



### Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter. I mentioned in the last Newsletter “the Earth experienced the hottest average temperatures on record.” December was no exception, and, according to the Met Office, it one of the mildest on record with maximum temperatures exceeding 15°C in England. There was very little chance of a white Christmas!

Already it looks as though Spring has sprung with early signs of snow drops, crocuses, and even daffodil shoots. Let’s hope this is a sign of better things to come and not just the weather!

Did you know that part of the woodland here has been around since early the 1900s and the rest has been self-sown or planted more recently?

Dying trees are left standing to rot, where it is safe to do so, to allow a diverse range of organisms to find a home, from microscopic slime moulds, numerous species of fungi, mosses, and insects, to larger animals such as bats and birds. We try to keep open areas for meadow flowers to grow and a glade to allow migration of wildlife.

We are always grateful for the support that the Trust receives. Without the donations and the volunteers, the Green and the Trust would simply struggle to survive. We are especially thankful to all those who take it upon themselves to litter pick, cut the grass, blow the leaves etc. outside the usual maintenance sessions. This extra support is vital to the upkeep of the Green. Thank you.

### AGM

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 2 March at 7.00 pm via Zoom. We hope to be back in person next year. To obtain the dial in details for this meeting, please email: [info@milleniumgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@milleniumgreen.org.uk) or [mark.swanmail@gmail.com](mailto:mark.swanmail@gmail.com)

### Year-End Accounts

Below are the year-end accounts. As you can see, the cost of maintaining the Green is currently running ahead of our income from donations.

Payments & Receipts	£
Donations +Gift Aid	3123
Other Income	1765
<b>Income for 2021</b>	<b>4888</b>
Maintenance & Tools etc.	-1042
Insurance & Administration	-383
Pond Maintenance	-492
Path Renovation	-1092
Other	-2811
<b>Expenses in 2020</b>	<b>-5821</b>
<b>Total Cash Inflow/(Outflow)</b>	<b>-933</b>

If you would like to make a donation, please consider using Gift Aid. Every little helps!

### The Human Sundial

At the forefront of the green, you will see a human sundial. What is it and how does it work?

In a normal sundial, shadows are created by a central stick or triangle set perpendicular to the base plate of a sundial. This "shadow stick" is called a gnomon. With a human sundial you become the gnomon.

On a sunny day, if you stand on the current month, your shadow will mark the time of day. Typically, it is accurate to within 15 minutes!



It works mainly during the summer months as the sun is too low during most of the winter months to create a shadow.

The sundial was designed by Sue White and installed in 2000 to be a permanent feature amidst the ever-changing backdrop of the Green.

Our sundial is registered with the British Sundial Society.

### **Oak processionary moth (OPM)**

Thankfully, last year we didn't see any signs of the dreaded OPM. However, should you notice what might be the presence of the OPM moth, please do let the Trust know as soon as possible. We will keep a constant lookout during late April and May when it typically arrives.

### **Maintenance Sessions**

Last year, we were almost back to the normal numbers of maintenance sessions being held on the Millennium Green. Our last one was held on 29th December, attracting 23 people for some hard work and, of course, a few festive treats. I hope you all agree that the whole area looks superb after one of our sessions!

This year, along with the normal maintenance activities, we will also be concentrating on keeping the pond looking good. You may have noticed when walking past, that our pond weed had a bumper growing year last Summer. It started to take over again, not leaving very much open water space for our new wildlife inhabitants. So, we'll be running a few ad-hoc sessions to keep this weed under control. We also aim to give our very popular Human Sundial some much needed TLC.

You may also have noticed a few younger members of our community walking around the Green some evenings litter picking, moving large fallen branches, keeping the Green clean, and even helping with the delivery of our newsletters. These are volunteers completing their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Congratulations to Harry Castledine, Jack Joseph and Andy Newton for completing their Bronze award - a really superb effort! We have several other volunteers who are in the process of completing their Bronze and Harry is now working towards his Silver!

If anyone else would like the Millennium Green to sponsor them through their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, please get in contact with Jason Cowling. [Jason.cowling@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.cowling@gmail.com)

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.

### **For your diaries, here are the 2022 dates:**

- Saturday 26th March 2pm-4pm
- Saturday 25th June 2pm-4pm
- Saturday 24th September 2pm-4pm
- Wednesday 28th December 10am-12pm

### **Message from A Volunteer**

Hi, I'm Harry, and I have just completed my Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze award and am now starting my DofE Silver award. For my Bronze award, I had to do 3 months of volunteering in which I did litter picking on the Millennium Green. My task was to go around the Green every Saturday with my friend who was also doing the same award. When I went litter picking, I found a lot of plastic bottles and crisp packets, but the main thing I found was cigarette butts and packets.

There were good and bad things about doing it. The good thing was to see how clean it was after I had finished, and the bad thing was how cold and wet it sometimes was! I am now doing my Silver DofE and I am doing litter picking again for the next 6 months.

### **Do get in touch!**

Tell us your own favourite things about the Green by messaging us on Facebook or by emailing us: [info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Trustees**

The current trustees are:

Andrew Broadbent	Epsom General Hospital
Jason Cowling	Maintenance & Project Manager
Liz Frost	Woodcote Residents' Soc.
Alister Harwood	Project Manager
Luke Jennings	Digital Marketing - Website
Paul Masters	Legal
Allan Stamper	Treasurer
Mark Swan	Chairman
Chris Frost	Life President

### **Mark Swan, Chair**

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