

Chilcompton Matters

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Autumn Magazine September 2025



**Revamped
Playground**

**A New
Chilcompton
Celebrates?**

**Flower Show
Highlights**

**Female
Football—Girls
& Women**



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

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Fun For All



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Garden Safari



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Head Wins Award



Plus all our regular features and lots more

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*Front cover photo Rowan Sellick taken by Tracey Withers
Maisie Green cuts the ribbon at the official opening of new playground 30.08.25*

Welcome...

...to the 2025 Autumn edition of Chilcompton Matters.

This is where I normally whinge about the British summer. But I can't; it's been glorious. Note the brown patches in the grass and the quantities of blackberries, apples and courgettes (can personally recommend the courgette soup recipe on page 13 and cider making is definitely on).

The big development of the season is all the new equipment in the Old Rec for the youngsters, but there's also a boules pitch for us oldies, maybe we should have a Chilcompton boules team.

Sports-wise, the Lionesses had us dancing in our front rooms and walking ladies are kicking balls in Chilcompton (page 9). Big developments are happening at the Sports Club to make deserved promotion a possibility at long last for the men's side (page 4).

Sadly, there was no beer festival but on the plus side there is serious talk about recreating Chilcompton Celebrates (page 18) for next year and it would look like there is a significant grant to help it happen.

Speeding is the old bugbear. How do we get cars to slow down in our village? A small army of sleeping policemen might be the answer, but would you be happy with a speed bump outside your house? Tell us. Somerset Council, it would seem, has neither the money nor inclination to help the issue. But it seems our new local MP seems happy to talk to us (page 7 and 32) - let's hope this continues for future magazines.

Thanks to everyone as usual. To Tracey Withers who brings good words and pictures, fab design and terrific patience. To Mike Hughes who deals meticulously with the advertising using a spreadsheet that would delight a colourful logician. And to all the writers, photographers, distributors and advertisers who somehow make it work - every edition is a wonderful collision of accidents.

Bendice tu corazon (bless your heart)

Malcolm Rigby
parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Old Rec—New Look

If you go down to the rec today you're sure of a big surprise – the whole site has been transformed with the addition of several significant new pieces of equipment.

There's now a zip wire, a surf rider, an accessible roundabout, a multi-functional climbing frame, a new hard path and a double boules court.

The new kit has been made possible partly due to some 106 funding, that comes through Somerset Council, as a result of an earlier housing development. £23,000 came in this way with the rest of the fifty thousand being paid for by the Parish Council.

PC Chair Jon Pike said: "This is, of course, a massive investment for us but it is for the younger people of our community and I am sure they will get a huge amount of pleasure and enjoyment out of it.

"A big thanks needs to go to the old rec sub committee who put in an awful lot of work to bring this to fruition."

The sub com spent time visiting other playgrounds in the area to see what was on offer and what was popular. HAGS, the supplier, was chosen because of their obvious quality. The committee was also looking to provide equipment suitable for the slightly older child.

First Team is going 'National'



For the past several years, Chilcompton's first team's prospect of promotion to the Western League of the National League System has been dampened by the physical constraints within the ground and the considerable work and effort that would be required to overcome these constraints, alongside securing resources – human and financial – to make it all happen. However, following a chance visit to the grounds of Pickering FC a few months ago and an enlightening chat with an enthusiastic volunteer there, we decided that there was no reason why we should wait any longer before embarking on the quest for promotion. Pickering FC experiences similar constraint to ours and the similarities between both sites were extraordinary; if they could do it, so could we.

The First Team has enjoyed significant success for the past several years, winning the league on three occasions and being runners up on another three. They are dedicated and committed to the work that will ensure they reach the level required for promotion. But, unfortunately, at this level, there is no straightforward 'reaching the top of the league and stepping upwards'; it is negotiating a set of hurdles set by the FA and self-funding considerable infrastructure changes **before** we are even eligible for promotion.

.....Continued on page 70

Paul Mattick, from the sub-com, said: “We’re very pleased with the equipment we chose, it’s going to make a massive difference – so many people have already commented. I think it’s money well spent. I’m absolutely convinced it will be a huge asset. Once they start talking about it the word will quickly spread.”

Zip wires are always popular, the climbing frame is so multifunctional it has eight ways, what can you say about a surf rider and who doesn’t love a roundabout.

The equipment is for the children but a boules pitch has also been added for adults. Though it has already been seen that this area will need to be kept dog-free.



Words and pictures by Malcolm Rigby and Tracey Withers



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Nothing so Concrete as a Speed Bump

Speed talks end in feeble feasibility

Parish Councillors met with our Member of Parliament and Somerset Council transport officers in a rare opportunity to discuss the village's speeding issues but came away with little more than a possible commitment to a feasibility study.

On the plus side it is highly unlikely that the meeting would have taken place at all without the positive attitude of Anna Sabine MP and her team. Attending for the village was Parish Councillors, Jon Pike, Paul Mattick, Pete Sinclair and Ian Andrews from the Traffic subcom. For Somerset Council there was Gary Warren, Service Manager - Traffic Engineering and Sara Davis, Traffic Engineer.

Ian began by presenting the statistics on the amount of speeding, e.g. 100 vehicles speeding an hour, 40 road collisions, and then telling the harrowing tale of his own personal experience of a fatality. "Seeing first hand what that can do not only to my family who witnessed a lot of it but also to the family of the victim and the devastation it causes – it's just horrendous. This is going to happen again."

The difficulties and the dangerousness of the pavement-less lanes were described and comparisons were made to neighbouring villages where there are speed bumps, raised zebra crossings, chicanes, 20mph speed limits and road markings.

Anna said that she was happy to be supportive but it was not her purse and she realised the financial difficulties of SC.

Gary made the following points:

- *AI, in the next few years, will dramatically alter the landscape of speeding technology*
- *Speeding is a police issue so Dan Cox needs to be contacted with the information*
- *Communities need to work with developers to get the right 106 money*
- *SC has no money for middle ground traffic infrastructure*
- *About £5,000 would pay for a feasibility study to determine what is the best form of traffic calming for a specific community*
- *Parked cars can be the best traffic calming and speed humps are not always the best solution*
- *For 20mph speed limits you need average speed of 24 in the first place (Anna herself agreed on this)*

Paul said: ***"We all think in this village that we haven't been listened to for years and years (planning or speeding), we are totally ignored. The community is expecting something to be done and our views fall on deaf ears."***

A few days later at a PC meeting it was agreed that a few councillors would examine the possibility and potential costs of a feasibility study.

Jon said: ***"It's not a great result, not what we wanted but at least Anna has set up a channel of communication."***



Whats in a Name?



Some residents were surprised and confused to see a new sign in The Pitching in May displaying Church Walk. It was indeed Church Walk in the 1940s according to an old electoral roll, but up to the 1900s, parish council minutes referred to The Pitching as St. John's Path.

Abbey Road was formerly Black Lane and councillors in the 1980s insisted that Black Lane also appeared on the sign. Stockhill Road was once Nitts Lane. Thickthorn Lane is also known as Langley's Lane. Green Lane was sometimes called Major's Lane after the Major who lived at Green Lane Farm. Norton Down Lane became Tunnel Lane when the railway arrived in 1874, but locals also called it Welch's Lane, Ilett's Lane and James' Lane. (The tunnel is also called Ilett's Tunnel). We sometime refer to Greenditch Lane as Clapton Lane. Both Coal Lane and Coalpit Lane seem to be acceptable.

What of the road from Brick cottages towards Midsomer Norton? The electoral roll informs us this is The Street, but many years ago it was Bath Lane.

Recently parish council minutes have mentioned the Cinder Path. Is this the footpath to Stratton? Where did that come from? The older generation always referred to our village as Compton, nowadays Chilli seems to be prevalent.

Former roads, now footpaths still bear names such as Gully Lane, Withies Lane, Church Lane, and Marchant's Hill. (The latter two both off Coalpit Lane)

No doubt they will all continue to evolve.

Marlene Pickford

New Lease of Life for Village Hall Floor

The main hall floor will be resurfaced week commencing **Monday 13th October** and re-opening **Monday 20th**, there will be no access to the main hall during this time.

Works will include the old varnish being taken off and badminton court lines removed; the wood being treated and then the badminton court lines replaced, this will then be sealed with several coats of varnish to avoid any damage.

Please note only the main hall will be affected during the works with upstairs and the lounge rooms and kitchen accessible as normal.

The company doing the work specialises in village halls and school floors completing on average one a week per year and is a Somerset based company called 'Total Floor Care'.

Walking on Water: Womens Football

The Lionesses did everything but walk on water to win the Euro tournament this summer in Switzerland but here in Chilcompton women are walking on astroturf to play football.

The group of 13 women, they normally manage five-a-side, came to the village because of the all-weather surface and the facilities at the sports club. It's thought that two of the latest recruits arrived on the back of the Lioness's enthusiasm and success.



Amanda Baccarach, who organizes the group of walking footballers, said: "The camaraderie between the players and the spectators in the women's game has made women think – we can do this. It's very inclusive and very friendly."

The age is 35 plus but some of them had not even kicked a ball before. Amanda said: "We're a generation of women who never had access to football in our younger years. I love the social side of it and the keep fit side of it."

Suzie Filkins said: "I grew up with football, always been in my life, but it wasn't until I was in my mid-forties that I started playing. What the Lionesses have done is phenomenal. The women's game is enjoyable, entertaining and friendly."

This is the Somer Valley group of female walking footballers who meet at Chilcompton Sports astroturf on Monday night between 7 and 8. Surprisingly there are no Chilcomptonians in their collection, but their message to local residents is, "come and join us, and have fun."

Amanda can be contacted on 07752 548073.

Meanwhile there is another group of walking football women, who are known as the Chilcompton group and are affiliated to the Chilcompton Sports club. These players are coached by Chilcompton man John Portt.

This group does contain about half a dozen Chilcompton women. Again the age is 35 plus with the oldest at 66. The football is a little more competitive than the Somer Valley lot – "in a nice way."

From this month they will be training at Midsomer Norton leisure centre on Mondays between 7 and 8. They are also looking for women who want to keep fit, whilst making new friends and enjoying a game of walking football – the fastest growing sport in the country.

