



Honiton's

# Millennium Green News

Autumn 2011

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## STOP PRESS!

We have just received Lottery funding for new benches in the green. More information in the next issue.

## Marking the end of summer

*Kassa Retter*

What a wonderful way to mark the end of Summer and beginning of Autumn, by spending time in the Millennium Green.

Now is the time of year to tidy up for winter and you will have noticed that Goodlife Gardners have started by cutting the top side hedge and the bank in Parsonage Lane. They have also trimmed the tree that over hangs the lane, so access can be maintained.

Our aim is to achieve a sensible balance between tidying up where necessary and leaving alone where it isn't. I believe it is important to encourage a delicate balance with nature.

Easy options like leaving nettles in a sunny corner as these are the food plant of several butterfly species and perhaps leaving piles of hedge trimmings at the foot of hedge bank, to benefit insects, small mammals and fungi. We also have our area of grass, in the centre of the Green, free from mowing, so it can grow long and encourage wild flowers, moths and butterflies, whose life cycle depends upon flowering grasses.

However leaving it to nature invites domination by the most invasive plants, forcing others to decline. Brambles for example, very quickly take over, so it is important to have a good balance. I love walking and sitting in the Green, relaxing moments, it's easy to find time to escape. With Autumn approaching have you noticed the glut of apples and wild blackberries, that we have had this year. The hedgerows seems to be dripping in purple fruit and of course we also have the brilliant reds of the Rowan and Holly



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## Competition Winner

The winner of the drawing competition was:

**Finlay Johns**  
aged 4 of Honiton



### Would you like £10?

All you have to do is write a short poem about the Millennium Green and if you are selected as our winner you will receive a £10 book token.

Please send your entry, together with your name and address to Honiton Tourist Information Centre, Lace Walk Car Park, Honiton.

Entries to be received by 30th November 2011.

The judges decision is final.

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berries. Isn't nature wonderful, with its trees whose Autumn colours blend gently with the scenery.

We have the brilliant gold and orange colours as the leaves begin to turn, against the rich green of the conifers and then the bare brown branches starting to show as the leaves fall to the ground.

When I was in the Green the other day, two children playing had found a grasshopper and were watching the ants gathering their harvest for the Winter. Their faces were a pleasure to watch. It is wonderful to see so many Honiton people, of all ages enjoying the treasures of The Green.



## *Its a Dogs Life*

6.45am door opens. Morning, have you been a good dog? Tail wagging I wolf down my breakfast very impatiently by the back door.

Lead and ball ready for the off. Down to the green we go. At the moment it is great, the grass has just been cut and as autumn is approaching the trees which are shedding their summer coats look particularly vibrant in their autumn colours.

Some children pass through the green on their way to school, they stop for a few minutes to say hello to me and throw my ball. The Green is a great place for everyone and as people are usually very good about cleaning up after us dogs, it is a very safe environment.

My lead finally comes off for some free time and I am away sniffing out last nights visitors. Hedgehogs, squirrels, rabbits and my favourite - little shrews. I would love to catch one but I know I have no chance, they are too quick for me.

As the day progresses more dogs and their owners appear in the green which gives owners a chance to chat and dogs a chance to play and have a run around. A young boy comes in with his parents, he is in a wheelchair, but because it is safe and clean he is allowed to sit on the grass and play with me and his dog. We have great fun together.

All too soon it is time to go home. Perhaps we shall see you in the green sometime soon.

Roll on tomorrow.

*Claire and Chippy*



*Freda Dandy*

Sunday 14th August 2011

## THE MILLENNIUM GREEN BAND CONCERT

The band concert held on Sunday 14th August was a huge success with nearly 100 people attending. The Band were extremely pleased with the attendance and we hope to make this an Annual Event. The Band now look on the Millennium Green as their 'home' and it would be nice to consider having a band stand on the green in the future.

The next concert will be Charter Day Saturday July 21st 2012.





# Parks and Green Spaces

There are many green open spaces in the UK, ranging from parks and village greens to the vast landscapes of National Parks. Have a picnic, play cricket or go hiking in the hills - there's a whole host of activities for you to enjoy.

## Local parks

Good quality parks enhance the quality of life in towns and cities. Parks provide a focal point for communities, a place for relaxation or recreation, and the opportunity to experience nature in an urban environment. The majority of parks are run by local councils.

