

# The Bridge

**December 2023**

monthly magazine for the villages  
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



Wishing all our readers  
a very merry Christmas

*See the Christmas Tree Festival, enjoy a Lite Bites Christmas Lunch, join in the Carols and Nativity in the Barn, Carol singing and Carols by Candlelight, have your say at the PC meeting, there's lots to do in December...*



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# The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

## Articles

Please submit articles either by email to **paradisefound86@icloud.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 – and with the fee!

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 £2.50 per month for a boxed advert.

**Full page ads** cost £8, 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 (Barbers 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 13th December**

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

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## December

### Friday 1st

Messy Church Advent Workshop (after school),  
3.30 to 5 pm, St Philip and St James' Church, Chapmanslade

### Saturday 2nd

Dolce Singers – 7.30 pm, St Margaret's Church, Corsley

### Tuesday 5th

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

### Wednesday 6th

Lite Bites Christmas Lunch – 12.30 pm for 1 pm, Corsley Reading Room - call Maureen Willcox to secure your place!

### Thursday 7th

Christmas Tree Festival – 1.30 to 4.30 pm, St Margaret's Church, Corsley

### Friday 8th

Christmas Tree Festival – 1.30 to 4.30 pm, St Margaret's Church, Corsley (you can also view the trees before and after the Carols in the Barn at Manor Farm

Carols and Nativity in the Barn – 6pm, Manor Farm, Corsley - tickets FREE from Di Britten (01373 832515)

### Saturday 9th

Frome Inner Wheel Carols and Candlelight Supper – 6.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

### Tuesday 12th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning –  
10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

### Wednesday 13th

**4 pm – DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY EDITION OF THE BRIDGE**

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

### Thursday 14th

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

### Sunday 17th

Carols by Candlelight – 5 to 6 pm, Whitbourne Chapel, Corsley

### Monday 18th

Carol Singing around Chapmanslade – meet at 6 pm opposite the pub (singing in the pub around 8 pm)



# Diary Dates

## Thursday 21st

Church and Community Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

## January 2024

### Tuesday 2nd

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

### Tuesday 9th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

### Wednesday 24th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch, from 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

## February

### Wednesday 24th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch, from 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

## March

### Saturday 23rd

The Half Cut Theatre present 'The Canterbury Tales', St Margaret's Church, Corsley

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning

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**[www.whitbournechapel.org](http://www.whitbournechapel.org)**

## Wiltshire Mobile Library

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Wednesday 13th December

Wednesday 27th December

Wednesday 10th January

Wednesday 24th January

Wednesday 7th February

Wednesday 21st February

Wednesday 6th March

Wednesday 20th March





**The Inner Wheel Club of Frome**

invite you to a

# **Carols and Candlelight Supper**



**6.30 pm, Saturday 9th December  
Chapmanslade Village Hall**

£12.50, to include a two-course supper

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01373 832301

[yogawithjackiej@gmail.com](mailto:yogawithjackiej@gmail.com)



# Bob's bafflers

- 1 What is the zodiacal sign for those born on Christmas Day?
- 2 Which pantomime does Buttons appear in?
- 3 Which scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
- 4 On Christmas Day 2003, the final Christmas special of which show was aired, called "Sleepless in Peckham"?
- 5 Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?
- 6 The birth of Jesus is recounted in two books of the New Testament, Luke and which other?
- 7 Wenceslas Square is one of the main city squares in which city?
- 8 "Tidings of comfort and joy" are brought with which carol?
- 9 What is the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
- 10 Which item of clothing brought Frosty the Snowman back to life?
- 11 In the song "Winter Wonderland," in the meadow we can build a snowman and pretend he is..." who?
- 12 How many species of birds are mentioned in the 12 Days of Christmas song?

*Answers on page 40*

A happy Christmas to Viv, our hard-working editor, and to all who have been 'baffled' during the past 12 months!

---

## Sort it before you bring it

Help us recycle as much as possible at our household recycling centres

First, we asked you to help sort your kerbside collection waste, to great success, and now we're asking for you to please step-up once again so that we can recycle even more at our household recycling centres (HRCs).

Our data shows that more than a third of the items put in the general rubbish skips at our HRCs could have been recycled.

With that in mind, as part of our 'Recycling: Let's Sort It' campaign we encourage you to sort your waste out before you visit your local HRC, ensuring that all items are separated

correctly.

