



View from The Chair

When there’s a big problem to solve and funds are tight, you just have to get creative — and that’s exactly what’s happened at Maidenbrook. Areas that just a few weeks ago looked neglected and unkempt are now clean and tidy thanks to the combined efforts of the three groups with a vested interest: Taunton Deane’s DLO, who are responsible for the on-going maintenance; volunteers from the Inland Waterways Association, who work hard to keep our waterways and feeders clear; and the locals, for whom it is home. All in all, an outstanding example of what can be achieved by organising and pooling resources. Special thanks go to our Parish Clerk, Jo Pearson, who co-ordinated the project, and to the residents, who got stuck in on the 28th of October and plan to take the project forward themselves.

If you live across the drive on Summerleaze and are feeling left out: don’t worry! DLO will be along soon to tidy-up your public open spaces and ditches.

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the Cheddon Fitzpaine team. The role is, of course, unpaid but otherwise extremely rewarding and not very onerous. It consists of attending monthly meetings and keeping up to date with the information circulated by our Parish Clerk in-between-times. If you are willing and able to make a contribution to your local community in this way, please call me for a chat on the number below. In the meantime, here’s what our most recent recruit has to say about the job:

“I never saw myself as a Parish Councillor, probably because I imagined them as self-important individuals more interested in status than serving the community. When we moved in to the area six years ago, some of the nicest people we got to know turned out to be on or involved in the Parish Council, and that’s why I joined. After years of benefitting from what Parish Councils do and just taking it all for granted, it’s nice to feel that I’m putting something back in now.”

**Here’s Wishing All Our Readers a
Happy & Joyous Festive Season
and a Properous New Year!**

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



DAYGLO DEPLOYMENT!! As the top photograph illustrates, the jungle of impenetrable undergrowth has now been cleared to restore a clean, tidy and fully functional drainage ditch. We extend a huge ‘Thank You’ to the group of IWA Volunteers, who cleared the dry ditch from the canal up to and including the pond on Waterleaze. They have also built ‘dry hedges’ as an environmentally-friendly way of ‘losing’ the bulk of branches and hard vegetation removed. The bottom photograph shows the IWA volunteer group. Our Parish Clerk Jo is pictured on the front row, second from right, next to IWA West Country Branch Co-Ordinator, Mike Slade. Mike’s team won this year’s IWA Branch Achievement Award for the work they did to regenerate the River Parrett and Bridgwater Docks. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Mike on 07977 263840.

IN MEMORIAM It is with deep sadness that we report the recent, untimely death of Bruce Nottrodt on the 15th of November. Bruce was a District Councillor and Upper Cheddon resident from 2012 to 2015 before a change of job took him out of the area. Our thoughts are with Kristina and the girls at this difficult time.

**Contributions for the February 2018
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by
16th January please!**

Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Newsletter – December 2017

Church Window

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church is part of the South Quantock Benefice together with West Monkton, Kingston St. Mary and Broomfield. The Benefice Office is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30am to 1:30pm. For marriage and baptism enquiries, please contact the office. Tel: 01823 451257, E-mail: kbcparishes@btinternet.com

I write this as we begin planning our Carol Service (Sunday 10th December at 4pm). This wonderfully informal candle-lit service begins the Christmas celebrations by combining lots of smaller children, carrying a figure to place in the empty stable, with Christmas readings by older children and adults. Mince pies and mulled wine will then be served.

The church at Cheddon Fitzpaine is **your** local church. If you live in Nerrols, Waterleaze or Northwalls it is less than a mile and only a five-minute drive up Maidenbrook Lane, off the main road opposite Tudor Park. You can find a warm welcome by coming to a service or just spend a quiet time in the church, which is open dawn to dusk every day.

On Friday 22nd December at 6.30pm there will be 'Carol Singing in The Square' by the play area at Hardys Road, Bathpool, which will be led by our Rector, Rev Mary Styles. This event was held for the first time in the new housing last year and proved to be very popular. The traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service at Cheddon Fitzpaine Church will this year start at 9pm, as we find most people prefer an early time rather than a Midnight Mass.

There are many varied services in the four churches that make up our United Benefice during December and January so please see the website for more information.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Cheddon Church.

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year,

Pauline Stone, Churchwarden

Tel: 01823 277637; Mob: 07984 055574
pauline.stone@live.co.uk

A NOTE FROM REVEREND STYLES: The Heritage Trail project to link the Benefice Churches has now been completed — but have you managed to visit them yet? A helpful Booklet has been produced which can be found in any of the four churches, or on the Parish Council's website.

