

Chilcompton Matters

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Autumn Newsletter

September 2018



Welcome...

to the 2018 Autumn issue of Chilcompton Matters. Phew, what a scorcher, except for the day of the Fringe Festival, which was a real shame. But otherwise hope you enjoyed the weather in a sun cream healthily correct sort of way.

It's been a great summer of events: Redan Celebrates Chilcompton, Church Fete, Chilcompton Fringe, the Beer Festival and the Flower Show. All covered in these pages.

As we go to print it has been disclosed that Chilcompton has been shortlisted for the Best Somerset Village of the Year competition. Probably not very surprising.

There are new controversies in the village like over bus routes and the Chilcompton station. But, even though there was no Great Chilcompton Picnic this year, we should remember the thoughts of the late Sarah Cox who reminded us that within communities there is more that unites us than what divides us. Public transport, hey! That Mr Beeching has so much to answer for. But really not going there...

We still await pavements, speed limits, crossings and play equipment. Local government is changing. Local authority funds are diminishing, Somerset County Council is in dire trouble and considering becoming a unitary authority. In the long term parishes are probably going to have to look to themselves to make the changes they want. Probably shouldn't be going there either...

Okay, the thanks bit. First of all, the main man, the numero uno, the top dog, aka Mike Hughes, who spends literally hours and hours designing these pages. Give the man an award like the freedom of the village. Then there's Kathy, his wife, who looks after the advertising and 'probably' mops Mike's fevered brow whilst doing reflexology on his feet. Don't forget the advertisers themselves, the new ones have made this bumper issue possible at no extra cost. The contributors - love your stuff, keep it coming. The distributors, ta very much for the leg work. And you for reading, of course.

Bless your hearts

Malcolm Rigby

Parish Clerk. **E-mail:** parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Contents

Page	Article	Page	Article
4-5	50 Years of Golden Hour Club	33	Messy Church
5	Mendip Brass Band	34-35	Chilcompton Lives
6-7	Chilcompton Flower Show	35	Bin analysis
9	Gardening Club	36	Ashes to ashes
9	The Coal Truck Flowers	37	Adverting Matters
10	Wednesday Walkers	37	Still on the Case
10	Chilcompton Wives	38	Pick Litter to Honour Soldiers
11	Friday Club	40	David Strawbridge Books
11	The Joy of Reading	40	Short Mat Bowls
12	Growing Up in Chilcompton	40	Broadband
14	Obituaries	41	Embroidery
14	Remembrance Service	41	St John's Youth Clubs
14-15	News from St John's	42	Unsung Heroes
15	Fred Lane	46-47	Painting Furniture
16	Redan Celebrates Chilcompton	47	Tour De Chilcompton
18	Village Agent Withdrawn	48	A Year of Experience
18	Fracking hell	49	In Praise of The Heat Wave
18	Local Information	50	DIARY DATES
20	Speed Watch	51	Friends of The Surgeries
21	Council Matters	51	Chilcompton Runners
23	The Art Club 25th Anniversary	52	Cricket Club
24-25	Fringe Festival	53	Endurance Athlete
24-25	Beer Festival	54	Retain the Game Award
26-27	A Year at St Vigor & St John	55	Football Club
	School, Celebrating 25 Years	55	Chilcompton Sports
28	Chilcompton Station	56	Bullfinches
30	Reaching The Summit Poem	56	The Street Bus Shelter
32-33	The Birds And The Bees		

GOLDEN HOUR CLUB - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

The Beginning

There was a senior citizen's group in Chilcompton in the 1960s and probably before that, but it was in 1968 that a new committee took over during a meeting in the Redan and renamed it Chilcompton Golden Hour Club. This venture was to enhance the lives of the over 50s with entertainment, outings and talks. Some of the new committee were Charles Robinson (the then Postmaster), Frank Stock (Redan Landlord) Joan Hawker (formerly Sheppard), Fred Dark, Norma Dando and Joan Swift.

Some villagers will remember those early days. Initially there was some controversy when the group wanted to book the village hall on Tuesdays, youth club night, however, this was resolved, the club was established, members joined up and increased to about 100.

Joan remembers making sandwiches for club evenings and once she thought she would give members a treat with some China tea she had been given, but it didn't go down too well; no-one could drink it! Until 1981, meetings took place in the old village hall, where Joan recalls the kitchen was primitive and the heating unreliable. At that time an Alford's coach, driven by the genial Alfie Vranck, picked up members from Stratton on the Fosse and Chilcompton and transported them home again afterwards.

The club was totally free with refreshments, entertainment, a Christmas party and hall hire being paid for by the fund-raising efforts of a 20 strong committee. There was an annual garden party at Greenacres (Joan and David Sheppard's home), Autumn bazaars, fetes, raffles and bring and buy sales to boost funds. Then by 1977 members were asked to pay 10p per monthly meeting, "whether they came or not!"

Fund-raising



The garden parties and fetes were opened by a prominent person such as Countess de Salis, Mr and Mrs Michael Saul, Mrs Rosemary Dismore, Mrs Bill Sheppard, Mrs David Sheppard, the Rector or the Abbot. Mr Geach always donated potatoes for the raffle and there was a skittles competition

over several evenings. The fetes died out in the 1980s and the club ran stalls at the Chilcompton Society's May Day Revels instead.



The Christmas party, usually in January, catered for 130 people including special guests; the doctor, vicar, RC priest, Methodist minister, the Abbot and the parish council chairman. When the committee did the catering, it was ham, tongue, broad beans and peas, fruit cocktail and ice cream, all complemented with sherry, wine, coffee, tea, bars of chocolate and cans of beer. Outside caterers were able to provide roast beef and black forest gateau. Mrs. Kerton from the Railway Inn often did the catering and Maurice Clark sent flowers for the table. Committee members were asked to bring cruets, pickles, sauces and mustard; Mr. Robinson would provide sweets and cigarettes!

Activities

On club evenings members enjoyed choirs and bands, talks on clocks, forests, Impressionists and SS Great Britain or slides of America or the Kennet and Avon Canal. By 1980 refreshments were downgraded to tea and biscuits, the provision of sandwiches becoming too expensive.

Up to three outings a year were arranged to Paignton, Portsmouth, Coventry, Symonds Yat, Weymouth, Bourton on the Water, Stratford on Avon and many more too numerous to mention; and once a very windy Weston-super-Mare, where members were hanging on to lamp posts to stay upright. Of course, the ubiquitous mystery tour was always popular.

Presidents

There have only been 4 presidents over the 50 years: Charles Robinson, 1968-1974, Rev. David Marshall 1974-1988, Peggy Higby 1988 – 2001, Shirley Obem 2001 to the present time. Vice-presidents were: Bert Stuckey, Joan Hartley, David Strawbridge, John Wagstaffe, Mr Lawson and Ernie Hamlett, who still holds this office. These and the many committee members' work must have been much appreciated by all. Remember, in 1968, there were few televisions or cars, so village activities such as these met a real need.



Today there are only 5 committee members: Shirley Obem, Ernie Hamlett, Janet Moon, Sylvia and David Rogers, who do a sterling job, not least by organising a celebratory lunch in July for 26 members, with Joan Hawker (Sheppard) guest of honour and the oldest member, Jim Cush cutting the birthday cake.



Marlene Pickford.

For information about the Golden Hour Club, please contact Sylvia: 01761 233142

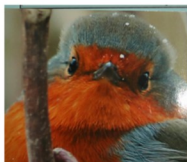
Mendip Brass Band

At the time of writing this item, we are in the midst of playing our summer programme. We began by playing at Kilmersdon Village Day in May and this was followed in June by Oakhill Village Festival and then Henton Church Fete.

In July we performed at Chilcompton Church Fete, then at 'The Redan Celebrates Chilcompton' The following day found us at Victoria Park, Bath. So far this summer, sun hats have been the order of the day!! It's been HOT, HOT, HOT!



Jenny Gould.



Chilcompton Flower Show 2018

Despite unusual weather conditions since April, the produce and flowers on display at the Chilcompton Society's 39th show was of a very good standard. Ironically, there were more entries for the flower and vegetable sections than in previous years; indeed, all classes exceeded expectation except for the cookery class.



There was good support during the afternoon when visitors viewed the exhibits and enjoyed tea and caught up with friends. The committee was heartened by the turnout and was encouraged by the number of newcomers taking part. Show organiser Dave Rogers said he was especially pleased to see so many children competing and enjoying the show.

Congratulations to the committee and helpers on the success of the event. Winners were as follows:

Vegetables: Pat Steer. Flowers and cookery; Rosemary Blatchford. Hobbies: Margaret Dera. Family cup: Sylvia and Dave Rogers. Stratton cup: Barbara Jones. Newcomer's cup: Jon Crouch. Arthur Hambly Award: Susan Sinclair. Overall show winner: Rosemary Blatchford.

