



**Cheddon  
Fitzpaine  
Parish**

June 2020

# NEWSLETTER

Websites: [www.cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](http://www.cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk) and [www.cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk)

## View from The Chair

*As a result of the disruption caused by pandemic restrictions, we are initially publishing this newsletter digitally on our website with printed copies only on parish notice-boards where space allows. However, if we are able to have it printed and distributed safely before the news it contains becomes history, we will. In the meantime, if you know of anyone who has not been able to access this issue and you have some way of sharing it with them safely, we would be grateful if you would do so. On the plus-side, digital publishing means we can afford to exceed our normal 4-page black-and-white format and indulge in lots of colourful photographs. Parish council meetings have also been moved into the virtual realm for the foreseeable future. Following some experimentation, we have adopted Webex for this. Any IT-enabled members of the public can join future PC meetings (see page 6 for details/dates) remotely by visiting <https://mrs-ofb.my.webex.com/meet/cheddon> and following the on-screen instructions.*

At risk of sounding patronising to you, our sensible parishioners, your Parish Councillors would like to record our thanks for the fact that you are reacting so responsibly to this pandemic. There isn't a day goes by without us being thankful that our parish, town and county have so far escaped the worst of it. Making sure things stay that way depends on every one of us continuing to follow the relevant guidelines tempered with compassion and common sense.

So, how is our parish coping with lock-down? Here's a summary of activities as reported in our recent Parish Council video-conference meeting:

**Rev Tracey Hallett** explained the situation regarding Church 'lockdown' and the measures put in place to enable Church Services to continue (see 'CHURCH WINDOW' for more details). A weekly Benefice news-sheet is being produced and circulated electronically.

**Liz Thompson** and the **Pastoral Care Group** are covering the village and surrounding area, and **Rev Tracey** is covering **Northwalls Grange**. On the ground, good neighbours are helping each other out and co-ordinated volunteer groups of volunteers are helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions, and keeping in touch with the more isolated members of the community by phone.

A local resident, who volunteers for **MIND**, reported that their service is now available 24/7 across

Somerset. Many more people had been contacting the mental-health charity as the extended lock-down took its toll. The closure of traditional meeting places combined with restricted access to family and friends had heightened anxiety levels leaving even previously self-sufficient individuals struggling to cope. The best advice was to keep as many communication channels open as possible while looking forward to – and planning for – when we could all meet again. While helping others was making a huge difference at this difficult time, we are all urged to remember that our own well-being must come first. Setting yourself a routine and keeping to it is also important. It is also noted that everyone needs to put their own mental health first, before assisting others; keeping to a routine is paramount. Parish Councillors thanked them for their work before they left the meeting. SCC Leader, Cllr David Fothergill, took part in the meeting as usual and endorsed our local initiatives, congratulating all concerned for the "fantastic" work that is being done within our parish.

We are not including the reports given by SCC and SW&T, as both authorities have since published updates and what they said at our meeting is no longer news. Keep up-to-date with their efforts at:

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

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

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



*A robbery at the local pharmacy? No, it's Rev Tracey setting a good example.*



*For our flora and fauna, it's thankfully business as usual: one of Chair Denise's best peonies.*

**Contributions for the August 2020  
newsletter to the Parish Clerk by  
16<sup>th</sup> July please!**

## Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Newsletter – June 2020

### Church Window

*Cheddon Fitzpaine Church is part of the South Quantock Benefice together with West Monkton, Kingston St. Mary & Broomfield. The Benefice Office is open every week-day (except Thursdays) from 9:00am to 2:00pm. For enquiries about marriages and baptisms, please contact our Administrator, Michele Hardiman, tel. 01823 451257, e-mail: [sqbenefice@btconnect.com](mailto:sqbenefice@btconnect.com) RECTOR: Rev. Mary Styles tel. 01823 451189; e-mail [revmarie@gmail.com](mailto:revmarie@gmail.com) For the latest information on all events, services etc., visit our website [www.southquantockbenefice.org/](http://www.southquantockbenefice.org/)*

### Rev Tracey's report

Over these last weeks everyday life has changed for all of us and, as we gradually find our balance in this new way of being, I hope you have found some positives alongside the inevitable anxiety. We are finding new ways of communicating with our congregation and the wider community. On Easter Sunday, we held a Zoom event for all four Churches to worship together. Rev's Mary and Jim, Christine (reader in training) and I are recording regular reflections and prayers which are placed on the weekly news sheet, the South Quantock Benefice Facebook page and on Youtube. Rev's Mary and Jim have also been in regular contact by phone with those on the Benefice's electoral roll and Rev Jim has been writing book reviews which are available on the South Quantock Benefice Website. We have also launched a Facebook page for our Little Seedlings Toddler Group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/667008057460372/?ref=share>

Over what would have been the Easter holidays, I posted daily activities to help keep the children occupied and filmed the story of Easter for them.

