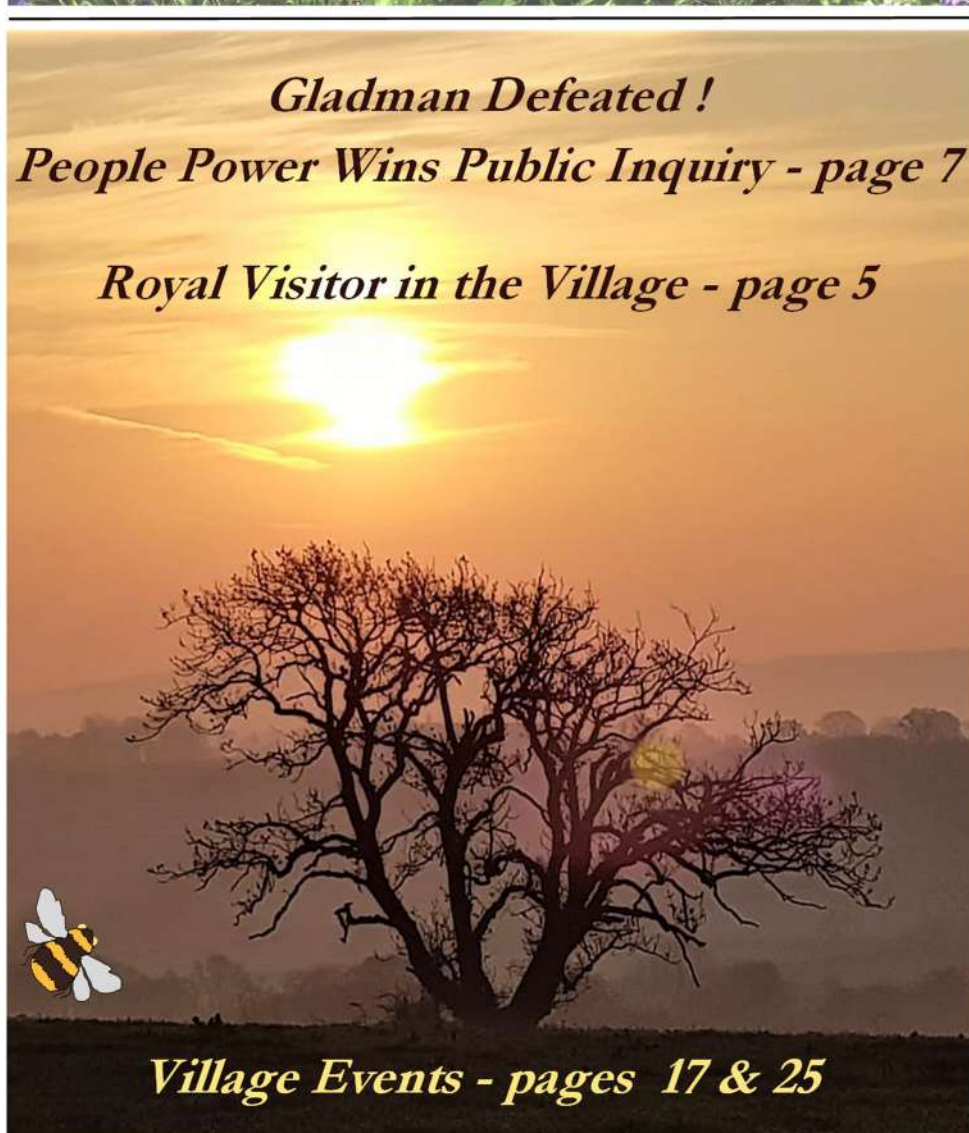




Welcome...

...to the 2022 Spring edition of Chilcompton Matters.

It's been a hard winter without the weather being that harsh. COVID and all that. For the second year running my daughter and the grandchildren couldn't make Christmas. Heyho.

But the daffodils are up and Gladman is defeated. Result. The Government Inspector had to make his decision on technical grounds, of course he had to. But he spent his lunchtimes walking around the village. He will have seen all the posters still up in the windows. So thank you to all the people with the posters still up, all the people that joined CARO, all the people that wrote letters and articles. We have lost battles but we have won many, we can't let the resolve go - we have to keep fighting. Maybe it's a situation that can never be completely resolved but I sincerely believe we have an effect. Chilcompton is a village, a strong village.

One of the problems is that Chilcompton is just a fantastic place. It's bound to be a target for developers. It's just a brilliant community to live in. There's so much going on (see inside about upcoming events) and there is a real family/community feel about the place. But let's keep it that way - let's not let it become a town. It's hard, but let's keep fighting. Grass roots democracy, you have to believe.

Thanks as always to Mike Hughes for his work on the advertising and the DTP, he makes this thing happen. A real hero. Thanks to the contributors and the advertisers - they also make this happen. Ta to the distributors, they walk the walk for us. And thanks to you all who still believe in Chilcompton, who read these small stories of what happens around us and think aren't we blessed to be here.

UK for Ukraine

Malcolm Rigby

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

Cover picture: Donna Simmons

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A longer version of this article appeared
in The Tablet issue of 8 January 2022

Lost Property

This month the monks of Downside Abbey bid farewell to the site in Somerset they have occupied for more than two centuries, they leave behind them the abbey church and other historic buildings

Elena Curti

To some they are defeated old men running away from their problems. To others, they are a spirited bunch making a bold, possibly prophetic move.

The Downside monks' decision to begin a new life in Devon is dividing opinion. Those who take a sour view fear they will not make proper provision for the treasures they leave behind. The more sympathetic believe their mission must come first.

Downside Abbey, standing in 500 acres of Somerset countryside, was once the jewel in the Benedictine crown: a Grade I listed abbey church designated a minor basilica by Pius XI with magnificent altars and tombs, precious works of art, collections of plate and vestments; the biggest monastic library and archive in the UK; a monastery with public rooms like those of a baronial castle; a public school, with roots in Douai, in the Spanish Netherlands, where the community settled in 1606 and opened a college for the sons of English Catholics.

The monks were the first of their congregation to re-settle in England after the Reformation. At Downside from 1814, they built, added to, and embellished their abbey over many decades commissioning some of the best architects and artists. Downside became a Catholic powerhouse of learning, and excellence in the liturgy.

That time is long past. Just eight resident monks live in a monastery that once accommodated 50 men. As at Ealing and Ampleforth, vocations have all but dried up. But by far the greater blow has been serious criticism by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) about how they dealt with complaints of child abuse at their schools.

This month, the Downside community will move to Southgate House, in the grounds of Buckfast Abbey. They will live independently, worship in their own chapel, and be known as the Community of St Gregory the Great. They are led by Abbot Nicholas Wetz who says the move is sad but also very exciting. Far from being dejected, he maintains the monks have decided to move while they still have life and energy. The youngest is 31 and the oldest is 86.

He says the whole English Benedictine Congregation is trying to discern what to do in a world in which monks are in decline and can no longer teach children.

He explains: "Downside has been the first to say << Continued on page 6 >>

Royal Visitor in the Village



HRH Prince Charles visited Manor Farm in late December in his role as Head of the Duchy of Cornwall.

His visit was primarily to see how Covid had affected the farm and businesses on site.

The Prince walked around the farm calling in at the Holy Cow and Midsomer Quilting, chatting with staff in the cafe and the ladies in MQ.

He then toured the farm talking with Paul, Karen and Jacob Mattick about the grass based rearing system from calf to plate.

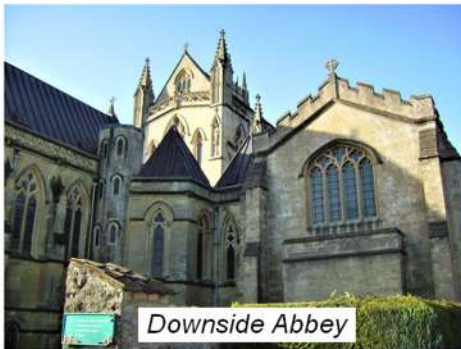
Paul said: "His deep interest in farming and the environment is clear to see and his many years of experience travelling home and abroad have not only shaped, but sharpened, his view on the climate emergency facing us all."

The Prince finished the visit with a cup of tea and cake from the Holy Cow. As he left it was with a sense that this was his last visit as Head of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Lost Property

<< Continued from page 4 >> ‘we can no longer sustain this place’. Working with another community seems to be the way forward. Last summer the monks were able to get out and visit other monasteries. They came back and had lots of questions but didn’t think it was the right time for them to join one of the existing houses, or go off and start something on their own. This is a transitional move and we will use this time, maybe a couple of years, or maybe longer, to decide what to do.”

They have given up their last two parishes, in Suffolk, and retain only their local one, St Benedict’s at Stratton-on-the-Fosse. In the short term, they will serve St Benedict’s at weekends from Southgate. They will not replace the school chaplain when he retires next term.



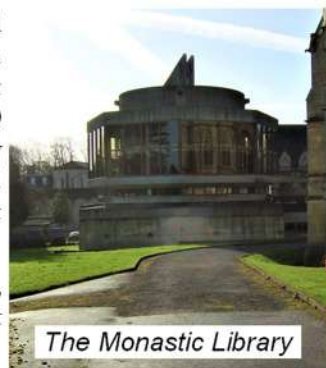
Downside Abbey

Monastery and school are now run by separate trusts and the relationship between them is that of landlord and tenant. As part of the separation agreement, the monastery, aka the Downside Abbey General Trust, has promised to fund a backlog of repairs estimated at £4m to historic buildings used by the school.

This is posing a headache for the monks who are asset rich but cash poor. In 2019, they attempted to sell a beautiful fifteenth century Flemish statue of the Madonna and Child that stands in the abbey church. An Old Gregorian (as old boys are known), Peter Howell, successfully appealed against the decision of the Southern Historic Churches Committee that initially permitted the sale. The community was, however, allowed to sell two, much less valuable, renaissance paintings.

They could raise much of the £4m if they could sell land for development. But their planning application to build 16 luxury houses in Abbey Road, has upset residents in the village of Chilcompton. Around 80 have sent objections to Mendip District Council. They are unhappy about the development of a greenfield site, claim amenities locally are at full capacity and that large houses are not needed.

Abbot Nicholas says if the application is turned down, they will appeal: “It will be a huge disappointment if it can’t go ahead and will give me more sleepless nights.”



