



Whitchurch Millennium Green Trust

Registered Charity Number 1071916

REPORT FOR TOWN ASSEMBLY 2009.

Firstly we have a very good team of organisers and carriers of responsibility. John Wall; Linda Cowley; Brian Shrubbsall; Katya Popova; Eric Dunlop; Phillippa Caine; Kevin Ward; Hugh James and Alex Cruickshank and myself. Others volunteer and I want to mention Andrew Reeves Hall and his work on the website and Robin who helps in all sorts of ways.

We have had the usual core funding support from The Town Council and this allows us to carry out basic tasks like mowing without worrying.

We meet at least once per month on formal meetings but at many other times on special projects. The meetings start at 7.30pm and usually finish by 9.30pm and they are efficient and full of fun as well. Accurate and open minutes are kept. Others with specialist interests meet between times.

This sound team enables us to reach out into new areas and consolidate what we and others have built up over the years.

We are always actively seeking financial support for new developments. Last year we gained over £3000 pounds from The Co-operative Foundation for extending our notice boards, one to go by The Long Meadow Sports and Social Club and one at the end of the HCC path near All Hallows. A local craftsman carried out the work. We carried out initial works on the old sluices near the HCC footpath financed by The Four Lanes Trust and made exciting discoveries there. We initiated the first stages of a detailed scientific study aimed at revealing the history of the site and learning in detail about the life there. The first report on algae revealed a rare species and the report is on the website.

Katya Popova initiated The Millennium Detectives Project linking with the library and encouraging greater use by children.

The Carnival ended up at the meadow and it proved to be what we always aim to be and this is a good host. Plans are in place to lay on extra electricity and improved surfaces for stallholders. Funding will be from Community Spaces.

Our aim to conserve and enhance the natural landscape is being achieved by nettle removal and wild flower planting. We have planted more yews and berried shrubs.

The old sluices and drainage channels are being exposed and a dendrochronological analysis has started.

The floristic analysis is being combined with educational facilities for children starting on 2nd May when a sophisticated pond-dipping will lead to pictures being taken and displayed in a mobile laboratory on the day.

New rubbish bins have been designed by Brian Shrubsall and along with the new notice boards have been built by a local craftsman.

A log circle comprising 15 log seats form a children's gathering area. This was financed by a grant from The Grass Roots Foundation. A local firm carried out the work.

We had all our usual fun events, several Punch and Judy's and Maypole dancing all of which will happen again. The Winter Summer Picnic was a great success.

Several child groups including Beavers and Cubs as well as child minder groups use the meadow.

Private parties are becoming more popular and parents are arranging Power Picnics where families picnic whilst dads do mowing.

We have had memorial Plantings and are planning a special Ladies Seat to celebrate three key people Gill Nethercott; Alison Wall and Anna Nason. An appeal for funding is in place.

Improvements are planned to the pathways and the Site of Special Scientific Interest and a detailed plan is in place that will hopefully lead to sheep on the meadow for limited periods.

All in all we are entering a good period based on the sound foundations achieved so far.

Keep in touch through our website or if you are not already a Friend join. It is £5 and allows us to keep in touch with you through our Friends Secretary Noelle Shrubsall..

Graham Burgess
Chairman of Trustees April 2009.