

"let them eat cake"



*Special
Cake
Issue*



Coronation Village Events - See page 4

Welcome...

...to the 2023 Spring edition of Chilcompton Matters.

Is it just me or do you feel a little giddy about the prospect of spring when you see yellow flowers? (See page 29)

On a more sombre note this is the last magazine that Mike Hughes is going to desktop publish the contents and look after the advertising. Mike is retiring (again) much to the joy of his wife, who wants him back, fair enough. He has been fabulous in volunteering his services and really so much time over the last eight years.

He is modest and would be the first to say that he has always been learning and I would be the first to say that he has got really good. I suspect the magazine will still rely on him for supporting advice for some time to come. He has had to cope with a small growth of the magazine from about 20 pages to 60 odd pages. Thank you, Mike.

The good news is that Tracey Withers has come forward to take on his role. So great of her because otherwise the magazine might have died. She is very enthusiastic and up for it - extremely keen to keep a village institution alive.

To be honest, I was thinking of retiring too when Mike said he was going. But I can't. It's my baby. Ha, sorry. You've still got me. For a while.

This is the cake issue. Who would think so many people in Chilcompton bake cakes professionally? Anyone else who I haven't interviewed please contact me.

Ta so much for all the contributors and distributors et al who make this possible. You're the best. And you, the village, thank you for reading.

Bendice tu corazon (bless your heart)

Malcolm Rigby

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

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Coronation Events



The Parish Council are planning two events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6th May from 1pm

Coronation Teddy Bear's Picnic on the Old Rec, Chilcompton

Lots of fun for all the family

Bouncy castle, Games, Stalls & lots of activities & competitions

Bring your picnic and a rug

Everyone welcome

Monday 8th May from 2pm

Coronation Cream Tea at the Chilcompton Village Hall

Come and join us for a tasty cream tea, lots of music, singing and activities for all the family

Do you remember.....

.....the last coronation in June 1953?

The photo shows celebrations on the field to the rear and side of the old village hall, you can just see the hall above the girls' heads with the two semis to the right of the hall. Sylvia Rogers remembers the event where there was a tea party. Her granny lived in a cottage on Bowden Hill, so they were able to view the Coronation on television at Norton Hall Farm with Farmer Hodges' family. Sylvia said it was wonderful and unbelievable to watch moving pictures of the service.

Why not send us your memories/photos of the 1953 coronation for the next Chilcompton Matters.

Marlene Pickford
01761 232774



Water... No Water



In the early weeks of January...

Large quantities of rain led to flooding on Parsonage Lane.

This is not unusual. Par for the course. What was strange was that it took several weeks to clear. Somerset County Council Highways attended with a small jetter but failed to clear.

Residents from that area had a rough time during the first couple of months as there were also water works going on, a large tree being cut down and a wall falling onto the road after a storm. To escape the village, people were being forced to take a slippery Greenditch Lane to get out.

The future?

A CCTV survey is to be undertaken. Steve Palmer, SCC Assistant Highways Service Manager, said: "Once surveyed and cleared there may be some issues which will need to be repaired/upgraded within the Highway or there may be some issues on private land which will be for the landowner/riparian owner to resolve we will know better once the survey has been undertaken."

For one day at the end of January...

Chilcompton found itself waterless, closing the school and forcing residents to think about how to cope.

A large burst water main between Maesbury and Gurney Slade on Friday 27th January affected a series of villages.

Just after eight o'clock Bristol Water learnt about the problem, by half past nine the inspector and crew were on the site. At half eleven bottled water was being made available at the sports ground. By half past one the burst had been located and repair work began. Before four o'clock the work was complete and the water was back online at five.

Chris Chorley, headteacher of the school, said that they learnt about the news just before eight when some 'breakfast children' were already present. Parents were messaged just after eight, being told that the school could not operate for health and safety reasons. The gates were shut and by ten o'clock there were no children on the premises.

The following Wednesday was the teachers strike but the school was still operating in some manner.

Mendip Brass Band

The winter season began when Philip and grandson Toby played the last post at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day.

During December we played carols at two supermarkets, which was very sociable and we had good comments from customers, some of whom thought we were the Salvation Army! We also attended the switching on of Christmas lights at Shepton Mallet. It was very cold!

The band took part in three carol services at Radstock, Chilcompton and Ashwick churches and also outside Kilmersdon church one evening. Freezing!

On Christmas Eve afternoon we were playing carols around Chilcompton, which has become a tradition now, visiting The Redan, Co-op and the Somerset Wagon. For nearly 20 years we have played, "Happy Birthday" to a 'birthday boy' on the route; this year he and his family were at the Wagon so we played the birthday refrain for him again and he thanked us saying he was 5 when the band first gathered outside his house and he is now 23.

Band members all really enjoy playing and anyone would be welcome to join at any time.

Jenny Gould. 01761 232551



Mendip Community Transport

For information about current services and restrictions call:

01749 880613 or visit website: mendipcommunitytransport.co.uk

Table Tennis

There are table tennis tables available at the Village Hall. Would anyone like to start a club? Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Friday Club

Members and helpers sang carols before sitting down to their Christmas lunch at the Village Hall in December. Coffee, cake, a chat and a warm room is on offer for anyone to drop in at 10.30am on Fridays.

Marlene Pickford' 01761 232774

Wednesday Walkers

A group of 15 walked to the Horse and Jockey in Binegar for an enjoyable Christmas lunch in December. Regular walks continue locally and sometimes further afield, such as following the Greenway to Radstock. Join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month; meet at the village hall car park at 10.30am.

Marlene Pickford. 01761 232774.

Indoor Bowls

Two teams play short mat bowls every Thursday at 2pm at the Village Hall, although sometimes there are enough for four teams and two mats. Always enjoyable however many or few attend. Why not try it?

David Rogers. 01761 233142

Flower Show 2023

Are you crafty - love sewing, knitting, painting, flower arranging or photography?

Do you have a garden - with flowers, veg and fruit trees?

Do you bake - wonderful cakes and biscuits?

If you can say 'yes' to any of these questions, then you can enter some of the many classes in the Chilcompton Society Flower Show on Saturday 2nd September.

If you are unable or can't find the time to contribute to this traditional show that has been going for 44 years, maybe come along from 2.15pm. for the afternoon, marvel at the exhibits, see the prizewinners and enjoy tea and cake.

Oh! One more thing, please encourage your children to enter – there are eight classes to choose from.

You can collect schedules from David Rogers 01761 233142.

Feedback

What are your views on the magazine? The team that put it together is always looking for your comments, be they good or bad. Is there something missing? What could be done better? Please let us know. Contact the parish clerk, Malcolm Rigby, email: parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Next Deadline: 10th August 2023

History Corner

Arthur Creed Hambly, Artist 1900 – 1973 ~ Part One



Arthur Hambly was an eminent water colour artist, who spent a lot of time in Chilcompton and came here to retire in 1956. He was chiefly a landscape painter and etcher. He was born in Newton Abbott on 2nd November 1900 to Mary Sophia and Robert Hambly, the middle child of five children, his siblings being Margaret, Dorothy, Margery and Robert. He was educated at Kelly College, Tavistock and studied water colour painting at the School of Art, Newton Abbot for four years before studying at Bristol Municipal School of Art for a further two years, where he also gained his teaching diploma. After only a few months teaching

locally, he became Principal of the School of Art and Craft, Camborne and Redruth in Cornwall in 1926, where he stayed for 30 years.

In the 1930s Arthur taught Sven Berlin, who went on to become a notable and prolific sculptor. Sven said Arthur Hambly, 'taught me all I know'. When he read my booklet on Arthur's life, Sven wrote to me saying, "thank you for saving the memory of a great artist and splendid person complete in his values." In later years Arthur always went to see Sven's exhibitions.

During his time in Cornwall, as well as teaching and organising courses and evening classes, Arthur also taught primary school teachers, staged art exhibitions for Cornwall county council and was involved with the Workers' Educational Association. Indeed he was in charge of Art throughout the county. He was called upon to design church windows and a triptych as well as logos and emblems for magazines and various groups. Arthur used his talents with the Redruth Players; acting, scenery painting and stage make-up and was also a member of the local Operatic Society. He was a member of the Home Guard during the war years. At this time he had paintings accepted at the Royal West of England Academy at Bristol and the St Ives Society of Artists for Exhibition. His etchings were exhibited in Chicago in the 1920s and 1930s.

As time went on he exhibited at the Royal Academy and at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours. His paintings were inspired by the countryside in Cornwall, Devon, where his family had a cottage and where he spent some holidays and the New Forest, where a sister lived. Having met Rev. Lionel and Frances Greenway in Cornwall, Arthur became a regular visitor to Downside vicarage in Stockhill Road from 1944, when Lionel became the incumbent. >>

>> Some people will still remember his visits to Chilcompton.



◀ Chilcompton Layby ▲ 'Standstill', A Cornish tin mine

It was in 1956, that Arthur decided to take early retirement and live at the vicarage with his friends, in order to devote more time to painting. A fortunate choice for Chilcompton and its residents. Marlene Pickford.

Part Two in the next issue of Chilcompton Matters.

Trees Are Good

There has been talk about planting trees and bushes in the Old Rec. Everyone, obviously, wants more trees. However, the Parish Council sees the Old Rec as an area designated for leisure time.

So, a new sub-committee has been formed to look for areas of the village where trees could be planted but also look to see how the Rec could be further used for leisure and recreation activities. Ideas that have come forward already include adult exercise equipment and a boules pitch.

There are five Parish Councillors on the new sub-committee and four lay residents.

New Parish Councillor



My name is Martin Bown and am I married to Helen. We moved to Chilcompton on May 1st 2015 and live at 162 Stockhill Road having moved from Stoke St Michael where I farmed for 40 years.

We have 4 children and 8 grandchildren and they live in London, Cornwall, Bath and Melbourne. Our family all enjoy spending time in Chilcompton and one of the reasons I joined the Parish Council is to help preserve the quality of life that we are lucky enough to enjoy.

Email: martin.bown49@gmail.com

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Norton House,
High Street,
Midsomer Norton,
BA3 2DF

Chilcompton Village

Spring Litter pick

18/19th March



**General meeting where black bags are
available - Sunday 19th March from 9am at
the village hall**

Chilcompton Lives – Audrey Strawbridge



Audrey was born to Olive and Harry Horseman on 18th November 1931 at 12 Argyle Street, Eastville, Bristol. Audrey was conceived as one of a twin but unfortunately her Mum miscarried and her twin didn't survive. When Audrey was six years old Mum had Christine Ann who died of pneumonia at 16 days old. This was such a loss for the family. Audrey remembers nursing her. War came and the family decided not to have another baby.

