

Chilcompton Matters

..... because it does

**Coronation
Celebrations
pg 34**

**Murder in the
Village pg 4**

**Fighting for
Somer Lea
Again pg 47**

**Children's
Competition
pg 18**

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Events - Interviews - Lifestyle - News - History - Sports - Nature

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Flower Show

*all the winners
and more*



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Chilcompton Sports

all the up to date news



Plus all our regular features and lots more

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Welcome...

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

But whatever happened to our summer? We were mugged. Who nicked our summer? Give us back our sunshine. On the plus side, the Lionesses reached the World Cup final and the Chilcompton cricket team got to the final of the Somerset T20 competition.

What is it with weather forecasters and the word 'unsettled'?

Despite the weather the Coronation events were both well attended and seemed to be considered a success. So much so that the Parish Council are now considering future public events, maybe an open-air film screening in the Old Rec. Watch this space. Meanwhile there is a rumour that the beer festival might be returning next year to the Sports Ground.

Out on my bike, back in June, I had to stop on The Street as a mother duck was leading her ten ducklings in single file across the road to the river. Cars on either side were having to watch and wait. It was a classic Chilcompton scene and I didn't have my camera. DOH. If you catch a 'Chilco moment', do send it in.

Hardly an issue goes by without a developer knocking on our doors with some inappropriate planning application. This time it's Somer Lea, yes yet again. (See page 47). So keep your Chilcompton Against Rural Over-development (CARO) flag flying.

There's plenty of other news: murder (no less), new speed devices, new benches, free trees, taxi on a trike and a football side worthy of Pep Guardiola. There's a new series on special stuff 'on our doorstep', and as we go to press, pictures are coming in to celebrate and illustrate the annual flower show.

Thanks to the writers, proofreaders, advertisers, distributors et al who make this magazine possible. Special thanks in particular to Tracey Withers who is not only writing but has also taken over the presentation and layout - I am sure you will enjoy the new look. It's her brilliant idea to introduce a children's competition with proper prizes and which we hope will become a mainstay - get the kids drawing and painting.

Most of all, ta very much to you, for reading.

Bendice tu corazon (bless your heart)

Malcolm Rigby

parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Murder and MI6 Mystery on The Street

Malcolm Rigby tells the story of the shootings that took place in his front room eighty years ago.

On the morning of April 10th 1941 two shots rang out in Shell House disturbing the tranquility of peaceful sleepy Chilcompton.

As part of the war effort the building had been taken over by army officers and several soldiers rushed to the scene of the gunfire to find two bloodied unconscious bodies bedraggled across the furniture.

Helen Amaryll Gray, known as Ryll, lay dead with a bullet in her temple. Her husband, Major William Mackinnon Gray had a head wound and a .38 service revolver by his side. (Apparently, a **Ryll lay dead with a bullet in her temple** second bullet was later found in the upstairs floorboards.)

Anyone who has read local Meandering Through Chilcompton will know about the murder taking place but probably not much else about the incident.

Until this spring, that is, when The Sun Newspaper, using the Freedom of Information Act, revealed further details – information that was not due to be released until 2049.

After the shooting, when Gray came to, he said: "I have blotted my copybook today. I have shot Ryll and then myself, I'm broke...I'm broke financially, utterly and completely broke."

In the hospital he made a voluntary statement of his guilt.

At the trial Gray pleaded insanity but a doctor had previously found him 'an intelligent man' with no sign of 'mental disorder'.

On the 20th July a jury took just 20 minutes to find him guilty. He was sentenced to be hanged. But just seven days before the execution, as Gray was waiting in his Winchester prison cell, he was told that the sentence had been reduced to life imprisonment. **He was sentenced to be hanged**

Why? Could it have been an intervention by MI6?

Gray was a man with a past. Back in 1936 he was the station chief for MI6 in Sofia, Bulgaria, supposedly as a passport control officer but actually keeping an eye out for potential communist subversives. His first wife was divorcing him and there was talk of financial irregularities.

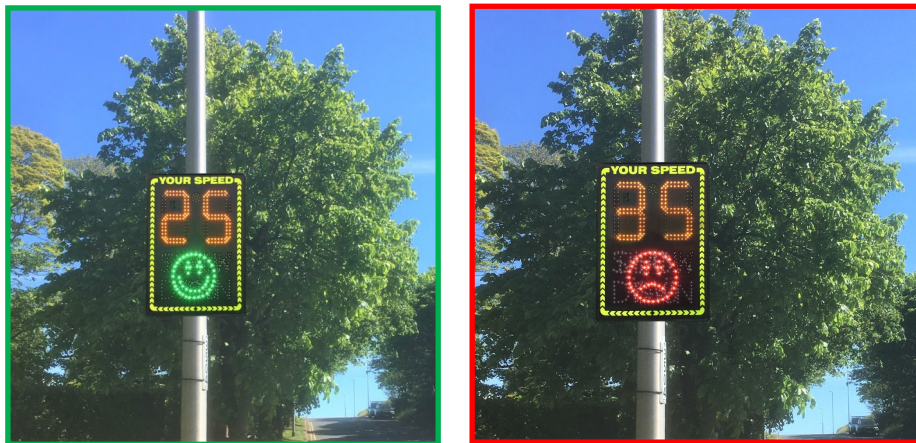
The following year he met Ryll, they married and bought a farm in Hungary. But in 1938 they were ordered home and after an unsuccessful business venture he rejoined the army.

Fast forward again to 1946 and Gray had changed his story to the prison doctor. The murder, he said, was in fact a suicide pact that had gone wrong. The couple were in debt (£300 or the equivalent of £16,000 today) and Gray did not want to leave his wife penniless and friendless in a foreign country.

In 1948, after just seven years in prison, Gray was secretly released. He went on to live in Hampshire and then Jersey in the Channel Islands. Here he met his third wife and together they had a son.

Gray died in hospital in 1975. Did he have sensitive secret information or was he just a "jolly good chap"?

Raising a Smile



New speed indicator devices (SIDs) have been introduced on the main road through the village.

Enter the village on the B3193 at under the prescribed 30mph limit and you will be welcomed with a smiley face and a thanks, come in speeding and you will face a glum expression and told to slow down.

The SIDs have been given to the Parish Council by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Chair of the Parish Council, Jon Pike, said: "These are an important new asset to Chilcompton. Yes, there is an element of fun, but most importantly they will make drivers think seriously about their speeds."

Plant a Tree in Twenty Three

As part of an initiative to encourage residents to plant more trees the Parish Council will be purchasing a batch of small baby trees (whips) that they will be giving away to villagers to grow in their gardens.

The saplings, bought from the Woodland Trust, will include:

**Hawthorn, Rowan,
Blackthorn and Silver Birch.**

Anyone who is interested in acquiring a tree for their home, in the first instance, contact the clerk on parishclerk@chilcompton.org before the end of October.



The Manchester City of Somerset

Malcolm Rigby talked to the manager of our successful football team.

Football pundits globally are quite rightly praising the brilliance of a Manchester City team that has won three Premierships on the trot but not so well known is that Chilcompton Sports has won the Premier Division of Somerset three times in the last four possible seasons.

Moreover they would be in a much higher league were it not for a lack of infrastructure; physical, financial and manual.

The modest manager, Tim Curtis, conceded: "Yeah, we've had some good seasons."



Tim not only looks after the training and keeps a keen eye on the youth sides, he is also chairman of the Sports Umbrella Group, does a bit of groundsman work and washes the shirts.

"Last season was a particularly lost two games and we were a getting into the Somerset going for the treble."

In addition, they scored almost did get promoted got about 20 average age of the side was lads of 17. Two thirds of the top squad have come through the youth sides.

The team train twice a week, more than your average semi professional side. Tim said: "We probably train more; I've always thought that you do the work in the training. It's not a rocket science, the more you train the better you get. For me that plays a part, not just in the way that we play but it helps on the fitness side as well."

The style of football is also important. Ever since Pep Guardiola's Barcelona days, Tim has been a fan of his methods and the emphasis on possession of the ball. They use a methodology called Coever coaching, in the development of youth players, which stresses the importance of the skills of the game.

**A penalty
shootout away
from getting into
the Somerset
County Cup final
again**

good year in the stats, we only penalty shoot-out away from County cup final again and

a hundred goals, the team that points less than them, and the just 23 including two young

Continued on page 13

Lets Go Out

Friday Club

Coffee, cake, a chat and a warm room is on offer at the Village Hall for anyone to drop in at 10:30am on Fridays.



Come along and meet us, we look forward to meeting you. For more details contact:

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Indoor Bowls

Numbers have increased, slightly, recently necessitating two mats instead of one. Anyone is welcome to have a go with this friendly bunch of people on Thursdays at 2pm at the village hall.

Contact:

**David Rogers
01761 233142**



Golden Hour Club

The club celebrated its 55th anniversary this summer. Started in 1968, in those early years, the club had a hundred members and a 20 strong committee. A coach, driven by Alfie, transported members to the old village hall. Some came from Stratton.

A smaller group now, 25 members, celebrated five and half decades with a special meal at the village hall in July.

New members or visitors would be very welcome at any meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at the village hall at 7.30pm.

Sylvia Rogers 01761 233142

Wednesday Walkers

Walkers have had good walks this summer, not just walking and talking, but sometimes stopping off for refreshments at Norton Down Church, The Holy Cow, Downside Visitor Centre, and the Swallow Café at Radstock.

Thanks are due to our leaders, who devise the routes, check out the walks and cut back undergrowth.



Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Welcome to the Parish Council Section of the latest Village Magazine

In the last edition of the magazine, I wrote that the Parish Council were seeking sponsorship for the Youth Club bus; the bus, run by Youth Connect South West, has been delivering weekly sessions for young people and has attracted a keen following.

This had been financed by a grant that was about to run out, so if we wished to keep this resource, we had to secure alternative funding. The PC, believing this to be a great asset for the village, underwrote 50% of the funding but this left a not insubstantial amount to find if we were to continue to deliver the full programme for 12 months. My colleague Sue Manley did a magnificent job in writing to numerous local businesses asking if they would like to support the youth of the village. Happily, a number of businesses have stepped forward and we have sufficient funds to finance the club for all of 2023; I would like to thank all of those businesses for their support and of course my thanks to Sue for her wonderful work in achieving this. This process doesn't stop, and we now have to begin the process of securing the funding to keep the youth club van in the village for 2024; if you are interested in supporting the club please contact the clerk. Of the youth club itself, the van moved location to the Old Rec during the summer and is going from strength to strength; elsewhere in this edition Sue gives an update on its progress.

