

Chilcompton Matters

... *because it does*

*Supported by
The Parish Council*

Spring Newsletter

March 2016



Welcome...

to the spring village newsletter under the new name of 'Chilcompton Matters ...because it does'. Hope you like the fresh title. Just a little bit quirky and maybe a touch corny. But like the proverbial tin of paint, it is as it says.

After initially worrying whether there was enough material we actually have eight extra pages this time - a bumper issue. Thank you so much to all contributors, whether it be articles, pictures or letters; please keep them coming.

Moreover there now seems to be some regular columns developing, Jon Pike has promised to keep us abreast of 'Council Matters' over the preceding six months and Sue Rankine will be giving gardening advice. 'Then & Now' could also be a constant so if you have old pictures of the village do get in touch. There has even been the offer of an 'Agony Aunt' column. So if you have a 'delicate' problem that needs treating anonymously then put it on paper, post it to the parish clerk and scuttle away in a darkened hood. Sorted.

Despite the dog poo and the bonfires (see inside), Chilcompton is of course a wonderful village and home to a host of talents and interests. Did you know, for instance, that the village boasts both a Reflexologist and a Steampunk enthusiast? So read on. But there must be other interesting or strange skills and hobbies within our midst. Do you collect antique razor blades or are you a fire-eater? Have you won an award for ballroom dancing or played piano for Barclay James Harvest? Have you personally insulted Fat Boy Slim or kicked Trevor Brooking on the shin? We want to know. We demand to know.

Thanks for the desktop publishing skills of Mike Hughes, who modestly claims he is still learning. Thanks to Kathy Hughes for dealing with the adverts, she continually seems to find more. Thanks to the distributors for their rapid execution, and thanks to you all for reading. There was a joke here to conclude but in a post-meeting discussion it was vetoed by the Parish Council. Political correctness gone mad, which is kind of ironic in that it was a subtle postmodernist quip about political correctness. Partypoopers.

Bless your hearts
Malcolm Rigby

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

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Remembrance Day Service

Last Autumn saw the last Remembrance Sunday service to be held in its present form. With the closing of St. Aldhelm's RC church a new format will evolve.



Judith Stanford (nee Painting) and her sister, Susan remember services in the 1950s when they sat on their garden wall to watch proceedings.

Clergy from C of E and RC churches took part, notably Rev. Roy Adnett, Preb. Lionel Greenway and Father John Roberts, as well as the minister from the Methodist church.

The band from Downside school played hymns and the pupils noted Father John's mistakes with some hilarity. At this time the British Legion played no part.

In the 1970s and 1980s the services were held in the Methodist church or St. Aldhelm's alternately until the former's closure in 1999.

We are grateful to the British Legion, Arthur Moon, who organised the services in recent years, the standard bearers, buglers and organists, who all contributed to the ceremonies.

Former parish councillor, David Richardson-Aitken will be arranging this year's Remembrance Day Service and details will appear in the next newsletter.

Marlene Pickford

**Could you offer a home for 3 weeks to a child still
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Martin Addicott, who lives on The Street and has hosted on several occasions, said:

"The children come from a very poor rural area that is irradiated and will be for thousands of years."



All are welcome to come and join us on Tuesday mornings from 10-12 with your babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers at Chilcompton Village Hall.

There are lots of fun activities, singing, toys, and arts and crafts. Coffee and tea is available for adults and healthy snacks for children. Only £2 suggested donation per family.

This is a parent led playgroup so we particularly appreciate extra hands and if you have any unused toys or equipment that are still in good condition, we would be very grateful for donations.

New faces are very welcome, please just turn up or if you need further information or wish to donate, please contact chilcomptonplaygroup@hotmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you and your little ones!

Wednesday Walkers

Another good year walking various footpaths; east to Holcombe woods or Pitcot; west to Clapton; south to Crocks Bottom or Nettlebridge and Benter valley and sometimes north to Midsomer Norton.

The photo shows some of the walkers who enjoyed Christmas lunch in the Horse and Jockey at Binegar.



Anyone is welcome to come and join us on the first or third Wednesday of the month, meeting at the village hall at 10.30am. Walks can be short or long depending on your preference.

Marlene 01761 232774

Friday Club

Friday Club has increased in numbers and become so popular that it has had to move to a larger room in the village hall. Many thanks to the eight volunteers who run the club. Also the cook who bakes lovely cakes for us.



Also, grateful thanks to Chilcompton Celebrates, for a grant which paid for Christmas lunch for members.

Come along any Friday morning for a cup of tea at 10.30am.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

For Sale

Silver Table-Top Dishwasher, Zanussi, 6 place settings. V G condition, very clean. £95 ono.

Kathy Hughes 01761 569863

Golden Hour Club

Members are looking forward to a new year of entertainment and friendship with choirs, talks, slide shows and various other artistes, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. at the village hall. There is also a 'bring and buy' stall, raffle and free refreshments at each meeting.

01761 233142

The Christmas Tree

A big thank you to Shaun, who has put up and decorated the Christmas tree at the village hall each year. In recent years villagers have kindly donated trees that they no longer needed in their gardens. This year the tree was paid for by the Chilcompton Society.

Thank you Shaun!

Chilcompton Wives

The New Year brought us new members, who we hope will enjoy our Spring diary. We have had an informative evening from our Village Agent, Jacky Smith, with suggestions of how she might be able to help us with a variety of possible problems. Other dates include; a true story of a war time romance, a look into the National Garden Scheme, cheese-making, and the perils of being a public speaker. We are hoping to visit a local garden with a cream tea to round off the day. If any of this appeals to you, bring a friend and join us for an informal evening, we meet in the Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

For further information check the Village Hall notice board or contact Budget Brookbank on 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans on 01761 233266.

Community Transport Scheme

Stratton-on-the-Fosse Parish Council are seeking to set up a multi-village transport scheme that would match up volunteer drivers with people who needed to make medical appointments but were unable to access public transport.

Sara Crawshaw said: "Several very successful car schemes already run in other areas of Somerset and in Wiltshire. We need to know whether there is a demand for such a scheme in Stratton, Holcombe and Chilcompton and also if there are any volunteers who could give a couple of hours to help with driving or co-ordinating the scheme."

Any volunteers or suggestions please ring 01761 239135.

For Sale

American style side by side fridge freezer with ice making compartment /dispenser and water dispenser. V G condition. £100 ono.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

We'll still be Celebrating!

You've probably guessed by now that we are unable to run a Chilcompton Celebrates! again this year, but I'm pleased to tell you that the Redan is planning a mini version of it for Saturday 9th July.

