



**Cheddon
Fitzpaine
Parish**

February 2021

NEWSLETTER

Websites: www.cfpc.co.uk and www.cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk

View from The Chair

Despite the widespread disruption of the covid-19 pandemic, it is heartening to know that the machinery of government that underpins our well-being continues to function at all levels. Like everybody else, your parish councillors have had to adapt to 'the new normal', but we are happy (and somewhat proud) to report that all the important aspects of what we do for our community are still getting done – albeit not quite as easily as before. One of our most important tasks is the setting of our annual budget, or 'precept', at the end of each year. This has now been concluded for the next financial year starting in April 2021. In the UK over the past 10 years or so, successive governments have pursued the praiseworthy policy of devolving decision-making down to community level wherever possible. An inevitable result of this change in approach has been a steady increase in the workload of parish councils like ours. Nevertheless, we have once again managed to make do with a modest increase in our precept: £3.93 for Band D properties, which sets their new level at £40.26 (slightly more or less for the other rating bands). We think this represents exceptional value for money and it is only possible because your community-spirited parish councillors do their important job for no monetary reward.

We must also gratefully acknowledge the guidance and support received from SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) and SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) throughout the pandemic. The Chief Executives of both organisations have praised Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors across the country for rising to the unprecedented challenges facing us all. As Elisabeth Skinner, Academic Leader at SLCC, puts it: *"It is high time that ultra-local councils in towns and villages were trusted by other agencies to 'think globally and act locally'. Whether it is the crisis caused by the pandemic, or the crisis of climate change, these councils have the power to deliver place-based, practical and sustainable solutions."*

"Hear, hear!" we say. (We do hope you'll forgive us this brief spell of blowing our own trumpet; if we don't do it ourselves, no-one else will do it for us!) As the covid-19 lockdowns persist, so our parish-council meetings continue to be held online. Actually, after the initial teething problems were overcome, these virtual meetings have turned out to be quite

popular as you can take part while sitting on your couch with a nice cup of tea. Even a few biscuits can be noisily munched provided you don't forget to hit your mute button. On a more serious note (which the pandemic most certainly is), don't forget that SCC (Somerset County Council) and SWTC (Somerset West and Taunton Council) are regularly publishing updates on their respective websites at:

<https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-and-information/>

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/>

Need to seek help during these tough times?

If you, or someone you know, are feeling like things are too much, please know that there is a huge amount of help at hand from the following organisations:

- Samaritans – 116 123
- CALM – 0800 58 58 58
- ChildLine – 0800 1111
- Anxiety UK – 03444 775 774
- Mind – 0300 123 3393
- National Domestic Abuse helpline – 0808 2000 247
- Somerset Bereavement Support Service – 0800 304 7412

New Map of Play Areas and Open Spaces The idea for this map arose from comments made in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Questionnaire in autumn 2019 requesting more information on outdoor spaces within the NP area and better signage for them. The map has now gone to the printers and should be delivered by early February to every household within our joint Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Neighbourhood Plan area. Re the signage, grant funding towards the cost of erecting a sign in every area is close to being finalised with SWTC. Each sign will display the map with a 'you are here' arrow showing visitors where they are within the network.

Denise Webber, Chairman, Cheddon Fitzpaine PC
Tel: 01823 451720; Mobile: 07788 522266

***Contributions for the April 2021
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by
16th March please!***



We are fortunate enough to have a local astronomer who took this photograph of the alignment of Saturn and Jupiter from the country-park fields in mid-December. The planets could be observed moving closer together in the night sky for several weeks culminating in this extremely rare event known as 'the great conjunction'.

Church Window

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church is part of the South Quantock Benefice together with West Monkton, Kingston St. Mary & Broomfield. Due to covid-19 restrictions, the Benefice Office is currently closed. Our Administrator, Michele Hardiman, is now working from home but can be contacted as normal via our temporarily diverted telephone line every week-day (except Thursdays) from 9am to 2pm. For enquiries about marriages and baptisms, please contact her on by telephone on 01823 451257 or by e-mail at office@southquantockbenefice.org.uk Website: www.southquantockbenefice.org.uk

Community update from Reverend Tracey

As we each face lockdown 3:0, I want to take this opportunity to remind you all that the Church is here, and we are very willing to offer help and support to anyone in the parish who needs it. As always, I am trying to create positive community. To improve our mood as a way of helping us through the covid-19 blues, we have started a South Quantock Community Book Group. To begin with we are reading quick reads that only cost £1 and meeting once a month on Zoom to discuss the book and enjoy some social time within the parish. We are a friendly and welcoming group that is open to all, we have a Facebook page, and we look forward to welcoming you there:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/160791832163895/permalink/162169122026166/?comment_id=162531041989974

If you are parents or carers trying to teach children at home, we would like to support to you! Please do

make contact so we can give you details of our online meetings where we share all the highs and lows. The local foodbank continues to provide a valuable service to so many in the Taunton area. If you would like to donate food, there is a drop-off box outside the Community House at 4 Garden Close, Northwalls Grange. We collect canned foods, long-life milk, cereals, pasta & sauces, lentils, rice, toiletries and canned meat pies, which I deliver to the foodbank on a regular basis. Your contributions are making a real difference and are invaluable at such a time as this. For more information on any of the above, please do call me on 07854 489753.

With my very best wishes and prayers,

Rev Tracey Hallett

Services: Our main services are on currently on Zoom at 10.30am

Ash Wednesday 17th February

see website or contact us for details – there will be a Zoom service and (if permitted) a service in one of the churches.

