



View from The Chair

Thanks to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we are all starting to be able to get together again. From Monday 17th May, we have even been able to meet people indoors – such a novelty after such a long time of only being able to meet others outdoors. With lots of venues re-opening their doors, there is a lot to look forward to.

The temporary regulations allowing Local Authorities and others to meet virtually during the pandemic have lapsed and we have now moved back to face-to-face meetings. However, while the Parish Councillors and Clerk will now be returning to the Memorial Hall for meetings, we are asking that all members of the public continue to attend virtually until further notice. We very much look forward to seeing you all face-to-face soon but for now it is safer to keep numbers to a minimum given the size of the meeting room.

Public Paths We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Public Path Liaison Officer (PPLO), Ian Brimacombe. As the first lockdown hit the UK and Ian was put on furlough from his regular job (Head Chef at Exeter & Wincanton racecourse), he decided to do some volunteering in the local community. The first thing Ian did was to adopt 5 footpaths (see 'Adopt a footpath' on page 5) because, as he puts it, "All I had to do was walk them 3 or 4 times year and make sure they are clear from brambles, and signs, gates, stiles are safe to use. This can be done with the whole family." Next, he attended the two-day Somerset County Council Strimmer Training Course, so that he is able to safely work on registered public rights of way. As you can imagine given the weather we had in April, Ian has been incredibly busy over the last few weeks, not only strimming but also collecting an awful lot of rubbish. Despite now returning to his main job, Ian plans to carry on volunteering at weekends and evenings.

As we frequently point out in these columns, volunteering is the oil that keeps the wheels of our community turning. If you can find some spare time to help, there are lots of opportunities in our parish – from doing litter-picks on an ad-hoc basis to becoming a Parish Council member or village-hall Trustee. If you are interested, just contact your nearest Parish Councillor or Parish Clerk (see details on back page).

Traffic mayhem Our local media are full of reports on the traffic chaos that is fraying tempers and increasing

journey times across Taunton. Regrettably, we have our own congestion hot-spot through Cheddon village thanks to the 11-week closure of the A3259 at Yallands Hill during completion of the Western Relief Road. Your Parish Council lost no time in reporting your – and our – concerns about the diversion that was initially put in place. While this has resulted in significant improvements being made, some disruption will inevitably remain until the roadworks are completed. In the meantime, we ask all our readers to exercise tolerance, understanding and – above all – extreme caution.

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



Pictured above (from left to right): Cllrs. Jason Woollacott, Denise Webber (Chair), Alan West, Jo Pearson, Cllr. & Mrs. Rob Isaacs and Cllr. Mike Batsch. Retiring Parish Clerk Jo got a nice surprise on May 6th, when the Parish Councillors handed over a rowan tree bought as a retirement gift with members' personal donations. The dedication on the plaque reads:

"This tree was planted and gifted to Jo Pearson in May 2021 by her friends on Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council to mark her retirement after 10 years of sterling service as Parish Clerk. Jo also spent many hours volunteering on this parkland and co-ordinating the countless other volunteers inspired by the Somerset Wood project."

**Contributions for the June 2021
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by
16th July 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

Foodshare was an initiative that was started during the first Lockdown and has proved successful. On a Monday evening, the Church collects from Tesco in Taunton any unsold food that is close to its sell-by date and would otherwise be sent to land-fill. The food is then offered to families of children attending Cheddon Fitzpaine Primary School. A table is placed outside the school and people are invited to take whatever they will use to help reduce waste and prevent landfill. All in the local area are invited to come and help themselves.

Cheddon Community Sing-along Annie, Tracey, Molly and Helen would like to invite you to their MEET UP, which will take place at 2pm on Sunday, 13th June in Cheddon Fitzpaine churchyard. There has so far been huge enthusiasm following the launch of this new community singing group. Everyone is very friendly and all are welcome.

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:

April £60 Camilla Redpath £15 Rhona Gilmore
May £60 William Rigby £15 Christine Winter

If you wish to join the 100 Club, please

Contact one of the organisers:

Pauline Stone Tel. 01823 277637
Joan Osmond Tel. 01823 321829

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

Covid-19 regulations are constantly changing,

so please contact us or visit the benefice website for up-to-date information on our Church Services.

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

As is the case with venues across the country, we are making the first tentative steps back towards normality. Our 'regulars' are starting to return and enquiries for functions are picking up again. As already mentioned, we have been taking advantage of the quiet period to maintain and improve things at the hall. As well as keeping on top of the structural, functional and decorative aspects, we have to make sure that our procedures are in line with best practice. Safeguarding has become a prominent social issue in recent times and we have introduced a Safeguarding Policy designed to protect children and vulnerable adults while on our premises and generally raise awareness among hall users. The policy is now a part of the document-set received by everyone, who hires the hall and can be viewed on our website.

