

Chilcompton Matters

... because it does

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Autumn Newsletter

September 2016



The Floods
Stories on pages
8, 9 & 10

Welcome...

to the autumn edition of "Chilcompton Matters ...because it does". Bigger than ever, we just keep on growing.

There's been a lot of uplifting events going on in the village like the recent Flower Show, the Beer Festival and the Redan Celebrates Chilcompton back in July. Party, party.

Great to see the new developments in the Old Rec - gotta keep the young 'uns active. Hopefully more for the old 'uns in the future - we need to keep active too.

Chilcompton has talent. Fantastic to hear about Sue Sinclair and her glass work, but we need to know more about the hidden skills that we have within our village, so tell me about those secret abilities and hobbies. There's got to be a taxidermist with a surprise, a 70 year old man who can do a Rubik cube in under a minute, a woman who collects coats like Harold Wilson used to wear, a gay flautist that lives off Mars bars, or even, but clearly unlikely, the lead singer of a very popular 90s band.

There's been a lot of talk over the last six months about the ongoing floods and in particular the dreadful, freakish June 17th. Our house got drenched but there was a wonderful community spirit in the way that neighbours tried to stop the inevitable. The talking is set to continue as there is a public meeting (just for local residents) on October 26th (7.30pm at the village hall) about flooding, which will be used to collate the issues and then an individual drop-in meeting with Somerset County Council officers on November 10th (4-7pm at the village hall). Biting of ankles is strictly forbidden.

Then there is, of course; dog poo, bonfires, the meaning of life, traffic and speeding. Tell me about the issues. I can't do anything about them, sadly. But I can pass them on to parish councillors, district councillors, county councillors and other minor deities. So tell me.

So much thanks, as always, to Mike Hughes giving his time and patience in doing the desktop publishing, Kathy Hughes for dealing with the advertising, and all the wonderful contributors, advertisers and distributors. And, of course, thank you for reading.

Bless your hearts
Malcolm Rigby

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

Contents

Page	Article	Page	Article
4	Chilcompton Playgroup	28	Wednesday Walkers
4	Do You Want to Dance ?	28	Friday Club
5	Chilcompton Co-op Reopens	28	Chilcompton in Bloom
6-7	Chilcompton Flower Show	29	Golden Hour Club
7	War Memorial Listed	29	Chilcompton Wives
8-9	The Floods	29	Somerset: Our County
8	Flooding	33	Norton Down Church
10	Flood at Brook House	33	The Beer Festival
12	Technology matters	34-35	Glass Work
13	Travel Somerset	35	Dorothy House Sale
14	Obituaries	35	Slow Down !
14	Green for Safety	36	Letters
14-15	News from St John's	37	The Cans
15	Grahame Pickford	37	Grow up and Pick up
16-17	Redan Celebrates	38	Letters
18	Council Matters	38	The Last Artefact Peom
19	Recycling - New Measures	39	Diary Dates
19	Surviving Winter	40	The Gentle Touch
19	Lets Lift the Litter !	41	Old Rec, New Look
21	Finger Posts Restored	42	Chilcompton Sports Club
21	Pet's Corner	42	Anyone for Tennis ?
22	Gardening Club	43	Cricket
22-23	Mucking About	44	Chilcompton Youth Football
23	Short Mat Bowls	44	Chilcompton Playgroup
24	School Report	47	The Adult's Game
25	Village Agent Update	47	Flower Show Pictures
27	Then and Now	48	Not So Big Dipper
27	Friends of The Surgeries	48	Sunday Buses Axed !

Chilcompton Playgroup: Re-funded and Revitalised

The kids are back and the toys are new. The baby, toddler and pre-school playgroup that runs in the village hall has started a new term with new forms of recreation courtesy of contributions from the Parish Council and the Co-op.

Chair of the group, Jayne Barton, said: "The last year has seen many new members join us and we ended the term with a fun party in the park. However, we sadly said goodbye to a number of children who will be starting school for the first time and we are keen for new people to join us, both babies and toddlers are welcome and we have activities for all.

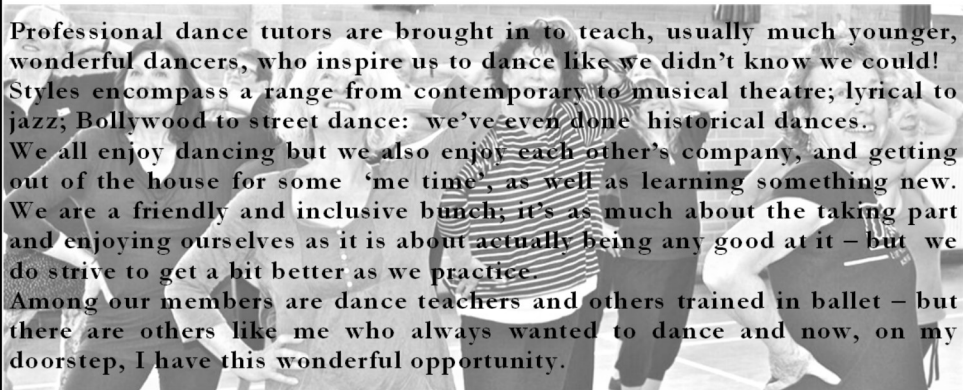
"We are delighted to say that we have received a number of grants over the summer including generous donations from Chilcompton Parish Council and the Co-op which has allowed us to replace old/broken toys and buy new updated toys and equipment so we are very much looking forward to the fresh start. The next few months will be an exciting time when we will be thinking about craft activities for Halloween and Guys Fawkes night, culminating in our annual Christmas Party where a very special guest may be in attendance!"

This is the fourth year that the organisation has been run as a parent-led group and it is proving as successful as ever. Jayne said that they were friendly and welcoming folk and that they were there for the mums and dads as much as the children, providing social contact and interaction. Presently there are about 40 families that use the group but they are always looking for more.

(For more details about the group see page 44)

Do You Want to Dance?

Not many people know this but there is a popular and successful dance club in Chilcompton. Called the Mendip Dance Club, it meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2 - 3.30pm in our village hall. Open to people over 50-years-old, it also welcomes younger people whose health would benefit from dance.



Professional dance tutors are brought in to teach, usually much younger, wonderful dancers, who inspire us to dance like we didn't know we could! Styles encompass a range from contemporary to musical theatre; lyrical to jazz; Bollywood to street dance: we've even done historical dances. We all enjoy dancing but we also enjoy each other's company, and getting out of the house for some 'me time', as well as learning something new. We are a friendly and inclusive bunch; it's as much about the taking part and enjoying ourselves as it is about actually being any good at it – but we do strive to get a bit better as we practice. Among our members are dance teachers and others trained in ballet – but there are others like me who always wanted to dance and now, on my doorstep, I have this wonderful opportunity.

Any questions ring me on 01761 232158 or visit the website.

Christine Foster

Chilcompton Co-op Bigger, Brighter, Better Store Re-opens

After extensive building work and remodelling, the Chilcompton Co-op has re-opened its doors to reveal a modern, vibrant interior boasting such features as in-store bakery with hot food to go, freshly baked bread, extended range of fresh and chilled products, Costa Coffee Express as well as the usual day to day grocery products.

The store has been extended and completely refitted with energy efficient chiller and freezer cabinets and other environmentally friendly properties such as movement sensor lights etc.

In addition to improving the offering and shopping environment, the store has extended its opening hours to 10 pm daily which allows for a variety of Post Office transactions to be carried out for the entire duration of the store opening hours.

Owen Holland, manager, and his team, worked incredibly hard to minimise the store's downtime and were delighted with the overall result having waited several years since the last refit.

Don Morris, Chief Executive, said: "This was a challenging refit due to the age and construction of the building. But we know how much the store means to the community so we wanted to ensure that we could improve and extend the store to provide the best possible environment for our customers."

Above: Don Morris, Chief Executive of the Radstock Co-op, presents cheque to children of the Chilcompton Playgroup, to celebrate the re-opening of the Chilcompton Co-op. Photo by courtesy of the Midsomer Norton & Radstock Journal



To celebrate the launch of the new look store, mums and children from Chilcompton Playgroup attended the store to receive a donation from the Society of £250.



Activities at the Chilcompton Playgroup in the village hall

Chilcompton Society 33rd Flower Show

This year's show had less entrants, but more entries and despite a downpour, there was a good attendance in the afternoon. Some of the winners were Rosemary Blatchford, Sheila Box, Pat Steer, Margaret Dera, Debbie Slater, Ben Reynolds, Madlene Pickford, Joy Bowen, Josie and Bert Boxall.

