

## Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our Spring 2025 Newsletter. This year is an exciting year for the Green and the Trust as it has been established 25 years and, as mentioned in our previous newsletter; to celebrate this milestone we are going to hold a Fete on the Glade in the middle of the Green. More on that later.

According to the meteorological experts January 2025 was the warmest on record, well you could have fooled me! As I write, despite the dreadful weather we have had recently 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!

We can all have a role to play no matter how large or small in keeping the Green a safe and pleasant place for all to use and enjoy. By helping with the Green, whether it's by making a much-needed donation or by assisting with the general maintenance, not only are you ensuring the Green continues to thrive for us all to enjoy and benefit from now, but it will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of WOODCOTE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST (Registered Charity Number 1075872) will be held at 8.00pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Road 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 2024
5. Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024
6. Fete on the Green – Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025 from 12:30 – 4:00pm
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

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 6<sup>th</sup> March. Total income rose by 49% in 2024 with a 29% increase in resident's donations plus the very generous gift bequeathed from the estate of Mr John Norrington. However, expenditure was considerably higher at £9461 in 2024 compared to £3493 in 2023. Most of this increase is attributable to the £5878 spent on the first stage of the pond investigation. However, we also had more spend on general maintenance of the green and tools & servicing.

This resulted in a large operational cash outflow of £4689 which was funded by selling a small percentage of our holding in our M&G Investment Fund. However, excluding the expenditure on the long-term security of the pond and the bequest, which are both one-offs, general income was greater than expenditure which is encouraging.

Payments & Receipts	£
Donations +Gift Aid	3585
Other Income	1086
<b>Income for 2023</b>	<b>4671</b>
Tools servicing & capital items etc.	-528
Maintenance of the Green	-2511
Insurance & Administration	-492
Pond	-5878
<b>Expenses in 2023</b>	<b>-9409</b>
<b>Total Cash Inflow/(Outflow)</b>	<b>+ 1261</b>

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

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. Falling into freezing water can be fatal.

I know it's tempting for children to try to break the ice (I did it as a child) with sticks, logs and bricks but it's us volunteers who must remove them once the ice has thawed!

### The Pond

We are continuing to investigate the options available to us to help maintain an appropriate water level in the pond to ensure that it will survive even the hottest and driest of summers.

Following receipt of the comprehensive report by Land & Water which included advice, options, and next steps, we invited a representative from L&W to speak at our last AGM. He went over the report in some detail and explained the options available and the various outcomes which was quite enlightening. He also covered a Q&A exercise.

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.

### Celebrating 25 Years of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust! Saturday 6th September 2025



This year is a year of celebrations as the Millennium Green Trust will have been around for 25 years!

We plan to celebrate the success of the Trust by holding a Fete on **Saturday 6th September from 12:30pm - 4pm** on the glade in the middle of the Green. The event will raise awareness of the work the Trust has carried out over the years and will be a great opportunity for us to show our appreciation to all of you for your support over the last 25 years and especially to our volunteers who give up their time and show such strong commitment. We also hope to use this opportunity to raise funds to help ensure the Trust and the Green will continue to be here for all of us for the next 25 years and more...

The managing subcommittee is well down the road in organising this event which we plan to make as inclusive as possible.

We also need your help! We will need volunteers to run the various stalls (e.g. a coconut shy, cake stall, licenced bar, face painting, bric-a-brac stall, refreshments etc.) help to promote the fete, help to set up on the day etc. The more volunteers we have for the day, the easier it will be. If you would like to be involved on the day itself, please register your interest with Jason Cowling who is managing this project on [Jason.cowling@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.cowling@gmail.com)

We last held a fete in September 2010 which was a huge success so let's make this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration just as memorable!

### 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

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.

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.

### Maintenance dates for your diaries during 2025:

Please note that the original published maintenance date June 21<sup>st</sup> has been moved to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

Saturday 22nd March	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May *new date*	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 20th September	2pm - 4pm
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	10am - 12pm

### 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](mailto:info@woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk).

*Mark Swan, Chair*