

Chilcompton Matters

... because it does

Autumn Magazine September 2026

**School Wins
Award**

**Church Hits
Target**

**Flower Show
Fun**

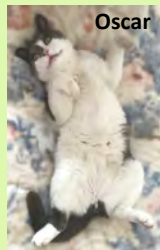
**Chilcompton
Get Together**

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

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One wheel adventures



Oscar

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See results of the pet photo competition

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Superb century made by Kevin Messenger



Plus all our regular features and lots more

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Cover picture, by Pete Sinclair, was taken in June down The Pitching, after waiting several hours in cold weather for the owls to appear. Sadly the Tawny Owls moved on a few weeks later.

Welcome...

...to the 2026 Autumn edition of Chilcompton Matters.

Wow. What a summer. Plenty of sun, third in the world cup, brown lawns that don't need to be cut, courgette soup by the gallon, and Pothole Road (aka The Street) got resurfaced.

In terms of public events there was the regular Flower Show (p38/39) and the first 'Chilcompton Get Together' (p10/11). Wouldn't it be great if the village could buy land to create Old Rec car parking - celebrations like this could be more often and even better attended.

As far as interesting stories go, this is the village that keeps giving. Check out the unicyclist (p6/7) and the sound therapist (p30) - wonderful people and great characters.

These are my final few days as parish clerk. May was a bad meeting: approval of a large development on Chilcompton Road (CARO p60/61) and not pursuing 20mph limits on the back lanes and Stockhill Road. Exit stage left chased by a bear. Probably time for young energy anyway. Alysa Rixon is the new clerk - be kind to her. Hopefully I will be continuing as editor of this magazine though.

Mountains of thanks, as always, to design wizard Tracey Withers, who makes the whole caboodle possible. Also, to the tireless Mike Hughes handling the advertising. Then, of course, to all the wonderful contributors, the splendid team of distributors and everyone else who gives their time.

Really sad note: Rich Morgan est mort - excellent bloke, excellent councillor, who was always ready to write an article.

Bendice tu corazon

Malcolm Rigby

editor@chilcompton.org

***For council matters contact
parishclerk@chilcompton.org***

The Mendip Ring Walk

My wife and I moved to Chilcompton in 2017. We enjoy walking and it was really good to find so many lovely places to go to straight from the house. We noticed a number of little blue and white stickers with an arrow, showing the route through the village of a walking path called The Mendip Ring. This looked interesting so we explored the walk online and found that the route circumnavigates roughly the whole perimeter of the Mendip Hills. One hundred and seventeen miles, to be exact.

We found the website to be very detailed. The whole route is mapped and broken down into 17 stages. Each stage has its own specific map, plus a set of comprehensive notes giving directions and some local history for that particular stage. Chilcompton was known as Comtuna when named in the Domesday Book. This is one historical example of some interesting local snippets. Also included is a downloadable GPX code. Really useful if you have OS Maps or a similar compatible walking app. Furthermore, for each stage there is an alternative circular walk known as The Mendip Ring Plus. To find all this, just search:- mendipring.org.uk. I have to say however, that the website is harder to navigate on a mobile phone than on a PC, or Notebook where it works very well.

The route passes right through the older part of Chilcompton. It enters across the sports field, then over the old railway line, down the hill to Somer Lea, along The Pitching to Manor Farm, up the ridge, through Clapton, and then on to Farrington Gurney.

To give an idea of the route, and starting from Chilcompton, it skirts past places such as Litton, The Harptrees, Blagdon, Black Down, Cheddar Gorge Rim, Westhay and Ham Wall nature reserves on The Levels, on to Street, Butley, Batcombe, Longleat Estate, Rode, Norton St. Phillip, Faulkland, Charlton and then back to Chilcompton. Having such a great walking route passing right under our noses, we felt that we just had to do it. We did the stages over quite a long period, roughly one each month.



...the route to Farrington...

The Mendip Ring is the result of a lot of hard work by The Mendip Ramblers. It is also stewarded by their volunteers. If you find a problem or have a question, you can contact them about it through the website. Each section has someone who oversees it and checks it for safety issues etc.



Also, there are occasional events along the route. For example, in April 2022 there was a day and night endurance running race covering the whole 117 miles in one go. As a result, runners Ian Rodd and Steve Probert now hold the fastest known completion time of 1 day, 14 hours and 5 minutes. However, you can just walk it or use the Mendip Ring Plus options. You can also download your very own certificate of completion from the website.



www.mendipring.org.uk

Jon Crouch

Around the World on One Wheel and Two Pairs of Underpants

Malcolm Rigby talked to an adventurer of a weird and wonderful kind who recently moved into the village



In the editorial of the last issue I said that either there was a unicyclist in the village or I was beginning to see things. I was not hallucinating.

In 2015 Ed Pratt, who was brought up in Curry Rivel, Somerset, set off to traverse the globe on a unicycle, three years and three months later, or 22,000 miles later, he returned to the county.

Now he lives in

Chilcompton and I spotted him unicycling down to St John's church for a spot of bellringing practice. Wasn't bellringing, relatively, a bit placid? He said it was a different kind of challenge and he wanted to do something within the community.

So why unicycle round the world? An earlier version had been done by Wobbling Wally Watts from Canada. Ed said: **"I just wanted to travel and I wanted to do it in an interesting way. I'd been unicycling for two years and found it a fun way of getting around, and for meeting people as well – a good conversation starter."**

As you can imagine, luggage was an issue. His grandfather, an expert in mechanical stuff like clocks, built him a storage kit but even still it was minimal. "Two pairs of underwear and two pairs of cycling shorts. Basically one set of gear for cycling and one set of gear for being off the bike. That was pretty much it. Small tent, sleeping bag and a sleeping pad that wasn't really adequate."



There were periods, like in Kazakhstan, where he didn't see anyone for 2-3 days, then carrying water and food was important.

"The best sections were where I was riding with other people. Because so much of the trip I was riding alone. Quite a few weeks I travelled with other tourers. Sometimes you click and you make allowances to stay together, we'd decide to ride for a day and it would turn into three weeks."

Geographically? "I loved the desolate areas like out on the steppe of Kazakhstan. To be honest the whole of central Asia was pretty stunning. China was cool, I entered in the desert and then you see this transition into the mountains and then further south you cycle into the tropical areas, the terrace fields."

After a near accident on ice, Ed decided to take a winter break in Kyrgystan, teaching English as foreign language for six months in the capital Bishkek.

**One morning
he was
awoken by
armed Park
Rangers**

America was the scariest, simply because he knew people had guns. One morning he was awoken by armed Park Rangers; he

apologized and disappeared quickly.

The final leg was 20 days from Edinburgh down to Somerset via his beloved grandparents. At the end, the feeling was relief and excitement to see everyone again, plus anticipation that he could do something different. Not surprisingly, he didn't touch the unicycle for a couple of years.

These days his adventures are more water based. He is doing source to sea on rivers using packcraft, a sort of inflatable canoe. "The Thames was a fun one because a lot of people know the Thames for the last 50 miles through London but there is so much more upstream than that."

The most recent he has done is the River Tay, the longest river in Scotland, this involved building a log raft in order to sail across the loch. Curiously his river videos have attracted more interest than the unicycling ones.

He did tell me his next grand scheme but said I can't print it as he doesn't like to make promises – sounds exciting, watch this space.

Ed's videos are available on You Tube.

Malcolm Rigby



Chilcompton Open Gardens 2027

Building on the success of Chilcompton Village Garden Trail in June 2025 we intend to hold the next one on Sunday 20th June 2027 from 11 am to 5 pm.

2025 saw 14 fabulous and diverse gardens in the village being opened to the public. The event attracted over 270 people, receiving very positive feedback. For 2027 our aim remains the same, to share our love of gardening, promote our wonderful village and enhance the sense of community.

Some villagers have already kindly offered to open their gardens, but we still need a few more.

We are looking for a range of gardens for example; new/established/large/small/vegetable/flowers/family gardens. Gardens don't need to be perfect - it's more about having a range of different gardens – with something that might interest or inspire visitors.

Save the date: Sunday 20th June 2027

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

We will need volunteers on the day and with some tasks leading up to the event to help set up, sell tickets and serve refreshments. So, if you don't feel you want to open your garden you can still be involved.

We hope you will support this event; more details will be issued nearer the date.

Profits will go to supporting future village events.

Please do get in touch if you would like to open your garden or are willing to offer help:

chilcomptongardens@gmail.com

Wednesday Walkers



Walkers manage to go on a ramble once a fortnight, mainly in and around Chilcompton, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. With about 20 on the books, numbers are often depleted due to injuries, illness, waiting for operations or rain in the winter and heatwaves in the summer. However, some manage to soldier on regardless. A welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us. We meet at the village hall car park at 10.30am. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Marlene Pickford. marlenepickford2@gmail.com 01761 232774



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GREAT DAY AT THE CHILCOMPTON GET TOGETHER



The weather was perfect

It was fantastic using the Old Rec and so good to see so many families all taking part in the activities – the welly throwing was the most popular. The crafts tables were full of creativity, with air-dry clay transformed into necklaces, animals, and all sorts of brilliant creations. It was lovely to see young people getting involved and great to see older members of families there too.

Well done to all the competition winners and to Cllr Sam Phripp for handing out the prizes.

Big shout out to all the performers: Mick Timpson beanddo Yoga, Helena, Fi and Seraphina for their singing and Exit Stage Left for the drama performance.

Also thanks to Root Connections for the cafe, and Mr Nick for the Ice cream, Chilcompton Youth club for the Basket Ball and crafts, Rob Allen Cabs for the shuttle service, Tesco and Coop for donation of prizes, and to Martin Chapell for the loan of the gazebos. It was good to see people also reading the village activities boards to find out what other clubs and activities are in the village.



Huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped plan the event, and then on the day manning activities and kids crafts, marshalling on the street and helping set up and clearing away, and thanks to Richard Lovegrove for bringing his giant tortoise to the event which everyone loved to see walking around.

Shall we do it again?