To spread some joy more widely on Easter Day, we left bunches of daffodils outside our home, the community house at 4 Garden Close (Northwalls Grange), for passers-by to help themselves. We have also continued to leave the Food Bank box outside and are making weekly drops to the Taunton Foodbank with your generous donations. An unusual item we are currently collecting is small tubes and pots of moisturising hand creams, which the Chaplains at Musgrove Park Hospital can then distribute to those who are constantly washing the natural goodness out of their hands. If you can help with this or the usual food items, please do leave your donations to the collection box at 4 Garden Close.

We were saddened that Cheddon Flower & Dog Show had been cancelled and decided to try and keep the competitive growing spirit alive by organising a 'grow

the tallest sunflower' competition. We advertised it on the Northwalls Grange Facebook page and put 20 packets of seeds outside the house for families to collect and start growing. We will judge their efforts on 25<sup>th</sup> July – the date of the cancelled Flower Show.



***Budding Cheddon gardener Alani is wondering whether one of her babies could grow up to win the 'tallest sunflower' competition.***

Cllr Giuseppe Frascini and I have enjoyed hosting two Virtual Quiz Nights for North Taunton and were delighted to see so many people join in – all for fun, and we seem to have achieved that aim. Watch out for more quiz evenings!

Although the Church doors have been closed, we have been actively praying at 9am and 5pm each day for all in our community. We have also been hosting a 10am Sunday service via Zoom which has proven to be more popular than expected. A team of us are also producing a weekly reflective service on Youtube for people who would like to watch one. If you live in the Parish of Cheddon Fitzpaine and would like to receive our weekly email newsletter, please do contact **Michele Hardiman** on: [sqbenefice@btconnect.com](mailto:sqbenefice@btconnect.com) or call me, **Rev Tracey**, on 07854 489753.

Personally, one of the biggest questions I have asked myself is why has it taken a pandemic to remind us of the importance of community? It has been wonderful to see so many volunteers coming together to create local COVID-19 help teams and I know those in need have been very grateful for the fantastic help provided. It has been a privilege to be a part of this while helping make the Church more visible in the local community. I've enjoyed so many encounters and opportunities to get to know people by offering practical support.

Last but not least, I would like to thank you all for your support in the community. Stay Safe!

**Rev Tracey Hallett, Church in Community Pioneer**  
Tel. 07854 489753; e-mail: [tracey.hallett@icloud.com](mailto:tracey.hallett@icloud.com)

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATIONS**

**Cheddon Church Cleaning Group  
and  
Men's Group**  
*(until further notice)*

**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:

**April** £60 Jane Langford    £15 William Rigby  
**May** £60 Denis Bridel        £15 Debbie Saunders

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

**Pauline Stone, PCC Member**

Tel. 01823 277637; Mob. 07984 055574

E-mail [pauline.stone@live.co.uk](mailto:pauline.stone@live.co.uk)

**Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall**

Due to covid-19, we had to close the hall just after my last report. Thankfully, this has been relatively painless as our overheads are modest and we have a reasonably healthy bank-balance. As you can imagine, Bill Rigby has been kept busy resolving the many booking-related issues arising from the sudden shut-down and is still receiving a steady stream of bookings for events in the post-pandemic future. In terms of fund-raising events, the biggest casualty will be this year's Flower Show and Dog Show, which the organising committee has decided to cancel in the light of prevailing circumstances. According to Secretary, Nena Carter: "The committee have decided to cancel this year's Show due to the coronavirus. We would ask all those who have a schedule to keep it safe together with any handicrafts you have already made and to show in 2021. Many thanks to all who have supported the show over the years, and we look forward to making the next one the biggest and best."

In contrast, I have some good news to report: our purchase of additional land from The Crown Estate has finally completed! The land we now own is exactly what we wanted, giving us a big enough plot to accommodate our future needs. Resolving this issue has been a real saga but the extended period of uncertainty is finally at an end. I must thank all our

Trustees for their support and we look forward to re-opening the premises as soon as it is safe to do so.

Regrettably, we have had instances of cars being driven anti-socially around our car-park late at night. We have therefore decided to lock the South Lodge gates and would ask local residents to keep their eyes peeled and report anything suspicious to the police.

