



Uckfield Millennium Green Newsletter Dec 2023



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

December Work Party



Our last working party of the year is on Sat 9th Dec 23 from 9.30 to 12.00. We will be cutting back some of the verges on the main path, always a very satisfying activity.

Everyone is welcome and all help with maintenance of our local community Millennium Green is very much appreciated. Gloves would be useful and we will be meeting at the entrance gate by the Ridgewood Village Hall car park.



Dates for the 2024 work parties will be posted on our website in the new year.

Local Wildlife Site

The Green is a mosaic of different habitats providing a valuable and diverse wildlife haven which is one of the reasons it is a designated East Sussex Local Wildlife Site. There are meadow grasslands, woodland boundaries, ponds and wetland areas, all connected to the wider countryside via the Ridgewood Stream floodplain.



Ollie the Trolley



Welcome to Ollie the trolley, the new addition to the volunteer maintenance team on the Green. We were able to purchase Ollie with grant funding from The Sussex Gardens Trust whose aim is to encourage everyone to enjoy and celebrate the beautiful gardens and green spaces in Sussex.



Many thanks to the Sussex Garden Trust, the support is very much appreciated, and Ollie has already proved very useful, particularly moving the two old oak sleepers to repair the bridge in Bob's Walk.



Elm Trees

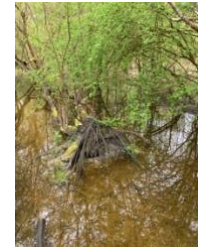
As part of The Great British Elm Experiment ten elm trees were planted on the Green in 2013. The Experiment was to find trees resistant to Dutch elm disease and ten years on, the mix of English, Field, Wych and Huntingdon Elms are all growing well. Hopefully in a few more years they will be prominent on the tree line.



Black Poplar Trees



25th Nov to 3rd Dec was National Tree Week, which marked the start of the tree planting season. We checked in on the trees planted over the last few years as well as planned where to plant the 50 new woodland saplings due to arrive in a few weeks. In 2016 two Black Poplar saplings were planted on the Green as part of the Sussex Black Poplar Partnership.



These trees are increasingly rare and the saplings were cuttings grown from the 38 remaining mature Black Poplars in Sussex, they like a wet habitat and so our wooded wetland area is very suitable.



The Golden Oaks



Even on a wet and grey day the autumn colours of the oak trees on the Green are great, and then the sun comes out and they look stunning.



October Work Party

With the help of Iain, Nigel, Nathan, and Ollie (the trolley!) in between the rain showers on Saturday we started laying this year's wood chip onto the paths. Hopefully with Ollie now on the team we should be able to move the remainder more efficiently.



Our favourite photo from the last few weeks



Not the most picturesque view, but this new pond was finally finished in June this year but has had trouble filling because the original drain from the clay pit was not fully sealed. After about two years of investigation, we located the drain 2 weeks ago, it has now been sealed and, as can be seen in the photo, the pond has quickly filled up. Next spring the surrounding area should green up and the new pond will become a haven for more wildlife.

For further information, please contact us at:

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