

Ridlington Playing Field Annual Report to 31st March 2024

Registered Charity Number 522345

The 3 trustees are

- Julie Hoult
- Simon Powell
- Ruth Lees

We say goodbye to Adele Payne who due to personal commitments has had to step down as a trustee. We would like to thank her for her support.

It is important to note that the role of a trustee is entirely voluntary.

Key Activities

- Recreational, including relaxation within and enjoyment of the natural surroundings
- Socialising
- Dog Walking
- Petanque
- A pair of football nets for 5 aside
- A practice cricket net
- Regularly mowed field during the growing months from early Spring onwards
- Rewilding area tree saplings planted over the last three years growing well

Playing Field Maintenance

Trustees will retain their twice-yearly schedule to carry out maintenance work, Spring and Autumn and invite villagers to help via village Whatapp group and word of mouth. Specific dates TBC closer to time dependent upon weather conditions. Additional ad hoc work will continue to be carried out as well as regular inspections.

The trustees would like to thank villagers for their support in helping to maintain this shared space, in particular our thanks go to the Baines family for their hard work in clearing dead wood and bracken to create a nature trail in the woods and for facilitating the removal of the decommissioned play area which had sadly reached the end of its viable use. Additionally, our thanks go to all the other families who have volunteered and supported with maintenance work including; strimming, clearing, tidying, bench repairs and emptying the poo bins. You know who you are thank you!

The trustees commissioned an NPTC tree surgeon to produce a full inspection report to address the concern of Ash die back at the playing field. A number of trees have been identified as requiring attention and the priority work has already been completed by Ben Creasey Tree Services with the remaining work scheduled asap with Ben. This important work has a significant cost attached to it and due to the number of Ash trees we have at the playing field, further work over the coming years may well be required. Ongoing fund-raising activities are crucial to maintain and develop this wonderful, shared space.

Finance

The audited playing field accounts accompany this report for the year ending 31st March 2024.

We have also recently sold three new pet plaques to be inserted on the pet remembrance bench amounting to £60 which will appear in next year's accounts. Please do let us know if you would like to purchase a remembrance plaque for your pet. The cost is £20.

Donations from JustGiving amounted to £137.23 for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Looking to the future our hope is to create a new children's play area. Sadly, the previous children's play area equipment had to be removed in 2023 as it was no longer fit for purpose.

A visit to the new children's play area in Manton has recently taken place. We were very grateful to meet with a representative from Manton Parish Council who was instrumental in reaching out to potential funding resources and speaking to families in the village to ensure that the right equipment was chosen. He shared with us all that he had learnt, and we can put all of this to good use when the time comes. We would welcome anyone in the village who would like to get involved in the conversations and fundraising ideas/donations that could make a new children's play area a future reality.

Also, a gentle reminder that if you shop online please consider Ridlington Playing Fields as your chosen charity to benefit from **Easy Fundraising**

We do have an easyfundraising page, and if you are interested it's extremely easy to sign up to and means that we receive a contribution direct from many of the online stores you may shop with. A number of villagers already do this, and it greatly helps our cause.

You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 7,000 brands including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, M&S, and many many more.

Please do consider signing up today- It will make the world of difference to us this year and for many more years to come.

Plus, once you've raised your first £5, Easyfundraising will double it!!!

The Link is attached below.

<https://share.easyfundraising.org.uk/ridlingtonplayingfields>

Any problems please let us know and we will help you get on board.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for 'The Ridlington Playing Field Charity'

Our Wonderful Shared Space

The Trustees Ridlington Playing Fields

Playingfieldtrustees@yahoo.com