But everyone was a winner by joining in and contributing to a traditional village show. Excited children collected their prize money and were rightly proud of their efforts. Afternoon tea and cakes were delicious, as ever, and much enjoyed.

Putting on the show is a lot of hard work and our thanks go to all the organisers and helpers.

What did you think? Feedback via the editor would be much appreciated...



More on page 47



War Memorial Gets Listed Status



The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add the War Memorial at the top of Bowden Hill to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Parish Councillor Maureen Pickford said: "The War Memorial was funded by public subscription and unveiled by Lord Bath in 1921 in memory of those who gave their lives during the Great War. It now serves to remind us of the fallen from both world wars as well as other conflicts. I am pleased that it has been listed as this important monument will now be preserved for future generations."

Just over a year ago an historical anomaly was cleared up when Captain William Hollway's name was added to the memorial and a service held in his honour.

Joanne Gould, Listings Coordinator-War Memorials for Historic England said: "Listing helps us to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future. Listing does not mean, however, that no alterations can be made - in fact in the vast majority of cases applications to make changes to a listed building are approved." It is a Grade II listing.

The Floods

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Above: That's not a river it's The Street

Below: That's not a river it's my garden



Above: That's not a river it's Pitchings Path

Flooding

Flooding at the bottom of Stockhill Road, which occurred three times in May and June meant major cleaning up operations for several households. Mud and silt built up in garages, sheds and greenhouses as well as turning plants, paths and benches a curious brown colour.

Being at the lowest point in the road, my garden has been flooded numerous times since the 1960s, but it came as a shock to neighbours, who had not previously experienced it and especially for those who have more recently moved in.

June 17th was the worst, when it rained solidly from 4pm until 6pm. and was made worse by commuters returning home, their cars forcing wave after wave of water under the gates and down the drives, exacerbating the problem. My past communications with Highways have brought no action, apart from checking that the drains are clear, and no solutions.

We were fortunate that our houses were safe (unlike some other residents), but it is a situation that really needs to be addressed. A meeting with Somerset County Council Highways department is being arranged by the parish council, which anyone can attend.

Marlene Pickford



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The Day the River Became a Beast - A Personal Account

Rainy days blues indeed. June 17th. It will be an afternoon that will be forever etched in my memory. The afternoon that the sky erupted. The afternoon that the river lost control. The afternoon that, despite a huge community effort, Chilcompton lost 1-0 to the floods.

At first it was just an electrical storm, I went outside in the rain to unblock the road drains as you do when you live in the bottom bit of Chilcompton. But it stayed. You kept thinking that it would move on surely; it shifted away a little but then kept coming back. Counting the gaps between lightning and thunder. Counting and hoping.

The torrential rain kept coming. I've lived in the village for 30 years and never seen anything like it, another local resident said he'd seen nothing like it in 50.

Meanwhile the river, now a brown gurgling mess, kept rising inexorably. Inch by inch. When it was three inches short from the bridge I, with neighbour Pete Sinclair, started to make homemade sandbags with Tesco plastic bags and soil. As soon as the water breached the road it would be heading in one direction – towards our house.

When it happened the river literally tore the pavement apart spilling out across the road, there was nothing but a one foot stone wall between the water and a very wet house. More people came to help now: people bringing improvised sandbags, people digging troughs in the lawn to direct the water away, people baling.

One woman, I did not know from Eve, arrived in a mini skirt and clutching a handbag. "Right, what can I do?" she said. I handed her a bucket. There must have been at least 15 neighbours helping out.

The water on the road was wellie-deep with a current strong enough to take your ankles and put you on the floor. Each time a car waded through it sent a wave of water towards our house – I pleaded with drivers to turn around.

Eventually the cavalry arrived: two fire engines, two police cars and a lorry from local builders merchants Champion with proper sandbags. But sadly, I suspected, too late.

About four hours after the rain had started the water had been directed and pumped away from the front of the house; I took a brief moment to empty my wellies. We opened up the front door to find ruined carpets and an awful stench, but it could have been much worse and I have many people to thank.

One policeman was heard to say: "It's good to see a community looking after each other."

Within a couple of days the river was back to it's gentle beautiful self – like a teenager, all apologetic, after a day of behaving badly, "sorry, mum, it won't happen again."

Apparently more than half an average month of rain fell in two hours and it has been estimated that the downpour is a one in 250 year period event.

A public meeting on flooding has been arranged for October 26th and a meeting with Somerset County Council on 10th November.

Malcolm Rigby

Flood at Brook House

We moved to Chilcompton in December 2014 at the height of the floods on the Levels. Mainly because of the floods, before we bought our house we did all the possible searches to ensure that we were not going to be living in a flood zone – particularly since our house is next to the River Somer at the bottom of the Pitching. All searches stated that there was no flood risk. As a result of this we were able to insure the property without any trouble at all and we moved in.

We have lived happily in the house for the past two and a half years and have made many friends locally.

However, in all that time we have kept a wary eye on the brook and have noted that it has steadily become more and more blocked by large pieces of masonry at the top of the Pitching. Under the road bridge directly outside the house there is considerable restriction in the stream bed. It appears that no-one is prepared to maintain the brook or the Pitching where it borders the brook. In places the stone edge has collapsed into the water. It appears that the Department of the Environment are responsible for this work. Of course, they don't live there!

On the afternoon of the 17th June we had, reportedly, 2 inches of rain in one hour. The previous day we had 1 inch of rain in one hour. Not surprisingly the brook rose dramatically. The water could not escape under the road bridge and consequently poured into our garden and very rapidly into the house. We had called the fire brigade who could do very little with so much water still rising.

In two hours our house was flooded to two feet deep throughout the ground floor. In the following hour the flood had vanished apart from water behind doorsteps. We baled into the night. The following morning a number of good friends helped us to remove the ruined carpets and we installed as many dehumidifiers as we could borrow.

That was on the 18th June and we have been living nearby until now whilst the house was stripped back to the stone and dried out.

We now await the reinstatement contractors and with any luck might be back before Christmas.

Whilst this was an unprecedented amount of rainfall in a very short space of time, along with others in the village no doubt, we will always be partly convinced that covering the upper part of the village with large housing estates, roads and concrete has contributed greatly to the rate with which the water rose. I don't imagine that local property developers will be even slightly interested in the plight of those living further down the village!

Charles Teago.

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Technology Matters - Call the Help Desk

These days, many of us have friends and family who live far away which means we can end up spending a lot of money on phone calls. While an “old fashioned” letter is still nice to receive, email can be good for keeping in touch because it can be instantly sent and read at no real cost. However, sometimes it’s also good to talk directly to people for certain things, especially if you can see them on your screen at the same time.

If you have a computer, smartphone or tablet and internet access you can use it to make calls to people anywhere in the world. Your phone of course also allows that, but the beauty of these internet services is that, if properly used, the calls can be completely free.

Many applications are available, but one of the most popular - and well known - is called Skype. It’s been around for a number of years now and is very easy to use. It can be downloaded free from www.skype.co.uk

When you have downloaded and registered Skype, you will be able to call people anywhere in the world free as long as the person you are calling is also registered to use Skype - you simply use your Skype to call their user name. No matter where they are in the world or how long you talk for, these calls are free. If the devices used have a cameras you will see the other person and they will see you, if you both allow it.

You can also call any phone number anywhere in the world. To do that, you need to charge your Skype account with some cash, using your bank card. This process is very secure.

Any such credit that you add will be slowly consumed as you make calls, but even calling phones is very cheap - calls from the UK to phone numbers in the US are just 1.8 pence per minute, but remember if the other person has Skype they are free. We use Skype every day to call local friends as well as making overseas calls.

Skype takes a few minutes to set up, but can save a great deal of money on the long run. After it’s set up, it’s simple to use and the quality of sound is now very good, since high speed internet reached the village.

If you don’t have Skype and are not sure how to proceed ask a friend, family member or neighbour to help. Many people already use it and will be happy to provide assistance.

Pete Sinclair

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Travel Somerset

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Anyone planning a journey in Somerset can now find all the information they need to avoid unnecessary delays in one place – www.travelsomerset.co.uk.

The new mobile-friendly website, launched just recently by Somerset County Council, offers live updates of unplanned travel incidents, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It also has a searchable map showing details of all current and future planned roadworks and road closures in Somerset.

The new website is complemented by the @TravelSomerset Twitter account which provides live updates directly from the County Council's traffic control team. If you spot a problem which they're not aware of, you can tweet them directly so they can help share this with the travelling public.

