

Chilcompton Matters

... because it does

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The Parish Council

Spring Magazine

March 2020

*SomeWhere
Under
The
Rainbow*

The Valley



*Driving Too Fast?
Yet Another Crash
In The Street!*



Welcome...

... to the 2020 Spring edition of Chilcompton Matters.

As I write this it is raining and it feels as if it has been raining continually since the last issue came out. But hey ho, think daffodils and lambs. Smile!

Contrasting images are on the cover. The main picture (by Jill Marshall) shows a wondrous double rainbow coming out of the valley. The other pictures depict the scene of the fourth car to come off the road on The Street in the last two years. Qn: How many cars have to come off the road before reduced speed limits are imposed or sleeping policemen are installed? Ans: Only Somerset County Council knows the punchline to this joke (?) and they're not telling.

The magazine keeps getting bigger but we hope you also think it's getting better - this issue sees some experimentation with headline fonts. If anyone thinks that bigger means more expense for the village, I worked out that the last edition cost just 7p per magazine, that's just 7p per household. Surely not bad for a 60 page colourful local magazine deposited at your door. Thanks to the advertisers and then the distributors who make this possible.

As well as news, club information and dates for your diary, this issue contains an article about a man who collects snowglobes - are there any more strange collections in the village? Beer bottle tops? Teddy bears? Varieties of snowdrops? Tell us.

There's also a feature on residents that have momentarily crossed the path of a celebrity. Do you have a story to tell us? Did you accidentally spill tea on Michael Foot's duffel coat? Did you appear on Crackerjack 50 years ago? Did you sit on a train opposite Michael Portillo? Everyone must have a tale. It's the closest we'll come to a celebrity page.

Other thanks. Contributors, please keep it coming, so much appreciated. Proof-readers, they don't always get a mention. Thanks to Kathy Hughes for dealing with the adverts. That man, Mike Hughes, takes so much time and effort on the desktop publishing - a real hero. And you, of course, for reading.

Bendice tu corazon (bless your heart)

Malcolm Rigby

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

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Holy Fundraiser

A pop-up dining room charity event raised almost two thousand pounds on a Saturday evening in February.

The exclusive five course dinner took place at the Holy Cow restaurant by Manor Farm – normally the restaurant is only open during the day.

The idea was conceived, created and made into a reality by Rachel Middleton, who runs The Pudding Kitchen on the farm grounds, and Karen Mattick, who runs the Holy Cow restaurant.

The money raised will be split equally between The Grand Appeal, which is the Bristol Children's Hospital charity, and the David Nott Foundation, who for the last 20 years has been carrying out life-saving surgery in some of the most hostile environments in the world.

Karen said: "It was really hard work, the organising and the cooking, but everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and the money for charity means that it was a real success."

All of the £60 ticket fee from the diners went to charity, staff gave up their time and the food was donated by local businesses.

Both Rachel and Karen expressed their grateful thanks to their "fantastically generous sponsors."

The food ingredients were supplied by Arthur David, who normally deliver their produce and groceries. The wine was supplied by BJP Consulting, Sante Wine Imports and the legal practice Thatcher & Hallam. Whilst the table settings were supplied by Bath Crockhire.

Some of the special dishes, prepared by Karen and her team, included Passionfruit Fizz, a gin and orange cured salmon with Yuzu pearls. There was Confit duck leg with port and Cointreau jus and for pudding a chocolate and raspberry delice.

One of the lucky diners, Sue Sinclair, said: "The food was really to die for, simply scrumptious, but by the time we got to the cheeses and chocolate salami I could hardly eat another mouthful."

When asked whether she would do it again, Rachel said: "Never say never again, but it won't be next week that's for sure."

After the meal Rachel gave a speech, thanking the diners and hoping that they enjoyed it but also explaining the choice of the charities. The Grand Appeal was nominated by the Holy Cow as a result of direct support for family members.

As to the David Nott connection, Rachel admitted to a 'touch of hero worshipping'. David has worked with organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières, and sometimes independently, working to save and improve lives in war and disaster zones, regardless of the patient's background.



New Play Equipment

Chilcompton Parish Council are pleased to unveil a new slide and play apparatus, replacing the old rusty slide at the Old Rec. This was funded from money from the developer of a fairly recent development, Belvedere, as part of the planning process. This in itself was rather more complicated than you would imagine, taking several years, and the Parish Council would like to thank our previous district councillors John and Rachel Carter for chasing this through and our current councillors Josh Burr and Sam Phripp.



Wednesday Walkers

Someone likened this walking group to 'The Last of the Summer Wine'! Well. Yes, we **are** old, we **do** wander about the countryside, we **do** get lost, fall over or slide down muddy banks on occasion. Once a tractor came around the corner and sprayed us all with slurry; unfortunately this was the day we were going to have refreshments at Norton Down Methodist church. We took our boots off at the door as usual, but we couldn't prevent the smell entering the building with us!

Most memorable was when one of our number was leaving his house and saw the walkers passing by, so he caught up with them, gradually overtaking each one until he reached the leader, only then to realise that he had joined the wrong group!

But we're normally fairly sane and friendly and enjoy the walks, chats and tea and biscuits afterwards.

Join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.30am. in the Village Hall car park.

Walkers pictured in Stockhill Road on their way to the Horse and Jockey for Christmas Lunch. Marlene Pickford 01761 232774



Special Thanks To Festive Chilcompton Residents

I have fond memories of my childhood at Christmas time. As soon as the first of December came, my sisters and I would love looking out of the car window looking in people's houses to see as many Christmas trees as we could.

The juicy bonus was when a house had Christmas lights on the house too. We'd practically beg our Mum to take us somewhere just for the car journey. It was all part of the excitement in the run up to Christmas. Nearly four decades later, whilst I see fewer Christmas trees, my heart still lights up when the Christmas lights appear and I can't wait to put our lights up.

In 2018, we failed to get the lights up in time and I was crestfallen. Having lost my dear Mum at the end of May this year, I really wasn't looking forward to Christmas but I knew that our Christmas lights were non-negotiable and so, on the first of December, my husband got on the step ladder and battled with the 'dangerous spiky plant' (Mahonia) to put our lights up and put a smile on my face.

I drove through The Street before Christmas and was sad to see a lack of the usual Christmas lights but as I drove through in early January, I was pleasantly surprised to see the house and garden in The Street covered in hundreds of lights.

I know Christmas lights aren't for everyone, but for others – they provide such joy. So, a special thanks for those Chilcompton residents who go to such effort at Christmas and Halloween and help give our children lovely memories they will cherish forever.



Kate Gloudemans

VE Day – Friday 8th May 2.00pm

Come along to the Village Hall to celebrate the 75th anniversary of V.E. Day. On this special bank holiday there will be teas, the Mendip Brass Band, the raising of the flag and more. VJ Day on 15 August will be marked with a War Memorial Service.

Chilcompton Wives

The autumn diary is always busy. In September we heard from a Channel swimmer, (the one who is on the BBC advert standing in the cold waters of the Bristol Channel). Then we were entertained by Linda Dowsett with her talk 'Love on the Nile', this was her last visit before she retires after many years of raising funds for the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity. The local storyteller was next with his charismatic local tales of days gone by. November welcomed John Reynolds, an inspirational marathon runner; our last meeting of the year was a Tai Chi session to prepare us for Christmas and all that it entails.

The new year opened with Ben; his talk is entitled 'Be the Best You Can Be'. Let's hope that after his advice on exercise we can all achieve it. We will be welcoming all sorts of entertainment through the months. If you would like to join us for an informal evening's entertainment, we meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Details of dates etc. are advertised on the Village Hall notice board, or call Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans 01761 233266

Friday Club

In December, 20 members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Cheeseyard Café, Hornington. Tea and cake is available at the Village Hall every Friday morning at 10.15am. Drop in and join us. Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Golden Hour Club

Following a lovely Christmas meal and a break in January, Golden Hour Club members are enjoying monthly meetings with choirs, interesting talks and music. The AGM is on Tuesday 14th April at 7.30pm. at the Village Hall when Dave Stock will also lead a quiz.

New members are always welcome; please contact Sylvia 01761 233142.

Short Mat Bowls



Indoor bowls continues on Thursdays at the Village Hall. Easy standard suitable for beginners who want to have a go. A welcome awaits, so come along to the Village Hall at 2pm. David Rogers 01761 233142.

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. To book call: 01761 416910

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

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

Time is running out.....



As we brace ourselves for the on-going ravages of Ash Dieback Disease on our village landscape and on a day when it was announced that the hand of the 'Doomsday Clock' has just moved towards being only 100 seconds away from midnight - the predicted time of a man-made global catastrophe - it seems appropriate to be considering what we might do in our community to pull the hand back just a little bit....

Many of the recent election promises of our political leaders are already but a distant memory and are likely to go up in flames quicker than a eucalyptus in a bush fire. One, cross-party, pledge was to plant more trees; two billion, 60 million, 30 million by Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservatives respectively. However realistic (or unachievable) any of these targets might be in practice, every little helps and somebody has to do it. And that's where we as residents of Chilcompton can step in.

The obvious element in the formula for success of any tree planting initiative is having trees to plant; the other three vital ingredients needed to increase the planet's tree stock are land, labour and lolly. Access to these, for many of us, may be limited but that is no excuse to do nothing and we have to think locally to act globally.

A number of tree planting initiatives around the village over the years have been spearheaded by village organisations, institutions, landowners and individuals for which we are all grateful. But there is no time to rest on our collective laurels, and this is a rallying cry for people to come forward; come forward with ideas and inspiration to share in the knowledge that you will be helping to safeguard the landscape and environment that make Chilcompton a treasured place to live and work.

The Village Design Statement champions the wooded and leafy areas of the village as being one of its defining features and the Village Plan confirms that when it was written seven years ago 85 per cent of the population wanted to see more trees planted in and around the village. The desire is there so if you can offer anything by way of 'the 3 L's' please let the Parish Council know and let's see what we can achieve!

I leave you with the words of A E Houseman....

*Give me a land of boughs in leaf,
A land of trees that stand;
Where trees are fallen, there is grief;
I love no leafless land....*

Alister Rankine

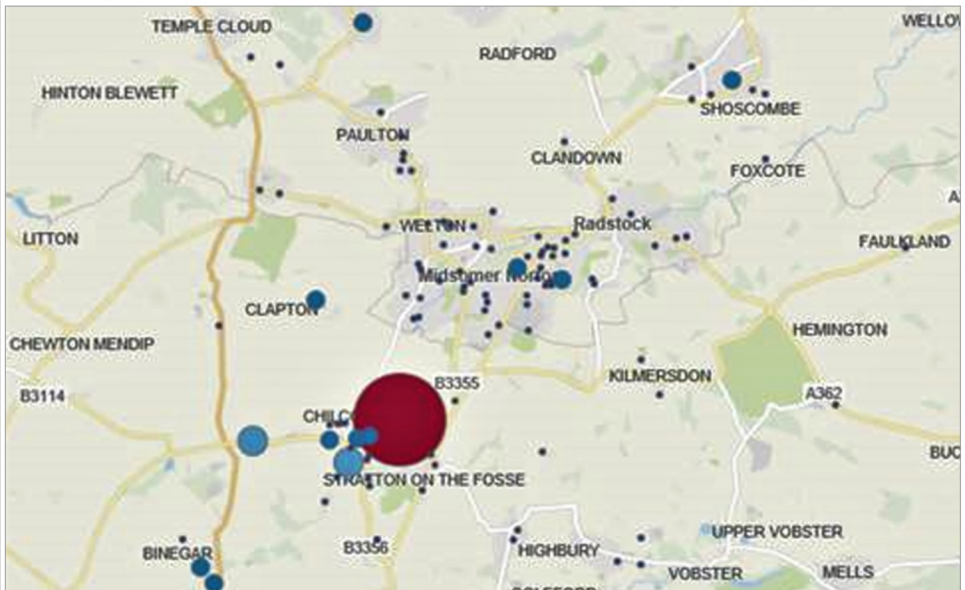
Chilcompton Community SpeedWatch Needs You!

In 2019 Chilcompton Community SpeedWatch (CSW), operated by police volunteers, carried out **56** roadside sessions. As a result, **295** drivers were observed speeding at the scheme's eleven police approved sites and were written to.

