

Milton Creek Trust - 2022 AGM

Fundraising Report

Our Financial Year ended on the 30th September during which time the Trust raised £18,843. We continued to receive valuable support from our Borough Councillors, their member's grants of £1,200 have been enough to cover all our necessary expenses plus pay for the prizes for the virtual events we ran during lockdown, anti graffiti coating for the mural on the small container and locks and paint for Room. We also received £2,130 from KCC member Jason Clinch with which we have purchased 3 new interpretation panels. One has been installed with information about the need to coppice woodlands; the other two are awaiting information about the history and industry of the Creek.

DS Smith donated £1,000 to pay for non plastic tree shelters and canes.

A generous grant of £8,313 from the newly formed Sittingbourne Area Committee has been used to purchase and install 3 accessible picnic tables, 3 new woodland benches and 3 woodland litterbins. It has also paid for three training courses in the use of strimmers and chainsaws for a number of our regular volunteers enabling them to assist Kris in carrying out all the tasks laid out in the new 5 year management plan. There were also funds to repaint the bee mural (kindly created for us by Dean Tweedy during our first Art in the Park event) but the wooden wall was found to be rotten and needed replacing so the money was carried forward and was put towards the cost of the mural on the new storage container.

A grant of £2,000 from the Kent Community Foundation has allows us to completely redesign our ten year old website, it is now responsive and displays well on mobile devices. We are also preparing to update the maps and signage around the Park and on the website.

SBC gave us £200 to run events for the Great Big Green Week in September. DS Smiths and other individuals donated old boots which have been turned into bird boxes, ten of which went back to DS Smith to put up around their site. We still have some made up boxes and some kits that are available to sell for fundraising.

The SBC provided £2,800 from the Improvement and Resilience Fund to enable us to purchase a 20ft second hand container to provide much needed additional storage on site. The volunteers have painted the inside white, fitted it out with shelving, a fold down table, hand washing and cooking facilities. Some stacking chairs were obtained from Freecycle so it is now possible on a Tuesday for the volunteers to make tea and coffee and have somewhere out of the weather to meet and take a coffee or lunch break.

Julie Bradshaw and her daughter Anna have painted a much admired mural on the long side of the container and there are plans to continue the picture around the front and include some poetry by a local poet James Apps (the last of the local group of Wandering Poets) who died last summer. This has enabled us to maintain the tradition, the Trust started with the first Art in the Park, of adding a new piece of art work every year.

Private donations and fundraising events have also contributed £1,300 to the Trust some of which has paid for the new mural and some has been used to equip Room with tables and other things needed to run various workshops. Although the financial statement shows an excess of £3,606 for the year most of this has in fact been spent but the payments have been made in the next financial year.

We can now take payments and donations digitally using BOPP online payment system.

Lynda Marshall