We're happy to pass on the name so the *Redan Celebrates Chilcompton* will feature bands, a hog roast and other tasty food options, stalls, bars (of course) and all sorts of entertainment. Running from 2pm into the evening, it's envisaged that the afternoon will be aimed primarily at families with activities for children – but of course everyone is welcome at whatever time they want to arrive. The evening will see more of a concentration on music with live bands and possibly a bit of dancing.

It's hoped that village organisations who have had stalls at Chilcompton Celebrates! will book one for the Redan event and they'll take bookings for as many stalls as will comfortably fit. If you're interested, ring Katie on 01761 258561 (direct line) or email her on kate@theredaninn.co.uk.

The pub itself will be selling their home-baked bread and other specialities. The owners, Dan Obem and Toby Gritten, are keen to get involved in village life, and will donate any monies made from the event to St John's Church/St Vigor and St John's school.

Says Dan, "I've always loved Chilcompton. My dad was born in the village and I would love to move here – when I can afford it?" I'm sure the village would welcome Dan and his wife Kate and children Frankie and Reid as residents.

Please walk to the *Redan Celebrates Chilcompton* – there is very limited parking and we don't want to put any children in danger – or indeed anybody else.

Christine Foster

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Things Can Only Get Better

Writing at the tail end of winter with the rain hammering against the windows and the garden looking sullen and soggy, it strikes me that to be a gardener, one is necessarily also an optimist. In the twelve month cycle of gardening there is always something to look forward to and always that gardener's assumption that the weather will be kinder this year, that one really will learn from the mistakes of last year and that the slugs will be less hungry.

The weather is clearly out of our control. On the endless rainy days of winter the only thing to do is to drool over seed catalogues, place your orders and look forward to the spring (which in the mind of the optimistic gardener will dawn warm and sunny in mid March). Last year, spring was unseasonably warm but the rest of the summer cool and disappointing so that crops like tomatoes and chillies which require heat and sunshine (as does this gardener) didn't fare well. This year therefore I'm trying to get my greenhouse crops going as early as possible to make use of any early warmth should last year's weather pattern be repeated, and to give the longest growing season possible – particularly important when gardening on the north face of the Mendips.

Which of many mistakes from last year should I own up to? Planting a beautiful dessert gooseberry and letting the fat pigeon get to the ripe purple fruit before me? Watching a swathe of self sown poppies swamp a newly planted border? Yet again not staking my purple sprouting broccoli properly so that it collapsed over the path? This year it will be different. I *will* get a cage up over the fruit garden before the fruit starts to ripen. I *will* be ruthless with the red poppies – yes they are beautiful – but they need to be controlled. And I *will* stake the broccoli (and net it against pigeons).

As for the slugs, hoping they will be less hungry is more cloud-cuckoo-land than optimism but one can hope. Meanwhile I can hear the repetitive call of the great tit from the garden even over the sound of the rain hammering against the window, so spring is in the air and I really believe that it is going to be a great year for gardening.

Sue Rankine

Chilco's 'Judi'

Local actress, Lizzie Morris, is performing in a new play over the Easter period, in Bath. The play was created from an amalgam of Shakespeare's works.

The semi-pro production organised through the Bath Theatre Royal sees the best of the region's amateurs coming together with a professional director for five performances from March 24th through to the 27th.

Lizzie, a stalwart of Chilcompton Amateur Dramatic Society who famously played Lady Macbeth some years ago, will be Queen Gertrude in this new play entitled The Dogs of War.

She said: "It's been hugely fun; the play is extraordinary and very clever. With a professional director everything is very organised, though inevitably it is hard work."

The play weaves Shakespeare's writings on conflict into a new story that unfolds, promenade-style, across the full site of Burdall's Yard. Fusing the beauty, the barbarism, the horror and the hope of Shakespeare's work, this large scale immersive performance posits you at the heart of the battlefield and the power games that lead to it all. Apparently.

The performances take place at Burdall's Yard on the London Road in Bath. For timings and bookings contact the Bath Theatre Royal.

Come and see our very own 'Dame Judi' perform!

Adopt-a-path, the local way

Chilcompton now has its very own scheme to look after the footpaths that meander in and around the village.

Some months ago you may remember reading about how Somerset County Council was trying to introduce an Adopt-a-path scheme county wide that would involve individuals taking responsibility for their chosen paths.

However the local footpaths sub-committee and the Parish Council thought that the plan was too formal and potentially laborious for those volunteers. So now a new local and more informal scheme has been set up to monitor the paths.

Councillor Marlene Pickford said: "Residents in Chilcompton have long been walking footpaths and this has ensured that they remain open and in good condition for everyone to access and enjoy. By adopting a path, simply walking it 3 or 4 times a year and reporting any blockages, you will be helping to keep these paths in use for future generations."

Any individual who wants to volunteer to walk occasionally a particular path and keep an eye out for any problems and then report the issues, can join the scheme.

So if you have a favourite path that you would like to call, in just a little way, 'your own', then contact Cllr Marlene Pickford on 01761 232774.

Milking the menu

Ten months on and the Holy Cow bistro café at Manor Farm in Chilcompton continues to thrive with an ever extending list of culinary delights.

New tastes to be experienced include the Holy Cow handmade burger, a variety of fresh salads, braised beef and veg pie, vegetable curry, chilli wraps and the always popular pulled pork with Hoisin sauce on a toasted bun. There are now eight types of coffee and a variety of teas.

The café has recently acquired a license to sell alcohol so expect soon locally sourced beers and ciders, perhaps a crisp Sauvignon in the spring sunshine or maybe a glass of Prosecco as part of a celebratory breakfast.

Café manager Karen Mattick said: "It's always nice to see different faces but we're now getting regulars from both the offices and the village as well as the odd dog walker who stumbles across us.

"People enjoy the atmosphere and the sense of style, but sometimes it is the small details like the fresh flowers that generates appreciation. We've been getting fabulous reviews on Trip Advisor and social media."

End Loneliness Event

Loneliness is substantial problem in Mendip and can impact upon a individual's physical and mental health as well as their emotional wellbeing.

Therefore, as part of the current national campaign to 'End Loneliness', Mendip District Council are holding an event on April 14th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers. The evening will start with an informative talk to raise awareness of the wide ranging effects of loneliness, giving Mendip area specific data.

This will then be followed by two short presentations of examples of good practice, after which all attendees will be free to wander around the various stands available to chat and discuss ideas with a variety of organisations or local groups that will be represented on the evening - these will range from Chilcompton Luncheon Club to the Frome Men's Shed to Somerset village agents and many others.

