

Autumn Magazine September 2024

Chilcompton Matters

... because it does

Supported by the Parish Council

TwentyisPlenty

Slowing the traffic in
Chilcompton

New Look for Old Rec

3G pitch at Chilcompton Sports

Bellringing Euros

The Twelve Bell Contest Final

The Wessex Beer Festival

Flower Show

Open Gardens Safari for 2025

Reporting on our Summer Events

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

Contents

6

Chilcompton Against
Road Speeding



14

Wessex Beer
Festival

75

3G Pitch launch



Plus all our regular features and lots more

New look for the old Rec	4	Flower show	38
20isPlenty	6	PEG (Parish Events Group)	43
Open gardens event 2025	9	Council Matters	45
CARO update	11	Meet Our Competition Winners	47
Wessex Beer Festival	14	Birds From My Garden	48
Youth Club update.....	18	Anyone for YOGA	51
Redan Celebrates	22	Farming Matters	56
News From St John's	24	Art Club update	59
The Good, the bad & the ugly.....	27	How to be a Luddite.....	61
Bellringing competition report	30	Unsung Heroes	67
Gardening club	33	Surprises on your doorstep	71
I can't exercise because	35	Chilcompton Lives Joan Hawken	72
History corner—WI	36	Chilcompton Sports	76

Front cover photo courtesy of Jon Crouch

Welcome...

...to the 2024 Autumn edition of Chilcompton Matters.

"Never mind the quality feel the width." At 80 pages this is our biggest yet, clearly there is a lot to talk about. In a way, it's felt like a summer of those glorious pre-COVID days with events popping up to amuse the whole community. There's been the beer festival, the bell-ringing tournament, Redan Celebrates and of course the Flower Show - they are all reported on inside.

The length and the colour has been made possible through the new advertisers, and of course the old, so we thank them all. Who knows, maybe the next issue might be all colour, editorially.

In addition, this magazine welcomes new writers - including more than you could possibly want to know about woodlice. As well as events, news, small creatures and aspirations we also like to give a flavour of the village in terms of clubs and businesses, so if you're a member of a team or organisation that hasn't been properly recognised then do let us know.

Huge thanks and adulation has to go to Tracey Withers who not only does all the desktop publishing (with the extra pages) but has written several articles and organised the children's art competition. Ta very much to the ever-patient Mike Hughes who continues to keep the advertisers cheerful - this is his tenth year; we'll have to find a way to celebrate.

Not forgetting the distributors, proofreaders and anyone else who make this 'tome' possible. Hope you enjoy, and thank you for, reading.

Bendice tu corazon (bless your heart)

Malcom Rigby

parishclerk@chilcompton.org

New Look for the Old Rec

Depending on money due from an earlier housing development, the Old Rec subcommittee of the Parish Council have been drawing up plans to revitalise the activities available at the recreation ground.

A sum of £23,000 should be available for recreational use as part of the 106 money that ought to have been transferred to Somerset Council through the Greenacre development at the top of the village several years ago.

Already approved by the PC is the introduction of a 1.2 m track around the perimeter of the grounds that could be used for running/walking/pushchair/wheelchair use. As part of this development there would also be the provision of a boules court.

Then dependent on the securing of the 106 funds this initial phase would see the arrival of an 'inclusive' roundabout, an 'inclusive swing', a new seesaw, and adult exercise equipment.

Councillor Paul Mattick said: **"I have been looking at other villages in the area and what they have to offer in terms of play and physical exercise activities; I have to confess that we have fallen behind. Hopefully these changes will redress the balance.**

"Obviously we can't please all the people all the time and equipment is expensive but our aim is to provide good community use."

This is just an initial phase but any further changes would depend on getting money from grant-giving bodies, fundraising activities and/or an increase in the precept. Any decisions are ultimately made by the full Parish Council.

Last Monies from a Great Fundraising Body

Chilcompton Celebrates has donated its final £1,100 to Chilcompton Cricket & Sports Club towards the new electronic score board in memory of Terry Moore. Christine Foster dreamt up the idea of Chilcompton Celebrates and the first event was held in the Sports field in 2005; it ran each July until 2014. Over £20,000 has been donated to various Chilcompton groups and organisations over the years but this final donation has emptied the purse.

She said: "The many activities we have been able to help has been a 'joy' but most of all it was the wonderful contribution that so many villagers made by donating their skills and time to make sure the annual Celebrates was a huge success."

The Cricket Club had played at Downside for almost a century but was unable to continue there and so they moved their matches to Chilcompton using the sports field every summer since.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank all the folk from the village who sat on the organising committee and the many others who gave up an hour or more of their time to help on Celebrate Days."



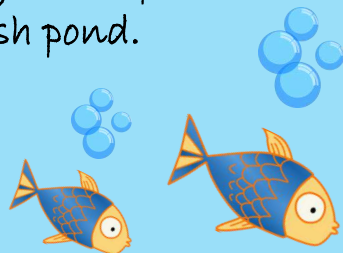
"It was only a success because the people of Chilcompton are wonderful. Thank you."

Actually, thank you Christine. Ed.



Photo Martin Addicott

Rare sighting of a Heron in the village, this one by The Street ponds. Careful, though, they can wipe out a fish pond.



TwentyisPlenty

Tracey Withers talked to members of the Parish Council traffic subcommittee about reducing speeding within the village

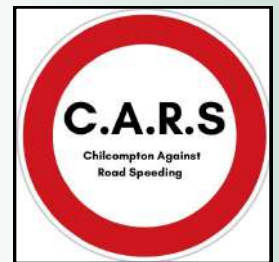
Ian and Sophie Andrews are at the forefront of a Chilcompton traffic calming committee. Their drive and passion for this cause was unfortunately born from tragedy after a fatal accident occurred on the main Wells Road which runs through the village.

As the weeks and months passed after the accident, they found ways to slowly heal whilst both wanting to learn from this disaster and prevent it from happening again. An idea started to gather momentum for them which seemed to help the healing process, and they decided to attend a Parish Council Meeting to present it.

They joined the PC traffic subcommittee as lay members and christened it CARS 'Chilcompton Against Road Speeding'. A subcommittee which would include themselves, John Pike, Stuart Thorne, Helen Sutton, Jeremy Staniforth and Stephen Gosden. The Parish Council admitted that they had been battling for years with Somerset Council as speeding had always been an issue in the village but unfortunately, they had not been very successful.

CARS was ready to pick up the baton and off they went. The PC obtained SIDs (speed indicator devices) and placed them along Wells Road as you come into the village and as you exit. It was hoped that this would impact the speed at which vehicles came through and they could collect data on these speeds from both devices. Armed with this data the committee could move forward with their plans.

There have been delays to this, as we all know the pavement works on the Wells Road took their toll for months and accurate data could not be obtained, when the road was up and running again the data was finally collected and analyzed. This data was shocking, especially as this road has a school feeding out on to it.



CAMERA STATS – SEPTEMBER EXAMPLE BROADWAY & BENNEL WAY

Number of vehicles that passed through Chilcompton?	393,296
Average number of vehicles that pass through each day?	13,109
Vehicles that are breaking the speed limit?	up to 57%
Highest speed of a vehicle driving through Chilcompton?	75 mph

An application was made to Somerset Council on 14th July 2024 for more SIDs, Ian used the data collated above, he stated to Somerset Council: "The results were so much worse than we thought and have horrified the residents."

"Unfortunately, the situation is similar in so many other locations in our village and we would dearly like to make the application so that we can monitor in detail other key points in Chilcompton as well as obviously acting as a deterrent to drivers.

"We have identified not only Broadway and Bennell (Wells Road) but also Stockhill Road, Bakers Lane, The Street, Parsonage Lane & Lynch Hill as the key locations.

"Due to the importance (and how the device would be the responsibility of the parish council) we have already identified how we could move the device to these alternate locations on a regular basis (every two weeks)."

He waits for a reply to his application as we go to print. If agreed the next stage in the process is to complete a 'Memorandum of Understanding' and to apply for a grant to purchase the SIDs. Ian and the committee are determined to make a change for the better.

The Parish Council has also joined the '20's Plenty for Us' a nationwide 'not for profit organization' which aims to make a speed limit of 20mph to be normal in residential areas and in town and village centres. This is the dream, hoping to make 20mph all through Chilcompton or at least some of the roads.



The PC itself, of course, has no control over speed limits that is the responsibility of Somerset Council, but in recent months SC has indicated to the PC that certain areas such as Bakers Lane, The Street and Stockhill Road could be reduced to 20mph if the village was willing to pay for it themselves. (Probably about £15,000.) That would be a start.

The committee believes that the more people in the village that get behind their speeding campaigns the more powerful it becomes. In future months expect to see '20isplenty' stickers on green bins.

"The more SIDs put in place so data/evidence can be collected will all move us towards the ultimate objective of slowing down the speed in and around Chilcompton and saving lives. CARS believe that the 20's Plenty scheme could become a reality in the future as it has been implemented in Wales and Scotland, think how this would benefit everyone walking and driving around the village."

This is the hope, and the drive originally came from two people who were witness to the devastation that speeding can cause. They believe that the majority of Chilcompton residents have had enough and they want to make a difference.

CARS state: "The more villagers stand up for this issue, the stronger our voice becomes. We urge you to show your support and sign our petition. Together, we can make a difference in Chilcompton."



Scan this QR code to sign the petition or go to web address below

<https://www.change.org/p/implement-speed-control-measures-in-chilcompton-village>



Cutting with Love

Since February there has been a new business, a hairdresser, down at Manor Farm and the proprietor is relishing the consequences of her move.

For 13 years Estelle Love operated from the golf club at Farrington Gurney but new owners at the site and plans to redevelop caused her to think about change.

She said: "I was a bit anxious when I first moved in from Farrington but it's been a really good move, I'm busier than ever. Being here with the beauty rooms next door and the girls downstairs it's a really nice environment, always busy outside with the café, and there are lots of businesses up here which for me has generated lots of new clients – it's good news."

Estelle was fortunate to be able to bring 95% of her original clientele with her and now new punters means that she is totally at maximum capacity. So her 'next step' is to either employ someone, 'rent a chair' or take on a junior. There's certainly room for another body in the stylish, colourful and yet rustic salon.

She says her prime strengths are cutting and colouring but adds, "I've been hairdressing for 30 plus years so I can pretty much do everything."

Originally an Essex girl, she and her family moved to Somerset 19 years ago, so what does she think of Chilcompton: **"It's a lovely village, I've had a lot of new clients from the village which is really good. Being here with the Holy Cow café, its just a nice area, it's a beautiful area to be coming into work every day. The people who look after the place at Manor Farm have been brilliant, couldn't fault them at all, they couldn't have been more helpful. It's been a good year for me so far and now I'm really happy here."**



Estelle can be contacted on 07760 757191

Chilcompton Open Gardens 2025

Save the date: 22 June 2025

The Chilcompton Gardening Club is going to host a Village Garden Trail on Sunday 22 June 2025, from 11-5pm.

It's many years since an open gardens trail was held in the village and there is no doubt there are many new and altered gardens since then. The aim is to share our love of gardening, promote our wonderful village and enhance the sense of community.

We are looking for a range of gardens, for example – new or established, large/small/vegetable/flowers and family gardens.

We already have some villagers who have very kindly offered to open their gardens, however we need a few more.

Gardens don't all need to be perfect – it's more about having a range of different types of gardens – with something that might interest or inspire visitors.

Let us know if you would like to consider opening your garden. Get in touch and we can talk through the plan.

Also just as important is that we will need some volunteers on the day and leading up to it to help set up, sell tickets, and serve refreshments. So, if you don't feel you want to open your garden you can still be involved.

Entry will be £6 per person (free to accompanied children under 16) and this will give a programme, map and access to all gardens. All profits in aid of Chilcompton Gardening Club.

We hope you will support this event; more details will be issued nearer the date. Please do get in touch if you want to open your garden or are willing to offer help email: lyne20thorne@hotmail.com



FDC LAW
SOLICITORS
— EST 1692 —
LOCAL LEGAL EXPERTS

FDC Law:
Your
Local Legal
Experts

At FDC Law, we offer a professional, specialist service to our clients, which is combined with a personal and friendly approach.

With strong local links dating back over 400 years, we are dedicated to providing a strong service to the community in which many of our staff live, as well as work.

We continue to offer a full service, with appointments available by phone or video, and home visits available if necessary, and

are able to help with the full range of legal matters including Buying and Selling your home, making a Will or Lasting Power of Attorney, Probate, Family matters including Divorce, Cohabitation, Finances or the arrangements for Children, Personal Injury claims, Contract disputes, Debt Claims, Landlord and Tenant matters, and more.

Contact us today at

MIDSOMER NORTON

01761 417575

FROME

01373 463311

KEYNSHAM

0117 986 9141

CARO News – A grey area

The organisation of CARO (Campaign Against Rural Overdevelopment) was started six years ago to provide a platform for making sure that the building of excessive developments in Chilcompton of huge housing estates were refused. But also other smaller developments are looked at with sympathy to the needs of the community.

One feared development by Gladman on green belt land near Naishes Cross was successfully refused on appeal.

The last few years have been relatively quiet; however, the recent election has produced a party in power who wish to build 1.5 million new homes over the next parliament. To achieve this they plan to reform planning rules to make it easier and quicker for developments to start up.

In addition to green belt land and brownfield sites they have introduced a third designation 'Grey belt land'. In essence this would have previously been land in the green belt but could be non productive farm land, ugly, or scrubland areas which could also mean unused car parks which exist in the green belt.

The government's emphasis is on building on brownfield sites before building on grey areas or the green belt. Brownfield sites however do not have enough capacity to fulfil the number of new homes required. This new designation does cause some concern as it could encourage landowners to degrade undeveloped land in the green belt for housing developments. Alternatively these sites could provide much needed spaces for local communities and the environment, such as wetlands or wild flower meadows.

To keep up to date with future issues regarding developments in Chilcompton please send an email to: "caro.enoughisenough@gmail.com" to be included on the email mailing list.

