

# Chedzoy Clarion

Issue 7 (Jan – March 2023)



Happy New Year!!! I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. A Prosperous one would be very nice, but I am not holding my breath. Did you like the smaller issue of the Clarion? Please let me know.



Notice the new logo, for one issue only (unless you tell me different.) Thanks to Lily Andrews, who not only enters the various competitions, but also sent in a fine drawing as well.

Chedzoy, being a very charitable village (see below), managed a credible £71.25 by selling British Legion Poppies at the November Pop in for a Pint & Coffee morning. Thank you to all. Highlights of the year? Ukraine Soup Lunch, Flower Show, Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Harvest Supper, Burns Night (held in March), Xmas Fayre, to name but a few along with the regular Pop In nights & Coffee mornings. Here's to a successful 2023!!!

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## Cry Charity Donation by Amy Padden

An amazing and appreciative thank you to everyone who supports Pop in for a Pint. I was able to collect this on behalf of Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). 12 people under the age of 35 die a week from undiagnosed heart conditions in the UK. My best friend was one of these at the age of 21. The charity supports families impacted, as well as raising awareness, research and heart screening for young people.



Have you a Charitable cause that is close to your heart? Please see Martin about a donation

**That Certain Age – Part Two by Will O'Green**  
**The End-is-to-cope.**

“We will make you an appointment, to discover your pain and frustration.  
The cause is probably hypertension from your stressful occupation

To arrive at the ‘Celiac’ location, we need to travel by Tube.”  
The journey will be of nervous anticipation. Will it be round? Square? Or a Cube?

The eye to see down the tunnel is the nurse with a friendly smile  
To ease your anticipation, that may take a while

That smile is rather beguiling as she makes a suggestive request  
“Sit on the side of the bed, my handsome, you know that nurse knows best.”  
You have now reached the situation. Where is the ENDISCOPE?  
You return her a smile of surrender and give in, with a nervous HOPE.

Her friend is there to soothe you with a sprinkle to smooth out the pain  
Now, show the nurse your tonsils, Do try not to move again.

The next request is the best, she says “Lay on the bed on your side”  
Her commands are firm words when spoken, “Now, open your mouth really wide”  
She pops in a shield, the size of a field, to avoid any gulps and surprises  
The Tube is quite small, for the short and the tall, but can come in different shapes & sizes

As the Tube enters the tunnel with its eye and a light to see  
It takes pictures on its journey, to where the pain could be

Whilst there it will take a snippet, a sample to see the score  
Then travels on, to see if there is anything more

The nurse can tell how far, she sees with her Tube and her sight  
She is clever and can tell the difference between the darkness and light.

At the journeys end, she must return, back up the Tube of fear  
We thank the nurse in sheer relief and even shed a tear.

Now sit outside, for a cup of tea to regain your feelings again  
Then, away to your way home, it's a relief from the anticipation of pain

Now we await the Doctor to see if we are all clear.  
The Question is it going to be tablets or come back again, next year

Whatever it is we HOPE (and really do) that the nurse and her tube,  
Finds no daylight, at the end of your tunnel or being – Square-round-or cube

It takes just 5 minutes to reach the limits, for the nurse, her Tube, and her smile  
It's a job well done, but not much fun, but it answers the questions for a while



Remember these two icons of Village life? Best caption judged by an independent adjudicator was

....."and then I agreed to run the London Marathon in my flipflops!"

Well done to Gaye Wright who won herself a box of chocolates

Winner of the main competition was

Karen Medland

Who won herself a lovely Xmas cake kindly donated by Maureen Weeks and a £10 Pop In voucher. (Unfortunately, Karen was not at the presentation, so I had to stand in for her!)



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You know you're getting old when everything hurts. And what doesn't hurt, doesn't work!!





#### Competition Time

Where in the village would you find this incredible sculpture? The wooden stand, designed, created, manufactured, and installed by John Paige surmounted by the Platinum Jubilee Beacon.

Prize of a £20 Pop In Voucher. Can be used for food and soft drinks, as well as alcoholic beverages.

