



Uckfield Millennium Green Newsletter September 2024



Grant Funding

We have recently been successful with a funding application to Wealden as part of the Community Infrastructure and Spaces Funding Programme. The aim of the grant is to improve accessibility to the Green and we will shortly be replacing the boardwalk planks with a non slip type, installing more sleeper bridges to paths across the drainage ditches, and proving a new picnic bench in the Picnic & Play Area. Hopefully you will see these improvements over the next three months.

2024 Work Party Dates

The remaining Saturday work party dates for 2024 will be 12th Oct and 7th Dec.

Facebook / Instagram Posts

The following is a compilation of our some of the posts since the June newsletter.

New Bench

There is a new bench on the Green, kindly donated in remembrance to Ian Bennet, fondly known as Goggy by many. It has a wonderful sheltered location with a beautiful view down the hill, a lovely spot to sit and remember.



Great Crested Newts



What a difference a year makes, our larger new pond is now looking very well established. Every year our ponds are tested so see whether great crested newts are present.



This year the eDNA testing has indicated newts are again in our old pond, but the two new ponds are still too young to have developed the right habitat.

Robin's Pincushion Gall



Robin's Pincushion is a gall which grows on dog roses. The gall wasp lays its eggs in buds during the spring, this red, round fibrous growth develops and the larvae inside the gall then feed on the rose throughout the winter.

In folklore there are many uses for the Robin's Pincushion, from being hung around a patient's neck to protect against whooping cough to being burnt and mixed with honey as a cure for baldness!

Teasels on the Green

It's been a good year for Teasels on the Green. The seeds of the native teasel are an important food source for birds and even when the flowers have faded the dried seed heads retain a natural beauty.

The name Teasel is primarily associated with its use during the nineteenth century within textile mills, where the dried heads were used to comb or tease wool before spinning.



The Annual Summer Meadow Cut



The meadows have now had their late summer cut. This ensures that the tree saplings and bramble are managed and that the meadows are ready for next year. We always keep some areas of the Green uncut, these are our butterfly havens. Big thank you to Barcombe Landscapes for carrying out the work.

The Tranquil Pond

The seasonal pond has dried out, but it is lovely to see the bulrushes are now returning after we cleared the pond of the invasive New Zealand Pygmy weed.



Great Oaks

“Great oaks from little acorns grow”. We are protecting some of the small self-seeded oak saplings with orange topped markers to identify them to the tractor driver who will soon be mowing the meadows. The plan is to thicken the tree coverage around the Oak Passage walk, and hopefully these saplings will one day look like this grand veteran tree.



The Woodchip Mountain



Our woodchip mountain was created in Jan 2023 when the large pond was dug out and it has certainly been very useful over the last year and a half.

Recently we have started re-applying woodchip to the seasonal paths ready for Autumn which hopefully will keep the mud at bay for a while!



Walking the Green



A walk through the Green, enjoying the patchwork of meadows and trees, is great for your mind, body and soul. From the car park, the main all weather path is a 1km walk, and if you return along one of the seasonal boundary paths it is a 2km circular walk.

The Oak Processionary Moth



The Oak Processionary Moth is a recent accidental introduction to England, it is now established in Greater London and moving South. Caterpillars of the moth are a pest which can be a hazard to the health of oak trees, people and animals in their vicinity.

- 1 They live almost exclusively in oak trees, which are identifiable by their distinctive leaves.
- 2 They move in nose-to-tail processions, in oak trees or on the ground, hence their name.
- 3 They often cluster together.
- 4 They build white, silken webbing trails and nests – usually dome or teardrop-shaped – on oak trunks and branches (not among the leaves).
- 5 The nests soon become discoloured.



Each year in June/July we check the lovely oak trees on the Green, and again this year no caterpillars were found. This information on identifying the OPM caterpillars, courtesy of the Forestry Commission, is so visitors can also be vigilant and report any sightings to the Trust.

The Picnic & Play Area



The Picnic & Play Area is a family friendly enclosed part of the Green with a small grass area surrounded by a woodland walk. There is even a tree arch suitably sized for small people.

We try to minimise the brambles, thistles and all things prickly in this area which keeps our volunteers busy.



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