

Chilcompton Matters
... because it does

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Spring Magazine
March 2021



Welcome...

...to the 2021 Spring edition of Chilcompton Matters.

That was a year. Science Fiction writers couldn't have come up with that. But actually they could, and did, except that bit about Jackie Weaver. Lockdown in the winter has been dismal, like picking out the lonely baked beans from your spinster aunts' salad. I've been asking friends for the good things that happened during the year of COVID-19 and they haven't been replying.

One brilliant spark of the year was the number of volunteers who raised their hands when the Parish Council asked for support for those in need. Even better was the few numbers who needed help - it shows that we are a village that already has a support network in place. That says more than anything. That is huge. On a smaller scale, my friend, Sue Rankine tells of how she rescued an injured hedgehog, it went to receive attention at hedgehog hospital and is now back in Chilcompton. Ahh.

Everyone has a sad tale, even if it was just running out of loo paper. My own particular woe is that I haven't cuddled my first grandson yet and he is almost six months old. But no biggy, obviously there is much much worse.

It's not been an easy magazine to produce in lockdown; interviews by phone rather than face to face, editing by proxy, advertisers pulling out (but also new ones coming in!), but the schools are back and the magazine is back. Spring is back, nothing can stop that. Those daffs and lambs keep coming. I will see my grandson. Rejoice. (Apologies, that sounded a little Thatcherite.) Do you remember having a pint with a mate in a pub, maybe a packet of cheese and onion crisps, torn open so you can share? Heady days, indeed.

As usual so many people to thank - so many people make this magazine possible. The contributors (old and new but love the pictures from Jon Crouch), the advertisers, the distributors, the proof-readers, Kathy Hughes for dealing with the advertising, and that man, Mike Hughes, who puts the details together - I don't think we've had a cross word working together even after six years. Perhaps it's just wonderful to celebrate Chilcompton.

Bendice tu corazon (bless your heart)

Malcolm Rigby

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

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CARO SAY “NO!”

- to building on green fields

The village pressure group, Chilcompton Against Rural Overdevelopment (CARO), despite a series of recent victories, faces a new attack in the form of a proposal for the construction of 95 new houses.

The houses would be built on green land between New Rock Road, Stockhill Road and Hoecroft. The company behind the proposal is Gladman, not so much a property developer as a property promoter.

A planning application has not yet been put in but it is thought that pre-application meetings have been held with Mendip District Council and some local residents have received flyers through their doors.

The flyer mentions 95 houses but if you go on the company website there is talk of 150 houses. Even 95 houses would increase the size of the village by 10%.

The news has brought the campaigning group CARO, which now has more than a hundred members, back to active life.

CARO spokesman, Rich Morgan, said: “This is an absolutely terrible development and we will do absolutely everything, within Covid limitations, to prevent it.

“As we’ve said before this is not nimbyism this is about the sustainability of the village. The school is full, the surgery is full, there are flooding issues throughout the community and the small roads are increasingly dangerous.

“You only have to witness the number of posters displayed all over Chilcompton to see the strength of feeling held by villagers against this sort of development. Gladman is a badman and we want to make him a sadman.”

CARO have already contacted their local MP James Heappey who shortly before Christmas gave his support to the local pressure group saying he doesn’t want to see Chilcompton become a town.

He said: “Chilcompton has taken a significant amount of development in the last ten years and therefore I agree with the community in questioning whether the village should be expected to take more.”

In addition CARO has the support of the parish council, the district councillors and the county councillor. >>

>> The development comes at a time when CARO is celebrating five recent triumphs at a national level. Government inspectors have dismissed appeals in recent weeks for developments at Somer Lea, White Hayes, Sestri paddock, land east of Redan and Thorner Way.



James Heapey MP with representatives of CARO



*“this is not about nimbyism,
this is sustainability”*

If you want to join CARO contact:

caro.enoughisenough@gmail.com

COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

The **NHS** will:

- ⊗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
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- ⊗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport



Chilcompton Village Website



Chilcompton has a new website which is available at chilcompton.org

It was realised some time ago that while our previous website had served Chilcompton well it was not easy to update or maintain and was thus badly out of date. It also lacked functionality that we felt was needed to help drive our public image forward. The decision was therefore taken to investigate how to acquire a new website that would better fit our needs.

Suitable IT skills were not available on the Parish Council to build a new website from scratch so research was undertaken to identify a professional developer who may be able to help. We quickly found that there are a number of companies who specialise in building websites for Parish Councils. By using such a company, we realised that we'd get a website that complied with all legal requirements and would fully meet the present and future needs of the village. After further investigation, we decided to use a company appropriately called Parish Council Websites. They currently host such websites for many councils. They were very happy to provide examples of their work, so we contacted several of the hosted councils to hear their impression of how developments of their new websites went. One thing that was critical to us was to ensure that what limited content was on our old website was migrated to the new site.

Reports from other councils were very positive so commitment was made with the developer and they quickly came up with a design and migration plan. They made sure that they understood all our needs and set an aggressive migration schedule. Regular correspondence ensured that we remained on track and that additional functionality was made available. After a few weeks, we were ready to cut over to the new site which also went very smoothly. Education on how to maintain the website was also provided. >>

>> The new site has now been running for some weeks and we've received great feedback about it. Some of the most significant features include:

- A website designed by a specialist company that meets all Parish Council needs
- Full compliance with all accessibility, privacy and other legal requirements
- Much cleaner look and feel to the whole site
- Ease of navigation to get to what information is desired
- News Posts that can be added quickly
- An automated weekly newsletter that sends all News Posts to all subscribers
- Quality calendar of local meetings and events. By using predefined locations for events maps of locations will be automatically provided to anyone seeking event location
- Multiple photo display and album options that can be easily refreshed. Lists of local organisations with contact information. If you would like to see your group mentioned here contact us

We hope to further develop the website in the future as new features become available. We hope to shortly introduce a "Nature" photo library where village residents will be invited to submit photos of anything that fits that category, particularly wildlife and plant life for consideration. Surveys may also be introduced to help determine future needs for the village. Please visit the website at chilcompton.org and sign up for the periodic newsletter. Comments on any Parish Council related subject are also welcome and this can be easily submitted from the website.

Pete Sinclair

Mendip Brass Band

~ AN APPEAL ~

Based in Chilcompton since its formation 14 years ago, Mendip Brass Band is in danger of being disbanded, which would be a huge disappointment to its 35 players and many supporters, as well as being a loss to the community and wider locality.

Following the indefinite closure of the church hall, the band now has no venue to return to once the pandemic allows groups to reassemble. So, an appeal is going out to anyone with a vacant building in Chilcompton that could be used for practice.

The band really does need help to ensure it survives and stays in the village.

IF YOU CAN HELP OR SUGGEST A WAY OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM, PLEASE CONTACT: mendipbrassband@hotmail.co.uk

Marlene Pickford

Flags from the beginning of the 20th century

Last year Pete Sinclair located a number of Chilcompton Church magazines dating from over a hundred years ago and Malcolm Rigby described some of their contents. Seeing the world through the eyes of those who lived then was interesting and, in some cases, very entertaining.

I was intrigued by the magazines and suggested to Malcolm that they be scanned and made available to everyone through a museum or other resource. Perhaps I should have realised from past experience in my working life that those who suggest a change are often given the chance to make it happen! Accordingly, I collected the magazines from Malcolm and began the process of scanning the pages which took a little while.

I am pleased to say that this has been completed and the scans can be found on the Parish Council website www.chilcompton.org under the 'About' tab.

Please take a look around as they are quite educational and interesting.

My own particular favourite is an advertisement from 1905 as I recall about old Artificial Teeth.

For the technically minded, there are 199 items, they are arranged by year, dating from 1897 to 1933 although some are missing. The whole resource amounts to 1.1GB so there's plenty to read.

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OCTOBER] **CHILCOMPTON MAGAZINE.** [1905.

Well, now I come to the painful part. I am going away at the end of this month. It is bitter to me, and I am afraid that I am a trifle embittered by the circumstances that have made it necessary—the great vital mistake of attaching this vicarage-house to this benefice. To my mind the financial difficulty is really a minor evil; the great evil is that the parish-priest of this parish should be supposed to live in a house of that kind. I cannot go into a very debatable question now, but I want you all to know that I am in sympathy with you all, and count you as on an equality with myself. I hope that when I am gone you will remember this. I do not want to live the life of a country gentleman; I want to live the life of a servant of my people. May God bless you all with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus! May He speedily find some remedy for the difficulties of His Church! May He temper my regretful feelings in parting from you all.

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Clubs & Organisations - *The Current Situation*

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Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Golden Hour Club

Sylvia 01761 233142

Short Mat Bowls

David Rogers 01761 233142

Chilcompton Gardening Club

Judy Youngs 01761 233017

Mendip Brass Band

Alan & Jenny Gould 01761 232551

mendipbrassband@hotmail.co.uk

Sports Club Netball

karen.peaty@englandnetball.co.uk

Currently there is no news of the above organisations except that everyone is waiting for the time when they can restart. When Government restrictions are eased, please contact the organisers for more information.

Mendip Community Transport

For information about current services and restrictions call:
01749 880613 or visit website: mendipcommunitytransport.co.uk

Local info

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

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. However, since lockdown the meetings have been held remotely through Zoom so if you wish to attend you need to contact the clerk beforehand and he will send you an invitation.

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

Website: www.chilcompton.org

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

District Councillors: Josh Burr and Sam Phripp

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

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

District Council: 0300 303 8588

County Council: 0300 123 2224

Obituaries

The following villagers have died since the last newsletter:

Ken Rawson (February 2020), William (Bill) Hillen,
Roger Coleman, Derek Coles, Barbara Woodford,
Joan James, Shirley Penn, Diana Noad,
Caroline Schuster, Sheila Vaughan.

We send sincere condolences to their families and friends.

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

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

News from St. John's

In the strangest year in living memory, we have had to be very creative in our activities at St John's due to the restrictions placed on us by successive lockdowns due to Covid 19. With the buildings closed, our regular weekly worship has gone on line with 50-70 people of all ages meeting weekly via Zoom for a service of Morning Prayer. In Lockdown 1 we grew Sunflowers together, unleashing the competitive spirit! Lockdown 2 required us to celebrate Advent by lighting candles rather than singing carols, and Lockdown 3 has us all knitting spring flowers to yarn-bomb the churchyard to celebrate Easter when it arrives in a few week's time.

Services to mark life's major events have been few and far between. I am so pleased to say that compared to many Parishes up and down the land, we have had fewer funerals than we might have feared. Patience was rewarded for one lovely family who had their baby baptised before such things were no longer permitted (congratulations to the Massey Family) and after any number of postponements, Grace and Ben's Wedding found a window of opportunity in September! Hurrah!

At Christmas we took our celebrations outside with a very successful "Find a Jesus Pebble" challenge. The Nativity Scene and the Christmas Tree were also placed where people could enjoy them on their daily exercise.