This year we have also reconvened the traffic subcommittee; this originally met pre-covid and produced a report detailing improvements that could be made to the roads in the village with the aim of making them safer. The problem of traffic, and in particular speeding, remains one of the biggest issues that villagers are concerned about. To that end the traffic subcommittee is revisiting the issues raised in the past and trying to find a way to take this forward. One thing that we have been able to do is to purchase (through donation) two traffic speed devices, these have the "smiley" faces that show providing your speed is less than 30 mph. The two cameras are more interactive than more static signs and hopefully cause drivers to modify their speed. We hope that they will augment the sterling work done by the village Speedwatch group. If we see these as being successful, then we may consider more for the village at other locations in future.

The spring saw the Coronation with the village holding two events to mark this. Both of these were excellently attended in spite of the inclement weather on both days (the decision to move the Saturday event to the Village Hall from the Old Rec was a master stroke). I would like to offer my thanks to the organising team, both events were the result of several months hard work; congratulations to all of them on an incredibly successful weekend. This demonstrated that there seems to be an appetite for a village celebration event and some of the team behind the event are looking at what can be done going forward.

Don't forget Remembrance Day, November 12th 3.00pm at the village war memorial.

Stay safe.

Jon Pike, Chair of the Parish Council





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Rest Awhile on Your New Seat

If you fancy a rest while you are roaming around the Old Rec, the Parish Council have installed some new sturdy seating.

This bench is to mark the Coronation of King Charles III but there is another in memory of the late Queen.

There are also a couple of new picnic tables ideal for a family feast. The seats are all made with strong recycled materials.

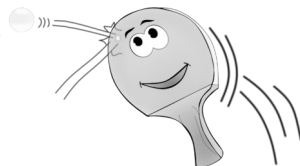
A footpath has also been added to the children's play area to prevent muddy shoes approaching the spot. Repair work is also in progress here following the annual safety report.



Table Tennis

There are table tennis tables available at the Village Hall for more information contact:

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774



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Christmas is coming

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on

Saturday 2nd December

at 2pm

**for Christmas music provided by the
Mendip Brass Band Carols to sing along with
and**

**some tasty festive
refreshments**

Everyone Welcome

**Look out for posters
with more details
nearer the time**



Get Involved

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 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 (*now back in 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

County Council: Telephone 0300 123 2224

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: Spring Edition end of January 2024



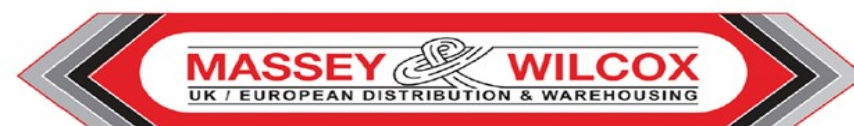
The youth club in Chilcompton village has now been operating for 5 months. It's free for young people of the parish, is on every Wednesday evening and we are really pleased to see the numbers of youngsters attending slowly increasing.

Over the last sessions they have been delivering music sessions with Bath music festivals and creative arts. The music has consisted of mixing songs, writing and recording music and on the last music session they celebrated with pizza. Alongside this they have been running art based sessions, as particularly requested by the young people attending.



For the summer they moved from the Village Hall to the old recreation ground where they have been through the summer between 7:00-9:00 pm every Wednesday, and delivered sport based activities as well as creative sessions for young people between the ages of 11-19 (must be in year 7). Once the nights get darker, towards the end of September, they will move back to the Village Hall car park. **Contact Jayne Lewis on 01225 396980.** or email Jayne.lewis@ycsw.org.uk

The Parish Council is really grateful to the local businesses and organisations that have supported this initiative, help get it off the ground and invest in our young people. Many thanks to the following:



The Manchester City of Somerset

Continued from page 6

“For me, if you are comfortable on the ball then you’ve got a chance in football, it doesn’t matter what level you’re playing, you’ve got a chance.”

Early on when they were playing in the Mid Somerset league they were told they would never get anywhere playing that way yet they won promotion to the senior league and then gained three more promotions on the bounce to reach the Premier Division.

“We go to places like Ilminster, Somerton, Watchet, Minehead, what I would call big towns in Somerset. What we’ve done in terms of football is quite an achievement for a small place.”

To go higher, into the Western League which covers the whole of the south west from Cornwall to Gloucestershire, they need very specific ground provisions. They need floodlighting (planning permission for that is in place), seating for 50 people, a covered stand area and the field blocked off. The estimated cost would be about £100,000.

Tim said: “If there are companies out there who are interested in getting involved with us then we’d like to hear from them.”

But it’s not just the money and the physical requirements. You also need people. More established teams have a network of ex-players and the like working behind the scenes – you need someone on the gate, someone to put a programme together.

Tim said: “The whole infrastructure around the match day experience. In that, if we’re being completely honest, we’re weak, we haven’t got the numbers. Getting volunteers in any field is getting harder. That is a challenge as well as the cost.”

However if Chilcompton Sports were to go up to the next tier of the soccer pyramid he is convinced that it would be sustainable because of the youth set-up that is in place.

Meanwhile, for an important game, there will be up to 150-200 people watching. (Unlike Bridgwater Reserves, you don’t have to pay admission.) Although that may change.

“Come along and have a drink afterwards,” he said. “The whole place is all about sports, it’s all about the match day experience whether you’re watching it or playing. And that’s the same when it is the cricket season.

“For me that’s what the place is all about, multi-sport, getting out in the fresh air, being active, that’s why the whole thing was started.

“It’s a great facility for the village and we need to celebrate it and use it. That’s the message from me really.”



Lets Get Moving

Something had to be done; I seizing up and I felt less able to stop this slow decline I decided Looking into the village and excited to see a class run by Rach which would suit the timetable of my chaotic life.

With some apprehension I under my arm, put on my water bottle filled (*although it as I had to pinch my grandsons*) Chilcompton hall with the determination that this was a new beginning for a new healthier me!

The class was very welcoming, (*I just knew I would not remember everyone’s name though*).

Mat down and off I go, I’ve done a bit of Pilates a few years ago so I thought I would be quite good. However, soon I realized just how out of condition I was. My body creaked and clicked as it made its way through the various moves, some challenging some easier, Rach was so attentive and helpful. My balance wobbled during some of the moves, however there was no competition with my classmates, and I didn’t feel embarrassed or silly.

In fact I fancy my balance skills had improved by the end of the session. (*This must be doing me some good right*)? It did feel good to stretch and move awakening muscles which had long since given up on me. I have no doubt that over and since the pandemic I had slowed down!

At the end of the class, I felt a million dollars I had done something for me re-igniting a love and need to exercise and to be respectful of my body especially as my years advance! (*The walk home was a little slower*), however that feel good feeling was worth all the effort.

The class I attended was friendly, fun, and brilliant. Pilates is a fab way to keep yourself supple and well inside and out, as well as giving your mental health a boost and I for one will be continuing to go along.

Available Classes at Chilcompton hall are:

Pilates all the Way: 5pm Mondays and 9:30 am Thursdays call Rach 07840 120893

Core Pilates UK Ltd: 9am—11am Tuesdays, 5pm—7pm Thursdays and 9am—1pm Fridays call Karen Green 07814 012057



had decided my body was move freely! So, in order to to take myself back to Pilates. what was available locally I was Rach which would suit the

rolled up my workout mat trainers and workout gear, had diggers and dinosaurs on it and I set out on the walk to



Fellow Pilates enthusiast Mandy agrees, she states: **“Looking for a happy class that improves your quality of life and health? This is it.”**

Tracey Withers



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New Faces – Mark & Teresa Crocker

We've moved up from Midsomer Norton. However when we first moved back to the West Country in December 1993 we rented a house by the river in The Street for a few months – a lovely spot.

Whilst Teresa is from Bristol my family has connections with the area going back to the 1940s. My uncle and aunt owned The Court Hotel in Emborough twice during the 1960s.

We enjoy walking to the end of Stockhill Road and looking at the view over the valley towards T'other Side the Hill where you can see the cottage (now much extended) that another aunt lived in. I have many happy memories of the summers I spent there in the 1950s and 60s.

We particularly liked the outlook when we first saw our house. It's been lovely to welcome our children and grandchildren here and see they feel the same as we do.

**The view
over the
valley
towards
"T'other Side
the Hill"**



Obituaries

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

John Wilkinson, Reg Mann

Brian White, Margaret Protheroe

Breda Bendle, Tim Beacham (2022)

Gordon Jackson (Badminton and village hall committee member)

Jackie Payne, James (Jim) Powell

Mike Chedgy, Audrey Strawbridge (91)

Barbara Fowler (90)

We send sincere sympathy to their families and friends. If anyone has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know and they will be included in the next newsletter.

marlenepickford2@gmail.com 01761 232774

News from St John's

The joy of spring and summer is that it brings fresh light, longer evenings, a relief from the gloom of winter and many more opportunities to gather and have fun with those we love.

That most certainly has been my reflection on Church life over the spring and summer months where there have been many opportunities to gather and have fun, starting at 6am on Easter morning, when we gathered to celebrate the risen Christ, with the usual sunrise service, bacon butties and fire pit, which is always a highlight of my spring, when new life is breathed into the world.

Though there have been many opportunities to celebrate this summer at St John's, we also remember that these past few months have also been hard for many families in the village and St John's congregation. It is with great sadness that we have held the funerals of David John Padfield, Adela Janet Marke, James Anthony Powell, Gerald Gould, Michael John Chedgy, Tracey Major and Audrey Strawbridge, whose life in Chilcompton was written about in the last village magazine.

Our condolences go to each of these families, and we continue to hold them in our thoughts and prayers. The Church and its grounds are peaceful places to sit and remember those who have departed, and the church is open every day during the hours of daylight for all to pop in and enjoy a few moments of peace.

