

The Bridge

April 2021

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



Wash hands | Cover face | Make space

From 12th April we can: get our hair cut, shops, libraries and community centres will open, go to a pub, restaurant or café (sitting outside, in our household group or bubble), go to a funeral (max of 30 people or a wedding (max of 15 people), visit a campsite or holiday cottage and go to an outdoor gym, visit a zoo, theme park or a drive-in cinema, there's lots to do now!!



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The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Articles

Please submit articles either by email to **viv.thomas146@btinternet.com** or by hand (legible handwriting please!) and take them to the drop-off locations at Barters Plant Centre, Chapmanslade, or Acres Supply Garden Centre, Corsley by the deadline.

News, reports, updates, thank you's, etc, from individuals or local organisations are free – the more the merrier – keep 'em coming!

File types

Save your files as .doc – please don't send .docx files – I can't always open them successfully.

Advertising

Small ads are £1 for each item whether 'For Sale' or 'Wanted'.

Events/local organisation ads (churches, clubs, playgroups, etc) are £2 per month for a boxed advert.

Full page ads cost £7.50, are subject to space availability and cannot be guaranteed,

If you are advertising, don't forget to take the fee – cash or cheque in a sealed envelope please, to either of the drop-off points (Barters Plant Centre or Acres Supply).

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

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Deadline

**Deadline for articles
or adverts for the next
issue of The Bridge is
4pm 19th April**

**Please note that no
items will be accepted
after this date**

Diary Dates



April

Tuesday 6th

Corsley Parish Council Occasional Meeting –
7.30 pm, via Zoom

Thursday 8th

Chapmanslade Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting followed by PC meeting – please note the earlier start time of 7 pm, it will be a virtual meeting

Friday 16th

Road closure: Whitbourne Springs junction to Longhedge junction (7 pm to 6 am Saturday)

Saturday 17th

Closing date for the church's Birds Quiz

May

Thursday 6th

Wiltshire Unitary Authority and Town and Parish Council Elections

Monday 10th

Corsley Parish Council Annual Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 pm, either via Zoom or at Corsley Reading Room (Lower Room). Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Saturday 22nd

Plant and Cake Sale – 10 am to 12 noon, St Margaret's Churchyard

Wednesday 26th

PCC Annual Church Meeting – 7 pm, St Margaret's Church

June

Monday 7th

Corsley Parish Council Quarterly Meeting – 7.30 pm, either via Zoom or at Corsley Reading Room (Lower Room)

July

Sunday 18th

Corsley House – garden open to the public

August

Sunday 1st

Elizabethan Evening: HMS Pinafore – performances at 2 pm and 7 pm, Corsley Manor

Road Closure

Wiltshire Council hereby give notice that on **16th April 2021**, the following length of road shall be closed to all traffic in the interests of public safety to enable Wiltshire Council to carry out Carriageway Reactive Patching and associated works.

Whitbourne Springs, Corsley; from its junction with A362 to its junction with Longhedge.

Alternative route: via Longhedge - Temple - Sturford Lane - A362 and vice versa.

The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works.

These works will commence on **16th April 2021** and are anticipated to be required for one night between the hours of 7 pm and 6 am. This Notice will have a maximum duration of 5 days.

For further information regarding these works please contact Helen Pickett 01225 713376
Wiltshire Council

*Sustainable Transport Group
County Hall, Bythesea Road
Trowbridge BA14 8JN*

Cheery daffs

As I walked and drove around Corsley in the wind and the rain of March and with all the issues of lockdown, the one thing that cheered me up were the beautiful nodding heads of, as Wordsworth would have put it, a host of golden daffodils fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

For those of you who don't know, many of these wonderful daffodils were donated by the Elizabethan Evening team a couple of years ago and have now really come into their own.

I therefore just wanted to thank the Elizabethan Evening team, and the volunteers who planted all those sacks of daffs that John Helliard delivered to them, for helping make Corsley such a beautiful place to live and enjoy and for cheering me up during these difficult days.

Neil Carpenter



Corsley Tennis Club News

The tennis courts are now open!

Some COVID-19 regulations will still need to be observed as we work through the stages of lockdown easing but it's great that outdoor sport in groups of six or two households are among the activities to be allowed at this first stage.

From April 12th we will be offering club sessions on Tuesday and Sunday mornings from 10-12 and Friday evenings 6-8 pm.

We are expecting to have the courts cleaned and repainted at some stage in the coming year, but that won't mean there are no courts to play on at any one time.

We have a programme of tournaments in June and July and there will be Open Days through the year to give you a chance to have a go at tennis or revisit it if you have played in the past.

Watch this space and the website for more details
www.corsley-tennis.uk

Subscriptions are due on 1st April and we look forward to seeing previous members and welcoming new ones in the coming year.

Don't forget the Club WhatsApp group is there to help you find a partner or make up a four.

Our coach, Jon Dilena, offers sessions for children and young people, and Express or Cardio tennis sessions (for those who want to improve their play and fitness).

See you on court soon! Now, where did I put that racket?

Liz Garrett

Club Secretary

enquiries@corsley-tennis.uk

New PCSO

Candy Jackson will be moving onto another role within Wiltshire Police and that her last working date as our PCSO will be 9th April. She is in the process of handing over to our new PCSO, Leigh Holcombe 9548, who will be our new community officer. Leigh has been working as a Warminster Town PCSO so will be working rurally in the community. His contact email is leigh.holcombe@wiltshire.police.uk. Please feel free to contact him should you have any concerns.