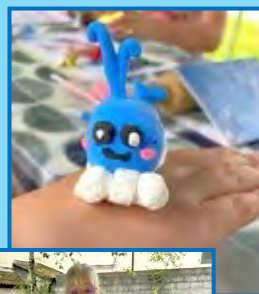
We obviously had a large grant this time from Somerset Health and Wellbeing Fund so we won't get that again. We want it to be a free event but we could do a regular games and activity day with some more local sponsorship. Some other local groups and clubs have also expressed an interest in being involved next time.

We were a small committee and as it's some of the same volunteers also putting on the Garden Trail which will happen in 2027 then maybe we do it alternate years unless we can find more volunteers to run it?

Any ideas or thoughts you have about the event do let us know:
Parish.events@chilcompton.org



Competition time



Happy Days



Exit Stage Left



Welly throwing



Seraphina, Fi and Helena

Finally we are very grateful to our sponsors Somerset Council Health and Wellbeing Fund, the Sperring Charity and Matheson Charles which enabled all the activities and shuttle to be free.



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Sue Manley

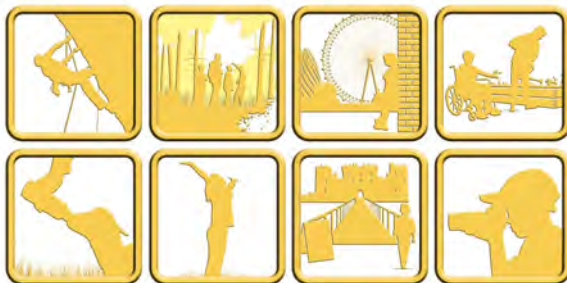
SCHOOL NEWS St Vigor and St John

Gold for Outside Stuff

St Vigor & St John School has received national recognition for its commitment to taking learning outside the classroom (LOtC) and has been awarded the Gold LOtC Mark by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

Leah Sheppard, Head Of School, said: "Being awarded the Gold LOtC Mark is a fantastic achievement for the school as it celebrates the commitment from the whole SVSJ and The Mill Nursery team to ensure our children have access to vital opportunities to learn outside the classroom. We're thrilled to get official recognition for our efforts."

Dr Anne Hunt, Chief Executive of CLOtC, said: "Learning outside the classroom has many proven educational benefits as well as providing some of the most memorable experiences in a child's school life. Achieving the Gold LOtC Mark demonstrates that St Vigor & St John is committed to developing and delivering genuinely valuable learning outside the classroom experiences for their children and young people and I congratulate them on achieving this award."



Gold LOtC Mark



Colour Run Fun took place in June this year organised by the PTFA and raised an incredible £1,230.00

Photos courtesy of Mendip Times



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Anna Sabine Member of Parliament for Frome and East

What devolution might mean for Chilcompton

When I start speaking about devolution, I can sometimes see peoples eyes glaze over, but with a new Prime Minister and a new agenda to give powers to elected mayors, it's an important issue that could well make a difference if done correctly in our part of Somerset.



Here's the thing: my constituency sits right on the fault line of this policy. Part of Frome & East Somerset is in the West of England mayoral authority, confirmed to be receiving a beefed up form of devolution with extra funding and powers. But what about the rest? The Somerset Council area, including villages like Chilcompton which are right on the border with B&NES, get absolutely nothing. That's because in Somerset, we don't have any strategic authority, no elected mayor and no opportunity at present to make use of additional funding and devolved powers. And believe me, when done well it can make a difference.

That's missed money for local buses, missed strategic input on where housing goes and a missed opportunity for local people to benefit from plans the government puts forward to devolve more power.

I welcome the Government's plans to get everywhere to have some kind of strategic authority by 2028, but Somerset and its residents have waited too long for this to be cleared up. I'll be watching closely as this issue develops, to make sure that Somerset gets the funding and power it deserves.

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*

Short Mat Bowls

Give it a try!

New people always welcome.

Thursday 2pm

The Village Hall

Contact David Rogers

01761 233142



YOUTH CONNECT SOUTH WEST

Inspiring Young People

included creative arts projects, cooking sessions, enrichment activities and discussions on important current issues.

The club attendance has remained strong, and the club supports young people with a range of activities in response to young people's interests and developmental needs:

This last 6 months they have had **Creative activities** including science-based sessions and experiments. These activities encouraged curiosity, hands-on learning and engagement in a fun and interactive way. A highlight of the summer was the youth team's involvement in the Chilcompton Community Event on 27 June, where they delivered basketball games and craft activities.

Cooking activities focused on staple foods, including toasties, pizza wraps and vegetable snacks. These sessions supported the development of basic life skills, including food preparation, hygiene awareness and working collaboratively with others.

Issue-based work explored confidentiality, including what it means, its limits and young people's rights. These sessions supported young people to better understand how information they share is used by staff and other professionals, promoting trust, transparency and informed decision-making.

The next quarter will include issue-based work focused on alcohol awareness, supporting young people to understand risks, make informed choices and stay safe. There will also be a continued focus on delivering science-based activities in response to young people's interests, alongside exploring opportunities for fundraising towards a potential trip.

Interested in Joining?

We welcome young people aged 11 to 19 and provide a fun, inclusive and supportive place to meet friends, learn new skills and take part in exciting activities.

Contact the Youth Leader

Faith Carpenter for more details: Faith.carpenter@ycsw.org.uk or 07483 152 592



Councillor Vacancies

There are currently two spare places for Parish Councillors. You would be able to contribute your thoughts on how local matters should be run, you won't have to do any mandatory 'homework'. Just two meetings a month. Interested?

Contact the clerk on parishclerk@chilcompton.org

Aerials

A new service has come to the village in the form of drone photography.

By day/night Andrew Hamblin is a shift supervisor at a large printing company in Westfield but he has set up a sideline business that incorporates his past experience and his personal interests.



*The Co-op is
centre of the
image*

He was for many years in the military, including two tours in Afghanistan, for some of that time he was a Forward Air Controller which involves monitoring aircraft and drones. Put that together with his personal fascination of photography and you have aerial pictures through drones.

You can get a property portrait, now popular with estate agents, for a sale, for a picture on the wall, or just a DIY check on your roof. You may want to trace the progress of your building project or get a complete picture of your farm.

One drone has a normal camera and the second has a thermal one, which can be used to trace heat loss through a roof or even to track a missing pet in a field.

Andrew is very conscious of the safety aspects of flying a drone. For instance, from next year he has to keep records of his flights. He said: "Laws are becoming more restrictive on flying drones. There's been some pretty reckless behaviour by people buying drones and then flying them around in an irresponsible manner, so the law is clamping down on that."

Andrew can be contacted on:

Asdic44@outlook.com or 07809 839460

When a pothole isn't a pothole - news and views from Cllr Sam Phripp

If I was to drop my phone, and somebody pick it up and flick through the photos, they might well track me down and make sure I was seeing a psychologist. Because, unlike most people whose phones are full of pictures of their children, family holidays and things they're trying to sell on Vinted, mine now has hundreds of photos of potholes, gullies and ill-maintained drainage ditches. This is the life of a Somerset Councillor, trying to get on top of roads that haven't been properly maintained in many years.

From the Bowden Hill crater to the tyre-slicing edges of Coach Lane, I've done a near full audit of the roads around Chilcompton and reported all safety defects I've found. But not all have been fixed, and this irritates me just as much as you.

That's because, according to council policy, a hole has to be of a certain depth and width before the contractor will fix it. What's more, as too many people know, contractors will only assess and fix potholes that have been reported, and often completely ignore deeper and more troubling potholes nearby.

It's why, when these contracts come up again, I'll lobby to make sure there's a much more common-sense approach to fixing our roads. It might cost more in the short-term, but longer term, it'll mean less repeat trips to assess holes that are next to each other, fewer insurance claims when people ruin their tyres and, hopefully, safer roads for all of us.

In the meantime - the scores on the doors? Since I was elected in May, Somerset has fixed 43 potholes in Chilcompton and the surrounding lanes and is now resurfacing The Street. It's a start, but there's plenty more to be done, as the photos on my phone can attest.



PEG has introduced monthly Pop-Up Cafes on Saturday mornings at the Village Hall. These are proving to be very popular. Serving bacon, sausage and egg baps, along with tea and coffee it has encouraged more people to come to each session.



It has been lovely to see friends meeting up for a bap and a chat. One couple having only just moved into Chilcompton came along and were soon chatting to residents that had lived in the village for most of their lives.

As well as creating an environment for eating, meeting and chatting, the Pop-Up café is raising valuable funds to be invested in running future events.

Next one 26/09/26

Financial Advice to help reach your goals.

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

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

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

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20 MENDIP MEN NEEDED

Charity Challenge 2026



MENDIP MALE VOICE CHOIR

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR PROSTATE CANCER UK

Prostate Cancer affects 1 in 8 men in the UK. Here's your chance to help raise vital funds to help save men's lives - and have a great time doing it.

Your challenge: Rehearse with Mendip Male Voice Choir from September 21st 2026 and perform at our Christmas Concert on December 18th in Midsomer Norton.

Raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK by being sponsored and complete the challenge.

You will get to sing with one of the finest male choirs in the South West of England. Supported by our expert musical team, and with the camaraderie and encouragement of the 60 members of the choir, you will be helped every step of the way.

You don't need to read music, and you won't be auditioned or have to sing solo!
What you will need is a willingness to join in, learn and have fun!

In return, we ask you to pledge to raise a minimum of £50 for Prostate Cancer UK.

Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings from 7.30 - 9.30pm at Midsomer Norton Methodist Church, BA3 2DR, starting on Sept 21st. for more information go to: www.mendipmen.co.uk/20mendipmenneeded email info@mendipmen.co.uk or click on QR code.

Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332). Registered company number 02653887.