Cllr David Fothergill, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "None of us want to waste our time stuck in traffic jams, so our goal was to provide a better, more reliable way for drivers to find out what's going on out there.

"If you know in advance about planned roadworks, and are aware of any live incidents, you can make informed choices about how and when to travel, and which routes to take and which routes to avoid.

"I'm really excited about Travel Somerset and think it is going to be incredibly useful for anyone who regularly uses our roads.

"It's also interactive, so you can get in touch with us through Twitter to give us live updates, which we can then share with the public. Hopefully this two-way flow of information will improve over time as more and more people join in, so please get involved and help us to help you."

The new website also has information on buses and public transport, live departure boards for all Somerset's train stations, flight details for local airports, and sections on walking and cycling. This will continue to be developed and improved in future.

When you first log on to the website, depending on your browser, you can choose to have live alerts about severe traffic incidents sent directly to your phone or device. The roadworks page also has a function allowing you to sign up for email alerts about planned roadworks and road closures on routes of your choice.

The Travel Somerset website can be found at www.travelsomerset.co.uk while the Twitter account is @TravelSomerset.

Obituaries

The following residents, former villagers and friends have died recently.

Barry Hartley, John Wareham, Joan Saul, Angela Ball, Sheila Towlson, Richard Weller, Rowland (Tom) Hawtin, Grahame Pickford, Colin Seviour.

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

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774.

We send our sincere condolences to relatives and friends.

Green for Safety

Chilcompton Parish Council is seeking to take over the responsibility of the green spaces at Station Mead, Carter's Way and Pines Close.

Currently the land is maintained by Mendip District Council but if the parish council takes charge then they will be able to ensure that there will be no development on the green sites. It is expected that there will only be a small increase in the P.C.'s grass-cutting bills and it is hoped that the sale will just be a token amount.

News from St John's

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I hope you might have had a chance to pop down to church to see how lovely it looks since we have had the work on the roof completed, and the refurbishment of the chancel area and new chapel. We are delighted with the work, and would like to thank all those who have contributed to the ongoing costs of upgrading our lovely church building. Please do come down to take a look sometime if you've not yet had a chance! You will also see the "Welcome" mosaic as you enter, which was created as a community art project during the recent "Redan Celebrates Chilcompton" event- it was really great to invite all members of the community to contribute to this lovely piece of art work -fun and mess was had by all!!

The summer behind us now, and we look forward at Church to all the lovely things of the autumn months and the run up to...dare I say it... Christmas! There are lots of exciting things happening at church over this period, including Harvest celebrations, Messy Church, the Light Party and Remembrance service. You are very welcome to join us for any of our events.

For details of our services and other activities going on at Church, please look on our web site: www.acny.org.uk/chilcompton or go to our Facebook page as follows: www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistChurchChilcompton or give me a ring 01761 232219

God Bless

Rev'd. Chris North

>>

Grahame Pickford



Grahame Pickford died in July following 5 years of poor health. Born in Timsbury, he went to his village primary school and Midsomer Norton Grammar school before studying electrical engineering at Swansea University. On marrying Marlene, they lived at Hayling Island for 3 years, then moved to Chilcompton in 1966, (a month after the S & D was closed, much to his regret) and embraced village life by volunteering for the parish council, village hall committee, Chilcompton Society, Flower show and Recreation Project. He joined school PTAs and was a governor of village schools and Wells Blue School.

His career in electronics was with Plessey, EMI and Horstmann Gear Company. When he was made redundant in 1985, he set up a printing business. Working from his garage Grahame became well known in the locality and was able to donate his services to various village groups when printing was required.

In retirement he led Mendip Health Walks, Volunteered at Radstock Museum, joined the indoor bowls group, Golden Hour Club, Friday Club and belonged to the Canal Society.

Grahame leaves his wife, Marlene, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.



Redan Celebrates Chilcompton

With no Chilcompton Celebrates! this year The Redan Inn took the opportunity to host a party for the village and raise some money for the local school and church.



The Mendip Brass band opened the event on Saturday July 9th, followed by 'Sing Your Heart Out' ladies choir. Mandy Broadway sang some songs and then into the evening there were You, Me & Him followed by The Honky Tonks.

There were Disney princesses for the kids and St John's Church were getting families involved with a community mosaic which will be displayed in the entrance of the church. Other attractions, on a day that the weather was kind, included Bric a Brac stalls, a hog roast, and a cake stall.

Katie Upson, for the Redan, said: "It was great to see the village come together to raise money for St Johns Church roof and St Vigor & St John



School. We raised over one thousand and three hundred pounds and this has been divided equally between the two. We are told from the school the money will go towards a new play climbing frame.

"We would like to thank all the performers who gave their time, local businesses for raffle prize donations and help with the setup including a stage roof from Archers

Marquees and of course a big thank you to all our very lovely customers who supported this successful event.

"We feel we have the perfect venue for any event and very much look forward to the next. After spending so much time creating such a beautiful garden it was fantastic to see it being enjoyed."





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Council Matters

In the last magazine I mentioned that a subcommittee of the Parish Council was working on an exciting improvement of the lower recreation field, or the Old Rec as it commonly known. After much hard work and considerable financial support from the Parish Council this project is nearing fruition and, at time of writing the installation work of the new play equipment is nearing completion and the wonderful facilities should be open to everyone in the very near future. I should like to place on record my thanks to colleagues on this subcommittee whose hard work over many months will leave a wonderful legacy for young people in the village.

During the summer the village suffered a rain storm the like of which no one in the village can remember before, this resulted in numerous flooding events around the village, often in places that had very rarely been flooded, if at all, previously. While this flooding event was hopefully a one off the village suffers a number of localised flooding events whenever we have any degree of heavy rain, and it seems on an ever more frequent basis. Certainly this has become an area of concern for many villagers and as a Parish Council we are keen to lead on bringing this concern to the authorities at Shepton Mallet and Taunton. To this end we will be holding a public meeting in October where we will invite villagers to come along and air their grievances so we can collate and present to council officials, in preparation of a drop in session when they will visit us. Details of these events can be found elsewhere in this publication but I would urge anyone with a concern regarding flooding to attend if you are able.

In the last magazine I mentioned our ongoing discussions with Somerset County Council regarding proposed improvements to the road at Lynch Hill, predominantly a pavement. Sadly, in spite of efforts of colleagues on the Parish Council this has proved difficult, although we remain committed to this and will continue to "nag" Somerset Highways to bring this to fruition. We have always been aware of the concerns in the village regarding traffic issues, so to help this we have formed a subcommittee to look at issues within the village regarding traffic. If you have any points please send them to then Parish clerk who will forward to the subcommittee.

The Parish Council is currently investigating the option of assuming ownership from Mendip District council of three small green spaces within the village. The sites are at Station Mead, Pines Close and Carters Way; they are small but we feel intrinsic to the nature of the village and consequently we want to make sure that they are preserved as green spaces for everyone to enjoy and not subject to some possible future under concrete. We are hopeful that we will assume ownership in the near future.

In November we will again observe Remembrance Sunday at the traditional service at the War Memorial. Following the closure of St Aldhelm's Church we will not unfortunately have the use of that facility for our service this autumn. Obviously it is important that we continue to hold the service and honour those who died in service of their country but to do so we will have to change our service. We will still have the traditional laying of wreaths at the memorial but this year we plan to go back to the village hall where we will invite residents to join us for tea and cakes, during which we hope to have a small display of artwork, poems and writings; commemorating those who fought and lived through the war. To that end I would like to invite anyone who has any memorabilia that they would be willing for us to have and display on Sunday 13th November to please contact the Parish Clerk.

Jon Pike



Somerset Waste Partnership - Recycling Sites - *New Measures*

How will new measures affect your nearest recycling sites? New measures are being introduced to all 16 Somerset recycling sites from Monday 3 October that aim to cut congestion, improve services and enhance safety, including permits for some vehicles to limit access by out-of-county visitors and the largest vans and trailers. While those who drive a car without a trailer, including an estate, 4x4, people carrier or campervan, do not need a permit and should see no changes except shorter queues, anyone using a van, pick-up or trailer to bring in household waste will need to check how they will be affected at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/permits

Surviving Winter Campaign

The Surviving Winter campaign, organised by the Somerset Community Foundation, encourages people to donate their Winter Fuel Payment to help those who cannot afford to heat their home or keep themselves warm in winter.

