

The Bridge

February 2017

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



*bid at a Silent Auction, have a Lite Bites lunch, go to a coffee morning,
see Bridget Jones's Baby, join the ladies for a Social Evening,
there's lots to do in February...*



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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 whether 'For Sale' or 'Wanted'.

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

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

If you are advertising, don't forget to take the fee – cash or cheque in a sealed envelope please, to either of the drop-off points (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 19th February**

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

February

Thursday 2nd

Curry evening at the Cross Keys, Corsley

Saturday 4th

Corsley litter pick – 10 am, meet opposite the Royal Oak

Silent Auction – Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches

Tuesday 7th

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

Thursday 9th

Corsley WI - a talk by Eve Tigwell, Corsley Reading Room

Ladies' Social Evening – 8 pm onwards, Royal Oak, Corsley

Saturday 11th

Valentine's Night celebration at the Cross Keys, Corsley

Thursday 16th

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

Cinema Corsley – Bridget Jones's Baby – 7 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Chapmanslade Parish Council. 7.30 pm Chapmanslade Village Hall

Wednesday 22nd

Lite Bites lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 23rd

Fizz and Chips evening at the Cross Keys, Corsley

March

Thursday 2nd

Warminster Area Board – 7 pm, venue to be confirmed

Saturday 4th

Corsley litter pick – 10 am, meet opposite the Royal Oak

Tuesday 7th

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

Thursday 9th

Corsley WI - Annual Meeting and 'Jewellery Making' – 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Chapmanslade Parish Council. 7.30 pm Chapmanslade Village Hall



Diary Dates

Thursday 16th

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

Saturday 18th

Chapmanslade Barn Dance, Village Hall

Wednesday 22nd

Lite Bites lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

April

Saturday 1st

Corsley litter pick – 10 am, meet opposite the Royal Oak

Tuesday 4th

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

Deadline for submission of nomination papers for Corsley PC election on 4th May

Thursday 13th

Corsley WI - OPEN meeting, fund-raising event with supper – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Annual Parish Meeting and Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Thursday 20th

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

Wednesday 26th

Lite Bites lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Saturday 29th

Chapmanslade Quiz, Village Hall

May

Monday 1st

150th anniversary of St Philip and St James' Church, Chapmanslade

Tuesday 2nd

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

Thursday 4th

Corsley Parish Council – election of councillors

continued...

Saturday 6th

Corsley litter pick – 10 am, meet opposite the Royal Oak

Thursday 18th

Chapmanslade Parish Council Annual General Meeting – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

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

Saturday 20th

Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches – May Fayre

Wednesday 24th

Lite Bites lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

June**Saturday 3rd**

Corsley litter pick – 10 am, meet opposite the Royal Oak

Tuesday 6th

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

Thursday 8th

Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Thursday 15th

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

July**Sunday 2nd**

Chapmanslade Fete, Village Hall

Tuesday 4th

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

Thursday 6th

Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Thursday 20th

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

August**Tuesday 1st**

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

Sunday 6th

Chapmanslade Cream Tea, Village Hall



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Wiltshire Air Ambulance – Bath Half Marathon

Dear friends and neighbours,

Many of you will remember the tragic accident that befell my family on 13th July 2015, in which my dear husband, Phil and my beautiful daughter, Jenny, (age 28), lost their lives. The past 18 months have been very hard but continued support from family, friends and neighbours has been a great comfort.

Recently, I had the honour of meeting the crew from the Wiltshire Air Ambulance that attended the crash on the A36 on that fateful day. I was invited to tour the headquarters in Devizes to see the helicopter and hear about the missions flown. I was particularly surprised to learn that the service runs entirely on charitable donations; hence their strapline 'funded by you, flying for you'.

I was very moved by the dedication and hard work of the Air Ambulance staff, particularly given the many dreadful incidents they have to attend. I wanted to give something back in memory of Jenny and Phil, and also to say 'thank you'. So, I have signed up to the Bath Half Marathon, which takes place on Sunday 12th March and have set myself a sponsorship target of £1000. I would really

love to raise at least this amount and to this end, I have set up a JustGiving page where donations can be made securely for any amount (and anonymously if you wish), with the money going directly to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

I have not run since the day before the accident but I have been inspired to get back into training and so far, things are going well!

Please would you be kind enough to consider making a donation to support the Wiltshire Air Ambulance in memory of Jenny and Phil?

The JustGiving page can be found online at
www.justgiving.com/susan-jones42

or if you would prefer, you can leave your donation with me at The Knoll in Chapmanslade High Street.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article and also in advance for your kind donations.

With kindest regards

*Dr Sue Jones
The Knoll
01373 832410*

Corsley Parish Council

ELECTION

Thursday 4th MAY 2017

All nine seats on the Parish Council are up for election on this date.
Anyone on the Corsley electoral register may stand for election and nomination papers must be submitted by

4 pm on Tuesday 4th April. Forms may be obtained from the Parish Clerk, John Willcox, by phone 01373 832171, or by email corsleypc_jdw@aol.com

If there are nine or fewer nominations there will no ballot and all will be deemed elected.

Bob's bafflers

- 1 The Colorado beetle preys on which plant in particular?
- 2 What is the longest running musical on Broadway and the UK combined?
- 3 In which year was JFK assassinated?
- 4 According to the rhyme, what is or has Thursday's child?
- 5 Who wrote the 'Short History of Everything' and 'Notes from a Small Island'?
- 6 What is the boiling point of water in Fahrenheit?
- 7 The green jacket is presented to the winner of which sporting event?
- 8 What was Tasmania originally called?
- 9 Which modern popular pet population originated entirely from a brother/sister pairing in Syria in 1930?
- 10 In Roman numerals, which letter is used to represent 500?
- 11 Which is generally regarded as the last play written by Shakespeare?
- 12 Who was the 'Time Team' field archaeologist with the strong Bristolian accent?

Answers on page 52

INDOOR 'CAR BOOT' SALE

10 am - 1 pm, Saturday 18th February
Corsley Reading Room

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Biology: changing the world

Are spa baths a good idea?

You say spa bath, I say hot tub,
let's sort the whole thing out...

In January my wife and I went for a long weekend break in the Wye valley. Our cabin had a private spa bath (or hot tub) attached, which provided a welcome warming soak after the drizzly weather of a typical English/Welsh January day. That led me to think of the microbiological problems associated with spa baths.

It is incredibly important that spa baths are kept clean and frequently treated with chemicals to prevent the growth of microorganisms. Not only is the temperature of 30-37 degrees and forced aeration of a spa ideal for the growth of many bacteria, but skin cells and any other biological materials that are released into the spa act as nutrients. So, pathogenic microorganisms can thrive if allowed to do so through improper maintenance. One of the most high-profile of these is *Legionella*, which causes severe flu-like symptoms if it gets into the lungs, and can be fatal. The bubbling action of the spa will create an aerosol and *Legionella* might well be breathed in.

