

Volunteer Report December 2024

Leigh on Mendip is so lucky that they have so many volunteers!

Without the wonderful people in the village who willingly give up their time, energy and skills the only thing happening in the village would be the Bell Inn and the school.

(Yes there are villages where nothing happens)

Luckily we have a team of **5 volunteers**, who manage the **Recreation ground, pump track and Coronation Park**. They have worked so hard over the last few years to create the children's play area and keep the ground in fantastic order.

Leigh is fortunate to have **Allotments** in the village and a group of **5 volunteers** ensure the allotments are tidy , well cared for and so productive!

Then, we have a group of **7 volunteers** who manage the **Memorial Hall**. They work continuously to ensure the hall is clean, tidy and safe for all the activities that take place there.

The new **Speed watch** group in the village, striving to slow traffic in the village and keep pets, children and people safe has **6 volunteers**.

The Village Day/ Fete/ Arts and Craft Exhibition and other events in the village are all managed and supported by teams of **at least 20 volunteers**.

Have you ever noticed the groups of people out with 'high vis' jackets around the village, clearing gutters, trimming hedges and generally keeping the village tidy? That's the **Ranger group** made up of **12 volunteers**.

The **footpaths** in the village are managed by a **volunteer** appointed by Somerset Council, but there are also **9 volunteers** who take responsibility for keeping our footpaths in good order.

The **Parish Council**, who have legal responsibilities in regard to planning and public money, is made up of **5 Parish Council volunteers** and a volunteer Tree and Biodiversity Officer, who strive to ensure the best possible outcomes for the village liaising with Somerset Council, Quarries, and other parishes.

St Giles Church, in the village (may have a paid Vicar), but would not be open if not for the **6 volunteers** on the PPC.

It would have also fallen into disrepair, but for the group of 20 volunteers who make up **Friends of Leigh Church FOLC**.

The **Village School**, is still open in the village, due to the immense work of the governors and parents (FOLS) of the school over the last few years, another group of **15 volunteers** who work tirelessly to ensure the best possible educational results for children in the village and beyond.

Neighbourhood Watch now covers the whole village with Co-ordinators.

And then, there are **all those people, who don't belong to 'groups', (you don't have to go to meetings to be a volunteer)**, but still make sure things happen in the village, such as

- the parish magazine gets delivered,
- notice of gutter cleaning comes through the door,
- the old telephone box (now book store) is kept in order,
- those who provide Leigh Lunch
- those who look after the defibrillators,
- the village Facebook is managed and so is the Village Website.
- People take responsibility for reporting issues with our roads, take people to doctors appointments, litter picking, etc **at least 20 volunteers**.

I'm sure if you live in Leigh on Mendip you are benefitting from all the time and effort these (by my count 130) volunteers give freely.

BUT THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO DO!

If, you can help by giving a little of your time, please contact any of the groups or the Parish Council. You will find all the contact details on the Village website!