



Chilcompton Matters



... because it does

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Spring Newsletter

March 2018



Welcome... There are daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops in village gardens. In the fields beyond there are lambs. It must be Spring. So welcome to the vernal equinox issue of Chilcompton Matters.

They say that it is easy to not notice what you actually have on your own doorstep - well, we have an award-winning quilting shop in our village. Thanks to all our contributors, keep it coming, but a special thanks to Marlene Pickford who always contributes a number of articles on a range of subjects. For this issue she has seemingly trawled through a century of Parish Council minutes to illustrate that the world may be changing but there are attributes of Chilcompton that do not. Check it out, it's fascinating stuff.

There's news and pictures on Chilcompton clubs (by the way, if you know of a club that doesn't get a mention but ought to, then please get in touch), there are village personality profiles, material relating to the work of local councils, and those really contentious issues that raise the temperature - like dog poo.

Talking of clubs I was asking the Secretary of the Mendip Society if she would write a piece on what they do. She obviously went away and did a little research on Chilcompton as she came back declaring, she was "most impressed with the number of groups and events etc. going on in your village! It would indicate that your sort of villagers would like the Mendip Society as well!"

Christmas has long gone, stockings have been filled and emptied, yet sadly there still seems to be much on the Chilcompton wish-list: the pavement to Lynch Hill (now promised for the first quarter of 18/19), the second crossing by the Co-op, a 20mph speed limit by the school (at the very least), a solution to Parsonage Lane flooding (or at least a sign) and for people to stop moving the fingerposts around.

On the plus side there is a defib in The Street phone box, WiFi in the Village Hall, butterscotch dessert in the Co-op (probably), a Catcher in the Rye (never knew what that meant), and, of course, those spring flowers in the gardens and the lambs in the fields. Cue Chilcompton smiling. (Article inside about am-dram.)

So much thanks, once again, to Mike Hughes for doing the layout and presentation; a patient man who labours long to get these pages to you. Seriously, the man deserves a medal. Thanks to Kathy Hughes for proactively handling the advertising and thanks a lot to all the distributors who get Chilcompton Matters to your door. Ta for reading, any suggestions let me know. Apologies for the attack of bracketitis.

Bless your hearts

Malcolm Rigby

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

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“Destination Place”

Not everyone will know this but the UK's favourite quilting shop, as voted by the British Patchwork and Quilting Magazine, is based in our village. Kind of a surprise.

Midsomer Quilting, now situated at Hoecroft, Manor Farm, but formerly housed at the garden centre at the top of the village, is run by De Pickford who confesses that she has always loved sewing.



She said: “It’s quite common for people in the area not to know that we exist.” Yet people come from far and wide. “We had a lady who’d flown from Toronto especially for a class. It’s a destination place and we have a serious core of loyal shoppers/supporters/customers. We get people who come and stay for the weekend here, a group who come every year, sometimes twice a year. They bring their own sewing machines, we do have machines that people can

use, but it’s easier if you bring your own because you can spend all day fighting with the machine and not actually sewing.”

In a former existence, De was a teacher in Midsomer Norton. “I enjoyed being a science teacher, but it got to the point that I didn’t want to be the grey-haired old bat in the science department. I wanted to do something different while I still had the energy to do it. I didn’t know it was going to work; I could have ended up stacking shelves in Tesco.

“But I love it, love it, it’s not coming into work at all. We say we’re coming to the shop we don’t say we’re going to work. Although we only open four days a week we’re nearly always here, because you have reps to see, stuff to do.”

There are more than three thousand different fabrics on display, with several assistants on hand to offer advice on fabric choices, patterns and quantities.

The morning I visited I was astounded to find about 30 people present. Customers browsing through the different fabrics, about seven women in a side room beavering away over sewing machines and a couple of patient husbands drinking coffee and munching biscuits in the lounge area.

De told me that quilting was a bit of an ‘underground’ activity – people might not like to admit it. On an average day they may get a footfall of about 150 folk. The recent move to Manor Farm has increased trade by about 25%.

It is largely a ladies pastime, but there are male quilters and De said that the men tend to be more technically accurate. “You very often find that the husbands help with the maths, there’s a lot of maths in quilting, but nobody should be put off by that.” Curiously, of the female quilters, she reckons a third of them are married to engineers.

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De is keen to stress that quilting is a very social activity – with the shop acting as a kind of hub. Coach loads of enthusiasts come from counties all over the UK.

As well as the fabrics and the accessories Midsomer Quilting also run classes and courses with internationally recognised teachers, each with a distinctive style, providing the tuition. The options include a beginners course so if you fancy a go...

Midsomer Quilting is open Friday to Monday 10am - 4pm.

Malcolm Rigby



Wednesday walkers

New walkers have joined the group recently and fortnightly rambles continue to be enjoyed by up to 14 people in and around Chilcompton. A December walk culminated in an enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Old Down Inn.

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

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774



Friday Club

Members enjoy coffee and cake every Friday at the village hall at 10.15am. and were pleased to have a lovely Christmas lunch at the Cheeseyard café at West Horrington in December. This was kindly subsidised by **Chilcompton Celebrates**, for which we are grateful. Some of the cost was also borne by club funds and by members themselves. Anyone is welcome to call into the hall for a cup of tea on Friday mornings. We would be pleased to see you. Marlene Pickford. 01761 232774

Golden Hour Club

The Christmas lunch in December was sponsored by **Chilcompton Celebrates** and the **Sperring Trust** and was much enjoyed by members at the Old Down Inn. Grateful thanks to both.

The year ahead offers more musical entertainment, interesting talks and a chance to meet and socialise with friends. Anyone can attend the odd meeting or with the AGM and a quiz coming up on Tuesday 10th April, there is an opportunity to become a member for the year.

If anyone wants more details please contact Sylvia on 01761 233142.

Litter

High winds in early January exacerbated the perennial problem of litter. After the Tuesday refuse collection, not only was rubbish bouncing along our roads, but also bins and recycling boxes.

There is no doubt that Tuesdays bring extra litter to our streets and every week since the beginning of January I have been picking up rubbish; other volunteers pick it up on a regular basis as well as on designated parish council litter picks, organised by Christine Foster for October and March.

Perhaps every householder could help keep the area outside their gates litter free, especially on recycling days (not much to ask surely). This would help me and other volunteers enormously and keep our village looking tidy. Marlene Pickford

Chilcompton Wives

September saw a new programme of speakers and events. In November we were entertained by Martin Horler who set the scene with his armchair and story telling, we were both enthralled and amused. December was busy with a theatre visit, carol service and Christmas meals with entertainment.

The New Year offers a varied range of speakers from the Frome Cheese Show, Role of a Coroner, Police Dog 'Tails', and 2 Steps Behind the Dinosaur.

If you would like to join us for an informal evening of entertainment, we meet in the Village Hall at 7.30pm for 7.45pm start on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Dates etc. are advertised on the Village Hall notice board or contact Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans 01761 233266.

Fringe Repeat

The highly successful Chilcompton Fringe Festival incorporating music, literature and performance is to take place again this year.

Make a note in your diary for Sunday August 26th at the Sports Ground.

Last year saw a variety of different bands playing on several stages as well as book readings from the marquee named 'Little Hay'.



Wendyhouse Music

Where music is child's play!

Music & Movement classes for Pre-schoolers

Friday mornings from March 2018

Movers & Shakers (Toddlers)

New Walkers to 2½ yrs @ 10.15 am

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2½ yrs to 5yrs @ 11.15am

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Surviving Winter

Somerset Community Foundation's (SCF) award-winning Surviving Winter appeal has almost reached its target and is now standing at £97,500. With just £2,500 to raise before reaching their target of £100,000, SCF's CEO Justin Sargent is urging people to donate:

"We've had an absolutely fantastic Surviving Winter appeal this year, with early donations beating all our previous records. We really would love to be able to reach our target so that we can help 500 older people living in fuel poverty this year, so if you don't want or need your Winter Fuel Payment..."

Living in fuel poverty can cause serious health problems including heart attacks, strokes and pneumonia, and on average, 330 older people die unnecessarily due to the cold in Somerset each year. A grant from Surviving Winter could make all the difference.

To donate some or all of your Winter Fuel Payment, or to make a donation to the Surviving Winter appeal, please send a cheque made payable to Somerset Community Foundation (writing SW on the reverse), Yeoman House, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN; or call 01749 344949.

