



View from The Chair

COUNTRY PARK UPDATE

When the opportunity arose for Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Parish Councils to secure two fields between Cheddon Village and the A3259 as the basis for a country park, our friends at Somerset County Council (SCC) reacted quickly to support the project by making it the home of their WW1-commemorative Somerset Wood. We also have SCC to thank for the awarding of grant-funding, which has now allowed us to go ahead with the first two structural installations planned for the park-land: a forest school and a wild-life pond.

Made available through SCC's Climate Emergency scheme, the funding covered the then total cost (some things have since gone up slightly!) of both amenities, which are primarily aimed at enhancing the local school population's understanding of the natural world around them. This excerpt from our submission was written by our newsletter editor, Cllr. Mike Batsch, to explain the rationale behind our bid in a way that would bring it to life in the minds of the SCC awarding panel. It also applies to the vision that underpins the wider country-park project.

"School life – wild life. There was a time when, for many lucky children, these two environments were separated only by the ringing of the school bell at the end of the day. That was when the kids would spill out onto the streets and, if there were no other errands to run, they would more than likely head for the local woods and ponds. At ease in the natural environment, they were free to practice physical skills and learn about the natural world through empirical observation. Better yet, they were able to discover the fun of 'mucking-in' with nature!

That time was not so very long ago but, in the meantime, the opportunities for children to connect with the natural world around them have greatly reduced. We need to do something about this. Why? Because the local decline in the natural world is a component of the damage we are witnessing on a global scale. Helping children interact with the natural world around them is a vital step towards their understanding of the forces that have created a climate emergency and the measures needed to halt and reverse the dangerous trend. It follows, therefore, that the natural environment closest to where our

children live must be not just protected but, where necessary, restored and enhanced.

This is the reasoning behind the Maidenbrook Country Park and, in particular, the forest school and wildlife pond it will contain. These features will enable the children from the two primary schools in the immediate vicinity to play in – and learn from – the flora and fauna, whose natural habitat is woodland or water. A small step maybe but these environments are fundamentals in the future of our world. The road to reversing climate change will be a long and hard one, but even the longest journey starts with one small step. That small step is inviting our children to 'muck in' with mother nature."

The grant scheme was open to all Parish Councils in Somerset with grants being awarded on merit. We submitted our application on behalf of our own Parish Council and West Monkton PC in collaboration with Somerset Wildlife Trust and supported by Quantock Hills AONB and Nerrols and Cheddon Primary Schools. Just completing the application form was a mammoth task (done mostly by Assistant Clerk, Tricia, at WMPC) and there was fierce competition from across the county. Imagine our delight, then, when we learned that our bid had been successful! The Forest School is the first job to get started and the image below gives a general idea of what the shelter will look like – except that ours will have shorter side wings and the roof will be clad in cedar shingles.



(View from The Chair continued over)

**Contributions for the December 2021
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by
16th November please!**

Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Newsletter – October 2021

GLEBE FARM DEVELOPMENT

There has been understandable confusion over how the country-park project of the two Parish Councils (Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton) relates to the plan by the owners of Glebe Farm to apply for residential development on the farm-land. This issue has generated keen interest within the parish and we have already responded to what we regarded as misleading information published by Rural Solutions acting on behalf of Ben Ashton at Glebe Farm. For those who were not present at our last meeting held on 13th September, the following extract from the minutes gives the Parish Council's response to a question from a member of the public (the minutes are published in full on the parish notice-boards and website):

“Several members of the public asked questions regarding the Country Park (CP) and the proposed development plans of Cheddon Village - in summary:

Councillors made it clear to the residents that Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council (CFPC) are not in partnership with Rural Solutions (RS) or Ben Ashton and that they were unable to speak on the behalf of RS.

CFPC are listening to the community, and it is the intention to call a meeting regarding the proposed development when there is new information to hand. CFPC are not in support of the planning application as it currently stands, but as yet there are no further plans to consider. Clear traffic management and infrastructure plans need to be made in order to handle such an application. CFPC will engage with RS at the point a planning application is submitted as a statutory consultee, feedback will be given as it has been on previous planning applications. CFPC is corporate body in place to represent the community. A suggestion put forward was to consider extending the Conservation Area. Councillors explained that the most powerful vehicle for this would be through a group of residents. The Clerk will look into how CFPC may be able to help with this.”