The Monastic Library

So far, the repairs have gone ahead as scheduled according to the school’s headmaster, Andrew Hobbs. He is very positive about the school’s future. There are 364 pupils – currently full capacity – in spite of the challenges presented >>

>> by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The school describes itself as “the home of Benedictine culture”. Pupils will continue to worship in the abbey church after the monks have gone, as will parishioners from Stratton-on-the-Fosse. But who will maintain the abbey church and other historic buildings? A conservation architect told me this is the biggest single heritage challenge facing the Catholic Church in the UK. Sixteen months after the monks first announced they were leaving Downside, there is no plan as to exactly how this challenge will be met. Things are moving so slowly that the monks have had to postpone their departure by at least six months.

On the plus side, grants totalling £1.4m to Downside Abbey from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) have helped to conserve the library and archives. The building has been fully restored, the collections professionally catalogued, and the library is open to readers by appointment. The abbey church is in good shape, with repairs in recent years funded by grants and private donors.

Abbot Nicholas does not rule out the possibility that the monastery may be sold. There have been rumours that it could become a hotel or flats.

School and monastery are legally separate, but this separation is notional on the ground as some buildings are shared. Historic England insists that the abbey school and wider estate must be treated as a whole heritage site. It is seeking stringent safeguards for buildings that are of national importance. Abbot Nicholas could be in for more sleepless nights.

Let's hope residents of Abbey Road will not be having sleepless nights: Ed.

CARO Update from Rich Morgan: A Fantastic Victory for Chilcompton !

On 10th February we received the Decision Notice from David Reed, the Planning Inspector in charge of the Public Inquiry into the plan to build 95 houses off Hoecroft. The decision was fantastic news for Chilcompton, as Mr. Reed dismissed the Appeal by Gladman, and so the precious rural character of our village, has, for the time being, been preserved.

This is nothing less than an overwhelming victory for the wonderful people of Chilcompton and all the hard work that went into the Public Inquiry, where Chilcompton residents, CARO members, and Chilcompton's representatives on the Parish and District Councils all joined forces to speak up for our community. Remember, the odds were firmly stacked against us before the Inquiry, as Gladman have won the vast majority of planning appeals they have submitted, including the recent plan to build 63 homes on a green field in neighbouring Coleford. The directors and shareholders of Gladman Developments will have to console themselves with the £250 million they have been handed from their recent takeover by Barratt Homes.

I will not describe the unfolding of the Public Inquiry << Continued on page 8 >>

CARO Update: A Fantastic Victory for Chilcompton !

<< Continued from page 7 >> here, as a detailed report which I wrote for the Parish Council has been placed on our website at www.chilcompton.org, and the Decision Notice itself can also be found there.

After a very intense three-and-a-half days of the emotional roller coaster of the Inquiry, it was very difficult to foresee which way David Reed's decision would go. The school, the traffic and road safety issues, and the visual impact had to be weighed against the lack of an effective Local Plan which preserves the existing development limits. Mr. Reed can be forgiven for taking two months to reach his conclusions, and the 16 pages of the Decision Notice reflect the complexity of the judgement he had to make.

As those of us attending the Inquiry or following online thought immediately afterwards, everything hinged on the issues of the harm to the rural character of the village, and the inability of the existing infrastructure, particularly the school, to absorb the proposed increase in population.

In his decision, Mr. Reed found that the size of the proposed site would "significantly harm the character and appearance of the area, adversely affecting the form of the village and surrounding landscape. It would not comprise a logical extension to the village, being an unduly large, individual estate, detached from its main built-up core. It would be incongruously located, encroaching into the countryside which extends into the heart of the village, eroding its character." He was scathing about the inadequacy of the Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment carried out by Gladman's Planning Director, and cited the complete absence from the LVIA of Croft House, the property most directly affected by the development, as "particularly hard to explain."

On the question of the village infrastructure, Mr. Reed found no issues with services such as the surgery or recreational facilities in Chilcompton, and argued that the private sector businesses could only benefit from having an increased clientele. However, the exception was the school. While Somerset Local Education Authority are nominally in charge of the school, it is actually run by the Bath & Wells Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust. Although the LEA see no problem with using the £550,000 Section 106 money promised by Gladman to build a single extra classroom, this would have the effect of changing the school from being single year-entry school to one with mixed year-groups. Neither the Academy Trust nor the Headteacher found this proposal acceptable, and Mr. Reed took the view that an absence of agreement between the LEA and the Trust made the proposal undeliverable. In turn this could only mean an increase in local children unable to find places in the village school, which would lead to an increase in private car journeys to transport children to other schools, and threaten the sustainability of Chilcompton as a Primary Village.

Mr. Reed also agreed with the case made by many of us that the site access >>

>> exacerbated the risks to pedestrian and traffic safety at the narrow blind bend immediately to the east of the proposed access point. Although there was a proposed improvement to footpath provision to the west of the site, nothing could be done to improve the situation on the other side, and he agrees with us that residents of the proposed site who wanted to walk to the core village facilities such as the doctors surgery, the village hall, or the school, would almost invariably choose the more direct but unquestionably more hazardous route via Rock Road.

In conclusion, then, where does this very welcome decision leave Chilcompton? A huge boost to morale for those of us who have worked hard to achieve this victory, and a definite cause for celebration. That justifiable satisfaction, however, should not lead to complacency. We know this won't be the last battle, and will probably not be the biggest one we have to face.

In the long term Chilcompton, like every community across the country, will have to find some way of balancing the genuine and ever-increasing need for new housing with the equally pressing need to preserve the green fields, woodlands and wild spaces which surround our urban centres. In the previous edition of *Chilcompton Matters*, I promised to outline the possible alternatives to building on green fields. Space does not allow me to go into great detail now, but let's look briefly at a couple of statistics which readers may find surprising.

First, there are an astonishing number of unused and empty buildings across the UK. Government sources in September 2019 disclosed there were 445,310 empty residential buildings and 172,217 disused commercial properties. Why should developers be allowed to desecrate our countryside while there are so many buildings ready to be lived in or available for conversion into homes?

Secondly, the scandalous practice of land banking must be ended. The Local Government Association, which represents all but a handful of the local councils in England, published a report in May 2021 which exposed the vast extent of the problem. Since 2010 permissions to build 2.78 million homes have been granted, but only 1.6 million actually built, due to landowners and developers waiting for the right market conditions before they make maximum profits.

Those members of the public desperately seeking a place to live, or a first step on to the property ladder, deserve to know why local authorities and national government are not addressing both of these issues.

In Chilcompton, we recognise the need for social rent homes and genuinely affordable starter homes. We will always deal more sympathetically with schemes offering this type of housing as the primary part of the application, rather than merely thrown in as a minor allocation to comply with Planning Law. Large scale open-market developments like the Gladman plan, which threaten the rural character of the village will, however, continue to be resisted.

Rich Morgan

Deputy Chair, Chilcompton Parish Council
& CARO Spokesperson

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Wednesday Walkers

The group continues to walk fortnightly. Pre-pandemic there were up to 25 of us, now we average 10–14 for each walk. We have encountered mud and mire at times and find ourselves walking on roads more often. Some roads like New Rock Road are quite hazardous with heavy traffic, while Coalpit Lane and Greenditch Lane are quiet and peaceful. Watery Lane at Stratton was named for a reason and a veritable river runs down it; wellies are definitely needed. Looking forward now to walking drier footpaths in Spring and Summer.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774.

Friday Club

Tea, coffee and cake served every Friday morning 10.30am. at the village hall. A chance to catch up on village news and chat with friends. Anyone is welcome to come along.

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774 marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

Mendip Brass Band

After the Christmas break, the band is back rehearsing with a view to playing at events during the coming summer. Our practice sessions take place at Kilmersdon village hall, meeting on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings.

We are looking to recruit some new players, especially in the cornet section. Whether you are new to brass instruments or an experienced player, you will be welcomed.

Have a chat with our Musical Director on 01761 232269 or send an email: mendipbrassband@hotmail.co.uk

Jenny Gould

Chilcompton Wives

Well, we made plans but COVID caught us out again. Not to be outdone we enjoyed meeting with our friends for tea and a chat, (a lot of chat!).

We are now meeting the first Wednesday of the month at the sports ground venue, Bennell at 2 p.m.

Our first speaker in March will be Martin Horler, Storyteller.

For more information of dates, times, and speakers please contact :

Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans 01761 233266.

You would be most welcome to join us.

The Somerset Wagon

Colin and Jess, the last landlord and landlady, left the pub in February, but it will reopen.

Chilcompton Matters has been told that the brewery has no intention of selling the inn and are actively seeking to recruit a new landlord/landlady.

Obituaries

The following villagers have died since the last newsletter:

Leonard Mitchell (93), June Bonfa, Geraldine Rusbridger,
Eric James Kingman (91), Doris Matthews, David Waite,
Dennis Horler (92), Dorothy Pilgrim (102), Diane Webb,
Wallace Moon (96), Marian Bodman (née Turner),
Maureen Coombs, Father Alexander George, Lucy Iley (93),
William (Bill) Vaughan, Richard Shearn, Margaret Beacham

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: marlenep@mypostoffice.co.uk

News from St. John's

As I walked down to open the church this morning it was a joy to spot the first daffodils at the top of Coach Lane and a bank of lovely snowdrops further down: welcome signs of spring at the end of what has seemed like a rather long winter!

The church is open every day during the hours of daylight and everyone is welcome to pop in and enjoy a few moments of peace.

Sadly, the winter months have seen several funerals either at Church or in the Crematorium. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

On a lighter note as things return to normal and restrictions are removed, we have been catching up with the baptisms of babies born just before or during Lockdown. Congratulations to the families of Felicity Buckland and Arlo Glasson-Allen!

As the weather improves, the wedding season approaches and 5 couples gathered at St John's this weekend for a 'Marriage Preparation Day' which was open to the whole Deanery. Including a lovely brunch at the Holy Cow, we spent the day preparing for marriage and thinking about practical ways in which we could make the most of this big step.

If you are considering one of life's big milestones and would like to chat about how the church can help you with your arrangements please contact us via the website: www.stvigorstjohn.church we would be happy to help.

Midweek Groups are returning to normal in the Benefice. The first Monday of each month, Sarah Crosse our Parish Nurse, hosts Monday Café, with a relaxed afternoon opportunity to chat over a cup of tea and a variety of interesting speakers and activities. Why not pop in?