These **295** drivers received a letter, generated by the police, to remind them about the potential dangers of speeding through the village and how increased speed can furthermore be a major factor in fatal and serious injury in road traffic collisions. Points on their licence and a fine would have potentially been received had the drivers been observed by the police.

CSW is fully supported by the police who take reports of repeat and high speed seriously. CSW operations are monitored by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, officers follow up reports to ensure that drivers are warned of the danger they pose.

The following map identifies where drivers detected by Chilcompton CSW live, in 2019 surprisingly **20%** of observations related to residents in Chilcompton.



Note: Dot size represents the number of speeders at each postcode. The large red dot shows the greatest number, and these are in Chilcompton.

Chilcompton CSW volunteers are people who have a concern for the safety of the roads in our village. If you are concerned about the perceived speed that traffic drives on our village roads you can make a difference by offering a small amount of time to join the existing team of volunteers.

For more information please email Judith Stanford: cswchilcompton@hotmail.com

Looking forward to hearing from you.

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Chilcompton Memory Café

Chilcompton Memory Café was set up under the auspices of The Alzheimer's Society in May 2017 and is run by members of St. John's Church. We meet every second Monday of the month (except Bank Holidays) from 2-4pm at St. John's Church Hall, Chilcompton. We offer a chance to meet people in a fun and friendly environment with refreshments and a varied programme of activities. It is open to anyone suffering from memory problems and their carer, free of charge.

At St. John's 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. Over the past three years our activities have included crafts, flower arranging, sing-alongs, quizzes, bingo, beetle drives, storytelling, a magic show as well as puzzles and games and much more. We have also enjoyed a visit to Radstock Museum and hope to have another afternoon out some time soon. We're always on the lookout for new ideas to keep us entertained too and would welcome involvement from anyone in the community. This could be to use your talents to run a session for us or perhaps join the team of volunteers – we're sure you'd enjoy our café as much as we do.

Coming up our programme includes Puzzles and Games on 9th March, and an Easter Special on 6th April, which is a week earlier than usual as the 2nd Monday is Easter Monday Bank Holiday.

For further details, please contact Sarah Crosse 01761 412042, or 07535 696264 email: chilmc@hotmail.com or visit our website: www.stvigorstjohn.church.

Local info

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

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

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

Website: www.chilcompton.org

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

District Councillors: Josh Burr and Sam Phripp

cllr.Burr@mendip.gov.uk cllr.Phipp@mendip.gov.uk

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

District Council: 0300 303 8588

County Council: 0300 123 2224

Obituaries

The following villagers have died since the last newsletter:

Alan Plaice, Graham Targett, Grace Dury,
Sandra Shakespeare (née King), Michael May, Jeremy Thompson,
Pip Greenman, Jonathan Redmond-Lyon, Andrew Church
Brian Kissane, Anthony Wilkin

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 magazine.

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

News from St. John's Easter

We warmly invite you to join us in our Easter Services which can be seen in the Diary Dates on page 58.

We will also be holding an EGGCITING EASTER EVENT on Wednesday 8th April from 2.00-4.00pm in our church hall. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, Games, Crafts and Hot Cross Buns for children and families.

Maundy Thursday's Holy Communion Service at 7.30pm on the 9th April is a quiet service to begin our journey through the Easter weekend.

On Good Friday, 10th April, we invite you to join us at 11.00am on our Walk of Witness across the fields from St. John's to St. Vigor's with opportunities to stop along the way and listen to the story of the crucifixion. This is followed by a poignant 'Hour at the Cross'.

Easter Sunday starts with a short Sunrise Service of worship and prayers at 6.00am to greet Easter Morning followed by warming refreshments. Our Holy Communion service follows at 10.30am. We hope to see you there..

There are a number of ways to contact St. John's and/or find out information:

- www.stvigorstjohn.church,
- www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton,
- stvigorstjohn@hotmail.co.uk or call me in the office (open Monday-Friday 9.00am to 12.00 noon) on 01761 502068 Kate Crossley, Administrator.

Messy Church, every 4th Sunday, is a very popular free family event from 3.00-5.00pm. Information can be found on:

- facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton
- or email: messychurchstjohnschilcompton@gmail.com

A new toddler group has started in St. John's Church Hall welcoming parents, carers and pre-school children on



Thursday mornings in term time. Why not join us for a drink, a play and a chat? Everyone welcome.



2020 DATES

@ St John The Baptist Church
Church Lane, Chilcompton
BA3 4HP

Time to
Explore

Stories
& More

Family
Fun
3-5pm



Tea for
Everyone

Facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton Email: messychurchstjohnschilcompton@gmail.com

Chilcompton Memory Café

Every 2nd Monday of the month
2pm-4pm

St. John's Church Hall,
Chilcompton (BA3 4HP)

Welcome



Free fun, fellowship, informal support and information in a *café style* setting. Trained volunteers. Specially suited to anyone experiencing *memory difficulties*. Welcome to all **with** accompanying family, carer or friend.

For further information contact:

Sarah Crosse: 01761 412042 / 07535 696264

or email: chilmc@hotmail.com

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TrueSpeed Making Connections

You may have noticed a number of Truespeed vans travelling around the village in recent weeks as they go about connecting their broadband to houses.

The village hall has now been connected and the BT contract will be discontinued.

Neil Rogers, Truespeed Regional Manager, said: "We will be connecting 40 customers who will go live at the beginning of March and the further 95 customers will hopefully be live in late March, early April. Some of these later connections are still subject to some landowner agreements which our wayleave team are working on now and will hopefully resolve shortly.

"Customers can still apply and receive a free standard installation. If so please ask them to contact me and I can provide them with an online form."

Food Waste, Recycling and Bin Days

Few will have failed to notice the yellow stickers on their bins, part of Somerset Waste Partnership's campaign to encourage people to recycle their food waste.

Apparently by recycling all our food refuse a million pounds can be saved and the equivalent of 882 tonnes of CO₂.

Also come June or July with SWP's Recycle More campaign you will be able to recycle plastic pots, tubs and trays, tetra paks, batteries and small electrical items.

However it will mean that rubbish bins will only be emptied every three weeks. You will be told when it comes into effect.

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Donation for the Rock Road Coal Truck

Joy Sage and her husband lived at The Beeches in Bakers Lane for a year before moving to Saltford in September 2019.

They fully intended to take part in village life, but time passed quickly and before they knew it, they were moving on. Joyce said they always admired the Coal Truck at the junction of Rock Road and it struck a chord as she was brought up in coal mining country in the north of England. Before they left, they kindly donated £30 for the upkeep of the truck so Jenny and Alan Gould will put it to good use to keep the display looking good.

Flower Show

The Chilcompton Society flower show, this year on 5th September, is in its 41st year and for 25 of those years David Rogers has been in charge. He and his committee do a sterling job organising over 60 classes, printing schedules, recruiting judges, sorting cake-makers and kitchen helpers as well as working at least 10 hours on flower show day.

If you usually enter classes in the show or visit, thank you all for your support. If you have never been, please come along and see the entries and prize winners, meet friends and have a cup of tea.

For a schedule contact David. 01761 233142

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Parish Path Liaison Officer

Are you the sort of person that likes to get out and about on the paths around Chilcompton, possibly towing a dog? Then you could become Chilcompton's volunteer Parish Path Liaison Officer. Now that's a title to be proud of.

The PPLOs carry out a wide variety of activities on behalf of both the County and the Parish, ranging from surveying the network of Public Rights of Way to doing basic practical work. In some cases, the PPLOs are very proactive and have a team of volunteers that help them with this work. PPLOs are given a handbook that clearly defines their role and provides general information, as well as a basic toolkit.

If you are interested please contact:

parishclerk@chilcompton.org

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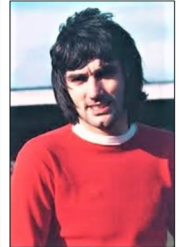
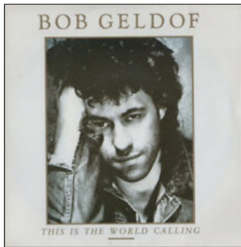
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***EXPLORE: TECHNOLOGY, NEWS & STORIES**

A Brief Flirtation with Fame

A new series in which we are asking villagers to tell us about their short encounters with the rich and famous, virtually everyone must have a little story

To get the ball rolling, Michelle Farrell told me about how in the summer when she was at university she had a job in the coats department at Selfridge's. One day there was a sudden deluge of rain and Lulu appeared in the shop needing some protection from the weather outburst. Michelle had to sell her a cheap pac-a-mac, she said: "Lulu was very bubbly and pretty, just as she normally is." It makes you want to shout.



\ Records and CDs available on e-bay UK

/ George Best

Wind forward a few years and Michelle was working for a merchant bank in London. Even though he was a director of the bank she was surprised one day to find herself standing next to Prince Michael of Kent by the lift. The lift doors open and Michelle thinks, ladies first, but Prince Michael was obviously thinking, royalty first. They both move and bump embarrassingly together.

It was the early eighties, before Live Aid and before Bob Geldof received his >>

History Corner - Memorials

In this 75th year since the end of WWII some residents will remember that in August 2015 the Parish Council added Captain William Hollwey's name to the War Memorial in Bowden Hill. He was killed in Burma in 1943 aged 23.

There was a crucifix in his memory in Christchurch, Downside (Stockhill Road) made of oak with a metal figure about 12 inches high. When the church closed in 1983 this memorial was placed in St. Vigor's church in Stratton on the Fosse, where it can still be seen. (See photo)

There was also a marble tablet in Christchurch commemorating the death of Arthur Nicholas de St Croix in 1915 and this was sent to The Royal Sussex Regimental Museum on 8th November 1983. His father was the vicar at the church from 1913 until 1917.



>> sainthood but Sir Bob was still a well-known figure in the world of post-punk. Villager Pete Sinclair was just about to take his place on the plane due to fly to Paris. He looked down and realised his seat was the one next to the Boomtown Rats singer. Pete sat down and quipped: "Bet you didn't think you'd be sitting next to Pete Sinclair." Bob laughed.

My wife, Debbie, has had several skirmishes with the famous. At the age of 14, home in Sheffield, she went to a T. Rex concert. The next morning she reported to her mother that the most interesting part about the gig was that Marc Bolan split his trousers. Debbie's mum was outraged and horrified. Disgusted of Sheffield contacted the local media and before they knew it they were being interviewed for local television. Debbie's mum was given the personal promise by Marc Bolan that next time he returned to the city, she could inspect his trousers before he went on stage. Sadly he never came back because his car hit that tree.

Many years later Debbie won a Nurse of the Year award and was invited to 10 Downing Street. It was the time of the Blair regime and Cherie was showing the group of nurses around the building. Cherie said, this is the table where we normally keep the silver. Debbie quipped back, but because you've got the impoverished under-paid nurses coming round you decided you'd better lock it away. Ouch.

More recently she started a row with Fat Boy Slim at a bar. Debbie was trying to get a round in and he was taking far too much time mucking around ordering fancy cocktails. She had no idea who he was. Am I bothered?

My bit: I was 11 years old and football mad, Manchester United had just won the European Cup, George Best scored that brilliant goal to clinch it. I had spent a few years doing my time at the Stretford End terraces of Old Trafford watching men's backs – I rarely saw a player or even the ball. So I was waiting optimistically outside George's boutique (it was the sixties) in order to get the maestro's autograph. After more than an hour I gave up and wandered off down the street. I turned the corner and literally physically bumped into my hero. I babbled an explanation and he took me back to his shop, we talked about football and he signed me a photograph. What a man, what a player (in every sense). Forget Pele, he was the best ever. George Best.

Malcolm Rigby

Please send your anecdotal brief flirtations with the famous to:

parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Spring Clean

Saturday 28th March has been chosen for the date of the first village litterpick of the year. Please could volunteers meet at the village hall at 10.00am.

