



Whitchurch Millennium Green Trust

Registered Charity Number 1071916

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REPORT TO TOWN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2011.

The Millennium Green goes from strength to strength.

The social events on the meadow echo previous successes with Childrens entertainments ; Dog Show; Mayday celebrations and Halloween bonfire and Fireworks (nearly 2000 people).

The bonfire site has been cleared and sown with Poppy Seeds which have now germinated. It will link into a Poppy day celebration and remind us of times when fiery explosions did something other than entertain people.

Liaison with Whitchurch Arts produced Pumpkin Displays at Halloween and this year another Trashy Tree as part of Green Aware Week.

Dinosaur Hunts and Ribbon gathering led to links with The White Hart and rich opportunities for youngsters to interact with Nature just by being outdoors and exploring.

The Pond Dipping laboratory came again and now we link it to schools.

Cheam School came to the meadow and a national storyteller employed by local schools used the meadow and sent a letter praising the very high quality of what we are delivering.

The £5000 grant for wildflowers from Veolia led to our planting lots of wildflowers with child groups involved and this will supplement the work done by Claire Wilson and Vic Johnstone.

The laminated leaflets continue to improve and we are now trying to reach out more widely into the community with them. One more is to go up soon near the Church. A Walk Round Whitchurch leaflet will form a thread between all these notice boards.

The Trysts Seat donations from our community will be added to the successful Lottery Grant so we will be able to enjoy this fine sculpture and practical seat very soon.

Katya Popova is progressing the pure science side of our work and we have consolidated contacts with schools.. It is our belief that very soon The Whitchurch Millennium Green will be respected nationally.

The website has been upgraded and is a prime source of valuable data about the history, science and general goings on.

The Tesco Grant has enabled us to purchase two 3m x 2m pond observation platforms and a Whitchurch firm, Hardys, assembled and installed them. One employee commented that he had gone down with his daughter later in the year and she had sat with her feet in the pool when a dragon fly landed on her knee. She has talked continually of this exciting experience.

The Lottery Application was finally agreed and a stock proof fence has gone in all along Winchester Street and our southern boundary. Ground consolidation round the Ogham Circle will prevent stallholders getting stuck and making ruts. The electric supply will be in place soon, we hope ready for Maytime celebrations. Hardy's of Winchester Street were successful in their bid to do the Lottery works and we are very pleased with the quality of their work. If you look at our website you will see the almost daily reporting of their activities.

A brand new sit on mower sponsored by The Four Lanes Trust is tackling the new grass and the nettles.

More groups are using the meadow especially walkers. The Basingstoke Ramblers chose our site to have their midsummer picnic. If they come again they will find eight new steel picnic benches

We have initiated an appeal for financial support by direct debit and we are resurrecting The Friends. Forms are available after the meeting

The Town Council plays a vital role and has increased its valuable contribution towards 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. We have had a very positive response to our exhibit at the recent Volunteer Fair, here in the Gill Nethercott Centre.

Added to this is the prospect of so many exciting things to come a key one being the restoration of the old sluice and sheep dip.

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 work even if it is a small quantity. It is the quality and reliability that allows us to maintain and improve this asset for you all to enjoy in whichever way you choose.

Graham Burgess
Chairman of Trustees. (Delivered in his absence by John Wall)