If you don't have time to do this before you set off, we will soon be providing designated sorting areas at each of our HRCs to give you the opportunity to sort your materials on-site as easily as possible – with our friendly staff on hand to provide advice and guidance. The sorting areas will be introduced first in Devizes and Warminster from 4 September and then others will follow gradually after that.

Some of the items you can recycle at our sites include:

# October Lite Bites

In October we decided that we should give our charitable donations to the Red Cross Relief fund with our thoughts for all those people, especially the children, suffering in Israel and Gaza. We were very pleased that we raised £120 for the charity.

October's soups that tempted our taste buds were; Pea and Mint, Beetroot, Leek and Potato and Minestrone. They were obviously enjoyed by all as there was very little left when we came to clear away for tea, coffee and biscuits!

It is great to see our "customers" having time to sit and talk after sampling the soups and we would like to encourage anyone in the village who is yet to come to Lite Bites to come and join us on 4th Wednesday of the month at Corsley Reading Room, except December when our Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday 6th December. It may not be too late to join us for Christmas lunch; just ring Maureen Willcox on 01373 832171. We only ask that you donate what you can to our chosen charity.



- textiles and clothing
- plastics
- paper
- cardboard
- metals, cans and aerosols
- electrical items
- wood
- soil and rubble.

So, whether you have been clearing out the garage, moving house, or just having a tidy up – please take the time and care to sort out your recycling before you visit the HRC.

More information and FAQs can be found at:

**<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/hrc-waste-sorting>**

Also, don't forget you can also now recycle small rechargeable electrical items as part of

your fortnightly kerbside collection service. These items include:

- MP3 players
- electric toothbrushes
- shavers/trimmers
- all vapes and e-cigarettes
- smart watches
- mobile phones
- digital cameras
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*Thanks for your support!*



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Wiltshire Council

# Wiltshire Local History Network



## Are you an individual or group interested in Wiltshire's history?

The Wiltshire Local History Network aims to provide a welcoming connection, to meet and engage with others who have a shared interest in the history of our county, to share knowledge and provide a valuable point of contact. You'll also hear all about what's going on in the county's heritage organisations such as the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, Wiltshire Victoria County History, Wiltshire Museum and more.

We meet four times a year online via Zoom on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. Why not join us? Membership is free! Contact the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre via [archives@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:archives@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 01249 70550 to join the Network or to find out more.

Wiltshire now has a new and updated online portal for anyone interested in the county's history

You will discover historical information for the 261 communities covering the Wiltshire Council administered area on the Wiltshire Community History website. There is a general history of each parish with further information on schools and churches.

Maps, details about local authors, literary and creative associations in the county can also be found, alongside a large number of photographs, to help you discover just what makes each community unique.

To help, each community also contains administrative information such as the most

useful newspapers for research, population statistics and a list of sources in the Local Studies Library at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre.

You can access the site via the link Community History ([wiltshire.gov.uk](http://wiltshire.gov.uk))



## Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust

The Wiltshire Victoria County History Trust continues to progress work on its multi-volume comprehensive history of the county. With 18 out of an eventual 25 volumes already published, Volumes 19 (covering the area around Mere) and 20 (covering Chippenham and its surroundings) are both close to completion, and Volume 21, covering Alderbury and the far south east of the county, is under way. Read all about the work on their website [www.wiltshirehistory.org](http://www.wiltshirehistory.org) - which also gives details of this year's programme of online talks. The website also offers access to current and past volumes online.



## **\*\* Christmas Tree Festival \*\***

St Margaret's Church, Corsley

Thursday 7th December 2023

and

Friday 8th December 2023

1.30 pm to 4.30 pm

*The church will also be open to view the trees before and after 'Carols in the Barn', Manor Farm*

Programme £1

All trees have been decorated by local organisations and local businesses.

**Please come and see the beautiful Christmas trees  
to get us all in the Christmas spirit!**

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**Wiltshire Council**

# Parish Stewards

## Their role in your community

Our team of Parish Stewards (PS) are specially trained to complete small-scale discretionary local highways priority works in town and parishes.

There are 18 PSs, one for each community area, who work with representatives in their parishes to ensure all work requests are clear and are logged for review before they start the work. We also have a support gang that works with the PSs on larger-scale projects, based on demand. Each parish has a planned visit each month, with the programme set in advance over a three-month period.