It has been lovely to see the village community working together, sharing simple kindnesses and helping one another when there are those in need. We were delighted to promote the calendar of local images painted by local artist Matt Marshall and sold in aid of local homeless charity Root Connections (see website for further details) and to house a freezer full of frozen meals for the use of Mendip Village Agent, Julie Brown (Tel 07985680262 if you are aware of anyone in need.)

With our hall and church buildings suffering an enforced closure, the PCC have recently voted to make the most of the time to renovate the facilities. After 30 years of excellent use by the church family and the village community much of >>

>> the Church Hall facility is rather tired. The underfloor storage heating has become so expensive to run that it can no longer be covered by hiring fees and old flooring and sanitary provision does not make it easy to offer a Covid-secure environment. This period of enforced closure is a good opportunity to refurbish as much as can be afforded. Consequently, a unanimous decision has been taken to remain closed for some months to allow these works to be undertaken (funds permitting.) Following this, the worshipping community would like a short period of review, to see how they would best like to deploy the resource for worship and mission, before then opening up again to outside bookings. It is the hope of the PCC that we might refurbish the hall to make it as splendid an environment as we can manage (for both church and village use) that will see us well into the next 50 years.

All regular users of the hall have been contacted and their views sought about priorities. We are sorry some groups will need to seek a temporary alternative location in the short term, but hope that everyone will understand that this short-term inconvenience will allow us to offer better facilities in the longer term, and it is our intention to keep the period of closure as short as possible. Up to date information about expected re opening will be posted on the church website.

We are really looking forward to returning to our regular pattern of services and activities as soon as it is deemed safe for us to do so.

For up to date news, and to subscribe to our weekly email, if you would like to be kept up to date with developments or be invited to on-line services, please check out our website: www.stvigorstjohn.church



Messy Church at St Johns

Messy Church has had an incredibly challenging year. In 2020 we were only able to meet in person twice before the first COVID-19 lockdown kicked in. However, at these two events lots of laughter could be heard as families gathered for crafts, games, and fun followed by family friendly worship and tea.

Social distancing and being unable to meet in person led to the highlight of our year which was the “Finding Jesus in Chilcompton” initiative. 450 baby Jesus pebbles were hidden around Chilcompton over the Christmas period for families to find. This was well received by all and some super photographs of happy participants were sent to our website.

We will keep posting different craft ideas and activities that can be done at home. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can begin to operate in person again, in the meantime, for the latest Messy Church news, updates and announcements, keep your eye on our website: www.stvigorstjohn.church

Lawn Rewilding

At the end of last summer, my husband Alister announced that he was fed up with mowing the lawn and that it was time to create a meadow. It may be as well at the outset to put this statement into context. Our 'lawn' such as it is (or was) is small enough that we haven't used a motor mower for years and mowing is done in about 5 minutes flat using a very small manual push along mower. It was a frequent bone of contention between us however that his obsession with neat edges had shrunk the grass area considerably as he cut away at it every time he mowed, leaving more and more bare soil around the edges.

I needed no further encouragement. Luckily for our project what we called the 'lawn' was when we bought the house, one half of a paddock where a pony had been kept which we just mowed when creating the garden. In common with the rest of the garden we never used any artificial fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides on it so the actual grass content was always fairly low, greenness being provided mainly by daisies, buttercups and moss. This is a good basis for a wildflower meadow; if the soil is too rich in nutrients it will always favour grasses which will soon out-compete the less robust wild flowers.

The first step was to get rid of as much of the thatch and moss as possible by raking and mowing, and raking and mowing, and raking again until the area had a fairly threadbare appearance.

Next, we marked out an area for a path which we will keep mowed to give access to the washing line without trampling the flowers. The mowed path will also give some structure to the 'meadow' to prevent it looking as though we just abandoned it.

Given the lack of grass, we could have left it at this stage to see what plants came up in the spring. I know of one garden in the village which produced common spotted orchids when an area of the lawn was left to grow, but we decided to supplement what we had with some bought in wild flower plug plants which I planted out in October. We chose a mix suitable for a loamy soil which included yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and lady's bedstraw (*Gallium verum*) and marked them with sticks. I also sowed some seeds of yellow rattle directly into bare patches in the meadow area. Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) is a semi-parasitic annual wild plant which weakens grass, allowing the wild flowers to thrive more readily.

All that can be done now is to wait until spring to see what comes up. We will mow the path on a regular basis and aim to give the whole area one cut in late summer / early autumn when the seeds from the wild flowers have set.

At time of writing the whole area is under about 3cm of snow so I can only dream of what it may look like by next June but I hope to be able to share a picture of it in the next edition of *Chilcompton Matters*.

Sue Rankine





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restrictions, so watch the press for retail updates.***

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Photos from my garden – Winter Birdlife

*In a new series Jon Crouch shares his wildlife pictures
from his garden on The Street*

Anyone who appreciates the birds in their garden (and let's face it that is most of us) will want to give them that extra bit of support over the harsh winter months. The added bonus in doing this is how the special titbits (literally) also attract in all sorts of visitors that we may not usually see. This is true all year round actually, but if you're lucky you may just spot some of these special winter visitors amongst the feeding guests. Have you ever seen a flock of Starling-like strangers with a red patch under their wings, all chiming away on the farm fields or in the trees or bushes? Aptly named Redwing they will occasionally frequent the garden. One winter morning we had a fleeting visit from a flock of about 200 in our Lime Tree. Sometimes individuals visit the bird table or scratch around the garden borders. In closer view they are a largish Thrush-like bird clearly displaying the red patch under the wing and sporting a striking whitish line above each eye, making them look a bit cross (see photo). Chilcompton seems to be a mecca for these birds when driven south by snow and cold weather, probably due to the proximity of surrounding farmland. If you are lucky, and when it is really cold, you may see the occasional Fieldfare join in with the Redwings. They're larger than a Thrush with a distinctive grey hood and nape.

When the heavy frosts arrive or the drifts of snow cover our patios, the true beauty of our native birds suddenly becomes far more noticeable. I cannot resist having the camera within easy grasp as they all come looking for those rich lifesaving morsels of suet and sunflower hearts. The colours of the Tit family, Finches, Nuthatches, etc are vibrant and amazing.

Certain species will become very protective of what they see as their personal supply of food. They can actually be quite brutal with each other. The photo of the Blackbirds shows how one female was just not going to allow another male in to feast on 'her' food supply!

Robins are notorious for their territorial behaviour. Out of the breeding season they can be far more accepting of others around and we quite often have two or three feeding together. However, once the cold weather really hits they will be back to squabbling and chasing. They will also attack other species. The poor Dunnocks have had a bit of a rough time of it in our garden this winter and just recently one Robin repeatedly attacked a Squirrel on the bird feeder. By contrast the Long Tailed Tits frequently arrive on the suet feeders in fluffy little bundles of up to twelve or more individuals. To quote Bill Bailey '*...they always seem delighted with the day calling "noohoo! Over here, check this tree out! Wow, it's amazing. Wait, what about over here? Yay!"*'. They are a bit like kids on a sugar rush' {Bill Bailey's Remarkable Guide to British Birds. Pocket version p122} >>

>> The photo of the Long Tailed Tit in the Hydrangea bush shows one grasping a sunflower heart that another one had literally flown down and passed to it claw to claw. I have never seen that happen before and I was amazed. I was also angry with myself for just missing a camera shot of the actual passing over!

The Dunnock is a plain and simple looking bird and often overlooked. Yet it hides all sorts of lurid behaviour. If you want to read about strange mating habits – look up the goings on between the Dunnocks.

A hoar frost is the perfect setting for the Mistle Thrush. Its original name was the Mizzle Thrush due to its favourite food - Mizzle Berry, the old name for Mistletoe. It is also known as the Stormcock because they like nothing better than to sit in the upper branches of a tall tree and sing their heart out into the face of a prevailing wind on a stormy day.



1. Redwing on bird table 2. Blackbirds squabbling over food 3. Long Tailed Tit
4. Blue Tit 5. Dunnock 6. Mistle Thrush in a hoar frost 7 & 8. Robins



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Chilcompton Memory Café

In-line with most organizations and due to the Covid-19 restrictions, our Memory Café has not been able to meet at St. John's Church Hall for a year or so now. However, we are keeping in contact every two or three weeks online using Zoom, and it is great to be able to share some social interaction and perhaps enjoy a quiz or two or some other online entertainment. Although it is especially beneficial to those who are caring for others, we all look forward to the opportunity to take a break from lockdown and just catch-up with our friends.

As we couldn't have our 'Christmas Special' meeting in December, we took the opportunity to distribute a small gift and Christmas Card to each of our guests. A bit earlier in the year, we were also able to distribute some activity packs that had been put together by B&NES Dementia Action Alliance and their many friends and associates. In total they put together some 300 such packs for distribution across the county, containing a vibrant mixture of activities and sensory items as well as some information for carers, all beautifully presented in individually hand-made and decorated jute bags.

Following the continued roll-out of vaccinations and all being well in the not to-distant future by the easing of restrictions, we hope to be able to resume our regular meetings. You can keep up-to-date and get in contact with us via the 'Community Groups' page on St. Vigor's & St. John Churches' website: www.StVigorStJohn.Church

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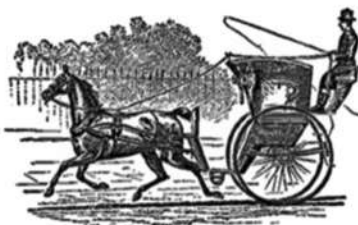
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Embroidery

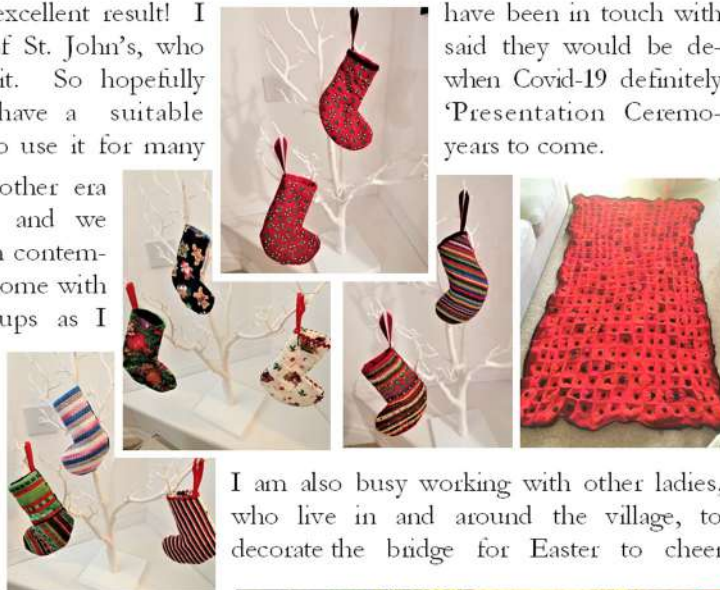
My Embroidery Classes in St. John's Church Hall have been put on hold due to this dreadful Covid-19 and the closure of the hall.

