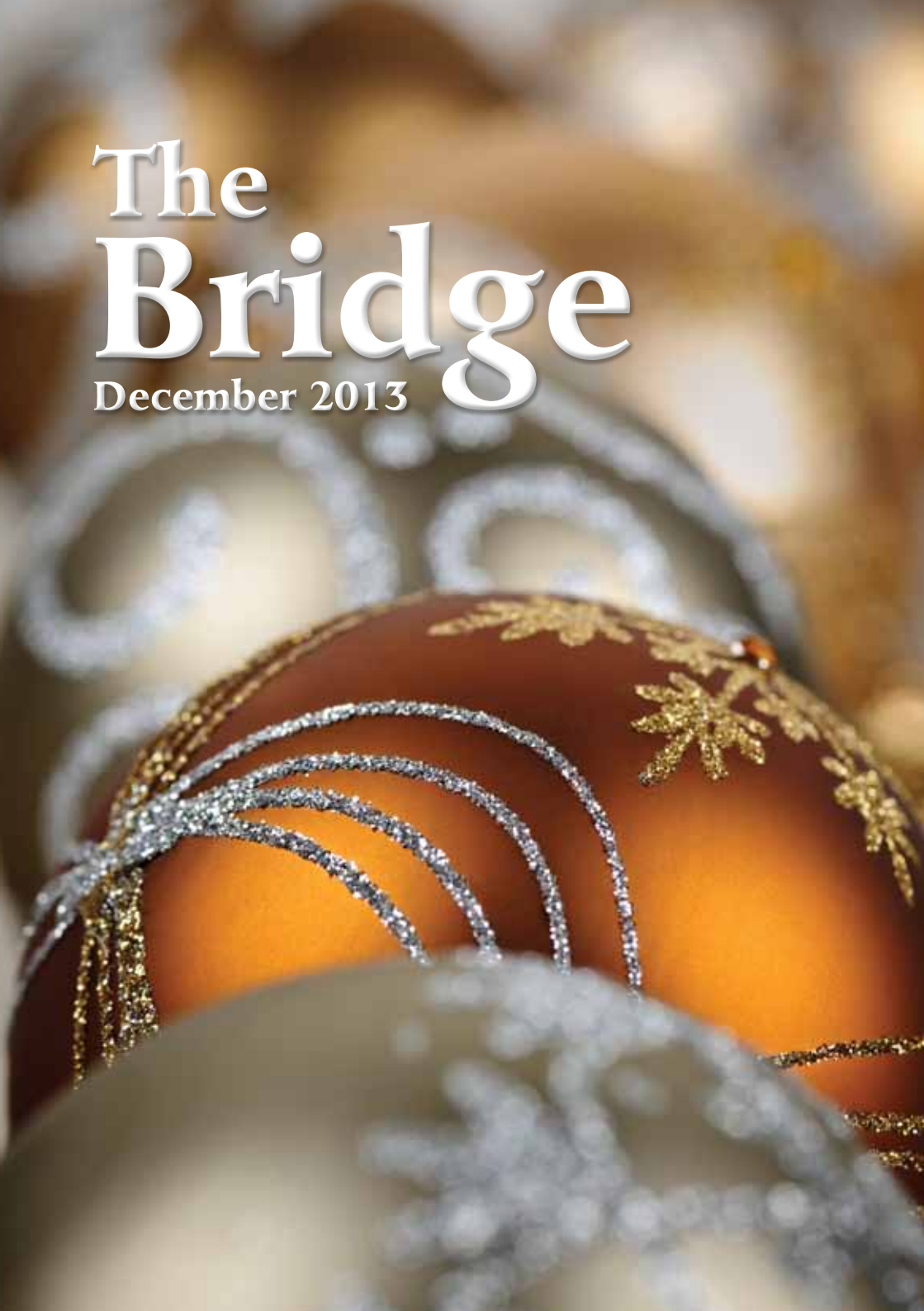


The Bridge

December 2013



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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 Barbers 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 'For Sale' or 'Wanted'.

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

Larger ads are subject to space availability and by arrangement with the Editor who will advise on the price.

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 (Barbers Plant Centre or Acres Supply).

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see the last page.

8 Bob's Bafflers
a cunning quiz

12 Parish Council briefing
Chapmanslade

21 Corsley Tennis Club
over the net

Three Open Doors **23**
news from the pews

Corsley WI **28**
news from the ladies

Parish Council briefing **29**
Corsley

35 News from the Nest
fledgling fun

39 Whitbourne Chapel
chapel colloquy

46 Countryside matters
views from over the hedge

www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk

*****Deadline*****

Due to the Xmas close-down, the deadline for articles or adverts for the January issue of The Bridge is 4pm on the 12th December

December

Tuesday 3rd

Coffee Morning – 10am - 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 5th

Corsley Memorial Playing Field Committee AGM – 6.30pm, Cross Keys back room

Corsley Cricket Club AGM – 8.00pm, Cross Keys back room

Saturday 7th

Corsley litter pick – 10.00, meet opposite the Royal Oak

Steiner Academy Frome - Advent Fair – 11am - 4pm, Rook Lane Chapel, Frome

Chapmanslade School Christmas Fayre – 2.30pm, at the School

Village Carol Evening – 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

Sunday 8th

Corsley Festival Choir – An English Christmas – 7.30pm, St Margaret's Church, Corsley

Monday 9th

Corsley Parish Council Quarterly Meeting – 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 11th

Lite Bites Christmas Lunch – 12.30pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

Thursday 12th

Warminster mobile library (see page 7 for times)

Corsley WI Christmas Dinner – 6.30 for 7.00pm

Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Saturday 14th

Chapmanslade Litter Pick – 12 noon, meet opposite The Three Horseshoes

Little Cuckoos Christmas Fair – 2 - 4pm, at the School (next to the Corsley Centre)

Tuesday 17th

Coffee Morning – 10.30am - 12 noon, Sandhayes, Corsley

Thursday 19th

Church and Community Coffee Morning – 10.00am - noon, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Sunday 22nd

Carol Service – 6.00pm, St Margaret's Church



*please note
new time!*

Diary Dates

Monday 23rd

Carol Singing – 6.00pm in Chapmanslade and 7.00pm in Corsley

Tuesday 24th

Midnight Eucharist – 11.30pm, St Margaret's Church

Wednesday 25th

Holy Communion – 9.00am, St Mary's

Christmas Eucharist – 10.30am, St Philip and St James' Church

January

Tuesday 7th

Coffee Morning – 10am - 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 8th

Parochial Church Council – 7.30pm, St Margaret's Church

Thursday 9th

Warminster mobile library (see page 7 for times)

Corsley WI – 2.30pm, Corsley Reading Room, 'Lebanese Cookery'

Warminster Area Board – 7.00pm, Warminster Civic Centre

Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Saturday 11th

Chapmanslade Litter Pick – 12 noon, meet opposite The Three Horseshoes

Thursday 23rd

Warminster mobile library (see page 7 for times)

Thursday 30th

Corsley Tennis Club AGM – 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

Litter pickers

Chapmanslade litter pickers

We will be meeting opposite the Three Horseshoes at noon on **Saturday 14th December**. We provide all the necessary equipment and spend about an hour or so collecting litter from the High Street and surrounding area.