### **Vehicles**

Each PS has a 4x4 vehicle suitable to undertake the task and duties, along with winter and weather-related activities. These vehicles provide additional resilience to enable the council to respond to extreme weather conditions.

### **Parish Stewards' tasks - planned works**

Typical planned work includes (but is not exclusive to):

- Hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers
- Hand clearing of blocked gullies
- Rodding of drainage systems
- Clearing of small culverts, pipes, and pits
- Clearing storm debris
- Trimming encroaching hedges and vegetation from around road signs and railings

- Cleaning and straightening small road signs
- Hand cutting small visibility areas
- Reactive emergency repairs, including pothole repairs (in accordance with Wiltshire Councils Highways Inspection Manual)
- Find, fix and record potholes
- Responding to road closure requests from the emergency services
- Removal of ragwort (hand pulling or strimming of defined areas)
- Treatment/removal of weeds
- Graffiti and fly-posting removal
- Clearance of debris and materials from scenes of road traffic collisions including clinical waste
- Siding out of footways and carriageways
- Clearance of small fallen trees or minor overhanging branches/limbs

### **Parish Stewards' tasks – emergency works**

Typical emergency reactive local highway work includes (but is not exclusive to):

- Resolving flooding issues – clearing drainage grips and drain gully covers, clearing of small culverts, pipes, and pits etc
- Placing emergency signage and traffic management
- Clearing structures and fixings and making them safe
- Reactive pothole repair
- Responding to road closure requests from the emergency services



- Small masonry type works, such as repairs to slabs and damaged kerbs
- Clearance of debris and materials from scenes of road traffic collisions, including clinical waste
- Clearance of storm-damaged trees from the highway, including the use of a chainsaw (where this work is extensive, further support may be required)

### **Parish Stewards' multiple person tasks – planned works**

These jobs are a minimum two-person operation. They can be completed on an ad-hoc day, which is typically a Friday, but this is flexible:

- Minor carriageway repairs, including vehicle overruns.
- Works requiring traffic management.
- Siding out of detritus from footways where there are larger volumes of material to clear or there is a significant length over 150m.

### **Further work tasks (non-Parish Steward tasks)**

These jobs will be completed by other operational gangs, with a specific task order required to detail the scope and nature of the works:

- Small masonry-type works, such as repairs or replacement of slabs and damaged kerbs.
- Erection of small signs, including posts in the footways, carriageways, and verges.
- Fence and pedestrian barrier replacement.
- Sanding and painting of barriers.
- Large areas of sweeping and more than five gully dig outs or cleans.

# 2023 Poppy Appeal Collection

Many thanks Corsley and Chapmanslade, yet again you have been exceedingly generous and this year we have raised more than £2200.00. I am still waiting to hear from the British Legion how much we raised through our contactless donations.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who collected house-to-house and to the Royal Oak, the Cross Keys, the White Hart, the Three Horseshoes, Acres Supply, the churches and Chapmanslade school.

Our local fundraising all goes to the Royal British Legion to help provide serving men and women, veterans and their families with lifelong care. Therefore, every penny raised makes a real difference.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with the collections and to all of you who gave so generously.

*Jackie Jasper*  
Area Poppy Appeal Organiser  
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# Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

Each year, I ask local children if they would invite Mary, Joseph and a donkey to have a sleep over at their home. The kit includes the story of the Nativity and a journal. The children are invited to use their imaginations and to write a journal entry as if they might be Mary, Joseph or even the donkey. You can imagine how much the children enjoy this activity.

It feels strange talking about Christmas just as we are in the season of remembering those whom have gone before us, whether that's family members recently, those who have been killed in action or those who lived many years ago but were heroic in their faith. I am mindful that in today's culture we want everything fast whether that's meals, washing, communications, commute times, coffee, we even want people to 'get over their grief' fast. Grief is an emotion that causes great sadness in ones' life. It is not something that can be rushed. We experience grief for various reasons; it may be that we have lost our jobs, our security, our home, our dreams or even hope for the future. When things change we often feel grief even if we know that the change is for a good reason.

When Joseph asked Mary to marry him, he would have been delighted when she said yes, you can perhaps, imagine his shock, confusion and grief when she told him she was going to have a baby (when he knew it wasn't his!). Joseph was reassured through a dream, he developed the confidence to go ahead with the marriage and to bring Jesus up as his own. Joseph and Mary had a lot to deal with during Jesus's early years, they had to escape from Israel as they feared persecution, they became refugees taking up residence in Egypt before being able to go back to their homeland. We do not know much about those particular years, but when we watch the plight of refugees today we know that people, families have to find a way to survive it is not something they would choose to do. I think almost everyone would prefer the stability of family and friends around them as well as the security of home and work.

