

Chairman's letter September,

September has passed quickly, too quickly and it is update time again.

Last month's letter referred to the outdoor gym on the recreation ground. We have seen tremendous support for the gym and progress with the fund-raising has proved both swift and generous. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We have now collected sufficient money to progress the project. The equipment has been ordered and the installation date is late September. The location has been agreed and the equipment will be sited to the north of the tennis courts. I understand there are plans to have a trainer available at certain times, but this has still to be arranged. By the next letter some of you may have had an opportunity to use the equipment.

The West Sussex Community Volunteers have visited the village again. You may remember on their last visit they built the us 3 new bus shelters. This time they have widened the (footpath) pavement along the A272 between Garbitts Lane and the Garage. It was a lot of hard work for them and they were surprised at the amount of path buried beneath the grass. A big thank you to the team. Whilst they were visiting, we spoke to them about repairing the bench at the Dell on the A272 near the entrance to Fyning Lane. They have offered to carry out the work, date to be set.

A quick plug. The Parish Clerk called the Post Office and arranged for a mobile post van to be sited outside the Village Hall on Friday mornings between 10.45am and 12.15am. I suspect most of you have spotted the van by now. The van has good disabled access and will be on site until the shop post office is up and running again.

We have had confirmation from Kate O'Kelly, County and District Councillor, that the reciprocal arrangement with Hampshire over the use of the tip is now working. You should be able to register online and use the tip as normal.

Way back in February and March the County Council offered the Parish Council a small grant to commemorate VE Day. Our first thoughts were to hold a celebration but unfortunately Covid came along. Not wishing to let the important memory of this event pass the Parish Council commissioned a picnic bench. A local woodsman has now completed the bench, which will be sited on Fyning Recreation Ground. We hope it will keep the memory alive and provide pleasure with its use over the years.

Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan is mentioned in a separate article in the magazine.

Motorcycle Noise. We have written to the Assistant Chief Constable of West Sussex. He assures us that Rogate will not be forgotten and policing of this is firmly on his list of priorities. The significance of this issue for all communities along the A272 is gaining momentum. The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner has arranged for public briefing by the Chief Constable of Sussex Police on the 23rd September to explain the force's objectives and actions at county wide and local level in tackling this issue. The Parish Council has been invited to attend this virtual briefing which we will report on via our website and next month's letter. In Rogate sites for the speed indicator signs have been identified. Licences and indemnities for siting the signs are being sought and quotes for the purchasing the signs are being obtained. Thank you to the people who showed interest after my last letter. We will be responding to you. This may be a county issue but the more active the local traffic group, the greater the chances of success. Please get involved.

Max Harwood
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council