In spite of the sadness that the loss of those whom we love from our community brings, there has been lots of life throughout the spring and summer months at St John's which will continue into the Autumn with the fitting of a new audio and visual system that will improve the experience of all those who attend St John's either for worship or other events.



Messy Church has continued to grow from strength to strength with more young families coming to gather for food, fun, crafts, and worship. Messy Church is a non-conventional form of church that's fun for everyone.

It welcomes everyone, involves everyone, values everyone and is there for anyone who wants to take part. So why not come along and give us a try? We meet monthly at 3pm on Sunday afternoons in St John's church hall. Each month we explore a bible theme by getting messy, through stories, crafts, games, and fun followed by family friendly worship then sitting down and eating tea together.

As well as Messy Church, Tea and Toast which meets term time on Thursday mornings from 8:45-10:30 continues to thrive. Tea and Toast is a parent and toddler group, where you can pop in for a play, a cuppa and toast and a chat.

Sarah, our parish nurse, has also developed the Monday café this spring and summer, instead of meeting in the church hall, Monday Café have been taking some outings to explore local places. Sarah says:

'We have enjoyed two outings so far this year. The first to Woodford Lodge in the Chew Valley, which was a lovely excursion through the lanes, a little ramble followed by great refreshments overlooking the Lake. The second in July, was a trip to the American Museum in Bath. A very interesting visit, including a lovely lunch on the Terrace, overlooking the gardens and valley. The weather was kind on both days which enhanced our day. The next trip to The Somerset Coalfield Life Museum in Radstock is on September 13th; 2-4pm. For further details, please visit St John's website. There will be another get-together with refreshments in October or November, again welcome to any village residents. Details, to be confirmed, and will be posted on the Church website.'

For all the up-to-date information on all the midweek groups and activities that go on at the church please visit the church website, www.stvigorstjohn.church. Furthermore, 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 then please contact via the church website and we would be happy to help.

Rev Stephen Miles, Curate St Vigor & St John curate@stvigorstjohn.church



**Messy Church
meeting monthly
3pm on Sunday
afternoons in St
John's Church
Hall, Chilcompton**

Competition Time



**Fantastic Prizes
£20 vouchers
for the
Entertainer
toy shop in
Midsomer
Norton**



My favorite Place or Person – Do you have a special place you love to visit, do you have a favourite place to play at home or in the garden, do you have a favourite person or animal? Put it in a drawing or painting and enter our competition for the younger residents of Chilcompton!

Age categories;

3 – 5

6 – 8

9 – 11

A winner will be picked out in each category by our judge Lizzie Morris*.

*Please note:
Children must reside in the village of Chilcompton to be eligible and only one entry per child.*

All entries must be received by 31st November 2023 competition winners will be contacted in December 2023 and featured in the next spring edition of Chilcompton Matters. Any size up to a maximum of A3.

Good Luck Everyone!



Pop your entry to Tracey Withers c/o 1 Mendip Fields, Stockhill Road, Chilcompton BA3 4LT and make sure you include your name, age and contact details on the back of your drawing.

**Lizzie was a primary school teacher in Chilcompton for many years then she went on to get a degree in Art at Bath Spa Univ. She is still a resident of Chilcompton.*

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Then & Now

Pictures taken
from the bell
tower, St John's
Church.



*Curiously there
are more trees
now than in
1929.*

Before & After



Before This plaque was installed in the old rec, by the Chilcompton Society in June 2002 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. It depicted wild flowers planted at the time by the Society, Gardening club, Guides and Brownies. This had become dirty, worn and no longer relevant as the garden has long gone.

After A new plaque has recently been placed on the plinth and refers to the Golden Ash tree planted in 2002. The Society is grateful to Steve Davis, who built the original plinth and has fixed the new plaque.

Marlene Pickford

HOW TO...BE OLD AND COOL

Obviously, it's an oxymoron of sorts. It's a contradiction. If you are old then by definition you are uncool. You have had your day, and it's gone. Sorry.

But there are things you can do. for instance start wearing purple wife has a particular fear that start dressing her in hippie skirts Don't really know where that that can happen to you?



You can be eccentric. You could clothes. Poets tell you this. My she will get dementia and I will that have tiny mirrors on them. came from, and is that the worst

But clothes are important. Jeans are safe. Jeans are universal. If in doubt, wear jeans. The jury is still out on elasticated jeans. Women introduced them and some of them wear inappropriate leggings. So...

The other day I felt an unnatural urge to wear a cardigan. It was 3.45pm and I was cooking a roast dinner. Chicken, if you must know. I felt an odd shudder and I thought, out of the blue, not having worn one for four years – I must put on a cardigan.

I have recently discovered Long Johns. They are fabulous. In fact, I even had a long train of emails with the Fingerpost Council about them. Long apparently my son wears

**We need
orange Long
Johns with
speckled
purple**

Officer of Somerset County Johns are eccentric, them. But cool.

Possibly if you want to be old vests and Long Johns. But ten degrees lower than cool. Johns. Maybe they should colours. Traditionally they are orange Long Johns with speckled purple. But onesies are a step too far, they are for American westerns only.

and cold then don't wear cold is not cool, cold is at least We need to re-invent Long come out in psychedelic dirty white or black. We need

Beards? If you're a woman, cut it. Blokes? Not so sure. What are you trying to hide? I could reel off a list of unwanted ageing facial complaints. So uncertain am I of beards that I have developed a policy over the last year of growing a beard for two weeks then shaving it off.

Then there are slippers. Slippers are so old school. Slippers are so uncool. But my son makes me wear them in his house and he is obviously younger than I. And now my wife tells me I have to wear slippers because it cuts down on the hoovering. Everywhere I go, slipper police have me under intense surveillance.

I read an article in the Sunday Times about the coolest slippers and chose the best. But they are still very uncool.



I have always been a long-standing hippy, in spirit at least. In 1975 at Istanbul airport an American woman came up to a sallow faced hepatitis-ridden me and said: "Jeez, a real English hippy, I need a photo." Perhaps not my proudest moment but I remember it.

I have always grown my hair as long as I can. Or at least as long as my teachers, my employers and my wife would allow. But long grey hair? I'm not so sure. I think the oldness, the greyness, outweighs the coolness.

If there is any irony here it is that if you are old not only can you not be 'cool' but neither can you be 'hot'. Have you noticed how beautiful women when they reach their 50s are suddenly called handsome. Read your classics. Ho hum.

So, being old, you can no longer be cool or hot. You are doomed to being tepid, just like that cup of tea you made fifteen minutes ago but forgot about because your memory is going.

Perhaps not so ironic is the fact that we are the generation that invented 'coolness'. We are the generation that invented pop music, teenagerhood, Arctic Roll and flares with extra material sewn in. How can we not be cool? It is our birthright.

I think the key thing about being old and cool is that you don't go retro, you go retro retro, you go really retro. You wear Long Johns and you tell people about them. You shout from the sky, I am retro squared.

A friend of mine recently told me that we were the generation that turned up pissed, and vomited on the marches. early for the party, got pizzas. But he goes on Eco

**we are the
generation that
invented
'coolness'**

Another friend, female, aged more than 70, has just married a woman who is under 30. Same gender and 40 years of age difference. Desperate measures of coolness? But how do they talk about what is cool in music?

Music-wise it has always been uncool to like Fleetwood Mac from the 70s but cool to like them from the 60s when they were proper bluesey. Then there's Jefferson Airplane, J.J.Cale and Big Bill Broonzy...(that's enough old dead musicians:Ed).

The point is that there was only one period of proper coolness and that was the sixties and early seventies, maybe not that. The seventies were absurd fashion-wise, the eighties were too much Thatcher-orientated and the nineties too bland. No idea what happened in the first two decades of this century, I was looking after children, but it seemed all rap and crap.

Do we need to be cool? I want to be warm. Bring on the Long Johns...oh, and that hot water bottle please.

Next time how toWrite a novel whilst spreading peanut butter

Malcolm Rigby



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SJP Approved 03/07/2023

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Come and join us at Tuesday mornings during 11.30am in Chilcompton £2 per family and we can

Playgroup is a great friends for both children



Chilcompton Playgroup on term time from 10am-Village Hall. Each session is take cash or card.

opportunity to meet new and adults.

We are pleased to announce the date for our annual Christmas market is **Saturday 18th November 1.30pm - 4.30pm** in Chilcompton Village Hall. The market raises vital funds that allow the playgroup to keep running so come along and start your Christmas shopping.

We are hoping to recruit a few more committee 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>

Tina (Chair) Cassie (Treasurer) and Beth (Secretary)

Ding Dong

St John's church in Chilcompton

will be hosting a prestigious

National Bell Ringing Competition

next summer

The Twelve Bell National Striking Competition

will be ringing out in June of 2024

An important reason why our church has been selected is that it is one of the few in the area that can boast 12 bells.

Adrian Beck, for the local bellringers, said it was a "pleasure and a privilege" to be considered for such an event.

(More next time.)

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Chilcompton Wives

As I write this (*on a very wet July day*), it was good to remember the warm spring and the varied programme of visitors to our group.

We enjoyed the story of Pam and her meeting with the Gorillas of Rawanda, Deb and how she created her 'Posh' to Tim and his story of music and song.

In between we celebrated Charles with afternoon tea With a break in August, we starting on the 6th. We Wednesday of every join us just come along for come at the Recreation

Coming up in the Autumn:

- *Storyteller Tim Lewis 'Around the World in Eighty Days'.*
- *Daniel Moon and the National Garden Scheme.*
- *The Bodyshop .*

hats that we could try on, 'Wind in the Willows 'with

the Coronation of King and lots of chat.

return in September meet on the first and third month. If you would like to tea, chat and a warm wel- Ground, Wells Road.

For more details contact:

Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or **Maureen Evans** 01761 233266

'Tomorrow' a poem by Andrew Morris

The bus tops the hill and down again.

Empty of purpose, it sails the high road.

Looking to redeem the seats of empty rows,

That ceaselessly travel, searching for love.

And to release the quiet, that echoes through the talk free, empty racks.

No faces glance into mine,

no fantasy flies The streets that stand inert.

We have no where to go.

Us, the inside people.