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

Email: [info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk)

**Bill Rigby, Booking Secretary**

Tel. 01823 413925 (*messages answered within 24 hours*)

Mobile: 07586 413290

Email: [memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:memorialhall@hotmail.co.uk)

**Dog & waste bins**

As a result of lock-down with dog owners and others walking more frequently, it has been requested that more bins are installed across the parish. We are looking at this and will do whatever our limited funds will allow. In the meantime, please note that it is acceptable to put correctly bagged dog waste in ordinary waste bins. **For the information of** Northwalls Grange residents, DWH have confirmed they will be installing bins as per their original planning application but this has been delayed because of the corona virus.

**Footpaths**

It would be immensely helpful if walkers could take secateurs to trim any vegetation encroaching on our network of pathways. While it would obviously be too much to expect everyone to be 'tooled up' every time they go out, perhaps areas of overgrowth could be remembered and tackled on the next outing. Cuttings can be left tidily along the side of the path.

**Link Up**

In line with recent easing of the lockdown restrictions, the Link Up Board have told us that the next edition of the magazine is planned for this August. Featuring in this edition will be a children's poetry competition and children are invited to write a cheerful/humorous poem on the theme of their garden or nature and the countryside in general. This should be submitted in advance of the **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July** competition deadline. Entries go to Annie Trolley (details below) and must include the entrant's name, address, date of birth and contact details (telephone or email).

There are three age categories: 5-8yrs, 9-12yrs and 13-16yrs. In addition to a special prize for the best entry in each age group, ALL other entrants will

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receive a gift. A selection of the poems will also be included in the August Link Up and, subject to sufficient entries, a compilation will be produced and the booklet given to every entrant.

The August editor will be Annie Trolley and the deadline for other material is **Wednesday, 15th July**.

*NOTE TO DISTRIBUTORS: You will be contacted via e-mail or 'phoned with confirmatory details of the next issue.*

### **Annie Trolley**

Yards Barn, Volis Hill, Kingston St. Mary, TA2 8HS  
Tel./e-mail: 01823 451312 / [annietrolley@gmail.com](mailto:annietrolley@gmail.com)

## **Area updates**

### **CHEDDON**

Given the current spell of dry and sunny weather, it is hard to remember that two months ago the road to Cheddon village was impassable due to flooding. Work with SCC Highways, Wessex Water, & FWAG continue to improve watercourses in the longer term.

### **MAIDENBROOK**



**The Country Park** remains some way away from looking like what it's intended to be (see more photos on last page). Because the two parishes don't yet own the land and it does not meet SW&T criteria for full public use, it has been kept under lock and key. However, following requests by CFPC and WMPC, the District Authority has installed an extra fixed bollard holding the gate ajar so pedestrians can access the wide, open space beyond. Before entering, please read the notice on the gate and follow the guidelines.

**Facebook page for Maidenbrook** The 'Maidenbrook Residents Community Page' goes from strength to strength. It has proved a real asset during lockdown

and we are grateful to local residents for starting and administering it. Interestingly, it recently enabled the Northwalls Grange community to share sightings of a suspicious character and initiate a timely police response.

**Canal improvements** This parish is working with neighbouring PC West Monkton and the Canal & River Trust to site some benches along the canal. These will give residents and towpath walkers somewhere to rest and relax – an amenity underlined by responses to last year's Neighbourhood Plan Review.



### **NERROLS**

**Nerrols Primary School and Nursery** Thanks to SCC Cllr Giuseppe Frascini, and the Parish, for requesting and progressing the installation of safety railings outside the school. This work has now been carried out, as pictured below.



**Nerrols Farmhouse** The Parish Council has been made aware by several residents, including Parish Councillors, of the significant fly-tipping around the old farmhouse. The property is currently on the market and estate agents Stags are listing it as 'sale agreed'. We have discussed this with DWH, estate agents Stags and more recently Savills. Under the circumstances, it is unrealistic to expect the waste to be cleared until the sale completes and the new

owner occupies the premises or – at least becomes known to us. In the meantime, we are trying to ensure that the pile of damaged Heras fencing conforms with health and safety legislation.



***The old farmhouse at Nerrols is not a pretty sight! TOP The mangled Heras metal fencing full of spikes and jagged edges. BOTTOM Fly-tipping eye-sore.***

**Facebook Page for 'old Nerrols'?** In view of the success of the Maidenbrook Facebook initiative, would anyone out there like to start and run a Facebook page for the community on the Summerlease side of Nerrols Drive? If so, we will be happy to assist with the initial set-up. Please contact Parish Clerk, Jo.