Answers to Rodney Young (contact details on back sheet) by 31<sup>st</sup> January. Draw will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 at Pop In.

Due to lack of interest (only having 5 answers or less in previous competitions) and finding it more difficult to source prizes, this will probably be the last one for a while.

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#### Toy Sale

**Saturday 25th March 2023 in aid of St Mary's Church Chedzoy  
and UNICEF Children of Ukraine.**

Chedzoy Village Hall 10.00am – 4.30pm

Either donate your unwanted toys for the Church table or if you want  
to sell your toys yourself, you can rent a table for £5

Please leave your donated toys in the box in the church,

Thank you!

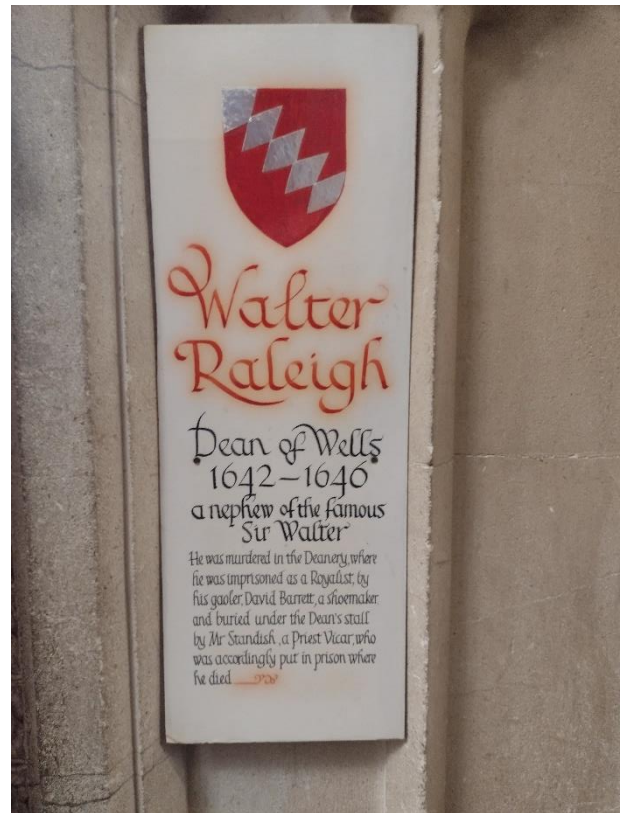


To book a table email [jane@jfilters.c](mailto:jane@jfilters.c)

## Walter Raleigh – Some Authentication - by John Paige

Dear Readers, you may have read the piece I wrote for the last edition of the Chedzoy Clarion, about Walter Raleigh, who lived in my house, Crosstree House, here in Chedzoy. Walter was murdered by David Barrett on 10 October 1646 and was buried in the Quire (or Choir) of Wells Cathedral in front of the Dean's Stall; no inscription marks his grave.

Whilst this is true, a recent visit to the Cathedral revealed that as you pass through the entrance to the Quire, on the right-hand side just past the door to



the organ loft, there is a plaque. The inscription reads: **Walter Raleigh, Dean of Wells 1642 – 1646, a nephew of the famous Sir Walter. He was murdered in the Deanery, where he was imprisoned as a Royalist, by his gaoler, David Barrett, a shoemaker and buried under the Dean's stall by Mr Standish, a Priest Vicar, who was accordingly put in prison where he died.** See, I wasn't just making it all up!

\*\*\*Chedzoy Playing Field presents the ever popular\*\*\*

# Burns Night Supper

Saturday 21 January 2023, 7pm

Tickets £12.50 to include a main meal of haggis, vegetarian haggis or sausages, along with neeps & tatties, vegetables and gravy, followed by a decadent buffet pudding table  
(£7 for under 12s)

Please contact Kerry Evert (preferably via the Facebook post or messenger, if you're not on Facebook, feel free to pop by Wednesday Cottage, or text/[Whatsapp](#) on 07870518475) alternatively any other member of the Playing Field Committee  
**We can cater for most dietary requirements if we know about them in advance**

The evening includes dancing demonstrations by our local ceilidh group and the opportunity to get involved (if you want to), it is great fun and whether you want to come along for the meal and socialising alone, or intend to dance the night away, we know that everyone goes home having had a brilliant night helping to raise money for the Chedzoy Playing Field. Scottish colours/dress are entirely optional, but definitely encouraged!