Phil Jefferson
01373 832845

Corsley litter pickers

NEW TIME

We meet opposite the Royal Oak at **10am** on the first Saturday of each month. Our next 'pick' is on **Saturday 7th December** – do come along and help keep our village beautiful.

Cath Aylesbury and Sue Taylor

Corsley Festival Choir



An English Christmas

Sunday 8th December at 7.30pm

St Margaret's Church, Corsley

*A Boy was Born – Britten Christmas Day – Holst In Terra Pax – Finzi
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis – Stanford The First Nowell – Vaughan Williams*

Tickets £12.50 01985 217191

New advertising rates

Trade advertising

We have kept our trade advertising rates unchanged for nearly two years now but our printing costs have increased, largely due to our colour cover (which has been well received) and more pages of content thanks to our contributors. Our new rates are shown on the last page and will be applied to invoices presented from January 2014 onward. We would like to thank all our advertisers for their continued support.

Small ads

We have slightly increased the 'for sale' and 'wanted' advertisements from 80p per item to £1 per item.

All other advertisements

There are no changes to the fees for other adverts.

Light Bites

We would like to invite you to come and join us for a

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 11th December

12.30 for 1.00

Corsley Reading Rooms

Please ring to reserve your place

Phone Pat 832650, or Dot 832059

We make no charge for our lunches, but any donations will be sent to The Children's Society





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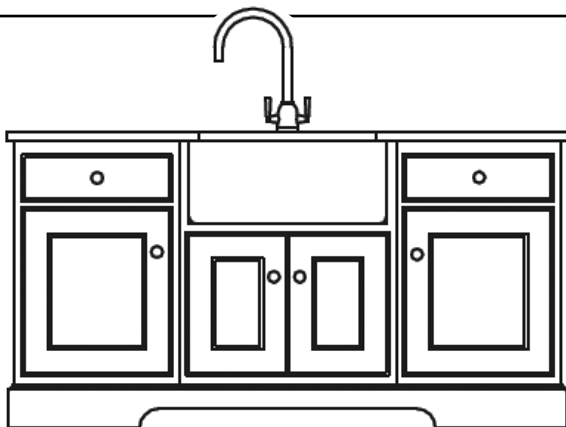


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A sneak preview of some craft and gardening classes for...

Corsley Show 2014

Get ahead with planning your garden and starting crafting projects in readiness for the next Show

Printed in this edition of the Bridge is the pre-Schedule giving advance details of four Divisions of the 2014 Show. For creative crafters and active artists, the classes in Divisions G & I will offer the opportunity to use the approaching winter nights to produce exquisite exhibits for us to display!

We have also included details of the vegetable classes in the Open and Closed Divisions to give gardeners the chance to purchase the appropriate seeds and prepare their growing plan. In Division C, for local residents only, there will be enhanced prize money for a 'Container of Mixed Vegetables'. In Division A, Marrows, an old favourite, returns while Swiss Chard is a new arrival.



vegetables. It is attractive enough to grow in a herbaceous border, showing rich red, orange or yellow stems beneath big green leaves. For advice on how to grow it see...

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Grow-Your-Own/Veg-A-to-Z/Leaf-beat->

Chard

and on how to cook it...

<http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/swiss-chard>



Swiss Chard is one of the most nutritious vegetables around and ranks second only to spinach in the list of the World's healthiest

The mobile library service visits next on:

Thursday 12th December

10:10 - 10:30

Corsley, by the Royal Oak pub

10:45 - 11:00

Chapmanslade, outside 132 High St

11:05 - 12:00

Chapmanslade, by the school

Future dates for this round are:

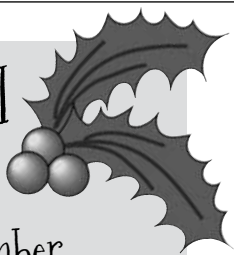
9th, 23rd January and 6th February

Bob's bafflers

- 1 In the rhyme, what was Friday's child?
- 2 What cargo did the ship 'The Cutty Sark' carry?
- 3 In which Shakespeare play do we meet two grave diggers?
- 4 What do 'Bluebell', 'Watercress' and 'Severn Valley' have in common?
- 5 In which film is the Harry Lime theme?
- 6 In which city would you find 'Paddy's Wigwam'?
- 7 Who sang "On the Good Ship Lollipop"?
- 8 What does the second 'E' in the acronym ERNIE stand for?
- 9 What is the singular of scampi?
- 10 To which section of the orchestra does the tuba belong?
- 11 In which country is Waterloo, the site of a famous battle?
- 12 When a cow stands up, which legs does it get up on first?

Answers on page 48

Village Carol Evening



Saturday 7th December
7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

Licensed Bar

Tickets £6.00 (light supper included)

from Dick & Rosemary Collins

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& Committee Members

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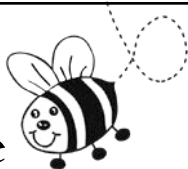
Chapmanslade Village Hall
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At the crease | Corsley Cricket Club News

The annual presentation evening took place in the Reading Room in conjunction with Spooky Do 2.

After a pumpkin-themed meal the Captain, Roy Pearce, distributed the silverware as follows...

Batting	Robin Ledbury
Bowling	Mervyn Parrish
Single Wicket	Chris Seviour
Double Wicket	James Bishop and Mervyn Parrish
Henry Edwards Memorial Cup	Glyn Newton
Clubman	Adam Ledbury
Presidents Prize	Richard Alexander

Dave Johnson then augmented the club's funds to a remarkable degree by auctioning a framed scorecard of the 1981 Leeds test match for an eye-watering sum. The generous buyer was the discerning Arnie Seegobin.

This year the club won six of the twelve matches played and looks forward confidently to 2014.

Cake Monster

Postscript

Members are reminded that the AGM is on 5th December, 8.00pm at the Cross Keys.