Thursdays in term time 'Tea & Toast' our toddler group meet for a morning of >>

>> play and chatter, and Lunch Club finally returns on 17th March. For all up to date information of groups and activities please visit the website: www.stvigorstjohn.church



Over the Easter period, we are delighted to welcome an exhibition of the work of Bath artist, Caroline Waterlow, whose series of works *Via Crucis*, will be displayed in the church building. Entry is free and all are invited to ponder the Easter story explored in her series of pictures that draws us in through looking at objects rather than people.

Easter Services 2022

- April 10th Palm Sunday 10.30am, St John's - Morning Prayer with Baptism
- April 14th Maundy Thursday 7.30pm, St John's - Holy Communion
- April 15th Good Friday 12 noon, St Vigor's, Stratton on the Fosse - Community reading of Mark's Gospel
- (St Vigor's, Stratton on the Fosse).
- April 17th Easter Day 5.45am, St John's - Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast
- 9am St Vigor's - Holy Communion
- 10.30am St John's - Holy Communion

A regular pattern of services has resumed for both churches:

- Tuesdays 9am, St Vigor's Stratton on the Fosse, Morning Prayer (Traditional)
- Wednesdays 9am, St John's - Morning Prayer
- Thursdays 11am, St John's - Holy Communion (Traditional language)
- Sundays, 9am, St Vigor's Stratton on the Fosse
- 10.30am, St John's Chilcompton (also on Zoom)
- 6.30pm, St John's: Celtic Evening Prayer
- (4th Sunday only)

Sunday morning services at each church alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. Children and families are welcome at all services. For full details of services and activities visit the website: www.stvigorstjohn.church



Wallace Henry James Moon



Wallace was born in Westfield, Radstock on the 11th September, 1925 to Hilda and Oliver Moon. He was one of seven children, all of whom he outlived, passing away on the 28th December, 2021.

A life long Christian, he was brought up in a real working-class family where life was hard and money was scarce, his father being a Deputy down the Kilmersdon Colliery and a strong trade unionist.

At the age of five, the young Wallace attended Radstock C of E primary school and quickly started to learn the skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. At the age of eleven he passed his exams to go to the Grammar School, but due to lack of money he was told by his mother he would have to go back to junior school and stay there until he was old enough to leave at the age of 13 and then go out to work.

Wallace, without hesitation did as his mother told him and went back to junior school where the head teacher asked him what he was doing, given he had passed his exams and assumed he had gone to the Grammar School! Not being able to go to the Grammar School was one of his biggest life regrets, but times were really hard back then.

So, at the age of thirteen, young Wallace left school and started working for Bert Mitchard, delivering meat and milk, initially by horse drawn cart and then at the age of sixteen by van – no driving test required in those days.

With war raging in 1942 and at the age of seventeen, Wallace joined the Navy. During his initial training in Portsmouth, he was lucky enough to be present when King George VI came to visit. Post training he was chosen to be a Radio Operator and was eventually posted to Vancouver, Canada. The following two years he worked seven days a week sending and receiving morse messages. One such message, whilst in the Southern Pacific, was from the King declaring war in Europe had ended, although it was another year before he returned to the UK.

Wallace met his wife Mary at a Prattens Social Club event. He'd gone along with a friend and she caught his eye. They started 'courting' and he asked her to marry him as he left to join the Navy. They married in the bitter winter of 1947 when it was so cold the water in the flowers froze solid in their bedroom.

They took up rented residence in White Hayes Cottage (where Pauline and I were both born and raised) acquiring the cottage from the Marchant family some years later. The grandchildren remember him saying how much he loved his home. He said it was the best home anyone could ever have and he wouldn't change it if he had a million pounds. >>

>> When he left the Navy he got a job on the S&D Railway as a fireman, as he didn't wish to follow his father down the mines and also because it paid more money. During his 20 years on the railway he became a train driver, which gave him a promotion and because of his love for first aid, he joined the Radstock based first aid team.

When Dr Beeching decided to axe the Somerset & Dorset line, instead of transferring to Bristol to drive diesel locomotives, all Radstock based staff took redundancy and Wallace joined the Somerset Ambulance Service, initially as a driver, then what today is called a paramedic and finally as a Control Officer in Taunton. At this time there were many nasty car accidents (no seatbelts), sudden deaths and tragic home based incidents which had to be dealt with, but he was always on call for family emergencies from cuts to broken bones, he was our first port of call. Even in retirement Wallace continued to be involved by volunteering to drive cancer patients to hospital and bring them home again.

He was incredibly community minded and between 1958 and 1978 he was the Clerk of Chilcompton Parish Council on an Honorarium of £25 a year. David Strawbridge writes about this in his book "Meandering Through Chilcompton" where he refers to Dad as a martyr for taking on the job.

Dad was a long time member of the Chilcompton St John's PCC and heavily involved in the fundraising for the new Church Hall in the early 90's. He was also the social secretary for all events including the annual Church Fete, Leprosy Mission and Harvest supper.

On a lighter note, Dad loved holidaying in Cornwall where we spent 13 very happy years holidaying in St Ives. For his 70th birthday he went on a Hot Air Balloon ride from Bath. For his 80th birthday, along with Mary Wedgewood they both went up in a Glider from Cheddar and on his 90th birthday we took him to the top of the Shard, followed by cream tea in their very posh restaurant.

The children have happy memories of a much-loved Gramp. They remember picking his tomatoes in the greenhouse, walking the dog in the evenings, being together after the Church Carol Service and watching Sports Personality of the year. His driving earned him the nickname the 'Tortoise' and they all remember his 'shortcuts,' which seemed to end in a farmyard or somewhere alien to where they were heading. Having been in the Navy he got plenty of ribbing from the boys for his seasickness on mackerel fishing trips off the Cornish coast.

It's fair to say that Dad lived a very full life. I've never heard him swear and he always had a good word to say about everyone. His devotion to Mary was absolute, his constant visits when she was in Catherine house and his daily walks to her grave after she passed away. The family have heard some lovely memories from friends and relatives, all tell of a life well lived and a life of worth. On his death certificate it says he died of frailty and old age. I'm sure we would all like to see that on our own death certificate when we finally pass on.

Richard Moon

History Corner

Following the item about Cyril Burge and family in the last newsletter, here are some comments I have received from local people who remember him.

Kim Gay - Farmer, Leonard Sheppard, was a friend of Cyril Burge and he remembered in his youth that Cyril returned from Hong Kong one day with a large model Chinese junk. They went to the boating lake at Portishead to sail it.

Jean Schuster (née Curtis) - I remember there were two huge tortoises in the garden of Spring View.

Tony Webber - Cyril used to keep us in order in the chapel. We boys had to sit in the back row with Cyril at the end, so we had to behave.

Judith Stanford (née Painting) - My sister Susan and I used to go to the Burge's home to watch TV. Anya was very attractive and exotically dressed in flamboyant clothes. She always had sweets for children who visited. Mr. Burge used to keep the well weed-free and clean. In the early 50s – often Peggy Gould, Billy Durbin, Susan and I would be taken across the road to the well and Mr. Burge would give us a drink of well water, which he said was the purest water there was.



Peggy Hill (née Gould) - Anya had 2 or 3 little Pekinese dogs and as children we would go along and rattle the gate so they would come running to see us. Granny Burge would give us fallers from her pear tree. Cyril took a lot of photos and films of us when we were in fancy dress for fetes. I was always Wee Willie Winkie because it was an easy costume to make, just pyjamas. Then Cyril showed the films at the reading room (next to St. Aldhelm's church) and when we saw ourselves, we thought we were on the telly.

Jim Perkins - My dog was knocked down by Farmer Hodges tractor; it wasn't his fault he drove at 12 mph, but Anya was annoyed. Cyril showed films of the fete in the chapel schoolroom and I remember I was dressed as a cowboy.

Angela Hooper (née Curtis) - I remember in the 1950s taking rent money for Floral Cottage to Anya, it was 7/6 a week. My mother (Florence Curtis) went to whist drives with her. There was a Chinese Willow Patterned umbrella stand in the hall.

Ann Webber (née Gould) - My Uncle Ern (Flower) was a great friend of Cyril.

**THE QUEEN'S 70TH JUBILEE
CELEBRATIONS**



Chilcompton sports ground
3rd June



LIVE MUSIC - HOG ROAST - ICE CREAM VAN

DOORS OPEN AT 14:00 -22:00

Chilcompton Art Club



The Chilcompton Art Club moves from strength to strength, having taken up the kind offer to have use of the Chilcompton Sports Club last year, membership numbers have recovered to their pre-pandemic levels. The club meets every Wednesday and Friday mornings between 10:00am and 1:00pm. New members are always welcome, no matter what their artistic ability is, and there is always someone on hand to offer advice if needed. This year the club will be arranging at least two exhibitions, the first at Downside Abbey over the course of the weekend of the Queen's Jubilee, and the second probably over the course of seven days in November, in the cloisters of Wells Cathedral. There will also be a few workshops and demonstrations held, covering various artistic topics from 'still life' to 'life drawing', and also covering an assortment of media types. Regular updates of the club activities are posted on the club's Facebook page and website at www.chilcomptonartclub.uk.

Each February the club holds its AGM, and at the end of the meeting, the committee present a splendid trophy to a valued member of the club. The trophy was presented to the club by the founding members Harold and Joan Turner, and it is awarded each year to a person who the committee think deserves recognition for their long service and dedication to the art club. This year it was awarded to Pam Patch (pictured receiving the trophy from Chairman John Sibley), Pam is not only a founding member of the club, but has also, over the years actively contributed to the running of the club, having joined the committee in the year 2000 when Jean Fairbairn stood down. She has undertaken several roles on the committee, including the role of chairperson in the early 2000's, then later as an active committee member right up until 2016. Pam has provided help and support at exhibitions, contributing excellent floral arrangements, and of course over a number of years acted as the club's local milk delivery person.

Nigel Punchard,
Club Secretary



Chilcompton SpeedWatch

SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN

Community SpeedWatch is a national police initiative supported by our local police team.

The aim of Community SpeedWatch is to make motorists, who speed through our village, aware of the impact their actions have on local residents as well as the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians.

SpeedWatch activity is not about interfering with drivers' behaviour, it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the local community. We are here to remind drivers to keep to the designated speed limits within our village, not to catch as many drivers as we can.

Chilcompton SpeedWatch group was one of the first groups set up in 2012 and one of the longest running groups within Mendip.

