

NOTES from a Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Councillor

WE had good and not-so-good news this month – I am glad to say mostly good.

Greg Allen said a new piece of equipment for the toddler area of the play park is on order and should be installed before Christmas. This has been part-funded by a £10,000 grant from the Parish Council and is to replace the 20-year-old piece of equipment which is showing its age. This will complete a major revamp of the play park which is now an attractive and popular space with lots to attract youngsters. Thanks are due to the Village Hall Management Committee who put so much work into this project.

Again, we received a very positive report from Ann Pattemore about the Library. 33 children signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge for which the Parish Council donated gift vouchers as prizes. Next year this will be further promoted through the school. Did you know that, through the Libraries West website, you can access free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eNewspapers and eMagazines? There is also a public access computer in the library where you can get on-line for free. Thanks are due to our librarian Rebecca and all the volunteer staff for making the library such a welcoming and friendly place.

Chairty Hunt reported a successful On Your Bike session, funded by the Parish Council, at the school in September. 26 youngsters came along and, in one case, a dangerous bike which was not safe to ride was taken back to the workshop and repaired. A further On Your Bike session is planned for next year to coincide with the Fete and Flower Show in July.

By the time you read this, new electric buses should be running on the 28 service from Minehead to Taunton. Mike Rigby said the new buses have a capacity of 70 people (10 more than the current buses), which should help with overcrowding currently experienced at busier times. In response to a question about live-time information on buses, Mike Rigby recommended using the bustimes.org website.

The not-so-good news is vandalism in the public toilets. There has been an ongoing problem with toilet rolls going missing, so we recently installed some new, supposedly vandal proof, toilet roll holders but these have now been vandalised. So, frustratingly, we are now going to have to look at installing an automatic locking system. In the meantime, Charity Hunt has volunteered to help with locking up.



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