



**Two Mile Ash
Environmental
Group**

www.tmaeg.org

December 2022 Newsletter

Much has happened in Two Mile Ash since Easter 2022 the time of TMAEG's last newsletter.

The Bluebell Circuit was officially launched on Saturday 23rd April, this was followed by TMAEG's fifth Open Gardens on the weekend of 11th and 12th of June and the year generally has been peppered with a wide range of environmental and other projects – with some 60 in total held in TMAEG's Year Eleven.

We report further on a selection of all these things, including our Annual Meeting which came in mid November, following postponement from the usual September because of Covid 19.



The then Deputy Mayor, Cllr Amanda Marlow cuts the tape to declare the Bluebell Circuit officially open.

Photo - David Barratt

Two Mile Ash Local Park, Renovating the Entrance Signs

TMAEG's main summer project was the refurbishment of the two Local Park signs, done by ten TMAEG volunteers over four Saturday mornings in August. It has been widely praised. More about this story on our [website, here](#).



The sign at Clay Hill entrance now fully restored

The High Street sign under renovation



Annual General Meeting and other Business Matters

In a short AGM, Chris Gossop, acting chair for the meeting as a whole expressed his thanks to everyone who had worked so hard over the year including at the annual meeting. The formal papers comprising the minutes and the certified accounts showing a modest but comfortable bank balance were approved by a show of hands, as were proposals to maintain the current membership fees for residents and businesses.

Elections

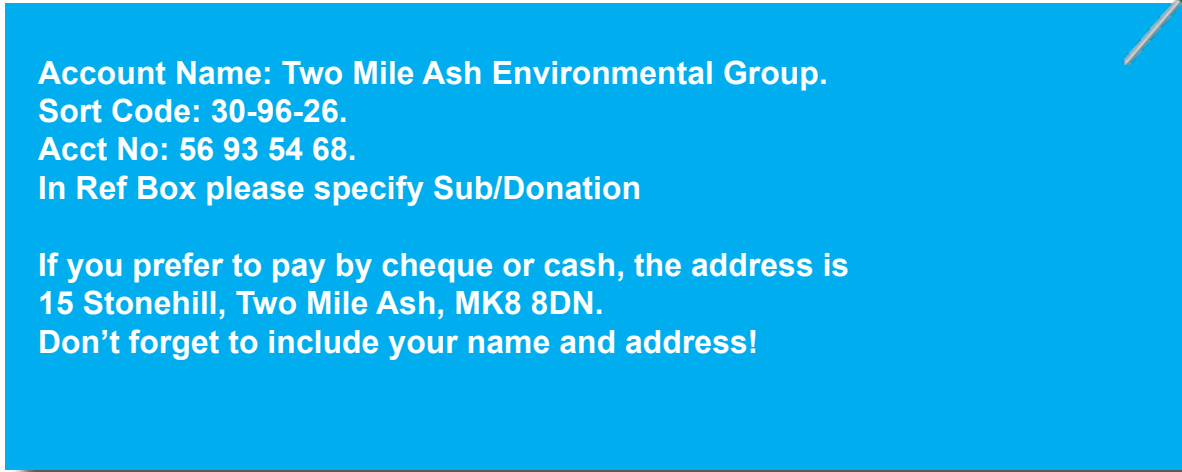
Following Stan Cohen's move from Two Mile Ash, the 4 remaining committee members, Chris Gossop (Secretary), Chris Cuff (Treasurer), Chris Monk (Webmaster) and Pavla Gossop (Membership) were prepared to stand again. No nominations had been received. The current 4 members were re-elected to the committee and the meeting approved the intention to rotate chairing of meetings between committee members, until such time as a Chair could be agreed, and to co-opt further members during the course of the year, if interest were shown.

Since those elections, one of our new members, Lesley Tyler, expressed an interest in joining the committee and following discussion Lesley has been co-opted on to it. On another matter, it should be noted that Chris Cuff has expressed his wish to stand down as Treasurer when a suitable replacement can be appointed, and your committee is on the look-out for such a person.

Membership Renewals

A big thankyou to almost half our Membership who have already paid for 2023; still at £5 per household, this must be the best bargain around.

More and more people are using the Bank Transfer method, simple and a permanent record of your payment.



Account Name: Two Mile Ash Environmental Group.
Sort Code: 30-96-26.
Acct No: 56 93 54 68.
In Ref Box please specify Sub/Donation

If you prefer to pay by cheque or cash, the address is
15 Stonehill, Two Mile Ash, MK8 8DN.
Don't forget to include your name and address!