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## CHEDZOY BELL RINGERS

We are still looking to recruit 1 or 2 more campanologists to our merry band of Bell Ringers. Why not give it a try? Or just come along on a Tuesday night at the Church between 7pm and 8.30pm to see what it is all about. You never know, you might be pleasantly surprised. Any retired bell ringers in the Village? Don't be shy. Why not come out of retirement and help us. Any new arrivals in the village that might like to get involved with Community activities? We have a 6 bell tower, but with only 5 ringers, it doesn't always sound as it should. No musical knowledge required. Further details from The Tower Captain on 426130 or contact Rodney Young (details on back page)

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An Electrician comes home late

Wife: **Wire** you **Insulate**?

Electrician : **Watts** it to you? I'm **ohm** aren't I?

# Chedzoy Champion

This issue's Chedzoy Champion is

## Martin Chandler

Martin is currently Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and has been responsible for several innovative ideas. Latest is having Bicycle racks installed to encourage health & well being in villagers and cycling visitors to the Coffee Mornings. The village has used his marquee for free over several years as, an addition to the main marquee for lots of the village dos, such as the Queens Platinum Party, Flower Show, etc. He is always on hand with transport and labour before big events, (although he is not always available the following morning to help with the clearing up). Still, he puts in more than a fair stint beforehand. He has also donated well over £7000 to Charitable Causes from Pop In Profits. And he still finds time to manage a local football team (and even plays now and again), as well as being a keen Carnivalite. Who recognised him on the Ramblers cart? He has also been seen in the kitchen at Coffee mornings with a tea towel in his hand.

He can be found sourcing beers, wines and spirits to ensure that Pop In is well stocked and listens intently to requests from patrons if they think something is missing. The drinks do not suddenly appear. It takes a lot of time, planning and transporting all that beer.

Well done Martin. Very much appreciated

Do you have Any ideas for a Chedzoy Champion? Someone that goes above and beyond what you might expect of them? Shopping for the disabled? Just being a friend to the lonely? Please let me know.

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## Spring Chicken Bake *by Amy Kimber*

Healthy, easy and quick to tidy up



- 1 tbsp Olive Oil
- 1 tbsp Tomato Puree
- 1 Garlic Clove, crushed
- 400g Chopped Tomatoes
- 1 Onion, chopped
- 1 Pepper (Red or Yellow), chopped into chunks
- 1 Courgette, sliced
- 500g Chicken Thighs
- 1 tsp dried Rosemary
- 400g Butter Beans

Serves 4

Preheat the oven to 190 C. Heat the oil in a large roasting tin on the hob.

Season the chicken thighs and add to the tin, frying for 5 minutes or until browned all over. Remove and put to one side.

Add the onions, garlic, courgette and pepper to the tray and cook for 3-4 minutes turning until softened.

Stir in the tomatoes, puree, rosemary and simmer for a minute or two.

Then add the chicken and butter beans and put in the oven for 25 minutes



Have you a favourite recipe that you would like to share with the rest of the villagers?  
Please let me know.

In the meantime, here's another

## **Ginger and Lime Cheesecake** *by Amy Kimber*

This is a family favourite, sharp flavours, easy to make and really delicious.

200g Gingernut biscuits, crushed

50g Butter, melted

500g Mascarpone Cheese

40g Icing sugar, sifted

Finely grated zest and juice of 2 Limes

Chocolate decorations pre-bought or handmade

Extra Lime slices, sugared to decorate

Serves 8

Mix together the biscuits and butter and press into the base of a 18cm spring form or loose bottomed cake tin. Then leave to chill in the fridge for 30mins.

