



From the Chair

First and foremost, we hope that you all managed to get the seasonal break you hoped for despite the difficult circumstances. Due to the need to fit all the Local Governance Review information into our last newsletter, we missed out our usual year-end 'thank you' to the volunteers, who distribute and deliver this publication to your door every other month. Well, better late than never: thank you all so much for the vital role you play in keeping our community informed about what's going on in and around the parish and what this parish council is up to.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW Thanks to the 120 of you who took the trouble to complete our survey questionnaire. While the number seems low, this level of response is apparently typical in situations where most people are satisfied with the status quo. As a percentage of voters in the parish, it is also similar to the response West Monkton got from the survey they carried out. The survey quite clearly reveals an overwhelming preference (99.1% in favour!) to keep Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council. Our Clerk has produced a detailed analysis report, which has been sent to Somerset West and Taunton (SWT) as evidence against their re-parishing proposal. If you want to see the report, it is now on our website and is also available from our Clerk in hard-copy form on request.

MAIDENBROOK COUNTRY PARK You may already have read in the County Gazette that SWT have finally agreed to make the country-park land available to us on a 125-year lease. We had no prior warning of the news release, which came as a pleasant surprise to us. While it's good news as far as it goes, we are still negotiating the final terms of the lease.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) REVIEW As already reported, the NP we made jointly with West Monkton Parish Council has to be reviewed every couple of years or so to keep it up to date with changes in planning legislation and regulations. We have now reached the stage where it will soon be looked at by an official Inspector. The next stage will then be to put it before a government Examiner prior to final adoption by SWT.

SOMERSET WOOD Progress on the ground in the country park continues with the near completion of the Forest School shelter and wildlife pond. The only

finishing touches still outstanding are the pre-planted coir matting that goes into the pond in March and the cedar shingles for the shelter roof.



Now structurally complete, the Forest School shelter just awaits its cedar roof shingles and final tidy-up.



(ABOVE) The wildlife pond is now virtually full, but (BELOW) a lot more work went into creating it than currently meets the eye! When the grass recovers this Spring, it will be looking completely natural.



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

***Contributions for the April 2022
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by
16th March please!***

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

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:

Dec: £50 – Mary Read £15 – Geoff Tarr
Christmas Bonus – Debbie Saunders

Jan: £50 – Gerry Guerrier £15 – Annie Durham

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

Pauline Stone Tel. 01823 277637

Joan Osmond Tel. 01823 321829



TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Sunday 13th February
Cheddon Memorial Hall
2.30 – 3.30pm

*Free event with simple
crafts, story & songs!!*

A fun time for under-8s and their families – teas, coffee, juice & biscuits provided. Please bring picnic snacks and a rug to sit on. Bring your teddy!

Men's Group

Our next meeting will be a **POOL NIGHT** on **Monday 28th February at 7pm** at the **All Stars Sports Club (Perkin Warbeck)**

*For more information, contact
Rev Jim Cox (see details below)*

For up-to-date news on services, please visit our website at <https://southquantockbenefice.org.uk/>

CHURCH CONTACTS

RECTOR: Rev. Mary Styles

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

Rev Jim Cox

Tel. 07967 817337; e-mail: jimcox11@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Diana Taylor, Tel. 07808 158616

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

Just a quick reminder of the forthcoming events as reported in the last newsletter, with one cancellation: We will be holding our **Annual General Meeting** in the hall at 7pm on the **7th of February, 2022** followed, as usual, by our ordinary Trustee meeting; our **next Quiz Night** will be on **Friday 25th February**; regrettably, the Cheddoners Variety Show has been cancelled, as the group no longer feel able to stage a performance that will meet the high standards set in previous years.

Last but by no means least, I am pleased – and relieved – to announce that we were very quickly able to find a new cleaner. She is Kara Cottrell-Woods, who lives locally and was immediately available allowing for a handover by Sharon.

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

Email: 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

Jo's country-park report

Thank you to Alan Hall for making the smart new hand-carved and painted wooden sign at the main entrance off Maidenbrook Lane. Its colourful, rustic design is just what's needed for our country park.

Being local to the area, many of you will have seen the progress of the Forest School and the Pond - or should that be lake? - at the end of 2021. If you haven't visited recently, please do, as you will be amazed.

Volunteering: The regular volunteers meet on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. We are also hoping to organise some additional Saturday sessions to plant the hedging, and notices advising the dates for these will be posted soonest on the facebook group pages. Please do come and join us! This truly is a magical place and you will be made very welcome. And don't get the idea that it's all hard graft; there's plenty of friendly company to be enjoyed and everyone works at his or her own comfortable pace.

Groups: If you belong to a group and wish to come at another time, please contact me and I will be happy to arrange a date/time to suit your requirements.

We are looking forward to being able to benefit more fully in this wonderful open space as these projects progress.

Jo Pearson, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Tel. 07891 529809 somersetwood@outlook.com

Letter from our SCC Councillor

Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Parish Councils have received the following letter, which we now reproduce in its entirety below.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to put on record my support for my friends at Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Parish Councils in the light of the Local Governance Review recently embarked upon by Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT).

As you know, I have been a regular attendee at your parish-council meetings and have been successful in deploying Somerset County Council resources to the direct benefit of this community, in which I also live. I cannot remain silent while SWT's wrong-headed review threatens the very existence of your conscientious parish councils and others around Taunton Town.