As a significant part of the solution to loneliness will ultimately be delivered at a very local level, it is hoped that the evening will inspire people to set up new initiatives in their own patch of Mendip, or perhaps to learn from others how to have a greater impact from their current ones.

Attendance at the event is encouraged from all parishes no matter how small or large and can be from; elected parish or town councillors, parish clerks, community groups, church groups, village hall representatives, district councillors and any concerned member of the public who wants to play their part in helping to 'End Loneliness in Mendip'.

New Residents

Chilcompton Parish Council would like to welcome you to the village.

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

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

If you have any ideas for the twice yearly village newsletter or would like to put some information up on the village website, contact the clerk at 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 Councillor: Cllr.RCarter@mendip.gov.uk

County Councillor: HXSiggs@somerset.gov.uk

District Council: 0300 303 8588

County Council: 0300 123 2224

Obituaries

The following residents, former residents and friends have died since the last newsletter:

Archie Catley, Albert Williams, Valerie Jones, Dennis Farthing, Barry Thorner, Valerie Press, Ethel Willcox (formerly of Norton Green Farm), Hilda Hares, Evelyn Bull (née Veale), Barry Hartley, John Wareham, Alan Bailey.

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

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774. grahamp@mypostoffice.co.uk

We send our condolences to relatives and friends.

A Memory Café in Chilcompton??

At St John's Church we are looking at starting up a Memory Café at St Johns Church Hall. A memory café is a social gathering where people with memory loss and their care companions can come together in a safe supportive environment. Guests can share conversation over a cup of tea, in a relaxed atmosphere, that sometimes includes music, art or other forms of entertainment. Memory cafés usually take place for a couple of hours once or twice per month, and are supported by the Alzheimer Society.

We are just at the start of planning and setting this up, and really need other people who would like to get involved from the start. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with Justine North (tel: 01761 232219).

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club is an opportunity for members of the community to come together and share a home-cooked meal and conversation. We usually have about 40 people attending the lunch each month. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at St. John's Church Hall, at 12 noon. Meals cost £3.50, and transport is available if required. If you regularly eat alone, or would like to share a meal with others, you would be very welcome to join us; or if you know of someone who would benefit from such an occasion please point them in our direction. New helpers also very welcome!

More details from Justine North (tel: 01761 232219)

Messy Church @ St John's

This is a fun, free, family afternoon of crafts, games, and short story-time, ending with a shared tea. All members of your family are welcome to join us for this fun afternoon, which is on the 3rd Sunday of the month at St John's Church, starting at 3pm, or you can just come in time for tea at 4pm. More details from Justine North (tel: 01761 232219)

News from St John's

If you've been down to church in the last few weeks, you will have spotted that work has started on the roof! The church is covered in scaffolding! The builders are busy mending the stone work on the roof to make it water tight, and inside they are repointing the stone work at the Chancel end of church. The bare stone inside will look beautiful when it's all finished. We hope the work will be complete by the beginning of May. And we will have a new side Chapel in church for quiet prayer and refection. When all the work is finished, please feel free to come and take a look at the new lovely space, and spend a moment to reflect on God's goodness! Many thanks to the many generous villagers who have contributed towards this work.



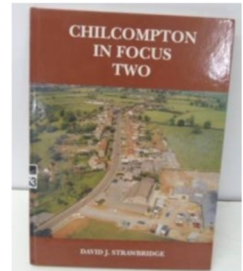
However, the scaffolding won't stop us from celebrating Easter, which is very early this year! Please join us for any of our Easter celebrations, as we remember the New Life that Jesus gave us through his death and Resurrection (dates and details of services on the diary page).

For more details of our services, and other activities going on at Church, please see our web site: www.acny.org.uk/chilcompton, or see our Facebook page- www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton , or give me a ring (Tel: 01761 232219)

God Bless this Easter.
Rev. Chris North

Book Sale : *Chilcompton in Focus Two*

It was with great sadness that last year we said goodbye to our good village friend and historian David Strawbridge. He was such a mine of information and knowledge about our local area, and is sadly missed. David's widow, Audrey, has discovered a large number of one of David's books, which she would like to sell, in aid of St John's roof appeal. The book is "*Chilcompton in Focus Two*", and is crammed full of wonderful photographs of the village and local people in years gone by. The book costs £6 and is available from St John's Parish Office (open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri afternoons).



Steampunk: *'Politely eccentric'*

If you walked into the Somerset Wagon and saw a group of people dressed in 19th century attire then you might be forgiven for thinking that you have just walked through some strange science fiction time warp, but the chances are that you have encountered a gathering of the Mendip Steampunk group.

Steampunk is a celebration of the Victorian. It's about dressing up in and creating unusual clothes. It's the industrial revolution and steam power all over again. It's goggles and gadgets and inventions. It's a little bit H.G. Wells and just a tad Jules Verne. It's neo Victorian science fiction. Clear?



Teresa is second from the left

Teresa Arlett, a Steampunk enthusiast who lives in the Street area, says: "If you're looking for something different, eccentric, creative, fun and embracing all, look no further!" She describes the 'SteaMendip' group as a friendly, well dressed and well mannered bunch. They meet at various venues across the Mendips including the Wagon and the Alchemist's Tea Rooms in Wells.

But they also get together with others, such as the Frome Steampunk Society, for larger events where they enjoy bands, burlesque, tea-duelling and talks on Victorian surgery. The Frome Steampunk Extravaganza, Steamy Spookfest (Halloween) and The Wanstrow Gathering are all local but some even make it to The Asylum in Lincoln, and further.

Teresa says: "Costumes, ranging from Victorian to Cyberpunk, can easily be made from charity shop finds so it's affordable and you only need to become as Steampunk as you wish. Help with anything from designing and making splendid inventions, to hats and bustles etc. is always forthcoming.

"Dressing in costume is not compulsory. Not only is it great fun to join in it's also ideal for photographers, crafters, time travellers and inventors.

"I've been a Steampunk for a few years now and even though I'm in my sixties and far from fit, I enjoy dressing up and joining in, folk are so friendly, well mannered and good humoured and slightly bonkers. My neighbours in Chilcompton are used to seeing me flouncing about in bustle and hat, with goggles of course!"

Her motto is, 'don't grow old, grow splendid'. That is somehow not surprising.

For more information go on www.facebook.com/groups/steamendip



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Council Matters

Since the last magazine the Parish Council has received a continuing number of planning applications, among them repeated submissions for White Hayes and Somer Lea although both have been withdrawn after considerable opposition was voiced by parishioners echoing their thoughts of little more than 12 months previously.

In the Autumn Mendip DC launched a consultation exercise with regard to the new local plan, the Parish Council was keen that we should respond to this to make clear our views, hopefully a number of parishioners also took this opportunity to make Mendip aware of their thoughts.