The Parish Council is still looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate this bi-annual event, if you are interested please contact: parishclerk@chilcompton.org



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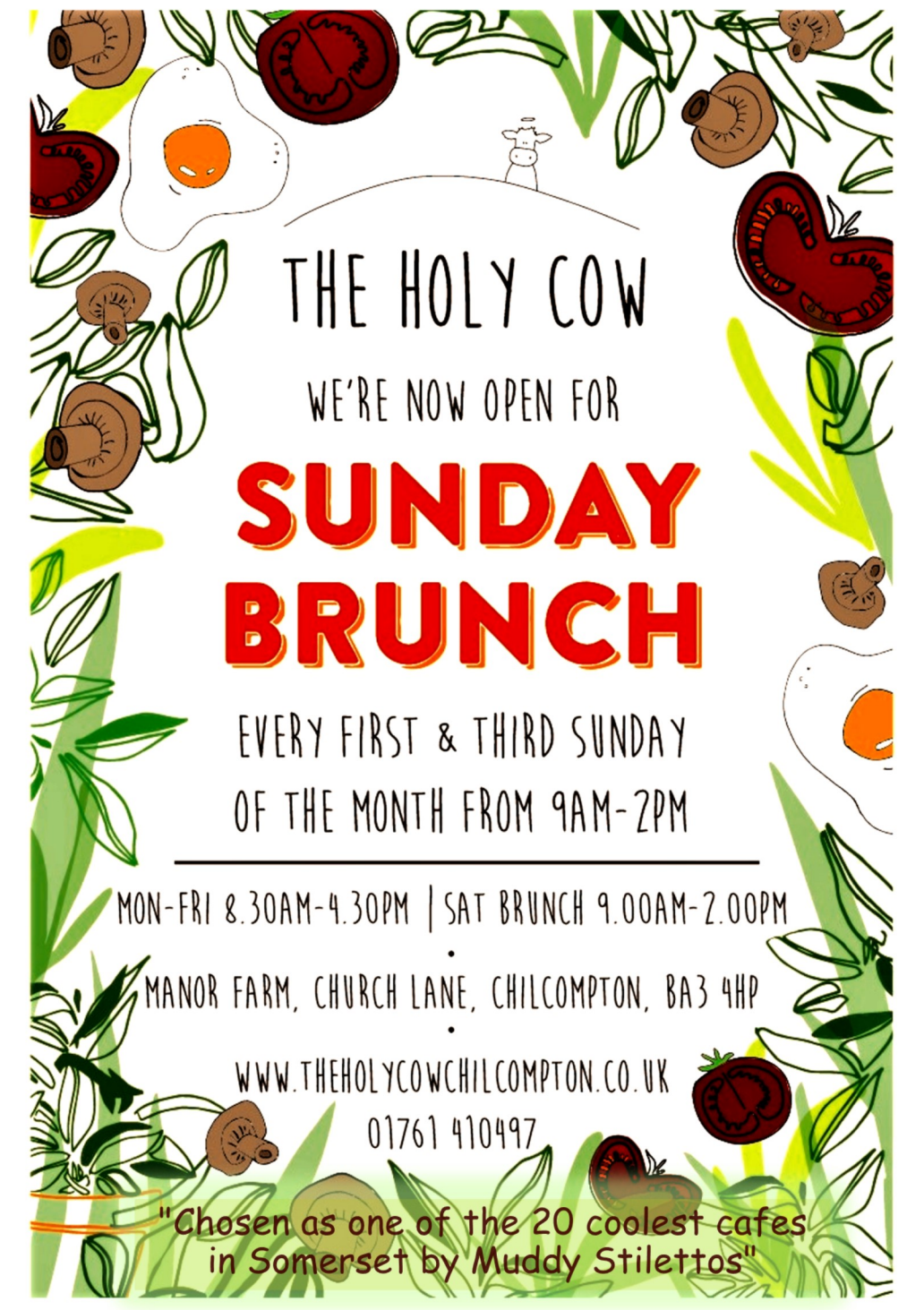


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Trees in Gardens: Why, What, Where and When?

Talking of planting trees, which at last so many people are (and Alister is on page 8 of this magazine), it is worth thinking about what trees we gardeners can plant in our own gardens.

There are many reasons to plant trees amongst them:

- Trees play a crucial role in the fight against climate change. One mature tree can absorb in the region of 1 tonne of carbon during its lifetime – the world needs all the trees it can get
- Trees are an important wildlife habitat, for example many insects and birds rely on them for food and shelter
- Trees are an integral part of human habitat. People like trees for their landscape value and for their shading and sheltering properties

There are not many of us who own enough land to plant on a grand scale, but most gardens have space for a tree or two if they are wisely chosen and placed.

So what trees are suitable for smaller spaces? The first thing to think about is your own personal preference. Do you like evergreens or do you like to watch trees changing through the seasons? Do you want one which will flower and or fruit? And if so is the fruit for you or are you happy to let the birds take the fruit?

If evergreens are your preference a holly may fit the bill. As well as the native holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), there are many hybrids which have variegated leaves which inject a bit of brightness into their dark green glossy leaves and if you choose a female variety you will get berries as well which are a valuable source of food for birds in winter. A note on choosing hollies for berries, don't be fooled by names; 'Golden King' is female and therefore has berries whereas 'Silver Queen' is male and therefore does not!

For trees that flower and fruit, what better here in Somerset than to plant apples? The choice is vast – do you want eaters or cookers? Or how about crab apples for making jelly or just to feed the birds during the winter? You can choose by apple variety or by blossom colour or fruit colour. One thing to bear in mind is that apple trees are grafted onto root stock and it is the root stock which dictates how big your tree will eventually grow. A good nursery will be able to advise you on what is best for your garden.



Sycamore

For autumn colour you can't beat a Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*). A fully grown Persian ironwood is a spreading tree far too large for most gardens, but there is a variety called 'Vanessa' which is small and upright and yet still gives spectacular autumn colours as well as small red flowers on the bare stems in early spring. For changing colour throughout

the growing season consider a 'Brilliantissimum' sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum'). The leaves of this small sycamore start pink, become yellow-green and finally turn dark green >>



Himalayan Birch

>> mottled with cream. And then there's bark colour. For dramatic affect consider a Himalayan birch (*Betula utilis*) with the variety 'jacquemontii' being the most popular. Jacquemontii come as single or multi-stemmed trees and their brilliant white bark shines out even on a dull day. As with all birches they have small leaves which cast dappled shade and turn brilliant yellow in autumn.

I could go on – there are so many wonderful trees to choose from, so many trees, so little space! So I'd better move on to the 'where' question. Things to bear in mind when planting a tree in your garden: think about how large it will be in 5, 10 or 50 years' time – make sure you give it enough space. Don't plant too near buildings, over drains or under power cables. Think about the shade it will cast, you don't want to shade your (or your neighbour's) vegetable patch, but you may welcome a shady place to sit on those precious hot summer days.

Whilst it is possible to plant containerised trees (those supplied in pots) at any time of year, the autumn is the best time to plant, when the soil still has some warmth but deciduous trees have lost their leaves. So I leave you with a mission between now and November – go tree gazing. Look at trees wherever you go. Really look. Look at their shape, their colours, their texture. Look at the wildlife associated with them. Even listen to them, how the wind sounds in the leaves, the hum of insects feeding on the flowers, the calling of birds in the branches. We are very lucky to have the National Arboretum reasonably close by at Westonbirt. Visit at different times of the year and take note of the trees you particularly like. Draw up a shortlist and be ready to plant your own trees in November. Sue Rankine



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Mendip Brass Band

Since the last edition of Chilcompton Matters we have been very busy. On the 10th November Jim and Phil played the last post at the church and at the War Memorial on Bowden Hill as usual.

Also in November we performed a concert at Cranmore church to a large audience which was very successful and raised funds for the church. Later in November we played carols at Shepton Mallet Market Place at the switching on of the Christmas tree lights.

Then in December came carols at supermarkets and carol services at Kilmersdon, Chilcompton, Radstock and Ashwick churches as well as a Nativity play and service at Bishop Sutton in the garden of The Red Lion pub!

This year we have made donations to Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance and Paulton Hospital League of Friends. The band is now gearing up for a summer programme of events.

Jenny Gould.

Beware of Holiday Scams

When booking a holiday it can be tempting to look for the best deal you can find. But be suspicious of offers that look too good to be true – they usually are.

Scammers use a range of tactics, like fake online adverts, or out-of-the-blue phone calls, emails or text messages offering very cheap rates. Adverts may show tempting pictures of holiday accommodation. You may be asked to pay by cash or bank transfer. However, the likelihood is, it's just a scam and what you pay for doesn't exist.

How to protect yourself:

- Don't respond to unsolicited emails, texts, social media or phone calls offering holidays.
- Book your holiday through a reputable travel agent who is a member of a recognised association such as ABTA, or directly with an airline or hotel.
- Pay by credit or debit card. Cash and bank transfers are hard to trace and not refundable – if this is the only way to pay, be wary.
- Read reviews on a few different sites. Heed warnings and look out for suspicious reviews a scammer may have posted themselves.

If you are worried you have been scammed:

- Get advice from Citizens Advice on 0345 404 0506
- 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/>



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Mama's Spanish night first Tuesday of the month





Unsung Heroes

Perhaps Josie and Bert Boxall might not be very well known, but they have been contributing to village life quietly and with dedication for more than 20 years; now it is time to record their endeavours.

They moved to Chilcompton in 1988; Josie was a cook at St. John's school in Midsomer Norton and Bert worked for the MOD. Josie joined the Chilcompton Society committee and has been its treasurer for the last 12 years. An excellent cook, she supported Society events making and serving cakes for the flower show, Chilcompton Celebrates and mince pies and mulled wine for Carols around the Tree each year. They both still help with the flower show.

Bert was a parish councillor for 11 years from 2000. He researched and wrote at least half of the Millennium book produced by the council; he was instrumental in getting a bus through Parsonage Lane and one for Stockhill Road (both now discontinued). He represented the council on the Recreation Project, where he was the treasurer for 12 years.

While on the Recreation committee, he was on the tractor rota cutting the grass. To raise funds for the pavilion he ran plant stalls at Chilcompton Celebrates. His plants were of such good quality that a landscape gardener asked him where he was based and if he could supply plants!

They always spent a lot of time serving bacon rolls at Saturday football training. They both remember with affection children asking for a biscuit and then sidling back later for 'one for my brother' when they knew full well there was no brother! And occasionally a bodyless hand would creep over the counter to take a biscuit! They catered for cup matches and when an order came in for '20 bacon butties in 10 minutes please', it was a signal for them to juggle the microwave, the George Foreman grill and the cooker to fulfil the order!

Most impressive is this couples' 10 years cleaning the pavilion. Every Monday morning without fail they devoted 3 hours to cleaning the tearoom and kitchen before starting on the mud and grime in the changing rooms and 11 toilets.

Chairman of the Sports committee, Tim Curtis commented: "The work and time tirelessly given by Bert and Josie to Chilcompton Sports was invaluable. Their level of dedication and commitment was not only essential in the development of the project, but is further proof that, without such people who are prepared to donate their time and energy, provision of such facilities to the community would not be possible."

When they hung up their 'marigolds' in 2017, the grateful committee presented them with a garden seat, (see photo) an apt leaving gift, given their love of gardening and a well-deserved thank you. Marlene Pickford

Could you be a Marie Curie Helper or Companion?

Marie Curie are looking for dedicated volunteers for their Helper and Companion Services in Somerset.

The Helper Service offers emotional and practical support to people in your area living with a terminal illness. This includes visiting them at home, going out with them, or talking to them over the phone.

The Companion Service is based at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton and offers one-to-one support for patients and their carers in their final days or hours of life.

These volunteers give around three hours each week and provide companionship, comfort and emotional support for people on the hospital wards as well as family and friends who are visiting them.

All services are completely free to the terminally ill person and full training and travelling expenses are given for all volunteers.

If you are interested, please call 0800 304 7400
or email: southwesthelper@mariecurie.org.uk

Boule at The Old Rec

Following written requests the Old Rec sub-committee of the Parish Council is exploring the possibility and costs of installing a Boules pitch in the bottom field. Watch this space.

Monks

Do they know us,
if so how?

Lawns lush and green
steeple turret jag and fuss.
They do not hurry
and do not rush.

Behind the wood and wall
a bell tolls for prayer
and vigils fought and spent
sting the midnight air.

