

Winter 2022

THE PLAYING FIELD

The newsletter of the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association



Season's Greetings from GPFA

We would like to send our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our members and supporters.

We know that 2023 will present challenges to all organisations and we are happy to continue to provide advice and support wherever we can.

We have been so pleased to see many exciting projects being planned or completed in 2022, right across the county. There is clearly a huge level of community commitment to fundraise, create and manage these local sports and play facilities, and we wholeheartedly commend the vision and efforts of so many in providing and maintaining quality parks and playing fields for everyone to enjoy.

In our financial year 2021-22, the GPFA paid out grants totalling £14,090 towards ten worthy projects. Although our funding is often only a small part of the overall cost of a project, it can often help to secure other external grants,

and we know from the feedback received, that our support is always well received and valued. The ten projects above, which we supported with grant funding, resulted in a total of over **£300,000** of new investment in community playing fields, sports and play facilities.

We are often able to provide members with guidance on initial project design and management, other potential funding sources and information on suitable contractors or suppliers. We welcome all enquiries from members and will always endeavour to provide assistance wherever possible.

Thank You

We would like to express our sincere thanks to several GPFA stalwarts, who have recently stood down from their positions with the Association.

Dame Janet Trotter, who has been the GPFA President for ten years, up until our December AGM. Her guidance and support has been invaluable in that time.

Ron Harrison, has also stepped down this year as GPFA Chairman, along with **Brian Leeke**, who has served on the GPFA committee for many years and was also a previous Secretary of the Association.

We thank all three for their commitment, advice, knowledge and expertise and we wish Janet, Ron and Brian all the very best for the future.

In this issue:

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- New GPFA President
- Recent grant awards
- Completed projects
- Safeguarding & links



Introducing our new GPFA President

We are delighted welcome our new President Sybil Ruscoe DL.

Sybil Ruscoe has lived in Stow-on-the-Wold for 16 years. She is a journalist and broadcaster. Sybil is the Farming and Countryside Advisor on BBC Radio 4's The Archers, the world's longest-running continuous drama.

Since 2013, Sybil has been a presenter on BBC Radio 4's Farming Today, Farming Today This Week, On Your Farm, Open Country and Costing The Earth.

In addition to her broadcasting work, Sybil (with her husband, Tom Knight) has worked as a media consultant.

Recent projects include - the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to the Herefordshire Diocese, the installation of the SAS 'Ascension' window at Hereford Cathedral and Hereford Cathedral Choir's visit to Rome to sing at the Vatican, the Sistine Chapel and to meet The Pope.



New GPFA President, Sybil Ruscoe

Sybil was the first woman to present cricket on British terrestrial TV with C4 Cricket, she was a launch presenter on BBC Radio 5 Live and was a co-presenter on the Simon Mayo Breakfast Show on BBC Radio 1. At Radio 1, she presented Top of the Pops and the legendary Radio 1 Roadshow. On her BBC Radio 5 Live Afternoon Show, she covered politics, sport and the arts, hosting live shows from Lord's, the Cheltenham Festival and the Atlanta Olympic Games.

On the BAFTA and RTS award-winning C4 Cricket, she was co-host of the C4 Cricket Roadshow and travelled to Gallipoli with the Australian cricket team. She was a cricket columnist for the Daily Telegraph. Sybil and her husband Tom, who was the former Athletics Correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, co-wrote The Official Commemorative Book of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sybil was born in Wem, Shropshire and joined the Express & Star, Wolverhampton straight from school as a junior reporter. She worked on Independent Local Radio before moving to the BBC.

She was a pupil at Wem Secondary Modern School and Adams School, Wem where she was head girl at both schools. She grew up on the football touchline, cricket boundary and the hockey field. Sybil is passionate about her allotment, cricket, golf, singing and the countryside. She is a member of the congregation of St Edward's Church, Stow-on-the-Wold and Moreton Show.

