

The Bridge

February 2021

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



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The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Articles

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

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

File types

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

Advertising

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

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

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

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

In this issue...

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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**

Chapmanslade Parish Council

provides vital support

Chapmanslade Parish Council have provided some desperately needed support for the upkeep of the churchyard at St Philip and St James' Church, as they try to find ways to recover from the devastating financial shortfall created by the pandemic. This has come in the form of a £1,000 donation towards churchyard maintenance.

Churchwarden Ian Buick said "This has come at a crucial time, as our church parish tries to recover from the lockdowns which have stopped us from fund raising. There are important tree maintenance jobs to be done, which would not have been possible without this donation. The churchyard provides a vital public service to the whole community where any resident of the village has a right to be buried, no matter what their religious beliefs are. During the pandemic, we have been able to maintain the church as a place where families can meet and say goodbye to their loved ones. The graveyard contains many family plots, into which relatives have been able to join those who have gone before them. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the members of the council for recognising the

important civic service the church provides.

The church still has to find ways in which it can fund its future activities. The school and church are both part of the Church of England and together form an important part of the heart of the village. It may well move towards offering an additional community space for the expanding village as time progresses. It can only do so if it survives, and the leadership the council have shown this support will hopefully provide the motivation for others in the community to provide practical and financial support as we develop the building into something which will survive for future generations."

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!

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Andy Joynt Memorial

We are pleased to announce that, through villagers' generous donations, we have raised enough to buy a bench in Andy's memory. The bench and plaque are on order and when it arrives we will be placing it in the corner of the playing field near the crab apple and medlar trees that Andy donated. We will also arrange a celebration of Andy's life, at the playing field, when we are allowed.

We will continue to accept donations and the surplus will go towards replacing the side gate onto Heathway.

The easiest way to donate is by cash in an envelope dropped in our mailbox, (Heathside, BA12 7PW) with a note of who it's from. That way the playing field can claim Gift Aid without the donor having to complete any forms.

It has been moving and rewarding to receive so many donations and lovely messages from everyone about Andy. He would have been thoroughly embarrassed and humbled by so many nice comments about how much he was valued for all the work he did for the village!

Thank you all very much for your support.

Marion and Neil

Found

A penknife, mid-January, along Cley Hill Lane, Corsley (Deep Lane to Cley Hill Farm)

Contact the Editor

Traditional Mole Catcher



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Including everyone in Census 2021

The census is taking place in March 2021.

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Nearer the time, you'll receive more information. There'll be plenty of help to take part for people who need it.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow the census



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Upper Deverills Parish Council

Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Upper Deverills Parish Council
wishes to appoint a
Parish Clerk and Responsible
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This is a part time position, approximately 25 hours a month, working primarily from home. The Parish Council will supply a laptop for Council work.

The applicant should have good computer, administrative and communication skills and should be competent in bookkeeping. Local authority experience would be an advantage, but training is available.

The salary will be based on NJC pay scales plus agreed expenses.

If you would like an informal chat about the post, please call the current clerk on **01985 844385**. Full information about the Parish Council is available on the website at:

**[www.upperdeverills.co.uk/
parish-council](http://www.upperdeverills.co.uk/parish-council)**

For an application pack please email the clerk at **clerk@upperdeverills.co.uk**.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 26th February** and interviews are expected to be held in the week beginning 1st March.

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

So here we are again in full lockdown. Though it is to be hoped with the vaccine programme rolling out that activities in the hall may be able to resume in the not too distant future.

The rules will be regularly updated on our website based on the latest guidance to village halls. I regularly participate in Wiltshire Council-run meetings on these matters to be updated and also to understand what other village halls are doing.

The Reading Room Committee had the opportunity to feed into the recent Parish Council meeting about the Wiltshire Council Bay Tree site housing proposals and the possibility of part of that being available for a new hall. We continue to look at all alternatives with a view to a public meeting when more facts are known. More details about this meeting are in the PC report this month.

Something to look forward to...

Being optimistic the CRR are hoping to host a 'Handmade and Vintage Christmas Fair' on Saturday 20th November.

