**LOVER GREEN Report 2025**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ChairSecretaryCommittee Members ‘Team Tuesday’ & other helpers | Rachel JonesJill StarkAli Clarke, Mar Copp, Fred Stark, Tom Cunliffe, Ros CunliffeBill Jones, Peter HarperBohdan Rainczuk, Marion Bond, Gill Darley, Ian Clarke and Graham Owens |

Thank you to the community and neighbours of Lover Green who continue to applaud and appreciate the weekly work of the Lover Green committee. The community is blessed to have an idyllic space which can host a wide range of events and activities for all ages and interests.

To manage this idyllic space, the Lover Green Committee hold 3 ‘indoor’ meetings a year. These meetings allocate the annual budget of £3,000 which is made up of £1200 from Redlynch PC and £1800 from LCT which LCT and the Lover Green Committee agree annually. From here we set in train the delivery of approximately 300 hours of volunteer labour. There are 3 acres of grass, mowed or strimmed every week from March to November by Bill and Rachel. Ali and ‘Team Tuesday’ – Bohdan and Marion work, most noticeably this year in the pond area but more often they are fighting brambles, lugging oak planters to border flower beds or clearing the pathways. Fred repaints the pagoda and continuously weeds the barked areas. As well as secretary, Jill coordinates the professional pruning work on Lover Green’s 70+ trees, large shrubs and hedges and this undertaken annually by Tree Menders.

Our £3,000 budget is roughly divided as £1,000 on tree and hedge work and £1,000 for fuel, maintenance and routine sundries. This leaves £1,000 which we tend to assign to either an improvement project or piece of equipment. Over the years this £1,000 has bought the likes of new picnic tables, a basketball hoop, the table tennis table and a new roof for the pagoda. 2024’s allocation was assigned to replacing our heavy, noisy and ‘hard to start’ petrol strimmer with a light, quiet and push button battery model. Above the £3,000 we also received a further £8,000 from LCT to facilitate us trading in and upgrading our ageing domestic mower with a commercial model. Going forward, one project which would require supplementary funding would be an upgrade to the 50 metres of path that leads from Churchill gate, past the Pre School and to the Activity Court / Old School building. At present, this path is narrow, routinely waterlogged and forever in need of weeding and re shingling. It would be significantly improved by a professional dig out, compaction and low-level edging. If any LCT member has contacts in the ground works community, we would be delighted of your support.

As a community asset Lover Green is open to all. Its 3 pillars of use which guide the committee are to support social Recreation, Exercise and Education. We stress to hirers of The Old School that they are welcome to use the Green but it can’t be ‘booked’. With Lover Community Trust, we routinely review the Usage, No Dogs or Parking policy and we welcome your engagement.

Ali Clarke does a monthly report for the village magazine, and she always invites anyone to either join the committee or to join Team Tuesday (10am – 12noon most Tuesdays weather dependant). Additionally, If you wanted to become more involved with Lover Green, perhaps look after discreet area at a time that suited you……Springing to mind would be the actual pond, the 5 tree orchard, a flower bed or any area that you thought could do with some routine low level Lover love. Please contact us to discuss how you might help.

Rachel Jones - will.merrett@btopenworld.com

Ali Clarke – alisonclarke1920@gmail.com