

St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

Annual Report for the year 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021.

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 a Scheme dated 22 Jan 2019. Registered charity number is 1076240. The Trust Deed is available for inspection by appointment.

The Trustees

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

Duncan Spooner, 15 Springfield Place, Bath

Anne Love, 12 St. Stephen's Close, 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 a Local Green Space.

Progress Report

The past year, the 21st year of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green's existence, has been a very successful year despite the continuing challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Green has been in a magnificent condition throughout the year, usage of the Green has been high, improvements to the Green have been made, and the financial state of the Trust is very healthy.

This year has seen a change to the line-up of Trustees with the retirement of two Trustees. After over 20 years Mary Ede decided to retire as a Trustee. Mary had been involved with

the Millennium Green from its very early days and was one of the group of people who worked hard to preserve the land that became the Millennium Green and the St. Stephen's Allotments from the hands of developers.

As well as serving as a Trustee for many years Mary has also supported many of the Millennium Green fund-raising events. In particular Mary did much to support the Lansdown Open Gardens which has become a well-established annual event for the local community.

After 20 years of sterling service to the St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust Jackie Harris also decided to retire as a Trustee.

The Trustees would like to thank Jackie for her tireless support of the Millennium Green over many years and for her great work in organising many fund-raising events over two decades. The financial health of the Trust owes a great deal to Jackie's fund-raising efforts.

Jackie also spent much time helping with plantings and gardening on the Green. The current magnificent state of the Green is in a significant part down to her dedication and efforts over the past years.

The Trustees would also like to thank Jackie's husband Richard for all the effort he has put into fund-raising events over the past years.

We are very pleased that Anne Love has agreed to become a Trustee and we look forward to her support to the Trust in the coming years. Anne, together with John Gibbon our gardener, will focus on the maintenance and the development of the Green.

The Millennium Green has been in wonderful condition throughout the year and as always many thanks to our gardener John Gibbon, to Jackie Harris and now also to Anne Love, who have worked so hard to ensure that the Green has always looked at its very best. During the lockdown periods earlier in the year the Green was heavily used by many people seeking some relief from the rigours of the lockdowns.

During the year work started on the renewal of the paths on the Millennium Green which have suffered increased wear from heavy use during the lockdowns. The section of the path from Richmond Road up to the entrance to the Green has been renewed. Over the coming years the paths around the Green will be renewed. Thanks to Duncan Spooner for leading the team who carried out this work.

The financial position of the Trust is covered in detail in the Financial Report, but the key point is that the Trust's income for the past year exceeded expenditure due to a number of large donations and a very successful Lansdown Open Gardens. This means that this year the Trust will be able to add to the capital reserve fund.

Donations have been a major source of income for the Trust. This year the income from donations is significantly above the income from donations in the previous year. We are

especially grateful for significant donations from the Barbara O'Connor, Margaret Ledbury, Howard Weston, Jonathan Nash, Michael Smith, Holly Mitchell, Tom Baines, & Harriet Oldridge. In the future it is important that the Trust continues to maintain a strong income stream from donations.

This year the Trust added a new income stream in the form of the Millennium Green Lottery. This was launched in March 2021 with tickets priced at £2 each per month and a draw taking place monthly. 50% of ticket sales go to the monthly prize and 50% towards the upkeep of the Green. Currently 113 tickets have been sold giving a monthly prize of £113. The Lottery has contributed £1531 towards the upkeep of the Green for this year.

Fund-raising events provide an important source of income for the Trust as well as providing events to be enjoyed by the whole community. During the year we managed to hold three fund-raising events as pandemic restrictions eased.

In December 2020 there was a Jam & Chutney sale on the Millennium Green organised by Jackie Harris which was a great success. All the products were sold out after 40 minutes and £183 was raised towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

The Millennium Green's first foray into virtual talks using Zoom in March 2021 was very successful. Local author, travel writer and 'Turkophile' Jeremy Seal gave a fascinating talk on his latest book 'A Coup in Turkey'. In all over £120 was raised for the Millennium Green.

After most pandemic restrictions had been lifted a delayed Lansdown Open Gardens event was held in August 2021. The event was a great success with a dry sunny day after a long period of wet weather. Five gardens and the Millennium Green all looked resplendent in perfect summer sunshine. Over 325 visitors came and sales of entry tickets, teas, plants and preserves, and raffle tickets raised over £3,000 towards the maintenance of the Green.

Thanks to all the garden owners, to Jackie Harris and Peter Akbar for organising, and to all the volunteers who helped to make the day so successful.

The Trustees believe that it is important 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 on this but as always, we will need the help of volunteers from the local community to make these events a success.

Email continues to be the primary method of communication with supporters of the Green and we currently have a well qualified list of over 155 subscribers. Our website www.millenniumgreen.org.uk is updated with new information about the Millennium Green. In addition we have a presence on Instagram (@mgigram) with 118 followers.

The Trustees would like to give special thanks to Sue & Anthony Branfoot for their work in keeping the path between Lansdown Road and Lansdown Mews clear of rubbish and weeds. The path is owned by the Trust, so we are very grateful for Sue & Anthony's efforts.

In past years there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour from youths on the Green but for this year no incidents of vandalism have occurred.

Looking forward to next 12 months the Trustees will continue to maintain and develop the Millennium Green. The work to renew the paths on the Green will continue and a new water tank to capture rainwater will be installed enabling rainwater to be used to water the Green and to refill the pond. At the same time a number of minor repairs to the shed will be carried out. New plantings will also be made on the Green

It is the Trustees intention to hold the Lansdown Open Gardens in June 2022 as our major fund-raising and community event. We also to hope to hold other events such as a 'Talk with Wine' during 2022.

In the longer term there will be other major works to be carried out on the Millennium Green. The fort is showing its age and the 'patching up' repairs that have been made will not last very much longer. The stage on the Millennium Green will also need some major repairs in the near future.

The present financial status of the Green is healthy as outlined in the Financial Report. However looking to the future there will be significant items of capital expenditure such as the examples above. 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.

This year was the 21st anniversary of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green. It is to the credit to everyone who has been involved in the Millennium that it has thrived and prospered over the past 21 years.

Financial report

In this period the income for the Trust was £15306 and expenditure was £8750 giving a surplus of £6556. It should be noted that Lottery prize payments of £548 are outstanding against Lottery tickets that are already paid for. New investments out of the surplus will be made by the Trust this year.

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 St. Stephen's Millennium Green has been a wonderful community asset for over 21 years. It is my goal, and the goal of the Trustees, that it continues to be a wonderful local asset over the next 21 or more years.

Ian Wilson

Chairman

Dated: 05/12/2021