Trapped by the certainty of the ceaseless minute and the moving dial.

The voices I hear are all mine, my knowing.

Where are the new faces?

The eyes that catch mine and look away

to dream a smile that shares this journey of dreams.

You. A stranger, are the possibility of all that is and missed.

You. And me forever perhaps!

Until your stop and you leave and I pretend not to look.

Until tomorrow then, perhaps tomorrow, yes perhaps.

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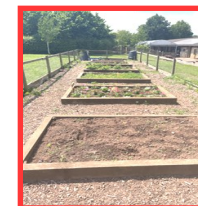
School News



We are happy to be asked to write about our school in 'Chilcompton Matters' and keep the whole village up to date with school news and projects.

It's been a busy summer for us as we progressed through this year with the school continuing to grow from strength to strength! The children and teachers have been very busy on our school allotments and now we are looking to share our school allotment with the local community.

Are you interested in growing things but are lacking in outdoor space?



We as a school would like to offer space for local residents to help us tend to the 'garden' by keeping it weed free (as we are finding it hard to keep on top of this as a busy school) and grow their choice of plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers etc. All we ask is for you to share it with the children. Please contact the school on the number below if you're interested.

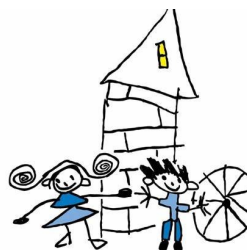
We would also love to recruit somebody local for a caretaker position, to carry out a range of duties to contribute to the security, safety and maintenance of the school premises. If you think you might be interested, please contact us on **01761 233847**.

Caretaker Part Time (15 hours)

Pay Scale – Grade 15, SCP 2-4 (£20,441 - £21,189 pro rata)

We wished our wonderful 2023 year sixes a wonderful goodbye in July we have so enjoyed their involvement in the school and we now hope they are settled into their new school environments and enjoying every minute of it.

The Mill Nursery



The newest members of the school community have now joined our reception class and are settling in nicely. We wish them a warm welcome and look forward to watching them grow and learn.

Email for the school: enquiries@svsj.bwmat.org

Email for the nursery: nursery@svsj.bwmat.org

Website: www.stvigorandstjohnschool.co.uk

Telephone: **01761 233847**

Mining Heritage

Back in May Parish Councillors met with representatives of the Somerset District Miners' Welfare Trust for a special unveiling.

Chilcompton has been fortunate to receive a donation from the SDMWT of a silhouette of a working miner. It's been installed by the coal cart at Rock Road and the two items together make an attractive commemoration of the rich Somerset mining history.

The Parish Council extends the gratitude of Chilcompton residents to the Trust for this generous donation.



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO FIND HAPPINESS?

This question resonates deeply within each of us. The pursuit of happiness is a universal longing ingrained within all of us. We desire a life filled with well-being, purpose, and meaning, recognizing that real happiness lies within these things. Amidst the daily noise of fears, regrets, high expectations, and the complexities of our modern existence, we often find ourselves disconnected from our authentic selves, overshadowed by distractions.

Thankfully, this need not be our reality. Countless generations of yogis have imparted the wisdom that happiness is an inner journey. True happiness cannot be achieved; it can only be embraced. Happiness is our default state—it's just that we have largely forgotten how to tap into it. The pathway to rediscovering this innate joy lies in the practice of regular meditation.



This ancient practice, spanning over 5,000 years, has transformed to remain relevant in the modern world. Scientific advancements, such as the MRI scanner, have revealed the profound impacts and benefits of meditation. Studies show that during meditation, the brain lights up, while stress-related areas diminish. Regular meditation enhances well-being, nurtures creativity, sharpens focus, and fosters profound insights linked to a sense of purpose and contentment with life in the present moment.

These days, meditation has evolved into a secular practice known as Modern Meditation. This approach combines ancient wisdom with contemporary science, offering a powerful and accessible method for anyone to learn. Modern Meditation simplifies the process, empowering individuals to cultivate their own meditation practice effortlessly.

You can embark on your own Modern Meditation journey in Chilcompton. Mick Timpson, architect, artist, author, and seasoned yoga and meditation teacher, is hosting local courses and 1-2-1 sessions online and in person from his new carbon-zero home, Ananda Barn in the village. Mick is offering an 8-week beginners course - For the New and Curious. Limited to only 10 participants, this course introduces the foundational techniques, principles, and practices of Modern Meditation, empowering you to establish your own meditation routine at home.

Course Details:

Fee: £120.00

**Starts on Thursday,
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Our restaurant, George's Country Kitchen, is open 6 days a week. There's no need to book, but if you've got a special occasion coming up or just want to make sure you don't miss out, get in touch and we can help you plan your visit.



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Better than ever Chilcompton Society Flower Show



It was a bumper show this year with tables groaning under produce, flowers, cakes and crafts.

There were 200 more entries than last year ensuring that there was keen competition and a higher standard of exhibits.

Children, too, came up trumps with their imaginative offerings. Jack, Lanie and Bobby did particularly well and Evelyn won a special award for her miniature garden.

The weather was kind, encouraging the many visitors who came along in the afternoon to enjoy tea and cakes at this lovely traditional village show.

Thank you to all the committee members and helpers for all their hard work, which made this community event such a success.

Marlene Pickford





Chilcompton Celebrates the Coronation of King Charles III



On the extended weekend of 6-8th May villagers in Chilcompton celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III in style with two community events



On the Saturday the planned family picnic on the Old Rec was moved to the Village Hall due to the wet weather. However, spirits were not dampened as families enjoyed refreshments, floor chess, Jenga, face painting, toddler activities and many Coronation themed craft activities.

The events were provided free, Chilcompton Parish Council with being donated by Chilcompton Co from the Parish Council, The members of the community all lots of people from the village to all involved.

'It was a very special day and I enjoyed the arts & crafts.' Anna aged 8.



and they were funded by much of the refreshments -op. A team of volunteers Village Hall Committee and organised the event and baked cakes. Many thanks



Our community spirit was well and truly alive at these events. Volunteers who went above and beyond, younger members of the community throwing themselves into competitions and activities and on the Monday the atmosphere in the village hall was wonderful as we enjoyed tea, cake and sang 'Land of Hope and Glory'.



'Today has been amazing, in the hall it has been wonderful, the decorations are fabulous.' Sophie, aged 12.



On the Bank Holiday Monday the focus was on cream teas - with waitress service provided by volunteers from the village. Music was provided by the Mendip Brass Band and the Singing Guitars. Activities included a climbing wall and Youth Bus in the car park and more craft and toddler activities inside the hall. Two cakes provided by **Bespoke Cakes** and **Gilly's Cakery** were raffled and along with donations raised £262 for the Air Ambulance.



'Thank you so much for the coronation tea party. You have all worked so hard. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.' Linda and Steve.



Memories of the events were recorded to be kept in the village archives and a Charles III coin was given to 130 children attending at the events.

'A lovely event to bring the community together.' Jess.



One of the chief organisers, Cllr Donna Simmons, said: "We are really pleased both events were very well attended and enjoyed by the Chilcompton community. We had over two hundred people at each event, with multi-generational families coming together, on this memorable occasion, all having a really good time. Maybe we should have another community event soon. Thanks to everyone who contributed. Reign on!"



Mike Newman

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Chilcompton Gardening Club

Still going strong and our membership is growing all the time.

Our speakers have covered a variety of topics so far this year, including how to construct your own willow obelisk, the Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens and a talk from the Head Gardener at The Bishop's Palace, Wells.

Our members were able to enjoy free daffodil bulbs and geranium plug plants to grow on and both these have now been judged and prizes or cups awarded.

We have been out and about too this summer, with a much enjoyed visit to Hauser and Wirth in Bruton, which included a garden tour.

An afternoon visit to Rosemary's Garden in Midsomer Norton featured the fishponds, greenhouse, kitchen garden and herbaceous borders.

Still to come is a day trip to the gardens at Highgrove. This is a much anticipated day out and promises to be one of the highlights of the year.

We can also look forward to talks on Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends in September, Flora of the Cam and Wellow Valley in October and a fun evening called Holly and Ivy with mulled wine and mince pies to close our programme for 2023.



Our meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Family membership is just £10 and single £7 for the whole year (January – December) and guests are always very welcome at just £2 per meeting. **Why not come along with a friend or two and give us a try, we will give you a very warm welcome.** Contact me on 01761 233017 for more details or see our Facebook Page or the Village Hall website.

Judy Youngs (Secretary)

Little Pickers – Fun Activity for Small Children

What do you do when the grandchildren come to stay?



Grandfather Mike Hughes took his youngsters, Summer and James, out for a walk, litter picking.

The children collected two carrier bags full of rubbish, enjoyed themselves and proclaimed: "We are cleaning up the earth."

Mike said: "It's a good lesson for them to learn about how to look after our world. If everyone who went for a walk, took a carrier-bag with them and just gathered a few items here and there, the countryside would soon be an even lovelier place to be in."

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Memories of the 1953 Coronation in Chilcompton

My mother sent me up to the village hall celebrations chaperoned by one or all of the neighbouring children. We were proudly carrying our Coronation Mugs along Fry's Well under the railway bridge, when I dropped and broke my treasured mug into what seemed like, to a five year



The celebration was in the football field by the Miners' Welfare Hall (the old village hall). There was a fancy dress competition and adults took part too. There were games and fun football. We were given a bun for tea. We also had a Coronation mug and a coin. **Peggy Hill née Gould**

I was very upset about not having anything to drink out of. **Judith Stanford née Painting**



We had a fancy dress competition and tea in a tent on a field. My mother went to town with my little sister's Little Miss Muffet outfit, dressed my brother in his football gear as Stanley Matthews and left me to my own devices. So I donned my PE kit and carried a hockey stick. **Marlene Pickford**

Granny lived in a cottage on Bowden Hill, so we were able to view the Coronation on television at Norton Hall Farm. It was wonderful and unbelievable to watch moving pictures of the service. **Sylvia Rogers née Perkins**

I was dressed as a weatherman, a hat with north, south, east, and west on it; I wore shorts and wellingtons and carried an electric fire (so all possibilities covered.) **David Rogers**



I remember travelling out from Bristol to Chilcompton to celebrate Coronation day in 1953 with my then fiancé, David. We went to his next door neighbours', the Sheppards, to watch it on their television as it was bigger. **Audrey Strawbridge**

Community Speedwatch

The most recent recruit to the Chilcompton Community Speedwatch (CSW) group started in August 2022, after registering an interest at the village groups' day in the Village Hall in March.

