

Alvington News

Published by the Alvington Parish Council

ALVINGTON PLAYING FIELDS

There is no doubt that the village is fortunate to have such splendid views from the Playing Fields, attracting a lot of interest from the surrounding areas. We already have 3 established club users of the fields, Alvington & Woolaston Cricket Club (who have performed extremely well this year, well done), Ali T and the dog training club, and two ladies who train collies.

All of these club users provide welcome funds towards the upkeep of the Fields saving the Parish a substantial amount of money - the Playing Fields budget for 2015/6 is £1,830 including grass cutting, maintenance and insurance. The Cricket Club are planning a fund raising event next year, and the dog training club have raised over £100 recently which has been earmarked to start the process of providing toilet facilities on the Playing Fields.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PLAYING FIELDS

There have been several requests placed on Facebook for support in developing the facilities on the Playing Fields and asking for support from the village. The Parish Council have received two expressions of interest from ladies in the village, Emma and Jenny, to help improve the play equipment, and are currently endeavouring to form a Playing Fields Play Park Group to explore the way forward. The Parish Council would like to thank them for giving up their time in supporting what will hopefully be a positive outcome.



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NEXT STEPS: Form a Play Park Group to

- Get parents together
- Talk to them about what young children might like to play on
- Talk to older children about what they would use
- Collect comments and drawings
- Find out who uses the field and what for.
- Fundraise from own initiatives as well as with the help of local organisations

You can also visit our website at www.alvingtonvillage.org

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) advisor Kate Baugh and the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA) secretary Graham Ross have both put forward some very helpful suggestions, with advice on who to approach as well as when to approach various funding bodies. Both advisors stressed however that, sadly, the days of obtaining 100% grants are gone and the village would need to provide evidence of need and some of the funding. With this in mind the Play Park Group are aiming to try to get village support with this task, which will need a lot of effort and time from all those involved.

Both Kate and Graham are behind any future planning to improve the Playing Fields but stressed it cannot be achieved without some support and understanding from the members of the Parish of Alvington. Many of the villages around have created interesting improvements to their Playing Fields, which was mainly due to the enthusiastic support of the members of the village.

Once we have an idea as to what the villagers and children would, realistically, like to see on the Playing Fields we can move forward. Initially we are hoping to hold informal meetings over coffee, to start the ball rolling and hope that we will be able to prioritise any suggestions and preferences.

Last year as you may be aware the Parish Council successfully bid for almost £2,200 to fund replacement goalposts and nets for the benefit of the village as well as repairs to the Trim Trail at a cost of almost £400. This means that these replacements cost the village nothing.

A member of the Parish Council and a villager has recently repaired the Trim Trail again for only £15. **This is the kind of support we are looking for.** The villager did not want to be named but the Parish Council openly thanks them for their support and time given freely.

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**Some of the ideas already
proposed are:**

1. Toilet Block
2. Playground for the younger children - we need to know what swings etc they would like.
3. Park benches and tables
4. Eventually the Parish Council would like a proper changing room facility as well as a pavilion.



Look out for future events in the next issue of our Newsletter

St Andrew's Church

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Sarah Fenby, Telephone: 842321

Vicar: Anthony Jones, Telephone: 529387

Church Warden: Clarice Partington, Telephone: 529287

OWNERSHIP OF THE PLAYING FIELDS

When the Playing Fields were gifted to the Parish Council in 1953, there were certain Covenants placed on the Parish Council in the Deed of Gift, including:

“No person who does not reside in the boundaries of the said Parish shall be permitted to use or play upon the land hereby transferred except in the Company of or as a guest of persons resident in the said Parish AND unless participating in sports or games organised by or under the auspices of or with the consent or approval of the Council”

Copies of this legal document are available for perusal and have been shown at several Parish Council meetings. Simply put, the Playing Fields are owned by the Parish Council, who are responsible for the usage of the Playing Fields as well as the maintenance and upkeep. This means that fees may be charged for the use of the fields for APPROVED purposes, which can include team sports club use and training events involving non-residents. Simply walking around the fields, exercising your dog and playing games with your children does not constitute a club game and therefore there would be no charge for this activity.