We trust that the above further clarifies our position.

Denise Webber, Chair, Cheddon Fitzpaine PC

Tel: 01823 451720; Mobile: 07788 522266

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

REV TRACEY'S REPORT

On the community front, our **Little Seedlings** group has continued to grow over the Summer months but we still have room for more. This is a friendly place to meet at Cheddon Memorial Hall every Monday between 1:30 and 3.15pm, when you can drop in with your babies and toddlers. If you are interested, feel free to just turn up or you can contact me if you'd like more information. The **Book Club** (we meet monthly on the last Friday at my home address) is still going strong, as is the **Take 5** community group with its weekly Wednesday Walks. Regrettably, our **Community Breakfasts** remain on hold, as it still doesn't feel safe to re-start them given the ever-present threat of covid.

REV MARY'S REPORT

While we continue to maintain some covid measures, we are trying our best to build back following the worst of pandemic with a gradual increase in the number of services in the church building over the next few months. We will soon be making plans for Remembrance and Christmas on the understanding that things might change because of covid.

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:

Aug: £60 – Geoff Tarr £15 – David Jenkins
Sept: £50 - Sheila Horton £15 - Liz Thompson

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

Rev Tracey Hallett, Church in Community Pioneer

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

Churchwarden: Diana Taylor, Tel. 07808 158616

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 Parish Newsletter – October 2021

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

Depending on exactly when you are reading this, you can take it either as a reminder to attend our fund-raising event on Saturday the 2nd of October (still some tickets left at time of writing) – or as a ‘thank you’ for having done so (if you didn’t, you should have!). We shall be considering other events aimed at replacing hall funds lost to the pandemic through events being postponed or cancelled – including our very own Cheddoners variety performances and Annual Flower Show. Watch this space!

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

Country Park & Somerset Wood report

Work has progressed to reduce the height of the grass between the rows of saplings and reverse the spread of ragwort and dock seeds. Negotiations with Somerset West and Taunton District Council are now actively progressing the ownership and maintenance of the approx. 30 acres of ground. This is positive news.

Much discussion and debate has been held with the Statutory Local Authorities (County & District Councils) regarding roads and pavements in this area of Maidenbrook Lane. Currently, the Safe Route to School from Northwalls & Nerrols is via the Pedestrian Traffic lights at the Crown Medical Centre roundabout designed by County Highways. As we all know, people take the shortest route or ‘desire line’, which is where the conflict has arisen at Maidenbrook Lane/Tudor Park crossing. The Parish Council has been advising SCC Highways of this fact for three years. As such, and with the traffic problems created by the construction of the Western Relief Road for West Monkton, SCC’s Highways Department have now accepted what to the rest of us has been the most obvious solution for a while. The result is that a ‘Safer Route to school’ pathway has now been constructed inside the lower boundary of the Country Park parallel to the old section of the A3259. NB: A ‘safe route to school’ meets a specific specification, which our ‘safer route’ does not meet. Our use of ‘safer route’ means safer than the unofficial, unsafe route currently favoured by the majority of school-children.

On **Thursday, the 11th of November** a short **Service of Remembrance** will be held at the Somerset Wood Dedication Stone in the Country Park. Timing is a few

days before Remembrance Day proper in order to avoid clashes with the many other services scheduled for Sunday the 14th and to offer an alternative during school hours. It is anticipated that the Royal British Legion Standard Bearer will be on hand and that the local schools in Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton will be in attendance. Notices will be placed on notice boards, Parish Council website and community Facebook pages nearer the time.



Following on from the article on the front page, here is the entrance to the Forest School through the recently-erected rustic chestnut fencing. Shown in the background are the galvanized-steel framework sections, which will be bolted together and support the wooden shelter with its integral bench seating (when completed, very little metalwork will be visible). This will also be the view from the open-fronted structure, which has been located with its back against the prevailing winds. NB: This wide-angle shot exaggerates the size of everything. The fenced-in enclosure for the Forest School is 50 x 40m and the tepee-style shelter is 6m in diameter.