Do they know us,
if so how?

Deep in the wood, on the path
Red Riding Hood skips past
Between wood and the cross
stories chanted part by part

In dreams where the truth sails
and faith tussles and claims
allegiance on that sandy plain.
'We fear not what men say'

Do they know us,
if so how?

What survives unspeakable time?
And do words lie beyond
what is left behind?
Will wood and cross survive?

And the cross and wood meet
'Good day, my Lord, good day'
'How are you my child, how are you?'
'O father I have sinned, I have sinned'

Our journey ends on this ancient hill
and silence flees the bone crushed floor
And the wind and seas are still
and All is no more.

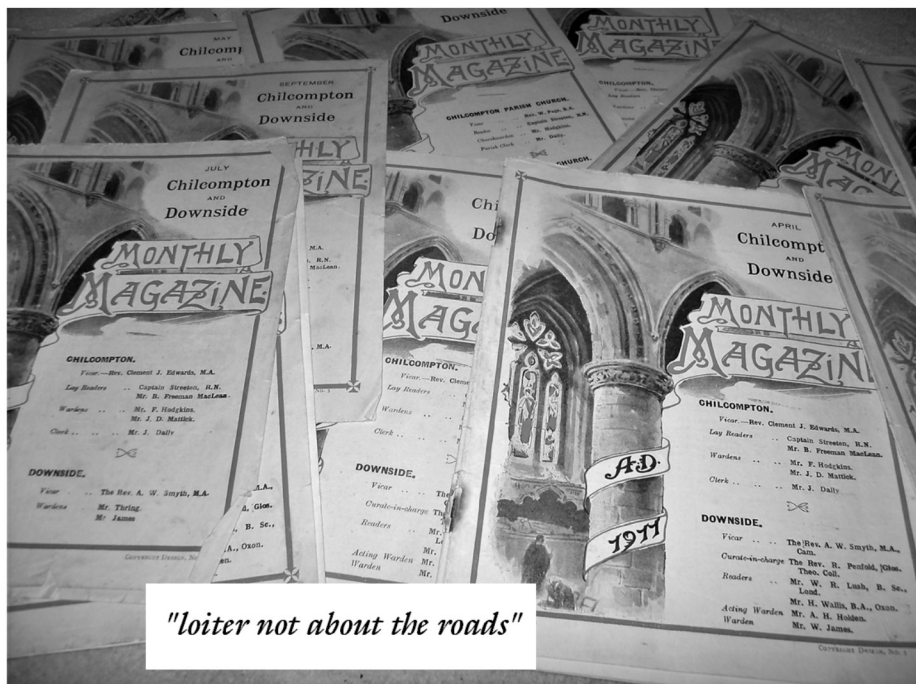
Do they know us
if so how?

by Andrew Morris

Mags from the beginning of the 20th century

Somehow Malcolm Rigby has found himself in possession of the 'Chilcompton and Downside Monthly Magazine' from the years 1899-1919

It's true, I have these magazines, and I have to say that 'magazine' is a bit of an exaggeration for they are very short and very boring. The same might be said about this existing magazine but at least we are long and have colour pictures, we have pictures.



Within the fading paper there are adverts for Vaseline and adverts for old teeth (whatever the condition apparently), there are adverts for pocket watches and bedsteads. Loads of weird stuff that maybe we should be advertising. Do people still sell old teeth? What do you do with old teeth?

The editorial material is largely about the levels of church and Mothers Union attendance, missionary work and providing tea for the visiting Bishop. But I have gleaned (in the early 1900s Chilcompton had a Gleaners Club) some elements of interest.

In the September 1911 issue there was criticism of jam-pots and pickle-jars >>

>> being left in the graveyard: “When they contain fresh flowers they do not add to the good appearance of ‘God’s Acre,’ but when they contain dead flowers or nothing at all, they disfigure our Church-yard altogether.”

In the August 1907 edition we learn that for the Sunday school ‘treat’: “a field near the church, kindly lent by Mr Mattick, where cricket and other games were played.”

In the February 1907 issue the vicar “reminded the children of the debt they owed to their teachers, who do the hard work while the scholars get all the prizes.”

In May 1912 the vicar wrote: “I am sure you, my friends, with the rest of the world were thrilled with horror at the news of the loss of the Titanic, the greatest disaster at sea that history has ever recorded.”

Some things perhaps don’t change though, in August 1913 he wrote: “Parents should be more cautious than ever, now that there is so much cycle and motor traffic in the village, that their children loiter not about the roads.” How much motor traffic was there in 1913? September 1910: “We are experiencing bad times, for lately it has been rain, rain, rain.”

In a wartime issue the vicar blames the continuation of the conflict on his congregation for not praying enough.

The November edition of 1913 assures the good folk of Chilcompton, “by the exercise of stretching we can help to prevent or cure depression, worry, fear and many other undesirable things.”

Whilst the ‘Housewife’s Budget’ section of the December 1911 magazine describes how you can make bedroom slippers out of an old hat. Mrs Orman Cooper told our predecessors that: “These felt slippers may be made very ornamental if a spray of flowers be embroidered over the toes.”

From July 1910: “A strange sight – a motor omnibus in Chilcompton. What could it mean? It meant that Mrs Streeten and Mrs L.B. Beauchamp were taking thirteen of our mothers and seven visitors for a day’s outing.” Not the 173 then.

An article called ‘Love After Marriage’ from April 1911 tells us poignantly: “Behave every day to each other as you would behave if you knew for certain that it was the last day you were to spend together.” Ahh.

If anyone would like to retain these magazines for posterity please contact the clerk.

BINGO !

Regular Family Bingo is coming to the sports club. The event will take place every third Friday of the month.

The club are also hoping to have a monthly electronic quiz night. The questions will come up on a screen and then you put your answers on the phone.

Martin Bown said: “With the wet winter and so many football game cancellations, we’re looking for alternative ways to persuade people to use the club. Bingo and quizzes could be the answer.”

GLOBE TODAY, SNOWGLOBE TOMORROW

What happens when you put a snowglobe in the oven? - Global warming.

Malcolm Rigby meets the man with the biggest collection of snowglobes in the country

You're probably thinking that this is just a surreptitious way of introducing yet another article on climate change. You're wrong, it really is a story about a man who quite bizarrely collects snowglobes or snow shakers, you know those things that you shake and then it looks as if snow is falling on the tableau scene incorporated.

Matt Marshall had 1,400 of these objects but is now down to his favourite 200 after a mass clear-out when he moved house to Chilcompton. But it wasn't the biggest collection in the world; there is a woman in the States who has twenty to thirty thousand.

The collection process started 30 years ago, Matt explained: "I was in Florence and I had 38p in lira to spend, which I didn't want to take back to the UK so I bought the cheapest thing that reminded me of where I'd been.

"The joy of snow shakers is that they are universal, it doesn't matter if a country doesn't have snow, you can get them from South Africa, get them from New Zealand, Australia, everywhere...and they're cheap."

Matt only collects the cheap plastic ones, he's not interested in the more glamorous valuable glass objects.

He said: "The beauty of the snow shaker, to me anyway, was that they were incredibly cheap. People often bought me glass ones because they thought I was joking when I said I wanted cheap plastic ones. They've stopped making plastic ones, they only make glass ones now, I imagine it's an environmental thing."

His favourite is one of Jesus being crucified. "I just think it's brilliant. Why would you do that? Jesus being crucified and drowning at the same time, and that's from Cologne cathedral bizarrely. I have a Dracula one that has black snow. There's one with a bald man and the snow is hair. Then there's one of a Texas tornado."

Over the years the collection has brought Matt some notoriety. He explained: "The Museum of London once put on a collection of collectors basically so they asked me to do it; there were people who collected monopoly boards or Mr Men stuff. Everybody had a few feet of space and displayed their monopoly boards or whatever."

Following on from this he was invited onto Channel Four's Big Breakfast and was interviewed by Chris Evans as the 'Anorak of the Week' – a piece of clothing >>



>> that he proudly retains. Since then there have been several newspaper and magazine articles with appearances on TV and radio.

Matt said: “Most people think I’m a bit sad but they’re really quite interested in them because everybody, more or less, has bought one or been given one.”



Snowglobes were accidentally invented at the end of the 19th century by an Austrian producer of surgical instruments, Erwin Perzy.



Although snowglobes come in many different sizes and shapes the classic curved shape comes from a German bloke who was driving through a snow storm in a Volkswagen Beetle he looked through the rear view mirror and saw the snow falling through his rear window.



The most iconic image of a snowglobe comes from the classic film Citizen Kane, when the Orson Welles character is dying he emits the word ‘Rosebud’ and drops the snowglobe he has been holding, it shatters on the floor and rolls off.



If Matt’s collecting hobby is not unusual enough he also has a collection of 70 Tintin watches.



The Somerset Wood

Chilcompton Parish Council recently decided to support the establishment of the Somerset Wood, which is being planted in the parishes of Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton on the outskirts of Taunton.

Practically every village and town in the county lost men in the carnage of the First World War, and of course Chilcompton was no exception. The nineteen brave souls listed on our War Memorial will always be remembered in our village, and now their names will be among those from across the county commemorated in the Somerset Wood.

The wood is part of a huge project to create the Maidenbrook Country Park on the north-east edge of Taunton, an area of massive housing development. The idea is to form a “Green Wedge” where residents and visitors can relax, stroll, and enjoy the stunning views looking north to Hestercombe and the Quantocks and south to the Blackdowns.



The Country Park itself will offer a wide range of attractions: an Open Air Theatre; a labyrinth for quiet contemplation; cycle and walkways through wild flower areas; a Timber Climbing Structure for younger visitors; an astronomical observatory; and a low-profile Visitor

Centre with a grass roof, designed not to impede views of the surrounding area. An interactive map is planned within the Centre so visitors will be able to locate specific individually-dedicated trees in the Somerset Wood.

The dedication stone for the Somerset Wood is already in place: a WW1 trench will eventually lead from the Visitor Centre to the stone, and on to the wood.

The Somerset Wood will be sited to the north-east of the Country Park: some 1600 trees have already been planted along the edge of the Park area and the plan is to have, eventually, one tree to mark each of Somerset's 11,281 Great War fallen. The species mix will give the best possible range of colours spread through the seasons.



>>

>> The cost of building the Country Park is coming from many sources: Section 106 money from the thousands of new homes being built in the two parishes; plus donations from various commercial organizations and charities.

The Somerset Wood will be separately funded: many of the saplings will come from the Woodland Trust and be purchased by Somerset County Council, but the largest funding requirement will be for the 10 to 15 year maintenance of the young trees. Chilcompton Parish Council has decided to contribute to this maintenance fund, as a memorial to our own fallen and to help create a wonderful permanent amenity for everyone living in or visiting Somerset.

The Parish Council is also considering creating our own Memorial Wood to commemorate the dead from our village in both World Wars. If you have any thoughts on how we might achieve this please contact us by email via:

parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Article by Richard Morgan.





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Midwife Crisis



The twins are called Daisy Isabella and Lilly Angelina Swain – born 30th May 2018 – born to Leeanne Bowden and Ray Swain – made extra special as Dad Ray and his family are from Chilcompton

It's 2020 and International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, marking the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Nick Dore talks to a Chilcompton midwife who came to her profession later than most

Midwives work with women. The word midwife literally means 'with woman'. Historically midwifery is synonymous with witchcraft. Many midwives were persecuted and put to death as witches in the Middle Ages; Carmel Moore is not so sinister.

After bringing up three children, after working in recruitment and marketing, and later at Occam in Chilcompton, she went back to school at the age of 44. She said: "I came to a crossroads in my life in my early 40s and thought, 'it's now or never'. I have never regretted that leap of faith; midwifery was absolutely the right path. I love every minute of my work.

"It would be great to say that a childhood fascination with all things Florence Nightingale led me down the path of midwifery but alas, it was not. I come from a long line of 'Hatchers and Dispatchers' as they say in the family. Obstetrics and Palliative Care are prominent career paths within the family dynamic.

"I had an aunt who was a midwife and nurse on a rural island off the west coast of Ireland during the 1950s and on through to the 1980s. She fascinated me with stories of her experiences and so the seed was sown very early on. I had originally planned to study midwifery after A'Levels but fate dictated otherwise."

