

Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 28 February 2016

Reference and Administrative Information:

Registered Charity 1075736

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Trustees	Dinah Griffin	Parish Council nominee
	Wendy Johnson	Work party organiser
	Denise Jones	(appointed 30 March 2015)
	Timothy Patrickson	Chairman
	Jennifer Powis	
	Mark Robbins	
	Roderick Talboys	(resigned 14 January 2016)
	Gareth Thomas	
	John Tromans	Vice-Chairman
David Willis	Treasurer	

Minutes Secretary 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 2016

The Trustees of Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust present their Report for the year ended 28 February 2016. 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, Section 162 of the Act.

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 ("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.

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 Rod Talboys, who was formally thanked for many years of service to the Trust. They also welcomed Mrs Denise Jones as a new Trustee.

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, 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.

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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.

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 character of the area;

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 ongoing tree surgery, where required. Other risks have been considered, such as the safety of the boardwalks. As mentioned below, in June a large sycamore trunk fell across the moat, requiring immediate action – a section of the boardwalk was closed with barrier tape and a temporary path created, before the tree surgeon was brought in.

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.

Much of the earlier part of the summer was spent cutting / pulling brambles, nettles, and thistles and generally maintaining the site. This included repairs to the main steps and replacing fencing posts organised by Rod Talboys. Ongoing site maintenance (including cutting grass, brambles, nettles, docks and thistles) has been kept up, with a combination of contractors' and own labour. The new strimmer has proved useful in keeping boardwalks and walkways useable and nettles under control.

A new sign, supported by "Welcome to Our Future" (Severn Waste Environmental Fund) was created and installed in May 2015, describing the flower-rich grassland on the slope in Field 1.

In June Trustees conducted their annual inspection walk round the whole site. At this time, a large sycamore trunk had fallen across the moat towards the copse, damaging the boardwalk fence. After initial clearance and making the site safe, the tree surgeon Neil McLean was engaged to remove it. He brought a boat and crossed to the island to inspect the base of three other sycamore trunks from the same base. They were also part-rotten and unsafe so were felled onto the island.

Nine sheep and lambs returned to the second field in July and a ram later in the summer. The grass in field 2 was long but was grazed down over the winter. The wildflower grassland in this field has markedly improved with more yellow rattle, lady's bedstraw, meadow vetchling, agrimony and

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knapweed. There were two common spotted orchids by the boardwalk this year. The sheep have done an excellent job and Field 2 is in good condition for the 2016 spring and summer season

The HLS contract includes educational access. There were four school visits over the summer, studying ponds and habitats and being 'nature detectives'. The two in May enabled the Trust to meet the minimum four visits for the 2014 -15 HLS year. We have two for the 2015-16 year. We also had a visit from Camaradery Camera Club but the Horticultural society visit was cancelled due to rain.

Contract mowing by Chris Bonehill has continued to be essential, and in August, the hay was cut, tedded, rowed up and baled by Anthony Steele - the first opportunity after unsettled weather. In mid-September, Alan Farnsworth strimmed the good wildflower grassland on the upper slopes of Field 1 and the hay was cleared by the working party.

Achievements and Performance (cont.)

In November, new waders, kindly donated by Mark Robbins, were put to good use in the clearance of excess growth from the ponds and also some trial coppicing work on the island.

In December, 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 the western hedge in Field 1. They contributed over 50 man hours of volunteer work - hugely valuable to the Trust.

In February, a section of the boardwalk was successfully replaced by an extra working party, who at the same time also gained valuable experience in the repairs that will be feasible or otherwise in future. Part of the moat bank was restored at the same time.

Also in February, the fruit trees and two oaks were checked and some branches removed where they were rubbing on the cages. Rod Talboys and Gareth Thomas cleared and checked 13 nest boxes, except those on the island. More work has been done by Cyril Johnson and the work party on the tall hedge between the two fields, cutting back large hawthorn branches and removing ivy.

The total volunteer hours worked in the year was in excess of 400. In the meantime, the seasonal work programme continues, with brambles, pond, hedge and barrier maintenance, and boardwalk clearance.

The annual butterfly count and fungus record update were also carried out during the year.

The leaflet dispenser continues to prove popular, with stocks being replenished regularly. Trustees always try to speak to visitors and get a lot of positive feedback.

Financial Review

Total incoming resources in the year were £4,327.16 (2015: £1,052.00) and expenditure £3,019.06 (2014: £2,699.49). The Trust made a surplus in 2015-6 of £1,308.10 (2014-5: deficit of £1,647.09).

At present the Trust has undesignated cash reserves of £3,635.10 (2015: £2,327). In addition, Trustees designated £2,000 in 2014-15 as a Fund for major repairs. Therefore the Total Funds are £5,635.10. At present there is no call on the Designated Fund, but Trustees are aware that the main boardwalk is showing increasing signs of ageing and, as mentioned above, a section was replaced during the year. The Trustees' policy on reserves is that all Trust funds are unrestricted.

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A draft budget has been prepared for 2016-17 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 Trustees acknowledge with thanks the funds received from Natural England, the Singer Foundation, Welcome to Our Future and the Inkberrow Horticultural Society.

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
Chairman
21 March 2016