

# St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

## Annual Report for the year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust of 3 Richmond Hill, Bath, BA1 5QT was registered by the Charity Commission under the terms of a Declaration of Trust dated 5 May 1999 as amended by Scheme dated 22 Jan 2019. 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

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

Ian Wilson, 3 Richmond Hill, Bath (Chairman)

Anne Claxton, Hill House, Richmond Hill, Bath

Peter Akbar, Flat 2, 7 Mount Beacon, Bath

Chris Melbourne, 11 Richmond Road, 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**

The past year, the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green's existence, has been another year of successes and achievements. The Millennium Green continues to thrive and is seen as a valuable asset by the local community.

This year has seen some changes to the line up of Trustees. Chris Champion, Howard Jacobs and Lyn Jacobs have resigned as Trustees. Our many thanks to each of them for their

contribution over the past years and in particular to Chris for his support for many Trust activities, to Howard for his work on updating the Deed of Trust, and to Lyn for her work in organising many successful fund-raising events.

We are very pleased that Peter Akbar and Chris Melbourne have agreed to become Trustees and we look forward to their support for the Trust in the coming years.

The Green has been in wonderful condition throughout the year and as always many thanks to our gardener John Gibbon, and to two of the Trustees, Jackie Harris and Brenda Bridgeman, who work so hard to ensure that the Green has always looked at its very best.

A specific project that was planned for this year involved the refurbishment of the pond which has been leaking for many years. There were some delays to starting this work but I can now report the refurbishment was completed just over a week ago and the pond is back to its original condition.

Earlier in the year The Millennium Green was one of the gardens/open spaces that were judged are part on Bath's entry in "Britain in Bloom". Bath was awarded a Gold medal and the Millennium Green got very positive comments from the judges.

Just recently the Millennium Green featured in Bath Life with a very positive article together with some excellent photographs of the Green.

The financial position of the Trust will be covered in detail in the Financial Report but the key points are that the Trust's income for the past year exceeded expenditure and the Trust is once again able to grow the capital reserve fund. A healthy capital reserve fund is essential to ensure the long term future of the Green in the event of reductions in the sources of the Trust's income.

Donations have been a major source of revenue for the Trust. It is pleasing to report that the income from donations this year is above the income from donations in the previous year with the number of donors holding steady. We are especially grateful for significant donations from Harriet Oldridge, Noeleen Charlesworth, Peter Akbar, Lorna and Michael Powne, and Hilary and Malcolm Buchan. In the future it is important that the Trust manages to maintain donations at the current level.

Another key source of revenue for the Trust is the fund-raising events held throughout the year. During the period covered by this Annual Report there were several very successful fund-raising events which provided plenty of entertainment for the local community as well as raising much needed funds for the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

On Easter Sunday there was an Easter Egg Hunt on the Green for children. With a sunny day and temperatures in the mid twenties many families turned up to enjoy a very successful community get together. As well as the egg hunt there was also the making of bunny ear head dresses and pony rides. The children had a lovely time.

There was no charge for this event but sales of tea and cakes together with donations on the day raised nearly £300.

The Lansdown Open Gardens on Sunday June 30th was a great success. The weather was perfect and six beautiful gardens were open. Over 260 visitors visited the gardens and enjoyed delicious home-made cakes and teas as well as purchasing plants from the plant stall. The day raised over £2000 towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green and for the renovation of the pond.

On Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a "Tea & Talk" with Amy Frost. Amy's subject was "Rediscovering Beckford's Landscape at Lansdown" and the audience learnt how Beckford created a garden and ride extending from his house in Lansdown Crescent all the way up to his Tower on the Lansdown plateau. The event was a sell-out with 75 attendees and the event raised almost £800 towards the upkeep of the Green.

Particular thanks must go to Brenda Bridgeman and Jackie Harris for playing the lead role in organising these events and thanks to everyone who volunteered to help at the events.

As shown in Financial Report fund-raising events are a key component of the Trust's annual income. It is important therefore that we continue with these events not solely as a means of raising funds but also as events for the local community. The Trustees will lead the way of this but as always we will need the help of volunteers from the local community to make these events a success.

The minor amendments to the Deed of Trust proposed by the Trustees have now been approved as a Scheme by the Charity Commission in January this year. These amendments address a few omissions and some clauses that are now incorrect or irrelevant in the original Deed of Trust. The Trustees believed that these changes are important so that in the future there could be no legal challenge to the validity of the Trust and its operation. The Trustees did not want this to be an issue in the future when, for example, the current lease of the Allotments expires.

Many thanks to Howard Jacobs for bringing this matter to a final conclusion.

Email continues to be the primary method of communication with supporters of the Green and we currently have a well qualified list of 125 subscribers. The website ([www.millenniumgreen.org.uk](http://www.millenniumgreen.org.uk)) is being kept up to date but we had an issue earlier in the year when our hosting provider deleted all content from our web server. The website was rapidly rebuilt from backup copies and was only offline for a short period.

In past years there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour from youths on the Green. We are happy to report no significant repetition of this problem this year apart from some activity in the early Spring that was reported to the police and has not reoccurred.

One of the roles of the current Trustees is to ensure the Millennium is “future proof”. The factors that will ensure a healthy future for the Millennium Green remain much the same as discussed in previous AGMs:

- **Infrastructure & Maintenance.** At present the day to day gardening and maintenance activities are well covered but the Trustees need to be considering how these will be covered in the future. The refurbishment of the pond is an example of a capital expenditure that is needed for long term maintenance. In time significant items requiring capital expenditure will need to be addressed – e.g. renewal of the stage, maintenance of the fort and the gifted land.
- **Resources.** Since inception 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 and it is our intent to always continue with this model. 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 future. A continuing challenge for the Trustees is to ensure that we are doing all we can to bring on a new generation of volunteers to support the Green.
- **Financial Viability.** The present financial status of the Green is healthy as outlined in the Financial Report. However looking at the future there are challenges ahead and 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 or more years.

Next year will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Stephen’s Millennium Green. It is to the credit to everyone who has been involved in the Millennium Green over the past years that it has thrived and prospered over the past 19 years. Based on the figures from the Charity Commission the St. Stephen’s Millennium Green is in the top 12 Green’s in the country based on annual income.

### **Financial report**

In this period the income for the Trust was £11559 and expenditure was £6655 giving a surplus of £4904. During this period new investments were made totalling £4100.

### **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 19 years. It is my goal, and the goal of the Trustees that it continues to be a wonderful local asset over the next 19 or more years.

Ian Wilson

Chairman

Dated: 01/12/2019