Volunteers who can commit to giving time to this scheme at differing times of the day, are always warmly welcome. Training and all the tools for the job are provided; the only proviso is you must be over the age of 18 and a qualified driver.

For more details please email: CSWchilcompton@hotmail.com

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Messy Church

We are pleased to announce that Messy Church at St John's Church in Chilcompton is up and running again!



We meet monthly at 3pm on Sunday afternoons in St John's church hall. each month we explore a bible theme by getting messy, through stories, crafts, games, and fun followed by

Messy Church is a non-conventional form of church that's fun for everyone. It welcomes everyone, involves everyone, values everyone and is there for anyone who wants to take part!



family friendly worship then, sitting down and eating tea together.

For dates of all future events

please visit our website: www.stvigorstjohn.church



Then & Now

Church Lane



Wassail and I

Cidermakers at Manor Farm gathered in January down the orchard for a spot of the traditional wassailing.

Apparently across the country there has been a surge of interest in the mediaeval activity, or possibly pagan ritual – perhaps because of the bleakness of the modern pandemic world.

Traditional old folk songs were sung, bread was placed on the trees, last year's cider was poured on the roots and guns were fired into the branches to frighten away the evil spirits, and then a little of the previous year's produce was supped. All with the aim of generating a good crop of apples for the autumn's work.

Cider production has been going on down at the farm for two years now, with some success.



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Local Information

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

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Another Queen Bee at the Hive



Malcolm Rigby talks to a woman who recently opened an interiors store down at the farm

Curiously, in the hive of activity that constitutes the outbuildings of Manor Farm nearly all the businesses are run by female entrepreneurs. So, it is perhaps not surprising that another woman has joined the ensemble.



Hannah Collins opened The Somerset Home Interiors in November last year and they went online this month. The plan is that most of the business will be through the web but the shop will be the front.

She said: "I've always been massively passionate for interiors ever since I was very young, always been very creative.

"We've got two parts of the business; we've got The Somerset Home and The Somerset Home – Interiors. The Somerset Home looks after large properties in the area, anything from the house-keeping to the management of buildings. That's how it started, literally right in the middle of lockdown two years ago and then that gave us the option to do this as well."



The Somerset Home was established by herself and her ex-husband, he looks after one side of the business and she looks after the other. In addition, there is a team of about ten other staff working full-time or part-time.

>>

>> Hannah is very pleased with the location. "I love it down here. We wanted somewhere that was in keeping with our brand.

"I would love to move to Chilcompton, 100% love to be here, it's just finding the right property. I'd like a project and it's just not come up yet. Chilcompton is lush, it's so pretty isn't it, gorgeous.

"Initially when we looked at coming down here we were just looking for storage space for all our housekeeping. And I met with Paul(Mattick) and he showed me some space and we thought if we took on this unit we could split it in half and have half storage and half of it as our Interiors. Then it just kind of happened, we did it. And we haven't looked back since.

"We've had really good footfall. I think we all complement each other quite well. There's Holy Cow, Mowhay and then us. We complement each other's' businesses which is great. And obviously there is the nursery as well. I just love the feeling down here, I love the backdrop, it's really nice.

"We felt we didn't really need a high street store, we needed something in keeping with our brand and online as well, that's the way the world is nowadays. We're just waiting on stock. Our biggest challenge is with stock, all the time."

Most popular has been the home fragrance range (candles and diffusers). The business likes to source locally, so these are manufactured in Bradford-on-Avon, whilst the baskets come from Somerset and the ceramics from a woman in Cheddar.

In addition to the store, Hannah is intending to run a series of wreath-making workshops. Apparently, wreaths are now 'the thing' and are not just for Christmas. The ones they create are snapped up quickly.

The first spring workshop will be on Saturday April 9th. Punters can expect a 'goody bag', seasonal refreshment and of course different foliage depending on the time of year. For more information on the store or the workshops contact Hannah on 07808 861002 or go online.

Book of Remembrance

Did you know that there is a book of remembrance at St. John's church for villagers to record the deaths of their family members and friends? It was instigated and set up in 1986 by Felicity Redmond Lyon. It is kept at the church in the side chapel so you can go in and have a look at it and quietly remember those you love in prayer. Anyone is welcome to add a name and the church is open daily in the hours of daylight. Please contact the Rector, any PCC member or myself.

Marlene Pickford. 01761 232774 marlenepickford2@gmail.com

Flyposting

Social media is the modern medium to advertise village occasions and events, but there is also a place for the long-proven method of posters on lamp posts. The problem is that they are rarely taken down, some remaining for up to a year.

Can we remind you that if you put up notices, it would be appreciated if they could be taken down after each event. It would keep the village tidy and help those volunteers who currently take them down.

The Joy of Bulbs

Writing this piece as storm Eunice whistles around the garden I am reminded again of the resilience of early spring bulbs. Unfailingly cheerful they bring colour to the garden whatever the weather throws at them, hardy enough to survive a blanket of snow or a frost and low growing enough to stand up to spring gales.

Technically a bulb is a modified stem that is the resting stage of the plant and has scales which are the leaf bases, but the term 'bulb' is often used to cover corms as well which are also modified stems but without visible leaf scales. What they have in common is that spring flowering varieties are planted in the same manner the preceding autumn. These compact parcels of potential joy are placed at two or three times their depth in the soil, pointy end up and then left to their own devices to appear the following spring – no pampering required.

There is a huge variety of bulbs to choose from and with some careful planning spring bulbs can be in flower in your garden from the earliest snowdrops in January through to the latest flowering alliums in May and June with aconites, crocuses, grape hyacinths, bluebells and tulips amongst many others in between.

Early flowering bulbs are particularly important for pollinating insects when there is little else for them in flower. There are not many insects on the wing in January when the first snowdrops appear, but if an unseasonably warm day brings a bumble bee or two out they will happily go to snowdrops for a winter feast. Winter aconites provide another late winter / early spring feast for early pollinators as well as providing a welcome splash of sunshine yellow to the garden – particularly welcome when actual sunshine is in short supply!

Low growing early bulbs are ideal for planting amongst herbaceous perennials and deciduous shrubs, as they give colour and interest when the main occupants of the bed are at still slumbering and then conveniently die back when their bed fellows awake. Try snowdrops, crocuses and miniature daffodils such as *Tête-à-tête* in a rose bed, or a bright display of tulips in a summer flowering herbaceous border to precede the main event. For a natural woodland effect plant native bluebells, (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, not the Spanish variety as these can be invasive and can over-run the native variety), wood anemones and winter aconites under deciduous trees. Some varieties of bulbs can be naturalised into grass, daffodils, crocuses and camassia work well, but do bear in mind that their leaves must be allowed to die back naturally before mowing or their performance the following year will be impaired. Last autumn we planted snakes head fritillary in our 'meadow' and I'm looking forward to seeing them appear later this spring.

Bulbs are also great for growing in pots which means even the smallest garden can accommodate some. A single variety such as *Iris reticulata*, crammed into one pot looks great or you can experiment with combinations of colour and form. Try miniature daffodils with hyacinths and anemones or tulips with alliums. Deep pots can be planted 'lasagne' style with layers of bulbs designed so that you get a >>

>> succession of flowers all in one pot. Plant the largest, later flowering bulbs such as tulips deepest and the smallest such as *Anemone blanda* at the top for a spectacular display. Many bulb suppliers sell bulb packs especially designed to do this so all you have to do is choose which colour combination you would like and plant as per the given instructions.



about bulbs. I look at the various tubs and pots around the garden, I remember planting bulbs but can I remember what? I could label them of course, but for me, one of the many joys of bulbs is the element of surprise and I'm never disappointed.

Sue Rankine

For most plants I have a fairly good idea of what I have planted and where I have planted them, but I seem to have a mental blank



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Sprout (as you can tell from the name), isn't your typical accountancy firm. For starters we provide so much more.

Sprout was founded because we wanted to provide a more flexible service to help provide business owners with more than just the traditional compliance service offered by most accountancy firms. Having worked in owner-managed businesses for most of her career, Kate has an in depth understanding about how businesses really work, can offer more strategic advice to help businesses grow and is able to empathise with our clients about their worries and stress unofficial therapy sessions aren't uncommon!

We're also a lot more casual. We feel it's important that business owners feel comfortable and relaxed when they're talking about their business and its finances, so we don't tend to take ourselves too seriously and you shouldn't be too surprised to see us in flip-flops.

Having a positive impact on people and the planet is what drives us - and we want to work with businesses that feel the same. Late last year we launched our exciting new rebrand which sums up our personality and commitment to support ethical, sustainable and purpose-led businesses – but just like Marmite, Sprout isn't for everyone.

We love doing great work for good people, but also like to do some good ourselves. Every year, we donate 3% of our time to charity, mentor two ethical start-ups and donate 1% of our annual revenue to tackle environmental issues.

We're always looking for good people who share our values and are looking for a more flexible work life balance. If that sounds like you and you've got a book-keeping or accountancy background, we'd love to hear from you.

The Stations of the Cross

An exhibition of 14 pictorial images known as Via Crucis, by Caroline Waterlow, is at St John's church from April 9-24th

VIA CRUCIS is made up of 14 images based on the Stations of the Cross. Each picture is on paper, and uses mixed media, such as wood ash, metal leaf, ink, pastel and charcoal.

The work is a culmination of research into the meaning and significance of Lent, and how it can relate in our lives today.

The word '*Lent*' derives from the old English word '*lecten*' meaning '*spring*' and *lengthening of days*. Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday after the first full moon around the time of the Spring equinox. The beginning of a new cycle of growth, after the darkness of winter.

Traditionally the 14 stations were found in Catholic churches and used as a contemplative time to stop and reflect on the sufferings of Jesus as he is lead to his death on Calvary, and an opportunity to reflect on our own lives. Increasingly, the Stations have come to be part of the Lenten liturgy for other denominations as well.

Caroline said: "With my depiction of the VIA CRUCIS, I chose to use the framework of the Scriptural Stations, as first introduced by Pope John Paul II in 1995, this follows the gospel account of Christ's Passion, whereas the Traditional stations were made as a pilgrimage route along the Via Dolorosa, and include subjects not found in the gospel accounts of the Passion. I chose to avoid depicting the human form, as much as possible. I discovered the medieval Anna Christi tradition, and used this as the basis for my series of the Stations. The Anna Christi is a long poem, using images of tools and instruments to depict the Passion, I have used objects such as a cup, a lantern, hammer and nails in my images. They act as a reminder that we need to be mindful of how we use these instruments creatively or used to inflict harm and suffering, as in the case of the Stations. The second half of the Via Crucis, is more abstract in its approach, but still avoiding using human form – though there are suggestions in the stations IX and XII."

