



WOODCOTE MILLENNIUM GREEN NEWSLETTER

www.woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk

Autumn 2012

No. 26

Message from the Chairman

After a spectacular summer of sport, it's back to all things local, the real heart of the action! Sadly this summer will not be remembered for long sunny days, balmy evenings, glasses of wine and BBQs. It will be remembered for being the wettest for 100 years, the dullest since 1987 and for recording the coldest August day since records began. In spite of all this, the Green has continued to improve with everything growing at a faster rate than normal. So we had our work cut out at the recent maintenance day, trying to get things under control, especially in the pond. We do hope that you will be able to come along next time and help (see dates below).

Mark Swan, Chairman

Fund raising

Donations

As you are all aware, fund raising forms a fundamental part of the Trust responsibility and we are always looking at ways of doing this to secure the future of the Green. Over the years many of you have given very generously and continue to do so but in these changing times we have been looking at alternative methods of fund-raising and have recently discovered the "Give as you live" scheme.

Give as you live

'Give as you live' is a fund raising programme and is an easy way to raise much needed funds whilst shopping on line. It is secure, quick and easy to install and doesn't cost either you or the charity a penny. Thousands of stores including Amazon, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up. Once you sign up for 'Give as you live', and specify the Trust as your charity, stores will donate back a percentage (typically 2.5%) of your bill to WOODCOTE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST every time you shop online.

We have already tested this out on one of our Trustees and the 5 minutes spent setting it up is already paying dividends with monthly payments now coming straight into our bank account. There is a quick start guide on our website

<http://www.woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk>

For more information and to sign up to the scheme please go to:

<http://www.giveasyoulive.com>

Gift aid

We very much appreciate all those who become, or continue as, 'Friends' as they help us to pay our general running expenses. Donations can be delivered (direct) to the Hon Treasurer at 35 Sunnybank, or to any of the Trustees, using the attached form. If you are a tax payer, please do remember to tick the gift aid box for any donations you make and the taxman will pay us on top of the money you donate.

Maintenance Mornings

Maintenance mornings are working well and are a really important part of what we do. We aim to get a group of volunteers together to carry out various tasks and to clear litter. This is usually on a Sunday morning four or five times a year. It is proving to be a great social and family occasion, and the refreshments always go down well.

Whatever your skill or passion or however much time you have available, if you would like to join us, please e-mail Jason Cowling, who coordinates the volunteer list, at:

Jason.cowling@gmail.com

The next dates for maintenance in 2012/2013 are:

Saturday 20th October 2012 *

Saturday 29th December 2012

Sunday 31st March 2013

Sunday 30th June 2013

We meet by the pond from 10.00 a.m. and conclude around lunchtime.

* There is an extra date for pond clearing only which is **Saturday 20th October** when we plan to start at around 9.00 am and should take no longer than an hour.

The Pond

New Zealand Pigmyweed

Some of you may have noticed volunteers, chest deep, in the pond clearing vegetation etc from time to time. This necessary work is needed to keep the pond looking attractive and well balanced. We do however have a particularly invasive aquatic and semi-aquatic plant called New Zealand Pigmyweed. There are no known natural enemies of this weed so we are doing all we can to try to keep it in check.

Patrons

If you are a Patron, do let us know if you move, as we would like to keep you informed of any future developments.

Dutch Elm disease

Some of you may have noticed that some relatively small (5-6 inch diameter) trees have been felled on the Green.

Well, a brief explanation for this is that they are elms and all of them have succumbed to the devastating Dutch Elm disease. Dutch Elm disease originated in Asia and spread to Europe in 1910 and affects trees that are approximately ten years of age and older. It was given its name after being isolated in Holland in 1921. It had largely died out by 1940 but in 1967 a new and deadlier strain arrived in Britain on a shipment of elm tree logs from North America. It has since killed an estimated 25 million elms in Britain. It can take just one 5mm beetle to kill an elm. Each beetle carries up to 500,000 fungal spores and it takes up to three years for a mature elm to be killed by the disease. A disease-free elm can reach 120ft and live 400 years.

Tree felling-logging

Earlier this year we took advice from an arborist as to the condition of some of the trees bordering the Green. This resulted in some of the trees on the periphery being pollarded and one being cut down completely as it was in a dangerous condition. This forms part of the overall maintenance strategy of the Green and therefore from time to time we will need to call upon this expertise to carry out such works.

Path repair

Many of the paths have been in place since the original conception of the Green and some have fallen into disrepair. We are currently looking at this and plan to have the worst affected paths repaired in the coming months.

Trust's Admin Officer Appointed

I am delighted to say that, following the request in our last newsletter, one of our regular volunteers, Helen Heath, has kindly offered her services as Administration Officer to assist the trustees with meetings etc.

Trustees

We were sorry to say farewell to Sue White at the last AGM. She has been a trustee since the inception of the Trust and has contributed enormously due to her knowledge and expertise in landscaping and planting. Her legacy is probably the avenue of trees which is so central to the Green. We are extremely grateful for her contribution over the years.

The current trustees are:

Shirley Edghill	Epsom General Hospital
Chris Frost	8 Warren Hill
Jeremy Hawken	35 Sunnybank
Luke Jennings	10 Sunnybank
John Parsloe	1 Woodcote Green House
Mike Richardson	Woodcote Residents Society
Annette Richmond	9 Warren Hill
Brian Saxby	59 Sunnybank
Mark Swan	6 Sunnybank
Derek Warrilow	30 Axwood

Mark Swan, Chairman

On behalf of the Trustees

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