



# Uckfield Millennium Green Newsletter Feb 2024



This newsletter is a compilation of our Facebook posts since the last work party in December.

## February Work Party



First work party for 2024 is on Sat 10th Feb from 9.30 to 12.00. We'll be cutting back bramble and blackthorn in one of the smaller grass areas, and then planting new trees that have been donated by The Conservation Volunteers.

We'll meet at the entrance gate nearest to the village hall, everyone is welcome, tools provided but gardening gloves recommended.

## 2024 Work Party Dates

Saturday work party dates for 2024 will be 10th Feb, 13th April, 22nd June, 10th Aug, 12th Oct and 7th Dec.

## Southern Clay Pit



Then and now photos of the southern clay pit taken in 2002 and 2024. This is a natural wetland meadow habitat that is now being taken over by trees and scrub regeneration. One of our ongoing tasks is to manage this regeneration to maintain a mosaic of different habitats on the Green.

## Path Verges

Another of our winter activities is to cut back the bramble and blackthorn on the path edges. Whilst we enjoy the blackberries and sloes in the summer, they can quickly overwhelm the path and both are very prickly!



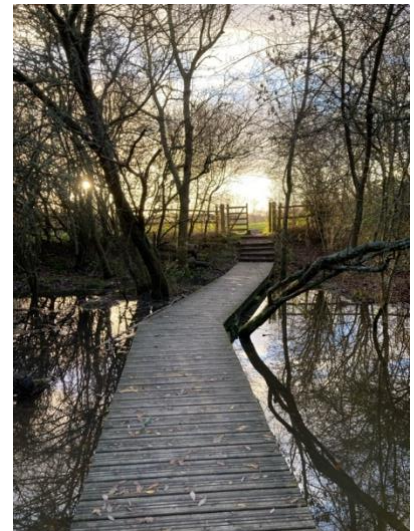
## Snowy Boardwalk

It was beautiful on the Green on the 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, snowing in the sunshine!

Past and present photos of the lower boardwalk, the first taken in a snow shower, the second when it was new in 2001. Twenty-three years old, and with the help of a few repairs and an additional handrail, it is still going strong.



## Tree Skeletons



Even without their leaves there is still something special about the trees on the Green in winter. The tree skeletons silhouetted against the grey sky really show how intricate they are. The leafless branches take on a different feel when the sun does make an appearance behind them.





## International Volunteer Day

Dec 5th was International Volunteer Day, so we'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped at our work parties this year, laying woodchip onto the paths, planting trees, cutting back the bramble and blackthorn, coppicing the willow, managing invasive plant species, repairing fences and boardwalks, removing the old barbed wire and clearing ditches. Your help has been fantastic and for anyone wishing to help in 2024 we will be continuing with our weekly Maintenance Mondays, and also Saturday work parties every other month.



## December Work Party



The December work party was cancelled due to the wind and rain, but the Green takes on a different feel in the rain, the streams come alive, the ponds and ditches fill and the boardwalk in Gordon's Walk seems to be floating through the shallow wetland.



Our favourite photo from the last few weeks



The most southern claypit has a warm south facing aspect and is sheltered from the prevailing winds so has its own micro climate compared to the rest of the Green. In the Autumn the leaves always turn a lovely golden colour and stay on the trees longer. There is also a high vantage point from which you get a panoramic view of the pit, the trees in the background and the sky. This photo was taken after the snow shower early in January, with the snow adding to the other winter colours.

For further information, please contact us at:

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