Here are some of the children who took part and won prizes



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Chilcompton Gardening Club

Chilcompton Gardening Club is now in its 19th year and is still very successful with about 100 members. The new year commenced with the annual general meeting followed by a cheese and wine event which attracted about 70 members. A good chance for some social activity.

Our monthly meetings have had talks on a variety of subjects including 'No Dig Gardening', this was given by Charles Dowding who has recently appeared on BBC Gardeners World. Other subjects included 'Container Gardening', 'Community Farm Gardening' and 'Hidden Gardens of Bath'. There was no meeting in August but later we have talks on 'The Winter Garden' and 'Success with House Plants'.

The plant sale in May was another big success when we had a large number of quality plants for sale in the village hall all provided by the members of the club.



This year's outing was to Sudeley Castle Gardens in the Cotswolds. The weather was very kind to us and everyone who went had an enjoyable day. The plug plant competition was won by our oldest member, Joan, which proves you are never too old to indulge in a little gardening even if it is only in a flower pot.

Terry Grist (chairman)



The Coal Truck Flowers

The coal truck at the Rock Road junction has looked very colourful this summer, thanks to Alan Gould, who has raised plants and more importantly kept them watered and fed twice a week all through the long dry spells. This was no mean feat, which is appreciated by many.

Wednesday walkers

The walkers concluded their summer walks with a lunch at the Holy Cow in July, having walked the old railway line to Silver Street and back through Withies Lane.



The group have had good walks this summer, although some were hard-going in the heat. A lovely walk to Clapton was enjoyed in the Spring before the cows were let out into the fields. A walk to Luccombe woods at Holcombe took place on a fine day and Crocks Bottom was also tackled without encountering too much mud! It is a shame that blocked paths are becoming more difficult, because some landowners don't keep the stiles clear or cut a

path through undergrowth, which means walkers struggle through or avoid them and they become even more overgrown. You will have noticed that farmer Mark Philips has kindly reinstated the path CL5/28 to Stratton, which is much appreciated by many walkers and there are other landowners and volunteers who do their bit too. Thanks to them all.

Marlene Pickford

Anyone is welcome to come along on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, meeting at the village hall car park at 10.30am.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Chilcompton Wives

Spring/Summer at Wives started with stories of a Police Dog Handler who is hoping to have his dog adventures made into a film, perhaps we had the premier! We also enjoyed an informative and thought provoking evening trying lip reading, this was followed by stories from the 1950s and 60s of a northern Home Help. One of our speakers was Dawn Lawrence, who has written stories and poems about endangered animals and had known Virginia McKenna from the Born Free Foundation, she shared her recollections with us.

We have kept the variation of entertainment going and ended on July 4th with an American inspired evening with card games, fruit machine, Hot Dogs and Keylime Pie, enjoyed by all.

Meet in the Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7.30 for 7.45pm. If you would like to join an informal evening with friendly faces, come and give us a try. Dates etc. are displayed on the Village Hall notice board, or contact Bridget Brookbank on 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans on 01762 233266

Friday Club

About a dozen people meet for coffee and cake every Friday morning at the village hall at 10.15am. Catching up with the news and having a chat is almost more important than the cake! Many thanks to the 8 volunteers and cake maker who keep this group running. Come along and join us. You will be very welcome.

Marlene Pickford

The Joy of Reading or How to Set Up a Book Club



Because of the plethora of alternative forms of home entertainment the writer Will Self has declared that the future of the novel is doomed. Not so fast, clever man, there are many avid readers living in Chilcompton.

One reason for the decline in reading could be that it is seen as a solitary activity. But it doesn't have to be – have you ever thought of setting up a book club?

Just gather together six to seven like-minded bookworms; friends, family or neighbours. If you don't have enough you could always advertise in these pages.

Then meet every four to six weeks to discuss the chosen work, this allows everyone time to finish if they want to.

Location – some clubs meet in individuals' houses or alternatively a neutral location might be preferred such as a pub or café.

You'll need to find a system for selecting a book, ideally taking turns so that everyone can choose one. When you pick a tome be wary of plumping for your favourite, other people might not like it and you may have to sit and listen whilst your beloved story is trashed.

Rules – there is only one rule in book club. What happens in book club stays in book club. No, seriously that's not it. The only rule in book club: just one person speaks at a time so that everyone hears the others' views. It's surprisingly easy to slip into sub-groups, so enforce this rule.

What's there to discuss: the plot, the themes, the characters, the style, the philosophy, the politics, even the design of the book cover. Some books these days include a list of suitable book club questions. Whatever, you will be amazed at how disparate are the views.

Alcohol may be permissible. A daughter of a friend recently said: "Book club? Mum, you're kidding, it's wine club."

Personally, I'm a member of two book clubs, one of which has been going for 17 years – so they do last. Happy reading.

Never Eat Blue Food by Malcolm Rigby is available on Amazon at £3.54. Should you need a suggestion.

Review: 'Growing up in Chilcompton'

Notes on a childhood on the Mendips by David E. Read

This is a charming autobiographical account of coming to manhood in the village during the wartime years and beyond.

It's conkers, name calling, pranks and school dinners but all taking place within Chilcompton. Like running through the railway tunnel as a dare, and not telling your parents.

I was particularly fascinated how the youths of the village were divided into rival gangs – the 'top' and the 'bottom' with the railway line as the decisive marking point. How things don't change! Though there is probably less stone throwing and verbal abuse now.

The text is liberally illustrated by amusing pictures from Bob Elliott.



In criticism there are a few typos and a little bit of repetition but the little book does paint an endearing picture of our Chilcompton as it was 70 years ago as seen by a small boy. Malcolm Rigby

Copies can be obtained through the author on 01749 672605

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Obituaries

The following villagers have died since the last newsletter:

Felicity Hillier (died November 2017),
Jenny Wood, Mair Fell, Ann Jarvis, Barbara Shearer,
Fred Lane, Judy Pimblett, John Cooper (Lynch Hill),
John Charles, Muriel Colbourne, Philip Lye,
Mei Mei Towlson, Marjorie Robbins, Maureen Church

We send sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Apologies if anyone has been inadvertently omitted. Please let me know of any others and they will be included in the next newsletter.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Special Remembrance Service

The parish council is planning a remembrance service at Chilcompton War Memorial at 3pm on Sunday 11th November and will provide tea afterwards at the village hall.

As this is a special anniversary, it is hoped to have some appropriate musical performance at the hall too.

To commemorate 100 years since the end of the Great War, there will also be an exhibition depicting local people who played a part in it and to this end, the council is asking villagers for stories and photos of any relatives who were involved. Please contact Marlene Pickford if you have any information on 01761 232774 or email: marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

If anyone would like to come along and needs transport, please let me know.

There have been good attendances for this service in the last couple of years but to make this a really special one, please support it and pay tribute to those who were lost in the conflict.

Marlene Pickford

News from St John's.

This summer we have been very pleased to welcome our new Rector Rev Esther Smith to St John's. Rev Smith took up the post on 1st August 2018 and there is a formal Induction and Welcoming Service which will be led by the Bishop of Taunton, The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley.

On 7th July we had a fabulous time at the Summer Fete which was opened this year by Michael Eavis. We enjoyed dancing by the pupils of St Vigor's and St John's Church School as well as music by Sing Your Heart Out and the Mendip Brass Band. Visitors enjoyed a huge variety of stalls and games as well as a dog agility demonstration and the annual duck race. >>

Fred Lane

Fred was born in Britannia Cottage, Britannia Yard in 1941. He was one of ten children. He was a hard working man all of his life. Working at both the Sawmills in Chilcompton and at the Concrete Works at Clapton before more latterly taking on local grass cutting work. Fred was well known for being seen pushing his lawnmower around the village and even as far as Midsomer Norton, Stratton-on-the-Fosse & Westfield. Fred had a great community spirit and also undertook many jobs for Chilcompton Parish Council such as regularly cutting the grass verges (near the Street Ponds, the Pitching and near Highfield Crescent) and also cleaning bus shelters and pavements to, in his words, 'make it nice for the little kiddies'.



Fred's family have decided to purchase a commemorative bench in memory of Fred, which they have put on the green in Highfield Crescent so that his parents can sit and can take enjoyment from watching their grandchildren play. Fred has left behind his partner Janet, three surviving sisters and many other family members in the local area. Sarah Bacik



>>

Looking ahead we will be holding our Craft Fayre at Chilcompton Village Hall on 3rd November. This is always such a great event and showcases the many amazing local talents from woodwork to knitting and jewellery making.

