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Introduction

Have a wonderful Xmas and New Year!

We at the Foundation wish you all the best for 2012

As 2011 draws to a close, we at the Foundation hope you enjoy a well-earned rest over the Christmas and New Year period. We'll see you in 2012!



2011 was undoubtedly an eventful year!

We look forward to next year and would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very enjoyable Christmas break and that 2012 is a successful year for you.

And what an eventful year 2012 is shaping up to be - not least because the Olympic and Paralympic Games come to our shores!

News Stories

England's Number One is all Hart

Man City goalie Joe Hart makes youngsters' day with special visit

Joe Hart is one of the best goalkeepers in the world right now. Watch our exclusive film of him taking time out from Premier League duty to unveil a brand new community facility.

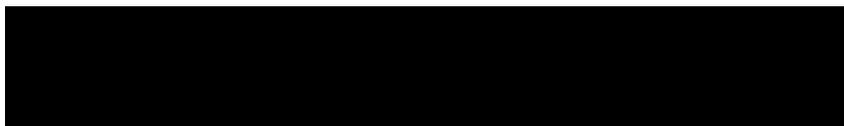


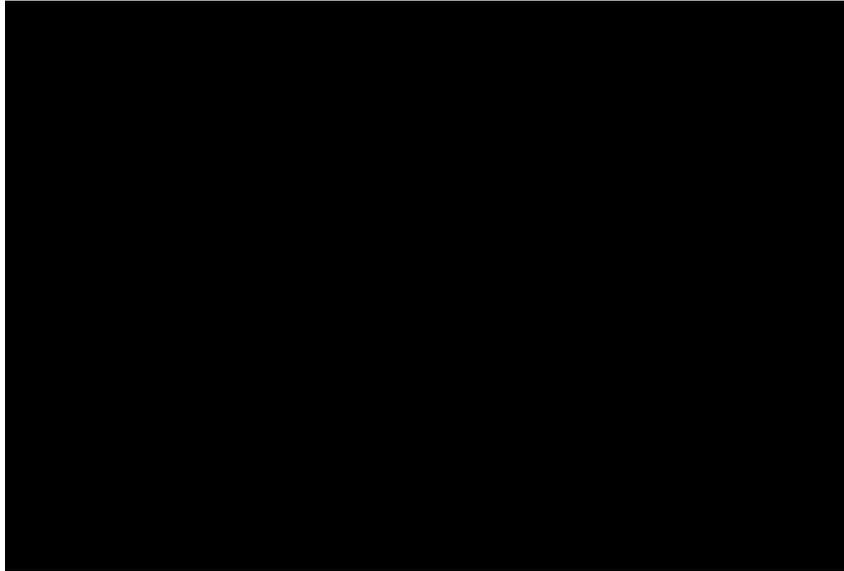
Joe Hart was a big hit at the recent opening of a new Football Foundation-funded community sports site in Manchester. Trafford-based AFC Urmston Meadowside worked in partnership with the Manchester County FA to secure a £521,178 grant from the Foundation.

The City stopper said, "It's tremendous to be opening this new facility for AFC Urmston Meadowside – and to see the excitement on all the youngsters' faces here today.

"Grassroots football is where we all start out, including me, so it is important that this investment goes into community sports sites like this one. And of course there are lots of wider benefits sport has for young people and society."

Watch the short film below.





See some still images from the event in the below gallery.

Chairmen unveil new 3G pitch in Midlands that will increase girls' football by 100%

Foundation Chairman, Gary Hoffman, joined FA Chairman, David Bernstein, to officially open Boldmere Falcons FC's new Foundation-funded 3G artificial grass pitch.



The volunteers, players and other local schools and clubs in Sutton Coldfield got a big boost in the shape of a stunning all-weather 3rd generation artificial pitch recently. The playing surface will cater for football and a range of other sports.

The hard work of Boldmere Falcons FC and their partners, like the Birmingham County FA, paid off as FA Chairman David Bernstein and Foundation Chairman Gary Hoffman launched the new site that was paid for with the help of a £464,129 Foundation grant.

Simon Lansley of Connect Sport conducted an interview on the day with both Chairmen, along with the Chairman of Boldmere Falcons. You can read it [here](#).

Olympic Gold Medallist unveils London 2012 training venue

Former triple jumper Jonathan Edwards talks about the role a transformed site in South East London will play in next year's Olympics and what it means for the local community.



Olympic Gold Medalist Jonathan Edwards CBE recently visited Long Lane Junior Football Club to officially unveil their new grass pitches, funded with a £174,391 Foundation grant.

The site has also just been chosen as an official training site during the London 2012 Olympics for football and will host the finalists of the competition next summer.