When I went to visit the schools, I was challenged by one child in particular, he told me that he thought Santa was mean as not every child would receive a gift this Christmas. He is right to be cross about that! He is right to think about children who will not hear about God's love brought to them through his Son Jesus.

Perhaps as Christians we have become too much caught up in the hype of Christmas tinsel and parties and have forgotten how to be open, as Mary and Joseph were, to the love of God being born within. As we contemplate our preparations for Christmas Day perhaps you would like to include a 10 minute break at midday and pray with me for the children and families that are caught up in dangerous situations and ask God to make his presence known to them (and to yourself), that they/we may experience his love like never before. What a perfect gift to give this Christmas,

Grace and peace.

Rev'd Caroline Husband

# December Church Diary

## 3rd December: Advent Sunday

8 am Holy Communion, Kingston Deverill

10 am Eucharist, Corsley

10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill



## 10th December: 2nd Sunday after Advent

10 am Eucharist, Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill



## 17th December: 3rd Sunday after Advent

10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill

6 pm Carol Service, Corsley

6 pm Village Carols, Kingston Deverill



## 24th December: Christmas Eve

10 am Eucharist or Crib, Longbridge Deverill

3.30 pm Crib Service, Chapmanslade



## 25th December: Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion, St Mary's, Temple, Corsley

9.30 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill

10 am Eucharist, Chapmanslade



## 31st December: 1st Sunday of Christmas Benefice Service

10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill

# Church and Community Events in December 2023

## Messy Church Advent Workshop (after school)

Friday 1st December, 3.30 - 5 pm (with refreshments)  
St Philip & St James' Church Chapmanslade

## Lite Bites Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 6th December, 12.30 pm for 1 pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

## Christmas Tree Festival

Thursday 7th & Friday 8th December, 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm, St Margaret's Church Corsley  
The church will also be open to view the trees before and after Carols in the Barn at Manor Farm

## Carols and Nativity in the Barn

Friday 8th December, 6 pm, Manor Farm Corsley  
Tickets FREE from Di Britten 01373 832515

## Crafternoon

Wednesday 13th December, 3 pm – 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

## Carol Singing around Chapmanslade

Monday 18th December, meet at 6 pm opposite the pub. Singing in the pub around 8 pm

## Community & Church Coffee Morning

Thursday 21st December, 10 am – 12 noon, Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade



## Church and Community Coffee Mornings

Third Thursday of each month  
10 am to 12 noon

The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade



## Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

Rural Dean	Rev Caroline Husband	teamvicar@whtministry.org.uk
First contact for anything related to Corsley and Chapmanslade please contact Sue Fear suefear@gmail.com		
Lay Pastoral Assistants	Barbara Hughes Claire Tanner	01373 832273 01985 218099
Pastoral Visitor	Barbara Hughes	01373 832273
Churchwardens St Margaret's	Vacancy – contact Shane C R MacKean	01373 832506 07763 915620
St Philip & St James'	Ian Buick	01373 832318
Deputy Churchwardens St Margaret's St Philip & St James'	Vacancy Janet Aylesbury	07808 565878
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Ian and Janet Buick	01373 832318
Benefice Administrator	Vacancy	
Tower Captain	Michael Attenborough	01373 832777
Electoral Roll	Di 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 Di Britten at dianabritten69@gmail.com  
Please contact Di if you would like to receive weekly news of Church events and activities

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## Chapmanslade Parish Council

# Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Phil Holihead reports on the PCs latest activities

The Parish Council met on Thursday 16th November 2023.

An update was given on The Thoulstone Events Licence Application which had been refused by the Licensing Committee.

There was broader discussion about the recommendations for road improvements to improve the road safety of children attending Chapmanslade School. These include:

- an advisory 20 mph limit in the vicinity of the school with associated signs and lights
- a pedestrian build-out with informal crossing point to the west of the school
- an informal crossing point to the east of the school
- the already existing 'keep clear' markings that were completed as part of the resurfacing work.

