

Chilcompton Matters

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Spring Magazine

March 2019



CHILLY COMPTON!

More 'Chilly Pictures' inside

Welcome...

...to the 2019 Spring edition of Chilcompton Matters. Winter proper seemed to come and go in the first few days of February. The snow was pretty and atmospheric (cover picture of the Pitching by Sandy Yeates) but if you are too old for sledging then it was kind of a relief when it vanished. Now spring is a-coming so feel free to emit a sigh of pleasure at every sight of a daffodil or primrose. Ahhh.

In this issue, for the first time, we have colour adverts. Thanks to all those advertisers who turned up the brightness a notch, but also to all the advertisers for keeping faith. Whilst we're on the subject thanks to Kathy Hughes for shepherding (spring lamb reference) them into place.

Within these pages is an interesting article about what remains from Second World War construction in the village, personality profiles, horticulture, news from some of our vibrant clubs, and details of an upholstery school that has emerged reflecting the deep vein of arts and crafts that exists in Chilcompton.

Talking of craft you have to thank that man, Mike Hughes, who weaves these pages together, beaver away like a saint in a garret so that we can enjoy the product of his labour.

On the negative side, sadly there is no Beer Festival this year and consequently, probably, no Fringe Festival, although there might be a smaller event, a kind of fringe fringe festival. Contentious issues remain as you would imagine for a complex large village; for the Parish Council the greatest bugbear is probably planning and the NEED TO BE HEARD. Elections are in May, if you want to stand, it should perhaps be noted that the present council is down to just one woman.

None of this magazine would be possible without the small loyal band of contributors, thank you so much. Anyone else out there wanting to put words in a certain order? Maybe a youngster thinking of turning to journalism?

Thanks, of course, to the distributors for putting this through your door. And you, for getting this far without throwing it in the bin. Keep on keeping on, as the cool dudes say.

Bless your hearts

Malcolm Rigby

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

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Spring Clean Our Village

The date for our next Litter Picking Day is **Saturday 23 March** and I will be glad and grateful to all who take part, particularly as it is the last one I shall be organising. I am retiring from the Parish Council at the May election and I'm hoping that someone on the new Parish Council will take over the Litter Pick organisation. However, if anyone else is interested, please let me know. I think it would be a good idea if my replacement 'shadows' me in the organisation of the March pick.

Okay, so pick sticks at the ready....volunteers on my list will have received an email from me but, if you're not on the list, you would be very welcome to meet me outside the village hall at 10.00am on 23 March and I'll provide you with the necessities: picker, black bags and hi-viz vest – but no gloves, please bring your own if you want.

Could I take this opportunity to thank all those villagers over the years who have picked litter – non-pickers wouldn't believe how much there is in those grass verges! Thank you so much on behalf of Chilcompton but also, a big personal thanks for making my (volunteer) job so much easier.

Contact me on 01761 232158 or christine.232158@gmail.com Christine Foster

Great British Spring Clean

Just by coincidence, of course, the dates of the national spring clean have been announced as between the 22nd of March and the 23rd of April. So the Parish Council has joined forces with the national body which is hoping to inspire 500,000 people to join forces to clear litter, including single-use plastic, from our streets, parks and beaches, recycling as much as possible.

The hope is to make history with the Great British Spring Clean 2019 being the country's biggest-ever, mass-action environmental campaign.

Business Pick

A local company is to help the village in the spring litter pick. Depending on availability 10-40 staff from Imaging Equipment will assist the community in the clean-up.

Jessica Johnson, Marketing Manager, said: "Imaging Equipment Limited (IEL) is a medical technologies and pharmaceuticals company based on Manor Farm, Chilcompton. As a company, our values are very important to us. We have a list of Core Values and one of these is to 'Be Accountable'.

"For 2019 we are putting in place a Green initiative which includes initiatives to cut the use of single use plastic both as a business and as individuals. We have a talk and workshop from www.lessplastic.co.uk to help us with this in May.

"As part of this green initiative we want to also help our local community and so are going to invite the whole company to get involved in a litter pick session on May 15th 2019 in Chilcompton. We will also be supporting this initiative via our Social Media feeds."

If you would like any further details on the plans please contact Jessica on 01761 417402

Not Again!

Chilcompton's Accident Black Spot...?

Just a couple of months after a car went over The Street bridge and ended up hovering precariously over the river, and just a couple of weeks after the fence had been mended, another car has done exactly the same.

According to an eye witness, the driver, coming from the direction of Midsomer Norton, lost control coming round the preceding corner and the vehicle finished up hanging over the water. Again.

No one was injured but it is an area where walkers often stop to admire the view of the waterfalls or indeed wait for a bus. It can only re-enforce the appeal for traffic calming measures or a 20mph speed limit in that part of the village.

The fence has been repaired for a second time. Meanwhile the bus shelter is still cordoned off as plans are constructed to demolish the existing unsafe edifice and rebuild.



July



November

FEBRUARY'S CHILLY PICTURES



Friday Club

The coffee club continues to thrive; coffee and cake are much appreciated by visitors and 22 people enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Cheeseyard café at West Horrington. This was kindly subsidised by a Chilcompton Society grant and also the group's own funds. Thanks are due to the nine volunteers who keep the group running; good people who just keep giving their time and energy.

Anyone would be most welcome to come along for a cup of tea at the village hall at 10.15am on Fridays.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 email: marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Wednesday walkers

The walkers are still rambling around the area fortnightly and enjoying time with others in the fresh air and in lovely scenery. A walk to Binegar ended with Christmas lunch at the Horse and Jockey for 18 people.

Most of the paths are open and in good order. This sometimes depends on volunteers and landowners cutting back undergrowth and brambles, which is much appreciated. With Somerset County Council strapped for cash, it is hoped that landowners will increasingly keep their paths clear. Public paths are historic and our heritage; to let them deteriorate would be such a loss.

Walkers meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the village hall car park at 10.30am; tea and biscuits in the hall afterwards.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 email: marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Chilcompton Wives

After a glorious summer break our group met again in September. Our speakers ranged from 'What happens to our water?' to musical memories and the ever popular story teller, Martin Horler.

This is always a busy term with the Christmas meal and the Christmas entertainment evening which we shared with friends at Holcombe.

So onto 2019 starting with a wry look at 18th century Bath, the National Garden Scheme gardens and a visit from 'Ruffles' a hearing dog for the deaf. These are just a few of our planned evenings. If you would like to join us for an informal evening amongst friendly faces you would be most welcome.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall. Dates etc. are displayed on the Village Hall notice board or contact Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans 01761 233266

Unsung Hero

A baby boy was born to Stanley and Evelyn Perkins on 23rd December 1938 at North View, the only bungalow in Fry's Well at that time. Then snow fell overnight giving Christmas Eve a particularly traditional Christmas scene.

Undaunted, the original Chilcompton brass band ventured out as usual to play the annual Christmas Eve Carols around the village and the first stop for the band was North View where they played 'Away in a Manger' on the front lawn of the bungalow to welcome the new addition. The brass band music that filled the ears of that day-old baby boy continued to have a big influence on his life. That baby was James Perkins.

His father, Stanley Perkins, was a member of the Chilcompton band and played 1st cornet. The band was around 30 or so strong with members consisting mainly of miners working at New Rock Colliery. The Coal Board provided the instruments to assist the miners' breathing functions. When the Second World war was declared in 1939, the men had more shifts to do and some joined up so the group disbanded and was never reformed.



Band from 1927

The instruments were returned to the Coal Board. The remaining funds paid for a bench, with a brass plaque commemorating the band, for people to rest and admire the view from the War Memorial. Some years later the plaque disappeared.

Jim said: "From a young age, I always wanted to play the cornet or trumpet, but instruments were expensive and I was sent for piano lessons that I hated!" It was fortunate that he later met Tom, a Durham miner, who also did bar work at The Redan, who lent him a cornet and taught him to play, but this was only for a few months and Jim's music ambition was curtailed. He still had a great desire to play and even had an aim to bring a brass band back to Chilcompton. Impossible odds he thought.

Many years later in the 1980s, when Jim's daughter Becki was learning to play the french horn and joined the Whitstone Community Saturday morning club, he saw his chance; he bought a trumpet and joined in. He also played with the Shepton Mallet Big Band and the Terry Hill Swing Band.

It was 24 years ago when Jim, Becki, Eddie Brown and a young lad, James Edgell, started playing carols around the village on Christmas Eve, starting of course with 'Away in a Manger' outside North View. Although raising funds wasn't the intention, people donated money, which was used to replace the plaque on the Band Seat and later given to Paulton Hospital. In the following years Terry Moore carried the collecting bucket and Sally provided festive refreshments at Haycombe House afterwards.

Jim then joined Wells Community Band run by Ivor Lewis and his wife Doris with mainly youngsters, who came and went until the band was down to about four >>

>> players. Something had to be done! So, Jim started a recruitment drive. If anyone expressed a tentative interest, that was enough; Jim was on the case and many present members will endorse this. The newly retired were collared, given an instrument and never looked back. They met around Jim's kitchen table and were taught to play, the aspiration being to enjoy making music and to give pleasure to others.



By now there was a rehearsal in Chilcompton Church Hall on Monday mornings, then they all headed off to Wells on Wednesday evenings. When Ivor retired, Jim took over as conductor and on Ivor and Doris' recommendation the band was re-named as the Mendip Brass Band. Jim became the Chairman and Musical Director, his wife Margaret acted as Secretary with Pat Rich as the first Treasurer.

An early concert was at the prestigious Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford-on-Avon and another took place in the village hall and raised over £1,500 for Help for Heroes. Since then there have been numerous fetes and carol services; band stand events, a music festival (not Glastonbury!) and a prom concert among others. At present there are over 30 band members mainly of retirement age, which often means a medical bulletin at the beginning of rehearsals detailing blood tests, appointments and operations!