Free home check-up

As we settle into autumn and prepare for the busy festive season, we often find we have very little spare time to do the little things.

One thing we should always make time for is making sure your home is safe especially in the winter months when we are using our fires and heating more frequently. This brings me onto the serious matter of fire and safety.

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service are anxious to prevent fires happening and can offer a free check-up. They offer advice on safety measures as well as checking that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work.

You could be eligible if you:

- ✓ Are over 65
- ✓ Have under 5's in your household
- ✓ Have a long term illness or physical/mental impairment
- ✓ Live in a thatched property, or mobile home
- ✓ Have a single-occupant home

If you are interested in having a check on your home, please call me to arrange on **07557 922033**.

Finally at the end of the year, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Emma Curtis

*Good Neighbour Coordinator
Warminster Rural Community Area
07557 922033*

warminstergnc@communityfirst.co.uk



Parish Council Briefing

Phil Jefferson reports on the November meeting of Chapmanslade Parish Council and on other parish matters

Mains Gas

30 residents came along to last month's parish council meeting to discuss the possibility of obtaining mains gas in the village. Kerry Jones, one of our residents, who is a heating engineer, gave an excellent presentation. This was very well received by everyone present and he was thanked warmly.

We learned that 59 households would need to sign up before Wales and West Utilities will agree to extending the pipeline into the heart of the village and they would each have to pay a little over £3,000 for the connection. Residents living away from the High Street would probably have to fork out a little more than this. The total cost for each household is likely to be in the region of £5,000, to cover the cost of fitting new boilers, etc.

£5,000 sounds a big investment but we were advised that this might be clawed back over ten years, with savings coming from cheaper fuel and modern, efficient boilers.

There was considerable enthusiasm in the meeting for the idea. The next step is to ask all Chapmanslade residents if they are interested and wish to find out more. At this stage there is no need to make a commitment; all we need to know at

the moment is whether as many as 59 households are interested in the possibility of having mains gas.

If you think this is for you please contact Kerry at kns gasandheating@gmail.com or by phoning him on 07733 260512. Or, please get in touch with me and I will pass your message on to him. Kerry has also kindly offered to help by offering advice on the pros and cons of converting to gas to anyone who would like to contact him. He will also produce a fact sheet, which we will make available shortly.

Speedwatch

A national road safety week took place in November. Our speedwatch team raised the profile of road safety by spending a few minutes each morning and afternoon outside the school monitoring the traffic flow and talking with parents. On one of our regular sessions, on 8th November, 534 vehicles passed through the village between 8 and 9 am – a record! Three new members of the team recently received their training at Police Headquarters. We'd love to have even more members: please contact Jill Willmot on 832464 if you are interested. Wiltshire Police inform us that motorists caught speeding now receive a letter from them within 5 days of being spotted by us. Finally, we have learned that the Speed

Indicator Device (SID) will return for a couple of weeks in February and thereafter every three months.

Weight Restriction

I can now clarify this. The present weight limit through the village is 17 tonnes, which is no longer legally enforceable. Wiltshire Council has announced its intention to raise the limit to a legally enforceable 18 tonnes and a period of consultation will take place, probably next Spring, before a decision is finally taken. In the longer term, we have been promised a 7.5 tonne limit, which would be much better for us, but this depends on a number of matters, including the need for road improvements in the south of the county. So, it will be a long time before that happens! If you spot a lorry with three axles in the village it's probably overweight.

Planning

Only one application has been received in the past few weeks. Starline Taxis have applied to construct a radio mast at Barbers Farm. We raised no objection to this and Wiltshire Council has now granted planning permission.

Village Hall

The Village Hall were successful in their bid to the Area Board for a £5,000 grant towards the new floor. Many congratulations to Tim Humphreys who put together a first-rate bid.

Thoulstone

James and Alka Hughes-Hallett, the owners of Thoulstone Park, have informed the parish council that, in partnership with The Woodland Trust and The Forestry Commission, they are creating over 51 acres of new English woodland across the site. They expect that the bulk of the planting will be completed by Christmas and they hope that the new area of woodland will become a valuable and sustainable haven for local wildlife.

A small area of the planting area has been reserved for a Volunteer Planting weekend which is planned for Saturday and Sunday 15th and 16th February. We have been promised more details of this in due course.

Next meeting

Subject to there being sufficient business, our next meeting is on Thursday 12th December, 7 30 pm at the school. Our January meeting is scheduled for 9th January. Our meetings are public meetings and you are welcome to come along and join us. In the meantime, on behalf of my fellow councillors, please accept my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Phil Jefferson
Phil.Jefferson@virgin.net
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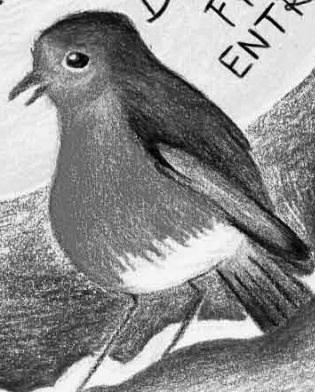
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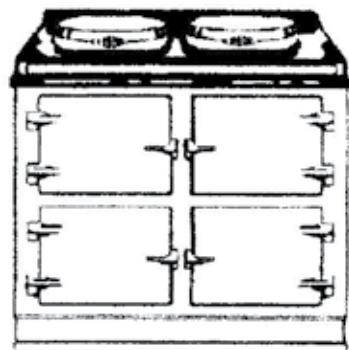


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Avast there me hearty's and land lubbers all, The Elizabethan Evening is going all nautical in 2014 and will be hosting something extremely special.

You'll be guaranteed an evening like no other; timbers will be shivered, buckles swashed and Jolly's Rogered. Rum doings and black spots will also be to the fore

Messers Quill & Parchment, doyens of the Foreplay, are already hard at work interviewing many perspective Pretty Pollys and not a few Glamorous Glorias, and anyone with a hankering to be a Salty Sue (over 18, owns sword and corsets - teeth optional) make yourself known. We still have a few spare evenings of the casting couch to fill before June.

The Salty Swallow Tavern, will be awash with seamen and the occasional seawoman, and will rise (or is that sink) Atlantis like to slack thirsts for one and all.

Bosun White & Co may yet be tempted into serving us nautical fare of marine magnificence, and not a wormy ships' biscuit or salt cod anywhere on the menu.

Illyria are an extremely well known and well versed group of performers. Our staging costs will rise as a result and we will have to make a modest increase in ticket prices. However we hope our previous and new patrons will see that it's an evening without equal on any of the first nine planets in our Solar system.