Chilcompton Gardening Club

The 17th year of the club was concluded in November with the annual Christmas meal in the village hall. The hall was decorated with red and green balloons which gave a festive appeal to an excellent meal supplied by Mandy from Peasedown. The entertainment this time was the Tabor Bell Ringers from Timsbury who contributed to an enjoyable evening.



The club meets every 4th Tuesday of the month in the village hall at 7.30pm and this year we have a variety of speakers on different gardening topics which should be of interest to all gardeners.



Included this year is Charles Dowding who will speak about "No Dig Gardening". He has appeared with Monty Don on BBC Gardeners World talking on this subject. As this will appeal to many gardeners the meeting will be open to all non members for £5 each inc. refreshments and will be in the village hall at 7.30pm on April 24th. Other subjects will include Hidden Gardens of Bath, Success with house plants, advice from a chiropractor and many more. The plant sale will be held again in the village hall on Sat 5th May.

Terry Grist chairman.

‘Artists Celebrate Quarter of a Century’

Chilcompton Art Club has reached its 25th anniversary and will be marking the occasion with a special exhibition open to the general public in July.

The club, which welcomes everyone whatever their ability and whatever their technique, now has more than 30 members and is still growing.

Recent changes mean that outings are now being arranged and there are specialist workshops in subjects such as ‘outdoor perspective’ and ‘pencil drawing’.

Chairperson Amanda Mayes said: “We are a very sociable and friendly club. We have a lady who is in her 90s and practically blind yet she comes down to do her knitting. We help each other out and pass on useful tips.”

The club meet every Wednesday and Friday between 10.00am and midday at St John’s Church Hall. The special anniversary exhibition is on Sat 14th July.

Contacts:

Amanda Mayes (Chairperson) 01761 232475

Nigel Punchard (Secretary) 01761 413579



Growing a Healthy Living

Spring – what better time to start putting into action all those resolutions about healthy living. You know the theory; take more exercise, eat more vegetables, get more fresh air, drink less alcohol, but in the depths of dark dreary and often cold winter it's difficult to put theory into practice.

With the onset of longer and, we hope eventually, warmer days there is no excuse to put off action any longer, and what better way to combine healthy eating, exercise and fresh air than to take to the garden?

Growing food is not difficult. There is a huge range of fruit and vegetables suitable for growing in gardens of all sizes. So where to start? For me, the most important question to ask is what do you like to eat? There is no point in filling the vegetable plot with Brussels sprouts or broad beans if you don't like them - save the space for something that you really like.



If space is an issue this is

even more important, think about vegetables that taste especially good picked fresh. For me you can't beat the taste of garden peas, picked, podded, cooked (if you manage not to eat them all raw as you pod) and eaten within an hour or so, whereas an onion is an onion whether home grown or bought at the supermarket.

If your garden isn't big enough for a dedicated vegetable garden don't give up. Many salad crops can be grown in containers and there is a particular joy in selecting leaves and herbs for a summer salad all from your own garden. Try growing little gem lettuces, cut and come again salad leaves, mint and chives and then add in some nasturtium leaves and flowers for a beautiful colourful, healthy and tasty salad.

If you are able to dedicate more space to vegetables it is a good idea to divide the area into separate beds to allow you to rotate your crops to avoid growing the same vegetables in the same space every year. Digging over a vegetable bed is one of life's pleasures and ticks both the fresh air and exercise boxes. Add in some compost or manure, more exercise, and then start planting. For a supply of healthy vegetables all year round a little planning is needed. In March you may be lucky enough to have purple sprouting broccoli and a few leeks left – if you planted seeds of both in the preceding April. In March most hardy vegetables can be planted either as seed or bought plants, try peas, potatoes, broad beans and lettuce.

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As the soil warms up later in the spring put in some Swiss chard to crop right through from early summer to late autumn and if the winter is not too hard again in March and April before it goes to seed. Once danger of frost has passed (usually late May here on the Mendips), French and runner beans can be planted for late summer consumption, and keep growing small amounts of salad seeds for a succession of crops. Excess of many crops can be frozen or made into pickles or chutneys to ensure a continuous supply of home grown goodies.

If you have space, think of growing some fruit too. There are many dwarf fruit trees available now, some even suitable for growing in containers. Raspberries are a real favourite with many people and luckily they are quite happy in our wet West Country climate.

Once the work of planting has been done don't think that that's job over. Weeding is a continuous task, but don't think of it as a chore, see it as a chance to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and take some gentle exercise. This applies too to harvesting, a task that should take you into the garden every day in the summer to see what's available and to pick crops in their prime for maximum nutrition and flavour.

And finally the best bit, sitting with a pint of beer or a gin and tonic on a summer's evening, slicing runner beans and admiring your handiwork. OK, so cutting down on the alcohol was supposed to be part of the New Year's resolution, but nobody is perfect.

Sue Rankine



Flower Show

Spring is here and seed planting time commences, so now is the time to get a flower show schedule and raise some flowers or veg for the show on Saturday 1st September at 2.15pm.

New classes this year include a treacle tart, Autumn floral arrangement and an animal photo. New to the children's class is a decorated paper plate or book mark.

This is a village show run by villagers for villagers and depends entirely on locals to put in entries. More entries are needed from the Gardening Club and children.

Support for the show in the past has been great, so we appeal to all to have a go especially if you have never been involved before.

There is a special cup for newcomers. It could be yours!

Schedules from David or Sylvia Rogers. 01761 233142

Indoor Bowls Club

Chilcompton Bowls club is 10 years old and continues each Thursday at the village hall at 2pm. When the group started, I went along to lend support and to play table tennis or kurling. Bowls was the third option and by time-honoured democratic process this was the chosen activity. At that time, I thought bowls rather slow and for old people and I definitely wasn't old enough! How wrong I was; bowls is quite a skilful game, is for any age and provides a surprising amount of exercise. A young lad sometimes joins us in the school holidays and is brilliant!



Numbers have decreased with 13 bowlers leaving for various reasons, so the group is in need of new players. Anyone can play at any level, there is no pressure and no matches, just a get together for practice and fun.

Please contact David 01761 233142 or just come along.

Marlene Pickford

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Obituaries

The following villagers have died since the last newsletter:

Alison Kennedy (died 27th March 2017),
Kath Lambert, Karen Gould, Sue Aldridge, Edna Cush,
Janet Colbourne, Martin Palmer, Bet Gould.

We send sincere condolences to their families and friends, especially to David Aldridge who is still recovering from the devastating car accident that claimed the life of his wife, Sue. Sincere sympathy to David and family.

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

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

News from St John's.

In November 2017 we said farewell to Rev. Chris North and it was wonderful to join together with so many members of both St John's and St Vigor's churches to share a thanksgiving lunch after his final service. Since then, we have had to adjust to life without someone at the helm. However, all services, events and groups continue as usual and there continues to be a very strong leadership team in place so please do not hesitate to visit or contact us. This includes any help you may require with regard to Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Work is well underway in developing a Benefice Profile (a sort of wish list for our new rector). This will ensure that we attract the right candidates to consider taking up the post. Both PCCs from St John's and St Vigor's will be meeting with The Archdeacon of Bath, The Venerable Adrian Youings, as part of the next step in filling the position.

Meanwhile, Easter is fast approaching and we are looking forward to celebrating the life and resurrection of Jesus. Please join us as we celebrate together on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. To prepare for Easter we are once again holding our Lent Course which takes place each Wednesday from 21st February to 21st March at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

At St John's we warmly welcome families and children to join us for our Sunday services. Our family area for under 3s has lots of toys and books to keep little ones entertained and our youth groups meet every 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday during the service. Jigsaw kids club for children aged 3-11 and Buzz for 11-18 year olds. Our All Age service takes place on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

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

Ali Mayes

Photographs:

Top-left..... Thanksgiving Lunch >>
Top-right..... Children gathering in Church during Messy Church
Centre-left..... The North Family at the Thanksgiving Service
Centre..... Charlie having fun at Messy Church
Centre-right..... Children from Jigsaw & Buzz Youth Groups
Bottom-left..... Rev Chris & Justine North with Rev Meadows
Bottom-right..... Messy Church >>

Messy Church

This free family event is held at St John's Church on the fourth Sunday of the month. Based on a set biblical theme each month, Messy Church incorporates crafts and games in the Church Hall before moving through to the church for stories and songs. We then gather together in the hall for a shared tea. So far this year we have enjoyed learning about Moses and Joseph and his Technicolour Dream coat. Please come and join us for a fun family afternoon from 3pm to 5pm.