At St John's we warmly welcome families and children to join us for our Sunday services. Our All Age service takes place on the 2nd Sunday of each month and is a relaxed and fun service. We hold a communion service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday and a service of Morning Prayer on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Our family area for under 3s has lots of toys and books to keep little ones entertained and our youth groups meet every 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday during the service. Jigsaw kids club for children aged 3-11 and Buzz for 11-18 year olds.

For more details of our services and other activities going on at church see Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton>, website: www.acny.org.uk/chilcompton or ring the Parish Office, Monday to Friday 1pm - 5pm 01761 502068 Ali Mayes



Redan Celebrates Chilcompton



We would like to thank you all for the tremendous support we received once again for this year's annual The Redan Celebrates Chilcompton. We are so lucky that the sun shone on us again for the 3rd year running.

We would like to say a special thank you to all the music acts who give up their time for this event - The Mendip Brass Band, Mandy Broadway, Parfanon, The Honky Tonks and Richard and Max on sound. Without the music acts this event would not happen and we appreciate it very much.

This year we also had some country dancing provided by the boys and girls of Bryony Class, St Vigor & St John's, everyone enjoyed watching them very much; thank you Bryony!

With everyone's help and generosity we have raised over £850. We will donate this to St Vigor & St John's PTA and The Mill Nursery which we're sure will go towards lovely things for the children.

It really is great to see so many people getting together to celebrate all things Chilcompton - what a wonderful village we are part of.

A special thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes, Archers Marquees, St Vigor & St John's PTA, The Village Hall and everyone who supported this event and of course our staff.

We hope to see you in 2019, as always on the 2nd Saturday of July - Saturday 13th July 2019. Many thanks Dan Obern & Toby Gritten.



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We are now taking bookings for Christmas parties
from £23.50 2 courses/ £28.50 3 courses.
Contact us for menus and more details

Village Agent Withdrawn!

Funding has come to an end which means that the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) have withdrawn the Village Agent from Mendip. CCS are confident that this is a temporary situation as they are actively trying to secure long term funding across the county. The Somerset Village Agent service has been operational since 2012 in the Mendip area.

Please ring CCS if you would like to discuss any implications of losing your local Village Agent, they can help point you in the direction of alternative support options.

CCS can still offer support to individuals through their other services - they have Carers Agents and Community Agents.

For information on the Somerset Carers Agents, go to: www.somersetcarers.org or call 0800 3168600 or for any other information please contact: info@somersetccc.org.uk or call the Community Council for Somerset on 01823 331 222.

Fracking hell

The government has begun a period of consultation on the issue of fracking.

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, of which the Parish Council is a member, is urging people to oppose new plans that would undermine local planning authorities and potentially “industrialise” the landscape. What are your views?

Local info

All villagers are invited to attend the Parish Council meetings, to make an observation or just to view the machinery of the most local tier of government.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

If you have any ideas for the twice yearly village newsletter or would like to put some information up on the village website, contact the Parish Clerk by email: parishclerk@chilcompton.org or ring 01761 232974.

Website: www.chilcompton.org

PC noticeboards are by the Coop, by the Village Hall, on Bowden Hill and at the bus stop by Church House (when it is repaired).

District Councillors: Rachel and John Carter
CLLR.Carter@mendip.gov.uk john@jgcarter.co.uk

County Councillor: Mike Pullin mpullin@somerset.gov.uk

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Chilcompton Community SpeedWatch

Community SpeedWatch can be set up in any village, small town, or urban area, governed by a 20, 30 or 40 mph speed limit. Community SpeedWatch is a partnership between the Community, the Police and Local Authorities.

We are a year on from re-establishing SpeedWatch in Chilcompton, part of the Mendip SpeedWatch Group in Somerset, with an active and committed team of police volunteers who carry out weekly sessions within the village at one of eleven police approved sites. There are always at least two volunteers working together, it is not acceptable or feasible for one person to carry out sessions alone due to Health and Safety considerations.

It has been proven in this short time that there has been a drop in vehicle numbers exceeding the speed limit. Whilst SpeedWatch activity is largely perceived to be a preventative measure, the data collected is also used by the police as intelligence as to where to site their Speed Enforcement Units. Up to the end of April 2018, from August 2017, the total number of vehicles checked at our sessions was 10,035 with the small amount of 1.1% being over the speed threshold, well below the average in Mendip. Many residents have noticed the difference these village sessions have made and ask what is involved and how to become a volunteer.

As a resident of the village you will need to be over 18, preferably a driver and have use of a computer with the internet. The first point of contact is the Community SpeedWatch Co-ordinator whose email address is cswchilcompton@hotmail.com. A form is sent via email for completion of basic details of the enquirer along with a simple test of knowledge of SpeedWatch, both to be returned for checking by the police and all being well training follows.

Training starts by joining the trainer with a member of the village team for roadside training. Should anyone approach to ask what you are doing, as well as wearing the hi viz jacket supplied, you will have a letter of authority from Avon & Somerset Police stating you are a police volunteer for SpeedWatch, along with a copy of the insurance. Further training on how to complete the returns from the SpeedWatch sessions is included.

Community SpeedWatch changes people's attitude to speeding. By making a small regular commitment to the scheme helping to monitor speeds, you are effective in ensuring speed limits are adhered to. SpeedWatch gives local people, who are willing to become trained police volunteers, the ability to actively get involved in road safety. Please help to continue keeping the roads and people in this village safer by volunteering with SpeedWatch.

For details contact: cswchilcompton@hotmail.com

Council Matters

Welcome to the Parish Council section of the latest village magazine.

After a very protracted process I am pleased to report we have completed taking ownership of the the three areas of green space at Pines Close, Carters Way and Station Mead from Mendip District Council. As custodians of these spaces the Parish Council wants to ensure they remain assets for the village. We have already commenced that process by de-commissioning the old play equipment at Station Mead. We are now obtaining costings to tidy up the green space at Carters Way and will hopefully commence work on that in the autumn.

The process of obtaining 106 monies from developments in the village to upgrade and install more play equipment at the old recreation field has, sadly, yet to be completed. In spite of the efforts of our Mendip District Councillor John Carter this is now stuck in a morass with solicitors for the council and developers and we can only await the outcome.

With regard to the traffic issues in the village, we have been informed by SCC that the proposed pavement at Lynch Hill has been delayed (again) due to budgetary reasons and it will now hopefully take place in the next financial year. Pleasingly it would seem that the proposed zebra crossing at the Co-op will happen soon. This will make crossing at this important and busy junction, safer.

In the spring we were informed by First Bus that they intended to change the bus service in the village from single to double decker. The service would either go down the B3139 and leave the village by Bennell or go down Bakers Lane before joining the existing route. Both routes present problems in that they leave large numbers of villagers with no service close to their house while the latter route also was viewed with disquiet by residents of Bakers Lane who had concerns about the road's suitability. We did facilitate a meeting with First Bus and our SCC Mike Pullin; suffice to say that there was no unanimity of views and ultimately First Bus selected the second option, initially with a single decker service pending trees on the route being cut back. We have agreed with First Bus that the new route would be monitored with villagers urged to feed their views back to the Parish Council and on to the company.

We will again be holding the Remembrance Day service; this will be a brief outdoor service at the cenotaph followed by tea at the Village Hall. This year it will of course mark 100 years since the end of World War I, and with Remembrance Sunday this year falling on the 11th of November, we are keen to commemorate the event. The Parish Council have formed a subcommittee to arrange the event and we would like as many villagers as possible to be part of the event; if you would like to take part in some way please contact the Parish Clerk.

Finally, my thanks to the small band of volunteers who produce this publication; it goes from strength to strength and appears to be well received, all of our feedback regarding it is positive.

Jonathan Pike, Chairman of the Parish Council.





Building Contractors & Developers Ltd.

A black and white photograph of a modern interior space. On the left, a staircase with a glass balustrade and wooden treads leads upwards. The floor is made of light-colored wood. In the background, there are large windows and a glass door that look out onto a garden. The lighting is bright, creating strong shadows.

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Birthday P'art'y

Chilcompton Art Club celebrated their 25th anniversary on the first Saturday of this month with a special Open Day at St John's Church Hall.



People were encouraged to come along and see a small exhibition of works of art, have a chat, and partake of a cup of a tea and cake. Visitors were also enticed to enter an open competition for works of art under the title of "Reflection". With a prize going to the most voted-for entry.

In addition to the Open Day there is a mammoth 25th Anniversary celebration art exhibition on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st of October in the Village Hall.

There will be in excess of 120 works of art created by members, many at very reasonable prices. The exhibition will be open between 1.30pm and 5pm on the Saturday and between 10am and 4pm on the Sunday. Refreshments will be available on both days and also a tombola in aid of a local charity.