*Yours,
Cap'n Jake "3 foot" Peg*



Little Cuckoos Christmas Fair

2 - 4pm, Saturday 14th December

Come and meet Father Christmas in his grotto!

Lots of Christmas crafts and activities...

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...and much more!

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Poppy Appeal Collection

The 2013 house to house collections and the static collections at The Royal Oak, The Cross Keys, Acres Supply, Little Cuckoos Nursery, The Steiner Academy and Chapmanslade school, have raised £1011.08. The collections from the Remembrance Services at Corsley and Chapmanslade along with a donation from the Church charity fund raised a further £500, so the total raised was £1511.08. This is wonderful, especially considering the current economic climate. Many thanks to all the collectors and to everyone who gave so generously.

The Royal British Legion not only remembers and honours the sacrifices of those who fought and continue to fight in the service of our nation, but also contributes to providing them with lifelong care.

*Many thanks
Jackie Jasper*

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Corsley

Corsley Memorial Playing Field Committee

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 5th December, 6.30pm
Cross Keys back room

All welcome

followed at 8.00pm by

Corsley Cricket Club

Annual General Meeting

For more information, please contact
Marion Liguorice
t. 01373 8323147
e. marion@nmc2.co.uk, or

Lesley Pearce
t. 01985 220479
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Corsley Tennis Club News

The Tennis Club held their Presentation and Social Evening at the Royal Oak on the 15th November.

An excellent meal was enjoyed, followed by a raffle and quiz, won by Charlotte Beswick and her team who deployed their encyclopedic knowledge to devastating effect!

The evening was well supported and thanks go to Sonia Glenn, Isabel Lewis, Marlene Latchem and Geoff Levitt for organising the event so well.

The Tennis Club would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Happy Christmas.

Diary note

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Reading Rooms in Corsley on the 30th January 2014 at 7.30pm.

Sonia Glenn

Chairperson, Jenny Bishop, welcomed everybody and our president, Charlotte Beswick, presented the club trophies:

Juniors

Boys Under 16	Kieran Withey
Girls Under 16	Natasha Kozlowski
Mixed Under 13 (Singles)	Amy Lloyd
Improver's Shield	Tommy Wootton

Adults

Ladies' Singles	Alison Plummer
Men's Singles	Brian Young
Ladies' Doubles	Jenny Bishop and Brenda Levitt
Men's Doubles	Michael Clarke and Jon Dilena
Mixed Doubles	Alison Plummer and Allan Snedden



Left to right

Jenny Bishop, Kieran Withey, Brenda Levitt, Tommy Wootton, Alison Plummer, Amy Lloyd, Brian Young.

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Three Open Doors

The Rector writes:

The season of Remembrance is only just coming to an end and, already, Advent, the season of waiting and prayerful preparation for Christmas, appears to be passing us by! Christmas has already begun on the high streets and in the shopping centres. Television advertisements are keen to encourage us to begin our shopping in earnest and have you noticed that carols too, are in full swing as you push your trolley around the supermarket to remind you that Christmas is not far off?

I don't mean to sound like Mr Scrooge - I love the build up to Christmas as much as anyone - but I fear we have become less used to having to wait and wonder why, when Christmas day does finally arrive, we feel so exhausted and wish we had a few more days to prepare!!

Throughout December we do have an opportunity to prepare ourselves both spiritually and mentally for the wonderful event which we celebrate on the 25th of December each year. Advent is the time of quiet and prayerful reflection on the real meaning of Christmas, the significance of the birth of a baby, born over 2000 years ago, who grew up to change the course of history throughout the world.

So STOP and find time for Advent this year and give yourselves a break.

STOP and Open up the Advent calendar with your children, and, when they have got over the excitement of eating the 'Divine' chocolate, tell them the real story of Christmas. The Lion Story Teller Bible is a good place to start.

STOP and light a candle each evening and place it in the window to remind yourselves and others who pass by that we are waiting for Christ who is, 'the light of the world'.

STOP and read a chapter of your bible each day – you will find Advent readings on-line or in your local church.

STOP and say a prayer each day, for the people who continue to live in places where there is injustice and poverty. Remember the refugees and those who are homeless because of wars and natural disasters.

STOP and take time for yourselves to draw closer to God and after the four weeks you will know just why you are celebrating Christmas this year.

May I wish you all a very happy and Blessed Christmas and good wishes for 2014

Di Britten

December Church Diary

Sunday 1st December: Advent Sunday

9.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley

Eucharist



Sunday 8th December: Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

Family Eucharist

11am at St Mary's, Temple

Matins



Wednesday 11th December

From 12.30pm to 1.30pm at Corsley Reading Rooms

Light Bites Christmas Luncheon

Please ring either Pat on 832650 or Dot on 832059 to reserve your place.

All profits to the Children's Society.



Sunday 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

Eucharist



Tuesday 17th December

10.30am to 12pm at Sandhayes, Corsley

By kind permission of Andrew and Laura Gates

Christmas Coffee Morning

Christmas themed Bring & Buy

50/50 Club Christmas Draw

Admission £2 includes coffee and biscuit

For more info please contact Stella Bayman 832230 or Phil Jefferson 832845

Parking for disabled outside house, otherwise please follow parking directions



Thursday 19th December

10am to 12pm at the Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Church and Community Coffee Morning

Sunday 22nd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am at St Mary's, Temple

Holy Communion 1662

6pm at St Margaret's, Corsley

Carol Service



Monday 23rd December

Carol Singing in and around Corsley and Chapmanslade

Chapmanslade: please meet at the Old Post Office at 6pm.

Corsley: Church members will be singing carols in several locations
around the village from 7pm.



Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

3pm at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

Crib Service

11.30pm at St Margaret's, Corsley

Midnight Eucharist



Wednesday 25th December: Christmas Day

9am at St Mary's, Temple

Holy Communion 1662

10.30am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

Christmas Eucharist



Sunday 29th December: First Sunday after Christmas

10.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley

Benefice Eucharist



Sunday 5th January: Second Sunday after Christmas

9.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley

Eucharist

Associate Priest	Rev Di Britten (day off is Friday)	01373 832515
Parish Office	Dick Collins (Cley Hill Villages Benefice)	01985 215460
Lay Pastoral Assistants	Richard Dean	01373 832594
	Barbara Hughes	01373 832273
	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
Churchwarden	Charles Thackway	01373 832048
Deputy Churchwarden	St Philip & St James – Janet Aylesbury	01373 832752
Deputy Churchwarden	St Margaret's – Judith Helliar	01373 832803
Deputy Churchwarden	St Mary's – Harcourt Gough	01373 832039
PCC Secretary	Phil Jefferson	01373 832845
PCC Minute Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Keith Muston	01373 832755
Planned Giving Officer	Judith Helliar	01373 832803
Choir Leaders	Marion Muston	01373 832755
	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
Tower Captain	Dick Collins	01373 832789
50/50 Club	Neil Britten	01373 832515
Electoral Roll	Michael Taylor	01373 832566

Chapmanslade War Memorial

It is proposed that the War Memorial, which is situated in the churchyard at St Philip and St James', should be amended to include two names of village residents who were killed in action during the Second World War. This will be achieved by adding a new plaque as they were, thankfully, the only two residents who lost their lives on active service in the Second World War. English Heritage have recently 'listed' the War Memorial.