They want to reach every corner of Somerset this winter to ensure they raise as much as possible - and to do that they are asking for your help.

For further information, contact them at info@somersetcf.org.uk

Let's Lift the Litter!

First of all, thank you to everyone who turned up for our Clean for the Queen litter picking day on 16 April. It was especially great to see several young families who tidied up some of the quieter areas away from the main roads.

The Village Hall Committee was also out on the day doing the back-breaking job of clearing weeds from around the building. The village and the hall looked terrific. So thank you all. And I know it's always easy to blame the kids, but I have to say that mostly I pick up chocolate bar wrappers, crisp packers and soft drink bottles. Also, and hopefully from older 'kids', I retrieve beer and cider cans.

So it's clearly important that the message gets across – to young people especially - that a place that at first has a few pieces of litter, becomes litter-strewn, then there is rubbish, perhaps even fly-tipping and, before you know it, it's like a sink-estate. Exaggeration? Well, maybe, but these places didn't start out looking a mess.

Our village doesn't get anything like that because we have quite a few people who are prepared to pick up after others – not just on our twice-yearly litter-picking days but all the year round - so many thanks to those unsung heroes.

If you – on your own or with family or friends – want to unofficially adopt a patch and pick up the litter on a regular basis, the Parish Council have agreed to provide you with a picker, high-viz vest and black bags. Just contact me at christine.232158@gmail.com or on 01761 232158.

Our next ***Lift the Litter day*** is on Saturday 15 October, meet at the Village Hall at 10am. Bring your pickers if you have them but I'll have some spares.

Christine Foster

Put **Saturday 15 October** in your diary and join us...

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Fingerposts restored



Parish Councillor Richard Morgan said: “The fingerposts are looking very smart now. I think it’s important that we look after them, they are iconic elements of our landscape, part of our heritage, working sculptures of the past.”

Thanks to Paul Emery for the work.

Pet’s Corner

Have you heard of Big Ben? I don’t mean the bell in that clock tower up in London. I’m talking about me. My name is Ben and to tell you a little bit about myself, I am a Poodle. Not a Labradoodle Poodle, a Cockadoodle Poodle or a Yankidoodle Poodle. I am a straightforward Standard Poodle. Big, black, curly and fury, with a wagging tail at one end and big teeth and floppy ears at the other and if I stand on my back legs, I can rest my front paws on your shoulders. My family refer to me as Big Ben.

I lived down near Portsmouth until I was eight years old, but four or five months ago my carer was taken ill and could no longer look after me properly. She had to send me to a dog rescue centre and after a couple of weeks I was discovered by Auntie Kath and Uncle Mike. All of a sudden, I found myself whisked off to live in a new home here in Chilcompton.

I like it here, there are so many new and interesting smells all over the place and I have never seen so many fields, trees and gateposts in all my life. If ever there was a paradise for dogs, this place has got to be it!

I get to meet lots of new friends when we go for walks in the countryside. Mind you not all dogs are as friendly as I would like them to be and at times I have to let some of them know that I’m not the kind of dog that can be bossed around. On the whole though they are quite a good bunch once you get to know them.

After all the changes that have happened to me recently, I have to say that I am a bit wary of people I don’t know, so if you meet me when I’m out, please don’t put your hand too close to my mouth until I get to know you better. I just might mistake your fingers for bones! I like bones... and chasing cats.... and my nice cosy bed... zzzzzzz

If your pet has a story to tell, send it to Malcolm Rigby via e-mail:

parishclerk@chilcompton.org

This is me
with my
best bone



Chilcompton Gardening Club

The club has reached a total of 102 members this year. We have lost some older members but gained some younger members which is what we need to take the club forward. The standard of speakers this year has again been very high and we have had an average attendance of 60 which is excellent according to the speakers.

At the beginning of the season each member was given a small plug plant of a fuschia which they had to grow into a prize winning plant. The competition was judged in July and the winner was Joanne Denning as shown in the picture.



The plant sale which was held in May was a big success with most of the plants provided by the members being sold. Norton Green Nursery had a table of bedding plants and they kindly made a donation from their takings to the club.



The outing to Ladyfam Chelwood was cancelled due to the owner being unwell so members met in August in Wells for a tour of The Bishop's Palace gardens.

The year will be completed with a dinner held in the village hall and supplied by Mandy as before. This is well supported and an excellent cooked three course meal is followed by entertainment which this year is the local ukulele band.

We are always pleased to see new members but at this late stage in the year it would be better to come as a guest to any meeting for £2 per person and if interested come to the Annual General Meeting in January 2017 to become a full member.

Terry Grist (chairman)

Mucking about

> >

Well, that's another summer over and not much to write home about. Time now to turn to thoughts of the joys of autumn, and jobs to do in the winter. Time to think about muck!

For soil to be fertile it requires a certain percentage of organic matter in the soil (3-6%, but let's not get too technical). Organic material binds soil particles together which increases water and nutrient retaining properties, provides good structure for root growth and releases nutrients slowly. In less managed conditions than gardens, soil organic



> >

matter is provided naturally by leaf fall and decaying plants, but in the garden leaves are swept up, crops harvested and dead plants removed, so the organic material removed needs to be replaced. The two most easily available forms of organic matter for our gardens are homemade compost and FYM (farm yard manure).

How many compost heaps have you got? That may sound like a one-upmanship kind of question, but in my opinion every garden should have at least three. So, job for the autumn, get building (or buying) those compost bins. The three bin principle is this: one for filling, one for rotting down and one for using. Build or place your bins together in a row. Starting at one end, fill Bin One until it is full. When full, turn the contents into the middle bin – Bin Two – and start filling Bin One again. When the Bin One is full again, turn Bin Two into the far end bin – Bin Three, Bin One into Bin Two and start filling Bin One again. By the time Bin One is full again the contents of Bin Three should be ready for use. Cover Bins Two and Three with lids made of old carpet which help to retain warmth but let in water, both essential in the rotting down process. As an extra bonus, Bins Two or Three can be used for growing hungry crops such as courgettes so that you can fill your freezer with ratatouille to feed you all winter.

When filling the compost bins, ideally there should be a good mix of green matter (grass cuttings, vegetable waste, annual weeds) and brown matter (dry dead plant matter, straw, shredded plain cardboard and paper). Too much brown matter and the heap will be too dry to rot – cadge some more grass cuttings from a non-composting neighbour. Too much green matter, especially excess grass cuttings, will lead to an overheated heap – layer the grass cuttings with cardboard – Amazon packaging is ideal. If you have time and energy, chop everything you add as small as you can or put it through a shredder as this will speed the process. Well made compost is a joy, and your garden will appreciate your efforts.

If you have no space for compost heaps, too much garden for the amount of compost you produce, or just feel that your soil needs an extra boost, a good dose of FYM is needed.

Autumn through to late winter is the ideal time to apply well rotted FYM onto the garden, particularly onto the vegetable patch. There are pros and cons for horse manure over cow manure as there are for autumn over late winter application, but in practical terms use what you can get hold of when you have time to do it. In Chilcompton we are surrounded by farm land so chat up your nearest farmer and do a deal on some muck.

Sue Rankine

< The picture shows Sue with her three compost bins and monster courgette plant

Short Mat Bowls



This friendly group meet in the Village Hall on Thursdays at 2pm. and will teach any newcomer the rudiments of the game. So with winter approaching, resist sitting by the fire, forego daytime TV and come along and have a go. You will be guaranteed an enjoyable afternoon and meet new friends as well.

Contact David 01761 233142.

School Report

It has been another busy year for all of us at St Vigor & St John Primary School and The Mill Nursery. We are an extremely dedicated staff team with enthusiastic learners mainly from the villages of Stratton on the Fosse and Chilcompton. Being an adventurous school we pride ourselves on going that "extra step" to ensure our children are successful.

Focus weeks this year have included geography, well-being and adventure. During these weeks the children worked alongside artists, dancers and other adults who inspired them to broaden their ideas, knowledge and get them out and about in their learning.

The children have undertaken various music projects; Year 3 children performed an opera with Jackdaws Music Education Trust at Wells Blue School. Jackdaws Music Education Trust supported a woodwind project with year 4 and children performed alongside ActionTrack at Wookey Hole Caves with other local schools.

We were fortunate enough to have a Gamelan installed in our hall for a week. Children from all junior classes played the instruments and other local schools joined in too. Year 4 children had weekly woodwind tuition over the past year enjoying a performance to parents as a finale.