Peter Rusbridger

Editor's note: As we go to press, on September 9th there is a drop-in event at Midsomer Norton Rugby Club as David Wilson Homes present a proposal for 300 houses on land north of Tunnel Lane. The site sits opposite another housing site, currently being built by their sister company Barratt Bristol. Muhammad and the mountain? All this time we were worried about Chilcompton moving towards Midsomer Norton and meanwhile Midsomer Norton moves inexorably towards us. More details next time.



Film Club Open to Chilcompton Residents

The award-winning, but recently rebranded, film society at Kilmersdon is urging the folk of Chilcompton to come on down and catch a few movies on the big screen.

Chairman of Reel People Films, Barry Fowler, said: "We need to bring in people from other villages if it is going to be successful again. It's a decent sized hall and we want to be able to fill it once more."

Kilmersdon Hall was built in 1992, and a short while after local people were asked what they wanted and number two on the list was films.

In 1998 the film club had their first season and as Barry said, "it took off like a bomb." In just their second season they won National Film Society of the Year. After five years they had over 200 members and they had to close the membership. In all they won four awards.

COVID took its toll on the club when membership numbers were decimated, the existing committee even proposed closure. Then last year it was rebranded as Reel People Films.

Barry said: **"The Covid effect had worn off a bit and there was definitely a thirst to come out again and try something."**

"We show English language films and films from other cultures. We don't want to be exclusive; we will show populist films. We want to entertain and educate, if you like."

There are already about six members from Chilcompton but Barry is keen to spread the word to newcomers from all around.

The season starts on the **11th October at 8.00pm** with Scrapper, 'a joyful comedy bubbling with hope'. Cost is £6 at the door (Kilmersdon Village Hall) as a guest or £30 for the full season of films. **For more information, tel 07523 082293**

Chilcompton Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a road safety initiative that enables residents to help educate road users about the impact of speed on their community.

A group of local residents volunteer to monitor traffic speeds at designated locations within their area. Schemes are run with support from Police and local council.

Locations are accessed for a safe place to stand and operate. There must be a minimum of 60 metres clear view, junctions and driver visibility must not be hindered.

A minimum of two volunteers are required when operating and given full training and provided with all necessary equipment. Community Speed watch Co-ordinators collate and submit speeding data within 20,30 & 40 speed limits to the Police.

A letter regarding time, place and speed recorded is then sent by post from the Police to the registered keeper. If a vehicle is documented again by CSW it is classed as a repeat speeder, the registered keeper will then be visited by an Officer who issues a warning. Any problem locations not covered by CSW are assigned to The Police Speed Enforcement Team, along with any high inputs of speeding vehicles monitored by CSW. Volunteers are welcome, please email:

CSWchilcompton@hotmail.com;

PCSO Sheila Thompson



ELECTRICIAN

www.spellerssparks.co.uk



Do you find it difficult to get someone to come and do a small job?

- ◆ Outdoor Lighting
- ◆ Indoor Lighting
- ◆ Sockets Change/Addition
- ◆ Outdoor Sockets
- ◆ Extractor Fans
- ◆ Electrical Safety (EICR)

- ◆ Landlord's and Home Buyers Reports
- ◆ Light fitting change/swap
- ◆ Fault Finding
- ◆ Cabinet/Kitchen Lights
- ◆ Garden Lighting

Fault Finding and Repairs

Satisfaction Guaranteed

I will assure you of a quick response and a reasonably priced service...

Call Rich on (01761) 325 007

The Return of the Wessex Beer Festival

After a 6 year hiatus, the much-missed Wessex Beer Festival returned to Chilcompton this June in the enthusiastic hands of the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Rotary Club.

I had a chat with two of the organisers (over a beer, appropriately enough) to find out more about how they managed the event.

Kevin Chard, Chilcompton resident and businessman, is the current President of the local Rotary Club. He said: **"I have always had a dream of organising a festival in the village, and bringing back the Beer Festival seemed an ideal way of realising this ambition."**



The obvious choice of venue was of course Chilcompton Sports Ground, and as Kevin said: "We had nothing but enthusiastic support from the Sports Club and our heartfelt thanks goes out to Tim Curtis and everyone at the Club."

Chilcompton hauliers Massey Wilcox quickly became the main sponsors of the event, and director Rob Wilcox, another Rotarian, took on the task of seeking support from other local businesses. Kevin said: **"We found that businesses were completing with each other to sponsor individual areas, it was quite remarkable. Every individual barrel of beer and cider, the marquee, the stage, the sound system and lighting, every detail down to the beer mats, ended up with its own sponsor."** More than 40 local firms stepped up to help, a remarkable achievement indeed.

As well as the obvious attraction of over 40 different beers and ciders, the organisers provided a very popular gin and prosecco bar, and of course plenty of food in the form of a hog roast, burgers, hot dogs and delicious vegetarian alternatives.

Kevin went on: "Live music was central to the plans for the weekend, and there was an obvious person on our committee to make it happen".

Ian Hobbs, local musical legend and fellow Rotarian, was enthusiastic from the start: "Live music has always been an essential feature of the Wessex Beer Festival, and with the wealth of talent living in and around Chilcompton, I knew I'd have no problem in



recruiting acts. It was particularly overwhelming that all the acts agreed to play for free, which was a fantastic help in getting the Festival back on its feet. We are so grateful to each and every one of the performers."

There was certainly a wide variety of different musical talent on show. The music began on Friday with Tracy Bridges and Paul Rogers, offering their delightful mix of jazz, country, and pop, to be followed by The Sax Pistols, a saxophone sextet playing fabulous arrangements of a huge range of material.

Next up was Shannon Kitchen, fresh from ITV's The Voice, who gauged the mood of the audience perfectly, then quirky pop rock band 'Good Times' got the crowd on their feet, and Ian's own legendary local favourites 'The Honky Tonks' had us all dancing until late in the evening.

I had the honour of kicking off Saturday's sounds, followed on stage by the beautifully crafted songs of Midsomer Norton singer songwriter Keith Horler. Then a change of pace, with the fantastically danceable bluegrass of the 'Original Barn Finds'.

'Open Road' continued the early evening revelries with a great set of rock covers, before the evening was brought to a triumphant finish by the bombastic 'Call The Shots'.

The ever-reliable Doug Siddons of Oakhill's Maltings Audio ensured that everyone on stage had the best possible sound production.

Kevin and Ian were quick to emphasise that the whole weekend couldn't have happened without the fantastic help of more than 60 volunteers doing everything from serving behind the bar to selling tokens, serving food and all the myriad other tasks. Over 800 people visited the Festival over the two days without a hint of trouble or unsocial behaviour.

So, was the Beer Festival a success? **"The whole thing exceeded our wildest expectations"** Kevin responded. "We set out with a plan to at least break even, but with all our outlay covered by sponsorship, pretty much every penny we took in sales of tickets, food, and drink was profit."

An amazing £16,000 will be split between Dorothy House, Dementia UK, and the local Rotary Club's own charitable projects.

And would they do it all again? "We'll be back next year" Ian replied, "bigger and better."

Rich Morgan



Members of The Holistic Hub were present at a very successful Wellbeing Event held at Chilcompton Sports Club back in March. The group are now reaching out to more people who would like to explore the benefits of Holistic ways with them.

They are doing this initially by offering a series of FREE Monthly 'Meet ups' to be held in Chilcompton, the first being on Saturday, 12th October 3 – 5pm, see below to book a place.

'Hippocrates is quoted as saying ... "The best way to promote health and wellbeing is by teaching individuals how to take care of themselves."

The Holistic Hub aspire to do this in various ways.



For those who don't already know, 'Holistic' means the 'whole person' body, mind and spirit.

Julie, Sharon, Gilly & Kathy have a wealth of Holistic experience, qualifications

and ideas to offer between them, to contribute towards improving or maintaining health and happiness as naturally as possible.

If you wish to attend any of their informal events, make new friends, become more relaxed and have some fun, then...

TEXT YOUR NAME & EMAIL ADDRESS TO: 07818 298 508

You will be contacted, given the location of their first meet-up and they can also reserve a place for you.



Fun Run Joy

A young boy with severe sight difficulties was overjoyed to join the school fun run with his mates thanks to quick work by the local gardening contractors.

Toby Robbins, aged 10 and living on Wells Road, was born with Glaucoma and is severely sight impaired. Walking with a white cane and with the help of his mother, Jessica, they often like to use the path that runs alongside the school.

Back in the early summer the Parish Council received an email from his mother saying: "The bushes on the side of footpath are so over grown it's becoming impossible to walk up there. My son has to hold my arm to be guided when we walk and we now cannot walk side by side up the path and my son is always getting hit in the face by branches as he can't see them. Please can someone cut the hedges on this public footpath? So, my son can enjoy a walk with his family up to the fields and woods?"

Then with some more urgency a few days later: "Do you know if this will be done today? Sorry to ask but the village school has a fun run planned for tomorrow and the route will be up the path and back. My son is so desperate to do the fun run with me, but will not be able to participate if this path is still in the same condition tomorrow."

The Parish Council got on to Primrose (the grass cutting contractors featured in the last issue) who immediately set to work and got the path cleared in time for the fun run.



Big smiles for medal winners Toby Robbins and his mum Jessica

The St Vigor & St John Chilcompton Fun Run took place on Saturday May 11th, the sun shone and the event was deemed a success.

Jessica said: "The school has always been absolutely amazing in being inclusive and giving Toby the support that he needs to be part of his school community. He was so worried he wouldn't be able to do the fun run with his friends as he was struggling to get up the path for his daily walks with his parents and the dog, as it was so over grown. He said on the day he had the best time... Being able to be involved in the fun run meant so much. Toby said he had so much fun and loved the atmosphere of being involved in the event."





CHILCOMPTON YOUTH BUS

 **7pm - 9pm**

 **Every Wednesday**

 **Chilcompton Village Hall**

Follow us on socials
for updates!

Ages 11-19
(Secondary school aged)

Sports, art, cooking and more!

- We also offer support with -

A safe space for young people to talk and express themselves, drug and alcohol advice, issue-based work, sexual health advice, trips and new opportunities, a place to build friendships and social skills, fun activities, mental health support & advice

Supported by












For more info contact Alex on 07977859707 or alex.monk@ycsw.org.uk

Southside Youth Hub, Kelston View, Whiteway, Bath, BA2 1NR. Registered Charity: 11860

**Looking for a place to hang out, have fun, and meet new friends?
Look no further, our Mobile Youth Club, comes to Chilcompton
Village Hall Car Park every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm.**

If you're in secondary school (ages 11-19), this is the perfect opportunity to join in a wide range of exciting and FREE activities. From cooking up tasty treats to getting active in sports, and expressing your creativity through arts and crafts, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

We have had a busy last few months doing a whole range of activities:

Making Slime

Clay Models

Decorating bird houses

Acrylic painting

Chalk art work

Tooth Pick Structure Building

We also designed a 'Chilcompton' inspired t-shirt, where our group adapted a plain white t-shirt and turned it into a colourful masterpiece which included portraits, words and shapes of everything they like about the village of Chilcompton and it was signed by all participants.

We have an ongoing cooking project that has taught young people basic recipes that can be used at home and in later life, as well as focusing on food hygiene and the importance of reducing cross contamination. We focused on the young people's different heritages/cultural backgrounds and for several weeks we cooked different recipes from different locations, and looked at knife skills, learning how to properly chop/dice onions and other vegetable preparation.

In addition to the practical activities, we look at the many issues facing young people, such as fostering healthy relationships, conquering exam and school anxieties, and body positivity. We have focused on mental health and wellbeing during our sessions promoting a positive mind set; while giving young people the tools and resources they need to keep their mental health positive.

Our friendly team of youth workers will be there to make sure you have a great time, create a welcoming atmosphere, and provide a safe space for you to express yourself and have a blast.

Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to be part of an incredible community of young people in Chilcompton. Bring your friends, spread the word, and let's make Wednesday nights the highlight of the week.

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to reach out to us.

We can't wait to see you there

Alex Monk the team leader: alex.monk@ycsw.org.uk

Scan the QR code here which gives a short film of what we do.



BRIAN FEAR CARS

'We specialise in quality, not quantity'

Used cars

Broadway, Chilcompton, Radstock. BA3 4JW

Tel: 01761 233110

E.mail: sales@brianfearcars.co.uk

MATHS TUITION

Up to GCSE level

*Make sure that your child
has those core skills to achieve the
grade he/she needs*

Malcolm Rigby

Maths Oxford Graduate

Tel: 01761 232974

*"He did wonders for my son"
– Ann-Marie Davis.*

Maths Oxford Graduate

Tel: 01761 232974

HARTS
NATURAL SEAFOODS LTD.

FRESH SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD



AT LOCAL
MARKETS
IN YOUR AREA

TUE: GLASTONBURY & CASTLE CARY

WED: WELLS & FROME

THURS: BRADFORD ON AVON

FRI: SHEPTON MALLET & WARMINSTER

SAT: WELLS & FROME



WWW.HARTSNATURALSEAFOODS.COM



My experience of our local Goldies Session

It was a very grey day when I took myself along to this group, clouds were thick above and it looked like rain, so much for the summer sun! However I walked into this gathering to be greeted warmly by a group who were already immersed in the music and singing. It was infectious to say the least and I grabbed myself a seat looking around to see a sea of smiling bright faces. I'd walked in to everyone singing to ABBA's 'Thank you for the music' and I was off singing at the top of my lungs, not worrying about what I sounded like or what I looked like. Everyone there was hidden within their own particular memories that the song reminded them of and making new happy ones within that moment. The song finished and everyone was flipping through their songbooks to choose the next one, hits like Elvis's 'I can't help falling in love with you', Tom Jones's 'Delilah' songs from Petula Clark and more from the 50's onwards. I was like a kid in a sweet shop.

A projector screen was erected so the words to the songs could be sung without heads being buried in their song books and the session was led by a very energetic Sue Crick (Goldies Trustee) and a charismatic Julie Brady they were full of fun. I was also offered a cup of tea from a very lovely guy called John Crick who is the Goldies Chairman (I felt seriously spoilt) all three volunteers work on behalf of the charity.

I thoroughly enjoyed this visit and after a number of tracks I came out feeling so much brighter than when I went in. Singing and laughter will do that for you. I didn't even notice the grey clouds as I left.