The Elizabethan Evening presents

H.M.S

Pinafore

Sunday 1st August

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2 pm and 7pm

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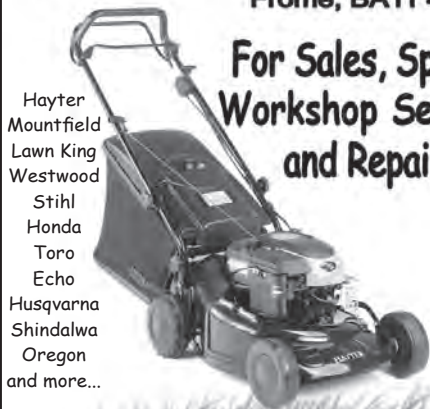
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Royal Oak, Corsley



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We're re-opening! Monday 12th April

We cannot wait to welcome you all back!

Whilst in our third national lockdown, the Royal Oak team have been busy behind the scenes, here's what's new this April 2021...

NEW Children's play area

Even more reason to enjoy the stunning views of Longleat with fine food and drink, whilst the young ones entertain themselves in our safe and enclosed pub garden.

NEW Marquee

We are having a spacious marquee erected in our back garden to keep you comfortable dining outside on poor weather days. Fully installed with lights and heaters!



NEW Menu

Whilst keeping many of the Royal Oak's favourite dishes, we have now added new starters, mains and desserts for you to try! Have a look online at www.theroyaloakcorsley.co.uk/menu/

NEW Food and drink ordering system

We can now offer different ways to order your food and drinks whilst at the Royal Oak. You can either have the personal table service where a member of waiting staff takes your order OR you can now order and pay via your mobile phone.

For more information on what's new at The Royal Oak, Corsley or to book a table or event, email us at info@theroyaloakcorsley.co.uk or leave a message on our answering machine 01373 832238 and we will get back to you asap.

Bob's bafflers

- 1 If you were climbing 'Mount Kilimanjaro', in which country would you be?
- 2 In which city was the novel coronavirus first reported?
- 3 Where in the world are the only cash machines offering instructions in Latin?
- 4 What type of duck shares its name with a James Bond film?
- 5 How many pairs of ribs do you have?
- 6 What is the only animal named after one of the seven deadly sins?
- 7 What shape is the pasta called rigatoni?
- 8 Which song from a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice was among those banned by Radio 1 during the Falklands War of 1982?
- 9 Which traffic measure was first installed in Oklahoma City in 1935 and first seen in the UK in Mayfair in 1958?
- 10 The top five countries by area (do not include Antarctica as it is owned by many countries):
1 Russia, 2 ?? 3 China, 4 United States, 5 Brazil? Which have I missed out at No 2?
- 11 Which seabird has a name that is slang for a gluttonous or greedy person?
- 12 Under the 1912 Act of Parliament, which almost certainly mythical creature is a protected species?

Answers on page 40



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Wylve Valley Art Trail

We are very excited to announce that the Wylve Valley Art Trail is taking place again this spring, from Saturday 1st – Sunday 9th May

The Wylve Valley Art Trail is an inspiring and eclectic festival of visual art and craft set in 48 venues across southwest Wiltshire: open studios and workplaces, galleries, art group exhibitions, student groups, virtual exhibitions and other fascinating events including ‘hands on’ activities, demonstrations, workshops and talks. This year there are over 140 exhibitors, ranging from award-winning artists with international reputations, to those just starting out on their creative journeys. This is a unique opportunity to view a wide range of artistic skills, from painting to print- making, furniture making to photography and sculpture to ceramics as well as contemporary art forms such as digital art, installation, video and art using recycled materials.

All venues will be following current Covid guidance: maximum visitor numbers, requiring face coverings, social distancing and providing hand sanitiser.

Nick Andrew, the founder and coordinator of the Wylve Valley Art Trail says “I hope you enjoy following the 11th Wylve Valley Art Trail. I can’t believe that it is 20 years since the first event in 2001, when 34 studios, workshops and makeshift galleries threw open their doors, stretching a vibrant trail across this beautiful corner of Wiltshire. Since then it has taken place every two years, growing in size and bringing a wonderfully colourful and varied patchwork of visual creativity across the landscape to the attention of enthusiastic and art hungry visitors.

The first art trail very nearly didn’t happen, though. The early months of 2001 saw

the outbreak of the worst foot and mouth epidemic this country had seen, closing off much of the British countryside to visitors. We came so close to cancelling but thankfully, by late spring, many of the restrictions had been lifted and we simply had to ask visitors to follow precautions and keep away from farmland and livestock.

That experience has resonated only too clearly throughout the planning and organising of this year’s event (but amplified greatly by the catastrophic effect that the Covid pandemic has wrought on many people’s lives). We have had to steer a delicate and twisty path between that urgent desire to bring visual art and craft out of lockdown and into the open again, and the important considerations for the safety of visitors and exhibitors alike. And a number of times we have come close to calling a halt. But, having decided to go ahead (albeit in a more limited form), our hope now is that WVAT’21 will be seen as an uplifting glimmer of creative light in the cultural life of this area and, as long as we continue to follow guidelines and take all necessary precautions, something that will bring much enjoyment and stimulation to everyone visiting and taking part.”

Colourful and eye catching Wylve Valley Art Trail brochures will be available from April at Tourist Information Centres, Arts Centres, Libraries and many other places.

