

St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

Annual Report for the year 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024.

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

Jonathan Nash, 9 Richmond Hill, 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 24th 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 despite the amount of rain over the past 12 months.

This year we were very pleased to have local resident Jonathan Nash join as a Trustee. Jonathan will bring much experience and expertise that will be of great help to the Trust.

We now have an additional part-time gardener, Chris Brett, to help our existing gardener, John Gibbon, maintain the Millennium Green. The Trustees would like to thank both John and Chris for their work over the past year in keeping the Millennium Green in its excellent condition. Thanks also to Trustee Anne Love for working with John and Chris to maintain the Millennium Green.

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 also made 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 above that of the previous year as we have received a number of donations to help with our 25th Anniversary Project. We are especially grateful for significant donations this year from Jonathan Nash, John Yallop, Margaret Ledbury, and Barbara O'Connor. 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 £85 and £96. The Lottery has contributed over £1499 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 three fundraising events.

We continued with our 'Talk with Wine' series of events. In October 2023 Stuart Burroughs gave a fascinating and engaging talk about the commercial and industrial history of Bath with some very interesting facts and anecdotes. The event had over 60 attendees and made over £500 profit which went towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

In April 2024 Peter Davenport gave an excellent talk on the topic of 'The People of Roman Bath' to an audience of over 65 people. Peter provided the audience with very interesting insights into the lives of the people, both inhabitants and visitors, in Roman Bath over several centuries. Over £550 was raised toward the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

In December 2023 we had planned to repeat our new community event - 'Carols on the Green'. Unfortunately due to very heavy rain the event had to be cancelled. We plan to hold this event again in December 2024.

This year's Lansdown Open Gardens in June was a great success. The weather was perfect for this year's Lansdown Open Gardens event, and we had a record number of over 400 visitors looking at all the wonderful gardens.

Overall the event raised over £3500 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 are planning to repeat the 'Carols on the Green' this Christmas (weather permitting). 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 is regularly updated with new information about the Millennium Green. In addition we have a presence on Instagram (@mgigram) with 173 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. As 2025 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the Millennium Green the Trustees have decided that it would be timely to replace the timber fort on the Millennium Green and make this our 25th Anniversary Project.

Over the past few years the fort has been showing its age and has needed a lot of patching up to keep it in place and to keep it safe. Many of the timber posts are rotting at the bottom and the overall structural integrity is degrading.

The Trustees have decided to remove the old fort and to replace it with a seating area on top of the remodelled mound so that everyone can enjoy the vista. There will be steps through the landscape leading up to the new stone and timber bench which will be circular so that small groups can gather together. A route will lead on through the landscape to a willow house with openings looking out at varying heights, before connecting back to the existing path. This new feature will be called 'The Lookout'

Depending on the situation regarding planning permission, work should start on this project in the New Year 2025 and should be complete in time for the 25th Anniversary in June 2025.

Many thanks to Trustee Anne Claxton for leading the way on this project.

It is the Trustees' intention to hold the Lansdown Open Gardens in June 2025 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 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. The 25th Anniversary Project will require significant capital expenditure. However, the Trustees will continue to have a key responsibility to build up the capital reserves of the Trust to ensure financial viability for the next 15 or more years.

Financial report

To be added.

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: 17/11/2024