In the meantime, I have been doing some 'Distance Learning' by computer and mobile phone with members of my groups who were particularly grateful because several of them were obviously extremely lonely. In the circumstances the results are excellent and where possible displayed in Basil Powell's Shoe Shop in Wells.

This year for Remembrance Sunday we also featured 'purple poppies' for all the animals that lost their lives in the wars, black poppies for all the people who were not British but fought for our country and white poppies for the 'Pacifists'. It all looked very good but obviously a lot of people did not understand their meaning!

The ladies who knitted and crocheted the flowers have also made a Poppy Single Size Blanket and they really wanted to find a 'good home' for it. I was featured on Radio Somerset and asked for suggestions. A villager from Chilcompton, namely Betty Mattick, a very well-known and respected member of the village, sent me a kind letter having heard the radio broadcast and suggested St. John's Church would be a very fitting place for it, to become an altar cloth, to be brought out on each Remembrance Service. What an excellent result! I have been in touch with Esther, the Vicar of St. John's, who said they would be de-lighted to receive it. So hopefully when Covid-19 definitely leaves us we can have a 'Presentation Ceremony' at the church to use it for many years to come.

It's the start of another era and things change and we have to adapt. I am contemplating teaching at home with slightly smaller groups as I think there is still a great need, not just for the embroidery but for the social aspect as well.



everyone up, so watch this space, please.

Patricia Ardron
01761 232466

I am also busy working with other ladies, who live in and around the village, to decorate the bridge for Easter to cheer



Unexpected Treasures

*Malcolm Rigby talked to the woman who opened up
a gift store on a farm and in a pandemic*



The Button Jar, located in the Manor Farm outbuildings, was opened in September last year - after the first lockdown and before the last two. But when it comes to creating your first commercial venture, Katie Rees-Williams is not the sort of person to be put off by a mere coronavirus.

She explained: "Not a great time, but at the same time I think if it wasn't for Covid and 2020 as it was, I don't think I would have done it. I think that having the opportunity to stop the rat race and have some time to think about what I wanted was what pushed me in to doing it in the first place. I don't have any complaints about what's happened since then as it wouldn't have happened at all without Covid.

"Coming up to the summer when people were saying things are going back to normal, I kind of realised the normal for me wasn't necessarily what I wanted to continue doing."



Previously she had been working as a finance administrator, attending a book-keeping course and bringing up three children, the latter, of course, she still is.

So, what about the intriguing title of the shop? "I spent a long time coming up with the name. In the end it was the feeling that I wanted people to have when they came in. I remember as a child my granny had a jar of buttons and every time I went to my grandparents' house I would get out this jar of buttons and empty them all out and pick my favourites – it was that feeling of discovering all the treasures. That was what I wanted the shop to be – people would come in, not necessarily looking for anything, but they would find unexpected treasures that they wouldn't necessarily have found anywhere else."

Inside the shop you will find the essence of serendipity; there are origami dinosaur and tiger head kits, traditional wooden toys, goat's milk soaps and hand-knitted baby jumpers, there are screen printed wall hangings and sweat shirts, recycled leather >>



>> notebooks and clothbound editions of classic books.

How did she come across such a kaleidoscope of items? “I was very nervous when I was stocking as to whether people would actually like what I chose because basically I just picked everything that I would want to buy. Everything I chose in the initial stock were things that I would have picked up in a shop and gone, ‘ooh that’s nice’ and would want to buy myself.

“When I did open, I was so nervous that people would go urrrgh. They haven’t gone urrrgh, though I have had comments from people saying you could get it cheaper on Amazon which I think is true of any independent shop you go to. All in all, the feedback has been really good and it has made me feel a lot more confident in my buying choices. It does seem that lots of people have similar tastes to me.”

How has her short experience affected her purchasing philosophy? “When I re-open I’m going to have more card stands and more toys for different occasions. More often than not if someone is looking for a gift, they will buy a card, that’s definitely an area I’m going to increase.”

It may not be a High Street, but the Manor Farm out-buildings are definitely forming a small community retail space. In terms of traffic Katie certainly notices the difference when the Holy Cow is open or not.

Katie’s not really been doing any normal marketing. “I like the fact that people are hearing about me from word of mouth. They’re coming because their friends had said to them, I went into this lovely little shop, you’d really like it there. That means so much more.”

So how is business? “It’s been a lot better than I expected it to be. This is the first ever shop that I’ve owned so I don’t know what’s normal for a small gift shop. But I’m hoping that it’s going to be fine.”

For the future her plans are to open up a second back room, as big as the shop area, for workshops and creative children’s birthday parties, doing activities such as screen printing, decorating T-shirts and painting furniture.

What does Katie think of her location? “I absolutely love the area, just driving down Coach Lane it gives such a sense of calm with the fields and everything. Just beautiful, I don’t think you can feel stress here. It’s the calmest most beautiful place to be, I feel very lucky every time I’m here.

“I love Chilcompton. It’s a future goal to have a lovely country house in Chilcompton with my little shop just down the road. I absolutely love driving the opposite way to all the traffic going into Bath. I love the fact that I am driving into the country coming to the shop and I think it’s the most beautiful village.

“I really feel lucky to have got in here. It’s going to be very popular when everybody is allowed to go out and mingle again.”

katie@thebuttonjargiftshop.co.uk



Chilcompton Speedwatch

Community Speedwatch is an excellent initiative forming a partnership between the local community, local authorities and the police. It gives local residents the ability to get involved and actively help tackle road safety with the aim of educating motorists, who speed through residential areas, of the impact their actions have on the local community.

Chilcompton Community Speedwatch volunteers are committed to the village scheme. To show appreciation, towards the end of 2020, a certificate was presented to the group for continuous outstanding long service to the community. Contact detail is by email: cswchilcompton@hotmail.com

Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams also support their local schemes by completing follow up visits to repeat speeders to further educate them by giving words of advice. These offenders are often surprised when visited; they apologise and genuinely take on the words of advice. *In Chilcompton 20% of speeders live in the village.*

It is encouraging for drivers as well as members of the public to see the police at the road side with Speedwatch volunteers; it cements how we are all working together with one aim:

To make your community a safer place to live in.



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Chilcompton Art Club - The Future

Some of you in the village may have heard about the refurbishment of our regular meeting place, the St. John's Church Hall, Chilcompton. The hall owners, The St. John and St. Vigor Parish Church Commissioners (PCC) will be undertaking an extensive programme of works, and it is likely that the time frame required to achieve them will be at least 12 months. Then, following the renovations, the PCC intend to allow a further period of 12 months to see

how "church family" activities use the new space for worship and ministry before considering future external lets.

The Art Club Committee are determined to not let our long established, and highly regarded, community-based art club be disbanded. To that end we are looking into a permanent move to another local hall, in order to continue operating. Present hall closures, related to the pandemic, means that an immediate solution cannot be found, but as soon as restrictions are lifted, then we hope to make good progress to finding a new venue. This may mean a change to the old format of Wednesday and Friday mornings, but club members will be kept informed, by both email and telephone, of developments as soon as a solution is agreed.

Nigel Punchard, Club Secretary 01761 413579 / 07909 228335



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St John's Yew Tree



The Yew Tree at St John's was professionally dated in 1991, so according to that certificate it is now 1,530 years old. That is older than the oldest part of the building.

The earliest church on the site is recorded as being built in 1188, but the oldest part of the current building is the bell tower which dates from 1460.

Village Calendar Update

The Chilcompton Calendar 2021 has sold almost 200 copies, raising £1,300 for Stratton-on-the-Fosse based charity, Root Connections.

We're really delighted with the support the calendar has received and would like to thank everyone involved in promoting it - especially the team at Root Connections and St. John's and St. Vigor's; and of course a huge thank you to everyone who has bought a calendar. We received such positive feedback on the illustrations of our lovely village and were delighted to learn that the Chilcompton Calendar has been sent as far afield as Italy, Canada, Texas and California!



Chilcompton Calendar 2022...

We are already thinking about the

Jill Marshall

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Washing Hands

I find peace and love
and only truth in this man.
Is he king of the World?
Not this world but His.
And the waters of Galilee stirred.
As the mob took him away

Soap and water in a bowl,
the weak, the powerful and frail.
Scrub, scrub between the fingers.
Hands sparkling, clipped nails,
spotless with a shiny song.
Soap and water in a bowl.

A sigh instead of Amen
and blood covers Arabia.
I have murdered sleep
with my hangman's hands.
Will they never be clean?
Away there is a knocking at the gate!

Soap and water in a bowl,
the weak, the powerful and frail.
Scrub, scrub between the fingers.
Hands sparkling, clipped nails,
spotless with a shiny song.
Soap and water in a bowl.

We the British. Empire born.
Raised to rule, even disease.
Stamp the plague flat!
Shake hands, slap backs.
World beaters all
as the white statues fall.

And all washed their hands.

By Andrew Morris

MARGARET DIANA NOAD

1931-2021

Margaret Diana Noad (affectionately known as “Di”) passed away on 10 January 2021 at her home in Chilcompton.

Di was born in May 1931, the youngest of six children; 10 years younger than next youngest. When anyone met her, this was usually the first thing they were told about her, followed by how clever her parents were to order the children boy, girl, boy, girl, boy, girl!

Di's family owned and operated a successful bakery business in Odd Down, Bath, where they also lived. Although the bakery has now gone, its location is still known as Noad Corner. The success of the business allowed Di's parents to send her to private school in Oldfield Park. As Di grew up, she helped with various duties in the bakery, including mixing the ingredients and kneading the dough. She particularly enjoyed accompanying her brother, Leonard to deliver the bread in the bread van. However, she did object to being collected from school in the van



and used to laugh at the memory of Leonard calling her a “stinking little snob” when she complained.

Following her parents' retirement in the 1950s, Di continued to work for the bakery. They moved from Bath to Radstock where Di lived with them. Sometime after this Di's father suffered a heart attack and was visited at home by district nurses, including Enid and Mona, who aided his recovery.

Di was influenced by Enid and Mona who encouraged her to change career from baking to nursing. At the age of 31, Di enrolled as a student nurse at what is now the RUH, living in hospital accommodation at the Spa Nurses Home Bath (now the Bath Spa Hotel). In 1965, Di graduated as a nurse obtaining further qualifications as a Midwife in 1967 and District Nurse in 1968.

After Di qualified, she remained friends with Enid and Mona and attended Widcombe Baptist Church in Bath with them. In 1982, Di and Enid moved to Downside Close, Chilcompton.

>>

Chilcompton Wives

Here we are again, heading towards Spring, let's hope it's going to be a good one.

As a group we have not met since March 2020, our last social meeting was a fish and chip evening, which was enjoyed by all. We had a full diary of speakers booked but as we all know events overtook us and things came to a halt.

My Mum always told me not to speak to strangers, but I'm sure I've spoken to or acknowledged half the village during these past months. Group members might not have met face to face, but through the 'grape vine' we have managed to stay in touch. Let's hope we can have that long chat with a cuppa and a piece of cake very soon.

For further information on group activities, contact Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans 01761 233266.