Following her epiphany she went off to Radstock College to do an ACCESS course to higher education, it was, apparently, a rude awakening to her grey matter.

Carmel said: "Midwifery is a highly sought after degree course and very competitive. There were over 1100 applications for 48 places the year I applied to Bournemouth University. The course is long and arduous. Unlike other non-vocational courses, as a student you have just 6 weeks holiday. You are either on campus studying full time, or working in the hospital under the tuition of a qualified Midwifery Mentor.

"I started my midwifery degree course on my 45th birthday. There were 3 other women who were also in their forties. We all qualified and have remained great friends since, meeting up several times per year. I found the first year testing, living away from home and all things familiar.

"The midwifery course was very intensive and demanding. Every six weeks we would return to the hospital and shadow our Midwifery Mentor. You worked whatever hours they worked, days, weekends, nights being a particular killer. You have to be resilient, focussed and prepared to work long shifts. It was a three year degree course and I obtained a First Class Honours, literally through >>

>> blood, sweat and tears.”

Carmel admits to watching *Call The Midwife* and crying every episode. But she is critical of the way television in general focuses on the traumatic births rather than the normal calm uneventful deliveries. She also stresses that there is much more to being a midwife than delivering babies.

“Whenever you say you are a midwife, the only aspect of the role that many understand is that of the labour ward midwife. There are so many facets to the role. In essence, you care for a woman from eight weeks of pregnancy. You see her monthly, then weekly, building trust, sharing knowledge and preparing her for the transition into motherhood.

“I once attended a Royal College of Midwifery conference and heard a former director declare that ‘babies don’t interest me remotely, I’m interested in foetuses’. That statement took me quite by surprise but nearly 8 years down the line, I share those sentiments entirely.

“Midwives are there to ensure the best possible outcomes for the woman and her growing foetus. We are there to facilitate a safe, healthy and happy pregnancy and provide a caring and nurturing environment for which the mother can give birth. I was once reliably informed that if an applicant for the midwifery degree course declares they wish to work with babies, their applications are duly placed in the bin. Midwifery per se, has very little to do with newborn babies.

“It is both a caring and empowering role. You are there to listen, support, communicate and share knowledge. You are an advocate for that woman and must ensure that she is kept at the centre of all care. I love the continuity of care and trust building. It is a very special and privileged relationship.”

Since graduating she has also qualified as a Midwifery Mentor and now focuses on community midwifery.

Carmel said: “Apart from being in complete awe regarding the genius of the human body and it’s physiological ability to grow another human, it’s the female instinct, regardless of creed, colour, race, age or status of a woman’s instinct to protect her unborn.

“Labour is a great life leveller. Doesn’t matter if you’re a 38 year old barrister having your first baby or a teenage mum, money can’t buy you a better delivery.... OK maybe if you opt for a c-section at the Portland perhaps.”

So should people retrain in midlife? “Absolutely but plan and be realistic. If you have children you are going to need a considerable support network around you. Do your research and find the right degree course for you. You will find it rewarding and you’ll certainly learn much more about yourself and what you’re capable of. Go with your gut, what are you waiting for..... Carpe Diem!”

Carmel has been in Chilcompton since 1995, she said: “I love every aspect of village life, the wonderful people within are the essence of the village. I have built unbreakable, lifetime friendships here. You will often see me on the street being dragged along by Chester and Luna, two Hungarian Vizslas (dogs).”

The views expressed here are Carmel’s own and not necessarily of the profession.

Towards a Green Chilcompton

Chilcompton Parish Council recently decided to create a Green Subcommittee, tasked with formulating a Green Policy Document. The aim is to develop a set of strategic policies for the future, which will ensure that all decisions taken at national or local level which affect our village are implemented in ways which are as green, sustainable, and ecologically beneficial as possible.

Of course, while the Green Subcommittee will be led by the Parish Council, we recognise that expertise and imagination in this area exist in abundance throughout our community. So we are asking for help with this vital project from everyone in the village with an interest in any of the following topics, please get in touch with us through the Parish Clerk by email: parishclerk@chilcompton.org.

Housing and Development... We all know that Chilcompton has had a huge number of newly built houses in recent years and that Mendip's Local Plan Part 2, if passed by the Planning Inspector, will not alter the development limits for the village or allocate any additional housing. Whatever happens, though, of course there will still be planning applications for sites within the existing building lines, and we will need to ensure that all new housing is built to the highest possible standards of sustainability and energy conservation. What other measures do you think we should be taking?

Roads, Traffic, and Transport... Chilcompton has lost all but one of its bus routes in the last few years and this is unacceptable. Every year sees more and more cars on our overcrowded roads, and the problem is made worse with more and more children having to be driven to school because parents are fearful of the dangers of walking on roads with no footpaths. It is of paramount interest that walking to school becomes a safe option once again, and we will be seeking ways of calming and reducing traffic, persuading bus companies to improve services through the village, and creating more safe pavements alongside our roads. What else would you like to see? Another aspect of transport which will change over the next few years is the increasing number of electric vehicles. They are a rare sight in our village at the moment, but it is quite possible that within the next decade EV's will outnumber fossil fuel vehicles. Currently there are no public charging points for EV's in the village and this will have to change. Where would be the most suitable locations?

Local Employment... Commuting large distances to work has become the norm for decades, and there are few left in the village who are able to walk to work. Chilcompton, like most rural communities, is now, mostly, a commuter village. How could we help bring about an increase in local employment?

Waste and Recycling... Somerset Waste Partnership are soon going to be increasing the range of items accepted in the roadside recycling bins, which is welcome news. Is there more we could be doing locally?

Clean Air and Green Spaces... Chilcompton is blessed with a multitude of fantastic, scenic walks around our beautiful village and we have some wonderful outdoor playing and sports facilities at the Old Recreation Ground and at the Sports Ground. Are these enough? Are they safe from future housing development?

Please, join the debate and help us answer some of these questions!

Richard Morgan

Turkeys Voting for Christmas?

Local government reform. There, that got your attention, didn't it? You'll be forgiven if it didn't. Since the 1970s, it isn't something that's grabbed the attention of many people in Somerset, but the way that Somerset's councils are run is likely to become one of the biggest question for Councillors in 2020.

You'll have heard of Somerset County Council's financial woes, I don't doubt. Whether it's trying to close libraries, quibbling on road repairs or reducing other much-needed services, the County Council has been trying to get it's finances in order for the best part of a decade. The latest idea, proposed recently by the leader of Somerset County Council is to abolish District Councils altogether - rolling them in to one single Council, responsible for everything from roads and social care, to markets and planning applications.

Why the taste for the idea now? In part, we suspect Somerset hopes that the better financial standing of its District Councils would provide a much-needed cash boost. As well as that, we'd imagine they'd hope to cut costs by running central services across the county, not in District Council pockets.

So, why does it matter? Ultimately we'll all have to pay Council Tax still, it might just be collected by somebody else.

The concern we have, is that what services our villages still have left are likely to become still more out of reach. If you think it's tricky to get Mendip to listen when you have a problem now, we suspect it would be trickier still if decisions and changes were made from Taunton instead, by people who have little knowledge of where Chilcompton is or why things matter to us.

For the two of us, it could well mean that our relatively new jobs as your Councillors will be abolished. If it were clear that services would improve and that the lives of people in these villages would be made better, we'd gladly be the turkeys voting for Christmas. This said, we aren't won over yet. From the limited information available, it seems like the savings hoped for would be difficult to achieve. It looks like decision-making would become even more remote. Take, for example, planning issues. Chilcompton has faced an uphill battle getting inappropriate planning applications thrown out - we're not convinced that local views would be heard any more clearly if decisions were made in Taunton. Our concern, is that we'd all pay the same Council Tax, for fewer services, delivered more remotely and with less control for local people.

Regardless of politics, we all want what's best for Somerset, but this answer seems wide of the mark.

Sam Phripp, Mendip District Councillor



The County Line

Go on this website: Onesomerset.org.uk to get David Fothergill, leader of Somerset County Council, view that a unitary authority would save £47 million.

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~ LETTERS ~

Dear Editor,

Just a brief but sincere note of thanks for the Chilcompton Matters media.

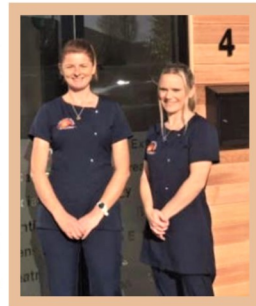
It's a media my wife and I always read and are always struck by the selfless acts and support offered by the great team that wrap around this village to enhance the look and feel in many ways.

As a relatively young couple (38 and 40) with young children, I am often left wondering how we can contribute and help, but with the demands of children, school, clubs, and business that takes me many miles, I usually end up concluding there are not enough hours in the day!

We have joined in the litter pick and I make sure we report things to MDC as and when needed, these little acts hopefully all go to the greater good.

Thanks to you all for your tremendous support and dedication, so often we remember to moan, but not to thank, so hence this email to show ours and I am sure the appreciation of many.

All the best,
Mike Clancy



Comes To Chilcompton

Midsomer Beauty Salon based at the front of Holly Court Arcade in Midsomer Norton has recently relocated to a new salon in Chilcompton.

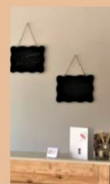
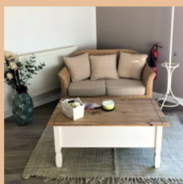
Kate Gould, owner of Midsomer Beauty Salon is really happy with the new premises which is light and airy and has parking for clients outside the salon.

Kate has had the salon in Midsomer Norton for 12 Years but feels that its time for a change and to work in her home village.

The new salon offers a wide range of Holistic and Beauty Treatments. It is situated at 4 Northside, Wells Road, BA3 4ET. Tel: **01761 569 029**

There are two treatment rooms and a large bright reception where there are two nail stations. We offer regular monthly offers and loyalty cards.

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CHILCOMPTON GARDENING CLUB



As I write this at the end of January, the weather is wet and windy and the days short, but we are all looking forward to Spring now, and the beginning of a new gardening year.

The Committee has again been working hard to provide a varied and exciting programme for 2020.

The year started in January with our Annual General Meeting. This was very well attended and was followed by drinks and a delicious buffet supper (see photo) for which we thank Rosemary Blatchford.



Guest speakers this year will be presenting talks on 'A Year Round Bulb Garden' and 'Grasses and Perennials' (speaker Mary Payne who has a regular column in the Mendip Times.) There will also be a presentation by the Woodland Trust, plus talks on Ponds for Wildlife, 'Companion Planting', 'Peonies and Irises' and more!

We are also hoping to arrange one or two outings during the year. And for the first time we will be holding a spring bulb competition in addition to our established plug plant competition later in the year. The Plant Sale in May is an ever popular event, when members work hard to provide a wide variety of flower and vegetable plants to sell in aid of Club funds.

Our meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month. New members will be made very welcome, do just come along and see what we are all about. Judy Youngs

Council Matters

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

Approaching one year since the last election we are still short of our maximum number, so if you think you could help with the council then please contact the Parish Clerk.

This year's spring clean-up day will be in March. For our autumn clean up day we had an excellent turn out and I am aware that a number of people are carrying out regular tidying up sessions outside of our two fixed days. Thank you to everyone who has helped over the last few years, with our growing numbers I believe we are seeing an improvement in litter around the village, but of course we need to keep going if we are to maintain this. If you would like to take part in this year's clean up please contact the clerk or myself.

For those of you who will have read these columns over several years you will be aware of a long running issue with getting funds from Mendip District Council to improve the lower recreation field, thankfully this has been completed and we have the money to get more equipment in (see page 5).

Another common theme has been planning permissions for the village and the interest this generates. This has been reaffirmed recently when a large number of parishioners attended meetings to voice their concerns over plans for proposed developments in the village. It is clear that while most people in the village are not against limited building the prospect of larger developments that challenge the nature of the village will be unwelcome.

On the theme of development, Mendip District Council face the prospect of having to find space for 505 houses in the North East of their district (i.e. our area of Mendip). While the first draft of plans do not seem to show any of these houses in Chilcompton, as one of the primary villages in the area it is a worry for us that we could face a large number of houses.