The fees paid by the current club users of the field are a great deal cheaper than some of the fees charged in surrounding villages and are paid by an agreed contract signed by both parties, and provide funds to support the maintenance of the Playing Fields, relieving a considerable burden from the Parish Precept. This is standard practice throughout the Forest of Dean parishes and again considerably cheaper than most. It is unfair to expect the entire village to fund the use of the Playing Fields by a minority, some of whom do not live within the Parish of Alvington boundaries. In this regard the Parish Council continue to actively encourage the club use of the Playing Fields, subject to an agreed contract, and with the permission of the Parish Council.

If any of the villagers and children would like to offer any suggestions and or support please contact E.P. Smooker, Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee edmundsmooker@live.com

Thanking you in advance of any and all support that you may be able to offer even if only a few minutes, all help will be appreciated.



**Morris dancers
at the village fete
in July 2013**

Residents are welcome to contribute articles, letters and opinions to the newsletter

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS**PARISH COUNCIL**

The Council meets every month but not in January and August. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Gary Collier, Chairman. Tel: 528420. E-mail: gary@gcollier.demon.co.uk

Paul Smooker, Vice Chairman. Tel: 528318. Email: edmundsmooker@live.com

Jen Bates. Tel: 528318. E-Mail: jembates5@gmail.com

Beveley Collier. Tel: 528420. E-Mail: beveley@gcollier.demon.co.uk

Ann Thomas. Tel: 529009. E-Mail: curann451@gmail.com

Parish Clerk: Andrew Maliphant. Tel: 544456. E-mail: andrewparishclerk@btinternet.com

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Frankie Evans. Tel: 07951 125597. E-mail: Frankie.Evans@fdean.gov.uk

Jim Simpson. Tel: 07747 048976. E-mail: jim.simpson@fdean.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCIL

Patrick Molyneux. Tel: 529174. E-mail: patrick.molyneux@gloucestershire.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mark Harper, MP. Tel: 823482. E-mail: harperm@parliament.uk

POLICE & COMMUNITY OFFICERS

Non Emergency Number: 101

Community Officers:

PCSO Robert Gee.

Telephone: 0845 090 1234

Rural Beat Officer:

W.P.C. Denise Meredith.

Telephone: 01452 335544

Street Wardens:

Telephone: 01594 812264

Neighbourhood Watch:

Telephone: 01452 335570

SNOW WARDENS

John Wintour. Telephone: 529234

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Terry Jones (Treasurer).

Telephone: 529287



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Lydney, Forest of Dean, GL15 6BU

Preparing for an Emergency

The response team comprises:-

Coordinator: Gary Collier,

01594 528420

Deputy: John Wintour, 01594 529234

If anyone (should an emergency arise) would be willing to give support in the Hall whether it be making tea, refreshments or plain consolation and support, please give your telephone number to me for inclusion in my contacts list. *Gary Collier*

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Contact Terry Jones

Telephone: 01594 529287

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for rates contact:

Gary Collier on

01594 528420

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Bookings 08457 000125

Cinema, Coleford 01594 833331

Chemists:

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Co-Op, Lydney 01594 843443

County Council, Gloucester

01452 425000

Dental Helpline 01425 318858

Dial-A-Ride, Lydney 01594 843809

District Council, Forest of Dean

01594 810000

Doctors:

Dr Fellows' practice 08444 778645

Dr Bennetts' practice 01594 842167

Out of Hours Doctors: 0300 4210220

Emergency Services:

British Gas 0800 111999

Electricity 08457 331331

Water 0800 7834444

Hospitals:

Lydney 0300 421 8722

Gloucester Royal 0300 422222

Leisure Centre, Lydney 01594 842383

Libraries: Chepstow 01291 635730

Lydney 01594 842769

National Express Bus Service

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