Children in years 3 and 4 have had swimming lessons at Paulton swimming pool while year 5 children hosted an overnight visit from Bangabandhu Primary School in Bethnal Green followed by a reciprocal trip to London

Our learning this year has taken us to many adventurous places including Bristol, Frome, Bath city centre, Wells, Stourhead, Stoney Littleton Longbarrow, Earth Science Centre, Faileigh Hungerford castle, Roman Baths, Dorchester Egyptian Museum, Sevington Victorian School, 'School of Imagination' in Bath, Blue School sport, dance and science events. Our residential trips to Mill on the Brue, Kilve Court and London are always a huge success.

We have embarked on becoming a Dyslexia Friendly school and should receive notification of our success early in the Autumn term.

National tests results were once again extremely positive, especially in reading and maths and are undoubtedly because of the effort we all make to ensure our children receive the best education possible that is both inspiring and creative in approach. We have been working alongside Bath Spa University, Cambridge Primary Research Trust and Exeter University to support development of creative research skills. After staff training last term we hope to develop a Rights Respecting school within the next year.

Parents at our school support us in so many different ways. This year the PTFA has raised funds to buy a new music system, musical instruments, swimming lessons and many gardening implements including a new greenhouse which stands resplendent in our grounds and is in operation daily instilling the importance of gardening at such a young age.

If you would like to find out more about our school please visit our website.

At present we are looking for a new caretaker. If you have 10 hrs to spare weekly and are interested please contact the school on 01761 233847.

Catherine Bushill.

The Village Agent - *Update*

It has been quite a busy spring and summer on the patch with visiting and sign posting residents to people and services that can help them be more comfortable in their daily lives.

Grab rails in showers or bathrooms, visits from Fire Safety Officers to ensure smoke alarms are working and in their correct locations, helping find carers/care companies for those who need extra help or simply giving advice to those who have an issue and are not too sure where to start.

Some of my time is spent attending regular village events to try and meet as many residents as possible and this has included visits to the Friday coffee morning, the monthly Luncheon club in the church rooms, the Wives Club as well as the Golden Hour gathering.

If you attend other village events and think I would be welcome, please let me know.

I have also been able to organise 2 sessions of computer device awareness for a small group run by Somerset Skills and Learning. This was a free event for those over 60 who have tablets and laptops that they would like to know more about. I am hoping that this may be repeated at some time in the future.

My thanks to The Redan Inn for accommodating the group in a small dining room enabling us to hold the course locally.

If you have an issue or problem that I may be able to help solve, please contact me, Jacky Smith, on 07950 782436 or email: jacky@somersetccc.org.uk



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Then and Now



Tunnel Lane

The Street

Bowden Hill

Old photographs by courtesy of Chris Scarterfield - thought to be early 1900s

The Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

Our latest purchases for the patients of both surgeries were "patient friendly chairs" with arms to enable older surgery users to get back on their feet after talking with Doctors or Nurses. The Doppler blood measuring device, purchased last year is very much appreciated by the nurses. Dr Hubbard reported that a patient's leg had been saved by using these INR machines.

We had a fund raising stall at Redan Celebrates Chilcompton and a good turn out for our

Spring Medical Forum on Hearing Disorders and Hearing Aids in The Methodist Church Hall, MSN. In Autumn we are planning a further Forum (admission free as are the refreshments) which will be on Active Ageing, helping the elderly to remain at home rather than go into a nursing home. Details will be displayed on The Friends surgery notice boards, Somer FM, The Journal and local advertising nearer the time. All members of the public are welcome.

Christmas Draw tickets will be on sale on 'Flu Jab' days at St Chad's and at Reception so remember to bring your £1! *Alan Webb.*



Wednesday Walkers

Wet weather and mud have dictated more road walks for the walkers in early summer. Quiet Lanes and backwaters were explored and on one occasion culminated at the Norton Down Methodist church, where a lovely lunch was served by church members.

Walks will continue on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month meeting at the village hall car park at 10.30am.

All welcome. Contact 01761 232774



Friday Club

In June The Redan kindly made cakes for Friday Club when regular baker, Sue Tandy was on holiday. Sue, a professional chef before her retirement, has been providing cakes for the club since 1984, when Mary Hunt originally set up the group.



I calculate she has made 1414 cakes to date as well as creating delicious puddings on our lunch days.

Well done Sue and thank you for your dedicated commitment to the club.

The photo shows Sylvia Rogers collecting the cake from Sue.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Chilcompton in bloom

Four gardening volunteers give their time and energy to planting and tidying the coal truck and garden at the Rock Road junction, the jubilee stone trough and the bus shelter garden.

Imagine then their disappointment when they found the latter trampled and a shrub broken off. To add insult to injury, one worker encountered and trod in dog poo, which isn't much fun!

Is there any point in them continuing their efforts or should they give up now?



Golden Hour Club

Members continue to appreciate lively and diverse entertainment on the second Tuesday of each month at the village hall. In future months there will be slide shows and audio/visual presentations. Choirs and singing groups will feature and also a talk on Fry's chocolate factory.

Each evening there is a raffle, bring and buy stall and free refreshments, so come along at 7.30pm. or phone 01761 233142 for more details.

Chilcompton Wives

Our Summer diary included a variety of speakers. Unfortunately our Garden visit coincided with a very wet day, but the welcome from Angela and Aubin at Spindle Cottage with a delicious cream tea made for a pleasant afternoon. We ended our summer term with a Beach Party, held in the village hall, we did not risk the elements and the bikinis stayed in the drawer.

Starting in September our talks range from Tea Tasting to Chocolates, Chinese Traditions to Girl Cops. If you would like to join us for an informal evening you would be most welcome. We meet at 7.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Dates and speakers/events are advertised on the Village Hall notice board or contact Bridget Brookbank on 232039 or Maureen Evans on 233266.

Somerset: Our County

Did you know there are 540,000 people in Somerset and of these 110,000 are children under the age of 18?

Did you know that one in 19 Somerset school pupils have a first language other than English? That one third of 12 year olds are embarrassed to smile or laugh because of the condition of their teeth. Around 32 children a week start smoking. Young carers have the lowest level of self-esteem compared to other groups. Male pupils are twice as likely as female pupils to have a special educational need or disability. The number of children estimated to be at risk of domestic abuse is 6,300.

Did you know that Somerset is better than the national average when it comes to children in poverty, homeless families, bullying amongst 15 year-olds, low birth weight babies and breastfeeding?

However, did you know that Somerset is worse than the national average when it comes to smoking in pregnancy, A&E attendance for 0-4 year olds, young people's self-esteem, and hospital admissions for substance misuse (ages 15-24 years)?

Facts from Somerset County Council.

For the full Joint Strategic Needs Assessment go to :

www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/jsna

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Norton Down Methodist Church



'The little gem', 'the one on the roundabout by the White Post Inn' and more recently 'they serve delicious lunches on the first Wednesday of every Month', 'amazing cake and pudding choices'. Some of the comments often heard!

Eight years ago a dedicated team from the Church, with the necessary permission, started a regular lunch date, this was to include homemade soup, bacon rolls and a selection of homemade cakes.

Over the years we have welcomed many visitors, including passing tourists, farmers, archaeologists, cyclists, and walkers to name but a few. We are particularly pleased to welcome the Chilcompton Walkers and look forward to return visits.

Norton Down, although a comparatively small Church remains popular with weddings and baptisms. Services are held every Sunday.

The Norton Down Africa Fund Charity celebrates its 10th anniversary this year as an official registered Charity. Over the years it has helped hundreds of vulnerable children from some of the poorest areas of Uganda, and Kenya in Africa. At the present time it is funding four Nursery Schools in Kisumu, Kenya. Each school accommodates 30 children, with a fully qualified Teacher. A meal is supplied, all stationary needs, and a uniform when they graduate to Government aided Primary School. None of these children would have had any chance of an education as many are orphans or too poor to pay for nursery education.

A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to visit Norton Down Methodist Church.

Christine Button

Ten Years of Drinking Beer for Charity



This year Chilcompton held its tenth annual 'Wessex Beer Festival'. For the past nine years the event had been held at various places including the Bath & West Showground, The Old Down Inn and The Court Hotel, but this year a new venue for the Beer Festival had to be found. The Chilcompton Sports Club was approached and this turned out to be the ideal solution.

A multitude of beers and ciders, including 'Why Kick a Moo Cow', 'Metal Head' and 'Old Smiler', were on offer; there was also plenty of live music to keep the punters entertained.

The festival was organised by the Rotary Club of Somer Valley and raised money for the Children's Hospice South West and other charities.