What's On in Chilcompton this Autumn

- ⇒ **Pop up café** – Village Hall Saturday 9.30-11.30am. September 26th *(Then hopefully third Saturday of each month).*
- ⇒ **Table Top Sale** – Village Hall Saturday 10th October 2026 12:30 pm set up 1:30 pm start - £5 per table – refreshments on sale. Email lesleyatthemags@aol.com to book a table.
- ⇒ **Litter Pick** – Saturday/Sunday 10th /11th October.
- ⇒ **Andrew Tolman Talk** hosted by the Gardening club, Village Hall Tuesday 27th October 7.30pm.
- ⇒ **Remembrance Day** – 8th November 3:00pm.
- ⇒ **Playgroup Christmas Fair** – Village Hall Saturday 21st November Village 1.30-4.30pm
- ⇒ **Christmas Concert** by Mendip Brass Band with St Johns and St Vigors School Choir, Village Hall, 2-4pm Saturday 5th December.

To see the village events calendar go to the village website:

<https://www.chilcompton.org/events/month/2026-12/>

This events calendar is managed by Chilcompton Parish Council and lists one off events that would be open to everyone in the village. The calendar will be updated as events are added so do check to see what is posted. To apply for a listing please send an email to Parish.events@chilcompton.org

If you think that you could help with any of the above events, please email:



lesleyatthemags@aol.com.



Future ideas include:

A Tea Dance, a Dementia friendly memory café, guided meditation, music events for dancing and socializing .

Also for regular classes and groups see the following other websites and social media:

Village Hall Website: <http://www.chilcomptonvillagehall.co.uk/>

Village Hall facebook: *Chilcomptonhall*

St John's Church Website: <https://www.stvigorstjohn.church/>

Chilcompton Sports Club website: <https://www.chilcomptonsports.com>

Chilcompton Parish Council Website: <https://www.chilcompton.org/>

Redan facebook: *The Redan inn*

Somerset Wagon facebook: *The Somerset Wagon*

Chilcompton Past and Present facebook

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Duck Life Down The Ponds or Two Broods Are Better Than One

April 30th , mother duck is seen proudly showing off her 12-13 offspring.

A week or so later the ducklings disappear off the high weir, down the river, heading towards Midsomer Norton and never to be seen again.

Mid May, mum and dad duck are seen together perched on top of the weir, maybe thinking, 'what would we do better next time', 'perhaps we could have another go.'

June, more ducklings and mother duck is trying in vain to teach them how to climb the high weir.



Does part of my parish clerk duties include rescuing small wildlife, particularly if they are cute and cuddly? I climb in the river and fall flat on my face, completely soaked.



The bulk of the youngsters go down the river and mother follows too. A few left stranded are picked off.

July, mother duck reappears with half a dozen teenagers. Hurrah.

Moral of the story: should the Parish Council build an elevator system for ducklings.



Malcolm Rigby

One More Time

Send in your favorite pet photos for the spring 2027 edition of the magazine. Send to editor@chilcompton.org



'Buddy' who thinks he's a meerkat



'Niggle' is the fluffy one and 'Purdy' is the pretty one



'Ollie' a bundle of furry mischief



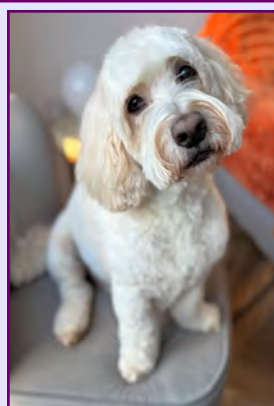
A happy 'Frank' on his birthday



The wonderful 'Pepper'



'Sadie' - Do Not Disturb



'Teddy Bear' our 11 year old bonkers Cockerpoo





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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.

After a busy Christmas schedule, we spent January practicing new pieces for the 2026 schedule.

February saw us playing at Frome Town Hall for a family birthday celebration - a packed hall of all ages. In May during the first heatwave, we played at the Priddy Friendly Society Celebration.

Luckily they had put up a gazebo for us to shelter under and it kept us cool. June saw us at Wells

Bandstand in the recreation ground. The month also had us at the Old Down Inn playing at a celebration of the life of one of our long-standing members.

July found us playing at Clare Hall Nursing Home, Ston Easton, at their summer fete. It was another heatwave but we were luckily sited under a large chestnut tree which provided excellent shelter. Our last venue in July was our annual trip to Burrington Coombe for the service to commemorate the writing of the hymn Rock of Ages. The service is held outside in the Coombe and provides excellent acoustics for a brass band; the sound bounces off the rocks and joined with the voices of the congregation in a most uplifting experience.

We are always looking for new members to join us in the band. If you would be interested, please do get in touch. All you need is to pay a weekly subscription; we provide the instrument, tuition and the music, all you have to provide is a willingness to learn with like-minded people, a love of music and a sense of humour.

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Litter Pick Coordinator

Matt Escott is hanging up his litter-picker after five years of sterling work organizing the village's bi-annual litter pick. October 10-11 will be his last one. The Parish Council thanks him for his efforts.

Is there anyone out there who would be willing to take it on?

Contact the clerk on:

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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: Samphripp@gmail.com & 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 editor: Malcolm Rigby, email: editor@chilcompton.org

Next Deadline: Spring Edition end of January 2027.

County Council: Telephone 0300 123 2224



Farming Matters

Never has the old adage, 'make hay while the sun shines', rung so true. I've always maintained that hot summers come in twos, like buses; anyone who remembers the seventies can probably recall the heat of '75 and '76. Another dry summer for a livestock farmer presents problems in that you may or may not be able to produce enough food for the following winter. But we had a very wet early June that made the grass grow in

abundance so we made plenty of hay, early, and of good quality, and I think most farmers are in the same position. Though some may already be feeding it because of the dry conditions and lack of grass – we aren't. The cattle really don't like the very extreme temperatures and that's why you see them standing in groups under hedges and trees. Water is always a problem, making sure they have adequate. The reason why farms were built around a river originally was because you had a water source for your animals. Nowadays you don't want to be near a water source when you've got animals because of the pollution risk.

Grain farmers' yields have been down, but on the positive side when the grain is harvested it is dry – no need for drying costs. It's a tough time for those who are growing summer crops like vegetables because of the lack of moisture. There is no such thing as a perfect summer for all farmers as we all have different requirements. One good thing about the sun is that you don't have to wear wellies all the time.

Everyone will have seen the wild fires in France and Spain, even the Cairngorms in Scotland and now Suffolk. The other day I heard of a farm in Dorset that lost through fire a 30 acre field of winter barley – gone in about ten minutes. If this is a prelude to the next 30-50 years then something will need to happen. Whether it's the NFU or the government or a combination of both, they are going to have to make people more aware of increasingly dry summers and the effect it has on the environment.

Hedgerows round here are largely hardwoods; hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, maybe some elm, possibly beech. The golden rule of hedgerow management for farmers is that you cannot cut hedges from the beginning of March to the end of August because of nesting birds. For many farmers the trimming of hedges is in a three year cycle, so a third of the farm is cut every year. That's why our hedges seem high and full because we only trim every three years. The reason for this type of hedge management is to encourage birds and wildlife; it creates a much better habitat and food source. Hedges also make good windbreaks, good shelter for cattle and sheep in inclement weather. Road hedges are different; we always trim these annually for safety reasons. The council does the verges and the farmer does the hedges. This year, with the very wet June, everybody will notice lots of blackberries; plenty of fruit in the hedges.

Diversification is not a new word in the farming world and it comes in many different forms; e.g. what we've done at Manor Farm with commercial units and a cafe, there are also farm shops, play barns, wedding venues, then you have yurts, campsites and b&bs, particularly in the south west with a significant tourist industry. People have been doing b&bs on farms for donkeys' years, it's been a way of supplementing the income of the declining farm fortunes for ages. I think it's the sheer optimism of the farming community at large that keeps agriculture going. (1) for the love of it and (2) for the continual optimism that we all have. 'Things will get better next year.'

Paul Mattick

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Gong Therapy



Never could the word 'cacophony' be so poorly used than describing a sound bath with Chilcompton therapist Michele Bentley.

Yet it is a strange mixture of noises. The dongs from the bowls, the tinkling from the chimes, and the deep-throated roars from the line of gongs. I open my eyes briefly at one point and see her orchestrating the equipment like Rick

Wakeman in his glory days with progressive rock band Yes and a wall of synthesizers. But this is therapy, this is pleasant and this is relaxing. It is.

Relaxation is the key and the intended result; Michele says that a good sound bath is the equivalent of four hours sleep.

She, herself, was unimpressed by her first experience of sound therapy. She said: "I was uncomfortable, couldn't relax, but went back the next month and was blown away. The relaxed state stayed with me for days and days, I slept better and immediately thought I need to know how to do this." Consequently, she recommends at least two visits.

Her first session as a therapist took place at the village hall but now, she operates from a yurt in her garden. A semi-circle of comfy seats point towards her array of sound instruments.

For the last two years she has been doing a degree in integrative counselling which included a presentation on the science of sound therapy. Basically, your brain waves slow down, similar to the mode when you are going to sleep or just waking up. "It takes us into a more balanced state, helps with our sleep, helps with our digestion, helps with our pain management. I see a lot of people who struggle with insomnia and almost every single one has said they can sleep much better afterwards. That's why they come, quite literally to top up."

She has worked with people with all sorts of issues, from migraines to Parkinsons, from ADHD to addiction.

In terms of relaxation, Michele said: "It's not a miraculous cure, of course, but for that time and a while afterwards. I have clients who have been coming for 3-4 years, and they notice if they don't come for a month. They notice the difference. It's not changing life around us but it does help us cope in a slightly more calm way.

"I don't want to make sweeping statements, but this is what the studies show and this has been my experience for that last 5-6 years, in terms of feedback directly from clients. I do other holistic therapies that all have a different way of working, and they're great, but what I love about sound is that it's immediate. In this world where we want everything now.

"It's something people can choose for their own self-care, it isn't expensive to attend, you don't have to take any tablets, you don't have to do anything, you just have to turn up and accept what is happening."

My experience was to feel that I was in some kind of science fiction scenario. This is not unusual apparently, some people imagine they are in a jungle, other people see colours, some people shake. One client of hers when she strikes a particular crystal bowl always laughs.

Sound therapy, Michele said, has been in operation for thousands of years and all over the world. "Each indigenous culture have their own sound way of working with people, maybe the drum, the didgeridoo or the gong. It was always used for some therapeutic process."