In the village plan of several years ago parishioners identified improvement of the lower recreation field as one of the areas they would most like to see the PC undertake. While there has been considerable work to provide excellent facilities for younger children there is little for the older children and teenagers. A subcommittee of the Parish Council has undertaken an exercise to determine possible actions. After much hard work the subcommittee presented a detailed plan to full council in January and we have adopted an exciting development which will greatly increase the options at the Old Rec for the older demographic. The subcommittee are now seeking out possible funding options and we are hopeful that, if successful, we can start in the near future.

Sadly since the last magazine the Village Youth club has closed. This was not due to insufficient numbers, far from it with numbers usually exceeding over 30 children a week. The club however was unable to get sufficient volunteers to help the two group leaders and when one of them had to stop for personal reasons there were insufficient numbers to continue. It is very sad that this successful village venture has ceased, hopefully someone else will pick up the baton in future and the club can be revised, they would receive the backing of the Parish Council.

Two of the Parish Council met with Somerset County Council to progress the Lynch Hill scheme which will hopefully see a pavement along this stretch of road in the near future.

In December Martin Stanford resigned from the Parish Council. We would like to record our thanks for his service to the council over the years. At time of writing we are about to elect a new Deputy Chairman to succeed him and a new councillor to take our number back to 12. Since there is now a vacancy, anyone who would like to be considered for co-option should contact the Parish Clerk by the second week of April.

By Jon Pike,
Chairman of the Parish Council





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(Red)an inn again!

The Redan public house opened its doors to much gasping in admiration back in November but in late January the pub opened its bedroom doors to show off the new sleeping areas.

As you would perhaps expect the rooms are stylish, comfortable, chic and just a little bit quirky with the now trademark use of the vintage metal advert signs. One room even had a hanging rail that looked as if it had come straight from a school changing room.

There are seven bedrooms in the main building, all en-suite and two with baths as well as showers. A further room is being prepared outside. Prices vary from £65 to £130.

Kate Upson, for the Redan, said: “We think it is important for our guests to have a guaranteed touch of luxury during their stay with us – we have high quality beds, duck and goose down duvets and pillows and spacious bathrooms with powerful rain showers, natural bath products from Bramley and 100% cotton towels. The luxurious suites also have free-standing roll top baths.



“The seven rooms all have wonderful individual, period features and are decorated with vintage and antique furniture and artwork. Of course, they have all been decked out with elements of Dan’s legendary collection of curios, quirks, and fascinations – new, old, and even older. Individual is one way of describing it.”

Despite initial mutterings from some locals about the price of a beer the general consensus seems to be that the pub is a real asset to the village.

Parish Councillor Christine Foster said: “We are SO lucky to have another pub again, usually when they close, that’s it. And what a great pub it is now – fabulous food and beautiful accommodation all within easy walking distance of most of the village. I do hope Chilcompton villagers support Dan and Toby who have invested so much faith – and money – in giving us this wonderful amenity.”

Steam trains to Chilcompton...almost



Midsomer Norton Station.

Photo by kind permission of Julian Jefferson

The Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust are seeking to extend their railway line into the parish of Chilcompton.

Don't get too excited though, it doesn't mean there will be choo choo trains puffing along Station Mead, the Trust are merely hoping to increase the line a further half kilometre along the former S&D railway corridor into our parish. But you might be able to hear and see them from the village, just.

Peter Russell, the Trust Land and Planning Manager, said: "The proposal is simply to extend the single running line along the east side of the trackbed for about 500 metres to a buffer stop short of the point where the public footpath crosses the trackbed.

"Ancillary works will include installation of a new central dividing fence, for obvious safety reasons, and repairs to all existing lineside fencing, gates and drainage. The west side of the trackbed will also accommodate the current unofficial footpath, giving walkers a through route from Silver Street at Midsomer Norton to Chilcompton village.

"Once operational, the railway extension will enable the project to offer longer train rides and should boost local tourism."

The Trust has successfully sought planning permission from Mendip District Council – the Parish Council had recommended approval.

Meanwhile vegetation is being cut back and it is hoped that the track will be laid in the late summer in time for the 2017 season.

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Technology matters

Broadband

It's here, it's finally here! The moment that frustrated internet users have been waiting for. After several false dawns high speed broadband has actually arrived in Chilcompton.

Pete Sinclair said: "High speed internet service is, at last, being delivered to houses in the village. Several people have already signed up and speeds in excess of 24meg and above are being experienced. This compares to around 1.5 which was previously available, so the difference is both welcome and dramatic.

"Each household's speed is however likely to vary as many factors affect it. These factors include type and age of computer, router and also the overall quality of the phone line. The complexity of installation will also vary but for at least one person, they didn't even have to be at home when they were cut over to the new service. The only way to find out is to contact your own service provider and ask what they have available, how much it will cost, which speed will be available and what work will need to be done. For most households, it should be very simple. Do ask friends and neighbours if you have questions or need help as more and more people are signing up and do not be afraid to shop around and compare deals

"When you call your service provider, be sure to ask if you will need any new equipment and how much that may cost, what speeds you can expect, if there are any speed guarantees, how long the contract will last (perhaps one year) what the monthly cost is and also if there are any conditions. For example, you may find a basic package that is very cheap but has a limit on how much can be used in a month before further charges are incurred.

"As always, a knowledgeable consumer is usually a happy consumer, so know what you are signed up for. It should not however be very expensive - one household has already found that by upgrading and moving their phone service to a different provider, they are actually saving a little money each year... and are benefitting from the excellent new speeds."

Facebook

In other technology news the Parish Council is clambering into the 21st century by creating a Facebook page. Parish Councillor Richard Morgan said: "It's important for the Parish Council to keep residents informed, but even more important to listen to what villagers are saying. A Facebook page is a great place for people to post their news and views of what's happening. Planning applications, keeping footpaths clear, developing the facilities for young villagers in the Old Recreation Ground, whatever the subject, whatever your age, please visit our Community page and tell us what you think." The page can be found here <https://www.facebook.com/chilcomptonsomerset/>

E-Newsletters

There are also plans to introduce an e-newsletter, which would go out six monthly but spaced out between the physical newsletters. Anyone who would like to join the e-mail list of such an electronic newsletter contact parishclerk@chilcompton.org

The Village Agent - *Update*

Hi, my name is Jacky Smith. I am the Village Agent for Chilcompton, Chewton Mendip, Litton, Ston Easton, GurneySlade/Binegar, Priddy and Rodney Stoke/Draycott Oakhill and Ashwick.

Village Agents...