Giles Harrod, secretary of the Sports Committee, said: "This is the first such event to be held at The Sports Ground and we have been looking forward to meeting many new friends."

Over the two days of the festival more than five hundred people attended the event which was once again a great success.

Beer festivals have always been close to my heart because my first date with my wife took place at such an event. I thought everything was going pretty well until she threw up on my carpet and then on the pavement every fifteen yards as I walked her home. I think she was quite surprised when I asked her for a second date... Malcolm Rigby

The Joy and Tribulation of Glass Work



Imagine flying all the way to America for a one week art course, spending six days making a wonderful creation and then on the final morning it slips through your fingers and shatters on the floor.

That is precisely what happened a couple of months ago to glass artist and Chilcompton resident, Sue Sinclair. She can almost smile about it now, almost, but at the time it was sheer anguish.

Patience is a virtue, virtue is a grace, and Grace is a little girl who wouldn't wash her face. And patience is what is required to do glass work, with your standard item taking several days to complete. "This isn't work from some chain store" Sue said. "It's the love and the expressiveness of being able to do something that people see and think is uniquely mine."



She exhibits and sells her work in three galleries; the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen and A2 galleries in Wells and First View gallery in Stourhead.

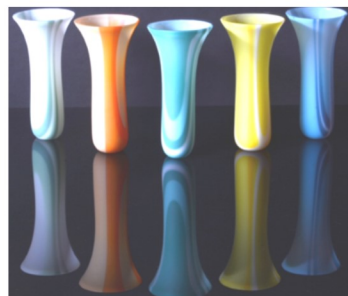
"There are basically four kinds of glass work," she explained. "One is flame work or torch work, this gets the glass to an almost molten stage, then you have hot glass work which is traditional glass blowing, then you have warm glass which is kiln formed - you're actually just taking it to the point of softening, you don't do too much manipulation, the manipulation you do is with gravity. And finally you have cold working which includes polishing and engraving."



Sue does warm glass work and with her three kilns produces bowls, vases, sculptures and two dimensional art. She is mostly self-taught but has also attended several masterclasses. Different types of glass and different sizes require varying amounts of time in the kiln so it gets quite technical. "That's

one thing I like, it combines a lot of science. If you understand the science and chemistry of it, I think you have a lot more flexibility because you can push the boundaries."

Amongst her glass making colleagues she has a reputation for her wild and dramatic use of colour. "One of the things about colour is that the colours are made with different chemicals and certain chemicals react. So what I like to do is work with a lot of copper based colours, which will be blues, and sulphur based, which are oranges, and you get this nice line when they interact, a 'reaction' line between the sulphur and the copper, and there is also a reaction against the lead based colours, which are your pinks. I like things that are punchy.



>>

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"I really enjoy playing with colour, which is why I like glass powders because I can take the native powders and blend them and make a completely new colour."

So would she recommend it to others as a pastime? "Yes, it can be very accessible. There is a joy in making things, whether it's making dresses or cakes, 'hey, I made that', it's kind of fun. Although the family do get tired of getting glass bowls for Christmas."

Sue has been glass working for eight years now and she does have this small warning. "Like any kind of craft/art you have to go into it knowing that it's going to take you years before you get to where you really want to be. You can make things and be delighted that someone wants it, but I'm still not quite satisfied with what I'm doing. I'm not unhappy, but it's not yet where I want to be. And it's the same if you ask anyone who does any kind of art."

If you know anyone in the village who has some unusual skill or hobby, do let me know.

Malcolm Rigby parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Dorothy House Sale

Put Saturday 19th November in your diary and remember to support the Grand Dorothy House Sale at the village hall.

Last year a fantastic £2550 was raised thanks to many and diverse donations of buic-a-brac, nearly new clothes, books, small furniture items and new toiletries. If you've not been before, come and find a bargain!

This will be the 33rd annual sale, only possible by the dedication of organisers and up to 30 volunteers on the day. Items can be brought to the hall on the morning of the sale from 10.30am. and if anyone is able to help, please phone Jane on 233765.

The sale starts at 2.30pm.

Slow Down!

Sleeping policemen, speed cushions, 20mph speed limits, entry points, lane width restrictions, roundabouts and pedestrian refuges are all being considered by a new subcommittee of the Parish Council.

The committee has been charged with the task of looking at the traffic problems of the village from a holistic point of view and are thinking about a variety of options.

Parish Councillor Kulwan Gill said: "At the end of the day the Parish Council can only make suggestions. And we have suggested various options, road narrowing, speed limits, you name it, but the decision and the money lies with Somerset County Council Highways not us, you just have to look at how hard we have tried attempting to get a pavement to Lynch Hill. You may look at a village like Paulton and think they have speed bumps galore, speed indicators and a 20mph speed limit but it is a different county.

"These measures are important for all in Chilcompton, especially pedestrians, even more now with the Sunday bus service being withdrawn and with the new facilities being made available at the Old Rec for younger people. The aim here is to create a safer environment for all, an aim we'll achieve together, in this fantastic and unique community of Chilcompton."

~ LETTERS ~

Dear Editor,

I live on the Parsonage Lane, Chilcompton. I don't have transport so have to walk from Gollledge Close right to the top of the road onto I think it's called The Broadway. I walk six times a week, but lately I have become very terrified by the speed of traffic, no one is carefully driving down the road, definitely not the limit of 30mph. I have to walk my dog, which facing oncoming traffic causes me to panic. Also Tuesdays and Wednesday's I walk my 3 year old toddler that has to hold on side of pram or she wants to lie down in pram to sleep and my newborn goes into a baby harness. 30mph I feel for safety of myself and my children and all other villagers walking in this non pedestrian path less lane. When is there plan to put a path there or lower limit from 30mph to 20mph?? This village needs to adapt to all the new families moving into the new houses.

Your faithfully
Mrs M Meadows

Dear Editor,

I live in Station Mead, am adjacent to the play area and have done so for the last 4 years. When we bought the property we were not too concerned about the play area and actually thought it would be a good thing for our 4 year old daughter as a place where she could play safely, particularly as it is classed as being suitable for ages 2 to 5 years. In addition as Station Mead is a cul de sac it would also be a safe area for our daughter to cycle.

The reality has been somewhat different! The play area is primarily used as a meeting place for local teenagers, most of which do not live in the estate for which the play area is earmarked. They congregate at mid afternoon and have been known to remain there until the early hours of the following morning. We have also seen an increase in cars and motor bikes parking outside the play area from these same teenagers. These activities increase substantially when there are school holidays. There is evidence of smoking and drinking and a build up of litter (despite a litter bin within the play area). The anti social aspect both now and the potential into the future is pretty clear.

As a consequence my daughter does not use the play area and has been reluctant to use her bicycle in Station Mead. But she is not alone! No child uses the play area when the teenagers are around, nor do they ride on their bicycles either.

I then did a brief survey of those children who actually used the play area in one week when the weather was fair. The number is pitifully small at just 4. This was my impression when thinking back over previous months and years.

I believe the best solution all round would be the decommissioning of the play area and return it to a grassed area in keeping with the remainder of the recreational area. This would remove the anti social nature from the estate which directly impacts those houses overlooking the play area and will allow the estate's children to play outside without any hindrance.

There may be some who will be concerned at the lack of a play area in Station Mead. My first comment would be that they do not have to live by the play area and I wonder what their reaction would be, if they did! However there are already 2 very good play areas in the village. In addition there are monies earmarked for the upgrading of the village play facilities following the Taylor Wimpey development off Broadway. I'm sure this could ensure some provision for the teenagers of the village.

Alan Skivington

The Cans

Police are looking for a person who drinks Carlsberg Export.

Literally hundreds of beer cans have been found and removed from the banks of Tunnel Lane. Yet they still keep coming and virtually every single one is Carlsberg Export.

The cause or reasons behind this anti-social littering remain totally mysterious but local residents are growing tired and annoyed at this disgraceful pollution of the environment.

Parish Councillor Duncan Rideout said: "It really is annoying, Pete Sinclair and I have both picked up literally sacks of them. It's irresponsible and unnecessary because it is so easy to recycle cans. But most importantly it makes one of the entrances to our village look untidy and messy."

Can you please stop! Whoever you are...

Grow up and Pick up

What a great subject to keep writing about – but the issue of dog poo is close to my heart. Actually, it's not; it's close to my tolerance threshold...

