



## From the Chair

**WE'VE GOT GOOD NEWS, AND BAD NEWS...**

*Once again, our front page is devoted to issues of vital importance, all of which have major relevance to life in our parish – for better or worse. Let's start with the good news:*

### PLATINUM JUBILEE

Along with most other communities across the land, we and our neighbours in West Monkton are planning to make a big thing of our Monarch's Platinum Jubilee with two events taking place in Maidenbrook Country Park. We'll be running our programme according to the 'official' timetable published by The Palace so we can all feel that we really are sharing in a joyous national event.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** We'll be kicking things off at with a **beacon-lighting ceremony in the country park** from **9-11pm**. This is timed to fit in with countless others taking place nation-wide. No bells and whistles involved (unless you bring your own), just a simple, symbolic event traditionally used to signal a happening of major importance.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** has been designated as a day for street parties and similar small-scale events – so why not get together with your immediate neighbours and organise a party of your own?

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** from **12noon to 3pm** is '**Picnic in the Park**' time for all the family! The highlight of the afternoon will undoubtedly be a live performance by The Military Wives' Choir, which will be supported by many other exciting family attractions. For more information – see notice on the bak page.

**And the best news of all is that we have been able to secure a National Lottery grant to cover the costs of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations!**

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

And now for some bad news. At a meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, Somerset West and Taunton District Council (SWT) voted in favour of taking forward the re-parishing proposal we reported in our last newsletter. If the proposal is adopted at the end of the second public consultation period, it will see Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council slashed in size from 1814 to 309 electorates. The 'new-look' CFPC will be a shadow of its former self with insufficient funds to look after the interests of its small, rural community.

This move will effectively turn the parish clock back to the end of the last century before the more modern residential estates of Nerrols and Maidenbrook were added to our community. If SWT get their way, those estates – together with all the newer housing already built, under construction, or planned on the north side of Nerrols Drive – will be rolled into the new Taunton Town Council. This would potentially divert as much as £1million of Community Infrastructure revenue from this community into the coffers of the Town Council, who will then be free to spend it on improving the town centre if that's where their priorities lie. The additional outcome would almost certainly be a hike in council tax for *EVERYONE* currently living within our parish boundary.

But arguably the biggest anomaly in what SWT are proposing is that, having recently given us a joint lease for the Maidenbrook Country Park with one hand, with the other hand they are now trying to take away the revenue stream we need to continue with the country-park project. Regrettably, this is typical of SWT's inability to do 'joined-up' thinking.

### GLEBE FARM RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

We have been formally notified by SWT that they have now received a planning application from Rural Solutions on behalf of GF Enterprises Ltd. This is a 'hybrid' application covering not just the land on Glebe Farm but also the two fields owned by SWT that currently make up Maidenbrook Country Park and the Somerset Wood. While this may appear strange, it is perfectly in order for anyone to apply for planning permission on land they don't own. The key features of this application are that it incorporates a total of 86 new dwellings and a significantly enlarged version of the country park. It also challenges current planning 'best practice' on the basis that (in the developer's opinion) 'the benefit to the local community outweighs the dis-benefits'. This principle of making planning decisions based on the nett gain or loss to the local community is well established and

*(Continued over)*

**Contributions for the June 2022  
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by  
16<sup>th</sup> May please!**

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the ultimate decision is in the hands of SWT's planning officers and Members. As always, however, the views of members of the public are invited by SWT and will be taken into account. If you want to do that, visit [www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

select 'Find a planning application' from the 'Popular tasks' menu, select 'Taunton Deane', search for 08/22/0001/HYB and submit your views by e-mail to [planning@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](mailto:planning@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)

*(PLEASE NOTE: At time of going to print with this newsletter, the SWT planning website was showing a closing date of April 1<sup>st</sup> for public comments. However, we have been assured by Planning Officer, Mike Hicks, that all comments received by April 12<sup>th</sup> will be processed. This is in line with the extension granted to CFPC on the grounds that we didn't receive the notification in time to give the application our proper consideration before our last meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>.)*

Make no mistake about it, this is a substantial development in a sensitive area and your Parish Council want to hear from you too. We therefore urge all our readers to decide how they feel about the Glebe Farm development and make your views known to us. CFPC will reach a formal decision on this application at our next monthly meeting at **7pm on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April**. Before we do that, we will be holding a public meeting in **Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall at 7pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April** to give everyone in the parish an opportunity to tell us what you think about the proposed development.

