



Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the spring 2020 edition of the newsletter. This is my favourite time of year not just because the days are getting longer and we have the spring to look forward to but we start to see the rewards of our efforts during the autumn and winter months bear fruit. This year is also an exciting year for the Millennium Green as it turns 20! More details about that below and attached.

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 Monday 30th March at **17a West Street, Epsom**. 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 welcome 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 after 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 30th March.

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

Payments & Receipts	£
General Fundraising	1,942
Pond Fundraising	403
Income for the Year	2,345
Tools & General Maintenance	(3,897)
Insurance and Admin	(424)
Pond Costs	(492)
Expenses for the year	(4,813)
Total Cash In/(out)	(2,468)

Fete on The Green

I am delighted to announce that a celebration event is planned for September and we hope that lots of you will come and get involved!

Some of you may remember that we held a fete in 2000 to celebrate the opening of the Millennium Green, and then ten years later we held another which proved to be a great success with some asking whether this could become an annual event!

Well, this year we are celebrating 20 years of the Millennium Green and to mark this we are having another Fete! It is hoped that this will be a great community event and will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved. The date is **Saturday 5th September** from 12.30pm to 4pm. Please put this date in your diaries and see the attached flyer asking for your input.

Birds & Ducks (Moorhens!)

In order to encourage bird diversity, over the years we have added bird boxes. We were delighted to receive two handmade bird boxes recently from the local Beaver scout groups: Clearwater Colony, Willowlake Colony and Windfalls Colony. They have been installed so hopefully will soon be in use!

Following the excessive rain in the Autumn, the pond level rose quite dramatically to the extent that we had to wade in and adjust the Duck House to prevent it from becoming waterlogged....! It doesn't seem to have deterred our resident moorhens and we have also seen a pair of ducks prospecting there!

Tree Clearing

Some of you may be aware that just before Christmas one of the oldest and largest trees on the Green (a Horse Chestnut) fell. We're conscious that some trees are reaching the end of their lives and where possible we are looking to replace these with saplings to help keep a good variety of indigenous trees.

Smoking and litter

Trying to educate people not to drop their cigarette ends and litter has proven almost impossible. However, we are not cowed and will continue to battle on until we have a litter free Green!

Donations

Whilst we try to maintain the Green ourselves, the Trust constantly relies on philanthropic support to advance its mission and sustain its activities. We are always in need of financial support to cover the jobs that we are unable to undertake and to pay for the purchase cost of tools and the servicing and repair of equipment. All donations are gratefully received and we thank you as ever for your continued support.

We have in the past benefited 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.

Keeping 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:

www.facebook.com/woodcotemillenniumgreen

Or otherwise please visit our website.

We fully appreciate the fact that many of you would like to help on the Green at times but are not always free on the scheduled maintenance dates that we set. So, following suggestion by a local resident and in addition to the scheduled dates, we have set up a **Whatsapp** group whereby we can communicate with others at short notice. If someone plans to carry out some work on the Green on an ad-hoc basis they can ask if anyone else is free on this group. So far this seems to be working well and if you would like to join this group then please notify us by email info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk.

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.

The maintenance dates for 2020 are:

- Saturday 28th March 2:00 to 4:00pm
- Saturday 20th June 2:00 to 4:00pm
- Saturday 29th August 2:00 to 4:00pm
- Sunday 27th 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 Maintenance & Project Manager
Jason Cowling	
Chris Frost	Life President
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents' Soc.
Luke Jennings	Digital Marketing & Website
Paul Masters	Legal
Allan Stamper	Treasurer
Mark Swan	Chairman

Farewell to Jeremy...

Jeremy Hawken has been a loyal and valued supporter and Trustee of the Trust for a number of years and without his support and attention to the financial details the Trust would not be in the strong financial position that it enjoys today. He stood down as a Trustee at the end of last year 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 all the best for the future!

We are delighted to welcome Allan Stamper as our new treasurer. He not only brings with him a wealth of commercial and management experience on a professional basis, but he has also held the Treasurer role for AFC Walcountians (originally Epsom Dynamos) Junior FC for over 10 years and he is currently Treasurer of Nepotists CC (wandering team celebrating its 40th season in 2020) and has been for the past 3 seasons.

We are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to become a Trustee who can bring new ideas and impetus to the Trust. If you think you might be interested, please do contact our chairman (Mark Swan, details below) for a chat about what being a trustee for the WMGT 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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