The club meet every Wednesday and Friday between 10.00am and midday at St John's Church Hall. Contacts:

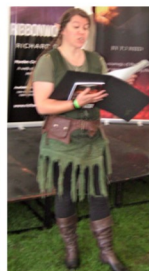
Amanda Mayes (Chairperson) 01761 232475, Nigel Punchard (Secretary) 01761 413579





The Fringe Festival

Michael Eavis opening the festival for the second consecutive year. We were hoping that we'd be blessed with the same 'Glorious Glastonbury' style weather we had in 2017...



The Wessex Beer and Cider Festival



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... the reality was somewhat different with probably the wettest day of the entire summer. Unperturbed, our team of hard-working volunteers, comperes, sponsors, contractors, sound and lighting engineers, wonderfully talented performers and authors stuck to the job in hand and put on an event with an atmosphere that brought smiles to the faces of all those who attended.

Conditions forced some late reorganisation which included bringing Wookey Hole Circus onto the bar terrace under cover, much to the relief of families who really didn't fancy tackling the rain.

We are always particularly humbled by the musical talent on display from across the region. There are just too many highlights to name-check particular bands but throughout the day the audience were treated to truly brilliant rock, folk, swing, indie, punk rock and musical theatre performances from the moment the gates opened.

Although the visitor numbers were impacted by the weather it is a credit to the event that not only do authors travel from as far away as Devon, and musicians from Bristol and Oxford but also that visitors came from further afield. In this maybe there is a message; events like Chili Fringe Fest need YOUR support to ensure the village social landscape maintains a richness that makes Chilcompton an attractive place to live.

We must also take this opportunity to express our very sincere thanks and appreciation for the support shown by each of our sponsors, particularly the main sponsor Northavon Group, along with Winsley White, Ashford Homes and Ian Hobbs Technical Services. Without you our task would be so much harder.

Plans for next year are already afoot!

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Drinks with such attractive names as Legbender, Voodoo Pulp, Cadgwith Crabber, Pickled Parrot, Surf Bum and Beatnik Billy were available at the annual beer festival earlier this month.

The two day event held at the Sports Ground welcomed about 400 people through the doors but attendance was down on previous years.

Organiser Alan Bowhay said: "It was still a great event but it was sad that it was low in numbers and now I'm knackered."

Because of the footfall, despite it being pleasant weather, the organisers are now contemplating whether the festival should be re-arranged in some way.

Apart from the 57 independently produced beers and ciders on offer, from all over the south west and further, there was plenty of food available and lots of music from the likes of The Publicans and Up Your Brass.

The charity event, notching up 12 years, is organised by the Rotary Club of Somer Valley.

A year at St Vigor and St John Church School Chilcompton Celebrating 25 years this year! - by The Journalist Rangers

Amazing Arum - Reception Class aged 4/5

Arum is really fun as we spend all day doing fascinating new things! We liked writing about Millie the Mermaid because it was interesting when a shell got stuck on her finger and then when she ran it fell off. We made junk model transport and decorated it with foil and paint. Phonics is enjoyable as we learn about kicking k curly c ow, oi, ch and qu. In art, we do drawings of Millie the Mermaid and Indian houses and things. Arum trips are so fun! We especially loved our trip to the beach where we had ice-creams on the beach and made sandcastles.

Reported by Evie, Oscar, Georgia

Brilliant Bryony – Year 1 aged 5/6

We love being in Bryony class. We learn lots of maths. We get to play with our friends and do circle time. We like listening to stories and dressing up. We really liked listening to Little Red Riding Hood and acting it out. We did a poetry café where we raised so much money that we went to the theatre in Bath on a trip to watch a play about space and it was so much fun! We do lots of playing outside and we like making dens. Our teacher Mrs Mitchell is really helpful and Mrs Woods helps us with our learning. **Reported by Jack, and Ava**

Clever Campion – Year 2 aged 6/7

In Campion class we performed our own version of Jack and the Beanstalk! We really enjoyed this experience because it was out of the ordinary. We wrote our own scripts, painted scenery, dressed up in characters and it included singing! We have also learnt about the Great Fire of London. Did you know it all started in the bakery and all the houses were made of wood so they caught on fire? Surprisingly, only 6 people died! People escaped the fire using boats. As part of our quest, we learnt about Samuel Pepys and we wrote our own diary. It's fun to be in Campion because we do fun learning and get to go on trips. We've even been to the Chocolate Factory in Cheddar, The Egg Theatre in Bath and we also went to a Victorian school in Sevington. Mrs Bushill, Mrs Vidler and Mrs Young are all very helpful and they teach us very well. **Reported by Brooke, Harry, Freddie and Alexa**

Daring Dogwood – Year 3 aged 7/8

Life in Dogwood is fun as we get to do lots of maths and other things. We enjoy English and writing about our weekends and our holidays. We loved writing our own versions of the hodgeheg. The hodgeheg is about a hedgehog that is curious about how to cross the road so he tries to cross it and gets hit by a bicycle which makes him say hodgeheg! This year, we went to Stonehenge and saw the huge stones

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which are much bigger than you think and looked like they were going to fall over! We also went to 'We the curious' in Bristol and made pale coloured flowers and learnt about light and shadow while playing games. We like Mr Clifford- he is good fun. **Reported by Miller and Emily**

Enthusiastic Elder – Year 4 aged 8/9

We love Elder. We have had fun learning and enjoy sharing our homework. We do lots of school trips and our favourite was the Tutankhamun Museum as we saw life-like models of Egyptian artefacts and we got quiz worksheets. Our teacher, Miss Craney, is so helpful and helps us to improve our learning every day. Our favourite subject with her is Maths, Quest, Art and English. In Quest, we have learnt about the Romans which is one of the best projects we've done. We have this special thing called dojos - it is for improving our behaviour and working hard. We have a dojo shop and when we get up to 10 points, we get a prize. **Reported by Rowan, Georgia, Tommy and Olivia**

Fabulous Foxglove – Year 5 aged 9/10

In Foxglove, we've done lots of awesome stuff! We shared a link with a school in London and recently we went to visit the children there at Bangabandhu School. The children there then came to visit us! When we went to London, they prepared plenty of fun activities for us to do. There was a photo booth, pancakes and Domino's pizza! When they came to Chilcompton, we taught them about our school and our community and we hosted a village fayre for our new friends! In class, we do lots of fun learning. Our favourite subject is Art. We made a huge banner with Mrs Tyler. We have been on other school trips including a trip to a mosque in Bristol and a trip to St Mary Redcliffe Church. We have learnt about Christianity and the Islamic faith. In Foxglove, we like getting our pen licences. Foxglove is an amazing class to be in. **Reported by Heidi, Anya, Hugh and Daisy**

Great Gentian – Year 6 aged 10/11

We have absolutely loved being a part of Gentian class. Obviously SATs has been a part of it, but we have done really fun learning about World War II. We went on a trip to the STEAM museum in Swindon where we dressed up as real life evacuees. We even recreated an air-raid shelter in school. Year 5 and 6 are lucky enough to go to Young Voices - a brilliant concert in Birmingham. It is so exciting and you get to travel there by coach with all your friends. Mill On The Brue was a once-in-a-lifetime residential opportunity where we got to try loads of different exhilarating activities, stay away from our parents, and stay up late! The play was a really great finish to our year in Year 6; it lets everybody show themselves on stage and showcase their talents. We will be sad to leave St Vigor and St John School as it is a lovely place to be and the teachers are kind, caring and helpful. They also help you to grow in confidence and be who you want to be. **Reported by Hugh, Martha, George and Jack**

Chilcompton Station: “Pie in the sky?”

About 120 people gathered earlier this month at the Village Hall for a public meeting to discuss the plans of a recently formed group who wish to restore Chilcompton Station to its former glory. The plans were received with a pretty decisive “no way.”

Within the undergrowth behind the new development of Belvedere and to the side of Station Mead lies a section of the old platform of Chilcompton Station that closed in 1966. There is not much else.



But in the last few months a group entitled Somerset and Dorset Railway: The Chilcompton Project has grown to over a hundred members. People from all over the country who are fascinated by the “Slow and Dirty” and want to rebuild.

Representing the organisation was Kevin Carver, a born and bred Chilcompton man, who began the meeting with a little history (the station was opened in 1874); he said noise was only a potential problem when trains ran, pollution was not an obstacle as steam engines just give off steam. He said: “Things can change and things do change.” He reiterated often that all they want to do initially is recreate the station and put in a café/visitor centre.

As the meeting was opened to the audience objections came fast and furious. There were questions about parking and access, about how they could convince Taylor Wimpey to sell the land, about the possibility of vandalism, about property devaluation, about the impact on local residents.