Live locally and can direct vulnerable or isolated residents to services and agencies in Somerset that may make life and independence a little easier.

Many people in our rural communities find it difficult to get help, even with the simple problems in life, for all sorts of reasons-isolation, lack of information and access to technology.

Not wanting to be a trouble or thinking that no one can help is also a barrier.

Examples of how I have been able to help thus far-

A resident in one of my villages contacted me recently about the fact that although her village is on a main bus route, the bus stop had not been in use for years. The bus therefore did not stop for local people to use the service. We have managed to get this situation investigated with the possible outcome that the bus stop will be re-installed and the service, once again, accessible to the village residents.

Another villager wanted advice on personal care alarms at reasonable cost, another needed a fire safety check in her home. Another resident was concerned about the benefits he was getting. I organised a home visit from the DWP and they sorted the problem together.

Simple services such as moving wheelie bins and recycling to the collection point could help if you have mobility or strength problems or vibrating night fire/smoke alarms for the hard of hearing.

These and other issues can be addressed.

Please get in touch, I maybe able to help you. All contact is in the strictest confidence. We can chat over the telephone, by email or I can come and see you at home.

Please contact me either by phone - 07950 782436
or email jsmithva@somersetccc.org.uk

I only work part time but will respond to your call/email as soon as I can, usually within 48 hours or sooner if possible.

I look forward to meeting you.

Jacky Smith

The Village Agent project is managed by The Community Council for Somerset and is funded by Charities such as the Big Lottery, Bernard Herridge Trust, The Tudor Trust and others.



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Then and Now



Embroidery Exhibition



'Embroidery Experiences' groups, based at St. John's Church Hall on Tuesday mornings and all-day Thursdays, have, at present, an on-going Embroidery Exhibition at Radstock Museum. This continues until May this year, where various kinds of work from 'Embroidery Experiences' groups from Chilcompton and other groups from Somerset can be seen. We have also had a very successful project on 'Little Choirboys at Christmas', displaying our achievements in St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells and also Basil Powell Shoe Shop in Wells.

Tweaking the feet



Malcolm Rigby bares his toes and explores the ancient and mysterious practice of reflexology in search of a remedy for his frozen shoulder

Of course it is a ludicrous idea that someone could touch a part of your foot in order to treat a completely different part of your body. It goes against the basic principles of modern western medicine.

But then how come two hours after my second reflexology session I discovered my shoulder was completely cured? I was waving my arm around like a windmill – just because I could. Magic!

The Therapist was Kathy Hughes who has been a Reflexologist since 1991 and lives in Stockhill Road.

When I asked her about what conditions Reflexology could treat she said “Goodness, loads! It balances the body; headaches/migraine and back problems, whiplash, stiff necks/frozen shoulder but to name a few. Young and old get benefit. I have given regular mini sessions in Care Homes for the elderly and physically & mentally disabled, it would benefit most people in various ways. For 3 years I worked with teachers & children under 11 in a School on the brink of closure, it really helped them all very much.”

According to ancient illustrations, the Egyptians, Indians and Chinese have been working on their feet for thousands of years, and current practice dates back to the beginning of the last century.

The theory is that the foot is a microcosm of the entire body. There are pressure points that correspond to every organ, gland and part of the body. For instance, your toes correspond to your head and neck, the ball of the foot corresponds to the chest and lungs, the arch to the internal organs, the heel to the sciatic nerve and

the pelvic area, and the bone along the arch of the foot the spine. Plus, the body has meridians running through it which end in the fingers and toes. The Chinese work on these points with acupuncture.

Kathy begins her treatment with a consultation during which you can explain your health and other issues. So, I told her that the injury had been incurred about 8 months ago and that since then I'd had numerous physiotherapy sessions that had led to minor gradual improvements.

Following the first treatment, I felt mentally uplifted, it is such a relaxing pampering, but afterwards my shoulder really ached just as if I'd had a very intense physio session.

A week later during the second treatment I fell into an amazing state of relaxation, as if I was in a trance, almost a form of unconsciousness. Kathy prods and pulls and pushes and pokes my feet but all in a most gentle way. (She later said that she had "brought out all the big guns!") A couple of hours later I realised I was mended. There is still some aching but the arm is free.

Kathy is keen to insist that she is not simply a Reflexologist but a Holistic Therapist treating Body Mind & Spirit. She sees stress, both conscious and unconscious, as being often a precursor to physical symptoms and disease, "dis-ease". To "de-stress" Kathy says she has a toolbox of subtle energy techniques to call upon, to not only transform day to day stresses, but also release painful memories, trauma, fears and phobias, addictions and more.

Kathy said "I have always believed the body has the ability to heal itself and I love discovering ways to help it do that. It is what my life is all about. I am semi-retired and new to the area but I enjoy helping people, and wish to continue doing that. Therefore I am happy to talk to anyone and give more information about what I am able to offer". She added...

"When people are open to change that's when the magic happens."

Kathy said she would also like to get to know other therapists with a view to exchanging treatment sessions.

So, now I'm cured. Do I believe in chi, meridians and all the other stuff? No, I believe that Kathy got me into such a deep state of relaxation my unconscious decided to set my shoulder free. But what do I know and does it matter?

Kathy can be contacted on 01761 569863.



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Pointing the way in restoration



Before restoration



After restoration



Somerset County Council may have declared that the traditional fingerpost signs are “not a priority” but your local Parish Council thinks otherwise.

The PC are getting a relatively local odd job man to repaint and restore the signs that are beginning to look a little bit worse from wear and tear over the years.

County councillor David Fothergill said: "We have a budget to maintain all our highway signs which is £175,000 per year.

"I love the fingerposts... they are a part of our heritage but it's becoming more and more difficult to find the money to pay for such a style."

So the PC is paying for a makeover. Parish Councillor Richard Morgan said: “The fingerpost signs are a significant part of the village’s cultural heritage, we need to look after them for future generations. They have an iconic look that represents a different era of motor transport, perhaps when roads were quieter and Speedwatch was not necessary.”

The Mendips

by Andrew Morris

The Romans lived here once,
With a fort, an amphitheatre.
Mined the lead encasing baths,
Hurt and died beneath this sky.

In sandaled feet, a silence falls,
Echoed by medieval man.
Who also mined the lead,
In a town now grazed by sheep.

Sleeting, the wind hailing rain,
Misty and anoraking damp.
Over fields voiced long ago,
I shout on the wind.

Can I catch a scent of that time?
Drifting on the seed like breeze.
Of sweating bleeding odour,
And the terror of common man.

How that would change the faith,
Of candles barely flickering.
Shadowed in wonder's retreat,
And the death of dreams.

