**SPROUGHTON MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1068475**

**REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2021**

Well, who would have guessed this time last year that in May 2021 we would still be heavily restricted by the necessary social distancing measures to beat Covid-19?

Like every other voluntary and charitable body in the village I should imagine, Sproughton Millennium Green Trust has had a tough year.

Despite the complete lack of our own fundraising opportunities and the understandable cancellation of Sproughton’s fireworks and fete in 2019 – both benefactors of the Green in previous years - we have still faced our normal bills for grass cutting, emergency tree surgery and other maintenance jobs this past year.

Keeping the Green open and safe and pleasant to use has made an important contribution to the health and well-being of local people during the lockdowns, with the Green living up, literally, to its mission to be a ”Breathing Space”. We would have been in serious financial trouble but for an important group of local people: our 100+ Club players and I want to use this opportunity to publicly thank each and every one of them for their continuing support throughout this past year. The brainchild of long-time Trustee and former Director John Webb, our 100+ Club brings in around £1600 a year after prizes are paid. That just happens to be about what we pay out each year on routine maintenance and repairs, so we’ve kept our heads above water. All those 130-odd lovely people who’ve paid their £1 a month for a chance to win £40 cash have kept us afloat, and I’m pleased to say that recent appeals for new players or for players to increase their holding have been well received too.

It is genuinely heart-warming to experience such support and to see how much villagers value their Millennium Green. Thank you to every single one of you.

There will be lots to do to catch up when we’re finally free of Covid restrictions, and I hope that we can count on the support of local people to help us get the Green back into tip-top condition. Please watch out for notices in “*In Touch*” for weekend work parties, and come along and do your bit. Every little bit helps as they say!

It won’t be long now until the Green is once more the focus of community events that show the best of Sproughton and why it is so great to live here. We are lucky indeed to have such an asset in our midst, and lucky too to have so many people who appreciate that.

Ken Seager and the Directors of Sproughton Millennium Green Limited.