>> Del Templar, who was Di's neighbour in Chilcompton for several years, and became a close friend, remembers her as a "well-loved Midwife and District Nurse". She loved her work, helping people in both difficult and joyful times, and particularly enjoyed helping first-time mothers who were finding it difficult to adjust to parenthood. She also gave support to young families as they grew up. In later years, Di supported local doctors as a Practice Nurse. Di retired from nursing in 1986 after 25 years service, during which she achieved the status of Queen's Nurse; a rare distinction reserved for those who have served their communities with excellence. A fitting tribute to a life of devotion to others.

Di enjoyed playing bowls and was an active member of the local bowls club, eventually becoming treasurer. She played twice a week during the bowls season and won several trophies.

Following Enid's death, Di continued to live at Downside Close. Both Di and Enid loved dogs, and poodles, in particular. Di had grown up in a family that owned a black Labrador, who Di often said had taught her to walk. Although Di still had her elderly poodle, Teddy, in 2006, she acquired Toby, a Labradoodle to whom she was devoted. Toby was a 75th birthday present from her very good friend, Carole Hillier, whom she had met at church. When Toby was young, Di and Carole would often be seen walking him (and Teddy) in the woods at Downside. Toby grew to be an enormous dog (weighing 46 kg). Di often joked that when she first got him, she thought he was going to be about the same size as Teddy, but should have known better as she remembered his paws being huge when he was a puppy. Toby predeceased Di by about two months.

Di was always friendly and welcoming to all those she met. She had a wicked sense of humour, a twinkle in her eye and an infectious laugh. Furthermore, Di was fiercely independent and completely resilient. She often reminisced how difficult it was to be the youngest of six and watch all those you love pass before you. Di developed Alzheimer's in her latter years and needed care towards the end of her life. Carole was by her side for much of this time, but in the last few years Di needed more specialist care, which was lovingly provided by Gaye, Lynne and Tania. Di never found it easy to accept that she needed help, having cared for so many people over so many years. She died peacefully in her sleep, in her own home with Gaye and Tania by her side. Di will be remembered fondly by everyone who knew her. She was buried at Haycombe with Enid, Toby, and her poodles.



Flower Show

Will there be a flower show this year? No-one knows as I write whether the Chilcompton Society Flower Show will take place in 2021

However, the committee is hoping that it will go ahead on **Saturday 4th September** and schedules are ready and available from **David and Sylvia Rogers on 01761 233142**. Expect the usual vegetables, flowers, cookery, hobbies and children's classes; now is the time to start growing and crafting in anticipation.

Committee members are confident they can depend on the support of villagers old and new to submit copious exhibits of a high standard to delight us all.

Marlene Pickford

“All of the ingredients are there”

Malcolm Rigby talked to the ‘newish’ head teacher of St Vigor and St John about community schools, COVID, school size and Ofsted

Chris Chorley came to the village just eighteen months ago so for most of that time he has had to endure the pandemic but for him it has exemplified the school as a community one.



Born in South Africa, he came, with his wife, to the UK in 1999, moving to Somerset because “it is the most beautiful part of the country... in my opinion.” He was a teacher at St Pauls in Shepton Mallet before becoming deputy head at Westfield Primary.

He said: “I think Chilcompton is marvellous. One of the things that really attracted me to the job was the possibility of a school being not necessarily the heart, but being at the heart, being a big part, of a community.

“Because we’re a church school and we’ve got connections with Stratton and two churches and we’re in the middle of the village and there were already some strong local connections that was something that really appealed to me, and something I still want to develop. I have to say it’s something that I have experienced throughout the pandemic.

“People in the local community coming to us to support us because they know we are the local school. It’s a lovely thing to be a part of. It may be an old fashioned idea, but I like it.”

In particular Chris is very sporty himself so he has been working hard to make connections with the Chilcompton sports ground. “I feel very passionate about how primary education should be really broad and really inclusive. I believe in having all kinds of children in a school and I totally believe in offering them all kinds of experiences. We have a remarkable outdoor area, the things that we can do outside is fantastic. I support teachers who have forward thinking ideas to do things differently.”

During the most recent lockdown all the teachers were in, about 70 pupils (35% of the intake) attended and the other children using devices at home. Chris said: “We were teaching live lessons all day every day. I think that’s the right thing to do. And the staff have said, yeah we can do that, they feel safe. They’re all in bubbles they haven’t mixed since 1st June. I’ve got cleaners working at lunchtimes and the evenings. We do everything according to the guidance. I felt if >>



Parish Councillor Pete Sinclair hands over a computer to School Governor Chris Scarterfield

>> the guidance was clear and we could deliver it then that's what we've done. The kids at home get the same lessons that the kids at school get.

"To be honest we have had a very high number in school from last March. My attitude has been to be sensible to follow the guidelines but at the same time I am sympathetic to that we are here to provide for children and families. So if children needed to be in our school at no point was I trying to discourage anyone from being in school – it was our job to educate them.

"The numbers have been higher than a lot of schools in the local area during the lockdowns partly that's because we have a significant number of keyworker parents, we have quite a high proportion who work in the NHS and the critical worker definition has been expanded a lot.

"It's always been my belief that those vulnerable children and the children that need us should be coming into school – that's why we're here – as long as we do things safely. The staff have had a very positive attitude to all of this, there's not been any negativity at any point. Every time the staff have said what's the best we can do for the children and families. All the credit goes to the staff, they've been remarkable, both the nursery and the school."

Of course there has been a shortage of computer devices but a significant number have been donated by the community, including one from the Parish Council.

The school is over-subscribed and has been for years but every single year group has children who have to travel to school – children from Chilcompton and Stratton have so far been guaranteed a place.

Chris is more concerned about competition from the brand spanking new school at the edge of Midsomer Norton. "Parents do get wooed by these things sometimes. But I'm comfortable and confident that we will continue to grow as a school and provide outstanding education and provide a certain type of education. I am confident that this school can offer something that is unique to us, you just hope that a sufficient number of parents identify it and say that's where we'd like our child to be educated. From feedback that is what people think."

Chris is impressed that the school got 'outstanding' last time round from Ofsted but explained that the goalposts have been moved, Ofsted are less straightforwardly result focussed now. "You're expected to design a curriculum that fits the children and equally pushes children to achieve highly and have ambition. I think you need to encourage children to take risks.

"It's very easy to get 80% of your class to be doing well but if those 20% that don't do well are also the 20% who are on free school meals, or the 20% that are not attending as well, then you are actually failing as a school. Because those children need more focus. Ofsted will say what about that 20%. Some of those things we could do better at.

"I feel very lucky that the parental community of this school have been wonderful towards me; I felt they were wonderful and supportive towards me from the very beginning. This school should be amazing because all the ingredients are there."

Census 2021

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Mendip will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That is why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit website: census.gov.uk

Handyperson Wanted

The Parish Council is seeking a ‘handyperson’ to help keep the village looking smart and tidy.

The person (or persons) would be asked to do one-off jobs as they came up around the village. It might be a bit of weeding, cleaning or painting railings, varnishing a bench or clearing some brambles. The tasks might be seasonal or once in a blue moon. Payments would be given accordingly.

Anyone interested, in the first instance, please contact the clerk by email:

parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

'Walking in Somerset' is the website for you ...

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With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

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So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

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“MUST DO BETTER!” END OF LOCKDOWN – SCHOOL REPORT

by *Villager X* (*JohnHack... if you must know*)

Those of a certain age may well remember the traditional School Report, typical of the 1950's – 1960's. It consisted of a single side of paper which listed each subject, one line for the teacher's comment and a final column headed "Position in Class". It would read something like this:

NAME: Villager X

ENGLISH: – Inconsistent grammatical accuracy. Neat handwriting.

Position in Class -10/36

MATHEMATICS: Recitation of tables good, application suspect.

Position in Class – 19/36

and so on...!

At the bottom of the page was an overall assessment by the Form Teacher, which in my case often took the form of a character assassination. "Pupil X (Me!), must understand that school is a place to work and learn. Constantly playing the fool will get him nowhere. He must pull his socks up and apply himself to his studies."

(Readers of 'How to be Topp' will know that Molesworth gives you a report form to cheat with: ED.)

The Report was written and addressed to the Parents/Guardians and, somewhat naively, put into an envelope and given to the pupil to take home. If ever I received a "Well done my boy. Here's sixpence for you", I can't remember it. In my case it was more likely to be a clip around the ear accompanied by " 'Bout time you grew up! "

Oh happy days!

I mention this because one night, whilst trying in vain to get to sleep - failing to do so after watching the depressing News at Ten before climbing the stairs, it occurred to me that if someone was to write an End of Lockdown Report in the style of my old School Report, what would mine look like? What have I succeeded at? What have I singularly failed to do? Where might I be placed if all the villagers in Chilcompton were to be my fellow classmates? The list of subjects would be replaced by the Tasks and Topics – which we supposedly might have done, or focussed on, throughout our enforced lockdown. In the early hours of an eternally long night, my report read as follows:

NAME: Villager X

GENERAL HEALTH: Despite daily exercise, still spends too much time inactive. Needs to move more. Position in Village – 1000/2000

DIET: Excellent! Plenty of fruit and veg. Wholesome and well-balanced. >>

>> Position in Village – 10/2000

ALCOHOL INTAKE: Inconsistent. Largely disciplined in Lockdown 1, gave way to alcoholic tendencies in Lockdown 2 and now given to weekend binge-drinking in Lockdown 3. Greater self-discipline urgently required.

Position in Village- 1500/2000.

DE-CLUTTERING: Mixed bag here. Good de-cluttering from the house (attic not included), but clutter largely removed to the garage awaiting visit(s) to the recycling centre and Charity Shops post lockdown. Garage and garden shed an embarrassing cause of concern.

Position in Village – 1200/2000.

DECORATING: Villager X has shown a disappointing lack of application in this subject. Prone to making excuses e.g. “I can’t get out to choose the paint.”

Position in Village – 1000/2000.

SHOPPING: Steady progress made. Becoming more adept at online shopping with the occasional Click and Collect for a sad sense of excitement and adventure. Has so far not succumbed to mindless buying for the sake of buying.

Position in Village – 500/2000.

TECHNOLOGY: Has difficulty mastering Zoom, FaceTime, Messenger and other online meeting platforms. Has a tendency to freeze, disappear or mute. Annoying habit of repeating “Can you hear me?”

Position in Village – 1200/2000

MENTAL WELL-BEING: Erratic, but overall sound. General state of thankfulness for: a) privilege of living in Chilcompton, b) being retired c) vaccination roll-out. However, given to moments of hurling abuse at the television screen when certain politicians appear. Increasing tendency to climb the stairs and then ask, “What have I come up here for?”

Position in Village: 900/2000

T.V. WATCHING: Nightly bingeing on box sets, repeats and sports programmes is likely to lead to marital tension, “You’re not watching that again for goodness sake?”

Position in Village: 1200/2000

DRESS AND DEPORTMENT: Often embarrassing. Can still be in night attire mid-morning. Slovenly and slothful. Must do better.

Position in Village: 1800/2000.