For more information contact John at johnny264@hotmail.com

What's On in Chilcompton this Autumn

26th September Sing Your Heart Out Choir Concert St Johns Church 7:30pm

4th October Table Top Sale
Village Hall 2pm

11th October A New Chilcompton Celebrates Planning Meeting (see page 19)

18/19th October
Chilcompton Litter Pick
(see page 54)

This what's on list is managed by Chilcompton Parish Council and lists one off events that would be open to everyone in the village. To apply for a listing please send an email to parish.events@chilcompton.org

9th November Remembrance Day at the War Memorial 3pm

22nd November Playgroup Christmas Market at the Village Hall 1:30—4:30pm (see page 40)

30th November Light Up St John's Event at the Church Hall 4:30—6:30pm (see page 63)

6th December Christmas Concert with Mendip Brass Band Village Hall 2-4pm

13th December Mendip Male Voice Choir Concert St Johns Church 7pm

14th December Carols by Candlelight, St Johns Church 6:30pm



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Award for our Head



The headteacher of St Vigor and St John's School, Chris Chorley, has won a prize for being an inspirational educator.

He told Chilcompton Matters: "Very grateful as I am for such an award the truth is I can only do this stuff because I am so lucky to have the best staff in the world at SVSJ- they are so supportive and ambitious for our kids and I am really blessed to be able to work with them all."

Chris believes that continuous professional development is the key to a school's success and ensures staff at the school are supported in continuing to learn about developments in professional practice.

Central to his vision are that four key dispositions are developed in children within and beyond the classroom: **being adventurous, being ethical, being connected and being unique.** For this he was recognised by the Inspirational Educator Awards for Early Years Education.



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La Rentrée: Resetting the Family Table



Anne-Claude Mills

In France, September is more than just the return to school — it's 'la rentrée': a moment to reset, refocus, and gently re-establish the rhythms of everyday life. After the long, loose days of summer holidays, there's something grounding about the return of structure — not just to our calendars, but to our kitchens.

For many French families, 'la rentrée' is a time to bring back the rituals that make family meals feel nourishing and calm: regular mealtimes, seasonal cooking, and the comforting repetition of weekly staples. The family table becomes, once again, the anchor of the day.

Autumn lends itself naturally to routine. The nights draw in, appetites grow heartier, and school timetables ask for more planning and more packed lunches. In our home, September is when we dust off the blackboard menu, meal prep on Sundays, and lean on a few reliable favourites to ease us back into the groove.

In France, weekday meals tend to be simple but structured: one warm dish served with salad or bread, followed by fruit or a yoghurt. The goal is balance and variety over the week, not culinary fireworks every night. A baked cheesy omelette with courgettes, a quiche with a cucumber salad, or a goats cheese tart with a green salad — these are the kinds of meals that reappear regularly on the family table, especially in early autumn.

September and October bring a beautiful transition of produce — tomatoes give way to pumpkins, apples replace peaches, and leafy greens like chard and cabbage return to the market stalls. This is the time for velvety soups, vegetable gratins, casseroles such as beef bourguignon and crumbles.

One of our favourites at this time of year is a 'velouté de courgette' — a smooth courgette and boursin soup recipe that my maman passed on to me as soon as I left the nest. Add some rustic bread on the side, and dinner is done.

With household budgets tighter for many, planning well helps meals stretch further: A roast chicken becomes sandwiches, then stock; leftover roast veggies and potatoes become a filling for quiche or omelette.

Batch cooking on the weekend or freezing portions for busy evenings helps reduce both waste and stress. Even packing school lunches can feel easier with a plan — we alternate between soup or hot pasta dishes in thermos, sandwiches and wraps with fruit, and leftover slices of savoury tarts or quiches.

What I always notice back home is the value placed on shared meals — not just what is eaten, but 'how'. There's less snacking, fewer rushed meals in cars or in front of screens.

Mealtimes are moments to pause — even if just for 20 minutes — and to be present. It is really easy to get out of the habit but as a parent, that structure can be surprisingly freeing.

So as 'la rentrée' begins, perhaps it's not just about getting everyone out the door in the morning, but about bringing everyone back to the table in the evening. Sharing a simple meal and chatting about everyone's day is sometimes all that you need to feel back on track.

Here are a few tips I follow when it comes to feeding my family:

- *Plan loosely, not rigidly — A rough weekly rhythm can help reduce stress and waste, but allows you to be flexible*
- *Cook with what's in season — It's usually cheaper, tastier, and naturally varied*
- *Keep 'goûter' structured — A simple after-school snack (fruit, cake, yoghurt) avoids grazing till dinner*
- *Simplify your lunchboxes — Think one carb, one protein, one veg, one fruit and one treat*
- *Make time to sit down for dinner as a family at least three times a week — It's a chance to teach your children table manners naturally, but more importantly, the focus shifts from what's on the plate to the joy of conversation and connection*

MY MAMAN'S COURGETTE SOUP

Take a normal sized saucepan and fill it with chopped courgette.

Add stock up to halfway, and bring to a simmer. Cook until tender.

Add half a Boursin cheese, salt and pepper to taste and blend.

Delicious with bread coming out of the oven.



If you have enjoyed this article and would like to hear more from Anne-Claude you can find her on Instagram: [@mamaninthecuisine](https://www.instagram.com/mamaninthecuisine).



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Farming Matters

Paul Mattick talks about livestock farming during a warm summer



In a drought or dry season individuals are asked to change their habits; like not running the tap whilst brushing your teeth, re-thinking about watering the garden and, apparently, managing the conservation of emails. Farmers also have to alter their ways.

We don't get instructions or advice from government but most people around here have experienced conditions like this before, we just try to manage our feedstocks and grazing stocks accordingly. People tend to think that 1976 was the driest year

but we have been keeping records for the Environment Agency since 1962 and the driest year was 2010.

Livestock farmers like ourselves use a type of ranch-like farming where the cattle roam over many fields so they can graze as best they can. For us, we have probably made enough food, hay and silage to last through the winter— depending on how long the winter is. Other farmers are struggling. The problem this year is that many farmers are already feeding their winter stocks, I've heard stories that people have fed half of their winter stocks already and we're only in September, which is very worrying and more worrying if you are a dairy farmer because those cows need a higher level of nutrition.

In technical terms and in degrees of wetness and nutrition there is: silage, haylage (what you see in the big black bags) and hay. This year we have just produced hay. We will probably keep the cattle out until the end of November, about a month longer than normal. For silage, we are lucky, we have had a 50% carry over from last year which was wet— always pays to have a carry over.

Cattle like the hard ground, they hate the wet, as we all do. In this area we get enough wet in the winter periods, it's nice to have a dry summer when you can actually do things. Go off camping, have a barbeque, in farming terms you can do more maintenance, catch up on the outside work, mundane stuff like stone picking in the fields. Everybody will notice how much fruit there is this year; dry times have their advantages, more apples on the trees more blackberries in your hedges, beautiful flowers in your gardens, and it's great for pollinators, this year we've seen an increase in butterflies, though the downside is wasps. For cattle the nemesis is the flies, and we've seen a lot more of them, we use a fly treatment to keep the numbers down because they really do annoy cows, we spray on their backs once every six weeks. Personally, I like a hot period, I like to put my shorts on and not have to wear wellies all summer.

The real problem will be if we have a dry winter and a dry summer next year. One dry year we can deal with but two dry years makes it very difficult because winter food stocks will be depleted.

There are plenty of dog poo bins now so bag it and bin it, don't hang it on a tree or barbed wire. Please shut gates, don't litter, keep to the paths and if there is livestock about, act appropriately.



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VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Monday 5th May 2025



The Village Hall was beautifully decorated with bunting, balloons and banners. The tables were set out as for a Street Party. Ten minutes before actual opening time only about six people had arrived but within just a few minutes people poured in as if a coach had arrived and then all the seats were full.



The Mendip Brass Band played two sessions which included an excellent programme of tunes – many from the WW2 era. Several people commented on how well the band had played and how much they enjoyed the music.

At the interval everyone was served with a delicious cream tea, cakes and refreshments, all free thanks to the Parish Council. During the event people enjoyed chatting with old friends and looking at the displays of WW2 memorabilia, photos and articles from VE Day. Children from St Vigor and St John provided some brilliant work they had done about VE Day.

At the end of the second session by the Mendip Brass Band there was community singing by members of the 'Sing Your Hearts Out' ladies' choir. Everyone joined in waving their flags – a very special moment.

Members of the Parish Events Group (PEG) worked hard to organise this event which included decorating the hall and the village providing homemade cakes and delicious scones.



Thanks to everyone that helped with the events and with the tidying up afterwards.

Donations received on the day amounted to **£235.90** which was sent to **HELP FOR HEROES**.

What a wonderful afternoon

Lesley Newman

A New Chilcompton Celebrates

Connection (more specifically, social connection) is a fundamental human need and improves our well-being. It helps improve mental and physical health, can help reduce stress, increase happiness, and help people to live longer, healthier lives.

Those who know me know that connection (and being connected to others) is a huge part of my DNA and one of my core values. Not only is it important for me to feel connected, it's also important for me to help others feel connected too, so village life is perfect for me. When we moved here, nearly 13 years ago, it felt like home within two weeks. This was down to all the lovely connections we made with people in our new community (it helped that we had a dog).

I set up the Chilcompton Jumble Trail following a visit to a jumble trail near my Dad. It was a wonderful community event. I loved walking around chatting to different people and wanted to bring that sense of community and connection to Chilcompton (as well as helping others to recycle and re-purpose).

I never had the opportunity to go to Chilcompton Celebrates but for some time I've been chewing over the idea as to how we could bring it back. A few weeks ago, a friend and I were chatting and agreed we needed to make this a reality in 2026. Having got in touch with the Parish Council we discovered we weren't the only plotters...

Whilst we've yet to set a date, it's most likely to take place in late June/early July. We'll spread the word on social media as soon as a date is set and for those of you not on social media, we'll update you in the March edition of Chilcompton Matters.



STOP PRESS

The Parish Council are delighted to say we have been successful in our application to SALC Community Health and Wellbeing Fund for a £5000 grant to support this family day event next year. We will probably still need some additional sponsorship support but this is a great kick start to our planning.

In the meantime, we need to get planning. We've got lots of ideas already – we want to really build on the theme of making connections, making it inclusive and bringing people together so we're thinking entertainment, well-being tent, traditional village games and using the new play equipment being installed on the old Rec, competitions for the kids, well-being arts & crafts, music, food and family picnic – but nothing is set in stone yet.