For more information please see our website www.wvat.co.uk or contact info@wvat.co.uk or phone 07730 400784



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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Chairman, Neil Britten, rounds up the PC's activity in March

There was one occasional meeting in March, on the 8th, to agree grants for this financial year, discuss two planning applications and consider input to a planning appeal against an enforcement notice. As usual, the meeting was held via Zoom, with four members of the public attending. The PC met as Len White Trustees after the main PC meeting to consider bids received.

Planning applications

21/01106/FUL

Center Parcs: proposed timber children's play area adjacent to the entrance of the Plaza incorporating inclusive play equipment.

The play area proposed is well out of public sight and surrounded by woods. The PC agreed no objection.

21/01064/FUL

Little Cuckoos pre-school: renewal of temporary permission W/13/00918/FUL (Retention of building for pre-school – limited period permission)

This application is for continuation of the previous permission for another five year period, including a proposed small new building. The PC agreed no objection.

Planning appeal

The PC had received notice of an appeal by the owner against a Notification of Enforcement at Lilac Cottage, 40 Temple, Corsley. This relates to a condition of use of the annex solely as a holiday let, rather than a permanent dwelling place. On two previous occasions when application had been made for the condition to be removed, the second

on appeal, it was refused on the grounds that to allow it would breach Wiltshire's planning policies on residential development outside the village settlement limits. On both occasions the PC registered an objection.

Mrs D Rickhuss, the appellant, was invited to address the meeting. She acknowledged that there had been a breach of the planning conditions, but explained that the appeal was based on a technicality concerning the time that had elapsed before the enforcement notice had been served, and not on 'new' information. She gave reasons for wishing to remove the condition. Following considerable discussion, including input from one of Mrs Rickhuss' neighbours, it was clear that the PC had no new objective information concerning the basic premise of Mrs Rickhuss' position nor the particular technicalities of the appeal. It was agreed that the PC would not offer any comment to the appeal hearing.

Baytree development

The PC had received information from Christine Brown (Residential Development Project Manager – Wiltshire Council) that a pre-application had been put in and had received positive feedback thus far. It was understood that the residents of Baytree Close and Birchwood Close have received notification of the intent regarding the development from Wiltshire Council.

Grants/donations

The PC had received bids for grants/donations as shown in the table (next page) Explanatory notes as follows:

From whom	Amount agreed	Project	Amount bid for	Amount budgeted
Reading Room	£0		£0	£1,300
Corsley & Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council (CPCC)	£1,000	Churchyard maintenance	£1000	£1,300
Corsley Memorial Playing Field (CWMPF)	£500	Insurance	£1000	£1,250
Corsley Tennis Club	£500	Court refurbishment (H&S)	£1000	£0
Little Cuckoos	£500	Maintenance	£1000	£1,000
TOTAL	£2,500		£4000	£4,850
<i>Wild Flower Meadow</i>		<i>Bench</i>	<i>£330</i>	<i>£0</i>
<i>OSPF Orchard</i>		<i>Plants</i>	<i>£300</i>	<i>£0</i>

- The Reading Room had foregone their normal bid this year in anticipation of a likely bill from Wiltshire for the planning fee for the outline application for a village hall site on Bay Tree.
- Bids for activities associated with the OSPF were transferred to normal PC expenditure to be considered at the next PC meeting.
- Reductions in the grants from the budget figures were agreed in favour of retaining the unspent balance to carry over into 2021/22 and use towards the bus stop shelter replacement.
- The Tennis Club grant was agreed on the basis that it would be used towards equipment for children.

Reading Rooms/village hall – village consultation

A group, comprising representatives of the Reading Room (RR) Trustees, the PC (as Custodian Trustees of the RR) and interested members of the village, has been formed to look at the possible options regarding the Reading Room future and how best to ‘consult’ the village on a way forward. As part of this, discussions had taken place, separately, with representatives of Longleat and Landstrom, the potential developer of the show field site. Further details of this initiative

are included elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge.

Annual Parish Meeting

An Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is required to be held between the 1st March and the 1st June each year. However, the current restrictions present significant challenges in meeting this requirement and it is not felt by the PC that a virtual format is appropriate and practical for such a meeting (noting that the Reading Room does not presently have Wi-Fi). Current advice is that face-to-face meetings will be allowed from 17th May when 50% capacity will be permitted and full attendance due to be allowed from 21st June. This is helpful, but does not allow the possibility of an APM within the normal time limits. However, supplementary advice is that ‘assemblies’, ie public village meetings, can be called at any time, introducing the possibility of an APM after 21st June. A further check on the situation will be made at the final meeting of the current PC (26th April) and the final decision on how best to proceed will probably be made by the new PC in post after 6th May.

See Diary Dates for future meetings

Neil Britten, Chairman
 pc.corsleynb@gmail.com
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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

With regard to chocolate what side do you come down on, dark or milk? If you are given some chocolate are you one of those amazingly controlled people who can have a couple of squares and be satisfied with that or are you like me; once you have the taste of chocolate in your mouth, you have to eat the lot? I can't have chocolate in the house. I had some left over from Christmas that I have placed at the bottom of the freezer in the garage for fear of over consumption.

We all know that we have chocolate eggs at Easter as a symbol of new life. Easter takes its name from the pagan goddess 'Eostre', goddess of spring and renewal, and isn't it wonderful that for us Easter comes at a time when our mother earth is bursting forth with spring flowers and blossoming trees.