Diary dates 2014

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Wed 9th April at St Margaret's. The Spring Fayre and Table-top Sale will be on Saturday 17th May at Chapmanslade Village Hall.

Copy for 3 Open Doors should be sent to Keith Muston at
themustons@btinternet.com subject 3ODs or phone 01373 832755.

If you would like to receive weekly news of Church events and activities, please send your email address to the above, with subject 'Through the Open Doors'.



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Corsley WI November News



At the November meeting of Corsley WI, the President Carol Seward gave a warm welcome to members and guests to hear a talk by Claire Williams about Suffragettes and Munitions Girls. Claire dressed in the typical dress and hat of a suffragette in the early 20th century and brought with her examples of the posters and propaganda leaflets and also some of the heavy shells made in the munitions factories. Claire's slides showed us that suffragettes handing out leaflets and selling their magazines, had to stand in the road not on the pavements, in order to avoid arrest for obstruction. Their motto was Deeds not Words and over the years there were many rallies and lots of publicity in aid of the cause. Claire's great-grandmother, Emily Wilding Davidson, was killed when she put herself in front of the King's horse at The Derby and her funeral procession in London in 1913 was the second largest to Princess Diana's. By 1914, Women's Social & Political Union shops had opened to raise money. However, World War I brought about many changes, with women being employed in the munitions factories whilst the men were sent to fight. After the war, women over 30 were eventually allowed to vote, own their own home and earn £5 a year! Pauline Scott gave the vote of thanks.

Rosemary Collins gave a comprehensive report on the Wiltshire Federation Annual Council Meeting held recently in Salisbury and Cath Fricker told us of her course on Bobbin Lace making at Denman College. Some members had been on a trip to Forde Abbey and those who attended the Weavers Group Meeting were entertained by the stories of Ann Chance as she learnt to fly.

The Skittles team captain, Charlotte Beswick was presented with the league winners shield and Val Sandoe received the Cup for the highest score in the finals. So far this season, the team has won 3 out of their 3 matches. The Scrabble team has also won both of their matches played.

The competition for a coloured bottle was won by Jean White, with Carol Seward second and Rosemary Collins third.

On Thursday 12 December the Christmas Dinner takes the place of the meeting, but we shall be back in the Reading Room at Corsley at 2.30pm on 9 January 2014, when Wafaa Powell will demonstrate Lebanese Cookery. The competition is for a pretty plate.

Why not join us in the Reading Room in Corsley for any of the following activities, which are open to anyone over 18?

Coffee Morning First Tuesday each month, 10-12noon

Gardening Club Third Wednesday each month, 2.30pm, Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb

Bridge Club First and third Tuesdays each month, 2-4pm

More details on the Gardening Club and Bridge Club from Pauline on 01985 215760

Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

One meeting has been held since the last Bridge, an occasional meeting on 18th November, called to consider two planning applications and issues related to footpaths and bridleways.

The first planning application was for approval of outline plans to build three houses on the site of Squires coal yard. The yard has supplied coal and other products for forty five years and, in the face of a diminishing market and stiff competition, the owner is considering his future retirement. Two bungalows on Roddenbury View overlook the yard on one side and on the other is the White Hart pub car park. Written comments had been received from the residents of the affected bungalows. After lengthy discussion, including invited comments from the affected residents, who attended the meeting, it was agreed that the PC would generally support the proposal, but with reservations in two areas, the design and layout of the houses and drainage. Without detailed attention to the former, there was a significant risk that the privacy and amenity of the rear gardens of the adjacent bungalows could be seriously jeopardised. Drainage was a concern with respect to the capacity of the local systems in an area which is already prone to 'undiagnosed' leakage on to the A362.

The second application was for a new entrance and driveway for Corsley House. The plans incorporate creation of a new turn in off Deep Lane, about 150m north of the A362 junction with Deep Lane, requiring a minor re-location of a field gate and

footpath stile. Hedges either side of the new entrance would be moved back from the road to provide visibility and two ornamental trees in the gardens of the House would be cut down to make way for the gravelled drive and a parking area at the House end of the drive. The PC had no reservations about this application.

The PC also discussed a dialogue which has taken place between the Secretary of the West Wiltshire Ramblers Group and Mr Burroughs of Cley Hill Farm concerning an ambition of the Ramblers for a footpath behind Cley Hill connecting the Warminster by-pass to the Farm access road. The PC, as yet, has no direct involvement, but would be required to act to secure funding if the parties agreed to a new footpath. To-date this has not happened and the PC maintains a neutral watching brief.

Simon Jasper de-briefed the meeting on the outcome of the last Community Area Transport group on 24th September. We were able to discuss and agree the final details of work scope and plans for the A362 repairs, which should be history by the publication of the Bridge, and to get two Corsley roads on the speed limit review programme, Lane End to Longleat and Lane End to Chapmanslade. The next meeting with Longleat and Wiltshire Highways will also have taken place by the time of this Bridge and any key developments will be put on the Bridge web site.

Neil Britten
Chairman, Corsley Parish Council
neil.britten@btinternet.com

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Christmas is on the way, so let's get festive in the garden!

The Holly and the Ivy

At this time of the year, we go all out to decorate the house to get us in the Christmas spirit, but why not bring a little Christmas joy to the garden too?

Here are a few ideas for giving your garden a festive make-over...

