

The Playing Field

The Humber Playing Fields Association Magazine

The WREturN of WREN

Yes, as spring arrives WREN is back after an absence of a little over a year. HPFA are distributing grants of up to £2000 for projects within 10 miles of active Waste Recycling Group landfill sites. These are sited at Immingham, Holme on Spalding Moor and Winterton. In addition, there are sites outside of the Humber area at Great Hatfield and Gainsborough, which are within ten miles of parts of the Humber area.

The grants are available to community groups, playing field associations, parish councils, village halls, sports clubs and so on for small capital works. For example, purchasing play equipment, refurbishment of a building, tree planting or landscaping and the purchase of equipment which is fixed or will be used at only one location. If a sports club applies, it must demonstrate that it offers it's community at least two sports or that it offers general community use.

The grants may not be used to pay for any revenue costs. That is routine maintenance or other running costs.

Applicants must be able to provide a minimum of 10% of the value of the grant from either their own or external sources. The grants may be used as part funding toward larger projects. HPFA will be available, if necessary, to advise on other appropriate sources of grant funding.

Further details and an application form are available from the HPFA or alternatively, by following the link to HPFA on the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council website.

Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) is the landfill tax distributor for the Waste Recycling Group. The purpose of the grants is to compensate for the environmental impact of landfill operations.

This is the only locally based WREN small grants scheme. In addition, WREN offer national schemes of grants from £2,000-15,000 and of £15,000 and above.

Details are available on their website.

Membership Fees

Please note that 2012/13 membership fees are now due. The fee remains a very reasonable £20. HPFA needs the funds to supplement the Big Lottery Fund income and continue providing a service for you.



The HPFA would like to thank the Sir James Reckitt Charity and the Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust for their continuing support .

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charity
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Serving the communities in the
City of Hull,
East Riding of Yorkshire,
North Lincolnshire and
North East Lincolnshire.

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Office Gossip

Time is marching on, as it always does, but not as is implied by the term “marching”, in a regular manner, as it seems to me and to some of the more impenetrable scientists, that it jumps around all over the place. That is beside the point really, as all I am trying to say is that the Olympics are now quite close. Perhaps time is fixed and the Olympics are moving. I give up.

Anyway, the Games are almost on, and the organisers are in the final stages of sorting stuff out. Apparently, 200,000 people will be working at the Games, of whom 70,000 will be volunteers. 80,000 volunteers have been recruited, presumably to allow a margin for change, and they are in the process of being trained.

The orientation training for volunteers was held at Wembley Arena in batches of several thousand at a time. This was not, as I had imagined, anything to do with learning to use a map and compass, but was just to point us in the right direction to start our inspirational journey. Far be it from me to offer any criticism, it was an interesting and enjoyable induction, but I can't resist making a few observations.

It was all a bit surreal really. For a start, it had snowed which is unusual for London. Tube trains full of quiet respectable people in place of the normal pop or football fans: respectability is about the role you play and not who you are. Scanning barcodes from smart phones to get in: it will be so much easier when we have chips in our heads or barcode tattoos. In, and the doors closed behind us, no pass outs.

Jonathan Edwards presided over the event, so far so good I thought, but the first thing he spoke about was his bottom and how it was ok to twitter that he had a nice bum but not to say anything, social media wise, about security. He then introduced Eddy Izzard, which worried me, as one of Eddy's jobs was to present the Olympic uniform. It was ok, he was dressed conventionally, and performed a short funny routine before leaving, only to re-appear several times later on the huge screens scattered around.

The uniform is kind of cute, if you like that sort of thing. A sort of cross between a tracksuit ensemble and the uniform worn by our boys in the thin red line. Personally, I would have preferred something more punky and weird, perhaps Vivienne Westwood style, but on reflection I have concluded that somehow a reversal has taken place and my preference has been met.

Onto a break and entertainment provided by the “treat sponsor” entertainment team and a gospel choir. Doors locked, bouncers guarding them, no nicotine.

Volunteers are still being recruited, I would guess for specialist roles because one of my daughters is in the system and she volunteered to speak French. She is quite good at it and will have no trouble communicating a la “je ne regrette rien, que le francais man, arrive le dernier, dans le race de Olympia etcetera, que sera sera”

Everything You Need To Know About Trees : Part Four.

Part four is about growing trees in Britain for timber, or in other words British Forestry. Most people would probably be surprised to know that throughout most of history, the majority of timber grown here and across the world has been used for fuel. Fuel for both domestic and industrial purposes. That may still be the case on a worldwide basis but has not been for some time in Britain.

One of the convenient consequences of having a rich and recorded history is that time can be divided into periods recognisable from a number of perspectives. For the purpose of describing the history of forestry, I shall use three periods, the post glacial, the feudal and the modern.

As the ice retreated from Britain ten or so thousand years ago, vegetation rapidly followed it in. Even before the ice had completely gone, the land was largely forested. We know this from pollen deposits in sediments and because of the tree stumps under the north sea left as the ice continued to melt and the sea rise.

The population was, and remained minimal for many thousand of years. Forestry consisted of clearing land and obtaining timber as part of that process. We do have ancient woodland, but I do not think that there is much which has been continuously tree covered since the start of the post glacial period. Any genuinely ancient woodland is likely to be on poor land unsuitable for agriculture so that it was not cleared. More modern ancient woodland tends to have survived because it has been under the protection of royalty or the aristocracy.

