



Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the spring 2019 edition of the newsletter. With the long hot summer of last year testing the pond to its limit, I am delighted to report that following the recent rains the pond is now back at its natural level even though the deep water sign seems determined not to stay up! We planted more bulbs in October with the help of the Scouts once again for which we are very grateful; we all are looking forward to seeing the results of this hard work later this spring.

Not a lot of people know this but the Millennium Green covers an area of approximately 6.4 acres (2.59 hectares). With 700 linear meters of paths, our pond, approximately 1.5 acres of grass, seven seats and benches, the Sundial and several acres of trees, you can probably appreciate a lot of hard work is involved in the upkeep of the Green. We are always keen to encourage new volunteers to help maintain the Green or even become Trustees (more on that later).

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of WOODCOTE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST (Registered Charity Number 1075872) will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 6th March in the Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Road. All residents in the area are invited.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Trustees' Report and Accounts
5. Future plans & suggestions
6. Any Other Business

Under item 5, we would welcome any suggestions for improvements to the Green. If you cannot come to the AGM please contact any Trustee with your ideas or comments. We are managing the Green on your behalf, and look forward to hearing from you.

Refreshments will be available following the meeting, with an opportunity for informal discussion.

Accounts

These will be available at the AGM, but if you are unable to attend and would like a copy, contact the Chairman after 6th March.

A summary of our accounts follows which, at the time of writing, is still subject to change:

General Fundraising	3,337
Pond Fundraising	10,815
Income for the Year	14,152
Tools & General Maintenance	(1,686)
Insurance and Admin	(406)
Pond Costs	(13,740)
Expenses for the year	(15,832)
Total Cash In/(out)	(1,680)

Duck House

In our last newsletter we mentioned that the heron, a regular visitor to the pond, had been seen catching moorhen chicks. We decided that we wanted to do something about this and to see if we could provide some protection for the chicks as they grow up.

We therefore launched a mini appeal to see whether enough of you supported the idea of buying and installing a floating duck house and if you would help us raise money to buy one. I am pleased to say that we received an enthusiastic response and as you will have seen we have purchased and installed a magnificent duck house, appropriately called an Epsom Eight Floating Duck House, made by Granddad Robs Designs Ltd in Kent. Hopefully later on in the year we will be able to watch moorhen chicks growing up safely away from the clutches of the heron. Watch this space!

Tree Clearing

We are always making risk assessments of the Green and following the recent tree work at the entrance to Sunnybank we undertook, with help of volunteers, to remove a number of dead elm trees which could have posed a risk.

Smoking and litter

The cigarette butt boxes donated by the ESHT continue to be used and are monitored and emptied on a regular basis. The hospital has made a commitment to assist us with the clearing up of butts and whilst the boxes have improved the situation somewhat they haven't resolved the issue entirely. There are still numerous butts left around the benches that we have to clear up. There is also a considerable amount of litter left behind by some visitors that volunteers are constantly collecting on and in between maintenance days. We are really grateful to those community minded residents that are doing this. Unfortunately it does sometimes feel like a losing battle but we are doing what we can to keep the Green clean and litter free.

If anyone has any good ideas as to how to improve the situation please tell us.

Donations

Whilst we try to maintain the Green ourselves, the Trust is always in need of financial support to cover the jobs that we are unable to undertake and to cover the purchase cost of tools and the servicing and repair of equipment.

Last year we created a BT Mydonate online donation page to make it easier to donate and we were pleased to see that this method of donating was adopted by a large number of donors. This is very easy to use and if you would like to make a donation we would encourage you to use this instead of cheques, cash or bank transfer. It is a much more efficient way to donate especially with regard to Gift Aid as the site automatically prompts donors to either opt in or to opt out of Gift Aid. Gift Aid allows charities to claim an additional 20% of each donation for UK taxpayers and this makes a big difference to a small charity like the WMG. Of course if you prefer not to use this method of donation, we are happy to continue to receive cheques and cash etc. A donation and gift aid form are attached to this newsletter.

Unfortunately BT have recently given notice that this service will be withdrawn in June, we are therefore investigating other options and will advise you of our new provider in due course. In the meantime BT MyDonate can still be used until June.

We have also benefited and continue to benefit from Match Funding from Lloyds Bank. If you work for a company with a similar scheme and would like to get involved in helping us for on-going maintenance then please let me know.

Keep up to date with our news

We set up a facebook page last year. This is the best place to keep up to date with our news and events in between the newsletters. Just key 'Woodcote Millenium Green' into the Facebook search function, this will take you to our page. Our website also has details of upcoming events.

Maintenance Sessions

Our maintenance days have continued to be well supported with a number of new faces joining us. However it is noticeable that fewer children are attending. We welcome families to come along and get involved with their children. This is a lovely area of green space for all generations to enjoy and to help manage.

During our October maintenance session we were again very pleased to welcome a local scout group who helped us to plant lots of spring bulbs. The scouts enjoyed their afternoon with us and were all awarded the appropriate badge for volunteering. We look forward to enjoying the results of their hard work in just a few weeks time and can already see some daffodils shoots appearing through the grass.

The maintenance dates for 2019 are:

Saturday 30th March 2:00 to 4:00pm
Saturday 22nd June 2:00 to 4:00pm
Saturday 7th September 2:00 to 4:00pm
Saturday 28th December 10:00 to 12:00 noon

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

Trustees

The current trustees are:

Andrew Broadbent	Epsom General Hospital
Jason Cowling	Maintenance & Project Manager
Chris Frost	Life President
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents' Soc.
Jeremy Hawken	Treasurer
Luke Jennings	Digital Marketing - Website
Paul Masters	Legal
Mark Swan	Chairman

Farewell to Brian...

Brian Saxby has been a loyal and valued supporter and Trustee of the Trust for a number of years and without his support and vision the Trust would not be where it is today. He stood down as a Trustee last month and needless to say he will be greatly missed by the Trust. We would like to thank him for all the hard work that he has put in over the years and to wish him a long and happy retirement!

Appeal for two new Trustees

In addition to Brian deciding to stand down our Treasurer, Jeremy, although he has renewed his term of office this year, has expressed his wish to stand down once a suitable replacement has been found.

We are therefore looking for two replacement Trustees: a new Treasurer and a new Trustee to act as Project Manager to help manage our projects. If you think you might be interested in either of these positions, please do contact our chairman (Mark Swan, details below) for a chat about what being a trustee for the WMG would mean. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a well supported trust and to make a real difference in our local community. We are a great team and would love to welcome new faces.

And finally: we're always interested in ideas to improve our newsletter and would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any suggestions.

Mark Swan, Chairman

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