

## **BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL** **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

For the second year we are unable to run our Annual Parish Meeting although we hope to put something similar on in the early Autumn.

The Parish Council has remained active over the last year, holding their monthly meetings via Zoom, undertaking routine business and some project work albeit with a different focus.

Working together to support Binegar and Gurney Slade – At the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lockdown we coordinated a village support group and I thank those of you who volunteered to assist. Fortunately, apart from some prescription runs and a bit of neighbourly shopping, there was little to be done.

Playground – Although we had to close the Playground for a couple of months, we re-opened it as soon as possible and have provided hand sanitiser stations for users. Maintenance, routine and because of petty vandalism, is a continual activity. We are always after volunteers to help with the weekly inspections and with the maintenance.



Binegar Bottom – I am sure most of you will have noticed the tree planting along Binegar Bottom planted in conjunction with Mendip District Council - part of our



efforts to offset our collective carbon footprint and replace the ash trees we are losing due to 'die-back'. Additionally, the trees will help with reducing the flow of water down into Gurney Slade - part of our flood mitigation efforts. Through the wood, on the other side of the road, we have created, and will continue to keep clear, an additional path for walkers. Looking forward we hope to extend a

path along the old narrow-gauge railway bed to join up with the national footpath network. We will also hope to create a picnic area at the far end beside the railway embankment.

Village Clean-ups – Our Autumn and Spring Village Clean-up were very different in character. There was very little rubbish about last Autumn but the most recent event at the end of March recovered a considerable amount! Here again I would like to thank those Parishioners who turned out to help and those who routinely litter-pick to help keep our villages tidy.



*Textile Bank* – In conjunction with the Village Hall Committee we have positioned a textile bank at the end of the Village Hall carpark. It has already been filled and emptied several times. Please do use it for any re-usable items of clothing rather than just throwing them out. The funds raised will go to the Village Hall and other community causes.



*Christmas* – To bring some Christmas cheer we erected a Christmas Tree in the cemetery with support from a local sponsor, this is something we hope to do annually from now on. The 'Twelve Days of Christmas' trail around the villages also proved popular.