However, *Legionella* is not the only problem. In one case a group of American teenage girls spent most of the day in a spa bath, chatting, eating and drinking.



Within a day or two day they came out in nasty red itchy blotches. This was “spa pool folliculitis” caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria, which had invaded their skin follicles. Such infections are not only unpleasant and unsightly, but may be resistant to treatment by common antibiotics.

As you may guess from the above, I am very cautious about using spa baths in public facilities, such as swimming pools, unless I am absolutely sure that the spa has been properly managed. If it has been, then the health benefits of pleasant relaxation in the warm water can be positive. I was pleased to see that the spa in our holiday cabin had been drained and refilled just before we arrived and each day was tested for pH (acidity) and fresh chemicals added.

A couple of years ago I was approached by a well-known newspaper for comment as a microbiologist about any risks associated with increased sales of hot tubs in the UK. The newspaper named me and quoted me accurately, but ran the article with a mention of "Essex boys and swingers". This led to an invitation for me to join a UK group of a rather dubious nature, which, of course, I declined! The hazards associated with spa baths are not always microbiological!

Nigel Brown is a retired Professor of Microbiology, now living in Chapmanslade.

Please send comments, questions and suggestions for future articles to nigelbrown48@gmail.com

Light Bites

The Light Bites Lunch team would like to thank all those who attended their Christmas Lunch in December and a special thank you to those who helped to serve the meal. You were all party to the success of the event that raised £360 for the Children's Society.

We hope that many of you will come to our monthly lunches held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Corsley Reading Room. Dates are published in the Diary Dates on page two. There is always a delicious selection of soups and plenty of lively conversation. Everyone welcome. PLEASE DO COME ALONG!



Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches

It's back!

Auction of Promises

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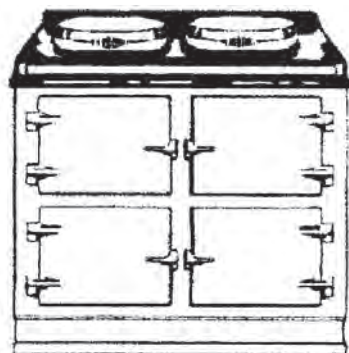


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Hugh Deed's brief report on the progress so far

Because of the time between writing this and it being published in *The Bridge* the only sure way to be up to date is to check the website: www.hdwebsites.wixsite.com/broadband.

As many will know, just before Christmas we signed a contract with BT Community Fibre Partnership for the provision of higher speed broadband to the last substantial part of the Corsley parish; that area which will be served from the cabinet by St Margaret's church. This followed an announcement a few days earlier that the Lyes Green area around Court Lane would, after all, be funded as part of the BDUK (Broadband UK)/ Wiltshire On-Line project (WoL) funding. The contract could be signed quickly due to the generous donations from Longleat and the Elizabethan Evening, topped up by Corsley Parish Council.

The cabinets in the Heath and by the White Hart are being commissioned at present and if you go to the BT website you can check if your house is served by those cabinets and register your interest so you are advised as soon as orders are being taken. www.communityfibre.bt.com/#linecheck.

Some residents in the Heath area started getting communications from BT or their internet provider during the week of 15th

January inviting them to sign up for the service. Use the above website to check if your property can place an order yet.

When the public meeting was held, it was clear that people were concerned that the village was being split into the "haves" and "have nots" as only about 60% of the parish was being provided with the capability. Since then the increased BDUK / WoL funding and this final signed contract now mean that, once all the installation is complete, effectively the whole parish will be able to connect if they so choose. On the current plans the last cabinet to be installed will be the Lyes Green one and that is currently scheduled for late 2018, but hopefully will be earlier.

To remind everyone the new service is only available to those who choose to pay the appropriate service fee to their Internet Service Provider (ISP) it will make no difference to those who remain on their current contract, they will continue to get their existing connection speeds.

*Hugh Deed
(for Corsley Broadband Project Ltd) and
Neil Britten (Chairman, Corsley Parish
Council)*

Corsley Show 2017

Getting ready!

February is the month when we can sow aubergines* and peppers in a propagator, and leeks and shallots indoors or in the greenhouse. Tomato seeds need to go in (indoors) if they are not already sown. The list of classes for the 2017 Show is in the November Bridge but if you don't have that issue, visit the Corsley Show website (www.corsleyshow.org.uk) for some inspiration on what to grow.

Acres Supply, Barters Plant Centre and Mole Valley Farmers all sponsor the Corsley Show and they have a wide variety of seeds, corms and tubers on sale.

There are also many online providers. Two excellent sources of advice and information are at www.rhs.org.uk and www.gardenersworld.com/fruit-and-veg

For creative crafters and active artists, the classes in Divisions G & I offer opportunities for using the remaining winter nights to produce exquisite exhibits for you to display!

*Grow aubergines in 9cm (3½in) pots initially in a propagator, and when pot is filled with roots transfer plants to 23cm (9in) pots of compost in April in a heated greenhouse, early May if unheated.

Corsley Festival Choir

Looking for a new challenge for 2017?

The choir is looking for more singers – no audition necessary

Rehearsals – 7.15pm, Mondays at St Margaret's Church, Corsley

May Concert

Sunday 14th May

Haydn – Te Deum

Gabriel Faure – Requiem

Excerpts from Mozart's Requiem

Conductor - Stephen Smith

For more information ring Jenny Ruddy on 01373 832418



Corsley Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Date to be confirmed
(either Monday 7th or 13th March 2017)
7.30pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

LONGLEAT PLANS FOR 2017

A presentation by
**Bob Montgomery, CEO and
Geoffrey Wheating, Business Consultant**

followed by

The PC Chairman's Annual Report

and

Any Questions

All Parish Councils in England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting each year. The meeting allows the Council and local community organisations to explain what they have been doing over the last year and electors can have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of the parish. Note that It is not a Parish Council Meeting although chaired by the PC.

Rainfall for 2016 in Corsley

The rainfall is read daily at Hill Rising (9 am in winter and 10 am during summer) and the measurements are forwarded at the end of each month to the Environment Agency (Southwest Region) and on to the Met Office. The Environment Agency uses the readings for flood defence operations and general water resource management. The Met Office uses them to record the climate of the UK for future generations.

January	108.0 mm
February	68.6 mm
March	88.7 mm
April	65.3 mm
May	50.8 mm
June	76.3 mm
July	7.9 mm
August	49.9 mm
September	63.7 mm
October	38.1 mm
November	110.2 mm
December	17.3 mm

2016 total	744.8 mm (29.32")
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2012	1090.9 mm
2013	882.6 mm
2014	1062.55 mm
2015	786.0 mm
2016	744.8 mm

Average annual rainfall 2012 - 2016 is 913.37 mm (35.96 inches)

Shirley Chapman
Volunteer Rainfall Observer for Corsley
01373 832378

Do you have any unwanted tools or equipment?