Mary (Reverend Styles)

The Rectory, 16 Bishop's Close, Taunton TA2 8DS
Tel: 01823 410089

Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Church '100 Club'

The '100 Club' raises funds to help maintain the Parish Church. Winners of the latest draws are:

October £50 - Jane Langford; £10 - Gerry Guerrier
November £50 - Roger Osmond; £10 - Geoff Tarr

Pastoral Care

The next coffee morning organised by Cheddon Fitzpaine Pastoral Care Group will be on Saturday January 6th at 10.30am at Rosebank, Lyngford lane, TA2 7LL, home of Maureen Doble. All are welcome for coffee/tea and cake.

There will also be a coffee morning in March at the home of Mary Gunning so watch this space.

If you would like a lift or need any other information then please just ring me.

Liz Thompson, PCG Co-ordinator Tel: 01823 451529

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

Our AGM was held on 20th November, at which I gave the following report:

"Once again it is my pleasure to report another very successful year for the Memorial Hall.

With regard to our regular lets, we have just lost Ranju Roy's Yoga classes, one of our longest serving clients. Not, I am pleased to say, because of any disagreement, but for purely personal reasons. We have already been approached by a potential replacement, a baby and toddler group, with adult yoga for the mums. This would be a new venture for us and negotiations are proceeding.

In November 2016, we welcomed Miss Emily Penn as a new trustee representing Cheddon Primary School. Emily, now Mrs Bottomley (many congratulations), has been a huge asset to us in our communications with the School, and is helping us find a second trustee from the School.

This year, compared to 2016, has been relatively quiet. The Flower show made a healthy profit, albeit not as good as last year's 70th celebration.

The Film Club has continued to be well supported, and this season has just started, with the first film being shown on Friday 20th October.

The Taunton Operatic, with our co-operation ran a very successful "Who Dunnit" at the Hall and when the funds were divided, the Hall made a very creditable £609. Thanks to all who helped in the staging of the event.

We have not had any major expenditure re the Hall, unlike last year's LED lights installation. As soon as a

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full year has passed, we shall be able to make a comparison of our electricity bills and hopefully see the benefits of the change.

We have improved the storage facility under the stage, by using trolleys. Some of these were custom made, others bought, but the cost was minimal, and the ease with which tables, boxes, speakers and other equipment can now be retrieved has been a huge bonus, and time saver.

As the year draws to a close, it has become clear that the heaters in the Hall, which have there since the opening, have become unreliable. We are in the process of sourcing new ones, and installing them as soon as possible.

Sandilands has been undergoing enormous changes with tree felling etc, and the plans from Hestercombe to plant the crab apple trees along the side of the carriageway is due to start sometime in the next two months.

There is no news or update from the Crown Estate, re our boundaries, but it seems that all their land assets are being disposed of, including Sandilands.

The structure of our management has changed slightly. The role of Hall Manager continues in the safe hands of Mr Marcus Walker, but now in a reduced capacity. His responsibility is now primarily with bookings and the day to day running and cleaning of the Hall is done by Mrs Andrea Stapleton.

It goes without saying that the success of our community memorial hall is down to all the hard work put in by the trustees and employees, for which I thank you all.

Our employees, Mr Walker, Mr Triggol and Mrs Stapleton, although paid, contribute way beyond what is required and we, the Trustees are very grateful, thank you."

Best Wishes for the Festive Season !

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

Marcus Walker, Booking Secretary Tel: 01823 413925 (*messages answered within 24 hours*)
Email: info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk

Area updates

CHEDDON

Hestercombe Garden Trust has launched a 'Dedicate a Tree' appeal towards the re-instatement of the fruit tree avenue through Sandilands Wood. Sixty Chinese crab apple trees are to be planted to recreate the avenue between South and Middle Lodge as part of our continued restoration of the estate. The variety has been carefully selected for its ornamental

appearance of white blossom followed by brilliant red fruit, which are a favourite of winter visiting redwings and fieldfares. Tree planting can make a wonderful anniversary, birthday or Christmas present as well as a special memorial. HGT hope that members of the community may wish to purchase one of the sixty trees and even help plant it! If you are interested, please contact Ian Walker, Director of Development at Hestercombe Gardens Trust by phone on 01823 414188 or e-mail at ianwalker@hestercombe.com
NB: The Hestercombe Community Advisory Group met on 15TH October and notes on the meeting have been uploaded on the parish website.

