

St. Stephen's Millennium Green Trust

Annual Report for the year 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018.

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, 11 Lansdown Lane, Bath

Howard Jacobs, 9 Springfield Place, Bath

Anne Claxton, Hill House, 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 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

The past year, the 18th year of the St. Stephen's Millennium Green's existence, has been another year of successes and achievements. The Millennium Green continues to thrive and is seen as a valuable asset by the local community.

The Green has been in wonderful condition throughout the year even despite the extended dry spell over the summer. Our thanks as always 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 looked at its very best. Particular thanks to all three for their sterling efforts in watering the Green during the drought.

A number of changes and additions were made to the Green during the year. As the result of a generous donation from Nalini Tondel a sculpture of a dove has been placed next to the water feature. The water feature itself has been enhanced with the old solar panel being replaced with a much more efficient modern panel which is providing a more effective flow of water through the water feature. Many thanks to John Gibbon and Richard Harris for all their hard work that has made this possible. The space formerly occupied by the totem poles has been filled with the planting of a weeping cherry tree. Finally a long overdue risk assessment of the Green was carried out by John Gibbon and Brenda Bridgeman. No significant safety issues were reported.

The financial position of the Trust will be covered in detail in the Financial Report but the key points are that the Trust's income for the past year exceeded expenditure and the Trust is once again able to grow the capital reserve fund. A healthy capital reserve fund is essential to ensure the long term future of the Green in the event of a deterioration in the Trust's income.

Historically donations and fund-raising events have been a major source of revenue for the Trust. It is pleasing to report that the income from donations this year is slightly above the income from donations in the previous year with the number of donors holding steady. We are especially grateful for significant donations from Lorna and Michael Powne and Hilary and Malcolm Buchan. In the future it is important that the Trust manages to maintain donations at the current level.

During the period covered by this Annual Report there were several very successful fund-raising events organised by 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.

In October 2017 Brenda Bridgeman and Jackie Harris held a sale of jams and jellies which raised £69 towards the Green. Jackie Harris also organised a very successful sale of 2018 Millennium Green calendars.

The illustrated talk "Egypt: Northwards on the Nile" by Alastair Chalmers on the 20th January was a highly successful event and our many thanks to Alastair for his fascinating talk. Over 60 people attended and the event which raised over £610 towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green.

The Lansdown Open Gardens on the 10th June was a great success. The weather was perfect and over 320 visitors went around a set of beautiful and stunning gardens. Just over £2700 was raised towards the upkeep of the Millennium Green

Despite the poor weather over the August Bank Holiday weekend the Summer Fair held on the Bank Holiday Monday was a great success and a wonderful community event. In total a profit of nearly £1500 was made which contributed to the Trust's income.

Many thanks to Brenda Bridgeman, Jackie Harris, and Richard Harris who put so much effort into organising the Summer Fair as well as organising the "Jazz on The Green" event that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the bad weather.

Sadly Lyn Jacobs who has been chair of the Events Committee for several years has decided to step down from that role due to other commitments. Many thanks to Lyn and the other members of the Event Committee (Joyce Peachey, Elizabeth Jones, Di Ashby, and Jenny Sharples) and all the cake makers, tea servers, stall minders and all the other helpers who have made these events so enjoyable and successful over the past years.

It is essential for the future of the Green that we actively continue with regular events. In addition to raising money, these maintain the Green as a community amenity and meeting place. We no longer have a standing fund-raising committee and so in future events will be arranged by groups, brought together for each occasion. The Trustees will take the lead on this but they need to be able to rely on the continuing goodwill and generosity of members of the community in volunteering. Events can only go ahead if we have the necessary volunteers and other resources to hold the event.

To be able to organise this, the Trustees would like to create a list of people who they can call upon to help at events. Brenda Bridgeman has kindly offered to hold this list and so we will be asking as many people as possible to contact her (brenda.bridgeman@btinternet.com or 01225 316557).

Last year we reported that the Trustees had made 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 believed that these changes are 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 Trustees have now approved amendments to the Declaration of Trust and the amended Declaration of Trust will now be submitted to the Charity Commission. Many thanks to Howard Jacobs for continuing to work on this issue.

Email continues to be the primary method of communication with supporters of the Green. However this year we had to ensure that the Trust complied with the new GDPR regulations. This meant that we had to contact all the 200+ people on our existing mailing list and ask them to confirm that they still wished to receive emails from the Millennium Green. This resulted in the mailing list shrinking to 118 people but this is now a well qualified list with valid, active email addresses. The website (www.millenniumgreen.org.uk) is also very active and every effort is made to keep it up to date.

Last year we reported incidents of anti-social behaviour from youths on the Green. We are happy to report no significant repetition of this problem this year. One action that we have taken is to reinstall the lighting by the sub-station which is now activated at night by a motion sensor.

Looking to the future the factors that will ensure a healthy future for the Millennium Green remain much the same:

- **Infrastructure & Maintenance.** 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.
- **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 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 and 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.

Financial report

The 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.

Income for the year was just under £13,000 and expenditure was just over £9,500. The expenditure is about £1,000 above normal due to some repair works on the Green.

A further £4000 will be invested to grow the Trust's capital reserve.

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 18 years. It is my goal, and the goal of the Trustees that it continues to be a wonderful local asset over the next 18 years.

Ian Wilson

Chairman

Dated: 26/11/2018