



WOTTON COMMUNITY SPORTS FOUNDATION

Developing a multi sport environment for Wotton and the surrounding area

Welcome to the WCSF Newsletter

No 2: August 2014

The Skate Park

We are almost there – but we need more help. We have made great strides in our fundraising for the planned Skate and BMX area. Indeed we now have over £61,000 of the £80,000 needed, in both monies and pledges. A further £10,000 would mean we could also add the seating, bins, extra landscaping and notice boards which would enhance the area enormously for everyone concerned. So any donations which you could give would be greatly appreciated.



The young people from the highly successful Youth Club and Youth Forum in Wotton have worked closely with us on the design. Throughout our regular meetings with them they have shown a good understanding of the need to take the long view, and of the effort involved in raising such a large



sum. Since December, they have themselves raised over £2,000 through coffee mornings, street fair stalls and a sponsored bike ride over Snowdon – real engagement with the project.

We would particularly like to thank all those who have helped us so far to reach this fantastic sum in both donations and pledges.

Kingswood Bridgers Project

Kingswood Parish Council

Wotton Town Council

Kingswood S&RF

The Lions

Wotton St Mary's Church

Wotton Cinema

Wotton Recreational Trust

Wotton Youth Club

Gloucestershire Market Towns Development Fund

EVA

Stroud Youth Development Fund

Renishaw Charity Trust

Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund

Kingswood Neighbourhood Watch

And all those of you who have supported our project in any way over the years.

We continue to fundraise – can you help at all to speed us on our way either with **fundraising** or by making a **donation** or **sponsoring a pitch?** Contact Barnaby Beere on 0789-420-7780 or email bbeere@btinternet.com or Sarah Watt on 0787-592-6190 or sarahwatt100@yahoo.co.uk

The Ecology of the New Road Site

There are now two ponds below the rugby pitch and we have planted reeds and rushes and willow trees in and around them. We were delighted to see frogspawn in the ponds this spring, and a pair of ducks checking on its suitability as a new home. We are leaving long grass in some areas in the hope that the sky larks which can be heard above the site will nest, and have planted wild flowers on the banks below the two pitches to add to those which have appeared in the newly turned soil.



Over the past 4 years we have also planted some 3,000 native saplings in areas around the rugby pitch and towards the barn. Many thanks to John Ferraby and the Stroud Tree workshop who sourced the trees – many of them free from The Woodland Trust – and organised the plantings, often in atrocious weather – but at least they did not need watering in! Each time, some very hardy volunteers from across the community turned out to dig and plant and our grateful thanks to all of you who helped us build our woodland.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Magnox Socio-Economic scheme, we have been able to install waste and recycling bins on our site. The new bins are part of a programme of general site works completed over the summer, including new fencing, improvements to drainage and lighting on the pathways. We continue to consider how we can improve the site with plans to supply refreshments on site at times of peak attendance, install some toilets near the pitches and picnic benches for the grass banks around.

We also have a surprising and pleasing new booking for September, not for our pitches, but from a local Primary School to use our New Road site for their Forest School activities. They will be exploring the wildlife of the ponds, digging for bugs and worms and identifying birds, trees and flowers throughout the year and we welcome this broadening of the community use for the site.

Our Home Clubs

Wotton Rovers Football Club continues to go from strength to strength, increasing the number of teams over the year, and for the first time in their history, they are entering an adult Ladies' side in Division Two of the Gloucester County Women's League next season and would welcome additional players aged 16+ to strengthen the squad for this exciting challenge. The team trains on Monday evenings on the WCSF 3G pitch from 7-8pm - please contact Richard Blacker on 07977 904902.



Wotton under Edge Hockey Club. This season the membership has grown from 110 to 220, and the junior membership has trebled. The Festival to celebrate 25 years of the hockey club on 24/25th May was a tremendous success with Mark Pearn (see photo) and Simon Mason, both local and both former Olympian England players, taking part. There were 500 players and 300 spectators and an interview on BBC Radio Gloucestershire talking about the club and the role of WCSF in the pitch development. The club is looking forward to even greater success in the coming season following the Back to Hockey project and summer league for men and ladies. Pre-season training begins again on Wednesday August 6th from 8-9pm (men) and Thursday August 7th from 8-9pm (ladies) on the WCSF Astro pitch behind KLBS. Full details of winter training times (seniors and juniors) and membership sign up will soon be available on www.wottonhockeyclub.org or please contact Stuart Emms (Chairman) on 07974-256380



Wotton Rugby Club. After a dip in membership a couple of years ago, the team has slowly grown together and found tremendous success this year under the dedicated coaching of Justin Barton. This season they have won Merit Table 3, gaining promotion to Merit Table 2 in September. They are already preparing the pitch for the new season and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested, any age or ability, in joining this friendly Club. Training is on Thursday night at 7 pm at the New Road site. Please contact Josh Knight 07768229280.