SUMMARY:

Villager X entered lockdown full of good intentions, most of which have not been realised. On too many occasions “I must do.....” Was subsequently answered by “I’ll do it tomorrow. I’ve got nothing else to do.” X has shown a distinct lack of self-discipline at times and if he wishes to come out of Lockdown 3 in good all-round health then he needs to buck up his ideas. Failure to do so could seriously undermine his ability to survive Lockdown 4 – should there be one!

Note to Self: I’ll start to do something about this. Tomorrow.... maybe.

Alternative Guide to Alternative Therapies

Feng Shui

Malcolm Rigby examines the ancient Chinese art of furniture removal for health

On my first encounter with a feng shui expert she told me that I had a mouldy relationship. Apparently mould on the bedroom window means a mouldy relationship. There was a cure – all my wife and I had to do was paint the window frame pink and the love would come flowing back in.

Our house, Shell House, has been feng shuayed (made up verb) twice. Why? Well, you probably need a second opinion.

The basic premise of feng shui is a very simple one – that our surroundings have an impact on our well-being, and that if we can create an environment that supports our well-being then life can be improved. Put like this it all seems very plausible.

The general impression according to Elizabeth Bradley – astrologer, Reiki master, counsellor, sound healer and feng shui expert, who came to examine our house was not a good one. By the time she had finished I was thinking about moving – the house was a feng shui disaster area. Having said that you couldn't ask for a more charming person to tear your taste, life and property apart.

The creative space was in our toilet. As Elizabeth put it so graphically, all the positive energy was going down the pan. This was a woman happy in her work.

We went into the study and she stared with disapproval at the fireplace. "Cracked tiles – cracked man," she declared with alarming honesty. "Dirty mirror – dirty man." Thank goodness she didn't notice that it was in fact a dirty old mirror.

The tiles and the mirror would obviously have to go, as would the fir cones, the dustbin and our long-suffering rubber plant. It all represented death. Then she turned with a bright smile on her face and said: "Oh, I love my job."

She spoke with an impressive and unquestionable authority: proposing purple and yellow walls, a crystal in the window and some red ribbon along a prominent edge.

The main source of wealth is the kitchen and the most important determinant within that is the oven. Surprise, surprise, our oven had to go. feng shui does not like brown. It was brown and not like brown. It was also electric. Feng shui prefers gas, since the flames go up. Elizabeth's wealthiest client, a millionaire, had an eight-burner hob, which was surrounded by mirrors producing the effect of 32 burners – that's talking real money.

"I can hardly breathe in here"



dirty old mirror
- dirty old man

Somehow I expected the bedroom to get the same treatment, but she exceeded the expectations of my worst nightmare. All those angles from the roof and the beams (brown), the bed was floating and the plant was hanging ("there's a lot to do with hanging yourself in this house"), not to mention the mouldy window.

Elizabeth was surprised that we didn't suffer from continual headaches and >>

>> stomach problems. She said: "I can hardly breathe in here; I don't know how you can sleep in it."

Feng shui, she made clear at the beginning, is not just about interior design and furniture placement, it is also about space clearing, cleansing your home of stagnant and negative energy. Lots of things from the house would have to go, all those damaged mirrors (imperfect mirrors are a feng shui no-no), the slightly crooked standard lamp since it cast a strange shadow ("who is hiding in the shadows and what are they doing?"), brown carpets, old chairs and even the antique staircase. The woman must leave a trail of garage sales and eBay in her wake.

A little on the defensive I asked her what she had in her house and she did admit that if you were a feng shui consultant you tended to be a bit minimalist, adding that you had to compromise a bit with western styles otherwise you end up living in what looks like a Chinese restaurant.

Generally, the problem with our house was that it was stuck in the past. I needed to look again at my relationship with the past and then let things go, both the memories and the standard lamps.

"This house," she announced at the end of the tour, "does not want to go into the 21st century." That's probably because it was built in the 18th century.

Feng shui came to the West in the eighties and nineties on the back of a minimalist approach to interior design and the philosophy of get-rich-quick (hence the burners). But the ancient tradition is more about health than wealth. In fact it is one of the eight arms of Chinese medicine along with others such as acupuncture, meditation, massage and diet.

My second encounter with a feng shui consultant was a visit from Will LeStrange.

Will brought along with him all the instruments of feng shui; birth charts, Chinese compass and dowsing rods so he could best tap into that cosmic energy. "All I really do for clients is help them see their property through fresh eyes, because often when you are surrounded by something you just can't see it," he said. "The way that the home is laid out, and the things that we fill our home with, are expressions of who we are inside. Everything in your home is a collection of who you've been up to this moment. Your home is a container of your history. So if you're saying I want something new in my life, it could be a new partner, new job, or new money, then we've got to clear a space for that to come in. Most of our homes are just full of stuff, full of clutter."

Feng shui doesn't like clutter and the answer to this is what he called 'bin bag therapy'. There's an old Chinese saying that if you want to change your life you should throw away 27 objects.

"The definition of clutter is lack of faith in the future. It's a larder mentality, hanging on to things in case the future fails to provide. Now I'm not saying that you have to throw out the family heirlooms or the pictures of loved ones. We have to be realistic and assess what serves us well."

Nor did he recommend that I should construct an Oriental prison, barren but for crystals and chimes. "I don't really subscribe to the kind of Chinese knick-knack new-agey paraphernalia. If that's someone's aesthetic choice then I'll support that but the last thing I want is for someone to go >> Continued on Page 38 >>

Feng Shui

>> Continued from Page 37 >>

home and say, 'Oh, you've had the feng shui man in.' Feng shui is about how a property feels, it is not about how it looks."

Will did a tour of the house and garden, and he suggested that I severely pruned the front hedge to allow the flow of energy into the house (we've done that). He told me that there used to be a well in the garden, I must have looked unimpressed because he looked me in the eye and then told me how deep it was.

Up in the bedroom he suggested that I should move the bed so that it lay more symmetrically under the beams to allow the energy to flow more evenly. And in the study, he gave me some useful advice about the best place to put my desk, facing the window and the door rather than the wall (which I did).

Generally, the old house didn't come out too badly this time, which is pretty good, considering that on at least three occasions he has had to encourage residents to move out as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, you'll be pleased to know, my wife and I have cleaned the mould off the bedroom window frame and we are getting on just dandy. If we hit a bad patch, I'll just reach for that pot of pink paint I've been hiding under the stairs.

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Council Matters

Welcome to Parish Council section of the latest village magazine.

When I last wrote there appeared to be a degree of optimism for the coming months with restrictions being lifted, albeit there were concerns of a second spike of infections. As you will all be aware that fear proved to sadly come true and since then we have spent most of our time in further lockdowns, be that the “circuit breaker” in November or the national lockdown we are currently in. At the time of writing the Prime Minister has announced a road map for the lifting of restrictions with a possible return to “normal” by the summer. While not wanting to tempt fate there does seem to be light at the end of the tunnel, not least with the advent of the vaccination programme. Therefore, we can hope that in our next edition we will be able to talk about a more normal state of affairs.

In the meanwhile, we continue to deal with Covid and its effect on everyday life. Fortunately, as a village, our Covid volunteer group, formed last March, has remained strong with people eager to help. In spite of growing infections demand for help has been more than covered by volunteers and we have managed to meet the needs of villagers; of course we have only been able to do this because of our volunteers, so great thanks to them. I hope by the next magazine we will be able to announce that this group is no longer needed, however several people within the group have asked if this spirit of volunteering can be maintained post pandemic. It is something we are keen to look at, and when we come out of the other side of the pandemic, we will ask volunteers if they would be interested in this.

We have switched to a new Village Website, our new site is a great improvement on our old one and we see it as a key tool in communicating with everyone in the village. While we are still very early in the life of the new site, initial signs suggest that people like the new format and this is reflected in early traffic using it. I should like to record my thanks to Pete Sinclair who has led on this project and the success so far is very much the result of a lot of hard work on his part.

In November we held the annual Remembrance Day service, as with all aspects of life, the pandemic meant it was different this year, with fewer people attending physically but the service was streamed online so villagers could attend virtually.

The Parish Council has continued to meet, with Zoom meetings now becoming the new normal; with legislation allowing virtual meetings ceasing in May it would seem likely that we will resume meeting in person; that does seem a strange prospect. In the interim if you wish to attend a Parish Council meeting virtually please contact the parish clerk and we will send you a link to the meeting.

One of the items we have discussed at Council recently has been the need for a village handyperson; this would be someone to carry out the little jobs that crop up around the village throughout the year. If you are interested in this role, please see the advert elsewhere in this magazine.

Stay safe

Jonathan Pike Chairman of the Parish Council



What is a Village Agent?

Village Agents provide confidential, practical community-based solutions for you, wherever you are in Somerset.

Your local Community Council for Somerset Village Agent can be contacted directly, or by referral through your Doctors surgery.

They help when others don't, won't or can't!

Some of the things we are involved in are:

Staying Warm and Well

Being home a lot more over the past couple of months has bound to have bumped up your fuel bills - and March could still surprise us with bitter weather, so please do get in touch if you are struggling with fuel costs. We help distribute the Surviving Winter grants which are available for older people living in Somerset, who are unable to adequately heat their homes.

<https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter> We want everyone to be warm and well this winter!

Crisis Fund

The Crisis Fund is distributed by our Village and Community Agents to help people in crisis situations and for whom a small grant can make a difference in their life – at this time of crisis and hardship for many in our communities this need is greater than ever.

Some examples of what these grants have been used for recently:

- To support a family with funeral costs after their teenage son died in a road accident
- To buy children's clothes for a family who had recently lost Dad to cancer
- To buy half a tank of oil for a lady with a chronic health condition
- Paying to PAT test and move a donated Fridge Freezer to a family in need

Please visit www.ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/ to find out more

Below are examples of the help your Village Agent has provided in Chilcompton over the last few weeks:

- Given out nearly 80 meals to individuals or families in need and distributed many dry food store items and fresh fruit/veg from local foodbanks to Chilcompton residents too.
- Restocked the community freezer at St Johns Church Hall, to ensure frozen meals are always available to those in urgent need. A whole boot full of supplies to a gentleman who was freezing in his own home that had only an electric fan heater for heat. I managed to ask for donations from Tesco, Sainsburys and Esso Station in Midsomer Norton to provide warm bedding and clothing. They were very generous.
- Helping a gentleman to look for a one bedroom flat in the local area and work alongside the Housing Team at Mendip Council and the CAB to ensure he does not end up homeless. Notice has been given on his current flat.
- Delivered two oil filled radiators to an elderly couple in the village when their boiler broke down. They were required until the heating engineer could replace the boiler.

>>

- >> • Visited an elderly lady in the village to discuss finding a carer once a week. Also printed an Attendance Allowance form and chased progress to ensure my client can use this funding to pay for her care.

Julie Brown

Village Agent for Mendip 07985 680262

Email: julieb@somersettrcc.org.uk



St Vigor & St John's Parish Nurse



During the Summer of 2020, St Vigor & St John's Churches have appointed a Parish Nurse. Full accreditation has been slowed down due to Lockdown, but we are pleased to introduce Sarah Crosse, who will be working part time amongst our community as soon as meeting in person is permitted again. Look out for her on her bicycle wearing her purple Parish Nurse Top.