Developer Ben Ashton is also hoping to attend so he can speak personally about the application and answer questions. Please note that this will not be an official Parish Council meeting but it will be chaired and run by Members to ensure that proceedings are conducted in an orderly fashion.

### Church Window

*Cheddon Fitzpaine Church is part of the South Quantock Benefice with West Monkton, Kingston St. Mary & Broomfield. The Benefice Office is open every week-day (except Thursdays) from 9am to 2pm. For enquiries about marriages and baptisms, please contact Administrator, Michele Hardiman, on 01823 451257 or at [office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk) For up-to-date news on services, please visit our website at <https://southquantockbenefice.org.uk/>*

### CHURCHYARD TIDY

The first Cheddon Churchyard working party of 2022 will be on Saturday 9th April from 9.30am until 12 Noon. We will do the regular maintenance work of pruning, weeding and tidying. Please bring your own tools, kneeler, gloves etc. Refreshments will be

provided. We would love to welcome new helpers to this friendly group if you would like to help maintain the churchyard. If you are interested, please either contact me for more information or just turn up on the day. We usually meet monthly from April to October.

### CHURCH CLEAN

We are also having a church cleaning morning on Saturday 23rd April from 9.30am - 12 Noon. Please bring your own cleaning materials, dusters, polish, dustpan and brush etc. Refreshments will be provided. Again we would love to welcome new helpers as many hands make light work.

**Pauline Stone** Tel. 01823 277637

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm



## MEN'S GROUP

Barbecue at David Langford's  
To book and for more information,  
Tel Jim: 07967817337

### CHURCH CONTACTS

**RECTOR: Rev. Mary Styles**

Tel. 01823 451189; e-mail [revmarye@gmail.com](mailto:revmarye@gmail.com)

**Rev Jim Cox**

Tel. 07967 817337; e-mail: [jimcox11@gmail.com](mailto:jimcox11@gmail.com)

**Churchwarden:** Diana Taylor, Tel. 07808 158616

### Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

After another difficult year, things are getting back to normal at our village hall. Here's a summary of the annual report I gave to our Annual General Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February:

"The AGM scheduled for November 2020 had to be delayed until March 2021, and was held via WEBEX. I was hoping to get dispensation from the Charity Commission to defer the AGM for 12 months but this was not forthcoming, so it was conducted from our living rooms. For those of us who were not used to this sort of thing, it was somewhat unsatisfactory, but the required business was completed, so that was something. We have tried – during and coming out of the pandemic – to fulfil our role as a community building. By that I mean that we have endeavoured to remain open as much as possible, and all credit to Bill and Sharon for putting into place the regimes that were necessary for this to happen. The consequences

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were that health checks, security, cleaning, and preparation have all been required for even the simplest of lets and, as a consequence, we have been running at a loss. As the rules re COVID have been slowly relaxed, we have been able to gradually scale these extra measures back, and the lets are slowly returning to normal. However, our finances have taken a severe hit and we, as Trustees and employees, must be aware that spending on any non-essential items may have to be curtailed.

I should like to thank Mike Batsch for helping Bill put together the growing number of key documents and policies needed in this ever increasingly bureaucratic world in which the hall operates. One of Mike's other skills, as a musician, was also responsible for putting together our only fundraiser for this year. The Flower Show/Fete, and the Cheddoners concert were both cancelled due to the covid restrictions, so Mike offered (in exchange for free rehearsal time in the hall) to put on a performance with his band "Silverback". It was a great success and raised over £700, so thank you Mike – and also Gabrielle, who organised and set everything up.

We had two working parties during the year, which were well attended and made a huge difference to the car park and land opposite. Thanks to Sean Reece for the chippings in the car park, and all those who contributed. I wonder if next year regular work parties every few weeks or so would be a good idea; they make such a difference. The new fencing needed on our land has had to take a back seat, but should be a priority when we are back in full swing. The algae on the roof has been cleared and treated, except for a small area to the South. It was due to be done last October but delayed due to illness, and will now be completed before the end of this November. Our Treasurer, Stuart Triggol, has recently been unwell, but thankfully is now on the road back to full health, and we wish him well on that journey. It did mean for a while that the Treasurer's duty was passed to myself. It became apparent that without online banking, things would be difficult. The Hall's account is an old TSB one, taken over by Lloyds, and its status within Lloyds is such that it is not eligible for online accounting. Lloyds have not been very helpful in offering help in sorting this, so after a brief meeting with Stuart, we have decided to open two new accounts with another bank (possibly HSBC), and transfer all the direct debits etc across. This will be done at the earliest opportunity. Finally, we have gained two new Trustees: Jane Clarke, who was co-opted in August; and Andrea Boulton, who will represent the new school at Nerrols. They are both very welcome additions. Thanks to all Trustees for

their patience and goodwill in what has been another very difficult year, and to Bill Rigby and Sharon for keeping the Hall in such good shape."

