



## Message from the Chairman

On Christmas morning, whilst walking my dog on the Green, I came across an often heard, but seldom seen, Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) with its black and yellow stripe on its head clearly visible. The bird was just two feet from me and it was totally oblivious to my presence as it busily went about its daily business. Whilst I stood there watching this tiny creature it reminded me why we are so fortunate to have the Green on our doorstep and why we should never take it for granted!

As usual, 2017 was a busy year for the Trust, but more so this time because a lot of the year was spent on the pond refurbishment project from gaining quotes to setting up a fund raising program to finance the project, but more on that below.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of WOODCOTE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST (Registered Charity Number 1075872) will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March in the Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Road, and 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. Future plans & suggestions
6. Any Other Business

Under item 5, we would welcome any suggestions about improvements. 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 following the formal business, with an opportunity for informal discussion.

## Pond Restoration

**Thank you**



I am pleased to report that we have raised sufficient funds to pay for the pond restoration. It has been quite a journey and I am delighted to say that so many people clearly share our vision of the Green and especially the pond.

We needed to raise £15,000 for this one off project. The response to our appeal was amazing with many donations from local residents as well as some specific individual fund raising initiatives:

- One lady sold a dolls house that her father made for her many years ago and donated the proceeds of £200 to the pond fund. That must have been some dolls house!

- Along with a donation of £100, we received a letter saying "As long standing residents of Sunnybank the Millennium Green and pond have been part of our lives here and we care deeply that it continues to thrive. Looking for the ducklings each year - and finding them - is one of the highlights".

- A donation came from a lady who has lived on the Woodcote Estate since 1957 which says a lot about the local area! She said how much she enjoys the progress reports that we issue in our Newsletter.

- One resident suggested holding a cake sale during our maintenance session in October. We did and we sold cakes and flowers which proved very popular. This raised an amazing £271, that's a lot of cakes and flowers!!!!

- A local resident, who is a fully qualified personal trainer, came up with the idea of running group fitness sessions on the Green. The voluntary donations for these sessions went towards the pond restoration project. This has been well attended and is great fun and we are delighted to report that the sessions are going to continue at 9:00am on Saturday mornings. Any future funds raised will contribute towards on-going maintenance of the pond. The suggested donation is £2 per person.

In addition to individual contributions we looked at other ways to secure the necessary funding and applied to a number of organisations for grants.

- The Epsom Civic Society (ECS) invited us to one of their meetings to talk about the Millennium Green Trust and the pond restoration. The ECS were considering making a donation towards the restoration project and were particularly interested in understanding our plans for the long term protection of the green and the historical pond. I am delighted to report that they decided to make a generous pledge of £5,000. The award was conditional upon the Trust raising £10,000 for the project.

- We contacted the Lower Mole Countryside Trust, and submitted two applications for funding. We were successful with both and were awarded £500 towards the clearing of the trees around the pond and £500

towards the refurbishment of the pond itself. There was a caveat attached whereby we had to raise the funds for the tree clearing and then the outstanding sum before the grant would become available.

- We wrote to our Surrey County Councillor who kindly supported our application, following which we were awarded £4,500 from the Community Partnership Team.

#### **Additionally:**

- We set up a facebook page to keep people informed. This is now also the best place to keep up to date with our news and events in between the newsletter.

- We invited What's on in Epsom to a maintenance session where they broadcast live from the Green.

- We published an appeal for funds in a local newspaper.

- We created a Mydonate online donation page to make it easier for people to make a donation.

All together, a successful campaign. A very big thank you to all of you who contributed to this, we are extremely grateful.

#### **Tree Clearing – Pond Refurbishment**

And so, the first phase of the pond refurbishment has started!

You will have seen that just before Christmas some of the trees surrounding the pond were either removed or drastically cut back. Water acts as a “magnet” to leaves and we were advised that part of our ongoing maintenance should include keeping trees away from the pond this will help to reduce the levels of silt build up making it harder for weeds to flourish.

#### **Future fundraising**

We are delighted to say that we have been shortlisted by Tesco for their community fund award scheme called ‘Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme’. During March and April shoppers in local Tesco stores will be able to vote for their favourite project. Please do vote for us. Any grant if we are fortunate enough to receive one will contribute towards on-going pond maintenance.

The next phase is to remove the silt and weed from the pond. We are planning to have this complete by the end of March.

#### **Smoking**

The cigarette butt boxes recently donated by Epsom Hospital are being used which is some relief as it does make the areas around the seats and benches nicer. These continue to be monitored and emptied on a regular basis.

#### **Substation near Woodcote Hurst**

Following demolition of the old building by the substation, the temporary fence has now been replaced with a permanent wooden fence which is a welcome improvement to the area.

#### **Accounts**

These will be available at the AGM, but if you are unable to attend and would like a copy, contact the Chairman after 7<sup>th</sup> March.

A summary of our accounts up to the end of end of December follows which, at the time of writing, is still subject to change and does not show all funds raised for the pond:

<b>Payments &amp; Receipts</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising Pond	8,966
Fundraising Other	1,548
<b>Income for the Year</b>	<b>10,514</b>
Tools & General Maintenance	(1,319)
General Admin	(226)
Pond Project	(2,932)
<b>Expenses for the year</b>	<b>(4,477)</b>
<b>Total Cash In/(out)</b>	<b>6,037</b>

#### **Maintenance Sessions**

Our maintenance days have continued to be well supported. During our October maintenance session we were very pleased to welcome some scouts who helped us to plant 850 bulbs which were bought with money donated by WS Atkins and Chessington Garden Centre. We look forward to enjoying the results in just a few weeks time, a number of daffodil shoots are already starting to appear through the grass.

#### **The maintenance dates for 2018 are:**

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2:00 to 4:00pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2:00 to 4:00pm

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2:00 to 4:00pm

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2:00 to 4:00pm (Pond Clearance)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 to 12:00 noon

We usually meet by the human sundial; more details can be found on our website.

#### **Trustees**

The current trustees are:

Andrew Broadbent	Epsom General Hospital
Jason Cowling	Maintenance & Project Manager
Chris Frost	Life President
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents' Soc.
Jeremy Hawken	Treasurer
Luke Jennings	Digital Marketing - Website
Paul Masters	Legal
Brian Saxby	Special Projects
Mark Swan	Chairman

Following requests, we have increased our delivery area with this edition. We hope new readers find the Newsletter of interest.

And finally: we're always interested in ideas to improve our Newsletter and would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any suggestions.

*Mark Swan, Chairman*

*Tel: 01372-729258*

*Email: [mark.swanmail@gmail.com](mailto:mark.swanmail@gmail.com)*