Jim is modest about his achievements and is keen to thank those who have helped him establish and run the band. Those who have followed Pat and Margaret are Liz Marshall, Valerie Stanford, Jenny and Alan Gould and Penny Sullivan. The band loans instruments to players and have a good range, which are kept in good repair by Pat. In the early days Grahame Pickford saw the need so he and Pat obtained grants to buy new tubas', which cost several thousand pounds. Phillip Emery is the deputy conductor; he runs an extra weekly rehearsal at Norton Down Chapel. Jim is grateful for the loyal and committed

support of all the players, who give enjoyment to others while supporting local churches and village organizations.

We are grateful for Jim's vision and dedication in bringing brass band music back to Chilcompton. It was no easy task and took a long time, but a very worthwhile achievement.

He said, "We still play 'Away in a Manger' every Christmas Eve at North View and around the village and this must continue. Let brass band music fill the air in Chilcompton for a long time to come."

Marlene Pickford



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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 at 7.30pm in 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 Co-op, 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.RCarter@mendip.gov.uk john@jgcarter.co.uk

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

District Council: 0300 303 8588

County Council: 0300 123 2224

The Referendum - by Andrew Morris

In Oxford's fair city
where the dons sit so pretty
and voted against sweet Molly Malone
As she wheeled her wheelbarrow
through streets broad and narrow
Crying cockles and mussels alive, alive O

The gowns glide and flutter
over words that don't matter
she voted for leaving, sweet Molly Malone
as she wheeled her wheelbarrow
through streets broad and narrow
Crying cockles and mussels alive, alive O

Those serving and cooking
for the gowns and best dresses
in restaurants too rich for sweet Molly Malone
as they wheeled their wheelbarrows
past accents from Harrow
Crying cockles and mussels alive, alive O

She signed up a leaver
for words could not sway her
Our poor and hardworking sweet Molly Malone
As she wheeled her wheelbarrow
Through streets broad and narrow
Crying cockles and mussels, alive, alive O

Alive, alive O
Alive, alive O
Crying cockles and mussels
Alive, alive O

Saved!

Following the death of Gordon Banks in February, it has been disclosed that Arthur Moon, who lives at Abbey Road, did his National Service with the World Cup winning goalkeeper.

Obituaries

The following villagers have died since the last newsletter:

George Mitchell, Dr Don Ellis, Stephen Miller,
Roger Allan, Andrew Coles, Joan Comer, David Schmid,
Margaret Plummer, Colin Carver, Rosemary Bodman.

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 email: marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Correction

In the tribute to Fred Lane in the last newsletter, his widow, Janet has pointed out that it was Alex and Julie Daly who kindly arranged for Fred's bench to be installed at Highfield Crescent. Janet also said that donations in Fred's memory amounted to £182 and have been given to St. Chad's and Chilcompton Surgery.

News from St John's

At St. John's Church, we warmly welcome you 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 for all the family. We hold Communion services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and a service of Morning Prayer on the 4th and 5th Sundays. There is a Celtic Worship Communion Service on the 1st Sunday at 6.30pm.

Our family area for under 3s has lots of toys and books to keep little ones entertained and our youth groups meet every Sunday, except for our All Age Service. Jigsaw Kids Club is for children aged 3–11 and Buzz Youth Group for 11–18 year olds. Every Sunday evening from 6.00pm is the PowerHouse Youth Group who meet in the hall to enjoy pizza, fun, discussion and prayer.

Lunch Club – is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month. If you would like to join us or know of someone who would appreciate a lunch and the chance to meet with others, we would love to see you. For more information, if you have special dietary needs or need transport, please phone Margaret Holcombe 01761 415085. Lunch is £4.

Messy Church – is a popular fun activity afternoon for all the family ending with tea together. It is held on the 4th Sunday of each month from 3.00–5.00pm. For information go to: Facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton or email messychurchstjohnschilcompton@gmail.com

Memory Café – is every 2nd Monday of the month with trained volunteers. Free, fun, fellowship, informal support and information in a café style setting. It is especially suited to anyone experiencing memory difficulties. All welcome with accompanying family, carer or friend. For more information, contact Sarah Crosse on 01761 412042 or 07535 696264, or email: chilmc@hotmail.com

There is easy parking and an easily accessible building with disabled toilet.

>>

>> All our children's workers and volunteers are DBS checked.



Hall for hire:

St. John's Church Hall is carpeted throughout, centrally heated, has a superb kitchen, and facilities for the disabled. It is ideal for children's and family parties, wedding receptions, group meetings, etc. There is ample parking.

Hall charges: for 3 sections £10 per hour, and a double section is £7.50 per hour.

Kitchen charges (including cookers and appliances) £10 per session.

There is a 10% discount for regular weekly bookings.

For more information and hall bookings, contact Chris Austin on 07853 228759



Forthcoming events...

Ash Wednesday Benefice Service - 6th March at 7.30pm

Palm Sunday All Age Service - 14th April at 10.30am

Wednesday 17th April 2-4pm. EGGCITING EASTER EVENT. For children and families. Easter Egg Hunt, Games, Crafts, Hot Cross Buns

Maundy Thursday – 18th April at 7.30pm Holy Communion. A quiet service to begin our journey through the Easter weekend.

Good Friday – 19th April. Cross Walk across the fields from St. Vigor's to St. John's from 10.00am with opportunities to stop and listen to the story of the crucifixion, ending with refreshments and hot cross buns.

Hour at the Cross at 12.00 noon.

Easter Sunday – 21st April. Sunrise Service at 5.30am – a short service of worship and prayers to greet Easter Morning, followed by bacon butties.

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am.

For details of our services and other activities at Church, go to our facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton
or visit our website:

www.acny.org.uk/chilcompton or call me in the office on 01761 502068 which is open weekdays, except Wednesday from 1.00pm-5.00pm

Kate Crossley Administrator





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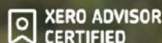
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Broadband

As you may be aware, Truespeed have been canvassing in Chilcompton over the last few months to obtain support to bring their Ultra-Fast fibre optic broadband service to our village. This service will give every house who has applied their own dedicated fibre connection with guaranteed internet speeds of 200 Mb/s. The good news from Neil Rogers, Community Engagement Manager for Truespeed, is that they have received sufficient applications to fund the project.

The engineering team will start planning the work shortly. They are unable to confirm when the village will be fully connected but estimate this to be nine months approximately. Further updates will be provided by Truespeed over the course of the coming months to those who have made an application.

Truespeed have also kindly agreed to give a free connection, as a sign of thanks to the community, to both the Village Hall and the Sports Club which will be of great benefit to Chilcompton.

If you are still considering making an application please contact Neil, his number is 07948 348805 or email: neil@truespeed.com.

Following on from their success in Chilcompton, Truespeed now plan to move across to Stratton-On-The-Fosse, Clapton and into Midsomer Norton with events being planned over the coming months.

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Community Transport

Did you know that groups and clubs can hire the Midsomer Norton and Radstock (12 seater) Community bus? This is a charity with volunteer drivers. Bookings: 01761 416910

Mendip Community Transport will also take group bookings (12 – 16 people): 01749 880613

For individuals without transport, you can book Dial-a-Ride on 01761 420042

Library Service

The mobile library no longer visits Chilcompton. If you love reading but can't get to a library, you can access a free home library service. The Royal Voluntary Service will deliver books or talking books to you. Contact 0300 1232224 to find out more.

I am still hoping to find a copy of David Strawbridge's 'Chilcompton In Focus Plus' (the red one). If anyone has a spare one, please let me know.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 email: marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Mendip Brass Band

As the summer season came to a close, on 5th August we played at a garden party at Nempnett Thrubwell, in a beautiful setting in the grounds of an old manor house, with views over the reservoir. Also in August we performed at Clutton Flower Show, an open air proms night at Binegar and Chilcompton Fringe Festival, which was spoilt for us and everyone else by the torrential rain.

In September we played at Norton Down Chapel Harvest Festival and at Paulton Methodist Church for the illuminating of the new cross. Jim and Philip played the Last Post at St. John's church and at the War Memorial on Bowden Hill.

Players were extremely busy during December starting at Shepton Mallet Market Cross as the lights were switched on and outside a number of supermarkets; in between, we played at carol services in the area; Kilmersdon, Radstock, Chilcompton, Norton Down and Ashwick. As we begin the new year, we shall be concentrating on events for this summer.

Jenny Gould.



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Karate Do - What Exactly Is It ?

The way of the empty hand (fighting without a weapon)

People start for many reasons: self defence, keep fit, encouraged by a friend or maybe curiosity about a traditional Asian discipline.

Besides the obvious benefits of karate, keeping fit, building strength and flexibility, karate requires focus and concentration. Observing and anticipating an opponent's next move while blocking out all distractions takes a lot of mental focus. Respect for yourself and your opponent is also an extremely important part of training.



Kids Training



Mendip Best Students

Competitions are also a great motivator, although in our style not the major emphasis. Some students need an extra focus for their training and on occasions training towards this aspect, which is an excellent test of spirit and skill helps to keep up interest. Win or lose, facing up to an unknown takes some

courage, no matter what level of ability. It is exciting and fun, at the same time it increases confidence and learning to win or lose graciously is fundamental.

The coveted "Black belt" is a common goal and although the achievement of 1st Dan (your first stage black belt) is not to be sneezed at, it really marks the start of a lifetime's journey of self improvement, dedication and self discipline, indicating to your instructors that you have reached the point at which you are worth being taken seriously as a student. Sadly, all too often 1st



International Course



Julie and Andy

Dan marks the pinnacle of a student's efforts and they feel they have achieved all they wanted and give up.

"BUDO" is a Japanese term meaning the way (do) of the warrior.

This is the essence of JKA (Japan Karate Association) Shotokan Karate and it means that the >>

>> important thing is not winning medals and trophies, but to dedicate one's self to being the best you can be in all aspects of life.