- ✿ Tidy, tidy, tidy! Rake up leaves and debris to give your garden a smarter appearance.
- ✿ If you have trees in the garden why not hang coloured or plain outdoor lights on them to brighten them up. You can even buy solar powered fairy lights but if you are using normal mains lights be careful with the electrics!
- ✿ Why not plant conifer or box pyramids in pots on either side of your front door and decorate them using pine cones, ribbons and dried fruits.
- ✿ Give your statues a Christmassy feel using ribbons, old scarves and other decorations to add some colour.
- ✿ Using red cyclamen and white hyacinths plant up a disused pot or tub for some Christmas cheer outside too.
- ✿ Get the children involved to make a Father Christmas scarecrow, not only will it look good now but you can use it next season to protect your vegetable crops.
- ✿ Why not purchase or make yourself a festive holly wreath to hang on your door, if you're worried about fixing it to your door why not hang it on the garden gate, either way it will bring a smile to any visitor's face.

And don't forget you don't have to leave the garden outside...

- ✿ If using a real Christmas tree this year make sure you cut the base off the trunk and place it in a stand which holds water, this will help to prevent needle drop.
- ✿ For an alternative to a Christmas tree, use red dogwood or twisted hazel stems from the garden and place them in clear vases. Use pebbles to hide the bases, then drape fairy lights over the stems to create a focal point.
- ✿ Bring in some holly and other plant material to create festive table decorations using scented Christmas candles from your local garden centre.
- ✿ Also why not use the conifer from your garden to create a garland...

Gather 5-inch pieces of conifer. Cut a suitable length of string and tie a loop at one end, then attach a reel of wire to the string. Now place a bundle of conifer onto the string covering the loop, stems pointing down the length of string. Bind, using the wire, overlap the next bunch to cover the stems of the previous. Repeat until you run out of string. Twist the wire securely round the end of the last bundle, leaving enough wire at this end to attach it to your door or gate. Finally, decorate with ribbons, etc., for a festive touch.

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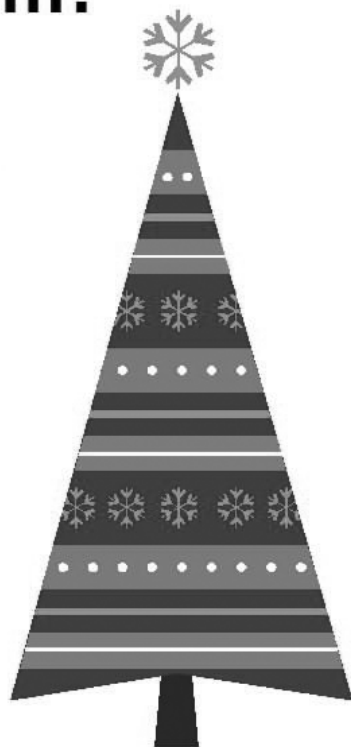
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News from the Nest

Welcome to this month's feature of 'News from the Nest' from Little Cuckoo's Pre-School in Lyes Green, Corsley.

Little Cuckoos have had a busy Autumn fundraising, with a Bag2School collection which raised £135 for the pre-school; a Harvest Swap where parents and staff contributed produce which was then swapped or sold, raising £33 for the Warminster Food Bank. We also supported Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal: thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported our events.

Over the summer break the pre-school has been painted and re-floored inside - the children were very excited to return in September.

Our current theme is 'Nature Around Us' and as part of that we have 'Forest School' on Friday afternoons.

Unfortunately, our Tuesday morning Mother and Toddler Group is suspended until we find a suitable volunteer to run it.

We are now starting our preparations for Christmas and the children have been bringing in filled shoeboxes ready for collection by Rev Di Britten to support the Samaritans Purse Christmas Box Scheme.

We are also starting to get ready for our Christmas Fair on 14th December and would appreciate any kind donations of empty Kilner-style jars (750ml - 1 litre) or tombola gifts.

Our last day of term is 20th December when we will celebrate at St Margaret's Church with our Nativity play - parents, family and friends are all welcome.

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‘Home is the Girl’s Prison and



School Certificate prize winners with Dr Margaret Griffin and Baroness Cox

Corsley and Chapmanslade have a strong link with South Sudan, where, sadly, there is still a lot of truth in the above saying. The UNESCO Report on Education in South Sudan has some shocking statistics about girls education.

Because of the demands at home and the pressures for early marriage, girls are less likely than boys to enter schools and more likely to drop out. Perhaps UNESCO's most alarming statistic of all is that a girl in South Sudan is three times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than enter secondary school. In the recent School Certificate results only a quarter of those who passed nationally were girls.

Another Milestone in the history of Juba School

Right from the opening of Juba school in 2007 it has sought to be a 'beacon' school for girls secondary education. One of the recognised ways to improve the opportunities for girls is to provide boarding facilities for

them. A long-awaited Boarding House, for forty girls, was opened on 19 October 2013 by Baroness Caroline Cox. More than 800 people were present for the ceremony. The girls who now board there describe it as 'heaven on earth!' The Senior Mistress and Matron are supervising the daily operations. Most of the present girls are in their final year at school and will make full use of the facilities for revision. For relaxation, there is rounders and volley ball equipment, and some board games – they are grateful to a friend in Chapmanslade who has sent out a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle and to a lady in Corsley for making some sewing projects.

Second Best School in South Sudan!

The Annual Prize Giving was also a momentous occasion. The School Certificate results had just been released and Juba School ranked the second best of all secondary schools in South Sudan. Of the 88 students who took the exam, 45% were girls, compared with only a quarter in the country

d the Woman's Workhouse’*

Some of the first boarders who are delighted with their new home



girls at a Juba orphanage some beautiful little dresses and teddy bears have been made; these will be their Christmas presents!

Thank you to everyone

who has contributed so generously. Girls are being liberated from their ‘prisons’ and educated to become the future leaders of their country.

Richard Dean

* ‘Man and Superman’ by George Bernard Shaw

as a whole. (The aim is to make it 50%.) All the students passed, many achieving over 80%. Cups were awarded to the top boy, Riny, (86.9%), who is going on to study Engineering, and to the top girl, Salome, (84.3%) hoping to study law. Salome came 3rd nationally amongst 4,874 girls taking the exam. Another student called Lavina, sponsored by a couple in Beckington, was the top girl at the School in Science, averaging 84.3% in the three science subjects. Since she left school in April she has been working to support her widowed mother, as a cleaner in a bank, from 6.3 am to 6.00pm for a wage of £80 a month. We are investigating how we might get her some help to go on to University.