This group is open to all regardless of age, gender etc. If you're into music you've got to give it a go, I can guarantee it will put a spring in your step.

For more information contact: 01761 470006, email: events@golden-oldies.org.uk or go to the website www.golden-oldies.org.uk

Tracey Withers

Redan Celebrates

A weekend of live music and entertainment

This summer saw a weekend of two great events at the Redan, The Redan Rocks and the Redan Celebrates, enjoyed by many in the village and beyond.

The rock event took place on Friday 19th July kicking off at 4pm and going until late. It was a lovely warm evening which added to the vibe of 'Ibiza club and sunset chill' sessions which the pub was trying to achieve, it included great tunes played on decks by DJ Dan Obern.



The Redan Celebrates event began at 1pm on Saturday 20th July, this time the weather was not so kind; however a few showers did not dampen the enthusiasm of the party. The children from St Johns & St Vigor nailed it with a lively



demonstration of their country dancing skills supervised by their teacher Ms Woods which helped to make everyone attending forget the rain.

Among the culinary options there were very tasty homemade pork rolls made with apple and sage which included onion and stuffing balls. Or if you preferred something sweet, Eton Mess.



The atmosphere was lively and energetic throughout the day, bringing a real sense of community to the proceedings. The



school PTFA were given the space to set up several stalls including a coconut shy and face painting with all profits going back into school funds.



This was marketed as a family gathering for the Chilcompton Community and beyond and that's exactly what was delivered. Live music included sets from The Singing Guitars, DTR Acoustic and the Honkytonks.

Also, The Redan has decided to give a donation to the school finances with a further donation made to the Singing Guitars who are currently raising money for Cancer Research UK.

The Redan has had a rebranding recently and all of this is the vision of James Pounds their new Operations Director.



James Pounds and the Team

Changes include a new outdoor seating area and 'The Carriage', which houses a new wood fired pizza oven.

These two successful musical events laid on for the Chilcompton community have got them off to a brilliant start, so let's hope it continues.



The Singing Guitars



Darryl Rushby
AKA DTR Acoustics

Stop press: Owing to the success of these events The Redan are considering the possibility of quarterly music dates, so watch this space.



The Honky Tonks

Tracey Withers



There have been some very exciting things going on at Messy church events, at St Johns Church this year.

Each month children of all ages have joined in with fun and games that have helped them discover some of the events of the old testament. In January, amongst other things, we did a creation walk to see what we could hear, what we could see and what we could find that God had made. In February, one of eight exciting activities was to build a giant ark from junk, squeals of laughter filled the room as we all tried to climb aboard. March was the time for Easter egg hunts and egg rolling before we moved on to study Joseph and his amazing multi coloured coat in April. In May, we created floating Moses baskets and wrote our names in clay using hieroglyphics. June saw a breakout of plagues as boils were painted on our bodies and we played dodgeball to avoid anything else nasty. The highlight of our year so far was on a sunny Sunday in July. We had a beach party and BBQ with sand, water, a bouncy castle, pinata, face painting, burgers and ice-creams. One mother of two said:

"Messy Church is a great place for families to spend some quality time together on a Sunday afternoon. My kids really enjoy it."



Still to come.....

September 22nd - We plan to have a whale of a time learning about Jonah and the whale together. Come and discover for yourself how dark, wet and smelly it is inside a whale as you plunge your hands into buckets of gunge hunting for Jonah.

October 20th - is all about lions and a man called Daniel.

November 24th - will be the time to be prepared and get ready for Christmas.

December 22nd - is time for making your own Christingles and joining in with the joy of the Christmas season.



For further details and dates of other events throughout the year then visit our website www.stvigorstjohn.church

News from St John's

As I write, visiting bell ringers are enjoying our wonderful bells in a practice session, recalling the fantastic weekend in June when we hosted the National 12 Bell Competition.

We were delighted to host this year's Taylor Trophy final and congratulations to the winners. Well done too, to all those who made this spectacular event happen, from offering a warm welcome, serving drinks and cake to turning up and showing your support. It is amazing what a small village community can achieve when it pulls together.

Our condolences go to the families of Helen Howard, Jill Culverwell, Glennis and Frederick Biggs and Philip Parsons whose funerals were all held at St John's over the last few months. You will remain in our prayers. If you have been bereaved and would like an opportunity to remember your loved one and light a candle in their memory, do join us on 27 October 2024, 6.30pm for a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembering. All are welcome.

In this quiet season, there have been no weddings or baptisms to celebrate but do get in touch if we can help you plan a major life event such as this. We will be happy to help. Contact us initially via our website or email the office@stvigorstjohn.church for an early conversation and to book a date.

Life is full of beginnings and endings and it was with sadness that we bid farewell last week to Revd Steve and his wife Jenn whose training period at St John's has finished. Steve takes up his new post as Vicar to the Parish and Benefice of Ringwood with St Leonards and St Ives on 3rd September. We thank them for their time here and wish them well in their new home.

After taking a break in August our usual groups will begin again for the Autumn. Do join us – we'd love to get to know you.

- * **Root Connections Cookery Club** – Fourth Monday 10am Make friends, learn new skills and have lunch using seasonal vegetables. Contact Rachel for more info on 0779 058 0846.
- * **Monday Tea** – Second and fourth Mondays at 4.30pm: an opportunity for young families to chat and get to know one another over a child-friendly meal. Contact Dan for more info on 0771 713 1157.
- * **Bell Ringing** – Monday 7pm. For more info contact Adrian 01761 415950
- * **Alpha** – Tuesdays 7pm: Have a meal and a chat about the big questions surrounding life and faith for more info contact Ian rev.ian.twb@gmail.com
- * **Tea & Toast** – Thursday 8.30-10.30am. Toddlers and their carers are welcomed to play and chat with toast and a cuppa.
- * **Lunch Club** – Our long -standing Lunch Club returns on the third Thursday of October. Contact Margaret Holcombe on 01761 415085 to book a place.

Esther Smith

CHILCOMPTON LITTER PICK

Weekend of 19th / 20th October 2024

**Meet at the Village Hall 9am on 20th October
to Collect Black Bags & Pickers If Required**



HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY

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

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

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

County Council: Telephone 0300 123 2224

The good the bad & the ugly... or pruning



After much prompting from our Editor Malcolm, I remembered, long after the original deadline that he was waiting for me to deliver a piece for this magazine.

I said I'd write about pruning. I wrote about pruning. It was very dull. Without going into technical detail about every different shrub type which I'm probably not qualified to do the only general take-away point that I came up with is **thin not trim** which is more or less universal and

don't worry you are unlikely to kill a shrub if you get it wrong. And as for pruning trees, ask an expert and if in doubt do nothing, pruning will stress a tree, not cure it of anything. So I went for a walk around the village with my husband Alister instead. First the good: congratulations to the Parish Council for leaving some areas in the old rec un-mown. What a difference it makes, no longer just a sterile patch of shaved turf, there is a little hint of wildness, a nod to the rural landscape in which it sits. This year all over the country there have been worryingly low insect counts which has knock on effects for so much else: crop pollination, bird fledging success, bat numbers and just a general feeling of loss when we notice the lack of butterflies. This population drop has been going on for many years but is particularly noticeable this year and has a combination of causes including pesticide use, climate change and loss of habitat so any help that our insects can get, which includes leaving grass to grow long is welcome be it in the rec or in our own gardens.

We were also pleased to see that some native species small trees and shrubs have been planted in the rec (no pruning for these) and that no doubt helped by the cool wet spring and early summer they have all so far survived.

And more good news. Most people must now be aware of ash dieback disease which reached this country in 2012 and has devastated so many of the ash woodlands and individual ash trees on the Mendips, but some of ours here in the village seem to be resisting it. There is no cure for the disease but it seems that some individuals, despite showing some early symptoms have not succumbed to it and I'm cautiously optimistic that they may survive. Ash trees spread by seed, any gardener with an ash tree nearby will be familiar with the task of weeding out ash seedlings on a regular basis and it is this method of reproduction which causes the genetic variation which may be why some individuals are more resilient than others.

So to the bad. We are noticing more squirrel damage in trees this year than ever before, noticeable as patches of orange or yellow dead leaves high in the canopy of trees. We have a patch in our beautiful silver birch in our garden but apart from keeping vigil every daylight hour and chasing them away there's not much we can do about it. Anyone got a tame pine marten they could set loose to catch them?

And finally, the ugly. Thanks to diligent litter pickers Chilcompton is generally a litter free village, but on our walk we noticed litter of a different kind – dumping of garden waste. Although people think of garden waste as 'natural' it is a criminal offence to dump it and is punishable in the same way as any other kind of fly-tipping. Dumping garden waste poses a bio-security risk, it can for example spread invasive garden species into the natural environment which can out-compete wild species or it can introduce garden plant diseases into the wild. The waste dumped near the precious lime trees in the field opposite the old rec could potentially damage the trees if someone were to set light to it or if excessive nutrients from the rotting waste leaches into the soil. The lime trees are protected by a tree preservation order (the stump of the fallen one is alive and well and sending up new shoots) so damaging them is a criminal offence too.

I feel that I should end on a positive note ... anyone want to read an article about pruning?

Sue Rankine

A.D.L. GARAGE DOORS

UP & OVER • SECTIONAL • ROLLER
 INSTALLATION • SERVICING • REPAIRS • SPARES • SALES
 Maintenance Free Doors • Fibreglass • Steel • Timber
 Insulated Doors & Shutters • Bespoke Sizes
 Key Cutting • Locks & Security Products Stocked

AUTOMATION SPECIALISTS

Showroom/Offices

10A/11 Old Mills Ind Estate, Paulton www.avondoorlock.co.uk

AVON DOOR & LOCK CO LTD

☎ 01761 416544

Anyone For Badminton?

Apparently 'exercise, fun and sociability' is the name of the game on a Wednesday evening at the village hall, but really it's badminton.

There used to be a badminton club on a Monday afternoon but that has recently closed because of lack of players and now the numbers on a Wednesday are dwindling. At the moment only three are from Chilcompton and the rest come from neighbouring villages.

Pauline Hayne, who has been playing for almost 40 years, said: "Well, I think it's just a bit of fun and exercise, it's a good crowd and we all get on and have a bit of a laugh. We're not in competitions or anything, we just play for the actual enjoyment of it - just a sociable evening."

THE SESSION RUNS FROM
 8.00PM TO 10.00PM AND
 COSTS JUST £2.

CONTACT PAULINE ON
 232232 FOR MORE
 INFORMATION.



News from St John's cont...

Our regular pattern of services for both churches:

Wednesdays 9am Morning Prayer

Thursdays 11am Holy Communion (*traditional language*)

Sundays 9am Holy Communion (*traditional Language*)

10.30am Family Service, 3pm Messy Church (*third Sunday*)

6.30pm Evening Prayer (*fourth Sunday only*)

Dates for your Diary

Harvest Celebration

6th October 2024

Thanksgiving and Remembering

27th October 2024, 6:30pm

Remembrance Day

10th November 2024

Carol Service

15th December 2024

Messy Christingle

22nd December 2024, 3pm

Messy Nativity

18th December 2024

Please note, Sunday morning services at each church alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. During the Autumn, we will be continuing our journey through the well known characters of the Old Testament. Children and families are welcome at all services. For full details of services and activities visit www.stvigorstjohn.church



**THE
SOMERSET
WAGON**

The Somerset Wagon
Broadway
Chilcompton
Radstock
BA3 4JW



Open: Tues - Sat 12pm - 11pm, Sun 12pm - 10pm

Food served: Tues - Sat 12pm - 2.30pm & 5pm - 8.30pm

Sunday: 12pm - 3pm

Events: Sunday - Bingo 5pm followed by Quiz Night at 7.30pm

01761 568 448

thesomersetwagon@outlook.com

Bellringing Euros



The day after the start of the European Football Championship in Germany the campanology equivalent took place here in Chilcompton with The National Twelve Bell Contest Final.

England got to the final in the soccer and the Chilcompton team achieved a very creditable last place in the bells, missing out on the second last place by just two points in a hundred. The winners were London based team The Cumberlands. It's estimated that about 500 people enjoyed the

festival atmosphere on June 15th down at St John's Church and Manor Farm.

Organiser and bellringer, Matthew Higby, said: "It was absolutely brilliant, we're thrilled to bits with everything. Massive positive feedback from pretty much everybody. People have come to me and said it was one of the best 12 bells finals ever.



"Honestly, I can't think that we could have done anything better than we managed. We had to make a lot of risky complicated decisions based on former contests and I think we got it about right. We maybe ran out of food a little early, that necessitated a trip to the chip shop late in the evening but other than that we're pleased with the way everything went. Bacon sandwiches in the morning, tea and cakes in the church hall and the catering guy in the church car park sold out of all of his food. So that worked.

"We are very grateful to people like Paul Mattick and the local community for supporting us because without their help and all the volunteers it wouldn't have been possible.



"The bell ringing quality was exceptionally high, the Cumberlands who eventually won it - their test piece was pretty awe-inspiring, it was top class.

"We expected to come last, but the fact that we were only two points behind the next qualified team makes us very eager to pursue the competition in the future."

The Chilcompton bellringers will be taking part in the southwest 12 bell competition in Exmouth this October and will be

hoping to qualify for the national contest next year.



For all your motoring needs we offer:

A fine selection of pre-owned carefully selected low mileage cars for sale. For our latest stock please go to: www.davefowersgarage.co.uk

Or contact Jon Bush or Dave Fowler

Tel: **01761 417470**

Email: sales@davefowersgarage.co.uk

Full workshop facilities including

MOT Testing

Servicing

Repairs

Diagnostics

Air Conditioning

Fully skilled & experienced technicians

Free courtesy cars available

Free collection & delivery

Due to high demand we are constantly looking to purchase vehicles for stock. If you are considering selling for a fair price & hassle free please call Dave or Jon



Radstock Road, Midsomer Norton • Tel: 01761 417470

www.davefowersgarage.co.uk

FOWLERS
Since 1988

 true potential
wealth management

Financial Advice to help reach your goals.