As far as the practicalities of Karate are concerned, hard training in the basics fosters strong and effective, not fancy or spectacular, techniques, giving confidence that, should you have to defend yourself, the punches and kicks you have learned will do the job for which they are intended. Half hearted training results in a false picture of effectiveness and must be avoided at all costs.

Mendip Karate has had many successes over the years, winning trophies at National and International level. Although a small club, we pride ourselves on producing students of an excellent standard, who attain the best of their ability which only happens through their hard work. With the skill and techniques learned, students are taught to always remember this - avoid confrontation outside the Dojo (training hall).

We have students from age 6 – 60; you are never too old to learn a new skill.

Senseis (Martial Arts Instructors) - Julie Morgan and Andy Forster

Training at Chilcompton Village Hall on Thursdays 6.30pm - 8pm, also Stratton-on-the-Fosse Village Hall on Mondays and Writhlington Sports Centre on Sundays 10.30am - 12.00.



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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, a large glass door or window looks out onto a garden. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the center of the image.

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Weeding The Ponds

You may have noticed that just before Christmas The Street ponds received a monumental clear up.

Large patches of weed had gathered over the last couple of years to disfigure the village's most iconic view.

But John Scarterfield gathered a group of volunteers, including Stuart Thorne, John Burton and Jon Crouch, to remove the unwanted vegetation.

John said: "It took a couple of days and was quite hard work but it really needed doing. Brambles and refuse were a bit of a problem. We clambered onto the waterfalls and used our rakes – but now it's done. Thanks should be given to Paul Mattick from Manor Farm who took the weeds."

He added that the ponds may look better but there is a huge build-up of sediment that will have to be dealt with in the not too distant future.



Photographs taken by Jon Crouch

Golden Hour Club

An enjoyable Christmas lunch for club members at the Old Down Inn was arranged by Sylvia and David Rogers. This was funded by The Sperring Trust and the Chilcompton Society. As the group embarks on its 51st year, an excellent programme of speakers and choirs is planned. The AGM will be on 9th April at the village hall at 7pm when subscriptions will be due.

Sylvia Rogers 01761 233142

Stop Line Green

With great thanks for the help provided by a booklet with the same title written by Major M Green as published by Reardon Publishing in 1999

It became blatantly obvious right from the start of World War II that battle tanks were a very formidable weapon indeed. Their effect in some of the major battles of World War I had proven their worth and it had already become obvious that very few weapons could stop them. Amongst the foremost of these were opposition tanks and anti-tank weapons, neither of which Britain had in great abundance for defence - they were badly needed in Europe. The only other option was to try to stop the advance of the tanks, but this was also extremely difficult... at best they could perhaps be slowed down.

Military planners looked in many areas to try to find effective barriers to do this and it was considered that existing obstacles such as rivers, canals and steep railway embankments could perhaps be augmented with effective constructions that could perhaps slow the enemy.

Thus, several major lines of such defence were planned and constructed across England. Some were given colour coded names. One such defence was over 100 miles long and was designed to try to provide one last defence for the port of Bristol to at least delay the murderous advance of the Nazis, >>



Tank trap bollards, Coal Pit Lane



Tank trap bollards, Coal Pit Lane



Type 29 Pillbox, Fry's Well Bridge



Type 26 Pillbox, Coal Pit Lane



Type 29 Pillbox, Coal Pit Lane



Possible fortifications to block underpass

>> while still allowing supplies to get into the country and evacuations to continue.

Thankfully, this defence was never put to the test however it was built with such skill, strength and ingenuity that we can still see parts of it right here in and around Chilcompton.

The most well known and visible examples are:

- A Type 29 Pillbox at Fry's Well Bridge
- Two Type 29 Pillboxes at the top of Tunnel Lane
- Two Type 29's at Midsomer Norton Station. One of these has been made into a small but very interesting WWII museum
- Many large concrete tank trap bollards just off Coal Pit Lane. It's reported that there is also an unfilled tank trap trench about there, but we do not know where exactly
- Iron and steel fortifications in a short bridge underpass may have been used to help seal the entrance
- A well preserved Type 26 Pillbox off Coal Pit Lane

Possibly some tank trap bollards around the area of Fry's Well Bridge area, as yet not located by me.

No doubt the steep embankment of the remains of the local railway line would have been viewed as an additional defensive asset.

It's questioned just how effective Pillboxes were for defensive measures. They could be obvious from the air and were in themselves tempting targets for tanks. The field of vision from inside was extremely narrow, as can still be seen today. An infantry training manual from 1941 sums it up rather succinctly "Temporary cover from view, shell fire and aerial bombing may be sought inside the Pillbox but beware that the enemy is not creeping towards you under fire whilst you are hiding inside'.

These seems to be the most well known examples of part of Stop Line Green, however there may be more. There are bound to be more in surrounding villages and perhaps local museums could reveal more clues.

Do any local residents know of any other remaining WWII defences in the area? It could be interesting to try to clear some of them and properly document and photograph them for posterity, if this has not already been done.

Pete Sinclair

History Corner



Mr John Bailey, a former police officer and his wife Sarah lived in Church Walk and celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1925. They had 9 children, the youngest of which was Clifford, who went on to employ many Chilcompton people during his working life.

Clifford Bailey and John Golledge formed a partnership by 'Gentleman's Agreement' in 1926 setting up a manufacturing and building business known as J T Golledge & Sons, remembered locally as the Concrete Works. They made

faced blocks, lintels, cills and breeze blocks, the latter made from clinker from New Rock Colliery.

Clifford was a carpenter by trade but had various skills and ideas. He and Bert Webber made all the moulds for cills, lintels etc. and local lad Roy Dark was employed in 1943 as an apprentice carpenter aged 14. Around 18 people were employed in the early days and this increased as the years went by. Crete House, built next to the works and now demolished was the first house to be built using the blocks from the company, hence the name.



Clifford Bailey

John Golledge was a Plymouth Brethren and spent a lot of time visiting people and preaching the Gospel. He was well-known, wore a black trilby hat and drove around in a battered old car often tied up with rope!

Clifford was an inventor. He developed Impervit Waterproofing, which was used in the concrete blocks. He also designed the first milking parlour to use quick-release chains when automatic milking machines were first introduced. The parlour had concrete partitions to separate the cows. The prototype was built next door at Harry Hobbs' Broadway Farm. This was used to demonstrate the product to prospective buyers. Concrete cattle drinking troughs with an automatic ball-cock feed was another creation; one or two can still be seen at Stowey and Chewton Mendip. These inventions were patented in 1945. Concrete under-kerbs, surrounds and vases for gravestones were manufactured by the company too.

Many will remember the Terrazzo Tiles developed by Clifford and made from marble chippings in various colours with a concrete backing; quite thick and heavy and used in houses in porches and kitchens. With all this innovation the number of employees rose dramatically. Arthur Matthews (father of the late Brian) was a foreman at the company and lived in one of the semi-detached houses by Broadway Garage.

Then tragedy struck when John Golledge suffered a fatal heart attack in his early 50s. He had three daughters and it was his son-in-law, who took over the company. Being a gentleman's agreement partnership, Clifford was left with no directorship, company or job.

Ever resourceful, Clifford opened up a quarry he had at Combe Down and in 1953 Bath Cast Stone Company was founded making faced blocks. He designed the Farnborough Inn and Bath Crematorium among many other buildings. Sixty men were employed at the quarry, many of whom came from Chilcompton, with Bert Webber transporting them to Bath in a lorry with a specially constructed canopy to keep out the elements.

J T Golledge builders closed in about 1955 and was sold to the Hazzel family from Bristol; it was taken over by Terrazzo Tiles in 1966. In 1970 it was sold to a concrete company from Northampton but eventually closed down a few years later when Massey Wilcox from Gurney Slade bought the site as a Transport depot.

N.B. *I still have some Terrazzo Tiles in my garden forming raised beds!* Marlene Pickford.

With grateful thanks to Christine Button for her help.



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Chilcompton Lives

Daphne Trippick



Daphne was born in 1922 in Woodchurch, Kent. The family, including brother Ken, lived in the shadow of 2 windmills – both previously used to grind corn and one of which is now a museum. Ken was with the RAF and trained as a pilot. Later he went to Canada to train other pilots. He married and now lives in Canada.



As a child, Daphne remembers being put on a train by her Mum to visit her Grandmother in Godalming. Grandma would always be waiting at the station and they would walk to her home – about 3 miles. Daphne would visit a lady who lived across the fields where she would be given a drink and cakes and a large bar of chocolate when she left; a real treat.

As a little girl Daphne was ‘very prim and proper’ dressed in clothes made by her mother. She attended the local primary school and then the Ashford County School for girls, cycling the eight miles each way. She joined the Ashford Choral Society with her friend Margaret – they are still friends today.

Daphne was still at school when the 2nd World War started, and the school day was shared with evacuees. On occasions they would have to go into the air raid shelters.

On the first day of the school holidays Daphne remembers being in bed and hearing a Doodle Bug overhead. The engine stopped and there was an explosion. Glass shattered and the windows were blown in over her bed. Daphne escaped injury but had to empty the glass from her shoes. Going down the stairs the plaster had come off the walls – they spent the day clearing up. No one in the village was hurt but one or two houses were destroyed.



John and Daphne before their marriage

Daphne met her future husband John at a tennis match. John was in the Royal Artillery stationed in the village in preparation for the expected German invasion. Sometimes Daphne and John played tennis during the Battle of Britain whilst overhead the British Spitfires were trying to shoot down the German bombers. Occasionally, when the bullets were flying, they would have to dive for cover in the dugouts next to the tennis courts.

In 1941 Daphne started teacher training in Doncaster; because of the war and black out conditions there was little social life.

Coincidentally John’s Battalion was moved to Barnsley which meant that they were close to each other and able to meet occasionally. They were engaged during >>

>>Christmas 1941 and their song became Vera Lynn's 'Yours', a popular song at the time.