To make this a reality, we need the following:



- **Organisers & helpers.** We'll need lots of help both leading up to the event and on the day itself and any help we can get will be much appreciated. We need key organisers (on the committee) as well as those who can help with the small, odd job here or there
- **Sponsors** – to help fund it
- **Caterers** who would like the opportunity to feed the masses
- **Performers** for our Chilcompton Presents stage. We want to give Chilcompton's finest and new talent a stage to perform on. If you play in a band, are part of dance group or have any other amazing talents - we want to hear from you

- **Well-being providers** for our well-being tent
- **Face painter/hair braider**
- **Cake makers**



If you can help with any of the above, please email chilcomptoncelebrates@gmail.com or contact Kate on 07917 832650.

We'd like to have our first planning meeting by mid-October so please get in touch no later than 11th October.

Looking forward to us all making new connections and celebrating our brilliant Chilcompton community together.

Kate Gloudemans

The Magnificent Seven in Chilcompton



Nick & Sarah Jones

Fear not, the cleanliness and godliness of the village is in very good hands, I think.

We all need to keep our clothes, houses and bodies clean, apparently primarily for health reasons as well as maybe a little pride and we have expertise and help on our doorstep.

A successful family-run business has been created by local born

(Bennell Cottages) and bred Sarah Reakes who together with husband Nick Jones has created Sparkling Solutions, a cleaning company based in the village.



About 13 years ago Sarah wanted a little more freedom of choice in her life and took a chance by becoming self employed as a cleaner. Her attention to detail, high standards and knowledge of all things to do with cleaning took off and her new venture thrived. With the support and experience of her husband, Nick, they began to grow the business together and realised that their home in Baker's Lane was not the place to cope with the growing demands of their new business. It was time to take a leap of faith.

Sarah's love for Chilcompton and wanting to stay local found them taking on a unit in the Rock Road Trading Estate and employing several staff. Nick said: ***"Those early times always reminded me of the 1960's film 'The Magnificent Seven', we were a team, and all worked together to bring Sparkling Solutions to what it is today."*** He's obviously very proud of the commitment and loyalty of the team.

Currently they employ 46 cleaners as well as most of the original 'Magnificent Seven' they began with over 10 years ago.

Offering domestic and industrial cleaning, ironing service, laundry service, holiday let cleaning, carpets and upholstery cleaning the list goes on; quite an achievement from such modest beginnings.

It seems that Sarah is someone who has made a great success of her cleaning business over the last 10 years and is giving back to her local community as the business is based in the village, and she employs local people.

Nick said: ***"I always said that if you cut Sarah in half, you would see Chilcompton running through her veins."***

For more info about Sparkling Solutions tel: 01761 233 463 or email: info@sparkling-solutions.com

Update from Caro (Chilcompton Against Rural Overdevelopment)



Currently there are urgent concerns about the new Planning and Infrastructure Bill which is now being debated in the House of Lords. While the government claims this bill will accelerate the delivery of new housing, a closer look reveals significant downsides that could negatively impact our community.

The Planning and Infrastructure Bill has not currently been passed in the House of Lords. It was introduced in the House of Commons in March 2025, and was then brought from the House of Commons to the House of Lords in June.

The bill's most concerning aspect is its removal of crucial nature protections, which are now being framed as "barriers to growth." Instead, the government has introduced a "Nature Restoration Fund," a move that appears to prioritise development over genuine environmental protection.

Furthermore, the bill sidelines local communities by transferring decision-making power from local councillors to government-appointed planning inspectors. This will effectively strip local residents of their say in development applications, bypassing our local planning committees.

The government attributes slow development to local committees, but the reality is more complex. Evidence suggests that major house builders may not be utilising the land they've already been allocated. The government could meet its target of 1.5 million new homes by compelling developers to build on existing sites and brownfield land, rather than pushing through these damaging proposals.

These changes pose a serious threat to local democracy and could lead to the loss of our greenfield sites. Given the government's current majority, it's highly likely this bill will become law.

The CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) has raised concerns about the new Planning and Infrastructure Bill, particularly regarding its potential impact on the environment and public participation in the planning process. While acknowledging some positive aspects like potential for more brownfield development and social housing, CPRE is calling for stronger protections for public participation, the countryside, and biodiversity. They are also concerned about the bill's potential to weaken environmental protections.

On a related note, we are closely monitoring the proposed Redrow development. We're keeping a watch on when it will be discussed at the Mendip East Planning Committee and will provide an update as soon as we have more information. So far it has not featured on any of their agendas up to the August committee meeting. Thank you for all of you who commented on the planning application.

CARO is continually monitoring planning applications affecting our village but, apart from some house extensions, any big developments have not materialised.

Caro.enoughisenough@gmail.com

Peter Rusbridger

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CAUGHT IN A TRAP

"one of the most wonderful plants in the world"

Charles Darwin on the Venus Fly Trap

Richard Lovegrove was just ten years old when he first became fascinated with Venus Fly Traps, now that he has retired, he has been able to let the fly eating plants evolve into a thorough, full-blown obsession.

"As a kid I saw some," Richard said "and I was always into weird things, used to keep piranhas, and our house was a menagerie in the middle of Bath. I looked at these things and...to be fair, Darwin was right."

These days his garden and greenhouse (as featured in this summer's safari) on Parsonage Lane is awash with carnivorous plants. There are several hundred Venus Fly Traps, about a ton of Pitchers (many of which are leaning over because they've consumed too many flies and wasps) and a good selection of Sundews. In addition there are cross-pollinated hybrids (suitably) called ASBOs that could consume a small shrew. He refers to it as 'the brute'.

Of an evening, his favourite pastime is to sit with a glass of wine and watch the traps devour the bugs – "so totally insane, it's just a hobby along with other things I do."

Propagating them, he said, is fairly easy, then they just need watering and they feed themselves; in the winter they get frozen and lie dormant but are fine. Unlike shop-bought ones, his are attune with Mendip conditions. Natural selection?

At a recent car boot sale he managed to raise several hundreds of pounds in just a few hours. Apparently the interest was overwhelming and could even tear the kids away from their playstations. Some nurseries have shown an appetite and he knows there is demand on the internet so there is potentially a business possibility but he is reluctant to rejoin the rat-race.

In the last few weeks the BBC have got involved. Cbeebies are running a show called 'What's in the Flowerpot' and members of Richard's collection are to have a starring role. From this, the chief botanist at Oxford's botanical gardens is keen to see his amazing display of carnivorous plants. Friends and family have always known of his 'dirty little secret' and now everyone wants a view.

What's next – Triffids?

Malcolm Rigby



Ten Years? Holy Cow!

The café/restaurant down at Manor Farm that has quickly become an institution within the village, celebrated a decade of business this summer.

The occasion was marked in May, with regulars, staff and friends, in the same way as in its inauguration, with Prosecco, bacon sarnies and cakes.

The Holy Cow is run by Karen Mattick, who came with culinary knowledge but little commercial experience. She admits:

“When we first opened, we were totally unprepared. We went from frying pan to gridle and then to even bigger gridle.”

The great rewards are the team working well together and enjoying themselves, seeing the punters having a good time, and coming up with ideas for new recipes and salads.

Karen said: ***“We’ve just got a really good team and you need that to make it work; you can’t do it on your own. You’ve got to have some good people around you.”***



How Many People Do You Need to Take a Photograph?



More than 20 when it comes to a Mulberry photo-shoot. A small army of photographers, technicians, make-up artists, production assistants, drivers etc. descended on the bridge on The Street this spring in order to take a picture of a young lady with a handbag. Great choice of location, though.



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SJP Approved 03/07/2023

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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 £66 or including Colour £132**
- **Half page - 'landscape' - in B&W / Greyscale £33 or including Colour £66**
- **Quarter page - 'portrait' - in B&W / Greyscale £17 or including Colour £33**

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.

Gardening Club

We are very pleased to have welcomed many new members to our Club this year, and what a busy and exciting year it's been.

There have been speakers on a wide variety of topics each month, three trips so far (Kapunda Hellebores in Bath, Somerset Lavender Farm in Faulkland and Kilver Court in Shepton Mallet), our Plant Sale, a plug plant competition and a competition for the best geranium for which we award our Terry Moore Cup, and the hugely successful Village Garden Trail.



Still to come this Autumn....

A talk from the Head Gardener at the American Museum in September.

Forest Gardening in October and to finish our year, Hollistic Wellbeing with mulled wine and mince pies in November.



Our programme for another varied and inspiring year in 2026 is nearly complete.

You do not need to be a Chilcompton resident to join the Club. We welcome members from all the surrounding towns and villages, so if you are new to the area, or just looking to meet new people and do something different, do come along to one of our meetings.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Membership is just £8 per person for the whole year, and guests are always welcome at £3 per visit.

Contact me on 01761 233017, or visit the Village Hall Website, Chilcompton Past and Present, or our Facebook page.

Judy Youngs - secretary

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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.

County Councillors: Tony.robbs@somerset.gov.uk & Cllr.hobbs@mendip.gov.uk

Feedback

What are your views on the magazine? The team that put it together is always looking for your comments, be they good or bad. Is there something missing? What could be done better? Please let us know.

Contact the parish clerk: Malcolm Rigby, email: parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Next Deadline: Spring Edition end of January 2026.

County Council: Telephone 0300 123 2224



Continued Success for Local Choir

It's been a busy and fun filled spring/summer term for Sing Your Heart Out as we've been learning some beautiful new music to share with you all.

On 18th May, we hosted a delightful afternoon tea at Stratton-on-the-Fosse Village Hall. Blessed with sunshine and a wonderful turnout, the event was a great success, raising £1000 for Breast Cancer Now in support of their vital breast cancer care and research. The atmosphere was full of laughter, music, and community spirit and we're so grateful to everyone who came along to support us.

We rounded off the term with a wonderful end of summer meal at The Jolliffe in Kilmersdon, enjoying good food, great company, and plenty of laughter.

Now, we're looking ahead to our next big event: ***The 'Raise The Roof' concert at St John's Church, Chilcompton on Friday 26th September at 7.30pm.*** All are welcome, tickets are just £8 per person, and refreshments will be available. We'd love to see you there for an evening of uplifting music in aid of the church's new heating.

At present, we're not taking on new members, but we always love seeing familiar and new faces in the audience.