We all have unique goals in life that we would like to achieve, whether it is retiring early, growing your wealth, or giving something to the next generation. Your financial goals are personal to you and your financial plan should be too.

I can build a bespoke financial plan that aims to help you reach your long-term goals in a way that suits your lifestyle and personal circumstances.

Contact me to find out if financial advice is right for you.

Daniel Chard DipPFS

Wealth Management Partner

T 07980 621540 E danielchard@truepotential.co.uk

www.truepotential.co.uk/daniel-chard

Local Office: 68 High Street, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, BA3 2DQ

With investing, your capital is at risk. Investments can fluctuate in value and you may get back less than you invest.

True Potential Wealth Management LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, FRN 529810. www.fca.org.uk. Registered in England and Wales as a Limited Liability Partnership No. OC356611.



CHILCOMPTON GARDENING CLUB

It's been rather a strange year for gardening, so much wet and chilly weather with slugs and snails everywhere, but everything seemed to catch up fast and the gardens and vegetable patches have looked wonderful in the sunshine.

We've enjoyed a varied, entertaining programme of speakers over the past few months: Talks on **snowdrops from Mickey Little of Avon Bulbs**, **Lytes Cary presented by Head Gardener Sam**, **Somerset a County of Glorious Gardens with Abigail Ballinger**, **Gardening for Moths with the delightful Higgy**, **Plant Names with Brian Jaques**, and **Olly Jones talking about Organic Gardening**.

The weather on the day of our visit to Stoberry Gardens in Wells may have been rather disappointing, though the gardens were certainly anything but, and everyone voted this event a huge success.

In July we held our annual plug plant competition, together with our special geranium competition for the Terry Moore Cup, both of which were very well supported by our members.



Stoberry Gardens, Wells

Our meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Membership is just £8 per person for the whole year and guests are always very welcome at £3 per visit. Do come along and give us a try; you will be given a warm welcome. Contact me on 01761 233017, or look at the Village Hall website, Chilcompton Past and Present, or our Facebook page.

We are currently looking to update and improve our website. If you feel you could help us with this, please contact Jane Richardson on 01761 233695 who would be very pleased to hear from you.

Coming up this Autumn:

- **Behind the scenes at Sissinghurst with Neil Ross in September.**
- **Bougainvillea the British Way presented by Charlie Clarke from Westdale Nurseries in Bradford on Avon.**
- **And to finish the year off, A Victorian Christmas, including flower demonstration, with Katherine Kear, to be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.**

A special event is planned for 2025 – A Village Garden Trail – please see separate article on page 9.

Judy Youngs (secretary)





Farm Shop & Country Store Cafe/Restaurant and Garden Centre

**Fresh Fruit & Veg, Local Cider & Beer, Local Cheese,
Meat and other produce, Pet & Animal Feed,
Household goods plus much more!**

We're a family business, nestled on the Mendip Hills in Somerset. Farmers by heritage, we have a passion for growing and producing quality plants and produce for others to enjoy.

We sell everything from local produce and household goods to pet and garden supplies. Our shelves are stocked with local honey, milk and cream, West Country cider, homemade cakes and homegrown fruit and veg, to name just a few things!

The Café at George's Garden, is now open 7 days a week, as is the whole site. There's no need to book, but if you've 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.



**Open Mon - Sat 9am to 4pm
Sunday 10am to 4pm**

You'll find us at:
Machants Hill, Gurney Slade,
Radstock, BA3 4TY

07736 918464
www.georgesgarden.co.uk

Find us on  
[@georgesgardengurneyslade](https://www.instagram.com/georgesgardengurneyslade)



I can't exercise because

Tracey Withers chats to Chilcompton based Personal Trainer about some of the excuses that people may give to not exercise.

The perception of exercise: Apparently many people believe that in order for exercise 'to count' it needs to be structured, this could mean going to a class, going to the gym etc. Spaces such as gyms, or large exercise classes can seem intimidating for many; they can feel they can't keep up, will look silly, don't know what they are doing, feel they will be laughed at, can't lift heavy weights - they body shame themselves.

These thoughts can cause them to shy away from any form of exercise; they can cause anxiety and a sense of failure before they have even begun. However exercise is beneficial for everyone, physically and mentally.

World Health Organisation guidelines advise that we need to do a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate activity each week to remain healthy. You could get this through walking/hiking, gardening, cleaning, being active with children, golf or even dancing at festivals. You can also consider small lifestyle changes to help increase your activity, for example, when parking the car use the farthest parking spot, take the steps instead of a lift or escalator... it all counts. I guess we need to change what our perception of exercise is.

Lack of time... "I just don't have any, I have a very busy life, I have responsibilities at home and at work there are just not enough hours in the day." Start by giving yourself a break and prioritise you, your health and wellbeing. Find 10 minutes in your day to go for a walk or do some stretches rather than scrolling on your phone or watching TV.

Money... "I cannot afford to exercise." It's a popular misconception that we need to pay for exercise for it to be effective. Walking is something many people can do, you don't need any specialist equipment. There are many free YouTube accounts that offer options for all abilities including exercise routines for those who may be chair bound or elderly.

Childcare... "I have no one to look after the children." For someone who has no family or friendship support this is a tricky one. However by building a friendship/trust with someone and allowing them to support you means that you could support them in return, this would be one way of overcoming the problem. If no one can support you in this, then a possible way forward could be walking with your small child in a pushchair or taking your children on a run or to the park. Parents/carers are generally exercising all day anyway.

Illness... "I am ill, I cannot exercise" This can be the case for short term illnesses such as colds, flu, covid etc., or injuries, as the body needs time to heal, and when returning to any activity post illness medical advice is to do this gently. With long term illnesses such as long covid, fibromyalgia, heart disease, diabetes, asthma, chronic back issues etc. exercise can be really beneficial (Always double check with your GP before embarking on a new exercise regime). Your GP may be able to refer you to an Exercise Referral Specialist who is trained in a number of common long-term conditions, who can offer advice and guidance on how to exercise with your condition.

Motivation/Accountability... If you lack motivation, do something you enjoy. One option is a Personal Trainer (PT) who can give one-to-one support by finding the right exercises for your goals and inspire you to achieve them. There are many motivational groups online, classes at the local village hall etc.

I think the takeaway message is to be active daily. Whatever your chosen activity, do it as often as you can, enjoy it and have fun and this will help you stay physically and mentally healthy.

History Corner

Chilcompton W.I.

The Women's Institute was formed here in Chilcompton in 1934, when 37 members enrolled and paid a subscription of 2/6 (12½p). They met in Church House and the format included business as they were always nationally affiliated, competitions and social time. In the early days competitions included: darning, whistling, best laundered shirt, best cleaned shoes, hand-made blotter, knitted socks, a parade of shawls, most buttons sewn on a postcard and an arrangement of vegetable leaves.

A gift of 7/6 (37½p) was given when a member had a baby and a shilling (5p) was paid to the caretaker for carrying water and lighting the fire and this was discontinued when running water and electricity were installed.

They supported national campaigns such as the dangers of alcohol to the youth, to stop fireworks being sold too early before 5th November, danger to passengers if a bus driver were ill as his cab was only accessible from an outside door, protest about the suspension of the 8am train to Bath and the late delivery of letters. They knitted and sewed for soldiers during the war and regularly sent potatoes and eggs to Paulton Hospital. They supported the Mendip Hospital and the Cheshire Home among others. A choir was formed in 1948, a drama group in 1958 and a skittles team in 1971. A move was made to the old village hall in 1969. There were speakers, outings and meals. Always competitions, which they often won at group and county level. The skittles team too had much success. Early garden parties were held at Gainsborough and eagerly awaited latter day barbecues were hosted by Mrs. Wallen at Tandridge. The Drama group presented plays regularly, which were much enjoyed.

The first President was Mrs. de Costabadie; later it was Mrs Cade (21 years) and Mrs. Duval and in more recent times, Mrs. Trippick, Mrs. Wallen, Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Sims. Membership had peaked at 50 in 1958, but by 2004 only 19 members remained. The 70 year anniversary was celebrated, then by the end of 2007 the group closed through lack of members and few officers for key committee positions. After 73 years the W.I. had served its purpose and made a difference to the lives of many people.



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Marlene Pickford

If you're making a positive impact on people and the planet, you need friendly folk to help set the right course towards sustainable growth.

Sprout
Grow stronger

Cost-effective and flexible services include:

- Strategic planning advice
- Year end accounts and tax
- Self-assessment
- Bookkeeping
- Outsourced finance team
- Payroll
- Company secretarial
- Part-time Finance Director

To find out if we're a good fit for you, drop us an email at hello@sproutconsulting.co.uk or visit sproutconsulting.co.uk to book a chat.



sproutconsulting.co.uk



HF Verle
& SONS LTD



**SERVICING AND REPAIRS
TO ALL MAKES OF CARS AND
LIGHT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

**MOT TESTS TO ALL
CLASS IV VEHICLES**

FORECOURT SHOP

**BROADWAY GARAGE
CHILCOMPTON
RADSTOCK
SOMERSET
BA3 4JW
Telephone:
01761
232298 / 232765**

Chilcompton Society Flower Show



It was a dry day for the village flower show, but there were fewer visitors and entries were down this year too. However, cookery, hobbies and children's sections did particularly well. Enthusiastic children came along with their colourful offerings and the ubiquitous miniature gardens were in abundance. The standard was high again despite gardeners struggling against this summer's weather.





Congratulations to major winners: Pat Steer, Josie Boxall, Jane Kerton, Julie Foxwell, Marlene Pickford, Barbara Jones and Sheila Box.



The committee appreciates the efforts of every participant, which ensured another successful show. **A very big thank you** for the tremendous amount of work put in by the organisers and volunteers to keep the show running year after year.

Anyone who would like to plan and help out at next year's flower show, please contact the editor on 01761 232974 parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Photos: Mike Newman

Marlene Pickford

PRICES
FROM
ONLY
£1499



WELLS FUNERAL SERVICES

Professional Focused - Service Driven





ROD MAJOR
BUSINESS OWNER

MAKING FUNERALS LESS OF AN UNDERTAKING

Offices in Wells and Chilcompton

WELLS 01749 670100

CHILCOMPTON 01761 233555

EMAIL Rod@wfs.me.uk

WWW.WELLSFUNERALSERVICES.CO.UK

Can we have a funeral in a field?

This is a question that you don't get asked every day, but the answer was whole heartedly, yes. When it comes to funeral planning the priority is to deliver what a family want, not what tradition states.

Gone are the days when the choices are church or crematorium, but sadly, these are the only options given to the majority of grieving families, and they have no idea that other options and possibilities are available to them. The approach should always be **"What would you like to happen?"** Not **"This is what will happen."**

The family of D wanted something to match his personality and character. A quirky, unconventional man, always looking for a new adventure, who loved the outdoors and nature. Religion never played a part in his life, he requested there was none included at his funeral. Not a problem, this is becoming a more regular request. Can we have the ceremony in a field, with the coffin there? Of course you can, let's discuss what you would like and how we can make it work for you.



This is the response you should hear from any funeral director worth their salt. The arrangements were made, the field was chosen, and the family started in their quest

to turn the field, in the middle of nowhere on the Somerset Levels, into a festival type place. What a job they did too, a huge stretch tent was erected, adorned with bunting, garlands and fairy lights. The sound system was set up with a mic for the ceremony and D's play list blasting through the speakers.

The Celebrant led ceremony had structure, as the family requested, and the focus was D, his life and achievements and tributes were made from family and friends, each one sharing a different perspective on his life.

The ceremony ended and it was time to head to the crematorium for a private family committal. Hearse, limo and back up vehicle left the muddy field without incident and D was bid a final farewell.

D's family were happy their wishes had been carried out and they had been able to give him the send-off he wanted.

A funeral should be as individual as the person themselves. If you would like something different or just some guidance in giving your loved one the funeral they deserve please get in touch, we're always happy to help.



Wells Funeral Services & Bath & Wells funeral directors

Rod Major



It's been a busy six months for SYHO (Sing Your Heart Out) as our members celebrated the end of another successful year of practice and concerts with a lovely meal at The Bell Inn, Leigh on Mendip. This was a great evening which was enjoyed by all.

This year has been devoted to preparation for our upcoming album recording featuring our favourite numbers over the past 14 years. It's been an intense period of perfecting songs so that we can sound our best for the big day. The recording will take place in the Autumn and we are all very excited by the prospect of being recording artists.

We have also been fund raising for two local churches by performing concerts. One took place at St John's in Stoke St Michael and saw us raise nearly **£500** and another at St John's, Chilcompton where we performed a Christmas Concert and raised **£800**.

Some upcoming SYHO dates for your diary:

We are looking forward to appearing at a **ChoirFest at the Midsomer Methodist Chapel on October 12th**. This should be a really fun afternoon featuring many choirs from around the local area. **We also**

have a concert on the 30th November at St John's Church, Chilcompton in aid of Root Connections a charity which helps the homeless and are based in Stratton on the Fosse. And of course we also look forward to our annual appearance at the St John's Church Candlelight Carol service on the 15th December.

If you would like us to perform for you, or you would like more details about our upcoming events go to our FB page for information or contact Viv Moon direct on

0773 0861 863

Sophie Andrews

New members will be very welcome from January 2025.

CARLOS CONDE
MCFHP, MAFHP
Qualified Foot Health Practitioner

Treatments include:
toe nail cutting,
corns, calluses, etc.



Home visits
/surgery
Call:
07972 656998

healthyfeet28@hotmail.com

Member of The British Association of Foot Health Professionals



Tree & Hedge Care
From Planting to Felling

Qualified (RFS Cert.ARB)
and Fully Insured

Registered Environment Agency
Waste Carriers

For Free Advice & Free Quotation call:

01761 239 324
07810 307 908

or Email: **tibbstrees@gmail.com**

The Chilcompton Parish Events Group (PEG)

The Chilcompton Parish Events Group, known for short as PEG, was formed from the group of villagers that worked to provide the successful events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in 2023.

