

Trustees Report – Year ended 31 December 2024

Registered Address	6 Sunnybank, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7DX
Trustees Who Acted During the Year	<p>Mr J Cowling (Maintenance & Project Management)</p> <p>Councillor Mrs E Frost (Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society)</p> <p>Dr A Harwood (Project Management)</p> <p>Mr L Jennings (Digital Marketing Website Management)</p> <p>Mr P Masters (Legal Representative)</p> <p>Ms E Bagnall (Note change of name from E Norris) (Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust)</p> <p>Mr A Stamper (Treasurer)</p> <p>Mr M Swan (Chairman)</p>
Life President	Mr C Frost
Re-appointments	Two Trustees' terms of office came to an end during 2024. Both expressed their wish to stay on for a further four years.
Governance	The Trust is governed by Deed, and Trustees are appointed under the terms of that Deed for a period of four years' service but may continue for further terms of office.
Recruitment of Trustees	We seek Trustees through our AGM, newsletters and from our regular volunteers.
GDPR	<p>Data Protection laws in Europe changed with the GDPR replacing the Data Protection Act with effect from 25 May 2018.</p> <p>We constantly review our policy and make appropriate changes to follow and adhere to these regulations. A copy of our privacy policy is shown on our website.</p>
Marketing	<p>The Trust issues Newsletters twice a year, delivered locally to over 500 households, to keep the local community informed of what is going on in the Trust.</p> <p>We are always interested in ideas to improve the Newsletter, and we encourage our readers to contact us with any suitable ideas for future articles.</p> <p>We have a website which we endeavour to keep up to date and we use this forum, along with social media posts, to raise awareness of the Trust and to enable, amongst other things, those who wish to donate online to do so.</p> <p>We also have a Facebook page to enable us to engage and communicate with a wider audience.</p>

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We advertise the AGM through the Newsletter as well as through the Trust's website and on Facebook.

We plan to hold a Fete in September 2025 to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Woodcote Millennium Green, and to raise awareness of the Trust that manages it.

Objectives

To maintain and enhance the area known as Woodcote Millennium Green in the Woodcote area of Epsom, Surrey for the enjoyment and relaxation of all in the neighbourhood and the wider community.

We constantly monitor and maintain the condition of the paths and bridges as well as the seats, benches, sundial, trees, and pond to keep the Green a safe and pleasant place for all to enjoy.

We plan to have one of the bridges repaired during 2025.

To encourage a diverse range of wildlife, dying trees may be 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.

The pond is the main focus on the Green, and we are currently investigating options available to have the pond relined to prevent it from drying up.

Fund Raising

The Woodcote Millennium Green Trust constantly relies upon philanthropic support to advance its mission and sustain its activities. As such, we always look for innovative ways to raise funds.

To help manage the funding we encourage direct donations. These are either made via direct transfer or the setting up of a direct debit to save us handling cash and cheques as well as the associated bank charges.

We continue to raise funds through our Newsletter which goes out twice a year.

Our bank details are on the donation slip that accompanies each Newsletter and we encourage donors to complete Gift Aid forms if they are eligible.

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Raising Funds Brick by Brick!

As mentioned above, we are always looking for ways to raise much needed funds for the Trust.



In 2024, the chimney was being demolished on the hospital site close to the Green. We were able to secure 100 bricks from its top (each one is authenticated with a certificate by Wring Group).

Each brick was cleaned, and we have been selling them for a suggested donation of £10 per brick. They have many uses such as in a wall, or brick-built BBQ, or as a door stop, etc.

It is hoped that the Fete planned for September 2025 will also be an effective fund raiser. A subcommittee of volunteers has formed to manage and run this event.

Achievements and Performance

The Trust continues to enhance the area and to maintain it for the benefit of the neighbourhood. To achieve this, we hold regular maintenance mornings/afternoons throughout the year. These have been well supported, and we continue to recruit new volunteers to help us. To accommodate volunteer availability, we also hold task specific maintenance sessions, for example to cut up or cut down dead or fallen trees and to make emergency repairs.

Rather frustratingly, one maintenance session toward the end of the year had to be cancelled due to severe wet and windy weather conditions. A decision was made that it would not have been safe to work on the Green at that time.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the very important contribution of the many volunteers and organisations that have helped us to maintain the Green during 2024.

During 2024 several teenagers helped with the general maintenance of the Green. They came as participants in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Doing regular volunteer work is a requirement in that scheme.

We were delighted that many residents and people connected to Epsom General Hospital continued to enjoy the amenities of the Green during 2024.

