



**Cheddon
Fitzpaine
Parish**

DECEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER

Websites: www.cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk and www.cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk

View from The Chair

Every aspect of our lives seems to be susceptible to rapid change nowadays, and the business of parish administration is no exception. I'd like to spell out the effect that changes higher up the chain are having on our parish (and many others) and the challenges facing your Parish Council.

As we know, district councils have been under severe financial pressure for some time. In a bid to ensure that the fiscal squeeze results in them becoming more efficient rather than simply increasing taxes to maintain services, central government limits or 'caps' council tax rates. While this has indeed resulted in some efficiency gains, much of the cost-cutting has been achieved through reductions in service levels. The national media are full of stories about cuts in jobs and services across the country and we are starting to see signs of neglect on our own doorsteps.

This scenario puts parish councils like ours under pressure to try and make up some of the shortfall. The problem is that there's no real scope for small parish councils to achieve cost-efficiency improvements, operating as we always have on the proverbial shoe-string. If you cut the shoe-lace, it starts to get uncomfortable and, eventually, the shoe just comes off.

As things stand, there's no cap on parish councils. This gives us the option of plugging some of the gaps appearing in county and district services by making modest increases to the parish 'precept' (see * below).

But – and here's the crunch – central government is currently considering extending capping to include parish councils – a move that could become all the more likely if there's a rush of district councils creating additional parishes as a means of generating more money (you may have seen the recent television news coverage about Swindon's plans to do exactly that). If we were to have our precept capped at the current low level (significantly below the national average), there's a risk that we would be unable to maintain the contingency funding in our budget that allows us to respond to unforeseen circumstances or to increase the precept to allow for changing circumstances.

In a nut-shell, that's the dilemma we face as we enter our budgeting phase for next year.

**The 'precept' - the annual budget set by your Parish Council - is shared between the dwellings in our parish and collected via Taunton Deane Borough Council tax.*

Neighbourhood Plan update Working groups have been hard at it making sure that the Plan reflects the 'unique' and varied nature of our NP area. For example: our environmental policies relating to the northern, rural area near the Quantocks must be based on the needs of a 'dark-sky' environment, while the busy southern area around the M5 junction is 'light'. Similarly, employment policies must meet the different needs of agriculture, industry & commerce.

A survey has been sent out to 150 local businesses aimed at providing additional evidence for the section dealing with employment**. Such evidence is a fundamental requirement across all sections of the Plan, witness the fact that Trull's NP Examiner removed some of their policies due to the lack of it!

Cycle paths will be a major feature of the Recreation section of the NP. Feedback from the recent NP questionnaire has made clear that residents are in favour of a fully integrated network linking new developments, established residential existing cycleways and canal towpaths.

The canal is a major feature of the NP area and our Parish Clerks recently met with Georgina Wood, Boating Manager at the Canal & River Trust, to exchange information regarding a possible refreshments and loo stop at or near the Bathpool swing-bridge. Taunton Town Centre to Maunsell Lock is approximately 7 miles – a long stretch without any facilities or public conveniences. Ideas were exchanged and a map showing CRT land obtained.

***If you have not received it but wish to take part you can find it on the Survey Monkey website at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BSNP2016 or on parish websites, www.westmonkton.net or www.cheddonfitzpaine-pc.org.uk*

Last but by no means least:

Season's Greetings to All Our Readers!

Denise Webber, Chairman, Cheddon Fitzpaine PC
Tel: 01823 451720; Mobile: 07788 52226

Contributions for the next Newsletter to the Parish Clerk by 16th January please!

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Cheddon Fitzpaine Church Report

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church is part of a United Benefice 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

Those of you who missed the deadline for the October weekend at Lee Abbey by Liz Thompson – or would prefer something more family-orientated – will be pleased to know that Rev's Mary & Tony have made a provisional block-booking at the same venue for families from across the Benefice in November 2017. Dates are 24th–26th and the price will be £100 per adult for the weekend from Friday tea-time until Sunday morning, all meals and accommodation included. Children are specifically catered for as there is a price reduction and programme of suitable activities for them. Lee Abbey is in the most wonderful location on Exmoor, close to Lynton, Lynmouth and Valley of the Rocks. The weekend will be led by Lee Abbey staff but there is plenty of time to explore the surrounding beauty and to use the sports facilities on site (tennis, football, badminton). You can take part in as much or as little of the programme as you wish. Application forms are available from the back of your church or by contacting Michele at the Benefice Office (see contact details above). Please return your completed form together with your non-refundable deposit to the Benefice Office as soon as possible as Lee Abbey will only hold the places until mid-December. For more about Lee Abbey, visit www.leeabbey.org.uk/devon

A FEW WORDS FROM REV MARY STYLES “Don't forget our church buildings are open during the day if you would like to pop in and enjoy their peace. We also have two Advent groups running on Mondays from 28th November: one in the home of Church Warden, Julia (Kingston) at 2.30pm and one at Reader, Kevin's (Cheddon/West Monkton) at 7.30pm. We'll reflect on one of the traditional Advent readings from Isaiah each week and also share a cuppa and a chat with friends. Do join us at any stage (don't worry if you have missed one) and *anyone* is welcome, *especially* if you don't know who Isaiah is – come and find out!! More info from the Benefice Office (see contact details above) or from me at The Rectory, 16 Bishop's Close, Taunton TA2 8DS, tel. 01823 410089.”