This year will see the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and a number of commemorations are planned across the country. There is a national event on Friday 8th May, which I believe will be the bank holiday and as a parish council we have elected to be part of this. We are currently thinking of ideas of what we can do as a village; therefore, if you have any ideas I would welcome your thoughts. Please send them to the clerk or myself. Time is of the essence as we are beginning to plan now.

Jonathan Pike



Feedback

What are your views on the magazine? The team that put it together is always looking for your comments, be they positive or negative. 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).

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All are welcome to our fun and friendly playgroup with your babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers on Tuesday mornings from 10-12, term time only, in the Village Hall.

There are lots of fun activities, a variety of toys and each week we offer different craft, messy play and sensory activities suitable for all ages. Coffee

and tea are available for adults and healthy snacks for children. Only £2 suggested donation per family. We held a busy Christmas Party with a visit from Father Christmas which was a huge success; many thanks to St Johns Church for fundraising for us which enabled us to buy gifts for the children. We are now planning our Easter events. New faces are very welcome, please just turn up.

We have recently received some generous donations to help improve our offering.

We would like to thank The Sperring Charity for enabling us to buy a new book trolley which has proven popular, with bean bags and more books to come.

We would also like to thank Chilcompton Parish Council for money towards providing play options for an outside play area. We will develop this in the Spring.

This is a parent-led playgroup so we particularly appreciate extra pairs of hands; we would love it if you could help us with kitchen duties, snack preparation and clearing away toys for example. Any help, however frequent, would be very welcome.

If you need further information and would like to volunteer please email us at: chilcomptonplaygroup@hotmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you and your little ones! Sophie Handover

Bennell Phone Box

Tina Sharpe has been looking after the old phone box at Bennell since the parish council bought it a year or two ago. She cleaned it and has bought red paint ready to spruce it up. She said, 'it has always been there, a landmark, history; I wanted to save it.'

So the phone box became a book swap when Tina installed a bookcase and there is also a notice board. Anyone is welcome to borrow books or put up 'For Sale' notices or events posters. Tina said it has been really successful so far. She intends to paint it in the Spring and would like some help with preparation etc. Can anyone lend a hand?

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

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Do something amazing this year

For many, the start of a new year brings an opportunity for reflection, fresh starts and change - but could you change a child's story this year?

For over 500 children in Somerset, spending time at home isn't possible right now, which is why we urgently need more foster carers to offer safe, loving homes to our children in care. Foster carers can make a real difference to children's lives. They help them through tough times and give them the support they need to achieve their full potential.

Fostering is not a one size fits all. There are a variety of different avenues within fostering to match the vast and sometimes complex needs of the children in our care, and the lifestyles of our carers; from the dedication of long term fostering over a period of years, to the flexibility of respite providing care just one weekend a month. In return our carers receive ongoing support and training, a dedicated social worker and a weekly fee and allowance (amounts vary – please speak to our team or visit the website for details).

If you're aged 21 or over and have a spare room, along with the time and patience to support a Somerset child in care, visit: fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or call our team on 0800 587 9900 to find out how you could help change a child's story.

There is no upper age limit, and things like your gender, sexual preference or marital status are not important – you just need the right qualities and mindset.

STEVE DAVIS

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History Corner - The Valley

Locally known as The Valley, this lovely area is accessed via a public footpath which follows a stream and runs from Greenditch and emerges in The Street. In times past the only buildings in the valley were the Mill House, a derelict cottage nearby and the two houses that housed the Stationmaster and railway personnel.

The stream was essential to power the mill in those days and was also ideal for growing watercress, being shallow and slow moving and fed by springs. It was in 1916 that Bert Golledge built the beds, edging them with concrete and covering about 1½ acres. There were about 10 beds at the upper end of the valley near the railway station growing winter cress and 6 lower down where summer cress grew. Watercress roots itself in the gravel bottom of the stream. The comparatively warmer water near the springs could produce three crops a year, more than those lower down the valley. When it was frosty they dammed the beds, so water built up and protected the cress.

Later Bert's son, George Golledge took over the beds; he also bought others at Sidling St Nicholas near Dorchester. Other watercress beds nearby were at Crocks Bottom and Luccombe Woods, Holcombe.

Bob Brown lived in the Mill House, now known as Valley Farm in the 1950s and remembers at about the age 13 cutting 8 lbs of cress at 7.30 in the morning with Jack Golledge, who would cut 16 lbs; it would then be taken up to the station, weighed and ticketed and put on the 8am. train from Bournemouth. When it arrived at Green Park Station in Bath, Hughes greengrocers would collect it and distribute to shops in Bath. This was Bob's job a couple of times a week, then he would get on his bike and cycle down the valley to school in Midsomer Norton usually covered in mud when he arrived!

On other days Jack and George Golledge cut about 30 boxes of cress, which George delivered around the area in his van. Sunday mornings Bob would cut 20 or 30 bunches for people to collect. He said: "We had elastic bands around our wrists, a red one for threepenny bunches and a blue one for sixpenny bunches." People would walk from as far as Midsomer Norton on a Sunday afternoon, buy cress for tea as they passed and then walk on to the pub at Clapton before going home. The watercress bunches had to be kept cool and damp, so were stored in the



old cottage. George set up his invention, a Heath Robinson hydration system. It consisted of a pipe conveying spring water through a hole in the wall of the cottage where it dripped from overhead on to an upturned milk churn and >>

Chilcompton Art Club

The Chilcompton Art Club is once again open throughout 2020, every Wednesday and Friday morning between 10:00am and noon, at the St. John's Church Hall.

This year we will again be organising various events in the form of demonstrations and workshops on various methods of producing pictures.

The main events of the year include holding an open day in mid June, followed by a week long exhibition in Wells Cathedral in September, then finally our annual exhibition in the St John's Church Hall in late November.



We always welcome new members, and you do not have to be a Monet, Picasso or a Turner in order to join in, simply turn up to do your own thing, perhaps also have a natter and a cup of tea, we do not ask for a fee on your first visit, it is classed as an introduction to see if you like our club. The hall has ample parking and also access for wheelchair users.

All details of contact information and forthcoming events, can be found on our website at www.chilcomptonartclub.uk we are also on Facebook and Instagram.

>> splashed water on to the watercress that was arranged around it. Ingenious!

Later, in the early 1970s Colin Shearn acquired the cress beds and tended them for a couple of years. Then once he was working full time, he would cut the cress after work and his (then) wife delivered it to regular shops in Bath. When their children were born, Colin had to take the produce himself and leave it on shop doorsteps at 3am. More supermarkets meant that there was less demand from independent shops and the last commercial water cress was grown in the valley in 1987.

With thanks to Bob Brown and Colin Shearn for their help.

Photo shows the upper watercress beds with the station signal box top left.

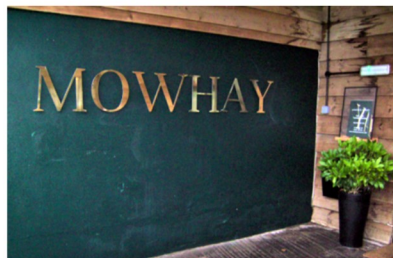
Marlene Pickford

Mowhay, Oh Yay

Malcolm Rigby has a go at unwinding and refreshing...

Recently I heard of a report that the optimum point of unhappiness was 47.2 years old. Apologies if you are 47.2 years old. Apparently you start off happy and then get more stressed until at 47.2 you reach a peak of miserableness and then afterwards you get more relaxed and happier through your 50s and 60s. I'm 62.7

and actually really wish I was 47.2. Anyway it is hokum. If I was the president of the world my first decree would be that everyone should have a massage at least once a week – that would/could/should remove some of the stress.



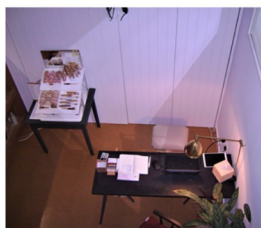
Given that that is a pretty unlikely scenario you could do worse than getting yourself down for a beauty or therapeutic treatment at Mowhay, based in one of the old barns at Manor Farm on Church Lane. Mowhay have clients of all ages.



The business was set up by the very kindly Emilia Iandolo in 2016, originally in the Manor House, before moving to the tranquil little centre at the barn in March 2018.

Emilia and her co-worker, Caroline Ross, have both practised at Babington House. Emilia said: "We were colleagues years ago when we were working at Babington, so we had respect for each other and the jobs that we were given. We're still very much like that, very professional, but as well as that she is a friend who I can rely on if I need to. We're a team, a really good team."

"I feel that I have been very welcomed by the locals"



Emilia loves her location, combining the old and the modern. "Oh my goodness, I can't imagine Mowhay being anywhere else, it is that important.

"I would love to live in Chilcompton, I can't afford it, I've still got young children and



have to work really hard but I find it a great community, there is >>

>> great support, amazing people, I feel like this is my home, I feel that I have been very welcomed by the locals.”

Mowhay doesn't really have passing trade and the suggestion is that people should make an appointment over the phone in the first instance. Emilia said: “My

After my massage I felt duly relaxed (I positively hummed down The Pitchings)

idea was not to have a reception area that might get too busy and consequently interfere with the treatments. I wanted to make sure that my clients' appointments were special and exclusive to them. New clients come through by word of mouth and recommendations, I believe in growing the business organically. It has been really hard work but it works in the end.

“We are very lucky that clients come to us for various treatments, I would say it is a nice ambience for relaxing treatments but we do also have clients that come for a chat whilst they're having their nails done.

“Clients seem to be really appreciative from the minute they walk in until the minute they walk out; they seem to be really pleased with the whole experience. The feedback I get is that it's not just the treatments, it's not just what we do and what we're good at, it's the whole journey of the experience. It is a journey, but seemingly a happy and relaxing one.”

After my massage I felt duly relaxed (I positively hummed down The Pitchings) and the crick in my neck that I had woken in the morning with, had completely gone. Caroline said, as she left the tasteful comforting massage room, that I needed to come back for more. Do they always say that? But I ought to.

Mowhay do a full range of treatments including massages, facials, scrubs, manicures, pedicures for all generations. Some are specifically for men, some are specifically for expectant mothers, most are for everyone. One treatment growing in popularity, possibly because of GP surgeries' growing reluctance to do syringing, is the Hopi ear candles experience. This is a non-invasive treatment providing relief to problems with sinuses, it is proven to alleviate discomfort in the ears, nose and throat, and includes a relaxing pressure point head massage.

Emilia said: “There is a significance in the name, Mowhay, first of all it needed to be a name that fitted in with the farm location. Mowhay is a Cornish word and it means ‘mowing the hay’, as well as that it just fits in really well with the name Holy Cow, our chosen colour of green, and with the ethos that is behind the business. We're Mowhay; we are a comfortable, luxurious, ambient beauty and therapeutic centre in an old barn in Chilcompton. That's us.”

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Embroidery Experiences

For our Embroidery Christmas project this year, we embroidered cotton reels and decorated them with beads etc., to make them look more attractive. These were eventually displayed in a Wells retail outlet over the festive period. Ladies from both my classes each week, over the Autumn term, have helped St John's Church tremendously, in knitting and crocheting lots and lots of angels for the project at St. Vigor's School.



Although our new Spring Term of ten weeks started on 14th January 2020, if you feel you would like to join the class you can make up your time by coming to both the Tuesday and Thursday morning classes each week.

If you would like to try something new, why not come along and see some of the varied work being done. 'Embroidery Experiences'

might just be what you are looking for this spring. Please just turn up on the day, at St John's Church Hall Tuesday and Thursday 10.30 - 12.30, or contact myself.

Mrs Patricia Ardron 01761 232466



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

The Chilcompton Matters magazine 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.

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

Kathy and Mike Hughes



Brian Kissane

There was standing room only in the corridor for the funeral in Bath of this popular and much-loved man. Long-time friend Brian Rangelcroft gave the eulogy

I first met Brian almost 65 years ago when I started work at Eagle Star in Southampton. We were both about 17. He was born in Portsmouth in 1938 where his father was serving in the Royal Navy. When his father left the navy the family returned to Southampton in 1949.