He said: "To be honest, it seems like a relatively easy way to 'do something for the community'. Perhaps this is not how everybody sees it. Certainly, one driver suggested that I should 'get a life' as he passed by at 29mph.

'do something for the community'

"But I am pleased to say that minority of passers-by that far more people smiling, that gentleman is in the give an opinion; I have seen giving thumbs up (not middle fingers) and making comments like 'keep up the good work' and even 'thank you'.

"Giving up an hour or so once a month (and less often in the winter) is hardly a drain, and you get to have a chat with somebody new. If drivers who come through the village regularly slow slightly just in case there's some people out in hi-vis jackets again, that's our job done."

The Facts and Figures

As volunteers of the Somerset and Avon Police Community Speedwatch Group we have support of their officers to assist us at the roadside, subject to other duties permitting; the local force fully appreciate the time we give to keep our village roads safe. Speeding is one of the fatal four driving dangers, along with using a mobile phone, not wearing a safety belt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

Should you wish to join the cheerful team of Speedwatch Volunteers, or pop along to observe what effect we have slowing the traffic down which makes our village roads safer, please contact me, Judith, Chilcompton Speedwatch Coordinator for more information at cswwchilcompton@hotmail.com. Training is given as well as ongoing support.

The stats for the village from January to the end of July 2023 are:

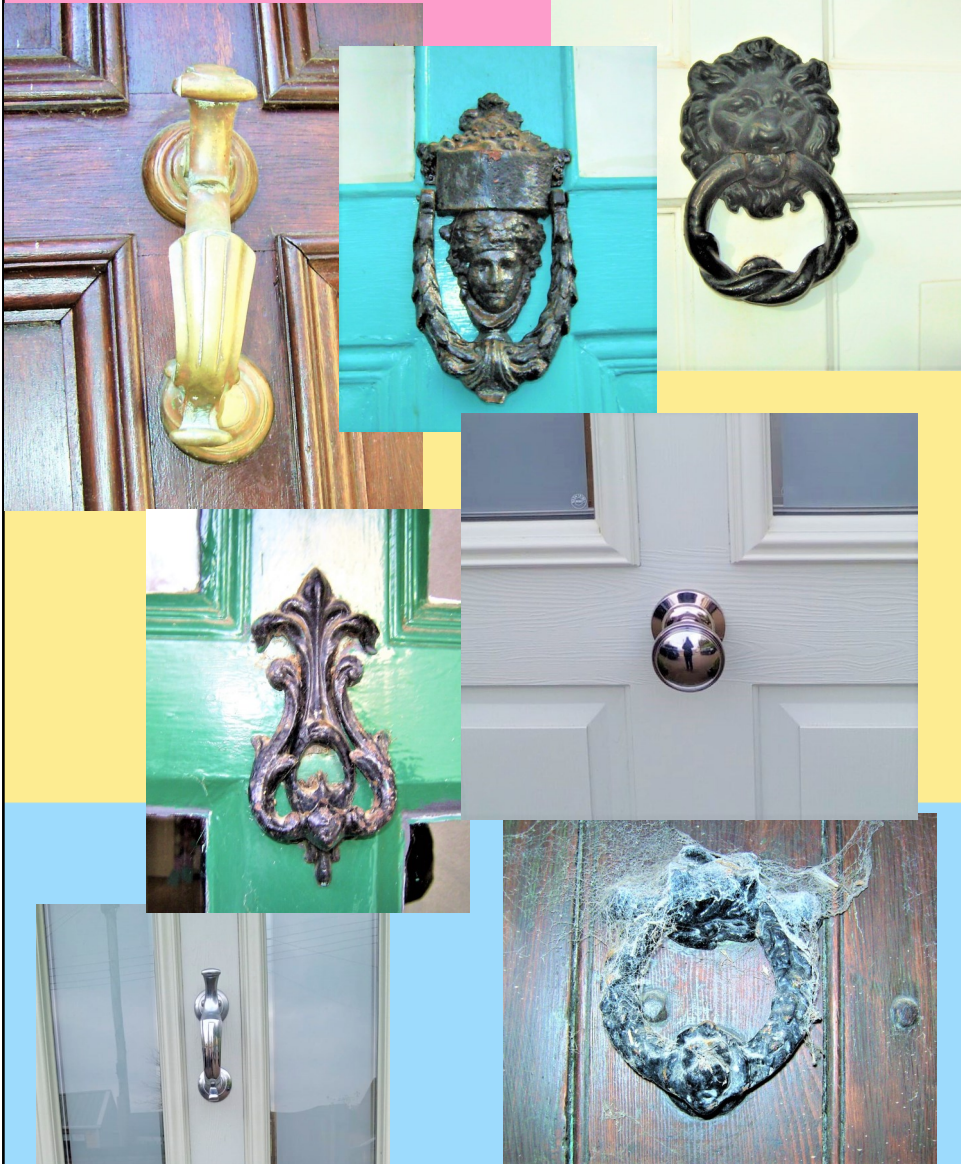
- Sessions completed in July 2 (due to wet weather and holidays)
- Total sessions for 2023 62
- Total number of vehicles checked 11,320
- Number of vehicles above threshold 130
- Percentage of vehicles speeding 1.1%
- Average vehicle speed 37.88mph



Email: cswwchilcompton@hotmail.com

Knobs & Knockers

Can you spot them around the village?



More puerile sexual innuendo.

In Praise of Veterans

We all love an old tree don't we? Who can fail to be impressed by the sheer size and beauty of a truly old tree and we are lucky in the UK to have retained more of these majestic giants than any other country in Europe.

My love affair with trees started as a child growing up amongst beech trees on the edge of the Chiltern Hills but a recent course on the management of veteran trees run by the Ancient Tree Forum made me marvel anew at just how amazing these organisms are.

Veteran trees are survivors, they may show signs of physical damage, decay, hollows and fungal infestation but still they live on. The terms ancient and veteran when applied to trees are often used interchangeably but it is said that all ancient trees are veteran but not all veterans are ancient.

As a tree ages it will start to become hollow, the hollowing process driven by fungi, but this is not a negative occurrence, rather it is a judicious use of resources on the part of the tree. The heart wood or ripe wood in the centre of the tree which is being decayed serves no purpose for the tree while it remains solid – the cells are dead - but as it decays and becomes 'wood mould', a soil like substance, the tree can recycle the nutrients released and will often produce roots from inside the hollow stem known as adventitious roots to help absorb these nutrients.

Eventually the hollowing of the stem can break through the outer, living layer of the tree dividing the stem into what are known as 'functional units', in effect separate semi-autonomous portions of tree with their own crown, stem and roots which can continue to live and produce new shoots and leaves.

Cell structure in animals (including humans), changes as we get older, they divide more slowly and start to develop faults which cause the diseases of old age, but in trees the cell structure remains the same at all ages giving them the ability to produce new shoots, roots, wood and bark throughout their lives theoretically with no end.



'Old Man Beech', Carters Way, Chilcompton



Adventitious roots on an ancient beech tree in the Picos de Europa, Spain

A single tree may have several different development stages, an ancient trunk which may be hollowing but with new vigorous shoots and branches coming from it. To illustrate this, just take a look at our lovely lime trees in the field to the west of The Street here in Chilcompton. The tree to the north had its top blown out in a storm about 20 years ago, but just look at the re-growth, the new stem smooth and vigorous and appearing much younger than the original tree. The tree to the south which was felled by Storm Dudley in February last year is sprouting anew and there's no reason, if it is left alone why it will not eventually produce a new tree from its old stump and the fallen portion may well take root and produce more new stems.



Stump of the lime tree showing vigorous new growth in August 2023

Rotting wood, as well as providing nutrients for the tree, is also a vital habitat for what are known as saproxylic organisms ie those who either depend on dead or decaying wood or depend on other organisms that are themselves dependent on dead wood.

As well as rotting wood, veteran trees provide many other habitats for a range of organisms. Hollows and holes provide nesting sites for birds and bees and roosting sites for bats, ferns often start to grow on the branches and lichen will colonise the bark as it

becomes more alkaline with age. Throughout the life of a tree it will have associations with fungi, indeed the relationship between trees and fungi is almost as old as trees (when the first time trees evolved in the Carboniferous period there were no decaying fungi present hence fallen trees remained in the soil and became coal) but as the tree ages it is more likely to be colonised by a wide range of fungi, some exploiting wood that is already dead whilst others contribute to the hollowing process.

There is no 'one size fits all' management prescription for veteran trees, each tree is unique and comes with its own set of unique demands. Any course of action taken to manage a tree will have negative as well as positive outcomes and these must be weighed up before deciding on a plan of action. In many cases the best prescription is to leave the tree alone.

The Woodland Trust has an inventory of ancient trees on which the beech tree in Carter's Way and the yew tree in the church yard of St John's appear but currently being on the inventory does not afford them any extra protection in law.

At the end of the training course we were given the inevitable questionnaire and one of the questions was 'who will you share your knowledge with?' to which I replied 'anyone who will listen'. Thank you for listening.

Sue Rankine

Photos from a Chilcompton garden Insects Part 2

Getting close-up and personal with the little 'critters' that share the space around us can often illuminate some fascinating fauna within our own gardens. We all see an array of little bugs and beetles and other insects flying or crawling around our flower beds and patios. However, zooming in with your phone's macro setting will often reward you with some very colourful, often spectacular, views of the miraculous world of insects.

The River Somer fills each summer with countless nymphs and larvae. The adults that emerge sometimes make their way into the garden. Mayflies or Damsel flies are occasionally seen fluttering about or resting on the plants. But pictured here is one of the larger Dragonflies, a Broad Bodied Chaser. These often buzz around the patio during the summer, and like this one they like to rest on a convenient garden cane.