If any of your contact details have changed, please use the attached Membership Form.

Many thanks for your continued support – we could not do all that we do without it!

Open Gardens 2022

Organised by a small Team – Pat Brown, Brian Lindsay, Chris and Pavla Gossop – over a 5-month period, the 5th TMA Open Gardens proved both enjoyable and successful.



Over 30 people attended the Annual Meeting. Here Pauline addresses our audience on the experience of opening her garden for Open Gardens 2022

**236 Yellow Passports were sold
1,184 individual visits were made over the weekend
to the 9 full gardens.
The 21 attractions combined full and front
gardens, guided visits round the Allotments and
on the Bluebell Circuit, a focus on the High Street
Community Garden (not a TMAEG initiative) and on-
site showcasing of the Park Gateway with the Twin
Gardens, and the Bee Garden and Fernery.**



At our AGM/11th Year Celebration we enjoyed presentations from 5 of our Open Gardeners and photos of all the sites (taken by David Barratt) were screened during refreshments.

The Gardeners expressed their pleasure in sharing with visitors the ideas behind the creation of their gardens. For some it was a need to adapt the site for more level areas or to create individual habitats for plants and wildlife. Some wanted a more stimulating view from their house and some aimed to create a secluded area where they could relax and protect delicate plants. One gardener raised over £50 in donations for the Medical Detection Dogs.

They were all pleased with the interest and appreciation shown by their visitors and had some lovely conversations.

Smita's report opened with a quotation: *"Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."* Anon.

That is something I'm sure we all agree on.



The High Street Community Garden – providing a lovely place to sit and walk in our central space.



*A pergola and a rose garden – by Suzanne and Brian – just part of a beautiful, peaceful garden
Photo - David Barratt*



Bluebell Circuit



TMAEG volunteers on the bridge – the Bluebell project continues!

In their presentation to the Annual Meeting (11YC) Chris Gossop and Brian Lindsay charted how TMA's Bluebell Circuit had come about. While the idea for a walking circuit was first discussed ten years back it took until 2017 for any definite plan to emerge, a plan that would involve the Parks Trust as TMAEG's partner. This was a lengthy and complex experience that was to require three separate applications for permission, a structural survey, grant applications for the funding and a partnership of eight organisations co-ordinated by TMAEG. The complete story is to be written up on the TMAEG website; here for now are a few of its episodes.

Sound Foundations

Brian and Steve lining up the exact positions for the bridge foundations.

They have to support an 11m (36 foot) steel beam and timber footbridge weighing one and a half tonnes.



Path Connections

TMAEG volunteers building the final connection – a log and chippings path, paving the way for all weather public access and the official launch in the Spring of 2022.



Beautiful Trees

A new tree for the Circuit – a Wild Service Tree *Sorbus torminalis* showing its distinctive autumn leaves.

One of 65 trees gifted by the Parks Trust and planted by TMAEG.

News Flash – Corporate Volunteering



An increasing number of businesses have been lending their support and expertise to communities through short spells of corporate volunteering. The aim is mutual benefit through their assistance to local people and organisations and value to the business and its workforce in terms of new experiences.

In this way TMAEG has been fortunate to be able to work with a local company, Thalia Waste Management on developing a phase II extension to our wildflower meadow close to the Bluebell Circuit bridge. In a very full morning at the end of November an energetic team from Thalia was able to complete the necessary hand tool cultivation, removing perennial weeds and readying the site for the sowing of a 22 species flower mix in the spring. In the photo above, their team of four is shown completing the task, working with TMAEG's Barry (in the green top).

TMAEG is extremely grateful to the company for its support on this project and looks forward to further co-operation in the future.

Other TMAEG Projects



Pat and Lesley tending the **Kepwick 1** Garden and preparing this important pedestrian link for the spring.



A newly purchased extended reach hedge trimmer being tried out by Steve on the nearby link to **Tavelhurst**. It proves just right for this hedgerow.



TMAEG works with **Ashbrook School** to maintain the tubs on the school's frontage.

The winter flowering plants Pavla is putting in here follow the mixed daffodils and should together create a striking display.



A view of the recently planted **Twin Gardens** extensions at the entrance to our Local Park.

Despite the summer drought, they are already well established and should produce an increasingly colourful show year on year.



Parish Council Award



TMAEG was pleased to receive the Abbey Hill Parish Council Community Award 2022, on behalf of our volunteers for services to the community.

Finally, Something to Look forward to for April/May



The Bluebell Circuit, with a log path looking towards the bridge. New trees flourish protected by non plastic tree guards and the area shows off the bluebells and wild garlic in full bloom.