Daphne left college in July 1942 and her first teaching post was at St Michael's Primary School close to Woodchurch. She worked there for four years, cycling to and from school as there was no bus service. Some of the lessons took place in the air raid shelters.

Daphne and John were married in 1946 shortly after he was demobbed, and he returned to his pre-war job at Clare's Printers in Wells. Daphne resigned from her teaching job and moved to Somerset. They lived next door to John's parents in Croscombe. The toilet was at the top of the garden and their drinking water came from a tap in the lane.

Daphne took up a teacher post in Croscombe Primary School for two years before her children, David, Glyn and Richard, were born.

John joined the Croscombe and Dinder Cricket Club and Daphne would push David in the pram to home matches.

From 1942 to 1960 Daphne suffered from poor health and after a number of operations spent nine weeks in Forbes Fraser Hospital at the RUH where her treatment was successful.

John was now working in Bristol so it made sense to live closer, so they moved to Temple Cloud where they bought their first house.

In the late sixties Daphne's parents came to live in Midsomer Norton where they celebrated their Diamond Anniversary. After her mother passed away, Daphne's father lived with her family.

The couple moved to Chilcompton in 1970 and Daphne was part of the village W.I. as secretary, president and press correspondent. She didn't expect to get back into teaching but when her youngest son came home and said his teacher has been bitten by a dog, she went to help at Temple Cloud School. Shortly afterwards the head at Clutton School asked if Daphne could help him out. Daphne did and remained at the school for 18 years until 1980 when she took early retirement.

Daphne joined Chilcompton Ladies Choir and was also secretary of the Methodist Church Women's Fellowship for a few years as well as being involved with the Paulton League of Friends. She was also on the Village Hall Committee.

Daphne and John celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 2006 and the family celebrated with a meal at The Court Hotel.

Sadly, John had a stroke in 1990, became deaf and partially sighted. John passed away in 2008 after suffering from heart failure.

Daphne's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are the joy of her life. She has 9 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

If you have enjoyed reading this article and would like to share your memories, please contact Mike Newman on 01761 233838 or the editor.



*John and Daphne on their
Wedding Day*

To Dig or Not to Dig?

At the beginning of December last year, Chilcompton was very lucky to have a visit from eminent gardener, Charles Dowding. He came to spend the day at our school with the children and then stayed on in the late afternoon to talk to a group of interested adults. As many of you will know, Charles is most well known as an advocate of 'no dig gardening' and I went along to find out a bit more and to see if I could be persuaded to hang up my garden fork.

The principles behind no dig gardening are that digging destroys the structure of soil and also disturbs the micro habitats of beneficial soil organisms, particularly fungi. By putting organic mulch on the top of the soil, worms and other soil organisms are left alone to create a structure that is ideal for plant growth and at the same time weeds are smothered.

Want to give it a try? The first step is to mulch the area to clean the soil of weeds by smothering them and depriving them of light. What you do depends a bit on how many and what type of weeds you have, and how much mulch you can source, but there is no need to worry about it getting too technical. If you have woody weeds like brambles and other tough perennial weeds such as docks it is a good idea to dig out the main roots of these before mulching, but don't bother too much about small roots. Otherwise there is no preparation to be done other than

applying a good thick layer of organic mulch such as home made compost (see Chilcompton Matters Autumn 2016 for tips on making compost), good well rotted manure or green waste compost from the recycling centre. Then, as long as you have a good thick layer (15cm is ideal), the area can be planted straight away, even if the mulch has been laid on grass, compacted soil or dense weeds.

If woody and perennial weeds are a significant problem and you can't source (or afford) enough compost for a 15cm layer, the area can be mulched with any organic material (less well composted manure for example), topped with plastic or cardboard and then left until the weed roots are exhausted from trying to grow without light. After about 6 months the >>

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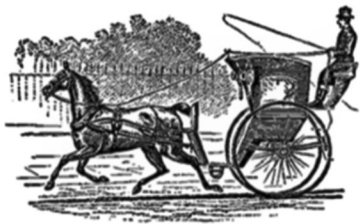
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>> plastic can be removed or the cardboard will have rotted and the area should be ready to plant.

In subsequent years, all that is required is a new layer of compost at least 3cm deep applied once per year. No digging!

As someone who actively enjoys digging and is lucky enough to have good, loamy, easy to dig soil, I needed to be persuaded of the advantages of the no dig method of gardening. So apart from saving us from bad backs, what are the advantages?

No dig actually decreases the need for weeding! It seems counter intuitive, but in fact weeds thrive in disturbed soils and digging brings buried weed seeds to the surface where they can germinate and spread. Once existing weeds have been smothered by the initial layer of compost, the only weeds you should get will be those brought in by the wind and perhaps some persistent bindweed which will need gently pulling up every time it raises its head above the soil surface. As long as newly germinated weeds are pulled out or hoed off whilst they are very small a no dig bed should remain weed free.

- The compost feeds the soil which in turn feeds the plants, meaning that there is no need for chemical fertilizers.
- A soil rich in organic matter retains water much better than one without organic matter, reducing the need for watering.
- A no dig soil creates the ideal environment for plant roots. Even on heavy clay there is no need to break up the soil as the worms and other soil organisms do this for you.

For me, I think the most persuasive argument was seeing the results of the trials which Charles has run over the years. Time after time, comparisons of dig and no dig beds showed that the no dig beds produced better yields of vegetables than the beds which had been dug.

Soil is a precious, finite resource, without which we, the human race, cannot survive. No dig gardening nurtures the soil on which we all depend. One of my vegetable beds already has a thick layer of compost on it ready for planting later in the spring, the others will be following shortly.

I'll let you know how I get on.

Sue Rankine



Council Matters

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

This will be the final magazine of the current administration with Parish Council elections in May of this year. I would urge anyone of you who is interested in the wellbeing and governance of our village to consider standing in those elections. This is a great opportunity for you to be able to influence what goes on in Chilcompton.

The spring clean-up day will take place on 23rd March, in recent years the number of people has grown for each event, we hope that this will continue; if you would like to take part please contact Christine Foster, who co-ordinates the event. As Christine will be standing down from the PC in May and also from this role, so we are looking for a new co-ordinator. Christine has done a magnificent job is increasing our numbers and organising a highly efficient clean up, we are therefore keen to maintain this state of affairs. If you would like to carry out this task please contact the parish clerk. At this point all I need to say is thank you Christine for the excellent job you have done.

The Remembrance Day service in November was the third in the new format and also commemorated the 100 anniversary of the end of the Great War. This year saw our largest numbers in attendance and saw even more village groups laying wreaths. We were asked why our ceremony takes place at 15.00 rather than 11.00 as with most of the country. The reason is quite prosaic; the clergy who carry out our ceremony also perform the same tasks for other local communities on the morning of the 11th November and obviously can't be in two places at the same time.

This year the Parish Council has asked Mendip District Council for an increase in the precept that each of you pay as Council Tax payers. This is the first time we have done this during my tenure as Chair, it is not something that we did lightly. Obviously if we are to ask Mendip to precept you more I believe that we should explain the decision. You will doubtless have seen in the last year the considerable financial difficulties experienced by Somerset County Council. This against a continuing backdrop of austerity in terms of funding to both that body and Mendip District Council. These two bodies provide numerous services throughout the village, many of which we take for granted from grass cutting on verges to gutting the roads in the winter. Given the financial pressure these bodies will experience going forward it is not difficult to see the reduction of those services in the future and some of them being devolved to the Parish Council. However, we do not wish simply to maintain the services we have but also to do more around the village to improve our village.

>>

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Of all the areas that we deal with at Parish Council the one that seems to generate most interest is planning, certainly it leads to the largest numbers of attendees by members of the public at meetings. For those of you who don't know, the Parish Council will be asked for their views on all proposed developments in the village. As well as the views of councillors, anyone can come along and speak both for, and against, any plan. I know that all of my colleagues take this area of the role very seriously, often visiting the site of any proposed development as well as looking at the plans in advance on the MDC website. This will result in a full and I believe informed debate at meetings. While we are certainly not "NIMBYS" and obviously cannot make a decision which will please everyone, we believe that we arrive at a decision that reflects the view of the majority of villagers, not least as we are all villagers ourselves. We are, however, only consultees and the final decision rest with Mendip as the planning authority. We are, therefore, always keen that where a plan is contentious and has attracted significant interest from parishioners we always consult our local MDC Ward councillor. We recently considered a plan, with considerable public participation, which after due consideration we recommended rejection. Given public interest we asked our ward councillor to recommend that it goes to board, which he duly did. We were then somewhat surprised to hear that the plan had been passed, outside of board, on the recommendation of the planning officer to the chair and deputy chair of the MDC Planning Board on the basis that there were no material planning reasons for its rejection. While this is correct under regulations it does seem to be a snub to local residents who want to have their say and makes our deliberations seem somewhat pointless. As I said, everything is in line with regulations but it does feel that we as locals are somewhat impotent in the process and, perhaps, seems undemocratic?

Since the last edition two members of the Parish Council, Linda Travis and Tom Duggan, have stepped down from the council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their service to the village.

Jonathan Pike, Chairman of the Parish Council.



Elections

Parish Council and District Council elections take place on May 2nd. If you wish to stand you will have to get a nomination form. These can be obtained from the clerk (232974), Madene Pickford (232774) or Mendip District Council.

Forms have to be delivered to Mendip District Council personally between March 18th and April 3rd. You will need electoral roll numbers and these can be inserted when you hand in the documentation.

Beware of computer support scams

Do you own a computer or any other type of digital device? If so, watch out for fraudsters who will try to steal your money or personal or financial information through computer support scams.

Common scams include:

- A cold caller claiming to be from a big company like Microsoft, saying there is a problem with your device and they need to access it to fix it.
- Unsolicited emails with attached security updates that are in fact viruses.
- Being asked for credit card details to validate your software.
- Genuine computer companies won't call or email you out of the blue asking for personal or financial information or to fix your computer.