Councillors made several points that will be taken forward to a meeting between the PC and the school after which a public consultation process will begin to complete the process before any work can be considered. Councillors were particularly keen to note that the recommendations were for the safety of children and that ongoing work regarding speeding and congestion, whilst clearly impacted by the safety proposals, should not be lost because of specific work in the vicinity of the school.

### Planning applications

**PL/2023/08763 FUL:** Provision of a new access path to land to the south of 92 High

Street. The PC had no objections to this application.

**PL/2023/09075 FUL:** Change of use of land for dog walking, Turnpike Cottage (Retrospective). The PC supported this application.

### Finance

**Update on 106 Funding:** The PC agreed the responsibilities laid upon it by Wiltshire Council for the management of S106 funds. These are for improvements at the Memorial Playing Field and some of the money has already been spent on new goalposts with the remainder earmarked for a replacement ride-on mower. Both projects meet the criteria for the allocation of S106 funds.

A small uplift of funds was agreed to cover postage costs for two new Speed Indicator Devices from the CIL funds agreed at October's meeting.

The PC funds allocated to the Village Hall were discussed and agreed in principle. A formal application for the funds will be made by the Village Hall Committee for accounting purposes.

### Next meeting

The next Council meeting is planned for Thursday 14th December 2023.

All meeting dates for 2024/2025 are listed on the Parish Council website:

**[www.chapmansladepc.org.uk/  
parish-council/meetings/](http://www.chapmansladepc.org.uk/parish-council/meetings/)**

# *Carols and Nativity in the Barn*

**6 pm, Friday 8th December  
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**Corsley WI**

# November news



The November meeting was entitled 'From Kosovo to Chocolate, an Unlikely Journey' – an intriguing title. It proved to be an interesting evening and a real treat for chocolate lovers!

Our speaker was Jane Swayne of Gilbert and Swayne chocolates. During Jane's earlier career as a teacher she was involved in organising the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme for young people. As part of this she set up a link with Kosovo, a country recovering from the trauma of war. She helped to set up and run a summer school, in Kosovo, focusing on music, dance and sport. This developed into a successful multi-ethnic programme for young people and those with special needs, which Jane worked on for many years.

However, in 2014 the Kosovan funding for the work was withdrawn. Jane decided to retrain as a chocolatier and so she moved - from Kosovo to chocolate. After doing a chocolate course at Meneer in The Hague, Jane competed her training with Ruth Hinks, the UK world master chocolatier.

Jane produces her chocolates in a 300-year-old barn next to her home in Baltonsborough near Glastonbury. The chocolate is Fair Trade and Jane makes the fillings using fresh cream, fresh fruit purées, herbs and spices; the ingredients coming from her own garden or locally sourced.

Members were delighted to be offered samples of some of the chocolates: we tried a tarragon and sea salt chocolate, a bitter orange, cinnamon and Grand Marnier and a raspberry and fresh mint one. All delicious, these and many other flavours were available for us to put in the boxes we bought to take home.

Gilbert and Swayne chocolates are sold online: [www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk](http://www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk) and in some delicatessens, 10% of the profit being donated to charity. Jane also runs one-day courses for small groups to learn how to make the chocolates, enjoy lunch and take home 70 chocolates!

After an enjoyable evening of chocolate, members are now looking forward to the festive season. In December we will meet at The Cross Keys to enjoy a Christmas meal together. Corsley WI meets on the second Thursday of each month and new members are always welcome. Please contact Alice on 07989 339632 or email: [alicecambridge40@gmail.com](mailto:alicecambridge40@gmail.com) for more details.

*Pat Sharrocks*



# Corsley Tennis Club News



## Corsley Tennis Christmas Cheer

As winter's chill descends upon our land,  
With festive cheer and tennis rackets in hand,  
We welcome new members with hearts aglow,  
Though daylight dwindles and raindrops flow.

No matter the season, our court's embrace,  
Invites all to join, with a smiling face,  
If you've not played for years, fear not, my friend,  
Contact Coach Martin through our site to mend.

He'll show you the way, it's easier than you think,  
To pick up a racket, to serve, and to sync,  
With the rhythm of the game, so lively and spry,  
Underneath the winter's vast, open sky.

Our dedicated Chairman, skilled in the art,  
Organises a winter league with a loving heart,  
An opportunity for those who play,  
To join the court, both night and day,  
Playing matches with Beckington in a merry array.

