



Whitchurch Millennium Green Trust
Registered Charity Number 1071916

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REPORT TO TOWN ASSEMBLY 27TH APRIL 2010.

The Millennium Green goes from strength to strength.

The social events on the meadow echo previous successes with Punch and Judy shows; Dog Show; Mayday celebrations and Carnival Procession End (1200 people) and Halloween bonfire and Fireworks (nearly 2000 people); Liaison with Whitchurch Arts produced Pumpkin Displays at Halloween and this year a Trashy Tree as part of Green Aware Week.

The Pond Dipping laboratory came twice and on the second occasion nearly 100 people pond dipped. A Grass Roots Foundation Grant led to The Log Circle and Ditch exposure. This plus a grant from HCC led to our discovering another 500-year-old bridge (now two) and the restoration of the old bridge from horrible modern concrete to solid oak.

Last week we heard we had won a £5000 grant for wildflowers and this will supplement the work done by Claire Wilson and Vic Johnstone. Families planted 20 Greengages and Plums this spring. We put the trust Planting of Golden Alders in for Gill, Alison and Anna and Amethe Anwell planted a Dutch Elm resistant Elm tree. Three walnuts were planted, one to celebrate one dear Whitchurch man, the late Beau Lutring and his sons Gary and Mark.

The laminated leaflets continue to improve and we put another notice board up outside the Long Meadow Sports Trust. One more is to go up any minute near the Church. A Walk Round Whitchurch leaflet will form a thread between all these notice boards.

Linda Cowley organised a special party for The Tryst Seats and the amount collected is now not far off £2000 for what will be a piece of practical sculpture capable of seating families.

The Mad Winter Summer Picnic took place here on the 14th March. It is our annual way of saying "We are fed up with the Winter". It hints at Summer things. Punch and Judy and this year we had an amazing Magic Lantern Show, revealing the fact that people have had fun outside for hundreds of years.

Katya Popova is progressing the pure science side of our work and we have at last made firm contacts with schools. Another grant application has just gone off to enable us to purchase lots of water temperature measuring devices and chemical analysis devices, so that our youngsters can gain early footholds in the world of science connected with Nature. It is our belief that very soon The Whitchurch Millennium Green will be respected nationally.

We are members of The Hampshire Dorset and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust and on one visit 22 different types of birds were spotted also a rush that is the only known sighting in North Hampshire.

The website at <http://WhitchurchMeadow.org.uk> has been upgraded and is a prime source of valuable data about the history, science and general goings on.

Objections were made to The Temporary Loo so we had to put in a retrospective planning application and we have put in a planning application for an eco loo on the boundary to the allotments so users of the meadow and the allotments can gain a common benefit.

Another grant already from Tesco has enabled us to purchase two 3m x 2m pond observation platforms and Whitchurch firms are quoting to put them in.

We hope our Lottery Grant Application that has involved nearly 139 files and emails will go through soon after our final adjustments to Insurance issues last week. £42,647.00 is being applied for. In all, what with received grants and hopefully ones to come, we have clawed back over £64,000 of taxes that might have gone elsewhere.

This sounds like a lot of money but it is not revenue, so our treasurer has to be very watchful of basic needs and how to afford them. The Town Council plays a vital role and has increased its contribution to those basic costs such as mowing the pathways and Ogham Circle. Miss Weekes made her annual donation and this also goes towards core running costs for the meadow.

The Trustees Committee meets regularly and key volunteers do a lot so I can say without any reticence that it is a pleasure to work as part of the team and see the enormous benefits that all sorts of people working together bring to our community.

Added to this is the prospect of so many exciting things to come.

We need more people to help and you do not have to be a Trustee or regular committee member. What we want are people who can do quality things even if it is a small quantity. It is the quality and reliability that allows us to produce the asset for you all to enjoy in whichever way you choose.

Graham Burgess
Chairman of Trustees.