



Uckfield Millennium Green Newsletter April 2024



AGM 2024

The Uckfield Millennium Green Trust AGM will be held on Tues 28th May at 8.00pm in the Ridgewood Village Hall. Further information on the agenda will be issued nearer to the date.

Facebook / Instagram Posts

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

April Work Party



Our next work is on Sat 13th April from 9.30 to 12.00. We have a number of activities planned including opening a new path entrance & sanding/treating the new signs.

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

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

World Wetlands Day

The 2nd Feb was the annual World Wetlands Day, an opportunity to consider the importance and fragile nature of wetlands across the world.

Wetlands are ecosystems, where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and plant and animal life. On the Green we love our areas of wetland habitat for the variety of animals they attract and the wellbeing provided by their tranquil environment.



Wildlife Camera



There has been a wildlife camera on the Green recently, covering the animal tracks in the thick undergrowth, hoping for a photo of a weasel that was seen down by the lower boardwalk. There have been no weasel photos but this handsome chap did wander by. Whilst pheasants are fairly common, it is always good to see their colourful presence in winter.

February Work Party

Great work at the last work party clearing the final small grass area of bramble and blackthorn, ready for the spring growth and butterflies. We also carried out the final tree planting of the season with some new Rowan, Field Maple, Birch and Hazel to increase diversity and succession of native woodland trees on the Green. Trees were gratefully donated by The Conservation Volunteers as part of their "I Dig Trees" campaign.



Early Signs of Spring



Early signs of spring on the Green, the wild primroses waking up in the woodlands, the Hazel catkins and small red flowers which will become hazelnuts later in the year, the daffodils standing out amongst the trees and the strange looking jelly ear fungus.

This week there was also the added interest of the air ambulance helicopter as it landed on Ridgewood recreation ground next to the Green.



The Bedhead



On the Green we love trees but would be careful standing next to one for a long time. This poor bedhead has been having a rest against the oak for far too long now!

Bird Nesting Season

The winter scrub clearance activity has now finished, just in time for the bird nesting season that is now upon us. We have cleared bramble and blackthorn from the main path verges, the picnic area, small grass areas that are not part of the annual mow, and part of the southern wetland pit. Hopefully this will slow down their march to domination of the Green and give space to other spring and summer plants!.



New Signs



The Gordon's Walk sign has been refurbished and now reinstated with our new "rustic" posts! Hopefully further signs will also go up soon for some of the other walks around the Green. We're considering Elm Walk, Oak Passage, Hornbeam Avenue and maybe some more depending how well we get on with our sign making skills ...

Early Blossom and Lichen

The Green is about to burst into blossom, and it looks like the bluebells aren't too far behind. The lichen is still looking great, as it has all winter.



Weald to Waves

The Green has signed up to the Weald to Waves network. This community driven initiative plans to establish a network of nature corridors from the High Weald to the Sussex coast.

www.wealdtowaves.co.uk

One of the goals is to "engage communities across Sussex by creating new opportunities to understand, enjoy and protect nature along the corridor" which aligns well with one of the Trust's objectives to "include significant natural areas where people can enjoy nature and wildlife at first hand." As the network develops we look forward to see how we can further enhance the biodiversity of the Green.



Wildlife Hedge

The wildlife hedge planted in Nov 2022 is growing well. Out of the 200 saplings planted we have lost less than 10, although the rabbits have recently been enjoying some of the new buds! After a bit of love and care this week, they have been weeded and mulched, the saplings are now ready for the growing season ahead.

Whilst out we couldn't help but notice the blackthorn blossom that is now flowering across the Green.



Lonely Wild Flowers

Some lonely wild flowers to be loved and admired on the Green this week. White bluebells (French variety) and pink primroses, both probably hybrids, and a single white wood anemone amongst the emerging bluebells. this



New Bench

Having planted some Field Maple and Rowan trees earlier in the year, we thought it would be good to add a bench, so there is now another spot to sit and enjoy the Green.

And a big thank you to Tabitha for very kindly making the Monday Maintenance team some cakes, they were very much enjoyed during the morning team break!



Our favourite photo from the last few weeks



When the Newt Conservation Partnership created the new ponds, they provided fencing around them to reduce the number of people and dogs disturbing the newts and maintain a safer environment. In this instance there seems to be some confusion as to the purpose of the fence!

For further information, please contact us at:

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