As Christmas nears, our hearts filled with glee,  
We don Christmas jumpers beneath the tree,  
Playing tennis in Christmas jumpers, what a delight,  
Sponsoring a tree that brings joy to sight.

Our juniors, on Sundays, with laughter and grace,  
Embrace the sport with a joyful embrace,  
And as New Year approaches, with resolutions anew,  
Tennis keeps us fit, active, and true.

The committee, like mice, behind the scenes,  
Plans tournaments, coaching, and vibrant dreams,  
For juniors and adults, they work with delight,  
Guiding the future, so talented and bright.

The Health and Safety Elf, ever watchful and sly,  
Asks Santa to make sure our shoe grip is spry,  
On snowy days, when ice blankets the land,  
We'll pause our play, with a cautious hand.



From Corsley Tennis, with hearts full of cheer,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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# Wonderful Walks

## A 'dream' walk!



Let's try a different walk this month, a 'dream' walk, as a Christmas treat! We'll go to Venice, starting at the lagoon and treating this as a guided walk, with no traffic worries!

With our backs to the lagoon, let's turn right and walk along the 'promenade', turning left alongside the straight and impressive Rio dell'Arsenale. Wow, there's a Polizia launch speeding into the lagoon; it's weird to see and hear emergency services racing around on water! Venice's first boatyard was created at the Arsenale around 1104; eventually there were 24 boatyards altogether. 'Marangoni', trained carpenters and shipwrights, were employed on production lines and could complete a ship a day, in the 14/15th centuries. The site survived until Napoleon

had it destroyed in 1797, but he ceded Venice to Austria

and they rebuilt the Arsenale, though it was later abandoned and rebuilt again in the late 1800s. The land entrance, the majestic building surrounded by ancient Grecian lions, dates to 1460, while the twin-towered water entrance dates to 1686. The site can't be visited, though the Museum near the lagoon can.

Let's use the footbridge here: there are over 400 of them in Venice! There's the church of





San Martino on our left, with the late-1400s San Giovanni in Bragora church ahead; it's where Antonio Vivaldi was baptised. Now we're back beside the lagoon, let's go right and cross two more bridges, walking to the piazzetta (mini-piazza) before the Piazza of St Mark, Venice's only true piazza. You've seen St Mark's already? The tide was in and you

got wet feet? Then let's stay with our now-dry piazzetta, with the rear of St Mark's at our left, and the 'Giants' Staircase' of the Doges' Palace on our right, built late 15th century. The giants, Mars and Neptune – the Roman gods of war and sea, aptly for Venice – were sculpted by Sansovino. At the top of these steps, each new Doge was crowned. Don't enter now, but this site is as exciting as St Mark's; book a tour if you can. The Golden Staircase inside is fantastic and the different rooms fabulous, filled

with important paintings, wonderful ceilings, and crammed with history. Tours include the Armoury and crossing the Bridge of Sighs to the prison; I think the bridge's name was penned by a visiting English Romantic poet (1800s), because prisoners crossed it to learn their fate in court.

Let's try a vaporetto next and view the

plethora of exclusive palaces lining the banks of the Grand Canal. Here's the San Marco Giardini (Cathedral Gardens) stop and we're going nearly to Venice's railway station, Santa Lucia. Only four bridges cross the Grand Canal; here's the first one, the Ponte Del'Accademia, followed by crowded Rialto Bridge, designed by Antonio da Ponte (opened

1591) and, until the mid-1800s, the only bridge across the Grand Canal. The marvellous palaces we're passing were once warehouses and homes, with fine warehouse entrances at water level and opulent domestic quarters above; many are now exclusive hotels. The upcoming palace of Ca' d'Oro or 'House of Gold' (on our right) was originally painted in blue, black and white, with all the carving gilded. The gold's long gone, but the architecture is as stunning as ever.

Ours is the next stop. Follow me,

as we walk more lanes and narrow streets to a different historical site. This was the first Ghetto in the world (from 'geto' or foundry), the only place in Venice where Jews could live, from 1516 until 1866. Cross the 'campo', or square, here and study the Jewish history plaques on the far wall. Have you noticed something strange about the local buildings?



*Entrance to the Arsenale*





The Jews couldn't increase their acreage on an enclosed site, so they built upwards – despite being prohibited from any kind of construction work!

