earned retirement! We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work and dedication that he has made over the years and to wish him all the best for the future! We felt it appropriate therefore to celebrate his achievements by planting an Oak tree at the end of Woodcote Hurst junction with Woodcote Green

Road. We held a brief ceremony where we invited Chris to unveil a plaque dedicated to him.

### **Keeping up to date with our news**

Our Facebook page is the best place to keep up to date with our news and events in between the newsletters:

[www.facebook.com/woodcotemillenniumgreen](http://www.facebook.com/woodcotemillenniumgreen)

Or otherwise please visit our website

### **AGM**

Due to the Covid-19 virus we had to cancel this year's AGM to ensure the safety of attendees and Trustees alike. We hope to hold the next AGM in February/March next year.

### **Smoking**

We always try and discourage smoking on the Green (but it continues to prove rather difficult). We have managed to have one of the existing bins replaced with the type that allow cigarettes to be extinguished easily and disposed of properly. We also have cigarette bins attached to some of the seats. Let's hope this helps with the dreaded dog ends!

### **Maintenance Sessions**

Despite the Covid-19 situation, we finally managed to hold our first maintenance session of the year at the end of last month. We had a superb turnout and even saw some new faces, which was great! The main tasks of tidying the Green and clearing loads of litter was done, with over seven black bin liners filled.

We are hoping our next session will be Monday 28th December, 10am-12am. If you're not on our Millennium Green email list and would like to be, please send an email to [info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk) and we would be more than happy to add you.

### **Maintenance dates for your diary in 2020/2021:**

Covid-19 permitting, we are planning to hold our next year's maintenance sessions on:

- Saturday 27th March 14:00-16:00
- Saturday 19th June 14:00-16:00
- Saturday 28th August 14:00-16:00
- Wednesday 29th December 10:00-12:00

We try to make these community-focused sessions and welcome adults and children alike, so, whatever your ability please do come along.

We meet by the human sundial; more details can be found on our website.

We normally stop for refreshments (Covid restrictions permitting) and a chat too! Do you know of anyone who would be willing to help with refreshments for these sessions?

### **Fundraising**

The Woodcote Millennium Green Trust constantly relies on philanthropic support to advance its mission and sustain its activities. Such generosity allows us to flourish, leading to continued impact from our work. All donations are gratefully received, and we thank you as ever for your continued support. To help manage the funding we would prefer that donations are either made via direct transfer or the setting up of a direct debit to save handling cash and cheques. Our bank details are on the donation slip.

### **New Trustee**

We are delighted to welcome Alister Harwood to join the Trustee team. Alister has a doctorate in soil mechanics, which is a branch of civil engineering. He currently manages bids for highways, rail, water and energy projects for Arup. We are confident that the Trust will benefit greatly from his expertise and project management experience.

### **Trustees**

The current trustees are:

Andrew Broadbent	Epsom General Hospital
Jason Cowling	Maintenance & Project Manager
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents' Soc.
Alister Harwood	Project Manager
Luke Jennings	Digital Marketing - Website
Paul Masters	Legal
Allan Stamper	Treasurer
Mark Swan	Chairman

And finally:

### **Your feedback**

We would like to keep the Newsletter and website as interesting and inclusive as possible so please do get in contact if you have any ideas for future articles we could write. If you would like to write an article then please let us know.

Also, we would be grateful for any feedback on areas where you think we could improve. If you have any suggestions we'd be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Mark Swan – details at end of newsletter.

Mark Swan, Chairman

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