



Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our Spring 2026 Newsletter.

On one of my many morning walks through the Green recently I felt compelled to stop and listen to the cacophony of bird song. I have experienced this on a regular basis during late Spring and early Summer but never at this time of year. All my companions were singing their hearts out when normally they are silent. Granted, it was an unusually mild day and there were a number of birds that I recognised, song thrush, blackbird, dunnoek, robin, blue tit, great tit, wren and even the goldcrest – the smallest bird in Europe! It was heart lifting, especially during January which is often a tough time of year for many. I do sometimes wonder where all the native birds go in colder weather. What it did remind me was that the Green acts like a larder for not just the birds but many other creatures as well, especially during the Winter months. We must be doing something right.

It now looks as though Spring has sprung with early signs of snowdrops, crocuses, and even daffodil shoots. Let's hope this is a sign of better things to come and not just the weather!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of WOODCOTE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST (Registered Charity Number 1075872) will be held on Thursday 19th March 2026 at 7:30 PM at Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Rd, Epsom KT18 7QN.

All residents in the area are invited.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of AGM 2025
5. Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025
6. Fete Celebrating 25th year – review and discussion
7. Preserving the pond
8. Future plans and suggestions
9. Any other business

Under item 8, 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.

There will be refreshments and time for informal discussion afterwards.

Accounts and Year-End Summary 2025

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 19th March.

The year resulted in an operational cash outflow of £837 down from an inflow of £1,281 in 2024.

Income for the year was significantly higher at £9,856 due to the fete which raised £6,316. Income from other sources decreased by £1,150 at £3,540, mainly because of the bequest received in 2024. Residents' donations were £2,683 down by 11% from £3,031 received in 2024.

Total expenditure was £10,693, considerably higher than 2024 due to £4,607 attributable to the fete. The net income raised by the fete was £1,709.

Excluding the fete, expenditure was £6,086 a decrease of £3,323 from the previous year. In 2024 £5,878 was spent on the first stage of the pond leak investigation and no further costs were incurred in 2025. Spend on general maintenance of the green and tools & servicing increased by £2,164 to £5,203 mainly due to an exceptional cost of £1,816 in

In Memory of Derek Warrilow

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Derek Warrilow**, who died on **Boxing Day**.

Derek was a founder and Trustee of the **Woodcote Millennium Green** and a tireless supporter of the Green from its very beginning. His vision, commitment and friendship played a central role in creating and protecting this special space for the community to enjoy.

Derek will be greatly missed by all who knew him. The Trustees would like to record their deep gratitude for his dedication and the lasting legacy he leaves behind.

Our thoughts are with Derek's family and friends at this difficult time.

RIP Derek

repairing the bridges. In addition, insurance and administration costs increased by 80% from £492 to £883.

Excluding the expenditure on the long-term security of the pond, the bequest and the fete, which are one-offs, general expenditure was greater than income by £2,546.

Income and Expenditure	£
Fete	6,316
Donations +Gift Aid	3,446
Other Income	94
Income for 2025	9,856
Maintenance of the Green	- 5,155
Fete	- 4,607
Insurance & Administration	- 883
Tools servicing & capital items etc.	- 48
Expenses in 2025	- 10,693
Total Cash Inflow/(Outflow)	- 837

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. Your donations, large and small, help fund the necessary tools, equipment, on-going maintenance, and the kit needed to maintain the Green. Any gift that you could leave to the WMGT is greatly appreciated.

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. Our ice is thinner than it looks, and will not support your weight. Breaking through and falling into freezing water can be fatal.

Trustees News

Two Trustees expressed their wish to stand down during 2025 both of which have replacements starting as of 1st January 2026.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to **Allan Stamper**, who has recently stepped down as Treasurer and Trustee. Since joining the Trust in 2019, Allan has given his time generously and played an important role in supporting the Green and the work of the Trust. We are very grateful for everything he has done, his support and careful stewardship has helped the Trust to continue to maintain a healthy set of accounts. We wish him all the very best.

We are also delighted to welcome **Steve Hiller** as Allan's replacement, joining the Trust as both Trustee

and Treasurer. We look forward to working with Steve and thank him for taking on this important role.

We would also like to thank **Emma Bagnall**, who left the Trust in 2025, for her support and contribution during her time with us. We are pleased to welcome **Jim Walters** as her replacement, who will continue to represent **Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust** as a Trustee for the Green.

The Pond

We are currently carrying out a study on the level of the water over a 12-month period to learn just how much variation there is. We are also in discussion with a contractor on the viability, time scale and the cost to have the top two meters of the pond lined with puddle clay and hope to have a decision on this by the end of the year.

Your Support

We would like to thank all those that have donated funds towards the cost of maintaining the Green. Your donation makes a lasting impact! To donate via our website please go to:

<http://woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk/donate.html>

Alternatively, here is a QR code that will take you to our donation form.



Maintenance Sessions

Lastly, 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.

Maintenance dates for your diaries during 2026:

Saturday 21 st March	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 27 th June	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 19 th September	2pm - 4pm
Monday 28 th December	10am - 12 pm

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.

Mark Swan, Chair