Youth Clubs

At St John's we have a number of youth groups which run during Sunday service and on Sunday evenings. Jigsaw kids club is for children aged 3-11 and Buzz for young people aged 11-18. The groups meet every Sunday during the service with the exception of the second Sunday when we all come together for an All Ages service. The groups allow children to explore stories and the teachings of the bible in a fun and creative way. Jigsaw has a mix of activities for each session which can include crafts, singing, stories and games. Powerhouse is a youth group aimed at 11-18 year olds which meet on a Sunday evening at 6.00pm in the church hall. These groups allow the children to form strong friendships and learn about the importance of God's teaching. We are always pleased to welcome new children to all of our groups, please come along and see what it's all about!



Mendip Brass Band

Since the last newsletter, we have been busy. In September we played at Norton Down church Harvest Festival, then on Remembrance Sunday Jim Perkins (Musical Director) and Philip Emery (Bandmaster) played the Last Post at three different venues, including Chilcompton.

December began with us playing carols at Shepton Mallet Market Cross and this was followed by carols and fundraising at several supermarkets in the area. These funds are needed towards the running costs of the band throughout the year. Also, during the month, we played at five carol services in local churches.

We are now rehearsing for fetes and other events during the summer. Amongst those will be Ashwick Festival, Henton church fete, Chilcompton church fete, Redan Celebrates, Bath Victoria Park Bandstand, Nempnet Thruwell Garden Party, Clutton Flower show and also a Proms Night. So, we need to keep blowing!!

Jenny Gould.



Country Pursuits No. 134: Pheasant plucking

On a cold mid-winter evening you may come across several aproned-up Chilcomptonians grappling with dead birds over a blood-covered table in a garden shed littered with feathers.



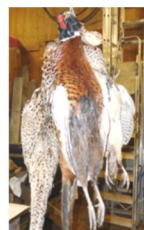
This is pheasant plucking* and it is not necessarily a pleasant sight.

- (1) You pull out the tail feathers, then cut off the feet, wings, and head.
- (2) Then cut into the back and tear off the skin and remaining feathers.
- (3) Next cut out the crop and then put your fingers into the belly to remove the entrails.
- (4) Slice off the breasts and chop off the legs.
- (5) Throw the

remaining carcass away or keep to make stock.

Each pheasant takes about fifteen minutes. Perhaps longer if you are making a meal of it.

*Technically, true "plucking" is done if you are preparing the bird to make a roast, like a chicken, and this takes about 45 minutes to an hour.





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current menus
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The Village Agent - Update

Village Agents have now been joined by Community Agents and Carers Agents to make sure people in our local communities have services that they can access should the need arise.

My role as **Village Agent** has not changed. Any member of the community, in your case Chilcompton, that has a problem or issue that they need help to try and solve, can contact me for help. I will visit you at home if required or if you prefer, contact you by telephone or by email. I can signpost you to agencies and services that will help or often help directly to resolve the issue myself.

As always, call me...

Jacky Smith 07950 782436

Or Email: jacky@somersetccc.org.uk



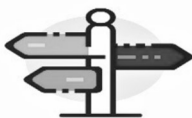
Community Agents work directly with Adult Social Care to assist those with very specific needs in their community.

Carers Agents If you regularly look after someone in a caring capacity, the Somerset Carers Service can support you with advice and guidance. Caring for another person is very rewarding but can be overwhelming and lonely at times.

Somerset Carers Service can help link you to groups and events in your area, to find facts and information that will help the person you are caring for with their particular needs. Carers Agents are on hand to help and guide you.

The Carers Agent for Chilcompton is Jackie Hayes.

Call the Carers Advice Line on 0800 31 68 600.



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A Warm Welcome Awaits at The Village Hall... Come along

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Coffee Club - Fridays 10.15 am 01761 232774

Golden Hour Club - 2nd Tuesday of the month 7.30pm

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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.

The second Wednesday of every month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

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

Website: www.chilcompton.org

PC noticeboards are by the Coop, by the Village Hall, on Bowden Hill and at the bus stop by Church House

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

Planning Renovations This Year?

If you're thinking of a new extension, a bit of remodelling, or finally knocking down that old garage, have you checked for asbestos? Any property built or refurbished before 2000 could potentially contain ACMs (Asbestos Containing Materials). Commonly found in corrugated roofing sheets, it was also widely used in artex-type paint coatings, insulation material, floor tiles, other construction material, fixtures and fittings. Left undisturbed, these materials don't present a health risk. However, when damaged the fibres easily become airborne and can be inhaled. Exposure to these microscopic fibres can lead to severe lung disease and cancer. In the UK, around 5000 deaths a year are linked to asbestos exposure, and it can take years for symptoms to develop. Invisible to the naked eye and normally blended with other substances, professional testing is needed to ensure asbestos is dealt with safely.

Somerset Scientific Services, part of Somerset County Council, offer free impartial asbestos advice as part of our commitment to public health and safety. We also offer an expert service to identify and project manage the removal of any ACMs. Samples of suspect material can be sent to our lab for analysis and we'll provide impartial advice on your next steps if asbestos is identified. For larger projects surveys can be completed on site by our specialist asbestos team if needed.

Call the team or visit our website for expert advice – and to find out what other services we provide. Telephone: 01823 355906

Web site: someretscientificservices.co.uk Email: SSSmailbox@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset Library Services

Somerset County Council has launched a 12-week consultation inviting members of the public, businesses and organisations to have their say on the future delivery of Somerset library services. Nine library area summaries are available to view online showing proposed options for each of Somerset's 34 libraries: www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation

The summaries give detail of library usage, area information and other relevant statistics. A wide range of further detailed information is available online at the same site setting out details of the rationale behind the proposals, and the evidence and methodology used. Respondents are asked to view the area proposal for the library they visit most often before completing an online questionnaire.

New education programme

Working in partnership with Carymoor Environmental Trust (CET), Somerset Waste Partnership is launching a new waste education programme. It offers 90 fully-funded half-day sessions in primary schools, typically starting with a whole-school assembly and then two classroom-based activity sessions. Schools are seen as an effective route to improve understanding of the importance of waste reduction and recycling in everyday life among thousands of children and their families. It is hoped this can become an ongoing programme. CET is writing to schools inviting them to express interest.

Council Matters

Welcome to the Parish Council section of the latest village magazine. As usual I would like to review some of the actions that I mentioned in the last magazine and update on their progress in the interim.

The Remembrance Day service I mentioned in the last edition was again excellently attended, we believe with a slightly higher attendance than in 2016. It was a pleasure to see so many of you there, not least some young people of the village as they laid wreaths, and afterwards at the village hall.

Unfortunately I cannot report we have completed inheriting the three areas of green space at Pines Close, Carters Way and Station Mead from Mendip District Council. MDC have offered us all these for a nominal sum, however we had to complete due diligence with both searches and checks on assets at the site, such as trees. However, these are complete and at time of writing we are hopeful that this will be completed in the very near future.

We were hopeful of installing more play equipment, aimed at a slightly older demographic, at the old recreation field. However the 106 monies to fund this has proved more problematic to release. We are grateful to Mendip District Councillor John Carter who has helped us pursue this matter; hopefully by the next edition this will be resolved.

With regard to traffic, which as always is a great concern for many, the Traffic subcommittee has produced a series of recommendations on improvements we would like to see in the village, and has been submitted to Somerset Highways. We hope that at least some of these will be implemented. We are also following up the proposed pedestrian improvements at Lynch Hill and a new crossing by the Co-op. We are hopeful that both will be implemented in the near future; you can rest assured that the PC will keep asking and pressing until these changes are implemented.

The Wi-Fi installation at the village hall, paid for by the Parish Council, has taken place and users of that facility can now enjoy free internet access when using the hall.

Our Autumn clean-up day was well attended, as mentioned last time under Christine Foster's leadership our number of volunteers has grown, reflected in that turn out. Our spring clean-up day is scheduled for the 24th March, so if you are interested in taking part, and keeping our village clean, please contact Christine.

Once again the Parish Council has not asked Mendip District Council for an increase in the precept that each of you pay as Council Tax payers. This maintains a policy of a number of years; we aim to maintain the current level of provision (and indeed increase them, such as the village hall Wi-Fi mentioned above) to the village at no extra cost to parishioners; not always an easy task but one I hope we are managing to get right.

Jonathan Pike, Chairman of the Parish Council.



Planning Applications

Because of the deadlines set by Mendip District Council the Parish Council considers planning applications as they come in. Either at the full council meeting (2nd Wednesday of the month) or at the planning meeting (4th Wednesday of the month). So if you have any objections to any planning application get them in, to the PC and MDC, as soon as you can.

