

**Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust**  
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 28 February 2015

**Reference and Administrative Information:**

**Registered Charity** 1075736

**Principal Office** 3 Poplar Piece  
Inkberrow  
Worcester  
WR7 4JD

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<b>Trustees</b>	Dinah Griffin	Parish Council nominee
	Wendy Johnson	Work party coordinator
	R John Longstreeth	(resigned 2 March 2014)
	Timothy J Patrickson	Chairman
	Jennifer Powis	(appointed 19 January 2015)
	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**

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 28 February 2015**

The Trustees of Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust present their Annual Report for the year ended 28 February 2015. The report takes account of 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 in table 11 of appendix 5 of the Charities SORP (2005).

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Trust is an unincorporated charity, set up by a Declaration of Trust dated 17 March 1999. Its principal asset is land of approximately 8.7 acres divided into two fields ("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.

Part of Field 1 is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) under the [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#), supervised via English Heritage. In addition, the archaeology of the whole site is protected under a Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England. This started on 1 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 flower-rich grassland. The Trustees 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.

During the year, the Trustees accepted the resignation of Mr John Longstreeth, who was formally thanked for many years of service to the Trust. They also welcomed Mrs Jennifer Powis as a new Trustee, and gave consideration to other Trustee appointments which may be made in the future.

New Trustees are given an appropriate induction, consisting of meetings with other Trustees including the Chair and the Work Party Coordinator. They also receive a copy of the Trust Deed and other relevant documentation such as Minutes. They are also shown around the Green, so as to familiarise them with current work and future plans.

The Green is maintained for the benefit of the inhabitants of Inkberrow and the surrounding area by regular volunteer work parties. These meet on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. The Trustees are very grateful to Wendy Johnson for the organisation of the work parties as well as a great deal of other work that she and her husband Cyril put into the running of the Green. Trustees are also very grateful to the volunteers who help at the Green, with work parties and school visits.

### **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 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;

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- 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 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 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.

### Achievements and Performance

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Millennium Green has been open every day of the year, for the benefit of the public of Inkberrow and other visitors.

The ongoing work of site maintenance (including cutting grass, brambles, nettles, docks and thistles) has been kept up, with a combination of contractors and own labour. A new strimmer was purchased during the year and this has proved useful in keeping walkways useable and nettles under control.

Following a professional tree report, Trustees engaged a tree surgeon to cut back identified trees. This has been done for safety reasons and also to improve the health of the trees and the biodiversity of the site. One leaning ash part way down Church Hill was removed and lower branches overhanging the road were cut off.

The entrance sign was looking tired and worn, and during the year, a new sign was commissioned and the frame and supports fully refurbished. A new notice board in a harmonizing style was also created for the entrance.

Alongside this, a new leaflet dispenser, holding copies of a new leaflet featuring the wildlife of the Green was set up for the first time. The leaflet has proved popular, with stocks being replenished regularly. A dispenser has also been placed in the village Post Office. The Trustees are very grateful for the large amount of design and build work on the signs carried out on a voluntary basis by Cyril Johnson, and also to Rod Talboys for his time, his design work and computer expertise.

The 'archaeology' sign near Pond 2 has also been re-designed and printed, and the frame refurbished, with a new stand installed for smaller children to view the sign more easily. Work is underway to create a sign describing the flower-rich grassland, to be positioned near the slope in Field 1.

In November, the Trust was again fortunate to have the support of the **Duckworth Worcestershire Trust** who brought along a managed party of some 10 volunteers to coppice hazels and cut bramble in the copse to the east of the moat. They contributed over 40 man hours of volunteer work for free. Trustees could not manage the site without this sort of assistance and the DWT also brings a degree of expertise and advice.

In Field 2, sheep have kept the grass managed during the autumn and winter; the fruit trees have been pruned, steps and fences maintained, the boardwalks have been strimmed, and work has continued to restore the hedge between Fields 1 and 2.

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### **Achievements and Performance (cont.)**

The HLS contract includes an educational access agreement. During the year, educational visits by the pupils of Inkberrow First School have continued, for outdoor activities focusing on plants, habitats and life cycles as part of their science curriculum.

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.

Our Duke of Edinburgh Award student completed her Gold Award work with us in the early summer.

The total number of volunteer hours worked over the year was in excess of 500 – thought to be a record for the Trust.

In the meantime, the winter work programme continues, with brambles, pond, hedge and barrier maintenance, boardwalk clearance, and the removal of some of the excessive vegetation from pond 2.

### **Risk Assessment**

During the year, the Trustees have considered the risks to which the Trustees are exposed, and have acted upon them. An example of this is the tree survey and subsequent tree surgery. Other risks have been considered, such as the threat of invasive species and limited action has been taken where needed. The Millennium Green is looking good, with the entrance improved; it is also a safer place.

### **Financial Review**

Total incoming resources during the year were £1,052.40 (2014: £2,147.48) and expenditure £2,699.49 (2014: £4,384.52). The Trust therefore incurred a deficit in 2014-15 of £1,647.09 (2014: deficit £2,237.04).

The Trustees acknowledge with thanks the funds received from Natural England.

At present the Trust has cash reserves of £2,327.00 (2014: £3,974.09). In addition to this, the Trustees have designated £2,000 as a Designated Fund reserved for major repairs (2014: £2,000). The Trustees' policy on reserves is that all the Charity's funds are unrestricted.

In consideration of the losses of the past two years, a draft budget has been prepared for 2015-16 which shows a modest operating surplus. The Trustees consider there are sufficient funds to cover expenditure in the foreseeable future to maintain 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.

The Trustees are grateful to the Treasurer David Willis for his work in overseeing the finances and insurance.

### **Authorized to be signed on behalf of the Trustees**

T J Patrickson

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Chairman  
30 March 2015