

OMG Public Statement with regard to the Proposed Performance Area

In mid-2013 the Trust was approached directly by a Buckfastleigh 'old boy' who was born and raised in the town. The approach was direct and not as a result of a referral. His parents at various times ran a bicycle repair shop, a taxi company in the town and finally became landlords of The Globe public house. Mr. Tucker now lives in West Virginia and is the only surviving member of his family. He would now like to make a gift to the town in remembrance of his parents, Ted & Jessie Tucker. To use his own words "I still see myself as a Buckfastleigh boy". Mr Tucker has fond memories of what was then the Orchard and feels this would be a fitting place to remember them whilst at the same time benefiting the community he still identifies with.

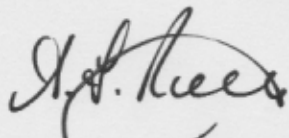
Discussion took place on how to achieve it and during those discussions it became apparent that his father ran a comedy troupe called The Vagabonds and was a regional singing champion. At the same time the Trustees were using the Tea on the Green and events staged on the Green to canvas opinions on what the community would like to see on the green and a bandstand stage was head and shoulders above any other suggestion. This suggestion has the full commitment of Mr Tucker who draws the connection with his father's love for entertaining.

The Trustees then researched a possible design and manufacturer. This was not a quick process and after several meetings with Dartmoor National Park and communication with the Teignbridge Council a validation for planning has been given. The Trustees have given a great deal of thought to the requirements and the eventual design of the structure. Care has been taken to ensure it is open on all sides so prevent any 'blind areas' that would encourage the drugs issue that the OMG has suffered in the past. Every effort has been made to make it vandal proof and a design both in structure and colours that blends into its surroundings. Wildlife issues, especially that of the bats, has been researched and DNP are satisfied that this has been addressed.

The Trustees have correctly waited until the planning application has been submitted to formally announce the proposal but nevertheless neither has it been hidden away. Indeed an informal announcement was made by the Chairman at the 'Jazz Afternoon' in the summer and a small but significant collection made.

It is intended that the OMG would host two or three small events a year and offer the facility to a suitable body or groups for use, for example the recent Jelly Teenz day. The Trust have a strict application process and criteria in existence for events on the Green and this would be extended to the Performance area.

The Trustees feel the proposal would enhance the Green and benefit the community. They are delighted to be working with Mr Tucker and look forward to realising his dream, and supporting the community.



Chairman of the Orchard Millennium Green Trustees