Sybil was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Gloucestershire in 2021 and is a trustee of the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation.

We look forward to working with Sybil at the GPFA.

Recent grant awards

The GPFA continues to work with our members to provide funding advice and support projects with small grants. Recent grant awards include:

- **Moreton in Marsh Tennis Club**—£2,000 grant towards the construction of two new tennis courts.
- **Adlestrop, Daylesford and Oddington Cricket Club**—£2,000 grant towards replacement cricket practice nets.
- **Kings Stanley Cricket Club**—£320 Youth Sport grant towards the provision of kit and equipment for a new, mixed U-11's team.
- **Longhope Parish Council**—£2,000 grant towards new play equipment for the Longhope Recreation Ground.

Completed projects and grants paid

Newnham on Severn Parish Council have completed the upgrade of their play area surfacing, at a cost of £35k, supported by a £2,000 GPFA grant.



Cam Parish Council have opened their extended new play facilities at the Jubilee Playing Field. Although the GPFA was not asked for grant funding, we were able to assist the council with technical guidance & advice during the design stage.



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Completed projects

We have been pleased to support a number of excellent projects with GPFA grants.

A snapshot of some of the recently completed schemes are set out over the next two pages.

Winchcombe Park—a new open space has been created by Winchcombe Town Council, next to the secondary school. The well designed park includes a range of features for all ages to enjoy—a MUGA, zipwire, concrete skate bowl, outdoor fitness space and petanque court, as well as a circular surfaced path,

with seating and picnic tables. There is car parking and space for future additional features.

A £2,000 GPFA grant was used towards the MUGA provision.



Winchcombe Park images:

Top left—the entrance area with planting and surfaced pathways.

Top right—view of the outdoor fitness space with MUGA behind.

Bottom—view across the skate bowl with feature basket seating.

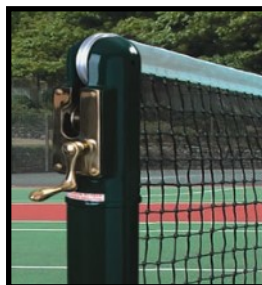


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Completed projects (continued)

Moreton in Marsh Tennis Club have built two additional tennis courts (see club photo right), in a £150k project. GPFA awarded the club a grant of £2,000 and the installation was completed in October. The club has already seen a big difference and can now host matches and training sessions concurrently.



Brockweir CIC have created an exciting new equipped play space adjoining the Brockweir and Hewelsfield village shop. The £90k project was supported with a £2,000 GPFA grant and the play area was formally opened in October 2022.



Brockweir



Blakeney

Blakeney Recreation Ground have also installed an excellent new play facility in the village. Another £2,000 GPFA grant supported the £68k project, which was officially opened in November 2022.

Redmarley Parish Council finally achieved the long held wish for a village play-ground, with the opening of the new play area next to the village school, in December 2022. The £67k project was again supported with a £2,000 GPFA grant.



Redmarley D'Abitot

GPFA commends the incredible energy, time and community fundraising efforts of all four project teams, to build and open these excellent new facilities.

Safeguarding: Culture in Clubs & Groups: Self Evaluation



The Ann Craft Trust (ACT) is a national charity which exists to minimise the risk of abuse of disabled children and adults at risk. Through pioneering training, practice reviews and contributing to world-leading research, the Trust supports organisations to safeguard disabled children and adults at risk and minimise the risk of harm.

The Trust has provided some suggested questions for organisations to evaluate and provide evidence to help them to learn more about their culture and potential areas of improvement. This is a useful step to give clubs and groups the chance to reflect and have the opportunity to put new mechanisms in place to help improve and create a safer, more open culture.

How the Culture Self Evaluation Works

The Self-Evaluation is designed to provide an approach to reflect on the culture in your club or group. This dedicated time to reflect gives you the opportunity to put mechanisms in place to help improve and create a more open, safer culture. There are 5 statements in each part of the self evaluation: Listen, Learn, Lead. You'll be asked 15 statements in total and encouraged to add some evidence to Support your answer.

