

# St Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

## Annual Report for the year 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

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. 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)

Lyn Jacobs, 9 Springfield Place, Bath

Chris Champion, 7 Lansdown Place West, Bath

Howard Jacobs, 9 Springfield Place, 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**

This year, the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green's existence, has been yet 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 there has been one change in the line-up of Trustees. Maggie Roper has stepped down as a Trustee. We would like to thank Maggie for all her hard work in supporting the

Green over many years. Maggie's efforts, together with the efforts of her late husband Brian, contributed a great deal in making the Green the wonderful space that we all enjoy today.

We are looking to appoint a new Trustee to replace Maggie. If anyone is interested in taking on that role they should contact the Chairman.

As always the Green has been looking in excellent condition throughout the year and its appearance continues to attract many favourable comments. Our thanks are due once again 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 at its very best.

Once again we have been fortunate that the Millennium Green has not suffered unduly from vandalism apart from one incident. One of the totem poles was bent back to such an extent that it was beyond repair. For some time the Trustees had been considering replacing the totem poles so the decision was taken to remove all three totem poles. Plans for a replacement for the totem poles are underway.

During the period covered by this Annual Report there were seven very successful fund-raising events organised by Lyn Jacobs and the Events Committee. These events provided plenty of entertainment for the local community as well as raising much needed funds for the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

On Oct 31st 2015 there was a Halloween party on the Green on a bright sunny autumn afternoon. Around 100 children and parents enjoyed the spooky quiz and events ably organised by Claire and Chris Champion whilst Lyn Jacobs and Jenny Sharples in witches hats served a cauldron of hot chocolate and biscuits. The event was free but generous donations of £121 were collected.

A Tea and Talk on the Masai Mara was held on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2015. There was a packed room of 60 people and another fascinating and engrossing talk by our local traveller and photographer, Alistair Chalmers. This talk raised £600.

On December 4th 2015 Jackie Harris and her team organised a Christmas wreath-making event in St Stephen's Centre. The funds from this and sales of Christmas gifts raised £361.

On February 20th 2016 Amy Frost was our guest speaker for an illustrated talk on the 'History of Lansdown Road' followed by a full afternoon tea. With a record attendance of over 60 £637 was raised.

In May, a visit to Bowood house and Gardens was organised with 27 participants travelling by coach. The event, though very popular, just managed to break even. The price of entrance fee and lunch meant that the cost was relatively high at £45. The date, just after the Spring Bank holiday, may also have had an effect on numbers. The Events Committee will continue to pursue garden and house visit ideas in 2017.

On June 5th the annual Lansdown Open Gardens took place on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon. Seven local gardens opened including two in Charlcombe which were accessed by a minibus provided by Bath Community Transport. Plant sales and teas helped to raise a record £2695 after all expenses.

On August 29th the annual Summer Fair and Produce Sale was held on the Millennium Green. Warm sunny weather enabled the event to be held in the open air for the first time in three years. Thanks to all the volunteers for such hard work in setting up and running stalls. Their efforts helped raise £1456 after all expenses.

The total amount raised by events this financial year was £5870.

Many thanks to the Events Committee members Lyn Jacobs, Joyce Peachey, Elizabeth Jones, Jenny Sharples, and Di Ashby and all the other helpers for making these many events so successful. As well raising money for the Millennium Green these events are appreciated as wonderful community events by all who attend.

Last year B&NES Council solicited nominations for green spaces that could be part of the Local Green Space Designations under the National Planning Policy Framework. The Trustees submitted a nomination for the Millennium Green. The nomination has been accepted by B&NES and is included in the list of B&NES Local Green Space Designations. This should give an extra level of protection against any future development on the Millennium Green.

As was mentioned in the last Annual Report there is now a single donation form that people can use to support the Millennium Green. Using the new form people can either give a one-off donation or participate in the 'Fund a Day' scheme via a standing order. Anyone supporting the Millennium Green in either way will continue to be known as a 'Friend of the Millennium Green'. The good news is that during the financial year covered by this report the amount raised from these donations was £1740 from 102 donors, a small increase over the amount raised by equivalent donations the previous year.

One administrative task has been undertaken by the Trustees this year was to make some minor amendments to the Declaration of Trust that established the St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust and is the governing document for the Trust. When the Trust was originally setup a standard template provided by the Millennium Commission was used to frame the Declaration of Trust. This contained a few omissions and some clauses that are now incorrect or irrelevant. The Trustees made the decision to engage a firm of solicitors, Royds Withy King, to revise the Deed of Trust. The Trustees believed this is 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.

The changes to the Deed of Trust focus on the proper definition of the locality served by the Green, the scheduling of Annual General Meetings, erection of temporary structures for events, and the process for amendments to the Declaration of Trust. None of these changes affect in any way Charitable Objectives or the operations of the Trust. Many thanks to Howard Jacobs for working on this issue.

Email has become the primary method of communication with supporters of the Green and we now have almost 200 people on our email list. The website ([www.millenniumgreen.org.uk](http://www.millenniumgreen.org.uk)) is also very active and every effort is made to keep it up to date. If you 'google' 'Millennium Green' you will see that the Green appears extremely prominently on Google.

As will be covered in the Treasurer's report the Millennium Green remains in a healthy financial position for the present with income exceeding expenditure leaving the Trustees in the position to make further investments to build up capital reserves.

In previous Annual Reports I have covered a number of factors that are essential in ensuring the healthy position of the Millennium Green over the next 15 or so years. These factors remain much the same and to update where we stand on these:

- **Infrastructure & Maintenance.** The infrastructure of the Millennium Green is not extensive but here are items that will need renewal and maintenance over an extended period. At present the day to day gardening and maintenance activities are well covered but in time a number of more significant items requiring capital expenditure will need to be addressed – e.g. renewal of the stage, maintenance of the fort and the gifted land. An activity for coming year will be filling the space left by the removal of the totem poles. An ongoing task for the Trustees over the next years will be to identify and prioritise further activities and to ensure that the funding and resources are in place to enable these activities to be carried out.
- **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 challenge for the Trustees over the next few years 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. Currently the 'running costs' of the Green are now c. £9000 per annum. Assuming a 2% inflation rate over the next 15 years that requires c. £156,000 to maintain the

Green 'as is'. On top of this would be amounts required for capital expenditure to refurbish the stage, the fort etc. This means that 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.

In conclusion I would like to share some facts that I recently unearthed. Back in June 1999 according to an old Millennium Commission newsletter that I discovered 468 Millennium Greens were underway or planned. According to the Charity Commission website there are 187 Millennium Green Trusts currently in existence. Out of these 187 the St. Stephen's Millennium Green is certainly in the top 10 in terms of annual income, and probably in the top 5. This is a great testament to both the original founders of the Green and to the local community for maintaining and supporting the Millennium Green over the past 16 years.

### **Financial report**

The attached accounts show that the Trust has again received more money than it has expended due to the hard work of our Events Committee and the generosity of our donors. Currently the total yield on our investments is now running at approximately £2000 a year.

Cash on hand (approximately £16,400) together with planned income for 2017 will cover the running costs for next year and we anticipate being able to increase reserves again at the end of 2017 to help secure the long term funding of the Millennium Green.

### **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 16 years. It is my goal, and the goal of the Trustees that it continues to be a wonderful local asset over the next 16 years.

Ian Wilson

Chairman

Dated: 15/11/2016