The pink and olive Elephant Hawk Moth is one of the unusual visitors. This one was in the greenhouse. Although not huge the same cannot be said for the elephant trunk-like caterpillar, which, can easily grow to be larger than the average human finger. The rear end supports black and pink eye spots and a small black horn giving an eerie appearance of a face looking up at you. Dark in colour but with an occasional bright green variant; these caterpillars are often found on Rosebay Willow Herb.

Another beautifully coloured caterpillar is that of the Grey Dagger Moth. Being hairy the general rule is not to handle this caterpillar. The hair fibres can break off and cause irritation for some people. Also being brightly coloured is normally a warning to would be predators about being distasteful.

The next moth here quite often has people confused. The Humming Bird Hawk Moth is named so for a very good reason. It flies and feeds on nectar in exactly the way an actual humming bird does. I have had friends tell me that they had a small humming bird in the garden when actually it was one of these. Not very common, yet not extremely rare. They like nectar rich flowers and can be seen buzzing around your lavender. They especially like evening primrose.

Getting back to stunning colours we have the Scarlet Tiger Moth. Not to be confused with the less colourful Tiger Moth. Often colourful moths have very plain caterpillars, or vice-versa.



Grey Dagger Moth
Caterpillar



Broad
Bodied
Chaser



Red Woodlouse Spider



Humming Bird
Hawkmoth



Elephant Hawk
Moth



Scarlet
Tiger
Moth

This moth however, also has a very colourful caterpillar with black and bright yellow striations along the body and white spots along each side. The body is also fairly hairy and the feet, covered with short brown bristles, look fluffy.

Probably, like me, you have plenty of woodlice around your garden. If so, you will also have The Red Woodlouse Spider that preys on them. "Good" you might say. But just be wary as these are one of the few UK spiders that can actually give a nasty nip. Wear gloves whilst pulling out those bushy weeds from between your paving and house wall, especially if leaf clutter has accumulated, as this is where you are also likely to unwittingly grab one of these little nippers.

Jon Crouch

Where Have All The Crayfish Gone

Local observers have reported very few sightings of invasive American crayfish in the river this year - it seems that they are quite scarce. The writer has only seen two all season. We're delighted that there are not so many, however it does raise the question as to why there are fewer of them about, especially since in previous years they were a common sight. It could be disease, that the river is warmer, or that something else is preying on them. This however seems unlikely as their main predators are herons and otters... or larger crayfish.

Speaking of larger crayfish, this one was taken from the river in the centre of the village late last season. It is thought that this is close to the maximum size they can get to in the UK. It should be noted that to catch crayfish a license is needed, as are properly designed and approved traps and the permission of the land owner. Anything else that gets caught in a trap must be returned to the river but it is in fact illegal to return a living American crayfish to the wild. If caught, they must be humanely disposed of. They do not make good pets, only tasty meals if you like that sort of thing. I find them a bit crunchy.

Pete Sinclair





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CARO Update - Déjà vu Encore

Chilcompton residents gathered in some force at the August Parish Council meeting to register their opposition to a planning application. Not just any application, but a proposal to build seven houses on land at Somer Lea.



What marks this particular plan out as attention-grabbing, in a grim Groundhog Day kind of way, is that similar applications have already been dismissed on appeal by national Planning Inspectors, not once, but twice.

Let's have a quick recap of the history of this particular planning saga. An application to build nine houses on the same site was submitted in May 2014. Mendip District Council did not make a decision on this proposal so the applicant submitted an appeal on the grounds of non-determination. Planning Inspector Jessica Graham dismissed the appeal on the 9th January 2015, on the following grounds:

Proximity to mature trees and grassland and therefore habitat for protected species of birds and bats; concern over the proximity of the two large beech trees to the access to the site; the site is outside the development limits for Chilcompton.

Not satisfied with this outcome, the applicant had another attempt in December 2019 with a slightly reduced plan, this time for seven houses on the same site.

Continued on page 49

Embroidery Experiences

Classes will resume again on Tuesday 3rd October and Thursday 5th October 2023 for a 12 week course leading up to Christmas. New members are always welcome, just come along to the Chilcompton Sports Centre. Both classes start at 10.30 am and end at 12.30 pm.



If you need any more information please contact:

Pat Ardron on
07788 184 185 or 01761 232466

Come Along to Remembrance Day

The village will once again commemorate the November Remembrance Day in the usual way.

There will be a gathering at the war memorial

At

15.00 on Sunday 12th November

for the traditional service after which everyone is invited to join the Parish Council for tea and cake in the village hall.

On the preceding day

Saturday 11th November

we will see the dressing of the three war graves in the morning at the village church yards, at the graveyard on Stockhill Road and at St Johns.

Cllr John Pike said:

"These services are short but no less moving. We hope that many of you will be able to join us over the two days."

Continued from page 47

Mendip District Council refused this application on 11 March 2020, on these grounds:

Outside the development limits; not sustainable development by virtue of lack of accessibility and distance from local services and facilities, and would foster growth in the need to travel by private vehicle; harm to the rural character and appearance of the area and wider landscape; failure to satisfy the Planning Authority that the increase in surface water runoff could be managed effectively, either on or off-site, and that the development would therefore increase flood risks elsewhere.

This final issue was particularly welcomed by Chilcompton residents who still have grave concerns that the just around the corner and might one day be repeated.

**Development
would
therefore
increase flood
risks
elsewhere**

major flood of June 2016,
downhill from Somer Lea,

The applicant appealed Planning Inspector Jonathan decision to dismiss the 2020, on these grounds:

against this decision and
Manning issued his
appeal on 29 October

Lack of accessibility to local without resorting to private the rural character and appearance of the area;

services and facilities
transport; limited harm to

insufficient evidence of a plan to provide an attenuated drainage system for surface water runoff.

Mr Manning made it clear that while the current Local Plan for the Mendip District does not demonstrate the necessary 5 year Housing Land Supply, the provision of just 7 houses would not benefit the housing supply or local businesses sufficiently to outweigh the harm done by the development.

This brings us to the latest application, received by Somerset Council on 13 July 2023. This is simply a resubmission of the previous application, without even a cursory attempt to address the reasons for dismissal of the previous appeal.

Chilcompton Parish Council have recommended that the application be refused, on all the grounds listed in association with the previous proposals, but with the addition of concerns regarding road safety, particularly at the blind junction of Tunnel Lane with the Street. Our Somerset Councillors, Edric Hobbs and Tony Robbins, have asked that the application be sent to the Planning Board for consideration, and the Parish Council added a request that Board members make a site visit. A public presence at the Planning Board would be welcome.

Rich Morgan

Deputy Chair, Chilcompton Parish Council and CARO spokesperson

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30th Anniversary Open Day

Building upon the success of a preceding week-long exhibition hosted in the enchanting Cloisters of Wells Cathedral during June, the Chilcompton Art Club commemorated its 30th year since formation, with an engaging Open Day held at the Chilcompton Sports Club on July the 15th.

The Open Day showcased an impressive assortment of paintings, created through an array of media, ranging from the classic allure of oils to the vibrant hues of pastels and acrylics. The event resonated with the spirit of creativity, offering a glimpse into the innovative minds that contribute to the Chilcompton Art Club's ethos.

Enthusiasts of art, both local and beyond, attended the Chilcompton Sports Club to partake in the event, and the day brilliantly underscored the role that the Chilcompton Art Club plays within the community, uniting club members, Chilcompton residents, and visitors in a shared appreciation for art. The event served as a testament to the club's enduring commitment to fostering talent and nurturing creativity over the course of three decades.

The 30th anniversary Open Day paid homage to the core objectives of the Chilcompton Art Club: to serve as a communal asset for Chilcompton and to create an inclusive environment that welcomes individuals of all skill levels and backgrounds. The event was a testament to the unwavering dedication and vision of the club's members, who have always cultivated a space where friendship and creativity thrives.

For those seeking further information about the Chilcompton Art Club, additional information and contact details can be found on the club's official website: www.chilcomptonartclub.uk and also, on their Facebook page.



Nigel Punchard

Pass Wide & Slow Ride Chilcompton Saturday 16th September

You may be seeing horse riders, cyclists and walkers taking part in a National Awareness event for road safety.

The Highway Code has changed, its advice to road users is to protect the more vulnerable and riders are doing their bit too by wearing Hi Viz clothing.

We are hoping that drivers realise that approaching/overtaking should be at 10mph max, and they should be allowing a two-metre width. We have lots of lanes locally so, if possible, please be patient and allow the riders to find a gateway or a safe area.

Drivers should not rev their engines and shout at other road users as this can distress the horses

Also note that the changes

The ride hopes to remind appropriate equipment. Most any incident is reported to the police and the British Horse Society.

Riders are welcome to join us and we would appreciate sponsorship if any extra funds are raised these will be donated to the air ambulance.



The Highway Code has changed

and riders, please be patient.

include that in some instances riders

riders to be polite and use the riders do now wear head cams and

riders do now wear head cams and



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Surprises on Your Doorstep:

All Banged Up

In a new series we look at treasures/treats just outside the village, Malcolm Rigby spends a night at Shepton Mallet prison

Perhaps you could describe it as more bizarre than macabre. Loaded with bedding,



about 60 of us gathered outside the gates of the famous gaol on a Friday evening to experience the dark hours behind bars – we had paid for the pleasure but none of us looked particularly ghoulis.

There were proper ghost hunters armed with specialist cameras and recording devices, a Welsh hen party all dressed in orange uniforms and a couple from Durham going on to Bath's more traditional touristic pleasures – a mixed bunch.

Shepton Mallet prison, opened in 1625 and closed in 2013, is apparently the country's second most haunted building (after the Tower of London). When the doors finally shut (or opened) there was talk of development into residential properties but there have been obstacles like the fact that dead bodies buried under the earth cannot be removed for three more years. Meanwhile it is a strange tourist attraction.



It's also become popular as a film and TV venue. 'Paddington 2' was partly shot here, as was the Dennis Nilsen drama starring David Tennant.



Previous famous prisoners include the Kray twins and fellow gangster Charlie Richardson.

Us new inmates went up to our cells to prepare for the night. There is a basin and a toilet (introduced in 1998 after the Strangeways riot) but they can't be used. My son took the floor and I had the rustic iron bed.

