

I have lived in Chilcompton since 1966 and have always been involved in the community, volunteering and supporting schools, village hall, churches, sports pavilion, the old rec. and the Chilcompton Society (at present, the Flower Show). I am involved in many other village groups: Mendip Brass Band, short mat bowls, gardening club, Golden Hour club, I lead a walking group, I organise Friday coffee club for over 50s and have been a village hall committee member for many years.

I was Trustee of the Year in 2008 in recognition of more than 30 years of village hall work. I was also an assessor of village halls in Mendip and South Somerset for the Community Council for Somerset. In 2012 I won the Heart of Somerset Award for community work in the village.

I was vice-chairman of the parish council for 5 years and its chairman for 3 years. In the past I have planted trees and daffodils, have dug holes for footpath posts and continue to put up waymarkers and monitor footpaths. I have helped with several Jubilee celebrations and VE/VJ commemorations, tended the bus shelter garden and the flower trough. I was involved in producing the village plan (2013), Radstock Museum exhibition (2014) and recent Remembrance Day events.

I think important village issues are affordable housing, speed reduction, local employment and restricting large developments in order to retain a village ambience, as well as promoting community events and our historical heritage

In May 2019 I completed 40 years as a parish councillor and having been re-elected, I will continue to try to preserve the best of Chilcompton, to maintain its facilities and community spirit and improve areas that need attention to ensure a friendly, sustainable village in which we can all live and work.

*Marlene Pickford. May 2020.*