Once again in 2024 we watched as more moorhen chicks were hatched but alas no duck chicks. The Duck House appears to be more popular with the moorhens than with the ducks!

We take opportunities to keep our users informed of developments and issues relevant to their enjoyment of the Green. For example, at our open AGM in 2024, we invited Colin Hipperson, Project Manager from Wring Group developers to inform us about the planned demolition work at the back of the hospital close to the Green. Our concerns were primarily for our pond and ensuring that any contaminants due to this project would be kept well away.

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Colin's talk was very informative for the Trustees and residents attending. He gave Richard Lea (our local photographer) exclusive access to the buildings and chimney to take a unique set of images that have been posted on our website and Facebook page.

Risk Policy

The Green is covered by Public Liability Insurance for Public access. The Trustees review Health and Safety matters including risk assessments at every Trustees' Meeting.

As part of our risk assessment, we constantly monitor particular target areas on the Green and take steps to remedy problems accordingly.

Reserves Policy

The Unrestricted "General" Fund and "Patrons" Endowment Fund are held to undertake the maintenance of the Green in current and future years. "Restricted" funds comprise the donations where a specific purpose or use has been specified.

The Trustees regularly review the progress of the investments (see financial report below).

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2024 Full Year Report on Accounts and Finances

Statement of Income and Expenses

Cash Movements	General	Restricted	Patrons	2024	2023	2022
Resident's Donations	3012	0	0	3012	2417	2887
Gift Aid from HMRC	573	0	0	573	710	609
Grants/External donations/Other	1031	0	0	1031	56	291
Interest Received	55	0	0	55	25	7.00
Income for the Year	4671	0	0	4671	3207	3794
Maintenance of the Green	-2511	0	0	-2511	-2063	-2120
Tools, Servicing & Capital items	-528	0	0	-528	-194	-781
Insurance & Admin	-492	0	0	-492	-481	-383
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pond	-5878	0	0	-5878	0	0
Path Renovation	0	0	0	0	-756	0
Expenses for the year	-9409	0	0	-9409	-3493	-3284
Operating cash movements	-4739	0	0	-4739	-286	510
Proceeds from sale of Charifund units	6000			6000	0	0
Total Cash Movements	1261	0	0	1261	-286	510
Opening Cash Balance	1480	648	150	2268	2554	2044
Closing Cash Balance	2741	648	150	3529	2268	2554

Summary of Income & Expenses

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.

Income

Donations received from residents rose by 29% after the dip in 2023. The positive trend of donations being paid directly into our bank account continued and now represents 84% of all donations up from 77% in 2023.

Gift Aid received from HMRC based on resident's donations in 2023 was £573 down from the previous year's high of £710 in line with the reduction in donations in 2023.

Other income was well above previous years due to the bequest mentioned above.

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Expenses

Total expenditure in 2024 at £9461 was significantly higher than prior years due to the start of the investigation into the sustainability of the pond as an integral part of the Millennium Green.

Spend on the maintenance of the Green, encompassing both the 'general maintenance' and 'tools, servicing & capital items' in the table above, was 35%, £782, higher than in 2023 and this increase is likely to be a continuing upward trend as the infrastructure of the Green continues to age.

Our full year spend on 'insurance & admin' was just £62 more than 2023 at £543. This comprises mostly bank charges, insurance and printing of the Newsletters. Our liability insurance premium increased by £64 (40%!) to £210.

Summary of Current Assets

Trust Assets	General	Restricted	Patrons	2024	2023	2022
CAF Gold Account	1,440	581	150	2,171	1,522	1454
CAF Current Account	1,257	67	0	1,324	711	1,065
Petty Cash	55	0	0	55	35	35
Total Cash	2,751	648	150	3,549	2,268	2554
Investments	22,069	0	56,401	78,470	76,211	75,295
Total Cash and Investments	24,820	648	56,551	82,019	78,479	77849

There was a net operational cash outflow in the year of £4689 due to the pond investigation detailed above. This was offset by the sale of a very small percentage of our M&G investment fund. Through 2024 the M&G Charifund growth was over 12%, after adjusting for the sale of units, outperforming the FTSE All Share Index.

Period to 31 Dec 2024	1Y	3Y	5Y	
Charifund	12.55%	23.84%	32.67%	1 year growth adjusted for sale of units in 2024
FTSE All-Share Index	5.55%	9.60%	22.00%	

The Trust continues to re-invest the dividend income generated by the fund holding. The dividend in 2024 was £4312.