Audrey went to Coombe Road Eastville School, passed the scholarship and then to Fairfield Grammar School. She was very happy there and had lots of friends. Mum and Dad did a lot of social work for the local Labour Party. Audrey learnt to dance at the weekly dances they ran, doing both modern and old time dance.



Audrey was a member of the Girls' Life Brigade and in later years became a Cadet Leader. When Audrey left school she worked in the Physiological Department at Bristol Mental Hospital. She learnt to do Histology and eventually had her own laboratory in Barrow Gurney. Audrey stayed 7 years there until she married and moved to Chilcompton. She met Dave, her husband to be, at St John's Church, Chilcompton. Dave was best man and Audrey was chief bridesmaid to her Godmother's youngest daughter, Jean Pugh. Dave and Audrey married 18 months later at Stapleton Church, Bristol. They had 4 children in 5 years - Cherry, Lauren, Bryony and Dominic.

Dave was a butcher in the family business in Bakers Lane. The couple lived at first in two rooms at Mrs Carter's in Bowden Hill while their house was being built further up the road behind the shop. When Audrey was bored, Dave got her stringing up sausages, making beefburgers, faggots and slicing ham. They lived in Chilcompton for 46 years until Dave was ill and they downsized to Priory Close, Midsomer Norton. They lived there for 15 years until Dave died in 2015. Audrey then moved to live with Lauren and her husband as they converted their house to accommodate her. Sadly Audrey's daughter Cherry died at 50 years of age. She had heart problems and it was such a loss to lose her.

Audrey passed her driving test before she was married and this was very helpful in the business as she could fill in during holidays delivering meat on the round. Audrey was in the school choir in Bristol and was a founder member of Chilcompton Ladies Choir with Den Hartley as conductor, and a member of other choirs.



She was a Teaching Assistant at Fossey School for four years while >>

>> Cherry was there. She also enjoyed helping Dave doing the research for his four books about Chilcompton. They went on walks around the village to discover old roads, chatted to many people to find out names on photographs and were lucky to research village history in the library at Longleat House.

When the butchers shop closed Audrey helped her friend Joy Church in her catering business. Dave and Audrey delivered 'Meals on Wheels', mainly at Coleford, for several years. Audrey also did some waitressing at the Court Hotel.

Audrey has two granddaughters who live in New Zealand and they now keep in touch regularly via Skype. Audrey was lucky enough to visit them in New Zealand 13 times.

Eastville was a very busy area with many shops, a football ground where Bristol Rovers played, a big railway station, a bus depot, mounted police horse station, two cinemas and a lovely park. One of Audrey's happy memories was when she went to Sunday School at Eastville Park Methodist. She had



to walk past her Grandad's house and he would always have a button hole of Lily of the Valley (when in season) to pin on her jacket. Another memory was with her friend, Valerie. They dressed up in their mum's hats, gloves and shoes, carried their handbags and were discovered walking up the road to feed the ducks at Eastville Park – they were 3 years old!

During the war the Americans posted at Frenchay would drive through Eastville looking for older girls and would throw bars of chocolate to the younger children.

Audrey was seven years old when war broke out. She can remember being very frightened. Her dad didn't want her to be evacuated so she stayed in the city. They started going to the air raid shelters but mostly slept on a mattress on the floor under their big dining room table. Her dad worked nights in a munitions factory so she was home alone with her mum. When she was in the 4th year at school they had to go potato picking on the farms because the labourers had gone to war.

Audrey's family had a touring caravan and met up with another family at Weston-super-Mare at weekends. They also spent happy camping holidays in Devon and Cornwall and then in a static caravan kept at The Retreat Caravan Park at Burnham on Sea. Most of the weekends and school summer holidays were spent there for 20 years. Cruising became Audrey's favourite type of holiday and she has been travelling the world on 105 cruises. Her favourite destinations are The Falkland Islands, Norway, Antarctica and the Arctic.

Thanks to Audrey and Lauren Strawbridge who provided the original text and photos.

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.

Obituaries

The following villagers have died since the last newsletter:

Frank Foxwell, Pat Brady, Cheryl Evans-Jones,
Rachel Carter (née Bevan), Bryan Raymond Ashman,
Pam James, Sally Sage, Chris Austin (former church warden),
Vera Beck, Jean Barnett, Mary Smith,
John Andrews, Terry Moore, Mary Turner,
Sylvia Burge, Dick Burge, Valerie Price

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

It is always a relief after the severe cold of December and then the torrential rain in January, to hear the woodpecker and see the snowdrops begin to appear in the churchyard in February. Perhaps Spring is just around the corner?

It was a delight to celebrate Christmas together once again with the church full of happy faces and with the support of Mendip Brass Band and Sing Your Heart Out to enjoy Carols by Candlelight. It was standing room only for St Vigor & St John's School Nativity Service and great fun was had by people of all ages who joined us for our Messy Nativity service the weekend before Christmas. Many of you noticed the star did not appear on the church tower this year and asked me why. The answer: sadly, when we came to put it up we found it unsafe and much in need of TLC due to several years of use in very exposed conditions. We are working on its renovation already and will hope for its return next December.

The winter has been a hard one for many families in the village and it is with sadness that we have held funerals for Chris Austin, Vera Beck, Sue Padfield, Mary Smith, Alan Denham, Colin Moger and Sylvia Burge. Our condolences go to each of these families and you remain in our prayers. The church and its grounds are peaceful places to sit and remember and the church is open every day during the hours of daylight. Everyone is welcome to pop in and enjoy a few moments of peace.

In spite of our sadness at the loss of these people from our community, we have also held celebrations of the more joyful landmarks in life. Congratulations go to Becky and Paul Mason who married on a beautiful day in October.

Babies continue to be born and to be baptised. Congratulations to the families of Jaxon McCreary, River Clarke, and Darcy Owen who have been baptised over the last few months. 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. We would be happy to help. >>

>> Midweek Groups always welcome new members: Bell Ringing continues on a Monday evening, Thursdays in term time Tea & Toast our Toddler group meet for a morning of play and chatter; and Lunch Club offer a light lunch in good company the third Thursday of each month.

For all up to date information of groups and activities please visit the website:

www.stvigorstjohn.church

Easter Services 2023

April 2nd Palm Sunday

10.30am, St John's

Holy Communion

April 6th Maundy Thursday

7.30pm, St John's

Holy Communion

April 7th Good Friday

11am, St Vigor's, Stratton on the Fosse.

Community reading of Mark's Gospel

1-2pm, St John's

Hour at the Cross

April 9th Easter Day

6am, St John's - Sunrise Service

9am, St Vigor's - Holy Communion

10.30am, St John's - Holy Communion

The regular pattern of services for both churches is as follows:

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:

www.stvigorstjohn.church





Homemade French inspired bakes

POSTAL BOXES AND LOCAL COLLECTION
FROM CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET

Brownies & Bakes

Anne-Claude was born and raised in France coming over to the UK to study for her masters and work in London. Whilst working she met her English partner Toby and after a number of years in the bustle of London they felt that a change of scenery was what was needed. Their search pulled them to beautiful rural Somerset and they set up home in Chilcompton finding the right amenities within walking distance of their potential new home and a community which was very welcoming to them and their young family, Anne-Claude said 'it felt right.' They have now been in the village for six years and have six children ranging from two to twelve attending the local nursery and school.

During the difficult time of lockdown she used baking and cooking to lift her spirits producing wonderful pasta, bread and cakes. She started to film her activities in the kitchen daily which included highlighting the art of feeding a family of eight for her Instagram account @mamaninthecuisine.

A French childhood included eating together and was a fundamental key to family life one which is now an essential part of her own family life. She stresses the importance of buying 'small and local' and the importance of good quality healthy meals and how to utilize any leftovers giving simple easy to follow instruction and producing tasty meals. The Instagram posts are full of great tips and useful recipe ideas. The proof of how popular her posts are becoming is that since launching in June 2022 she now has over 2000 followers and a growing audience. She is warm and friendly with a wealth of knowledge on food, cooking and baking all with a French flavor.

The Maman in the Cuisine's post bake idea evolved from wanting 'a nice gift from the heart for a dear friend'. Settling on some homemade goodies she decided to research post bakes and her passion for baking was re-ignited, as a child she had baked with her mother and enjoyed the process and it had given her much joy. Going back to her roots she researched a very French style of baking using authentic, good quality ingredients and traditional French flavors in order to bring the French inspired bakes to the market which are not available locally.

Some of her most popular bakes are:-

- Salted caramel brownies made with Brittany French salt and topped with French biscuits
- Financiers a small light French traditional almond cake, choose from orange blossom, lime and coconut or coffee and walnut
- Blondies made with Bonne Maman jam and topped with French biscuits
- Nutella stuffed cookies
- M & M's nut and seeds bars
- Cinnamon buns

>>

>> There are many more seasonal treats; watch out for these on her Instagram page: @mamaninthecuisine or Facebook page @mamaninthecuisine.



What does the future hold for Maman in the Cuisine? Anne-Claude says for her Instagram journey she 'wants to stay focused on preparation of good quality food which is easy to prepare and healthy highlighting no stress cooking as well as developing new French inspired products for all occasions'. She is looking forward to lots of shopping visits to France to visit family and friends bringing back new ideas and lots of shopping!

Regarding her post bake concept she wants to keep baking and evolving bringing lots of new and different ideas to the table. Putting her heart and love into what she produces, taking her time as she does not want to lose that personal element, it's what drives her amazing concept.

Anne-Claude has a 5 star FSA rating. Her passion shines through what she loves to produce for the table, her Instagram posts are interesting and uplifting and I can certainly vouch for her bakes, especially the orange blossom Financiers and blondies they are delicious!

Orders can be placed for her post bakes via 07912 648 240 or via Instagram, email, Facebook.



Tracey Withers

Get in touch and give me a follow!

For more information on what to order and how...

Instagram @mamaninthecuisine

Facebook @mamaninthecuisine

Email mamaninthecuisine@gmail.com

Phone 07912 648240

Merci

New Parish Councillor



I am Sue Manley an Architect by training, although the last 25 years have been running my own business working in the public realm and environmental graphic design. I am now semi-retired and moved to Chilcompton with my husband Mick Timpson who is a meditation teacher, in November 2021 to build our new Eco house.

Having lived most of my adult life in cities, in London and Manchester, I have always taken an interest in my community, I am now enjoying village life and looking forward to help keeping this lovely village a wonderful place to live.

I can be contacted on: 07843488235 or email: sue.manley@chilcompton.org

How to be... a philosopher

Of course, in a very real sense we are all philosophers, we all think about stuff.