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The Mendip Society



Stretching from the Island of Steep Holm and the mainland of Brean Down in the west, to Frome in the east, Mendip is a living, working and increasingly recreational environment; some 200sq.kms of which, from Bleadon to Chewton Mendip is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Mendip Society is a registered charity and a group of several hundred like-minded people who come together in the interests of conserving and enhancing those Mendip Hills and also to enjoy their unique character and beauty.

We work to increase a wider appreciation of the area with a programme of walks, talks, events and visits, co-operating and working together in partnership with many other organisations with similar aims. However, keeping an eye on the quarries of Mendip and a commenting eye on the increasing, encroaching building applications is now a very pressing need.

We undertake occasional restoration projects such as at Smitham Chimney, the last lead smelting chimney on Mendip and the lead 'flues' at Blackmoor Reserve, Charterhouse, also supporting the projects of others through our small Heritage grant scheme.

The society owns two Nature Reserves: Slader's Leigh a flower meadow adjacent to the Strawberry Line and Tania's Wood, at Ubley, in which we have just started work to become a self sustaining wild area, also being used this year as a Forest School classroom for a local Primary School.

The next issue of our newsletter 'Mendip' is in March, in time for our AGM on the 23rd, in Draycott.

Visit our website: www.themendipsociety.org.uk and FB page: 'the mendip society' for all details and contacts:



Judith Tranter, Mendip Society Secretary

Redan Celebrates Chilcompton

The date has been confirmed. This event will take place on Saturday July 14th, so mark your calendar.

Last year Redan Celebrates Chilcompton raised over £1,000 for the village whilst providing food, drink and live music.

Chilcompton Amateur Dramatic Society

Wearing the full costume of a Shakespearian porter, our sound and lighting engineer checked that everything was perfectly in place for the final curtain, then capered joyously through the middle of the applauding audience to take his bow onstage with the rest of the dancing cast of 'Macbeth' - for he was also a performer, a participant in the magical, nerve-wracking, creative and glorious process of Being In A Play.....



As a member of Chilcompton Amateur Dramatic Society for a number of years, this is just one of many memories that exemplifies the camaraderie, the commitment and the enormous pleasure of performing in our local drama group.... shall I list a few more recollections? Learning to tap dance, (we hired a dance teacher), building a huge, vertical bed for our cast of Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales' to lie, sleep and love in, performing the characters of children in as authentic a manner as we could in 'Blue Remembered Hills' and delighting in collaborative projects where we sang, danced, grieved, shouted, cried, became older, became younger, adopted accents, changed gender, performed magic, murdered kings and fell in love... where else would we have the chance to experience the whole vast range of human endeavour and emotion and still have time to pop over to the Redan for a pint or two before home time?

Membership of CADs called for enthusiastic involvement, stamina and dedication; whether for set-building, prop-making, line-learning, prompting, costume-sewing, light and sound-organising, bar-organising, publicity-making or the mighty job of directing in a play involving a large group of people who also had jobs, families, dogs, holidays, attacks of flu and a dozen other distractions. We had, over the years, many challenging dress rehearsals, but productions always came together in the end and no play ever had to be cancelled, although, once or twice, we came close.

Some might say we did it for our own gratification, and there may be some truth in that, even when the audience numbered twenty-three and it was a wet Thursday night in October.....but sometimes there were moments when the village hall filled with laughter, or other times where an instant of drama captured the attention of everyone present and there was a relationship between stage and auditorium that, just for that second, was as exciting and thrilling as anything we knew.

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It has now been a few years since we last performed onstage together. Lives have changed, times have changed, jobs and responsibilities have become more demanding and time filled with other commitments. Some members now practise their skills elsewhere; acting, making music, dancing, writing scripts and directing, but the likelihood of CADs returning to perform again in our village, feels, to this member at least, unlikely.....

.....unless there is, out there in Chilcompton, a will and an energy to create drama, gather together again a group of like-minded people and bring theatre in all its wonderful forms back to our stage - or even, (and here's a thought) to our barns, our fields, our pubs, streets, gardens..... Anyone?

Lizzie Morris

Museum Exhibition

The museum at Radstock has asked Chilcompton and other villages to help with an exhibition this coming Autumn. It will commemorate the end of WWI and will look at the role of women in that war and how their involvement influenced the lives of ordinary women subsequently. More detail of what is required will be known later, but if anyone is interested or can help in any way please contact me or the Clerk.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Malcolm Rigby 01761 232974 parishclerk@chilcompton.org

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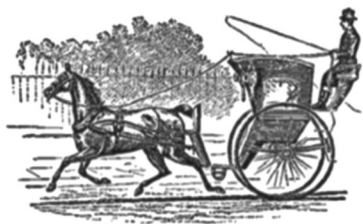
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Child's Play

Music and movement classes are coming to the village this month for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

There's a Movers & Shakers class for toddlers, new walkers up to the age of two and a half, and an Explorers & Questioners class for pre-schoolers up to the age of five.

Organiser Wendy Steele said: “We enjoy music through instruments, voice, movement, parachute games, snack'n'sing, storytime and more, all in a fun and friendly atmosphere. For children of all abilities and accompanying adults of any age.

“I believe that it's never too early to introduce children to music. It can help co-ordination skills for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, through steady beat at a basic level and this can help with walking, talking, the metre of language, which in turn helps social skills, confidence levels and even dancing around can help balance in the inner ear and coordination skills. Also in my group setting we work extensively on sharing skills and turn taking which helps when children progress to nursery settings.

“Above all music should be fun, everyone can tap a finger or foot to the beat and it can be as simple as that! Dance and sing like there is no one watching; singing also releases positive endorphins into the brain making us feel happy! Its win win!”

The classes take place at the Mill Nursery on the Wells Road. Contact Wendy for a free taster and more information on 07901 521387.

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The Gatepost - by Andrew Morris

Between me, you and the gatepost,
I don't like her, or him or them.
Do you know? Have you heard?
Slanted words grey as slate.
Fall like rain on his head,
Or her or the next door neighbour.
Or Uncle Fred and Aunt Mary.

They are not as nice as they look,
That couple across the road.
And have you seen her hair?
And those children out all hours.
Kids today. I don't know.
She's very nice to your face,
But behind your back!

I've never liked them,
There's always something.
I can't quite put my finger on,
I blame the parents.
Do you know what she said?
You'll never believe it!
They should do more for her.

They never see her,
She is their mother!
I know she can be difficult,
Old people today. I don't know.
Have another cup of tea, a biscuit?
It's not me or you or us,
But them over there, the others.
Between me, you and the gatepost.

Chilcompton Memory Café

Chilcompton Memory Café was started in May 2017 after a training and a trial run in April under the auspices of The Alzheimer's Society. The aim of the café is to provide a place for people to meet others in a friendly environment over tea and biscuits with a varied programme of activities throughout the year. It is open to anyone suffering from memory problems and their carer and runs on the second Monday of every month from 2-4pm at St. John's Church Hall.

Memory Cafés originated in The Netherlands in 1997 when Dr. Bere Miesen, a Dutch psychiatrist, introduced the concept of Alzheimer's Cafés as a way to break through the stigma associated with various forms of Dementia. It simply "wasn't discussed" and those with dementia and their carers were suffering as a result. The concept spread throughout Europe, to Ireland and England, and on to Australia, the United States and beyond. Since then other types of cafés (models) have developed and come into use including Memory Cafés, which are aimed toward the social rather than the clinical end of the spectrum. However, trained staff are able to provide connections to other support services where required.

Chilcompton Memory Café is operated by St. John's Church and we see this as an integral part of our desire to reach out into the community. If you care for someone who has dementia, a shared activity can also give you a chance to do something that makes both of you happier and able to enjoy quality time together and with others.

So far this year we have enjoyed a Picture Quiz in January and a Bingo 90 Session in February. Our programme for the coming months includes music therapy, quiz, story telling and Tai Chi.

For further details, please
contact Sarah Crosse
01761 412042

or email:
chilmc@hotmail.com.



Chilcompton Lives

Muriel Colbourne (nee Heal)



Muriel was born at home in Chilcompton in 1930 at Waterloo Cottage. Muriel's brother, Gerald, was four years older and sadly passed away about three years ago.

Muriel remembers going to school with her friend Joyce Horler, firstly to Chilcompton School and then to St John's School in Midsomer Norton – now a primary school. Muriel would keep spare shoes at the end of the muddy Tunnel Lane track so she could change before going to school.