Please note that we have a **facebook** page for the Benefice - you can access it (even if you don't do facebook!) via this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/South-Quantocks-Churches-Benefice-242102696183594/>

BENEFICE OFFICE SEASONAL CLOSURE: From 2pm Friday, 23rd December until 9am Tuesday, 2nd January 2017

Pauline Stone, Churchwarden

Tel: 01823 277637; Mob: 07984 055574

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 Pauline Stone, £10 Maureen Mort

November: £50 Debbie Saunders, £10 Joan Osmond

Contact **Churchwarden, Pauline Stone** (see details above) for more information.

Next Messy Church

Sunday 18th December from 4 to 6pm at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall

Here is a summary of the report I gave at the trustees' Annual General Meeting on 14th November:

I am delighted to report that the Hall is continuing to be used at almost full capacity, and as ever we are very grateful to Marcus Walker, our Hall Manager, for his sterling work in this regard. Also particular thanks must go to Pat Walker, our Secretary for keeping us on the straight and narrow, and Stuart Triggol, for his dedicated work as Treasurer. With regard to Mr Triggol, due to the excessive workload that the Treasurer now has to perform, we the Trustees decided that some form of payment was appropriate. After much research, it was concluded that payments to a Trustee, although not impossible, were fraught with difficulties, so with regret, in September this year I accepted Mr Triggol's resignation as a trustee. He is now continuing his work as treasurer, in a paid capacity, under the same terms as our employment of Mr Walker.

The major expenditure this year has been the installation of LED lighting throughout the Hall. Three quotations were sought, and the trustees chose John Marchant, whose company have done a fantastic job. It is estimated that we should recoup our money within 10 years in reduced electricity bills alone.

The Film Club is thriving and a new projector has been purchased for imminent installation. Thanks go to Chris Dalton, who managed to secure several hundred pounds in grants towards its purchase.

There were quizzes this year in February and November, the latter in conjunction with Taunton Amateur Operatic Society (TAOS); both as usual, very enjoyable and successful, and between them raising

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around £350 for the Hall.

The Cheddoners' variety show in March was, as usual, very well received and proved to be one of our major fundraisers of the year.

Thanks to Stuart Triggol, who organised the TAOS production 'Broadway Heroes and Villains'. The profits were divided between TAOS and the Hall. Thanks to the Cheddoners for their help with lights, sound, bar, front of house etc.

The 70th Flower Show was a wonderful event. The whole day generated profits over £2,000, so thank you to all who contributed.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair for the last 12 months, and I thank all the Trustees for their support.

Malcolm Lown, Chairman Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall Trustees 01823 412750

Marcus Walker, Hall Manager 01823 413925
Email: info@cheddonfitzpainevillagehall.co.uk

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School

We've just had anti-bullying week aimed at supporting children to use their 'Power for Good' and create a better world. In Class 1 we had 2 apples. I asked the group of four- and five-year-olds to describe them and all agreed they looked the same (what the children didn't know was that before the class I had repeatedly dropped one of the apples on the floor). I picked up the apple I'd dropped and started to tell the children how much I disliked it; I thought it was disgusting, horrible etc. I told them that because I didn't like it, I didn't want them to like it either, so they should call it names too. This obviously caused some amusement and they all joined in enthusiastically. Next, we passed the other apple round and started to say kind words to it. We inspected them again and they still looked the same. I then cut them open. The one we'd been kind to was clear, firm and juicy inside; the one we'd said unkind words to was bruised and mushy - just how we feel inside when someone mistreats us with their words or actions. When people are bullied, especially children, they feel horrible inside but often don't tell others how they are feeling.

Jason Woollacott, Chair of Governors
Tel: 01823 350663; Mob: 07940 277413

Pastoral Care Group

The coffee morning held at Mary Gunning's house on 14th October was the usual success. Among those dropping in for tea/coffee and cakes was our new Village Agent, Gary Larson

The regular Wednesday prayer meetings held at Rev Mary's home are now held at 9am on THURSDAYS at

BACH (Brittons Ash Community Hall to the left of the new West Monkton C of E Primary School on the A38).

Liz Thompson, Group Co-ordinator
Tel: 01823 451529

Area updates

Nerrols Our Parish Clerk has been informed by David Wilson Homes Project Manager, Bob Sayle, that the current period of pile-driving on the new development is due to have stopped by the time you read this newsletter. DWH confirm that the remaining plots are scheduled for piling "late next year and for a shorter duration of 3-4 weeks completing piling on this phase of the development". The developer has once again apologised for the ongoing "sound generation" - we assume that means noise!

