

# St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

## Annual Report for the year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

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

Arwel Lewis, Westfield House, Weston 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 Millennium Green, to develop The Millennium 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 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green's existence, has been another very successful year both in terms of the upkeep of the Millennium Green and the financial position of the Trust. The Millennium Green has been in an excellent condition throughout the year and fortunately did not suffer the drought conditions of the previous year.

This year we were very glad to have Arwel Lewis join us as a Trustee.

Once again, the Trustees would like to thank our gardener John Gibbon for his work over the past year in keeping the Millennium Green in its excellent condition. Thanks also to Trustee Anne Love for working with John to maintain the Millennium Green.

This Spring we once again held the Spring Photo Competition and once again the Millennium Green was looking full of colour. We had 54 wonderful entries which made judging difficult but the photo by Adam Wilkes was a worthy winner.

During the year several improvement and repair projects on the Millennium Green were carried out. Renewal of the paths on the Millennium Green was completed and many thanks to Duncan Spooner and his team for carrying out this work.

The decking around the pond was becoming rotten so our gardener John Gibbon did an outstanding job installing new decking which has significantly improved the appearance of the pond.

Another major project was the installation of a 1000 litre rainwater tank. This will allow much greater use of rainwater for watering the Millennium Green versus using mains water. Thanks to Anne Love for organising this and to John Gibbon for the installation.

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. The Trust will make additional investments to increase the Trust's capital reserve.

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 years. We are especially grateful for a significant donation this year from Jonathan Nash. The Trust were also fortunate to receive a sizeable legacy. In the future it is important that the Trust continues to maintain a strong income stream from donations.

The Millennium Green Lottery is now an established income stream for the Millennium Green. 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 Millennium Green. Over the past year the monthly prize has been between £90 and £100. The Lottery has contributed over £1290 towards the upkeep of the Millennium 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 four fundraising events.

We continued with our 'Talk with Wine' series of events. In October 2022 Sally Helvey gave a fascinating talk on the history of the Cleveland Pools and the story of the Pools restoration. The event had over 70 attendees and made over £630 profit which went towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

In April 2023 Sarah Simmonds gave a fascinating talk about the very special features that qualify Stonehenge and Avebury for their place on the World Heritage List as well as the challenges of managing these complex cultural landscapes. There were over 50 attendees and over £560 was raised toward the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

In December 2022 there was a new community event - 'Carols on the Green'. The event was a great success. The weather was perfect for the event with a clear sky and an almost full moon giving a wonderful frosty and crisp seasonal atmosphere. Over 80 people attended, and the CitySound Voices Bath Choir gave a rousing rendition of favourite carols. Although this event was planned as a community event rather than a fundraising event, sales of mulled wine, mince pies etc. resulted in a healthy profit going towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

This year's Lansdown Open Gardens in June was a great success despite some rain early in the afternoon. Over 340 visitors, a record number, viewed six wonderful gardens around Lansdown. The plant sale on the Millennium Green did a roaring trade, and many visitors enjoyed scrumptious cakes and teas in the St. Stephen's Centre.

Overall the event raised over £3200 towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green. Many thanks to all the garden owners, helpers and volunteers who made that day such a success.

We will 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 will repeat the 'Carols on the Green' this Christmas. 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 a key method of communication with supporters of the Millennium Green, and we currently have a well-qualified list of over 168 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 166 followers.

In past years there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour from youths on the Millennium 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 fort is gradually showing its age and has recently required some emergency repairs. Over the coming months the Trustees will need to make decisions about the long-term future of the fort. We are also very glad that a new gardener, Chris Brett, is coming on board to help John Gibbon with gardening tasks on the Millennium Green. New plantings will also be made on the Millennium Green to ensure a good display of colours next Spring and Summer.

It is the Trustees intention to hold the Lansdown Open Gardens in June 2024 as our major fund-raising and community event along with other events during the year as outlined above. Anyone in the Lansdown area who would like to open up their garden should contact one of the Trustees.

The present financial status of the Millennium Green is very healthy as outlined in the Financial Report. However, looking to the future there will be significant items of capital therefore 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.

June 2025 will see the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Millennium Green. The Trustees are already starting to think of ways to mark that anniversary. The Trustees will be considering one or more special projects on the Millennium Green as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as a celebration event on the Millennium Green in 2025. Any ideas for special projects gratefully received.

### **Financial report**

For this period the Trust's income was £18176 with an expenditure of £13629. The full Financial Report is available at

[www.millenniumgreen.org.uk/MG\\_Financial\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](http://www.millenniumgreen.org.uk/MG_Financial_Report_2023.pdf).

### **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 23 years. It is my goal, and the goal of the Trustees, that it continues to be a wonderful local asset over the next 23 or more years.

Ian Wilson

Chairman

Dated: 11/11/2023