

Wilcot Recreation Ground Children's Play Area Renewal

Project Summary

The Recreation Ground, also known as The Green, is owned by the village and run together with the village hall by an annually elected committee. The Green generates very little revenue so operating cost are covered by the Village Hall account which is funded by a mixture of hall hire, investment income and fund raising. The income is modest and isn't enough to cover capital expenditure so it was necessary to seek additional funding to replace the ageing play equipment.

The existing metal swings dated from about 1950 and had done good service while the wooden climbing frame was reaching the end of its useful life. The aim was to replace the equipment on a like for like basis so that it would be suitable for a variety of ages and also compatible with its position in a conservation area.

Based on some initial quotes a fundraising target of £24000 was set for the project. Being a small village it was clear that outside help would be needed to raise a sum like this. Once the full amount was raised three final quotations were obtained from play equipment providers Huck, Playdale and Wicksteed. At an open meeting a majority of the committee opted for the Wicksteed offering, which was duly installed. This included a 3 bay swing, large climbing frame with ropes, a new seesaw for younger children and safety matting to cover the entire area.

The largest grant came from the National Lottery with £9328. This was supported by two further substantial grants from Pewsey Area Board of £5000 and the Hills Group for £4638. Local fundraising and donations raised a further £4185 bringing us to the point where the project was fully funded at a little less than the original target.

Breakdown of final amounts with individual contributions of £500 or more listed.

Income	
Big Lottery Fund	9328
Pewsey Area Board	5000
Hills Group, Landfill Communities Fund	4638
Bridgewater (via Toby Joll)	1579
Lady Rothschild Foundation	500
Fundraising and donations	2106
Total raised	23151
Expenditure	
Equipment and installation (Wicksteed)	23000
Sundries	94
Total expenditure	23094

The surplus of £57 will be used to pay for the ROSPA safety inspection in September 2015.

Richard Fleet
Chairman
Wilcot Recreation Ground and Village Hall Management Committee

Below are copies of the announcement to the village, photos from the opening and articles from two local publications.

(Announcement circulated to all Wilcot Village Residents)



Wilcot Recreation Ground and Village Hall

Registered Charity 305596

Play Area on the Green

On behalf of the committee I'm delighted to announce that we have finally reached our funding target for replacing the ageing equipment on the play area. The committee will now review the options discussed at previous public meetings and will make a decision on which company will supply the new equipment at our next meeting. This will be on **Thursday 11 September at 7:30pm** in the village hall and residents are welcome to attend

The bulk of the funding has come from grants by public and private sources, without this help the project would not be going ahead. By far the biggest contributor is the National Lottery through the **Big Lottery Fund**, with a grant of £9328. This level of support is very helpful as it means that we can fully replace the equipment rather than adopt a piecemeal approach of taking some of it out of service until funds are available.

We greatly appreciate the contribution of £5000 by **Pewsey Area Board** as part of its commitment to supporting local projects that benefit the community. The play area benefits more than just village residents so it is good to be helped in this way by local government.

We have also received a funding boost of £4638 from **The Hills Group Limited**. This is money made available through the Landfill Communities Fund which is administered by Community First, The Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. The Third Party Contribution of £642 required for this was paid by Richard Fleet.

Thanks also to **Bridgewater Associates** and Toby Joll for a very useful donation of £579. Once again thanks to **The Rothschild Foundation** for a donation of £500 and for their continued support of local projects. Last but not least thanks to **Pewsey Carnival** for £300 from its regular annual donation to village halls.

A combination of existing set aside funds and additional fundraising has provided another £3132. Thank you to all those residents who contributed to fund raising events and made other direct or indirect contributions. Organisers of events raising over £100 include; Karen and John MacAuslan, Maureen and Len Giddings, The Golden Swan and Oare School.

A big thank you to all the committee members who have been dealing with suppliers and have got us to the funding target, in particular Jenny Dixon and Julie Prowse for getting the ball rolling and latterly Jane Watherston (ably assisted by Jamie).

After 60 years use the swings are due for retirement and the much younger climbing frame has seen better days, so we've reached our target just in time. New equipment which meets modern safety standards doesn't come cheap but hopefully the young (and not so young) users of the replacements will enjoy the benefits for years to come.