I left on my bicycle feeling relatively upbeat and slept well that night. I might have been gonged and will be back for more.

Contact Michele on wildoakwellbeing@gmail.com

Malcolm Rigby

And we Swam in the Cove

To swim in the Cove
When the sun shone.
Made Magic dance
And the pebbles sing.

We had a shower
And dreamt of water.
That lapped and licked
Our salty skin.

What remains when the years
break like waves.
We will remember or forget
what the shingle said.

That time when my skin
shot the watery cold.
And I held my mother's hand.
And Eden swam in my heart

Andrew Morris

Rich Morgan

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of our dear friend and fellow councillor, Rich Morgan, who passed away recently following a short illness. His death leaves an immense void for his partner, Bev, his extended family, and the many people whose lives he touched through his music, amateur dramatics, the Parish Council, and the wider village community.

I first met Rich at Christmas in the Redan in 2010. We'd only been in the village for a few days and, in the crowded pub on Christmas Eve, here was this commanding figure in a white jacket with a red flower in his lapel. He was impossible to miss, instantly engaging, and went out of his way to make us feel welcome. That was the sort of man Rich was.

Rich spent many years working for the NHS in the lab at RUH, finally retiring from the senior role of Chief Biomedical Scientist.

Music was one of Rich's greatest passions. He was a talented band member, singer, guitarist and song writer. Few things made him happier than standing in front of an audience with a guitar in his hands. He had a wonderful repertoire, but I suspect many people will always associate him with 'Harvest Moon' by Neil Young. I think he'd smile at me for saying that.

Rich also loved amateur dramatics. Most memorably, he played the lead role in a CADS production of MacBeth which is no small achievement. He was gifted with a great sense of humour, something we often enjoyed in Council at appropriate, lighter moments. I understand that he had a great love of 'Lord of the Rings' and read it several times.

For many village residents however, Rich was best known for his dedication to the Parish Council where he served since December 2006 as both a councillor and Vice Chair. His workload was immense, serving on and chairing numerous committees, such as Finance, IT, Traffic/Speeding, Green, and the Old Rec. He was also very happy to interact with district councillors and our MP on council matters.



Perhaps his greatest council contribution was in helping to protect the village from undesired or inappropriate development. His knowledge of the planning system was exceptional. Time and again he represented the village with determination and meticulous attention to detail, often taking on experienced lawyers and other professionals and achieving remarkable results. His lead work on the Gladman planning appeal stands as a lasting example of his commitment and expertise.

He believed in strong governance, proper and sufficient funding, responsible spending, and making sure the Council focused limited village resources on what really mattered.

Rich is greatly missed by his family, by the music community, by his many friends, and by all of us on the Parish Council. In time, others may take on the roles he fulfilled but his spirit, humour and character live on and can never be replaced.

As well as his partner, Bev, Rich is survived by adult children Bryony, Joel and Ghislaine plus, as I understand, at least one grandchild.

Pete Sinclair

A new illustrated walking guide for the village

A new walking guide for the village has been designed, taking in some of the historic features. It is beautifully illustrated by Matt Marshall.

The production has been supported by the Sperring Charity and the guide is available as a download from the Parish Council website or a printed copy will be for sale for £1 at village events such as the Flower show, pop up café and Christmas concert, etc. or you can contact me. Proceeds will go to support village events.

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End of an Era for Playgroup Committee

As my time as Chair of Chilcompton Playgroup comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to an incredible committee who have supported the playgroup over the past five years.



A huge thank you to Cassie Green, Beth Freeman, Jo Luton, Danielle Adlam, Adrienne Evans, Alisha Marsh, and Monica Calin. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and countless hours of hard work have helped make Chilcompton Playgroup the wonderful place it is today. From fundraising and organising events, every contribution has made a real difference.

It has been an absolute pleasure serving alongside you all, and I couldn't have asked for a better team. I am so proud of everything we've achieved together and grateful for the friendships and memories we've made along the way.

As we hand over to the new committee after the summer holidays, I would like to wish them every success. I know they will continue to support and grow the playgroup, building on the strong foundations we've created together.

Thank you all once again for your commitment, kindness, and unwavering support. We wish the new committee all the very best for the future.

Tomato Tart

With five hungry children to feed, my French mum had to become quite inventive when it came to using up leftovers. Nothing was wasted, and savoury tarts appeared on our table time and time again. We grew up eating tarts of every kind – tomato, onion, courgette, leek, cheese, or whatever happened to be in season or left in the fridge. They were an easy, economical way to turn simple ingredients into something delicious, and every family seemed to have their own favourite recipes.

This tomato tart is one of my dad's. It's wonderfully simple, full of flavour and has been made in our family for as long as I can remember. It is very versatile, so feel free to suit it to your family's taste.



Anne Claude-Mills & her Dad

Mum and Dad's Recipe for Tomato Tart

Take a sheet of puff pastry and brush it with 2 to 3tbsps of mustard.

Cover with a layer of sliced tomatoes, top with 8 to 10 fresh anchovies, dot around 8 to 10 black olives, sprinkle grated gruyere and oregano all over before baking at 200C fan for 25 to 30mins or until golden and cooked through.

Don't like anchovies? No need to add them. Prefer green olives? Swap the black olives. Not keen on mustard? Add pesto or Boursin cheese instead. No gruyere? Grated cheddar will be just as delicious.

Served warm or cold with a crisp green salad, it's ideal for lunch, a light supper or even a picnic.

Bon appétit les amis

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).

Sing Your Heart Out



Sing Your Heart Out has had another busy season. A Concert in May raised over £600 for the heating fund at St John's Church, Chilcompton, hopefully this project will soon be able to go ahead.

The Autumn season starts with our 3rd appearance at 'Choir Fest' to be held in the Methodist Church in Midsomer Norton. This afternoon is always enjoyed by all who take part, it's a great opportunity to hear and meet up with other choirs in the locality.



On October 10th we are joining forces with the 'Village Voices' at Ston Easton Village Hall for a Concert to raise money for charity. We are looking forward to being together to enjoy and share our love of singing.

Christmas is always a special time for Choirs and we will be organising an evening of Carols and Christmas music on the 2nd December at a venue to be arranged.

2027 is also looking promising with concerts already in the calendar.

We are available for events and concerts, for any information please contact Musical Director Viv Moon on 07780861868. (We are grateful to our sponsors The Sperring Trust for their support)

Table-Top sale

10 October 2pm

Chilcompton Village Hall



Table cost £5

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



Flower show

Given three heatwaves, above average temperatures and no rain, it is a miracle that the flower show took place at all this year.

Congratulations to all who managed to show vegetables and flowers. The hobbies section was well supported and the children's entries had a bumper year.

As expected, entries were less than previous years, but visitors enjoyed a good show and the ubiquitous tea and cake.

Winners of the four sections were: Vegetables: Alison Jukes. Flowers: Lynn Plumley. Cookery: Rosemary Blatchford. Hobbies: Helen Thorne.

A big thank you to exhibitors, visitors and committee members for their support.

Marlene Pickford



Some of our winners



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CHILCOMPTON ART CLUB



www.chilcomptonartclub.uk

The Art Club held their Open Day in June and there is a 10 day exhibition in September. Full report on these in the next issue. The club meets at Chilcompton Sports on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10.00am until 1.00pm.

New members are always welcome.
For more information or to join us, visit our website at www.chilcomptonartclub.uk

Dancing in The Street

Hardly a month has passed in the last few years without the clerk writing to Somerset Council about some pot holes on The Street. Well, last month it was resurfaced. Between the 5th and 14th of August, causing minor disruptions, the road was re-laid.





Baby & TODDLER GROUP

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Chilcompton village hall

New Baby & Toddler Group

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Christine Hartley

I had Christine in mind as an interviewee for Mike Newman's excellent Chilcompton Lives feature in Chilcompton Matters, but by the time I spoke to Chris in the Autumn of 2025 she was far too ill to take part, so sadly, an obituary instead, a tribute to a very special person.

On Christmas day 1943 Ada and Fred Vinnell were blessed with the arrival of their only child Christine, who was brought up at Roclyn, Bowden Hill. Her father was a stone mason and her mother was a dressmaker and homemaker.

Chris went to the village school and Wells Cathedral school and later had a number of jobs in the Post Office, Civil Service and Shepton Mallet Prison, where she moved among working prisoners once a week distributing wage packets, totally unflustered and "never batting an eyelid". This sums up her character, getting on with the job, meeting challenges stoically, with humour and facing adversity bravely.

Later employment included being the Cook at Stockhill Junior school, Caretaker and cleaner at the village infant school, clerical and office work, including accountancy and was Clerk to Peasedown St. John parish council.

Chris married Barry in 1968, the eldest of 7 children, so she acquired an instant family of brothers and sisters she had never known before. The couple ran a very successful Youth Club together at the old village hall for several years. In the meantime three boys were born, John, Paul and Andrew. They lived in the Dairy House at Manor Farm, then returned to Roclyn when Chris's mother was unwell.

Chris helped at the village playgroup, became a parish councillor and was the Binegar WI Treasurer. Music was a passionate interest, playing the organ at Chilcompton Methodist chapel and in the last two decades Chris was a valued player in Mendip Brass Band on Tenor Horn and Euphonium. She always had dogs and was often seen out walking with them; even jumping into Street Ponds to rescue one. Her last dog, Ben, was her best friend and a great comfort to her when her eyesight deteriorated.

Chris was very proud of her grandchildren and played a big part in their lives, picking them up from school, cooking and crafting with them. She was an excellent cook; she will be remembered for her roasts and puddings in particular. Her family were always at the centre of her life.

Her last illness was difficult, but Chris bore it with determination and courage; she was an inspiration and a very good friend to many, who will miss her. She leaves 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Marlene Pickford



Council Matters

I start this article with sad news. This summer saw the death of Richard Morgan, the Deputy Chair of the Parish Council. Richard had served on the council for many years; he was thoroughly committed to the village of Chilcompton as demonstrated by his many years of service. During that time, he led us in forming a green committee, being conscious of the effect of climate change and how we can combat that on a local level. He was passionate in speaking against large

housing developments in the village; in particular he spent much time on presenting the case for the village on the Gladman development several years ago. He was an incredibly capable Deputy Chair. We are enormously grateful for his service to Chilcompton. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues on the Parish Council and by the village as a whole. Our thoughts and sympathies are with his family and friends.