In December 2023 the Christmas music and carols concert took place in the Village Hall with music provided by Mendip Brass and the group started to look at possible events for 2024. The group, operating with the full support of the parish council, is working on the following events:

A RECYCLING/JUMBLE SALE
AROUND THE VILLAGE WITH
STALLS AND REFRESHMENTS



**Christmas Music and
Carols at the Village
Hall on 7th December
2024 1pm to 5pm**



Once again we will hold our service at the war memorial, this will be on **Sunday 10th November** and as is customary in Chilcompton will start at 15:00. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us at the memorial and then after for tea at the Village Hall.

The aim of the group is to provide a range of events and activities for villagers of all ages and they would love to hear from people with their ideas and if they would like to join the group.

Please ring Lesley on 01761 233838 to find out more.

RWH

Plumbing & Heating

RICHARD HAYDEN

Gas Installations and Upgrades
Maintenance, Repairs, Bathrooms, FREE Estimates

Mobile: 07855 761 686
Email: hayden145@btinternet.com

www.rwhplumbingandheating.co.uk

Hill.Reading Architects

Coach House Studio, 34a Chamberlain Street, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2PJ
T: 01749 689060
M: 07779 215466

- Building Design
- Planning Advice
- Construction Advice
- Building Regulations

We offer a free consultation service.

From the smallest extension or home office, to new build dwellings and the refurbishment of listed properties.

Our team of professionals will work to create your unique and considered design.

RIBA



Council Matters

Welcome to Parish Council section of the latest village magazine.

In the last edition I wrote that we were continuing to support the Youth Club that takes part at the Village Hall on Wednesday evenings. Subsequent to that, the Parish Council received a briefing on the great work that

happens and the activities offered to young people attending, there are more details on page 19.

I also mentioned in the last edition about our new precept; we had increased it and would use that money to improve areas of the village. This process is now beginning to happen with the most recent meeting of the council approving improvements to the old recreation field at the bottom of the village recommended by the subcommittee that look after this piece. I would like to thank the subcommittee for their work and the plans they have drawn up and hope that when they come to fruition they will be enjoyed by young people in the village for many years.

One of the most common issues we have had raised by parishioners is those relating to traffic in the village, most commonly excess speed of those driving through. Since the last edition, the Traffic Subcommittee have been meeting regularly to discuss ways we can combat this and elsewhere in this edition you will see an article on what the next steps will be. We are always looking for more members to join the traffic subcommittee so if you are interested in helping with this issue please contact the parish clerk.

As I write we are still in the summer and autumn seems some way off, however it will soon be November and time for the annual Remembrance Day service. Once again we will hold our service at the war memorial. This will be on Sunday 10th November, and, as is customary in Chilcompton, will start at 15.00. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us at the memorial and then after for tea at the Village Hall. We will also be dressing the three war graves of members of the Parish who lost their lives in the great war but are buried in the village; one at the old Church yard on Stockhill Road and the others at St Johns Church. This will take place the day before on Saturday 9th November and again members of the village are welcome to join us for the brief but moving ceremonies at each site.

Jon Pike, Chair of the Parish Council

STEVE DAVIS

GENERAL BUILDER

BRICK BLOCK AND STONE SPECIALIST

TEL: 01761 232638

MOBILE: 07970 818082

email: steve_davis43@hotmail.com

ADE HORLER

CHIMNEY SWEEP

**CLEAN RELIABLE
SERVICE**

07517 990165



Midsomer Beauty Salon offers a wide range of Beauty and Holistic Treatments Including some of our newer treatments such as brow lamination, resurface and peel facial, hot stone facial and exotic hot oil and salt body scrub

Appointments can be made online through our website, Facebook page or the Fresha app

01761 569029

Meet Our Competition Winners



Jacob Hartley Age 8

Our judge Lizzie Morris says: "You have used your felt-tips in a very effective variety of ways in this piece of artwork Jacob, sometimes with great freedom and energy. You have filled the page with bright colours and we know at once we are in a place of life and growth. This is a full and lively piece of artwork; well done."

Noah Hartley Age 11

Our judge Lizzie says: "The composition of your artwork is very striking Noah, with the church almost entirely dominating the scene. Your use of clear, solid lines gives a bold, confident and graphic quality to your work, which indicates to us that each detail is as important as the next. Thank you for your very thoughtful piece of artwork."



Evelyn Hartley Age 6

Our judge Lizzie says: "You have composed your picture so that we feel the water is flowing towards us, and we, as observers, are part of this countryside scene; this can be a very exciting way to create a drawing. Your interesting picture is full of sounds and scents and much to see; well done for your bright and lively artwork, Evelyn."



Photos from a Chilcompton garden Colourful Common Birds Part 2

In the Spring edition of Chilcompton Matters we looked at a few colourful birds that might visit our gardens. The idea was to appreciate that in some ways we do have our own exotic species to be proud of and to cherish. Chilcompton does have good natural resources. This, along with our feeders, means we are visited by a very wide range and variety of birds. Some of these are seasonal, some just pass through, but many are very colourful and can be extremely beautiful.



Green Woodpecker

Also known as the Yaffle, the Green Woodpecker commonly announces its presence through its yaffling call. Almost a course laughing sound. Green Woodpeckers love ants. They eat them, and normally that is what they are after when you see them on your lawn. But they also have an amazing habit of rolling on their back in an ants nest, especially Wood Ants. In their own defence the ants spray the bird with formic acid. However, this acts as an insecticide and helps protect the feathers from mite, small bugs and bacteria.

A tiresome dull and repetitive call is about all you will get from The Greenfinch. Not as glorious in colour as other types of finches but the male has a very smart olive green uniform, sometimes tinged with a bit more yellow. The female like many birds is rather drab by comparison. Greenfinch nests often go unnoticed in our gardens. They do not nest very high up but do like a very thick bush, hedge or tree. These nests are more likely to be found during autumn pruning rather than during the nesting season.



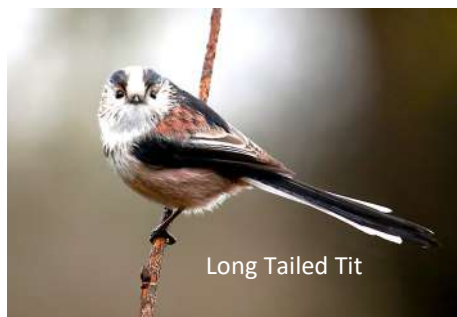
Greenfinch

Living near The Ponds on The Street the most common wagtail around here is the stream loving Grey Wagtail. However, every now and then we are blessed by the arrival of the more populous Pied Wagtail. Carrying less colour than other varieties the bold black and white is very striking. The distinctive characteristic bobbing of the tail gives the birds their title and, it makes identification quite easy when they are not so close.



Pied Wagtail

These acrobatic family orientated birds are one of my favourites. I really love it when they cascade into the garden as a delicate mass of tumbling little bodies, with their 'tseep, tseep, tseep' call, long tail feathers protruding, and tight little badger-like faces. The most I have seen on my feeder at the same time is 14. It is said that the young birds stay with the family group for quite some time before breaking off and starting new family groups of their own. It is also said that if a bird from the group dies, say hit by a car, then the whole family group will mourn their loss by moping on a branch or wire for up to two or three days.



Long Tailed Tit

The Nuthatch is not particularly common in many gardens. However, in Chilcompton there are many trees in and around the village. This makes the village a bit of an enclave for the Nuthatch. We have a large tree in the garden which houses a resident pair that nest somewhere in the upper reaches every year. The Nuthatch has some interesting ways. They are real acrobats and feeding upside-down is very common. They nest in cavities and the male almost closes up the hole whilst the female is incubating. He uses local mud as a cement. His job is to feed her through what is left of the opening.



Nuthatch

How difficult it is to choose just one picture of a Robin. I love the little expectant looks from this pair. Also, it is not so easy to get more than one in shot at a time. This year the Robins have been extremely productive. We had a pair raise three broods. The first was inside the potting shed. Broods two and three being in a pile of sticks in the garden. Good numbers of spotted brown juveniles have been visiting the feeders on the patio all spring and summer. They quickly become very self sufficient.



Robin



ZC
FINANCIAL PLANNING

Can we chat about *money?*

We recognise that talking about money and finances can be tricky. It's a personal topic. So it's reassuring to know there's someone on hand who can help you address your needs, understand your goals and realise your dreams.

Our friendly and approachable service is backed by the strength and security of a FTSE 100 company, St. James's Place Wealth Management. What's more, being local means we're here to help whenever you need us.

We can help you with investment, retirement, tax and estate planning. Importantly, we see this as a long-term relationship, supporting you and guiding you through life's financial challenges as your trusted adviser and confidante.

Let's start a conversation

Zac Cambourne
Partner

01761 202035

07971 782575

zac.cambourne@sjpp.co.uk

www.zaccambourne.co.uk



Associate Partner Practice

St James's Place

ZC Financial Planning is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjpp.co.uk/products. The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

SJP Approved 03/07/2023

Copyright © 2023

Embroidery Experiences Group

These are some of the recently completed items from my class in Chilcompton Sports Hall, BA3 4EY. The next Class Group will start on Thursday September 19th 2024 at 10.00am until 12.30pm for 12 weeks until December 12th 2024.



If you are interested in joining this very friendly group and learning new skills please contact: **Patricia Ardon on 07788 184 185 or 01761 232466**

CALLING ALL YOGA ENTHUSIASTS



We are truly blessed with our village hall in Chilcompton. Ample parking, with several meetings rooms, a large hall with a stage, a bar and a roomy kitchen, make it an excellent and well used venue. But completely unknown to me until fairly recently, even though I have lived in the village for over 30 years, its pièce de résistance is a little studio perched right at the top, with access hidden away right at the back of the building. It's where myself and many others have been practicing yoga on a Wednesday night for the past year or so – and probably even longer, but as I said it is so hidden away I didn't discover it till recently. Of course, there is an array of yoga classes around, but it was so good to simply stroll up the hill to detox my body and mind rather than having to jump in the car and pollute the world to simply gain benefit for myself. With its high windows either side, I could practice with the warmth of the evening sun on my face and feel all was good with the world. But woe is woe! Having come across it serendipitously I am now dismayed to learn it is to cease as our wonderful yoga teacher has moved onto other projects. So, if you're a yoga teacher, or know any yoga teachers, and have an itch to provide inexpensive yoga in a village setting at 6pm on a Wednesday evening, or indeed another early evening, you most likely would be welcome with open arms as there is a clearly a clientele already waiting for you. And in the best yoga studio I have ever practiced in! I have practiced yoga in a multitude of settings over many years, so that's some claim. Fancy having that right in our village, eh? How lucky are we. All we need now is a teacher...

Please contact Chilcompton Village Hall Booking Secretary: Lynn Wulcko
mob: 07969 813 340 or Email: cvhmc@hotmail.co.uk

Shannon Turner

Choirfest **Saturday 12th October 2024** **2:30pm— 4:30pm**

Midsomer Norton Methodist Church
High St, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2DR

Free Admission

with a retiring (cash only) Collection
all profits going to Guide Dogs for the Blind

Find us on Facebook or email:
westfieldvoiceschoir@gmail.com

Friday Club Celebration

Friday coffee club has been running for 40 years and members recently celebrated the milestone with a wonderful lunch. The group started in 1984 for the elderly and lonely and also for anyone wanting to drop into the village hall for tea and cake. It soon grew to more than 30 attendees.

There is great support by 9 volunteers, who work on a rota basis plus a dedicated regular cake maker. Incredibly two volunteers were there at the beginning and are still giving their time to the cause.

Numbers dropped significantly after the pandemic, but are beginning to rise again now.

Grateful thanks are due to all the helpers and supporters over the years including the village hall committee.



Marlene Pickford 01761 232774



CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Cush



who celebrated his **100th** birthday in July. Jim, a lovely Yorkshireman, came to Chilcompton in 1999 and made many friends here. Love and best wishes from your friends in Chilcompton. (A profile of Jim's life can be seen in the September 2021 magazine).

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Joan Hawken, who will be **100** at the end of this month. Joan settled in to Chilcompton when she married David Sheppard and she has supported many facets of village life over several decades. (see *Chilcompton Lives* article on pages 72 and 73 for Joan's story).

Also **Daphne Trippick** who celebrated her **102nd** birthday in August. Much love and best wishes to you Joan and Daphne from all your friends in Chilcompton.

Let's Go Out

Golden Hour Club

Members meet once a month with a variety of entertainment, tea and biscuits. Many look back to the 50s and 60s, choirs and bands tend to provide a wider range of music, talks are diverse and often fascinating. The latter includes the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance charity, Mendip stories and the Fire service.



New members or visitors are always welcome.

Sylvia Rogers 01761 233142

Wednesday Walkers

The walkers have had a good summer of rambling once the wet spring footpaths dried out a little. We used lanes, of necessity, until May when we ventured onto footpaths; unfortunately while some landowners keep footpaths clear, we have found many blocked, overgrown with nettles, brambles and crops; we are happy to walk the edges of fields to avoid crops, but they are growing so close to hedgerows that it is almost impossible to get through and massive badger holes just added to the hazards. **PLEASE LANDOWNERS ensure the paths are clear of undergrowth and fallen trees are removed.**

Marlene Pickford 01761 232774

Indoor Bowls

Short mat bowls continues at the village hall every Thursday afternoon. Up to 10 people play friendly matches, always learning new skills and hopefully improving! Come along at 2pm. and have a go.

Contact: David Rogers 01761 233142



Chilcompton Wives

This Spring we enjoyed a tour of the globe. Afternoons of climbing Kilimanjaro, trekking to Rwanda to see the Gorillas and closer to home our very own Hedgehogs. Our next adventure was on the 'Chatty Cycle', (around the car park this time) but with an offer of trips further afield.

If you would like to join us for any of our meetings, we meet the first and third Wednesday of the month 2.15p.m. at the Sports Recreation Ground. Bring a friend and join us for refreshments and a chat.

For further information contact:

Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or

Maureen Evans 01761 233266

Coming up in the Autumn:

- *The Black Sheep of the Family.*
- *19th Century Medical Surgery.*
- *Crazy Animals.*
- *Alternative Musical Nativity.*

How different can it get!