Sarah said: "I have worked in the NHS for around 30 years, most of that time at the RUH, and will continue there whilst taking on this new role for the Churches. I look forward to meeting more of the community in and around Stratton and Chilcompton, at social events such as Tea and Toast and the Memory Cafe once they resume." Sarah can be contacted on 01761 412042 / 07535 69264 or email: csarah150@yahoo.co.uk.



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Unsung Heroes

The Miners' Welfare Hall, built by Edgells (Westfield) in 1927, was taken over by the Parish Council in 1967. The council leased extra land to the rear of the building from Downside and in 1970 bought the lease for £900. A constitution and Trust Deed was set up and it became a registered charity in 1975. The new hall was built in 1981 and extended in 1991.

You might be forgiven for thinking this is History Corner; it's just a lead into Unsung Heroes. Do you use the Village Hall regularly or perhaps just occasionally? Maybe you have never set foot in the hall, but it is there for everyone, a great asset to the community thanks to unsung heroes.



In 'normal times' we see the hall ticking over, being used by many and varied groups without thought for the work being done behind the scenes. There are four unsung heroes to mention here. Bridget, Carole and Sylvia are committee members who take on tasks without being asked. Whether it is cleaning, sweeping, dusting, clearing, tidying, weeding the car park or stacking chairs in tens, they are there getting on with it and sorting it all out.

When accessing the storeroom becomes almost impossible that's the cue to start a spring clean and tidy-up. Clearing under the stage also regularly takes place; this is hard work and not easy while bent double in the 4 feet high space and inevitably banging your head. These three volunteers undertake an annual inventory counting crockery, cutlery, teapots, kettles, brooms, chairs and tables. Sylvia has been sorting recycling and putting out wheelie bins for many years, Bridget is minutes secretary and takes her sewing machine to the hall to mend the curtains, aided by yet another volunteer, Maureen who washes them. Carole, often the impetus for projects, puts up the Christmas tree and decorations each year and takes them down again in January. There aren't many hall jobs they haven't tackled.

The fourth hero is Peter Tatar, hall chairman, who puts a lot of time to running the hall; he keeps on top of paperwork, emails, legal requirements and policies, deals with repairs and contractors and liaises with employees. He is the man, who can be called out at any time when things go wrong at the hall and has to attend and solve the problem. He also checks the defibrillator regularly. In the last year extra responsibilities with Covid-19 regulations in order to open the hall safely have fallen to Peter. He has also recently master-minded a new kitchen refurbishment, which took much planning and consultation over many months and oversaw the installation. Before the upgrade Sylvia almost single-handedly removed 900 >>

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>> items of crockery and 750 pieces of cutlery from kitchen cupboards, then Carole quietly took them all home and washed them. The photo shows them replacing crockery in the newly installed cupboards.

All committee members deserve a mention, especially officers, Sarah, Lynn and invoice clerk Marilyn, not forgetting the hundreds of volunteers, all unsung heroes, who over the last 53 years, have given their time, energy and expertise to the benefit of the hall and their community. Without them Chilcompton would be a poorer place.

Marlene Pickford

District Councillors

It's coming to that time of year that very few of us look forward to – it won't be marked on your calendar, and you won't celebrate the anniversary. Yes, it's coming to the time when Council Tax bills will make their way through letterboxes.

The bill that we each pay is made up of a lot of things. A good chunk of Council Tax pays for policing and fire services. They're a good example of services that most of us are lucky not to need, but services that are important to keep maintained.

Next, you'll have the chunk which goes to Somerset County Council. It would be easy for me to try and score points against an authority I'm not a member of, but their increase is largely to pay for adult social care. It goes without saying that taking care of our most vulnerable is more important now than ever.

Then, it comes to Mendip. We've taken a simple approach at the council, and it will see Band D properties having to pay an extra £5. There are a few things that contribute to that decision, and I'll be honest about them. We all know that for the vast majority of purchases, things cost slightly more from one year to the next. By freezing Council Tax for over five years, the previous administration at Mendip ensured that bills were kept low, but the other side of the coin is that it saw the same amount was being paid, for fewer and fewer services.

The £5 extra paid by a Band D property (slightly more for larger houses, slightly less for smaller ones) means that important services at Mendip can be paid for, and we can look to do more. We can look to take local action on the climate emergency, including electrical vehicle chargers and the biggest tree planting scheme the district has ever seen. We can look closely at Mendip's planning system and ensure that every application is given the scrutiny it deserves. What's more, it means that Mendip can continue to offer people, office space and organisational support for the Covid-19 vaccination programme that is moving ahead quickly.

All of this said, it's important that Council Tax is seen as a kind of contract. It's all well and good that Mendip, Somerset and the others are asking for more, but we must make sure that value for money is delivered. Josh and I spend lots of our time complaining to Somerset County Council about potholes and speeding, we

also get a fair number of complaints about bin collections being missed or grass not being cut.

Our offer to you is simple – just as we pay our Council Tax, we all should demand better for our villages from the council. Josh and I, as your representatives at Mendip, will stand alongside you in that endeavour.

Cllr Josh Burr & Cllr Sam Phripp



Sam Phripp



Josh Burr

Very Special Trees

I would like to thank Sue Rankine for her interesting and informative article 'Very Special Trees' in the autumn 2020 magazine. I very much like how one thing in the village can become an article of focus for information and discussion in the Chilcompton Matters Magazine and I really enjoyed reading this one.



The trees in question (*Tilia Europaea*, or Common Lime, situated off the footpath in the field across the road from the recreation ground) are very well known to my wife and I as we look straight at them from the rear windows and garden of our house. We therefore get the benefit of watching the seasonal changes and all that it brings to these Limes. The trees also support a good range of wildlife

including hoots and gurgles of the Tawny Owls as the daylight fades away. Passing Kestrels occasionally perch on the exposed branches too. We watched a Buzzard build a nest high up in the main tree. This was despite constant mobbing from Crows. Unfortunately, when the female Buzzard was away for a break the Crows razed the nest to the ground. The Crows themselves nest in the larger tree and they too fell victim to an attack from a Lesser Black Backed Gull, which successfully removed one chick. With very vocal parent crows in hot pursuit, the doomed youngster was quickly devoured whilst the Gull was still in flight over our garden.

As Sue pointed out, Lime Trees attract a full canopy of bees in the spring and having another Lime Tree of equal size in our own garden we have close-up experience of what a fantastic sound this is. We had our tree surveyed when we bought the house, this included an electronic internal scan. The company carrying out the scan estimated our tree to be approximately 350 to 380 years old. Veteran indeed. I have been told that there used to be another Lime of similar size just the other side of the bridge into the recreation ground. As this makes a straight row with the others, I am guessing that there used to be more. Perhaps an old hedgerow or track (?). Historians may know.

Our position is perfect to see the sun go down from the rear of our house. The sight of a spectacular evening sky is often truly enhanced when seen through these trees. So, if you are walking along The Street when there is a glorious sunset, I fully recommend that you divert up the footpath to view the skies behind these spectacular Lime Trees. I have included a few sample photos of the various skies and events that we have observed from our windows.



Jon Crouch

On The Road

*The past, present and future
of one of Chilcompton's oldest and biggest companies*

Robert Wilcox has been involved in the family transport business, Massey Wilcox, since he left school at the age of 16 in 1973. "It's all I ever wanted to do."

"We've never been on the scale of an Eddie Stobart," he said, "but then again I've never really been interested in having a fleet the size of one like Eddie Stobart. I find that what we have is containable. You can run a fleet the size of ours efficiently and more importantly you can give a high level of service to your customers. Our customer retention is very good."

That said, there are still 65 vehicles, 110 trailers and more than 300,000 square feet of warehousing. Road transport and warehousing are apparently natural partners. You need more trailers than tractor units so that a driver can drop off a trailer in the evening and then pick up another pre-loaded trailer in the morning – "that is the principle of articulation."



The origins of the company go back to the early 50's when road transport was denationalised. (Did you even know that it was once nationalised?) Robert's father, Harry, who was 38 at the time, saw an opportunity, so he and his mate Douglas Massey bought a vehicle each from British Road Services and set up in business in 1954.

Robert said: "They started off by sub-contracting from other hauliers>>>



Then & Now



The Pitchings



>> or working for clearing houses. But gradually they found their own customers and operated from a base down in Gurney Slade, which is still owned. When I joined the company, they were still operating from Gurney Slade. As we started to expand, we bought the old brewery at Oakhill, and used that for additional parking and eventually in 1980 built a warehouse there. We came to Chilcompton at the very the end of 1978 and so have been in the village for 43 years and employ around 110 people."

The local connection is stronger. Robert was born in Chilcompton at his grandmother's house, Vale View, across the road from the depot. After getting married in 1980 he lived on Stockhill Road for 14 years. For the past 25 years has resided in Midsomer Norton, but since he is in the Chilcompton Depot from eight in the morning until six at night he reckons he spends more time in the village than people who live here.

"We try and support local good causes. I do what I can for the school, should they need something, and I am able to provide it. The football club, I sponsor them, we do whatever we can do to be a part of the community.

"It's not an easy industry to live next to, and we say a big thank you to all of our very near neighbours; they've been very tolerant of us.

"The thing I like about Chilcompton is that it is a working village. Unlike many Somerset villages, it has industry and provides local jobs for local people. The village is lucky to still have Mulberry, our own garage, a busy Co-Op and a thriving industrial estate. So, it has not become a dormitory. Many villages have turned into dormitories. It's a good village with a strong heart, and one I am proud to be associated with."

Tilbury, Avonmouth, Felixstowe, Wolverhampton – it's all a question of logistics. "It is not something you are going to learn out of a book," he said. "You're constantly thinking outside of the box. There are I.T. programmes that help you, but they cannot run the trucks for you. This still needs the human input.

"We have always covered the country with our own vehicles but with the advent of pallet networks in the nineties, embraced by the company in 1998, giving the ability to say yes to any request regardless of how late in the day, to send the goods overnight to the whole of the UK. It also enables us to service Europe."

On Brexit, Robert freely admits: "I was a 'Remainer' because of what I do. I liked the idea of free trade for freight throughout Europe without all the hindrances of customs. Unfortunately, we are back to where we were 40 years ago pre-Common Market. It's not so easy now, all the people who had the skills for dealing with customs formalities have long gone or retired. So, the industry is having to learn from scratch, and it is taking a long time to get freight moving at the rate it was pre Christmas. But things can only get better."

COVID has not been a great problem though Robert himself had to self-isolate earlier in the year. He said: "Touch wood we've been quite lucky, we've had a few drivers that had to stay at home, then got a negative test and came back to work. But not in big numbers, however if it got into the office... you can't run a fleet of trucks from home."