It seems strange to be writing about the autumn in the height of summer but this edition gives me the opportunity to remind everyone that the Remembrance Day service will take place again this year, on Sunday 8th November at 15.00; this will be preceded the previous day with the dressing of the war graves in the village.

The coming months will see the departure of the Parish Clerk, Malcolm Rigby. Malcolm succeeded the previous incumbent Nicky Jarman in 2012, these were big shoes to fill but he has proved to be a great choice and has been a fantastic Parish Clerk, preforming all of his duties excellently, not least keeping the council on the straight and narrow during meetings, and it is now difficult to imagine the council without him. One of his greatest successes is the publication you are now reading. The parish magazine is very much Malcolm's 'baby' and he has put a huge amount of time and effort in, helping to make it the magazine it has become; certainly a legacy.

At the time of writing, we are in the process of recruiting his successor, Malcolm has kindly agreed to stay in post until his successor has been found. I hope that in the next magazine we will be able to introduce the new Parish Clerk. In the meantime, all that remains is for us to record our thanks for all Malcom has done for us over the past 14 years and give him our best wishes.

The summer has seen the Village Day; this took place on 27th June at the Old Rec and was blessed with lovely sunshine. A number of villagers attended, and everyone seemed to have a good time. I should like to thank the committee who organised this event and made it such a success. Following this we hope to have further events in the Old Rec and to facilitate that we will be reconnecting the electricity supply to the Old Rec which will allow a greater scope in what we can hold there.

Jon Pike

GARDENING CLUB



We were fortunate to be able to secure the very popular and well-known speaker, Derry Watkins, to talk to us in April, when she gave us an inspiring insight into late summer colour with the big, the bold and the beautiful.



In May we held our ever-popular Plant Sale which, thanks to our members donating a wonderful variety of plants, the involvement of Norton Green Nursery, the refreshments provided by the Committee and of course all the people who turned up to buy, was a great success.

We also had an outing to the beautiful Caisson Gardens at Combe Hay and later that month, we took a look at weeds and their medicinal uses.

June saw us visiting a most surprising local garden in Midsomer Norton, a little oasis tucked away on the outskirts of the town.

We also learnt about the various methods of propagation which included a very helpful, practical demonstration from club member Stephen Lee. He brought along some lovely plants for sale from his own garden.



Caisson Gardens

An afternoon visit to Corsley House, near Warminster, was arranged for the beginning of August. We shall be taking a short break until 22nd September when Neil Ross will be telling us 10 tips to give our gardens the wow factor. We're going off the beaten track with Andrew Tolman in October and our final meeting for the year in November will revolve around a Victorian Christmas, with mulled wine and mince pies. **(We have a very special guest lined up for 2027, look out for more details nearer the time.)**

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 looking to meet new people and do something different, do come along to one of our meetings. Maybe you know someone who has recently moved to the area who you could bring along.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm in the Village Hall (excluding August & December) and membership is just £8 per person for the whole year, guests always welcome at £3 per visit.

Contact me on 01761 233017, or visit our website (Chilcompton Gardening Club), the Village Hall Website, or our Fb page Chilcompton Gardeners.

Singing Guitars—A local U3a Group

The Singing Guitars had a very busy and successful 2025. We raised £1,200.00 during the year which benefitted five of our favorite charities and we felt very proud to be able to raise money through our music.



Unfortunately, we lost a member of our group just after Christmas. Mr Jim Edwards was a former Chilcompton resident and also a valued member of the group who is still sorely missed. The group together with Jim's wife Lucy Edwards, (who is also a member of the group), decided to put on a charity tribute show in his memory and this was held in Chilcompton Village Hall in May. Joining us in the show were JP7, a female singing group, of which Jim's daughter is a member. We raised £600.00 for the Stroke Association.

In June and July we had two 'hot' dates at Tuckers Grave and the Redan Inn.

The group are now planning a free Christmas charity show to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society at the **Royal British Legion Hall in Coleford on Saturday 5th December starting at 2pm**. I hope to see many of you. If you can make it for a very enjoyable festive afternoon please put the date in your diary.

If you have an event where you would like some entertainment, please contact Charmain Gay, the group Leader on 01761 232785 or 07890 051 169.

What a Rollercoaster Ride

Crowds gathered at the Redan for the pain of seeing England go out of the World Cup to Argentina on July 15th. Even more were there a few days before to see them beat Norway.



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Chilcompton Wives

Our Summer diary included visits from the Air Ambulance and Guide Dogs for the Blind charities (a very well-behaved dog attended), and some delicious Brownie cake tasting.

We ended with a behind the scenes look at Glastonbury Festival. We decided that the weather would have to be as we ordered, not too hot or too wet, for us to attend. The term was rounded off with a lovely afternoon tea provided by Lindsay.

The Autumn diary includes, 'Ceremonial Banners', Bryn with his local history, Wookey Hole Caves and a talk entitled 'Don't put your daughter on the stage'. We will wait and see what the stories behind the titles are.

If you would like to join us please come along to the Sports Recreation hall at 2.15p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month starting on the 2nd September.



For further information contact

Bridget Brookbank 01761 232039 or Maureen Evans 01761 233266.

Who Needs Friends? Well, FoSVMG do.



The Friends of Somer Valley Medical Group have arranged their **AGM for Wednesday 16th September at 6.30 pm** at Midsomer Norton Methodist Church. It would be really good to see you there.

We have continued to do our best to reflect patient views to the Surgery management, and to support their initiatives whenever possible. Following on from the Surgery's Dementia Day at the Somer Centre last year, Dr Hubbard gave a talk on Dementia for us in March.

More recently Dr Kendrick and Nurse Rachel gave a really informative presentation on Diabetes – prevention, treatment, and management. I will never forget Dr Kendrick's demonstration of how the Ancient Greeks' tested for the condition.

We continue to run the 200 Club, collect Bric a Brac, and are already preparing for the Christmas Raffle. Preparation really does start in August – about the same time the supermarkets put the decorations on the shelves.

Thank you to the residents who have supported us in our efforts to raise funds for extra equipment to improve treatment options. We have donated £10k in our current budget year – the most recent item being a new ECG machine £2,650 to replace the old one the Friends bought several years ago.

Since last year Ethne Dando has retired as Secretary after 10 years of service. This month Ann Dawson will be stepping down as Treasurer – also after 10 years. Bea Hooper and Karen Toulson are taking their places. Bea is also Queen of our Bric a Brac sales.

Please ring me (Jenny) if you have been decluttering and I will collect (nothing electrical or too large as I have a very small & UNTIDY car).

We need one more patient volunteer to put their head above the parapet, because we really need a new Chairman too. This current one is well past her sell-by date.

If you are interested in finding out more about what we do, before offering to get involved, please contact me. It will be another excuse (like I need one) for coffee and cake. We think it would be such a shame if we had to wind up the friends after 27 years.

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 01761 232244.



Christmas at the Redan

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Christmas Party

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Christmas Day

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Half Spinal Twist: Finding Freedom Through Rotation

Chilcompton's community yoga and meditation teacher, **Mick Timpson**, returns with **Ardha Matsyendrāsana** (*Half Lord of the Fishes Pose*), more commonly known as the **Half Spinal Twist**.

This classic seated posture involves placing one foot across the opposite leg before gently rotating the spine towards the bent knee. The supporting hand lifts the spine while the twist develops naturally with the breath. The secret isn't twisting further—it's creating length first. Make sure you complete both sides.

Regular practice helps improve spinal mobility and posture, releases tension in the back, shoulders and hips, and encourages freer breathing by opening the rib cage. Beyond its physical benefits, the Half Spinal Twist teaches an important life lesson. In yoga, twists symbolise renewal and clarity. Rather than forcing the body, we learn to move with awareness, patience and ease. Practised slowly with steady breathing, the posture can calm the nervous system, sharpen concentration and promote a sense of balance, both physically and mentally.



Mick teaches a weekly community yoga class at Chilcompton Village Hall every Wednesday at 6.00pm. More information at www.beanddo.co.uk Always practise within your own ability and seek guidance from a qualified yoga teacher if you are new to the posture.



Special Summer Visitors

We noticed their absence at the very end of July and missed them immediately, they seemed to have been a more constant and vocal presence this year than of late and we have loved seeing and hearing them as they raced through the village in screaming mobs. ***Apus apus***, the swift spends more of its life in the air than any other bird, alighting only when they nest in the brief time in summer that they spend here in the UK and

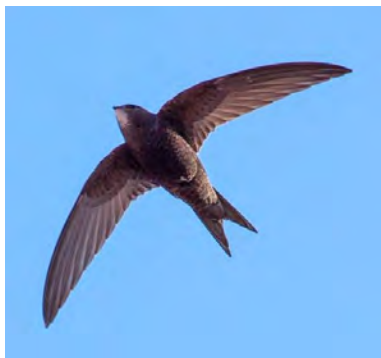
Europe. Late to arrive, I've never seen them before the beginning of May, and early to leave, mostly leaving in August, they are one of summer's many joys.

There are more uncut fields in the village now and these must be helping to boost the invertebrate population of the area which in turn will be helping to feed the swifts along with other insectivorous birds such as swallows and house martins.

Sadly swifts are now on the UK 'red list' of birds of conservation concern. They nest in buildings and have the ability to squeeze through tiny gaps to get into roofs and attics, the sort of spaces which are becoming increasingly rare as old buildings get renovated. They pair for life and will return to the same nesting site every year, so if you are lucky enough to host a nest site, treasure it.

Gardening with invertebrates in mind will help to feed swifts but advice from the RSPB was changed recently on the use of bird feeders.