SWT's action also throws the future ownership of Maidenbrook Country Park into question, adding insult to the injury already caused to this imaginative project through their indifference, delaying tactics and U-turns. While their latest decision to make the land available by means of a long lease is better than nothing, it falls far short of the offer made by their predecessors, Taunton Deane, to give your parish councils joint ownership of the land for subsequent placement into a country-park charitable trust. Such a trust is the only real way of ensuring public ownership into the distant future. Having initially agreed to honour the country-park commitments made by TDBC, SWT then reneged on the joint-ownership promise. Instead, they offered the land for sale to the two parish councils but, after a price had been agreed, they promptly withdrew that offer too.

I was amused to read the news release SWT put out on 24th December last, in which they were clearly trying to claim credit for the success that the country park has already become. The truth is that SWT have shown little interest in the project – and even managed to get its name wrong, calling it 'Monkton' instead of 'Maidenbrook' Country Park in their news release! Their ambition now seems to be sweeping the park up into some big new centralised Taunton Town Council with no track record. If that happens, all the hard work done by your two PCs to look after our local community will have been for nothing.

In wishing you luck in fighting off this unwelcome take-over bid, I would strongly encourage all parishioners to make their voices heard at every stage of SWT's Local Governance Review consultations. There is no doubt in my mind that cynical party

politics is at the heart of SWT's recent decisions to interfere in the business of efficient and hard-working parish councils.

Yours faithfully,

Giuseppe Fraschini,

Somerset County Councillor for Taunton North

Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

Somerset County Council (SCC) has unveiled plans for major new safe cycling and walking routes in the county to help create greener, healthier and more active streets. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) for Taunton and Yeovil are the first to be published – they'll be followed by plans for Bridgwater and Frome and funding has been netted to draw up plans for three other towns soon. These are focused, 10-year plans for developing a cycle and walking network within each local area. The aim is to secure funding over the next decade for significant new safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians across all Somerset's towns.

You can access and comment on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for Yeovil and Taunton at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-and-transport-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-lcwips/>.

These are evolving plans which will continue to develop over time, with the views and suggestions from the public central to the process.

SCC has now launched a Commonplace website where the public can comment on plans for sustainable transport in the county – you can also find the Local Cycling and Walking Plans here: [Have Your Say Today – Somerset Sustainable Transport – Commonplace](#)

Area updates

Northwalls & Nothwalls Grange The Clerk has requested information regarding the bin emptying on the estate, as many are overflowing. Road surfacing seems to have been largely completed, although there remains a lot of snagging to be addressed.

Highways

The following notice has been received from Somerset County Council's Road Closure Team:

Temporary Road Closure: ttro478028 - ABC - Sidbrook, West Monkton Please use the following link to view the above road closure:

<https://one.network/?tm=125809641>

and the following link for the **Notice 2:**

https://api-gb.one.network/downloads/tm/1111/03-notice-2_125809641_3392717_2248a53108.pdf

The order becomes effective on 3rd February 2022 for

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eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on **13th February 2022** and last for **6 days (08:00 - 17:00)** to enable **Airband to carry out cabling works**. The contractor has indicated that access for Emergency Services through the site is **permitted** on this occasion. For any further information about this closure please contact **Airband** on **01905 676 121**, quoting reference: **ttro478028**. Please note that should you require to view a closure which is more than two weeks ahead, you will need to register for free with www.One.Network

Reporting faults Utilising a new upgraded online system with an improved interactive map, members of the public can report a highways problem 24/7. From potholes, blocked drains and broken manhole covers, to mud on the road, overgrown vegetation, damaged pavements or cycle paths, faulty traffic lights or missing markings – all can be reported in just minutes from a smart-phone, tablet or computer via www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

NOTICE

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall
Annual General Meeting
will be held in the Hall at 7pm on
Monday, 7th February, 2022

*All members of the public are welcome
to attend the AGM, which will last
approximately half an hour.*

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: 14th February, 14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 8th August, 12th September, 10th October, 14th November, 5th December.

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

Denise Webber (Chair) 01823 451720
denise.webber@cfpc.co.uk

Alan West 07584 055566
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Nerrols Farm/Summerleaze

Mike Batsch 01823 272376
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Maidenbrook/Waterleaze

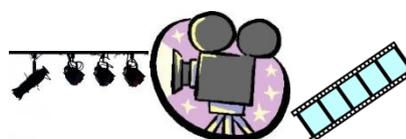
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PARISH CLERK

Sammie Millard-Jones 07465 405533
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Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club

NOTICE OF SPRING SEASON SCREENINGS

18th FEBRUARY: DREAM HORSE

True Story/Comedy/Drama: Dream Alliance is an unlikely race horse bred by small-town Welsh barmaid Jan Vokes (Toni Collette). With no capital and no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream in the hopes that he can compete with the racing elites

18th MARCH: NOWHERE SPECIAL

Drama: From the director of the wonderful Still Life (2013), and inspired by a true story, Nowhere Special features James Norton as thirty-five-year-old window cleaner John, who has dedicated his life to bringing up his son Michael (Daniel Lamont), after the child's mother left them soon after giving birth. When John is given only a few months to live, he attempts to find a new, perfect family for his four-year-old son, determined to shield him from the terrible reality of the situation

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