Sophie Andrews

VJ Day

A wreath was laid at the village War Memorial on Friday August 15th to mark the 80th anniversary of victory in Japan and the end of the second world war.

See page 17 for an account of the VE Day anniversary celebrations.



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Do you like the three C's?

Coffee*, cake and chat?

If you do, then why aren't you at

Friday Club?

We are a friendly group of over 50s who meet every Friday in the village hall from 10.15am until 11.30am and we would love you to join us.

You cannot get to the village hall?

No problem, we offer a free taxi service there and back.

For more information contact

Sue on 07925 326 789



**tea is also available*

Wednesday Walkers

The group is still wandering the byways, lanes and footpaths; unfortunately, fewer paths are now accessible than in the past. Sometimes there are five of us or as many as 16. A good way to meet friends, have a chat, get some exercise and it's free.

Meet at the village hall car park at 10.30am. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Contact: Marlene Pickford

**On 01761 232774. or
marlenepickford2@gmail.com**

Mendip Brass Band

For our first event of the year 2025, we played at Rowden House care home, Frome for the 100th birthday of one of the residents. Then on May day there were VE day celebrations at the village hall. What a great afternoon. We played a very varied programme including a Vera Lynn Medley. There was an excellent turnout and everyone enjoyed the music and cream tea. On VE day, 8th May, we were at the Redan playing in the garden in the evening. Then Saturday of that week found us in the garden of Combe Lea, Midsomer Norton. Everyone seemed to enjoy the music and we have been invited back later in the year.

At Norton Down church fete, we began in the garden, but shortly after, a storm came with torrential rain and we had to move into the church; some of our members were wet and others **very** wet. In July we were off to Burrington Combe where the plan was to hold the service outdoors at the Rock of Ages, but the skies opened and the service was held in Burrington church. Regardless of the weather, the church was full. We also entertained at the Westfield club outside in lovely sunshine.

Mendip Brass Band is always happy to welcome new players of any ability or beginners, who would like to learn to play a brass instrument.

Please contact mendipbrassband@hotmail.co.uk for information

Hello from Your MP – Anna Sabine

It's now just over a year since I was elected as your MP, and it's been a whirlwind of learning, listening, and working to represent our corner of Somerset in Westminster. As a brand new constituency, Frome and East Somerset covers a wide and varied area, and villages like Chilcompton are absolutely at its heart. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and talk about some of the issues that matter most to our community.

Before entering Parliament, I worked across different sectors including charities and owning a small business. Being an MP wasn't necessarily on the cards for me, but I've always believed that politics should be about people, not party lines, and that communities function best when they're properly supported, heard, and empowered and I wanted to be involved in that.

Since being elected, I've spent as much time as possible speaking with residents, councillors, parish representatives and community groups across the constituency. In Chilcompton, like many of our rural villages, I know that day-to-day issues like traffic, speeding, and road safety are major concerns. Whether it's protecting children walking to school, keeping elderly residents safe crossing the road, or just making sure the village remains a peaceful and pleasant place to live, I completely understand how important this is.

I've heard from residents about dangerous driving through the centre of the village, concerns around heavy goods traffic using narrow local roads, and the need for more visible action to deter speeding. These are issues I take seriously. I'm committed to working with local councillors and Avon & Somerset Police to support initiatives that calm traffic, protect pedestrians, and ensure that villages like Chilcompton remain safe for everyone.

Access to services also remains a key concern. With the closure of NatWest in nearby Midsomer Norton, I know many people, particularly older residents, are worried about how to manage their banking. I've been in touch with the organisations responsible for setting up banking hubs and will continue to push for better provision.

On healthcare, I've been campaigning to protect our community hospitals as well as our larger ones like Bath RUH and to keep local NHS decision-makers focused on the real needs of our area, where distance, transport, and accessibility make local provision essential.

Transport, too, is a recurring issue. Bus routes that are cut or reduced hit rural villages hardest. I've raised the issue in Parliament and am working with local leaders to explore how we can improve rural connectivity and push for a fairer deal for communities outside the main towns.

But amidst these challenges, what continues to inspire me is the strength of community I see everywhere I go. Chilcompton, and villages like it, thrive on community action and the efforts of people who care deeply about the village and one another. Whether it's events in the village hall, local schools, churches, or social clubs, this is what makes village life so special - and worth protecting.

As your MP, I want to be visible and accessible. I hold regular advice surgeries, attend local events, and work closely with councillors to stay in touch with village-level issues.

Thank you for the incredibly warm welcome I've received so far. I look forward to spending more time in Chilcompton and continuing to be your voice in Westminster.



Anna Sabine MP Member of Parliament for Frome and East Somerset



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FOWLERS

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Surprises on Your Doorstep: Banksy

Continuing the series of treasures/treats just outside the village, Malcolm Rigby took a stroll through the streets of Bristol in search of six works of art

He's the most celebrated, popular, well-known and loved artist in the country – we don't know who he is but we do know that he comes from Bristol.

The first stop is just across the road from College Green at the bottom of Park Street to find *Well Hung Lover*. Painted in the summer of 2006, illegally, of course, the work uses stencils that allows the artist to execute the art and then remove themselves quickly.

Scaffolding is put up the day before, Banksy arrives at 7.00am with an accomplice, his eyes and ears, he climbs the structure with a case containing spray paint, mask, gloves and the pre-prepared design stencils; forty minutes later, the deed is done and he is driven off. The proximity to city hall is not accidental – the council now have to decide if to keep it.



From here it's up Park Street to the City Museum. This was the scene for the 2009 exhibition entitled *Banksy vs The Bristol Museum* which attracted 400,000 visitors, generated £20 million for the local economy and displayed 80 new works of which only one remains in the building, *Paint-Pot Angel*. This is a figurine of an angel with a pot on its head and pink paint dripping down the side.

So, what do we know about Banksy? Born in Bristol, possibly Yate. 1974ish. Possibly Robin Banks (geddit). Maybe Robbie. After heading back down Park St you go close by to the Bristol Cathedral Choir School, apparently that is where Banksy gained his education.

There is a school photograph that includes a boy with ginger hair and glasses, apparently that is him. Not far from the school, just under the library, is the next work, *You Don't Need Planning Permission to Build Castles in the Sky*. Originally painted with stencils in 2012, the words form the shape of a smile and two air vents gave the appearance of eyes and thus a face.

Across the water now, we reach the M-Shed, Bristol's museum of social history, upstairs you will find *The Grim Reaper*. Originally painted in 2003, this one has an intriguing history as it was first created on the side of Thekla, the boat/music venue that is moored in Bristol harbour. The boat had to be taken into dry dock and what you see are the actual bits of sheet metal that were removed.

Along the harbourside and past the SS Great Britain you come to the Bristol Marina Dockyard and here you will find *Girl with a Pierced Eardrum*. It is a homage to, or a parody of, the painting by Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer entitled *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Instead of the earring, Banksy has used the AVT alarm box as the eardrum. The stencilled painting was created in October 2014, within 24 hours of being discovered it had been vandalised with black paint.

Finally, it's back to the city centre and up Stokes Croft from the large St James Barton roundabout. Stokes Croft is street art city, wild colours and images abound on every side, like a free canvas.

Banksy's *The Mild Mild West* is on the right side, on No.80. Painted in 1999, it is just one of two freehand pre-millennium works that have survived. The image is of a teddy bear with a Molotov cocktail facing three policemen, the bear representing the people of Bristol, rising up and fighting against oppression – the laidback Bristolian taking on commercialisation and government.



The 45th Flower Show



As part of Somerset Arts Week,
Mick Timpson is opening his
studio at Ananda Barn, Parsonage
Lane between 2-5pm on
September 13, 14, 21, 27, and
28th. Workshop on the 20th.
Contact mick@beanddo.co.uk



Started by the Chilcompton Society as one of their first ventures in 1980, the flower show is organized by a sub-committee of four, with help from Society committee members on the day.

This year despite heatwaves and drought, there were more entries than last year with the flower judge remarking on outstanding blooms.

Section winners were: vegetables: Alison Jukes, flowers: Lynn Plumley, cookery: Pat Steer, hobbies: Julie Foxwell, Stratton cup: James Murtagh/Mary Bell Mellotte, Best Newcomer: Stephen Lee, Overall show winner: Alison Jukes.

Everyone who took time and effort to enter exhibits are all winners in that they contributed to another successful and enjoyable show. A big thank you to all of you, to the organisers and volunteers too.

Any FEEDBACK would be welcome; new ideas, changes, improvements. LET US KNOW!
Marlene Pickford. 01761 232774 marlenepickford2@gmail.com



The 'Annual Open Day & Exhibition' was held on Saturday the 5th July.

The club were celebrating their unofficial (approx.) 40 years since starting as a small group of friends getting together in 1985 to share their common interest to hold painting sessions, then going on to formalise it into a proper community club in 1993.

The free entry 'Open Day' is held each year at the Chilcompton Sports Club, and it opens up its doors to invite the local community to come along and see what the club is all about, and to chat with members and view the many paintings they have produced, some of which were for sale.

Club members were on hand to provide refreshments and to talk to visitors. There was a raffle to win one of three prizes of art work. Visitors were also asked to vote for the best picture in the member's competition which had the subject theme of 'Water'. The attendance by the Chilcompton community was very good on the day, and it was a joy to see so many locals make the effort to support us.



New members are always welcome.

For more information or to join us, visit our website at

www.chilcomptonartclub.uk

or find us on Facebook.

You can also contact Nigel Punchard at secretary@chilcomptonartclub.uk.

Choirfest

**Saturday 4th October 2025
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**Midsomer Norton Methodist Church
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Johnny G Returns



Another great event at Chilcompton Village Hall as Johnny G returned to entertain local children. As usual Johnny kept those that attended in awe of his clever tricks and laughing at his antics. Johnny involved all the children in his act and as you can see in the photos some were keen to assist him - possible magicians of the future.

Lesley Newman

Chilcompton Playgroup



We had a great last term at Chilcompton Playgroup! We are excited to announce that we have three new committee members, a big warm welcome to Dani, Adrianne & Monica! We are still always looking for more helpers so if you're free on a Tuesday morning and fancy giving us a hand then do get in touch.

Planning is now underway for the Chilcompton Playgroup Christmas Market, so if you or anyone you know have any ideas or would like more information about having a stall at then please do get in contact via chilcomptonplaygroup@gmail.com. This year's market will take place on **Saturday 22nd November from 1:30pm until 4:30pm**. We are hoping to be visited by Father Christmas this year so keep an eye on our Facebook page for details on booking.