Their advice is to stop using bird feeders between 1st May and 31st October to prevent the spread of contagious diseases and for the same reason, water, must be changed daily. At this time of year natural foods should be readily available in our gardens and we can provide more by choosing plants that encourage insects and other invertebrates and those that provide seeds or berries. Planting for wildlife doesn't need to be all native wild flowers, many plants in garden centres are now helpfully labelled as 'plants for pollinators' and the RHS has a list of over 10,000 plants which benefit all kinds of pollinators – not just bees but hoverflies, butterflies and moths too.



I'm sure that every reader will have seen a swift this summer but how many have spotted a humming bird? Not as outrageous as it sounds if I add 'hawk-moth' to the end of that question. A humming bird hawk-moth, as the name suggests has an uncanny resemblance to a humming bird as it hovers and feeds in the same way, wings beating up to 80 times per second and long proboscis projecting from its head into flowers to suck up nectar. Like swifts they are summer visitors coming from Southern Europe and North Africa and are more plentiful in hot sunny summers such as this one. They favour plants with trumpet shaped flowers like red valerian (plentiful in Chilcompton), honeysuckle and buddleia, and we spotted one on our agapanthus. They are day flying moths and can be seen from April to December, so unlike the swifts it's not too late to spot one now.

Sue Rankine

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History Corner John Henry Francis Foxwell

John (known as Jack) Foxwell, was born in Chilcompton in 1894, the eldest of 8 children. He became a farm labourer and later a miner at Moorewood Colliery, then joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1916 and served in India and Africa. Jack married Edith Kingman in 1927, their first son, Frank, died in 1932 aged 4. Second son, Ronald was born a couple of years later. It was in December 1949, while working on the S&D railway, that Jack died in a tragic accident.

The Somerset Guardian reported the inquest and verdict:

Tragedy of the Fog. Railway Worker killed by Engine.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded at the inquest on Mr. John Henry Francis Foxwell aged 55 of Lorna Doone, Wells Road, Chilcompton.



Ronald, Jack and Edith Foxwell

The Coroner and jury found that Mr. Foxwell died from fracture of the skull and multiple injuries accidentally received when he was knocked down by a light railway engine in Chilcompton.

Mr. Foxwell was the driver of a petrol trolley and stopped on the line, apparently to make some repair in the fog.

Mr. David Jones the driver of the light engine left Chilcompton at about 8.30am. for Midsomer Norton and said that shortly after he left Chilcompton tunnel he saw the trolley on the Down line in the fog. It seemed to be stationary. The engine was travelling about 25mph and he said, 'I just touched the whistle and thought I saw Foxwell on the offside of the trolley. I did not see him move and was almost on him then. I felt no unusual movement of the engine and had no reason to think that I had knocked anyone down. After I noticed Foxwell, he must have walked round the trolley. As the gradient was in favour of the engine, it was running free without steam.'

Mr. Cecil Stevens, signalman of Midsomer Norton saw the deceased on the trolley outside his signal box waiting to go down the line to Chilcompton. A goods train had to be cleared before he could go on. The motor started, but the deceased found the throttle wire broken. He could not repair it then, but got away about 8.30 am.

There was a light engine on the Up line, which arrived at the box at 8.37 am. The engine was not on a regular run; it was an unusual movement.

Dr. D M F Carter said he went to the railway line just north of the tunnel near Chilcompton, where he saw the body of Mr. Foxwell. Death was due to multiple injuries and a fractured skull all of which were consistent with his having been knocked down by a railway engine.

The jury reached a verdict without retiring. Somerset Guardian. December 1949

Jack's funeral was held at Christ church Downside. Railway personnel preceded the procession from the house and formed a Guard of Honour at the church. Jack was buried at Binegar churchyard with his son little Frank.

With grateful thanks to Rose Foxwell and Margaret Dera for their help with research.

Marlene Pickford



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It's Back After Repair



Photos from a Chilcompton

I'm confident that across Chilcompton this year it has been a very successful breeding season for our local birds. Although in my own garden three of my nest boxes were unused for the first time. One other box did have occupants. But the usual Blue tits were ousted by a pair of Great tits. I was initially concerned that this might reflect the bigger picture, until the garden became densely populated by fledglings of all kinds. Also a pair of Nuthatch that annually nest high up in our Lime Tree, did not do so this year. Perhaps the removal of deadwood over the winter might have taken away their nesting site.

Robins usually have at least one clutch somewhere in our potting shed. It seemed like they were giving it a miss this year until I discovered a nest built surreptitiously in a plastic tray that you purchase half a dozen small plants in. There has also been a number of successful clutches in the local area, and a good number of delightful little Robin fledglings around the garden. This photo shows that even young fledglings like to have a bath.



This photo of a Mistle Thrush shows a parent feeding its youngster on a Mahonia Bush. Mahonias are great for birds. They flower twice a year and then produce dark purple berries which, although rather tart to us, are a rich antioxidant food source for a variety of birds. The first crop is perfect for parent birds to feed their fledglings. The later crop is perfect as a rich winter feed when other foods are less abundant.

Collared Doves are less common in our gardens but do make appearances. Sometimes a pair will be around for quite a while, or you may just get a passing visit. This youngster has no collar yet, but after a couple of moults the adult plumage will come through and the collar will then become visible.



Garden—Spring Fledglings 2

All Blue tit fledglings in my garden this year have come in from other people's gardens or from natural nesting sites. I cannot remember a time when we haven't had at least one or two nests in the garden. However, the 2026 Blue tit population seems to be in a very healthy state. This female is recently off her nest so still looks a bit ragged. She is teaching her newly fledged offspring (of which only one in shot) how to be independent.



Magpie parents and offspring behave in a similar fashion to their close relatives the Jackdaws. Both are in the Corvid family. Often there is rivalry between the two species and it is common for one to see-off the other, especially if there is food available to gorge on. When it comes to the nest, Magpies build a magnificent dome from sticks and line it with a mud cup that's mixed with leaves and moss. A



pair might then maintain and use this domed nest for many years. The dome is quite large, often over 2 feet in height. It was very interesting to watch a new nest being built this year. It took about a week and is just behind our back garden.



I absolutely love it when a close-knit family of Long-tailed tits come acrobatically cascading into the garden with their combined, choir-like, high-pitched trilling. If they can see you and you do not pose a threat, they happily jostle through the branches and bushes around you. If you have a hanging feeder of suet or sunflower hearts, they will often amass in significant numbers with their distinctive long

tails pointing outwards in all directions. What little gems they are, especially when the family group has a number of fledglings amongst them.

CARO Update

Chilcompton Against Rural Overdevelopment was established more than five years ago in response to the increasing number of planning applications for housing developments on greenfield sites in the village. The group's original email address, caro.enoughisenough@gmail.com, reflected the strength of local feeling at the time.

The Mendip Local Plan Part II identified only limited housing growth for Chilcompton, with new development expected to be confined primarily to appropriate infill sites within the village.



Against this background, many residents were surprised and disappointed when Chilcompton Parish Council voted to support planning application **2026/0861/OUT** for the construction of 17 houses on land along Chilcompton Road, adjacent to the boundary with Midsomer Norton.

At its meeting on 13 May 2026, Chilcompton Parish Council resolved to support the application on the understanding that Section 106 contributions arising from the development would be used to fund traffic-calming measures within the village.

Given the history of 106 funds, there is uncertainty as to whether the anticipated funding for traffic-calming measures will materialise. Should these contributions not be secured, it is hoped that the Parish Council will reconsider its support for the application.

Many residents have long understood that maintaining a green buffer between neighbouring settlements is an important planning principle. This proposal would result in further development along the boundary with Midsomer Norton and contribute to the gradual erosion of the remaining open land separating the two communities.

These concerns are heightened by the existence of a planning application currently being considered by Bath and Northeast Somerset Council for the construction of 137 houses on land adjoining the Chilcompton boundary alongside Chilcompton Road.

Taken together, these developments have the potential to significantly alter the character of the area, increase traffic pressures, and reduce the open countryside that currently helps preserve the distinct identities of Chilcompton and Midsomer Norton.

At the next parish council elections, voters may wish to consider whether candidates share the principles and objectives that CARO was established to promote.

Major Planning Applications

The following significant planning applications are currently affecting Chilcompton:

- **2026/0861/OUT** – Outline application for **17 dwellings** on land off Chilcompton Road. Should outline permission be granted, a detailed (reserved matters) application will still need to be submitted and approved before development can proceed.

- **2024/2281/OUT** – Outline application for **66 dwellings** on a greenfield site off Broadway, opposite the Parsonage Lane junction. At the time of writing, Somerset Council has not yet issued a decision.
- **2022/2247/FUL** and **2024/0901/VRC** – Applications relating to the former Downside Garage site. These have been approved by Somerset Council and allow for the construction of **seven dwellings**.

The land opposite the Somerset Wagon, on the south side of Broadway between its junction with Naishes Cross and Broadway Close, was sold in February 2026 for **£580,000**.

Planning permission for the construction of 12 dwellings and the creation of a new access was originally granted by Mendip District Council in 2010. An extension of this permission was subsequently approved in 2013. The most recent application, dated 13 April 2022 (reference 2022/0308/CLE), sought a Certificate of Lawful Development to confirm that works had lawfully commenced on the approved application. As no building work appears to have taken place on the site, it is presumed that the planning permission has now lapsed and that a new planning application would need to be submitted before any development could proceed.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Planning applications in England are determined in accordance with the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, together with the relevant local development plan and other material planning considerations.

A consultation on proposed revisions to the NPPF was published in **December 2025**, with the Government considering responses before introducing any changes to national planning policy.

For more than 80 years, local communities have had a voice in shaping the development of the places where they live. That principle is now at risk of being significantly weakened.

Planning committees, made up of locally elected councillors, currently determine planning applications that are likely to have a significant impact on local communities. In many cases, these meetings also give residents the opportunity to speak directly to decision-makers.

However, recently the House of Commons voted in favour of the National Scheme of Delegation. Under the new arrangements, many planning applications will instead be determined by council planning officers under nationally prescribed rules, reducing the number of decisions considered by elected planning committees.

This means fewer opportunities for you, your neighbours and your elected representatives to have a direct say in decisions about new developments in our area.