Now follow me past the Spanish Synagogue and onto a wider street, going left till we cross the next bridge on the right. Here's the church of San Geremia and



*High tide!*



*Chetto*



*Bridge of Sighs*

the Sicilian girl-martyr, Santa Lucia. Did you learn the song Santa Lucia at school? When a Naples street-player strummed it on his mandolin in 2014, people at my lunch table sang along – and then we sang 'Jerusalem' for him! From here, we'll follow the signs to Santa Lucia Station for reasonably-priced cafes and facilities (plus views of the two remaining Grand Canal bridges), before returning to the lagoon. Sorry, you wanted a gondola ride? Try that nearer the lagoon; there's a stop by the Bridge of Sighs, but I hope you've got deep pockets..!

Merry Christmas!



*Golden Staircase of the Doge's Palace*

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**Mrs Ellie Simmonds**

Wren House Ltd, 32 Vicarage Street, Warminster, BA12 8JF

Telephone 01985 212578

wrenhousewarminster@hotmail.com

www.wrenhousewarminster.co.uk

# Whitbourne Chapel

...On earth peace, good will toward men.  
Luke, 2:14

## Services for December

- 3rd 11am: Russell Short from Clink  
Evangelical Church
- 10th 11am: Colonel John Lewis from SASRA
- 17th 11am: John Hobson, also from Clink  
Evangelical Church  
5pm: Candlelit Carol Service
- 24th 11am: Chris Andrews from West  
Lavington Ebenezer Chapel
- 31st 11am: Russell Short from Clink  
Evangelical Church

## There is nothing so precious as that which is lost.

The Bridge! What a good name for a free community magazine. Bridges are, as you are no doubt aware, very important to serve and unite communities. We have heard in the news of towns and communities being separated by floods when bridges have been destroyed, the top and bottom ends of towns being divided through the loss of a connecting bridge, families, and services cut off for days, months even years.

Christ Jesus came into the world to provide a bridge for us to get us back, not to an adjacent village or town, but back to communion with our Heavenly Father. Sin, like flood waters, has separated us from fellowship with God. We were made to be in

constant communion with Him, but sin has broken down the bridge of passage we had with God. A veil was erected, so often we feel isolated, none so much as in the previous COVID-19 pandemic, and separation can cause all types of anxieties. We were not created to be alone. God, in the garden of Eden, made Eve to be a helpmeet for Adam, a companion in life. And for many, who are alone, who have lost partners, who are separated from family and friends,

this loneliness is real and can be debilitating. There is nothing so precious as that which is lost.

As we approach the time of year when we talk of peace and goodwill to all mankind, let us remember the baby of Bethlehem, soon to be a man who would die on a cross at Calvary, so that we might be reunited with our Heavenly

Father and know "Peace with

God", our hearts set free from the debilitating effect of our lonely sinful lives, separated from our Heavenly Father. What must we do? Repent and believe! When Jesus died on the cross, He said, "It is finished." There is nothing for us to do but by faith to believe. Can you do this, this Christmas Time? Peace and Goodwill to you.

Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all.

*Adrian*



## Please remember:

If you need help or simply someone to talk to, ring 07980 013685 and we'll do our best to help you. Otherwise, visit our website [www.whitbournechapel.org.uk](http://www.whitbournechapel.org.uk) or google 'Whitbourne Baptist Chapel'.



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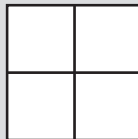
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**A view from over the hedge...**

# Countryside Matters

December - yet another year goes by, time to reminisce on past months and look forward to the coming year of 2024

Sadly, many farms are still suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in their herds of cattle and, although the milk sales are not affected, calves and young stock cannot be sold to other farms. This causes severe financial pressure when farmers are depending on the sale of stock to keep their business viable. Having to keep the extra stock on farm increases the need for more housing for young stock and a lot more food will be needed to keep the animals fit and healthy until the next TB test in 60 days when, hopefully, all animals tested will be clear.

The weather in 2023 certainly tested everyone; we had a fairly dry winter which turned into a wet spring, a very hot summer in June, followed by a wet, grey July and August. Harvesting of cereals and maize was done by grabbing the crop whenever a few days of good weather was forecast.

October 2023 rainfall was 156.6 mm and November (up to the 18th ) was 105 mm.

Due to the mild spring, we will all remember the swathes of hawthorn blossom, white beam, mountain ash (rowan) in the hedgerows. We are now enjoying an abundance of berries everywhere and await the arrival of our migrant visitors; waxwings, fieldfare, brambling and redwing, who will soon devour these lovely berries. Although a few migrating birds have been seen, it is thought that, like the Bewick swans, the birds are still in their summer breeding areas in Northern Europe.