Brian had passed the 11plus and attended Taunton's Grammar School for the next five years before joining

Eagle Star. He played football at quite a high level for his 'Old Boys' team.

Within two years of meeting we were both called up for two years National Service. Brian found himself in the Royal Army Pay Corps. He was eventually posted to an artillery regiment on infantry duty in Cyprus when it was not a safe place for British service personnel to be.

We returned to Southampton on completion of our stint and Brian's attention was soon drawn to a young lady called Ann who had joined the staff during our absence and he set off in pursuit. He was of course successful and in March 1963, on a wet and windy day, they were married in Southampton.

They started their married life in Banbury where Brian had been 'loaned' to a family owned insurance broking firm.

Having subsequently returned to Eagle Star working in Oxford, Brian's career progressed and over several years they moved to Hertford, Birkenhead and Harrow. He had successfully completed the fellowship exams of the Chartered Insurance Institute and had the honour of being President of the Harrow Institute for a year. During this time his three children, Mark, Simon and Samantha were born.

Brian's final move was in 1981 to Bristol which is when the family moved to Chilcompton and lived at Waterloo Farm for the next 35 years.

He subsequently took an option of early retirement which gave him time to enjoy his hobbies of antique collecting, gardening and fishing. This also gave Ann and Brian more time to enjoy long distance holidays and cruises to many parts of the world.

On another occasion they were staying at a Landmark Trust property in North Wales which had just been refurbished. They were advised that the property was to be visited by the Patron of LMT so that was how they came to have afternoon tea with the Prince of Wales.

Brian was also involved with life in Chilcompton. As a member of the Parish Council he was very involved with the project to improve the sports and recreation facilities and as Treasurer of the twinning association, he organised trips to France. He also became a proud grandfather and great grandfather.

Brian enjoyed a long, interesting life and until the last few years an active one. He has also had a long and happy marriage with Ann for almost 57 years.

60+ Drivers

'Mac the Finger said to Louis the King, I've got 40 red white and blue strings and a thousand telephones that don't ring. Do you know where I can get rid of these things?' And Louis the King said, 'let me think for a minute son.' Then he said, 'yes it can be easily done, just take everything down to highway 61.' "Bob Dylan

In the previous issue it was reported that the Parish Council was hoping to host a presentation aimed at older drivers. A date has now been fixed, Tuesday 7th April 7.00pm at the village hall.

The talk called Route 60+ (presumably a vague reference to Bob Dylan's Highway 61?), is provided free by the Somerset County Council Road Safety team.

Perhaps with the reduction of bus services in mind, the presentation is designed not to get older drivers out of their cars but to keep them in, safely.

Steve Greenhalgh, from the team, said: "The talk is aimed at helping to keep older drivers driving on the road safer for longer, we are aware of when a person who lives in a remote area has to stop driving it presents a difficult lifestyle change. In the talk we cover strategies to help continue driving and offer (for a fee) a driving assessment with a driving instructor." Everyone who attends the event gets a free copy of the highway code and other literature to assist them.

Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

After the ever-popular Christmas Raffle, the New Year brings changes to the Friends charity. Long-time Chair, Alan Webb, is retiring after 10 successful years at the helm. Committee members and surgery staff gave a big vote of thanks to Alan for his commitment to the role. Alan was presented with a small token of committee members appreciation; which we suspect he may not have been able to finish before Dry January arrived!



The new Chair is Jenny Evans, who may be known to some locally as a former Business Manager at Midsomer Norton Primary School. The Friends will continue to raise money to purchase extras for the surgeries, that the NHS does not provide. In 2019 over £3300 worth of extra equipment was purchased. The Friends also arrange information sessions on specific issues. If you have a topic which you think local people would like to learn more about, then please contact Jenny, who will take all ideas to the committee and subsequently strive to find subject experts. You can write to Jenny c/o either surgery, or email jsattlerevans@btinternet.com

There have been changes at the Chilcompton surgery front of house too. Before Christmas we said goodbye to two long serving members of staff – Annette and Julia. We wish them good health and happiness and thank them for many years of outstanding service. We also want to welcome Michelle, who has transferred up from St Chad's, and Nic our new dispenser/receptionist.

Jenny Evans (Chair) 01761 030220

First Impressions

Jill Marshall describes her initial year in the village

'Chilcompton? Where's that?' - 'Just south of Radstock/Midsomer Norton I think'

'Oh, isn't that old Somerset mining country?' - 'Don't know, never been there'

In January 2018, after some 30 years, we left our London life behind and headed West. I'd sold my shares in my business and it was time for a change of scene. Renting a house in Bath afforded us the time to get to know the surrounding area and ultimately decide where we wanted to live. Everyone we met seemed to have an opinion on where best to look – Limpley Stoke, Wellow, Marshfield, Chew Valley to name a few. No-one said Chilcompton.

Our 'dream house' wish-list included: old/period property; a large garden; access to a pint of milk without driving for miles. Simple enough. *"Way more amenities than many of the other places we had considered"* After a couple of months, having viewed a number of houses, none of which were quite ticking all the boxes, we were starting to feel a little dejected.

So on the 15th March 2018 (with the snow dumped by The Beast from the East still on the ground), we headed to Chilcompton to see a house we'd looked at several times online but which didn't match our wish-list. 'You never know' we said to each other in a not-quite-convinced manner

We didn't buy the house we originally came to view (lovely though it was) as another house, not yet on the market, ended up being 'The One'. And interestingly, it didn't match our key criterion of 'old' – it was built in 2015.

So we'd bought a house we never expected to buy in a village we knew nothing about... the best-laid plans and all that.

We moved into our new house on 1st August 2018 and on our first Sunday evening we sat outside in the fading heat of the day, enjoying a glass of wine. We heard a distant sound floating up the valley towards us. Church bells. We thought we'd died and gone to Heaven!

Once the mountain of boxes began to subside, we began exploring this place we found ourselves living in. We were pleasantly surprised by how much Chilcompton has to offer: two pubs, a Co-op & Post Office, a Doctor's Surgery, a Village Hall and Church Hall offering all manner of activities, the delightful Holy Cow and last but not least the 173 Mendip Explorer. Way more amenities than many of the other places we had considered. The place even has a Quilting School! And then there's the setting: the valley, with the winding River Somer, the picturesque Ponds, and beautiful walks across the fields and along the old railway line to Midsomer Norton. The village is also perfectly placed for both Bath and Wells and a gateway to exploring some beautiful Somerset countryside.

And for food lovers, the area certainly offers a rich array of fine produce: from Cheddar strawberries to excellent cheeses; locally grown vegetables and grass-fed beef. Our shopping habits have fundamentally changed since moving here – we still use supermarkets for the basics but for fresh food we shop small and local: Mitchards, the Wells Fruit & Veg stall (all that lovely fresh produce and not a plastic bag in sight!) and Wells market with its many food stalls provide us with >>

>> everything we could possibly need.

Chilcompton is a large village, strung out along a number of roads and lanes with no real 'centre' as such (St. John's and Manor Farm would probably be regarded as the heart of the old village) and a diverse mix of housing and people. This diversity is part of the village's appeal for us as we didn't want to end up round a village green with lots of other DFLs (Down from Londons). Chilcompton has a rich history including some wonderful houses which we've been exploring with the help of David Strawbridge's invaluable books.

Visitors from London and elsewhere who come to stay with us love the village and think we are incredibly lucky to have found a great house in a great village.

And the icing on the cake? We've been lucky enough to meet and get to know a number of people in the village and have been genuinely touched by how we've been welcomed into new social circles (in London you're lucky if you even know your neighbours' names).

So 18 months on we've gained a dog (almost obligatory in Chilcompton), decent walking boots, a garden where we can grow our own veg, an unhealthy penchant for the Scotch Eggs at The Redan – and best of all, new friends and acquaintances. Now when asked, 'Chilcompton? Where's that?' maybe I should still say 'No idea'. After all we don't want the place over-run with DFLs....



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Chilcompton Lives - Wendy Earle (*nee Brady*)

Wendy moved to Chilcompton from Stratton in 1940 when she was about 5 years old. She lived in St Wilfrid's, on Broadway. The house was owned by Downside School and was made available rent free to the Brady family as Wendy's father, Cecil, worked at Downside.

She was born in Stratton on 21st February 1935 at 3pm on a very snowy day. Her Dad and Uncle Francis had walked across the fields in the deep snow to get Nurse Bird from Chilcompton, opposite the Vauxhall garage.

Dad was an electrician at Downside and would bring home his wages and place them on the table for Wendy's mum to work out the payment of the weekly bills for the butcher, the baker and insurance. Wendy's mum worked in the dormitories at Downside.

Wendy remembers when she was 3 and she hid in her mum's cupboard and helped herself to the Cadbury Drinking Chocolate.

Her grandmother lived next door to them and would 'borrow' a neighbour's pig from the pigsties at the top of the garden for the children to play with outside their door. Like most families at the time the Brady family had hens in their garden supplying them with fresh eggs.

Unfortunately Wendy fell down the stairs when she was about 4 and as a result developed abscesses in one ear causing deafness.

When the family moved to Chilcompton she remembers her mother transporting the best china across the fields in a pram. >>

STRAPESTONE BOARDING KENNELS



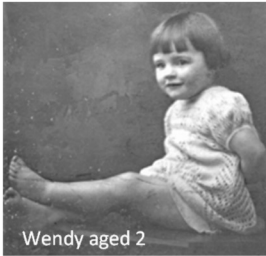
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>> From 1941 she went to St Benedict's School in Stratton and used to ride there on the crossbar of her dad's bike from Chilcompton, later she would walk to school along the path by the village hall with her friends.



Wendy aged 2

She recalls the concrete works, which were on the site now occupied by Massey Wilcox. This was where they made blocks for building and cattle troughs. The children would sit in the troughs and play in the sand making it their 'beach'. They would also go down to the water cress beds in the valley where they would sit in the spring and swim – another 'beach'!

Wendy was the only girl on her father's side of the family for 70 years and it was not surprising that she was a bit of a Tomboy. Occasionally she would get dirty when out or on the way home from school climbing trees and would be in trouble. She would be sent to her Grandad in Welton. Wendy is a very keen gardener and learnt this from her Dad and Grandad.

During the war Wendy's dad, Cecil, worked as an electrician at BAC in Bristol working on Rolls Royce engines. Cecil was taken to BAC by George Whitcombe in his car. They would have to change their route if they were affected by the bombing. Wendy and her brother would watch the bombers flying over from her bedroom window and worry as to whether her father would get home safely.

After the war Cecil went back to work at Downside. He was also a special constable and had a phone installed in his house. This was the first phone in their road. Eventually it had to be removed as too many people wanted to use it.

In 1950 Wendy left St Benedict's when she was 15 and started working in the tailoring department at Downside. She was responsible for making regulation trousers for the boys at the school; also sewing on name labels. Wendy said that there were nine hundred boys at the school at that time.

She only stayed there for 8 months and then got a job at the Dunford's shop which was situated at the bottom of Chilcompton opposite the water.

Wendy went to work at Fear Hills department store in Wells where she was Head Cashier and Buyer, staying in this job until she was married to her first husband when she was 23. She had three children with him – Matthew, Nicholas and Virginia.

In 1959 the family moved to Downside Cottage on Wells Road. Wendy did some cleaning and took in sewing. Her Dad arranged a part-time job for Wendy at Chilcompton Co-op; she increased her hours gradually and stayed for 22 years.

In 1983 Wendy married John Earle and in 1984 they moved to Bennel Cottages where Wendy still lives. John worked for British Rail starting in Chilcompton aged 19 as a ganger laying down track. Sadly John passed away in 1996.

Over the years Wendy has been involved in the community. She played skittles at the Redan and the British Legion in Stratton and was captain of the ladies' teams. Wendy attends the Wives club, Friday club and Golden Hour. Recently she has been helping Tina who is setting up a library in the disused phone box.

Wendy has 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren with another due soon.

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.

