

Budock Water Playing Field Association

The Playing Field Association has had a reasonably busy year. Again our main themes have been raising enough money to keep up with the maintenance of the field as well as engaging the village community in our activities. We have several new members to our committee (as well as associate members) most of whom have young children and so through no conscious decision, the events have leaned towards engaging those younger families.

We had a successful summer “Fun Day” last June with our usual stalls (plus a crockery smash!) races, tug of war, BBQ and for the first time a “beer stand”. We also provided a free tea for the children who attended in celebration of the Queen’s 90th Birthday.

The Playing Field Association voluntarily took on responsibility for the village carnival last year. However, as we had been trying to work towards regenerating the field we didn’t feel we had time to successfully undertake such an event and so didn’t run it last year.

We had another successful Christmas lights switch-on. We had about 80 people with the children making ornaments for the tree on the night as well as beforehand. Some of the children were working towards an award supported by the local school and so we had a session of preparing the decorations which went towards their award. We had a small group of musicians from the village play for the carol singing and we provided hot dogs, mulled apple juice, tea and coffee etc. We also used the evening as a public engagement event regarding our regeneration ideas and encouraged people to give us their thoughts on the playing field.

At Easter we had a “Treasure Hunt”. As last year, we had 2 groups. The older children used a map to hunt for eggs around the woods. The younger children had to find pictures of animals around the field. Each child got a prize at the end. We had 45 prizes of chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies or coloured pens and halfway through we realised that there weren’t going to be enough and promptly sent someone off to the shop to buy a further 20 eggs. All in all it was a great success.

On Saturday (20th May) we held our first Budock Water Film Club screening. This is run through “C Fyln” a Cornish charity that aims to bring film to village communities. We had about 40 people to our first showing (the Disney film Moana). We have plans to also show films to an older audience and have an agreement with the new management at the pub to supply food for the occasion. We hope this will be another event that will encourage a sense of community in the village as well as a revenue stream to help the Playing Field (we made about £100 on this occasion.)

As mentioned, as a committee, we had taken responsibility for organising the Carnival but as this was technically outside our remit as a charity, it would have involved setting up a new committee alongside. The new management at the Trelowarren Arms were keen to be involved in the Carnival and so we invited them to take over the running of it. The term “Strike while the iron is hot” was our motto there. I’m pleased to say they have decided to take this on and we will of course support them as a committee.

Our plans for regenerating the Playing Field are very slowly coming together. It is a steep learning curve for us all on the committee and, naturally, trying to take everyone on the committee along with it is time consuming. We all felt that the Playing Field needs some work and that this would be best achieved by applying for one large grant to cover most of the work. We have also come to some definite conclusions as to what we feel the users of the field would like to see. In essence these are: a hard track running from the gate to the play equipment and then in a loop around the entire field. This is to enable young children to use their scooters and bikes. We are particularly conscious that there are no pavements in the village where youngsters can learn to ride. This would also accommodate wheelchair users and would involve some landscaping.

Secondly, the play equipment needs updating. This would involve removing one or two items, moving one or two more and installing probably one large structure incorporating several methods of play.

So far a number of play equipment companies have been contacted and have given feedback in the form of a plan. However, due to the fact that there are several elements to the work and the fact that the committee members are very keen to have an “interesting” new structure, we have been advised to use the services of a project manager. We have recently met someone who we feel we can work well with. She has enormous experience in bringing together the different agents required for such a project. She has undertaken this sort of work not just in this country but also around the world. She also has the benefit of knowing funding streams for such projects.

In the meantime, we are about to put in a bid to Tesco for their “Bags for life” funding just to keep things moving, which will provide a small amount of resurfacing under some of the existing play equipment.

Regarding the regeneration, we are extremely keen to engage with the local community, including the Parish council. We aim to communicate our plans and enthuse others to get involved in our ideas. Of course all this does take a huge amount of time and effort so if we don't communicate as fully as we might, please forgive us.

On the matter of finance; we are in the process of getting quotes for some tree surgery work which will involve taking down the relatively small trees that are on the road side of the fence to the Playing Field, taking back the large Pine trees in the near corner and also addressing the large beech at the back of the Playing Field. We expect the cost of this to be about £300 - £400.

We are also looking at a weather-proof notice board in the field, as this would provide a means for communicating with its patrons. The cost of this plus some portable hazard signs for use in events when people are crossing the road between the field and the village hall, is £450.

Many thanks for the Parish council's continued support and we look forward to giving you an even more exciting update next year!

Matt Brierley
Chairman