The Visitor's Centre was open and serving drinks, I went for a gin and tonic, sceptically I thought that this might be the closest I get to communion with spirits.

At ten o'clock we congregated for the prison/ghost tour by the execution wall. The bullet holes have been removed and the story that one US soldier died from a rebound, is still unconfirmed.

It's a surprisingly large building with several wings and plenty to see: the infirmary with sawn off limbs (fake), the women's wing with mannequins, the governor's office, the exercise yard, the condemned cell and neighbouring execution room. Enough information on the boards to terrify your average factophobe.

And after several hundred years of incarceration and inhumanity, there are plenty of ghostly stories to keep your tour guide talking for a couple of hours. There's the frequently seen 'White Lady' who killed her fiancée, wanted to be executed in her wedding dress but mysteriously died of unknown causes the night before. Then there's the 'Worcester Monster' who could paint a mural beautifully but also killed small children. Useful fact: The word 'hangover' comes from the morning after state of debauched folk who went to view hangings.

At midnight we decided to leave the ghost catchers to their meanderings and went to find our coffins (prison slang don't you know).

The institutional bell woke us at six and we were given the option of porridge. One person said, "I heard a door slam". The ghost hunters discussed orbs they had captured. My son, who has a one-year-old child, said he had a relatively good night's sleep. Then we were released onto the gloomy wet streets of Shepton.

Mendip Brass Band

We began our summer programme with Chilcompton's Coronation Tea Party at the village hall, which was a great success. At the end of our programme we played, 'Land of Hope and Glory' and the large audience sang along and waved their flags.

Later in July we played at a new venue for us, Clare Hall, Ston Easton for their garden fête. Sadly, the weather intervened and we had to play indoors due to pouring rain. Staff and residents enjoyed the music and one young member of staff said she had never heard a brass band before.

We also attended and played at an event to remember the life of one of our members, Richard Robertson, who passed away suddenly recently. We included his favourite march 'Sussex by the Sea'. We then played at Burrington Combe church for their Rock of Ages Songs of Praise. **New players will always be welcome to join our band.**

Jenny Gould: 01761 232551



History Corner

Arthur Creed Hambly 1900 – 1973. Part Two.

Arthur had visited Chilcompton many times to stay with friends before retiring here in 1956 and living at Downside vicarage with the Greenways. He now had more time for painting, but he also helped his friend Lionel in the church.

He painted in situ in the surrounding countryside or in his room at the vicarage, which was full of easels and painting materials and several paintings in progress. He was often seen out and about in the surrounding countryside in his duffle coat and black beret, sitting on a little stool and drawing or painting the nature that he so loved. He was considered at that time to be one of the finest water colour painters of trees in the country.

His love of trees was always evident. He was distressed to see elm trees dying and would cut ivy from them. It was only later that Dutch Elm Disease was the cause. He clouds and would drive all them.



Those who knew Arthur modest and unassuming, teller and with a wonderful ferried people to church a common sight on local

believing that it was killing we knew that Dutch Elm also had a fascination for over the Mendips watching

described him as kind, gentle, generous, a marvellous story sense of humour. Arthur and back; his beige Ford Anglia roads. He was always ready to help village people improve their painting skills with patient encouragement.

He exhibited his paintings at all the major venues regularly as well as sending them twice a year to St. Ives from Chilcompton railway station. He gave many of his paintings to local people often as wedding presents and though probably only remembered by a few villagers, his legacy is the paintings in our homes depicting the countryside of 60 or 70 years ago, an important visual record of the past.

In 1980 Felicity Redmond-Lyon organised an exhibition of Arthur's work and planted a tree (acer platinoid's crimson king) in Arthur's memory in the Junior school garden. When the school closed in 1992 the Chilcompton Society planted another in Carter's Way, which sad to say, was vandalised. Now the bench in Carter's Way commemorates his life and achievements.



New Rock Pit

Marlene Pickford

“...tastes as good as it looks...”

Unless you are an A.A.Milne enthusiast you may think that ‘House at Pooh Corner’ is an unlikely address for a cake baker. When Karen Brittle moved into Carter’s Way she was told that unless she thought of a name she would be given a number. She explained: “At the time I was really into Winnie the Pooh. It was a long time ago; I’ve been here for 30 years. But even now a number of people ask me how to spell Pooh.” However, the business name is **‘Cakes by KarenB’**.

Though she has always loved baking, originally, she was in IT. Then a voluntary redundancy scheme allowed retraining and a shift into complementary therapy (massage and reflexology). Whilst working at Dorothy House Hospice an anniversary cake-making competition threw her this extra side-line.

“After that a lot of the workers at the hospice were asking, please can you make me a cake,” Karen said. “That’s how I really got into it, fell into it, hadn’t really planned to do it, that was 2016, I started from there.”

Her ‘bread-and-butter’ are birthday cakes, christening cakes, retirement cakes – that kind of special occasion. She does make wedding cakes however admits they are more stressful.

Children’s birthday cakes have become so popular that she has accidentally acquired an unlikely knowledge of TV programs such as Paw Patrol.

Karen said: “Most of the cakes are vanilla, lemon or chocolate, occasionally I make carrot cake. Red velvet cake seems to be a popular one with teenagers. It’s not a chocolate cake and it’s not bright red. But it’s a light chocolate cake with red coloring in it, a dark red color in the sponge and I usually put white chocolate filling in the middle. “My cupcake bouquets are very popular,



especially for Mother’s Day, it’s a cupcake but looks like a bouquet of flowers. I do get a lot of orders for those.”

Compliments come in the form of photos of happy kids with their cakes at parties.

“A lot of people will just say the cake was absolutely delicious,” she said. “Or the cake tasted as good as it looked.” She has a Facebook page but doesn’t have a website page or do advertising – it’s all word of mouth.



Karen can be contacted on 01761 232370

THE NEW VILLAGE TAXI?

How do you get around when you can’t drive, the buses aren’t convenient and funds don’t quite stretch to frequent taxi use? Jon Wood seems to have found the answer. You may have seen his new mode of transport around the village - possibly even with Jon on it. In fact you may have even seen an article about it in these pages a year ago.

The Chat-e-Cycle is a 3-wheeled electric side-by-side trike, the brain child of Kate Mattick, who grew up in the village at Manor Farm, but now lives in Bath. Kate’s contribution to the village of transport which she villagers like Jon out and raised £15,000 to get her the outcome is an electric (Kate or another such as Jon, sitting

Kate is encouraging local residents to try it out and give feedback

community is a new mode hopes will help get about. In 2022, Kate project off the ground – trike operated by a pilot volunteer) with a co-pilot, comfortably alongside.

As a physiotherapist Kate became interested in accessible green transport for rural areas, like Chilcompton: “I designed the Chat-e-Cycle as part of my Master’s degree, with older adults in mind who may no longer be able to cycle independently, or may find it difficult to walk long distances, or can no longer drive - or simply sometimes feel isolated.”

The pilot controls the mechanisms of the trike, such as the electric input, brakes and steering, leaving the co-pilot to pedal as much or as little as they like - or not at all, as there is also a broad footrest should they simply prefer to come along for the ride and the chat.

However, the Chat-e-Cycle, can be used by anyone and Kate is encouraging local residents to try it out and give feedback, with the aim of developing an alternative mode of transport in rural areas where standard transport options are unreliable or inaccessible to certain members of the community.

Jon is a perfect example of these difficulties: “Living on the borders of any county provides considerable transport difficulties for people like myself who can no longer drive.



Kate and Jon on the Chat-e-Cycle passing the stream in Chilcompton

Community transport won't cross borders so Mendip won't transport passengers into BANES and BANES won't transport into Mendip – so getting to Midsomer Norton from Chilcompton, is impossible if the buses aren't convenient or you can't use them.

"I was very apprehensive actually I feel very safe. We a safety belt for me to use, rest if I want it. With Kate work I don't even have to

"I would really encourage people to have a go. It's really rather good"

about the trike at first, but wear helmets, and there is and arm rests, and a foot by my side doing all the pedal if I'm not up to it.

"Paul Watermeyer, Project BANES, is very enthusiastic and keen to promote the Chat -e-Cycle to Age UK members: "What a fabulous, environmentally-friendly transport idea, with the added bonus of fresh air, exercise and company." There are plans for Kate to make a presentation to his Midsomer Norton group to encourage members to use the service.

The scheme is being piloted from Chilcompton, and free at point of use at the moment, so it's an opportunity to get on board before everyone else gets wind of this fun, green machine. Actually it's purple. Kate laughs, "I've had both my elderly grandmothers on it, so all are welcome. Volunteers are especially welcome."

Contact chatecycle@gmail.com, website www.chatecycle.com, mob 07394 898911

Chilcompton Matters - Advertising

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

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Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries

The Friends have had a busy six months since Chilcompton Matters was last issued.

There were three Health Talks in the spring covering Bowel Cancer, IBS & Pelvic Physiotherapy.

We are currently trying to arrange more talks for this autumn and have listened to requests from patients about topics they would like covered. The challenge will always be finding the speakers with some time in their schedules to donate to us. We are also trying to organise a men-only session on prostate problems (one evening after hours) at St Chads.

This summer the Friends have donated funds to purchase a new Feno Monitor to improve the diagnosis of asthma (£1,850) and a portable infra-red vein scanner to assist in locating the appropriate vein in particularly frail patients (£1,244).

We joined with Radstock & Midsomer Norton Lions in the purchase of a Phlebotomy Chair for Chilcompton Surgery's new Phlebotomy room. We are all very grateful to the Lions for their support.

Whilst you are still topping up your tan, we are planning our Christmas Raffle – our major annual fundraiser. Perhaps you will see us in the Autumn Flu jab season.

Surgery Partners and Managers are working hard on the detail of the merger to form Somer Valley Medical Group. All three surgeries will remain open, but it is still being decided whether all sites will remain as they are now, or they will be used differently i.e. one for urgent care and the other for routine care. Patients will still retain their usual doctor and it is unlikely there will be any change at Chilcompton.