Meanwhile beat the mascarpone cheese, icing sugar, lime zest and juice together and spread it over the biscuit base. Chill for 30 minutes.

Carefully remove the cheesecake from the tin and decorate with chocolate, limes or something else you might like to use.

\*\*\*homemade chocolate decorations\*\*\*

Melt some chocolate and have fun making swirls on baking paper to chill and decorate the cheesecake once hardened.



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## **Coffee Morning** *by Laura Chandler*

A big thank you to everyone who helped & donated cakes this year, we couldn't do it without you all! We have donated to: Bridgwater League of friends £300 Ukraine £200 Macmillan £250 & most recently Marie Curie £250.

Coffee mornings are the first Wednesday of each month, starting in February. £2 for a hot coffee or tea, a slice of cake and meeting with friends & neighbours.

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Imagine if you will a world where You Tube, Twitter and Facebook merge to become

YouTwitFace

## Snippets from the Minutes

Below are a few items from the Chedzoy Parish Council Minutes. The full story can be found at [www.chedzoyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.chedzoyparishcouncil.gov.uk), as well as other interesting items such as footpaths and CCCP (Chedzoy Climate Change Project)

### **CCCP**

It was hoped that a further tree planting session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December would mean that an additional 500 trees would be planted, bringing the total to over 2000 trees.

### **Speeding Cars**

The Police were agreeable to do a survey of how many cars are speeding through the village. The results could lead to the formation of a volunteer Chedzoy Speed Watch Team.

### **Village Design Statement**

The Parish Council is very keen to produce a Village Design Statement in an effort, amongst other things, to have some say in future planning matters.

### **SCC Overspend**

Councillor Rodrigues reported that there is a projected overspend of £22 million on the Somerset County Council Budget, the biggest expense being in adult & children's social care.

### **Refugees**

There was an hotel on the outskirts of Bridgwater housing some 324 single male Albanian refugees.

### **NHS Problems & Delays**

It was felt that there should be some training available to Parishioners relating to First Aid, Defibrillator Use and First Response Activities.

### **Precept**

The Precept was left to the December meeting as it was felt prudent that the Parish should be "financially resilient" in case it has to take over any services from Somerset County Council. All this is conjecture as no decisions have been made public yet.

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## **Village Design Statement**

The Parish Council is keen to hear the views of it's parishioners as to what direction people would like Chedzoy to go in the future. How many more new houses? Should there be an Industrial Estate within the village? What materials and colours for new builds, would people prefer. More Car Parking for residents and visitors. Better bus service? More easily accessible footpaths? In fact anything at all relating to the environment you live in. Without a Village Design Statement (created with your help), influencing any future planning may become more difficult. If the Parish Council can set out their vision on behalf of YOU to try and guide the Planners, the better it will be for the community.

Please give your thoughts and ideas to any Parish Councillor. Please get involved.

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A sure sign of old age is waking up and feeling like the morning after the night before ...and then realising you haven't been anywhere!!!

## Quiz Night

Sociable, friendly quiz night at the Village Hall on

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 starting at 7.30

Maximum 4 in a team (£5 per team). Each team to supply 1 question for the quiz as well. No mates/friends/relations to make a team? Why not turn up anyway on the night. Entrance fee £2 per person if you are not in a team. I think I am right in saying at the last quiz, it was a scratch team that won. First prize - £20. Probably other prizes as well. Closing date for team entries is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Refreshments available.

And now for something a little different for the Quiz Night.

I would like some help from YOU please. Looking for about 10 volunteers to submit 5 questions (and answers!). Please make questions fairly easy, as people do like answering questions correctly. You choose what category (sport, literature, geography, history, general knowledge, etc). You will have the advantage of knowing the answers if your questions are pulled from the hat and you attend the quiz.

{Wouldn't it be nice, if I did not have to "pressgang" anyone into helping with the questions.}

Questions to Rodney please (contact details on back page)

Proceeds to the Church and Playing Field.

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### Quiz Night Entry Form.

Name of  
Team.....

Contact Name/Phone No.....

Question  
.....

Answer.....