Caroline Waterlow is a multidisciplinary artist, working with both pictorial and sculptural concerns. She is based in Bath, and has been a professional artist since graduating from Canterbury College of Art in the late 70s. She exhibits her work regularly and has been the recipient of various awards and prizes. She has run workshops based on the human figure, as well as ones exploring creativity. Drawing has always been the basis of her work, as an end in itself or for releasing pieces of work in other mediums such as steel. Caroline has had a studio at Bath Artists' Studio for the past 12 years and is a member of Bath Society of Artists.

Does anyone remember this photo?



It was a tramps' ball in the old village hall to raise funds to build the new hall, so it was probably about 1979. We think they are:

Back row: Trevor Andrews, Edgar Davis, Desmond Mattick, Basil Gillard, John Bridges, Roger Carter, Roger Coombs, Wayne Emery, Jeff Maggs.

Front Row: Judy Andrews, Sue Coombs, Jean Davis, Judith Bridges, Diane Carter, Marlene Maggs, Thelma Emery, Kay Gillard.

Bowls

The group continues to enjoy bowling once a week on Thursdays at 2pm. at the village hall. About 10 people play regularly, but there is room for more. Just come along and have a go. David Rogers 01761 233142

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Photos from My Garden

- Less Common Birds - Part 1

Gardens across Chilcompton are often blessed with a very good variety of bugs, birds and the like. Even a casual glance skywards when there is raucous goings on will often reward the eyes with one or more Buzzards or other hawks, being given quite a hard time by the local Corvids or Gulls. Occasionally a deep croak overhead gives away the presence of a passing Raven.

When something a bit more exciting does turn up in the garden I often find myself rushing indoors for the camera knowing that unless it's a bug the opportunity has passed by the time I return. However,



every now and then it just so happens that the camera is at hand just as that odd rarity flits into the garden hedge.



Early spring sees the arrival of the Warblers with an occasional visit into our gardens. A glorious songster is the Blackcap, getting it's name from the male's distinctive 'black cap'; the female having brown instead. The



Chiff Chaff heralds the arrival of spring with its more regular and repetitive call, from which it gets it's name. They are abundant and common in hedgerows >>

>> and coppices but tend to be a less frequent garden visitor.

It's a delight if you are fortunate enough to catch a fleeting glimpse of the



Goldcrest with his fiery crown. Keep alert as they will sometimes be almost under your feet before they scarper. If you see a male, there is usually a female nearby.

It was a real treat for me when we temporarily had a young Moorhen in residence. My cement-mixing tray birdbath is perfect as a watering hole and sometimes, small insect larvae appear. Ideal for a Moorhen's

breakfast. This year a pair of Moorhen successfully reared two young amongst the watercress on The Street Ponds. Hopefully we will see more of them in the future.

Fluttering in from the fields behind the garden comes a Pheasant now and then. The grandchildren named this one Conker (It just had to have a name, especially as he feeds



from the hand). When another joined him on the patio, it was not long before war broke out with the most vicious cockfight. Conker was victorious and saw off the infiltrator (Chestnut). I even managed to get most of the conflict on video too!

Finally perhaps the rarest visitor of all - a Yellowhammer. Along the ridge near Greenditch Lane it is common to hear the distinctive call of the Yellowhammer "A little piece of bread and no cheeeese". From time to time I have even heard this whilst in the garden.

However, to my delight one actually came into the garden hedgerow to serenade me with his little ditty, and, as luck would have it, I had my phone in my pocket.

Part 2 in next issue.

Jon Crouch



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OUR BUSES ARE UNDER THREAT

April 2022 was meant to augur in a new era for our buses. It was the month when the £3 billion as part of Bus Back Better, National Strategy for Buses for England, could be used to improve bus services. People could be invited to abandon their cars and opt for the 'greener' option of going by bus on journeys to nearby towns and villages.

To improve buses across the county, Somerset had put in a bid for £163 million of Bus Back Better money. That was the sum of money Somerset needed because Somerset bus services currently are the worst rated of any county in England. But the Bus Back Better fund has been over subscribed 8 times by all the bids from across England and so it's unknown how much money Somerset might get. But it's unlikely to get anything like what Somerset needs.

The 2 years of Covid with endless warnings not to use buses has seen bus passenger numbers down 40% on pre Covid levels. This has meant the Government has had to step in and subsidise bus services in order to keep them running. To fund this the Government has diverted more than half of the £3 billion pot allocated for transforming our bus services to just maintain our current bus services.

Worse still, the Government has still not said whether it will keep funding our existing bus services from April.

If it doesn't, then without this subsidy, bus services across the county (including here in Somerset) could "fall off the side of the cliff" (as said by Wera Hobhouse, Bath MP). It's been estimated 30% of bus services would go. Some bus services could even disappear completely.

Without this Covid Bus Recovery Grant, a leading bus operator has said, "The bus sector is hurtling towards disaster."

(As we go to press the Government has announced that a further £150million nationwide will be given to the local transport sector, as a final post Covid support to last until October.)

If you want to further lobby the Government about local transport, contact the Buses Minister. Send it to BARONESS VERA OF NORBITON - email: verec@parliament.uk. Also copy your email to your MP: JAMES HEAPPEY (Wells) - email: james.heappey.mp@parliament.uk

Please also copy in Somerset Bus Partnership to any emails too. Email address: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com.

Additionally, if you should speak to any of the candidates for the Somerset Unitary Council May 5th elections, please ask them what their plans are to protect and improve our bus services here in Somerset. There's never been a time when our bus services in Somerset have been at so much risk.

Somerset Bus Partnership Team

<https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk>

One Way Co-op

The Parish Council are asking Somerset Highways about the viability of introducing a one-way system around the Co-op in order to improve safety.

Councillor Marlene Pickford said: "Pedestrians crossing from the pavement outside Hillcote to the Co-op have to advance two metres into the road before being able to see traffic coming from their left in Stockhill Road, which is often on the wrong side of the road if a truck is parked and unloading. At the same time pedestrians have to watch three other roads in case traffic is turning into Stockhill Road.

"Additionally traffic in Stockhill Road approaching the B3139 have to pass stationery cars and trucks and is on the wrong side of the road often meeting oncoming traffic on a blind junction.

"We would like one way traffic from south to north, double yellow lines to allow trucks to access the Co-op without reversing from the B3139 as they do now. A hazard to all road users. The Co-op would like a dedicated unloading bay for which they would apply as part of the scheme, probably timed up to 1pm.

"Added to this is the chaos of traffic entering and leaving the Co-op car park."

In the last issue of Chilcompton Matters Richard Morgan wrote an article about traffic problems in the area and asked for local responses. Three people who live close to the vicinity responded.

Stuart Thorne said: "I have lived opposite the Co-op on Broadway for over four years now, and have seen many near misses, minor collisions and some quite serious collisions at these crossroads.

"Excess speed is, in my opinion, a major contributor, and traffic calming in some way and/or an overall 20mph limit throughout the whole of the village would go a great way to resolving the situation and not just by the Co-op."

Lorraine Candy said: "I'm glad to see there is on-going discussion on improving pedestrian safety at the Chilcompton Co-op as seen in the "Consultation on Co-op Crossing" article... We do enjoy the convenience of our Co-op, but please let's make it a safer place to access before a serious accident occurs, and while we're at it, make it a building that is once again attractive and fitting to our lovely village."

Stephen Gosden said: "Make this part of Stockhill road one way i.e. from Wells Road to Naishes Cross going past the Coop on your right hand side. Make the current Car park entrance and exit point an entrance only and make a new exit and entrance to the Coop for vehicles at Naishes cross where the current recycle bins are."

However Stuart Thorne said: "I cannot see making the section of Stockhill Road 'one way' will improve matters as the alternative access to the Co-Op car park from the B3139 going West is along the B3356 is via an acute turning or East via Rock Road and Naish's Cross. Lorries would almost certainly continue to straddle the junction to reverse to where they unload or when they leave."

At the end of the day, it will probably be all about money rather than safety.

Malcolm Rigby

Chilcompton Gardening Club

Well, after over 18 months of having to close our doors due to Covid 19, we finally re-opened to our members in September 2021. We were so pleased to be able to welcome everyone back and kicked off with an engaging talk on Hedgehogs by Laura Batt from the Prickles Hedgehogs Centre. This was followed by an interesting and informative talk from a local tree expert and then in November we welcomed the owners of Castle Gardens Gold Club in Sherborne to amaze us with just how much thought and effort goes into creating their marvellous Christmas displays.

2022 started with our AGM followed by a wonderful buffet and wine, just the thing to banish those January blues!

We have a full line up of speakers on a wide variety of topics for the rest of the year, including how to improve one's memory by gardening, wildlife gardening, fuchsias, how I came to run a vineyard and fungi in fact and fiction, just to whet your appetite.



We are also planning to arrange one or two outings during the year, hold our Plug Plant Competition and run the popular Plant Sale in May.

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Family membership is just £10 and single membership £7 for the whole year. Guests are always welcome at just £2, why not come along with a friend or two and give us a go.

Judy Youngs

Golden Hour Club



The club restarted in August 2021 with talks, choirs and music. Members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Old Down Inn in December. (See photo). The AGM will take place on Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm. followed by Just Vince singing well known songs. New members are always welcome.

Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. at the village hall.

Contact Sylvia on 01761 233142



Unsung Heroes

It is true to say that unsung heroes do what they do because they want to, not for any accolades that might ensue. This is certainly the case for our unsung hero in this issue, Tim Curtis, who's passion for sport led him to a life of volunteering.

His schooldays were dominated by football, rugby, cricket and basketball and he later played football and cricket for many local teams including Stratton United, where he went on to manage the team.

He was a Round Tabler in the 80s and 90s helping with Christmas lunches for the elderly and was chairman of the Fireworks committee putting on an annual event including an innovative laser light show at that time.

Tim became a governor of St. Vigor & St. John Primary school in the village in 1996 and for much of the time to date was their chairman, an onerous and time-consuming task.