Churches Buildings Open For Private Prayer

Kingston: Wednesdays/Sundays 9am – 4pm

Broomfield, Cheddon & West Monkton Open daily

CHURCH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Rev. Mary Styles

Tel. 01823 451189; e-mail revmarye@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

Pauline Stone, PCC Member

Tel. 01823 277637; Mob. 07984 055574

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

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. The number of tickets sold has risen so it is now possible to offer better prizes as follows:

Winners of the latest draws are:

December: £60 William Rigby; £15 Robert Hughes

Christmas bonus: £50 Pat Vickery

January: £60 Pauline Stone; £15 Hilary Shaw

If you would like to join the 100 Club, please contact Pauline Stone (details above).

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Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

In line with the current pandemic lockdown, use of the hall is currently limited to organisations operating in the education-related sector. Hopefully the roll-out of the vaccination programme will lead to an easing of restrictions in the not-too-distant future.

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

Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club

Regrettably all live screenings are suspended until further notice. We will let all our friends know as and when we are once again able to meet in the hall.

Chris Dalton Tel. 01823 412278

cwmfilmclub@cheddonmovies.com

Census 2021

On **21st March 2021**, the 'decennial' (i.e. once every ten years) United Kingdom census will be conducted across most of the United Kingdom, with the rest of the nation being enumerated in 2022. It will be administered by the Office of National Statistics in England and Wales, by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in Northern Ireland, and by the General Register Office in Scotland. From our regional perspective, this will be a once-in-a-decade opportunity to take a detailed 'snapshot' of the population of Somerset and its characteristics. The information collected is extremely important because it is used for planning and funding local services including health, education and transport. The importance of the census is even greater in these challenging times. It is the legal duty of every householder to complete and return the form that will be sent to their address, so please look out for it.

Parish Clerk

Our Clerk Jo will be retiring at the end of March 2021; the position has been advertised for an expected handover of 1 March.

Canal & River Trust (CRT)

The thorough dredging of our local canal was completed a week before Christmas. CRT has assured us that the damaged bank has not only been shored up but will also be monitored in future. This Spring, when the drying ground permits, the excess silt currently held in a temporary 'lagoon' will be spread

across fields and the walls of the containing dyke will be flattened. Additional volunteers are always welcome to swell the numbers of future field-work groups as and when conditions allow. Anyone who is interested should get in touch with our CRT Area Contact: Mike.Osment@canalrivertrust.org.uk



For those who have eyes to see, our canal-scape is a magical place – witness the images above. You'll have to be extremely lucky to spot the kingfisher at rest though; he rarely reveals himself, and then it's often just as a fast-moving patch of turquoise flashing across your peripheral field of vision.

Area updates

MAIDENBROOK

As many of you know only too well, the flooding by Field Cottage in **Maidenbrook Lane** remains unresolved. Your Parish Council arranged – and paid – for the parish drains to be cleared last November. In addition, SCC Highways Dept. have inspected all known field drains and are willing to jet the field network once other inaccessible drains have been located. The local land-owner has been contacted and is awaiting guidance from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group as to the best way to proceed. Please be assured that all parties involved are resolutely working towards finding a resolution.

Somerset Wood The latest phase of tree-planting in the WW1 Commemorative Somerset Wood has begun with more than 700 of this season's 1,200 saplings already in the ground. Volunteers from both Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton parishes have already

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been sought via our local Facebook pages. If anyone else would like to join in the fun, please contact Parish Clerk Jo for information (details below). These volunteer work-parties are meticulously organised, the requisite risk assessments are in place, and over-cautious social-distancing measures are being scrupulously observed and monitored. If you are interested but unable to attend at this time, we would still love to hear from you. This project is on-going so there will be plenty of work for all ages and abilities in the foreseeable future.



NERROLS

The Show Homes are now open on the new **Nerrols Grange** development off Nerrols Drive, where the first residents are expected to start moving in this Spring. Viewing is by appointment only.

Highways

The Crown Roundabout Sponsorship options are being investigated as a means of attaining a higher standard of maintenance than has recently been achieved. It's early days as yet but we will keep you informed.

Western Relief Road – connecting the A3259 with houses at Aginhills, West Monkton. Wessex Water are in the process of moving the mains water pipe under pressure. Work was scheduled to have been completed by the time you read this but has slipped a month due to adverse weather conditions. At the same time, Persimmon has begun preparatory ground-work for the new connecting road. This has to be complete by June 2021 prior to the start of road improvements in the Crech Castle area.

Rowford The Parish Council wishes to thank Jim Read of Pyrland Farm for expediting the **ditch clearance** by South Lodge and opposite Cheddon School. The need for this clearance had been notified to SCC's Highways Dep't but it was not known when (if ever!) they would be able to do it.

Dog Poo – latest rant!

Once again, we must respectfully ask those dog owners who are not disposing of their poo bags correctly to start putting them in the nearest bin.

Nature's Notes



We have received several reports of local hedgehog sightings. This one has been tagged to monitor what is sadly becoming an increasingly rare species.

Parish Council Meetings – 2021

Held on Mondays at 7pm, these virtual meetings 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. Follow the link:

<https://mrs-ofb.my.webex.com/meet/cheddon>

2021: 8th February, 8th March, 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

denise.webber@cfpc.co.uk

Alan West 07584 055566

alan.west@cfpc.co.uk

Nerrols Farm/Summerleaze

Mike Batsch 01823 272376

mike.batsch@cfpc.co.uk

Maidenbrook/Waterleaze

Lee Baker 07764 626171

lee.baker@cfpc.co.uk

Rob Isaacs 01823 333324

rob.isaacs@cfpc.co.uk

Jason Woollacott (Vice Chair) 07940 277413

jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk

PARISH CLERK

Jo Pearson 01823 259478

clerk@cfpc.co.uk

FOOTNOTE As usual, this newsletter contains some nice pictures, which cannot be reproduced to full effect in black-and-white print. You can view them properly by reading the colour version of the newsletter on our website.