



View from The Chair



A very big welcome to **incoming Parish Clerk, Sammie Millard-Jones** (pictured above), who has taken over the reins after a phased handover period. Living on Northwalls Grange, she already knows the area and also comes to us with experience in the role. We are sure Sammie will enjoy working with our growing and exciting parish. **Outgoing Parish Clerk, Jo Pearson**, is retiring to spend more well-earned time with family after nearly 10 years of invaluable service. We cannot overstate the debt of gratitude owed to Jo by this Parish Council and the community we serve. So much has changed since Jo joined us that it has been like progressing from running a corner shop to managing a supermarket! Her hands-on style, inter-personal skills, steely determination and cheerful nature have earned her many friends in Cheddon Fitzpaine and beyond. You will not be surprised to know that Jo has her own personal farewell message:

"I want to thank the Parish Councillors for their support over my tenure as Parish Clerk; it's been a strong working relationship. The Parish has grown significantly and, during that time, so have I as a person. You cannot all know how the challenges have taught me so much about all aspects of local government and the social interactions within the community. I leave as a much more rounded person and thank you for all the kind comments I have received. The over-riding message that I leave you with is: please talk to your neighbour! Most matters can be resolved with a chat..... that's all it takes."

Actually, Jo will continue helping Sammie through this

busy month of April and, when that's done, will still be co-ordinating the Somerset Wood volunteer groups.

Census 21st March 2021 Have you all completed your survey yet? It is a legal requirement for every household as it helps the government plan our schools, hospitals and other vital services.

Elections on 6th May, 2021 Those who have recently moved into the area should ensure they are on the current electoral role (the postponed election of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset will be our only ballot this year). It is possible to arrange proxy and postal votes at

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or phone 01823 358692

... which reminds us that it's time to extend a warm **welcome to new residents of Nerrols Grange** (phase 2 of the Northwalls Grange development). We understand that some of you will be moving in from the beginning of this month (April), and we sincerely hope you will enjoy living within the parish. Feel free to contact your nearest Parish Councillor for a chat and please ask your Parish Clerk for a parish-council welcome pack if you haven't already got one.

Local government consultations To keep the democratic wheels turning, please familiarise yourselves with the information on the websites below so you can choose between – and support – one of the two reorganisation options on offer:

One Somerset www.onesomerset.org.uk

Stronger Somerset www.strongersomerset.co.uk

Call for new Village Hall Trustees!

Yet another request from us for community-minded folk to devote a modest amount of their time to a worthwhile cause. This time, it's in aid of our much-loved and (pre-covid) very successful Memorial Hall. If you can spare at least four evenings a year to attend meetings, please contact Chair of Trustees, Malcolm Lown, or Deputy Chair and Parish Councillor, Mike Batsch, for a chat (contact details on pages 2 and 4 respectively).

Denise Webber, Chair, Cheddon Fitzpaine PC

Tel: 01823 451720; Mobile: 07788 522266

**Contributions for the June 2021
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by
16th May please!**

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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

Please see website or contact those below for further information. Little Seedlings will resume later this month (April) in the Memorial Hall.

CHURCH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Rev. Mary Styles

Tel. 01823 451189; e-mail revmarrye@gmail.com

Rev Jim Cox

Tel. 097967 817337; e-mail: jimcox11@gmail.com

Rev Tracey Hallett, Church in Community Pioneer

Tel. 07854 489753; e-mail: tracey.hallett@icloud.com

Covid-19 regulations are constantly changing so please contact us or visit the benefice website for up-to-date information on Church Services.

Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Church '100 Club'

The '100 Club' raises funds to help maintain the Parish Church. We are pleased to announce that the winners of the latest draws are:

February £60 Richard Stone £15 Sheila Napper
March £60 Liz Thompson £15 Julie Holley

If you wish to join the 100 Club, please contact:

Pauline Stone, PCC Member

Tel. 01823 277637; Mob. 07984 055574

E-mail pauline.stone@live.co.uk

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

Having been postponed since last November, our AGM was finally held online on the 15th of last month (March) followed, as usual, by one of our regular Trustee meetings. As you can imagine, the reports presented by me and the other Memorial Hall officers and staff painted a much less rosy picture than we were accustomed to before the pandemic struck. Nevertheless, the hall remains in a good state of repair and financially solvent, albeit with a less healthy bank balance. Subject to the pandemic being brought under control, we are planning a fund-raising event for later this year – watch this space!

As mentioned in CFPC Chair Denise's opening remarks, we have a requirement for additional Memorial Hall Trustees. We are a friendly bunch of

community-spirited individuals and the time commitment really is minimal. So, if you are interested in giving something back to the community, just call me for a chat.

Malcolm Lown, Chairman, Cheddon Fitzpaine

Memorial Hall Trustees Tel. 01823 412750

Email: info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk

Bill Rigby, Booking Secretary

Tel. 01823 413925 (*messages answered within 24 hours*)

Mobile: 07586 413290;

e-mail: memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk

Neighbourhood map and Plan revision



The new Play Parks and Open Spaces Map is obviously required reading for fun-loving two-year-olds – and their mums, no doubt!



This example of the smart new signs is at Barber's Mead. Please note that all children's play areas are dog-free zones and your canine companions must be tethered by their leads to the outside of the fencing.