Follow this advice to stay safe:

- Delete suspicious emails without opening any attachments or replying to them.
- Hang up immediately on cold callers who claim there is a problem with your computer or ask you for personal or financial information.

If you are worried there may be a problem with your computer, you could:

- Contact a genuine company using the phone number on their paperwork or website.
- Ask for help at the shop where you bought it.
- Take it to a computer repair business that is member of the Buy With Confidence scheme. All Buy With Confidence businesses are vetted, approved and monitored by Trading Standards. Search at buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call 01392 383430.

If you are worried you have been scammed:

- Get advice from Citizens Advice on 03454 040506
- Report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

This article has been written by Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service <https://www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/>

Volunteer - *One Step Forward Please*

A volunteer is urgently needed to help with coffee mornings at the Village Hall. Fridays, one hour, once a month at 10am. Please contact me if you can help.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 email: marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Wessex Beer Festival

There will be no festival this year with a review in 2020. The Wessex Beer Festival has been running now for thirteen years but sadly there will be no more for the foreseeable future. The festival has a long history. Originally, the venue was the Bath and West Showground and then it moved from there to the Old Down then onto the Court Hotel and finally Chilcompton Sports Club. The event was run by the Somer Valley Rotary Club and every single penny that was made at the event over the years went to dozens of charities and good causes, big and small. Some of that money paid for two defibrillators in the village one at the Village hall and one at Chilcompton Sports Club. It takes a lot of time and effort to put on such an event and all those people were unpaid volunteers who gave so much time and effort but again the numbers helping have also dwindled over the years. The final decision was made after last year's event when less than 50% of numbers expected, based upon previous years, actually turned up to support the weekend resulting in the event covering its overheads and not much more. Personally for me it was more than a money raiser it was much more than that. We had people from all over the world, from places like Canada and all around the country. Famously, we had twenty Norwegians from Muraern beer drinking club turn up a few years back. There were also dozens of stag parties from outside our area who came over the years. One year we were approached by the BBC One Show who after months of talks and negotiations were due to film over the weekend of one event at the Court Hotel only to cancel with two weeks to go because the host they were using, Neil Morrissey, was unable to attend. It was also an opportunity for local talent to perform in a large venue and we certainly had a diversity of that over the years with some fabulous talent and some good party nights. All such events need support locally to survive and it is a sad loss that this event will not take place this coming September.

Alan Bowhay

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"He did wonders for my son" – Ann-Marie Davis.

The Memory Café

The Memory Café has kick started the year with a clever quiz attended by thirteen guests and partners. Two rounds of tea and cake, plus fruit completed a very enjoyable afternoon. The new programme continues in February with Biscuit Decorating kindly led by one of the group members. Further confirmed dates will include: Archery Bows, Bingo 90, a visit from Radstock Museum and a Games session.

At a recent meeting some of the team of volunteers got together to discuss progress and future arrangements in the light of steadily increased attendance over the past year.

As a result, we would be very pleased to welcome anyone who might be interested in occasional or regular help at the monthly session - and/or offering transport for one or two guests who would otherwise be unable to attend. Sarah Crosse

~ LETTERS ~

Dear Editor,

I called in to the Redan for coffee on my way home having visited my (foster) parents' resting place in Stockhill. I was delighted to find a copy of your 'newsy' "Chilcompton Matters" there, which the staff invited me to keep. What a great publication of which you must be very proud.

During my circumnavigation of where I grew up, I introduced my friend to where my old home had been at the junction of Clapton Lane and Greenditch Lane which was called Greenditch Cottages and owned by Bill and Ethel Wheeler. These angels -my angels, fostered children from Dr Barnardo's homes and I was one. They met me at Chilcompton station June 1936 aged just 2 and a bit! and we enjoyed 40 plus years of mutual affection until their passing.

When Beeching closed that line he damaged- in my opinion- the very heart of our village. Local industries lost a vital means of distribution. Sheppards sawmills, New Rock, the concrete block makers and George Gollege's watercress production to name a few.

Re Chilcompton Station it was a sad discovery that 80% chose, point blank, to object to the idea of any form of resurrection. I wonder what percentage of those objectors are indigenous "Comptonites". I suspect that most are NIMBYs having immigrated from elsewhere. I wonder how many local folk objected to the expansion of Sheppards Sawmills all those years ago-the area where the majority of objectors probably live.

I've just got down from my soapbox now and off to bed! I spoke to David Read today and he's sending me a copy of his little book (Growing Up In Chilcompton, reviewed in the last issue).

Kind regards and thank you for the insight into "Chilcompton Matters" it really is superb, Alec Sheppard- no relation to the other Sheppards of Chilcompton



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Fracking – Could it come to the Mendips?

In March 2018, the government announced proposals to fast-track fracking by allowing applications for exploratory drilling to skip through the normal stages of the planning system. These proposals would make it easier to gain permission for exploratory drilling and curtail the power of local authorities to oppose applications through the planning system.

The government proposals distort the intentions of the planning system, eroding local scrutiny and decision-making.

What is Fracking?

Fracking (or hydraulic fracturing) refers to the method used to extract gas or oil from shale rock by injecting large volumes of water containing a number of additives. This includes sand and lubricating fluids into the rock under high pressure. Shale gas or oil is trapped within impermeable shale rock, as opposed to conventional natural gas deposits such as those under the North Sea, which are trapped below impermeable rock. Therefore simply drilling down to it is not enough. The rock has to be fractured at high pressure to get the gas or oil out.

The fracking process has a huge impact on the localities where it has been allowed. It has been associated with a number of health and environmental risks due >>

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>> to the inherent dangers with injecting a large amount of chemicals underground and the subsequent fracturing of rocks. Earthquakes, particularly in former mining areas are one such risk - an earthquake resulting from operations in Lancashire led to a temporary moratorium on fracking in 2011, as well as having to be halted on almost a daily basis ever since extraction began in earnest in October 2018. Fracking fluids have also been seen to leak into local aquifers and the process can contribute to water shortages due to the substantial usage of water.

Recent research has revealed that to replace even 50% of our gas imports, one new well would have to be drilled every day for the next 15 years – that's 6100 wells in total (almost 5,000 football pitches in area). Worse still, vast swathes of our countryside are under threat from activities very similar to fracking but which do not fall under its statutory definition.

Do we need Fracking?

The shale gas produced by fracking is composed almost entirely of methane, and is thus identical to North Sea gas or that imported from Eastern Europe. On the face of it then, despite the drawbacks in the extraction process, surely this could be a valuable resource for domestic and industrial use in the UK?

Unfortunately the whole planet is in the grip of changing climatic conditions, which have seen the average global temperature rise. Since records began in 1881, the 18 warmest years have all occurred since 1998, so all the evidence points to the planet getting increasingly warmer. This has already had a marked effect on weather conditions: we have all seen the pictures of hurricanes and typhoons around the world but we have had extreme weather in the UK too. Farming and rural communities are already suffering the effects of wetter winters, more storms, high winds and shifting seasons, and of course no one in Chilcompton will ever forget the Great Flood of June 2016!

All the scientific evidence, and all the International Treaties on climate change, conclude that global warming can only be halted by the whole planet moving towards a much more limited use of fuels which produce carbon dioxide. Fossil fuels, like shale gas, are of course guilty in this regard, and would be undesirable in a future low-carbon economy irrespective of the means of their extraction.

Instead we should be attempting both to reduce our energy requirements and make much more use of renewable resources such as wind, solar, and tidal power generation.

To put people's minds at rest, there are no current plans to explore the possibility of fracking anywhere in the Mendip area. This piece merely tries to point out the dangers of current government thinking on fracking, and the monumental dangers in pursuing non-renewable, carbon-based fuel resources in the context of climate change and global warming. Richard Morgan

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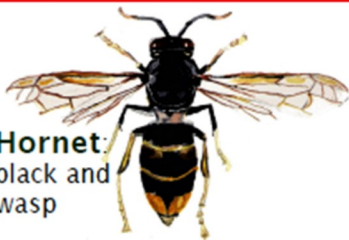
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Look Out for Asian Hornet!

Asian Hornet:
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Median Wasp:
like our other social wasps, is smaller with black and yellow stripes



Native Hornet:
similar in size, but mainly dark red and yellow



Honey Bee,
for comparison



What is Asian Hornet?

- Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*) is a large dark wasp.
- They are often seen on flowers in late summer and early autumn.
- They are effective predators and pose a threat to native pollinators.
- Since Asian Hornets invaded France in 2004, they have colonised most of the country and spread to neighbouring countries.
- There is a high risk they will arrive in the UK. The UK authorities have already stopped several invasions.
- Our best chance of halting Asian hornet is to promptly find them and destroy the nests before queens are produced in the autumn.

What do I do if I find Asian Hornets?

- Good quality photos are essential to confirm sightings, which can be reported with location details as below.

Report sightings send photos to:



alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk



Asian Hornet Watch app
for [apple](#) or [android](#)

Further Information:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/index.cfm?id=4>

May 2018

Speeding Is Not Just A Local Phenomenon

- Neither Is Speedwatch

Most people in the village have seen Chilcompton Speedwatch Volunteers standing at the side of a road kitted out in luminous yellow jackets and wondered what Speedwatch does and what happens to the information that is collated.

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities, as volunteers, with the support of the police, monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices. Speeding continues to be a concern for many communities in both rural and urban environments. Therefore, Community Speedwatch is not restricted to villages and rural towns.

The aim of Speedwatch is to educate drivers to reduce their speeds. Seeing volunteers at the roadside checking speed can be all that is needed to prompt drivers to adhere to the limits - be it 20, 30 or 40mph. Vehicles recorded exceeding the speed limits are referred to the police. The information gathered here in the village is fed into police computers to forces nationwide, none of the roadside information is held locally by Speedwatch teams. In cases where education is boldly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences are collated, enforcement and prosecution follow.