Whatever Easter means to us it is associated with chocolate isn't it and there's something uniquely satisfying about unpacking a beautiful egg from its box, peeling off the shiny foil wrapping, breaking into it for the first time and eating a deliciously thick chunk of chocolate. Mind you, however prettily an Easter egg is presented, by the time you actually get to the chocolate you've removed half a ton of cardboard it seems and the actual edible bit is quite small.

Our experience of life as human beings is not always wrapped up in shiny coloured foil and presented in a pretty box; suffice it to say that in this last year, in one way or another, all of us have been reminded of this and some have had to face unimaginable suffering and pain. Like the terrible suffering of Good Friday most of us at some point or another will go through dark times, times when we cry out, as Jesus did on the cross, 'O God, why?' Therein lies the power of Easter; because it is in these the most difficult of times that God can bring resurrection and hope. I am not saying that it is easy, it is profoundly difficult and the best we can do sometimes is to hold onto the hope that somehow when there seems no hope at all, it will come one day. Sometimes we can't even do that and then we need the company and love of others to hold the hope for us. There is no shame in this; God knows the secrets of our hearts, and loves us still.

The roots of Easter are buried deep in the agony of the Cross, God does not promise us a life without our own Good Friday experience, rather, the promise is that he shares that experience with us and points beyond the darkness to transformation, to the light of Easter day. This year it is particularly poignant that our church service for Easter Day will be the first time we have gathered together for worship for nearly three months, do come and join us.

When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
by your touch you call us, back to life again;
field of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Happy Easter,
Love and prayers,
Pauline

April Church Diary

This diary has been prepared on the basis that the Government's 'Road Map' is going to follow the original plan.

All our parish support facilities are still functioning, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with anyone. Live services will resume on Easter Sunday, and St Margaret's Church will be connected on Zoom, for anyone not attending in person. All the necessary COVID-19 health protection measures are in place.

Sunday 4th April - Easter Day

10am Easter Eucharist at St Margaret's, Corsley

10.30am Easter Service at Kingston Deverill



Sunday 11th April - 2nd Sunday after Easter

9.30am Eucharist at St Margaret's, Corsley

10.30am Eucharist at Kingston Deverill



Sunday 18th April - 3rd Sunday after Easter

10.30am Eucharist at Brixton Deverill

11am BCP Matins at St Margaret's, Corsley



Sunday 25th April - 4th Sunday after Easter

9.30am Eucharist at St Margaret's, Corsley

10.30am Eucharist at Longbridge Deverill

Important Public Notice

The Annual revision of the Electoral Roll in the Parish of Corsley and Chapmanslade will take place between April 1st 2021 and May 12th 2021. Any parishioner wishing to have their names added to the current Church Electoral Roll should contact the Electoral Roll officer between the above dates in order to vote at the Annual Parish Church Meeting meeting on 26th May 2021. For an application form for enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll please contact: Rev. Diana Britten on 01373 832515 or email dianabritten69@gmail.com

Please come to our

Plant and Cake Sale

10 am to 12 noon
Saturday 22nd May
St Margaret's Churchyard
Raising money for our local churches

Dates for your diary

Parish of Corsley and Chapmanslade Annual Church Meeting
26th May 7pm at St Margaret's Church

This is an opportunity for you to take part in the most important yearly meeting in the parish. We will be looking back at the extraordinary year we have all experienced, and will be considering how the parish will run for the next year. We need volunteers to help in all aspects of church life, and need to consider how we meet the challenges of a changed world after the pandemic.

Corsley House ~ garden open to the public

Raising money for our local churches

As long as the changes to social mixing happen as planned,
Corsley House will hold an open garden event on Saturday July 18th.
Further details will be provided nearer the time.

All about Birds Quiz

Have a go at our latest fun activity. It's the Birds Quiz, and the cost is only £3. Question sheets are available from Sue on 832074 and Judith on 832803 or by emailing Sue Fear at suefearpcc@gmail.com. The prize is a £20 garden centre voucher and the closing date is 17th April.

Join the 50/50 Club!

For only £24 a year or £2 per month, you can join the Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches 50/50 Club. Half of the payment is returned as prizes, with the other half supports church funds. There is a £100 prize to be won each month! You can pay by cash, cheque or standing order; if you would like to take part, you can sign up with Neil Britten on 01373 832515.

Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

Rural Dean	Rev Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com	01985 841290
Associate Priest	Rev Gay Maynard revgmaynard@gmail.com	01373 832490
Lay Pastoral Assistants	Richard Dean Barbara Hughes Claire Tanner	01373 832594 01373 832273 01985 218099
Pastoral Visitor	Alan Hopkinson	01373 832393
Churchwardens St Philip & St James' St Margaret's	Ian Buick John Helliar	01373 832318 01373 832803
Deputy Churchwardens St Margaret's St Philip & St James'	Currently vacant Janet Aylesbury	01373 832752
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Currently vacant	
Planned Giving Officer	Judith Helliar	01373 832803
Benefice Administrator	Currently vacant	
Choir Leader	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
Tower Captain	Michael Attenborough	
Electoral Roll	Di Britten	01373 832515
50/50 Club	Neil Britten	01373 832515
After Alpha Home Group	Trudi Hopkinson	01373 832393
Time To Think Home Group	Renee Cole	01373 839008
Light Bites Lunches	Maureen Willcox	01373 832171
Benefice Webmaster	Mike Palmer	mjp.mikepalmer@gmail.com

Copy for Six Open Doors should be sent to
Ian Buick at ibuickuk@gmail.com or by phone on 01373 832318.
Please contact Ian if you would like to receive
weekly news of Church events and activities

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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Philip Holihead reports on the PC's March activities

Chapmanslade Parish Council met virtually on 11th March 2021 with a wide-reaching agenda and discussions on a number of issues summarised below. Full minutes of the meeting are available from the Parish Clerk and are on the village website www.chapmanslade.org. Councillor John Lewis chaired the meeting at which there were six councillors present. Three members of the public were also welcomed to the meeting.

