

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2021

EAST BUDLEIGH COMMUNITY SHOP

The shop's turnover in July and August was over £23,000 per month, with the monthly footfall approaching 4,000. A number of price rises are still being held back, and the issue of card payment versus cash is under review. Solar PV panels have now been installed on the roof by Mole Energy and they will minimise energy bills and generate an income. The committee are looking into the shop's CCTV setup to see if a camera can be added to cover the defibrillator on the Village Hall, and the VIP.

The refurbishment of the VIP is going well, and it is seeing increasing custom. Turnover of books is much higher than before and I have now added a separate bookcase for the many DVDs and CDs on offer. Ray Marrs has hung some very interesting prints of old East Budleigh, and the village video has attracted a lot of interest.

VILLAGE HALL No Trustee or general meeting to report this month.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY NEWS

East Devon District Council has launched a £2m Innovation and Resilience Fund to allow local businesses and organisations to apply for funding to deliver a project. Applicants can apply for up to £50,000 per individual business or organisation and up to £150,000 per collaborative bid (multiple businesses and organisations). Funding can be used to purchase equipment, training, technologies, etc that will enable the applicant to deliver a specific project that will achieve at least one of the following: Support business diversification and the development of new and innovative products; Enable carbon reductions and biodiversity enhancements; Enable and safeguard high value jobs; Offer inclusive opportunities to disadvantaged individuals

This autumn and winter, Devon Communities Together is offering domestic energy efficiency workshops to member organisations, their associated users and any community organisation that might benefit from a presentation. They are trying to reach those for whom energy affordability is a major consideration and staying warm is difficult. A presentation can be arranged as a service to your community. It's another way of bringing people together as we emerge from Covid, as well as a useful activity to undertake that could make a difference to people's wellbeing this winter. Alternatively they can attend coffee mornings, lunch clubs, village markets, as well as bespoke events. The basic workshop takes about thirty minutes and will cover: Warm Homes Discount eligibility; Home energy saving; Switching energy suppliers; Priority Services Register

Last month saw the final stages of the Devon Climate Assembly. The Citizens' Assembly members have since voted on their recommendations, and the County Council is in the process of creating a report to showcase the actions they put forward. They will be publishing the report on their website later this month.

EMERGENCY RESILIENCE

Again, no emergency callouts to report, despite some heavy periods of rain! The Community Response Team list is up to date, and thanks are due to all those who are willing to be on call and available in case of emergency. I have been keeping a number of drain gratings clear of debris. A number of interesting reports have been produced on the Beaver Project. The introduction of Beavers does seem to have reduced the risk of the Budleigh Brook overflowing after a storm.

WAR MEMORIAL and POUND

I have continued work at the Pound and cut the grass and strimmed a couple of times; one more before winter! The Pound description board has been refurbished and re-sited, but I think it will need to be replaced next year. On the subject of signs, the sign at the top of the path from the lower Recreation Ground entrance is shabby and the posts are rotten. It is duplicated by the new sign by the gate. I think all the other signs are appropriate. The War Memorial has been replanted with Pansies and Bellis for the winter display. The tubs are still looking good, but will be replanted with Cyclamen soon.

Cllr. John Tresidder.