## National Parks

National Parks contain some of the most remote and beautiful open spaces in the UK.

There are 14 National Parks in Britain. These are mostly located in the less populated upland areas with extensive swathes of open country and spectacular views.

## Green Flag and Green Pennant Awards

The Green Flag Award recognises high standards in the management and maintenance of public parks and green spaces in England and Wales. It can also be awarded to green spaces managed by voluntary or community groups. Participation is voluntary and awards are given on an annual basis.

## Royal Parks

Each year millions of people visit London's eight royal parks. The 5,000 acres of historic urban parkland provide opportunities for walks, sport, education and exploration - right in the heart of the capital.

## Country Parks

There are more than 400 country parks in England, many of which are near to or within towns and cities. They give everyone the chance to spend time, outdoors, get close to wildlife and explore nature.

There is now a country parks accreditation scheme which recognises country parks providing the right facilities and services.

## Town or village greens

There are many areas of land in cities, towns and villages that are used by local residents for sport recreation and enjoyment. Years of use by the local community has established a legal right to use them for sports and pastimes.

Many of these spaces are legally registered and protected as town or village greens.

In addition to registered greens there are many other types of greens available for public use. You can find out about the different types of greens from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Open Spaces Society.

## Common Land

Common land has been a feature of the countryside for 1000 years. It is found in every part of the country. It ranges from Lake District fells to Surrey picnic spots; from Norfolk saltings to Dartmoor hill grazing.

Most common land is listed in registers held by local authorities, and nearly all is available for public access. The National Trust owns a lot of common land that is open to the public.

## Millennium and doorstep greens

There are 245 Millennium Greens in England. They are permanent areas of public green space, close to people's homes, in urban or rural locations. They provide spaces for relaxation, play and enjoyment of nature.

They were funded by the Millennium Commission, using National Lottery money. Each green is now managed by its own charitable trust, and controlled by the Charities Commission.

Doorstep greens are permanent areas of public green space, in disadvantaged areas where regeneration of the local environment is crucial. Local communities were actively engaged in their design and creation.

The 201 doorstep greens were set up with funding from the The Big Lottery Fund. Each green is now managed by its own charitable trust.



## Useful websites

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

[www.oss.org.uk](http://www.oss.org.uk)

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

[www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org)

# Thoughts of a Trustee

*Liz Tirard - Trustee and Town Cllr.*

**The Millennium Green is one of the jewels of Honiton's green spaces. Created about 10 years ago to commemorate the turn of the century, it is a mixture of carefully tended and mown grassland with a more natural area, where wild flowers and wildlife can thrive. Most of the planting has been of native species of trees and shrubs, which mirror the seasons in all their glory.**

However, the Millennium Green does not look after itself. A band of dedicated Trustees and volunteer committee members share the many tasks involved in maintaining the Green during the year and more help

will always be welcome. Managing the Millennium Green on behalf of the Town is a big responsibility, which takes time and dedication.

It has been good to see that this year the two band concerts have been so successful. The Trustees hope that other organisations might decide to use the Green as venues for their activities too. Mainly, however, the Green is perceived as an oasis within the town, a green lung offering space for children to explore and run free, and for visitors to experience the joys of observing the natural environment, a stone's throw from the hussle and bustle of our busy town.



## Sponsorship & Donations

The Millennium Green has to be maintained, the principal item being mowing, but the trees and shrubs need attention, and the fences and seats have to be treated and repaired. The initial capital funding included maintenance for the first three years and we are now looking for sponsorship and donations from local businesses and individuals.

One-off gifts or legacies of any size will also be welcome. The Trust is a registered charity and gifts to it attract income, corporation and inheritance tax relief.

Your name and description as a sponsor can be displayed on the board at the Parsonage Lane entrance to the Green whilst your annual sponsorship continues. A one-off gift of £50 or more will enable your name to be displayed on the board for a year after receipt.

I/We would like to be a fund raiser for the Honiton Millennium Green

I/We would like to sponsor the Honiton Millennium Green

I/We would like to donate £..... towards the upkeep of the Honiton Millennium Green.

Name: .....

Address: .....

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Postcode:.....

Telephone Number: .....

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to the Honiton Millennium Green Trust.

Signed ..... Name in Capitals .....

**Please send donations to:  
Heidi Radford (Secretary), Honiton Information Centre, Lace Walk, Honiton, EX14 1LT**

**Registered Charity No. 1077461**