Probably the most damning moments of the evening was when residents of Bakers Lane declared that they owned sections of the railway line and they had no intention, ever, of selling the land. So it was never going to happen.

Giles Harrod asked: “What’s the motivation of these people? Clearly there will be an impact on residents who are almost unanimously saying they don’t want it.”

Even the chairman of the meeting, Duncan Rideout said: “What’s in it for the village? What’s in it for residents of Chilcompton? It seems to me it’s just for a bunch of railway enthusiasts who want to play with their trains.”

One woman, Wendy Earle, spoke up for the project, she said that she had grown up by a railway line, she spoke of the nostalgia of that and all they wanted was to rebuild the station.

Eventually there was a vote taken with a show of hands on whether people wanted Chilcompton Station restored; about 80% said no and 10% said yes and the rest abstained.

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Fowlers was originally set up in 1988 by Dave Fowler renting a small workshop in Paulton.

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Stuart James, Director of the RMI's Independent Garage Association said, "Fowler's anniversary is a testament to the high standards of professionalism and customer service that it offers motorists. The true reflection of a garage's quality is the amount of time it has been in business, as its customers dictate this."

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the jagged undergrowth
and sometime path.
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for a view to gasp and click.

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into the yielding sky.
As we trudge to the top
and down again



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The birds and the BEES



*"Isn't it funny
How a bear likes honey
Buzz, buzz, buzz
I wonder why he does."* A.A. Milne

Malcolm Rigby talks to a Chilcomptonian beekeeper

You may have thought that a bee is just a bee. But you could not be more wrong. To mention just a few; there are bumble bees, solitary bees, mason bees and honey bees. Then within the honey bees; there's the queen bee (obviously), worker bees, nurse bees, guard bees and the drones (male bees).

Lynne Thorne tells me this. She has been keeping bees for three years now and currently has seven hives. She modestly says that she has done a couple of courses on the subject but still has so much to learn.

The bees are kept in a friend's orchard in Pilton but why not Chilcompton? She says: "My garden's a reasonable size but I am mindful that it is a bit higher up, slightly more inclement weather and wind, also I'm bounded by neighbours on each side and they have got young children and I don't want to cause them any concern. In time I might do but meanwhile they're really fine at my friend's orchard. They do good for the orchard and the orchard does good for them."

Her day job is office-based so she likes the contrast of being outside but is also just intrigued by bees. "Certainly when I first started I had very little knowledge of the structure. In a colony of 50,000 bees every bee has a role. They're absolutely fascinating and I find it very relaxing. Once you've got your head in a bee suit and you're looking at a hive I just find it very relaxing because you have to shut everything else out because you have to concentrate on what is going on. Otherwise you'll make mistakes or not see something.

"You know that you are trying to do some good, without bees we wouldn't be around. So there is that aspect as well. If the bees do produce a surplus of honey that's a bonus. But it's not about honey production it's actually really about keeping bees, learning more, learning how they help the environment and being able to help other people learn as well.

"When you put a suit on for the first time you don't really know how you are going to react, it is quite different and if the bees are quite agitated or aggressive they will ping on to you. You do feel protected. But once you've had your first sting..." She laughs.

"It was the first season I had bees and it was through my own silliness. I'd gone back down and I didn't have my bee suit on and the bees were quite lively and a bee went in my ear. It taught me a lesson in don't take things for granted and make sure you are properly covered up. Don't chance it."

The good news is that the bees have been enjoying this stunning summer as much as we have. "Because we've had this fantastic weather they've been out foraging a lot, actually they should be calm, they should be fine.



“They’ve enjoyed the good weather, they’re getting food, so they’re fine, the queen’s got room enough to lay her eggs and the colony is all good and bright.

“I’ve still got an awful lot more to learn and to get into the science of it more. I’m always soaking up more information from the experienced bee keepers when you go round the apiaries. Every apiary is different and also every colony is different, sometimes there are lecture days on different topics. There are beekeeping qualifications but at the moment I haven’t got the time to go near those...but maybe when retirement comes I could think about that.”

In a colony of 50,000 bees only about 200 of which are male, their sole responsibility is to service

the queen. Quite a life you might think. But towards the end of the summer they are physically dragged out of the hive by the women for not contributing anything. Ha.



Always wondered whether it is an urban myth that bees die when they sting – apparently it’s true.

Lynne’s advice if you’re thinking of taking up beekeeping: Take a course and get a bee mentor.

In the next few weeks Lynne expects she will be harvesting 100 pounds of honey, so, some ready made Chrissy pressies for family and friends.

Messy Church

This free family event is held at St John’s Church on the fourth Sunday of the month. Based on a set biblical theme each month, Messy Church incorporates crafts and games in the Church Hall before moving through to the church for stories and songs. We then gather together in the hall for a shared tea. So far this year we have enjoyed learning about Samuel, Jesus’s baptism and Jairus’s daughter. On 22nd July we held a Messy Church party to explore all of God’s wonderful creations. The children took part in a nature scavenger hunt, enjoyed crafts in the Church Hall and then played games with water bombs and a giant parachute.

Our next Messy Church will take place on Sunday 23rd September. Please come and join us for a fun family afternoon from 3pm to 5pm. Ali Mayes



Chilcompton Lives

Margaret Clare (nee Taylor)



Margaret was born in 1923 in one of the cottages attached to the old Britannia pub which used to be at the bottom of the village. She attended the village school and then went to St Johns School in Midsomer Norton until she was 14.

It was a happy family life with her brother Victor and sisters Myrtle and Hazel. Sadly both

Myrtle and Hazel have passed away and her brother lives in a care home in Cambridge.

When Margaret left school she worked in domestic service in Lansdown, Bath, near St Stephen's Church.

Once the Second World War broke out Margaret joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and cooked for the officer's mess in Little Rissington, Gloucester.



After the war Margaret worked for Welton Bag where she folded the paper for bags.

She met her future husband, Jack Clare, at a dance in Chilcompton Village Hall and remembers Jack having heavy boots at the dance and being concerned about her toes. Jack walked her home after that first dance.

Jack was in the Royal Air Force during the war and afterwards worked in Holcombe at the Bristol Concrete Works.

He was a keen gardener and his garden was filled with prize-winning vegetables whilst Margaret won prizes for her fruit cakes.

In 1949, at the age of 26, Margaret married Jack at a 'lovely' wedding.



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Margaret and Jack moved into their semi in Wells Road when it was built in 1958.

Margaret's father was born in Midsomer Norton in 1891. He served in the Army during the First World War in France. He was at the Somme, Passchendaele and was wounded at Ypres. On his 100th birthday Chris Howells arranged for a band of the Coldstream Guards to play for him. The band played Happy Birthday and Margaret was there with him.

Margaret and Jack's daughter Janice was born in 1951 and Julia arrived 9 years later.

Margaret has 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Sadly, her husband Jack died in 2003.

Mike Newman

Bin analysis

In preparation for Recycle More, when bins will be emptied once every three weeks, Somerset Waste Partnership have done an analysis of our refuse (anonymously of course). The results show that 26% of the average refuse bin is still food waste. Other materials that can be recycled make up 17% and another 9% is garden waste.

The study showed that well over half of the contents of our rubbish bins should not be there. It also indicated that the average Somerset wheeled bin is not completely full after two weeks.

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Ashes to ashes...

On the bookshelves in my office I have a treasured slim volume simply called 'Epitaph for the Elm'. It was written in the wake of the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease that decimated our native elm population in the 1970's.

Today another stalwart of our native tree cohort, the Ash, is on the brink of a similar demise. The grip of this incipient disease here on our Mendips is becoming ever stronger and threatens to change the appearance of our beloved local landscape irretrievably in the coming months and years. It is believed that up to 50% of Ash trees in England are affected. And yet it is quite possible that many of us haven't even noticed....

First confirmed in Britain in 2012, Chalara dieback of ash, also known as 'Chalara', ash dieback or Chalara ash dieback, is a disease of ash trees caused

by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* which was previously called *Chalara fraxinea*, hence the name of the disease.



*Typical dead or dying tops of trees
- readily visible throughout the summer*

Chalara causes leaf loss, crown dieback and bark lesions in affected trees. Once a tree is infected the disease is usually fatal, either directly, or indirectly by weakening the tree to the point where it succumbs more readily to attacks by other pests or pathogens, especially honey fungus.

In Chilcompton you will see a number of trees like this along Broadway and Wells Road.

We know that the disease has potential to cause significant damage to the UK's ash population. It has caused widespread damage in continental Europe, where experience indicates that it can kill young ash trees quite quickly, while older trees can resist it for some time until prolonged exposure, or another pest or pathogen attacking them in their weakened state, eventually causes them to succumb.