Cinema returns to Kilmersdon REEL PEOPLE FILMS

at Kilmersdon Village Hall, BA3 5TD

2024-2025 Season

We are delighted to present our new season on the Big Screen at Kilmersdon Village Hall. Everyone is welcome - all films are shown at 8pm but the doors & bar open at 7.15pm for a drink and a chat. Come along as a guest for £6 on the door or join us for the whole Season of 8 films for £30 (£25 'Early Bird' at our first film only).



8pm Friday 11 October 2024

SCRAPPER (12) 1hr 24 mins

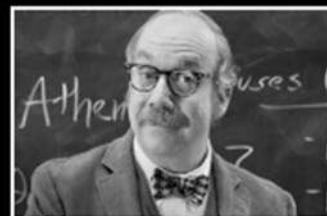
Living alone since her Mum died, 12 year old Charlie fills the flat with her own special magic. When her absent Dad turns up out of the blue she has to face reality. A joyful comedy bubbling with hope.



8pm Friday 8 November 2024

ANATOMY OF A FALL (15) 2hrs 32 mins

A riveting French courtroom drama that keeps you on the edge of your seat. At the centre of the film is Sandra Huller's compelling performance as an author accused of her husband's murder. In French with subtitles.



8pm Friday 13 December 2024

THE HOLDOVERS (12) 2hrs 13 mins

Set in the 1970's, this is the story of a cantankerous school teacher in a New England Prep School forced to stay on campus over Christmas to babysit a handful of students. An expert blend of humour and emotion.

And to follow in the New Year...

8pm Friday 10 January 2025 PERFECT DAYS (PG)

8pm Friday 24 January 2025 THE GREAT ESCAPER (12)

8pm Friday 14 February 2025 FALLEN LEAVES (12)

8pm Friday 14 March 2025 THE TASTE OF THINGS (12)

8pm Friday 11 April 2025 TO BE CONFIRMED

www.reelpeople.org.uk email : reelpeoplekilmersdon@gmail.com Tel: 07523 082 293

Local Government is Changing

In the last couple of years there have been two significant changes in the way that local government operates. (i) The removal of district councils to make way for a unitary authority, Somerset Council. (ii) Restrictions from national government on the increases that the unitary authority is allowed to make on rates.

The implications of these are for Somerset Council to look at ways that they can devolve responsibilities/powers and associated costs to the third tier of local government, parish councils, in order to save money. Parish councils, as yet, have no such restrictions.

Already there are noises that public refuse bins and grit bins might become a duty for parishes. People may have noticed the height of roadside hedges this summer, roadside kerb cutting and hedge trimming might also become an issue.

SC have also indicated that if parishes wish to see speed limit changes (see page 6) and traffic calming measures (like sleeping policemen and raised zebra crossings), they may allow it but Parish Councils will have to pay.

Then there is the county arts budget, frozen at zero for many years. Does Chilcompton want a protected (if not subsidised) arts programme?

Parish council income is the precept which each household pays along with their council tax. It is likely this will have to be increased to pay for any matters being devolved, amongst other village improvements.

Malcolm Rigby

“Not all Pearls and Twinsets”

Chilcompton residents are being invited to join a bridge club which has recently moved into Kilmersdon Village Hall.

Players meet every Monday afternoon from 1.30 pm to 4.30pm. We are a social, friendly club and encouraging for the less experienced players as well as very welcoming for those with experience. With or without a bridge partner, you are welcome to come along and play. We change partners throughout the afternoon to encourage the social aspect and give people experience of learning from our more experienced players and the opportunity to learn different conventions. Currently we play rubber bridge, but intend to include duplicate bridge when numbers allow.

To this end, we are seeking new members to come along and join us, from beginners to the more experienced players. We charge £3 for the afternoon session which includes a cup of tea and biscuits.

It's not all pearls and twinsets, we promise. Just give us a call to let us know you're thinking of joining us. You will be most welcome.

Call Jill Eade on 07813 555205 or contact us through our new FaceBook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558032668992>

Farming Matters

Paul Mattick, cattle man on Duchy land at Manor Farm, explains what farmers are doing at this time of year.

A summer day means a normal start at five o'clock, walk the dogs and check the cattle that are out in the fields in their different groups. I check their eyes, make sure they don't have any eye infections. One of the biggest problems can be eye infections from flies, so you're regularly looking for that. Lameness can be another problem so you're regularly checking their legs. You're monitoring the grass height and determining when to move cattle from one field to the next so that you don't over or under graze.

Summer mornings are nice and light and the sunrises can be spectacular, though grey mornings are more the norm. I see more sunrises than I do sunsets as the latter can be too late for me. The weather pattern this summer started off quite normally, warm growing conditions and then we had a dry period in May when a lot of people made their silage. Then we had a wet June and we didn't make our silage until late June. We made our hay in July and we would have preferred to make it earlier. This summer we were probably two weeks behind what we would have liked to have been but probably still one to two months ahead of last year. The hay we made in July this year we made in September last year, which is unheard of.

It's been a great grass growing season, people will know that from how often they have had to mow their lawns. We now have plenty of winter feed for the cattle, as all farmers around should. People will have also noticed how much the hedges have grown as well. We had a TB test in July which is always a difficult time because you have to rehouse all the cattle for a week while the tests go on – it's very stressful for the handlers and the cattle, particularly if it's hot and thankfully it wasn't that bad. The cattle hate coming in once they've been out. We were TB clear which is an enormous relief. Our next test is in six months, just before Christmas, but the cattle will be housed and it's an easier task for the livestock farmer.

We're now coming into the autumn period and we're doing the last of the silage then we'll be getting into hedge cutting and dung spreading and hopefully by the end of September we'll have caught up, weather permitting, with our jobs ready to go into the winter. We have just started bringing in rearing calves and within the next two months we'll have a hundred rearing calves that need to be fed twice a day. We buy the calves from one local farm so our cattle travel is minimal.

Generally, a better farming year than last year because of the weather but for cereal farmers yields have been variable because of the wet winter last year, they couldn't drill in time and germination may have been patchy in places. The reports through the country are that grain yields are lower than the five year average.

Next year? In farming terms you always just want a kind weather pattern. We do know with climate change that the most predictable thing is that the weather is unpredictable. Countryside folklore? *If the cows are sitting down it means it's going to rain.* A lot of nonsense. *Red sky in the morning, shepherds warning and red sky at night, shepherd's delight.* I think that's actually quite right. It means that the next day is going to be good and I still think that that's quite a handy omen.

We have had some incidents of people leaving gates open and cattle getting into another field. Please, if you open a gate, close it and bolt it. Pick up your dog poo, bag it and bin it. It's helpful as it's not good for cattle to walk in or to ingest in the grass. There are plenty of dog bins around now so if you bag it don't hang it on a tree or barbed wire. Please follow the highway code, don't litter, keep to the paths and if there is livestock about, act accordingly. Happy walking.



MENDIP BRASS BAND

Our summer season, in June, started with a fete, 'Tea in the Garden' at Norton Down church. The visitors enjoyed the music and the Minister thanked Jim several times. In July, after a very changeable week weatherwise, we were lucky to have a fine

afternoon at Wells Band Stand, where the programme was opened by the Mayor of Wells, Jasmine Browne. There was a good gathering of people, and we were invited to return.

Rock of Ages followed a week later and it was good to play outside at the Rock as in previous years the poor weather drove us inside Burrington church for the service. A good crowd attended and the assistant Bishop, Rt. Rev'd Alistair Redfern spoke atop the farm cart.

The rain caught up with us when we played at Norton Hill Station on the 150th anniversary of the opening of the S&D railway. Luckily a gazebo sheltered most of us. When we arrived home, the rain stopped.

Jenny Gould

Chilcompton Playgroup

Hello, we hope everyone has had a lovely summer!

Playgroup resumes after the summer on the 10th September.



Sessions are from 10am until 11:30 every term



time Tuesday in Chilcompton Village hall. We charge £2 per family which includes a snack for the children and hot drinks for the adults. We hope to welcome many old friends and new from newborn until they start school, we have something for everyone.

The committee no longer have any playgroup aged children so although we will continue to run playgroup for as long as we can. We desperately need new committee members and helpers to ensure our future, come along and have a chat if you are interested.

Any questions or suggestions please contact Cassie, Tina or Beth through the Chilcompton playgroup Facebook page or email :

chilcomptonplaygroup@hotmail.com



Book
a table



theredaninn.co.uk

01761 258 560



IT'S ALL NEW & OUR FOCUS IS...YOU!

- Brand New Management
- Brand New Chef
- Brand New Menu
- Brand New Pizza Oven
- Brand New Music Events
- Brand New Experience





The local community based Chilcompton Art Club hosted their annual open day exhibition on Saturday July the 13th, showcasing a diverse array of artworks from their members. The event was held at the Sports Club and was well attended by art enthusiasts both local and from across the region. The exhibition featured a wide range of mediums, including oil, watercolour, acrylic and pastel images. Each piece reflected the unique style and perspective of its creator. Highlights included



stunning landscapes, both local and abroad, still life and portraiture paintings.

The Chilcompton Art Club open Day exhibition is more than just a display of art, it is an opportunity for the local community see the work of the club, which has been a cornerstone of the local arts scene for over 30 years, and prides itself on fostering a supportive environment where artists of all abilities can share ideas and inspire one another. Plans are already underway for the next exhibition which will be held in the cloisters of Wells Cathedral during the first week of October.

The club is always open to new members of all abilities and is committed to nurturing creativity and bringing people together, the club has a Facebook page and website at www.chilcomptonartclub.uk where you can find details about the club and contact information.

Co-op Then & Now



We're the Which? Insurance Brand of the Year for the third year running



Whether it's for your car, home, farm or business, for quality insurance you can rely on, join us today.

Contact NFU Mutual Bath at Stratton_on_the_Fosse_agency@nfumutual.co.uk or talk to us

01761 239 382 | The Old Stables, Manor Farm, Stratton On The Fosse, Bath, Somerset, BA3 4QF



A P R Smith & H G Wareham is an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982). Registered in England. Registered Office: Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 7BJ.

How to...be an ironic luddite



Printers. Think of your computer printer. Think about how it ran out of ink just when you needed a hard copy of an important document. Think about how it breaks down when you least want it to. Think about how many printers you have got through in the last ten years. Think how evil printers are, that will get you in the mindset to be a luddite. If anyone has said to you, "please, get yourself into the 21st century", then you are probably on the way to becoming a luddite. If people say this to you on a regular basis then you probably are a luddite already. Other things people may say to you: "When were you born, the Stone Age?" "Get your head out of your crack and face the new millennium." Things you may say yourself: "Better the devil you know..." "Do we really need six forward gears?" "If it ain't broke

don't change it." "Actually I preferred Opal Fruits and Marathons." "Do you sell butterscotch instant whip?" "Whatever did happen to the likely lads?"

My main gripe is mobile phones. Imagine a person peacefully sipping a beer in a London pub garden during the early eighties, 15 yards away a suited yuppie is shouting very loudly in a disturbing way into a large black brick. The calm person says, "they will never catch on." That was me. Of course, sadly, I knew they would catch on, but I was just hoping. Several years later, they have destroyed two of my favourite things: the letter and the red phone box.

At a philosophy festival (yes they exist) a few months ago, a speaker reminded us that the Luddites were not the baddies. The Luddites were simply trying to protect the working and artisanal class from being over exploited by the greedy capitalist class – they wanted the benefits of development to be shared by all.

Quick rewind to O'level history: The Luddites were a movement from the early 1800s who were concerned about the repercussions of modern technology in the wool and cloth industry in the north, so they tried to set about damaging the new equipment. For their sins they were either put to death (including a 16 year old boy who was merely keeping guard) or transported to Australia.

Anyway, I am not against all inventions. In particular, I have nothing against the Spinning Jenny. In fact I would say that my three favourite inventions are: the wheel, the bra and the flushing toilet. I mentioned this to a friend and she said I should include the corkscrew (or screw top) and the biro.

And what about all the important inventions we were promised by Tomorrows World? Where is the solar powered jet pack? Where is that?

Written by A.I. (Arthur Inglesbracken).

Next time: How to...be a failed hedonist

Food Matters..... The Blackberry



Blackberries Blackberry jam, blackberry fool, blackberry cordial...

Blackberry picking is one of our favourite autumn past-times and late summer/early autumn fruit are ripe and ready to pick. Rich in Fibre, Vitamin C, K and Magnesium and deep

purple (almost black) in colour, the berries should easily pop off the plant as you pick them.

Apparently they should be plump and shiny so if they fall apart in your hand they're probably over-ripe. They range in flavour from big fat sweet ones to face-scrunching tart.

Blackberries are very popular with birds and insects alike, making it even more important to wash them well if you don't fancy the extra protein! Many caterpillars live on blackberry plants and adult butterflies feed on the nectar of the flowers as well as enjoying the sweet juice from the fruit clusters, so it's not uncommon for them to be surrounded by butterflies. Mammals such as dormice, squirrels and badgers love blackberries too.

Blackberry Crumble

Ingredients:

400-500g freshly picked blackberries

200g plain flour

85g butter

55g sugar

Delicious



Instructions:

Preheat your oven to 180°C (160°C fan oven), place the washed blackberries in the bottom of a baking dish. In a large bowl, rub the butter into the flour until it looks like breadcrumbs, stir in the sugar, sprinkle the crumble mix over the blackberries and bake in the oven for 40-45 minutes until light brown.

Note if your blackberries are a little sharp tasting sprinkle a tablespoon of sugar over the blackberries before you add the crumble mix to them. Enjoy.

Tracey Withers

Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries



Since the last edition of Chilcompton Matters, the Friends of St Chad's and Chilcompton Surgeries have been changing. The biggest issue for us was the merger of our GP Practice in April with Somerton House Practice. That seems to have gone smoothly, and I hope patients and staff are able to see benefits from the new arrangements.

Somerton House had a Friends group of their own, but it was not a registered charity like us. We discussed and agreed

merging our groups to work to support all our of surgeries, however the changes do require the approval of the Charity Commission. We do not expect any problems with this, and from now on we will be the **Friends of Somer Valley Medical Group** pending approval.