**Malcolm Lown, Chairman, Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall Trustees** Tel. 01823 412750

Email: [info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk)

**Bill Rigby, Hall Manager**

Tel. 01823 413925 (*messages answered within 2 working days*) Mobile: 07586 413290;

e-mail: [memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Community Facebook pages**

You may not know that the following community groups within our parish have set up Facebook pages: Cheddon Fitzpaine Community Group; Maidenbrook Residents Community (*Waterleaze*); Nerrols Farm Residents Community (*Summerleaze/ Cashford Gate*); Tudor Park; and Northwalls & Nerrols Grange Community. Our neighbours in West Monkton also have their own very informative Monkton Matters.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

***Held at 7pm in the Committee Room at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall on the second Monday of the month, these meetings are open to everyone. At time of going to print, covid regulations are once again allowing Parish Council members to meet face-to-face with members of the public in attendance.***

**2022:** 11<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCILLORS**

#### **Cheddon, Rowford & Upper Cheddon**

**Denise Webber (Chair)** 01823 451720  
[denise.webber@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:denise.webber@cfpc.co.uk)

**Alan West** 07584 055566  
[alan.west@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:alan.west@cfpc.co.uk)

#### **Nerrols Farm/Summerleaze**

**Mike Batsch** 01823 272376  
[mike.batsch@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:mike.batsch@cfpc.co.uk)

#### **Maidenbrook/Waterleaze**

**Lee Baker** 07764 626171  
[lee.baker@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:lee.baker@cfpc.co.uk)

**Rob Isaacs** 01823 333324  
[rob.isaacs@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:rob.isaacs@cfpc.co.uk)

**Jason Woollacott (Vice Chair)** 07940 277413  
[jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk)

### **PARISH CLERK**

**Sammie Millard-Jones** 07465 405533  
[clerk@cfpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@cfpc.co.uk)

*Join with us in celebrating*



## **Maidenbrook Country Park**

**THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE:** *Beacon-lighting ceremony* from **9 to 11pm**. With home-baked Jubilee Tarts served under the toasty glow of the beacon, this should be just the thing for getting everyone into the spirit of the Jubilee celebrations.

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE:** From **12noon to 3pm**, it's '*Picnic in the Park*' time for all the family! Just bring your own food, drink, picnic tables and chairs, rugs/blankets, sun-tan lotion, umbrellas... whatever you need to spend an enjoyable few hours in the open air. For those who prefer, the Veterans Catering team will be rustling up a BBQ and there'll also be a drinks stall. Highlight of the day will be a live performance at 1:30pm by the

## **Military Wives Choir**

In addition, there'll be lots of family-fun events:

**2-person wheelbarrow race; egg & spoon race;**

**3-legged race; sack race; tug of war**

Especially for the children, we've got the following competitions with prizes for the:

**Best CreativeCrown; Best portrait of the Queen;**

**Best-decorated wheelbarrow.**

**Car parking is limited, so would those local residents who are able please come on foot.**

**Disabled badge-holders will need to book a parking space for their vehicles with our Parish Clerk in advance.**



## **Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club**

### **FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL: KING RICHARD**

**DramaBiography:** Based on the inspiring true story, *King Richard* follows the journey of Richard Williams, a determined father instrumental in raising two of the most extraordinarily gifted athletes of all time. Driven by a clear vision of their future and using unconventional methods, Richard (Will Smith) has a plan that will take Venus and Serena Williams from the streets of Compton, California to the global stage as legendary icons. The profoundly moving film shows the power of family, perseverance, and unwavering belief as a means to achieve the impossible and impact the world.

**All screenings at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall. Refreshments: 6:30pm; trailer and short film: 7pm; feature: approx. 7:15pm.**

**ADMISSION IS £6 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR.**

[cwmfilmclub@cheddonmovies.com](mailto:cwmfilmclub@cheddonmovies.com)

## **EASTER ACTIVITY MORNING**

*(aimed at 2-11 years)*

**10am, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**at Cheddon Church /churchyard**

**EASTER CARDS EGG-HUNT**

**CHOCOLATE NESTS**

**ACTIVITIES CRAFTS**

**.....CHOCOLATE !!!**

**TEAS & COFFEES, BISCUITS & BUNS**

Tel: 01823 451257

E-mail: [office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk)