Decisions that could shape our towns, villages and countryside for generations deserve transparent, democratic scrutiny and meaningful local involvement.

To keep up with the latest housing developments news just send a message to Caro's email [**Caro.enoughisenough@gmail.com**](mailto:Caro.enoughisenough@gmail.com) to be included on the mailing list.



Chilcompton has been running CSW sessions since 2012 and holds a very high place within the police family for the number and stability of volunteers along with their dedication. You may not always see us in action, we have seven approved sites jotted around the village and are always on the lookout for new members to share the load.

Our MP Anna Sabine visited us just before Christmas to find out how we operate, Sam Phripp, our recently nominated local councillor, is also keen to come and observe.

Community Speedwatch is a volunteer-led road safety initiative where trained local residents record the details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices to support police education and enforcement efforts. Volunteers operate only at pre-approved roadside locations to record details of speeding vehicles with approved speed detection devices, aiming to educate drivers rather than issue immediate fines.

The police check records of all applicants. At volunteer training you receive instruction on safety, data recording, using approved speed-checking devices. Teams wear bright reflective jackets whilst monitoring and recording speed checks using a portable radar or laser device to check the speed of passing cars. If a vehicle breaks the speed limit, volunteers record the license plate, vehicle make, speed, if possible the model, and colour. Volunteers never stop cars or hand out tickets at the roadside; the group acts strictly as an educational observer on behalf of the police. Logged details are sent to the police via a shared online platform. Infrequently drivers stop to ask us if they were speeding or better still to thank us for what we do.

The registered owner receives an advisory warning letter explaining the risks of speeding, repeat offenders or high-end speeders get a direct police visit or face targeted legal enforcement and prosecution.

Please email cswchilcompton@hotmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

Judith Stanford

Obituaries

The following people have died since the last newsletter:

Denzil Kingman, née Curtis, Fred Holder, Sylvia Chedgy née Moore, Pat Thorner, Pam Dix, née Box, Tracey Brunton, née Chamberlain, Christine Hartley, née Vinnell, Michael Bodman, Michael Bidmead, Rich Morgan, Julie Stratton and Gordon Curtis (94).

We send sincere sympathy to their relatives and friends.

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



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Chilcompton Lives—Judith Stanford (nee Painting)



Judith was born in May 1948 in St Brenda's nursing home, Clifton, to James (Jim) and Joan Painting.

Bowden Hill Cottage in Chilcompton was empty, for sale by auction, it had previously been bought from the Longleat Estate. It was formerly the White Hart pub, which was Longleat's name for all their pubs. In the 1500's it was the only property from the now Co-op crossroads to the old Post Office. Judith's dad originally had the idea of renovating the cottage after teaching at The Grammar School, whilst living in Bristol. This wasn't

practical so they moved into the village, lodging in a room until the cottage was vaguely 'liveable'. The cottage had a loo in an outside shed and a ladder to get upstairs which was 'open plan'. Judith's first memory at age 3 was being bathed in the Belfast sink in the kitchen whilst a mouse ran across the floor.

Due to the vermin issue Judith's dad brought home a kitten called Lizzie from Hodge's farm. The children were told and believed that Lizzie was so named due to coming from Buckingham Palace. Without neutering there were always lots of kittens, Judith put them in her doll's pram to take for walks which didn't amuse her mum.

Hugh Hodges delivered milk each morning by horse and cart. Judith and her sister collected the top up of milk in their blue metal churn from the farm, spinning the churn, but ensuring they did not spill a drop. Judith remembers Hugh sitting her on a cow's back. She has never liked cows since. Hoare's shop was down the hill on the left next to The Cottage, Judith would go there to buy supplies – usually cheese. Here she learnt the value of coins as well as bagging up fruit and veg for customers.

Initially Judith went to Stockhill School in a taxi, later she would walk. She went onto The Grammar School, Norton Hill, which she found difficult for the first couple of weeks due to its size compared to the small village school. Judith still goes to the school reunions.

Around age five, Judith with her sister Susan went to Downside Church Sunday School. Judith remembers walking to the church and on the way back their walk deviated across the fields to play with the hay bales, invariably they would be late back for lunch and in big trouble.

During school holidays Judith and Susan played in the valley behind her home; they went in the morning with a lunch pack and were told not to be back until teatime. The day was spent enjoying 'swinging' across the river hanging from overhanging branches, occasionally falling into the river. Each summer they enjoyed a week's holiday in a static caravan at the coast, later the family took six week camping holidays abroad.



A group of Judith's friends met some evenings in the 'Rec' to chat. They heard about Longleat hosting their first outdoor Rock Concert in 1964 - it cost 10 shillings. Judith and friends were keen to go; reluctantly Judith's mum took them. Billy J Kramer and the Dakotas drew an audience of over 13,000 at the event.



At age 16 Judith's Dad bought her a pony called Topper, she kept him on land behind Bowden Hill Cottage - rented for 5 shillings a month from her pocket money.

When she left school, she enrolled on a hairdressing course at City of Bath Technical College. However, following completion of the course there were no vacancies so she found work at Crockett's Garage, which later became Downside Motors. Judith helped set up Chilcompton Guides in the hall behind the Chapel.

After two years Judith successfully applied for a Clerical Assistant job at the MOD. In 1967 she was chosen as **'Miss Shipshape'** for the MOD in-house magazine. She passed her exams qualifying as a Clerical Officer, and moved to work at the Empire Hotel, Bath, in the Accounts Department.

In December 1968 Judith was invited to a Christmas Party in Midsomer Norton where Martin was a last minute guest request. The rest is history. Judith and Martin were married in May 1972 in Downside Church. After their honeymoon in Cyprus, the newly married couple settled into Withies Park, Midsomer Norton, where they lived for 38 years. Martin had completed an apprenticeship with Stothert and Pitt, Bath before moving to the MOD at Enleigh in Bath and subsequently to Abbey Wood.



Judith and Martin have two boys, both born at Paulton Maternity Hospital, Nicholas, in 1974, and Christopher in 1976, both living in Midsomer Norton with their families.

After seeing an advert in 1978 for a Red Cross First Aid course in Rackvernal Old School Hall, Judith joined with a friend. She was with them for over 20 years becoming a First Aid Instructor and member of the Casualty Union.

When their boys were at school, Judith worked tiring and unsociable hours preparing food for outdoor events, near and far. She then became a salesperson at the Electricity Board in Midsomer Norton and stayed 14 years. She also worked in the offices of Great Mills until they were taken over by Focus. It was then that Judith became her mother's primary carer after her father died and her mother needed companionship and care.

Following Judith's mother's death in 2005, the couple made a very bold decision to move into Bowden Hill Cottage. It took five years for completion of owning the cottage and being granted double planning permission for updating work.

Since living in Chilcompton Judith has helped set up and run the village Speedwatch, (volunteers welcome) as well as becoming a member of the gardening club.

Judith and Martin have enjoyed moving to this friendly village, everything needed for everyday life is right here within walking distance.

If you have enjoyed reading this article and would like to share your memories or know someone who may, please contact Mike Newman on 07912 293176.

News From St John's

I write at the beginning of August on yet another hot and sunny day. What a summer we have had this year. In news that delights us all, we can reveal that we have been successful in raising the funds and gaining permission to replace the heating in the church building, thus completing stage 2 of our **New Life Project**.

Work will be undertaken in the first three weeks of September ready for the colder weather and of course, the Carol Service. It has been a huge undertaking, but we are so thankful of everyone's support and will be delighted to have functioning heating once more.

Congratulations to the families of Lottie Allan Glasson and Jessica, Reggie and Layla Tyler who have been baptised, and to Emilie Criddle and Mark Jones, Hannah Wooley and Matthew Marshall who have been married here at St John's.

In July we hosted the Deanery Service and welcomed around 200 people from local churches. We were joined by Bishop Fiona (Taunton) and 4 local people were confirmed. Congratulations to Sarah Wylder, Kim Wallace, David Young and Andy Howson. It is always a delight to help families celebrate life's joyful milestones.

Our condolences go to the families of **John Kuzemka, Paul Davis, Pamela Patch, Frederick Holder, Patricia Thorner, Marion Chivers and Gordon Curtis** whose funeral services have been held here over the past few weeks. You will 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.

Our Church is open every day during the hours of daylight: please do drop in if you would like to spend some quiet time. For regular groups and activities see the list below. **Do join us – we'd love to get to know you.**



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Revd Esther Smith



It has been another wonderful year at Messy Church, with children of all ages enjoying time together as we have explored some of the best-loved stories and teachings from the Bible through crafts, games and plenty of fun.

Over the past few months we have learnt about the importance of prayer, celebrated the Easter story, discovered what it means to be a good neighbour through the story of the Good Samaritan, and thought about

forgiveness as we explored the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Every session includes creative craft activities, lively games and time eating together. Messy Church helps the children bring stories to life in an enjoyable and memorable way.

One unforgettable event was our Summer Games Afternoon in July. Families enjoyed a wonderful afternoon together with a bouncy castle, picnic, sports and outdoor games. It was fantastic to see everyone laughing and spending time together.

Our Harvest Celebration will take place on 18th October, and everyone is warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend as we give thanks.

In November we will begin exploring the meaning of Advent and Christmas, before finishing the year with our much-loved Christingle Service on Sunday 20th December at 3pm.

Messy Church meets once a month at 3pm on a Sunday afternoon at St John's Church, Chilcompton. Children of all ages are welcome to come along with their families. Whether you've joined us before or are thinking of visiting for the first time, we'd love to see you.



Tina Collins





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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 07790 580846.

Monday Tea

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 07717 131157.

Bell Ringing

Mondays 7pm. For more info contact Adrian 01761 415950.

Tea & Toast

Thursdays 8.30-10.30am. Toddlers and their carers are welcomed to play and chat with toast and a cuppa.

Lunch Club

Usually on the third Thursday of each month. Contact Margaret Holcombe on 01761 415085 to book a place.

The Dad Drop in

Once a month—a relaxed morning for father figures and their children: 9:30-11:30 starts again Saturday 26th September.