It may not be analytical Oxford philosophy and the analysis of language and the meaning of getting two copies of the same newspaper (Wittgenstein), it may not be about the greatest good (John Stuart Mill), it maybe should I dump Damien tomorrow or leave it a couple of months (my daughter told me that she didn't dump her Pilton boyfriend until she had got a free Glastonbury ticket), or it maybe should I have another hamburger this weekend?

Philosophy is just thinking, or, more accurately, is just doubting.

There was this thing I was told about a writer, how he/she never stares inanely out of the window in the morning. Why? Because then he/she would have nothing to do in the afternoon.

The same applies to think that it is boring philosopher is very became a fan of the Empiricist, David Hume. girlfriend, when she (that was exciting), said bloke that you have so

My wife now tells me that I use the word 'probably' too much. And I probably do.

philosophy. But don't and easy. Being a stressful. Early on I 17th century British My wife, then my came to my bedroom who is this 'Hum' many books about?

I explained to her about how he put forward the theory that there were analytical truths, things that were true by definition, like six plus five equals eleven, and then there was stuff that was only empirically true, probably true. He said that you may have climbed the stairs to the first floor but how do you know the stairs are still going to be there when you go back down. You may fall into an abyss, that is very worrying. And then I kissed her. That was a very 'Beach Boys' moment.

Then there was Descartes. I think therefore I am. He never really got beyond that. Trust me, don't bother reading. Or doubt me.

My wife now tells me that I use the word 'probably' too much. And I probably do. But when I go back to the stairs they may be still there but they may be not. I like maths because it is true by definition and I like fiction because it is untrue by definition. I tutor maths and I write novels. But I am also a journalist who writes, by definition, stuff that is probably true. Kind of unhappy with that. So I kind of write what they call in the trade 'fluff'. Fluff is ironic. Fluff is falsities masquerading, in fancy dress, as truisms. Like this.

A friend recently asked me what I wanted to do, growing up and now, I told her a clown, a sweet shop owner, a footballer. In actual fact I've been a washer-upper, a turkey plucker (only lasted about 15 minutes), a student on a ridiculous number of occasions, a film researcher, a journalist, a novelist, a maths tutor and a parish >>

>> clerk. But I've always been a philosopher, which I studied before and after university. I stare inanely out of the window looking for some secret of life that I can talk about.

But philosophy is not about studying, it is about a state of mind, apparently the French philosopher, Albert Camus (who played in goal for Algeria), said that you should wake up every morning and question your life.

Questioning is very important. Once it is in your blood you never believe a politician, random phone calls or an advert. If you're doubting whether the stairs still exist, are you really going to believe in carpet cleaner adverts or the fiscal policy of Liz Truss. Incidentally she was born in the same street that I lived in at the same time. Really, Liz Truss is not my love child – that is an analytical truth. Probably.

So the key to philosophy is doubting, questioning your beliefs, where do they come from? My mother told me to add a drop of milk into your baked beans. I still do that. Little culinary tip there, takes the tinny taste away. But as I've said before she also told me to use only two pieces of toilet paper to wipe my bum. I don't do that.

So, you doubt, you question the sources of your beliefs and you say 'probably' a lot. Probably I cut the grass. Probably I put the bin out. Probably I made the bed. Probably I will die. You get the idea. Probably.

Malcolm Rigby.

Next time: How to be...Old and Cool

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Messy Church

Messy Church at St John's Church in Chilcompton is as popular as ever with families of all ages joining in and having fun.

If you've never been, then come with an open mind and be prepared to be surprised.

Messy church is church, but not as you know it! It's been happening in this country since 2004. It's now happening worldwide. It's relaxed and informal and welcomes children and families of all ages.

We meet monthly at 3pm on Sunday afternoons in St John's church hall Chilcompton. Each month we explore a bible theme through activities, indoors, and outdoors. There are always arts and crafts, games, stories, and fun. Activity time is followed by family friendly worship then we sit down and eat together.

This is a free activity.

For dates of all future events please visit our website.

www.stvigorstjohn.church



Then & Now



Stockhill Road

“She Comes in Colours Everywhere”

Malcolm Rigby talks to Chilcompton-based singer-songwriter, Helena, about her life as a travelling minstrel, the joy of singing/dancing and the influence of her musical family

When she comes to the door for the interview dressed in her bright rainbow trousers, I say, “wow, you look colourful.” And she replies, “I try my best.”



Helena has lived in the village for 26 years and has appeared in performances here literally scores of times, as well as across the country and abroad, and on television and radio. So, the chances are that if you are a permanent resident you will have seen her sing.

It may even have been at ‘Chilcompton Celebrates!’, our village music/fun day that ran for several years. She was one of the driving forces behind it and is “very proud” to have been part of something that raised £25,000 for village causes over the course of its lifetime.



“I always wanted to be a singer,” she says. “There is photographic evidence, a photo of me at my third birthday party. I was already singing at age three. And I do remember walking round the garden making up songs for the flowers.” One of these early songs (that she still remembers) was written when she was six and rumour has it that she can be cajoled to sing it every now and then.

As a solo artist and lead singer in bands she has produced eleven albums, mainly of her own material. She still does gigs and loves it but says: “My realisation since Covid is that my job is to create joy. And singing and leading people in song and dance brings joy to all of us. I always feel much better after leading people in song. In lockdown I started doing online workshops, and realised people needed cheering up. I’m about spreading joy now. A good gig is still a good gig and gives me a buzz and it’s lovely to see the audience clap and cheer. But I have been doing it for many years now...since my teens.”

In 1974 her very musical family moved from Buckinghamshire to Holcombe, Somerset. They would perform concerts around local churches and care homes, Helena, aged six, on ukulele and singing harmonies with her three sisters. Her mother is >>

>> an organist, flautist and choir leader, her father a trumpeter and horn player. He's only just stopped playing for his brass band and her mother, at the age of 87, played for 10 carol services in the week before last Christmas! All the girls were taught piano by her from age six and then given the opportunity to choose another instrument when they were eight.

That's when Helena got her first guitar. Now she has six, a mandolin, a mandola, flageolets, recorders, melodicas and a keyboard. Does she have a favourite guitar? "Oh yes, I've got my baby, she's been with me since 1988. She was nearly £700 then. I put a deposit down on the day I fell in love with her, then paid for her in instalments with gig money over the next few months."

Her first paid gig was when she was just 16 and doing O'levels. Any regrets? "No. People said why didn't you go to university, what a waste of a brain, but I just didn't want to. I wanted to sing. I wasn't academic I could just learn stuff really quickly. A year later I had a flat, a car, a rock band, gigs; why would I leave that and go and stay in a dorm and study?"



When I ask what are the highpoints of her career she has no hesitation in replying: Playing main stage at Glastonbury in 1995. Having a hit in the charts in 2005. Playing live on BBC 1 with over 10 million viewers. Playing live on the 'Late, Late Show' in Dublin. Having her single played by Johnny Walker on Radio 2.

The chart hit was 'We Laughed', a charity single written by Billy Bragg, and arranged and performed by Helena and a "very talented group of Dorset based musicians", who Billy brought together for the project. It was a very heart-warming uplifting song..."a sad but happy song" which reached number 11 in the main charts, No 2 in the Amazon charts, and raised thousands for the charity 'Rosetta Life' (after whom the band was named).

A consequence of this number is that she almost made it to Top of the Pops, pipped at the last moment by the Eurythmics. It also resulted in the band gigging around the country, performing on national TV and radio and appearing in the national press – a very exciting time.

Certainly, what people might not know is that Helena has been a television presenter. She wrote and performed the theme tune for a Bargain Hunt type programme for HTV called 'Beat The Dealer' Then on a whim, auditioned for the role of presenter and nailed it, presenting 13 shows.

>>



>> She says: "I haven't gone back to TV presentation but I would be more than happy to, because I loved it."



In recent years Helena has had health issues, and was forced to take a break in 2019 after brain surgery to remove a tumour, followed by the enforced break of lockdown.

She said she found it easier to come back from brain surgery than she might have done had she not gone through the experience of recovering from a stroke ten years before, just weeks after her wedding.

"After my stroke I had some very dark times; anxiety, depression and panic-attacks. I lost the joy of performing.

"Someone invited me to a singing workshop, I was very nervous, I was still giggling but I had had four years of not enjoying it. I just lost the joy. Going to a singing workshop and being part of a group of people and making a wonderful sound I found very therapeutic and I remember looking at the singing workshop leader and thinking I'd like to do that. My head filled up with an enormous amount of songs I wanted to teach. I got together a group of friends in the village to teach the songs to, and from there it went on in leaps and bounds. As I got more energy I started to do it more often.

"Participating in dance workshops and singing workshops changed my life, certainly saved my mental health. I am now a qualified dance leader. I do gig still but I've gone off in these other directions. I'm happy to gig but my passion now is creating this joy I see when people dance together and when people sing together - there is a sense of community. Even in a big crowd at a gig there is a communal feeling, there is a magic of communal experience. That's what you get."

Comparing being in a band to being solo, she says being in a band is brilliant when the gig goes well: "Particularly when I can put my guitar down and strut my stuff on stage. But if you make a mistake then you feel you've let people down whereas when you are solo you can improvise."

She adds: "I've been called a folk singer all my life but I have always been a rock chick too....."

To see videos of Helena type in Helena Softley Eden into You Tube, or check out her Face book page (Helena Softley) or website www.helenasoftley.com, where upcoming events are also listed.

Look out for a gig in the newly refurbished town hall in Midsomer Norton when it re-opens, where she will be performing with professional Magician and 'CADS' favourite Peter Clifford

Next Fun Singing Workshop - Sat March 18th 2- 3.30pm at The Hive Peasedown St John
Next Fun Dancing Workshop – Sat March 25th 2- 3.30pm at Chilcompton Village Hall



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Parish Nurse

Hello Chilcompton. In case you were not aware, Parish Nursing Ministries supports a PN service from St John's and St Vigor's. This service is for the local community as well as the Church related family. As we all are well aware, the NHS and Social Care are being increasingly challenged by demand and workforce issues; meaning an increasing involvement of neighbourhood schemes, community, charity and social enterprise provision of services and support.

Parish nurses, too, are part of plugging the gaps, in the form of free confidential support and guidance. I am available by email, phone, or can be found at Tea and Toast at St John's Church Hall on most Thursday mornings. Looking forward to meeting you.

Sarah Crosse csarah150@yahoo.co.uk 01761412042 07535696264

Chilcompton Wives

We decided that through the winter months we would continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.15p.m. I think we made the right decision with the weather as it was. We enjoyed the social afternoons, with just a Tea and Chat. Wendy took us down memory lane with stories that led to an afternoon of others bringing in their memories and memorabilia. Can you remember Bayer's Lingerie factory? We had the Representative's miniature samples brought in to display. Were you a Sindy or Barbie doll person, or like Wendy's Teddy that survived a London air raid, and was purchased from Woolworths with no cash exchanging hands! These moments led to lively discussions enjoyed by all.