I enclose payment of £5

Please return completed form to

Rodney Young, 42 Higher Road, Chedzoy, TA7 8QU by Wednesday  
15<sup>th</sup> February

## **Music on the Levels**

Music on the Levels announces the programme of concerts for 2023, starting on Sunday 29 January with Sunset Café Stompers, a six-piece band playing music from the New Orleans dance halls of a century ago, and finishing on 26 November when Wallscourt Brass presents seasonal music from composers ancient and modern, resounding in the fine acoustics of the beautiful parish church of St Mary, Westonzoyland.

Between the two, there's a variety of styles and moods, ranging from the reinterpretation of popular songs by Leeds Conservatoire students, Devon Salinas and Sophie Green, a musical menagerie from Trio Paradis, the rousing Ciderhouse Rebellion, massed brass and woodwind from The Kingsbury Band, songs of love and lust from Daisy Chapman and Sue Lord, a more romantic take with Tell Me The Trust About Love with Niall Hoskin Jacquelyn Bevan, and Ali and the Swing Cats re-living the smooth swing and gypsy jazz of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The concerts are held in Westonzoyland's parish church of St Mary the Virgin on Main Road, Westonzoyland, TA7 0EP.

All concerts start at 3 pm. Tea, coffee and cake are available at a modest charge from 2.15 pm.

Committee member, Frank Challenger, comments:

'As there are currently no statutory requirements with regard to Covid and we are being a little more relaxed about numbers.

' However, Music on the Levels has an informal booking system to help provide a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone and give an indication of how many cakes to bake! However, if you have not booked by the time of the concert, there may still be room for you.

' We are retaining the principal of free entry to our concerts as we want to include as many people as possible.

'Of course, there is a cost to us! So in order to help with the artists' fees and other expenses such as heating, we sell refreshments and a raffle is held. In addition donations are encouraged from those who can afford to contribute.'

Those wishing to go to one of the concerts are asked to contact Frank Challenger on 01278 699071 or email [f.challenger@icloud.com](mailto:f.challenger@icloud.com)

### **Sunday 29 January** - Sunset Café Stompers

A six-piece band playing music from the New Orleans dance halls of a century ago, and from the early great band-leaders including Jelly Roll Morton and Duke Ellington. Set up more than 30 years ago, the band was recently described as 'one of the best bands of its kind in the land' by the national magazine Just Jazz.

### **Sunday 26 February** -Devon Salinas and Sophie Green

Vocalist Sophie and guitarist Devon will be putting their own stamp on covers of popular songs such as Isn't She Lovely, American Boy, September, and Stand by Me. Both are in their final year at Leeds Conservatoire but are already in great demand at festivals and to perform with other solo artists and bands.

### **Sunday March 26**-Trio Paradis

Jacquelyn Bevan - piano, Lisa Betteridge - violin and Linda Stocks – cello, present a musical menagerie: cats, dogs, birds, fish ... and an elephant, including numbers from Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals and well-known songs from Disney films. The concert is suitable for all ages - bring the family!

### Dates for your Diary

All events at the Village Hall. No Pop In or Coffee Morning in January 2023.

Mondays – 10.30 – 11.30 Dancefit

Mondays – 4.30 – 7 Children's Dance Classes

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month + 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month – 10-12.30 Chedzoy Stitchers

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month – 10.30 – 12 Coffee Morning

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month – 7pm til late – Pop In for a Pint

January 5<sup>th</sup> – 10 – 12.30 Chedzoy Stitchers. New Year, new hobby. Why not try something creative

January 7<sup>th</sup> – 10 – 12.30 Chedzoy Stitchers. If you couldn't make Thursday, try on Saturday

January 9<sup>th</sup> – Dancefit – 10.30 – 11.30. Just the ticket for keeping fit and perhaps losing weight. No partners required.

January 16<sup>th</sup> – Dancefit – 10.30 – 11.30. It is not too late to join them

January 19<sup>th</sup> – Chedzoy Stitchers. Come along and see what they have to offer.