JOIN US EVERY TERM TIME TUESDAY FROM THE NEW TIME OF 9AM UNTIL 11:30AM. £2 per family & includes a healthy snack.

Bridge Decorations for VE Day



Short Mat Bowls

An enjoyable hour and a half of friendly competition, with up to 10 people attending weekly.

Thursday 2pm at the village Hall

Contact David Rogers 01761 233142

Chilcompton Parish Survey 2025 Results

A big thank you to everyone that submitted a reply to the well-being survey carried out earlier this year. We have now evaluated the results and the full report is currently available on the Parish Council website. It is also printed out on display boards that can be viewed in the window of the small committee room at the Village Hall, until the end of September.

The key points that came out of it are:

- ⇒ *People enjoy living in the village—they like the countryside, green spaces and facilities and services that we have in the village*
- ⇒ *Some people do take part in many differing activities; however some don't always know how to find out about them*
- ⇒ *People enjoy the one-off events that do happen; however it's not always easy finding out about them*
- ⇒ *People currently tend to socialise in their existing groups*
- ⇒ *People feel the Old Rec is a great asset, however equipment is limited and it's not so easy to get to if you need to drive*
- ⇒ *The village suffers from speeding traffic and some people feel unsafe walking*
- ⇒ *We don't make the most of some of the landmarks, walks and heritage we have*
- ⇒ *Many people are not really aware of the Parish Council website and communications*
- ⇒ *Not everyone uses Facebook or is on the internet so we need to ensure we communicate in ways to reach as many as possible*

The aim is to now begin to set out a range of actions that the Parish Council could initiate to help improve the well-being of the village, using this survey to guide the direction of what could be taken forward.

The Council would hope, as some results suggested, there are more volunteers willing to come forward to help scope out and/or fundraise for some new projects.

Improve the PC website.

Create a village events list.

Raise awareness of Old Rec-with an event?

Celebrate village heritage landmarks.

Keep pushing Somerset Council to reduce speeding traffic.

Sue Manley

How to...not smoke



It's probably my mother's fault that I have this disgusting, anti-social, absurdly expensive habit. All that nipples and Freud and oral fixation. Also, my mother used to smoke. Admittedly just one cigar on Christmas day. She looked rather bizarre, mother, puffing away gloriously on a rather fat cigar under the glistening Christmas tree lights with a large smile on her face. Like Santa Claus toking on the end of a joint. My wife also used to smoke. She was a 'social smoker'. Now there's an expression that you don't hear often these days. She used to go to the pub and have a fag because other people were doing so. Once upon a time I used to work for a daily newspaper, in those days I thought only two groups of people smoked, the working class and journalists. There was of course a smoking room that was the real place that news emanated from; you didn't know any interesting news without going into that room. These days there are no smoking rooms (except for airports in certain Asian countries) and I understand how people now say fags are a tax on the working class. I did give up smoking for a few years, my young (at the time) daughter kept leaving post-it notes on my desk saying, "Dad, stop killing yourself!!" Touching. We made a tacit agreement that I would stop if she ceased using exclamation marks. Then in my mid-forties I made the mistake of going back to university to do another unnecessary MA. Of course, all the cool dudes hung around the outside of buildings smoking, suddenly I am once again the slave of Messrs Lambert & Butler. Advertising of fags has quite rightly been banned and been replaced with revolting pictures of the mouths and disgusting bodies that result from smoking on the face of cigarette packs. Does advertising make things cool, or the contrary? Produced before my time, but I was brought up on 1940s b&w film noir movies where the grey smoke hung seductively, artistically, suggestively in the corners, whilst Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman wielded cigarettes as phallic signifiers like semiology had never prepared me for. Just to repeat the refrain: smoking is a disgusting, anti-social, absurdly expensive habit. Times have changed, the social smoker has gone and if you partake you are an outcast, you have to go to the bottom of the garden like a leper having a dump in the lettuces. Having said that there are moments of a dinner party when you might like to escape the intensity of a debate on pet insurance to examine the petals of your hostess's petunia. Then of course there is what do you do with your fag end in this middle class person's perfect garden? I suspect that smokers more than pay their tax for the NHS and as the packets tell them repeatedly, smoking kills them, so it has to also save on adult social care costs. Certainly not here to defend smoking; don't do it, did I mention, it's a disgusting, anti-social, absurdly expensive habit. But culturally isn't it time to examine this rather strange phenomenon that in a couple of generations time people will think was just simply weird. My grand-daughter now does the post-it thing with three exclamation marks. Must stop.

Ed: Paragraph divisions have been removed from this article to discourage smoking.

Next time: How to... believe in free will and have a wild wee.

Malcolm Rigby



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Garden Safari



The Village Garden Trail held on 22nd June was deemed to be a great success, with glowing feedback from visitors and garden owners alike. The weather was mostly kind to us all with just a brief interlude of rain.

We sold 270 tickets not only to villagers, but people travelled from Bath, Bristol, Warminster, Mere and



other locations to admire the beautiful gardens and to experience our village community. The village really did come together, and it was fantastic to have the involvement of the school, Village Hall, The Redan, St John's Church and Root Connections, alongside all the garden owners and volunteers.

The event made over **£2,330** of which donations have been made to Root Connections and to Open Gardens, a sum of £500 ring fenced for a similar future event, £80 from the book and plant sale for Air Ambulance, and with the remaining funds going to Chilcompton Gardening Club to make improvements to the club.

The event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the garden owners- all the gardens looked amazing, thank you. Thanks, must also go to all the volunteers, to Root Connections for organising the refreshments and St John's Church for hosting the refreshment sales. Thank you also to The Sperring Charity for their generous support which allowed us to fund the professional signage and tickets.

We intend to hold a future event, whether that is next year or in 2027. Please let us know if you would be interested in opening your garden or would like to volunteer.

Please get in touch with lynne20thorne@hotmail.com

Sue Manley

**We shouldn't be up here
Drinking wine and looking down
at disappearing patterned fields
and swirling clouds,
that mock time and distance.
We have become gods.**

**This is what gods do—Fly
And appear magically
In one place then another.
Drinking nectar from Olympus.
We can even kill people
with thunderbolts like Zeus.**

**The world will die from the air.
The apocalypse will fly and soar.
Has all this given us more?**

Flying



**To see the Taj Mahal?
To clamber in the outback?
Would we fight hand to hand?**

**We cannot return. And lay
palms under the donkey's feet.
And live inside the far horizon seen.
And know the fences of our lives.
And learn the stories of our tribe.
For we have become gods.**

By Andrew Morris

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Friends of Somer Valley Medical Group

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those patients who support our Xmas Raffle and/or 200 Club. So far in 2025, the Friends have agreed funding of just over £5,000 for extra equipment for our surgeries.

- * ***Bedfont NoBreath Feno Monitor for Somerton House. This is used in diagnosis of asthma, particularly in children. The one we bought for St Chads nearly 2 years ago now, has been a 'game changer' according to the nurses***
- * ***Paediatric pulse oximeter for Chilcompton. This up-to-date equipment can be used on small babies which the old kit cannot***
- * ***Manual Doppler for Chilcompton – this kit enables nurses to perform vascular assessments on patients with leg wounds and is also used to assess foot pulses in diabetic patients***
- * ***INR Machine –(Blood coagulation meter) used for patients taking blood thinners – for St Chads***
- * ***Phlebotomy Chair - Somerton House***
- * ***Portable Hearing Loop - Chilcompton***
- * ***Water coolers for the waiting rooms in Somerton House & Chilcompton***

None of this could happen without your generous support. Please give yourselves a huge pat on the back.

The Health Talk in May on Shoulder & Elbow problems was very well received. Our Consultant, Mr Chamblor, gave a first-rate presentation, and we received some excellent feedback. Our speakers give their time for free. Our fundraising pays for room hire and any advertising.

Two very hardy committee members, Bea and Richard, ran our Bric-a-Brac Stall at MSN Town Fayre during a heatwave. They will be doing the same on **14th September at Stratton Village Day** but we are all hoping for more gentle weather. Please come and see us there. You can give us your views on your surgeries.

If you have been putting off decluttering, is now the time to get rid of some of your surplus bric-a-brac? I am more than happy to pop round and collect, although please remember, I only have a small car. No electricals of course.

None of this activity could happen without a small group of patients who have generously given their time and energy to running the Friends. Our Treasurer and Secretary have each been in post for 10 years or so and are telling me that now is the time to hand over to the next generation. We usually meet 6 times a year, in the early evening. If you could be interested, please give me a ring and let's have a chat over a coffee. Don't let this wonderful group hang up its boots.

We are always keen to find new people to join the group. Perhaps you could be our next Star Christmas Raffle Ticket Seller.

If you 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 200 Club (£12 p.a.) please contact me.

jsattlerevans@btinternet.com or 232244.

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The Singing Guitars (a local U3a group)

The group has had a very successful year so far, performing at various clubs, pubs and day centres raising money for charity, and we now have bookings right up to Christmas.

In July we performed at the Redan Inn to celebrate 'Redan Rocks'. We started the show by performing well known popular songs of the 60/70s for everyone to join in, and it was a very successful event with other artists performing throughout the afternoon and evening.

We work hard rehearsing every week at the Sports Hall in Chilcompton preparing

programmes to suit the various audiences from young to the young at heart who love to hear the pop classics that never grow old.

We are happy to take booking for next year, so if you would like some entertainment for 2026, **please contact Charmain Gay, the Group Leader on 0789 005 1169 or 01761 232785.**



Chilcompton Wives

We started the Spring with a Buddhist wedding; a member gave us an insight into the service she attended in Bangkok.

In April it was our turn to don our fancy hats, this time for Ladies Day at Ascot, complete with horse races where My Little Ponies were the runners.

Our last meeting was an elegant Afternoon Tea provided by Lindsey. We all

enjoyed the various cakes and savouries, made even better because she took all the washing up home.

The Autumn programme includes Carnivals, Swans, Toiletries and Living out of a Skip. Something for everyone.

For further information contact

Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans 01761 233266.



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Events: Sunday - Bingo 5pm

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Embroidery Experiences

The autumn term of the embroidery classes, welcoming complete beginners to others of all abilities, starts on Thursday 18th September.

Classes take place at Chilcompton Sports Hall on Thursdays from 10.30a.m to 12.30.