People in the parish have contributed amazingly generously towards education in Juba. They have provided bursaries for children at the secondary school and at primary schools whose parents are not able to pay the fees. For the girls at the Boarding House some attractive draw-string bags for personal belongings have been made and sent out. For some younger



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Whitbourne Chapel

We wish all our readers a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year

December preachers:

1st	One of the Chapel's own preachers
8th	Mr R Short, Frome businessman
15th	Mr J Coxhead, retired builder
22nd	Preachers to be announced for both the 11am Service and the 5pm Candlelit Service
29th	Reverend Keith Sobey, retired Baptist Minister

The Cruelty of Christmas

Christmas can be cruel. Viewers of 'Downton Abbey' were reminded of this as they watched on 25th December last. Their festivities were to climax in a fatal motoring accident, which hardly reinforced the gaiety which had, until then, characterised the day.

Tragedies occur every day, but they seem so out of place at this season. First and foremost, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the bringer of light, love and life. At the same time, the shadow of 'the massacre of the innocents', by Herod, hangs around the observance of the day.

Anton Bruckner understood this. Walking one night across the square in his home town of Linz, he heard the joyful sounds of a party in full swing. He had to remind himself that he was on his way to pay his respects to his friend, newly deceased. The last movement of his third symphony therefore combines a polka with a mournful chorale. 'Twas ever thus!

We need therefore to be tender-hearted to those who find Christmas difficult because of past griefs. Also, we should remember, and do something about, any we know to be facing the festival on their own.

'Good tidings of great joy'? Assuredly! Our Lord came to 'bear our griefs and carry our sorrows'. In the darkest night, His light cannot be put out!

Contributed by Reverend K Sobey, our preacher for the 29th December.

Advent – a Promise and a Prayer

John 14. 3: Jesus said, "I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Almost the last words of the Bible, Revelation 22. 20: "Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus!"

*Gill Redman 01373 832573
paradiselost@btinternet.com*

Regular times

Every Sunday morning at 11.00 for about an hour (coffee served at 10.45)

Communion on the first Sunday of each month at 12 noon for 15 minutes.

Favourite hymns + tea party every third Sunday in the month at 5 to 6.30

House-group Bible study every Tuesday at 7.30

Corsley Show 2014 – Pre-schedule

DIVISION A – Vegetables and Fruit – Open

Runner beans	6 pods	
French beans	6 pods	
Beetroot Globe	3 roots with approx 3"/7cm of stalk	
Cabbages	2 green, approx 3"/7cm of stalk	
Carrots	3 long, with approx 3"/7cm of stalk (please state length if over 27"/68cm long)	
Carrots	3 stump rooted, with approx 3"/7cm of stalk	
Corn on the Cob	2 cobs, any colour	
Marrows	2 (max length 27"/68cm)	*New for 2014*
Container of mixed vegetables (with a minimum of four kinds)	(max container size 24"/61cm square, height unlimited)	
Lettuce	2, with roots	
Onions	3 each to be over 8oz/227 grams	
Onions	5 each to be under 8oz/227 grams	
Potatoes	5 white, any variety	
Potatoes	5 coloured, any variety	
Shallots	9 bulbs	
Peppers	2, with stalks	
Tomatoes	5, with calyx other than cherry type	
Cherry Tomatoes	6, with calyx	
Cucumbers	2	
Swiss Chard	1 jar of 6 leaves, any colour(s)	*New for 2014*
Courgettes	3 (max length 6"/15cm)	
Any other vegetable	not listed above (state size if over 24"/61cm)	
A collection of salad items in a container	(max container size 20"/50cms)	
Apples	5 culinary	
Apples	5 dessert	
Plums	5 with stalks	
Plate of any other kind of fruit	in a single layer (max plate size 12"/31cm)	

DIVISION C – Vegetables and Flowers – Closed

Runner beans	6 pods	
French Beans	6 pods	
Rhubarb	3 sticks with heel, 1.5 "/4cm of trimmed leaf	
Onions	5	
Potatoes	4, one variety	
Tomatoes	4, other than cherry type, with calyx	
Cherry Tomatoes	5, with calyx	
Beetroots	3, with approx 3"/7cm of stalk	
Shallots	6 bulbs	
Carrots	3, with approx 3"/7cm of stalk	
Marrows or Squash	2 of one type (max size 18"/46cm)	
Container of Mixed Vegetables	minimum of 4 kinds (max container size 24"/61cm square, height unlimited)	*New for 2014*
Lavender	10 sprigs of any variety/varieties	
Gladiolus	1 specimen spike	

Cut Flowers
 Rose
 Roses
 Orchid
 Dahlias
 Sweet peas
 Garden Flower
 Small Planted Container

3 blooms of different varieties in a vase
 single bloom in a vase
 3 blooms any variety/ies
 in a pot (max diameter 10"/25cm)
 3 blooms of same variety in a vase
 6 stems, any variety/varieties in a vase
 3 stems, one variety in a vase
 (max container size 18"/46cm)

DIVISION G – Art – Open

Painting of flowers
 Painting of a landscape or seascape
 Pen and Wash
 Painting of any subject
 Portrait of an animal
 Painting
 Drawing

in watercolour
 in any medium
 of any subject
 in any medium
 in any medium
 to include a building or structure in any medium
 in pencil, ink, pastel or charcoal

DIVISION I – Handicrafts – Open

A Decorated Egg
 Hand Embroidered Item
 Machine Embroidered Item
 Hand or Machine Sewn Item
 Article of Soft Furnishing

 Tapestry
 Scarf
 Dressed Doll (not less than 4 garments)
 Hand Knitted Hat
 Lavender Bag
 Item made from Crochet or Lace
 Bookmark
 Greetings Card
 A Christmas Stocking (max. length 39"/100cm)
 Teddy Bear or Soft Toy
 Pin Cushion
 Item of Jewellery
 Pendant made from Buttons
 Doorstop
 Something New from Something Old

New for 2014

from a kit or chart
 please state size

lampshade, cushion, etc., (please state size if larger than 27"/68cm)
 line stitches may be included
 in any medium
 only garments will be judged

in any medium

New for 2014

New for 2014

New for 2014

please state materials used (*the most innovative use of recycled materials, in the opinion of the judge*)

decopatch/découpage/ribbons/paint/etc ***New for 2014***

(max size 8"/20cms)

New for 2014

please state size on entry form (*the Committee encourages anonymous explanatory notes to accompany the exhibit*)

please state size on entry form

please state size on entry form

young persons class; entrant up to age 18 on Show Day

A Decorated Watering Can
 Piece of Ceramic or Pottery
 Decorated Pebble (in any medium)
 A Shopping Bag
 Item of Woodwork

Scarecrow (not exceeding life size)
 Item of Craftwork not included in above classes
 A Craft Item



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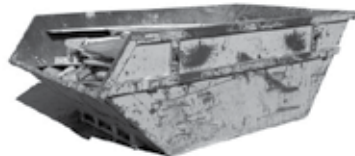
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Tales from the passenger seat

Learning to drive, and the subsequent responsibility for being in charge and hopefully in control of a car is something that some teenagers find difficult. I don't mean physically, but the sudden requirement to have to learn to take the initiative, think independently and be responsible for ones actions does come hard for some. Sometimes it is simply a maturity thing, but sometimes there is a doting parent.