January 21<sup>st</sup> – Burns Night. Traditional Burns Night food and Scottish Dancing. Tickets £12.50 (£7 for under 12's) Proceeds to Playing Field. See Kerry for tickets (contact details on back sheet)

February 1<sup>st</sup> – Coffee Morning – 10.30-12

February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Pop In. 7pm to late

February 17<sup>th</sup> – Quiz Night. 7.30 Start. £5 for team of up to 4 in advance. £2 entry on the night for those not in a team. Refreshments available. Proceeds for Church & Playing Field

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Coffee Morning – 10.30 – 12

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Pop In – 7pm til late

March 25<sup>th</sup> – Toy Fayre. In aid of the Church. Further details from Jane Bentley (see back sheet for contact details)

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – Coronation Celebrations.** Fairly low Key, as requested by the King. Any suggestions gratefully received by Village Hall Committee.

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The good news about middle age, is that the glass is still half full. The bad news is that before you know it, your teeth will be soaking in it!!!!

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH CHEDZOY** *By Carole Edmunds*

At the time of writing it is the eve of a highlight of the Chedzoy Church calendar. Our beautiful church will be lit by over 150 candles and carols will be sung in the traditional pre-Christmas service of Lessons and Carols for the first time in three years. Twelve months ago the planned service could not go ahead because of the Omicron wave of Covid; the electrics in the building had not passed the safety inspection; there were almost no working lights in the nave and within two months the parish would have no vicar; all in all not a good position to be in.

As many of you are aware, Revd. Dr Jane Sutton (pictured below) who has known us since her training days in our joint benefice with Westonzoyland, has been appointed as our new incumbent and will shortly be installed in a special licencing service in Westonzoyland Church in January. The Bishop of Bath and Wells, Rt. Rev. Michael Beasley will be joining us for this. Revd. Jane's appointment means we will stay as a benefice of just two parishes, just as we are at present.

October and November marked Harvest Thanksgiving, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday – three special services that have been led by and given a personal touch by Jane. And now we look forward to Christmas!

As for the lighting, the safety test was passed and thanks to a donation from POP IN, we now have functional and hopefully long lasting LED bulbs. The rising costs of insuring, securing and maintaining the building and church yard have and will continue to challenge. It feels like we are running to stand still but with such good community support our essential costs have been met in 2022. The Harvest events have traditionally been the mainstay of Church fundraising and happily made a return this year. The Whist Drives, Garage Sale, Race Night and Christmas Fair and some grant success have made a big difference too when compared to the Pandemic years, when bills kept coming but with little income to pay them from.

There will be Lent Lunches and the Toy Sale in the Spring and 2023 will begin with a new name on the board in church.



## **Children's Hospice South West goes to Glastonbury Festival** *(by Kerry Evert on behalf of Liz Rhodes)*

In 2007, Liz and a group of volunteers started raising money for charity through Glastonbury Festival. Their job is to look after the Dairy Ground campsite at pedestrian gate D. Liz took over as supervisor of the group in 2014, and I joined her in 2022 for the first time. It was such an incredible experience, helping festival goers find their way to gigs and find their tents in the dark. We handed out litter and recycling bags, made sure people were safe, helped some young people with collapsing tents at night and some of the crew even had to help with security this year at a few overcrowded gigs. When Liz first told us about it, she said that we're basically there to be a friendly face, and that was very much what I experienced.

In 2016, a little boy close to most of the crew who had been working together for 10 years, sadly died at Charlton Farm, the first of 3 Children's Hospice South West locations near Bristol. Because of this traumatic experience, the group led by Liz decided to switch charities to instead donate in his name to Children's Hospice South West. Since then, the group has raised **£15,825** for this incredible charity, adding £7,400 to the total this year!!

Many people will think of a hospice as a sad place, but I can tell you that although their main business will always be caring for children in the final days of their life, the hospice is such a magically happy place. They offer respite care for families with children with life limiting illnesses, where they focus on the whole family, and their sibling support is extraordinary. Siblings of children with life limiting illnesses are often left out, because families have to put so much time and energy into the care of the sick child, and siblings feel that they take second place. So the sibling support on offer is so extremely important.

