



Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn 2021 edition of the newsletter where once again I hope you will find inspiration if you feel you have the time to do something different and help with the Green!

It was an unwelcome milestone: In July, the Earth experienced the hottest average temperatures on record - it certainly didn't seem like that here in the UK! Still, the pond benefited from the excess rain we had during the summer and the wildlife around it certainly didn't seem to mind... In spite of the awful summer, it was great to see so many enjoying the Green and the pond life during the mild autumn we have had.

Promoting the Trust

We always try to promote the Trust to make people aware of what it is and what we do. We were approached by Dr Graham O Jones MBE earlier in the year who invited us to be a guest on his Channel KT4 community-based tv station on 15 June. We talked about Restoration Projects, Maintenance Sessions, funding and of course the history of the site and the trust itself.

It was a great opportunity to promote the Trust to a wider audience and I was fascinated to learn about Graham too. If you would like to know more about Graham and his tv programme then please go to <https://www.gojonemusic.com/>

The trust exists to protect the Millennium Green and to enhance the beauty and protect the wildlife and its inhabitants. We are always grateful for the support that the Trust receives. Without the donations and our volunteers, the Green and the Trust would simply struggle to survive. Thank you.

New Notice Board

We are delighted to have had the opportunity to replace the old noticeboard which had become tired and rather faded after 20 years of service. We are extremely grateful to The Lower Mole Countryside Trust, Surrey Gardens Trust and a local resident whose generosity meant that we were able to replace the noticeboard without affecting our general funds. We hope you like it!

Duck House

The Duck House has once again proved to be incredibly popular not only with the moorhens but the ducks too. We have never seen so many ducks on the pond at any one time! We also had some other visitors to the pond this year in the form of Egyptian Geese.



Photo courtesy Richard Lea - photographer.

There were six goslings and one adult. They appeared quite mysteriously overnight and spent some months on the pond before disappearing as mysteriously as they arrived. The adult goose seemed very confident standing on the concrete wall by the pond. I even witnessed someone walk by and ruffle her feathers and she didn't seem to bat an eyelid!

Do get in touch!

Tell us your own favourite things about the Green by messaging us on Facebook or by emailing us: info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Ride-on Lawnmower

Unfortunately, we regularly get punctures to the tyres on the lawn mower. We are very grateful for the support that we have received from ATS Euromaster Leatherhead (atseuromaster.co.uk) as they kindly repair the tyres on the lawn mower free of charge.

Oak processionary moth (OPM)

I am pleased to report that, following the removal of the nest last year, this year we didn't find any signs of the dreaded OPM. We all need to keep a constant watch from May onwards for any OPM activity going forward. Please do report any activity to the Trust.

Dogs

Please could we ask you to keep your dogs out of the pond whenever possible when walking your dog. Repeated disturbances caused by dogs can lead to dramatic changes in water quality and the structure of the vegetation both in and out of the pond. Also the birdlife certainly doesn't appreciate dogs in their pond especially when breeding and rearing their young.

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

Or otherwise please visit our website.

Maintenance Sessions

With some careful planning and the final lifting of COVID restrictions, we have managed to run two full maintenance sessions this year - one in June and one in September – plus an extra pond clearing session this month. Both full sessions were well attended, and we even saw some new faces, which is great!

Concentrating on tidying up the Green after such a long break meant a huge amount of cutting back, pruning, litter-picking and of course, the usual clearing up of the dreaded cigarette ends by the benches, but I hope you'll agree the Green is looking fantastic.

You may also have noticed that we have a new Millennium Green banner that is erected on the trees by the Sundial just before the maintenance session. This purely serves as a last-minute reminder for those passing who do not receive our newsletter or have forgotten to add the date(s) to their calendar. So please look out for it as a reminder of the next session.

On that note, we are hoping our next session will be **Wednesday 29th December, 10am-12pm.**

If you're not on our Millennium Green email list and would like to be, please email info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk

Here are the maintenance dates for your diaries for 2021/22:

Wednesday 29 December	10am-12pm
Saturday 26 March	2pm-4pm
Saturday 25 June	2pm-4pm
Saturday 24 September	2pm-4pm

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 some 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. We always look at innovative ways to raise funds. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

Gift Aid

We have recently been credited with £578 of Gift Aid from the 2020 donations we received. This is a huge benefit to the Trust so please, please do mention if you are a taxpayer when you donate using the gift aid form.

We also received £13 from AmazonSmile - not a huge amount but we are grateful for all donations www.smile.amazon.co.uk

To help manage funding we would prefer that direct donations are either made via direct transfer or a standing order to save handling cash and cheques. Our bank details are on the donation slip.

We thank you for your generosity and support which allows us to continue to maintain and enhance the Green for everyone to enjoy.

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

Chris Frost is our Life President but is no longer a trustee.

Mark Swan, Chairman

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