

The Playing Field

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association Newsletter

November 2014

Clearwell creates a lasting legacy to mark World War 1 Centenary

In the August edition of The Playing Field details were given of a new initiative from Fields in Trust in partnership with The Royal British Legion called *Centenary Fields*. The aim of the programme is to mark the World War 1 Centenary and ensure a lasting legacy for generations to come.



Clearwell Recreation Ground Committee is leading the way in the county as the first organisation to dedicate outdoor recreational space for permanent protection in memory of those who lost their lives during World War I. They have put forward Clearwell recreation Ground to be safeguarded through Fields in Trust as a Centenary Field.

This national programme is a unique way to commemorate the centenary of World War I. It gives landowners the opportunity to dedicate space to remember the sacrifices of those who gave their lives during the conflict, but also to ensure that future generations have valuable green space to enjoy as a living legacy. Centenary Fields protected through the programme can be war memorial parks or recreation grounds, memorial gardens, parks and recreation grounds that contain war memorials or other significant green spaces. Landowners across the UK are encouraged to take up this opportunity to mark the centenary whilst also improving the quality of life of local residents.

Fields in Trust President HRH The Duke of Cambridge comments:

The Centenary Fields project aims to save in perpetuity scores of memorial spaces around the country. Each moment of play or leisure that takes place on a Memorial Field is, in a way, an act of remembrance.

I am delighted that Fields in Trust have identified these Centenary Fields as a vital part of our national heritage and well-being, which we cannot take for granted. I encourage landowners to support this cause and to safeguard these living spaces of remembrance for generations to come.



The GPFA is particularly delighted that Clearwell will become a Centenary Field. Way back in 1933 the association helped to buy the land in Clearwell to provide a much needed space for sport and recreation in the village. Since then the GPFA has helped with advise and financial support so that the recreation ground is today a much used local facility. Recently, the play area has undergone a major refurbishment all due to the hard working committee that looks after the ground. Well done to all involved.



New Playground for Acton Turville

Acton Turville is a delightful village situated near to Badminton in South Gloucestershire. In common with many villages it has a small playing field on which is located the playground to serve the local area.

However, the playground was slowly becoming less attractive to children as the equipment became outdated and some of it had to be removed on safety grounds. Action was required and in early 2012 a group of local residents came together to form a group called *Acton Turville at Play* with the aim of improving the playground in the village.

This highly motivated group consisted of parents and residents plus parish councillors. At an early stage they realised they need some assistance and one of the first steps they took was to seek advice, guidance and support from the GPFA. The initial advice included guidance on equipment, consultations, suppliers, statutory requirements and probably most important, funding sources. From there the group set about contacting suppliers, consulting children and making funding applications. Such was the dedication of the group that within 18 months they had raised £72,000 from funding applications and their own fundraising efforts.

The grant providers included Cory Environmental Trust, The Hills group (Community First Landfill Trust), South Gloucestershire Police Commissioner's Fund and Safer Stronger Community Groups initiative. In addition the GPFA provided a grant of £1000 which helped the group to obtain awards from other funders.

Playdale were selected as the supplier and the new playground includes some exciting pieces of equipment such as a zip wire, basket swing, tower unit and a mega swing. The equipment was installed in the summer and the grand opening was held in early September. The land on which the playground



is sited is leased from the Badminton Estate so it was fitting that the opening was performed by the Duchess of Beaufort who duly cut the ribbon and stood back as the excited children rushed to try out the new equipment.

Congratulations to all who have helped to transform this area into an exciting play space



Duchess of Beaufort on the left with Deborah Haskew, of Acton Turville at Play

The GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award 2014

The GPFA Honourable Company of Gloucestershire Award opened for applications in July 2014 and by the closing date of the 31st August some 15 entries had been received from young sports persons across the county. Unfortunately only four awards could be made and after considerable deliberation they were presented to the following young people by The Hon Hugh Tollemache, Junior Warden of The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire at the AGM :

Billy Shilton age 15 from Stonehouse. Billy is making a big name for himself in the table tennis world. Currently Billy is ranked No. 2 in the county for able bodied table tennis and is also the Gloucestershire Under 16 Schools Champion. As a player with a disability Billy is making impact at national and international level. He is ranked No 2 in the UK and No 23 in the world in Disabled Class 7 level.



From L to R: Billy Shilton; Maggie Gilbert, Connie Healey and Harry Bishop

Maggie Gilbert age 16 from Arlingham. Maggie is a very talented basketball player and started playing locally for Gloucester Jets. From there she has progressed to the South West Under 15 team and then in to the England Under 17 Development Squad. This year she has further progressed up to the Under 18 England Development Squad.

Connie Healey age 15 from Gloucester. Connie is making her mark in the sport of archery. She was a member of the Gloucestershire team which won the National Outdoor Championship. Her ability has been spotted at a national level and she has been picked for the GB Combine Training Squad.

Harry Bishop age 18 from Gloucester. Harry is a talented athlete competing in distance running and cross country. He is the County 10K Track Champion and represented Gloucestershire at the National Schools Championship. He has now moved up to the senior level and has won several open road races.

GPFA Volunteer of the Year 2014



Colin Gittings receiving the Award from our President, Dame Janet Trotter DBE

The GPFA Volunteer of the Year recognises the contribution made by the many unsung heroes in Gloucestershire who work tirelessly on their playgrounds and playing fields.

This year's award was presented at the AGM to Colin Gittings from Corse and Staunton. Colin is another great example of the unsung heroes that help to maintain and improve playing fields and playgrounds in the county. He leads a team of volunteers at Corse and Staunton which maintain the cricket pitch to a very high standard, one of the best in the county.

As well as tending the pitch Colin also undertakes all the hedge cutting and tree surgery required around the perimeter. Inside the pavilion he is also very handy at carrying general repairs and maintenance. Corse and Staunton consider themselves very fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer as Colin Gittings

Revamp for St Briavels Playground

Another playground which has undergone a much needed transformation is at St Briavels in the Forest of Dean.

Similar to many other playing fields across the county it is managed by a group of volunteers who are part of the St Briavels Playing Field War memorial and Playing Field Charity. The playground was in need of a revamp but as a lot of the equipment was still in good condition any scheme had to include retaining as much of the existing equipment as possible including the Wicksteed Horse pictured here to the right.



The budget for the scheme was just over £20,000 and this was raised from a combination of successful funding applications and their own fundraising. The main funders were Awards for All, Biffa Award New Grove Trust and Resilient Energy. We at the GPFA also contributed £1000 as well as helping the group with advice on funding and suppliers.



The play space now boasts a new zip wire, basket swing and tower unit together with the spruced up existing pieces of equipment, including the Wicksteed Horse which can be seen in the picture on the left.

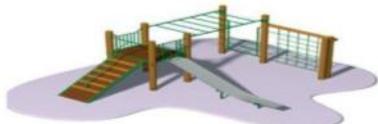
Another great example of volunteers making a difference



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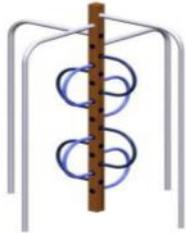


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