Road safety issue

The pavement between Cley Hill gardens and Wood Lane is in a poor state of repair in places and has two areas that have no lighting. With new families in Cley Hill Gardens, and in anticipation to the completion of the 43 houses at Barbers Farm the footfall along this route will increase over the next 12 months as more children start at the village school or walk to the bus stop opposite the pub. Thus, it was represented that improved lighting would help to reduce a road safety risk in the areas that are poorly lit, especially opposite the Huntenhull Lane junction and in the vicinity to the entrance to Old Orchard. The PC agreed and a Highways Improvement request has been forwarded to Wilts Council to investigate options and costs.

Village Plan

The Steering Group has now met and is reviewing and updating issues that have either been resolved whilst re-prioritising those that remain. In particular, the group is looking at developing a Welcome Pack for new residents in the village to augment the already useful advice that can be gained through the Facebook page and continues to research into the benefits or otherwise of upgrading to a Neighbourhood Plan.

Footpaths

Ongoing work by the Footpaths Group with support from the landowners has resulted in all the stiles in the paths between Chapmanslade and Frome being replaced by 'kissing gates'. This will make the route more accessible, and the PC agreed is a positive step forward which, we should now try to replicate in the Wiltshire area of the parish for footpath links with Westbury and Warminster.

Wiltshire Council Consultations and Maintenance Actions

Wiltshire Council consultations connected to Spatial Planning and the Gypsy and Travellers' Plan have been submitted.

The PC is working on a response to the Dorset and Wilts Fire Service Plan Consultation due in May and which can be

www.chapmanslade.org.uk

accessed at www.dwfire.org.uk

Liaison with the Wiltshire Council Parish Steward in relation to maintenance matters has resulted in the drain causing the flooding in Huntenhull Lane to be mechanically sucked out. It was agreed that the PC should remain the conduit for liaison with the Parish Steward to ensure uniformity of response.

Wiltshire Unitary Authority and Town and Parish Council Elections

Elections are scheduled for 6 May 2021 and whilst the Village Hall has now been accepted and booked as a COVID-19 suitable space for elections, Wiltshire Council is encouraging people to use the postal voting system and has set up an extensive mechanism to handle this. Detailed information is available from Wiltshire Council via www.wiltshire.gov.uk/Elections-2021

Below is a short extract from the Electoral Commission timetable giving key dates:

Event	Election	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date
Publication of notice of election	All	Not later than 25 days	Not later than Monday 29th March
Deadline for receiving new postal vote and postal proxy applications, and for changes to existing postal or proxy votes	All	11 days (5pm)	5pm on Tuesday 20th April
Polling day	All	0 (7am to 10pm)	7am to 10pm on Thursday 6th May

Mountain bikers in Black Dog Woods

In view of some concerns raised about the locally excavated informal cycle-cross track in the pine woods at the western end of Black Dog Woods the PC reviewed its position. The PCSO had previously been called to a gathering of non-villagers in breach of COVID-19 regulations at the site but other than the excess numbers of outsiders she

had found the village users to be both polite and responsible in their approach. The village bikers had contacted the landowner to establish acceptance of their activities, and whilst not accepting liability the landowner’s representative had outlined some criteria to be followed, namely: not to impinge on formal footpaths, to stay away from the delicate eco-structure in the ancient woods and to keep the site as tidy as possible. Given that these were being fulfilled and the ongoing parental support of the village youth choosing to pursue outdoor activities whilst showing both industry and accountability, the PC decided to note the concerns, give feedback to the bikers, and informally monitor the activity but to take no further action.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting will be on **8 April 2021**. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by

a Parish Council Meeting and will start at the earlier time of 7pm. It will be a virtual meeting, possibly our last in that format. Members of the public are encouraged to attend both meetings. For further details and to attend, please contact the PC Clerk via chapmansladepc@yahoo.co.uk by 6 pm on Tuesday 6 April. The PC look forward to welcoming you.

Memories of Corsley School

Third time lucky

David Ball recalls his tenure as Headteacher at Corsley School...

“We would like to offer you the post of Headteacher at Corsley School,” said the Chair of Governors, Revd. Dennis Caddy. It was 1986, well before the introduction of ‘The National Curriculum’, OfSTED, and the dreaded SAT’s and of course I was delighted to accept!

It had been my third Headship interview and only one other person had been present at all three – the County’s Primary Adviser, whose advice and recommendations were greatly valued by school governors. I had noticed that the two successful candidates at my previous interviews both had beards and I had been told ‘Sylvia likes men with beards’. So I grew one myself and it appeared

to have worked! The beard was shaved off straight after the interview and the next time the children saw me, on the first day of the Summer Term, I was clean-shaven. This came as a big disappointment to one young lad though - Jason Knight had decided I should have the nickname ‘Moss Chops’ but I had completely ruined his plans!