Volunteers receive appropriate training, luminous jackets and all the information and equipment to prepare them to carry out a positive roadside session at a police approved and safety checked site. We are supported by members of the neighbourhood policing team who, when not tied up with other duties, pop along to our sessions. The scheme aims to cater for the problem of real or perceived speed related offending. Through partnership with the community, Speedwatch is used in circumstances that are necessary, justifiable and proportionate in order to:

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

The ideal Speedwatch session is one where no speeders are recorded. All this said, Chilcompton village is one of the top villages in Mendip in seeing a dramatic drop in high speed offenders. Regular Speedwatch sessions held within the village, using one of eleven approved sights in rotation, has made a noticeable difference. Drivers are aware Speedwatch is here but know not where! During 2018 the village Speedwatch team carried out 64 sessions checking 16,017 vehicles, out of these 1.5% exceeded the limit, which is well below the average of 3.6% in Mendip.

Speedwatch activity is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

New volunteers willing to commit to at least an hour a month are most welcome, or more information email: cswchilcompton@hotmail.com

Judith Stanford



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~ LETTERS ~

(A response to the public meeting on Chilcompton Station, held in September, from Kevin Carver, Chilcompton resident and member of the S&D Mendip Railway Trust)

There were supposed to be two of us at the meeting but, due to circumstances beyond their control, they could not make it. My colleague knew about the discussions with Taylor Wimpy and the site. I was there because I have over 30 years working in the heritage/preservation side and I was there to counter the arguments put out in the notice that someone produced.

With regards to what I know about the area, well I know quite a lot about the village of Chilcompton as 56 years ago I was born here. I went to school at the bottom of the village and the one at Stockhill and also attended Sunday school at the old Methodist chapel by the war memorial.

You say we don't listen to your views but as I said at the beginning of the meeting, we only want to build the station building. You also say I couldn't answer your questions; there was a question about the footpath from the Fry's Wells bridge to the tunnels, how the building would be covered for security when built, how the group would become a society? The rest of the questions were about running trains.

If the Parish Council didn't put out the notice, who did? And where was it distributed as we didn't get a copy along Wells Rd. In fact, I wonder how many of the villagers knew there was a meeting that night as the only notice I saw was in the local journal. My problem with the Parish Council is there perceived bias against us, as the meeting was not announced to the vast majority of the village and during the meeting, I had to correct the chairman on a couple of points. He kept mentioning running a railway and the worst, playing trains.

I hope the gentleman got back in time for his tea and if he can tell us who our wealthy backers are, I can pass on their details to other groups who could use the money. The money to rebuild the station building would come from the membership of the society and from fundraising throughout the country. You don't get paid for volunteering to work on a project like this, you pay for the privilege.

Can I ask a couple of questions?

Is the open space that you want to protect open for all villagers and where's the play equipment that Taylor Wimpy were supposed to have installed?

Finally, I would like to point out that the villagers of Chilcompton did not stop the building of the new houses on the station site because they didn't want to put up with the disruption and parking problems the new buildings would bring. In fact, the residents of Wells Rd put up with more noise and disruption twice a day, five days a week, due to the relocation of the two schools into one to take in the new pupils that the new houses brought into the village.

Since this meeting the Parish Council has rejected our offer of a notice board on the site of the station explaining what was there. The Facebook group is still up and running and has grown to over 700 members and we have also changed the name of the group to S&D Mendip Railway Trust.

Kevin Carver

Chilcompton Art Club

2018 was the 25th anniversary year for the Chilcompton Art Club, and the club held various events throughout the year in order to mark the event.

On Saturday 1st September the club held an open day for all the village to come along and view the workings of the club, with members on hand to answer any questions and explain the workings of the club. This was followed in October by a two day



exhibition of over a hundred and twenty paintings, held in the village hall over the weekend of 20th - 21st.

During 2018 we held several workshops and demonstrations, some by our own members and a couple done by professional artists who



came along for the day, a notable one was done by Mr Graham Cox of Trowbridge, who held a very enjoyable workshop using pastels.

The art club meets in the St. John's Church Hall every Wednesday and Friday morning between 10:00am and noon, if you have an inclination to paint or draw, then you can simply drop in for a chat on one of those days, tea/coffee and biscuits provided. We do not have any restrictions on membership, so you do not need to worry if you have reservations about your ability.



Our members are a welcoming bunch and can be on hand if you wish for some guidance. Membership is open both singly and jointly if you want to attend with your partner, note also that the club is accessible by wheelchair.

More information can be found on our website: www.chilcomptonartclub.uk or our Facebook page or contact: Amanda Mayes (Chairperson) 01761 232475 or Nigel Punchard (Secretary) 01761 413579

William Weller

Having lived with his family in Chilcompton for many years, William Weller is a local resident already known to many readers of Chilcompton Matters. In our next edition, we shall be asking Will not only why he thinks Chilcompton is such a great place to live, but also how he is getting on as Managing Partner of local law practice Thatcher + Hallam, which is currently celebrating significant anniversaries.





Upholstery Courses

If you were thinking of revitalising a chair or another piece of furniture, you might be pleased to learn of the arrival of an upholstery school in the ever growing body of arts and crafts organisations in the village.

Partly due to the TV programme 'Money for Nothing', "upcycling" is the new buzz word; give as many nods and winks to the Dadaists as you like, but it still sounds like recycling to me. And reupholstering is reupholstering.

The pragmatic Tony Carn, who runs the South West Upholstery School down at Manor Farm, would surely agree.

An upholsterer by trade, or craft, during the day, he runs evening classes on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and weekend courses once a month.

He said: "I wanted to give something back, that was the inspiration. I've been doing this since I was 13, it was my Saturday morning job and from that I went straight into work, basically, and I've been doing it for 30 odd years."

Tony said that he still finds the work satisfying and inspiring. "Every day is different. Now that I'm doing the school as well that's a lovely addition. I especially enjoy the weekend courses, you see a piece of furniture arrive and all of a sudden by Sunday night it's completed. The students are so happy about what they've achieved. So they do go away feeling they have accomplished something special."

There are two types of upholstery: modern and traditional. Modern is foam and fabric whilst traditional is all about springs, coconut fibre and hessian. The latter takes a lot longer but both methods are taught at the school.

The students are predominantly women although there have been a few men, who have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. But what do you need to do upholstery? "You just need to have a bit of an artistic flair and be useful with your hands. If you've got that you're half way there, it's all to do with the feel of the different types of fabric, the feel of the foam.

"Start off small, and you'll be finishing things and you'll want to do more. By the time you get to that big chair you will have progressed to be able to reupholster it. Send me a picture of what you want to do then I can see it and say whether you'll get it done in an eight week or weekend course.

"I'm always learning, I've been learning for 30 odd years. I can't say I know the trade inside out because I'll get a job tomorrow and I'll be thinking how do I do that? I'm learning from the students, just learning how to teach them. At first I found it difficult to explain it, in layman's terms, but I've got round that now, I've learnt how to teach."

What's more he's pretty pleased with the premises down on the farm. "I love Chilcompton, this is the ideal location for us. You've got the Holy Cow just round the corner, on the weekend courses they do lunches for us there. And everyone round here is so friendly and welcoming."

Go upcycle, recycle, restore, repair, recover or even reupholster.

Malcolm Rigby

For more information on the courses contact Tony on 07895 759657

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* **Subject to Status**

Chilcompton Gardening Club

The club continues to be successful with just short of 100 members who come from the Radstock/Midsomer Norton area as well as locally in Chilcompton. During the latter part of the year we had a talk on "The Winter Garden" which demonstrated the various plants that could be used for structure and colour during the winter months. We also had a talk on "Success with Houseplants", which was very informative in what plants to grow and where to keep them. The first meeting in January was the AGM with a good attendance. Members were treated to cheese and wine and various other nibbles, ably supplied by Rosemary Blatchford. This started after the business part of the meeting and was a good social event for all. Upcoming, we have a variety of talks including Roses, Orchids, Ammerdown Gardens, plants grown for fragrance and many more. The meetings are in the village hall commencing at 7.30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month; new members are welcome for just £5.50 for a year's subscription. If you do not wish to be a member then a single visit will only cost you £2 and you can then come as a guest.



The picture of the rose was taken on January 16th by a member in his garden and the A.G.M is also illustrated.

Terry Grist

Editor: At the age of 82 Terry is stepping down from chairman for health reasons. He was on the committee for two years before taking the position of treasurer for ten years and has since been the chairman for six years.

John Beacham, who is taking over as vice chair, said that Terry will be greatly missed by the committee and members.



40th Year of The Flower Show

The Chilcompton Society's Flower Show on Saturday 7th September will be 40 years old this year. Started in 1980 by the newly formed Society, it has been a success story over the years and some of the early organisers still help to run it.

In the past, every village had a flower show, Chilcompton was no exception and put on a show jointly with Stratton. We are not sure when or why it stopped; perhaps someone can let us know if they remember it.

Residents from both villages can enter the present show; also people outside the village who belong to a Chilcompton club. Help make the 40th show great.

Schedules from David Rogers 01761 233142

Marlene Pickford

Embroidery Experiences

Members of the Chilcompton Embroidery Classes took part in a special day at Wells Cathedral on Saturday 26th January.

The event called “Wake Up Wells” had more than a hundred stalls and many performances, the aim was to capture the momentum of deepening communication within the community.

Patricia Ardron, who runs the embroidery classes, ran a stall advertising the Wells Millennium Tapestry, which is now on the ground floor of Wells Town Hall, plus also a display of photographs of the Eye-Spy Tapestry which is permanently on show at the West Mendip Hospital and the Alphabet Embroidered Pictures which were given to the Children’s Hospice in Wraxall.

She said: “A very successful day was had with lots of interest and many different stalls showing what is going on in and around Wells with many Art Performances. Also with the Cathedral being cleared of all the chairs it showed what a very vibrant community day it was.”



Chilcompton Matters - Advertising - *Can Now Be In Colour*

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. Costs are per issue.