Since my article in the last Chilcompton Matters, a few people have told me about individuals who don't 'pick up' after their dogs - and given names. And others who DO pick up but then throw the bags into the hedgerows where they hang like some disgusting Christmas tree decorations through season after season. Their logic apparently is the bags are biodegradable so they will just disappear. Well maybe so -in time! But what will then happen to the contents, eh? The poo will just fall to the ground - where these 'virtuous' people didn't want to leave it! Where is the logic in that?

Others do pick up on pavements but not on or near country paths - it's a free country open to us all, ain't it? Well no it ain't actually; someone owns it, cattle graze it, people walk through it and children play in it while other creatures - like my dog - eat their tasty leavings. Ugh!

There is a fine of up to £1,000 for dog fouling: if I see anyone leaving dog poo, I **WILL** report them. Oh yes, I would really love to hear from the person who tears down the posters that are put up about dog fouling - obviously someone who doesn't pick up.

If you've got a dog, you've got a responsibility. Be grown up and accept it!

If you disagree - or agree - with any of this, or have another point to make or someone you want to name, please email the editor Malcolm Rigby at parishclerk@chilcompton.org. As long as you give him your name, you can ask for your comments to be anonymous. Or, like the others, who prompted this piece, you can have a word with me.

Christine Foster 01761 232158

~ LETTERS ~

Dear Editor,

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the safety of pedestrians and horse riders on Parsonage Lane.

Our main concern involves the speed of cars coming up and down the North Eastern part of the Lane past Carmel Cottage, making exiting our drive a risky business, and endangering the horse riders. This includes our 8 year old granddaughter who has just started riding in the lane with Jane Richardson.

We have recently witnessed a young horse rider outside our house nearly thrown from her horse which had been spooked by speeding cars. We have also been the subject of abuse from drivers for slowing them down when leading our granddaughter on the pony.

Over the years there have been many accidents in the lane, including 3 cars coming out of our drive and cars ending up on their roof.

As a result of our concerns, we e-mailed the Highways Department suggesting they install some sort of traffic calming measures such as 'one way sections' in the lane to slow traffic, and a heavy lorry ban. We mentioned that the problems are particularly bad around 5pm when the people from the Mulberry Factory are using Parsonage Lane as a 'Rat Run' to Midsomer Norton.

Mr Betty of the Highways Department replied very quickly with observations on our proposals. Apparently a lorry ban would merely move the problem from Parsonage Lane to another location. Any 'one way sections' would increase driver frustration and end up with more aggression and greater speeds between the sections. The speed of cars from the Mulberry Company, while regrettable, is a Police matter if drivers are exceeding the speed limit.

Mr Betty however did make some positive suggestions: He said that it might be possible to apply for an 'electronic speed sign' on a rota basis for Parsonage Lane, and for some 'Slow for Horses' signs to address our concerns for the safety of the horse riders in the Lane. He also suggested approaching the Mulberry Company directly to ask them to draw the attention of those employees who use Parsonage Lane to our concerns over their excessive speed.

He informed us that the Parish Council has to apply for both the electronic speed sign and the 'Slow for Horses' signs. In addition, we believe that a letter from the Parish Council to the Mulberry Company would carry more weight than individual residents of Parsonage Lane.

Please can you consider these ideas in the hope that we can see a reduction in traffic speeds along the Lane as soon as possible before a serious accident occurs.

Yours Faithfully,

Jean Suter / John Chambers

The Last Artefact - by Andrew Morris

When I'm long gone and tears wept dry,
At the edge of songs at Christmas time.

What of my things all forgotten too?
My books unread on strangers shelves.

How many moves and cleared attics,
Will it take to fade away my fingerprints?
To break my hold on things adorned,
That kept my life and time.

What will be my last artefact.

To attach itself to thought?

I have nothing expensive or bold,
Perhaps a small insignificant thing.

And what has survived my mother's grave?

A life of success, belongings and frailty.

Nothing except a small silver thimble,
And in that all her love and our humility.

Diary Dates

11th September QUIZ NIGHT 7.30pm (Then every 2nd Sunday) at Sports Club
25th September MESSY CHURCH Family Fun, Activities and Tea 3-4.30pm at St John's
30th September SOTF HARVEST CELEBRATIONS - QUIZ NIGHT at St Vigor's Church
30th September FAMILY BINGO 6pm Bar Open for Eyes Down at 7.00pm at Sports Club
2nd October SOTF HARVEST CELEBRATION SERVICE 9am at St Vigor's Church
7th October HARVEST SUPPER at St John's Church
9th October HARVEST CELEBRATION SERVICE 10.30am at St John's Church
15th October LITTER PICK 10.00am at Village Hall
20th October LUNCH CLUB 12noon at St John's Church
26th October PUBLIC MEETING ON FLOODING 7.30pm at Village Hall
31st October MESSY CHURCH DOES THE LIGHT PARTY Family Fun, Activities & Tea, at St John's
5th November CRAFT FAYER at Village Hall
10th November DROP-IN MEETING ON FLOODING 4-7.00pm at Village Hall
13th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES at St John's Church
13th November REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 3pm at War Memorial Afterwards at Village Hall
17th November LUNCH CLUB 12noon at St John's Church
19th November GRAND DOROTHY HOUSE SALE 2.30pm at Village Hall
27th November MESSY CHURCH Family Fun, Activities and Tea. 3-4.30pm at St John's
27th November SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBRANCE 6.30pm at St John's

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The Gentle Touch

If you're curious about alternative therapies but don't fancy the prospect of having your torso wrenched into shape, needles put into your skin, or drinking strange herbal concoctions, you might be interested in a therapy which is deceptively soft and simple.

Having had my frozen shoulder cured by reflexology for the last issue of the newsletter I decided to try out Bowen therapy for my latest ailment of my much abused body – tennis elbow.

Therapist Cat Wilton has had several injuries in her life including falling off a horse, a car accident and an incident with a rowing machine, so consequently has had many treatments before she discovered Bowen.

She said: "I thought I'll give it a go and see what happens. The very first set of moves the therapist did on me I felt my whole body releasing tension and lengthening. This was something I'd been striving for, for both me and my horse. That was it, I decided there and then that I had to go and learn how to do it. The fact that it is so gentle is the key thing."

So what exactly is it? "Bowen is a non-invasive holistic healing modality," she said. "Treatment consists of very gentle and relaxing moves on specific parts of the body, those precise moves encourage the body to relax and empower the body's own healthy resources to achieve balance and harmony."

"Treatments are generally one week apart. The number of treatments varies from person to person but very often people only need three or four. Generally the more ailments you are suffering with the more treatments you are likely to need."

The method was invented by an Australian called Tom Bowen, who described the technique as 'a gift from God'.

Apart from tennis elbow what else can it be used for? Cat, from neighbouring Neighbourne, said: "Anything musculo skeletal, so any aches and pains, it is highly effective for. Anyone that I treat I try and help them with their posture as well so that they don't fall back into old patterns because old patterns beget the same old problems."

"It can also help with emotional release, hormonal imbalances, digestive problems, headaches and migraines, help with hay fever, asthmatic problems, breathing issues, frozen shoulder, back pains, sports injuries, knees and skin complaints."

After taking my medical history and gauging my posture from various standing positions the therapy begins in earnest with myself in a recumbent position on a massage table. The moves involve a small poke or a soft tweak or a tender roll of the skin – all very gentle, and all over the body rather than just the elbow.

Cat, who gave up the day job as an IT manager to heal professionally, said: "Because it's so gentle, sometimes it gets a reputation for being airy-fairy, and not being very credible, whereas if you have other treatments done you can feel as if you've been put through the grinder when you come out."

Next comes the really curious element of Bowen, after the therapist has done the move he/she will leave the room for a couple of minutes. The reason being that if you are giving information to the nervous system you have to give time for the body to respond.

During my treatment Cat kept remarking on how tight my muscles were, far too much tension apparently, so I will have to have a few more sessions before the tennis elbow clears.

Malcolm Rigby

Cat Wilton can be contacted on 07921 259758

Website: www.balancewithbowen.com Facebook: @bowensomerset



Old Rec, New Look

At last we can finally say it's happened !

After one year of research, at the Old Recreation Ground we have now installed play equipment suitable for older children, and young at heart adults !

We now have a superb Sport's wall to practice your football and basketball skills, a large basket swing if you would rather chill, and a Shelter to hang out in because of the lovely English weather.



In addition to this we have also added extra equipment to the children's play area which consists of hopscotch and a noughts and crosses play panel to add more fun to the existing play equipment.



We are also hoping to provide a new fence as the old fence and gate around the children's play area have seen better days, this may have already happened depending on the date that you have received this newsletter !

