



Speen Playing Fields

2013 was another fine year in the history of the Playing Fields.

- 4 of your Trustees qualified as First Aiders and we plan to send more of us on the course this year.
- May saw the official opening of the half pipe, which has been very popular, never more so than for the Bike Park Challenge during the Festival. This was a first class event for all age groups.
- The Pre School continue to use Ridgeley's Field for their Forest School at least once a week and the sight of them dawdling along Studridge, chatting away, holding onto their red rope makes this job worthwhile.
- Although we had to postpone Fun Day in 2013, Fun Day 14 will return, bigger and better than ever, since we have now recruited Matt Davis to Lead and extra willing helping hands to organize. June 14th 2014 is a firm date in the diary.
- The Village Fete on the field in July was a great success and we were all the more grateful to the Fete Committee who this year shared the profits between the Village Hall and ourselves. The following day saw the Speen Hospice Group Craft Fair, with the additional attraction of 50 Porches and MG, parked on the field for all to admire. This proved to be very popular and I'm sure added to the numbers, many thanks to Chris James for organizing.
- The Festival made great use of the field again for 3 weeks in September, especially Grease and the Proms (despite the weather). These relied on unbelievable efforts by the organizers including the building of the stage, resulting in some black paint spillage on the grass, which the Festival Creative department decided to paint green by way of camouflage!
- However the climax of the Playing Field calendar this year was Bonfire night. Christian Arsonist Nagele and Pete Design Symonds combined their substantial talents, to create a massif scale model of HS2, 20 meters long by 3 meters high. The structure was almost double the size of last years Houses of Parliament! This combined with Keith's fireworks and food supplied by the pre school mums combined to ensure a great evening. I certainly think that for size we have peaked, but any suggestions you may have as what we



should create for a bonfire next year would be enthusiastically received. Many thanks to all you builders, including young helpers. This was a strong performance; moreover the event generated almost half our annual funding requirements.

- The closing event, as always, was the Lighting of the Christmas tree and onto the Village Hall, where Kate Laughton conducted a children's' performance then led us all in Carols. Many thanks to Debbie and Lesley for organizing and for the mince pies and to Chris Walsh who donated the Mulled Wine.

We even managed to collect £60 for the Air Ambulance service.

Finally I'm going to break with tradition, in not mentioning that doggie poo poos in Ridgeley's Field create a health hazard.

We look forward to an overwhelming response to the Spring work party in April. Work to be done will include spreading of a new bark surface under the climbing frame play area and cutting back Ivy from trees behind that area.

Tony Bobroff 26/2/14