Full page - ‘portrait’ - in B&W / Greyscale £60 or including Colour £120.

Half page - ‘landscape’ - in B&W / Greyscale £30 or including Colour £60.

Quarter page - ‘portrait’ - in B&W / Greyscale £15 or including Colour £30.

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

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For security and training purposes, telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

St Vigor and St John Church School PTFA

Our small charity is run by a committee of volunteers dedicated to advancing the education of pupils at the school by fundraising for facilities and resources as well as developing relationships between the staff, parents, pupils and the wider community. As the school is now part of the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust it's also important to us that the PTFA continues to support the school wherever possible.

The PTFA has had a fantastic year raising an amazing £11.1k. Over the course of a busy year we have organised school discos, film nights for children, raffles, inflatable events, class stalls, easter egg hunts, a summer and Christmas fayre featuring local businesses, food, music and performance.

We are always keen to invite the wider community to be part of our events either by taking part, having a cuppa at an event, meeting local people, sharing knowledge or buying locally made items or performing at the Summer or Christmas fayre such as the *"Sing your heart out"* ladies choir who shared their beautiful voices for us all to enjoy at Christmas.

We hold a regular second hand school uniform stall, accessible all year round, Bags to school events, in house school photos provided and supported by one of our parents and helpers, a Just Giving page as well as management of individual Christmas card designs for each child at the school to purchase.

In the last year we have helped the school with various resources and support, such as: new chromebooks, gardening equipment for education and play, maths games, visualizers for the classroom, outdoor play and learning equipment, Christmas books, playground marking and swimming support.

We start this year with ambitious plans to raise funds for new musical equipment, phonic books and some storage for the PTFA event equipment. We really value the support that the community gives us, be it parents, carers, grandparents, local friends or local businesses. We are extremely grateful for all of the donations that we receive and would like to extend particular thanks to The Redan and the Waterside campsite crew for their generous donations and help this year.

We are always looking for help and support and ways to connect to the wider community, so please do get in touch with us by email: svsjptfa@gmail.com or via our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ptfasvsj/>

Carrie Creamer

Dates for the future:

Easter trail- Saturday 6th April, 10am-12pm

Inflatables Friday 14th June

Summer Fete 12th July, 5pm-7pm

Auction of promises- October 2019

Christmas fayre 29th November 2019, 5pm-7pm

St Vigor and St John's



Short Mat Bowls

Following a recent scarcity of players, the indoor bowls group has seen a sudden increase in numbers. There is room for more! Come and learn a new skill and get good exercise on Thursday afternoons. David Rogers. 01761 233142

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From Me to Yew....

*'The churchyard yew seethes in the breeze of spring,
sere guardian in a cemetery of time,
that has scant relevance to those we bring
to plots eternal.'*

***Taxus baccata* considerata.**

John Burman

A Radio 4 news item caught my attention recently; a review of a newly published book called 'The Immortal Yew'. It got me thinking about these marvellous sentinels of our arboricultural heritage.

A few key facts....

The Common Yew (botanical name: *Taxus baccata*) is one of only three species of native conifers in the UK (the others are Scots Pine and Juniper).

Yew trees are *dioecious* which means they have separate male and female plants - so the ones with berries are female

The flesh of the yew berry is edible but the seed is highly toxic

The needles and bark are also poisonous. Reportedly, 50g of yew needles is a lethal dose for adults

On a more positive note; the poisonous alkaloids, known as taxanes found in yew needles help to stop new cancer cells forming. Clippings from yew tree collected between the months of May and October when these chemicals are at their most concentrated, are converted into the chemotherapy drug *Taxotere* which has proven effective in combating lung and prostate cancer and advanced cases of breast cancer

Yew trees are extremely long lived; in fact the oldest living tree in the UK is easily a yew. One contender is a tree at Defynnog in Powys which is believed to be an incredible 5000 years old.

At the turn of the century The Church of England launched a project to have a yew tree planted in every parish in the country grown from yew trees believed to have been in existence at the time of the birth of Christ. The tree destined for Chilcompton was duly planted on the island outside the entrance to St. Vigor and St. John's School main building - can somebody confirm that it's still there and thriving??

At the other end of the scale, in the village, we have a magnificent specimen growing in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist's church. The earliest mention of this tree is in Collinson's History of Somerset in 1791. With a stem girth of almost 8m the tree is much older than that. It could be as much as 800 years and with the earliest church in Chilcompton recorded in 1188, not too hard to believe given the long association between yew trees and churchyards.

There's more information about this tree and lots of other fascinating yew tree facts on the Ancient Yew Group website www.ancient-yew.org. Go on, have a look - yew know yew want to!

Alister Rankine



What Is It Like To Be A Parish Clerk?

In 1974 a philosopher called Thomas Nagel wrote a famous (in certain circles) article entitled, 'What is it like to be a bat?' He kind of came to the conclusion that you would never really know because a bat is a bat and we are human.

Another philosopher called Ludwig Wittgenstein said that if a lion could talk, you wouldn't be able to understand him. Yet another philosopher, called Daniel Dennett, rebutted him by saying that if a lion could talk you would understand him but you would never really understand what it was like to be a normal lion because this was a lion that talked. This was a weird lion.

I am neither a bat nor a lion. Though I have written a book from the point of view a slug. So really, not a bat, lion, or slug. I am terribly human.

So, what is it like to be a clerk? Pretty dull most of the time, to be honest. (No flying around at night with super radar powers.) All admin, minutes and accounts, although you do get the occasional random phone call saying there is a peacock on the road or the wind is blowing too hard. I advise people to contact Mendip District Council or God.

Letters of complaint to residents about their vegetation can be excruciating. I mean it really is embarrassing to write to some young mother that the Parish Council insists she cut her bush. The previous clerk warned me that you don't do this job for the money.

But my nemesis are the noticeboards. Putting up minutes on a wet windy winter's day with juggernauts going by should really be classified as an extreme sport. There is a technique that involves holding the new minutes between your knees whilst you remove the old. It reminds me of a dance called the 'Wah-tussy'; it works but is quite undignified for a mature man in broad daylight on a main road.

As the clerk I am also the RFO, the Responsible Financial Officer, which is a pretty scary title for someone who doesn't consider himself 'responsible' in pretty much any way and certainly not with a capital 'R'. Once a year I have to make the books add up, this can take hours and hours as I normally find I am 26p out. The wife comes home and says what have you been doing all day? I say, looking for 26p, she reaches for her purse and says, I think I have 26p. It's not like that.

One of the perks of the job is that every month I get a magazine called 'Clerk News', I kid you not. My predecessor said she liked to take it to bed with her; consequently my wife has christened it 'my dirty mag'.

You will be pleased to know that as the unelected clerk I have no vote on the council, so I have no power. However my favourite philosopher, Michel Foucault, informs me through his books that knowledge is power. I get an abundance of rubbish emails. But you will be reassured that knowing the dates of the next Parish Forums or that Salford University are running a course on trans genders in the workplace has never inclined me to invade a small African province.

I think what Thomas Nagel, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Daniel Dennett were saying was that we are all living in an inevitable existentialist isolation. I can't speak for bats, lions, slugs or even sailors but as a parish clerk that can still shiver my timbers. Just as there is an element of batism that you cannot describe there is an element of parish clerkism you cannot describe. Trust me.

Anon. Ha.

Diary Dates

- 23rd Mar** SPRING LITTER PICK 10.00am outside Village Hall
- 3rd Apr** LAST DATE FOR FORMS TO BE HANDED IN TO MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL
- See 'Elections' article (Page 31)
- 6th Apr** EASTER TRAIL 10am-2pm at St Vigor and St John Church School
- 9th Apr** GOLDEN HOUR CLUB AGM 7.00pm at Village Hall
- 10th Apr** CARERS AND CARING BY BANES CARERS CENTRE 7.30pm at MSN
Methodist Church Hall
- 14th Apr** PALM SUNDAY ALL AGE SERVICE 10.30am at St John's Church
- 17th Apr** EGGCITING EASTER EVENT 2.00-4.00pm at St John's Church
- 18th Apr** MAUNDAY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION 7.30pm at St John's Church
- 19th Apr** GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK FROM ST VIGORS TO ST JOHN'S 10.00am
- HOUR AT THE CROSS 12.00 noon
- 21st Apr** EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE 5.30am at St John's Church
- 21st Apr** EASTER SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE 10.30am at St John's Church
- 2nd May** PARISH COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS
- See 'Elections' article (Page 31)
- 14th Jun** INFLATABLES at St Vigor and St John Church School
- 12th Jul** SUMMER FETE 5pm-7pm at St Vigor and St John Church School
- 13th Jul** REDAN CELEBRATES CHILCOMPTON at Redan
- 7th Sept** FLOWER SHOW 2.15pm at Village Hall
- TBA Oct** AUCTION OF PROMISES at St Vigor and St John Church School
- 29th Nov** CHRISTMAS FAYRE 5pm-7pm at St Vigor and St John Church School
- PLUS...**
- Mondays** KARATE DO 6.30pm-8pm Stratton-on-the-Fosse Village Hall
- Mondays** BELL RINGING 7pm at St John's Church
- 2nd Monday** MEMORY CAFE 2.00pm at St John's
- Tuesdays & Thursdays** EMBROIDERY GROUP 10.30am at St John's Church Hall
- 2nd Tuesday** GOLDEN HOUR CLUB 7.30pm at Village Hall
- 4th Tuesday** WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 2.30pm at St John's
- 4th Tuesday** GARDEN CLUB 7.30pm at Village Hall
- Wednesdays & Fridays** ART CLUB 10.30am at St John's Church Hall
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays** WEDNESDAY WALKERS 10.25am outside Village Hall
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays** CHILCOMPTON WIVES 7.30pm at Village Hall
- Thursdays** SHORT MAT BOWLS 2pm at Village Hall
- Thursdays** KARATE DO 6.30pm-8pm Village Hall
- 3rd Thursday** LUNCH CLUB 12.00pm at St John's
- Fridays** FRIDAY CLUB 10.15am at Village Hall
- Sundays** KARATE DO 10.30am-12.00 Withlington Sports Centre
- Sundays** POWERHOUSE YOUTH GROUP 6.00pm at St John's Hall
- 1st Sunday** CELTIC WORSHIP COMMUNION SERVICE 6.30pm at St John's
- 1st & 3rd Sundays** COMMUNION SERVICE at St John's
- 4th & 5th Sundays** MORNING PRAYER at St John's
- 2nd Sunday** ALL AGE SERVICE at St John's
- 4th Sunday** MESSY CHURCH 3.00pm at St John's

Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

Unfortunately we lost two of our committee members since the last letter due basically to age and illness. We struggle on but are now at the stage, where if no new volunteers come forward The Friends will have to close down, at a great loss to the Chilcompton Surgery, patients and to the village.

