



Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the spring 2021 edition of the newsletter. This year the Millennium Green turns 21! So, read on for more details on our planned celebrations.

The Spring is a great time of the year to start looking forwards, with flowers starting to bloom and the days getting noticeably longer. Now we also have vaccines available against the dreaded Covid-19 virus that has impacted so many of our lives over the past year. One of the positive things to come out of the lockdowns was to see so many using and enjoying the Green to its fullest potential.

Following the request in our last newsletter for volunteers to take minutes, assist with editing and help with distribution of the newsletters, I am delighted to report that we had an excellent response. So thank you so much to those of you who offered to help.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Due to these exceptional circumstances we plan to hold the AGM via Zoom.

The Annual General Meeting of WOODCOTE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST (Registered Charity Number 1075872) will be held at **7.00pm on Tuesday 16th March via Zoom**. We understand that some of you may not have access to digital technology so it will be possible to join the Zoom meeting as an audio caller by phone. Please contact us either by email, phone, or post in advance, if you would like to attend.

The Agenda is as follows:

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

Under item 6, we welcome suggestions for improvements to the Green. If you cannot attend 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.

Millennium Green 21st Anniversary Fete

Last September, we had planned to celebrate our 20th year since the Millennium Green was created, by holding a Fete on the Glade but, unfortunately we had to cancel the event due to Covid-19. Our intention was to postpone by 12 months and celebrate our 21st anniversary instead on September 4th this year.

However, considering the current situation, we feel that it would not be appropriate or sensible to go ahead with organising any social gathering this year. Rather than postpone again, we have taken the decision to cancel this event and plan to celebrate our 25th anniversary in 2025 instead.

If the situation improves sufficiently to allow group gatherings later in the year, we may arrange a low-key social event such as a BBQ or similar on the Glade. We hope you understand our reasons behind this re-scheduling and look forward to celebrating the Millennium Green's 25th anniversary with you.

Accounts

These will be available at the AGM, but if you are unable to attend and would like a copy, please contact the Chairman after 16th March.

A summary is as follows:

Payments & Receipts	£
Donations & Gift Aid	4293
Other income	2
Income for 2020	4296
Maintenance & tools etc.	-2775
Insurance & Admin	-272
Pond maintenance	-1476
Expenses in 2020	-4522
Total Cash inflow/(Outflow)	-227

Smoking and litter

Whilst smoking debris continues to be an ongoing issue there does seem to be a small improvement on the number of cigarette ends being discarded – which is great progress! Even with the extra usage that the Green has seen over lockdowns, there also seems to be less litter so thank you to anyone who has picked up litter and helped keep the Green clear.

Duck House (Moorhens in residence)

Some of you may have noticed that we have temporarily removed the "Heron" from the Duck House. This will probably be reinstated during the Spring to try and deter the real thing. Meanwhile, the moorhens seem to be enjoying the roof as a look out!

Fire Damage to Bench on the Glade

Back in October, one of the seats on the Green was vandalised and severely damaged by fire.

Replacing the seat would have cost the Trust a lot of money when we already struggle at times to finance the running of the Green. So, we were delighted to receive a substantial donation from a local resident, *Lionel Blackman*, specifically given towards the cost of replacing the bench, for which we are extremely grateful. We extend our thanks, again.

We have also found a company that is able to repair the bench and so we are hoping that it will be usable again by the time you read this.

Our website has had a face lift!

We realised that after many years being live, our website had started to look rather dated and in need of an update. So, we have created a new website that is more modern, mobile-friendly and has refreshed content. You will find a wealth of information on the Green and some new images by *Richard Lea*. We do hope you find it useful along with our Facebook page, which is where we publish information on news and events in between the newsletters:

www.woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk

www.facebook.com/woodcotemillenniumgreen

Donations – much appreciated

We are always in need of financial help to cover the costs of jobs that we are unable to undertake ourselves, to pay for the purchase of tools and the servicing and repair of equipment. If you would like to make a donation, please also complete the Gift Aid section of the donation form (we need surname, forename or initial, house number and postcode as a minimum for acceptance by HMRC).

We have previously benefited from **Match Funding** from Lloyds Bank. If you work for a company with a similar scheme and would like to get involved in fund raising with us then please get in touch.

Our bank details are on the donation form and we do prefer donations by bank transfer as this reduces administration and cost. However, it has been brought to our attention that The CAF Bank we

use, which is one specifically for charities, is not yet part of the anti-scramming protocols adopted by the major clearing banks. So, when setting up a transfer to our account online or via your bank App, you need to confirm that you wish to override this part of the security process (declaring that this is a known account to you and that the details are correct).

We are always grateful for the support that the Trust receives. Without the donations and the volunteers, the Green and the Trust would simply struggle to survive. Thank you.

Maintenance Sessions

Our maintenance days are generally well supported but unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we have had to cancel a few. We hope that you continue to support these sessions in the future and trust that we will be able to still go ahead with those scheduled later on.

The maintenance dates scheduled for 2021 are:

Saturday 27th March 2pm to 4pm

Saturday 19th June 2pm to 4pm

Saturday 28th August 2pm to 4pm

Wednesday 29th December 10am to 12pm

We 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. We have a **Whatsapp** group where we can message at short notice to carry out ad-hoc jobs so if you would like to join in then please send us an email:

info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk.

Sad news

Ian Allely, former Trustee and Treasurer of the WMGT, sadly passed away on 31st December 2020. He was a stalwart of the Green and helped raise significant funds in the early days of its establishment.

He will be sadly missed by all.

Trustees

Andrew Broadbent	Epsom General Hospital
Jason Cowling	Maintenance & Project Manager
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents' Society
Alister Harwood	Project Manager
Luke Jennings	Digital Marketing - Website
Paul Masters	Legal
Allan Stamper	Treasurer
Mark Swan	Chairman

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