Ash is one of our most useful and versatile native tree species, providing valuable habitat for a wide range of dependent species as well as strong, durable, flexible and attractive timber with a wide range of practical and decorative uses - traditionally tool handles, cartwheel spokes and even the frames of 'Morgan' cars!

The scientific advice is that we can't stop Chalara but we can focus on reducing the rate of its spread.

We don't yet know, however, what the full impact of Chalara will be in Britain. Evidence from continental Europe suggests that older, mature ash trees can survive infection and continue to provide their landscape and wildlife benefits for some time and I for one am in no rush to put my name to a companion volume in my library - 'Epitaph for the Ash'. Alister Rankine

Chilcompton Matters - Advertising

The Chilcompton Matters newsletter is produced in the form of an A5 size booklet twice a year, in Spring (deadline Mid-February) and Autumn (deadline Mid-August). For each edition 1,050 copies are printed and distributed throughout Chilcompton.

Advertisements can be accepted in the following formats and will appear in the newsletter in black & white / greyscale:

Quarter page - in 'portrait' format - Cost £15 per issue.

Half page - in 'landscape' format - Cost £30 per issue.

Full page - in 'portrait' format - Cost £60 per issue

If you would like to advertise or you would like further information, please call us on 01761 569863. If we are out, please leave a message with contact details and we will get back to you. In order to assist the publication of the newsletter, please inform us of your intention to advertise as soon as you can.

Thanks go to all who advertise in the newsletter, their continued support enables us to produce Chilcompton Matters for the benefit of everyone in the village.

Kathy and Mike Hughes

Still on the Case

I lost my dear dog companion, Sunni, a couple of months ago, so I can't say I'm that up-to-date with the dog poo situation in the village but I would be most surprised if there aren't any problem patches.

There is nothing much we can do except keep on trying to appeal to the better nature of those who leave their dog's excrement for others to walk in or traipse into their homes on their shoes.

So I'm appealing to other (conscientious) dog walkers that if they see someone ignoring their pooch's leftovers, to offer them a poo bag. Mostly this works a treat, at least while you're on the scene. Or if you would rather not do that and you know who they are, please contact me.

And I'll end with a tip. Reuse the plastic bags that your magazines and fruit come in. You'll probably think of many more ways to get at least a second use out of plastic bags – but if using for dog poo, make sure there are no air holes in them!

Christine Foster

01761 232158 email: christine.232158@gmail.com

Pick Litter to Help Honour our Lost Soldiers

I'm delighted to say that I now have a nice long list of regular litter pickers most of whom clear up any litter left near their homes throughout the year. But there are areas, of course, not near houses, and if none of our volunteers has reason to go along there, the rubbish can just pile up – especially when there is thick vegetation on the roadside.

So it's time to clear the village once again and this year, we're going to do it somewhat later than usual. That's because on Sunday 11 November there will be a Special Remembrance Service by the Memorial on Bowden Hill to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War I. I think it would be fitting to honour our village's soldiers by making it as tidy as possible for the day. You can read all about what will be happening on 11 November elsewhere in Chilcompton Matters, but I'm hoping that many of you turn out the day before, on – Saturday 10 November - to make our village as handsome and tidy as possible.

If anyone would like to join please either turn up at the village hall car park at 10am on 10 November or contact me on 01761 232158 or email: christine232158@gmail.com Christine Foster

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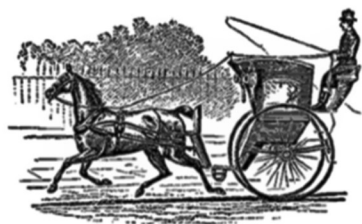
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David Strawbridge Books

Thank you to those people who brought me David Strawbridge's books. I am still looking for his last one (the red one), '*Chilcompton in Focus Plus*'. If anyone has a spare copy I would be happy to buy it.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk



Short Mat Bowls

Numbers are low at present with 8 regular bowlers meeting every Thursday afternoon at 2pm at the village hall. More players would be welcome...

Contact David: 01761 233142

Broadband

You may have noticed a man walking around the village with a clipboard in recent weeks. Truespeed are trying to sign up people for ultra-fast broadband.

For £47.50 a month the company will guarantee you 200MB per second. But they have to sign up 30% of the village before they will go ahead.

Local villages that have already signed up include Oakhill and Binegar. Once the target has been reached then the school and the village hall will get their broadband for free.

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'Embroidery Experiences' @ St. John's Church



Our enjoyable Summer Term has not long finished and our next ten week course will start on Tuesday 2nd October 2018, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. and Thursday 4th October 2018 10.30am to 12.30 pm. Anyone is very welcome to join us on those date and learn how to work some very exciting Needlework Projects.

At the time of writing I would like to mention the 'Poppy Appeal' which some class members and friends are working on. This is for a vast 'Poppy Trail' in

Wells Cathedral starting on the 1st November 2018 for two weeks made up with 'Knitted & Crocheted' poppies. I need as many poppies as possible, so if anyone is able to help please contact Pat Ardron Tel. 01761 232466. Wool and patterns will be supplied if necessary, I would be glad for any help anyone is able to give me.



My Embroidery Classes in St. John's Church Hall are going very well and the ladies are producing beautiful, impressive items of all different kinds of subjects to a very high standard. For the very first time some of my class members will be showing their work at this year's 'Chilcompton Flower Show'. Why not come along and join us at St. John's Church Hall on either a Tuesday



or Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Pop in for a 'taster session' - you will be made to feel very welcome!! Patricia Ardron Tel. 07788 184 185

News From St John's Youth Clubs

At St John's we have a number of youth groups which run during our Sunday services. Jigsaw kids club is for children aged 3-11 and Buzz for young people aged 11-18. The groups meet every Sunday during the service with the exception of the second Sunday when we all come together for our All Ages service. The groups allow children to explore stories and the teachings of the bible in a fun and creative way. Jigsaw has a mix of activities for each session which can include crafts, singing, stories and games. At the end of term we all had fun at our summer party. The children and leaders joined together to play lots of fun party games which ended with a water balloon fight!



We are always pleased to welcome new children to all of our groups please come along and see what it's all about! Ali Mayes

Unsung Heroes



Two volunteers, who have been raising funds for charities for 20 years are Bea Hooper and Maureen Evans. In 1997, the Recreation Project needed funding, so Bea, a committee member at the time, started organising car boot sales in the village hall for the sports pavilion. Maureen helps by running a stall, but otherwise it is a family affair with husband Richard and daughter Anna helping out and in due course Anna's

husband Paul joined the volunteers. Richard can be seen on the door on sale days, looks after the finances, puts up the tables, carries heavy boxes and tolerates an overcrowded shed!

In the early days Bea's father, the late Frank Bonfa, made and donated bird boxes, bird tables, stools and trellis. Her mother, June, was in charge of the refreshments with friend Joyce Plummer. Nowadays Anna and Paul have taken this over and have added a cake stall.

After some years and with the Recreation Project nearing completion, the boot sales carried on and monies were donated to a diverse range of charities including the village hall, the primary school, Dorothy House, Bristol Children's Hospice and Southmead Hospital. Funds also went to Children in Need, Sport Relief, Red Nose Day and Help for Heroes. Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust and Tommy's (research for premature babies) have both been deserving causes. International charities benefitted too, such as Christian Aid, Oxfam and the Tsunami Appeal.

Three local children, who have touched many hearts also benefitted from Bea's sales: Four-year-old Grace, who went to America for pioneering treatment for a neuroblastoma, which was successful. Daryl Allinson, 14, of Frome had private treatment for a rare form of leukaemia and toddler Harmonie Rose of Bath received funds for prosthetics, due to losing her limbs after contracting meningitis.

There have been many more charities too numerous to mention, that have reason to be grateful for the donations from these sales. Sales last winter were for epilepsy. Twenty years ago, there were monthly sales from October to March; now, due to work and family commitments, perhaps only a couple of sales a year, but as Bea says, "It's a good feeling, knowing you are helping others."

Well done all of you for your continuing efforts.

Marlene Pickford

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Painting Furniture

Down in the outbuildings of Manor Farm a small community of craft type shops is developing. Last issue we featured Midsomer Quilting and since then a shop called Keepers Preloved has opened.

It's kind of painted second-hand furniture but more than that. Owner, Lesley Barber, explained: "It's furniture that you might not normally want or want to get rid of or worst of all want to skip it. We want you to think of your furniture as a keeper, we do reprove furniture, we really love preloved furniture. We give it a new lease of life. I do a lot in the shop and I do a lot of commission work where you can bring your furniture in and I can paint it for you or I can come out to your house and do large furniture or I can do kitchens. It's all about sustainability, it's all about using what we have."

Previously Lesley was a school teacher of art and design but gave it up several years ago just as chalk paint was becoming fashionable.