A week or so before the interviews I visited the school one morning to have a look round and meet the staff. The Headteacher, Sue Jackson, welcomed me and introduced me to Boo Hardy – the infant class teacher and her teaching assistant June Snelgrove, Gill Laing - the lower junior class teacher and Mavis Stocking - the school secretary. At lunchtime





I also met the school cook, Mrs Bloom, who was also a school Governor, and the two lunchtime supervisors Mrs Watch and Mrs Edwards. (My brother-in-law later informed me that he was related to Mrs Edwards and that his father had spent his early life in Corsley) The only person I didn't meet that day was Sherri Wilson, the lady who kept the school spick and span with help from husband Tim.

Sue Jackson was an excellent Headteacher and very well respected in the village she would be a hard act to follow! WCC had recognized her ability by promoting her from a small village school to a very large town school! Boo Hardy was without doubt one of the best two Reception Infant teachers I ever encountered, with the added bonus that she was a very able, Deputy Head. Her teaching assistant June was a warm, caring 'motherly' figure, who besides providing great support, also baked some wonderful cakes and biscuits for the playtime break (and her husband was to prove quite handy too!!) I had already met Gill Laing another excellent teacher – her husband Rod had appointed me in his Trowbridge school. 6 years previous. 'Mave' Stocking, in the school office, was to

prove another absolute treasure. I had little experience of the admin side of Headship but Mave was more than capable of sorting all that out. I think I added a few grey hairs to her head in my time at the school, but she always ironed out any problems I might have created with patience and humour. An added bonus, which helped me feel even more at home was that the head of Chapmanslade School, Liz Flood, was also an old friend - she and I had worked together for a couple of years at another Wiltshire School!

So I was to become the Head of an idyllic village primary school, set in beautiful countryside, with a great team of staff, lovely children and a supportive group of parents. Why it even had it's own school cat (a black cat named Mog) and five chickens (whose names I have forgotten) who were cared for by the Y6 children. It was a school I would love to send my own children to, and so, a term later, we did. The following year we actually moved into the village when my wife found her 'dream home' within sound of the famous 'Lions of Longleat' - we have been here ever since! (Though an incident in my first term at the school could nearly have prevented that!)

David Ball

Corsley WI

February and March news

'Zooming' is becoming the norm for the WI and members are becoming skilled at sharing screens, voting and controlling the inquisitive pets that always seem to want to join in. Our speakers have also been great.

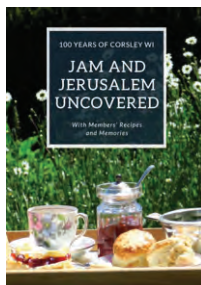
February saw our lovely Corsley based Jo Trickett and her colleague Julie Carey-Downs talking about how the local NHS has been working in these Coronavirus times. It highlighted that the community and cross discipline approach that has been adopted locally (and recognised by Ministers in London) has really made a difference in these times by getting the relevant services and help to people. It also revealed that 10,000 vaccinations had been completed in a day locally, which is an amazing achievement.

March was a talk on 'Life on a Cruise Ship' by Tony Coutts- Britton. We learnt about the approaches to different cruise holidays, the goings on the 'singles' dinner tables, the requirements of different nationalities on board, the challenges of getting into some ports and what happens when the weather turns! We also had our AGM as part of the meeting.

The next meeting is on **8th April 2021** when Malcolm Holley will be entertaining us with 'South Korea: The Land of the Morning Calm'!

A number of people have expressed an interest in the 100th anniversary book that has been written. All copies in the original print run have been sold but we are considering

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another smaller print run. So, if you are interested in the book please let me know (alicecambridge40@gmail.com).

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Duty and service

On March 29 1941 – almost 80 years ago – a young naval officer was in charge of the spotters on board HMS Valiant, a great battleship in the Royal Navy. They had received information from the code-breaking geniuses at Bletchley Park and their targets were three capital ships from the Italian navy: the search was on. In the darkness above the horizon the young officer noticed what appeared to be metal turrets reflecting off the searchlights of Valiant. He had spotted the enemy and battle commenced. The battle of Cape Matapan was underway. In a fierce engagement, two Italian capital ships were sunk.

The young officer was mentioned in dispatches and commended for bravery. That young officer was a 19 year-old Philippos Andreou of Schleswig Holstein- Sonderberg- Glucksberg, Prince of Greece and Denmark. The World knows him today as Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and consort of Queen Elizabeth. He will turn 100 years of age in June. He didn't step down from active royal duties until his late 90s – a total legend!

Five months before her future husband was engaged in a life and death struggle off the coast of Greece, a young Princess Elizabeth, aged 14, gave her first broadcast to the commonwealth of nations loyal to the great cause and specifically the children. At that time Britain stood alone – a seemingly hopeless cause. Churchill's greatness and leadership will be remembered as long as history is faithfully told. He was supported at all times by King George and his indomitable wife Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother). Both the King and his wife flatly refused to leave London and their daughters would stay with them as well. Buckingham Palace itself was very badly damaged in a bombing raid

and the Queen said it “allowed her to look the East End proudly in the face”.

The young Princess finished her address as follows: We know everyone of us, that in the end all will be well: for God will care for us and give us victory and peace. And when peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of today to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place. My sister is by my side and we are both going to say goodnight to you. Come on Margaret. Goodnight children”

From that day in October 1940 the Queen has led a life of total service and sacrifice. She presides over the commonwealth of nations, comprising 54 countries with a population of 2.5 billion people. Her commitment to this organisation has had the most profound effect on the wellbeing of these people. Most of these are people of colour. It could well be argued that under her stewardship no family on Earth has done more to improve the lives of people of colour.