Self Evaluation Questions

These are the questions included in the self-evaluation. In the evaluation itself, each answer has an associated score which you can add up at the end to get advice about how your organisation can improve. You'll also be asked to provide evidence to support each of your answers.

Listen

- *The organisation has an open environment where feedback from participants and volunteers is regularly sought*
- *The organisation has an open environment where feedback from participants and volunteers is valued and acted on*
- *Concerns raised at the club are welcomed*
- *There is someone at the organisation participants can speak to if they have a concern*
- *Concerns raised at the club or group are addressed appropriately*

Learn

- *The organisation is very adaptable and open to change*
- *The organisation is always looking for ways to develop and improve*
- *The organisation uses feedback and learning to change how things are done*
- *The organisation encourages and provides opportunities for participants and volunteers to improve skills and knowledge in a range of areas*
- *The organisation welcomes suggestions as to how it could improve in the area of learning and reflection*

Lead

- *The staff and volunteers are encouraged to be approachable*
- *Staff and volunteers are role models for the organisation and its participants*
- *Staff and volunteers empower participants to thrive at the club or group*
- *Staff and volunteers have the best interest of participants at the heart of what they do*
- *Staff and volunteers address any concerns raised appropriately*

Download the Culture Self Evaluation for Clubs & Groups here:

www.anncrafttrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Culture-in-Clubs-Self-Evaluation.pdf

Find out more about the Ann Craft Trust, safeguarding adults and disabled children, and access more free resources here: www.anncrafttrust.org

Useful links to other organisations

(not affiliated to GPFA)



GoVolunteerGlos.org, is the new digital home of volunteering in Gloucestershire, for local people ages 16 plus who are looking to offer their time as a volunteer, and for organisations who are looking for volunteers to advertise their opportunities.

Visit the website to find the latest roles and information: **www.govolunteerglos.org**

The Gloucestershire VCS Alliance is a CIO, with a mission statement '*to be the independent voice that informs, strengthens and*

develops the local voluntary and community sector'. Working closely with Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire CCG and other public sector organisations, the Alliance supports local charities and voluntary groups by sharing information from the public sector, centred around a monthly funding bulletin, as well as representing the voluntary and community sector (VCS) at meetings and exploring partnership working opportunities. Find out more at: **www.glosvcsalliance.org.uk**



A number of our GPFA member organisations have engaged with **Play Gloucestershire** in 2022, to provide free-to-access, child-led play activity sessions in their parks and play-grounds. To find out more about the fantastic work of Play Gloucestershire and the Play Rangers visit their website: **www.playgloucestershire.org.uk** or search on social media:



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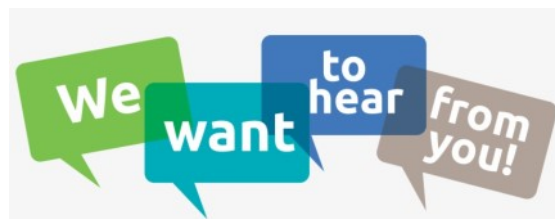
Sharing knowledge and best practice

Understanding the needs of our GPFA member organisations is key to the work of the Association, and will help us identify the best subject matter for future forum events.

We recently ran our first event, on playground inspections, under the Playing Fields Forum banner. We plan to arrange more sessions and site visits in 2023, and we are always happy to hear from members about future topics that you would like to see covered.

Examples of potential topics that could be covered in forum events in 2023:

- *Sports pitch maintenance and improvement*
- *Designing high quality places for play*
- *Effective outdoor fitness and exercise spaces*
- *Use of playing fields for active ageing and social prescribing*



To suggest a topic or site visit, contact Kay Lillington, GPFA Secretary:

secretary@glospfa.org.uk or call 07504 544413