The next few months will bring speakers from Authors to Basket weavers, you are most welcome to join us at the Sports Recreation ground. For more details ring Bridget Brookbank on 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans on 01761 233266.

The English Garden

Our peace grown in rows
and tranquillity borders
the well clipped grass.
Sunlight shields the twilight
rent by the black arrow sped.
Natures' warning cry to fly!
There is danger here and all obey
in their way. Nature never lies.
And death daily creeps
through the budding growth
sowing slow decay.
Embracing the cold stir
of the falling blossom.

Mow the lawn, clip the border.
Let the snake loiter in the bracken.
Enjoy the fruit – Eat it all.
The knowledge and the power.
And God walks through the garden
in the cool of the day.
Death has come to stay.

By Andrew Morris



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The Joy of Baking

The love of cake making is something that Gill Connell inherited from her mother. She had always intended to go into the baking business but sadly died when she was just 51 and Gill was 16.



So Gill picked up her mother's equipment and started making cakes for friends' birthdays, then it just escalated.

She said: "It was a few years ago, back in 2019, I thought you know what let's just try it as a business and see what happens. I'm a nurse as well so I can't do it full-time. I do it when I've got time. But it did so much better than I thought it was going to do."

"Lockdown happened and I sold so many boxes of brownies, to be posted out, that I had chocolate coming out my ears for weeks and weeks and weeks."

"I love making cakes for people, just seeing the joy on people's faces. When you give them a cake and you get good feedback. It's always nice to give the gift of a cake, isn't it?"

Gilly's Cakery was born and now she has wedding and birthday cake orders for more than a year ahead.

Good word of mouth is enough to keep the trade going. She is lucky to have two kitchens so that she can devote one to the cakery and when it comes to testing and tasting she is fortunate to have husband, David, as a guinea pig in the house.

Her four year old daughter, Emelia, can now pretty much make a cake on her own so those cake-making genes are still working. >>



>> Gill is still a paediatric nurse, albeit on maternity leave, but she would prefer to give up nursing for the cakes as she can fit school and nursery times better around the baking.

A possible claim to fame is that she got through to the tasting round in Bake Off 2016. She said: “It was the most nerve wracking thing I have ever done in my entire life. After that I thought, they said they liked my cake, I don’t really need to go on television to be told someone likes my cake.”

Perhaps the most unusual cake she has made is an Earl Grey one. But either the raspberry and white chocolate one or the elderflower and lemon cake are the most



popular. Her whisky flavoured brownies are revered as are her afternoon tea boxes.

Gill said: “Covid has definitely affected our cake eating habits. You had nothing to look forward to, it was a simple sweet treat pleasure.”

The joy of cakes.

Gill can be contacted on 07717172589

Malcolm Rigby

Nautical Error

On the front cover of the last issue of Chilcompton Matters it was stated that the Union Jack was raised and lowered to half mast when the queen died.

In fact, as several nautical people observed, including my naval architect son, the Union Jack is only so called at sea. On land it is the Union Flag.

There you go. Everyday is a school day.

Bulbs Around the Village

Over recent weeks you may have discovered pockets of colour around Chilcompton that you did not know were there.

The idea is the brainchild of resident Doug Workman, he wrote to the Parish Council saying wouldn’t it be nice to have pretty flowers around the edges of the village.

The PC thought it was a great scheme and bought 25kg of bulbs. Loads of daffodils.

Doug then duly planted them all, over a weekend last year. What a good man.



Travels on the 174

You may or may not have noticed, but Chilcompton has another bus service. Just before Christmas last year we clocked a bus coming up through the lower part of the village on a Sunday. How could that be? Chilcompton is off the bus route on a Sunday. Without thinking to glance at the number, we just assumed it was a dummy run with a trainee driver being put through his paces on a quiet Sunday.

But the next Sunday my next door neighbour reported it again. I thought he was hallucinating. After all, dear old Des Mattick, former long standing parish councillor, was proud to boast many years ago that Chilcompton had 24 buses a week (it's actually increased since Des's days). Just never on a Sunday and only one service.

However, on the third Sunday, there it was again... but bearing a different number than our usual service. I have since discovered that Chilcompton now is on 2 bus routes, not one. So we now have the long standing 173 that travels from Wells to Bath and back again, AND the 174 that has been given a special route on a Sunday just so Chilcompton is no longer off the map on Sundays and has a 7 day bus service.

Normally the 174 travels from Wells to Bath, but on a slightly different route to the 173. However, on a Sunday it follows a slightly different route again. So during the week it goes Wells to Shepton, on to Oakhill, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and then on to Bath, completely missing out Chilcompton. But on Sundays we are blessed – which is basically the idea of the Sabbath I believe - because the powers that be at First Bus decided to include a little detour so that Chilcompton would finally be on the map on a Sunday as well. So instead of going Stratton, Midsomer Norton, on a Sunday it goes Stratton, CHILCOMPTON, Midsomer Norton, and vice versa. Sorry, am I sounding a bit like a train spotter? But really, you couldn't possibly conceal our excitement.

You see, we are dog walkers, and after you've walked one way, and found a café for coffee and cakes, well, it can be a bit of a drag to ruin it all by having to walk back again. Especially as Midsomer Norton to Chilcompton is uphill, as opposed to Chilcompton to Midsomer Norton being downhill. Yes I know got that train spotter edge again. So now, all thanks to the 174, we don't! We walk to Midsomer Norton via that fantastic walk all along the railway line, and down to Costa's for coffee and cake. Once replete, we used to have to drag ourselves back up that hill. But not anymore! Instead, we hop on the 174 to Chilcompton home again with doggo in tow. To say it's made his Sunday is no exaggeration; he is very much enjoying his free rides courtesy of First Bus.

A spokesperson from First West of England explained: "We have decided to trial diverting the 174 Sunday service via Chilcompton following customer feedback. We are always keen to try new opportunities to encourage more people to use our services."

Des would be so chuffed.

Please note, the spokesperson said 'trial'. As I write, cuts to forty two West of England bus services have just been announced - several just one mile down the road in Midsomer Norton. Sadly some of these are even on well used routes, with driver shortages exacerbating lack of funding. So the same old adage applies: Use it or lose it. So join me on a walk or two via these pages. I have detailed two potential walks around the 174 timetable, one to Midsomer Norton, the second being to >>

>>> Shepton Mallet and another wonderful café in the market square. Again, walking home is uphill. Not for us. We catch the 174. The idea of these walks is to encourage the use of the 174 by going one way on the bus, so if you can think of any other one way walks, please share them in the next issue of 'Chilcompton Matters', and let's together build up a collection of one way walks that maintains the bus services for our village. Turn to page 35 for Walk No.1 and page 58 for Walk No.2.

Her up the hill

New Community Support Group

How are you feeling in your life these days? How are you dealing with challenges, in your family, relationships, finances, your health, business, the world about you? Are you experiencing worry, anxiety, pain, stress or exhaustion in any areas of life? Would you like some help and support to be able to feel better, more happy and free?

I'm Kathy Hughes. I have been working in the area of wellbeing for many years. I'm passionate about learning and helping myself and others to navigate life challenges and make positive change. It is my dream to grow a community of like-minded people for mutual support, for sharing of ideas and tools that help us all as we navigate our challenging lives, for like-minded friendship and community.

Soon, I hope to start running some 8-week certificated Community Energy Healer courses to teach anyone simple, extraordinary skills, to manage modern life in new ways.

I look forward to sharing more information about this.

Please contact me on: 01761 569863 or 07818 298508

Kathy Hughes

New Faces – Emma Glover

So, we are a family of five, myself and my husband Chris, and our three boys Oliver, Harrison and Finley. We moved to the village in December 2021. We were living in Frome in a lovely home which our children had all grown up in, but we were rapidly growing out of the house (bungalows and three boys do not match) so we decided to start looking for a larger property. Frome wasn't really offering us what we wanted anymore so we started looking outside of the area, and as we have family in Frome, but also in Bristol, we felt Chilcompton was a perfect choice for us.



We viewed a beautiful property and fell in love immediately, it was in such a quiet location, the house was perfect size and we just felt welcomed immediately.

A few reasons we love being in Chilcompton are the closeness to Bristol, Bath and Frome (our children still school there for now), but also the quietness with being in a village location. We're hoping to be able to stay here for the foreseeable and move our children to local schools. Our neighbours are lovely and have welcomed us all in so well and the countryside on our doorstep just make this beautiful village everything we had hoped for.

Emma Glover

Canine Cakes

Although there are several professional cake-makers in the village there is only one that cooks the delights specifically for dogs.

Vicky Rough has been running Four Legged Fancies for 12 years now, initially in Bath and for the last six years in Chilcompton.



So, what's the difference between a human cake and a dog cake? Vicky said: "A human cake you would use normal flour, chocolate, raisins, butter, sugar, all the good stuff. A doggy cake we use gluten free flour because they can't digest high levels of wheat, so we're a wheat free bakery, really good for delicate tummies and instead of mixing it with all those things we mix it with, we use meat, sausages, cheese, savoury things really; sometimes we use peanut butter, but we use a dog-friendly peanut butter – that's a very popular flavour. We don't use sugar, butter, colour, salt, preservatives, anything like what the people-cakes are about."

She made her name through visiting agricultural shows, food festivals, country fairs and dog shows. Now she is well-known throughout the south west. Though through mail order she will deliver from Fife to Penzance. "We would do three agricultural shows a month, you've got to get out there, get your name known."

The bakery is an out-building with two large industrial ovens, what she calls her 'spaceships', workhorses that are designed to be on all day every day.

Curiously she does not have a dog herself, largely because she used to foster kittens and now she has a small baby. But she grew up with dogs, training guide dogs and later search dogs. Moreover she has enough friends and family in the vicinity who do have dogs that can operate as new recipe tasters.

Does she like to make cakes for herself? "I do. I like to make them and I like to make them beautiful. I do have a bit of a passion for it but I don't have a very sweet tooth. My husband does so I'm happy to make them all day long. I'd prefer to have something savoury but I really like making things beautiful. I used to work in a chocolate shop in Bath and I used to hand make truffles and chocolate and fudge



and things like that. I've got a chocolaterie background.

"The cakes are designed to be very beautiful, very eye-catching, they're not your run-of-the-mill cakes...quite fancy."

Doggy cup cakes cost about £1.50 and a doggy birthday cake varies from £20 to the £40 two tiered 'showstopper' with icing, dripping and macaroons.

Vicky is particularly proud of her eco-friendly packaging – everything is compostable.

