

St Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

Annual Report for the year 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015.

The St Stephen's Millennium Green Trust of 7 Richmond Hill, Bath, BA1 5QT was registered by the Charity Commission under the terms of a declaration of Trust dated 5 May 1999. Registered charity number is 1076240. The Trust Deed is available for inspection by appointment.

The Trustees

Mary Ede, 12 Springfield Place, Bath

Jacqueline Harris, 10 Mount Beacon, Bath

Brenda Bridgeman, The Cott, Richmond Lane, Bath

Margaret Roper, 7 Richmond Hill, Bath (Secretary)

Claire Smith, 14 Upper Camden Place, Bath (Treasurer)

Ian Wilson, 3 Richmond Hill, Bath (Chairman)

Lyn Jacobs, 9 Upper Camden Place, Bath

Chris Champion, 7 Lansdown Place West, Bath

Howard Jacobs, 9 Upper Camden Place, Bath

Under the terms of the Deed existing Trustees are responsible for the appointment of new Trustees and officers. All existing Trustees are due to retire and to be open to reselection after a term of 4 years.

Aims of the Trust and Powers of the Trustees

The Trustees are committed to hold the Trust funds and apply them to the maintenance of The Green, to develop The Green for informal recreation, play or other leisure-time occupations, and as a meeting area for local events for the general benefit of the community. The site is designated by Bath and North East Somerset Council as being of "special visual importance".

Progress Report

This year has been another year of success and achievement and a year in which an important milestone was passed - the 15th year anniversary of the St Stephen's Millennium Green. It is a great testament to the vision of the original founders of the Millennium Green

that the Millennium Green is not only still in existence today, but is in a healthy and thriving condition and is seen as a valuable asset by the local community.

Throughout the year the Green has been looking in excellent condition and its appearance has attracted many favourable comments. Our thanks are due once again to our gardener John Gibbon, and to two of the Trustees, Jackie Harris and Brenda Bridgeman, who have been stalwarts in ensuring that the Green has always looked magnificent.

Successful fund-raising events continue to be an essential source of income for the Trust. A new Events Committee was formed last November to organise fund-raising events. The chair is Lyn Jacobs aided by Joyce Peachey, Elizabeth Jones, Jenny Sharples, and Di Ashby and recently by Sally Cooper.

During the period covered by this report events raised over £3609. The events were the Lansdown Open Gardens on June 6th, the Summer Fair and produce sale on August Bank Holiday Monday, and a visit to Sir Roy Strong's garden The Laskett in Herefordshire in September managed by Elizabeth Jones. The latter part of 2015 will see more events to be covered in the next report and include a Halloween party for local children on October 31st, an illustrated talk on the Masai Mara and Christmas wreath making on December 5th run by Jackie Harris, where mulled wine and mince pies will round off the afternoon. Events planned for 2016 will include a talk on Lansdown with Dr Amy Frost, an Easter event for families, the Lansdown Open Gardens, the Summer Fair, a garden visit and maybe a wine tasting in conjunction with Great Western Wines.

Many thanks to the Events Committee members and all of the additional volunteers for the hard work and energy needed to ensure that we have successful events which as well as raising money gives everyone lots of fun. Many thanks also to all the supporters of the Millennium Green who attend these events, without whom we would not be able to raise these much needed funds.

During the year B&NES Council solicited nominations for green spaces that could be part of the Local Green Space Designations under the National Planning Policy Framework. The Trustees submitted a nomination for the Millennium Green. This will be included in the consultation on the B&NES Placemaking Plan in November 2015. The benefit of the Millennium Green becoming a designated Local Green Space is that any future development on the land would be impossible other than in "very special circumstances". This should give an extra level of protection against any future development on the Millennium Green.