He joined the parish council in 1994 and persuaded councillors that a sporting facility for young people was much needed in Chilcompton. A committee was set up in 1996 with Tim taking the chair and the parish council bought the 11 acre field at Bennell in 1998. The early days of this project saw a £160,000 fundraising effort for a pavilion and multi-sports area all of which Tim oversaw. Fund-raising included: classic car rallies, car boot sales, junior discos, quiz nights, garden parties, buy a >>

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>> brick, 100 club, beer tents and skittles at village days, an open garden and plant sale at Kilve Court and more recently music festivals. Getting planning permission and applying for grants culminated in completed tennis and netball courts and a new pavilion being opened in 1996 by Michael Eavis.

Tim's enthusiasm and vision saw a club house added to the pavilion in 2015, an enhancement to the facility which has proven to be a valuable asset.

The fund raising still goes on by loyal trustees and volunteers, who also undertake grass cutting, preparing pitches, building maintenance, cleaning, bar rotas and café duties. Pitch maintenance takes about 5 hours a week; that adds up to hundreds of hours a year, which was done for many years by another unsung hero, Terry Moore. Tim takes his turn on the tractor now too.

There is no doubt that Tim has been the driving force that brought this project to where it is today, a sports facility benefitting many with 250 children exercising and enjoying sport as well as adults playing football, cricket, tennis and netball.

Volunteering has some rewards and Tim said, "My finest achievement was when the football 1st team that I manage had four promotions on the trot and then after a period of stabilisation, at the new 'county wide' level, went on to win the premier division two seasons running. The team also added the senior cup to their impressive collection of trophies, thus completing the league and cup double – a feat only achieved by three other sides in 50 years!"

So 26 years on the sports committee (21 as chairman), 26 years a school governor (22 as chair), 8 years working with the Round Table and a parish councillor for 6 years must qualify him as an unsung village hero. We thank him for his dedication.

Marlene Pickford

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CHILCOMPTON JUMBLE TRAIL

Last September, residents across Chilcompton opened their front gardens as part of the Chilcompton Jumble Trail. I organised the event having been inspired by a similar one I'd been to a few years ago near my Dad. I wanted to create an event that helped people to recycle their unwanted items but also provide a community element that got people out and about and meeting their fellow residents. The event was a great success, and everyone involved seemed to really enjoy chatting to all the lovely people of Chilcompton. I met a lovely couple who had recently moved to the village - they were so pleased to have had the opportunity to meet so many new people. We also had visitors who came from Chippenham just for the Trail. The Jumble Trail is a great opportunity to clear out your wardrobes, toy cupboards and bookshelves and give your items a new home. It's also a great way of encouraging the kids to recycle all their old toys - they can sell and buy more on the same day!

The next Jumble Trail is provisionally set to take place on Sunday 23rd April 2022. Further details and updates will be made available on the Chilcompton Jumble Trail Facebook page. Alternatively, you can contact me on 07917 832650.

Kate Gloudemans



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Council Matters

Welcome to Parish Council section of the latest village magazine.

I hope that you all enjoyed a happy Christmas and New Year, for many it will have been better than 2020, although that bar was somewhat low.

At time of writing perhaps we are moving towards the end of the pandemic, although there is still, I think some way to go. However, there are some signs that something like normality is beginning to return. As part of that I am pleased to tell you that we are arranging some events to reflect that.

As part of a package of support to help to try to “get back to normal”, we have received some funding to host an event. We have booked Chilcompton Village Hall on Saturday 26th March 2022, between 14.00 and 18.00, we are calling this our “Opening Up” Event. This will see local organisations and businesses with stalls, to show what is on offer in our village and we will also have some fun events for you, including caving, above ground! - you will have to come along to see what we mean. Therefore, we would like to invite everyone to come along, see what your village has to offer and meet people you may not have seen for almost two years.

Our next event will be in June. On Friday 3rd June (it is a bank holiday) as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations we will have an event at the Sports Field. We will have live music, refreshments and the chance to meet and celebrate the jubilee. At this stage we still have much to arrange, so keep your eyes on the village website as we get more details.

In May, we will face parish council elections; this is a year earlier than normal, they were scheduled to take place in 2023, but they have been brought forward 12 months to coincide with the elections for the new unitary Somerset authority. If any if you feel that you would like to be a Parish Councillor, then you should contact Mendip District Council and get nominations papers.

Finally, some good news to finish with. As you will be aware over the years as a village one of the issues that causes most interest is planning consents, particularly developments with large numbers of houses, with the usual disquiet from the majority of the village this causes. In the last year a proposal for over 90 houses at Hoecroft was rejected by Mendip District Council, the developer Gladman, appealed this decision. This appeal took place in December; there was some worry in the village as a similar appeal by the developer for a proposed development in Coleford saw Gladman successful. However, we have been informed that the appeal in Chilcompton has been dismissed. Obviously, this is very pleasing for many in the village and I should like to offer my congratulations to the members of CARO who have been vigorous in campaigning against this, with many of them speaking at the appeal, not least our Deputy Parish Council Chairman Richard Morgan, who attended every day of the appeal and lead on this for the PC. Hopefully a sign of more success to come.

Stay safe

Jonathan Pike



Village Agent News

Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB

01823 331 222 Web: www.somersetagents.org Email: info@somersetccc.org.uk

We know many people have enjoyed our online Talking Café Facebook live sessions during lockdown, and we are still continuing these, as it's a great way to share information to many people in Somerset, but due to reopening at so many venues, we have reduced the online sessions to weekly, Wednesdays at 1pm on www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset.

Watch previous Talking Café sessions here: www.somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/ covering every subject you can imagine, from dementia support to hearing loss and mental health. So many fantastic informative films you can watch anytime, most are around 30 minutes long.

Unpaid Carers Website Relaunch!

We are delighted to announce we have revamped our website for unpaid Carers in Somerset – www.somersetcarers.org – which now includes the Carers Hub – an online place where you can easily search for exactly the right support and advice for yourself or the person you care for, with training videos, links to Somerset based agencies, respite options and more.

We'd love to know what you think of it, and hope you find it really useful in your day-to-day lives. If there is something missing, or you would like your service listed please email carers@somersetccc.org.uk with your feedback.

As ever, your local Village Agent, Julie Brown, can be contacted by calling 07985 680262 Email: julieb@somersetccc.org.uk

War

When talk fails and cigars
burn in ashtrays cold.
Fiery tongues of belief
churn the land to mud.

And still we march.
Uniform, flag and king.
Our love has gone.
The Valkyries do not fly.

What future is lost
in those bleeding streets?
The children that live
and the children that die.

And the marching begins.
We become like one.
In grey, brown and blue.
We know not what we do.

There is no choice
in the silence that stays
between the singing birds
and the shrill whistle.

And the lies that dance
the jig of Nations.
As the decency of peace
turns to stone.

By Andrew Morris

Village Opening Up Post Covid Day

While most groups, services and hospitality venues have restarted after lockdowns, it is clear that numbers returning are fewer than pre-pandemic levels. So, the parish council is putting on an open day on **SATURDAY 26th March 2 - 6pm** at the **Village Hall** and is inviting local groups to come along to promote their activities.

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Chilcompton Playgroup



Since September we have been running our weekly Playgroup sessions on a Tuesday morning at the Village Hall and have steadily seen a rise in the numbers of families attending. We were sad not to be able to run our Christmas session but we felt it was appropriate to cancel due to the rise in Covid cases in the area at the time.

We would like to thank everyone who has been attending and supporting us regularly,

particularly to those that get stuck in and help us clear up, we really appreciate this especially as some weeks are extremely busy!



Unfortunately, due to many of the committee members now having school age children and returning to work we are losing vital members who enable the group to continue running. The playgroup is in desperate need of new committee members and helpers to be able to stay operational. Without new committee members and helpers, Chilcompton Playgroup will not be able to continue in the future which would be a huge loss to the village and community.

Please get in touch If you think you would be able to help or need any more information. Email: chilcomptonplaygroup@hotmail.com or message us on our Facebook page.

Everyone welcome, no need to book, just turn up on a Tuesday morning during term time 10-11:45 at Chilcompton Village Hall. £2 per family which includes tea/coffee for adults and a healthy snack for the children. We look forward to seeing you there. Sophie Handover Chair of Chilcompton Playgroup



Have you ever had bladder leaks when you cough, sneeze or do exercise and had Urethral Bulking, a treatment involving an injection into the urethra, to help you keep dry?

Would you be willing to take part in a postgraduate student research project with UWE which explores women's experiences of this treatment?

If the answer to these questions is yes, I'd like to invite you to take part in an interview with me (Suzanne, someone who has had both!) to share your experiences of SUI and the difference that having urethral bulking has made for you.

Taking part is entirely voluntary and, should you choose to do so, your participation and the data provided will be treated in the strictest of confidence and anonymised, meaning that nobody will be able to identify that you took part. You may also withdraw from the research after participation without reason or explanation for up to one month following the interview. There will be no compensation for taking part in the research, but many people find it a positive experience and it will go on to help future women in the same situation to understand the experience.

If you are interested in taking part and would like to find out more please visit:
<https://bit.ly/31IOglk> or scan the QR Code for further information:



Thank you for taking the time to read this information - I look forward to meeting you.

Suzanne Davis
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The Lime Tree & Storm Eunice

I was writing about spring bulbs for this magazine, keeping an eye on the treescape from my office windows and with half an eye on the dwindling battery of my laptop. The pine tree closest to my window, planted over 30 years ago and now in its prime was swinging about with every gust but standing true and solid and giving no cause for concern. Our silver birch, planted just over a year ago was behaving just as a young tree should – bending with the wind, becoming visible from my desk before straightening up and disappearing from view behind the corner of the house, its roots firmly in the soil.

Further afield I could see the branches of the stately old ash tree adjacent to Norton Hall Farm waving frantically with every gust but standing firm. With the prevalence of ash dieback disease that one was of particular concern as was the ash tree beyond the wall at the bottom of our garden. But against the odds they are still healthy and still standing.

A particularly strong gust and a muffled crunching sound caught my easily distracted attention. I stood up to get a better view out of the windows and noticed that our next door neighbour's fence had disappeared. Relieved that everything else seemed to be in place I turned to sit down and then noticed the gap. Where the ragged profile of my favourite lime tree had for so long been part of the treescape was a gaping hole.

I have written about the lime trees in this magazine before and although the smaller of the two remain, the demise of the larger tree is a very sad loss ecologically, historically and visually.