Vicky can be contacted on 07722 646347 **Malcolm Rigby**

Fundraising to support the new Chilcompton Youth Club

We believe in the value for young people in our community to be able to choose to have a safe and fun environment of open access activities for them within their village.

Youth Connect southwest have started a weekly youth club in the village hall at Chilcompton and have approached the Parish Council for help with funding.

Youth Connect South West was originally an in-house B&NES Council service. The roots of the organisation come from two places; Youth Services, which have always been operated by Local Authorities, and the Careers guidance service known as Connexions. These services were merged to become an Early Help Targeted service and after a few years and changes in budget, the Council could no longer afford to run the Youth Service. The staff felt passionate about the youth centres and the young people that attend them. They are well aware of how much of a difference these safe places make to young people's lives, so they set up an independent organisation 'Youth Connect South West', and the organisation operates as a registered charity.

The Parish Council want to encourage local young people to relax, engage with peers and enjoy a range of free activities aimed at them, as we value the difference this can make to young people, to empower them and give them a voice. Numbers of participants are growing and below are some examples of what they have been doing.

The range of activities currently ongoing at Chilcompton will cost in the region of £9000 per year, and we would like to see if we could find funding to support it for 3 years. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the first 6 months of this, and so we are looking to get additional sponsorship and donations from local business and individuals located in the Parish.



CHILCOMPTON

The young people had the opportunity to go to Weston-Super-Mare to see the Sea Monster, which is an eco art installation, the monster from the sea, which looks at renewable energy. The group have been making music with bath festivals and they have been looping, writing lyrics, and building drums.

During the Christmas period, the group went on a trip to Clarks Village to go ice skating and enjoyed the festive environment.

www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk/chilcompton

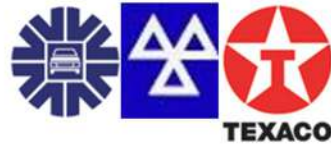
Will you be willing to help with this fund raising?

We will be able to include your logo or details if you would like this sponsorship recognised, on any leaflets, website, social media and publicity about the youth club.

We hope you are able to support this valuable charitable work for the young people in our Parish. We would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Please contact us at sue.manley@chilcompton.org

Jon, Lesley, Sue On behalf of Chilcompton Parish Council



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Travels on the 174 - Walk No.1

WALK 1: Chilcompton to Midsomer Norton Approx 2 miles, 40-60 minutes depending on pace. Generally flat other than accessing the railway line initially. Steps in the Nature Reserve. OS Explorer map (orange) 142.

Access the Chilcompton section of the railway line via the steps beside the bridge on Fry's Well. Walk all the way along to Tunnel Lane, turn right up to the summit, and go through the 5 bar gate on the left at the top. Go over the stile, staying right of the old pillbox and the hedge that goes down through the middle of the field. Be aware that this field can have cows in it, especially in the warmer weather, so please take particular care if you are walking with a dog. At the bottom of the field go over the stile where you meet the railhead of the Somerset and Dorset Heritage Line coming up from Midsomer Norton, with its very own puffing billy to accompany you - and I am sure bone fide train spotters on board and indeed afoot on the path! No chance of getting lost now, as you follow the line all the way along and into the field at the end and down into Silver Street Nature Reserve. Follow the path through the Reserve, around to the right and up the slope onto Silver Street just below Midsomer Norton South station at the top of Midsomer Norton. Cross over the road via the Pelican Crossing. You now have a choice. You can either go straight downhill to the traffic lights at the centre of town, cross the road, turn right along the pavement by the barbers, cross the slip road that comes out of Sainsbury, and follow the pavement to the gardens in front of Sainsbury and the steps on the left that lead up to Costa. OR you can take the cycle path straight across at the Pelican Crossing as you come out of the Reserve, follow the main path turning left by a gate/wall, down into town. At the High Street, cross the road and head left, round the path by Dorothy House and then up to Sainsbury's and Costa. Dogs *not* welcome inside Costa but usually there is plenty of seating outside. The 174 goes from the Island at approx. quarter to the hour.

<https://bustimes.org/services/174-wells-midsomer-norton-bath-city-centre>

Her up the hill

New Parish Councillor



I am Donna Simmons, I have lived in Somerset for most of my life and moved to Chilcompton in April 2011 with my wife Sandy and our dog Neve, we became part of the community very quickly. We have walked for miles, taking in hours of country fields, following village pathways and enjoying valley walks. We were so grateful for Chilcompton during covid, the open spaces and the best sky (always look up). Chilcompton, has a diversity of people, great architecture of old and new buildings, all the amenities you require and growing local businesses. I have interests in health and well-being, growing our infrastructure to accommodate new builds, environmental and green projects.

Looking to support our community with the challenges and changes required to keep Chilcompton a beautiful thriving village for all.

Tel: 07985 212960 Email: donna.simmons@chilcompton.org

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Knobs and Knockers

My friends, the ones with a childish sense of sexual innuendo, have been telling me for years that I should do a 'knobs and knockers' page. So here it is. How many do you recognise?

Such an array of animals. My favourite is The Holy Cow. Can you spot it? More next time, you haven't seen mine yet, ooh you are awful.



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Council Matters

Welcome to Parish Council section of the latest village magazine.

At the time of writing one of the biggest talking points for the Parish Council is the Old Recreation field at the bottom of the village. We were approached before Christmas with a proposal to plant trees in the rec on some of the existing open field area; these trees would be fully funded through grants. As many of you will know the rec was bequeathed to the village over a century ago as a recreational space and is much loved by villagers. Given this status, the parish council felt that we should consult with villagers before making any decision and asked for views by the village website and social media platforms. This had resulted in one of the biggest responses from the public for any consultation, with views both for and against the proposal received. This resulted in a discussion at our January meeting where a large number of parishioners attended and expressed those views very passionately, not just regarding the possible planting of trees but also other possible changes that could be made to enhance the rec. It became evident that a decision could not, indeed given the significance of the rec, should not be made quickly, instead, any changes would need to be considered fully and carefully. Therefore, a subcommittee was formed to consider possible change, this comprises of both parish councillors and villagers. Their brief is to consider possible changes to the rec as to what, if any, changes are needed to make the facility even better for the village, this will include the possibility of planting trees at the rec but also other areas in the village where this could happen. One view that was clearly expressed from many at the meeting is that we would like to see more trees in the village, not least for the sound environmental reasons. The subcommittee will start its work shortly, therefore if you have any ideas of what you would like to see at the rec, this would include any facilities/equipment. Or if you have ideas of areas where tree planting could take place. Or if you are a land owner who has some land where we could plant trees. Please contact the parish clerk. The subcommittee go into this with very open minds, although of course not everything can be accommodated. One thing that has become apparent through this episode is the importance of the Old Rec to very many people in the village and what a very special site it is.

Another area that has been on our radar in recent months is the mobile Youth Club that operates at the Village Hall on a Wednesday evening. The club is run by Youth Connect South West and has been operating for a number of months and in that time has developed a very loyal following among young people in the village, demonstrated by attendances even in the very cold weather in January. The initial months of the Youth Club van was funded through YCSW but this was finite and with no new funding would have seen the van close its doors for good at the end of the year. YCSW approached the Parish Council regarding funding at the end of the year. As a Parish Council we were keen to keep this facility open in the village, as a result we have found sufficient money to keep the van open until summer. However we want this to be a longer term offer and are looking to explore other funding avenues to facilitate this. My colleague Sue will write more about this in the magazine and how you can help.

As well as these exciting projects we are also exploring possible ways of celebrating the Coronation in May. Village celebrations for whatever the occasion always seem to be well received.

Jonathan Pike



Photos from My Garden

- Insects, Wasps & Bees

As well as a plethora of bird and mammal species that we are fortunate enough to have visit our Chilcompton gardens, we often happen across odd-looking bugs, beetles, etc. too. The exotic little things we sometimes spot from the goings on in the insect world can be quite amazing.

Looking through my garden photos for this article, I was surprised at just how many different species and interesting behaviours I had actually accumulated. However, for this issue I am just concentrating on the Bees and Wasps.

Common wasps just get on with their business and, with caution, are generally quite harmless. That is, of course, until late summer when they become desperate for sweet foods. They then become quite annoying when buzzing around our dinner plate or flying in a bit too close for comfort. Nonetheless, the common wasp is a great predator of garden bugs and a very important pollinator. It can also perform some amazing antics that we are sometimes fortunate enough to observe. The photograph of the wasp 'ball' on the bird table shows how the males will clamour around a future queen in order to mate with her. They will scrum into the ball hoping to eject other males that are in the centre. Quite a spectacle with more joining the ball all the time.

The photo that shows a small part of a wasps nest also shows how miraculous nature can be. This one, removed from our bathroom extractor fan, shows how each egg chamber layer is separated from the next with little pillars. A real architectural achievement that allows access to feed the pupae and for the new young wasps to escape the nest once mature.

Some wasps are predatory and do not look like wasps at all. The smaller of the two here is the Gasteruption Jaculator Wasp, sometimes referred to as the Carrot Wasp as it is partial to the pollen of plants from the carrot family. Moreover - it's easier to say! The photo of the larger one of the two, with the white spotty abdomen, is the Rhyssa Persuasoria Parasite Wasp. This is one of the largest wasps in Europe. The female can reach up to 40mm in body length, plus the same again with the ovipositor. This wasp is much rarer in our gardens and more commonly found in wooded areas. Luckily, Chilcompton residents are quite likely to see one or more of these very strange looking gangly predatory wasps. The females are very devilish in seeking out solitary wasps or bees nesting holes. Using their ovipositor they inject an egg into each unsuspecting pupa. This enables their own pupa to feed off the host. Nice.

I am fortunate enough to have an annual colony of Masonry Bees in my greenhouse. I love watching them. The staging is of upcycled wood containing numerous large nail holes. The Masonry Bees absolutely love these and nest in them every year. They deposit eggs deep inside the wood, each one cocooned inside its own little chamber stuffed full with sweet pollen. This food supply is sufficient to raise the pupa to maturity. The holes are cemented shut using >>

>> a mix of our very red clay soil and saliva. It then goes quiet until later in the year when the developed youngsters chew their way out. This event is lovely to watch as well. On a nice warm late summer's day, the greenhouse fills with young bees all circulating around until they find their way out. At this time of the year, both door and windows are generally wide open making this easy for the young bees. The predatory wasps turn up during the egg-laying period, when it is also the time to get in there with a camera.

