

# St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

## Annual Report for the year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green's existence, has been another very successful year with normality returning after the Covid-19 pandemic. The Green has been in an excellent condition throughout the year although it did suffer during the summer months due to drought conditions. With a good amount of rain since the summer the Green has recovered to its normal condition. Further improvements to the Green have been made, and the financial state of the Trust is healthy.

There have been no changes this year to the line-up of Trustees.

The Trustees would like to thank our gardener John Gibbon for his work over the past year in keeping the Green in its excellent condition. Thanks also to Anne Love for working with John to maintain the Green. In Spring the Green was looking especially colourful so the first Millennium Green photo contest was held using Instagram. There were over eighty high quality entries, and the Trustees had a tough job selecting the winning photo. It is our intention to make this an annual competition.

Further work was carried out during the year on the paths around the Millennium Green which had suffered increased wear from heavy use during the lockdowns. Most of the paths around the Green have been renewed. The remaining renewal work on the paths should be completed over the next year. 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

Donations have always been a major source of income for the Trust. This year the income from donations was below the income from donations in the previous year. In the previous year the Trust received a number of large one-off donations. We are especially grateful for significant donations this year from Jessica Schol-Bink, Mr & Mrs Key, & Jonathan Nash. In the future it is important that the Trust continues to maintain a strong income stream from donations.

The Millennium Green Lottery is a recent addition to the Millennium Green income streams. Tickets are priced at £2 each per month with a draw taking place monthly. 50% of ticket sales go to the monthly prize and 50% towards the upkeep of the Green. Over the past year the monthly prize has been over £100 each month. The Lottery has contributed over £1300 towards the upkeep of the Green over the past 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 held two fundraising events.

We reintroduced our 'Talk with Wine' events with a talk by Professor Barry Gilbertson in April. His talk on 'World Heritage – It's Importance to Bath' was very well received with over 70 attendees and over £650 raised towards the upkeep of the Green.

The Lansdown Open Gardens event reverted to the usual timing in June. The event was very successful despite some late afternoon rain with over 240 visitors viewing seven remarkable gardens across Lansdown. Delicious cakes and teas were enjoyed by all on the Millennium Green. The event raised over £2100 towards the upkeep of the Green.

Thanks to all the garden owners, to Chris Melbourne 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 to continue with these events not solely as a means of raising funds but also as events for the local community. We will be continuing with the 'Talk with Wine' series and hope to hold more events on the Green such as the upcoming 'Carols on the Green'. As always, 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 166 subscribers. Our website [www.millenniumgreen.org.uk](http://www.millenniumgreen.org.uk) is regularly updated with new information about the Millennium Green. In addition we have a presence on Instagram (@mgigram) with 141 followers.

The website was the target of unsuccessful hacking attempts during the year with over 2000 attempted admin logins per day at one point. Additional security steps reduced this to zero and no damage was done to the website.

The garden off Lansdown Road which is owned by the Trust was re-let this year after the previous licensees gave up the garden after 11 years. The rent from this garden is an important source of income for the Trust.

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 should be completed. The rotten decking by then pond is being replaced 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 2023 as our major fund-raising and community event. We also to hope to hold more 'Talk with Wine' events during the year and a 'Carols on the Green' event in December 2022.

In the longer term there will be more 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. Renewing or replacing the fort will be a major project.

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.

The current financial climate of very high inflation and an uncertain investment environment presents challenges to the Trust as for many other organisations. It is important that the Trust maintains and if possible, grows its current income streams.

### **Financial report**

For the Financial year 2021/22 income for the Trust was £15065.09 and expenses for the Trust (less cost of new investments) were £10983.50 giving a surplus of £4081.59. Giving the need for spending on renewal projects in 2022/23 the Trustees have decided to retain this surplus as cash.

### **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 22 years. It is my goal, and the goal of the Trustees, that it continues to be a wonderful local asset over the next 22 or more years.

Ian Wilson

Chairman

Dated: 28/11/2022