But I feel nothing:
Just the wet,
Sleeping.

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~ LETTERS ~

Dear Editor,

Just wanted to congratulate you and your team for a really great Chilcompton news letter - it looks very professional, well laid out and a good read!! Well-done and thank you for your hard work!!

Justine North

Dear Editor,

Firstly I would like to say that I very much enjoyed reading last autumn's newsletter. I found it informative and fun.

You stated in the letter that you would like to hear from residents what we thought about Chilcompton and so here are my views.

Chilcompton is a great place to live, with numerous areas to explore, a friendly and well stocked shop as well as two local pubs to name but a few advantages of living here.

There are only two things which irritate me, the first is where dog owners fail to clear up after their dogs and as a dog owner myself I fail to understand why this happens!

Secondly, but the biggest thing is bonfires!!!! It would appear that there are certain residents who are unaware of the councils garden collection and feel the need to burn garden waste. I have lost count of number of times we have had to rush to rescue the washing on the line from the smell of smoke and the number of times we have been forced to close the windows in our house due to the smell! I would be interested to hear the views of other residents, including those who feel the need to burn their garden waste.

Thank you and we look forward to the next edition of The Chilcompton Newsletter.

Teresa Sealey

Dear Editor,

We're writing as residents concerned by the traffic on the western end of Parsonage Lane. Since moving here in 2014, we have noticed that this is a 'rat run' for traffic between Midsomer and the Wells road and that many drivers are ignoring the 30 mph limit.

Nearby residents have told us that the traffic has become heavier since the opening of the Mulbeny factory and extra housing being built on Parsonage Lane.

I'm sure many drivers are unconcerned by the speed limit, but many may be unaware because there is no indication of the speed limit on Parsonage Lane. Though we are aware that regulations restrict signage.

Apart from a nuisance to us, we are more concerned for the safety of the many people with young children who walk along to reach the bus stop on Broadway.

Parsonage Lane is narrow between our house and Silverstream with no way for pedestrians to avoid speeding traffic. One possibility would be a pavement to form a pinch point. This would naturally slow the traffic.

It is also not that safe for pedestrians through the bends past the old railway bridge. One way to avoid this would be upgrading the footpath from The Valley to Greenditch Close.

On a similar safety note, we have noticed that emerging from Parsonage Lane onto Broadway can be dangerous because there is no visible indication to the fast traffic entering the village that the junction is there. The faded sign high up behind a hedge doesn't count as visible.

Jennifer & Stephen Dunford

~ LETTERS ~

Dear Editor,

May I make a correction to an item in the excellent Autumn Newsletter. Parish council elections are every four years, not five as stated. Therefore the next parish and district elections will be in May 2019 and the county council election will be in May 2017.

Also Andrew Morris' poem, 'Pubs', mentioned the Three Crosses pub; did he mean Naishes Cross?

Malene Pickford

Dear Editor,

The newsletter arrived last night and looks superb- well done.

Regards

Martin Addicott

Dear Editor,

An open letter from Martin Stanford to all in Chilcompton, especially those who voted for me at the 2015 election.

I believe that I owe an explanation for my resignation from the Parish Council at the December 2015 meeting.

I was becoming disappointed in the lack of effort on the part of some Parish Councillors and the occasions when my efforts and comments seemed to be wasted. As time went on I found myself constantly challenging the minutes and frequently being 'a voice in the wilderness'. The final straw came when I was accused of harassing the Parish Clerk regarding the completeness of the minutes. Whilst I recall the occasion, I do not believe there was anything bordering on harassment. The accusation was made by a Councillor who refused to be named. I believe that within reason, any committee member on any committee should be free to voice opinions without fear of intimidation or accused of harassment especially by an anonymous party.

I have taken my Councillor task very seriously during the last 5 years and have spent considerable time and effort on a variety of tasks. Some of which were routine, but there were numerous others including the Jubilee celebrations, Health checks and the Village Design Statement, which were at my instigation and generally completed solely by my effort.

I hope this clarifies my action.

Yours sincerely

Martin Stanford

Dear Editor,

Vice-chairman of the parish council, Martin Stanford, has resigned from the council following an unsubstantiated and unproven, anonymous complaint against him from a fellow councillor.

This action by one unknown person has resulted in a huge loss to the council and the village of a dedicated and hard-working councillor.

Martin, Grateful thanks for all your work and the initiatives you have led over the past 5 years.

Anonymous Councillor, I am disappointed in you!

Malene Pickford. A councillor for 37 years, former chairman and vice-chairman.

I'm p..... off with poo

I have a dog called Sunni and walking her twice a day means I meet people, I socialize, I welcome newcomers to the village, I keep fit and healthy. But some of those people – not necessarily the ones I meet – are risking other people's health, especially the health of our children.

I don't have any children – I'm much too old – but I think that we all have responsibility for them; if we see them in danger, we step in to keep them safe.

But sadly, some of our dog walkers ARE endangering children by leaving their dogs' mess: a possible (no probable) cause of toxocariasis, a disease that can cause blindness, even death.

Let me tell you a story (which you can verify on the internet). In 2010, a toddler called Aimee, a pretty little girl almost two years old, took a tumble in the park and landed in some dog mess. Crying, she rubbed her eye before her mother could stop her. Two days later, her eye was massively swollen. After a diagnosis of toxocariasis and treatment in hospital, Aimee lost the sight of that eye – and will never be able to see out of it for the rest of her life!

In a plea to dog walkers, her mum said, “***There are very real consequences of not doing what you know you should do – all you have to do is pick it up and put it in a bin***”.

OK so on paths and pavements, you're going to pick up in future – but surely, it will be alright in fields, where only cattle roam? (Actually, I can't be alone in having seen children playing in fields, can I?)

No it won't be alright because there is another disease from dog poo that can affect those cattle. It's called Neosporosis, which is a major cause of abortion in livestock, and is caused by dog faeces which contaminate the grass they eat. Neosporosis leads to cows aborting their foetuses or, if somehow they carry their calf to full term, the parasite is passed onto the offspring and can lead to abortions through many generations.

So are we dog walkers feeling good about ourselves?

I know I'm ranting: but I'm fed up with picking up other people's dogs mess – and you would be shocked at how much of that is left near the side entrance to the school. I'm even thinking of applying to the Parish Council for a poo bag allowance. Chilcompton Celebrates! funded three bins for dog mess but, actually, you can put the bags in any council bin: they're not just for litter.

So please, remember Aimee and Daisy (the cow) when you pretend not to have noticed that your dog has excreted and please, please bag it, tie it and bin it. We're nice people in Chilcompton; surely we're not too lazy to look after our children and our cattle as well as our dogs....