In the meantime, the 100 Club continues to roll along. We are making appearances with our Bric a Brac stalls at Stratton Village Day on 8th September – and we are thinking Christmas Raffle whilst you are still thinking summer holidays.

This spring we have approved donations of £4,500 for the purchase of new equipment for our surgeries – 2 Paediatric Oximeters, 3 treatment couches and a replacement defibrillator. Thanks again to all our supporters who make all this possible.

We were unable to arrange any Health Talks in the spring owing to committee members illness, but we now have two dates for your diaries: -

**Thursday 26th September
6.30pm**

Midsomer Norton Methodist Church
Dr. Ali Khavandi, Consultant
Interventional Cardiologist at the
RUH/Sulis, will be talking about
Blood Pressure. What is it? What
should it be? How can you monitor
and improve yours?

**Thursday 10th October
6.30pm**

Midsomer Norton Methodist
Church
Janice Fisher and Beth Claesen will
be talking about Lip Reading.
Janice is a locally based Hearing
Therapist and Lipreading Teacher.

We also have an AGM scheduled, and it would be nice to see some patients attend and ask pertinent questions. It will be even better if you want to volunteer to join us and talk about how that might work for you.

The **AGM is Monday 16th September at 6.30 pm**, venue to be confirmed.

Please feel free to email me if you have feedback, questions, would like to volunteer to join in our efforts, know any speakers who may be available for a Health Talk, or simply want to join the 100 Club (£12 pa).
jsattlerevans@btinternet.com or 01761 232244

J G DECORATORS

Quality, Interior and Exterior Painting and Decorating

Paper hanging specialist

Clean, Tidy and Professional

Chilcompton based

For a free quote call:

01761 753427 / 07791655001

Email: jody@jgdecorators.com

The Most Thorough Cleaning You've Ever Seen Or Its Free!!

Carpets Advanced Low Moisture System. Superb results and **dry in as little as 30mins!** Your neighbours will think you've got new.

Upholstery Fabric and leather upholstery can look like new and smell fresh again.

Oriental & Area Rugs Off site cleaning facility for superior results. **Free Collection & Delivery.**

Hard Flooring Restorative cleaning and sealing of
Natural Stone,
Ceramic & Porcelain Tiles & Grout,
Wood & Laminates
Vinyl, Karndean & Amtico etc.

Re-polishing of
limestone, travertine and marble
flooring and worktops.



www.tlcbath.co.uk

What We Give Others Can't

- * **Phone answered live** - 9 to 5 Mon – Fri.
- * **Value For Money** – You get what you pay for. We may not be cheapest, (we won't use the tricks necessary to be so!)
- * **Accurate Appointment Times**
No more waiting around! If we are going to be 10 or more mins late, we ring ahead, keeping you informed
- * **100% Money Back Guarantee** We are not perfect! If a spot re-appears or you're unhappy, we'll return and re-clean free of charge. If you are still unhappy, your payment will not be accepted.

For Free, Friendly Advice

Call 01761 235600

TLC (Bath) Ltd,
Unit 33, Old Mills Ind Est,
Paulton BS39 7SU

info@tlcbath.co.uk

THE SINGING GUITARS (a local U3a Group)



The Singing Guitars have been together now for just over five years, and during that time have held many concerts in order to raise money for various charities. We rehearse weekly in Chilcompton Sports Hall and enjoy playing music from the 60s, 70s and covering groups like the Beatles, Queen and Abba.

Although we are an acoustic guitar group, we have a lead guitarist,

Dave Stock, who has many years experience and plays electric guitar as the lead for many of our songs, which gives a more authentic sound.

I have been playing and teaching guitar for many years and also sang semi-professionally for several years, so I have a musical background which helped when I started the guitar group back in 2019. Initially the group was for beginners, and for those who wanted to get back to playing. Now all the members of the group have become proficient guitarists and singers who thoroughly enjoy performing at concerts. We believe that music is really good for your health and well being, so we will continue singing as long as we can.

Most of the group members are local people, my husband and I have lived in Chilcompton for 42 years, and could not imagine living anywhere else.

We recently performed for the Lions Club at St. John's Church in Midsomer Norton to raise money for the 'Childrens Hospice' also playing were the Bath Swing Band.

In addition we were recently invited to play the event at the Redan Inn on the 20th July. The Singing Guitars started the celebration by singing popular songs to get everyone in the party mood.

For the past few years, we have put on our own Christmas Charity Shows, which have always been well supported. This year, however, because we are already booked to do shows for other Christmas events, we decided to do a Summer Charity Show which was held in August. The show was a great success and well supported. People gave generously to the charities which this year was 'Cancer Research UK' and 'The Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund'.

If you have an event coming up and would like some entertainment, please contact me:
Group Leader **Charmain Gay** on **07890051169** or **01761 232785**

Chilcompton Matters - Advertising

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

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

- **Full page - 'portrait' - in B&W / Greyscale £60 or including Colour £120**
- **Half page - 'landscape' - in B&W / Greyscale £30 or including Colour £60**
- **Quarter page - 'portrait' - in B&W / Greyscale £15 or including Colour £30**

If you would like to advertise or you would like further information, please email Mike at mike.hughes10@outlook.com. In order to assist the publication of the magazine, please inform us of your intention to advertise as soon as you can.

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

Prices Static for ten years

Haven't we heard of inflation? Under the current editorial team, advertising charges have not gone up for a whole decade. It's always been a bargain deal but there will be a slight increase for the Autumn 2025 Chilcompton Matters issue so that the whole editorial content can be produced in colour. Black and white adverts will still be possible. Prices will remain the same for the next issue and any changes will be explained then.



**Check-in time?
Whenever you need us.**

24/7 support no matter where you are, or what time you need us. At travel counsellors we're all about you. Your needs wants and aspirations for far-flung celebrations - coupled with personal service beyond compare - you can always rely on me.



Emma Glover
TRAVEL COUNSELLOR
01373 420006
emma.glover@travelcounsellors.com
travelcounsellors.com/emma.glover

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★



Unsung Heroes

Well Done **Sue Tandy** for raising **£1,000** towards a surgical robot for the RUH with a single fund raising event in April. Sue has spent over 16 years raising money for Breast Cancer Care with her cream teas, cakes, jams and chutneys. She also runs a coffee morning on Saturdays at Trinity Methodist church, Westfield for further funds, which features bacon rolls, hot dogs and quiches as well as books and cards. Sue says she has a wonderful team of volunteers helping her each week. Baking cakes for Chilcompton Friday club for 40 years has also played a part in her fundraising. When a robot was used for surgery for a family member at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, Sue used her skills and energy to contribute to a surgical robot for the RUH, Bath.



What dedication and what an achievement Sue.

Rosemary Blatchford has been raising funds for the RUH breast cancer unit for 10 years with her delicious lunches in her lovely garden. Catering for up to 150 ladies, she does all the cooking and baking, although friends help out with selling raffle tickets and working hard on the day. Many shops and companies give her discounts or donate their services. She started supporting this cause, when three friends developed breast cancer.

Rosemary, who is on the Gardening club committee and Flower Show committee here in Chilcompton, held her last lunch in June and raised a staggering **£6,000. A total of £44,000 over the years.** This year was special as Mr. Richard Sutton, breast cancer surgeon at the RUH, attended the lunch and spoke about his time at the hospital since 2003. He said numbers of the illness are increasing due to the aging population, but also for reasons not yet known. He thanked Rosemary for her contributions to the unit. Also attending was Debby Huxham from the local Rotary club to present Rosemary with the prestigious **Paul Harris Fellow award** for her outstanding contribution to the community.



We are indebted to Rosemary for her efforts and outstanding fundraising success.

In Defence of the Woodlouse



In a past edition of Chilcompton Matters Jon Crouch wrote an interesting article accompanied by some great photos of insects found in our gardens. One of these was The Red Woodlouse Spider that preys on woodlice.

I'm writing this in September and there do seem to be rather a lot of woodlice around just now, both indoors and out. One of my neighbours commented on this, and I said, "But they don't do any harm do they?" He was surprised to

hear me say this as, like many of us, he probably thinks that maybe they do.

In the intricate tapestry of our gardens, where tiny ecosystems thrive, the humble woodlouse often goes unnoticed. Yet, it is a creature deserving of our appreciation and understanding. Let us delve into the world of these unassuming crustaceans and explore why they deserve a place in our hearts (and gardens).

The Woodlouse: A Garden Guardian



Justin Jarvis PAINTER & DECORATOR

For Quality and Craftsmanship

Looking to refresh your home or office?

Let me help bring your vision to life

Whether it's a simple touch-up
or a full renovation

I will exceed your expectations

Get a free quote and see how

I can enhance the beauty
of your space



07305 565089

jarvy007@gmail.com

"Justin recently completed an excellent job of painting my 4 garages, I'm well pleased" Mike, Chilcompton

More Testimonials Available

1. Soil Engineers

Woodlice, like diligent garden custodians, toil beneath rocks and stones, their armoured exoskeletons protecting them from the elements. Their primary role? Soil aeration.

As they burrow through the cold, dark soil, they churn it, allowing air and water to penetrate. This natural tilling process benefits plant roots and promotes healthy soil structure. Their tendency to huddle in groups is not a sign of them reaching pest proportions, it's actually a defence of them drying out. During the day they hide under logs, stones, flower pots and damp corners. They only come out to feed at night when it's cooler and moister.

2. Compost Creators

Picture this: a fallen leaf, once vibrant, now decaying. Woodlice feast upon such organic matter, breaking it down into smaller fragments. In this process, they contribute to the creation of nutrient-rich compost. So, while we sip our morning coffee, these tiny recyclers diligently transform fallen leaves into garden gold.

3. Pest Controllers



Woodlice are not mere scavengers; they also play a vital role in pest management. Their diet primarily consists of dead plant material (but they do occasionally nibble on ripe strawberries and tender seedlings). However, their appetite for garden pests—such as aphids, mites, and small insects—far outweighs any minor transgressions. Consider them

the unsung heroes of natural pest control.

4. Houseguests or Intruders?

Occasionally, woodlice wander indoors, seeking refuge from the elements. Fear not; they harbour no ill intentions. These accidental houseguests are likely lost souls, navigating their way through open doors or cracks. Their presence indoors is a sign of a damp environment, which they find appealing. However, they rarely survive long in our dry, warm homes.

5. Harmless and Humane Solutions

When woodlice venture indoors, resist the urge to reach for chemical sprays or insect killers. Instead, opt for a more humane approach. A gentle sweep with a dustpan and brush allows you to escort them back to their natural habitat—the garden. Remember, they pose no threat to sound wood or structures, nor do they spread disease.

6. Ancient Guardians

Woodlice have witnessed the ebb and flow of time. Fossils dating back 100 million years reveal their enduring presence. Preserved in amber deposits across Spain, France, and Myanmar, these ancient guardians remind us of the cyclical nature of life. They predate dinosaurs, surviving cataclysms and evolving alongside our planet.

So, next time you encounter a woodlouse, pause and appreciate its quiet contributions. It may not wear a cape, but it carries the weight of millennia on its tiny, armoured back. And as you release it back into the garden, whisper a silent thank you—for the soil, the compost, and the delicate balance it helps maintain.

In defence of the woodlouse, let us celebrate its resilience, its humility, and its place in the intricate dance of life.

Valerie Jackson



Letter to the Editor



Dear Malcolm

I moved to Chilcompton just a year ago from Surrey. I knew absolutely nobody here. My friends all thought I was mad, but it has been a wonderful move.

I soon met Marlene Pickford who passed onto me a pile of past Chilcompton Matters. I've so enjoyed reading them.

To begin with I didn't know who anyone was or where anywhere was either. But as the year progressed the sights, sounds and people have become familiar.

Kind Regards

Valerie Jackson

An Atrocity

The railway station, the concert hall
the underground and marketplace.
We know them all

The silence after the screech
and cries of terrible death
And in the shadows we weep.

And kindness sheds its skin
and slithers away naked and afraid
its belly black with blood and oil.

And the car is towed away
leaving an emptying
of all we are and share

And a shoe.

By Andrew Morris

Obituaries

The following villagers', former residents and friends have died in recent months:

Maureen Beechinor (formerly Conneely, née Durbin)

Louise Horler, Iris Nott (née Dando), Alex Burge

Philip Gregory, Mary Charles (95), John Hewish (96)

Fred Biggs (91), Jeanne Hiscox (née Martin) (93)

Samantha (Sam) Pegler, Melvin Bowen, Richard Conneely

Daphne Paris (Holmes) 97

Rev'd Christopher Penn 90, (former vicar of St. John's church)

We send sincere condolences to their relatives and friends.

If anyone has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know and they will be included in the next newsletter. 01761 232774

Surprises on Your Doorstep:

*Continuing the series of treasures/treats just outside the village, Malcolm Rigby visits
Nunney Castle*

According to the architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner, Nunney castle is 'aesthetically the most impressive castle in Somerset.' And when it comes to buildings, he's the man. The castle is so cute and quaint you have an odd urge to pick it up, put it in your pocket and take it home.

The castle was built in the 1370s for Sir John De La Mare, a prominent local as the sheriff of Wiltshire and Somerset. He was granted a license to crenellate it by the king but the edifice was always more of a status symbol rather than a defensive structure due to the low-lying ground it was on. In the French style it had a quadrangular court with four tower columns. In the 16th century it was extensively modernised for the Prater family. They were in possession when it saw it's only action, during the civil war, after a couple of days siege the Royalists limply surrendered. Parliament then decreed that the castle should not be used anymore, and it wasn't. There was a structural collapse in 1910, so that what you see now is what the State took over in 1926 after the return of the moat. But it's cute.

Inside the castle there is just one small sign that says: 'Please do not climb on the walls.' Some years ago, on our first visit to Nunney, this is the sign we read just after my wife had fallen from the wall onto her bottom. The following morning produced the most purple derriere I have ever seen. Evidence, indeed, that one should heed warning signs.

Handy for monument visitors, The Café at Nunney is just up the road, run for the last couple of years by Ian Wyley and partner – for a Friday morning it was pretty full. Ian observed that compared to South Wales castles it was more of a fortified manor, but since it had bought a couple of cannonballs in its time, that was good enough for him.

