

Leigh on Mendip - YOUR VILLAGE

This is the 2019 annual newsletter from the Parish Council. A "Welcome booklet" is available on the village website www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk for everyone who is new to the village.

Community Open Space The bid to Mendip District Council for S106 funding to purchase land adjacent to the recreation field was successful. The land purchased will create allotments and, into the future, additional facilities for the Parish, including a children's play area. The Parish Council is in the process of buying the land. 12 people have already signed up for allotments and work is well underway to prepare the land. As part of the project there will be an accessible allotment (a raised bed) so, if you find bending and digging difficult but would like to grow some of your own fruit/ veg, this may be for you!

Leigh on Mendip First School It has been a momentous year. On November 1st 2018 the school became an academy and joined the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership. The school has already started working closely with the other schools in the Trust and are looking forward to the many benefits of this partnership including increasing the learning opportunities for all of our children.

Quarry Tarmac has been granted planning permission to expand and deepen the Halecombe quarry within the existing site boundary and the local management team have reassured us that their support of our school and village activities will continue. Strict rules are in force to prevent lorries from Halecombe using our village street. If you see a lorry in the village it may be making a delivery, but details of the vehicle should be noted and reported to Halecombe who will check to see if it came from there.

Planning Leigh on Mendip, in terms of planning purposes, is an isolated settlement where all development is strictly controlled. Nevertheless, the Parish Council has been consulted by Mendip District Council on a number of planning applications during the year. We are keen to ensure that the design of new development that is permitted follows the Leigh on Mendip Village Design Statement. The Village Design Statement is available on the village website and is a great starting point if you are considering work to your home or property in the village.

Getting involved - contact a Parish Councillor if you are interested in the following:-

Speedwatch Are you concerned about speeding motorists in the village? If there are enough volunteers we could run a Speedwatch scheme in the village.

Cycle Link Is there any support for an off-road cycle link from the village to the Colliers Way cycle path by joining up current footpaths and bridleways?

Neighbourhood Watch Several areas in the village have Neighbourhood Watch coordinators to send you messages about recent incidents, warnings and security hints. If you aren't receiving these messages, it means you are not a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Check with a Parish Councillor or the PCSO at a Beat Surgery (held monthly in the Church Tower Room).

Footpaths The team of volunteers continue to supervise our footpaths and report problems. Occasionally, paths are obstructed and we then report the matter to Somerset CC Rights of Way team for action. If you would like to supervise a footpath then please contact David Sparkes for more information.

Parish Rangers Our small but active band of Rangers contribute to the care and maintenance of the village. This year an additional dog-bin has been installed by the gate to the Halecombe footpath and many other tasks completed. In particular we thank Chris Ingrem for using his professional expertise in cleaning and painting more of our heritage signposts. The damaged signpost at Downhead crossroads has recently been repaired by a team of village volunteers. We have some Parishioners who regularly pick up litter and their work is appreciated very much. Please tell us if you see a job that needs doing or contact David Sparkes if you can help out.

Report Problems When You See Them Most issues can now be reported directly by the public e.g. www.fixmystreet.com (potholes, street lights, fly-tipping) or by speaking directly to those present (drivers, etc.). Contacts can also be found on the village website.

Remember - Defibrillators are at the Memorial Hall & the Rec Field clubhouse. First Aid courses are occasionally held which are free to all parishioners. Be ready to save a life!

Leigh on Mendip Website & Facebook Both are exclusive to Leigh on Mendip to stay in touch and communicate your events, lost/ found, sales/wants and information/contacts. There are also the two Parish Council Noticeboards and the old telephone box (which anyone can use).

Parish Councillors (2018/19) - contact details are on the village website and the Parish Council Noticeboards.

Chris Cudmore, Paula Freeland, David Mattick, David Sparkes, Vicki Taylor, Vicki Trundle & Simon Wolf.

Parish & Cemetery Clerk Mrs Anthea Brooks Tel. 01761 418737
Ashville, Monger Lane, Midsomer Norton BA3 2SP Email clerklom@gmail.com

The Parish election this year will be uncontested (again!). Both Simon Wolf and Chris Cudmore will be resigning. If you are interested in being co-opted onto the Parish Council please contact the Clerk.

Please come to the **Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 20th May** at the Memorial Hall from 8pm. Refreshments will be served beforehand. It's your chance to hear reports and ask questions.

Many thanks to all the 27 Parish Councillors and 4 Clerks that I have served with over the last 15 years; it's been a privilege to represent our village - Chris Cudmore (Chairman 2007-2019).

It's a great village to live in - let us all keep it that way and enjoy being part of it.