### **N<sup>o</sup>. 2 bus service update**

Another victim of the pandemic! The revised service that was planned to start in early April is operating to a reduced schedule due to lockdown restrictions.

### **Highways**

**Creech Castle, Toneway** Yet another major project on pandemic go-slow, this delayed highway improvement scheme is due to be reviewed next month (July) by Somerset County Council's highways department.



### **Cheddon & West Monkton Film Club**

***All showings remain cancelled until further notice!***

[cwmfilmclub@btinternet.com](mailto:cwmfilmclub@btinternet.com)

01823 412278

### **Theft from motor vehicles**

***Our PCSOs have sent us the following advice:***

"We want to take the opportunity to remind everyone of some necessary steps of ensuring you secure your personal belongings.

- Don't leave bags, coats or change on display
- Leaving the glovebox open with nothing inside will show it contains nothing of value.
- If you can't carry everything, lock it in the boot.
- Lock doors and close windows, even for a short period, but not with pets inside on warm days.
- Often the repairs to broken car windows are more than the value of stolen items."

### **Local GP practice expands**

Lyngford Park Surgery has announced plans to enlarge its premises to accommodate additional staff and patients complete with extra parking spaces. The Parish Council welcomes this move in view of the on-going increase in our local population. Members of the public wishing to register as patients should contact the surgery on 01823 333355.

### **Taunton RFC**

Most of us know West Monkton resident Dick Macey as one of the leading lights in The Cheddoners am-dram group, but not many know that he is also President of **Taunton Rugby Club**. We are delighted to report that the club have been declared Champions of the National League 2 (South). This brings with it promotion to National League Division 1, and players and fans can now look forward to enjoying their rugby in what is the third tier of English rugby. This is the highest position TRFC has ever occupied and ranks as a major milestone on the club's historical journey!

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### Services at Cheddon & the Benefice

During the lockdown, we are offering the following:

- Live Sunday 10am 'Zoom' services – please contact us for details
- Weekly news-sheet with readings, short reflection and a video link for the YouTube reflection from the clergy
- Weekly Thursday morning coffee and chat – do contact us for Zoom link!
- To be added to our weekly newsheet and short YouTube video mailing list, contact Michele at [sqbenefice@btconnect.com](mailto:sqbenefice@btconnect.com)

### Parish Council Meetings – 2020

*Held on Mondays at 7pm, these are public meetings open to everyone. As a result of the covid-19 restrictions, they will now be held as video-conference calls until further notice. 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.*

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

**Note re-scheduled Parish Council meetings – now second Monday of the month (moved from second Thursdays)**

13<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 14<sup>th</sup> December

### CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCILLORS

#### Cheddon, Rowford & Upper Cheddon

Denise Webber (Chair) 01823 451720

[denise.webber@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](mailto:denise.webber@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk)

Alan West 07584 055566

[alan.west@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](mailto:alan.west@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk)

#### Nerrols

Mike Batsch 01823 272376

[mike.batsch@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](mailto:mike.batsch@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk)

#### Waterleaze

Lee Baker 07764 626171

[Lee.Baker@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](mailto:Lee.Baker@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk)

Rob Isaacs 01823 333324

[rob.isaacs@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](mailto:rob.isaacs@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk)

Jason Woollacott (Vice Chair) 07940 277413

[jason.woollacott@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk](mailto:jason.woollacott@cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk)

#### PARISH CLERK

Jo Pearson 01823 259478 [cheddon@live.co.uk](mailto:cheddon@live.co.uk)

### POLICE CONTACTS

#### PCSOs covering Maidenbrook area

[tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

[steve.chapman@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:steve.chapman@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

#### PCSOs covering Cheddon village area:

PCSO Catherine Richards 07710 026192

PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

PCSO Marshall Bernhardt 07849 305815

[catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

[lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

[marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

Please see below link where to find them:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/taunton-west/>

Please note all beat surgeries are cancelled until further notice. However, PCSO Sam Bushen is running virtual Facebook meetings which are informative and well supported.

### Natural foot-note



*A deer investigates the new planting by Northwalls Grange, but the saplings have been well protected.*

### **WANTED!**

***Two newsletter deliverers to cover Barbers Mead and Stoney Furlong***

If you are able to help on a regular, bi-monthly basis from the end of July, please contact our Parish Clerk

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## Country Park & Somerset Wood photo-gallery