Douglas Massey had no children and he died in 1997. Robert's children all have careers elsewhere, so the long-term future has yet to be shaped. But one thing for sure, wherever you are in the country, when you see a Massey Wilcox lorry on the road it will remind you of Chilcompton...of home. **Malcolm Rigby**

Chilcompton Lives – Terry Moore

Terry was born in 1937 and for the first two years of his life lived at Box Cottage in Stockhill Road. His grand parents also lived in Stockhill Road. Although the cottage is no longer there it was just below Beech Terrace. Terry then moved to the council houses in Stockhill Road – living there until 1969.

Terry's mother, Elsie, was from Wells and worked at the Mendip Hospital. His father, Fred, was in the army for 6 years during World War Two and was a miner at Rock Pit.

Terry remembers that as a child he would meet up with other boys and girls and play outside for most of the summer holidays. He would take lemonade and jam sandwiches. Often they would play in Moore Wood making dams. Nearby was a pub called the Fire Engine which was somewhere the family would walk to on a Saturday. The pub has closed now but is part of the National Garden Scheme and has open days.

Terry has 4 sisters – Valerie, Sylvia, Olwyn and Shirley and a brother John known as Benny. Sadly Shirley passed away.

Terry went to Stockhill School and at age 8 he remembers farmer Basil Banwell coming in banging on the doors to say that World War 2 was over. Terry described how he often played in the fields during the day. During the war, as the bombers went over towards Bristol, the air raid siren at Rock Pit would go off and he would lie flat on the grass until the all clear was given.

Joe Dyke was the headteacher at Stockhill School and was a keen gardener. Terry used to do gardening at the school and also at Somervale School which he moved to aged 11. Somervale School was then situated in Midsomer Norton High Street next to the methodist church. Terry travelled to school by bus as, luckily, he was just outside the 3 mile limit. Terry played football and cricket for the school and for Chilcompton.

Terry left school at 15 and worked at the sawmills in Chilcompton – now the housing estate.

At the age of 18 Terry did two years national service with the Somerset Light Infantry in Taunton. Based in the cookhouse he became the Regimental Cook – at least this got him out of 'marching'. This service also took Terry through the Suez Canal in 1956 stopping in Cyprus and Malta.

Following national service Terry went back to work at the sawmill for a year and then worked for 7 years at the cement works – now the Massey Wilcox site. During the bad winter of 1962/63 Terry was laid off by the cement works and so he helped Jack Gumbleton deliver coal.

Terry worked for Foster Yeoman for 40 years - at Dulcote quarry, driving there in his Ford and then later in a Morris 100 van. He also worked at Southfield House where Mr Yeoman lived - mainly as a gardener – and at Marston House in >>



>> Frome where the offices were.

During the 1960s Terry met Sally, his future wife, at a dance in the British Legion at Coleford. They were married in 1969 in St John's Church, Chilcompton. They honeymooned in London and Switzerland.

The couple lived at Haycombe House on Bowden Hill with Sally's parents. The house was originally rented from John Golledge and later Sally took on a mortgage to buy the house.

Sally was a hairdresser in Norton Hill and managed the shop owned by Mrs Dando. She also cut hair at home. Sally was a great florist and loved flower arranging. Her flowers decorated Marston House when there was a 'do' and the church pillars at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

Terry remembers Sally being stuck in the mud up to her waist at Brean. She needed to be pulled out with a rope around her. Sadly Sally passed away in 2007.

Terry used to watch speedway in front of the concrete works on a Friday night. The Chilcompton Team included Maurice Clark, John Cottle and Alan Bailey.

Terry joined the Recreation Field Committee after being asked to cut the grass. Terry still cuts the grass and in 2011 won Groundsman of the Year for Somerset.

Rodney Uphill and Terry organised events at the miner's welfare hall – Bingo on Mondays, Youth Club Tuesdays, Disco Fridays and Big Band every fourth Saturday.

Terry joined the Garden Club Committee from its start and was involved with the Twinning and visited France three times also playing football there. Terry was Secretary for Chilcompton football and cricket and was also in the Stockhill Church choir.

Mike Newman

Diary Dates

8th May VE DAY

15th Aug VJ DAY

4th Sept CHILCOMPTON SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW 2.15pm at Village Hall

Message from St.John's - I know it is your habit to include a diary dates page. I am afraid although we are very keen to get back to meeting in person for all of our activities, I have no way of knowing what the summer will look like and so can only promise to keep the website up to date as a point of contact. Blessings, **Esther**.

Also:

Under Normal Circumstances, various clubs and organisations would hold events on a regular basis. However, due to Covid constraints, most activities are On Hold. As government restrictions are eased, before proceeding to any venue, you are advised to contact the relevant organisers for the most up-to-date information.

History Corner

Old Inns and their Origins

While some pubs still enjoy a game of darts, dominoes or skittles, in the past they also hosted shove-halfpenny, cabbage and quoits (in the back yard). The quoits, heavy metal rings (originally horseshoes) were thrown to land over a pin or stake. This was played locally by miners here for many years and in 1933 Radstock were the national champions. Pubs were also a venue for bareknuckle prize fighting and cockfighting, the latter being illegal. These two pastimes were opportunities for gambling.

Some pubs had rat clubs, where every month rats' tails were brought to claim a penny a tail. Squirrel tails also brought monetary reward as did sparrow heads; all vermin that landowners/farmers wanted rid of. The Friendly Society or sick club had headquarters at local inns; in Chilcompton it was an upstairs room in the Britannia Inn 1862 – 1890. Workers paid their weekly fee against ill health and received financial help when unable to work. Each society had its own brass emblem mounted on a pole; there were usually four of these for the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. One from the Chilcompton Friendly Society is at Radstock Museum. One remains in the village. See photo. The Friendly Society was also a social club and had a gala day or feast day once a year with a parade carrying banners, dinner and entertainment.



Inns were primarily coaching inns in the beginning and were open for 24 hours a day to change the horses, receive travellers and serve meals. Horses had to be changed every 10 miles. Another service was the hire of a guide for mail coaches; if their destination was off the beaten track a guide would lead the way and save them time.

Auctions almost always took place in pubs. Photo shows an auction advertised at the Redan Inn in 1904. Candle auctions were so called because a pin, usually the auctioneers tie pin, was stuck horizontally part way down the candle. Bidding would begin and the last bid when the candle had burned down and the pin fell out was the winning bid. These candle auctions still take place in rural parts, but only every ten or twenty years. Voting in elections was another use of the pub and still is in some cases.

Quarter days: 21st March (Lady Day) 21st June, 21st September (Michaelmas Day) and Christmas day, were the days when tenants went to the local inn to pay their rents for land. It was also the days of hiring fairs, when shepherds, gamekeepers, labourers etc. would gather and be chosen by landowners for a year's work.

The pub also served as a magistrates' court and much was dealt with locally by burghers, who were paid with a stag or a doe once a year. The former Court Hotel at Lynch Hill also received visiting judges for major crimes and the tree in the grounds of the Turkey Oak is said to be one of the hanging trees. A stone monolith there is thought to be a memorial. Certainly, common graves were found in the gardens many years ago.

>>

>> Some pubs like the Naishes Cross Inn and the Waterloo Inn were also small holdings, the latter closing in 1883 and converting to a dairy farm.

STOCKHILL ROAD

Downside Cottage,

A few minutes walk from Chilcompton Railway Station, on the Somerset and Dorset Line (Bath Extension.)

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

OF A

FREEHOLD INVESTMENT

Which will Sold by Auction by

MESSRS. POWELL & POWELL.

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At Seven o'clock in the Evening.

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With the Garden round the House and Out-Offices at the rear, altogether covering an area of 30 perches (more or less).

The Property is near Naishe's Cross, Chilcompton, but in the Parish of Midsomer Norton.

THE HOUSE CONTAINS:

**Two Sitting Rooms, Kitchen and Scullery on the Ground Floor, and
Three Bedrooms over.**

The singing of folk songs was prevalent, mummers performed their plays, clog dancers entertained and Morris Men met and practised at their pubs. Such is the evolution of inns over hundreds of years, they were never just for drinking and they have come full circle and as at their beginning, many now serve food and accommodate travellers.

Marlene Pickford



THE REDAN INN

01761 258560

www.theredaninn.co.uk



Stone baked sourdough pizza

The classic. Tomato and mozzarella margarita topped with fresh basil and garlic olive oil.....£8

The meat malt. Tomato and nduja ragout topped with prosciutto, fennel salami and mozzarella. Finished with truffle oil.....£11

The goat and onion. Classic tomato base topped with goats cheese, roasted and pickled onions, finished with burnt onion mayonnaise, honey and Garden oregano.....£10



Deep filled baps and burgers (served with fries)

Classic bacon cheese burger.....£9

The "straight outta Compton" 2 beef patties, smoked bacon, pulled pork, cheese, dill pickles and barbeque sauce.....£13



Battered fish buttie. Beer battered cod with crisp gem lettuce, sliced pickled onion and tartare sauce in a brioche bun.....£8

The Smokey pig. 12hour charcoal barbequed pulled pork with smoked bacon, dill pickles, Bramley apple sauce and coleslaw in a brioche bun.....£9

The KFC. Korean fried chicken in a steamed sesame bun with kimchi slaw, sriracha mayonnaise and pickled cucumber.....£10

Southern fried. Buttermilk chicken, with chipotle sauce, dill pickles and coleslaw... £9.5

Fish and chips

Beer battered Cornish cod with bashed peas, triple cooked chips and tartare sauce.....£11

Fried chicken sharers

KFC 4 pieces of Korean style free range chicken with Asian slaw, sriracha mayonnaise and skin on fries.....£12.5

Deep south west 4 pieces of buttermilk fried chicken with chipotle BBQ sauce, classic coleslaw and skin on fries.....£12.5

Dirty chips & filthy fries

Chaesy triplax. Triple cooked maris piper chips topped with coastal cheddar & cider sauce, melted mozzarella and salt & vinegar discs...£6.5

Munch monster. Skin on fries topped with cheese sauce, melted mozzarella, pickled onions and pickled onion monster munch £6

Dirty pig. Skin on fries topped with pulled pork, cheddar and cider sauce, BBQ sauce, jalapenos and crushed scratchings.....£7.5

Extras

Classic coleslaw.....£3

Triple cooked chips.....£3.5

Skin on fries.....£3.5

Curry sauce.....£1.5

Desserts

Sticky toffee pudding with clotted cream...£4.5

Triple Chocolate brownie..... £4.5

Available for pick up from the Redan

Thursday – Saturday 4.30pm to 8.30pm

All food prepared fresh on site. May contain traces of nuts. Ask for allergen details

We also offer a weekly hot food special. Please call us for more information

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

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

Advertisements can be accepted in the following formats. Costs are per issue.

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

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

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

If you would like to advertise or you would like further information, please call us on 01761 569863.

with contact details
order to assist the

**Adverts in Colour
Look Great !!**

If we are out, please leave a message and we will get back to you. In publication of the magazine, please inform us of your intention to advertise as soon as you can.