The Alzheimer's Society gave a very interesting talk in October and there was also one by The Chilcompton Memory Cafe. I did not realise how many types of Dementia there are. Our next public medical talk, with refreshments, will be on Carers and Caring by BANES Carers Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th April in the MSN Methodist Church Hall.

We have bought a new drugs fridge for Chilcompton and thanks to a very generous donation, a state of the art medical couch for the surgery. There will also be a new bench outside in the car park. The Christmas Draw was quite successful but there were fewer Saturdays for the flu' jabs this year. At last we have labelled some of the medical equipment in order that patients, and staff, know who purchased the ECG machines and blood pressure monitors etc.



To end on a sad but serious note. I am serious that we may have to close down after raising over £41,000 for our patients and we would donate our considerable funds to another Patients participation Group in our area. It takes less than eight hours a year to be an active member of the committee. So please volunteer and contact me on 01761 232188 anytime.

Alan Webb, Chairman.

Then & Now Bowden Hill



Chilcompton Sports Club - Netball

Netball is now back at the Sports Club. This has been organised in conjunction with Netball England who provide the coach and equipment. Information about 'back to netball' can be found at: www.somersetndo

What is 'back to netball'? It's been run since 2008 by England Netball and now over 60,000 women have taken part and realised the benefits of getting involved. From losing weight, developing the body's cardiovascular system and improving muscle tone, taking part is great for you in so many ways. Chilcompton Sports Club will be running a course and providing women of all ages a gentle reintroduction to the sport. The sessions are run by passionate and enthusiastic coaches who cover the basics on all aspects of the game.

If you would like to get involved, just to keep fit or join a team, please contact Sammy Kemmish 07738 696362

email:

Samantha.kemmish@englandnetball.co.uk

back to netball

CHILCOMPTON SPORTS CLUB
WELLS ROAD, CHILCOMPTON, BA3 4EY

£4 PER SESSION ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SAMMY KEMMISH:
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Double-deckers

The 173 bus service, which goes between Bath and Wells, has been double-deckered. Not all of them, as you may well see a single-decker during the middle of the day.



Trees have been cut back to allow the higher (but shorter and narrower) buses to get through the lower part of the village.

Meanwhile the Parish Council is still seeking a bus service to cover the Wells Road end of Chilcompton.

Feedback

What are your views on the magazine? The team that put it together is always looking for your comments, be they good or bad. Is there something missing? What could be done better? Please let us know. Contact the parish clerk (details on the inside of the front cover).

Chilcompton Sports Football Club

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Chilcompton Sports Youth FC (registered with the Somerset County FA), is now in the twentieth year of operation. We offer structured training sessions and participation in League football (age appropriate) for over 200 boys and girls in the school age groups from Year 2 until Year 11 (U7-U16). We also run a Soccer Tots programme for those in Year 1 and it is a fun and structured introduction into football.

Chilcompton Sports Youth FC is an FA Charter Standard Club. All coaches commit to gaining as a minimum, the FA's Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football and are encouraged to further their development with Continued Professional Development (CPD). All coaches are CRC checked, First Aid qualified and have the FA Safeguarding qualifications. No coaching staff without the full complement of qualifications are allowed to take sessions.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Soccer Tots:

This is an introductory programme for Year 1 children and below. It concentrates on agility, balance and co-ordination (the ABCs) and is an introduction into Ball Mastery and the Coerver range of skills. It runs from the 1st Saturday in September until the last Saturday of April.

Saturday Morning:

All age groups train on a Saturday morning from the first Saturday in September until the last Saturday of April. It builds on the foundation of the Soccer Tots programme, continues with the development of the individual player and introduces the concepts of team play. The session is the cornerstone for promoting a 'one club' philosophy for players, coaches and parents.

Midweek:

All age groups, above U7s, also train during the midweek at one of the 4g facilities in the area. This builds on our philosophy of the importance of training. Age group coaches are strongly encouraged to organise further sessions at no further cost to the players, but this depends on the coaching resource in each age group.

Interested players/coaches/volunteers should visit our website to find contact details for particular age groups and opportunities: www.chilcomptonsports.com

ADULT FOOTBALL

The adult section of the club runs 3 sides: 1st team in the Somerset County League – Premier Division, Reserves in Mid Somerset league – Division 1 and Development side in Mid Somerset league – Division 3. The development side is effectively an U18 side with the objective of helping the transition from youth to adult football. At this time of year we train on Tuesdays 7-9pm at Writhlington 4g and Thursdays 6-7 at the same venue. New players are always welcome.

Chilcompton Cricket Club

On Sunday 3rd February Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club held their AGM at Chilcompton Sports Club and it was well supported by Club members. The Club thanked “Parker Transport (SW) Ltd”, “Spectrum Form Design Ltd” and “PG Owen Ltd” for their continued generous sponsorship.

Chilcompton Sports Club were also thanked for providing excellent facilities. It continues to be a popular meeting place for Chilcompton villagers and sports minded people around the area.

This year will be the 5th season as Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club and 2018 marked the most successful season to date for the Senior Section. The Saturday 1st XI finished Runners Up in Bristol & District Division 6 and will play in Division 5 this Season – The Skipper Ben Futchter led by example passing 1000 runs for the season! The Sunday 2nd XI finished mid table and just missed out on the promotion places. The Sunday XI also finished Runners Up in North Somerset Division 4 and will play in Division 3 this season.

The Youth Section had a hugely enjoyable season with expert professional coaching from Frome’s Mark Watts. Both the U11 side and U13 sides finished mid-table in the Bath & District Youth Cricket League and more than held their own against the giants from the Bath area. The membership for the Junior Section doubled in 2018 which was great to see in only the second full League season.

Junior training sessions will be held again at Chilcompton Sports Club on Wednesday evenings from mid April to end July (6.15pm – 7.45pm) - details to follow on the Club website, Journal and Somerset Guardian. Enrolment nights will be held at Chilcompton Sports Club during March - details again to follow. Following in the footsteps of Joe Fussell in 2018, we saw Alexandra Baughan selected to represent Somerset Junior Ladies in 2019. This is a great achievement for Alexandra who is one of our growing number of promising young players and she stars in our Mixed U11 & U13 sides on Monday and Tuesday evenings throughout the season.

In March 2019 the Club will complete Stage 2 of the Outside Net Project with a new playing surface. Lots of fundraising will continue, including a Race Night on Friday 7th June. It is hoped that we will be able to complete Stage 3 later in the season which will see the whole surface carpeted. The Club wish to thank all the local sponsors who have made the project possible.

In April the Cricket Club will launch their new website which will be linked to the Sports Club website.

The Club held the Senior/Junior Presentation at Chilcompton Sports Club on 1st March with various awards handed out.

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Senior indoor nets started in February at the Wells Blue School (7pm to 8pm) – current old and new players all welcome. Outside nets for Juniors and Seniors will start when the clocks change at the end of March.



*Alexandra Banghan,
Young Player of the Year*



The Club will be looking for tea makers for the coming season on Saturdays and Sundays and will pay very good rates. For

more details, please contact Dave Travis.

The Club are keen to recruit more Senior Players for the new Season, for further details contact Dave Travis: 07725 458404 or email: dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk

Dave Travis

*Photographs (top and bottom left) by
kind permission of Andrew Rumary*

Chilcompton Sports Club - Boule

After the success of an open day last year it has been decided to build two permanent Boule pitches at the sports club. PETANQUE or BOULES can be played with two teams of one, two, three or four players on each side. The ambition is to form a club to play for fun with a view to forming a team to take part in the Bath league who have already agreed to allow Chilcompton to join.

For more information and register your interest please contact Martin 07971 173809

Email: martin.bown1@btinternet.com

Spot the Difference



Song Thrush



Redwing

Both are members of the Thrush family, both have spotted chests, but the Redwing is identifiable by the rusty red underwings. The other factor is that the Redwing has a bold white supercilium and a whitish moustache stripe. The Redwing tends to have a shorter tail than the Song Thrush.

The Redwing was caught on camera in the garden of Pete Sinclair, the Song Thrush at Alister Rankine's.

Other birds that have been snapped in the village.



Long-tailed Tit



Wren



Nuthatch

Beyond Belief - 1

For several months pedestrians have been carefully avoiding treading in dog poo on the pavement at the bottom of Stockhill Road. New deposits appear every two or three days and residents are upset and disgusted by this irresponsible behaviour from a pet lover who allows this to continue. It is puzzling that one among us seems happy to spoil our streets in this way. It is one thing to live in this lovely village and take all the benefits on offer, but there is also a moral obligation for everyone to consider others. PLEASE, whoever you are, PICK IT UP!

Beyond Belief - 2

In the Autumn, a lady stopped her car in Stockhill Road near a grit bin, shovelled salt into bags and drove off with them. For anyone in any doubt the County Council and Parish Council provides grit at tax payers' expense for emergency use on snowy or icy roads and pavements. To take away grit for personal use is selfish, antisocial and deprives drivers and pedestrians from moving around safely in such conditions. PLEASE DON'T DO IT!