Everyone is made very welcome.



Contact Pat Ardron on 07788 184185

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Chilcompton Lives – Maureen Wade



Maureen was born in London in 1930 and was the third eldest of 10 children. They lived in Kensington, London.

Grandma, also known as 'Little Nan' (pictured left with Maureen's mum, grandfather and uncles) would visit every Friday. Maureen would be given ½d. ¼d for brown bread and ¼d for sweets. Maureen's other grandmother was known as 'Big Nan'.



When WW2 broke out Maureen was issued with a gas mask which had to be carried at all times. Then came the ration cards. Maureen explained that these didn't get you a great deal and they were usually out of things by Sunday. Clothes were also rationed. Maureen was evacuated with her older sister and the other school children to Potterne, near Devizes. Later Maureen's mother came to live near them. The school were all then moved to

Paignton. Maureen didn't think the lady they stayed with liked her. One day her older sister was instructed that the following morning she would need to 'lay out' her husband as she expected him to pass away in the night. The next day he got up and went to work as usual. Maureen's mum then rented a house in Paignton and eventually was able to re-unite all the siblings who were scattered across England.

Maureen won a scholarship to Torquay Grammar School and when the bombing eased she went back to London and studied at Paddington and Maida Vale High School. However, the Buzz Bombs started coming and, while she was in bed, one landed nearby and blew out the windows and caused the ceiling to come down on them. Fortunately, no one was injured. When they knew the Buzz Bombs were coming Maureen would go to the air raid shelter. Instead of going into the shelter straight away they would stand on the roof and watch the Buzz Bombs fall across London. They would only go into the shelter when a bomb was coming near them. They would hear the engine of the bomb and when the engine stopped it would fall to the ground with a whistling sound – time to shelter.

Maureen left school at 15 and married her husband, Harry, a soldier in the Army when she was 16. They moved away from London and lived in Essex when Harry was demobbed. Up until then Maureen had 16 shillings a week to keep herself and her daughter Margaret, who was born in 1947. Later the family moved to Swindon where Harry worked for British Rail Engineering. Maureen's second daughter Jenny, was born in 1955.

In Swindon Maureen started a Guide Company, which was very successful. She took them camping every year. They would go to the Convent for refreshments. Maureen also volunteered for the Catholic Church in the Repository where she sold religious objects and cards.

Maureen started work at the local hospital and, as she enjoyed it, she applied to do her nurse training. She worked there for 34 years, mainly in the eye department and when she retired was presented with a gold watch.

Maureen retired at age 57 and the family moved to Newcastle Emlyn in Wales. She worked as a volunteer cleaner in the church hall and one day she was locked in by the priest. Maureen placed a chair under a window and climbed out only to find she had left her handbag with her car keys behind. So she had to go back through the window to collect it.



Maureen's eldest daughter married an American and they spent their holidays in America every year. They hired an RV and spent many days traveling around the country. On one trip they had to move camp as there was a forest fire. On another trip there was a tornado and they had to leave their vehicle and hide under a bridge until the storm passed. On another occasion, on the way to a supermarket, they came across a police shoot out. The police were chasing a thief. One of Margaret's favourite trips was to Niagara Falls on both the American and Canadian sides.

Maureen was married to Harry for 64 years and on their 60th wedding anniversary they received a card from Queen Elizabeth II. Sadly Harry died 14 years ago in Butleigh where they had lived for 20 years. About 10 years ago Maureen moved to Chilcompton to be nearer her daughter.

Maureen has joined several clubs in the village and goes to church in Stratton. As her husband's eyesight was failing Maureen had to learn to drive and she was proud to say that she passed her driving test at age 60. Maureen has four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Maureen and her daughters

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 .

Mike Newman



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18/19th October 2025

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Join us in making our village a cleaner, brighter place by volunteering to pick up litter and help protect our beautiful surroundings.

Every helping hand makes a big difference!

Please leave filled rubbish bags in the Village Hall car park.

Together, we can keep Chilcompton looking its best!

Happy to take D of E volunteers

Contact Matt 07885 472332

Youth Club Exploits

There's been a flurry of exciting activities taking place at Chilcompton Youth Club over the past few months, all shaped by the interests and ideas of the young people themselves.

Creative Crafts: Our spray art session proved such a hit that the young people asked for a follow-up, where they explored new techniques like stencils and patterns. We also ran a sensory slime making workshop, which they took a lead in planning and delivering.

Cooking continues to be a favourite at the club. From sweet treats like pancakes to spicy chilli con carne, our young chefs have been exploring a variety of recipes, with plenty of taste testing involved.

One of the standout highlights for the start of summer was our latest trip to Brean Theme Park. Young people and staff enjoyed a full day of unlimited rides followed by a cooked meal. One young person shared: "I loved it, I've never been to a theme park before. The water ride was great, the staff got soaked."

It's been a fantastic few months, full of creativity, laughter and new experiences; and there's plenty more to come.

The club meets in the Youth Bus at the Village Hall Wednesday evenings 7-9pm. It's free so come along and see what we get up to.

For more details contact the Youth leader:

Faith Carpenter, Senior Youth Support Worker & Group Work Facilitator.
07483152592



Fond Farewell for Golden Hour Club

By the time you read this, Chilcompton Golden Hour Club will have had its last meeting. Numbers attending last winter dwindled and membership in April fell by 25%, making it no longer financially viable to continue. Over the years grants from the Sperring Trust,

the Chilcompton Society and Chilcompton Celebrates have kept it afloat. Now, with only three active committee members remaining, sadly the time has come to call it a day.

The club has run for 57 years, having started in 1968 and at its peak had more than 60 members. For the last 29 years, Sylvia



and David Rogers has been its mainstay; Sylvia as Treasurer and David as entertainment secretary securing varied and interesting speakers, choirs and music. At the last meeting, they were presented with a gift in appreciation of their commitment and hard work for so many years.

Our village is fortunate to have such a choice of activities and social events, which are the essence of a community and very much valued, but without residents' support and volunteers' input, closure is often inevitable. However, the club could rise again from the ashes if volunteers come forward to save it.

Marlene Pickford

Table-Top sale

4 October 2pm

Chilcompton Village Hall

Table cost £5

to book a table
email: parish.events@chilcompton.org





Council Matters

Chair Jon Pike, welcomes you to the Parish Council section

Those of you who have read past editions will know that the issue which most concerns parishioners is traffic in the village, not least speeding. I have written that the Parish Council have formed a traffic subcommittee, consisting of both Parish Councillors and parishioners to see how these concerns may be answered. This committee has met regularly over the past six months; it has been monitoring the data provided by the two traffic signs at either end of the B3139.

This provides much interesting data; as well as speed it shows the sheer volume of traffic using the road. For June this equated to an average of 6,000 journeys a day, 80%, of the total monthly vehicles pass during normal working hours, when there will be more people walking. Of those journeys over 1 in 5 (22%), were in excess of the 30mph speed limit, in real terms this means almost 100 cars an hour will be speeding. While some of these journeys will have been 'off peak' in the quieter hours of the day, vehicles are registered above 50 mph for every hour of the day. The highest speed recorded was 75mph at Broadway, even more worryingly this was recorded at 9.00 in the morning.

With these figures the subcommittee composed a letter to the parish council that outlines traffic problems in the village and the data to support those concerns. This was adopted by the PC and sent to both Somerset Council and our local MP, Anna Sabine. This resulted in the MP meeting with representatives of the Parish Council and Traffic subcommittee on 8th August, and also saw two officials from Somerset Council joining the meeting. After outlining concerns possible solutions were discussed, although as is invariably the case, Somerset Council have a small budget. More detail of the meeting will be outlined elsewhere in this edition; however, there is the beginning of a process that will hopefully lead to something positive in the future.

August saw the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, the Parish Council organised a wreath laying service at the war memorial on 15th August to coincide with the national two minute silence. This was on a smaller scale to the events in May to commemorate the 80th Anniversary VE Day where a similar wreath laying service was augmented by the events at the village hall which included a tea for villagers. The event was very well attended and seemed to be well received by everyone there. Thanks must be given to the PEG group who organised everything and the success of the event is a testament to their effort.

This leads nicely to my reminder that Remembrance Day will again be commemorated by the village with the usual ceremony at 3.00 pm on Sunday 9th November with tea at the village hall afterwards where everyone is invited. The main Remembrance Day service will again be preceded by the dressing of the three war graves in the village, details of the time of these will be publicised on village website and social media nearer the day.

History Corner



Long time residents might remember members of the Poynting family that lived in Chilcompton and Clapton. One of their number, Thomas Elford Poynting was exceptional, a self-taught scientist, teacher and preacher.

He was born in Chilcompton in 1813 in one of three cottages in Bowden Hill, just above Norton Hall Farm. His father, Abel, was an illiterate farm labourer and his mother, May Elford, taught at a Dame school in Bowden House and later in Shell House.

Thomas attended Bowden House school until he was 8, then moved to a charity school in Stratton on the Fosse. At the age of 11, he left school and worked with his grandfather, Joseph, a stone mason.

Thomas helped to build three cottages at the top of Bakers Lane and the old stone wall between Fry's Well and the old Methodist chapel. At the same time, he also worked for a year as a domestic servant. When Thomas had saved as much as a shilling (5p), he would walk 7 miles to Wells to buy books.

At the age of 17, he left Chilcompton and went to Bath, where he found work in a conveyancer's Office. He continued his education by subscribing to a library and attending an evening school at the Mechanics Institute. He embraced subjects he never knew existed: Geology, Metaphysical Speculation, Philosophy, Morals, Logic, Rhetoric etc. He studied French, Latin and Greek and read books in those languages.

In 1835, aged 21, Thomas married Elizabeth Long of Foxcote. Then he left Bath six years later for a teaching post in Manchester. He qualified as a Unitarian Minister in 1846 and brought up seven children.

When Thomas's wife died aged 52, he married Mary Harland, the daughter of the editor of the Manchester Guardian. He died in 1878.

Thomas also wrote stories, more of which another time.

