



Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our Spring 2024 Newsletter.

I am delighted to report that last summer, several moorhen chicks hatched and approximately 12 were raised to adulthood! The ducks were less successful in raising just two ducklings. Sadly, neither survived for very long. Perhaps they could learn a thing or two from the moorhens!

I am glad to say that the latest storms that created havoc in some parts of the country, haven't had a disastrous effect on the Green, thankfully. Keeping a constant watchful eye on the trees that look unsafe and their removal has clearly paid off!

I am pleased to confirm that we have recently installed a plaque by the cherry tree near the pond, which we planted last spring as part of our late Queen's Green Canopy initiative and in commemoration of her remarkable 70-year reign.

The human sundial has finally had its face lift. The rotting log post edging has been removed and replaced with a recycled plastic wood-look edging.

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 13th March at Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Road KT18 7QN. All residents in the area are invited.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Demolition works on hospital site – Speaker from Wring Group Ltd.
4. Pond preservation – Speaker from Land & Water Services Ltd.
5. Minutes of last meeting
6. Trustees' Report and Accounts
7. Future plans and suggestions
8. Any other business

There will be refreshments and time for informal discussion afterwards.

Under item 7, 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.

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 13th March. Income fell in 2023 both in terms of donations from residents, and from external sources that are mainly associated with support for specific projects. Expenditure was 6% higher than 2022 but below the average spend through most recent years with no major projects in 2023.

This resulted in a cash outflow in 2023 of £286.

Payments & Receipts	£
Donations +Gift Aid	3127
Other Income	81
Income for 2023	3208
Tools servicing & capital items etc.	-194
Maintenance of the Green	-2063
Insurance & Administration	-481
Path renovation	-756
Expenses in 2023	-3494
Total Cash Inflow/(Outflow)	-286

We are always grateful for the support that the Trust receives. Without donations and volunteers, the Green and the Trust would simply struggle to survive. As you can see there are some significant costs to maintaining the Green. Any gift that you could leave to the WMGT is greatly appreciated. Your donations, large and small, help fund the necessary tools, equipment, on-going maintenance, and the kit needed to maintain the Green.

If you would like to donate, please also consider using Gift Aid.

Dangers of walking on frozen ponds

This is just a brief reminder: Please do not walk on the frozen pond however tempting it may seem. Falling into freezing water can be fatal.

Hospital Demolition Works

You may all be aware that the demolition of Rowan House, York House, the Boiler house (and chimney) has recently started and is scheduled to be

completed by the beginning of July. Wring Group Ltd, who is working on behalf of Legal and General, will carry out the work.

The structural demolition works will follow and will be carried out by machine except for some hand demolition in sensitive areas. Please note that there will be temporary exclusion zones in public areas on site that will be constantly managed by the contractor's banksman. These will be kept to a minimum, whilst the highest levels of site and public safety are maintained.

The demolition work will be carried out in a controlled manner with the intention of minimising impact on Hospital Trust staff, patients, neighbours and the general public.

We formally objected to the development when the original planning application went in. We stated that, due to the potential additional footfall on the Green both during the construction phase and once any development was complete, this would cause extra wear and tear on the paths. We also stated our concerns about additional litter problems. To this end (as the Trust relies solely on donations from our local community), an agreement was made under Section 106 that a consideration from the developers would be made to cover any additional maintenance costs caused.

The Pond

During dry periods such as we had last year and in recent years, the pond water has fallen to insufficient levels. For continuous ecological benefit, a water level must be retained that is high enough to provide a sufficient depth of water for the fish and a sufficient area of water for the wildfowl. A high level of water also improves the visual aspect of the pond. We asked Land & Water Services Ltd (L&W) to carry out a survey and to provide options for retaining water at the optimum level required by the Trust: At least 200mm above the level at which it currently appears to stabilise.

We have now received a comprehensive report on the pond and surrounding area from L&W. The report includes advice, options, and next steps.

We aim to fully assess these options along with their individual merits and associated costs before deciding to commit to a project of this scale.

We have invited a representative from L&W to speak at our AGM and go through a Q&A exercise. We hope they are available to attend.

Maintenance Sessions

As we enter early spring, it can be a great time of year 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 planted 105 trees donated by the Woodland Trust. This year we are teamed up with Surrey County Council's tree planting project, "1.2 million trees". SCC's ambition is to become a carbon-neutral county by 2050. The benefits to us are that we will receive annually from Surrey free saplings ('whips' such as we have been planting already) and we will receive valuable advice on planting and aftercare. We have already met on site with a team from Surrey and they advised us on where and how to plant their first allocation of trees this autumn and, more importantly, how to increase the success rate of the new trees becoming established. So, keep an eye out for dates when we'll need help preparing certain areas and planting these new additions to the Green.

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.

Maintenance dates for your diaries during 2024:

Saturday 23rd March	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 22nd June	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 21st September	2pm - 4pm
Friday 27 th 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.

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
Emma Norris	Epsom General Hospital
Allan Stamper	Treasurer
Mark Swan	Chair
Chris Frost	Life President

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