Bumble Bees are very common in our gardens. Anyone with lavender growing will know all about the mass activity of pollen collecting in the summer months. We always have a nesting colony or two in holes in the lawn left behind by Field Mice. It's great to watch them circling around the hole in numbers, all trying to home in as to where the hole actually is. Any slight change such as mowing the grass, or a leaf that has dropped close by, and they all seem to be in chaos until they reassess the location of the hole. This photo of a Buff Tailed Bumble Bee on a Passion Flower is just one of my favourites. The Passion Flower plant has been decimated by this winter's weather but I'm hopeful that the small shoot that seems to have survived will regenerate and feed the bees again this summer.



Wasp Ball



Buff Tailed Bumble Bee



Masonary Bee



Wasp Nest



Gasteruption Ejaculator Wasp



Rhyssa Persuasoria Wasp

Jon Crouch

Bespoke Cakes



Lockdown already feels a world away. Strange days indeed. But while most of us were hidden away at home twiddling our thumbs, Paul Toulson was incredibly active...making cakes.

He said: "Business is really good; I was really fortunate to set up when I did because we weren't allowed to see friends and family. But as a food delivery service I could still work and deliver, I could deliver a cake to the sister you couldn't see, or your grandparents you couldn't see. So, things snowballed really quickly. And that carried on over the past few years.

"The pandemic was wonderful, really wonderful. When lockdown came into play it was good for business, good for me. I had a really interesting time; everyone was at home being bored and I was the busiest I've been in my entire life."

Paul has set up his business, Cake and Slice, in the annexe of his parents' home in Downside Close. He admits that his mother wouldn't be able to cope with a full-time visitor operating from her kitchen. The annexe has two ovens and a fridge that can take eight cakes.



Most of his work is what he calls 'celebration cakes' – 'cakes that are bright and colourful and fun.'

But he has also established a particular reputation for his macaroons. "I think they're considered a much more luxurious baking option. The recipe is fairly difficult and there's a lot of technique to it. You need to boil the sugar syrup to the correct degree and it's not something you could do easily. It's quite a complex bake to do."



There is no mail order, it's either collection or delivery, but he will deliver up to about a 45 minute drive scan. He doesn't do cake sculpturing and the most unusual ingredient he has used is kale. The best advertising is word of mouth. One recipient of a cake, he said, will tell three friends. He has regular annual orders and he supplies cakes to a café in Paulton on a weekly basis. But he doesn't eat cake himself anymore.

Paul's other occupation is acting. So, for instance, he had to shut up shop between October and December last year while he went to play the Dame in the Jack and the Beanstalk panto in Bracknell. That must be exciting.

But so are cakes, Paul said: "Colour is really important. The visual has to come first. Especially as a gift for someone. You take the lid off the cake box and you want to see colour and you want to see extravagance. And you want to be spoilt. I get a lot of comments saying how the taste matches the looks.

"People want more, more, more. They want a gorgeous sponge, they want a different filling and a different colour. They say, I want this from this one and this from this and the drip from this. They're creating their own special version that no one has had before." Bespoke cakes.



Paul can be contacted on 07814 648756

Malcolm Rigby



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Chilcompton Playgroup

Come and join us at Chilcompton Playgroup on Tuesday mornings during term time from 10am-11.30am in Chilcompton Village Hall. There is tea, coffee, hot chocolate and squash available for adults throughout the session. Each session is £2 per family and we can take cash or card.

We have lots of toys which are rotated each week so no two weeks are the same, we also have a crafty activity every week. After an hour of playing we sit down for our healthy snack then finish the session with story or song time.

The first Tuesday of each month is also our Makers Market when makers sell a wide range of products.

Our committee is currently down to 3 members, Tina (Chair), Cassie (Treasurer) and Beth (Secretary). We are hoping to recruit a few more members in order to secure the future of our well loved playgroup. If you would like to join the committee or just help out please come and talk to us. For more information visit our website: <https://chilcomptonplaygro.wixsite.com/chilcomptonplaygroup>

Chilcompton Gardening Club

Our AGM on a very cold and frosty January evening marked the beginning of our new gardening year. A short fun quiz and our now legendary finger buffet followed the formal proceedings.

We have a full line up of speakers ready for this coming year. They will be covering a variety of very interesting topics, including 'Gardening for Climate Change' with Simon Knight from Prior Park Garden Centre in Bath, 'So You Think you know Gladioli' with Gill Hazell, 'Organic Flower Growing' with Fiona Hazer Bizony from the Electric Daisy Flower Farm in Faulkland, 'The Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens' with David Usher, Stumperies, 'Ferns and Shady Friends' with Andrew Tolman, 'Flora of Cam and Wellow Valley' with Helena Crouch and 'Holly and Ivy' with Roy Cheek.

Quite a selection. Our very popular Annual Plant Sale is scheduled for 13th May in the Village Hall. We also have two afternoon visits and a full day outing arranged for the summer.

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 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 per meeting, so why not come along with a friend or two – you will receive a warm welcome.

Contact me on 01761 233017 for more details.

Judy Youngs (Secretary)



East Somerset Railway Community Offers: Going on in 2023

Your local heritage railway is more than just 'tickets please'! As part of our commitment to the local community the railway is excited to let you know about our various outreach offers.

Dementia Friendly Events: Sunday May 7, Sunday July 16 & Sunday 10 September. Cost £11 for both the person living with Dementia and their carer. Booking required.

Care Homes: ESR-focused talks are available free of charge

Community groups: illustrated talks are available to community groups, free of charge

Duke of Edinburgh Programme young volunteers: volunteering opportunities may be possible Thursdays 4-5pm only

Volunteers Recruitment Day: Saturday 25th March to explore the various roles available (plus complimentary coffee & train ride!). 10-1pm

Anything of interest? Lisa.education@eastsomersetrailway.com

Trains, tickets and timetables? www.eastsomersetrailway.com

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Chilcompton Art Club



The year 2022 was very eventful for the art club, we had a few demonstrations and three local exhibitions. Member artists Penny Lloyd and Lindsay Brewster presented workshops in the early part of the year, Penny with watercolours and Lyndsay with pastels. Then in October Peter Hinge gave a talk about the ins and outs of presenting paintings for sale and hanging in exhibitions (see photo).

In June, the nation celebrated the Queen's Jubilee, and the art club formed part of the many events held at Downside Abbey over the weekend of the 3rd to 5th with an exhibition of work held in the Downside Abbey Visitor Centre.

In mid-November the club were delighted to be allocated a weeklong exhibition slot in the Cloisters of Wells Cathedral, with almost 100 paintings on view. The exhibition was a great success, the membership took it in turns to steward the event throughout the week, braving the rather cold climate in the cloisters. With just over one thousand pounds worth of sales across the week, many members achieved sales of their work.

No sooner had the Wells exhibition finished we then held our usual annual exhibition ten days later in early December at the Stratton-on-Fosse Village Hall, this one day exhibition usually held on a Saturday, enables the club to publicise our presence and what we do within the local community of Chilcompton, Stratton, Midsomer Norton and Radstock..

Although the club does not offer dedicated weekly tuition to our members, our itinerary for 2023 is taking shape and will include workshops, demonstrations, and exhibitions to enhance and develop members experience. Anyone can come along to one of our sessions and do their own thing with whatever medium they choose, there will always be members on hand to chat to for advice etc over a cup of tea or coffee. We are based at the Chilcompton Sports Club on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10:00am until 1:00pm. There is easy parking and disabled facilities, first sessions are free and if you want to continue the annual membership fee is very reasonable. Full details about the club, and how to make contact, can be found on our website at <https://www.chilcomptonartclub.uk>.

Thank you for
your support.

Nigel Punchard
Club Secretary



Embroidery Experiences

After many years teaching 'Embroidery' in Wells for Somerset Adult Education Classes I decided to return home to Chilcompton to teach 'Embroidery Experiences' which I have now been doing in the excellent Chilcompton Sports Hall. My classes are comprised of all ages and abilities with very friendly people who make you most welcome with no feeling of competition whatsoever. There is no need to make an immediate commitment. Why not come along for a couple of sessions to see if it really interests you. You would be made to feel most welcome, even better bring a friend for company.

Classes are held on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Chilcompton Sports Hall, BA3 4EZ. There is ample parking.

I can be contacted on 01761 232466 or 07788 184185 or by email:

Chilcomptonembroidery@outlook.com

Below are some examples of the work my classes have been involved in. You will see it is very varied. We always enjoy embroidering a 'Class Project' at Christmas.

Patrica Ardron





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New Parish Councillor



I'm Abigail Terry and I have lived in the village for nearly 30 years, and I now work locally. I feel that I can represent the views of villagers as well as my own having had more time recently to explore our wonderful village. I enjoy the peace and quiet that the village offers without being far away from bigger towns and cities. I'm a big sports fan, I like my music and also enjoy knitting and sewing (although I need more practice).

Email: abigail.terry@chilcompton.org

Monday Café

As we go to print the Monday Café group are meeting to finalise some minibus outings during the year. So if anyone in the village is interested, contact Sarah Crosse for details of the first outing. Tel: 01761 412042

Earthquake Appeal

The Parish Council has donated two hundred pounds through the Disasters Emergency Committee (D.E.C.) to support the relief work being carried out in Turkey and Syria.

DEC charities and their local partners are among the first responders providing urgent aid.

Somerset County Council Report

Submitted by SCCllr Anthony Robbins – Liberal Democrat Group

Consultation opens into new single Somerset Council budget. New Council targets support for key services and vulnerable residents

The proposed budget for the new unitary Somerset Council has been published. The proposals will be the first time the services and costs from all four District Councils and the County Council have been brought together.

The Council is proposing to increase Council Tax by just under 5 percent, less than half of the current rate of inflation. This is made up of a basic rise of 2.99 per cent in Council Tax and the 2 per cent social care levy. As a result of these proposals, the council tax proposed for a Band D property will increase by £78.24 each year, or £1.50 per week.

The total budget for new Council will be £491.37 million, a rise of £36 million over the budgets of the five councils the new Somerset Council replaces. The Council agreed a new Council Tax Reduction Scheme last November, and will be bringing forward an Exceptional Hardship Fund to support households in need of further support.

The Council has said it has faced three significant challenges in setting budgets this year: the impact of inflation on the cost of providing services; the rising demand for care services post-pandemic and the need, in a very competitive labour market, to use agency staff to cover statutory services.

Several of the savings in the new proposed budget relate to the move to a single council, with £2.9million saved from senior manager costs and a £600,000 annual saving from reducing the number of council members.

Somerset flooding threat is no longer a major incident

The Environment Agency and the local authorities in Somerset have removed the major incident status declared in January as flood risk in the county has reduced.

A major incident was declared on 17 January as a precautionary move to coordinate partners as the threat of flood increased. With enhanced pumping and recent dry weather, water levels have reduced on the Somerset Levels and Moors and it has been decided by Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum that the precaution is no longer needed.