**Please don't throw them away!
Instead, contact the Rotary club
of Bradford on Avon**

If you can help with any redundant tools such as (but not exclusively) DIY, garden, woodwork, computers, building, plumbing, haberdashery (sewing machines), automotive, typewriters, or bicycles, etc., then contact the Rotary Club of Bradford on Avon who are assisting the registered Christian charity '**Tools with a Mission**' (TWAM) to refurbish and donate to people who have successfully graduated from a recognised vocational course, with the aim of promoting self-sufficiency.

This switch from aid-dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without your help. If you can donate any items or would like further information, please contact **David Hood** on **01373 839000**.

www.twam.uk



Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Chairman, Neil Britten, rounds up the PCs activities in January

January was a very quiet month for the PC, with just one very brief meeting to consider a planning application. Not strictly a January event, but too late to repost in last month's edition of *The Bridge*, was the excellent news that the contract with BT Openreach to plug the 'gap' in the government-funded superfast broadband for Corsley was signed on 23rd December, accompanied by a bit of publicity in the local press. There is a piece elsewhere in this edition of *The Bridge* giving more details and a brief explanation of the implications for the PC below.

Planning Application

16/11819/FUL – Application for a first floor extension to an existing dwelling at Stonecroft, 91A Court Lane, Lyes Green.

This is a significant extension, adding two bedrooms and other facilities. The style of the alteration will generally match the current materials, with the addition of timber cladding on the new elevations. New windows in the front and rear will have the same outlook as the existing building and the scale of the changes is commensurate with the site. No comments had been received by the PC and there were no representations at the meeting. The PC recorded no objection to the application.

Broadband

At the time of writing for the January edition of *The Bridge*, the likely cost for the unfunded part of superfast broadband for

Corsley would almost certainly have required contributions from all those who had made generous pledges. In the event, the cost was considerably lower than anticipated and was covered from just three sources, Longleat, who kept to their pledge despite the large cost reduction, the Elizabethan Evening Committee and the Parish Council itself. This way of funding was judged to be the most equitable way of spreading the cost whilst protecting those who stood to be disadvantaged.

As a result, the amount provided by the PC under Section 137 rules reduced to barely 40% of the original expectation and there was no need to involve the Len White Fund in any way. The latter remains totally intact and available for its normal purposes as publicised in previous editions of *The Bridge*. A major benefit of the final broadband financial settlement is that the PC's budget plans relating to donations and grants to village organisations can be maintained.

I would like to offer a personal thank you to all the businesses and householders who made pledges to the cause. Even though your input was not needed in the end, there is no doubt that without your support the project could not have progressed to the present conclusion.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place early in March at a date yet to be finalised. As previously

reported, we very much hope that Longleat will be able to give us a presentation on their rapidly developing plans for both the existing and new attractions. They have some exciting projects in the pipeline which should come to fruition next year and CEO, Bob Montgomery, has agreed, in principle, to come and speak, along with his business development consultant, Geoffrey Wheating. It should be noted that Longleat have adopted a very open stance over the last 12 months, going to great lengths to keep PC's and villages adjoining the estate fully briefed on their plans and taking a sympathetic view towards their impact. It should also be noted that Longleat has made a generous pledge towards the broadband gap funding.

The Annual Parish Meeting does not have to be exclusively based around Longleat's contribution and any additional input from village organisations are welcome. It is a meeting for the parish, not the PC.

Parish Elections

To re-iterate what I said last month, this year is election year and on 8th May all the seats on the Parish Council will be up for re-election. There has been no competition for seats on Corsley's Parish Council at the four-yearly elections within the memory of the longest serving members of the PC. So, if you want to add a bit of spice to the event and have a burning desire to get involved in local parish affairs, look out for the notices in The Bridge and on the village noticeboards and put in your nomination. It should be noted that one of our two longest serving councillors, Robin Chapman, will not be seeking re-election next year and we do need at least one new nomination. Please note that women are grossly under-represented on the Council – just two of the nine councillors!

Elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge is a notice giving details of the required

timescale for nominations, which includes sitting Councillors if they wish to be re-elected.

Streetscene

Having mentioned in January's edition of The Bridge the likelihood of the construction of Gey's Hill passing place happening in 2017, the PC has now received notice of closure of part of Geys Hill, approximately from the end of Dertford Lane to No 65 Dertford, from **8th - 17th February**, to allow this work to be completed. The details will be published on The Bridge website, including the diversion route, which essentially involves travelling along Dertford Lane eastward, a right turn to go up past Warden's Farm and then rejoin the road to Stalls above High House Farm. The notice states that '...access for residents and businesses will be retained though there are likely to be delays'.

Future Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting
6 March 2017 (TBC -see above)

Annual Parish Council Meeting
8 May 2017, 7.30 pm (subject to election)

Quarterly Meeting
5 June 2017, 7.30 pm

Quarterly Meeting
4 September 2017, 7.30 pm

Quarterly Meeting
4 December 2017, 7.30 pm

All meetings are held in the Corsley Reading Room.

There may be occasional meetings at short notice; please watch the village noticeboards.

Neil Britten, Chairman
01373 832515/07810 764714
neil.britten@btinternet.com



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Independent living: buying equipment from an advertisement

**Before you buy equipment from an advertisement
consider the points below**

Get some impartial advice from an occupational therapist about what you need. For information about equipment for independence, suppliers and prices contact the Independent Living Centre, Semington, or visit the centre to try out equipment.

- Check the leaflet, website or advert has a UK address and phone number for any future contact.
- Contact the Independent Living Centre to discuss all equipment options, suppliers and price you should expect to pay, before you respond to the advert.
- Follow up on other suppliers and products recommended by ILC.
- Check if the equipment will fit and work effectively in your home.
- When responding to the advert ask for a price and running costs before you give them your details or decide if you want to proceed.
- Talk to family or a friend before asking a salesperson to your home.
- Make sure someone will be with you when the salesperson calls.
- Make a fixed appointment time and date ALWAYS check the identity of ANY unknown caller, if in doubt phone the company and ask for confirmation.
- Check you are given the full price including VAT, delivery, fitting charges as well as any arrangement for service and repairs; it is always preferable to have a named local company for repairs and servicing.

- Try out the equipment before you make the decision to buy.
- Check the equipment will fit and work in your home.
- Don't be pressurised to make a decision straight away.
- Don't sign anything until you have checked all the small print and if possible get a friend to check it too.
- Check how long you have for changing your mind about the equipment and whether this time scale is from the date the form is signed or from the date the equipment is received. Make sure the 'returns' agreement is in writing.
- Check the guarantee.
- Don't pay a deposit unless you are sure you want the equipment and the price is right.
- Get a receipt for any payment made with the name, address and contact number of the company and keep it for future reference.
- Get everything in writing. Don't accept the salesperson's word
- Contact your local Trading Standards Department for more information or if you have had a problem with any supplier.