Muriel left school at the age of 14 and worked at Welton Bag in Midsomer Norton cycling from Chilcompton daily. On one occasion this resulted in Muriel falling off her bike near The Vicarage and getting a 'fat lip'. Muriel left this job after 2 years and worked for Mr Freeman who collected rags that were made into rag rugs located in a premises at the back of Shell House. Later Mr Freeman moved into re-upholstery and Muriel helped with the sewing.

In 1950 Muriel married Christopher Colbourne, a builder, with 4 brothers and 8 sisters. They met in The Redan when Muriel was 16 years old. Muriel would visit The Redan with her parents each Sunday. Christopher was in army uniform and Muriel said that 'she didn't half like the look of him'. The newly married couple lived at Winfrith in a bungalow on Broadway with Muriel's Mum and Dad.

The marriage was at St Benedict's at Stratton. Muriel remembers walking back across the fields from a meeting in Stratton to arrange the wedding. She was in tears because she had found out that she could not have any hymns sung at the Catholic wedding. Muriel is saving her three favourite hymns to be sung at her funeral. Muriel was not a Catholic and in order for the wedding to be held in the Catholic church that Christopher went to she had to agree to bring up their children as Catholics. Muriel and Christopher had 2 daughters – Sally and Sophia. The family moved to Stockhill in 1976. Christopher never had a cross word to say and it was left to Muriel to tell the children off, if it was needed! Sadly, Christopher passed away suddenly in 2005.

Muriel's father worked as a miner in New Rock Colliery for 52 years and was awarded a certificate for his length of service. He was known to sit on the outside toilet with the door open without a care. Muriel's mother, Mabel Angel Sophia Heal looked after the family home.

Following Muriel's wedding she was working looking after the family home although she did still help Mr Freeman occasionally, helping him with 'knocking up' - removing old upholstery from furniture ready for restoration.

Muriel remembers what the bottom of Chilcompton was like when she was a child. There was the general shop run by Miss Perkins and Mrs Emery. On one side of the shop was an off licence and the other groceries and sweets. Muriel's Mum liked stout and would ask Muriel to buy this for her in exchange for some sweets – usually a Buzz Bar, a honeycomb bar covered in chocolate.

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Muriel would run other errands for sweets. She would get Woodbines for Grampy Lovell and would keep it secret from her Granny who didn't like him smoking. Muriel went to school with David Strawbridge and remembers Pearce's butchers at Upper Pitching being taken over by the Strawbridge butchers. The Strawbridges apparently made lovely faggots from a secret recipe.

As a child aged 6 Muriel would visit her grandparents on her father's side on a Sunday at their house at the top of Stockhill. Tea would be bread and butter followed by pines and custard.

During the Second World War when Muriel was 9 years old she remembers seeing the Red Cross train full of wounded soldiers going to the Red Cross Hospital in Midsomer Norton. Muriel also remembers the Pines Express going through Chilcompton.



Muriel's
Great Grandmother who
smoked a pipe

During the war Muriel's family looked after an evacuee called Arthur Ingram from Dagenham. They only had a two bedroom cottage and Muriel had to sleep in her mum and dad's bedroom while Arthur shared with her brother. Arthur had never seen a cow and was scared of them. Muriel's friends at school used to laugh at her as she copied Arthur's Cockney accent.

Muriel's father built a bomb shelter at the bottom of the road with friend Joyce's father. They would make their way to the shelter when the air raid sirens started. Muriel's brother Gerald refused to go to the shelter saying he would prefer to die in his bed!

Muriel would take her china doll with her. The doll got broken but she was given a replacement.

As well as two daughters Muriel has two grandsons, two great grandsons and one great granddaughter with another great grandchild due soon.

Muriel has enjoyed knitting, crosswords and gardening and has collected thimbles for over 30 years, now amassing over 200 from all over the world.



Muriel with her parents and brother



Approximately 20 years ago Muriel decided that there was one more thing she wanted to do to make her life with her husband and family complete. She converted to become a Catholic and was able to share worship with her family.

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

Muriel aged 5

History Corner

(I found this amongst items given to me by David Strawbridge)

Lizzie Cottle had been so ill with fits that I was obliged to send her to Chilcompton to be under Mr Flower's care; the occasion of these fits was a violent assault made upon her by Lowe, Mr Stephens' gardener some time before, when she was going one evening through the plantation to the Red Post to post my letters. Lowe had taken her up in his arms and carried her into the thickest part of the coppice wood with the intent to ravish her and if Joseph Heal had not fortunately come by, he would certainly have accomplished his purpose.

Marlene Pickford

Nothing Much Changes!

Parish councillors often struggle with village problems and reading through old parish council minutes, it occurred to me that the same problems have kept re-appearing over the last 114 years.

May 1896. Captain Streeten proposed and A W J Bon'n seconded that a committee of two be appointed to consider the best means of dealing with the cleaning of the River Somer.

September 1896. For cleaning out Street Ponds.

<i>Mr. Job Shearn's contract</i>	<i>£7 10 00</i>
<i>Watchman, one night</i>	<i>£ 5.00</i>
<i>Repairing weir</i>	<i>£ 3.00</i>

August 1910. Clerk to write to RDC 'That this council respectfully calls the attention of the RDC to the state of Britannia Yard surface water and stop it from running on to the road, causing what the council considers a serious nuisance and damage to the road.

1912. Annual parish meeting. No-one present except the parish councillors!

March 1915. The clerk was instructed to get the swing in the recreation field repaired.... Also get a lock and chain so that it might be locked at twilight.

1915. Swing taken down because of vandalism.

April 1922. Mr. Vinnell brought forward the question of Street Ponds being let out.

June 1922. Street ponds. The council agreed to meet on the spot.

May 1945. Parish Meeting. The ladies present were elected to form a nucleus of a refreshment committee and the whole company constituted itself a general committee with power.

1952. Flooding outside Church House was discussed.

1957. Complaints about lengthy parking of cars on Wells Road.

1961. Severe flooding causes road near St. John's church to collapse and nearby houses are flooded.

We are still discussing these problems and ladies are still in the kitchen, although we do have a male washer-up now!

Marlene Pickford

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Chilcompton Matters - Advertising

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kathy and Mike Hughes

The Great Get Together

Last year the village took part in this national celebration with The Great Chilcompton Picnic in the Old Rec.

There were sandwiches and sunshine and tennis and probably the odd bottle of beer. All in support of the late MP Jo Cox who famously said in her maiden speech to Parliament that we have within our communities more that unites us than divide us. It is not a fund-raising event.

The picnic was supported by the Parish Council, in that they provided the tennis and the portaloos, but it was organised by Justine North who has departed with her family to pastures new.

The question is, who is going to organise it this year? Or will it have been a one-off? The event should take place between June 22-24.

New Swing Seats

The all-singing-dancing twirl-around swing seat in the Old Rec, which was vandalised last year despite being only there for a year, is to be replaced.

The Parish Council are paying for the excess but otherwise it is protected by the insurance.

Parish Councillor Duncan Rideout said "It was a terribly stupid bit of vandalism, but we thought the seat might survive. It hasn't, it has continued to deteriorate and thankfully the insurance company is willing to cover it, so we are buying a new seat. It's a fantastic bit of equipment, the kids and even the adults love it."

Two of the other swing seats in the small children's play area are also being replaced. One of them will be funded by Steve and Elaine Blackmore, who live on Coronation Terrace. They said that they are happy to contribute because their grand-daughter has got so much fun out of it.

Sad to Say *Some* Dog-Owners are DISGUSTING!

Following 'alternative' treatment, my elderly dog is enjoying a new lease of life and she has managed the steps up to the Millennium footpath and the slope down to the Valley as well as our usual Stratton footpath and Bridle path at Downside.

But I almost wish she hadn't been so re-energised when I see all the dog mess everywhere. On the paths, by the side of the paths and especially off the paths in fields where cows will soon start to graze and hay will be gathered later on.

Someone else, clearly sickend as much as me, has written a message put in a polythene bag (against the weather), and placed it over a pile of poo just as you start down the footpath off Bowden Hill. It says: **Pick up after your dog – IT'S DISGUSTING.**

And he or she is right: people who leave their dog's mess for others to step into, children slip into and maybe end up blind, are DISGUSTING. Personally, I think

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Litter Pick - Oops, I've Done it Again!

SATURDAY 24th MARCH 2018: the date for our next Village Litter Pick. Please check your diaries and, if you can make it, please join us for an hour or so from 10am.

We selected a bad day for last Autumn's pick – 21st October. Not weather-wise particularly, but it was the start of the school half-term which sees a lot of villagers go on a last-chance-before-the-winter-sets-in break, hence our numbers were down.