As the population grew, and alongside that political and social structures were created, formal systems of forestry were required to provide regular sustainable supplies of timber. Two systems evolved, and remained in use from the early feudal period, and you can make your own mind up when that was, until quite recently. The first was the establishment of protected forests, or chases or parks, owned by the feudal masters and used for timber, hunting and recreation. The second system, which was used by the population in general was coppice and standards. That is growing a small number of trees to maturity and using the timber for building and ship construction, these are the standard trees, and beneath them growing coppice. Coppice is cut every ten to twenty years and left to re-grow to provide a continuous supply of poles for fuel, tools and construction.

These systems were able to remain intact until recently because the timber demand resulting from population growth, urbanisation and industrialisation was met through imports.. Hardwoods from the colonies and softwoods from northern America. The modern period of British forestry starts in the early twentieth century when there was a sea change or a change at sea. Timber supplies were threatened

by submarines during the Great War with the result that timber was recognised as a strategic resource. The Forest Service, later to become the Forestry Commission, was established in 1917. It's immediate task was to exploit British woodland, our woods were largely felled during both world wars, and as the war ended, to establish and manage or regulate a national forest resource.

So here we are today, with around eleven per cent of our land covered in trees, which are grown for timber, hunting, recreation and conservation: how things change. The majority of the trees are exotics, that is foreign species and they are grown under pretty well a single silvicultural (like agri or horticulture but for trees) system.

We use exotic species because they grow more quickly than most of our natives: the reasons for our relatively poor native flora has been discussed previously. The reasons exotic trees grow more quickly have also been alluded to in terms of genetic diversity, stable environments and competition for light . Tree growth is generally measured in terms of the number of cubic metres per hectare per year. Our native trees are typically likely to grow three or four cubic metres per hectare per year. Many exotics grow around twenty per year. An oak or beech tree will need in excess of one hundred and fifty years to mature. Some of the exotic conifers will mature in fifty to seventy five years.

The silvicultural system is to grow the trees far enough apart such that individual trees grow as big as possible but not so far apart that any growth is lost from the total cubic metre per hectare. This is done because a big tree is more valuable than two or more smaller trees of the same volume. To achieve this, trees are planted closely together and then periodically thinned out as they grow and the canopies meet. A change has recently taken place which is affecting the economics of growing lowland native hardwoods. There has traditionally been a poor market for hardwood thinnings so that it actually cost money to have this done, with the result that many woodland owners simply ignored the operation. Nowadays, the market for firewood is so strong that it is once again a viable operation. The results of this can be clearly seen right across the Humber area, as woodland operations are now commonplace. Even David Hockney has noticed and has painted stacked thinnings in Woldgate Woods.

There is obviously a lot more to British forestry than described in these few words and there has been and is much debate about it's future development. One recent development that illustrates the role of woodlands and forests was the consultation by the Government in 2010 on the proposed sale of the national forest estate. This was quickly rejected and the process demonstrated that our trees and woodlands are now regarded as national treasures.

Recreation & Sport At The HPFA

The winter has been fairly quiet for demand for new recreation activities but now things are livening up in preparation for the spring and summer months. Enquiries have started to increase for outdoor and indoor activities in rural areas. We have received a high number of requests for activities to start in the next 4- 6 weeks so look out for the following sessions near you. These include: Badminton sessions at Holme on Spalding moor, Football coaching at Holme on Spalding moor, mountaineering group in Molescroft near Beverley, Unihoc sessions in South Cave and Gilberdyke and rugby sessions in Ganstead and surrounding villages.

As well as the request for sessions we have also agreed to help with the training of the following people who will be delivering the above sessions and other sessions in East Riding and North East Lincolnshire. Natalie Holmes; Help towards her level 2 football coaching qualification and CRB disclosure. Helen Rilatt; Badminton equipment to support sessions in Holme on Spalding Moor. Jack Wade, Mike McBride and Shane Cass will also receive help towards their CRB clearance to support their current qualification and allow them to work with young people and vulnerable adults.



Above is: Dan Petrie –The HPFA has Helped towards his Level 1 football coaching qualification and CRB Disclosure, Dan will be delivering football sessions in Gilberdyke and surrounding areas, he will also be helping with the UNIHOC sessions in South Cave and surrounding villages.

In addition to the above sessions and training we have also held a sports leadership course run over one day and which was available to everyone interested in leading sports and exercise activities in their community. The course was held at Swanland Playing Field on Saturday 31st March, and was an enjoyable success. It cost only £10 per person and will be repeated if more people are interested. Please contact me on the details below to secure your place. Due to the high number of enquires for sessions to start in the spring we have also just recently purchased some new sport equipment to support the above projects and any new projects that arise. If you are in need of some sessions or require some training then get in touch and we will help get people active in your community. We encourage all members of the community to become active in recreation and leisure and welcome anyone who would like the support needed to start delivering sessions in your community through help with training needs, equipment needs and general advice. For support and guidance from the HPFA recreation scheme contact B Gill on Email: gill50@gill50.karoo.co.uk or alternatively Mobile: 07885437969.



Above is: John Dunn and Dan Petrie – The HPFA have agreed to Help with equipment to support new sessions starting in Gilberdyke and south cave in the next 4-6 weeks, these include UNIHOC and football for all ages.