Independent Living Centre
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Seven Open Doors

Dear Friends,

I write on a perishing cold day when it has taken me several hours to warm up properly after the morning services; hot porridge, a blazing wood burner and lots of coffee seemed to do the trick. It's that time of year though isn't it when it can feel unbearably cold and miserable and spring seems a long way off. But, (and I suspect I write about this every February, but never mind, I do it because it's so special) today in Brixton churchyard I saw that miraculous, beautiful thing, a snowdrop. How gloriously clever of nature to give us something so exquisite just when we are wondering how we are going to get through final months of winter.

In his poem *Firelight and Nightfall* D H Lawrence writes 'Here lamps are white like snowdrops in the grass.' Yes! They are like lamps aren't they, lighting up these dull days and calling us to pay attention to the beauty of the natural world, to what another poet Gorge Herbert described as 'heaven in ordinary', pointing us toward hope. Herbert's poems are prayers really, and most people at some stage or another in their lives find prayer difficult; they cannot find the right words or they feel that God has deserted them, that prayer is a waste of time. Weirdly, it's often when we admit to feeling the absence of God that we are actually closest to him because we've let go of our limited understanding of what that closeness looks like. In the Christian tradition there are some wonderful

examples of writing in this vein, the most famous I suppose being John of the Cross, a Spanish mystic who talked of 'dazzling darkness' and the paradox of finding God where it would seem he is not.

Anyway, what is prayer? I think we define it too narrowly; we are moved by those snowdrops, we respond to that beauty, we are lifted out of our own preoccupations; is that not prayer? I've never forgotten what someone said to me, many years ago now. With four small children all under six I found it difficult to pray and I felt really guilty about it. Instead of telling me to go and hide myself in the airing cupboard or something this wise priest said, 'Your children are your prayer, God has given them to you, at this point in time, this I where you are, and it's OK'

So, I don't know where you find yourself at this point in time but I'm going to leave you with another poem, *Prayer*, this time by the brilliant Carol Anne Duffy, and do go and find those snowdrops.

Some days, although we cannot pray, a prayer utters itself. So, a woman will lift her head from the sieve of her hands and stare at the minims sung by a tree, a sudden gift.

Some nights, although we are faithless, the truth enters our hearts, that small familiar pain; then a man will stand stock-still, hearing his youth in the distant Latin chanting of a train.

Pray for us now. Grade 1 piano scales console the lodger looking out across a Midlands town. Then dusk, and someone calls a child's name as though they named their loss.

Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer - Rockall. Malin. Dogger. Finisterre.

Love and prayers,

Pauline.

February Church Diary

Saturday 4th February

Auction of Promises

7pm at Chapmanslade Village Hall



Sunday 5th February: Fourth Sunday before Lent

8am at St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill: 1662 BCP Holy Communion

9.30am at St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley: Eucharist

10.30am at St Peter & St Paul's, Longbridge Deverill: Candlemas



Tuesday 7th February

After Alpha Home Group

7.30pm at 93 Lyes Green, Corsley



Sunday 12th February: Third Sunday before Lent

9.30am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade: Family Communion

10.30am at St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill: Eucharist

11am at St Mary's, Temple, Corsley: Matins



Monday 13th February

Time to Think Home Group

10.30am at 5 Brimhill Rise, Chapmanslade



Thursday 16th February

Church & Community Coffee Morning

10am to 12noon at Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade



Sunday 19th February: Second Sunday before Lent

9am at St Mary's, Temple, Corsley: 1662 BCP Holy Communion

10.30am at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill: Eucharist

10.30am at St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley: Family Worship



Tuesday 21st February

After Alpha Home Group

7.30pm at Honeysuckle Cottage, Corsley

Wednesday 22nd February
Church & Community Lite Bites Soup Lunch
12.30pm to 1.30pm at Corsley Reading Rooms



Sunday 26th February: Sunday next before Lent
9.30am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade: Eucharist
10.30am at St Peter & St Paul's, Longbridge Deverill: Eucharist



Monday 27th February
Time to Think Home Group
10.30am at 116 High Street, Chapmanslade



Wednesday 1st March: Ash Wednesday
10am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade: Eucharist with Ashing
6pm at St Peter & St Paul's, Longbridge Deverill: Eucharist with Ashing



Sunday 5th March: First Sunday of Lent
8am at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill: 1662 BCP Communion
9.30am at St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley: Eucharist
10.30am at St Peter & St Paul's, Longbridge Deverill: Morning Worship

Baptism, Wedding Congratulations and Farewells

We welcome into our church family Cillian Crone baptised at Brixton Deverill on 15th January, and Tyler Cooksey baptised at Kingston Deverill on 22nd January.

The following funerals and services took place in January:- John McHardy at Horningsham on 10th January, Meryl Linnane at Longbridge Deverill on 16th January, Dennis Holton at Longbridge Deverill on 20th January, and a Thanksgiving Service for Elizabeth Atkinson on 28th January at Longbridge Deverill. Our prayers and sympathy go to all the families at this time.

Fundraising

We are looking forward to the Auction on **Saturday 4th February** at Chapmanslade Village Hall. This year some of the auctions will be silent, but some will be auctioned by the irrepressible Dennis Barnard. On previous occasions this event has been a sell-out. Tickets, if still available, are available from any PCC member or member of the Fundraising Committee. Our next event is the May Fayre which will be held on **Saturday 20th May** at Manor Farm, Corsley.

Rural Dean	Rev Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.com	01985 841290
Lay Pastoral Assistants	Richard Dean Barbara Hughes Claire Tanner	01373 832594 01373 832273 01985 218099
Pastoral Visitor	Alan Hopkinson	01373 832393
Churchwardens	Ian Buick John Helliar	01373 832318 01373 832803
Deputy Churchwardens		
St Margaret's	Judith Helliar	01373 832803
St Mary's	Harcourt Gough	01373 832039
St Philip & St James'	Janet Aylesbury	01373 832752
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 Claire Tanner	01373 832755 01985 218099
Tower Captain	Marion Moldon	01373 832672
Benefice Administrator and Safeguarding Officer	Marion Muston cleyhillchurches@gmail.com	01373 839026 01373 832755

Lent Talks

This year our theme is chocolate! "Not very Lenten", I hear you say! Well, our Lent course beginning on **Thursday 9th March** is entitled 'Christ and Chocolaterie'. It's a course inspired by the film 'Chocolat' and uses the film as a starting point to explore issues about God. Do come along.

Dates: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 5th April
Time and place: 10.30am at 131 High Street Chapmanslade
2.30pm at The Rectory, Longbridge Deverill (not 30th March)

Family Communion Services

Our service on the second Sunday of each month at Chapmanslade will be a Family Holy Communion which will use the family friendly version of the communion service.