Christine Foster

Please feel free to comment on this article by writing to the Parish Clerk, etc., etc. – you can remain anonymous but your name and details must be supplied to the Parish Clerk.

Diary Dates

17th March LUNCH CLUB 12noon, St John's Church
24th March MAUNDY THURSDAY Holy Communion Service 7.30pm at St John's
25th March GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK starting 10.30am at St John's Church and walking to St.Vigor's. *Bring a picnic.* And HOUR AT THE CROSS 2pm at St. John's
27th March EASTER DAY Family Communion Service 10.30am at St John's
16th April VILLAGE LITTER PICK 10.00am starting at Village Hall
21st April LUNCH CLUB 12noon at St John's Church
24th April MESSY CHURCH Family Fun, Activities and Tea 3-4.30pm at St John's
15th-21st May CHRISTIAN AID WEEK and house to house collections
20th May QUIZ NIGHT in aid of Christian Aid at St John's
19th May LUNCH CLUB 12noon at St John's Church
22nd May MESSY CHURCH. Family Fun Activities and Tea 3-4.30pm at St John's
6th June VILLAGE HALL AGM 6.30pm at the village hall
16th June LUNCH CLUB 12noon at St John's Church
26th June MESSY CHURCH Family Fun Activities and Tea 3-4.30pm at St John's
2nd July CHURCH FETE
9th July CHILCOMPTON CELEBRATES 2pm onwards into the evening at The Redan
2nd-3rd September WESSEX BEER FESTIVAL at the Sports Ground
3rd September CHILCOMPTON SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW 2.15pm at the village hall
11th September FAMILY FUN DAY 12noon to 4pm at Stratton-on-the-Fosse

Chilcompton Gardening Club

The club is now in its 16th year and during that time the membership has slowly increased to just over 100 members. We meet in the Village Hall every 4th Tuesday at 7.30 pm and have a large number of speakers on a wide range of subjects. This year we have talks on the Cheshire Home at Timsbury, weeds and their control, flowers for cutting, plants grown to attract butterflies, growing Sweet Peas for showing and more. We have at least one outing and this year we will be going to Abbotsbury Sub Tropical gardens in June and an evening trip to Lady Farm Chelwood in August.

On May 7th we have our annual plant sale in the Village Hall. Members supply the plants from their own cuttings taken during the year so there are some unusual and also well-known plants for sale at very cheap prices. At the end of November we have our Christmas Dinner in the Village Hall with an outside caterer cooking us a three course meal which is followed by entertainment.

Anyone can be a guest at any of the meetings for £2 per person and new members are always welcome to a very friendly club.

Terry Grist, chairman.

The Old Rec / Play Area

A sub-committee of Chilcompton Parish Council has over the last few months been working hard to fulfil the possibility of getting new equipment which will be suitable for all ages to use at the Old Recreation Ground.

After chatting with some of the local teenagers at the Old Rec and listening to their requirements, as well as using the information gleaned from the Village Plan, we are hoping to get a Sportswall with a football goal and basketball hoop, and a large basket swing. We are also relocating the Shelter from the current position of the car park in the Sports club to the Old Rec and then if the lovely English weather does what it usually does they will at least have somewhere dry to eat their cucumber sandwiches !

We haven't forgotten the younger ones who at the moment have quite a nice area to play in, but we are hoping to add to this by getting a Noughts and Crosses play panel and also good old fashioned hopscotch which one only needs a stone and a great deal of balance. I'm sure this will take some of the Mum and Dad's back down memory lane.....

Whilst we are mentioning the Mums and Dads, or keep-fitters in general, we haven't forgotten you, and while the children are enjoying themselves we are hoping to install an outdoor Fitness zone made up of various exercise equipment, to help all generations fully utilise the lovely Old Rec.

Whilst writing this article we are about to try and get *extra* funding, as well as money already available from the PC, to achieve all of this, so fingers crossed and watch this space.

Linda Travis

Clean for the Queen – and Ourselves

Twice a year, the few people who make up the Parish Council don Hi-Viz vests, pick up pickers and roam the village highways in a vain effort to keep the village tidy. I say vain, because within a week, it's as if some vindictive fairy godmother has put all the litter back again!

So in this year of the Queen's 90th birthday, we're supporting the Clean for the Queen campaign and in so doing, aiming to get villagers involved in the great tidy-up. And, if we can get children taking part, hopefully they might come to realise that if they drop litter, someone else has to pick it up!

So, while the Clean for the Queen campaign seems to be concentrating the main effort on the first weekend in March, we're leaving it until the weekend before the Queen's birthday so that Chilcompton will be spick and span on the actual day of 21st April.

So please join us on Saturday 16th April at 10am in the Village Hall car park where you'll be handed a picker, a black bag, a yellow waistcoat, a big thank you and allocated an area to collect. It's a lovely job – honest!

When the Village Plan was being prepared, some people volunteered for litter picking: I've now been handed that list and you should have heard directly from me by the time this newsletter is published. If you haven't please contact me on christine.f@virgin.net or 01761 232158.

See you on 16th April 'pop (bottle) pickers' (*you have to be old enough to remember Alan Freeman, a Radio 1 DJ, to get that one*)

Christine Foster

Where there's brass...there's music

MENDIP BRASS BAND



Mendip Brass Band is a group of about 30 people from the local area. We are friendly and enthusiastic about our music.

We like to take our music to fetes, flower shows, bandstands and churches through the summer months. For example, these are some of our events already confirmed for the coming year, church fetes at: Ashwick, Henton, Chilcompton, Holcombe old church, as well as the Clutton Flower Show and Wells bandstand.

We meet at the Chilcompton church hall on Monday mornings, for those who can make it, whilst our main practice night is on Thursdays at 7.15pm.

If you are at all interested in learning to play a brass instrument, or you already have some experience, our Musical Director is Mr Jim Perkins on 01761 232269. Or for any information regarding the band, please ring Alan or Jenny on 01761 232551.

Why not join us!

Jenny Gould

Indoor Bowls



This takes place at the Village Hall on Thursdays at 2pm. and more members are always very welcome. Occasional friendly matches are played against two Midsomer Norton clubs, but mainly Thursdays are enjoyable practice matches against each other.

David Rogers. 01761 233142

Cricket Club

On Sunday 7th February Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club held their First AGM at Chilcompton Sports Club and it was well supported by Club Members.

The Club thanked “Dickies”, “Pethericks & Gillard Chartered Accountants” & “Spectrum Form Design” for their generous continued Sponsorship for the 2016 Season. The Club will be hoping that local businesses will sponsor match balls during the season (£25 per home game with good coverage on the Cricket Club Website and the Somerset Guardian).