As you can imagine, our finances have taken a big hit over the last fifteen months. We have therefore decided to hold a major fundraising event this autumn aimed at replacing some of the income we have lost during lockdown. Top local band Silverback (pictured below headlining the last Porlock Weirfest) will be playing their popular selection of classic rock covers in the hall on the evening of Saturday, the 2nd of October. Described by Radio Somerset pre-covid as "the best live band in the county", the band have agreed to waive their fee in return for some free practice time in the hall before they get back on the road again (their bass player lives locally). Listening and dancing to great live music should be enough to get us a good turn-out. We hope that the added incentive of helping the hall get back on its feet will guarantee us a full house. **PLEASE GET BEHIND THIS!!**



Malcolm Lown, Chairman, Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall Trustees Tel. 01823 412750
Email: info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk
Bill Rigby, Hall Manager

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Tel. 01823 413925 (*messages answered within 2 working days*) Mobile: 07586 413290;
e-mail: memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk

Somerset Wood report

Very grateful thanks are due to all those – young and not-so-young – who have so generously given their time and effort for commemorative tree-planting in the Somerset Wood over the last few months. It's a terrific achievement that we have managed to get 1200 saplings in the ground despite the recent weather (and covid) conditions. We are now out of the tree-planting season, so the regular planned working parties are on hold until further notice. However, it is hoped everyone will play their part in 'a spot of weeding' and other maintenance tasks in the meantime. Phase 1 trees (in the field with the commemorative stone) require weeding from now on. There is a circle of mulch round each tree/green sleeve which needs to be kept clear for another year in order to give trees the best possible chance to flourish. If everyone could do between 5 and 10 trees whenever they visit, then that would see the job done. A small trowel would assist, and weeds can just be left on the ground beside the trees.

We know the community spirit is there and thank you for your ongoing support.

Alan Hall, Project Leader

Jo Pearson, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Soroptimists celebrate in Somerset Wood!



Soroptimist International's mission is to transform the lives and status of women and girls through its programme of education, empowerment and the creation of enabling opportunities. The global volunteer movement was founded in 1921 and now boasts a network of around 72,000 club members in 121 countries with formal links to the United Nations. Established not much later in 1938, the SI club in Taunton chose to mark their parent organisation's centennial anniversary by donating six

cherry trees to our Somerset Wood. Club members are pictured above planting them on the 1st of April.

Area updates

MAIDENBROOK The Crown round-about and adjacent area either side of Waterleaze look much more presentable nowadays. We recently pictured the ditch clearance by the Medical Centre. This shows the opposite side of Waterleaze cleared and planted.



NERROLS

The 20mph scheme is in place outside Nerrols Primary School. Flashing lights at drop-off and pick-up times signal that the speed limit is operational. Your Parish Council has been chasing this essential safety measure since before the school opened. Better yet, the double yellow lining in the entrance to Summerleaze has also been extended as promised. Getting these things done has been like extracting wisdom teeth!



Northwalls Grange Albeit still fenced-off from public access, the spacious **new play area** looks impressive and is obviously nigh-on complete. As at Tuesday May 21st, turfing was complete but will need a few weeks to bed in. We await formal advice re opening date.

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This aerial shot courtesy of Jason Woollacott and his drone showing the junction of the new Western Relief Road with the A3259 well on the way to completion.

Adopt a footpath

If you are interested in adopting a footpath, please contact the Clerk, who will give you further information. In essence, you will need to walk your chosen footpath regularly, ideally 3-4 times per year, and carry out regular light clearance work such as cutting back vegetation from around gates, stiles, bridges, way-mark posts and signposts.

Covid-19 test kits free for all

Those not showing symptoms of Covid-19 infection can now access free lateral-flow kits to test themselves twice weekly. These kits can be collected from the following pharmacies in Taunton:

- Creech Medical Centre, Hyde Lane, TA2 5QW
- Staplegrove Pharmacy, Unit 1&2 Livingstone Way, TA2 5QW
- Broughton House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, TA1 2PP
- Blackbrook Medical Centre, Lisieux Way, TA1 2LB

The kits are also available from test centres across the SWT district.

Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club

According to the government 'road map', the Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club should have been able to hold their scheduled pre-summer break meeting on Friday 21st May. However, they have decided to be ultra-cautious and hold off until the

Autumn season starts on October 15th – fingers crossed! This will be confirmed when the Autumn programme is circulated later in the summer.

Parish Council Meetings – 2021

Held on the second Monday of the month at 7pm, these virtual meetings are open to everyone. Parish Council members are now meeting face-to-face in the Memorial Hall. To allow for social-distancing precautions in the limited space available, anyone else wishing to attend will need to follow the link to attend virtually probably until July. 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 and then follow the link, which will be e-mailed to them to join on the night.

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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Maidenbrook/Waterleaze

Lee Baker 07764 626171

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Jason Woollacott (Vice Chair) 07940 277413

jason.woollacott@cfpc.co.uk

PARISH CLERK

Sammie Millard-Jones 07465 405533

clerk@cfpc.co.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE OF AUTUMN EVENT

Live Music Fundraiser!

CHEDDON FITZPAINE MEMORIAL HALL

at **7:30pm** on **Saturday, 2nd October**

***Come along, have some fun –
and support your village hall!***

• **Live music featuring classic-rock covers band
SILVERBACK**

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•Licenced bar •Raffle •Pop quiz with prizes

The £10 admission price includes a free drink!

The hall will be laid out with cabaret seating and dance-floor so attendance will be limited.

Tickets will go on sale from the beginning of August and can be reserved in advance and purchased nearer the time from

Hall Treasurer, Stuart Triggol, on 01823 413459.