Following our recent mail-shot of the free map showing all Play Areas and Public Open Spaces in our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) area, we are delighted by the positive reaction to the map itself and the

associated on-site signage. The covering letter that accompanied the map referred to the NP revision currently in progress. **The period of consultation under NP Regulation 14** closes at the end of this month (April). All statutory consultees and members of the public are invited to comment before the revised plan becomes law. The NP effectively establishes local policies that developers and District Planners are obliged to adhere to. If you have not responded yet and would like an opportunity to review the draft proposals, please ask your Parish Clerk for a copy.

Somerset Wood update



As reported on the front page, Jo Pearson will herself continue volunteering as well as organising the volunteer efforts of others in the rapidly emerging **Somerset Wood**. A new e-mail address has been set up – somersetwood@outlook.com – and the Parish Council is contacting all volunteers to seek their permission as required under GDPR for transferring their contact details on to Jo's dedicated laptop. Community support for the project has been amazing – a tremendous positivity boost in these difficult times. Despite covid restrictions, 1,200 saplings have been planted since mid-December 2020. What an achievement! Thanks to all those, who have helped creating what is already a truly inspiring, beautiful and peaceful place to be.



'Mulch with Mike' drawn by 3-year-old Noah

The volunteer 'bubbles' are often multi-generational and none are more enthusiastic than the junior members. As Alisa, aged 9, explains, the children are also learning while having fun:

"Even though I have only been planting 3 times, I have already learnt a lot. I can now identify a few more trees than I could before; wild cherry and oak are large, dog wood is red, aspen has small buds and hawthorn is prickly. Although I enjoyed laying the trees and wind shields out, I didn't enjoy opening the wind shields, because they are very stiff and too long for me to put my arms down and open. I enjoyed spreading bark mulch around the trees and seeing the nursery where all the trees are kept. The first time I ever went, I was really cold, the second time, I was too hot and the third time, I was fine."

Our young volunteers are a joy to behold and have collectively been named the **Wiggly Worm Workforce**. Toby, aged 10, explains why:

"One Saturday morning we all went tree planting. As we started to dig the holes, I found a wiggly worm so I called it Jeff. As we kept digging we kept finding more wiggly worms, which made me decided to name them all. These are their names Jeff, Gary, Sophia, Bob. When dad finished digging the hole we then

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put the wiggly worm in the hole to help the tree grow. I had a great morning out planting trees, meeting other people, learning types of trees, wheeling the wheelbarrow and being out in the fresh air. So was very excited about the new club wiggly worm workforce!"

All of which bodes well for the future of our Somerset Wood, our Maidenbrook Country Park, and beyond. It's never too soon to plant the seed of environmental awareness in the fertile minds of the next generation.

Footpaths Officer change-over

We wish to record our grateful thanks to Phil Boyce for walking and reporting on our footpaths for the past six years. Ian Brimacombe has kindly agreed to take over the role and has recently completed a SCC Strimmer Course. He will only be able to work on registered Rights of Way, and not cycleways.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

Just a quick reminder that we are not allowed to remove or carry out surgery on trees covered by TPOs. Anyone wishing to do so must first contact David Galley, Somerset West and Taunton Council's Tree Officer, by phone on 01823 219534 or by e-mail at d.galley@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Area updates

MAIDENBROOK

WM & CF Parishes have jointly been awarded £62,000 of grant money from the **SCC Climate Emergency Community Fund** for two projects within the Maidenbrook Country Park: the forest school and wildlife pond. This is tremendously welcome news and enhances the value of this site to the community.

Maidenbrook Lane flooding In addition to the ongoing work already reported, Somerset County Councillors are actively pursuing practical solutions to this recurring problem.

Adoption of Public Open Spaces We understand that this lengthy and troublesome matter should finally be resolved in the coming months. Developer Bovis has sent the necessary transfer documents to SWTC's legal department and the District Council's Leas Officer has promised to give us regular updates.

Last but not least, the unkempt area of land entering **Waterleaze** including the ditch beside the CMC Doctors' Surgery has been cleared. The land is owned by Legal & General and managed by agents JLL, Bristol. Annual clearance is promised from now on.

Crown Medical Centre Roundabout Recent clearance of undergrowth has now revealed the feature trees and shrubs. It is hoped a local business will come forward to sponsor the regular maintenance of this SCC Highways roundabout.

NERROLS

Northwalls Grange Road-surfacing work is progressing, albeit slowly, and hopefully the new play area will soon be opening.

Nerrols Grange (phase 2) A warm welcome to the first new residents from 1 April 2021.

Nerrols Farmhouse Contact has been established with the new owner of the property.

Western Relief Road The new bypass is moving forward nicely work progresses and should be completed in the middle of this year.

CALLING ALL AREAS!! We continue to receive complaints about nuisance parking across our parish. We urge all residents to show due consideration for their neighbours and service vehicles.

Parish Council Meetings – 2021

Held on Mondays at 7pm, these meetings (held virtually until further notice) are open to everyone. Members of the public wishing to take part by dialling-in should contact our Parish Clerk well in advance so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 11th July, 9th August, 12th September, 11th October, 9th November, 13th December.

CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCILLORS **Cheddon, Rowford & Upper Cheddon**

Denise Webber (Chair) 01823 451720
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Alan West 07584 055566
alan.west@cfpc.co.uk

Nerrols Farm/Summerleaze

Mike Batsch 01823 272376
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Lee Baker 07764 626171
lee.baker@cfpc.co.uk

Rob Isaacs 01823 333324
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Jason Woollacott (Vice Chair) 07940 277413
jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk

PARISH CLERK

Sammie Millard-Jones 07465 405533
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