Marlene Pickford

Obituaries

We send sincere sympathy to family and friends of the following villagers, former residents and friends that have died recently:

Keith Wilson, Hugh Webb (*former church warden*), Barbara Shew, Peter Drew, John Burge, Terry Davis, Ann Chard née Boulter, Jim Cush (101), Ian Stanley Charlton, Trudy Woodall, née Stringer, Annette (Nettie) Drake (*formerly practice manager at Chilcompton Surgery*), Donald Person, Betty Copland née Gould (88), Kevin Carver, John Parry, Shirley Obern and Dave Netherwood

Please tell us of any others we might have missed, so they can be included in the next issue Marlene Pickford 01761 232774



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Photos from a Chilcompton garden – Birds of Prey

Leading on from Birds of Prey Part 1 in the spring issue, this second part takes a look at the less common raptors that sometimes visit our Chilcompton gardens. Seeing any bird of prey is exciting enough, but for me, the four birds identified here go somewhat beyond my normal level of excitement.

This Barn Owl has only noticeably appeared around where I live in January of this year. I know there have been sightings around the local vicinity for longer than that. But when my wife spotted this one from the kitchen window it was hunting in the field behind our back garden and occasionally across our back lawn. I grabbed the camera and from the upstairs window managed to take a number of reasonable photos. Barn Owls often hunt by 'Quartering'. This is when they fly up and down and across a field in parallel lines following a mathematical grid pattern. In this way they cover every inch of the field. When hunting in pairs the male and female will often fly at 90 degrees to each other to cover the field in the most efficient way. On this occasion it was alone but, with talons out stretched, it frequently arched its wings up into a V shape, and dropped like a stone down into the long grasses. As the field has been left fallow for the last couple of years, it is now rich in natural diversity, and that is what has attracted this Barn Owl to hunt here in this way. Also, Shrews, Voles, Weasels and Stoats have all been seen emerging into the back garden from this same fallow field.

Barn Owl



In the 1990's, my youngest daughter was one of three children chosen to do a road trip with presenter Chris Packham. This was to record a T V programme about the declining

Kestrel



number of Kestrels seen along roadside verges. Since then populations have declined further. There are three perceived main reasons for this decline. No surprises – loss of food, loss of habitat, and loss of nesting sites. More recently, numbers have been slightly increasing. This is due to an improved understanding of land management, including farming alongside nature, and, an increase in the number of suitable nesting boxes placed in the right locations. Kestrels have a seemingly

magical ability to rapidly beat their wings in a hover, whilst keeping their head absolutely motionless. They can even do this in strong clifftop winds as they focus sharply on their prey beneath. Kestrels may seem to be a rare visitor to Chilcompton, but actually they pass through at fairly regular intervals. When not hovering and searching for rodents, beetles or worms, they can often be seen sitting on power lines or the outer branches of the larger trees that overlook the scrub and pastures.

Now, the Hobby *really* is a rare visitor to Chilcompton. However, they do pass through occasionally, but you will need a keen eye to see them flash overhead across your gardens. Once you recognise their small and distinctive swift-like outline and their repetitive shrill chirp, they become more noticeable. However, spotting them is more luck than anything else. They are quite common on The Levels, especially around Ham Wall and Westhay nature reserves. My guess is that those spotted in Chilcompton are passing through whilst on their way to such places. They are expert at catching Dragonflies and Broad Bodied Chasers, so stopping for a snack in Chilcompton is most likely when these are emerging from garden ponds and the river.



Hobby

Like Buzzards, Red Kites also have specially adapted eyes and binocular vision. This enables them to have extremely powerful sight and an ability to detect the slightest bit of movement from a great distance. Kites have many parallel characteristics to Buzzards, including being able to clearly see sideways for miles. Their mewing is of a higher pitch than that of the Buzzard, and the call can distinguish between the two species without actually seeing them. Also like Buzzards, Red Kites are commonly mobbed by Corvids, Gulls and other bird species. Even quite small ones.

Birds of prey have gone through a period of decline, with some species now on the red danger list. This was the case for the Red Kite in the UK. However, with careful

Red Kite – The Larger Hawks



management and a re-introduction programme I'm very happy to say that the Red Kite is now becoming a common bird of prey in many areas. A large colony has developed nearby around Faulkland and Hemington. These, and other local Kites, often scout the wider area and will happily join groups of Buzzards circulating

Chilcompton. In fact, their hunting characteristics in many ways are very similar to Buzzards. Again like Buzzards, Kite will prey on small mammals, earthworms and insects such as beetles. They are also very tempted by road kill. This, unfortunately, often leads to Kites ending up as road kill themselves.

News From St John's

What a summer it has been with lots of weddings to celebrate here at St John's. Taking advantage of the marvellous weather were local couples, Simon and Kimberly Blackmon, Thomas and Jessica Wilcox, Holly and Tom Lovegrove, Luke and Katie Hammond, Jasmine and James Keeling and Dan and Caroline Owen. Congratulations to you all. Also celebrating 16 years of marriage with a renewal of Vows and Wedding Blessing were Amy and Richard Blizzard. It is a delight to share these moments of celebration with you.

It was a delight to celebrate the Baptism of Alec Davis with his family and friends in April.

For others, their family gatherings marked a moment of sadness and loss as they said farewell to loved ones for a final time. Our condolences go to the families of Sharon Atwell, Hugh Webb, Kathleen Attwood, Peter Drew, John Burge, David Netherwood, Irene Osborne, Nicholas Langford Marshall and Gillian Sparks, whose funerals or burial of ashes were held at St John's or St Vigor's over the last few months. You remain in our prayers.

We are always happy to help you mark any of life's milestones. Contact us initially via our website or email the office@stvigorstjohn.church for an early conversation and to book a date.

In other news, The New Life Project, to breathe new life into our tired buildings is making good progress thanks to the generosity of many. Environmentally friendly heating has been fitted to the hall and we are waiting for permission from Natural England to begin work on the replacement roof once the bat roosting season has passed. We expect to see scaffolding going up in September for the work to begin before the autumn rains start. Keep your eyes peeled.

Phase 2 of the project aims to replace the broken boiler in the church with similar environmentally friendly heating for the church itself.

Fundraising began in earnest in July when a group of Dads from the Tea at St John's Group undertook a 32 mile sponsored walk from Bath Abbey to St John's along the Somerset Pilgrim Way. What a huge effort which raised a whopping £2245 to get us going. Thank you to everyone who sponsored them.

We have lots of other social activities planned for the Autumn to keep up the fundraising momentum. For more information

on Sing Your Heart Out Concert (September), The Big Brunch (October) Film Night (November) Mendip Male Voice Choir (December) visit our website www.stvigorstjohn.church and help your local church keep warm.

Our usual groups will run through the Autumn. **Do join us – we'd love to get to know you.**

Revd Esther Smith



Six Months of Fellowship and Fun at St John's Family Tea Group

The past half-year has been a joyful time for the St John's Family Tea Group, with gatherings twice a month drawing a lovely crowd of 20 to 30 participants. Meeting on the second and fourth Monday, our casual style meets have been a heart-warming mix of connection, laughter, and community spirit.

Looking Ahead to Autumn and Advent, we're excited for the coming season as we continue fostering friendships. Mark your calendar for Saturday 30th November, when we'll host the Light Up St John's event. Join us in the Church Hall from 4:30–6:30pm for an evening of festive cheer. The star atop the church tower and the Christmas tree will be lit around 5:45pm, kicking off Advent in style—with mince pies, warm refreshments, and perhaps even a carol or two. All members of the village are warmly invited. Come celebrate with us and be part of something special.

Daniel Owen

Groups & Gatherings available at St John's

Root Connections Cookery Club – 4th Monday 10am Make friends, learn new skills and have lunch using seasonal veg. Contact Rachel for more info on 07790580846.

Family Tea @ St John's - 2nd and 4th 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 07717131157.

Bell Ringing – Monday 7pm. For more info contact Adrian 01761 415950.

Tea & Toast – Thursday 8.30-10.30am. Toddlers and their carers are welcomed to play and chat with toast and a cuppa.

Alpha – Tuesdays 7pm: Have a meal and chat about the big questions surrounding life and faith for more info contact Ian rev.ian.twb@gmail.com.

Lunch Club – Our long standing Lunch Club returns for the Autumn on the third Thursday of October. Contact Margaret Holcombe on 01761 415085 to book a place.

Lunch Club Dates 2025

Join us for a light lunch and a chat at St John's Church hall: all welcome. Book a place on the website

www.stvigorstjohn.church

October 16th

November 20th

December 11th

Our regular pattern of services:

Wednesdays 9am St John's, Morning Prayer

Thursdays 11am St John's Holy Communion
(Traditional language)

Sundays, 9am. Holy Communion
(Traditional Language)

10.30am Family Service

3pm Messy Church (3rd Sunday)

Sunday morning, 10.30am services alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. Children and families are welcome at all services. For full details of services and activities visit www.stvigorstjohn.church.

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Sue Rankine in the Garden: Future-proofing in Action



It has been a busy year. As well as the usual vegetable gardening (6 raised beds keep us busy and well supplied with tasty organic vegetables) we have undertaken some structural changes with an eye on the future (distant, I hope) when inevitably we will become less able, but I hope no less keen on the garden.

As planned, we have removed our failing 'jewel garden' and not only sown it with a wildflower and grass mix but also added in another small pond.

We started by removing all the bulbs when they had finished flowering, and the perennials, and set up a 'holding bed' so that the perennials could be re-distributed later. Then we levelled and raked and trampled to create an even surface. The pond went in next, just a simple pre-formed plastic mould designed with differing levels and an escape route with wildlife in mind. We then levelled and raked some more and set up a web of cotton to discourage pigeons and cats before thinly sowing a wildflower seed mix designed for damp loamy soils which fits the bill for this area of the garden. We also threw in a packet of wildflower seeds that we had been given for good measure.

Just two months later we have an exuberant patch of tall grasses with poppies, red and white campions, lady's bedstraw, salad burnett and knapweed and almost hidden among the vegetation a pond which has already attracted numerous invertebrates and some frogs. With the extremely dry weather that we have had every extra bit of water that can be provided for wildlife is a valuable resource.

The other change that we have made is to re-grade some garden steps which were not only too steep but also very uneven and a hazard to grandparents and grandchildren alike.

With the help of our neighbour, Rob, who is so much better than us at anything constructive, the steps are now shallower, even, and far less of a hazard. To complete the safety element we commissioned Flint and Rankine (keep it in the family) to design some railings that complement the ferns in the adjacent bed.

We then had more fun re-distributing the plants which had been moved to create the meadow and those which had to be moved to accommodate the shallower steps. The best time to move plants around is of course in the early autumn while the soil is moist and warm and the plants are still growing, but miraculously most of ours survived despite being moved at the start of the driest summer for years.