MAIDENBROOK

Two picnic tables are on offer to the Parish Council by the IWA. It is suggested they be installed by the bench at the public open space or football pitch at Waterleaze; please make your views known to a Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk.

NERROLS

On 28th September, Somerset County Council confirmed the provision of a new, 14-class primary school at Northwalls Grange to meet demand arising from significant demographic growth in the area. As the Government have not yet opened the next Free School bidding round, SCC will commence design and planning now in order to ensure that the school opens by the target date of September 2019.

Highways

Toucan Crossings off the Crown Medical Centre roundabout: it is hoped that these will finally be operational by the time you read this. The associated roadworks have been frustratingly lengthy due to a whole host of unexpected problems encountered underground by the construction team. Given these difficult circumstances, we think they have actually done a tremendous job.

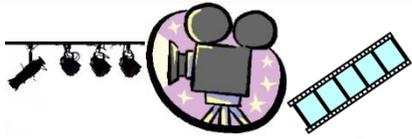
Bulb planting

The Parish Council has bought a quantity of mixed bulbs to add a few splashes of colour in the Spring. They will be planted under village signs in the next few weeks.

Adopt a footpath

Lovers of the countryside are invited to help protect and maintain Somerset's 4000-mile network of public rights of way. You can either just report back on issues such as over-grown stiles or gates, missing or obscured signposts — or put things right yourself! SCC will provide advice, cover under insurance policy, and equipment if required. Phone 0300 123 2224 for more information.

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Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club

FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER: Whiskey Galore
!!Christmas 'Party' Night!!

In this remake of the classic Ealing comedy, Scottish islanders try to plunder whisky from a stranded ship after running out of local supplies!

The venue is Cheddon Memorial Hall

Every 3rd Friday of the month, 6:30pm for 7pm

Admission £6 per person

cwmfilmclub@btinternet.com

01823 412278

Services at Cheddon Fitzpaine Church

DECEMBER 2017

Wed 6th, 2pm: Home Communion at The Rectory

Sun 10th, 4pm: Carol Service

Wed 20th - Home Communion at Chatri **CANCELLED!!**

Sun 24th, 9pm: Midnight Communion

Sun 31st 10am: United Communion Service at W. M.

JANUARY 2018

Wed 3rd, 2pm: Home Communion at The Rectory

Sun 14th, 10am: Family Service with Baptism

Wed 17th, 2pm: Home Communion at Chatri, Lyngford Lane, Cheddon

Sun 28th, 10am: Communion Service; 11.45: Baptism

Parish Council Meetings *(7pm, Memorial Hall)*

2017: 14 December.

2018: 11 January, 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December

The Annual *Parish Meeting* in the Main Hall:

22 March 2018 – open to all members of the parish

ESCAPE TO THE WEST COUNTRY

Another Peter Triggs Picture Show

Friday, 9th February, 2018

7.30-9.30pm at Cheddon Fitzpaine Church

Refreshments will be served midway

Donations to Church Funds

PARISH COUNCIL Contact Details

CHEDDON WARD

Mike Batsch, 01823 272376

mike.batsch@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk

Liz Thompson, 01823 451529

liz.thompson@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk

Denise Webber (Chair), 01823 451720

denise.webber@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk

Jason Woollacott, 07940 277413

jason.woollacott@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk

MAIDENBROOK WARD

Rob Isaacs, 01823 333324

rob.isaacs@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk

PARISH CLERK

Jo Pearson, 01823 259478

cheddon@live.co.uk

POLICE Local Contact Details

HESTERCOMBE, ROWFORD & CHEDDON VILLAGE

Tony.Wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Mobile: 07889 655312

Charles.Gear@avonandsomerset.police.uk *

WEST MONKTON, MAIDENBROOK, NEROLLS & RURAL BEAT

Dean.Chedzoy@avonandsomerset.police.uk *

Scott.Windsor@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Claire.Escott@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Natasha.Shattock@avonandsomerset.police.uk

*The above are PCSOs unless marked * for PC*

For **EMERGENCIES**, dial 999; to make a formal/ logged report or request police action, dial 101; to report on-line, visit the regional HQ website

<http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk>

To report anonymously via the independent charity **Crimestoppers** on 0800 555 111

NATURAL FOOTNOTES



A pair of otters (one is partially obscured in the shade under the over-hanging foliage) snapped by Andrew Gent in the canal overflow channel behind Screwfix!