

RIVERSIDE NEWS

Issue 56 – FEBRUARY 2011

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Also online at www.tenmilebank.com – courtesy of Tony Hall



From left to right: Norbert Rabi, Colin Wills, Anita Stewart, Rebecca Nicholson & Andrew Swanston

On a cold January day, ANITA STEWART & REBECCA NICHOLSON, after 2 years of planning, were finally able to watch THEIR dream play area begin to materialise on Hilgay Playing Field

Andrew Swanston (Proludic), Colin Wills (Hilgay Parish Council) and Norbert Rabi (member of the public) joined Anita and Rebecca to watch the first stage of the equipment installation.

See centre pages

WHO TO CONTACT and Regular VILLAGE EVENTS

Clerk to the Parish Council Shan Tedder 01366 385 449

Email: hilgayparishcouncil@hotmail.com Mobile 07944 943 651

Hilgay Parish Council are next meeting on **Thursday, 3 March 2011**

at **Ten Mile Bank Village Hall** commencing at 7pm

All members of the public are most welcome to attend

The Agenda is displayed on the Parish Noticeboards or is available from the Clerk

Hilgay School	Office	01366 387 685
Ten Mile Bank School	Office	01366 377 310
Ten Mile Bank Village Hall	Neil Bradley	01366 378 877
Hilgay Village Hall Bookings	Alison Davis	01366 386 167
Hilgay Silver Band free tuition & instrument available	Brian Doy	01366 387 630
Hilgay Youth Club	Emma Martin	01366 388 362
Hilgay Good Companions Club	Norma James	01366 387 656
Hilgay Playing Field / River Field	Shan Tedder	01366 385 449
Ten Mile Bank Playing Field	Colin Wills	01366 377 743
All Saint's & St Mark's Church	Father David Evans	01366 384 418
Hilgay Parish Cemetery	Shan Tedder	01366 385 449
Street Lights	Shan Tedder	01366 385 449
Littering and Dog Fouling issues	Shan Tedder	01366 385 449
Allotments	Shan Tedder	01366 385 449
Hilgay Parish Growers Hilgay Village Green Committee	Harvey Hillyer	01366 380 283

If you would like **your organisation included free of charge** in the above listing .. Tel: Shan on 01366 385 449

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Riverside News Contact:

Shan Tedder

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Next issue – April 2011 - **deadline for copy – 25 March 2011**

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THE **LARGE SLIDE** AT HILGAY PLAYING
FIELD **REMAINS CLOSED.**

PLEASE

**DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO PLAY ON
THE SLIDE UNTIL REPAIRS ARE MADE**



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'A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES MUST BEGIN WITH A SINGLE STEP.' From Anita Stewart

The beginning of 2011 has started with much excitement in the village of Hilgaj but it all began many years ago.....

It began back at the end of 2008 when several parents at the school chatted about how nice it would be to have a park that would be a lasting legacy just as the 'big slide' has been for many of the long standing residents in our village. That chit chat then moved on to several parents, grandparents and residents going to a Parish Council meeting. The Parish Councillors were keen to support our idea of a new community park, and the single step on our journey of a thousand miles began.....

A committee was formed with several residents in the village to look at which funding we would be eligible to access, this was a minefield and a steep learning curve for all those involved. Before we began this journey we would have never believed how many hoops we would have to jump through, but jump we did.

We applied for grants from several organisations all of which had funding available to encourage outdoor play for children:

Awards for All (National Lottery funding)

WREN

Borough Council of West Norfolk and Kings Lynn

Playbuilder

Playbuilder being the largest which was a huge initiative by Norfolk County Council having £377,000 to invest in the outdoor play.

We had many setbacks and were unsuccessful at securing funding from several schemes. We were devastated, but not ready to give up. In 2009, after listening carefully to the feedback we had received from the various grant committees, we successfully secured a £15,000 grant from the Borough Council, we were elated, and this spurred us on further to apply to Playbuilder which could potentially see us being awarded £47,000.

The Playbuilder application was a huge undertaking, in full, the application was some 50 pages long, and we had to show why our village should benefit from such a huge investment in play equipment. As a small village with only some 150 children we had to work hard to convince the Playbuilder Board that this was a worthwhile investment. We could not have done this without the help of the children and their parents. We were supported with fantastic pictures, Lego models and a wonderful DVD which was produced by the older children of our village. All of which showed the Playbuilder Board what a new Community Park would mean for our small village. We were the first Parish organisation to utilise Facebook and it showed the massive support we had within the village and surrounding areas with some 200 supporters.

