

LEIGH-ON –MENDIP RECREATION FIELD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR’S REPORT FOR AGM MARCH 2023

We have had a busy year with lots of activity and planning of the additional space we have. We took the decision that we could no longer call the area "the open space" so, with the arrival of the new King, we have the arrival of "The Coronation Park" we hope this is a fitting name.

Excitement is rising as we have put in for several grants to get the project underway.

We have been successful with 4 grants so far, 2 from Halecombe community fund, which has paid for the Shelter which was installed last summer in the Rec. This has been a very worthwhile project; it is used frequently, by those just enjoying the Rec to those sheltering from the elements. We put this shelter up as it was suggested by many in the consultation process, but we felt it was better place in the far left hand corner of the rec to cause less interference with our neighbours.

The other grant from Halecombe has been combined with one from the parish council to provide our first piece of play equipment, a trim trail. Our second piece, a climbing cone, is being funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation. Both should be installed very soon.

Whatley Quarry has funded the picnic tables.

We are grateful to all our sponsors.

Along with all the grants we have applied for we have also been keen for everyone in the village to get involved to raise funds for the project.

Our first fund raising event was held in November and was hosted by the lovely Lizzie Leigh that rhymes with tea. Lizzie did us proud hosting our afternoon tea and charming us with rhymes and knowledge of the humble tea.

Thanks also go to all those that donated cakes, scones and to all the helpers we had making and pouring tea.

Our next fund raiser is being initiated by Vik Batten who has come up with the idea of having a trail of nursery rhymes around the village for the children, ending back at the club house for certificates, ice cream (with lots of sprinkles) and of course tea and cake for those that like it. This is taking place on the Sunday 23rd of April.

Please come along and get involved.

Clubhouse

The club house is in good repair as we redecorated last year but we have had some electrical work carried out this year.

Cricket

Leigh cricket team are once again limbering up for the season ahead. We wish them every success this year.

I'm sure they would welcome the village support on match days and new team members.

Sadly we still needed to keep the children's playground shut during cricket matches and we are very pleased we took this action as there were again several near misses when 6's were hit into the playground. We will again be closing the playground this year when cricket matches are taking place.

Owing to this high risk, we have taken the decision to close the current playground when we have the new equipment in place.

Tuesday Night Bowls

Bowls on the rec. continued last summer, with a few more members joining in.

This is a fun session that anyone can join, it gives people the opportunity to meet new people get some gentle exercise and most importantly have fun!

If you would like to participate, it will start early May. Times 6.30 to 8pm Tuesday evenings.

Fund Raising events

We have continued with our monthly bonus ball draw and we thank everyone that has contributed to this.

Vanessa very kindly ran the Wreath making workshop at Christmas, and people again went away with their wonderful creations.

Finance

Our finances are currently in a healthy position, but most of our reserves will be spent on the new park and community space.

The village Fair

This took place on a very hot Saturday in July, the children enjoyed the addition of a water spray to cool off, and the parents enjoyed the bar and other refreshments.

It was great to see the village fair back to normal.

Queens Jubilee

What a fun weekend we had with many events taking place in the village. The two events held at the rec were:-

The lighting of the beacon on Thursday night. That was a great evening and it was especially wonderful because so many villagers turned up. A special thank you to Frank and Daggs for their engineering abilities and pyrotechnic capabilities.

The picnic at the park was a little damp to say the least but those that came had a fine time with the chorus of Sweet Caroline topping the bill.

Events for your calendar

We will be celebrating the Kings Coronation on Saturday the 6th of May with a teddy bears picnic (dressed up royally of course)

Lighting of the beacon with bar and BBQ.

We are also going to Celebrate 100 years of the Rec on July the 8th. This will be a village get together with Bar, BBQ and hopefully some games.

Upkeep of the field

This continues to be a very big task and the committee do their best to keep this in hand. We do however need and accept any help in this area. So if you have any spare time we would be very grateful for any help that is offered. Please just contact any member of the team for job suggestions. There are a lot of things going on behind the scenes, such as all the secretarial jobs completed by David, financial affairs completed by Denis and general maintenance of the field and club house completed by the committee and fellow villagers.

Dogs

A polite reminder that the Rec is a **DOG ON LEAD AREA ONLY** sadly there are **some people who think this rule does not apply to them.**

We kindly ask that all dogs are on leads and dog mess is picked up in the rec. field and everywhere else in the village.

Thank yous to:-

Brenda Wigmore who has sadly left our committee

Vanessa Barnes and all her family for continuing with the wreath making workshops at Christmas.

Lizzie Leigh for the wonderful tea.

All those that pick up rubbish and generally care about the Rec.

All the committee

The current committee members that help keep the Recreation field a very special place are:-

Vicky Higgins - Chair

David Pattison – Secretary

Denis Pattison- Treasurer

Alan Dagger- Fair rep

Ty Schlechter- School rep

Martin Carter- Cricket rep/PC rep