But as I write this, I realise that 24th March is the first day of the Easter holidays! Oops, I've done it again!

Hopefully, though, people won't plan an away-break to catch the last days of winter but would prefer to join us to tidy the village. It seems to me that this last winter has been long, cold and very wet – I promise there will be lots to pick up!

If you're on my picker list, you should have heard from me by the time Chilcompton Matters is published; if not please get in touch. Also let me know if you can't make it so I can ensure your patch is picked.

If you want to join the gang, also contact me and if you want, we can agree a regular patch for you to look after, and I can supply you with a picker, bags and hi-viz waistcoat on permanent loan.

Or you can just turn up outside the village hall at 10am – I'll be there with all the stuff you need. But please bring gloves.

Cheers: happy picking and here's to a bright, warm Springtime.

Christine Foster

01761 232158

christine.232158@gmail.com

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they shouldn't be allowed to have a dog – and probably any animal – because they don't take responsibility for them. Their dogs could be lovely, but **THEY ARE NOT**.

And it's the sneaky way they do it: they have poo bags with them and will pick up if anyone is watching. But at other times they furtively look around to see if they are being observed and, if not, they walk on leaving their dog's excrement for others to encounter.

I wish somebody would explain the thinking of such people to me. I have tried to imagine the motives of someone that does such a VILE thing, but I can't. I treasure both my dog and the people that I live among. I'm at a loss and can only surmise that these people are a different species than we humans!

If you can offer an explanation or want to respond to this, please email me: christine.232158@gmail.com or send a letter to the Editor at parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Christine Foster

Road Narrowing at Sestri

This is an update to everyone who has expressed concerns about the planning applications at Sestri – most frequently about road safety, but also about drainage problems.

The arrangement made in 2012 between the developer and Somerset County Council involved narrowing a stretch of the main road, simply to make a new entrance and visibility splay for an estate at Sestri. (The first house on the left after the bungalows, when heading towards Wells.) In 2015, (the 7th application and for “access only”), the Planning Board was persuaded that this new entrance must be permitted – for fear of losing an appeal on the grounds of unreasonable behaviour. This would mean that the garden could be classed as developable. All reasons for previous refusals were disregarded.

To make the new visibility splay, this section of the County Route, carrying large volumes of heavy traffic, will be narrowed by gradually widening the pavement which runs from the eastern side of the garden of the last bungalow, up to the Broadway bus stops. At the bus stop to Wells the pavement will be almost 1 metre wider than it is at present. With just one remaining bus service in the village, these stops are well used.

A safe form of road calming is necessary along the whole length of the main road, but this narrowing will create another hazard at a spot which is not visible until completely clear of the curve, when travelling towards Wells. It will not improve visibility for the new entrance and will cause tailbacks, as large vehicles wait for oncoming traffic to clear.

It has proved impossible to form an acceptable splay in any other way, but Mendip DC Planning Authority did not have to accept this arrangement. They should have considered the comments about road safety put by councillors and residents and assessed the situation themselves.

It has now been stated by SCC, too late, that narrowing the carriageway to make a visibility splay is against the rules.

The parish council has complained, but been told that nothing can be done to reverse the decision. A parish council cannot put a complaint to the Ombudsman, so formal complaints have been submitted to both councils, on behalf of over 220 residents who signed the group letters.

Apparently the current application – to leave constructing the new splay until the houses have been built – may be referred to the Planning Board. How much more will all this cost?

Embroidery

In the Autumn Term leading up to Christmas 2017, as well as working on our various solo embroidery projects, we have been making lots of small Christmas Cone people for a display at Christmas in St. Cuthbert's Church in Wells in aid of various charities.



At present we have two thriving embroidery classes on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 10.30am - 12.30pm in St. John's Church Hall, where we produce some amazing personal pieces of work.

If you are interested in joining one of my friendly, happy classes please contact me, Patricia Ardron, 01761 232466 or 07788 184 185

SOSA – Because The Ladies Like To Dance

A new dance/fitness programme is coming to Chilcompton with a taster class on March 20 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. From Latino to Ballroom all the dance moves are on offer in this new and unique Dance-Fitness class called SOSA.

Across the country there are approximately 220 instructors in this new fad, but Kay Alford is the only one in North Somerset. She said: "The ethos behind it is that without it there is nowhere for ladies to dance if they don't have a partner or the confidence to go it alone. In these classes the confidence blooms – ladies love dancing. That said, men are by no means excluded and all ages are welcome. Low impact and high energy, this is what it feels like to dance yourself happy. You can be a complete beginner and you don't need to have attended an exercise or a dance class before. We cater for all levels.



You will love learning authentic steps and styling for beautiful dances from all over the world."

The dances include Waltz, Salsa, Cha-Cha-Cha, Jive, Foxtrot, Kizomba and lots more, with inspiring music to match.

Booking is essential as places will be limited to ensure everyone has plenty of space to enjoy the tuition and their dancing.

Contact Kay: 01761 435383
email: kalfobb@outlook.com



Unsung Heroes



For the past 34 years two stalwarts have masterminded the Annual Dorothy House Sale each November. Last year £3300 was raised in one afternoon and over the years thousands of pounds have been raised for this worthy cause.

The first sale in 1983 came about when four friends, Margaret Skinner, Jane Winsley, Kathy and Janet lost children to cancer and became involved with the Dorothy House Hospice. Various fundraisers such as coffee mornings and sales in the 1980s were very low key, raising modest sums.

Jane was then joined by Marian Bodman, and with their families and friends put on this huge sale that now fills the village hall to capacity with items as diverse as small pieces of furniture

to cosmetics and bric-a-brac to cakes and nearly new clothes. People come in droves looking for bargains and to support the charity. Visitors also look forward to delicious cakes and cream teas baked by Gill Wellington and latterly by Hayley Veale and their helpers. Marian's daughter, Pat, does a great job running the tombola stall.

Jane and Marian would agree that they get fantastic help and commitment from about 30 helpers on the day, many of whom have experienced help and care from the hospice for their relatives or friends and support for themselves. Many volunteers collect prizes for the raffle and items for stalls throughout the year, filling sheds and garages with bulky donations until November comes around.

Villagers are involved too doing what they can to help; the Midsomer Norton shop lends support and employees of the village company, Mulberry, sell draw tickets and organise the cake stall each year. This year a Mulberry bag has been kindly donated and put into a draw, which will be drawn at Easter.

At the end of the sale day, the best items go to the Midsomer Norton shop and other surplus donations are passed on to Age UK and other local charities, so all is recycled and benefits others.

We pay tribute to both Jane and Marian for their dedicated efforts and thank all involved for their constant support. Raising up to £50,000 in the last 34 years is a great achievement. Well done!

Marlene Pickford

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Managing And Minimising Mendip Parishes' Plastics

Growing concern over plastics has highlighted Somerset's plans to recycle more items each week and the benefits of Mendip's "you and crew" twice-sorted kerbside collections, as well as what every individual can do to cut back on plastic.

Twice sorting produces valuable raw materials rather than the contaminated output of all-in-one-bin systems that helped prompt China's ban on mixed plastic imports.

No plastics recycled or sent to landfill from Somerset end up in the oceans, none of the county's annual 3,500 tonnes of plastic bottles collected is going to China and almost all of it is reprocessed in the UK.

Plastics are at the heart of three multi-million pound improvements to waste services being carefully aligned over the next two or more years.

A freshly-designed vehicle fleet will begin work under the new "Recycle More" collections contract with extra materials, including much more plastic packaging, while rubbish is switched away from costly and wasteful landfill burial to instead generate electricity. And consumer choice is seeing many reduce their plastic purchasing by finding low-waste or no-waste shopping solutions.

For more on plastics and how to waste less, recycle more and save money, see www.somersetwaste.gov.uk or check Somersetwaste on Facebook and Twitter.

Telephone Box Saving Lives



The old red phone box, situated by The Pitchings off The Street, has now been fitted with a defibrillator.

Last year BT sold the iconic, traditional, classic edifice to the Parish Council for the princely sum of one pound. There was talk of turning it into a mini art gallery but now it is housing a defib.

The device was kindly installed for free by A.F. Denning, the electricians from Radstock.

Parish Councillor Richard Morgan said: "Chilcompton Parish Council is delighted to

announce that we have installed a second defibrillator device in the village. The original device outside the Village Hall serves the upper part of Chilcompton, and now residents in the lower part of the village can feel reassured that they too have a defibrillator within easy reach.

