

ORSTON MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT JANUARY 2026

The Trustees have continued to meet on a regular basis in order to manage the Green on behalf of the residents of Orston. There were 10 formal meetings of the Trust in 2025.

Stewardship of the Green

This continues to be a shared task involving the Trustees, volunteers and the Grafters.

We continue to hold regular **Maintenance sessions** which are advertised in the Bulletin and via the village WhatsApp. We are always most grateful to the volunteers who come to these sessions and give so willingly of their spare time and effort. We have begun to formalise these sessions this year through the use of our monthly Maintenance Plan and the production of a monthly Health and Safety report both of which are used to inform the work of the Maintenance sessions.

The **mowing** has again been carried out regularly by Andrew Hounslow, Rob Gullis and Alan Pritchett. This is a big job in the growing months and we thank them for continuing to ensure the grass looks at its best for all to admire and enjoy.

Sadly, the **Gibson Bridge** suffered some damage during April – cause unknown. A brilliant repair was swiftly carried out by the Trustees and a programme of repairs for the ageing slats has begun. The 'Smite' gate was also repaired and renewed this year – our thanks for these jobs go to our carpentry expert Trustees Andrew Hounslow and Andrew Shaw!

Following a Tree Report completed with the help of Philip Radford our Orston Tree Warden, we have carried out an extensive programme of tree felling (where dangerous), copping and trimming. The wonderful **Grafters** have done the vast majority of this work which entails a great deal of brash removal which is time-consuming and laborious. We thank them most sincerely for this and all the other jobs they do to help maintain the Green.

It hasn't all been fire and destruction however! Thanks to a Grant from Rushcliffe Borough Council applied for by Steve Grace we planted £200 worth of wild flower plants in November using a revised planting scheme devised by Steve. We're looking forward to a good show this Spring and a better one in years to come. We also underplanted the middle copse with some holly trees!

The Eco toilet continues to serve its purpose and has again benefitted from some excellent cleaning courtesy of some Orston students doing their DofE. They are always most diligent, and we hope through this work that they not only learn how to clean a toilet (!), but also reap the rewards of contributing to their community. The Trustees continue this work in the absence of any other volunteers. The urinal area has also had a revamp. We have had a couple of mindless acts of vandalism involving the Eco loo but we take these in our stride and Andrew retrieves the lid of the shavings bin from the toilet with great fortitude!

Fundraising and Events

We are as always most grateful to our Friends of the Millennium Green for their continued support, to individual donors and to everyone who attends events, all of which enable us to continue our work. Steve held a very successful 'Seasonal Walk' during May – this was well attended despite the 5am start! We look forward to the development of this idea in 2026 to enable us to appreciate the changes in flora and fauna on the Green as the year progresses. Our Easter event was also a success - it is essentially aimed at the younger members of our community but we all enjoyed the woodland trail, the games and the excellent breakfast. Sadly, the weather thwarted our summer event and campout though we were able to run the legendary Duck Race and raise some much-needed funds. We relocated to the Village Hall in true Orston Blitz spirit but we missed being on the Green and camping! This is the second year this has happened so perhaps it's time for a rethink - though the weather will always be our sword of Damocles! We do periodically ask the Village for suggestions as to different uses of the Green/village functions and will continue to do so.

Trustees.

We are most fortunate to have 7 hard-working, selfless Trustees and are grateful to them for continuing to give their time and skills so generously in order to preserve and develop our Millennium Green. It would, however, be wonderful to welcome new talent to our group – especially villagers with young families and teens to ensure that we are meeting the needs of that demographic as far as we are able.

Fiona Gullis

Chairperson

January 2026