Maidenbrook The brook was cleared in October by The environment Agency » **Watercourse to Sheep Dip** An SCC Flood Risk Management Engineer is contacting the riparian owners of the land regarding works at the pond and overflow pipe.

Highways

The white-lining in Upper Cheddon, Rowford, and Nerrols/Summerleaze has now been completed » Cllr Thompson has reported to SCC Highways potholes and damaged road edges in Rowford.

Well done!

Thanks to all who have been 'doing their bit' by keeping footpaths and water-courses clear on/adjacent to their own property and elsewhere around the parish: keep up the good work!

Bus service update

We are pleased to share the latest progress report received by e-mail from John Perrett, Transport Manager, Transporting Somerset, as follows:

New Bus Service between Monkton Heathfield and Taunton Town Centre

Somerset County Council are currently finalising plans for a new town bus service which will link the new housing development in Monkton Heathfield to Taunton Town Centre. The proposed route would commence from the bus lay-by outside West Monkton Primary School and operate via Bridgwater Road, A38, Hardys Road, A38, Bridgwater Road, Bawler Road, A3259, Yallands Hill, Priorswood Road, Clifton Terrace, Station Road, Bridge Street, North Street, Fore Street, Corporation Street, Tower Street and Castle Way. In Taunton Town Centre the service will operate on a loop from Bridge Street, North

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Street, Fore Street (serving the bus stop next to the Market House), Corporation Street, Tower Street, Castle Way, Corporation Street, Tower Street, Castle Street, and Tangier Way to Bridge Street and return to Monkton Heathfield. The service will operate on Monday to Saturday between approximately 7am-7pm. At present we are still awaiting the initial funding from developers but once this is received we will go through a tender process to ensure best value and then the successful bus operator would need to register the service. The timescale from receipt of funding to commencement of service is likely to be around twelve weeks so we would anticipate the service being in place by late March 2017.

Parish Council Meetings in 2016-17

All at 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall's Committee Room:

2016: 8th December **2017:** 12th January; 9th February; 9th March; 30th March **Annual Parish Meeting;** 13th April; 11th May **Annual Parish Council Meeting;** 8th June; 13th July; 10th August; 14th September; 12th October; 9th November; 14th December.

Services at Cheddon Fitzpaine Church

December 4th (2nd Sunday of Advent) 9:30am, Family Service 11th (3rd Sunday of Advent) 4pm, Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies 16th 9:30am School Carol Service 18th (4th Sunday of Advent) 4-6pm, Messy Church (Cheddon Memorial Hall) 24th 10pm, Holy Communion (**2017**) **January** 1st 10am, United Benefice Holy Communion Service (at Kingston St. Mary Church) 8th 9:30am, Holy Communion 22nd 9:30am, Holy Communion 29th 10am, United Benefice Holy Communion Service (venue TBC)

Recycling & Refuse Collections

Christmas and New Year 2016/17

Recycling centres are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. More detailed information on opening times and services over the festive period is posted on the parish notice-boards and available at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church Presents:

NATURE'S MOMENTS

Colour images & stories presented by Denis Bridel

**7.30pm, Friday, 3rd February 2017
at St. Mary's Church, Cheddon**

Refreshments (donations invited to Church Funds)

More details from Peter Triggs on 01823 334188

CHEDDON & WEST MONKTON FILM CLUB **CHRISTMAS PARTY** Mince Pies & Mulled Wine * Surprise Short Film

Absolutely Fabulous

25 years on, so a lot older and fatter! Some of the best TV-series gags with new celebrity names such as Kate Moss and Stella McCartney. Comedy - 100 min's

Friday 16th December, Cheddon Memorial Hall

Doors open for refreshments at 6.30pm

Short Film: 7pm - Feature: 7.30pm

Tickets £6 at door. Reserve seats at

cwmfilmclub@btinternet.com or 01823 412278

Call for volunteers!

Cheddon and West Monkton Film Club is run by a small team of volunteers, some of whom can't be available for all meetings. We are looking for extra volunteers willing to be called upon occasionally to help out. This could be with the teas and coffees, bar, Box Office or setting-up and operating film equipment - much simplified from the end of November, thanks to the permanent installation of the projector and ancillary cabling in the hall.

Interested? You can talk with us at a screening evening, e-mail us at cwmfilmclub@btinternet.com, or call Chris Dalton on 01823 412278.

PARISH COUNCIL Contact Details

CHEDDON WARD

Mike Batsch, 01823 272376

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Annie Durham, 01823 451514

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Liz Thompson, 01823 451529

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Denise Webber (Chair), 01823 451720

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Jason Woollacott, 07940 277413

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MAIDENBROOK WARD

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PARISH CLERK

Jo Pearson, 01823 259478

cheddon@live.co.uk