"I've always loved old furniture, I've always loved going to antique fairs and car boot sales, bric a brac sales and I've often painted furniture but with the chalk paint it's so much easier and it's good for the environment."

She started off selling in markets around the vicinity then got the opportunity to have a unit at Farrington Farm. When a chance arrived to come to Chilcompton she jumped at it.

"It's a lovely area and the Holy Cow is the attraction, it's a lovely café and there are a lot of ladies in there who are my customers, there's also the quilting shop here so it fits in quite nicely with that.

"I love Chilcompton. Everybody's been really nice and pleasant and introduced themselves. I've already done a kitchen in Chilcompton and a big book cupboard. It's great. I do like it here, it's very rural, very green."

So what do you do if you have an old piece of furniture you're thinking of throwing out? "Have a go at painting it, people can buy paint from me and do it themselves, or give it me." She laughs. "Think about where it can go and can anyone else make use of it, can you transform it and make something else from it.

"We also do workshops, learning how to use the chalk paint, paint effects, stencilling, decoupage, elementary and advanced, we do lamp shade making, which is easy to do and good fun, no sewing in that."

These are mainly day courses but she can do evenings, birthdays and hen parties.

Malcolm Rigby.

Anyone who brings in a copy of this magazine can get £5 off the price of a workshop.



Tour De Chilcompton

Famous cycling names such as Tony Martin and Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas raced through the village on Tuesday September 4th.

The occasion was the third stage of the Tour of Britain, the country's premier cycle race. It was thought that this might have been the first time the Tour has passed through Chilcompton. Residents, including the entire school, lined the streets and cheered wildly as first motor cycle policemen sped through the village then quickly followed by the scores of cyclists and finally the support vehicles.

The stage began in Bristol went up through Cheddar Gorge and then back to Bristol.

When the race came through the village there was a small breakaway group with a 40 second lead over the remaining body but by the end of the race the peleton had swallowed them all back up leaving a sprint finish that was won by Julian Alaphilippe.

A Year of Experience

Two newish councillors have almost completed their first year in office. Alan Bowhay and Philip Holme were co-opted onto the Parish Council in October 2017.



Philip has taken a position on the Old Recreation Ground sub-committee, become an internal auditor and is looking into the manner the precept is created. Alan reports back from the Sports Ground and has taken on press responsibilities.

Alan said: “My first year as a parish councillor has been interesting and enlightening. It takes time to understand procedures, learn about the way council runs and indeed find out more about what makes this vibrant village tick.

“The council deal with all manner of issues and problems that occur in our community with often strong views and opinions voiced from our members and the general public. It is now clear to me that the council’s powers are limited and often can only give guidance and advice as to the best action and approach, but we are the voice of the villagers and can make a difference.

“It is rewarding to be an active part of our village life and help it to be a place that we can all enjoy and be proud to reside in.”

Philip has only been a resident for a couple of years but since moving to Waterloo Farm he has been eager to participate and contribute. He said: “So, we bought the farm and moved to the country. As, in Scotland, where I was brought up there are no Parish Councils, I decided to join in - expecting a mixture of the 'Vicar of Dibley' and 'Jam and Jerusalem'. I happily found an ordered considerate friendly Parish Council team. I've enjoyed learning more about the village from those on the Council and other villagers who attend the meetings. I'm hoping to widen the net further next year in order to glean what those living in Chilco really want and need. I see this as the most important thing the Parish Council can do - to listen to residents and try to reflect their vision for the community.

“I'm proud that this is a village where people volunteer for litter picking Sundays and take an active role in creating a cohesive community.

“As part of the Old Rec sub- committee, I can often be found by the swings with my two year old daughter.”



In Praise of the Heat-wave

I'm writing this quickly, in early August, before memories of this extraordinary summer get washed away by the rain which is now gently falling. For those of us who like the heat this summer has been magical, all meals eaten outside, jeans and sweaters abandoned in favour of seldom worn summer clothes, trips to the coast arranged days in advance and the sheer joy of not being cold.

For gardeners the blessings have been mixed. Lawns, usually guaranteed to be lush and green here in the wet western half of the country became brown and dry, pots and greenhouses needed extra watering and even some well established perennials and shrubs appear to have given up the struggle and died. On the positive side, brown lawns mean little or no mowing and even the weeds struggled to grow leaving more time to sit in the shade and admire the garden, smell the neighbours' barbeques cooking and count the plentiful butterflies.

So, what can be done at the tail end of this summer to salvage things?

Lawns are integral to the classic English country garden, but unless you are a regular croquet player does it really matter if there are a few weeds in it and does it have to be cut obsessively short? Our small, shady lawn has remained green throughout the summer, not because we have been watering it, but because it has a high proportion of daisies, dandelions and clover which have weathered the drought. If you have a proper grass lawn, cut it less frequently and on a higher setting in times of dry weather and consider removing the grass box to let the cuttings mulch it until the rain starts again. It takes more than a minor British heat-wave to kill lawns completely, but if some areas have died, early autumn is a good time to sow some new seed in the bare patches.

There have been other drought casualties in the garden. Herbaceous perennials such as *Astilbes* and *Astrantia*, so at home in our normally soggy climate have shrivelled – but it is too early to tell whether they have actually died, so just cut them back and there is every chance that they will appear again in the spring as though nothing had happened. And if they don't? What a wonderful excuse to visit all the local nurseries and garden centres to look for replacements.

Many shrubs, even well established ones, have begun to look stressed, but unless the whole plant has lost its leaves and all the twigs are brittle there is still life in there. Prune back any twigs or branches that are dead to a healthy looking bud and wait until next spring.

The summer has dried out many ponds, my own included, but unless you have fish it is better for wildlife to let nature take its course. Ponds in nature dry out just as easily as man-made garden ponds and an established pond with plenty of pond weed cover and some natural 'sludge' in the bottom will retain enough dampness to keep at least some of the plants and creatures alive. Our common frog goes by the scientific name of *Rana temporaria*, temporaria referring to the fact that it will breed in areas of water which may only be temporary. As long as the water remains long enough for the tadpoles to metamorphose into froglets no harm will come to the frogs if it then dries up, and it is better to let it dry up than to introduce (and waste) tap water in the pond.

So, jobs for the autumn to assist next summer's gardening, dry or not:

Install as many water butts as you have downpipes. Although established plants need very little watering even in a dry summer, new plants will need to be watered until established and plants in pots will need watering whether it rains or not. Rain water is much better for plants than tap water and we should use tap water sparingly even when it is in plentiful supply. Mulch the garden thoroughly with a good organic mulch - manure, compost, bark chippings - all will help retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Sue Rankine

Diary Dates

9th Sep INDUCTION & WELCOME SERVICE FOR REV ESTHER SMITH 10.30am at St John's
10th Sep MEMORY CAFÉ 2.00pm at St John's
20th Sep LUNCH CLUB 12.00pm at St John's
23rd Sep MESSY CHURCH 3.00pm at St John's
25th Sep WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2.30pm at St John's
8th Oct MEMORY CAFÉ 2.00pm at St John's
10th Oct ALL AGE SERVICE 10.30am at St John's
18th Oct LUNCH CLUB 12.00pm at St John's
20th Oct 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ART EXHIBIT'N 1.30 - 5pm at at St John's
21st Oct 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ART EXHIBIT'N 10.00am-4pm at St John's
23rd Oct WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2.30pm at St John's
28th Oct MESSY CHURCH 3.00pm at St John's
3rd Nov CRAFT FAYRE 10.00am - 3pm at Village Hall
11th Nov REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30am at St John's
11th Nov REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 3.00pm at War Memorial then tea at Village Hall
12th Nov MEMORY CAFÉ 2.00pm at St John's
15th Nov LUNCH CLUB 12.00pm at St John's
17th Nov TEARFUND BIG QUIZ NIGHT at St John's
25th Nov MESSY CHURCH 3.00pm at St John's
27th Nov WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2.30pm
9th Dec ALL AGE SERVICE 10.30am at St John's
10th Dec MEMORY CAFÉ 2.00pm at St John's
16th Dec MESSY NATIVITY 10.30am at St John's
16th Dec CAROL SERVICE 6.30pm at St John's
20th Dec LUNCH CLUB 12.00pm at St John's
24th Dec CHRISTINGLE 3:00pm at St Vigors
24th Dec LATE NIGHT HC 10:00pm at St Vigors
24th Dec LATE NIGHT HC 11:30pm at St John's
25th Dec CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10.30am at St John's

PLUS...

