

# **Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust**

## Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 28 February 2018

### **Reference and Administrative Information:**

**Registered Charity** 1075736

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

**e-mail** timpatrickson@hotmail.co.uk **Website:** www.inkberrowmilgreen.co.uk

<b>Trustees</b>	Dinah Griffin	Parish Council nominee
	Wendy Johnson	Work party organiser
	Denise Jones	
	Timothy Patrickson	Chairman
	Jennifer Powis	
	Mark Robbins	
	Gareth Thomas	
	John Tromans	Vice-Chairman
	David Willis	Treasurer

**Minutes Secretary** Gabriel Allison

<b>Solicitors</b>	Kerwoods	<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays
	7 Church Road		Leicester
	Redditch		LE87 2BB
	Worcestershire B97 4AD		

The Trustees of Inkberrow Millennium Green Trust present their Report for the year ended 28 February 2018. 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 in total divided into two fenced 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, MG5 grassland and a variety of natural habitats. It is situated near the centre of the village of Inkberrow, Worcestershire.

A part of Field 1 is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) under the [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#), supervised via Historic England (formerly 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

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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.

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.

There were no changes to Trustees during the year.

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 continue to be grateful to Wendy Johnson for the organisation of the work parties. Trustees are also grateful to the volunteers who help at the Green, with work parties and with the visits of the children from Inkberrow First School. The Trust actively encourages students doing Duke of Edinburgh Awards to undertake their volunteering for Bronze or Silver, and is very pleased to have had three students participating in 2017-18.

### **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 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, to replace the 18 year old boardwalk, to encourage the D of E students 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 Trustees meet at least four times a year, including a regular Trustee site visit in summer, to inspect the Green in detail and make recommendations.

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;

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### **Risk Assessment**

During the year, the Trustees have considered the risks to which the Trustees and the public are exposed, and have acted upon them. An example of this is the replacement of the decaying main boardwalk, done with Historic England (DCMS) Consent. The Trustees have also revisited the procedures around safeguarding in connection with school visits to the Green.

To improve working relationships with the statutory body, Trustees have decided to consider entering a Management Agreement with Historic England, and a draft is awaited from the HE Birmingham office.

No activities are undertaken which might disturb the ground in the SAM area without prior Consent.

### **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. Working parties have again followed seasonal work plans, so that each Sunday working party has a clear objective.

At the beginning of the year, Consent was sought and obtained from Historic England for the replacement of leaning gate posts to the main gate of the site and the re-hanging of the 5 barred vehicle access gate. The cost of this work was £654.

Work in the spring and summer of 2017 was, as usual, aimed at keeping the site well maintained and accessible: bramble cutting, removing nettles and thistles, strimming around seats, tables and walkways, keeping steps clear, and removing litter. In April some hazels and other native shrubs were planted on the southern side of the tall hedge between the two gates into the second field. Four hazels were also put in the hedge by the main entrance to fill gaps. Access points to the ponds for school visits (see below) were made and kept clear.

The main achievement this year has been the replacement of the moat boardwalk referred to above. This followed some 18 months of fundraising, with the lead funding of £10,000 coming from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme. Consent was sought and granted by the DCMS acting through Historic England.

This work could not have been done without the support of the Tesco scheme, Wychavon DC and Inkberrow PC (New Homes Bonus), and Welcome to our Future, the Edward Cadbury Trust, the Rowlands Trust, the G J W Turner Trust and other charitable Trusts who granted funds towards the project. The Trustees are very grateful to everyone involved. The replacement of the boardwalk was carried out by ELC Contractors of Alvechurch, and took most of the month of October. The cost of £21,654 was fully covered by the fundraising and by designated Trust reserves.

During the growing season, professional contractors were used for major grass cutting of pathways and level land, once a month (7 times in all). This management makes the site look inviting and cared for even when the grass is looking a bit bedraggled. Professional strimming of the steep land in Field 1 was also carried out, in September. The cost of this grass maintenance in the year was £820 (2017: £820). However, due to the wet summer, the hay cutting that was supposed to take place in July 2017 did not happen. In the end, the grass was 'topped' rather than fully cut by a local

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contractor. This was not a satisfactory solution under our HLS agreement. Trustees will have to consider how to approach this task in 2018. Natural England however, was satisfied that the Trust had done what it could.

In line with the annual maintenance programme, sheep returned to Field 2 in late summer. Sadly there was a dog attack which seriously injured one sheep in September. Extra work was done after this time to strengthen fences and create more warning signs. The sheep, which were removed at the end of February, have been very effective in keeping Field 2 grazed.

There were five school visits by the children of Inkberrow First School, supervised by their teachers, over the summer, studying ponds and habitats, being 'nature detectives' and exploring the Green. The visits attract financial support under the HLS scheme. The children seem to enjoy the hands-on learning and Trustees hope it gives them a sense of 'ownership' of the Green so they will respect and appreciate it in future.

During the year, Trustees developed a comprehensive repairs list for the Green. Much of the work was done by the Duckworth Worcestershire Trust, who brought their invaluable volunteers in May, repairing the top gate between the two fields and rebuilding the small steps in Field 2; and again in November, doing repairs to the three boardwalks in Field 2 - removing existing wire netting and replacing planks as needed. The Trustees are grateful for the commitment and hard work of James and the DWT volunteers, who have contributed some 50 - 60 hours of work in the period.

Winter 2017-18 work included cutting back the hedge between Field 1 and Field 2, the roadside hedge, clearing brambles and saplings from the Copse and from Field 2 and other annual maintenance, including the Field 2 wet flush area. Nest boxes were cleared in February, with extra volunteer support.

The total volunteer hours, including fundraising, worked in the year was in excess of 500 (2017: 500). 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. A new supply of the leaflet has been printed.

Trustees act on feedback from members of the public and have welcomed new work party volunteers.

### **Safeguarding**

All school visits are supervised by teachers, and D of E student are under the supervision of the scheme, and of their parents. Trustees are satisfied that there is no requirement for safeguarding checks on any volunteers or Trustees of the charity.

### **Financial Review**

The year was successful, and must really be seen as a 'two-year-period' in order to make sense of the overall flow of cash, associated with the boardwalk replacement.

Incoming resources in the year were £14,496 (2017: £12,321). Expenditure was £24,200 (2017: £2,199). The Trust therefore made a deficit in 2017-18 of (£9,514) (2017: surplus of £10,122). This deficit includes the major capital expenditure relating to the new boardwalk in the year. The

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variance between the years is mainly explained by the timing of boardwalk fundraising and actual expenditure.

Undesignated free cash reserves at 28.02.18 were £6,053 (2017: £4,257). As no funds remain designated at 28.02.18, total funds at 28.02.18 were also £6,053 (2017: £15,757). The accounts do not value the Fixed Assets: the main asset is the land, vested with the Charity Commission custodian.

The Trustees' policy on reserves is that all Trust funds are unrestricted. They 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. Once again, the Trustees are grateful to the Treasurer David Willis for his work in overseeing the finances and insurance. Trustees are also grateful to "What's On" and other local funders.

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

T J Patrickson - Chairman  
26 March 2018