

Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust
Charity No 1075736

Trustees' Annual Report
For the Year ended 28th February 2014

Reference and Administrative Information:

Principal Office 3 Poplar Piece
Inkberrow
Worcester
WR7 4JD

e-mail timpatrickson@hotmail.co.uk

Trustees Timothy J Patrickson (Chairman)
Dinah Griffin (Parish Council nominee)
Wendy Johnson
R John Longstreeth
Graham Mowbray (retired 12th March 2013)
Mark P Robbins
Roderick O Talboys
W Gareth Thomas
John D Tromans (Vice-Chairman)
David M Willis (Treasurer)

Minutes Secretary Mrs Gabriel Allison

Solicitors Kerwoods
7 Church Road
Redditch
Worcestershire
B97 4AD

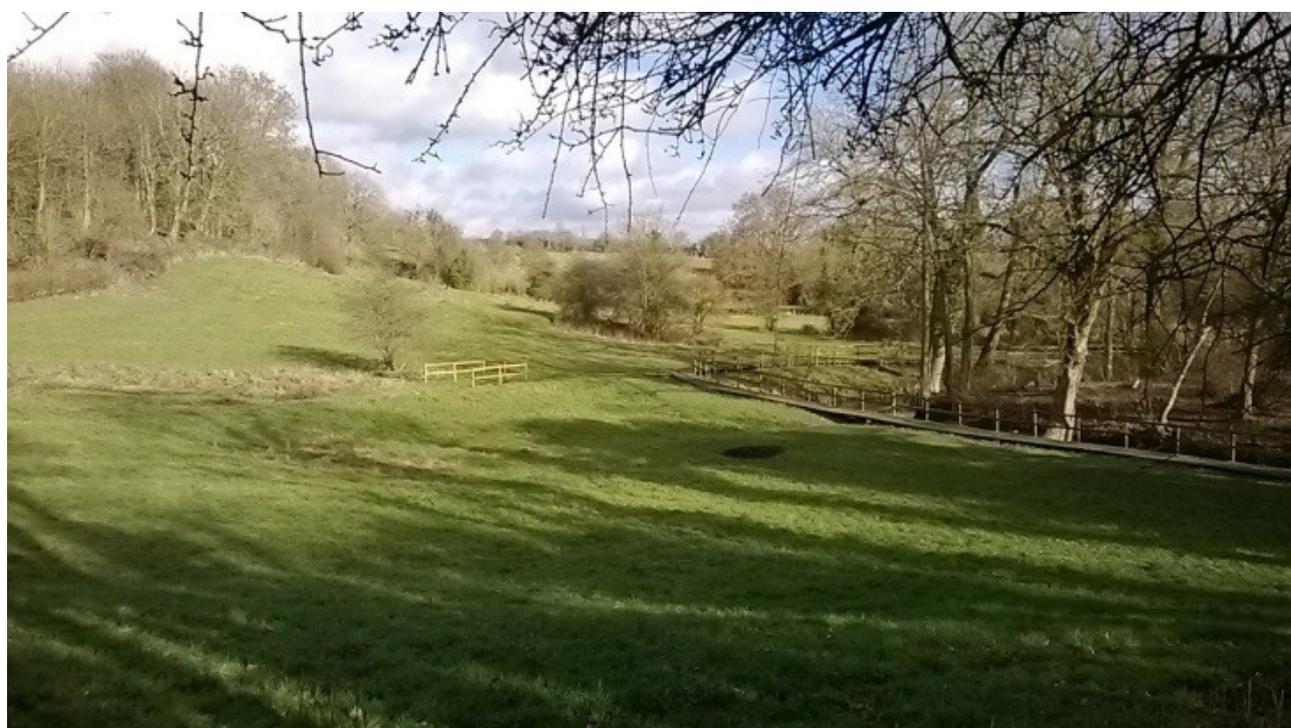
Bankers Barclays Bank plc

Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust

Charity No 1075736

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year ended 28th February 2014

The Trustees of the Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust present their Annual Report for the year ended 28th February 2014. The report has been prepared taking into account the guidance from the Charity Commission that the Charities Act 2011 requires all registered charities to prepare a Trustees' Annual Report, and in particular, the checklist for the simplified annual report for small charities set out in table 11 of appendix 5 of the Charities SORP (2005).



View of Field 1 of the Millennium Green from the lane.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is an unincorporated charity, set up by a Declaration of Trust dated 17th March 1999. Its principal asset is land of approximately 8.7 acres divided into two fields (“the Millennium Green”), the deeds of which are vested in the Official Custodian of Charities. The land is a public open space.

The Millennium Green has an historic moat and fish ponds, “ridge and furrow” landscape and a variety of natural habitats as well as communal areas, all maintained for the benefit of the inhabitants of Inkberrow and the surrounding area. A large part of the first field is covered by a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) designation under the [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#), with management via English Heritage. In addition, the archaeology of the whole site is protected under a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with

Natural England, which started on 1st June 2009 and runs for 10 years until 2019. The HLS Agreement is primarily to protect and improve the wildflower grassland and to improve the biodiversity of the whole site as well as to offer educational access. The Millennium Green is designated a Special Wildlife Site for its relict neutral lowland wildflower grassland.

The Trustees whose names are listed on page 1 are responsible for the management of the Millennium Green. Trustees serve for four year terms and may be reappointed. New Trustees are sought by the existing Trustees, in line with paragraph 6.4 of the Trust Deed, with one Trustee being appointed by Inkberrow Parish Council.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Charity as set out in its governing document are to provide and maintain an open space to be known as the Millennium Green for the benefit of the Inhabitants of Inkberrow and to be used as an area for informal recreation, other leisure-time occupations and community events.

