

Spring 2018

THE PLAYING FIELD

The newsletter of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association



GPFA awards grants of over £100,000 to members in the last 5 years

Grants totalling £108,000 have been awarded by the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association since 2012. Over 65 clubs, organisations, parish and town councils have benefitted from GPFA grant aid.

A wide range of projects and facilities have been supported, including playing field and pavilion improvements, playgrounds and youth sports start-up costs.

GPFA is proud to support the ongoing efforts of its dedicated members to improve their sports and play facilities. Generally, grants of up to 15% of the total project cost (to a maximum of £2,000) can be awarded for improvements to playing fields, playgrounds or sports facilities. Often an initial GPFA grant award can 'seed' other external grant funding bids for larger projects, where match-funding is needed, resulting in awards from other funding bodies being secured.

Grants have been given to improve playing field and playground sites in all districts across the county and into South Gloucestershire.

Helping our members to improve their facilities is one of the GPFA's key objectives, which remain largely unchanged since the Association was founded in 1926. Today, more than ever, it is important that everyone has access to good quality sport and play facilities and the GPFA will continue to lend its support to members who work so hard to help their local communities stay active.

If you would like advice or help with any playing field projects or activities in your area please email secretary@gpfa.org.uk

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Fields in Trust - Centenary Fields

Fields in Trust runs the Centenary Fields programme. Working across the UK in partnership with The Royal British Legion, the initiative aims to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity, to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War I.

Fields in Trust (FiT) has been in the business of providing legal protection for playing fields, play space, recreation grounds, nature reserves and other open spaces since its formation as the National Playing Fields Association in 1925. They currently protect more than 2,500 public recreational spaces, through legally binding agreements, for the long term.

The Centenary Fields programme was launched in 2014 by FiT President HRH The Duke of Cambridge. Delivered in partnership with The Royal British Legion, it is proving to be a unique way to commemorate the World War I centenary and remember those who lost their lives during the conflict, by protecting outdoor recreational spaces in perpetuity for the benefit of future generations.

Landowners, including town and parish councils and playing field associations across the UK are encouraged to dedicate a recreational space as a Centenary Field. Suitable spaces include war memorial playing fields and recreation grounds, memorial gardens, parks or recreation grounds that contain a war memorial and other valued green spaces that have some significance to WWI, either existing or planned.



“

Please support Fields in Trust and The Royal British Legion to commemorate this important landmark in our history and help remembrance to live on through Centenary Fields.

”

HRH The Duke of Cambridge
President, Fields in Trust



**Fields in Trust Ambassador
Sir Clive Woodward OBE:**

"Grassroots sports grounds are so important to nurturing the sports stars of tomorrow and giving people somewhere to enjoy sport. The Fields in Trust initiative is a unique and fitting way for sports clubs with a connection to World War I to protect their grounds for future generations to enjoy."

Countless sports clubs saw conflict stop play during World War I, as many players and sometimes even entire teams went to the front line. FiT want to ensure their sacrifice is recognised as part of our Centenary Fields programme and are inviting sports clubs that are more than 100 years old and either own or lease (at least 99 years) their ground to apply.

2018 marks the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War and the deadline for Centenary Fields applications is 11th November 2018.

Further information is available online at www.fieldsintrust.org/centenaryfields contact the Fields in Trust Local Development Manager Angela Lewis on 020 7427 2111 or email angela.lewis@fieldsintrust.org



CENTENARY FIELDS

Commemorating World War I 2014-2018

PLAYGROUND MANAGEMENT TRAINING SEMINAR

Tuesday 1st May 2018

12.00-3.30pm

at Yate Parish Hall, Station Road, Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 4PQ

GPFA is running another of its popular playground management seminars, in partnership with the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA).

The session is designed for people who are not necessarily specialists and who may inspect children's playgrounds along with other duties or as volunteers. The course is run by a playground inspection specialist with over 40 years experience. The seminar will start at 12.00pm and finish at around 3.30pm. The course will include a practical outdoor session inspecting play equipment and everyone attending will receive a course certificate.



**Course fee is £35 per person for GPFA or ALCA members
£70 for non-members**

Advance booking is essential via Avon Local Councils Association website – please use the link below

[http://www.avonlca.org.uk/ CoreContent/EventBooking/Event.aspx?slid=156&pld=3171&ld=1233](http://www.avonlca.org.uk/CoreContent/EventBooking/Event.aspx?slid=156&pld=3171&ld=1233)

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New £80k skatepark at Lechlade

An exciting new skatepark at Lechlade Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Charity will be officially opened on Sunday 15 April, with professional riders giving a demonstration of their skills.

The project is part of a £1.5 million project to rebuild the community hall, which was destroyed in an arson attack in May 2016. The new hall will be larger in size with more parking and has been built partly over the site of the previous popular, but dated, skate park.



A huge fundraising effort by the Lechlade charity, in partnership with Lechlade Town Council, raised the funding for the new facility, designed by Gravity Skateparks.

GPFA has supported the project with a £2,000 grant, along with other funders, including a £10,000 grant from the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The new skatepark has been named 'The Barrow' after archaeological investigation during construction found a Bronze Age burial pit under the site. The facility will cater for scooters, BMX and skateboarders.

The opening event and demo will involve professional riders, who will also teach local youngsters some tricks. It is due to take place on Sunday 15th April starting at 12.00pm, but is weather dependent and will be postponed if it is raining (or snowing!).

Sport England updates guidance on playing field planning applications

Sport England has updated and re-launched its guidance on planning applications affecting playing fields, with the aim of further protecting the public spaces in which people get physically active. It is the first major update to the guidance since it was first published in 1997, when local planning authorities were first required to formally consult Sport England on planning applications which affect playing field land.



By providing clearer and more detailed advice, the updated guidance will help applicants, local planning authorities and other parties understand Sport England's role and how applications are assessed.

Sport England's policy is to object to applications, unless they meet one of five specific exceptions – such as the proposals improving the use of a playing field, or replacement playing field land being provided as part of the plans.

The new version of the guidance, published in March 2018, has updated the wording and details for the five objections, bringing them in line with modern planning practices.

Further information from www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning

Other news

Youth Sport Start-Up Scheme

GPFA is keen to hear from new teams or groups starting regular sports or fitness activities for children and young people. A grant of up to £500 is available, to help with start-up costs.

Please contact the GPFA Secretary for further information.



3G Pitches available at Oxstalls Sports Park

If your team would like to train or play matches on a new, top-class artificial sports surface, there is still some community use availability at weekends for



both the rugby and football 3G pitches at Oxstalls (Plock Court, Gloucester).

Availability and prices can be found on the Aspire Trust website:

<http://www.aspiretrust.org.uk/centres/oxstalls/outdoor-sports-pitches>

GPFA has a range of free advice notes available for members, covering topics such as play inspections, playground legislation, fencing, risk assessment, signage & dogs. We can also visit your site, to give individual advice and support. Please contact the Secretary for further information.

Kay Lillington, GPFA Secretary/Advice Officer, 07504 544413 secretary@glospfa.org.uk www.glospfa.org.uk

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