Somerset unitary plan praised by Local Government Association

An expert team from the Local Government Association (LGA) has commended work to create a new unitary council on 1 April this year. The new Somerset Council will replace Somerset County Council and the four district >>

Somerset County Council Report

>> councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset).

The team, including leading figures from local government around the country, reviewed the unitary plan and concluded that ‘everything is in place to ensure that Somerset Council will be a safe and legally functioning body from day 1, assuming the current progress and leadership is maintained.’

Social care like you’ve never seen it before – bold new recruitment campaign launched in Somerset

The ‘My Time to Care’ campaign was shot entirely in Somerset and stars local carers in six new videos.

Somerset County Council has joined forces with the NHS and Registered Care Providers Association for the new campaign, which aims to empower carers, and show how working in social care in Somerset is a respected, meaningful, and fun career choice.

Small business should be at the heart of energy support

Somerset County Council has called for any review of energy price support for businesses to focus on support for small businesses and the adoption of green and renewable energy.

The council acknowledges that the “Energy Bill Relief scheme is providing a lifeline for small firms across the UK. However, with an ongoing cost of doing business crisis, a continuation of the EBRs for the smallest firms is going to be critical for the UK economy overall and rural economies, in particular.

Evening bus services get underway

Evening bus services on some key routes in Somerset have begun running from Monday 30th January.

The evening bus proposals are part of Somerset’s Government-funded Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) which aims to increase bus patronage by introducing a number of important initiatives.

From 5 December a £1 fare became effective for any single bus journey in Taunton, and further measures are planned under the BSIP in the coming months.

It’s hoped evening buses will help boost the night-time economies in Taunton and the other towns on this evening network, as well as supporting people who work outside of 9-5 hours or need to attend training and education courses.

Business mentors needed to help Somerset thrive

An ambitious mentoring programme is being launched to make the expertise of the county’s most knowledgeable business-people available to businesses across Somerset. >>

>> Twenty mentors are being recruited to join the programme in its initial stage, where they will receive free mentor training. Executive and senior management level business leaders, successful entrepreneurs or business consultants, who understand the challenges associated with running and growing a business and the value of impartial advice, are being encouraged to get in touch.

Potential mentors might offer sector experience or a specialism such as finance, marketing, HR or e-commerce; and above all, have a desire to make a difference.

Could you help get people to crucial medical appointments? Volunteer drivers needed urgently across Somerset

People across Somerset with no transport of their own need help to get to important medical appointments.

From routine checks to cardiology and cancer-related care, these Somerset residents benefit enormously from reliable volunteer drivers to get them there.

Somerset County Council's current volunteer drivers are in need of new recruits, to support the NHS and the Council in ensuring patients get the care and treatment that they need.

The team also support adults and children with journeys relating to social care.

Pat Ryan, who has been one of Somerset County Council's volunteer drivers for 10 years, said:

"I've been a volunteer driver for 10 years now and thoroughly enjoy taking passengers to hospital for their routine appointments. Driving around beautiful Somerset is not really a hardship!"

For each journey carried out by a volunteer driver, a mileage reimbursement rate of 45p per mile or 50p per mile loaded is applied.



Ring for the King

Nationally, a recruitment drive for bellringers is in progress so that all the churches across the country will ring out on Coronation Day for King Charles.

Adrian Beck, for the Chilcompton bellringers down at St John's Church, said that they were always looking for new recruits. All sexes, all ages – adding that 12 years old is a good time to start. He said that it is a good physical and mental exercise – a very satisfying activity.

On Coronation Day the bellringers will be getting out and about to make sure every tower in the vicinity gets a ring.

Come and find them at St John's Church at 7.00pm on a Monday or give Adrian a ring (geddit) on 01761 415950.

Notes from a winter garden. January 2023

We have had extreme wet and extreme cold this winter following on from the extreme hot and dry of the summer, we have seen it all in the last year.

It's hard to get excited about a garden in continuous winter rain. We kept telling ourselves that we needed the rain and indeed we did but there were times when we thought it would never stop. The upside is that our newly cleared out pond quickly filled to capacity and is now looking full and appealing to the amphibians, some of which will no doubt have visited and spawned by the time you read this. The frogs usually appear in February followed by newts which can lay their eggs any time from March to June. Every year I hope to see some toad spawn too but so far we haven't been lucky, perhaps our pond refurb will encourage them.



The cold and frosty weather was a welcome change and made the garden sparkle in the bright winter sunshine. Long grasses, seed heads and twiggy shrubs glistened with frost and on occasion a light dusting of snow. Low winter sunshine made the red bark of *Cornus alba* glow, contrasting with the otherwise monochromatic hues of the winter garden. The ground was frozen solid and the pond at the end of January still retains a thin covering of ice, remnants of a much thicker layer which covered it for weeks.

The bird feeders were extra busy during the coldest weather and needed frequent re-filling and at times we had to de-ice their water container more than once per day. Of the more unusual birds visiting we have had a male and a female black cap and a gold crest which loves the pine tree, but particularly



enchanted are the long tailed tits which visited in large groups (we think that the maximum we counted at one time was 10, but as they move so quickly it's hard to keep track). Suddenly though in the last week of January they have started appearing in pairs - preparation for the breeding season has started already.



Other signs of spring continue to appear, unstoppable despite the cold. Bulbs have been poking through the frozen earth for a while now and the first snowdrops are in flower, the honeysuckle has leaves appearing and >>



>> the scent of *Sarcococca* wafts through the garden reminding us that it won't be winter forever.

We have one more important garden project to complete before the growing season starts in earnest. There is a border between the end of our driveway and a paved area which is past its best. Sadly the wisteria which dominated it and which



was our pride and joy decided to die last spring for no discernible reason, leaving the plants below looking scruffy and bereft. The time has come for a re-design and we have decided to remove the herbaceous plants and plant a hedge instead. The whole area is only about 4 metres long, so at 4 plants per metre in a staggered double row we will need just 16 plants. We are going for a mix of native shrub species – 4 each of hazel, hawthorn, guelder rose and dogwood which will give variety and interest both for us and for the wild birds. We will buy bare-rooted plants so we need to get on and plant them before the end of February. Expect a progress update in a future edition.

Sue Rankine



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

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

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

Email; traceywitherstr7@hotmail.co.uk

Tracey Withers

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FSADFACRED-0422

Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

The year 2022 ended on a happy note for the Friends with a highly successful raffle with all prizes distributed well before Christmas Eve. Thank you to all the people who supported our efforts. Thanks too go to the local businesses that supported us: Mitchards the Butchers, Charlotte Ruby Holistic Therapies, Bentley Bodyworks, and The Old Down Inn.

We are already discussing putting the proceeds to effective use. Surgery staff have approached us for a Phlebotomy Chair for the Chilcompton Surgery and a portable infra-red vein scanner; both to make blood tests easier and safer for elderly and frail patients. A new water cooler has been installed in Chilcompton waiting room, and a cycle stand, for those able to cycle to the Chilcompton surgery, is to be installed. That is over £3,000 of 'kit' to try to improve the patient experience.

The October Health Talk on Knee and Hip surgery was a great success. We now have two more dates for your diaries:-

- Monday 20th March - Coping with Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Dr Charlie Andrews
- Tuesday 25th April - Pelvic Physiotherapy (NOT just for women)
Ms Megan Jackson

All three will be at the Midsomer Norton Methodist Church Hall starting at 6 p.m.

Megan Jackson is a specialist pelvic physiotherapist who also works at the RUH, as well as running her own private practice in Keynsham.

Our Health Talks are a way of trying to improve our general health education, and consequently our self-care. If we look after ourselves as well as we can, we may be able to reduce our calls on our over worked NHS. The excellent presentation on Mental Health last year is also still on the St Chad's website. There is also useful information for Veterans and an ADHD checklist. Please take a look:

<https://stchadsandchilcompton.co.uk/wellbeing-and-health-directory/>

Our staff had to cope with a significant increase in scarlet fever cases before Christmas, and several staff became ill with various ailments. We are glad all are now fully recovered and thank the team for their superb efforts.

You can contact me with any questions or feedback by email: jsattlerevans@btinternet.com

Stay safe and well everyone.

Jenny Evans, Chair



EASTER BINGO NIGHT – Chilcompton Sports Club

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY 31st March

DOORS OPEN: 6:30PM - EYES DOWN: 7.45PM

1 & 2 Line prizes as well as fantastic cash prizes.

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

Travels on the 174 - Walk No.2

WALK 2: Chilcompton to Oakhill by the 174, then walk to Shepton Mallet via the Old Fosse track. Approx 3-4 miles. 1.5 – 2 hrs depending on pace. Fairly long ascent up to the Roman Road, and a long enjoyable descent down into Shepton Mallet. OS Explorer map 142

Again it would be difficult to get lost on this route: the map shows an incredibly well marked route, virtually straight up and over the hill down to Shepton along an old Roman Road. It is still laid with the stones that were probably there when Roman feet marched across them, still tight in the ground after 2000 years. Get off the 174 at the Oakhill Inn and take the Fosse Road to your left, alongside the Inn, probably signposted Stoke St Michael, headed east. Walk out of the village for about 1/3 mile till you reach Fosse Farm on your left, just before a red post box in the wall on the left, and opposite a wide track on the right. Map reading 641472. (If you wish to miss this extra road walk you could drive to Oakhill and park, and return on the bus to Oakhill to the car, but please be aware that parking is limited at the start of the walk). Follow this track steeply up, as it turns to the right, then to the left and back to the right, and then up to the Roman Road at the top (as named on the map). You will see and hear this road before you reach it; if you have had your dog off the lead on the track it would be wise to grab them before you reach the road as the traffic is very fast on this straight bit of road. Turn right on to the road, and after a few strides, left into Beacon Hill Woods (the map shows a small detour). There is a deep furrow further along the route where the ground literally drops into a long narrow hollow – which you can walk along if you want to – and then down around to the right to a bench on the right making a perfect lunch stop. Coming out of the woods, carry on until you reach another road. It is confusing on the map what you do here, but it seems best to turn left on to the road for 1 minute, turn right at the T junction for another minute and pick up the path again on your left at map reading 635449, marked PB on the map by a disused pit. Walk another 1/3 mile until 2 footpaths join your path on the right via a stile. Take the lower one going diagonally across the field, spying a stile at the bottom which you need to go through. Last time we walked this route there were cows in this field, so again take your own precautions with a dog. Once through the stile, turn right and through a 5 bar gate to the A37. Take care crossing the road, walk down for a moment and on the right you will see a gap in the stone wall. Go through this and follow it around to a lane that takes you into the bottom of Shepton and Legg Square. Follow the road gradually up keeping an eye out for the church hiding behind the houses on your left, which you can reach by a narrow walk through and up into the market place and a wonderful café called the Cheeky Bean that serves cakes out of this world. Sunday winter opening hours 9.30am – 3pm, but maybe longer with the warmer weather. Check on website <http://www.thecheekybean.co.uk/> Once replete, walk straight up through the High Street to the roundabout at the top. Cross at the zebra crossing in front of Screwfix, turn left to the Cenotaph and the 174 back to Chilcompton. Buses from Shepton go around 20 to the hour.

