

## **Vyner Park**

### **Annual report for 2021 – 2022**

The year, May 2021 to April 2022, has been another interesting year, with COVID-19 influencing substantial aspects of the Park's management, as well the operation of Nelson's. It has been one of remarkable achievements, reflecting the work of the Committee and a large number of Community volunteers.

Over the Spring and Summer in 2021, we had the tarmac surfaces of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and tennis courts stabilised with resin and painted, installed refurbished basketball posts, created basketball and netball courts, cleaned and refurbished the bowling green, improved the play park, as well as general maintenance including cutting back hedges and repairing the paths and fencing. Three pieces of outdoor gym exercise equipment were installed with uninterrupted views down to the coast. With the help of a large number of local volunteers and donations from a number of sources, we have transformed the Park. Reflecting these changes a Walking Netball Club has been started using the MUGA, a Bowling Club has been formed and tennis players are often seen using the facilities. In addition, we now have an adult Football Club using the field in the winter, with semi-professional matches being played as part of league fixtures.

The Charity put in a submission to the County Councils LOVE Northumberland Awards outlining the refurbishment project and were highly commended for their work. A small group attended The Alnwick Garden in September to receive a £50 donation to funds from the Duchess of Northumberland.

Funds for the refurbishments have come from a variety of sources including COVID-19 support grants and funds raised by the Vyner Park Management Committee through annual bonfire events and village shows. County Council funding contributed most of the money for the outdoor gym equipment and had also supported the expansion of the associated carpark in the previous financial year. In order to encourage people to use the facilities, however, we initially made the facilities free to use, and asked for donations. Over the last year we have made a significant amount of money from such donations and the Committee currently have no plans to introduce a payment scheme as the donation scheme is working well

The Children's Play Area continued to be used and during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the Charity introduced appropriate safety measures. One of the first things we did in the year was purchase and transfer some 10 metric tons of specialised bark chippings to the Play Area. Over 10 volunteers with wheelbarrows turned up to move the bark from the car park to the play area, taking just over an hour. The Park equipment is aging, however, and we had to spend funds on repairing the equipment. Looking ahead the Charity will be required to spend more money on replacing and repairing the equipment and money has been tentatively allocated in future years. Early on in the year a group of volunteers spent a day putting a new roof on one of our storage containers, which had developed a leak

The work of the Committee involves a lot of activities that are often forgotten about but play an important role in the running of the Park. Committee volunteers now carry out a substantial amount of the grass cutting using machinery the Charity owns and this has saved the community around £2000 a year. Others are occasionally cleaning the MUGA, tennis courts and bowling green. We also now have a fully functional bowling green sweeping machine, although the work was not completed until May 2022.

Stuart Cutforth left the Committee at the beginning of the year as he was leaving the area. Liz Kitson has replaced Stuart. Unfortunately, just after the end of the review period Andy Ferguson resigned from the Committee in June. Over the last few years Andy has made a very significant contribution to the Park, well beyond the normal call of duty. I will certainly miss his contribution, but he will still be involved in helping with Park activities. I would like to thank both Stuart and Andy for their help over the last few years.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Committee members for their help during the year. Our Park Steward, Gregg Anderson spends a lot of time maintaining the Park quietly in the background and we should acknowledge the large amount of works he carries out above that which is contracted. I work closely with our Secretary, Jan Anderson. She spends a lot of time supporting the Committee, as well as Show and Bonfire events, often having to navigate through some very difficult processes and procedures. I would of course like to thank the Parish Council for their support and our County Councillor, Trevor Thorne, for his help in obtaining funding for the outside gym and previously the carpark extension.

Steve Woolfrey  
Chairman – Vyner Park Charity 2021/22  
Written 4 July 2022