

MASTER PARK OXTED SURREY



MASTER PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Stewardship Review for the year 2011

Overview

- 1 The 11.9 acres of land forming Master Park were donated by Charles Hoskins Master in 1923 to be held in trust for the recreation and amusement of the residents of Oxted, Limpsfield and Hurst Green. The park is now a registered charity. It is not a local authority provided facility and does not come under the control of the County, District or Parish Council. Financial administration and maintenance of the park is undertaken by volunteers of the Master Park Management Committee (MPMC). There was no finance provided with the Trust Deed, which envisaged that money to maintain the park would be raised by charging rents to the sports clubs and letting to fairs, circuses, carnivals, etc.
- 2 The Annual General Meeting of the charity is held in July of each year and all residents of Oxted and Limpsfield of 18 years and upwards are entitled to attend and vote. At the 2011 Annual General Meeting the Chairman gave a PowerPoint presentation summarising the results for the year and placed on record the thanks of MPMC to the many benefactors who contributed to the maintenance of the park. Details of the benefactors can be found on our website (www.yourmasterpark.co.uk). A dialogue is maintained with local police to help reduce anti-social behaviour, under age drinking, graffiti and vandalism.

Activities

- 3 The Tennis, Cricket and Football clubs continue to use the park regularly. Oxted and Limpsfield Cricket Club run senior Saturday and Sunday elevens and each weekday evening during the summer months, junior cricketers use the facilities. OLCC has six youth teams ranging from under 8s to under 15s, and a ladies team. Oxted and District Football Club first XI plays in the Surrey Elite League and an increasing number of young players are now joining the club. Other events on the park during the year included the annual carnival organised by the Oxted Carnival Committee; the Donkey Derby and Bike Sales organised by the 1st Oxted Scouts; two visits by the fun fair; a dog show and a car boot sale organised by Titsey Rotary Club. The annual Master Park Newsletter was published once more in 2011 and widely distributed.

Funding

- 4 At the Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported an annual deficit of £9,000 as a result spending £11,000 on repairs to the children's playground equipment. He thanked the beneficiaries, including 170 Friends of Master Park who make regular subscriptions or annual donations amounting to some £9,500 per annum. The estimated cost of major maintenance still needed in the Park is £41,000, but £68,000 of major maintenance has been done since 2006. Outstanding works include treatment of the grassed areas, renewed picnic benches and improved pavilion heating. MPMC is indebted to Tandridge District Council for arranging grass cutting of the main area of the park; to Oxted Parish Council for grant aid towards the emptying of litter bins and the cutting grass and hedges; to Oxted Pram Race for their regular contribution; and to Waitrose for a its donation.

Maintenance and Improvements

- 5 Annual routine maintenance costs amount to some £21,000. General tree maintenance and replanting continued. Litter clearance, graffiti and vandalism are a continual drain on resources so, to help control littering by school children who gather in the park on warm days, MPMC has liaised with Oxted School. Their representatives have attended meetings of MPMC and pupils have organised litter picking. Two new benches, in memory of Frank Pololi and Albert Dawson, were donated during 2011. The Master Park website (www.yourmasterpark.co.uk) has been completely redesigned and updated. A basket ball net has been donated by Oxted School and it now stands near the playground.

Children's Playground

6. The playground continues to prove a real asset to the park and is much used and enjoyed by the younger community. The safety surface will require replacement in the near future and MPMC hopes eventually to be able to augment the playground equipment.

Future Plans

7. A semi-permanent volley ball net is to be installed in the spring of 2012.

*Henry Webber CBE
Chairman
Master Park Management Committee*

March 2012