



## Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our Autumn 2024 Newsletter.

As I write, we have recently enjoyed a glorious August and a very warm start to September. This follows a particularly wet and windy autumn, winter and spring that contributed to 12 named storms in 2023/2024. It is the highest number since the naming of storms started in 2015! It's no wonder we always talk about the weather!

As we move into autumn the pond level is abnormally low, and since our last newsletter we have investigated the options to try to find a solution to prevent the pond from drying up. More on that later.

### Celebrating 25 Years of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust! Saturday 6th September 2025



2025 will be a year of celebrations as the Millennium Green Trust will have been around for 25 years! We plan to celebrate the success of the Trust by holding a Fete on Saturday 6th September on the glade in the middle of the Green. The event will raise awareness of the work the Trust has carried out over the years and will be a great opportunity for us to show our appreciation to all of you for your support over the last 25 years and especially to our volunteers who give up their time and show such strong commitment. We will also use this opportunity to hopefully raise funds to help ensure the Trust and the Green will continue to be here for all of us for the next 25 years and more...

We have already set up a subcommittee to manage this event and we want to make this as inclusive as possible. So, we are keen to hear from anyone who has any ideas as to what we could include at the Fete. If there are any band members out there who would like to put their band forward to play on the day, please let us know.

We also need your help! We will need volunteers to run the various stalls (e.g. a coconut shy, cake stall,

licensed bar, face painting, bric-a-brac stall, refreshments etc.) help to promote the fete, help to set up on the day etc. The more volunteers we have for the day, the easier it will be. If you would like to be involved on the day itself, please register your interest with Jason Cowling who is managing this project on [Jason.cowling@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.cowling@gmail.com)

We last held a fete in September 2010 which was a huge success so let's make this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration just as memorable!

## The Pond

The Millennium Green continues to host numerous plants, insects, birds and wildlife. We are lucky to have a wooded area, the glade and especially the pond, all of which help enormously with the range and variation of the flora and fauna.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter and at the AGM, we engaged Land & Water to carry out an Early Contractor Investigation of the pond. Following this they produced a report advising on potential lining/repair options for the Pond together with cost estimates. There are three options ranging in cost from £8,700 to £57,000. We are focusing on option 1, partial relining. Please refer to our website (Documents page) for the full report and other options. Whichever option we opt for it is likely that we will need to raise extra funds for this project.

## Hospital Demolition Works

At our last AGM, we invited Colin Hipperson, Project Manager from Wring Group to talk to us about the demolition at the back of the hospital. Our concerns were primarily for our pond and ensuring that any contaminants due to this project would be kept well away. It mattered to us all with the site being so visible from our beloved Green! We also wanted to know about the site itself, the demolition of the various buildings, and ultimately of the chimney.

Colin firstly gave an overview of Wring Group, a long-established demolition company, well used to projects of this size, and all the regulation that goes with it. He told us about the many steps they were taking to stop ground water getting to the pond. We also found out that that 85% of everything demolished had to be recycled with many bricks being re-used.

It was an interesting talk, and particularly we learned some facts about the chimney which was purely used for the old oil burning boilers of the central heating system that was rendered redundant many years ago. Sadly, it wasn't going to come down with one giant explosion for us all to watch! Colin said those days are well in the past now. As you all know, in the end, it was scaffolded to allow workers to take the top off by hand, then the machines took over. This was also to do with the 85% rule for re-using the bricks.

He helped us appreciate the challenges of doing all this, and indeed of the whole project, with a 'live' hospital just feet away in places!

Colin gave Richard Lea (local photographer) exclusive access to the buildings and chimney to take a unique set of photos which can be seen on our website and our Facebook page.

### Raising Funds Brick by Brick !



We are always looking for ways to raise much needed funds for the Trust. When the chimney was coming down we were able to secure 100 original bricks from the chimney (all authenticated with a certificate by Wring Group). We know many of you feel a close link to the hospital buildings and chimney that we have lost for ever so we are offering them to you all for a suggested donation of £10 per brick. They have been cleaned and could be used in a wall or brick-built BBQ or as a door stop etc. These bricks will be sold on a first come first served basis so if you would like to buy any please email [allanstamper2002@aol.com](mailto:allanstamper2002@aol.com) with your enquiry. We hope that they sell quicker than the Oasis tickets!

### Maintenance Sessions

So far this year we've held three good maintenance sessions, as usual concentrating on keeping the Millennium Green looking superb. We'd like to thank all the hard-working local volunteers who regularly give their valuable time and effort. Without the support of the local community, the Millennium Green just would not exist.

We invite you to join us in preserving and enhancing the Millennium Green for future generations. Whether you're passionate about gardening, wildlife monitoring, or event planning, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities available. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in conserving this precious green space.

#### Maintenance dates for your diaries for 2024/25:

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	2024	2pm - 4pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	2024	10am - 12pm

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Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	2025	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	2025	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	2025	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	2025	10am - 12pm

### Pond Maintenance

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October will be an ad-hoc pond maintenance session. The idea is to remove a large quality of the plants/weeds both to leave clear water for the winter period and to keep control of the plant life so that the pond doesn't get choked. We try to perform this task twice a year, both before any spawning occurs (usually around February) and after the end of the spawning season. So, if you're free and want to lend a hand, please meet us by the Sundial on **Saturday 26th October at 10:00am**. You might need your wellies!

### Your Support

We would like to thank all those that have donated funds towards the cost of maintaining the Green. We have however noted that donations over the past two years have dropped and would encourage everyone to donate to help preserve our green space and enhance community well-being for future generations. Your donation makes a lasting impact! To donate via our website please go to:

<http://woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk/donate.html>

Here is a QR code that will take you to our donation form.



That's it for now. We hope you feel inspired to explore and support the Millennium Green, a shining example of the power of nature and community coming together. Until next time, let's continue to nurture and protect our bit of the planet for generations to come.

Mark Swan, Chair