

RUNHALL PLAY AREA

REPORT 2016

Runhall Play Area is still appealing to many visitors and maintained by an even smaller band of volunteers.

Our last RoSPA inspection went well and only minor issues were raised which are being addressed. The hedges were trimmed at the beginning of the year and we hope to raise funds to finish off the fence on 'The Green side', which we believe will smarten up the Play Area.

Unfortunately we had unwanted visitors on two occasions earlier in the year, driving onto the Play Area making a mess. On the second occasion the vehicle got stuck and during the vehicle being rescued the picket fence at the entrance was damaged. This has now been replaced and for the foreseeable future we have locked the big entrance and advised all users to use the side gate.

The willow tunnel has been reduced to about 6 foot to enable new growth to recreate the tunnel as stems were too thick to bend and weave. Hopefully if the tunnel produces new growth we can then recreate another lovely willow tunnel for children to enjoy. Should this not be the case then we will replant another one.

We were delighted to receive a new bench courtesy of a WW11 Commemorative Fund. A much needed item especially as one of our picnic benches went missing.

We have made an important decision to sell our ride-on mower as we can no longer store this on the play area. This was due to a theft attempt and storing it elsewhere makes it difficult to manage a mowing rota. We have been very fortunate that someone else will take on the sole responsibility of mowing on our behalf. The money raised from the sale of the mower will go towards the fence project.

The role of Secretary still remains vacant with the Chair doing both roles. It is becoming increasingly difficult to gain new committee members and this is something we need to discuss at our next meeting to be held shortly.

Fundraising: We raffled a Christmas Hamper during the festive season and raised over £190 and recently have held a further Pop Up Tea Room at Welborne Village Hall which proved another success raising £130.

EDP Treasure Chest: We will be collecting vouchers during the month of June which we hope will enable us to be successful in gaining an award from this scheme.

Again we were successful in our bid to receive a parish council grant to cover the cost of our play area insurance and we thank the parish council for this. However, we always try to raise funds of £500 to cover the cost of keeping the play area open in case we are unsuccessful with our bid.

Finally our grateful thanks go to all the volunteers who continually offer their help and support in whatever way they can each year.