Our regular pattern of services:

Wednesdays 9am St John's, Morning Prayer

Sundays, 9am. Holy Communion
(Traditional Language)

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

10.30am Family Service

3pm Messy Church (3rd Sunday)

Sunday morning Family Service alternates between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. Children and families are welcome at all services.

For full details of services and activities especially those of a seasonal variety, please visit www.stvigorstjohn.church

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Sports Club News

World Cup Fever Brings the Community Together at Chilcompton Sports Club

The World Cup may be over, but what a fantastic few weeks it was at Chilcompton Sports Club.

From the opening group match through to England's dramatic semi-final against Argentina, the club was packed with supporters of all ages coming together to cheer on the Three Lions. Although England's journey ended with a narrow defeat in the semi-final, the atmosphere throughout the tournament was something special.

With multiple large screens both inside the clubhouse and outside, the club became a real community hub. Families, friends, football fans and local residents joined us to enjoy the matches in a safe, welcoming and friendly environment.



Young and old, male and female, lifelong football supporters and those simply enjoying the occasion all came together to share in the excitement.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to support both England and the club throughout the tournament. Your support was incredible, and we were especially proud of the friendly, respectful atmosphere that was created at every game. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying themselves together, with everyone leaving at the end of the evening happy and looking forward to the next match.

Thank you to our volunteers, committee members and bar staff who gave up so much of their time to make the events possible. Without their hard work behind the scenes, evenings like these simply couldn't happen.

Finally events like these remind us that Chilcompton Sports Club is about much more than football. It's about bringing our community together, creating memories. We look forward to welcoming both familiar and new faces over the coming months.

Cricket News



Club's first ever coloured youth and junior kit sponsored by Steve Davis

The story of Chilcompton Sports Cricket Club's 12th year has largely been centred around the ongoing success and expansion of its youth and junior sections. We now have more than 50 under 16s registered to play for the club, which is fantastic participation for a village the size of Chilcompton.

This year we changed up our U13 set-up, still running two teams: the Peppers and the Fire. For the Peppers, the pairs format gave lots of new players their first experience of hardball cricket, with several Year 6 primary school children included. Fun may have been the name of the game for the Peppers, but the



U15 Heat



Barnaby Ress-Davies

Fire went all out for the T20 league title. Although they ended up being pipped to the trophy right at the end of the season, there were first youth 50s for George Evans, Albie Sage and Ralph Pursey whilst new boy Daniel Gifford took the most wickets with an impressive 14.

A much-changed U15 Heat – including three girls – had a mixed campaign, putting early losses aside to end with a winning streak to finish.

Barnaby Rees-Davies stole the show with the bat by scoring an incredible 407 runs at an average of 67, while captain Max Steeds took 11 wickets and beat Maisie Warner (who also made a senior Saturday league debut) to most scalps.

Both he and Oscar Tagent passed 200 runs for the season, too. Many players have moved into regular senior cricket this year.

We also added a Dynamos section for Years 3-5 this year, which has been a roaring success. Led by club stalwart Adam Deverill, it has given 16 young cricketers aged 8-11 the chance to begin what we hope will be a long, flourishing relationship with the sport and our club.

This year, our youngsters have also been supported by local businessman Steve Davis, whose sponsorship allowed us to provide the kids with the club's first ever coloured youth and junior kit.

It's been another mixed season for our senior sides. Our 1st XI has struggled in the league, but enjoyed a cup run to the semi-final of the region's Minor Cup competition. Glen Stansfield's match-winning 100* against St Mary Redcliffe was a highlight, together with the 30+ wickets taken between former youth players Brad Hancock and Dan Rogers.

The undoubted highlight of the 2nd XI season was the superb century made by Kevin Messenger – 120* in a win against Bitton – securing him a place on the CSG honours board. While our Sunday Development XI has continued to blood our younger players, with more than half the line-up being made up of under 16s most weeks. The new 30-over format has also been a popular change.

This summer has been another challenging one for our dedicated grounds men Mark Colbourne and Clive Christer. Despite the many problems caused by such dry weather, they have managed to produce excellent wickets for our six sides week after week.

We have trained coaches to get the most out of our junior members, while the Sunday Development side is perfect for anybody returning to the game or trying to build up their confidence. Although our sides always play to win, enjoyment, participation and camaraderie are the club's priority at all times. Get in touch for more information

dave.travis@hotmail.co.uk

Chilcompton Sports Volunteer walking in aid of Cancer Research



Darren Gould has reached the halfway point in his challenge to walk 10,000 steps every day for a year in aid of ***Cancer Research UK***. Darren, who began the challenge on 7 January, has already walked almost two million steps and is on track to complete more than 3.65 million by January 2027.

So far, he has raised more than £2,000 towards his fundraising target and hopes to raise £5,000 by the end of the challenge.

Darren, 45, works in the motor industry and volunteers with the U12 Girls football team at Chilcompton Sports Club, fits in walks whenever he can throughout the day.

Darren said: "Cancer Research UK is a charity close to my heart, having lost loved ones to this dreadful disease." To support him or find out more, visit his fundraising page scan the barcode above.

Football News

The pre-season was dominated by the announcement that the club was going to attempt to achieve 'step 6' football, which would entail improvements to the ground before the end of March 2026, so that it would be compliant for a promotion application. A considerable amount of work was put in to develop the specifications for the necessary work. Unfortunately, the quotes for the required work made it an unrealistic proposition in the short term.

The Club started the season running three sides, one in the Somerset County League and the other two in the Mid Somerset league.

1st Team - The team had the same management group for the season and finished runners up by just four points to Nailsea United, who had also announced they were attempting to achieve 'step 6' football. The team was in good position for the title with six matches remaining, but poor player availability meant that three of those matches were lost. Throughout the season player availability was an issue with the match squad just being good enough for the opposition being played but not providing enough options from the bench. It was in those last six matches that their fortunes ran out. In the Prem/Div 1 Cup the team lost to a lower division side in the second round and in the Senior Cup the team lost to Frys in the semi-final, squandering a 2-0 lead before losing on penalties.

At the end of the season Tim Curtis decided to step down as 1st team manager after 18 years. Unfortunately, we could not find a replacement, either internal or external, who was prepared to manage the side at their current level. Therefore, we took the difficult decision to request relegation to division 3 of the County league.

Reserves - The reserves had a new management team of Ian Hawkins, Rob Maggs, Neil Hitchens and Scott Gay. Pre-season recruitment ensured they had a good squad, which grew further by making training enjoyable for the group. After a good start, the decision was taken to apply for promotion to the County league. The team continued this good form by being in the top two for most of the season. In the end the team finished third behind Coleford and Frome, which, unfortunately, was not enough for promotion.

A Team - Following the departure of last year's management, the team was rebuilt under Jamie Duncan to finish 5th place in the Mid Somerset Division 2. With only four defeats the side evolved throughout the season, but goal scoring proved to be an ongoing issue in turning draws into wins. The team made it to the divisional cup semi-final but were knocked out by eventual winners, Frome. Six of the younger A team players made first or reserve team appearances, while the team provided an opportunity for 7 reserve team players to get 'game time' in support of their season.

Walking Football - There are now two walking football groups following the creation of a ladies team under the management of John Portt. This team finished their league campaign as champions remaining undefeated and are now promoted to division 1 of the Somerset Women's league.

The men continue to play throughout the year on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for 2 hours, broken into two sessions of different abilities. Usually there are around 24 in the first session and 10 in the second. Overall, there are approximately 50 members.

Youth Football End of Season Summary



U12s Start the Season with Silverware

Congratulations to Chilcompton Sports U12s, who recently won the Evercreech 6-a-side Football Tournament.

The victory caps off a remarkable 2025/26 season for the team and provides a fantastic platform as they look ahead to the next campaign.

A huge well done to all the players, coaches and supporters.

The Club's end of season membership showed considerable increase to a total of circa 320 players, fielding sides in all age groups from the U12s to U16s. There were multiple squads in the various mini soccer age groups and a 'girls only' team also competed as an U11 age group.

Many of the mini soccer age groups continued to grow their numbers as the season progressed with several of the other age groups also reaching a squad size that meant turning away new enquiries or players joining on a 'training only' basis. The 'soccer tots' group continue to provide an introduction to football that concentrates on ball mastery. Numbers were up on last season, and 13 players should be graduating into the next U7 squad in the coming season.

Ball skills and mastery continue to be the foundation of the Club's training ethos.

Some notable achievements: U15s were runners up in their league, the U11 Colts were Autumn cup runners up, U9s were Autumn and Spring Cup winners and unbeaten all season and the U7s remained unbeaten all season.

The Club improved its Football England accreditation to a 'two-star' club by the quality of the facilities and overall club provision. Out of the 66 officials involved in age group management, 39 are now recognised as 'Club Coaches' and six new coaches have completed the Level 1 coaching course.

Training also continues to be an important cornerstone of the Club with two sessions provided for each age group per week. As we are unable to facilitate all age groups using our Astro for winter training, we still use facilities at Norton Hill and Writhlington. We were again able to make use of the Astro for matches during weekends when there was poor weather or fixture congestion. Virtually all our 'in season' training is now done on Astro facilities as we aim to protect pitches for matches now that we have so many teams.

The club's presentation was again held over two successive evenings and was another great success.

Hayley Blanning

U8 League Cup Champions



What an incredible journey it has been for our Chilcompton Sports U8s football team in this season's League Cup competition. From the opening match to the final whistle, the players displayed outstanding determination, teamwork, discipline, and passion for the game.

Throughout the tournament, they

produced excellent performances, playing with confidence and resilience against tough opposition. Every player gave their all, supporting one another and representing the club with pride both on and off the pitch.

Their hard work and commitment paid off as they emerged League Cup Champions. This achievement is a testament to the dedication of the players, the guidance of the coaching staff, and the unwavering support of parents and friends.

Congratulations to the entire squad on an unforgettable campaign. This is a well-deserved victory and a proud moment for everyone involved. We look forward to seeing this talented group continue to grow and achieve even greater success in the future at U9's.

What a stunning Summer



***'White tailed
Bumble bees
on our
Alliums in
Chilcompton'
by Mike Caple***