"The old telephone kiosk has been purchased and the defibrillator fitted, inside a locked cabinet for security. As with the other defibrillator at the Village Hall, the combination for the lock on the cabinet will be given out by the Ambulance Service when someone phones 999 regarding a possible cardiac arrest in the area near the device. The device is light and easy to carry to the patient's location. Full instructions will be given in the use of the defibrillator."

The growth of the mobile phone industry has inevitably meant that phone box usage has dropped dramatically and almost half of the country's 90,000 boxes have been removed.

A date will be set for late March for training on the use of the defib. This will take place at the Village Hall. Please consult the Website for further details.

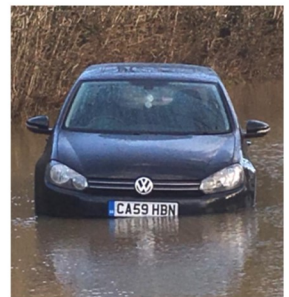
Parsonage Lane Flooded

Over the winter months Parsonage Lane was covered in water several times thus preventing traffic from getting through. On several occasions motorists got caught in the water and the vehicles had to be pulled out.

The Parish Council in January did ask Somerset County Council if it would be possible to put up a permanent sign saying caution and that the area was prone to flooding. However the county council refused on the basis they did not want to encourage the proliferation of road signs.

Now the Parish Council has asked the county Flood Prevention Officer if he could intervene and provide a solution.

On the flip side, it has been observed that at least the flooding discourages people from using the lane as a rat run.



Living with a Nurse

Malcolm Rigby analyses the joy of sharing a house with an 'angel'

The husband of the late Claire Rayner, nurse, broadcaster and agony aunt, once said that you should never marry a nurse in order to be looked after.

Too right, who, after a long night shift at the hospital, wants to come home to a spouse moaning about his haemorrhoids or aching back?

It's almost a cliché that living with a nurse means that you get blood, guts and worse discussed over the fish fingers at the dinner table – but you get used to that.

Just as you get accustomed to the shrieks of "They wouldn't do it like that!" while you watch on the sofa a hospital scene from a television drama.

My problems started when my wife got a job on a urology ward. We were living in

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Sailor's Torso

Who can guess anything of what's behind this story?

The remains of what was a once charming little figurine was found in the river recently near Church House. What's left of the maimed matelot is about 10 cm long and is made of ceramic material. It's impossible to age in its present condition, but what is certain is that when he was in better times, he must have been a rather exquisite piece. There are also no clues as to where the stricken sailor was manufactured. Was he even a sailor? What's clear is that he must have been part of a really lovely item before his life took a turn for the worst.

Pieces of what are probably bits of old flower pots and similar regularly turn up in the river. They can be small or sometimes quite large, printed or hand painted. Pieces like the sailor are however much less common. It seems too ornate to be simply a part of a flower container or garden ornament. Possibly it was some sort of household ornament that was accidentally broken then carelessly dumped. It could have been put into the river anywhere further up and washed down over the years.

Does anyone recognise the shape or style of it? Perhaps you remember something similar from days gone by? Any help to perhaps draw a little history of the piece would be most welcome. Pete Sinclair



Please contact the editor : Malcolm Rigby, E-mail: parishclerk@chilcompton.org

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a one-up, one-down with wafer thin walls, and whether you liked it or not, as you emerged from the loo you received an assessment of your flow rate. A man who lives with a nurse pees quietly against the porcelain.

A popular misconception is that having a nurse in the house is like the equivalent of going to a football match where the St John Ambulance team outnumber the crowd. In fact most nurses know little about first aid from my experience. They may be able to tell you how to do a blood transfusion or change a catheter but if you get stung by a wasp they won't have a clue what to do.

This extends to childhood ailments. We used to get phone calls from friends in the night asking whether they should call out the doctor. My particular nurse couldn't tell mumps from measles.

However you can rely on them to stay calm in a crisis. Some might even say they become hard. This is unfair. Everyone should know they are truly angels to everyone – except their spouses, that is. Even angels need time off from caring.

Those married to a nurse will tell you that you might be rolling about on the floor with two bullet holes in your chest and they will say: "Rub a little Savlon on it before dinner then, dear."

Though they will deny it, nurses themselves make terrible patients. Quite rightly, when they are ill, they expect that it is their turn for a bit of TLC – which usually means that a bottle of Lucozade and a copy of the Beano, sufficient for most cold-ridden adults, is inadequate for them.

Nurses bring home an Armageddon approach to cleaning, in which bleach plays a role akin to a nuclear warhead. After a bout of spring cleaning, areas are not so much clean as dead, and you can be fairly sure that no life form will exist in its vicinity for some time.

No doubt it is part of the training, but nurses also have a fascination with bedmaking. Does anyone else know what a hospital corner is? The plus side, from my experience, is that if she spills a cup of tea over you when you are in bed she can remake the bed whilst you are still in it.

Living with a nurse means coming home, a long time ago I have to say, to find two plastic phalluses on the kitchen table. Followed by a shriek of "Don't touch them, they've just been superglued." One learns not to ask what they are for, or indeed how they got broken.

My particular nurse has now moved up to angel management. She tells me that the NHS would work a lot more efficiently without ill-health.

Angels? Yes of course they are angels. Bless them.

Editor's Note: This was first printed in the Nursing Standard and surprisingly went down very well. Follow up articles on living with a builder, dentist, chiroprapist etc would be appreciated.

Diary Dates

- 14th Mar** LENT COURSE 7.30-9pm at St John's Church
15th Mar LUNCH CLUB 12noon at St John's Church
17th Mar BREAKFAST 8.00-9.45am at St John's Church
21nd Mar LENT COURSE 7.30-9pm at St John's Church
23rd Mar SCHOOL SERVICE 10.00-11.00am at St Vigor & St John's School
20th Mar SOSA DANCING 7.30pm at Village Hall
24th Mar BREAKFAST 8.00-9.45am at St John's Church
24th Mar SPRING LITTER PICK 10.00am outside Village Hall
24th Mar SOMERSET WAGON CELEBRATES A YEAR WITH DEBBIE 9pm at Somerset Wagon
25th Mar PALM SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER 10.30am-12.00pm at St John's Church
25th Mar PALM SUNDAY MESSY CHURCH 3.00-4.30pm at St John's Church
26th Mar CRAFTING 2.00-3.30pm at St John's Church
27th Mar WOMENS FELLOWSHIP 2.30-4.30pm at St John's Church
30th Mar GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK TO ST VIGORS 10.00am-12.00pm from St John's
31st Mar BREAKFAST 8.00-9.45am at St John's Church
1st Apr EASTER SUNDY SUNRISE SERVICE 5.30-7.00am at St John's Church
1st Apr EASTER SUNDY HOLY COMMUNION 10.30am at St John's Church
2nd Apr HOPE GROUP MEETING 2.30-4pm at St John's Church
7th Apr BREAKFAST 8.00-9.45am at St John's Church
8th Apr ALL AGE SERVICE 10.30-11.30am at St John's Church
9th Apr MEMORY CAFÉ SLIGHTLY LATE EASTER QUIZ 2-4pm at St John's Church
14th Apr BREAKFAST 8.00-9.45am at St John's Church
19th Apr LUNCH CLUB 12noon at St John's Church
21st Apr BREAKFAST 8.00-9.45am at St John's Church
22nd Apr MESSY CHURCH 3-4.30pm at St John's Church
23rd Apr CRAFTING 2.00-3.30pm at St John's Church
24th Apr WOMENS FELLOWSHIP 2.30-4.30pm at St John's Church
24th Apr GARDEN CLUB TALK BY CHARLES DOWDING 7.30pm at Village Hall
28th Apr BREAKFAST 8.00-9.45am at St John's Church
1st May TALK BY RUH PLASTIC SURGEON at The Village Hall - contact Surgery for details
14th May MEMORY CAFÉ STORY TELLING WITH JANET NORTH 2-4pm at St John's Church
11th Jun MEMORY CAFÉ TAI CHI FOR HEALTHY LIVING 2-4pm at St John's Church
14th Jul MEMORY CAFÉ FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS SESSION 2-4pm at St John's Church
14th Jul ART CLUB ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION at St John's Church Hall
14th Jul REDAN CELEBRATES CHILCOMPTON at Redan
26th Aug FRINGE FESTIVAL at Sports Club
1st Sept FLOWER SHOW 2.15pm at Village Hall

PLUS...