Don't forget we also have a large green area at the Old Rec if you just want to kick a ball around, or have a good old fashioned game of tag.

If you, your family or friends would like to use the new facilities please remember that parking isn't readily available so please walk if you can.

The Parish Council hope that you will all enjoy the new facilities which we have had installed and we are as always working hard behind the scenes to make sure Chilcompton is the place everyone wants to be.

Linda Travis

Chilcompton Sports Club

The Home of Sport in Our Village Community

It has been another exciting spring/summer for the Sports Club, dominated during this period by cricket. Most recently the good weather has meant that our sun terrace at the rear of the club-house overlooking the sports field has been a popular spot for relaxing with a drink whilst watching our resident sporting community do their thing!

Now that the football and rugby seasons have commenced it is worth keeping eyes peeled for the next televised match/event on Sky/BT Sport in the Sports Bar. Even better, our resident Chilcompton Sports Adult and Youth Football teams are of course on site, so there is good quality action live on your door-step every weekend for you to come and support. There is a notice board at the ground with opening hours and announcements. Updates are also posted at facebook.com/ChilcomptonSportsClub.



New residents of the village will be delighted to find that the Sports Bar is open to everyone. There is no membership fee, though a discount card is available for those who wish to benefit from preferential bar prices. Whether you are new to the village or have been here for many years, we would be delighted to welcome you to the Chilcompton Sports Club bar soon.

During the summer we made the decision to open the tennis courts for free casual tennis use and this will continue for the foreseeable future. Club nights and organised matches are of course charged per court/per hour but the committee is keen to see the facility used so our turn-up-and-play-for-free strategy will be in place until further notice.

Please remember that Chilcompton Sports is entirely volunteer staffed and we are always on the look out for extra volunteers to help with ground works, maintenance, fund raising and the like. We have amazing facilities which bring massive benefit to the sporting and wider community at both adult and youth level. To get involved drop in at the club or send an email to giles@harrodproperty.co.uk

Giles Harrod, Secretary of the Sports Committee.

Anyone for tennis?

With three floodlit hard courts available to members of the parish free of charge at the Chilcompton Sports Ground it is hoped that many people will take advantage of these good facilities. So if you are looking forward to getting fit, having fun, meeting new people and learning a sport that can be played throughout your life then get on court and discover what tennis can offer.

To encourage, guide and support you, Simon Brand has been appointed as the new tennis coach. Recently retired from the Royal Navy, Simon is passionate about the game and has extensive coaching and playing experience. He is very keen to get to know those who either play the game already or want to learn how to play so he can develop coaching programmes, run events and organise group sessions which meet everyone's aspirations. If you are interested in learning the game or honing your skills please contact Simon on 07766 598817 or at simonbrand9@gmail.com to discuss how he can best support you.



Cricket

It's been a busy second season for Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club with two Junior XI's joining the three established Senior XI's.

The Saturday Senior 1st XI have had a good first season in the Bristol & District Division 6 but unfortunately may just miss out on promotion by a few points. The Saturday Senior 2nd XI have struggled in Division 12 but against all odds have survived the drop! The Sunday Senior XI have finished a creditable mid table in the North Somerset Division 4 and have once again brought on some of the club's younger players. We have welcomed many new players to the club during the season and are always on the lookout for players of any standard and any age from the local area. Contact Dave Travis on 07725 458404.

We are proud to have started a youth section for the first time in the club's one hundred year history and have played in the local U11 & U13 Leagues. The weather has been a problem for the youth team games but the players have soldiered on and the U11's peaked when in July they beat the mighty Bath Cricket Club at Chilcompton Sports Ground. We



have also run regular youth training nights throughout the summer and the youth section hopes to go from strength to strength in Season 2017.

The club are thankful as always to Chilcompton Sports for the marvellous facilities and in 2016 we gained grants to extend the shed and purchase an outfield mower. The playing square has improved greatly during our second season and with the outfield shorter (thanks to the new mower) the cricket ground looks fantastic especially when the sun comes out. The only negative for the season was the roller giving up the ghost in July so at great expense the club managed to find the funds to purchase a new engine.



Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club is grateful to the many hard working club members and especially the main sponsors Dickies, Pethericks & Gillard and Spectrum Form Design.

Dave Travis Secretary of Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club

Chilcompton Youth Football



A busy summer programme for children allowed Chilcompton Sports to endorse the Steve Philips Soccer School. Steve Philips grew up in Chilcompton and went on to not only become a professional goalkeeper, but also he now coaches at one of his former clubs' Bristol Rovers.

Steve ran a series of days at Chilcompton Sports that attracted many young players, helped by Chilcompton's own fully FA accredited coaches. Chilcompton Sports intend to keep this up during the school holiday periods over the coming years as they continue to attract local talent to the top class facilities. Steve said: "The reason I host my Soccer Schools here is to give something back to grassroots football, Chilcompton Sports Youth has the best facility in the area to do that and I'll continue to support the development of Youth Soccer".

Chilcompton Sports Youth now has over 250 children at the club and continues to grow. The purpose built club house and the sports grounds have been kept in pristine condition and welcomes non-members and new joiners to come along and get involved. During the winter months the pitches do get heavily used but Chilcompton Sports use the 3g facilities at the local schools so the children continue to get their regular offering of training Saturday mornings and an extra session under lights to offset the winter weather.

Chilcompton train every Saturday from 9am until 10.15, anyone interested in getting involved please get in contact. Age Groups are from 5 -16 years old.

Tim Curtis



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!



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The Adult's Game

After a short summer break the football season for the adult teams at Chilcompton Sports has re-started. The first team began their second season in the Somerset County Premier Division on the 6th August. In a testing first season the talented young team managed by Tim Curtis overcame a difficult start to retain their status in a challenging division. Chilcompton are the only club in the Midsomer Norton area with a team in the top division of the county league. With the experience gained from last season and a few new faces at the club it is hoped that the team will be able to push on and compete for a top half position this season.

Both the reserves and A team commenced their 2016-17 seasons in the Mid Somerset League at the beginning of September. After 5 seasons in the second division the reserve team secured promotion to division 1. A total of 37 competitive games were played last season including 13 cup matches. In the cup competitions the reserves won the Morland Cup 1-0 against Victoria Sports, and reached the final of the Paulton Hospital Cup, losing 2-0 to the premier division winners Coleford Athletic.



Reserve Team Morland Cup winners

The third team known as the youth development team narrowly missed out on promotion from the third division.

All three teams play their matches on Saturday afternoons and would welcome the support from the village. The first team and reserves play their home matches at Bennell playing fields, with the A teams home matches taking place at the Bryan Wells Playing Fields in Oakhill.

To fulfil the club's ambitions of progressing all three sides the club is seeking new players for this season. Chilcompton Sports offers a range of opportunities for players from the age of 16. Training takes place twice a week which provides a unique opportunity for any player to progress and achieve their potential. Any players wishing to join or for more information, including the latest training times, please contact Tim Curtis via e-mail, enquiries@chilcomptonsports.com

More Pictures From The Flower Show



Not So Big Dipper



Picture of a Dipper, taken near the bus shelter on The Street.

Pete Sinclair, who took the photo, said: “We’re informed that dippers were once fairly common on this stretch of the river, but sadly, sightings are now rather rare.”

A short-tailed, plump bird with a low, whirring flight, when perched on a rock it habitually bobs up and down and frequently cocks its tail. Its white throat and breast contrasts with its dark body plumage. It is considered remarkable in its method of walking into and under water in search of food. Conservation-wise it is included in the amber group.

Sunday Buses Axed !

From the 4th September there has been no bus service and there will no longer be any bus service for Chilcompton on a Sunday.

First Bus have decided that the No. 173, Chilcompton’s sole surviving bus service, is to no longer run on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Andrew Sherrington, General Manager, First Bath, Wells and Weston-super-Mare said: “We are making a series of changes to the services that operate throughout the Mendips, and to and from Bristol and Bath.

“We understand that some people will be concerned about some of the changes that are being made. We would stress though that the affected routes are being altered to resolve ongoing issues with punctuality and reliability and ensure that what we do operate is as commercially sustainable and can survive in the long term. This way we ensure that we are able to continue to invest in public transport in the area.”

Jon Pike, Chairman of the Parish Council, said; “This is diabolical. There are people who rely on the Sunday service in order to visit elderly relatives. What’s more there has been absolutely no consultation with the Parish Council. We have effectively become public transport void on about sixty days of the year.”