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

Kathy and Mike Hughes



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Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

It is only a year since I wrote my first few words for Chilcompton Matters on taking over from our long-standing Chairman, Alan Webb. What a baton he passed on – what a year! Our doctors and surgery staff have had to take on a whole new way of working whilst still coping with our everyday ills and tackling this dreadful new virus. I don't think any of us who don't work in health care can imagine what all NHS staff have been, and are still, going through. Personally, I am so very proud of them all.

Besides their problems, running a small charity and fund raising in a time of lockdown, is nothing, but we must try to keep going. When the Health Secretary announced an extension of flu vaccines in the autumn, it was clear that much more storage would be necessary. This would also be essential when a Covid vaccine became available. The Friends were happy to help the surgery purchase an additional vaccine fridge (nothing like the simple fridge in your kitchen), and to do it before there was a shortage of those fridges!

Despite everything, we have done our best in the world of socially distanced fund raising and want to thank everyone who has supported us over the last year. The raffle, thanks to the dedication of all our committee members, went far better than expected, and the 100 Club has grown. Donations have also increased and we thank our donors, who mainly wish to remain anonymous. We have even embraced ZOOM, albeit in an amateurish way.

We are planning to bring back our Health Forums, when the situation allows, and when relevant NHS staff have recovered enough to provide these. If there are any medical issues you would like us to try to arrange talks on, please drop a note into either surgery for me, or send me an email (contact details below). We currently have suggestions of Multiple Sclerosis, Organ Donation, Caring for & Living with Dementia and Mental Health. We also approaching the CCG to ascertain whether they would be able to assist in providing these forums online. (It's the same contact details if you would like to join the 100 Club.

The more the merrier.)

Finally, thanks to all the essential workers and volunteers who have supported us all over the last year. We all hope that life will improve for everyone later this year.

Jenny Evans, Chair. FSC&CS

01761 232 244

jsattlerevans@btinternet.com



Slow Somerset: Norm Longley

It's no exaggeration to say that after twenty years of writing and updating a multitude of different guidebooks, researching and writing Slow Somerset – a process that took around two years – was the one that gave me most pleasure. This extraordinarily diverse county (England's seventh largest incidentally) frequently confounded expectations, from the discovery of a hospital cemetery in Wells, to exploring the wreck of a Norwegian barque on Berrow Beach and watching weavers craft willow coffins on the Somerset Levels. Throw in all manner of bracing coastal and moorland walks, and sensational views from Black Down, Cadbury Castle and Dunkery Beacon, to name but a few moderately lofty heights, and it was an absolute blast – made all the more enjoyable for having family frequently in tow.

But one of the greatest joys was having the opportunity to explore what was, literally, on my doorstep (which just happens to be Chilcompton), not only because I got to write about the people and places you don't get to hear about in other guidebooks, but I never truly appreciated what was literally just down the road – though isn't that often the case? For me, this meant delving into the area's fascinating industrial heritage, hence a wonderful afternoon spent at the Radstock Museum, for my money one of the country's most worthwhile local museums. Housed in a beautifully restored Victorian market hall, it sheds fascinating light on the North Somerset Coalfield, with displays pertaining to the old mining communities (for example the last ones closing in 1973?) and a new Virtual Reality simulation, which casts visitors down >>

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>> a pit. Just as much fun was a ride on the Somerset & Dorset Railway, closed in 1966 but which, thanks to the brilliant and committed work of its volunteers, now operates along a short half-mile section from Midsomer Norton station. There have been discussions about extending the track-bed towards the old Chilcompton Tunnel (now wouldn't that be exciting?), but that's some years off, if it ever does come to fruition. Here too is what must be one of the country's smallest museums, little more than an old pillbox stuffed with all kind of memorabilia from World War II, including ammunition, first aid kits and phone sets. One of the old carriages here has been repurposed into a buffet car, a fun spot for some light refreshments once you're done with the rest of the site.

Further Somerset highlights included seeing Common Cranes on the Somerset Levels, which were recently reintroduced here 400 years after becoming extinct, being stalked by cows as we wandered around the standing stones at Stanton Drew (who needs Stonehenge?), and a bracing midwinter stroll along Clevedon Pier, the UK's only intact Grade 1 listed pier. Naturally there was plenty of cheese and cider to boot during the course of research: don't miss Somerset Cider Brandy in Burrow Hill – the country's only apple distillery – and if you've never been to Roger Wilkins' Cider Barn, make haste before he retires! Given the current restrictions we all face, there is no better time to indulge in this wonderful county of ours – and if Slow is your thing, then Somerset will be too.



You can order the book from bradtguides.com or from me, which I will sign and hand-deliver! dclongley@hotmail.com; Twitter: [normlongley](https://twitter.com/normlongley); 07814 032532

Village Hall Re-opening

The recent Government announcement states that community spaces can (hopefully) re-open on Monday 12th April 2021. With that in mind, we are looking at who wants to return then, who doesn't want to return quite that soon and maybe, some groups that aren't planning to continue using the hall.

I do regularly receive enquiries from other groups seeking a home so if you really don't want your space, there are others waiting. It is really useful if you can give me as much information as possible so that I can juggle everyone back safely.

For those that have returned (albeit temporarily) between March 2020 until now will have already completed a Risk Assessment. I would just like to ask those to ensure that the responses you gave originally are still valid going forward. For those of you who haven't completed a Risk Assessment and need further assistance, please let me know.

I hope this is clear but if you feel I have missed anything or you have any questions, please contact me or Peter. **Lynn Wulcko** 07969 813340



CHILCOMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB

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BE PART OF A FRIENDLY CLUB



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CHARTER STANDARD CLUBS

Chilcompton Sports Club Update

The year has been dominated by the Covid pandemic which has had an unprecedented impact on the member sports and also the general operation of facilities.

The Sports Club Committee have taken time, during the lockdown period, to review all of the regular expenditure and have changed the service providers where appropriate to enable the Sports Club to be run more efficiently.

The Sports Club Committee have now developed a pitch-side advertising system that stands up to the weather and a number of local companies have taken up the opportunity to advertise.

In the last year a number of improvements and maintenance tasks have been undertaken by Club Members around the site. For example the Football Club improved the slope and drainage on an area of the adult pitch, the external woodwork was freshened up and the café was repainted before new appliances and work surfaces were installed.

The 3 x Lockdowns have meant that the 2019/2020 Football Season was suspended and the 2020 Cricket Season was effectively cancelled, although the cricketers did manage a few fixtures in July and August. The 2020/2021 Football Season has also been badly affected and the Sports Club hope to see some football fixtures played again in March/April. It's also hoped that the Cricket Season will go ahead from May to August without any delays.

The easing of the lockdowns, however, meant that the Sports Club has benefited from tennis being a permitted sport to be played in an outside setting plus Writlington Tennis Club have used the courts for both social tennis and coaching.

The Sports Club were also approached by a local athletics club regarding the use of the hardcourt for youth training. The athletics club have been very pleased with the facilities and it looks like being a long term relationship.

Netball was also affected by Covid but the players did return to playing on the Tennis Courts between lockdowns.

So in this difficult COVID year there has been the positive news that the Sports Club became a multi-sport facility!

Please keep an eye on the notice board at the entrance to the sports club plus Social Media to see when the Sports Club will be next open for Sport and Leisure.

Finally the Sports Club would like to thank the trustees, coaches and volunteers who contribute to making Chilcompton Sports Club a venue to make the Village proud.

Feedback

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

Chilcompton Cricket Club

Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club is gearing up for the new season which starts in April. We had a Zoom Committee Meeting on 1st February to make sure everything is in place and we will announce a virtual Club AGM for March.

We have also attended a number of Zoom Meetings with Somerset Cricket Club who are very positive and optimistic that there will be a full cricket season in 2021.

It's likely that the playing format will be the same as last year with sanitising breaks and "bring your own" teas.

Obviously this will depend on Covid-19 restrictions and the safe return to outdoor sport.

2021 will be our 7th season at Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club.

The senior Saturday 1st XI will compete in Division 5 of the Bristol & District League.

The senior Saturday 2nd XI will compete in Division 11 of the Bristol & District Division League.

The senior Sunday 1st XI will compete in Division 3 of the North Somerset League.

We are 100% committed to relaunch the Junior Section and have 3 players (Kyle Gloudemans, Mark Emery & Lauren Bowen-Jones) who are now Qualified Coaches.

Junior Training sessions (7 years +) will be held again at Chilcompton Sports Club on Wednesday evenings from Wednesday 14th April to the End of August (6.15pm – 7.45pm).

The Club were delighted to welcome Junior Players Alexandra Baughan & Thomas Scott into the Saturday and Sunday senior sides in season 2020 (See photograph >>).

This is a great credit to our Junior Coaches and a fantastic boost to the future of our cricket club.

If all goes to plan here is how the coming months will take shape:

The square will be lovingly prepared over the next few months (as soon as the rain stops!)

Virtual Cricket Club AGM during March

Outside Nets to go up towards the end of March

Senior Outdoor Training to start on Thursday 1st April (6pm Start)

Junior Outdoor Training to start on Wednesday 14th April (6.15pm - 7.45pm)

Senior League Fixtures to start on 1st/2nd May

Junior Fixtures to start in May/June – details TBC.

Our Committee Member Florence Thick has continued to improve our Social Media profile (please see all the links below)

Club Facebook - <https://en-gb.facebook.com/chilcomptoncc/>

Club Twitter - <https://twitter.com/Chilcomptoncc>

Club Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/chilcomptonssportscricket/?hl=en>

Club Website - <https://www.chilcomptonssports.com/cricket>

>>

Football U10s



The 20/21 season has so far proven to be another difficult year for football, with many games being postponed due to Covid-19.

We were able to get a few games in prior to the 2nd lockdown. The boys have been forming a strong team bond and producing some great results. We can't wait to get back to training and playing matches.

We would like to thank Bristol Business Forms for our team kit, Dan's Ice Creams for our team rain jackets and Brian Fear Cars for our new training kit, we hope to be putting these to use very soon!

Hayley Blanning

>> Our Club is so lucky to have such wonderful Sponsors - "Parker Transport (SW) Ltd", "Spectrum Form Design Ltd" & "PG Owen Ltd".



Our Club is keen to recruit more Senior & Junior players for the new season.

For any enquiries please contact: dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk or 07725 458404

Dave Travis



The Blackcap

The blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), is a member of the warbler family, easily distinguishable by its black cap (male) or chestnut cap (female). In the past most blackcaps migrated to tropical Africa but many now overwinter here and their numbers are swelled by visitors from Germany and north eastern Europe. This one visited our feeder frequently over 3 or 4 days in December and then moved on so we think he was probably a migrant sensibly heading further south.

Sue Rankine

Kingfisher... Kingfishers are regular visitors to the stream area at this time of year. This photo was just lucky timing when it moved from one spot on the railings to another.



Dipper... After an absence of some years, Dippers have been again visiting the area in recent winters. They only stay when the river is running fast and usually leave after a couple of days. This winter however, they were around for close to two weeks.

Pete Sinclair

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APOLOGY

**Sincere apologies to Steve Davis, during
the preparation of the magazine
the above advertisement was
inadvertently not included
in the publication.**