Even years after a child has died, families are invited back to remembrance events. As an example, they run an event every year around Christmas - which can be a very difficult time - where bereaved families together decorate the Christmas trees dotted around the buildings at Charlton Farm. This event allows newly-bereaved parents to feel supported by those who are further along in their journey.

Over the past near 3 years, things have been incredibly difficult for all charities. During a recent visit to Charlton Farm, some of the staff were telling me how much they were struggling. Because instead of being able to offer the respite care they normally do for families, they have had to go out to people's homes for visits. This has meant that siblings and extended families have not had the incredible support they previously had. Especially at a time when families will have been under so much more pressure than normal, due to many of the children with life limiting illnesses also being extremely vulnerable.

So, I know that this money donated by Glastonbury Festival through Liz's group this past year will have been so well used to support families with children with life-limiting illnesses.



Kerry Evert and Liz Rhodes with other volunteers at Glastonbury

### **Chedzoy Playing Field** by Kerry Evert

We had some great fundraising opportunities over the autumn. Starting with food at the enormously fun race night, thank you to all who joined us for dinner or a takeaway. Followed by our Halloween pop up pit stop, the weather couldn't have been more different to last year. It absolutely poured, but that didn't stop the lovely children of Chedzoy and their parents, there were some very full sweet buckets!

All of these events help us put money towards repairing the fence on the left-hand side of the field. The 75m stretch will cost us almost £6,000 to replace, which is several years' worth of fundraising!! With the cost of material having skyrocketed over the past year, we're trying desperately to get a grant to help us pay for the fence which is getting dangerous with many of the old wooden posts having rotted off at the ground... keep an eye on the village Facebook page for notice of further fundraising activities.

#### Fundraising

In January we are hoping to hold our ever-popular Burns Night Supper again – tickets available now, please see a member of the committee, our Facebook posts or text or Facebook message Kerry (07870518475) – see the advert in this edition of the Clarion for further details, and please don't worry if you want to come along on your own, we have many regular attenders who come on their own and have a brilliant evening.

Once again, thank you to our willing volunteers, we couldn't keep the Playing Field open without the hard work from the committee – if there is anyone out there who would like to come along and join the committee, please contact Kerry (details above) we'd love to see you 😊



## 12 days of Christmas Running by Kerry Evert

From Christmas Eve (starting with the Chedzoy Running Club Christmas Eve Advent Window Run), I will be running 10km (6.2 miles in old money) for 12 days in a row – that is the further than running from Chedzoy to Cardiff. I am doing this to support the Bridgwater Food Bank. You will have seen & heard on the news about the number of people requiring support from foodbanks, in Bridgwater alone, the following stats are true:



This year, from April to September, 1.3 million emergency food parcels were distributed to families in need in the UK, this is an increase of 52% compared with the same period in 2019.

At Christmas time, which is a time of such excess for many of us, people are very generous, and foodbanks are very grateful to receive these donations, you will have seen from Malcolm's posts on the Chedzoy Villagers Page on Facebook, that during 2022, we donated 702 items, weighing 304kgs! And that brings our total since 2015 to 1.3 metric tonnes.

People access foodbanks through referrals from doctors, schools, citizens advice, job centres and many other professionals. Vouchers can be given to families which can be exchanged for a food parcel with 3 – 7 days of food for a household. Non food items such as toiletries are often also included.

I recently read a story which really touched my heart, where a family had received some fancy M&S biscuits, and the mother was in floods of tears at the foodbank and said to the volunteers that she couldn't believe that someone out there thought she was worthy of receiving such special biscuits. This was a single mother, who worked full time and was having to rely on foodbanks to feed her 2 children as her income wasn't enough.

This made me feel so sad that there are people in our own community who believe that they are not even worthy of a packet of biscuits.