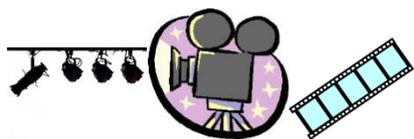
Jo Pearson, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Tel. 07891 529809

Area updates

UPPER CHEDDON The landslip in the area has been reported and an update requested. Somerset County Council Highways Department are currently seeking a permanent solution with the co-operation of the landowner, with whom they are trying to arrange an urgent meeting on site. In the meantime, the Area Highways Superintendent is working to make the site safer by installing barriers and signs to inform the public of the danger.

NERROLS The Crown Roundabout has been in a poor state for some time now and, compared to similar roundabouts in key Taunton locations, it really lets the town down. We are in ongoing discussions with SCC to arrange for the roundabout to be ‘adopted’ by a commercial organisation willing to sponsor its upkeep.



Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club

NOTICE OF AUTUMN SEASON SCREENINGS

15th OCTOBER: Nomadland

Drama, 107 min's Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, Fern (Frances McDormand) packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad. The third feature film from director Chloé Zhao, *Nomadland* features real nomads Linda May, Swankie and Bob Wells as Fern's mentors and comrades in her journey of exploration through the vast landscape of the American West.

*“Chloé Zhao’s *Nomadland* is an utterly inspired docu-fictional hybrid, like her previous feature *The Rider*. It is a gentle, compassionate, questioning film about the American soul.”*

19th NOVEMBER: Love Sarah

Romance, 97 min's A young woman sets out to fulfil her dead mother's dream of opening her own bakery in Notting Hill, London. To do this, she enlists the help of her grandmother and her mother's best friend.

As gentle and soft as romances come, coupled with Britain's love-in for home baking, this is surely a recipe for success? Celia Imrie takes up the central role of a grandmother who knows a thing or two about a tart(!) as she guides her granddaughter through her trials and tribulations of opening a bakery.

17th DECEMBER: The Last Bus

Drama, 86 min's 80-something Tom, whose wife has just passed away, uses his free bus pass to travel from John O'Groats to Lands End where they first met, using only local buses. It's a nostalgic trip, but he's also carrying his wife's ashes in a small suitcase, 'taking her back'. In the course of his travels he interacts with local people, and by the end of his trip he has become a celebrity.

Who doesn't love Timothy Spall? This one promises to be a gem.

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

Parish Council Meetings – 2021

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.

11th October, 8th November, 13th December.

CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCILLORS Cheddon, Rowford & Upper Cheddon

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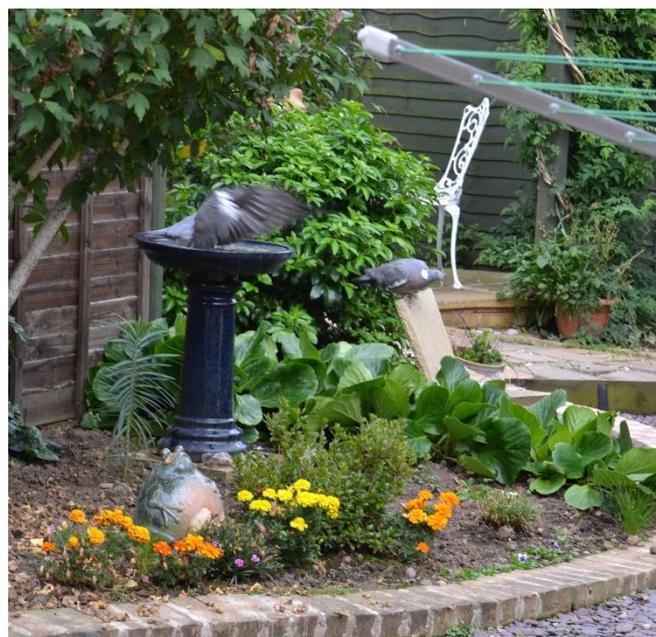
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PARISH CLERK

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NATURAL FOOT-NOTE



A couple of pigeons have muscled the other birds out of the bird-bath in this Nerrols garden. The homeowner reports witnessing these uncouth creatures of very little brain drinking their own bath-water too!