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

Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

Last year ended with our new secretary in place and this year started well after a record Christmas Draw for the fifteen prizes either bought or donated. Already on order for the patients are new implements for the use by our nurses, giving our patients better and more comfortable treatment. Any suggestions from patients would be welcome.

Not finalised yet but note 1st May if you want to know more about Skin Cancer, especially with summer holidays approaching. A Plastic Surgeon from The RUH has been booked to talk about it in Chilcompton Village Hall. Notices will be posted in the surgeries as well as The Journal and on Somer FM.

We still need some younger members so if interested please contact me on 232188 or through either surgery Receptions. It's not arduous and helps all our community.

Alan Webb (Chairman)



Chilcompton Sports

2017 witnessed the emergence of the Chilcompton Sports Ground as a major venue for both sport and for community activity and the momentum continues to build into 2018. Member Sports Clubs such as Cricket and Football are thriving with both adult and youth team opportunities. We have opened our tennis courts up for casual community use, completely free of charge. Opportunities are being explored to build two Boules courts, subject to funding and we are actively trying to attract a Netball team into the sporting community too.

Beyond sports, we were delighted to be able to present the inaugural Chilcompton Fringe festival. This brand new cultural event featuring music, literature, poetry and more was only possible with the help of volunteers and the generosity of our neighboring landowner, who allowed parking in his field. The great news is we are hosting the Festival again this year, on Sunday 26th August. Keep eyes open and your ears to the ground as there will be announcements over the coming weeks and months. If you would like to get involved as a sponsor, volunteer or indeed as a performer, in the first instance please contact Giles Harrod on 07740 896085.

The Sports Bar continues to grow in popularity too. The recent Six Nations Rugby attracted larger numbers than ever and was a great opportunity to mix with close friends and make new acquaintances from within the village and beyond.

A new website, www.chilcomptonSports.com will be launched soon. In the meantime you can also stay in touch via: facebook.com/ChilcomptonSportsClub or look out for announcements on the chalk board at the site entrance.



Chilcompton Cricket Club

On Sunday 4th 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” and “Pethericks & Gillard Chartered Accountants” for their continued generous sponsorship without which the Club would not be able to function.

This year will be the 4th Season as Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club and it's fair to say that since the club were evicted from Downside they have gone from strength to strength on the field and off.

Secretary Dave Travis reported on another very busy year for the club thanking the Committee for all their hard work during the year.

Chilcompton Sports Club were also thanked for providing great facilities including a fantastic Sports Club to welcome teams from all around the area.

A special presentation was made to John Tandy and Terry Moore for their help on the pitch and outfield during the Season.

At the end of February the Club will undertake their biggest ever project to build two outside nets. This expensive project will be funded by our main sponsors, grants, players and friends of the Club. Full details will follow in the local press when the nets are built and officially opened at the end of March.



It is hoped that other local businesses will sponsor match balls during the season (£25 per Home Game with good coverage in the Somerset Guardian).

In March the club will launch their new Website including improved Facebook and Twitter links.

The Seniors had an indifferent season in 2017 but the Youth Teams were a revelation, coached by Tom Baker.

The U11 side were Runners up to Midsomer Norton in the Bath & District Youth Cricket League and a special presentation was made



Presentation Group Photo



Joe Fussell

to the squad from main sponsors Kelvin and Caroline Parker from Parker Transport (SW) Ltd.

Junior Training Sessions will be held again at Chilcompton Sports Club on Wednesday evenings from mid April to end July (6.15pm – 7.45pm).

Enrolment nights will be held at Chilcompton Sports Club during March.

Chilcompton Sport Junior Section will once again play competitive cricket in 2018, with U11 and U13 teams entered in the Bath & District Youth Cricket League. >>

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The Senior 1st XI will play in Bristol & District Saturday Division 6, the 2nd XI in Bristol & District Saturday Division 13 and the Sunday XI in North Somerset Sunday Division 4. Fixtures and details to follow on the Club Website and Somerset Guardian.

At a well attended Senior/Junior Presentation at Chilcompton Sports Club on 2nd February the following awards were handed out:

1st XI Saturday Senior Player of the Year – James Purchase

2nd XI Saturday Senior Player of the Year – Miles Hadrill

Sunday Senior Player of the Year – Alex Nash

Players Senior Player of the Year – Jamie Warren

Young Player of the Year – Joe Fussell

Youth Runners Up Shields – U11 Squad

Spirit of Stratton Clubman of the Year – Frazer Collins

Senior indoor nets start on Thursday 1st March at Wells Blue School (7pm to 8pm) – current old and new players all welcome.

At the end of March outside nets will start for juniors and seniors.

The club are keen to recruit more senior players for the new season after senior availabilities were inconsistent last year.

For more details contact Dave Travis: 07725 458404 or dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk

Chilcompton Runners - As we go to print, some of The Chilcompton Runners are taking part in the Bath Half Marathon on the 4th March.

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Chilcompton Sports Football Club

Adults

The 1st team are having their 3rd season in the Premier Division of the Somerset County League, which is part of the National League System (NLS) – 10 more promotions to the Premier League!! At the time of writing the team are top of the league, having only dropped 6 points, two defeats, one of those being the first game of the season.

Unfortunately, promotion to the Western League is not automatic, as it is dependent on the facilities meeting the next step in the 'Ground Grading' criteria. While floodlights are the most recognisable, covered areas for 50 people to be seated, 50 to stand and hard standings are only some of the additional requirements. Due to the distance from the pitch, a new changing room block may also have to be considered to achieve what is known as a 'protected walkway'. Many discussions and serious consideration has been given to how this could be achieved in relatively short timescales. Reluctantly we have concluded that it will not be feasible this season. However, Western League football is still an ambition, so we will have to phase the improvements over a period of time.

Daring to dream, it will still be a fantastic achievement to win this league and will have effectively been the fourth 'promotion' in six seasons. In addition to the league form, the team are also through to the quarter final of the County Cup with a home match against Keynsham. If you have not been to the sports ground, look out for the home fixtures on the notice board, as this young team are worth watching.

The reserve side compete in the Mid Somerset League, Division 1. There has been an inconsistency in the team's performances and therefore results, which means they are not challenging at the top of the table. This can mainly be attributed to the availability of players on a regular basis. This was also the issue with the 3rd team, which played in the same League and was formed to help with the transition from youth football. Unfortunately, this team withdrew from the league before December!

If you are interested, at any level, to get involved in some way with this progressive club we would be more than interested to talk with you. See contact details below. New players are also most welcome. Training takes place every Tuesday, 7-9pm and Thursday 6-7pm at the Writhlington School's 3g.

Many thanks to Redan Inn, Northavon M&E and JD Carpentry for sponsoring the Club this season.

Chilcompton Sports Football Club



Youth

SoccerTots is an introduction to football programme that concentrates on skills and agility, balance and co-ordination. It is aimed at Year 1 children and below and takes place at the sports ground on Saturday morning between 9 and 10:15am.

The club hold Charter Standard status and run age groups from U7 to U16. It is one of the bigger clubs in the area, with some age groups running two squads. We are an inclusive Club, but at the same time are looking to provide opportunities to challenge our most talented players. Our sides compete in one of four leagues, Midsomer Norton & District, Hanham, West Wilts or Avon.

One of the potential benefits of getting floodlights would mean we could enter a side into the Somerset Floodlight U18 League.

All age groups train on a Saturday morning from 9am, with age groups, from U9 and above, doing at least one more session in midweek and then matches against other clubs are on Sundays.

More information:

www.chilcomptonports.com

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

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

Mob: 07703616965

Winter Friend

Fieldfares are large and colourful members of the Thrush family. Their posture is to stand upright and move forward with purposeful hops. They are sociable, in that they gather in flocks during the winter, but shy from humans. However, in the winter when food is scarce they will venture into gardens. Rarely do they breed in the UK.

This one was caught on camera by Pete Sinclair in his Chilcompton garden.



Mending Culverts

During January and February work was being carried out on repairing several culverts in the vicinity.

Church Lane was closed for several days whilst repairs were being done on the culvert between Brook House and the Old School. This was necessary because of all the pumping equipment.



The work included shotcreting the masonry arch structures to repair and reinforce them as well as carrying out localised repairs to the head walls.

Grass Verges

Since the last magazine we have been contacted by a parishioner regarding the state of some of the grass verges in the village. Where some people are parking off road on grass this has been detrimental to some surfaces and the parishioner has asked if people can give some consideration to keeping the grass verges in the excellent condition we find them in. Obviously this will be measured against the benefit of keeping cars off of the road and the benefit to safety that this brings.

Jon Pike, Chairman of the Parish Council.