Mondays BELL RINGING 7pm at St John's Church
Tuesdays & Thursdays EMBROIDERY GROUP 10.30am at St John's Church Hall
2nd Tuesday GOLDEN HOUR CLUB 7.30pm at Village Hall
4th Tuesday GARDEN CLUB 7.30pm at Village Hall
1st & 3rd Wednesdays WEDNESDAY WALKERS 10.25am outside Village Hall
1st & 3rd Wednesdays CHILCOMPTON WIVES 7.30pm at Village Hall
Wednesdays CHILCOMPTON RUNNERS 6.15pm from The Redan
Wednesdays & Fridays ART CLUB 10.30am at St John's Church Hall
Thursdays SHORT MAT BOWLS 2pm at Village Hall
Fridays FRIDAY CLUB 10.15am at Village Hall

Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

The Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries spent over £900 on Chilcompton surgery these last twelve months in order to keep our own pharmacy open. It has been so busy dispensing that the equipment we paid for in 2009 could not cope. Now we have double the capacity. Altogether this year St Chad's has been gifted with over £3500 of equipment for the benefit of the patients from The Friends.

The Spring Medical Talk on skin cancer, held in the village hall, was well attended and on 2nd of October we have planned a talk on Alzheimers disease. This takes place at St John's Church Hall, Midsomer Norton at 7.30 pm and is presented by The Alzheimers Society and the Chilcompton Memory Cafe.

Winter is coming so book your Flu vaccination appointments at St Chad's. The Saturday dates are 22nd Sept, 20th Oct and 3rd Nov 8am - 12.15pm. We are still seeking new faces on the committee, especially from newcomers to the village. If you would like to help, and do some public service for your neighbours, no more than half a dozen hours a year, ring me on 01761 232188 or enquire at either surgery reception.

Alan Webb (Chairman)



Chilcompton Runners

Chilcompton Runners continue to meet on a Wednesday evening for a 6.15pm start from The Redan, with a group of sometimes up to 8 people.



If you are keen please find us on Facebook Chilcompton Runners and message Kate or email Kate on katieupson@hotmail.com It is best to express interest ahead of your first night as occasionally the time changes ever so slightly.

Kate Obern, Bridget Wellar and Lucy Walters were all due to run Bath Half Marathon in March but it was cancelled due to snow, they then signed up for Weymouth Half Marathon, this too was cancelled due to snow so they completed their own Chilcompton Half Marathon on Saturday 14th April along with Francesca Kuzemka.

They raised over £2000 for charities close to their hearts.

Chilcompton Cricket Club - Howzat!

Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club is close to completing its fourth season at Chilcompton Sports Ground. The club continue to enjoy using the fantastic facilities at the ground and have attracted many local players, old and young, who have recently moved into the Village.

The three senior sides have had a much improved season and the square has been superb thanks to the hard work of the groundsmen and the wonderful sunny weather.

We have had our first youth team player make the step into senior cricket and next year we expect more to follow in the 2nd XI and Sunday XI for season 2019.

The Saturday 1st XI are currently pushing for promotion from Bristol & District Division 6. The Saturday 2nd XI are nestling nicely in mid table of Bristol & District Division 13. The Sunday XI are currently top of North Somerset Division 4.

The senior section of the club are always on the lookout for new players and the aim is to find players who can play on a regular basis (particularly on a Saturday). If you fancy a game at the weekend in Season 2019 then please contact Dave Travis.

The Junior Section has gone from strength to strength with the membership doubling in the 2018 Season.

Wednesday Coaching Sessions were really well attended under the Coaching of Frome Cricket Club's professional coach Mark Watts.

The Junior Section easily fielded two sides per week (U11 & U13) with the senior players helping out with umpiring and scoring.

The Club intend that membership fees to join the Junior Cricket Club will once again be frozen at only £10 for the full 2019 Season. If your son or daughter would like to join the Youth Section in 2019 then please contact Dave Travis.

The main project of the year was to build a practice net facility at Chilcompton Sports Ground.

This project was completed in March and opened by Winston Duguid (Somerset Cricket Board Director) and Jacqui Nolan (Cricket Committee Member and Chief Fundraiser).

These nets were used regularly throughout the season (especially by the junior section) and the intention is to improve them further before the 2019 Season with a purpose built mat to cover the entire concrete base.

The cost of this project was in excess of £20,000 and the Club are indebted to their main sponsors, local businesses and members/friends of the Cricket Club.

Dave Travis 07725 458404 or dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk



Endurance Athlete



Up on Parsonage Lane there is a man who likes to run, swim and cycle...a lot.

Next month Ian Rough will be flying out to Ibiza, proudly donning his GB kit and representing his country in a multi-sport endurance festival.

“When you’re wearing the British kit,” he said, “it makes it completely different than being in regular domestic events. There’s something pretty special about that. In a previous event in Majorca the streets were lined with loads of Brits cheering you on.”

The week-long European Multisport Championships begin with a duathlon (running-cycling-running) then an aquathlon (swimming and running) in the middle of the week followed finally by a triathlon.

Ian puts himself through 15-20 hours of training every week which he has to organise around his day jobs as a professional pilot and working for a law firm. Some days training can seem harder than others but it’s not something he has even thought about giving up. “I really enjoy doing the training as well as the racing. I look forward to going out for a 20 mile run or a long cycle or swim. It’s not something I consider as a chore.”



Running is his favourite discipline and he admits that it can be quite vicious at the start of a mass swim.

The pressure stays on for next year with the World Aquathlon Championships in Spain come April and the European Triathlon Championships in Holland during May.

Retain the Game Award

The Club have been awarded a £750 benefit in the form of a grant, which has been awarded to help aid the retention of adult male teams within grassroots football, this will enable the Club to sustain the adult sides over the coming years. This season sees us retain two adult male sides one in Step 7 of the football pyramid and a reserve team in MidSomerset League, in addition to this a development team has been introduced to enable the club's youth sides transition into adult football.

Retain the Game is a programme funded by The FA and delivered by the Football Foundation. It awards grants of £750 to existing grassroots football clubs to boost their financial sustainability and allow them to continue offering playing opportunities in organised football.

Funding has been targeted at clubs that operate with two or more open aged adult male teams who either currently hold The FA's Adult Charter Standard Award or commit to attaining the award within the next footballing season.

It is testament to the many coaching staff, led by Tim Curtis, that there is currently eight of the first team players that came through the youth programme.

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Chilcompton Sports Football Club

Success Breeds Success



Football in Chilcompton is at an all-time high and the village should be proud of the club's achievements. The first team winning the Somerset County Premier League and they also reached the final of the Somerset Senior cup. The U16 football team did one better in division three of the Avon league by winning and doing a league and cup double. Not to be outdone the U13's won a nail biting Somerset Cup final at Cheddar. Currently there are 3 adult teams and 11 youth team squads with around 200 youth players.

There is now also a soccer tots group for year ones and below on Saturday mornings.



The club is currently trying to boost the U7 football group and invite more players to come along.

With such a healthy and vibrant club there is a need for sponsorship and Chilcompton Sports Club would welcome any support from residents and businesses in the village.

For information: 07703 616965 Website: www.chilcomptonsports.com

Facebook: [chilcomptonsportsyouth](https://www.facebook.com/chilcomptonsportsyouth)

Facebook: [chilcomptonsportsclub](https://www.facebook.com/chilcomptonsportsclub)

Chilcompton Sports Club

Chilcompton Boule



already play or if it's new to you there will be tuition, so give it a try.

For more information and register your interest please contact Martin, via mobile: 07971 173809 or email:

Chilcompton Sports have started a Boules club to play for fun and with a view to forming a team to take part in the Bath league who have already agreed to allow Chilcompton to join. PETANQUE or BOULES - you can play the game with two teams of one, two, three or four players on each side. The days are open to anyone so why not come along if you



Pyrrhula pyrrhula



Bullfinches can be seen throughout the year in rural gardens. Although not uncommon their population has declined by 36% since 1967.

These were snapped in the garden of Alister and Sue Rankine on Bowden Hill.

Sue said: “The adult bullfinches were regular visitors to our bird feeder during the winter so we were delighted when they returned in the summer with their family in tow. We watched the youngsters being fed whilst they were newly fledged and the adolescents were still making an appearance from time to time in August.”

The birds feed on seeds, shoots of fruit trees and insects. Their call is a quiet low-pitched short whistle, a kind of ‘phu’ note.

The Street Bus Shelter

On a quiet Sunday at the end of July a driver lost control of her car and it went careering through the railings of the Street bridge and into the side of the stone bus shelter.

The car was left hanging precariously over the water but the driver got out of the passenger side seemingly unharmed.

The area was quickly cordoned off (as it now still is) and the car removed.

The bus shelter seemed intact but on closer inspection there were discovered large cracks in two of the three walls. The advice given so far is that the stone shelter will have to be rebuilt and this will mean the demise of the mural, lovingly painted by teenagers about ten years ago, depicting Chilcompton scenes.