The whole garden makeover gave us a good opportunity to have a clear out – get rid of plants that never earned their keep, re-discover old ones which had been lost amongst the crowd and attempt (unsuccessfully) to get rid of all bindweed. When autumn comes we'll re-assess the planting, perhaps moving some plants that need more space or that don't quite work in the position we have given them, and if we decide that we still have space to fill we will have to go plant shopping – surely the best kind of shopping that there is.

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The amazing summer weather this year has been a real bonus for Messy Church. It has meant that children of all ages have been able to join in with fun and games outdoors, all of which helped them to explore some of the events of Jesus' life. From playing the games that Jesus would have played with his friends to building a wilderness with stones and twigs found in the church yard. We made windsocks which we had great fun flying whilst learning about the coming of the Holy Spirit. As the sunny weather continued we stood in the paddling pool and made footprints along the church path which we followed as we obeyed Jesus' command to "come and follow me."



The highlight of our year so far took place on the hottest day of the year. We had a Circus themed party with a bouncy castle, water play, face painting, hotdogs and ice creams. The weather was certainly hot, but the event itself was described by one child as "very cool!"

As summer changes to autumn there is still more to discover on our theme, the life of Jesus. In September, we will be looking at the miracles that Jesus performed.

To find out more about this, join us at 3pm on 14th September In St Johns Church hall.

Autumn will be fully with us by our event on the 19th October, but we still hope to go outside to explore how the world around us is changing. Then we will celebrate Harvest by using the things that God created in our craft activities.



Children of all ages, with their families, are welcome to join us.

We look forward to seeing you.

St John's Church Dates for your Diary:

5th October 2025, Harvest Celebration

26th October 2025 6:30pm, Thanksgiving and Remembering

9th November 2025, Remembrance Day

30th November 2025 4:30pm to 6:30pm, Light Up St John's

14th December 2025, Carol Service

21st December 2025 3pm, Messy Christingle

Cricket News

This has been our 11th 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's been another mixed season for our senior Saturday sides, with the high point being the number of U16s now playing for the 1st and 2nd XI, these players have moved up via our club's excellent pathway.

The 1st XI was bolstered by the arrival of two new players from Midsomer Norton – Tom Webb and Martin Blackmore – and better availability from club stalwarts like Tim Fussell and Glen Stansfield, both of who are among our top run scorers and wicket takers. We're also delighted to have had Brad Hancock and Dan Rogers as regular starters for the 1sts, with the pair having come up through our junior section.

After a few tough years, the 2nd XI have enjoyed their first wins in a couple of seasons and, in his debut year, the runs of Kevin Messenger. He, Kyle Gloudemans, James Purchase and Gareth and Dan Rogers have all hit half-centuries this season, while Rogers Snr and Miles Hadrill (pictured) both claimed six wickets in an innings.



Our Sunday Development XI has again been a work in progress with most weeks 60% of the side being under 16. Next year we plan to move to the 30-over Sunday Development League which should lead to more local games against like-minded clubs.

As has been the case for the past few years, the most exciting aspect of the club has been our thriving junior section as three separate teams entered into the Bath & District youth leagues. This included two new U13 'Pairs' teams – the Fire and the Peppers (pictured) – as 14 players either moved up from our Junior Softball section into hardball cricket or joined the club as new members to play their first games of cricket. Their season climaxed with a trip to Taunton's County Ground to be flag bearers in a guard of honour for Somerset Men's team and tickets to see a closely fought game for inspiration.



Our U15 team – Chili Heat – were boosted by several new faces and ended joint-second in the league with eight wins from 11 games (just one more victory would have seen them crowned champions). There were many impressive performances, including captain Zak Gloudemans scoring 95 not out (one of his four half-centuries) and Cory Hawkins' 12 wickets across the season (Zak and Cory pictured).



The youth setup gives local girls and boys a chance to have fun with their friends outside school, playing a great sport, learning both sporting and life skills, and providing a pathway into Chilcompton's senior teams – vital to keep the community club alive and well in the future. We always welcome new players to training nights (Wednesday evenings) and they'll always get playing time in matches regardless of ability level. So if you're a child reading this and want to give it a go, or are a parent who wants their children to get outside and enjoy learning a new sport whilst making new friends, then get in touch... what have you got to lose?

This season has again been a challenging one for our wonderful groundsmen Mark Colbourne and Clive Christer. The dry weather has caused many problems but despite this they have managed to produce excellent wickets for our six sides week after week.

Dave Travis

Chilcompton Sports Club Update

Sports Club Room

No matter who it is, whether it be a member of one of the community clubs, a visiting team, hierarchy from the FA or someone completing work there, everyone who comes to our club room comments on what a truly fantastic space it is. And, with the ever-growing population around the area, we know that it will become more and more popular. To this end, we know that growth means change, not only to make things more efficient, but to make them better and more appealing.

We have been asked on so many occasions if we could start serving 'decent' coffee and so we have decided to introduce a barista-style coffee machine that quickly and efficiently produces superb coffees.

We have also introduced a dartboard and a coin-operated football table in our newly created 'games room', which is also the weekly meeting place for our newly affiliated gentlemen's walking football teams. Our Facebook page will give more information on the use of these facilities, so please check beforehand.

We aim to air as many national and international sporting events on our TVs as we can, so please contact us through our Facebook page or on hayley.csfc@outlook.com to check what is on offer. Please check our website www.chilcomptonssports.com for any further information on any of our sports or facilities.

Sports Club News—Football

.....*Continued from page 4*

Currently playing at Step 7 - with the Western League being Step 6 - Chilcompton Sports must ensure that our ground is Level 7 Stadium compliant as part of the promotion criteria. At the end of the season, should we be eligible for and achieve promotion, we will have further infrastructure work to be done by the end of the following September in order to be Step 6 Stadium compliant. Currently, we are working towards creating a hardstanding along two sides of the pitch, building undercover standing for 50, putting in a paybox (which will double up as a snack bar) and laying pathways and fencing that will direct spectators towards the entrance of the football pitch. On promotion, we will be obliged to create an undercover seated spectator area for 50 and put in floodlighting. Thankfully, with foresight a few years ago, we obtained the planning permission we needed for this to happen. All work at Level 7 will have to be self-funded, although there are grants that will meet up to 70% of costs available for Step 6 alterations. Chilcompton Sports will be aiming to fund-raise within the next couple of months.

With the installation of floodlighting, and upon promotion to Step 6, Chilcompton Sports will be in a position to form an U18 Floodlit League squad, thereby providing an urgently needed pathway for our ever-growing Youth set-up into Adult football. Currently, the final step of our Youth pathway is at the U16 age group and, with nothing between that and Adult football, the club loses the hard work and skills that each has committed and developed. The same can be said for the coaches who, more often than not, have worked with the children from a very young age-group upwards and have become very experienced. Our future progression at all levels will hopefully be dependent on, and benefit hugely from, organic growth and development within the club from both players and coaches.

This project is huge and requires dedication and commitment from all the noble volunteers who have come forward; without their combined efforts and generous gift of time, it cannot happen. Additionally, the club will have to raise a not inconsiderable sum to pay for materials and contractors to contribute to each element of this transformation. We always seek anyone who feels they have something – even very little – to commit to this project and anyone's help or gift will be gratefully received.

chilcomptonports.nls@btinternet.com

Sue Brawn

End of season presentations

After a successful season across our youth and adult football teams, the end of season presentations took place over two evenings in May. The younger teams from soccertots to u11s had their presentations on the Friday evening with the older age groups and adults coming together on the Saturday evening.

The evenings were filled with laughter, fun, drinks and fantastic food provided by The Roaming Deli, Bianco Rosso Pizza and Dan's Ice Creams.

We also have to say a huge thank you to our fundraisers, TDT Preservations and anyone who has supported fundraising events over the season. Because of this, we were able to purchase two large gazebos to support our presentation evening, and future presentations for years to come.

As ever none of it would be possible without our volunteers, coaches and sponsors so thanks once again to you all.



U14 Take home the double

Finishing top of their division in the Midsomer Norton Youth League last season, Chilcompton u14s moved to the Avon Youth League, competing in division 5 they topped the table to take home another league win and securing further promotion in the league. The team also dominated in the league trophy making it to the finals v Stoke Lane at Mendip Broadwalk. The u14s made it look easy with a 7-2 win.

Chilcompton U11 Players in District Trials

Congratulations to Sonny Gould and Thomas Edwards of Chilcompton Sport U11s who have both been selected for the district schools' team (BWB03) for the second year running. They both performed in four separate trials with over 200 players from across the district taking part. 18 players were selected to make the final squad.

Good luck to them all and we look forward to an update on the team's progress.

U8 Youth Tournament success

Back in July, one of our U8 teams for the 25/26 season held an invitation only mini tournament, inviting other local clubs to come along. A total of 8 teams took part. It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning of football. The team would like to thank their sponsors Pure Beauty and Client Funnels plus everybody who has contributed to making the day as special as it was, the referees, coaches, club officials, parents and most importantly, the players.

Chilcompton Sports Club hosts Midsomer Norton Youth Football League's Finals Day

For the second season Chilcompton Sports were honoured to host the MSNYFL Finals Day at the sports ground back in April. It was a glorious sunny day with teams from all across the county coming together to play football.

Club volunteers rallied around to help support the day in many ways, from setting up and packing away to marshalling the parking and cooking the burgers.

Hayley Blanning

Double Champions, Chilcompton Under 10 Girls Make History

Since joining Chilcompton Sports Youth FC last summer, the Under 10 Girls team have taken the local football scene by storm.

Competing in the Bristol Girls League, the team powered their way through the 2024 season, winning Division B and earning a well-deserved promotion to Division A. But they didn't stop there—this determined group also set a new team record by keeping seven clean

sheets across the season, showing not just flair up front but real grit at the back.

Their success didn't end with the league either. Just a few weeks ago, the girls topped off a remarkable year by winning the Avon Athletic Tournament, proudly bringing home a second trophy and being crowned double champions.

The future looks bright too—five of the squad have been selected to trial for the Somerset County side, a huge honour and testament to the talent and teamwork that's flourished in such a short time.

Chilcompton couldn't be prouder of these young athletes—**watch this space.**



For more birds see pages 60 and 61.