Copy for Seven Open Doors should be sent to Keith Muston at
themustons@btinternet.com subject 7ODs 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' or download a pdf from the 'churches' pages at www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk



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Corsley WI

January news

Carol Seward rounds up the January meeting and announces some forthcoming events



Corsley WI members turned out in force on a very cold, wet and blustery afternoon for the first meeting of 2017 for a cookery demonstration by Val Vincent. Val originates from Wingfield, near Trowbridge and began her career in catering at Trinity Infants School in Trowbridge. Val has worked as a chef in schools, a convent, a nursing home and also the Officers' Mess in Warminster as well as doing freelance catering, but is now retired. For her demonstration Val made several scrumptious dishes, including tuna fishcakes, palmiers y tapenade and a mushroom jalousie, which we were able to sample. Val also showed us how to make a ham and leek bake, a delicious lemon dairy sponge and a lemon crunch flan. Mandy Bain gave the vote of thanks.

The competition for an apron was won by Charlotte Beswick, with Di Dowling second and Anne Carruthers third.

There are lots of forthcoming events organised by the Wiltshire Federation, including a Treasure Trail Walk in Chippenham, which is open to families to take part, Silk Paper Making, Church Bell Ringing and a Denman Taster Day. Full information and the lists to book tickets are available at the monthly meeting.

"Blue-footed boobies and other exciting wildlife of the Galapagos Islands" will be

the subject of the talk with pictures by Eve Tigwell at the meeting on Thursday 9th February, starting at 2 pm at the Corsley Reading Room.

In February we also hold the annual competition for members for the Hilda Guy Arts & Crafts Cup, which this year will be awarded for the 'best decorated cupcake'. This is not a cookery competition – the cupcake can be made of anything, so we hope to see all your imaginative entries! The monthly competition is for a pair of socks.

Why not come and see us? We are a friendly group, so for a warm welcome, just come and visit us at any of our meetings, held on the second Thursday of the month in the Corsley Reading Room. The exact times are mentioned in this monthly WI meeting report and also in The Bridge Diary Dates or ring Carol Seward on 01373 832446 for information.

Would you like to learn Bridge? Beginners are very welcome and anyone over 18 can come. Or maybe you are interested in visiting Gardens or would like to join us for lunch once a month? These events too are not just for WI members. For further details please contact Pauline Scott on 01985 215760, as the venues vary each month.



Cross Keys News

Corsley's very own community-owned
free house

Have you visited the pub on one of our theme evenings yet? Don't worry, in February there will be more theme evenings so you don't need to miss out. These really are a great night out, a friendly welcoming atmosphere, delicious food and fantastic value. Booking is advisable as these evenings are popular.

Thursday 2nd February

A choice of delicious curries including a vegetarian option, naan and chutney, all for £11.

Saturday 11th February

A Valentine's Night celebration, see website for more details.

Thursday 23rd February

We are serving fish, chips and a glass of Bucks Fizz for £9. A tempting choice of different fish and batters.

Brian loves to produce exceptional food using seasonal, locally sourced produce whenever possible; there are always delicious specials to try as well as our new regular menu. For more details see the website or Facebook page - Cross Keys Inn Corsley.

Contact the pub on **01373 832406** to book a table, and check our website for regular updates and more events...

www.crosskeyscorsley.co.uk

Please note we are closed all day on
Tuesdays and on Sunday evenings.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Loyalty Discount Scheme

Our loyalty discount scheme continues throughout February; come and eat with us and on your second visit get **10% discount** off a main course or a starter and pudding. For subsequent visits in February you'll get **15% off** (excluding events, theme meals and drinks).

Upcoming events in February

Thursday 2nd – Curry Night

Saturday 11th – Valentines Celebration

Thursday 23rd – Fizz and Chips

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Achieved once again, my sincere thanks are great.
To begin with I thought we would have at least eight,
But four sadly dropped out; with life so contrary.
Oh no, only 4! This is really quite scary!

Then providence called, a message from Jane
'May we come over to Corsley and ring yet again?'
And Mike from our village (Liz twisted his arm)
'That makes six' was my thought, nerves beginning to calm.

One more hurdle to jump, our poor Wendy's so ill
Before Christmas it started, it's affecting her still.
'We'll only be five, shame, it won't be as good
As to ring with a full band of six really would'.

A last minute plea from a lady in Frome
'My name is Elizabeth, have you got any room?'
Anne answered through Facebook, that wonderful tool,
A full band of six! Hoorah! Well how cool!

With spouses supporting and kind friends there with us
We tolled with Big Ben and then rang with no fuss.
'Phew! We did it' we said, 'And It really was fun!'
We rang this New Year in! Well done everyone!

Marion Moldon
01373 832672

Ladies' Social Evening

8 pm onwards, Thursday 9th February at the Royal Oak, Corsley

After a long Christmas/New Year break we are back!

So come and join us in February, for the next friendly chat and drink, to lift your spirits on a dark winters night.

Really looking forward to seeing you all there – bring your friends and neighbours!

Jackie Jasper

01373 832301

jackiejasper1@hotmail.co.uk

Debbie Fraser

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debbie.fraser123@btinternet.com

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Cinema Corsley

We are pleased to announce that the next film showing at Corsley Reading Room is...

Bridget Jones's Baby (Certificate 15)
Thursday 16th February
Doors open 7 pm

Oscar winners Renée Zellweger and Colin Firth are joined by Patrick Dempsey for the next chapter of the world's favourite singleton in Bridget Jones's Baby. The new film in the beloved comedy series based on creator Helen Fielding's heroine finds Bridget unexpectedly expecting. After breaking up with Mark Darcy (Firth), Bridget Jones's (Zellweger) "happily ever after" hasn't quite gone according to plan. Fortysomething and single again, she decides to focus on her job as top news producer and surround

herself with old friends and new. For once, Bridget has everything completely under control. What could possibly go wrong? Then her love life takes a turn and Bridget meets a dashing American named Jack (Dempsey), the suitor who is everything Mr Darcy is not. In an unlikely twist she finds herself pregnant, but with one hitch... she can only be fifty percent sure of the identity of her baby's father. This much-anticipated third instalment of the Bridget Jones's franchise welcomes fellow Academy Award winner Emma Thompson to the cast.

Tickets now available from Acres Supply.

Tickets for this film are selling fast, so please buy early to avoid disappointment!

Future showings by Cinema Corsley to look forward to are:

March 16th – 'Allied'



April 27th – 'A United Kingdom'



Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

Chairman of the Management Committee, Hugh Deed, reports on events and further improvements to the Reading Room

Normal business was resumed with a Coffee Morning on January 3rd which was better attended than one might have expected after the festive and New Year period!

As mentioned last month, we commissioned a handrail for the pathway down to the carpark and this is now installed. This is an example of what can be done now we have an additional income stream from the Corsley Cinema evenings. The upcoming showings are Bridget Jones Baby on 16th February, Allied on 16th March and A United Kingdom on 27th April. The latter is not about the UK!

At the foot of this page we are adding a box detailing some of the events that are on at the Reading Room. More information about these events is available on the website.

The Indoor Car Boot on 18th February is an event not to miss. At the time of writing this, in early January, there are still a few slots left, so it might still be worth giving

Vanessa Hyde a ring on 01373 832700 to see if you can get a table. The success of the Indoor Car Boot depends on buyers as well as sellers so please come along (10 am to 1 pm on 18th February) and you might pick up a bargain or pick up that odd thing you always wanted! Tea, coffee and biscuits available as well.