Can I suggest that if you are hoping to have holly to decorate your homes or church that you cut it and then store it in the cold and dark of a garden shed (away from hungry mice) fairly early in December.

Our local Christmas Fatstock Show at Frome Market took place at the end of November, so look out for some really good prize-winning beef in your local butchers in the next few weeks, it would be a good change from turkey! Locally farmed, free-range turkeys (so much better than those reared indoors and frozen months ago) will also be available.

Thanks to the volunteers in our villages we have already enjoyed Christmas fairs and there's still carol singing in the villages, Carols in the Barn, and school and church services to enjoy.

Do try to get out and enjoy walks in our lovely countryside, especially over the Christmas holidays if the weather allows. Do remember that sheep will be heavy in lamb (pregnant), so please try to avoid walking your dogs in those fields, or make sure your dog is under very close control.

Poultry, sheep, cattle and horses all need to be cared for 365 days of the year, so do spare a thought for those working all over the Christmas holidays so that you can enjoy the wonderful countryside around you in the coming year.

*Judith Helliar*

## Corsley Reading Room

# Your 'village hall'

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

### Coffee Mornings

Tuesday 5th December mince pies on offer (10-12) then Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Please do come along!

We were delighted by the increased attendance at the November coffee morning; if those numbers are sustained then we plan to continue with them in 2024.

### Film Festival

Yet to be confirmed but we are looking to sign up as part of the London Mountain Film Festival 23rd February to 10th March, expect more details in the January edition of The Bridge. This would enable us to show several films over those days about "climbing, exploring, running, kayaking, cycling, general adventure, mountain culture, environmentalism... tearing down the barriers to outdoors inclusion and access."

### Longleat land/Parish Council

We were pleased that the Parish Council agreed to support an increase in the contribution it makes to the fixed costs of running the hall and also agreed to be the custodian trustees of the lease if we go ahead with the land offer from Longleat. Despite the PC's commitment, the November trustee meeting did not feel able, at this stage, to

make the commitment of so much of our reserves to the costs associated with the acquisition of this lease and associated costs. We are investigating other possible funding and, in the meantime, have asked Longleat if they can hold their very generous offer open.

### Christmas Fair

Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported this year's Christmas Fair. It was a great success and has raised around £600 towards the running of the Reading Room. Special thanks to all those who made cakes for us to sell - they were delicious!

### Bookings

Please use the website form or [emailcrrbookings@gmail.com](mailto:emailcrrbookings@gmail.com). Corsley residents get a discount on our published prices!

See website [www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk](http://www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk) for up-to-date information and more.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all

*Hugh Deed*

*Chairman of Management Committee*

*[Chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk)*

*01373 832897*

### Committee Members

Hugh Deed, Claire Firman-Ford, Chris de Groot,  
Liz Garrett, Caroline Hutton, Jackie Jasper, Mark Richards

# 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!**

## FOR SALE

**Ladies small rise and recline chair** – as new, in beige. Cost £1,800 – **£500** or offer  
**01373 465931 or 07747 052410**

For up-to-date information such as occasional parish council meetings, church services, previous editions of The Bridge, local clubs and activities, business listings, and other useful information, please visit  
**[www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk](http://www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk)**  
Want something added? Just email the Editor with your request!

## Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Capricorn
- 2 Cinderella
- 3 Isaac Newton
- 4 Only Fools and Horses
- 5 Blitzen
- 6 Mathew
- 7 Prague
- 8 God rest ye merry gentlemen
- 9 White Christmas (Bing Crosby)
- 10 An old silk hat
- 11 Parson Brown
- 12 6 species of birds: Partridge, Turtle Doves, French Hens, Colly Birds (an old English name for blackbirds although most seem to sing about calling birds nowadays), Geese, Swans.

## Local organisation adverts

£2.50 per month for a small boxed advert or £8 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 (Barter's 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)	£24
2 spaces	(69mm wide x 66mm high)	£47
3 spaces	(quarter page - 69mm wide x 100mm high)	£68
4 spaces	(138mm wide x 66mm high)	£85
6 spaces	(half page - 138mm wide x 100mm high)	£120

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](mailto:thebridge832@gmail.com) or 01373 832443.



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