

The MG area before it was developed by Derek Warrilow

Hi Chris, I was the brawn and you were the brains! While John Parsloe, Ian Allely and others dealt with the paperwork, I had noticed that the 'Green' was no longer being cut by the Harwoods. I located a hire shop near Sainsbury's and on several occasions hired a commercial mower and cut the green. The rest of our future millennium green was just a tangle of brambles and hundreds of dead elm trees.

Anyone adventurous enough could get into the jungle as far as 'The Glade' where they were confronted by an enormous bonfire. Pallets, office furniture, beds, mattresses you name it, all combustible and dealt with accordingly - until the fire brigade arrived with suitable advice! Time for the big guns! I hired a bramble guzzling machine and clad in suitable protective gear, including a crash helmet, guzzled all day, clearing a large area.

Next it was out with the tape measures to mark out the various paths shown on our plans. We started in Woodcote Hurst (opposite the post box) and after clearing a short distance we could see the pond and this path must have been in use many years ago.

So June and July 2000, newly retired from the Coroner's Office, my new hobby was the Woodcote Millennium Green.

At the grand opening held in the Glade, decorated in bunting, steel band, Morris Dancers, tug of war, coconut shy, our two nonagenarian benefactors, the Harwood brothers, came to see what all the fuss was about and spoke these immortal words:

'THERE'S NOWHERE TO HAVE A BONFIRE NOW!

Derek Warrilow August 1940 – December 2025 RIP