Not satisfied with their lot in life, a life of almost unimaginable privilege and wealth Prince Harry and his wife Meghan went on worldwide TV in a futile attempt to discredit the monarchy and, by extension, the aged and great couple who lead the family.

On the day this piece of utter guff was released, the Royal family were out doing what they do: visiting hospitals, workers, sick children and various other deserving causes. Having spent four weeks in hospital undergoing heart surgery, I wish the Duke well with his recovery. The nation will never forget the debt we owe to the greatest generation: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip are one of the last links we still have.

My gratitude doth overflow!

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Walking through lockdown

A meander through Mells



This walk starts at the entrance to Mells Manor; built on the site of a manor owned by Glastonbury Abbey, until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. Thomas Horner bought the manors of Mells, Nunney and Leigh-on-Mendip in 1543. The house isn't open to the public, though I once toured the gardens on a Mells 'Open Gardens Day'.

Wear boots or wellies, pass the manor and the Talbot Inn on your left and turn into New Street, dating back to the late 1400s. St. Andrew's Church and graveyard are here; walk through the graveyard and along the avenue of yew trees behind the church. Go through the strange gate at the end and into the field beyond, turn left and join the trail of trodden-down grass. Cross this field, go over a stile into a second field and stay with the back wall of the manor gardens and a fence to the

far end of field two, and then follow the hedge going right.

Partway along this hedge is a gap, into a garden-like area with a pond. Pause and explore, perhaps, before returning to the track and continuing left, finding a second opening, into another field. There should be a ruined house on your left, which I find fascinating. It was smothered with ivy, trees and brambles, but that's been cleared, leaving the empty shell of the building; I preferred it when the greenery gave it an air of mystery. Explore again, but watch out for badger holes!

When you've done that, return the way you came, back into the previous field. You can extend the walk here, turning left and going on uphill, crossing stiles and fields; you can reach the Sustrans 24 cycle track if you keep going! This walk, though, turns right,



with traffic coming downhill towards you. To your left, now, should be Mells Park, closed to the public.

Cross the road again (carefully!) and go into the no through road opposite. If you can see the remaining wall of a former mill to your left now, you're in the right place! Walk right, past the lovely old dwelling and keep going; the path becomes a muddy track beside a narrow stream.

You'll pass The Old Reading Room on your left and beside it is an uphill track. Climb

retracing your steps along the hedge again. When the track curves left, you should find a way into a smaller field ahead; it has a line of tall trees in it. Walk, between those trees and a stone wall, to the lower right corner of the field; on your right should be a wooden gate, taking you onto the road beside the manor house. Across the road is Gay Street, beside the Vicarage garden wall on your left. Go that way, past the village lock-up on your right and a wall space on your left, where a trough once stood. The road curves downhill to a T-junction; turn right there, pass the no through road on your right and there'll be a bigger, busier road ahead of you.

Turn right again, staying on the pavement and **CAREFULLY** crossing the road when the pavement peters out, before a sharp right bend. On the other side of the road is a triangle of grass; it's safer to walk there,

that and, at the top, you'll find another lane leading past houses on your right; it'll bring you out beside the lock-up you passed earlier. You're now on Gay Street again; walk left and you'll see Mells Manor entrance ahead. If you're hungry and/or thirsty, see if the Walled Garden is open, opposite New Street; they have facilities and a café; otherwise, drive to the village Post office/shop, which also has facilities and a café.



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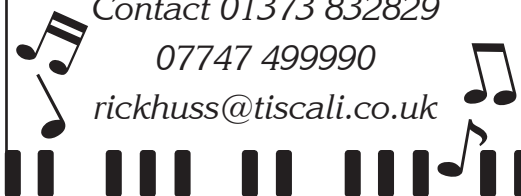
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Whitbourne Chapel

'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...'
Romans 3:23 (NIV)

We're hoping to have Morning Service on Palm Sunday, 28th March, plus one on Easter Sunday, 4th April. Bring along your mask and join us! We have plenty of socially distanced seating!

What's in a day?

February 28th is known in some cultures as 'Rare Disease Day'. This is mainly organised to raise awareness, among the general public and decision-makers, of rare diseases and their impact on people's lives. In a normal year, it's said that over 300 million people around the world are living with a rare disease.

As we're all aware 2021, like 2020, continues to be not a normal year, and the figure of 300 million is probably exceedingly small as the whole earth continues, in the main without acknowledgement of God, to tackle in its own strength, this COVID-19 virus. Coronavirus has been called a world pandemic. World Health Organisation best estimates back in October 2020 were that about 760 million people will have COVID, 10% of the 7.6 billion earth population.

I'm hoping and praying for the recovery of everyone who is suffering from this disease today and have great sympathy for all those grieving the loss of a loved one from COVID symptoms. Sadly, though, there's a greater pandemic facing the people of this earth. This

disease affects 100% of the earth's population (Romans 3 v23), yet most of the world's kings and queens, presidents, leaders, governments, hospital medical staff, doctors and nurses do not acknowledge it – the Bible calls it SIN. The Bible also tells us it's real, it's devastating, it separates us from God, and if we continue in it, we will be lost forever (Romans 6 v23).

The good news today is this - God has dealt with this pandemic of sin. The Apostle Paul tells us how in 1 Corinthians 15 verse 4: 'Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again the third day...'. Also, John 3

verse 16 reminds us, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' Will you believe?