Richard Fleet
Chairman



Secretary	John MacAuslan	01672 562127
Chairman	Richard Fleet	01672 563859
email	hutandgreen@gmail.com	

Pictures from the opening



Top

The new 3 bay swing

Middle

The new climbing frame

Bottom

Villagers and Guests



Pictures from the opening

Jane Watherston with the Big Lottery Fund plaque



Councillor Paul Oatway says a few words on behalf of Pewsey Area Board



Jane Watherston, Richard Fleet and Mary Hardwidge with the Hills Group plaque





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Wilcot's children celebrate their new play area - three cheers for everybody who helped



Written by Tony Millett on 25 April 2015.

What many people refer to as Wilcot's Green is really the village's recreation ground. It has been owned by the village since 1924 and now boasts new state of the art play equipment.

The previous play equipment was installed in 1950 and, somewhat unsurprisingly, has become dangerous to play on.

On Thursday evening, just before the monthly meeting of the village's Recreation Ground Committee, and before the spring sunshine turned to dusk, the new play equipment was officially opened at a short ceremony led by Richard Fleet - chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee.

There were children on hand to show how good the new equipment was. And there was someone to test out the baby swing - something the previous paly area simply did not have.

Much of the fund raising and organisation has been done by village residents Jane and Jamie Watherston. The equipment - including some very expensive rubber matting to soften falls and help avoid any mud - cost £23,000.



Jane Watherston, Richard Fleet - & Big Lottery plaque



...and a gentle push from big sister.

After some sterling local fundraising, the Big Lottery came good with a grant of £10,000, the Pewsey Area Board voted a grant of £5,000 and the Hills Group, through the Landfill Community Fund and Community First, gave £4,600.

Smaller donations came from, among others, Pewsey Carnival and Lady Rothschild - and the village baked cakes and held sales and sponsored this and that to make up the grand total.

The equipment is used by local children and by children at the Oare preschool which has an outdoor facility in the village. Councillor Paul Oatway (Pewsey Vale) spoke at the opening and said the Area Board had voted funds for the play area because it would be used by all comers and provided vital encouragement for children to take part in outdoor physical activities.

The short ceremony ended when one of the youngsters making the most of a very adventurous climbing frame, called for three cheers - for everybody concerned with the project.



Jane, Richard and Mary Hardwidge from Community First



Play area supporters: smiles of success

Thursday, April 30, 2015

[@wiltsgazette](http://gazetteandherald.co.uk)

Grants and donations help to fund village green's brand new play area

We're all ready to play

CHILDREN in Wilcot will be able to make the most of the summer months with the arrival of a new play area on the village green.

The new equipment, worth £23,000, has been funded by grants as well as donations from local people, including Lady Rothschild, and community fundraising events.

The biggest donations came from the Big Lottery which gave £10,000, a £5,000 grant from Pewsey Area Board and the Hills Group, through the Landfill Community Fund and Community First, who put forward £4,600.

Much of the fundraising and organisation for the new play area has been organised by village residents Jane and Jamie Watherston.

Mrs Watherston said: "The ceremony went down really well and was very well attended by local residents.

"The old equipment had become dangerous and not user friendly for the many ages and abilities of local children and needed replacing."

The green has been owned by the village since 1924 and is managed by recreation ground committee.

By Anna Mauremootoo
amauremootoo@gazetteandherald.co.uk

The play area, which is used by local youngsters and by children at Care Pre-school, has been a feature since the 1950s with the swings being around 60 years old and the climbing frame nearly 20 years old.

The new equipment was installed in January but officially opened last Thursday with donors in attendance including Mary Hardwidge from Community First and Paul Oatway on behalf of the Area Board.

The equipment includes rubber matting to soften falls and help prevent mud and a baby swing which the previous play area did not have.

The ceremony was led by chairman of the village's recreation ground committee Richard Fleet.

The green will become a hive of activity once again on Monday when the Care Primary School and Wilcot fete takes place. There will be a cake competition, dog agility, welly wanging, music from the school choir and maypole dancing.



Children enjoy Wilcot's new £23,000 play area