I do hope that you will join me in 2023 donating food items to people in Bridgwater who are less fortunate than ourselves. Pop something special into your trolley next time you're in the shops and drop it off at the Church. If you'd prefer me to collect it, please drop me a message and I would be happy to! Some people have also asked about donating cash, I am going to set up a page which I will post on Facebook. Otherwise, if you wanted to drop cash off at my house, I will buy some tinned meat and fish and vegetables with it and take the whole lot to the foodbank in one go.

I think January is a particularly hard month for people, and it would be great if we could spread a little love.

## Below is an excerpt from Somerset Bus Partnership

“Bus services across Somerset are under threat because the Government’s Bus Recovery Grant is set to end next March.

The growth in working from home and continuing nervousness about Covid, particularly amongst older bus users, has resulted in bus passenger numbers at 30 - 25% below pre Covid levels. The withdrawal of Government funding will make many bus services no longer commercially viable.

Nor will the new Somerset Unitary Council be in a position to step in and provide extra support for bus services, they may even be forced to scale back their support for buses as the costs of all the statutory services Somerset is obliged to support are soaring due to the current high rates of inflation that will only get even worse next year.

Yet the cost of living crisis will mean buses will become an even more vital form of transport than ever. Plus there is climate change that means we should all be reducing our dependence on the car ... but to be able to do that we need to have the option of going by bus.”

Basically they are looking for a Bus Champion from each Parish to promote their cause. Has Chedzoy anyone keen enough to be our Champion? Please let me know and I will forward your name on.

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### Whist Drives

A great big Thank You to anyone that has supported the Whist Drives and all those that supplied Raffle Prizes (especially Lloyd Francis). Thanks to your participation and generosity, more than £1,000 has been handed over to the Church. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and hope to see more of you back in the Spring. It’s not run as a fund raiser as such, but more to get people involved in the community.

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Old Age? When actions Creak louder than words.

If age is all in the mind, how come it keeps creeping down into the body.

You know you’re getting old, when it takes longer to rest, than to get tired.

Progress was OK when I was young, but now it’s gone on far too long.

Many thanks to *Will O Green* for the one liner contributions

## **BRIDGWATER - CHEDZOY - MOORLINCH - STREET**

MONDAY - FRIDAY (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS) - *From: 10/08/2020*

<b>BRIDGWATER, BUS STATION</b>	0900	1100	1400
<b>BRIDGWATER, SAINSBURY'S</b>	0902	1102	1402
<b>SLAPE CROSS</b>	0907	1107	1407
<b>CHEDZOY, CROSS</b>	0908	1108	1408
<b>STAWELL, CHURCH</b>	0914	1114	1414
<b>SUTTON MALLET</b>	0919	1119	1419
<b>MOORLINCH, RING OF BELLS INN</b>	0925	1125	1425
<b>GREINTON, PHONE BOX</b>	0927	1127	1427
<b>PEDWELL</b>	0929	1129	1429
<b>ASHCOTT, THE RIDGEWAY</b>	0932	1132	1432
<b>WALTON, CHURCH</b>	0937	1137	1437
<b>STREET, CRISPIN HALL, LEIGH ROAD</b>	0942	1142	1442
<b>STREET, CRISPIN HALL, LEIGH ROAD</b>	0950	1150	1450
<b>WALTON, CHURCH</b>	0955	1155	1455
<b>ASHCOTT, THE RIDGEWAY</b>	1000	1200	1500
<b>PEDWELL</b>	1003	1203	1503
<b>GREINTON, PHONE BOX</b>	1005	1205	1505
<b>MOORLINCH, RING OF BELLS INN</b>	1007	1207	1507
<b>SUTTON MALLET</b>	1013	1213	1513
<b>STAWELL, CHURCH</b>	1018	1218	1518
<b>CHEDZOY, CROSS</b>	1024	1224	1524
<b>SLAPE CROSS</b>	1025	1225	R
<b>BRIDGWATER, SAINSBURY'S</b>	1030	1230	R
<b>BRIDGWATER, BUS STATION</b>	1032	1232	R

Who's Who – Village Contacts

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e-mail

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**Finally, a very big thankyou to all the contributors for this Edition.**