Secretary Dave Travis reported on another very busy year for the Club thanking the Committee for all their hard work during the year and Chilcompton Sports for making the Cricket Club so welcome. A special mention was made for Jacqui Nolan’s fantastic efforts to get grants for covers, nets, sight screens, boundary rope/winder & youth coaching courses!

In 2016 the Seniors **1st XI** will play in Bristol & District Saturday Div 6, the **2nd XI** in Bristol & District Saturday Div 12 and the Sunday **XI** in North Somerset Sunday Div 4.

Winter Nets will Start on Sunday 21st February until Sunday 17th April at Writhlington School (5pm to 6pm) - Current, old and new players all welcome.

Please contact Dave Travis for further details 07725 458404 or e-mail dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk

The Club are pleased to announce that Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club Junior section will play competitive cricket in 2016, with U11 and U13 Teams entered in the Bath & District Youth Cricket League.

Last year the Club ran Youth taster sessions and registered 42 girls and boys ranging from 4 yrs to 15 yrs.

This year’s Junior training sessions will be held at Chilcompton Sports Club on fridays from 8th April to August (6pm – 7.30pm for all ages from 4years to 15years).

Please contact Jacqui Nolan for further details 07793 018009 or e-mail Jacqui@nolan-home.eu

Bonfires

Several residents have mentioned the proliferation of bonfires in Chilcompton and I must admit I have found this practice in the 50 years I have lived here to be a real nuisance. It seems to start as soon as we get some rare fine weather! Working or sitting in the garden is almost impossible and if the washing isn’t taken in then it smells of smoke until the next wash and you might as well not have bothered in the first place; worst of all is at the end of the day finding the bedroom full of smoke; an irritation for most of us, but a real problem for asthmatics and those with breathing difficulties.

Please be considerate of your neighbours and resist the urge to light bonfires at any time of the year.

Marlene Pickford

CHILCOMPTON SPORTS CRICKET CLUB

CALLING ALL YOUNG BUDDING CRICKETERS – GIRLS & BOYS

4 yrs – 6 yrs (Minis)

7 yrs – 15 yrs (Juniors)

Come and Play at:

CHILCOMPTON SPORTS GROUND BENNELL
WELLS ROAD CHILCOMPTON BA3 4EZ

Trainings Sessions on

Friday evenings at 18:00 – 19:30

Starting **8th April – End of August**

With potential earlier indoor training

We run Competitive League Teams

U11s – Monday evening matches

U13s – Tuesday evening matches

U9s – Friendlies as arranged

No prior cricket experience or kit required.

A chance for young people of all abilities to try
batting, bowling and fielding, under the supervision
and guidance of ECB qualified coaches.



**Membership Fee: £10 and
discount for siblings**

Come and join on a training evening or for
further information,
please contact: Jacqui Nolan,
Youth Development Officer
jacqui@nolan-home.eu or
07793 018 009 or Club Secretary
dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk

Also see our website: www.chilcomptonssportscc.com



**GREAT
CLUBHOUSE
– open on
Fridays**

**JUNIOR
CRICKET**

Chilcompton Sports



The sports ground, at Bennell, is the hub for most of the sporting activities that take place in the village. It's the home for our cricket and football clubs, who both run adult and youth sides. Organised Tennis is played and organised under the Writhlington Tennis umbrella, but casual tennis can be played, by hiring one of three courts.

A fairly recent facility is the sports bar that has been operating for just over the year. It's a comfortable, family orientated lounge that is available for use, by the whole of the village. It is open from 12 noon every weekend and shows all the main premierships football and rugby matches and the same for international matches, as we have both BT Sport and SKY licences. Midweek opening is dependent on the sporting activities that take place at the site. However it's open for key televised matches and tournaments and the forthcoming European football tournament will be shown over the summer.

A membership is optional, but as we operate a two tier pricing structure it allows members to buy drinks and snacks at the lower price.

www.chilcomptionsports.com www.facebook.com/ChilcomptonSportsClub

Tim Curtis

Chilcompton first team squad being awarded a trophy and £100 for being the top of the Premier Division Respect League after ten matches. The team have won three promotions in successive seasons.



Young Sporting Stars

(But where are the girls? Next time please. Ed)

The following young people have been representing their county/district in rugby and football:



George Hobbs

Abbey Road, Downside School,
Somerset RFU under 17s
and Bath Rugby Academy



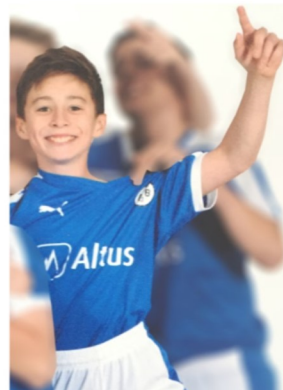
Lewis Oram

Stockhill Road, Wells Blue School,
Somerset RFU under 16s
and Wells RFC



Sol Thompson

Stockhill Road, Norton Hill School, Vice Captain for Somerset RFU under 15s, playing at the Bath Rec on 15th April 2015, against Dorset and Wilts RFU. Currently playing for Stothert and Pitt RFC



Oli Glendinning

Sheppards Walk, Wells Blue School, representing Bath and North East Somerset football under 14s and Bath City Football Club.

Goldcrest



Lesser spotted

A cute little Goldcrest caught on camera by Pete Sinclair in his Chilcompton garden.

Pete said: "It's not a rare bird but one that can be hard to spot, because contrary to popular opinion, this is in fact the UK's smallest bird - smaller than a wren. They are also a bit nervous. I've seen it in the garden about three times, but this is the first time I've been able to photograph it. It's easy to see how it gets its name."

Their thin beaks are ideally suited for picking insects out from between pine needles.

Part of the kinglet family they are also known as the "king of the birds" in European folklore.

Scam Alert !

There are fraudsters operating in the Mendip area. They are calling people pretending to be from the Metropolitan Police. They are telling their victims that they have managed to stop a fraudulent transaction on their bank account but in order to keep the persons money safe, they ask the person to remove their money from their bank so that it can be handed over to "The Met" to be held in a safe account, to be returned at a later date.

They groom their victim to the extent that they don't trust bank staff, family or friends. The victims that the banks know of have been elderly and living on their own so are the most vulnerable. It would be good for as many people to know about this as possible so that even if they are not the sort of people that could be targeted, they may have elderly friends or relatives that might benefit from knowing about this.

This has already affected a local resident!!

Please speak to your bank if you have had a call like this.

Please contact The Village Agent about this or any other issue you may have.

Jacky Smith, 07950 782436. Or email- jacky@somersetccc.org.uk