The donation/purchase system for books is open for new books and we will dispose of older ones after they have been available for a few coffee mornings if they don't go.

If you would be interested to join the committee please let me or Jenny Rutty know, or talk to any member.

See website www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk for more information, booking process, contact details, etc.

Hugh Deed

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

Events run by the Corsley Reading Room Management Committee

Coffee Morning:
First Tuesday, 10 - 12 noon
IT Classes/Club:
Normally second Wednesday, 10 - 12 noon
Indoor Car Boot
Saturday 18th February 10 - 1 pm
Corsley Cinema
Dates as advertised – doors open at 7 pm

Other regular events not organised by the Management Committee

Lite Bites Lunches: third Wednesday at 12.30 pm
Yoga: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings
Pilates: Tuesday afternoons

Committee members include: Vanessa Hyde, Jackie Jasper, Sue Kerfoot, Gill Parkinson, Jenny Rutty, Jill Westgate, David Carruthers.

Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Phil Jefferson reports on the parish council's activities in December and January

The parish council met on 15th December and 12th January. 15 members of the public attended the December meeting and 7 attended in January.

December meeting

Thoulstone

As I mentioned last month, a company called Natural Retreats, working in partnership with James Hughes-Hallett, owner of the site, is hoping to develop part of the old golf club to provide luxury leisure accommodation. Adam Gough, a representative of the company, gave a presentation outlining their philosophy and practice in developing sites for holiday lets as a luxury retail operator and what they hope to achieve at Thoulstone.

Mr Gough stated that they always like to work with landowners and are trying to carry out James Hallet-Hewitt's vision of an eco community. The presentation was part of the company's desire and practice for early engagement with the community. They became involved following a drive on developing tourism within the area and pride themselves on supporting environmental and economical sustainability for the community. The company has developed 34 sites in the UK, Europe and the US. The company

believe that their proposals will bring significant financial benefits to the area.

Their plans also include proposals, working in partnership with Forward Space, the company behind the previous planning application, for an office space area. This would be linked with some 20 'high-end' self-catering apartments and retail and leisure facilities. A hotel is not proposed but the proposals include an unspecified amount of community housing. There would also be a community space i.e. gardens and orchards and the reinstatement of the golf course.

A variety of views were expressed at the meeting: support for a coordinated approach to the development of the site, support for the positive impact on the local economy, relief that the previous office space development plan had been abandoned but also concern that the proposals do not differ greatly from Mr Hughes-Hallett's original ones and that they include a housing development. Drainage problems on the site and traffic issues were also raised. The question was also posed over whether Thoulstone would be seen by the public as an attractive area for a holiday destination: some of the company's other UK sites are in tourist areas such as the

www.chapmanslade.org.uk

Yorkshire Dales and Cornwall.

Mr Gough stressed that his company is anxious to engage with the public to give them the opportunity to say what they would like to see at Thoulstone. Their website is www.naturalretreats.com and you can email your comments and suggestions direct to him at planning@naturalretreats.com. Please do not hesitate to let him know your views before the proposals reach the formal planning stage.

Planning

We considered an application from the owners of 16 Brimhill Rise, who wish to build a single storey extension to their property and modify their front porch. The reference number for the application is 16/11449/FUL. We raised no objection to the proposal. The application has now been approved by Wiltshire Council. We also considered an application by the owners of Corsley Mill concerning the replacement of ground floor sash windows. Again, we raised no objection and planning consent has now been given.

Budget

Following discussion at our November meeting we agreed to precept for £5,200 in the coming financial year. The increase from this year's £5,000 will help the parish council prepare for taking on extra responsibilities in the coming years as Wiltshire Council and central government increasingly shed responsibilities which are not their statutory duties.

Highways

Concern was expressed about the removal of the mirror opposite the entrance to the village hall, which we all acknowledge is a dangerous junction: we will investigate. Wiltshire Council are prepared to consider extending the 30 mph limit down Huntenhull

Lane to Huntenhull Green and the old rectory, which was recently requested by a local resident. We decided that we would look at this suggestion later, in the context of the village planning exercise. Wiltshire Council has also indicated that they would look favourably on a suggestion for a 20 mph speed limit outside the school.

Public Footpaths

Concern was expressed about a bull being in a field crossed by a public footpath. The legality of a sign informing the public about this and saying 'keep out' had been questioned. Adam will speak to Wiltshire Council. (The 'keep out' part of the sign has now been removed, we understand.)

January meeting

Avenue Surgery

David Reeves, Chairman of the Avenue Surgery Patient Group in Warminster and his colleague Steve Dyke, gave a presentation on the work of the surgery and the role of the patient group. Around a hundred Chapmanslade residents are members of the surgery. The surgery has recently updated its website at www.avenuesurgery.co.uk where patients can book appointments and access information about the surgery and its procedures.

Chapcap2

At both of our meetings, Adam Oakley briefed us on the progress being made – see his report elsewhere in this month's edition of The Bridge. See also the notes of meetings held so far which are posted on the village website – www.chapmanslade.org.uk. Parish residents as well as parents from the school and customers of The Three Horseshoes have responded magnificently to the request for issues and concerns. A questionnaire for circulation throughout the parish is in preparation. We noted

that Chapcap 2 is a 'working title' for the planning process. The steering committee would welcome suggestions about a final title for the plan.

Issues raised by the public

Siennas Valley

It was raised by a member of the public that the twelve month period granted by the planning inspector for the removal of the temporary dwelling expires in April. We agreed that we would continue to monitor the position but that it would be the responsibility of Wiltshire Council's enforcement team to take any necessary action in the months ahead.

Fly tipping

A field near the junction of Short Street and the A3098 is often used by fly tippers. As this is private land it is the responsibility of the landowner to remove it. We will endeavour to speak to the landowner concerned.

Tractor speeds

Concern about the speed of tractors on Huntenhull Lane, particularly at the 90 degree bend, was raised. We will alert Debbie, our PCSO and ask her to investigate.

Highways

The village planning exercise has once again raised the issue of road safety outside the school. We will consider at our February meeting whether we need to call a public meeting on the issue to try and find a consensus view on what we should be asking Wiltshire Council to provide.

Footpaths

A newly erected fence in a field near Corsley Mill appears to have blocked access to the footpath crossing the field. Wiltshire Council has been informed.

Speedwatch

Three new volunteers will be trained shortly. Recent sessions have been limited in number because of inclement weather.

Planning

37 Clearwood View (16/10941/FUL)
Single storey extension: We noted that the application has been approved by Wiltshire Council.

Barters Farm

We noted that no progress seems to have been made concerning the proposed housing development for many months. It was agreed that we should ask Wiltshire Council what is happening.

Our next scheduled parish council meeting is due to be held in the village hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16th February. So, do come along to the meeting if you can, to speak or maybe just to listen.

