



### Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our Spring 2023 Newsletter. I mentioned in the last Newsletter that 2220 saw an unwelcome milestone: according to the Met Office, last summer was the driest in Southeast England since records began in 1836! At the time we were genuinely concerned about the pond potentially drying up completely. I'm delighted to say, with the rain we've had so far this winter, the pond is now almost as full as it has ever been!

We did lose a few fish to the heron as the low water level made them 'easy pickings'. In spite of the conditions, most of the larger fish thankfully survived.

The cherry tree we chose last year to become part of the Queen's Green Canopy has been planted. It will also serve as a lasting tribute to our late Queen and to the extraordinary service she gave during her lifetime. See photo of its position in the open area near the two seats that face the pond.

We are investigating a suitable plaque to be installed by the tree.



Courtesy Richard Lea - Photographer

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. We are especially thankful to all those who take it upon themselves to pick up litter, cut the grass, blow the leaves, etc. outside the usual maintenance sessions. This extra support is vital to the upkeep of the Green. Thank you.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> March at 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. Effect of climate change on the Green
6. Future plans and suggestions
7. Any other business

Under item 6, 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 and Year-End Summary

The full Report and Accounts will be available at the AGM, but if you are unable to attend and would like a copy, contact the Chairman after 15<sup>th</sup> March. 2022 was a very straightforward year in terms of the Trust's accounting, with no major expenditures and no extraordinary donations or grants. This is the first year since 2017 that the Trust has reported a positive cash flow for the year.

<b>Payments &amp; Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations +Gift Aid	3496
Other Income	298
<b>Income for 2022</b>	<b>3794</b>
Maintenance & Tools etc.	-2901
Insurance & Administration	0
Pond Maintenance	0
0	0
Other	0
<b>Expenses in 2022</b>	<b>-3284</b>
<b>Total Cash Inflow/(Outflow)</b>	<b>510</b>

If you would like to make a donation, please consider using Gift Aid. Every little helps!

## Dangers of walking on frozen ponds

We know it can be tempting to play near or on frozen lakes and ponds, but we want to remind people that it can lead to drowning. There is no way of telling how thick the ice is and the water underneath will be freezing. We urge parents and carers to teach children not to play or go on any waters under any circumstances. The advice is to:

- Stay away from the water's edge, as uneven terrain can make slips and falls more likely.
- Keep dogs on leads when they're near the ice, and don't throw sticks or toys onto the ice.

## Covid bench

The Council are installing a Covid-19 memorial bench in each ward in the borough in memory of those who lost their lives. The Council have selected the Green as a suitable place for the one in Woodcote Ward, because of its proximity to the hospital.

We plan to have the bench situated near to the new cherry tree and facing the pond. The installation should take place during the spring.

## Maintenance Sessions

This time of year, as we enter early spring (hard to imagine with the recent frosts we've had), can be a great opportunity for new volunteers to become acquainted with our projects. We are constantly working to encourage biodiversity, to keep the Green looking as natural as possible, and to make it a safe and pleasant place for all to enjoy.

Last year, we were back to the normal numbers of maintenance sessions being held on the Millennium Green. Our last one was held on 28<sup>th</sup> December (despite the awful weather), attracting 23 people for some hard work and, of course, a few festive treats. I hope you all agree that the whole area looks superb after one of our sessions!

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who helped last year keep the Green looking so good. Without your help we really couldn't do it. We hope to see as many of you as possible at our next session. Everyone is welcome – regulars and newcomers.

## Your Support

Any gift that you could leave to the WMGT is greatly appreciated. Your donations, big and small, help fund the necessary tools, equipment, maintenance and kit needed to maintain the Green without which we simply could not maintain the Green as it is.

## Human Sundial

The human sundial is still an ongoing project. We plan to replace the wooden logs with artificial ones that will not only look very similar to the real thing but will last a great deal longer.

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme

We were delighted to receive the following letter from two D of E participants:

"Hello, we are Eva and Roisin, and we are currently volunteering at the Millennium Green for our bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As a part of the local community, we value the Millennium Green as a beautiful space that everyone cherishes. Many people we have spoken to say it is a great place for dog-walking, meet-ups and participating in local activities. In our day-to-day lives, having a green space nearby is essential, and so we thought helping to keep the Millennium Green at its best would be a great way to start our Duke of Edinburgh journey.

Our assessors welcomed us into the community and provided us with all the tools to get started.

Meeting up once a week to help the local area has been an enjoyable experience and therefore, we hope to carry it on for our silver and gold Duke Of Edinburgh, and we would encourage anyone else to volunteer".

## Maintenance dates for your diaries during 2023:

Saturday 25th March	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	2pm - 4pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	10am - 12pm

## Do get in touch!

And finally: we are always interested in ideas to improve our newsletter and would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any suggestions by emailing [info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

## Trustees

The current trustees are:

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	Chair
[vacant]	Epsom General Hospital

*Chris Frost*

*Life President*

**Mark Swan, Chair**

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