Over the past years people have been supporting the Millennium Green through either the Friends of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green and The Allotments or through the 'Fund A Day' scheme. Whereas over the year covered by this report the number of people donating through these schemes has held up, over time the amount being raised through these schemes is declining. A simplification has been made in that there is now a single donation

form that people can use to support the Millennium Green. Using the new form people can either give a one-off donation or participate in the 'Fund a Day' scheme via a Standing Order. However people support the Millennium Green they will be known as a 'Friend of the Millennium Green'. Many thanks to Chris Champion for redesigning the donations leaflet.

As will be covered in the Treasurer's report the Millennium Green remains in a healthy financial position for the present. This year the Trustees were able to transfer a surplus of £7850 from cash into our capital reserve. However one thing is becoming clear which is that increasing revenue from fund-raising events will be needed to offset declining income from supporters' donations – i.e. the old Friends and 'Fund a Day' subscriptions.

In last year's Annual Report I covered a number of factors that are essential in ensuring the healthy position of the Millennium Green over the next 15 years. These factors remain much the same and to update where we stand on these:

- **Infrastructure & Maintenance.** The infrastructure of the Millennium Green is not extensive but here are items that will need renewal and maintenance over an extended period. At present the day to day gardening and maintenance activities are well covered but in time a number of more significant items requiring capital expenditure will need to be addressed – e.g. renewal of the stage, maintenance of the fort and the gifted land, replace the totem poles etc. Some repairs have been carried out to the stage this year and repairs have been made to the wall in the gifted land. An ongoing task for the Trustees over the next years will be to identify and prioritise further activities and to ensure that the funding and resources are in place to enable these activities to be carried out.
- **Resources.** Over the past 15 years the Millennium Green has been very lucky in having a core of volunteers and supporters who have supported the maintenance and fundraising activities for the Green. In recent years there has also been a paid gardener for the Green. Looking forward it is vital that we continue to have an active set of core volunteers and supporters to ensure the health of the Green for the next 15 years. A challenge for the Trustees over the next few years is to ensure that we are doing all we can to bring on a new generation of volunteers to support the Green. A very positive recent sign has been the participation of young families in the Halloween Party on the Green which we hope will lead to an increase of younger supporters of the Green.
- **Financial Viability.** The present financial status of the Green is healthy as outlined in the Financial Report. However looking at the next 15 years there are challenges ahead. Currently the 'running costs' of the Green are c. £8000 per annum. Assuming a 2% inflation rate over the next 15 years that requires c. £139,000 to maintain the Green 'as is'. On top of this would be amounts required for capital expenditure to refurbish the stage, the fort etc. This means that the Trustees have a key

responsibility to continue to build up the capital reserves of the Trust to ensure financial viability for the next 15 years. With the likely decrease in subscription donations over time it means that continued fund raising activities are vital not just to contribute funds towards the 'running costs' of the Green, but also to provide funds to enable the capital reserve to grow.

During this year the following Trustees were re-elected to serve for another 4 years:

- Ian Wilson, Mary Ede, Brenda Bridgeman, Claire Smith, Jackie Harris & Maggie Roper

Finally Maggie Roper has decided to step down from her position as Secretary to the Millennium Green Trust. All the Trustees would like to thank Maggie for her hard work and contributions over the past years as Secretary. In the meantime Chris Champion will act as interim Secretary.

Financial report

The attached accounts show that the Trust has again received more money than it has expended due to the hard work of our Events Committee and the generosity of the Friends and 'Fund a Day' donations. Further investments were made at the start of the year and the total yield on our investments is now running at approximately £2000 a year.

Cash on hand (approximately £9,000) together with planned income for 2016 will cover the running costs for next year and we anticipate being able to increase reserves again at the end of 2016 to help secure the long term funding of the Millennium Green.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their contributions over the past year. They have always been willing to lend a hand with whatever task needs doing. The Stephen's Millennium Green has been a wonderful community asset for over 15 years. It is my goal, and the goal of the Trustees that it continues to be a wonderful local asset over the next 15 years.

Ian Wilson

Chairman

Dated: 16/11/2015