The aims of the Millennium Green are to

- be open and evident to visitors to the locality as well as Inhabitants;
- be able to be enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities;
- be an attractive place for people to take air and exercise and pursue leisure activities;
- include an area suitable for community events and celebrations;
- include significant ‘natural’ areas where people can enjoy nature and wildlife;
- make a positive contribution to the local environment and respect the established character of the area;

The Trustees acknowledge that they have paid due regards to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit. During the year, the Trustees’ main activities undertaken in relation to the objects have been to ensure that the Millennium Green is open to the public as described above and to maintain and improve the biodiversity of the site. All activities are directed towards making the Green an attractive place to visit and towards showing the public that it is cared for and can be used safely and enjoyably.



The site of the new drainage scheme with the newly cut boundary hedge in the background

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees are pleased to report that despite much adverse weather in 2013 - particularly the very cold and wet spring - the Millennium Green has been open every day of the year, for the benefit of the public of Inkberrow and other visitors.

The Green is managed mainly by volunteers. Working parties take place on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at 10.00 a.m., with a schedule of work being set out on a seasonal basis, usually six months in advance. The main aims of the working party are to maintain the Green for the easy access and enjoyment of the inhabitants and, as set out in the HLS agreement, to improve the quality and extend the range of the wildflower grassland and to improve the biodiversity of the whole site and protect the archaeology.

Work involves grass maintenance, with hay cutting and some strimming contracted out, the care of trees and other wildlife, hedge and shrub maintenance, keeping brambles and nettles from becoming too dominant, and maintaining built features, such as the boardwalk, gates and fences at the site. Despite the poor weather and ground conditions, good progress has been made during the year.

The Trustees are very grateful to Wendy Johnson for her hard work and dedication in organizing the working parties, and also in liaising with contractors and local public bodies, including the effort put into the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) contract with Natural England, which has guided much of the work done at the Millennium Green and has substantially supported the finances of the Green in recent years.

Following the restoration of a 12 metre section of the moat bank in 2012, the major project this year was the reconstruction of part of the drainage in Field 1. Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent was obtained, and outside contractors employed. The result has been that even in the very wet weather of Jan 2014, the area of Field 1 that was formerly very poorly drained, to the disadvantage of the public, has remained easily passable by walkers and essential vehicles – e.g., transporting sheep to the second field.

The boundary hedge between Field 1 and the neighbouring land to the west has been cut along its full length to a height of some 2 metres and trimmed along the sides and base.

In November 2013, the Trust was very fortunate to have the support of the Duckworth Worcestershire Trust who brought along a managed party of volunteers to coppice the moat island. The group, helped by the Trust's own volunteers, made a superb job of opening up the island to allow light into at ground level and encourage flora and fauna.

In Field 2, scrub clearance continued, with the beneficial opening up of part of the bank around the spring – previously overgrown with nettles and brambles. Sheep have again been in Field 2 since August and have remained over the autumn and winter; they have been very useful in keeping grass and other vegetation under control. In February a start was made to restore the hedge between Field 1 and Field 2.

The HLS contract includes an educational access agreement and during the year Trustees have especially welcomed the pupils of Inkberrow First School for outdoor activities focusing on plants, habitats and life cycles as part of their science curriculum, which fosters an appreciation of wildlife and the environment.

The total number of volunteer man hours over the year was in excess of 350 - mostly by 5 or 6 regulars. This year we have had the help of a girl doing her Gold \D of E Award.



The newly coppiced island looking west; the Trustees are grateful to the Duckworth Worcestershire Trust for their hard work.

In the meantime, the winter works programme continues, with bramble cutting, pond, hedge and barrier maintenance. In summary, Trustees consider that they have met all the requirements of the HLS agreement, and that overall the Millennium Green is looking good despite the wet season. It is always encouraging when members of the public who use the Green make unsolicited remarks on the good condition of the site and the work that that volunteers put in.

Finally, a fresh approach has been taken to the Trust's website: Trustees are grateful to Rod Talboys for his technical skills and hard work both with this project, and for the 'hard' maintenance on the Green and for his work in creating a new leaflet promoting the Green.

Risk Assessment

During the year, the Trustees have considered and updated the Health & Safety Register, which constitutes the majority of risks to which The Trustees are exposed. Other risks have been considered, such as the threat of invasive species and Ash Die back, but these are not thought to be a risk on which any action is required at the present time.

Financial Review

Total Incoming resources during the year were £2,147.48 (2013: £4,655.44) and expenditure £4,384.52 (2013: £2,678.95). The Trust therefore made a deficit of income over expenditure in 2012-13 of £2,237.04 (2013: surplus of £1,976.49).

The Trustees acknowledge with thanks the funds received from Natural England. They are also grateful for local donations received from Inkberrow Horticultural Society, Inkberrow Tuesday Afternoon Tea Club, "What's On", U3A and the WI Group. The Rowlands Trust grant, which was in support of the drainage repairs, was received in the prior year.

At present the Trust currently has cash reserves of £6,003.66 (2013: £8,237.65). The Trustees' policy on reserves is that all the Charity's funds are unrestricted. However, during the year, the

Trustees resolved to set aside £2,000 as a Designated Fund for future capital expenditure. The Trustees consider that the undesignated funds of £4,003.66 shown in the Income and Expenditure account are sufficient to cover expenditure in the foreseeable future in maintaining the Millennium Green for the public benefit and to meet the HLS requirements. The land of the Millennium Green was acquired without any debt, and the Trustees also confirm that the Trust has no long-term debts.

Authorized to be signed on behalf of the Trustees

.....
T J Patrickson
Chairman
4th March 2014