'A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES MUST BEGIN WITH A SINGLE STEP' contd

After a long wait of some 3 months in 2010 we were informed that we had successfully secured the full funding of £47,000 from Playbuilder . Hilgay Parish Council also supported us with an additional £5,000 to ensure that the park has long term investment as we have ring fenced some of this money to be used over several years.

So in 2010 we had **secured funding of £67,000** and the process of finding a supplier that would take our children's inspirational ideas of a boat theme and make it a reality.

Rebecca and I spent much of the summer of 2010 travelling around play areas and playing on the equipment, it was great fun, and those of you that know me will know that I don't need any encouragement to play and be silly! I was supported by my 3 year old son Calum who was our very own guinea pig and he did not disappoint. At one such play area I commented that I did not see the play value in a climbing wall at all, only to turn round to see Calum was climbing up the wall with a big smile on his face, running down the mound and back up again.....what do I know !!!!

We spent a lot of time choosing what we hope is the right equipment for our park and consulted with the primary school children and high school children as to what they would like. We felt it was important to engage with the older children and young adults of the village as we hope that they will become the guardians of the park as the next generation, we specifically chose the Turnfly from their feedback.

Late in 2010 we had the **devastating news** that with the change in government the Playbuilder scheme had been put on hold and we **could not order the equipment**. This was made even more difficult as we had placed the order on the day funding had been suspended, all our dreams of a new Community Park were in jeopardy.

We waited a further 3 months and lobbied MP's, the Government. and the Playbuilder Board, this was not in vain when it was announced that ourselves and one other scheme in Norfolk had been given the full funding. Other schemes had not been so lucky and they had lost half of their funding.

So after what seems like a thousand miles I watched with Rebecca Nicholson the first spade going in the ground and I had a tear in my eye! We will be celebrating with the children of Hilgay, officially opening their new £67,000 Community Park on Friday, 18 February 2011 at 3pm.

The new community park, which includes a pod swing, toddler swings, log nest, climbing wall, turnfly, giro spiral, toddler house and Hilgay's only hill, (which we intend to top up with more soil kindly donated by Tommy Dent and seed), has been well used to date.

'A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES MUST BEGIN WITH A SINGLE STEP' contd

Feedback from those using the park has been overwhelming, and Rebecca and I personally can not quite believe that the park is now a reality. I love hearing the children playing and laughing and I hope this Summer it will be enjoyed by many families from both Hilgay and beyond.

Local residents have said:

"The park has got the children out playing together and it is everything we could have hoped for. We have 15 and 16-year-olds playing alongside toddlers – it's wonderful for the community and is already being put to great use. It is fantastic for the children's social skills and gets them outside playing and using their imaginations"

"The children have helped design the park and chose the boat theme to reflect the village's place on the river. The playground has brought everyone in the community together and we are thrilled to see it being put to such good use."

"The boat-theme at Hilgay will really capture children's imaginations, giving them a chance to sail the seas and have fantastic adventures on their own doorsteps."

THANK YOU for all your support in making this happen, we can achieve incredible things with determination and belief.

Special thanks to:

Diocese of Ely

Norfolk County Council

Hilgay Parish Council

Hilgay Village School

High School children

Neil Grommet for funding application support

R&B Professional Garden Services & Design for design and tree planting services

Tommy Dent for supplying and transporting all the soil

Robbie Martin for bringing the log seat and positioning it in the park

**A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE OFFICIAL OPENING
of the new play area on Friday, 18 February 2011 at 3pm.**

*Hilgay Parish Council congratulate Anita Stewart and Rebecca Nicholson on their **outstanding achievement** – the Community working for the Community*

BREAKFAST BANQUET AT HILGAY SCHOOL from Sophie Adams

Pupils and parents of Hilgay School enjoyed a tempting breakfast buffet on Friday 28th January to celebrate **Farm House Breakfast Week**.

The tempting food on offer included; bacon sandwiches, cereal, fruit salad and toast. Cookery club made banana and chocolate muffins for the feast, and the youngest class made cereal bars and chocolate croissants.

The school canteen was packed with more than 30 children and about 20 parents. The breakfast was organised by teacher, Alison Williams.

Breakfast was served by school staff, and the acting Head Teacher, Mr Marshall-Grint did the washing up!

The event was to help the school qualify for a **£500** grant for cookery club.



BREAKFAST BANQUET AT HILGAY SCHOOL contd