For those who might be interested in having a stall selling either handmade or vintage then please get in touch with Helen via email blamireshelen@gmail.com giving details and, if possible, a photo of the type of products you do and she will get back to you. Reminders and more information to come over coming months.

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

Hugh Deed

Chairman of Management Committee

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Wiltshire Council

Temporary Closure of: A362 (Part), Corsley (Ref: TTRO 6702)

Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic the A362 (part), Corsley; from its junction with Corsley Heath for a distance approximately 760 metres in a westerly direction, to enable Wiltshire Council to carry out carriageway resurfacing, road marking and adjustment of ironworks.

Alternative route via out of county - A36 -A362 (unaffected length) and vice versa. The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs.

This Order, which previously came into operation on 8th February, will now recommence on the **1st March** and the closure will be required between the hours of 7pm and 6am until the **6th March**. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works.



*Jon Moss (Atkins), 01225 730360
Sustainable Transport Group, County Hall
Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN*

Corsley Show Society Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place via Zoom on the 25th February starting at 7:30pm.

The AGM has been delayed from November (due to the COVID-19 restrictions) but, as it needs to be held no later than the end of February, it has been decided to proceed using Zoom.

For the purposes of this AGM those people who were members at the time of the 2019 show have had their membership extended and are considered to be members of the Corsley Show Society at this time.

Members who supplied an email address at the time of their 2019 membership application should have received an email by 1st February inviting them to register, assuming their email address has remained the same.

Registering for the Zoom meeting by

emailing membership@corsleyshow.org.uk is essential so we know how many members to expect and so you can be sent papers/logon details.

As well as approving the Society Accounts, the meeting will also include a review of the Corsley Show Ltd and Charitable Trust accounts. Other business will include the appointment of the officers of the Society for the year 2020/2021 and committee members.

We would also expect to discuss the existing committee's thoughts on a 2021 show and any views of the members.

Anyone who is interested to volunteer to lead/join a committee is asked to also email as above, whether they are a member or not!

*Hugh Deed
Treasurer and acting Membership Chairman
Corsley Show Society*

Bob's bafflers

- 1 Which of these places is not a UK city? Derby, Doncaster, Dundee or Durham
- 2 Mel Gibson's starring role in the film 'Braveheart' was an account of the life of which historic Scottish figure?
- 3 Which collective noun describes a large rally of scouts or guides?
- 4 Rome is the largest city by population in Italy. Which is the second?
- 5 Michelle Dubois, Fanny La Fan, Denise Laroque and Yvette Carte-Blanche were characters in which situation comedy (1982–1992)?
- 6 What does USB stand for in the computer world?
- 7 In the Wizard of Oz, what was the name of Dorothy's dog?
- 8and what was the name of her cat?
- 9 The disease rickets is caused by a deficiency of which vitamin?
- 10 Which four letter word can follow the words shock, tidal, new, brain and sound?
- 11 Who was the only English member of the pop group The Monkees?
- 12 In 1906, E. J. Smith wrote "I never saw a wreck and never have been wrecked, nor was I ever in a predicament that threatened to end in a disaster of any sort". How was he to become famous six years later?

Answers on page 40

Link Scheme volunteers needed!



Link schemes in Wiltshire are currently operating with 70% less volunteers than they did 12 months ago and are massively supporting the transportation of individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

The demand for this support will only increase over the coming months and they need volunteers **now**.

If you or any of your contacts would like more info, please put do get in contact with either myself or Sam:

slloyd@communityfirst.org.uk

(See page 28 for their advertisement)

www.communityfirst.org.uk/news/urgent-call-for-volunteers-transport-for-covid-19-vaccinations/

Harry Tipple | Head of Community and Partnership Development

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Everyone in Chapmanslade received an...