Phil Jefferson
832845

phil.jefferson@virgin.net

Thank you!

Many thanks to all the kind and generous people who took the time to contribute to my recent request for postage stamps. I have been able to hand over a large quantity to the leukaemia charity.

Sue Kerfoot



News from the Nest

Welcome to this month's news from
Corsley Cuckoo's PreSchool in Lyes Green, Corsley.

We are springing into action down at the Little Cuckoo's nest!

It's all about our fabulous outdoor space at the moment. We have been lucky enough to have benefitted from a donation from The Corsley Show Committee which allowed us to purchase equipment for the garden

Plans are well under way to make exciting use of the playing field next to the preschool. Chris Da Costa kindly supplied us with some tree stumps which are now in place to provide outdoor seats and activities for the children. We also benefitted from some daffodil bulbs supplied by the Parish Council – the children enjoyed helping plant the bulbs around the garden and field.

'Thank you' for all the donations and help towards our exciting outdoor projects!



We are hoping to add further resources between now and spring so the children can enjoy even more time learning in the great outdoors.

The theme this term is around everything that sparkles. So far the children have been exploring space, learning the names of the different planets, playing inside the big silver rocket created especially for this term's theme and making their own shiny telescopes.

Term-time opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am - 3 pm

Term-time Mother and toddler group: Tuesday 10 am - 11.30 am

For more information, please contact us on 01373 832298

www.littlecuckoos@hotmail.co.uk

Corsley 1971

Liz Garrett finds some interesting facts of village life from the decade that taste forgot (mostly brown, orange and flared trousers...)

I have recently been shown a copy of a survey carried out in Corsley in 1971. The author, Steven Faith, was undertaking a diploma at Reading University. He interviewed people in 55 households in the village at the time. Most of those were couples so the total number of people he talked to was 106.

He says that in general he managed to persuade people to be interviewed although he says 'four older and suspicious members of the community refused to be interviewed'.

The aim of the study was 'to collect information on the population of present day Corsley which could be compared with the information collected by Maud Davies in 1905, and secondly 'to investigate the concept of community in Corsley'.

The report is 46 pages long but parts of it are illegible (due to the poor quality of the copy) and the appendices are missing. This makes it difficult to follow the author's reasoning and methodology fully.

To provide a flavour of the report as it stands, here are some of the findings and conclusions:

Farming

The report states that in 1971 there were ten working farms in the village, varying in size from less than 50 acres (three farms) to more than 400 (one farm). The author says he tried to interview all those farming in the

village at the time. He said, 'there is very little labour from outside the family used in Corsley farms today'.

Transport

Steven reports that 13 buses travelled each way through the village every day 'from Bath to Warminster via Frome' and that eight out of ten people in the village had direct access to a car. He reports that nine households did not have a car.

Attitudes to Longleat

'Local leaders still dislike the reserve' and spoke of 'blasted lion traffic'.

Church membership and attendance

In the village at the time there were two Church of England (CoE) churches and a Baptist chapel. '18-20 people attend (CoE) Sunday services and 50 or more attend monthly family communion'. Steven said most of the people he interviewed were members of CoE.

Activities and organisations in the village

The report lists the Women's Institute, Golden Age club (jointly with Chapmanslade), a weekly whist drive, Corsley Conservative Association (launched by new residents at the 1970 general election – with 80 people at its first meeting) and three pubs.

The Corsley Show was mentioned, but the author records 'Corsley Show today is very small and can only just make ends meet'.

Social class

Steven wrote that people claimed there were no class divisions in the village but he did not agree with that. He reported that there was a large middle class, most of whom were newcomers to Corsley. He found that these newcomers were not commuters, 'they were both living and working locally' which, he says 'was unusual in British Society at that time'. Of the 106 people he interviewed only five were working more than 20 miles away from Corsley.

Community spirit

The author claimed that people whose homes were closer to the A362 were more likely to say there was community spirit in the village, as were those who had moved more recently to the village.

Changes in 60 years

The report states 'the population of Corsley has been completely reversed since 1905. It is no longer a village of predominantly village-born residents.' Steven reports that in 1905 56% of the fathers of heads of households were also born in Corsley while in 1971 that percentage was 20%. He also said 'there are 'no shops in Corsley today although the Post Office does stock a few provisions'.

If you remember this survey or anything about its author I would be very grateful to hear from you to see if we can contact him or somehow get a good copy of the report. Neither Reading University nor the Swindon and Wiltshire archives holds a copy.

Liz Garrett

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Quotes taken from 'A study of a Wiltshire Community'
by Steven Faith, May 1971



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Walk on the wild side!

It's seventeen months since I moved from Corsley, but it must seem like I'm still here, calling on Joyce in Heathway, lunching at the Royal Oak, or walking the lanes and thanking God for the wonders of creation. I've seen snowdrops at Dertford today, plus daffodils and bluebells poking their way through the soil. At the Chapel, we have daisies and a primrose out in flower!

I often walk at Burrington Combe, between here and Weston super Mare. Recently, I clambered up to the land above Rock of Ages, but the descent was more difficult. I slithered down a muddy slope, then lost my footing. Thirty feet below me was a rushing stream – and I can't swim! I grabbed a passing tree to slow me down, but it was a blackthorn bush; my index finger was stuck on a two-inch blackthorn spike. Ouch! The thorn only went in about half-an-inch, but there was a hole and blood. Ugh. I slithered, very carefully, down to the riverbank, washed my hands and kept walking; from there the going was easy.

Next morning, the finger was red and swollen, so I went to Frome Minor Injuries Unit; there was dirt in the wound. A plaster was put on, to draw out the muck.

I mentioned that walk to guests at my 70th birthday bash at Corsley's Royal Oak in January, having asked people not to bring presents, but to donate to charities including Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). One

of MAF's many missions last year was transporting materials to build an aid post in rural Megau, Papua New Guinea. Unlike me, driving eight miles in comfort for help, the sick of Megau were previously carried through jungle and across a rope river bridge, to access health facilities elsewhere – a real walk on the wild side. Now Megau has a first aid post, with tanks collecting rainwater and a health worker on site.

The donations given at my party mean MAF has a decent cheque towards their work in one of the many countries they're based in. Their telephone number is 01303 852819 (www.maf-uk.org), if you want to know more about what they do.

Oh, and the finger is fine..!

Bees

A curious bee was touring round;
She spotted something on the ground.
A lifeless lion lay at length.
Mauled by a man of marvellous strength.
Brenda Bee buzzed to her queen
And blurted boldly what she'd seen.
The swarm of bees, Queen Bess ahead
Approached the lion all stiff and dead.
They settled in the corpse's middle
Which prompted Samson's famous riddle.

See Judges 14.14 and Lyle's Golden Syrup tins. RH

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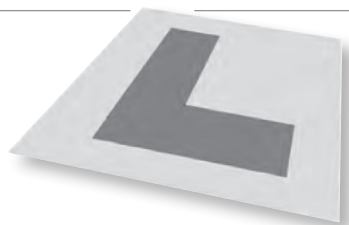


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Tales from the passenger seat



We all know that people mature at different rates – there are some 17 year-olds who are about right for their age, some display an attitude one would normally expect from an older person and then there are some who are seventeen going on seven...