Diary Dates

- 28th Mar** SPRING LITTER PICK 10.00am outside Village Hall
- 5th Apr** PALM SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE 10.30am at St John's Church
- 6th Apr** MEMORY CAFÉ EASTER SPECIAL 10am-2pm at St John's
- 7th Apr** 60+ 7.00pm at Village Hall
- 8th Apr** EGGCITING EASTER EVENT 2.00-4.00pm at St John's Church Hall
- 9th Apr** MAUNDAY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION 7.30pm at St John's Church
- 10th Apr** GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS FROM ST JOHN'S 11.00am TO ST VIGORS
- FOLLOWED BY HOUR AT THE CROSS
- 12th Apr** EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE 6.00am at St John's Church
- 12th Apr** EASTER SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE 10.30am at St John's Church
- 14th Apr** GOLDEN HOUR CLUB AGM 7.30pm at Village Hall
- 8th May** VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 2.00pm at Village Hall
- 11th Jul** REDAN CELEBRATES CHILCOMPTON 3.00pm at Redan
- 15th Aug** VJ DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE 2.00pm at War Memorial
- 5th Sept** FLOWER SHOW 2.15pm at Village Hall

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 CAFÉ 2.00pm at St John's Church Hall
- 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** HOLY COMMUNION (Prior to Lunch Club) 11.30am at St John's
- 3rd Thursday** LUNCH CLUB 12.00pm at St John's Church Hall
- Fridays** FRIDAY CLUB 10.15am at Village Hall
- 3rd Friday** BINGO at The Sports Club
- Sundays** HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE (using traditional language) 9am at St Vigor's
- Sundays** KARATE DO 10.30am-12.00 Withlington Sports Centre
- Sundays** POWERHOUSE YOUTH GROUP 6.00pm at St John's Hall
- 1st Sunday** CELTIC SERVICE 6.30pm at St John's
- 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays** FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE 10.30am at St John's
- 2nd & 5th Sunday** FAMILY SERVICE 10.30am at St John's
- 4th Sunday** MESSY CHURCH 3.00pm at St John's

Two Retirements from Chilcompton Surgery

It was a sad day in December when patients and staff said, 'Goodbye', to Annette (Nettie) Drake and Julia Emery when they retired from Chilcompton Surgery. Villagers joined them at the surgery for afternoon tea to mark the event. (See staff photo, Nettie 2nd from right and Julia centre, below - Julia and Nettie cutting the cake.)

Nettie qualified in pharmacy physiology and medicine and previously worked for a pharmacy training company, which entailed much travelling from Dover to Cornwall.



Dr. Widdowson asked her to help with the dispensary at Chilcompton in 2003; Nettie was happy that it involved less travelling and she was keen to be in one place and engage with patients. It was still a 36-mile commute to Chilcompton from her home, but she loved her job.

In 2007 Nettie became Team Leader, looking after all aspects of the surgery and the service it provided. Nettie worked for 16 years at the surgery making friends with patients; she was well-liked, respected, kind and helpful, especially to the elderly and vulnerable. She said: "I absolutely enjoyed every minute with the patients, staff and doctors. I have retired from the best job I ever had."

Julia was recruited by Doctor Rose in 2002 as a receptionist, having spent many years before that working at Great Mills Head office. She has fond memories of her colleagues in the early years, Tina, Kerry, Elaine and Ceris. She lived in Midsomer Norton then but has been a resident in Chilcompton now for six years.

Apart from reception duties, she helped with dispensing and spent two days each week making up 20 dosette boxes per day with patients' medications, which were then delivered to their homes each month. Julia's quiet and caring manner endeared her to patients and she, in turn, enjoyed her time at the surgery. She is now looking forward to travelling and spending time gardening.

In retirement, Nettie can now concentrate on running Ducks and Drakes, a charity concerned with bowel cancer that her late son, Andrew and family set up. She said: "I will also be back to the village from time to time to see friends." And added: "Julia and I would like to thank all the patients and friends who gave flowers, cards and presents to us both. X X."

It is certain that many people in Chilcompton are missing them both and will remember them with affection; we all send them good wishes for a very happy retirement. Marlene Pickford

Chilcompton Sports Football Club

Chilcompton Sport U9's

Chilcompton Sport U9's have faced a challenging start to the season. The loss of their coach at the end of last season, due to work commitments, led to the loss of some players and the future of the team was uncertain.

Thankfully with the help of parents and a few U8 players, they have been able to keep the team going within the local league. Over the last month they have welcomed three new U9 players and now comprise seven local players, who are really keen to improve their skills and do well in local matches.

Chilcompton sport U9's are still welcoming new players of any level and also seeking an FA coaching Level 1 or above qualified coach (or someone who is willing and able to undertake the FA coaching course) to work alongside the current team manager.

If anyone is interested in joining the team or would like to find out more about coaching, they can contact Hayley on 07841 585289.



Sports Club – Netball

The sessions run between 7pm and 8pm every Thursday, simply just turn up if you want to take part.

To date the attendance has been pretty good so there are early optimistic talks about forming a Chilcompton team.

For more information contact:

samantha.kemmish@englandnetball.co.uk

07738 696 362

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Chilcompton Sports Club

Do you know...

...that Chilcompton Sports Club is a fantastic, family friendly venue with so much to offer the community in and around Chilcompton? Not only does it boast a highly successful football club for all ages – from youngsters just starting at school right up to a victorious adult first team – but an excellent cricket club that runs throughout the summer for U11s, U13s and adults alike. It also has the provision of three tennis courts available free of charge and the opportunity, with appropriate numbers, for a developing netball team. Alongside all the sporting opportunities on offer, the club is also the only venue locally that offers both BT Sport and Sky Sports showing major sporting events of interest. It remains a superb environment for meeting up with family and friends at any of these sporting events, and, with various fund-raising events being held throughout the year, we would love to see you there. We are a charity that relies entirely on the support of the local community alongside the invaluable help of our trusty band of volunteers and the generosity of local businesses, so please come and join us whenever you can. Any events and televised sporting events can be found on Facebook: [chilcomptonsportsclub](https://www.facebook.com/chilcomptonsportsclub)

Do you know...

...any child, youth or adult who loves to kick a ball around and would benefit from football coaching? Chilcompton Football Club is always looking to increase numbers in all age-groups and would welcome new players, both girls and boys. Training is on a Saturday morning and one evening a week. Don't hesitate to let us know on chilcomptonyouthfootball@gmail.com! Likewise, do you know any child, youth or adult who would like to get involved in cricket this summer? Email dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk and we will let you know how this can happen!

Do you know...

...anyone who loves football, enjoys working with children and is happy to undergo relevant training to help in the coaching of any age group – whether they have a child involved or not? We always need additional help in the running and training of all groups and would appreciate any help you might be able to give. Don't hesitate to let us know on chilcomptonyouthfootball@gmail.com and we will let you know what's involved and how we can help you help us!

Do you know...

...any young adult who is doing their Duke of Edinburgh award at school and who might be seeking voluntary work? There are numerous ways in which young people can help in our charity and football club and learn a great deal along the way. We always need volunteers during the coaching sessions to play an active role in the football training and would welcome anyone who wants to play a part in running the café on a Saturday and Sunday morning during training and matches. It's a great way to meet people and make a difference to children's lives. Perhaps you are more interested in grounds and property maintenance and would be interested in contributing a little time at helping in that capacity? Don't hesitate to let us know on chilcomptonyouthfootball@gmail.com!

Chilcompton Cricket Club

On Sunday 2nd February 2020 Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club held their AGM at Chilcompton Sports Club.

The Club thanked “Parker Transport (SW) Ltd”, “Spectrum Form Design Ltd” and “PG Owen Ltd” for their continued generous sponsorship.

The Chilcompton Sports Club Committee were also thanked for providing excellent facilities at the Sports Club which continues to be the envy of our opponents when they visit to play cricket.

2020 will be the sixth Season as Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club and 2019 marked another successful Season for the Senior section.

The Saturday 1st XI finished a comfortable fifth in Bristol & District Division 5 following their promotion in 2018.

The Saturday 2nd XI finished Runners Up to local rivals Mells by one solitary point in Bristol & District Division 13 and were promoted into Division 11 for this season.

The Sunday XI finished a comfortable fourth in North Somerset Division 3 following their promotion in 2018.

The Youth Section had a very enjoyable season with expert professional coaching from Frome’s Mark Watts who had great help from parents and senior players.

The U11 side finished a creditable third, the U13 side finished mid table in the Bath & District Youth Cricket League and both sides more than held their own against the bigger clubs from the Bath area.

The membership numbers for the Youth Section increased again and the plans are to offer “All Stars” Cricket in June 2020.

Junior Training Sessions (7 years +) will be held again at Chilcompton Sports Club on Wednesday Evenings from 22nd April to end July (6.15pm – 7.45pm).

We also involved in the Bath Cricket Club Junior Development Program, Bath CC Coaches have already been running weekly sessions at St Vigors & St Johns School (since January 2020) and hope to be involved with some of the sessions at the Chilcompton Junior cricket training nights starting in April.

The Junior registration night will be held at Chilcompton Sports Club on Friday 13th March (6-7pm). The Annual Junior Membership continues to be very low at £15 per year as this is subsidised by the Senior Players Memberships.

Following in the footsteps of Joe Fussell in 2018 & Alexandra Baughan in 2019, we are delighted to report that Zak Gloudemans was selected to represent Somerset Juniors in 2020. This is a great achievement for Zak who is one of our growing number of promising young players who bowls superb leg spin and is an excellent bat.

Another note of mention is 14 year old Thomas Scott who won Junior Player of the Year and successfully moved up to the Senior Sunday XI and turned in some excellent performances. Hopefully Thomas will be the first of many Junior Cricketers who will move up to the senior teams in the years to come.

The Club held the Senior/Junior Presentation at Chilcompton Sports Club on 17th January with the following awards handed out:

1st XI Saturday Senior Player of the Year – Lauren Bowen-Jones (The first lady to play in our Senior Section, what an achievement!)

2nd XI Saturday Senior Player of the Year – Shaun White

>>

>> Sunday Senior Player of the Year – Harrison Veale

Club Senior Player of the Year – Alex Fudge

Young Player of the Year – Thomas Scott

Spirit of Stratton Clubman of the Year – Richard Gillard

Election of officers

President – Martin Rumary

Chairman – Clayton Rich

Hon Treasurer – Sarah Devenill

Hon Secretary & Fixture Secretary – Dave Travis

1st XI Captain Ben Fitcher – Vice Captain Adam Devenill

2nd XI Captain Jon Burgess – Vice Captain Adam Marshall

Sunday XI Captain Richard Gillard – Vice Captain Harrison Veale

Senior indoor nets start on Sunday 23rd February at Wells Blue School (2pm to 3pm) – current, old and new players all welcome.

Senior outside training start on Thursday 26th March at Chilcompton Sports Club 6.30-8.00pm

Junior outside training start on Wednesday 22nd April at Chilcompton Sports Club 6.15-7.45pm.

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

The Cricket Club will be holding the annual Race Night on Saturday 13th June at the Sports Club from 8pm with proceeds going towards a New Bowling Machine. This is the Cricket Club's main fundraiser for the year so if you feel you and your friends can support this event to help us raise funds then please join us on this fun evening with free entry and a well stocked bar!

Details of all of the above can be found in the Journal and Somerset Guardian and on the new Cricket Club website: www.chilcomptonssports.com/cricket



Zak Gloudemans



Thomas Scott

Chilcompton Sports Club - Boule

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

The Egret and The Kingfisher: *Chilcompton's Favourite Two Visitors/Residents?*



Pictures by Pete Sinclair

Yarn Bombed!

A few weeks before Remembrance Day villagers awoke to find that The Street bridge had been covered with pretty red hand-knitted poppies displayed in a patterned way. Chilcompton had been yarn bombed.

Public yarn installations have been happening across the world since the beginning of this century, they are seen to have feminist overtones – reclaiming a traditional feminine act (such as knitting or crocheting) and partaking in the traditional masculine world of graffiti.

One theorist said: "Yarn bombing does more than feminise the world, for the whimsy with which it is imbued has the capacity to increase our attentiveness to habitual worlds in a series of micro-political gestures."



It was later divulged that the delightful Chilcompton display was the work of Pat Ardron, of embroidery fame. She said: "You found me out! The poppies on the bridge were the ones left over from the 100 year Wells Cathedral Display that I designed. My friends in the village who contributed to making the poppies said we would like to do it even better next year as we now have even more poppies to display."