Finally, I cannot close without mentioning the terribly tough time that NHS Primary Care is going through. The 7.5 million people on waiting lists must be cared for while they wait, and that falls largely to GP Practices. Add an ageing population and acute staff shortages to that, and you have a recipe for trouble. Staff seem to have had no real time to draw breath since Covid. NHS figures state there are 406 fewer GP's in June 23 from June 22. We are luckier that many areas of the country but even the leafy Mendips are not able to attract staff in sufficient numbers.

If you have any feedback, suggestions, questions, or requests to join our 100 Club, please email me at jsattlerevans@btinternet.com or phone 232244. If you are on Facebook, please follow St Chad's & Chilcompton page – there is often useful information on the page.

STOP PRESS

The next Health Talk will be on Osteoporosis & will follow immediately after our AGM

Tuesday 26th September 5.30 p.m.

at the Methodist Church Hall in Midsomer Norton

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
'Her up the Hill's' 174 walks in the last issue were entertaining and practical. They were ideal ways to encourage and support bus use. Just two points though: There were always Sunday buses through Chilcompton up until a few years ago.

The walking group have been using buses for some time to return home from their longer walks.

Keep on walking and using the bus everyone!

'Her at the top of the Hill'



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Ladies Who Decorate our Bridge



Ever wondered who are the people responsible for the colourful decorations that occasionally adorn the wooden bridge on The Street? Most recently for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Pat Ardron said: "We are a group of ageing Mums who have lived in Chilcompton village for around 50 years. We all met when our babies and children went to the baby weigh-in sessions at the old village hall, followed by 'Nursery' which was also held there.

"We have seen a lot of changes in the village, our offspring attended the small school which is now a private home in the lane at the bottom of the stream as you make your way to Chilcompton Church. The children walked along the Pitching to have lunch in Church House, which is also now a private house. Many, many activities happened in that Hall as it was a meeting place particularly for the bottom of the village.

"This is who we are. Not many of us left now but we will continue to try to put a smile on peoples' faces as we try to come up with different manageable ideas."



Editors note: There are other individuals who decorate the bridge. People who live nearby would like the decorations taken down in reasonable time.

Chilcompton Sports News

Chilcompton Sports Club Update

This has been another successful year for the Sports Club as it continues to provide a good meeting place for all our sports sides, supporters and villagers.

The Sports Club has also hosted many functions in the past six months including a really successful Art Exhibition in July.

The Club continues to welcome participation in tennis, netball and athletics alongside the cricket and football.

It will be open through the next six months for all major sporting events on Sky, BT and terrestrial TV in comfortable surroundings with no membership needed.

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

Cricket News

Like everyone, Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club was saddened to hear of Terry Moore's passing in 2022. Terry was a great supporter of the Cricket Club from the very first day we left Downside to join Chilcompton Sports.

We all wanted to remember Terry so built a scoreboard in his memory. Miles Hadrill and his crew of helpers built the scoreboard from scratch, and this was financed by the following local sponsors:

Kelvin & Caroline Parker, Spectrum Form Design Ltd, PG Owen Ltd, Stotts Group, Charltons, Avon & Wessex, Solartech.

Terry Moore Memorial Scorebox

On 9th August, the scorebox was officially opened by Terry's family. It was a great turnout on a surprisingly 'sunny' evening with the sponsors and players joining Terry's family.

Cricket Club – Senior Section

This has been our 9th Season at Chilcompton Sports Club and the membership continues to grow for the seniors with lots of local Chilcompton villagers now playing for the club. It has been a mixed season for all three senior sides with many of the games cancelled due to the dreadful 'summer' weather.

It has also been a challenging season for the groundsmen, Mark Colbourne and Clive Christer, who have both managed to prepare playing strips every week in adverse conditions.



The Senior T20 1st XI have progressed to the Final of the Somerset Minor Cup after victories against Blagdon, Timsbury and Purnells. Final in September.

Cricket Club – Junior Section

This season has been the most successful yet for the juniors. The Under 13s went through the whole season winning every game and deservedly won the Bath & District Youth League. Here are the names of the team of local players who were expertly managed by **Tom Hancock – Zak Gloudemans, Ollie Purchase, Finn Bradley, Malachy Love, Cory Hawkins, Lucas Hawkins, Victoria Baughan, Adam Zalel, Isaac Emery & Aaron Hancock.**

Next season we plan to keep this side together and enter two sides in the Bath & District League (Under 13s and Under 15s). Kyle Gloudemans and his team of coaches take a lot of credit for the success of the Under 13s.

On Wednesday training evenings from mid April until the end of July we averaged between 30 and 40 youngsters. We regularly have Juniors in our three senior sides and the future of Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club is safe in their hands. The whole Junior Section are indebted to Debbie Hancock who runs the “Safe Hands Portal”.

Jacqui Nolan – Cricketer Magazine Pride of Cricket Awards LV Fundraising Hero for 2023

The Club are proud to announce that Jacqui Nolan has won this award for 2023. From the very start of 2015 Jacqui has been responsible for raising the funds through grants for the nets, sight screens, covers, boundary rope, mowers/machinery, junior playing kit etc. Without Jacqui we wouldn't have become one of the biggest Cricket Clubs in the area and everyone is grateful for Jacqui's unbelievable fundraising work.

We are waiting to hear of the prize and a full report will appear in the next magazine.

Social Media

Our Committee Member Linda Travis has been responsible for improving our Social Media profile:

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>

Our Cricket Club is keen to recruit more senior and junior players for the new season. Please contact Dave Travis for further details on:

07725 458404 or dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk

Dave Travis

Chilcompton Sports U10s

Fresh kits for 50 strong squad

Chilcompton Sports U10s consists of two squads, one run by Ian Hawkins and the other which is run by Managing director of Razor Global Solutions, Matt Hirst.

Matt joined Chilcompton Sports last September with his son Teddy, who plays in one of the two, 25 strong squads and has been a vital part of the managing team. The company have supplied sponsorship for the entire squad for a second year as they move into the 2023/24 season.

Razor Global Solutions are a Midsomer Norton based consultancy business who specialise in supporting companies of all sizes to achieve their goals and aspirations.

We spoke to Matt about his sponsorship of the team and he said: “Our sponsorship of Chilcompton Sports football is in keeping with our business model, we are a support organisation and what better way to demonstrate our commitment to our ethos than supporting a local grassroots football team.”

Ian added: “We are very grateful for all the sponsorship Matt and his company have provided for our team, not only does he sponsor the teams match day kit but he also supplied all coaches and helpers with managers wear as-well. My team will continue to play in the Bristol Hanam League this coming season with Matt bringing his Colts to join us and will play up to four matches on a weekend.”

The Adam Gould Dom Perignon Tournament

On Sunday 6th August Chilcompton U9/10 Coaches along with parent helpers hosted Chilcompton Sports Clubs first ever “Adam Gould Dom Perignon Tournament” at the sports ground.

The tournament featured players from our very own U9s and U10s teams along with other local clubs – seven teams in total.

Bath City won the plate final and our very own Chilcompton Blues beat Shepton Mallet on penalties in the “Adam Gould Dom Perignon Trophy” final.

It was a fantastic day all round with much positive feedback from parents, coaches and players. We would like to thank all those involved that helped to make this day a success.

Sponsors: Razor Global Solutions, Quantum Security Group & Pixels

BINGO: Chilcompton Sports Club, Wells Road, Chilcompton BA3 4EY, 1&2 Line prizes as well as fantastic cash prizes. Doors open 6:45 Eyes down 7:30.

**13TH OCTOBER (HALLOWEEN SPECIAL) , 1ST DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS SPECIAL)
9TH FEBUARY (VALENTINE'S SPECIAL), 12TH APRIL (EASTER SPECIAL)**



Chilcompton Sports U14 Colts

This season, our U14s have secured a third years sponsorship deal with Eco Friendly company [Sprout Consulting Ltd](#).

They have deep values and beliefs when it comes to being a greener company and try to support ethical, green & eco businesses, so when presented with kit options they decided to look for a more sustainable version of kit.

Our supplier Macron were able to offer a kit made from recycled PET plastics and whilst this option is more expensive Sprout believe it is worth it. Chilcompton Sports fully support the decision to look after our environment and recycle what we can and hope to offer this Eco kit to other sponsors in the future.

Chilcompton Sports U13

Krazy Angel Presents New Training Kit to Team

Sally Earle, grandmother of Chilcompton Sports striker Ethan, held a Kings Coronation line dance fundraiser at Prattens Sports and Social Club on Sunday 7th May to raise money for a new training kit. The event was supported well, and visitors were able to enjoy afternoon tea and cake as well as a game of bingo and of course plenty of line dancing.

On 19th May, Coach Ryan Perry and team members Ashley, Liam and Ethan were invited to another of Sally's social events. The team took part in some line dancing before having a photo with the Krazy Angel line dancers and being presented with a cheque for £1000.

Event organiser Sally said "The Chilly team have had their training kit since my Grandson Ethan joined the team in 2020, it's fair to say the kids have grown and it needed to be replaced. I have such a great following with my Krazy Angels and they are always really supportive of my fundraising events, however I was astounded to have raised £1000 for the team, it's enough for them all to have new training kits and to treat them to a game, possibly Bristol City or something like that."

Sally presented the team with their new training kits on Thursday 17th August and it has been confirmed that the team will be flag bearers at Bristol City for their Huddersfield match in April 2024.

Hayley Fanning

Dippers—Cinclus Cinclus



We've featured dippers before but they are not often seen as they tend to be quite elusive and basically live in rivers.

Sightings here are usually in the late winter when the river is running fast. They eat larvae and they like to dip or even swim under water to feed.

The reason for featuring it again is that one was perhaps resident in a certain spot on the river for more than two weeks in June/July. This tells us once again that the river is healthy and will hopefully stay so.

Moorhens have been seen for much of the year also.

Please let us know of any unusual birds, mammals, reptiles or insects that you spot around the village.

Pete Sinclair

Hedgehog heroes – you're needed

Sad fact is that the number of our prickly friends has declined from 30 million in the UK in the 1950s to less than 900,000 now.

As a part of a special citizen science project **The Somerset Wildlife Trust** is asking you to record your number of sightings of hedgehogs between the 11th and 18th September so they can fulfil a more complete picture of the number of them and where they most need help.



enquiries@somersetwildlife.org