Oh dear...

The phone rings and I begin having a three-way conversation with a parent asking son or daughter in the background various things and relaying it on to me. Fair enough, but such a learner will need to toughen up pretty quickly once they hit the road and mix it with the big boys.

Then there's the tired pupil. Always tired. Mornings – can't do because too tired in the mornings. After school isn't good because too tired after schoolwork. Later in the evenings not good as too tired...Hmmm. Better get a job with a very understanding boss who will allow a 10 am start, two hours for lunch and leave at 3 pm.

I recall a pupil who blamed their lack of knowing left and right entirely on their school: an interesting attitude to say the least. I did ask if their parents had any input on their education or perhaps knowing left from right, and was met with an emphatic 'No, my parents believe that everything should be done by the school and they would have nothing to do with any of my learning'. Actually I was glad that this pupil's parents did not try to intervene in my teaching. It was a shame trying to blame

the school on such a thing, since many pupils, especially when under pressure, will make a mistake with their left and right. This is usually ironed out during the course of lessons and if it's still a problem as we get near the test, then I suggest putting an 'L' and 'R' on their respective wrists in biro. The examiners don't mind, since knowing left from right once you've passed the test is less problematic – 'You'll know where you're going...'

I know a lot of school teachers suffer some frustration from some aspects of current official thinking that it is wrong to say anything negative to a pupil. Well, from my point of view, praise and positive affirmation are important tools of the trade when I teach pupils, but I also have to point out the wrong things as well, and if mummy's little darling finds this unpalatable and a shock to the system that they are not perfect in every conceivable way, then a swift learning curve is expected. It's quite simple, get it right or you don't pass the test. Or maybe even pass the test, but continue to get it wrong and you will suffer the consequences...

I have found that for some, learning to drive is actually a good introduction into the less cosseted, protected real world and a useful aid in the process of growing up that we have all been through.

Steve Dayman-Johns

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Countryside Matters

The truth about public rights of way

It's great to see so many people out and about around Corsley dog walking, horse riding, cycling and enjoying the beautiful countryside in which we live. You may be new to it, fulfilling a New Year's resolution to keep fit, in which case we hope it lasts! Both David and I love getting out walking the dogs and cycling too so we know what a great experience it can be. But we've had a few problems on the farm recently so thought that it would be useful to have a few reminders.

Right to roam/freedom to roam

One of the biggest misconceptions is the right or freedom to roam. The right to roam does not apply to all land but is restricted to land classified as 'Open Access' (shaded yellow on Ordnance Survey maps). Open Access includes mountains, moors, heaths and downs that are both privately and commonly owned e.g. parts of Exmoor, Dartmoor, Lake District, etc. The only Open Access or 'right to roam' area around Corsley is Cley Hill, so unfortunately residents and visitors are restricted to existing public rights of way.

Public rights of way

There are a number of public rights of way including:

Footpaths (marked with yellow signs, arrows or markings) as rights of way for walkers, runners, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs

Bridleways (marked with blue signs, arrows or markings) as rights of way for walkers, runners, horse riders, cyclists, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs

Restricted byways for any non-motorised transport and mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs

Byways/green Lanes for all traffic, motorised or non-motorised, including cars. There are no byways in Corsley.

Permissive footpaths and bridleways (identified by signs stating permissive footpath, etc) are rights that can be given by a landowner to cross private land. These are not rights of way and can be withdrawn at any time. There are a number of lovely permissive footpaths in and around Corsley that we have worked with the landowners to create for your enjoyment.

And, just to confuse matters public rights of way may have other public and private rights. For example a landowner can have or give a farming tenant private access rights to land by a vehicle on a bridleway when, vehicular access to a bridleway is not allowed by the general public. So you may see our farm vehicles on bridleways that you are not permitted to take your own vehicles onto (sorry if this seems a little unfair).

Also, access ways and road ways existed long before the advent of the motor car (a fact commonly overlooked by motorists today). As such public roads are open to

all and livestock can be moved across or along them (except for more recent dual carriageway and motorways which have their own restrictions as to the type of traffic that can use them). If we do need to move livestock we try and do this at quiet times of the day and as quickly as possible to minimise inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation with this.

So, when out and about across the farm please:

- Keep to the rights of way and don't roam over fields which may have crops growing in them, livestock in them, chemicals on them, etc.
- Don't cut or cover barbed wire fencing to create a short cut onto a footpath, or access into private land that has no public right to it, as this then leaves the field unsecured, increasing the risk of livestock escaping, which we all know can happen!
- Don't drive vehicles on bridleways without the permission of the landowner as a few local bridleways are getting very churned up by unauthorised vehicles.
- Don't lock farm gates together with bike locks to try and prevent livestock crossing

public rights of way. We make a conscious effort to minimise inconvenience.

- Don't open water taps that are closed for a purpose as this just wastes natural resources.
- If you open a gate please close it behind you, and if you walk through an open gate please leave it open. It is often in its state (open or closed) for a purpose!
- Also, try and keep dogs on leads or at least under close control near livestock. Livestock are inquisitive beasts at the best of times but can easily be spooked. We recently had an incident when a dog barked aggressively at a herd of cows spooking them, very nearly injuring a member of staff.

Lastly, please keep enjoying the beautiful countryside where we all live and feel free to speak to David or myself, or Gill Parkinson as our Parish Council representative if you have any issues with public rights of way.

As an aside, the Countryside Code is always worth a read: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code.

Alice Helliard

Corsley litter pickers

We meet opposite the Royal Oak at 10am on the first Saturday of each month. Our next 'pick' is on Saturday 4th February – do come along and help keep our village beautiful.

Cath Aylesbury and Sue Taylor

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**
Want something added? Just email the Editor with your request!

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!

BABYSITTER

Sophie Biddiscombe, aged 14, available for babysitting. Call Sophie on **01373 832042** to book an appointment.

Traditional Mole Catcher

07512 681111
01373 836350



Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Potato
- 2 Les Miserables
- 3 1963
- 4 Far to go
- 5 Bill Bryson
- 6 212 degrees
- 7 US Masters
- 8 Van Diemen's Land
- 9 The hamster
- 10 D
- 11 The Tempest
- 12 Phil Harding

Local organisation adverts

£2.00 per month for a small boxed advert or £7.50 for a full page. Full page adverts are allocated depending on space available and cannot be guaranteed. All monies must be at one of the two drop-off locations (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)	£22.00
2 spaces	(69mm wide x 66mm high)	£42.00
3 spaces	(quarter page - 69mm wide x 100mm high)	£60.00
4 spaces	(138mm wide x 66mm high)	£75.00
6 spaces	(half page - 138mm wide x 100mm high)	£104.00

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

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

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