Her up the hill

Chilcompton Speedwatch

A Modern Approach To Speed Enforcement Within Avon And Somerset Police

We face the highest risk to serious injury or death on our roads, above and beyond



any other police related activity. The most common form of complaint from our communities is related to speed and in the past we have responded to each complaint by sending the Speed Enforcement Unit (SEU). We have built up so many sites over the years that it is no longer viable to service them often.

More importantly we didn't have the capability that we have now to analyse the issue first. Now we listen to concerns, fit data capture boxes to the problem location and see the true facts. Since this new method we have discovered most sites are very low level of perception. We share the data with all concerned and we can see all data across the force, then reference that against risk from collision data/CSW data. We work closely with local authorities to deal with issues together.

Low level issues result in the community making an application to the police community trust for Speed Indication Devices, referred to as SIDs. The fund will provide up to £5k of funding to cover signs, posts and training to work around the highway, we then walk away and use the SEU for priority sites. All the signs can capture data so we can monitor the reaction to them and from experience they bring very high compliance levels. We do not need a SEU tied up not capturing offences based on perception of a community. A community wants the problem solved do they not or at least improved 24/7?

Where we have bigger issues evidenced from the data we will put multiple units to the location. Get the problem down to a low level then handover to the SID type program.

As the Road Safety officer, I have driven changes to equipment where we work away from vehicles and the detection rate is much higher. I deal with enforcement the same way as the SEU but the new equipment can capture up to 2k offences and be submitted for processing by Wi-Fi in 10 minutes, then we do it all again. With very little admin for the officer, this is game changing.

Speed is a direct contributor to injury type; we were not designed to stop from speeds above 20MPH in nature. We may not stop the crashes, but we will make them less severe. We **MUST** and **WILL** drive average speeds down in every community, we are one community. Nearly all those caught have education courses online, it matters not where they are caught, just that they are. We could all do with re-chipping between passing a driving test and retiring.

Then well informed people generally make the right choices.

PC Dan Cox

Avon and Somerset Police – Road Safety Unit

Golden Hour Club

Members have experienced the music of choirs and bands during the year as well as interesting talks on the Air Ambulance and Mendip Tales, culminating in a Christmas lunch. More of the same is planned for the coming year starting with the AGM on 11th April, when subscriptions are due, or anyone is welcome to any meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Sylvia Rogers. 01761 233142



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.

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 (temporarily out of use), by the Village Hall, on Bowden Hill and at the bus stop by Church House.

County Councillors:

Tony.robbs@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr.hobbs@mendip.gov.uk

District Council: 0300 303 8588

County Council: 0300 123 2224

Chilcompton Sports Club Projects

It is well known that Chilcompton Sports have been planning for some time to develop the tennis courts into an Astro turf surface and add flood lights to the adult pitch.

We have recently re-visited these ideas, and are in the process of obtaining up to date quotations for the works to be carried out for the Astro pitch. The project will allow for two 7/8 pitches or one 9/10 pitch with a walkway/viewing area surrounding it.

This facility will undoubtedly be a huge benefit to the club. It is our hope that the Astro project may get underway during the summer, however it will depend on the costs and funds raised.

Our youth football club have already started fundraising for this project and are making great progress, with a raffle held over Christmas and most recently a Valentines raffle for a Mulberry handbag and more.

U7 MANAGER/COACH OPPORTUNITY

Chilcompton Sports FC are looking to recruit a new under 7s manager/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:

football@chilcomptonports.com

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@chilcomptonports.com or just pop along.

Chilcompton Cricket Club

Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club are gearing up for the new season ahead.

Cricket Club – Senior Section

2023 will be our 9th senior season at Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club.

We are always looking for new senior players to play in our 3 x league teams.

Hopefully, we can find more new local players from Chilcompton and the surrounding villages.

Indoor Senior indoor nets will continue at Wells Blue Sports Hall on Sunday afternoons 2pm-3pm until Sunday 26th March.

Outdoor Senior training will start on Thursday evenings from 30th March (6pm start).

Senior League games will start on Saturday 6th May and Sunday 7th May.

The Senior Saturday 1st XI will compete in Division 4 of the Bristol & District League.

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

The Senior Sunday 1st XI will compete in Division 4 of the North Somerset League.

Cricket Club – Junior Section

In 2023 our Junior training sessions (School Year 3 to School Year 8) will be held again at Chilcompton Sports Club on Wednesday evenings from 12th April (6.15pm – 7.45pm).

No Membership required in advance, just turn up and join in the fun!

We have Level 2 Coach Kyle Gloudemans plus a number of helpers from the senior cricket club and we are always looking for parents to help out.

We also have a number of professional coaches who help Kyle and his team.

We had more Junior Players debuting in the Saturday & Sunday Senior XI in season 2022 which was a great credit to our Junior Coaches and a fantastic boost to the future of our cricket club.

One of these local junior players Bradley Hancock won the 2nd XI Senior player of the year which is a great achievement for a 14 year old – See photo >>

The Junior U13s Team will compete in the Bath Youth League on Tuesday evening from the end of April.

Fundraising, Main Contact & Social Media

Our popular Horse Racing Night will be held at the Sports Club on Friday 16th June from 8pm – This is the Club's main fundraiser for 2023.

Cricket Club Contact – Dave Travis – 07725 458404 – dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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>> Cricket Club Committee & Captains for 2023 President – Martin Rumary
 Vice Presidents - Dave Stock, Matthew Western, Nick Western, Arthur Moon,
 John Reynolds, Pat Rich, Clayton Rich, Martin Rumary, Mike Clevely, Dave Read,
 Julian Hawkins, Dave Travis, Richard Aldous, Mark Colbourne, Ray Rogers, Tim
 Fussell, Ian Barnett, Neil Moon, Ian Gillard
 Chairman – Clayton Rich
 Hon Secretary & Fixture Secretary – Dave Travis
 Hon Treasurer – Sarah Deverill
 Safe Hands Management System Contact – Debbie Hancock
 Junior's Head Coach – Kyle Gloudemans
 U13 Junior Manager – Tom Hancock
 Club Welfare Officers – Jacqui Nolan & Dominic Grass
 Head Groundsman – Mark Colbourne
 Social Media – Linda Travis
 Website Administrators – Richard Gillard & Adam Marshall
 Additional Committee Members – Simon Tandy, Tim Fussell, Glen Stansfield,
 Steve Davis, Simon Jones, Jon Burgess
 Saturday 1st XI Captain – Ben Fitcher
 Saturday 1st XI VC – Adam Deverill
 Saturday 2nd XI Captain – Rob Bath
 Saturday 2nd XI VC – Simon Tandy
 Sunday XI Captain – Rich Gillard
 Sunday XI VC – Gareth Rogers



CHILCOMPTON SPORTS JUNIOR CRICKET



Junior Cricket Training will start weekly
 on Wednesday evenings on the 12th April 2023 at
 Chilcompton Sports Club from 6:15pm to 7:45pm

We welcome girls and boys from school year 3 to year 8
 All playing kit supplied by the club
 We have Senior coaches for every session
 All coaches and facilitators are DBS checked

We have entered the Bath under 13 league for the Summer

A fee of £4 will be collected on training nights to
 cover the costs of the coaches

Please contact Dave Travis on 07725 458404
 or dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk
 Website - www.chilcomptionsports.com/cricket

Some of our junior players have already have been selected
 for Somerset County and District sides and are also playing
 for our Chilcompton senior sides. So there is a pathway to find
 the next Ben Stokes or Heather Knight, but we welcome
 players of all ability






CHILCOMPTON CRICKET CLUB

2023 FUNDRAISING RACE NIGHT

FRIDAY 16th JUNE

AT CHILCOMPTON SPORTS CLUB
 DOORS OPEN 7pm | FIRST RACE 8pm



**FREE ENTRY
FULLY LICENSED BAR**

Sports Club Tribute to Terry Moore

It was with great sadness that all from Chilcompton Sports heard of the passing of Terry Moore in December. There is no doubt that he is, and will be, sadly missed by all who knew him, and the club will never be the same without his inimitable character ever-present.

Most would agree that Terry's second home was Chilcompton Sports Club, where he took a huge pride in the maintenance and appearance of the sports field and premises exterior. He spent endless hours cutting the grass over the entire field for both the cricket and football teams, becoming an expert in preparing the outfield for the Cricket Club after it was formed in 2015. For his work on the football pitches, he eventually won the title of Groundsman of the Year from the Somerset FA.

He could always be seen using his beloved, ancient, blue Ford tractor, negotiating the extremely heavy non-power-assisted steering and towing the equally heavy trimax cutter, occasionally into, over or through somewhere it shouldn't have gone. When driving the Ford became a little too much for Terry, the Club purchased a smaller ride-on mower for him so that he could continue to do that which he loved so well. Unfortunately, Terry's ill-health prevented much further grounds work, and we all shared his sadness at being denied that which had given him so many years of pleasure. Thankfully, however, it was being able to maintain this work that carried Terry through the isolation of lockdown.



But Terry was indispensable in so many ways. If the external bins needed emptying, he would have cleared them without any fuss. When the car park filled up with visitors, Terry would be there to direct cars and make sense of the madness. He wouldn't hesitate to protect the field and premises should anyone be ill-using them and many a 'young 'un' would be told to stop using the goals on the Adult pitch. And on cold winter mornings, Terry could often be found in the kitchen making teas and coffees for parents, freezing pitch-side whilst their children played football. In the early days, long before the club house was built, Terry was an active participant in running the tearoom, often seen in the Coop buying extra bacon! Equally, the operation of the charity was important to Terry, and he was a member of the committee until his death, being instrumental in many of the important decisions that have been made over the years.

An unassuming gentleman, Terry became a firm favourite with all the staff and volunteers at the club, becoming very protected and looked after by them all. There isn't one who wouldn't think, in the most affectionate way that, when he was sitting in the bar alongside his old friend Gordon Curtis, voices raised to ensure each heard the other, you would be excused for imagining, for one brief moment, that you were seeing Statler and Waldorf, vociferously making the world right between them.

His love for his garden and his generosity with his plants and seedlings will be remembered by many and there is little doubt that there are those of us who will treasure those plants that now flourish in our own gardens, mementoes of a quite unique man.