Unexpected Christmas gift

All the households in Chapmanslade, discovered an unexpected gift of a box of biscuits on their doorsteps on Christmas Eve

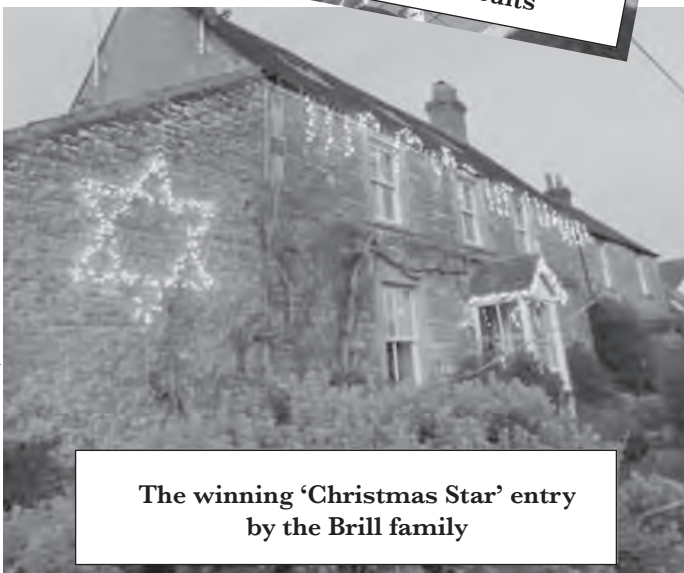
It was the work of the COV-AG group! Since the beginning of the first lockdown last year, a dedicated band of volunteers have been caring for everyone in the village. No fewer than 50 out of the population of 600, signed up to offer help. Shopping was done, prescriptions collected, takeaway meals from the Cross Keys pub were collected and delivered. A Food Box scheme was set up and is still operating, funded by a public appeal and added to by government gift aid, made possible because it is administered by the church, which is a charity.

The village initiative scheme has allowed the group to provide another key element of support to everyone. In the early days of the pandemic, it was recognised that everyone's mental health must be protected.

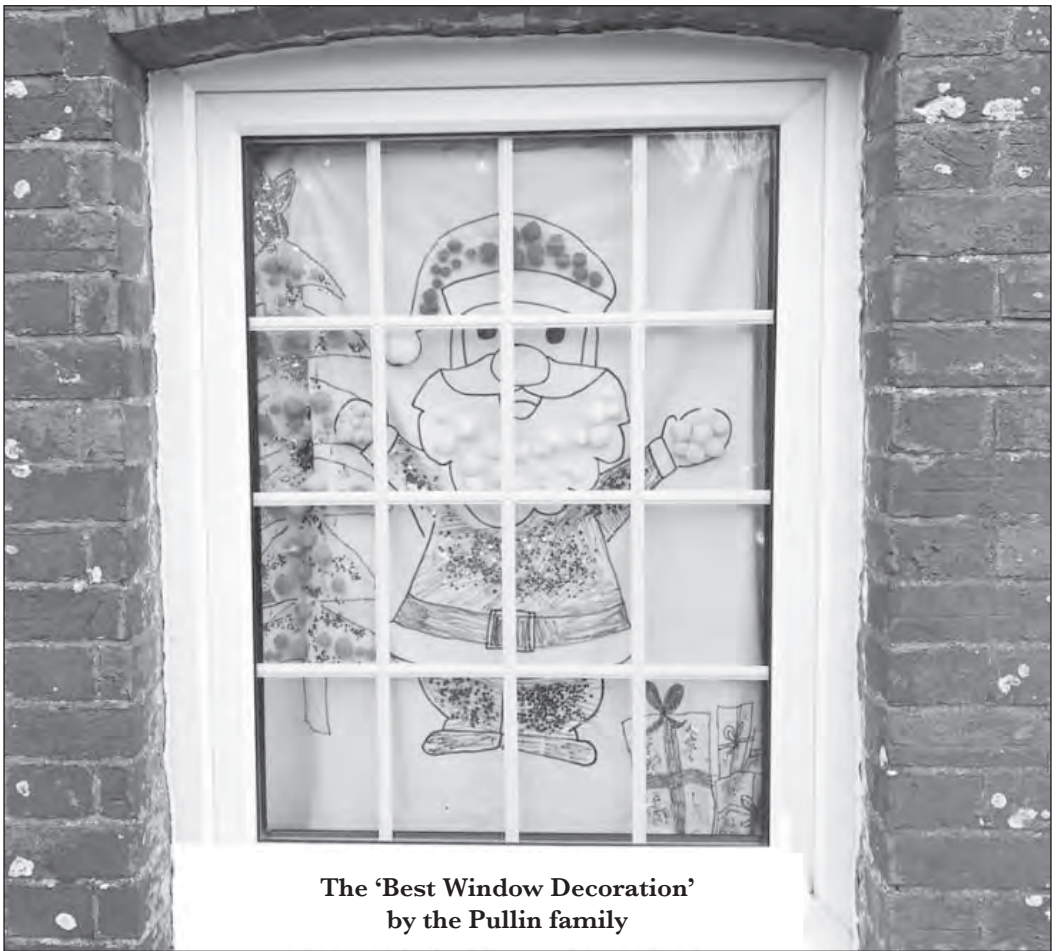
Special occasions have been recognised – Easter flowers for every household and Easter eggs for young people were distributed. VE Day was celebrated. Halloween was preserved with a competition and, most recently, Christmas Star and Best Decorated Window competitions have kept everyone active and involved and were won by the Brill and Pullin families respectively. Throughout this period, two volunteer Facebook contributors, Nigel Brown and Melanie Holihead, have worked every day, posting vital pandemic