Now don't get me wrong – having a parent on board and understanding truly the standard that needs to be reached for their son/daughter to be safe as well as passing the test is a wonderful thing, and can save money. If there is access to a car at home, I can set 'homework' that can be conducted by the parent, thus negating the need for extra physical practice with me. But sometimes...

Ring ring.

"Hello".

"Hello. I'm Mrs Mummykins and I would like you to teach my son, Darling Lambkin to drive "

"Certainly. What days and times suit him best?" Various mutterings can be heard, then:

"Some Tuesdays, there's another day he can make, and one day he can't, although he does sometimes have football every other third consecutive Wednesday, and then..blah blah etc, more confusion.. just a second, I

will ask him a bit more..."

"Er, why don't you get him to speak to me on the phone instead of you and me, and then if he has his school timetable I can sort out directly what times he can make"

"Ooh no, I couldn't possibly do that.

Darling Lambkin doesn't like to speak on the phone, and I usually remind him what school lessons he has on any given day"

"...Can he make say next Tuesday at 9.30 in the morning?"

"Hang on... yes, but that's a bit early, and I will have gone to work, so I won't be at home to wake him up to remind him. When you arrive, could you ring the landline, and if he doesn't answer, ring his mobile, and if that doesn't work, ring the doorbell and shout cooee through the letterbox?"

Needless to say, I did not oblige by doing any of the suggested wake-up methods. Darling Lambkin did find the responsibility of having to think for himself a particularly difficult and rather new experience. He managed it in the end, but his first dozen lessons were painfully hard for him. This also meant that Mrs Mummykins was spending more money than Darling Lambkin would have needed had he been given a kick in an appropriate place a little earlier in his life. So who was the problem? Darling Lambkin, or Mrs Mummykins?

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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Stop, look, listen – and discover the wonderful world around us...

On a rather dull grey November day a few weeks ago I mentioned to a friend from Yorkshire that we had few birds around. He was aghast at my remark, and said I must take more time to stop, stand, look, listen and absorb the countryside, as it never ever palls! He pointed out that as well as Robins, House Sparrows, Nuthatch and Blackbirds, we had seen flocks of Starling, Redwing and Fieldfare, with small groups of Skylark, Lesser Redpoll, Siskin, Chaffinch, Linnet, Meadow Pipit, and Pied and Grey Wagtail. Many of these are recognised by their flight calls, even if you can't see them. Within 250 yards of home we listed sightings of Buzzard, Red Kite, Raven, and both Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker. I was amazed at my inability to see just what was on my local patch! Clearly time to take more time to look at just what is out there.

Eve Tigwell, a local naturalist, tells me that the combination of the 2012 floods and last winter's weather caused a major reduction in the population of Field and Bank Voles, along with various species of mice. This

made it very difficult for our Barn Owls to find enough food. Then March's cold easterly blast finished them off: at least 75% of the population died. However, where

there are carefully managed hedgerows and wider, unknown field margins the voles are re-building their numbers and providing food for the owls. A little bit of sympathetic land-management can mean a lot to the wildlife we all appreciate. Look on the Somerset Wildlife Trust website (www.somersetwildlife.org) and follow the links to the Barn Owl webcam to see live picture of these lovely birds.



Last months' weather of heavy rain and high winds, was followed by a real cold blast, so the countryside now takes on its winter mantle, which makes us look back to those lovely long summer days and forward to the beauty of the early Spring.

So, take time to stop, stand, look, listen and absorb the beauty of our countryside this Festive Season.

Judith Helliard



Serenity

Caroline Le Vine, Counsellor in Corsley

Have you heard of the Serenity Prayer? It comes from the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) fellowship and is

used throughout the world by AA members and those within other allied "Anonymous" groups. Even if you've never encountered any of these groups, the Serenity Prayer has something in it for everyone, I think, whether you're religious, spiritual, addicted, in recovery, atheist, agnostic or none of the above.

It goes like this:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.*

You certainly don't have to believe in any higher power to see that this forms an excellent starting point for enjoying life. That's not to say it's easy to practise, though. Accepting the things we cannot change is hard, hard, hard. How often do we struggle to control people or events which are beyond our reach; fuming when the train is late or when someone lets us down? Can we make the train run faster or force that someone to do as we want them to? Nope. What can we do, then, without raising our blood pressure through anger and/or anxiety? We can try to accept that these unwanted things have happened and no amount of fretting or exploding will get us the results we desire. I did say it was hard.

Now to the real business: changing the things we can. If you've read other articles of mine you'll probably guess what's coming...

The only thing we can change is ourselves and the way we behave and respond. Could we have left ourselves more time to allow for possible train delays? Does it really matter if we're late anyway? Are we spending lots of time and energy trying to get others to do what we think we want them to at the expense of examining and maybe altering our own way of doing things? Understanding that the responsibility for other people lies only with them is key to finding serenity for ourselves and this is reflected in the final line of the Serenity Prayer – we need to know which bits we can and cannot control ; to work on acquiring the wisdom to know the difference. That way, our serenity is within our own control and not contingent on the acts or omissions of others.

I practice at St Margaret's Church, Deep Lane, Corsley. A first half hour meeting with me is free of charge. If you have a question about counselling, feel free to email me at

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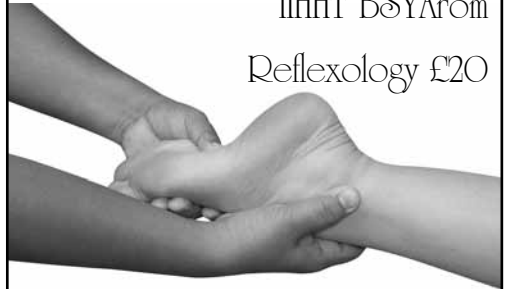
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- 1 Loving and Giving
- 2 Tea
- 3 Hamlet
- 4 Railways
- 5 The Third Man
- 6 It's one of the nicknames for the Metropolitan Roman Catholic cathedral in Liverpool
- 7 Shirley Temple
- 8 Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment
- 9 Scampo
- 10 Brass
- 11 Belgium
- 12 Back legs otherwise it could fall over

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