



Uckfield Millennium Green Newsletter February 2025

This year is the Millennium Green's 25th Anniversary and we are celebrating with a series of Walk & Talks and also a run of Mid Summers Night Dream performances in mid June.

The first Walk & Talk covered the trees on the Green, highlighting the trees registered on the Ancient Tree Inventory, looking at the twelve Elm trees planted as part of the Great British Elm Experiment and also the trees planted as part of the Sussex Black Poplar Partnership, led by Wakehurst.

Further Walk & Talks will explore the Green off the main path and look at the areas historical background.

The Mid Summers Night Dream performances replicate the outdoor theatre performances put on in the early days of the Green. They will be held in an intimate area of the Green and should be a fantastic event for the community.

This year also sees housing development start on two of our boundaries, with the Barratt Homes Eastbourne Road development to the north and the Clearwater development to the west both of which have the potential to disturb the tranquillity of our beautiful green space, particularly during the construction stage. The Trust will continue to ensure the Green's interests are maintained as construction develops.

Facebook / Instagram Posts

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

Frosty Mornings



There have been a few frosty mornings as the Green starts its 25th anniversary year. In 1996 the government planned to create 250 Millennium Greens across the country to celebrate the Millennium. These green spaces were intended to be easily accessible for the local community and managed by Trusts for the benefit of the local community.

In March 1998 the Uckfield Millennium Green Trust was established and the rest is history ...

New Fence

A big thank you to Clearwater for installing a new fence on the Oak Passage Walk boundary and removing the old barbed wire fence, all as part of the Ridgewood House development. The large oak trees that define the boundary line are now looking even more impressive.



Community Days



The Millennium Green is a community green space, and six days through the year the Trust organises community days to explore the Green and see how it changes through the seasons.



The dates for these Saturday morning sessions are Feb 15th, April 12th, June 21st, August 16th, October 18th and December 6th. Further dates may also be added at the end of the year for tree planting.



More information will be posted the week before each session.

Then and Now

Over the last 25 years this bench has been gradually swallowed up by the local hedgerow, but is still a lovely place to sit and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Green.



Winter Projects



The last of the winter projects has now been completed. With help from Wealden's Community Infrastructure and Spaces Grants Programme we have been able to install non slip planks to the lower boardwalk, sleeper bridges across a number of the drainage ditches, sleeper steps on the muddy path down to the stream bridge and another picnic bench on the sunny side of the Picnic and Play Area.



The intention has been to make the Green more accessible throughout the year. A big thank you to the volunteer team that carried out all the work.

Catkins



It was a murky old winter's day on the green today but lovely to see the cheerful yellow Hazel catkins in abundance. These male catkins, resembling lambs tails, rely on the wind to pollinate the much smaller female red flowers which then go on to form hazelnuts in the autumn.



A sure sign that Spring is not too far away.

Walk & Talk



We love talking about the Green so thanks to everyone that braved the chilly morning and joined us for the "trees on the Green" walk and talk on Saturday. Hopefully you enjoyed hearing about the Ancient Tree Inventory, the Great British Elm Experiment and the Sussex Black Poplar Partnership.

We will be holding further walk and talks later in the year, the next one being on April 12th when we'll explore the different areas of the Green off the main path.

Friends of the Green

The lichens on the Green are looking particularly lovely at the moment. These unusual organisms, which are a partnership between fungus and algae, are a great indicator of a healthy environment.

We'd like to say a big thank you to the Friends of the Green, whose annual £15 contribution ensures the Green is maintained as a little piece of countryside we are all proud of. In the absence of any other funding, these contributions pay for the running costs of this community green space.



Winter Photos

Two photos that summarise Winter on the Green this year.



Gordon's Walk boardwalk, holding strong through the new Great Crested Newt Pond, which has been flooded by the excessive winter rainfall, and has temporarily turned a muddy brown due to construction works at the top of the hill.

The tranquility of the tree circle on a sunny winters day with the long shadows, a brief interlude from the rain.



For further information, please contact us at:

info@uckfieldmillenniumgreen.co.uk
www.uckfieldmillenniumgreen.co.uk