Click [here](#) to watch a short film of the opening and an interview with Jonathan Edwards and Football Foundation Trustee Phil Smith, Executive Director NGB and Sport at Sport England.

Jonathan Edwards said, "I think one of the things sport clubs need is inspiration - and to have some of the best Under-23 teams' in the world coming here and playing on these pitches will serve as great motivation for the young kids at the club."

Phil Smith added: "It's got the potential to absolutely transform the community. The chairman was telling

me earlier that before this project the site was a wasteland – a dump literally where people were fly tipping and smashing the windows of an old school building.

"The Football Foundation has absolutely transformed the site and it gives people a lot of hope. People have been talking recently about localism and the big society and I think the Football Foundation has been doing it for a long-time and I am very proud to be involved as a trustee," he added.

Forecasts suggest that an additional 823 people will gain access to the pitches on a weekly basis, providing more opportunities for the local community to play the beautiful game.

Long Lane JFC worked with the London FA to secure the Foundation grant. Now that the site is an official Olympic Training Venue for footballers from eight different nations, it is set to benefit further. The Olympic Committee will be supplying a full irrigation system to the main pitches, thereby helping to complete one of the last parts of the club's development plans.

This investment has turned round a once derelict and vandalised site into one of the best sporting facilities in the South East.

Improving older people's health through football

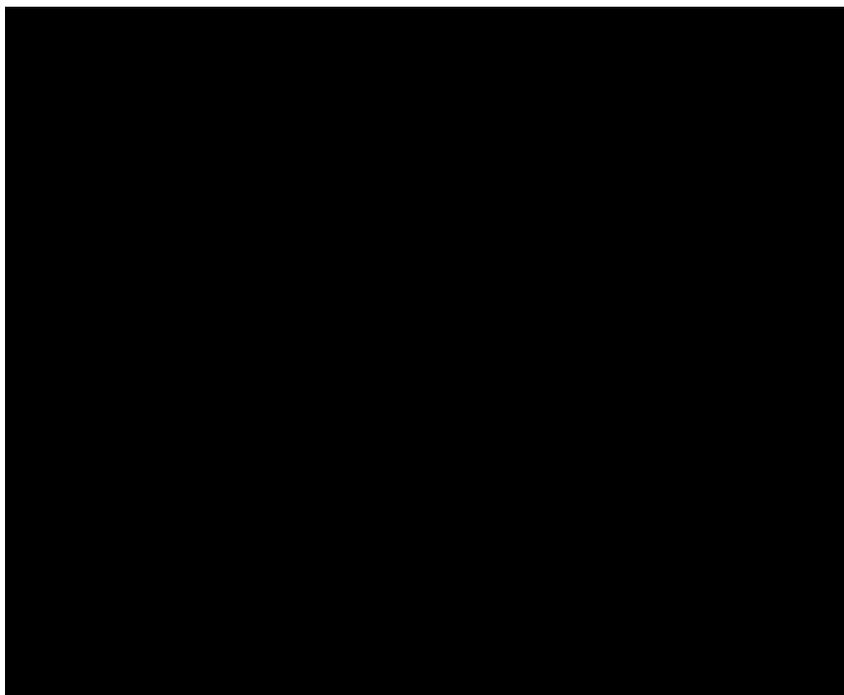
The Extra Time programme is improving the health and quality of life for older people across the country and helping reduce the burden on the NHS. Watch a mini film of a recent session that took place in Brighton.



Extra Time is a programme with a difference. It uses football as a hook to get men and women over 55 engaged in regular physical and social activity, during weekly sessions that take place at 30 professional football clubs across the country.

The hugely popular programme, funded jointly by the Foundation and Sport Relief, has produced some incredible results in a recent evaluation report. 21% of participants say they use the NHS less as a result of the programme; 50% felt healthier; 75% made new friends; 70% found everyday tasks easier; and 89% felt they had more people looking out for them.

Albion in the Community's Extra Time project, in Brighton, provides post-NHS physical and social support to people over the age of 65, who have suffered from falls. Brighton & Hove Albion FC defender, Tommy Elphick, recently took his 81-year old grandfather, Albert, along to an Extra Time session. Watch the below clip to get a flavour of an Extra Time session.



The Brighton project has had some incredible success stories since launching, and none more so than 81-year-old, Nancy Howard-Price. Suffering from: Osteoporosis; a double hip replacement; frequent falls, Nancy has seen her life transformed as a result of the programme.

She recently enrolled for Masters in Fine Arts at the University of Brighton and has rekindled her passion for cycling. Speaking at the event Nancy, said: "The course has helped me in so many ways. I can now do the little things that people take for granted like get out of the bath, climb the stairs and put my trousers and tights on. My balance is better, I can move faster and I've got far more energy.

