



## Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the autumn newsletter. The evenings are now drawing in and becoming distinctly chillier and despite the recent sunny days summer is already starting to seem a long time ago! Autumn is a time of endings, but it is a time of beginnings as well.

The highlight of the year for me so far has been the completion of the refurbishment of the paths. The feedback that we have had from people regarding the new paths has been very positive indeed. Initially they looked a little bright but now they are starting to weather in well and look a little more natural. They also feel firmer under foot. We are delighted that there seem to be more people using and enjoying the Green as a result.

Following the pathways refurbishment project, we've been working on developing a tree planting strategy to replace dead trees with new. This is part of our long term strategy to enhance the beauty of the green. The trees that we plan to plant are a broad range of trees that are indigenous to the area.

The pond is also in need of refurbishment, and we feel it is beyond the capabilities of the Trust and now needs a professional company to return it to its former glory. It forms part of a central focal point of the Green and is of historical interest. We have applied for a grant from the Community Improvement Fund to assist us in raising sufficient funds to have the work carried out. Our application, along with others, will be assessed against the criteria by an independent panel in September. Following these sessions, the Panel will make recommendations with a view to reaching a decision on 12 October. We should be notified whether we are successful or not shortly after that date.

In other news, we are delighted that Chris Frost, Life President of the Trust, was appointed as the new Mayor of Epsom and Ewell in May. This is a term of office that lasts for one year and we would like congratulate Chris on this honour and wish him and Liz all the very best during his tenure.

*Mark Swan, Chairman*

## Fund raising / Donations

### Standing orders

A number of people have approached me asking if they could set up a standing order. We are keen to encourage this at the same time as setting up automatic Gift Aid. In order to facilitate this, we have amended our donation form (attached) to include a tick box for donations being made by regular standing order. If you wish to set this up, please still complete the form and return it to assist us in our record keeping.

### The Woodland Trust

We have recently applied to The Woodland Trust for some free tree packets. The Woodland Trust has 4,750 packets of saplings available per planting season each year. I am delighted to say that we have been awarded four packs of saplings - the maximum we were permitted to apply for. That's 420 saplings! We will receive these by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. when they will need to be planted. During early November we will need as many volunteers as possible to assist in preparing the areas where we have identified they are to be planted as well as to plant them. If you are able to help then please see below for more details or contact Jason Cowling.

### Boundary

Most of you are probably aware that in 1999 the Harwood family (the owners of E.G Harwood & Co.) kindly donated the land of Woodcote Green, including the pond, to be held in perpetuity by the Trustees of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust. Whilst the land was officially transferred to the trust in 1999, the boundary behind the Green and adjacent to Axwood, Woodcote House and the lane leading to it from Pine Hill has never been marked out. The owners wish to establish the boundary between the Woodcote Millennium Green and their land holdings by staking out the boundary on the ground.

To that end, you may have noticed that a "line of sight" path has been cleared to allow for boundary posts to be staked. The clearance is semi temporary as once the posts have been positioned in accordance with the title plan then the undergrowth will be allowed to grow back a reasonable extent. If you wish to look at the plans, they are on our website.

## Garage

The Woodcote House Freehold Company Ltd, the new owners of the freehold of Woodcote House and the garages at Axwood, have kindly let us continue to use the garage in Axwood for storage at a peppercorn rent. We are extremely grateful for their generosity as the garage is in a perfect location for us.

## Cigarette Smoking

We continue to be frustrated by the cigarette litter, especially the butts that blight our Green. We have tried various ways to encourage smokers to take their litter away however, all efforts have proven only moderately successful. We have not given up!

## Tree Felling

Some of you may have noticed that some weeks ago we had to fell a number of trees. Like tree planting, tree felling forms part of our ongoing strategy to keep the Green safe and to enable it to flourish. The majority of these trees were either dead or dying as a result of the dreaded Dutch Elm Disease. Where we can we tend to leave trees to die naturally, decaying and falling to then be part of the natural habitat. This encourages insects of various types and in turn provides food for birds. As a point of safety however we are obliged to fell trees that border the Green if they could either fall onto the public highway or could prove to be a danger to the public or private property – a kind of preventative maintenance. Where we can, we try to replace trees as part of our on going strategy.

## Substation Woodcote Hurst

Some of you might have noticed that the building adjacent to the substation in Woodcote Green Road has fallen into disrepair. It is owned by UK Power Networks and has been “earmarked” for demolition. This has been delayed mainly due to the fact that they had to make sure that there were no bats using it. A survey was carried out last year which found that there was no sign of bats. However, there is a local outlier Badger sett which is occasionally used during the summer months and is not used during the autumn and winter months when the badger or badgers return to the main sett for hibernation.

UK Power Networks tell us that the building will need to be removed brick by brick because of its proximity to the substation and once it has been removed it will be replaced by a fence. They plan to enlist a sub contractor to carry out these works over the coming months. We assume they have cleared the area in front of the substation in readiness for this.

## Bulbs

We are keen to plant more daffodil and crocus bulbs to enhance the beauty of the Green. The best time to do this is now. We would therefore welcome any bulb donations which can be dropped off at either 6 or 34 Sunnybank during the next couple of weeks.

## Maintenance Sessions

Maintenance sessions are normally held on Saturday afternoons but we are holding special sessions for tree planting as below.

### The dates for tree preparation/planting are:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November  
Saturday & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Saturday & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Saturday & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Saturday & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November

Monday 28th Dec.2015 Christmas maintenance.

We plan to have two sessions each day 10am to 12 pm and then 2.00pm to 4.00pm. If you are able to come to any of these sessions then please contact Jason Cowling on Jason.cowling@gmail.com or on his mobile 07867 828276 or alternatively please use this link to tell us when you can help:

<http://bit.ly/woodcotemg>

We really do appreciate the fact that many of you come and help out at the maintenance sessions and we think you will agree that the rewards are well worth the effort. We also appreciate the fact that, in between times, some of you pick up litter for which we are equally grateful.

## Your feedback

We are constantly trying to come up with ideas to raise funds and also to raise the profile of the Millennium Green. We would be grateful for any feedback on areas where you think we could improve. If you have any suggestions then please contact Mark Swan – details at end of newsletter.

## Trustees

The current trustees are:

Andrew Broadbent	Epsom General Hospital
Jason Cowling	34 Sunnybank
Chris Frost	8 Warren Hill
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents Society
Jeremy Hawken	35 Sunnybank
Helen Heath	2 Wilmerhatch Lane
Luke Jennings	10 Sunnybank
John Parsloe	1 Woodcote Green House
Brian Saxby	59 Sunnybank
Mark Swan	6 Sunnybank

Mark Swan, Chairman

On behalf of the Trustees

Tel: 01372-729258 Email: [mark.swan6@virginmedia.com](mailto:mark.swan6@virginmedia.com)