A portion of the stem remains however so there is hope that it may be enough for it to re-generate and carry on growing for many more years to come. Sue Rankine



Embroidery Experience Classes in Chilcompton

I have just started classes again for the Spring Term on the 18th. January 2022 for a twelve week course at Chilcompton Sports & Social Club. Thankfully I have managed to hold classes all through from last September to Christmas culminating in a very enjoyable celebratory Christmas lunch at Wells Golf Club. During this course the ladies embroidered many things including Christmas Angels which were then displayed in Basil Powell's shop in Wells High Street where they were very much admired by shoppers and people passing by, so much so that several new members have joined the Embroidery Group.

Interested? Contact Patricia Ardron 01761 232466



Councillors at Work

Parish Councillors Pete Sinclair, Philip Holme and Paul Mattick were busy litter-picking the road between the village and Midsomer Norton last month.

Paul drives his tractor so as to give protection from the road for the other pickers. Debris gathers in the ditches and as you can see from this picture a sizeable amount of rubbish was collected.

During their efforts Pete managed to grab a £20 note floating in the wind! The money was given to charity.



Also last month a large part of a tree fell into the Old Rec from an adjoining property.

Within hours of its discovery the limb of the tree had been cut up and removed by Philip and Pete.



District Councillors

Chilcompton deserves better protection from predatory developers

Since Josh and I were elected to represent you at Mendip in 2019, there have been many key milestones that have come to pass that we're proud of. There's the response, from Mendip, but also parish councils and local groups, to Covid-19 – making sure that the most vulnerable among us are taken care of. There's the commitment from Mendip Council to build a new generation of social housing where it's needed most. But, I'll be forgiven for feeling especially pleased when the report came through from the Planning Inspectorate telling Gladman that, for now at least, it wouldn't be building its profits by ruining a field in Chilcompton.

Let us be clear – Gladman's application in Chilcompton was nothing more than a dash for profit. It would have chummed up green space to replace it with houses that wouldn't have been affordable for many local people. What's more, the application would have done precious little for our brilliant local school, the already busy doctor's surgery or our dwindling network of public buses.

I was proud, to give evidence at the inspector's hearing, and also to vote in favour of Mendip's new local plan. Proud, because both will strengthen the hand of local people in deciding how Chilcompton will look and feel in coming decades.

But, most credit must go to Chilcompton Against Rural Over-development. Chilcompton is lucky to have a growing and committed group of people who will work together to tackle the issue of problem development in the village. CARO isn't about Nimbyism, it's about caring for the place you live and making sure it grows sustainably.

We all know that over the coming decades, more homes will be built right across the UK. The Government sets very high targets to make this happen. However, we must all work together to make sure that growth in Chilcompton is steady and organic. Importantly, it must meet the needs of local people, not the greed of the big developers.



Josh Burr

Sam Phripp



Sam Phripp

Flower Show

Chilcompton 42nd flower show takes place on 3rd September and needs YOU to enter one of its many classes and visit the show to make it a great success again this year. New classes this year are dominated by Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee. So can you decorate a jubilee cake or make a jubilee card or floral arrangement? Get a schedule from David Rogers on 01761 233142 and have a go!

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26th Mar VILLAGE OPENING UP POST COVID 2.00-6.00pm at Village Hall

8th Apr EASTER BINGO NIGHT 6.30 at Sports Club

9th to 24th Apr VIA CRUCIS EXHIBITION at St John's

12th Apr MENTAL HEALTH TALK 6.00PM at Somer Centre, Midsomer Norton

23rd Apr JUMBLE TRAIL at Chilcompton Village

29th Apr HORSE RACING NIGHT 7.00pm at Sports Club

3rd Jun THE QUEEN'S 70TH JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2.00pm to 10.00pm
at Chilcompton Sports Ground

11th Jun THE MAESBURY SINGERS CONCERT 7.00pm at Village Hall

3rd Sep THE FLOWER SHOW 2.15pm at Village Hall

Also:

Various clubs and organisations hold events on a regular basis. Due to Covid constraints, some activities have been on hold. Government restrictions have now ceased, but before proceeding to any venue, you are advised to contact the relevant organisers for the most up-to-date information.

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Chilcompton Lives - Betty Mattick



Betty was born in Wells in 1929 to Nelly and George Harwood; and was an only child. George worked as a water engineer at Bristol Water and was also a Churchwarden at St Cuthbert's in Wells. Nelly did pastoral work in the community.

Betty went to Wells Central School where she passed the equivalent to the Eleven Plus. She then went to Wells Blue Grammar School from 1939 to 1945. She took her gas mask to school in a box and had to go into an air raid shelter when the air raid warning siren went off. Betty's father was an Ammunitions Officer in 'Dad's Army' and recalled seeing the searchlights and dogfights over Bristol. He was called out to search for a parachutist when a bomber crashed near Coxley. When George passed away Desmond Mattick cleared the house in Wells and discovered a box of grenades in the garage. He took them to the Wells Police station. When the police officer found out what was in the box Desmond was told to "Get that B***** box out of here!" They were later destroyed by Bomb Disposal and the story made the headlines at the time.

As a teenager Betty volunteered for the Air Training Corps where she trained in aircraft recognition. Betty remembers attending dances at Wells Town Hall. After finishing school Betty worked on the switchboard at Wells telephone exchange for four years. Deciding on a change Betty trained as a general nurse for four years at Bristol Royal Hospital; becoming a state registered nurse in 1952. Betty continued to work for a nursing agency until she married in 1953.



Betty married Desmond Mattick at St Cuthbert's church in Wells with members of the Farrington Gurney Young Farmers forming a guard of honour with pitchforks. Betty had known Desmond for many years as she went to school with his sister, Daphne.

Desmond farmed at Manor Farm in Chilcompton so the newly married couple lived in Mill Cottage by the church in Chilcompton. The current church car park is the site of the mill. They lived there for 18 months but when Desmond's father died they moved into the Manor House. Betty and Desmond had two sons and a daughter. Andrew, on leaving school, went to Zambia on Voluntary Service Overseas. Andrew obtained a degree in agriculture and worked for Vet Aid. He now lives in Mozambique where he gives advice to farmers. Betty was able to visit Andrew in Mozambique in 1996. Paul currently farms at Manor Farm and Judith lives in Bristol.

Betty talked about where she obtained supplies when she lived in Chilcompton. Mr Worth called to take general grocery orders from Welches in Midsomer Norton. Mr Bonfa brought the green grocer supplies. The butcher from Chilcompton was Sheam and later Strawbridge.

>>

>> Betty described how the milking cows would be herded along the road from Midsomer Norton to Chilcompton. She would help if someone was ill although much of her time was taken up looking after three children. Under supervision some prisoners from Shepton Mallet jail would help on the farm with tree stump removal and lifting potatoes. They were paid seven shillings and sixpence per week plus half an ounce of tobacco.

Betty described how Arthur Bodman, the tractor driver, unearthed a mortar bomb which he put in the tractor cab and took to the farm. The police came out to detonate the bomb. It left quite a hole! Arthur still lives in Chilcompton.

Once the children had grown up Betty and Desmond enjoyed travel. They went to Australia and New Zealand spending six weeks on a sheep farm in Western Australia with Desmond's cousin. Whilst in Australia they spent four nights on a train travelling across the Nullabar desert. During the stay in New Zealand they travelled around both the North and South Islands staying in B&Bs. In one place they stayed with a farmer and would stay up until around three in the morning



discussing farming. Over a period of around 50 years they would travel as two families with Desmond's sister, Daphne and her husband, Bill (Crossman), mainly in Europe.

Also after the children had grown up Betty volunteered at Dorothy House Hospice in a nursing capacity for one day a week and was local secretary for the Children's Society in Chilcompton. She was involved in arranging the toy and carol service for disadvantaged children. From 1993, for over five years, Betty was the Chilcompton school manager until the new school was built. Mrs Gunning was the headteacher at the time. Betty was on the PCC of St John's Church for a number of years and Deputy Registrar for Norton Radstock for seven years until 1996.

Betty and Desmond were both involved with the Twinning of Chilcompton with Monsurs and Desmond was Chair of the Parish Council as well as serving on Mendip District Council. Mattick Mead was named after Desmond for his 25 years service on the Parish Council.

In the 1980s Prince Charles visited Manor Farm. The visit was kept very secret and the farm was swarming with police. Even the vicar wasn't aware and was worried when people were searching the house and came bursting in to see if everything was ok! Prince Charles visited again on 17th December 2021.

In 1996 Betty and Desmond bought the land off of Parsonage Lane from the Duchy and built Willis Field House where Betty lives today.

Sadly Desmond passed away around seven years ago. At the time of publishing Betty has nine grandchildren, four in Africa, one great grandchild and one step great grandchild.

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

Chilcompton Village

Spring Litter pick

19th/20th March



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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.

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

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Kathy and Mike Hughes

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Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

Does Chilcompton still need a dispensary at the surgery? I, for one, think it is absolutely vital, and it certainly proved a lifeline for my family in recent years. With our Dispensary like so many other services and High Street businesses, it is a case of USE IT or LOSE IT.

The hours for collecting medication from Chilcompton Surgery are now:

8.30am - 1.00pm & 2.00pm - 5.30pm

Please remember repeat prescriptions take 3 full working days to be completed. You cannot drop your repeat slip in the box on a Friday evening and turn up on Monday to collect, and a Monday request means a Thursday collection. The surgery has frequent deliveries of stock, but we must allow them time to order, receive and assemble our prescriptions.

Pressure on our GPs and all their support staff remains at extraordinarily high levels, and we are grateful for their determination, skill, and resilience.

The 'Friends' are in the early stages of organising a talk on "Mental Health – your routes to recovery". The PROVISIONAL date is **Tuesday 12th** April at the Somer Centre at 6 p.m. and our speaker will be Dr Kendrick. More information to follow....

Our group have recently bought 2 pieces of kit to support our medics. One smaller item is to enable GPs to get much higher quality images to Dermatology Consultants. This can aid quicker diagnosis and help to prioritise treatment. It may even save a trip to RUH.

The second item, which cost well over £3,000 is a Doppler (You'll have to Google it!). The Friends bought the current Dopplers almost 10 years ago, but technology has moved on. The original machines are credited with having saved the leg of one patient in their first 6 months. The super new replacement is faster and can be operated by one person rather than two. So, what used to take 2 nurses 40 minutes should now be completed by 1 nurse in 10 minutes. Our fund raising (100 Club, Christmas Raffle, and other activities) paid for this. So, if you have succumbed to one of our "high pressure raffle ticket sellers" outside St Chads, or joined our 100 Club, thank you – it is so worth it.

