



Uckfield Millennium Green

Newsletter April 2025

During the Spring we held our second Walk & Talk when we visited some of the different areas of the Green, explored the old clay pits, the ponds and the woodland walks and saw how each area is managed differently.

The next Walk & Talk is planned for Saturday 21st June and will explore the history of the Green.

The Maintenance Monday Team have also been busy preparing the area to be used for the immersive production of A Mid Summer Night's Dream being performed by the Millennium Players on the 24th, 25th, 26th & 27th June. Rehearsals have now started in earnest on the Green and we are very happy to be able to host this event on our 25th anniversary year.

AGM

The Trust's AGM will be held on Tuesday 27th May 2025 at Ridgewood Village Hall, starting at 7.00p.m and followed by Coffee/Tea and Biscuits.

This is an open meeting and all are welcome to hear what has been happening on the Green over the last year.

Facebook / Instagram Posts

The following is a compilation of the posts since the February newsletter.

Train on the Green



There are three old clay pits on the Green that used to supply clay to the brickworks situated where the industrial estate now stands. Due to the gradient down towards the Ridgewood Stream, a narrow gauge track was used to haul the clay up the hill. Remnants of track section can be found around the Green, but there are no records of the train actually used. It was possibly something like the set up used at Asham cement works.



The volunteers on the Green use Ollie the Trolley to move equipment and materials around the green and fully appreciate the gradient of the slope!

We did receive a response to this post saying that from memory the engine did not have a cab, so this photo could be a better representation of what was used.



New Bench



There is a new bench on the Green with a lovely view over the old southern most clay pit.

It is somewhere to sit and enjoy the birds, meadow flowers and variety of trees in this wet grassland area with some magnificent oaks on the skyline.

Tree Circle

The Tree Circle is looking spring like with a Cuckoo Pint slowly emerging and the daffodils beginning to flower.

The Cuckoo Pint is a native woodland plant and is sometimes said to be named after the Cuckoo, as the plant blooms at the same time these birds arrive in the woodland.



The daffodils could also be the native wild variety which form clumps and have pale yellow petals surrounding a darker yellow trumpet, but most probably is a garden variety that had escaped onto the Green. We can't really blame it for making that choice!

Firsts for the Year



With the sunny weather there have been a number of firsts seen on the Green for this year. The first bluebells have been spotted, the first blackthorn blossom has started to open and the woodland paths are mud free for the first time!

Blackthorn in Blossom



The Green is looking glorious at the moment with all the sunshine encouraging a great display of blossom. Whilst we sometimes moan about the blackthorn, due to its prickly nature and invasive growth over the paths, when it puts on a show like this, all is forgiven.

Shipreed Lane



There has been a bit of disruption to Shipreed Lane during the last month as Barratt Homes installed a new drainage pipe for their Eastbourne Road development.

The ground works have now been completed and the lane finish reinstated. The works to provide new steps and fences will follow on in due course.

Early Purple Orchids

The early purple orchids are getting ready for their lovely display. They are one of the first of the orchid flowers to bloom during spring and when the flowers first open their sweet smell attracts bees and other insects to pollinate them, however when fertilised, the smell becomes unpleasant.



Cutting the Grass



A lawnmower on the Green's natural meadows is not a normal sight, but this year we are managing a small area a bit differently in readiness for the June immersive production of A Mid Summer Night's Dream.

Without the brambles and blackthorn growing through, it should be more comfortable for picnic blankets.

Unusual Photos



One of the more unusual finds on the Green recently has been this young Willow that was debarked.

We've had a serious problem with squirrels stripping the bark off trees this year, however this is unlikely to be squirrel damage, particularly as the strips of bark were neatly piled up near to the tree!



For further information, please contact us at:

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