At present, we continue to live in a fallen, broken world, but as the words of Nathan Fellingham's contemporary song says, 'there is a day' coming, maybe soon, when this will all be changed; the Bible says, '...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...' (1 Cor 15 v52).

Many years ago, Cliff Richard recorded a song containing these words, 'There's no time to change your mind, The Son has come, and you've been left behind'. The song was titled 'I wish we'd all been ready.' Are you ready?

*Andrew Coxhead,
Occasional preacher at Whitbourne Chapel*



The Chapel may be closed for now, BUT please remember:
If you need help or simply someone to talk to, ring 01373 464244 or 07980 013685
and we'll do our best to help you. Otherwise, log in to our website
www.whitbournechapel.org.uk or google 'Whitbourne Baptist Chapel'.

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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Spring has sprung!

We now have a new morning wake-up call – the dawn chorus starting around 5.30-6am. The loudest of all is a wonderful cock pheasant regularly sitting on our garden fence making everyone aware that he is around and looking absolutely stunning.

Our resident blackbirds, robins and song thrushes have already hatched their first clutch of young and are now busy taking food to them; if you have any small bird boxes they may now be homes for blue tits and great tits.

New arrivals on our shores will be sand martins, willow warblers, chiffchaffs and the eagerly-awaited cuckoo whose numbers sadly continue to decline.

Swallows and swifts will soon fly in from warmer climes, with the occasional sighting of a few who have over wintered in the UK. I wonder if the fly catchers will return to Pool Farm this year?

Local ornithologists have seen a long tailed eagle in our skies, which has possibly moved up from the Isle of Wight and, following a 'pit stop' on the lakes at Longleat, you might catch sight of an osprey moving north to the Wye Valley or the Lochs of Scotland. Bluebells and wild garlic will soon cover the ground in woodland and blue and white violets will join the primroses on the sunny banks of fields and ditches.

Bumble bees and peacock butterflies are feeding on the wild and garden flowers and we hope to soon see the hedgehogs appear in our

garden after hibernating through the winter months. Hares will soon be 'boxing' in the short grass and arable fields.

Out in the fields the cows are now enjoying the fresh new grass and making the most of being able to stretch their legs and lose their dusty winter coats.

Except for the high ground of the Peak District, Yorkshire Moors and Scotland, lambs will now be out skipping in the fields – such a uplifting sight after our cold dark winter of lockdown!

British summertime officially starts on 28th March giving us longer daylight hours in which we can enjoy all the wonders of nature around us.

Judith Helliar

For up-to-date information such as occasional parish council meetings, church services, village calendars, highways, history group and other useful information, please visit

chapmanslade.org.uk

Want something added? Just email contact@chapmanslade.org.uk with your request!

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

Chairman, Hugh Deed, reports on the latest happenings at the hall



Re-opening

Based on the latest COVID rules as announced late February it will not be possible to fully reopen until 21st June at earliest. Although there are major relaxations planned for 17th May, the 'rule of 6 indoors' is currently planned to remain until 21st June. We may be able to take some very limited (and tightly controlled) bookings from 17th May depending on how things develop.

Local Elections

As reported last month we can confirm that a recent inspection by the authorities has passed the building as "COVID-safe" for the elections on the 6th May 2021 for those who want to vote in person. Please note that Wiltshire Council urge everyone who can to vote by post. Full details on applying for a postal vote are available online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/Elections_2021

See website www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk for more details about the COVID restrictions and hiring.

Village hall refurbishment/new build options

A small group has been established to propose how best to consult the village residents over all the options for the village hall when the possibilities of the various sites (the existing Reading Room, Bay Tree, Showfield and Memorial Playing Field) have been developed to a suitable point for wider discussion.

This group currently consists of Alice Helliard, Rob White, Christine de Groot, Jackie Jasper, Liz Garrett, John Willcox, Neil Britten and Hugh Deed.

We anticipate publishing a brief survey in the May edition of *The Bridge* to invite residents to comment on their requirements of a village hall and what they would want to see in it to make it more useful to them. This would then be followed by a later opportunity to discuss the options which can be considered against those requirements and the trade-offs required.

Hugh Deed

Chairman of Management Committee
Chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk
01373 832897

Small ads

£1 for EACH item for sale or wanted (cash only please) - at one of the two drop-off locations)

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Tanzania
- 2 Wuhan
- 3 Vatican City
- 4 Goldeneye
- 5 12 pairs
- 6 Sloth
- 7 Tube shape
- 8 Don't cry for me Argentina
- 9 Parking meter
- 10 Canada (6 Brazil, 7 Nigeria, 8 Bangladesh)
- 11 Gannet
- 12 Loch Ness monster

Local organisation adverts

£2 per month for a small boxed advert or £7.50 for a full page. Full page adverts are allocated depending on space available and cannot be guaranteed. All monies must be at one of the two drop-off locations (Bartons Plant Centre or Acres Supply Garden Centre) by **4pm** on the **19th** of the month. Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Annual trade advertisements (12 issues, when space is available)

1 space	(69mm wide x 33mm high)	£22.00
2 spaces	(69mm wide x 66mm high)	£42.00
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4 spaces	(138mm wide x 66mm high)	£75.00
6 spaces	(half page - 138mm wide x 100mm high)	£104.00

Trade advertisement material should be supplied in print-ready format,
to the chosen standard size and correct shape.

For trade advertising enquiries, please contact David James (Trade advert coordinator/Treasurer)
at either thebridge832@gmail.com or 01373 832443.

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