The Chilcompton staff know I am penning this update and have asked me if we can find space for them to thank all the patients for being so supportive. This is so good to hear.

Please feel free to contact me by email:

jsattlerevans@btinternet.com.

Stay safe and well everyone.

Jenny Evans, Chair. FSC&CS

01761 232 244



How to... Have a Near Death Experience

To be honest, you really don't want to have one if you can avoid it. It's just like a common cold, gonorrhoea or eating salt and vinegar crisps – just avoid it.

The net result of mine is that I bought a man-bag, I know that's a really dreadful outcome but actually I have to say it's probably better than being dead. Though there may be people out there who would dispute that.

I have a man-bag that is made of goat leather. Not really sure if goat leather is cool in 2022. More about the authentic goat leather man-bag later.

The cause of my near-death experience was a simple wasp sting. Apparently, some people are allergic to them, apparently, I am one of them. Apparently, you go into this fit/shock, anaphylactic I think it's called; you can stop breathing and you die.

Anyway, there were three important indications that I was in trouble. (a) I was writhing about on the bed, pulling the sheets, groaning, shaking, my face expanding to the shape of elephant man, (b) my wife who is a very experienced nurse had called 999, and (c) my wife had just called me "darling", called me "darling" possibly twice, maybe even thrice. Did I even hear a cock crow? I even found myself stopping shaking, to think what did she just call me? In 44 years she has never called me that. I have heard her use the expression to small children and animals she really didn't like but I'd never had that one. I had a problem, obviously.

Probably, even with ambulances that have flashing lights no one is very impressed by a near death experience, you actually have to die. Near-death is kind of feeble, at my kind of age you have to go the whole way. Near-death gets little 'ahhs' for about 24 hours. Then it's, 'you're alive, what you worrying about?' And that's the way it should be.

How does the rest of my life shape out? If a wasp comes close to me, I'm going to be really scared. If my wife calls me 'darling' I'm going to be absolutely terrified. Possibly not the way it should be.

A couple of days later a friend asked me, "so how long does it take to get in to the centre of Bath from Chilcompton with a flashing light and a siren?" I don't know. I was dying, I wasn't watching the time. There was no clock. There are no time pieces on ambulances at all. Just machines that go beep and figures that suggest your heart rate is way out of normal. The one thing I can safely say is that it is probably faster than the 173 bus.

Another friend asked me, what was your epiphany? I realised it was a very good question. But I have to say there was no epiphany going on. In all that journey into Bath, there was no epiphany, I was wasting a very good opportunity. If ever you're going to have an epiphany this was it. This was my moment to renounce the devil, meat, alcohol, the eighties (there was Thatcher but it was fun), Mr Tumble, smoking, cocaine, picking my nose...but I never did any of that. Zero epiphany. I arrived at the RUH exactly the same person.

Though I did quite fancy the paramedic. I was meant to be dying and I was fancying the paramedic – really no epiphany. She said to me that I didn't look >>

Remembrance Icons from November



>> my age, she said I would put you in your early 50s. Nice. When I told my wife this a couple of days later, she said that's her job, they're trained to do that. Really?

So I didn't get me an epiphany but I did get me a man-bag. At the hospital I'd been given an EpiPen, should I get stung again I had to thrust it into my thigh muscle, thereby inserting adrenalin and stopping me from dying. I had to always carry it with me.

Modern life has meant my jacket pockets have been straining from overuse for some time now: wallet, phone, keys, glasses, fags, lighter. The EpiPen (not small) was the straw that broke the proverbial camel's pocket. I bought a man-bag. It's light brown and looks like a child's satchel – it's cool. I think. If you meet me on the street don't judge me.

Malcolm Rigby



Chilcompton Sports Football U11s



I think it's fair to say that Chilcompton Sports U11s have had an outstanding start to the season, winning 10 games consecutively prior to Christmas. Our last match before the festive break was a kids v adults match which was great fun, and the team loved it.

The weather has hounded us a bit since the New Year but we are hopeful to fulfil our season's fixtures for the first time in two years, and we are looking forward to entering some summer tournaments.



With the expansion of our team to 17 players we continue to receive support from our team sponsors, Brian Fear Cars, Dan's Ice Creams and Bristol Business Forms. So a huge thanks to them. We are also grateful for the support of our players, parents and supporters with all our fundraising efforts.

Chilcompton Sports Football U9s

We have 2 U9s teams at Chilcompton Sports Club, and we are pleased to announce that both teams have been promoted in their leagues.

Both teams play in the Midsomer Norton Youth league. The Sports team have been promoted from Division 3 into Division 2 and the Colts have been promoted from >>

>> Division 2 to Division 1. A huge achievement for both teams, Congratulations.

Chilcompton Sports Football U7s - MANAGER OPPORTUNITY

Chilcompton Sports FC are looking to recruit a new under 7s manager and coach for the 22/23 season.

The U7s team will be formed from players already enrolled in our Soccertots programme as well as new players wanting to join our club. The team will have the opportunity to play in the local Midsomer Norton league.

In the Foundation Stage, we are dedicated as a Club to the development of our players through Ball Mastery and the Coerver range of skills. The successful applicant will need to be willing to adopt our philosophies.

FA Coaching Level One or above qualification is required, or someone willing and able to undertake the FA coaching course as part of the position. Further coach development and support will also be provided by the Club.

The role is voluntary, however the cost of the course is fully covered by the Club.

The applicant should be focused on developing our wide pool of young talented players, providing the structure and understanding to enable an enjoyable fun experience.

INTERESTED? To register interest in this role please email Tim Curtis on football@chilcomptonssports.com

Chilcompton Sports Football SOCCERTOTS

Soccertots is an introductory programme for year 1 children and below. Concentrating on Agility, Balance and Co-ordination (the ABC's), this session is an introduction into Ball Mastery and the Coerver range of skills.

Sessions are run every Saturday morning at Chilcompton Sports Club Wells Road, Chilcompton BA3 4EY 9am-10am only £3 per week

If you have a mini footballer who would like to join our programme please contact: hayley@chilcomptonssports.com or just pop along. Hayley Blanning

Chilcompton Sports Club - EASTER BINGO NIGHT

Save The Date: **FRIDAY 8TH APRIL**

Doors Open: **6:30pm**

Eyes Down: **7:45pm**

Chilcompton Sports Club, Wells Road, Chilcompton, BA3 4EY

1 & 2 Line prizes as well as fantastic cash prizes

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01749 880613 or visit website: mendipcommunitytransport.co.uk

Chilcompton Cricket Club

Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club are gearing up for the new season ahead which starts in April.

2022 will be our 8th season at Chilcompton Sports Club.

The Senior Saturday 1st XI will compete in Division 4 of the Bristol & District League (having been promoted in Season 2021). 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 4 of the North Somerset League. The Junior U13s will compete in the Bath Youth League.

The Junior Section was successfully relaunched in Season 2021.

Junior Training sessions (Age 6-13 years) will be held again at Chilcompton Sports Club on Wednesday evenings from 13th April (6.15pm – 7.45pm).

We have 3 x Senior Club Members (Kyle Gloudemans, Lauren Bowen-Jones & Molly Barron) taking their Level 2 Coaching Badges so we will be well set for the Junior Season.

We had more Junior Players debuting in the Sunday Senior XI in season 2020 which was a great credit to our Junior Coaches and a fantastic boost to the future of our cricket club.

Junior & Senior Indoor Nets will continue at Wells Blue Sports Hall – Sunday Afternoons 2pm-3pm until Sunday 27th March.

Outdoor Senior Training to start on Thursday Evenings from 31st March (6pm).

Junior League games will start on Tuesday 26th April.

Senior League games will start on Sunday 1st May.

We had the Cricket Club AGM on Sunday 6th February which was well attended at Chilcompton Sports Club.

We were delighted to announce that the Cricket Club main sponsors will continue for 2022 - Parker Transport (SW) Ltd, PG Owen Ltd & Spectrum Form Design Ltd.

A Horse Racing Night will be held at the Sports Club on Friday 29th April from 7pm – This is the club's main fundraiser for 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

Feedback - Next Deadline August 19th

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: Malcolm Rigby, email: parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Chilcompton Sports Club Update

2021 again has been dominated by the COVID pandemic which has had an impact on our member sports and the general operation of our facilities.

We have been supported through this time by hard working volunteers from the Sports Club who have stepped up throughout the year to keep sport going in this covid world. We are always looking for new volunteers to help out and would welcome new people onto our Committee which meets once a month on the second Monday.

We also appreciate local Companies who have continued to Sponsor our Club on the playing side and through the pitch-side advertising system.

The continued lockdown periods have meant that the football season was not completed for the second year running which was a great shame.

The cricket season however went ahead to complete a full fixture list under very trying circumstances. A notable achievement was that the Saturday 1st XI achieved promotion to Division 4 of the Bristol & District league to join local sides like Timsbury for Season 2022. The Junior Cricket Section increased in numbers as the summer progressed with the U13s finishing the season doing the double over Midsomer Norton and now we will enter an U13 side in the Bath & District Youth Cricket League for Season 2022.

Netball & Tennis was also affected by the pandemic but continued to be played and we also welcomed a local Athletics club to use our sports facilities. So even though we experienced a second covid year we continued so be a multi-sport facility that the village can rightly be proud of.

During the lockdowns we had the challenge of putting in place all the government guidelines to make the facility safe and to ensure that we could open again which was an ever evolving task as the guidelines changed. We managed to open during the Euros to offer a safe environment to get together and cheer on England to the final.

Our chairman Tim Curtis would like to thank the trustees, coaches and volunteers who all contribute to make Chilcompton Sports an excellent Club.

Montsûrs' Gift

You might have seen a new weather vane on the sports pavilion. This was one of the gifts given to Chilcompton villagers by the people of Montsûrs. It was on the Sports Pavilion for several years and taken down when the club house was built, but it had deteriorated too much to be re-erected.

The parish council has bought a new one and thanks are due to councillor Alan Bowhay for organising its purchase and installing it.



The Egret

So elegant in flight. And yet a little awkward taking off. There were two this winter down the bottom of the village but they never seemed to get along. Someone said they must be a male and a female. Ha.



A cautious kingfisher.



What is this bird?

Someone said it might be a black-headed gull. Any ideas?



Photos by Pete Sinclair