"It hasn't just helped me physically; it has also given me confidence and independence. At my age and after all the problems I've had, I never thought that I would be able to go University and get back on a bike. It's all down to the classes. They have changed my life."

Sign up to The Clubhouse for all the latest in grassroots football!

December edition of Club Website's monthly newsletter has interviews with Gareth Southgate and FA Chairman David Bernstein - plus the chance to win a pair of VIP tickets to a Barclays Premier League match.



The Clubhouse is the free monthly newsletter from Club Website, the UK's number one provider of free club and league websites.

Delivered straight to your inbox every month, The Clubhouse keeps you up date with the latest goings on at Club Website and in the big wide world of amateur football.

Keep your finger on the pulse of grassroots football with all the latest news, big interviews and fascinating features, including a focus on Club Website teams who have benefitted from Football Foundation funding.

On top of all that, you'll find tips on how to help your football club's finances, plus top competitions giving you the chance to get your hands on some fantastic football goodies every single month.

December's edition of the The Clubhouse (click [here](#) to view) was a festive treat, featuring interviews with Gareth Southgate on the importance of grassroots coaching and FA Chairman David Bernstein on the FA's National Game Strategy 2011-15, plus a Christmas cracker of a competition.

One lucky winner will get their hands on a pair of VIP tickets to a Barclays Premier League match PLUS 15 Lucozade Sport Footballer's Training Packs for their football team. How's that for a Christmas present?

So get yourself to The Clubhouse today and stay ahead of the game!

Click [here](#) to sign up to The Clubhouse.

Football Foundation TV

You will be forwarding this clip on!

The football freestyler that Cristiano Ronaldo flew across to perform at his birthday shows off his skills

The sublime skill-merchant Billy Wingrove unveiled a new Foundation-funded 3G pitch in Chippenham - and stunned everyone with some mesmerising tricks. Watch this two minute clip and prepare to be dazzled...!



World renowned football freestyler, Billy Wingrove, recently joined local MP, Duncan Hames, in unveiling a brand new artificial pitch and changing rooms at Stanley Park Sports Ground in Chippenham.

The facilities were built with a £351,227 Football Foundation grant, following work by Chippenham Town Council and the Wiltshire County FA. You can read more and watch a short video of the event, where Billy gave a skills session to the school's youngsters, by clicking [here](#).

Or, to simply sit back and enjoy Billy performing some amazing tricks with a football, click on the video

player below.



To learn more about Billy visit www.billywingrove.com or follow him on Twitter @Billywingrove.

Side Articles

Our free Green Guidance Doc

Gary Neville endorses our free eco-friendly sports facilities guide



Gary Neville gave his endorsement to our new 'Green Guidance' document that outlines the ways you can lessen the environmental impact of sports facilities.

Gary, who made 400 appearances for Man Utd and won 85 caps for England, used his Testimonial match against Juventus at Old Trafford earlier this year to encourage supporters to consider environmental issues.

Gary said: "This guide provides an informative and user-friendly understanding of the key environmental factors that should be considered before undertaking a project.

"Football is the national sport and is watched and played by millions of people every week. It can therefore serve as a powerful medium to getting the message out there."

The document is a comprehensive and easy to follow guide to inform applicants about the important yet sometimes confusing sector of environmentally-sound facilities. It also covers some of the potential sources of funding out there to help meet the cost.

Some of the areas where the Foundation is encouraging best practice include:

- Use of renewable, sustainable, and recycled materials.
- Transport policies and access to facilities.
- Use of local labour and materials.
- Reduction in carbon emissions.

Download a copy for free from our [website](#).

Before and After

From a caravan site to a venue fit for World Cup stars

How Grendon Sapphires swapped their old caravan for a brand new changing pavilion unveiled by World Cup hero Sir Geoff Hurst



The boys and girls of Grendon Sapphires Youth Football Club used to get changed in a battered old caravan. After a lot of hard work by their tireless volunteers, and some Foundation funding, they are now enjoying a modern changing pavilion.

Northamptonshire-based Grendon Sapphires Youth FC were formed in 1994 by Eileen Wilmin and Robert Luck. What began as ad hoc football training sessions for about nine local youngsters quickly developed into a full Saturday League club, after regulars in the local pub, The Crown Inn, put their change in a whiskey bottle left on the bar to pay for the club's starting costs.

Now the Sapphires have grown to many teams, including a senior section. In 2006 they were successful in applying for a Foundation grant of £209,090, with the help of the Northamptonshire County FA. This has helped provide them with a fantastic changing pavilion and has meant the teams no longer have to use the old caravan to get changed in.

As you can see in the gallery below, the youngsters enjoyed a exciting day when it was unveiled by 1966 World Cup hat trick scorer, Sir Geoff Hurst.

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