Ian said: "Nunney is a wonderful place, we've been made to feel very welcome by the residents, very well supported by the locals and those in the wider area as well. The village itself is a picture-box place, but one of the things that we like the most is that it

has a deep-rooted community."

It has been quoted that Nunney is the prettiest village in Somerset, this seems very subjective, particularly when I don't know who said it. However, it does have a castle and moat (tick), it does have a 19th century guard house (tick), it does have a babbling brook (tick), it has excitable and energetic ducks in said brook (tick) and it has many attractive Georgian, and earlier, houses (tick). The old houses have 'old' in their names; The Old Bake House, The Old Coach House, The Old Brewery Cottage and other unusual names like The Hidden House and Thimble Cottage.

About a mile out of Nunney I came across an area known as Dead Woman's Bottom – curiously it made me think of the castle and the wife.



Chilcompton Lives - Joan Hawken (formerly Bailey / Sheppard)



Congratulations are due for Joan this month when she becomes 100 and receives her card from King Charles III.

Edna 'Joan' Bailey was born on 27th September 1924 to Thomas and Mable Bailey at their home in Dinder. Mable was a parlour maid at Dinder House for Squire Somerville. Joan's sister, Margaret Rose, arrived in 1926 and is still living. Joan went to Dinder School until she was 11 years old when she went to the Central School in Wells. Here the boys and girls were in separate buildings. Joan didn't realise she had Edna as a first name until they called the register – she was always known as Joan by the family. Joan said that, as a child, she enjoyed the countryside -

walking in the fields, picking flowers, catching newts, watching the milking and butter being churned.

In 1938 at 14 years of age Joan left school and went to work at Clares in Wells in the filing office. She started on 5/- and when she gained an apprenticeship earned 7/6 a week (37p now). However, in 1939, her Grandad Bailey died, and as Joan was the eldest granddaughter in the family she had to leave the job to look after her Grandmother in Croscombe.

Sadly Joan's mother, Mable, died in 1940 and this meant Joan had to continue to look after her younger sister. In 1941 Joan came to live in Chilcompton with Eva and Curtis Padfield – her Aunt and Uncle. She enrolled at the Business College in Bath and would catch the 8:20 am train from Chilcompton Station to Bath every morning. Joan studied shorthand and typing and in the war she was posted to work for the Admiralty in Bath at the Pulteney Hotel until 1944.



At the same time Joan did Red Cross nursing in a detachment in Midsomer Norton which sometimes meant nursing all night. Joan was released from the Admiralty to work as a nurse with a Red Cross Voluntary Aided Detachment (VAD). She worked initially in a residential children's home in Taunton and then moved to Shapwick House, a convalescent home / hospital for the Army where she remained until 1948. At Shapwick Joan was known as Bill Bailey after the song 'Won't you come home Bill Bailey'. During the war nurses found it difficult to starch their caps as starch was unavailable. As an alternative the nurses would immerse their caps in water that had been used to boil potatoes and then iron them. It worked a treat.



Joan met David John Sheppard in 1941, they were married eight years later and honeymooned in Paris, then lived in Winfrith.

Their first daughter Jane was born in 1950 and in 1951 they moved into Green Acres which they had built on land which was formerly tennis courts. Shortly after moving, their second daughter Susan was born and in 1955 a third daughter, Rachel, was born.

James Sheppard started the sawmill in the village which at its height employed 80 people. During the war the sawmill made pit props for the coal mines as additional coal was needed for the war effort. The sawmill closed and its equipment was auctioned in 1984.

Sadly, David died in 1978 and Joan remained in Chilcompton until 1982 when she moved to Wells. In 1983, whilst holidaying in Cornwall, she met Donald Hawken and they married later that year. Don was a retired farmer with family in Oxfordshire and their first home was in Cholsey near Wallingford. Don liked a project and they spent many years renovating properties in Taunton, Cornwall, Witney and Limpley Stoke, eventually moving to Wells in 2004. Unfortunately Don died in 2013 and Joan remained in Wells until 2015 when she moved to Montsurs Close in Chilcompton.

Over the years Joan has helped in Chilcompton to set up an infant welfare clinic in the Old Miners Welfare Hall. The babies were weighed in a towel nappy suspended from a 'Stilliard' and the mothers were given orange juice, Delrosa rosehip syrup and cod liver oil and national dried powdered milk. Dr Mein and Dr Carter's wife were also involved along with Audrey Strawbridge.

Joan was involved with the Methodist church and ran a fete for many years at their Green Acres home. This event and the skittles competition the week before were very popular and raised money for the chapel. Joan helped the minister's wife, Mrs Wiles to set up a Young Wives group. Several outings took place including a trip to Harvey's sherry producers in Bristol. This didn't go down too well with some members as Methodists usually didn't drink alcohol.

Joan helped to start the Golden Hour with Mr Stock, the Redan's publican, and Mr Robinson the village Post Master and other ladies from the village. Joan also helped with transport of disabled people to and from the Cheshire Home in Timsbury for pottery and art classes.

The onset of Macular degeneration has meant Joan's eyesight is severely impaired and she was registered blind in 2011. This has impacted on her independence and she moved to Abbeyfield in Wells where she has settled well and enjoys two meals a day and the company of the eight other residents as well as her family and friends. A family party at Norton St Phillip in July was attended by her 3 daughters, their husbands, 7 grandchildren and their families, and 14 great grandchildren with their partners – a total of 33 on the day. Joan's daughters Jane, Susan and Rachel consider themselves very fortunate in having such a kind and loving mother and look forward to sharing Joan's landmark birthday this month.



The information and photographs for this article were provided by Jane, Susan and Rachel and by talking to Joan.

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

Mike Newman

Greenways Live-in Care Services

Committed To Improving The Quality of Life Of Our Clients

Trusted and compassionate carers
Allowing your loved ones to thrive
in the comfort of their home
with unparalleled care
and unwavering support
Home is where the heart is...



Live-In Care | Companionship | Personal Care

Office: 01761 235831 Email: hellogreenways@outlook.com
Jane: 07927 605602 Website: www.greenways-liveincare.com
Anna: 07776 751626

Paulton House, Old Mills, Bristol, BS39 7SX

We are looking for carers, must drive as clients are in rural areas. Weekdays £12 / hour - Weekends £13 / hour - 45p / Mile Training will be provided... Call Jane



GO GREEN & NATURAL

find us on Facebook
Or call / txt us on 07485 164265



Find us at Unit 12 , Farringtons Farm , BS39 6UB

07485 164265

3G @ Chilcompton Sports Club

For those of you who have recently been to the club or driven past, you would have seen that our fantastic new 3G pitch has now been finished. We have brand new goals and have purchased brushes for regular maintenance and anyone who has seen or used it has nothing but the highest praise for the quality and the additional facility it provides to the community.

We celebrated its opening with a highly successful five-a-side tournament for coaches and parents, and all who participated had a fun and memorable day. We have also welcomed both men's and

women's walking football teams and there is nothing more gratifying than to see so many new people enthusiastically using both this 3G and the club's facilities. Midsomer Men's Walking Football Club have taken up residence at and affiliated with Chilcompton Sports and both they and the ladies' Somer Valley Strikers train weekly. A non-contact sport, Walking Football is an ideal way to get fit and be part of a sociable community.

After another, very successful, 5-a-side youth football tournament on the 3G pitches, we are looking forward to providing the opportunity for as many others as possible to use these wonderful facilities and welcome any enquiries. There will be considerable winter evening use but there is plenty of daytime availability throughout the year for the 3G to be booked by individuals or clubs/organisations, as well as evening availability during the weekends. Don't hesitate to email us on chilcomptonsportsclub@gmail.com or from the bookings page to find out more.

At this point, we have to say that none of this would have happened were it not for the enormous generosity of so many individuals who have contributed to the fundraising effort. To date, they have donated an enormous £20,115 and for this, Chilcompton Sports is indebted to them. Equally, there is a small number of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to raise further money and to ensure the project is completed seamlessly.

Alongside this local generosity, we are also the recipients of two large, charitable donations, one of which was from the Bernard Sunley Foundation, set up in 1960 by the property developer Bernard Sunley. This family-run grant-making foundation supports charities in England and Wales working to raise the quality of life and provide greater opportunities for the young, elderly, disabled and disadvantaged. Not only was the considerable grant we received from the Foundation essential in helping us meet our financial objectives, all those with whom we were in contact could not have been more helpful and for this, too, we are extremely grateful.



Tim Curtis

Sport Matters

Hayley Blanning reports on a very successful season for our Youth Football Teams

It has been a very successful season for Chilcompton Youth Football. All of our age groups have competed well in the season and several teams have won trophies.

Under 7s won the plate at the Wells tournament.

Under 11 Colts competed in the Midsomer Norton Youth League, Division 3 and were unbeaten for the seasons league games, they also won a cup competition, a tournament in Westfield and were plate winners in Frome.



Under 13s topped division 2 in the MSNYFL winning every league match this season, they placed runners up in the Wells plate tournament and first place in the Freshford plate tournament. Next season we will see them move to the AYL (Avon Youth League) in Bristol to compete in division 5.



Finishing youth football in the Avon Youth League were our **under 16s**, who won the league championship and also came runners up in the league cup.



As we start the new season, we welcome our first Girls team to Chilcompton, who will be competing in the Bristol Girls League in the U10s age category. We also welcome a 2nd U8s, U9s and U14s teams plus a 3rd U11s team.

We wish all of our age groups a successful season ahead.

For more information on our youth football teams please visit www.chilcomptonssports.com or scan the QR codes below...



Like us, Follow us!



Cricket News

Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club – Junior Section

The youngsters continue to thrive and season 2024 continued the trend. Children from year 3 (7 to 8 year olds) all the way up to year 10 (14 to 15yr olds) attended our Wednesday youth training sessions and the numbers were bigger than ever before, despite the poor weather this summer.

Following many of last season's victorious U13 team members moving up an age category we ran two league teams - a refreshed mainly new group of U13s in the 'pairs' league and, for the first time in the club's history, an U15 T20 team. Both teams proved to be very competitive with the U13s finishing 3rd in their league, with many new inexperienced younger players, and the U15s held their own despite the team containing only 2 players who had played in that age category before. A win against local rivals Midsomer Norton was team's highlight.

Personal stand out performances included **Aaron Hancock's** 4 wickets in 4 balls (and 7 wickets in the match) for the U13s and **Max Steeds'** (5 for 7) repeating the trick for the U15s as well as **Adam Zalel's** 5 for 8 during the first game of the season. We had several U15s close to reaching a personal half century with the bat so the race will be on next year to see who can be first to reach the milestone.

We've seen many youth players make senior debuts, including several Saturday league debuts, whilst three youth players were selected for Somerset or MCC performance programmes over the previous winter. Next season we'll aim for greater things again with the hope that we can run three youth teams for 2025 season.

The club continues to welcome any new players (**boys and girls**) whether they are trying cricket for the first time, are returning to the game or just want to join a thriving club. And, as always, with community and volunteering at its heart, the club also welcomes anyone who'd like to volunteer their time to coach or assist on Wednesday summer evenings with softball or hardball sessions or assisting the league teams.

Cricket Club Race Night

The Club held an enjoyable Fundraising Race Night on Friday 9th August at the Sports Club. All of the profits will be ploughed back into the club to invest in new machinery and playing kit for the many Juniors sides. The Club wish to thanks the local businesses and personal donations for the 9 sponsored races on the night:

Kelvin & Caroline Parker
Avon & Wessex
Ian Hobbs Technical Services
Massey & Wilcox Transport Ltd

Jacqui Nolan
Hobbs Marble & Granite Ltd
Parker Transport
Emulous Water

And Winsley White Building Contactors & Developers Ltd

Social Media

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>

Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club – Senior Section

This has been our tenth 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 summer for the two Senior Saturday sides with poor weather and average results. The Saturday sides however have given debuts to many of the Youth Team with 25% of the players each week being Under 15. The highlight of the Saturday sides was Tom Hancock with his excellent century against Barrow Gurney .

The Senior Sunday Side has been a revelation with 75% of the players each week under 15 and a much better set of results. Many highlights of the season including 17 year old Henry

Purchase scoring his maiden Century, 14 Year old Malachy Love



Malachy Love & Billy Penny

and 15 Year old Billy Penny scoring excellent half centuries and the Evergreen Miles Hadrill taking 6 wickets for 16. It has also been a challenging season with the weather for the Groundsmen Mark Colbourne, Clive Christer and Aaron Stansfield, but remarkably they have managed to prepare the best playing strips in our time here.

Sponsors

Our Cricket Club wish to thanks our Main Sponsors for their invaluable help throughout the Season: **Parker Transport, PG Owen Limited, Spectrum Form Design Ltd and Kelvin & Caroline Parker**

Finally

We are always keen to recruit more local Senior & Junior players for the new season - Please contact **Dave Travis for further details (07725 458404 or dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk)**

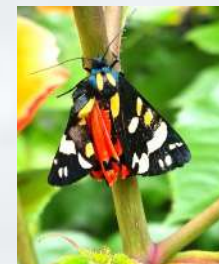


Tom Hancock



Miles Hadrill

Recent Bits of Local Wildlife



Baby Rabbit

Increasing numbers of young rabbits, like this one, are finding their way into local gardens near the fallen Lime tree between The Street and Parsonage Lane. What was once the main canopy now rests on its side giving good cover to a thriving bunny colony.

Fox

Rabbits attract predators. Here a local fox sniffs around the rabbit burrow area where the Lime Tree has come down.

Tiger Moth

More commonly found around stinging nettles this Tiger Moth seemed happy on a garden dahlia. July and August is a good time to see them. Prior to that you may spot the caterpillar, known as the Woolly Bear as they are covered in dense black and orange hairs.

Smooth Newt

Newts only enter water to breed. The rest of the year they spend on dry land and generally only come out at night. This female was taking refuge under fallen leaves along the garden path and was discovered during a sweep up.

Blackbird

A good water supply is essential for birds. As well as providing water to drink an inch or two will also encourage some serious bathing. This cement mixing tray is ideal for this.

Jon Crouch