One of the elves delivering biscuits



The winning 'Christmas Star' entry by the Brill family



**The ‘Best Window Decoration’
by the Pullin family**

advice and hilarious (sometimes risky!) jokes. Every time they tried to stop, public pressure made them continue! There was even a hugely enjoyable online Christmas sing-along with Lou Knight. Before the government made them compulsory, face masks were made by volunteers and sold in aid of the initiative fund and this helped to buy the Christmas biscuit gifts.

COV-AG coordinator Charlene Ridler said “We are so lucky to live in such a caring village. Everyone in the organising group, as well as all who have volunteered and contributed during the past year deserve a massive thank you. We are still operating and

are as ready to help out for as long as it takes. We have just set up a food box in the Church porch where donations can be placed, and anyone who needs something extra can pick up essential food items. The Buddy Scheme is still looking after neighbours and relatives, especially those who don’t have access to the internet. We just want everyone to know that they only have to pick up the phone or email us on our new address...

covag-help@cleyhillchurches.org

and we will do whatever is necessary to give support.”

Ian Buick

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Science: changing the world

Is this the last global pandemic?

This will be my last article after 6 years and 70 articles (with two written by others). I am returning to the subject of my very first article – antibiotic resistance.

This and other health issues have largely been ignored in the media recently due to the focus on the current pandemic. However, they have not gone away and may indeed have become worse. Let us hope that there will not be a future pandemic of previously-treatable infections.

Antibiotics treat only bacterial and fungal infections, but similar arguments apply to antiviral and antiparasitic agents as well as to antibacterial and antifungal ones.

Last year it was reported that over-prescribing of azithromycin for unproven treatment of COVID-19, coupled with lower routine screening during the pandemic, has been blamed for a huge increase in azithromycin-resistant gonorrhoea. As azithromycin was one of the few remaining antibiotics to treat this common sexually-acquired infection, this is of serious concern. Antibiotic resistance can emerge very quickly once an antibiotic begins to be widely used.

Azithromycin-resistant gonorrhoea is the latest in a series of antibiotic-resistant



pathogens, which have arisen over the years due to over-prescribing, failure of patients to complete a course of antibiotics, and the inappropriate use of antibiotics to treat disease. The 2016 estimate of an extra 10 million deaths by 2050 due to untreatable infections has not changed, in spite of the campaigns addressing these issues. This is sometimes referred to as the Antibiotic Apocalypse, and a former Chief Medical Officer likened it to terrorism in its impact and global scale.

I have previously mentioned the case of an

Photo by Christine Sandu on Unsplash

American woman who died of an infection because all 26 antibiotics licensed for use in the USA failed to cure her infection. Such stories may become more frequent in future.

However, all is not yet lost. Public awareness has increased, and GPs and pharmacists now usually emphasise the correct behaviour:

- do not expect to be prescribed an antibiotic for all minor ailments
- always complete your course of antibiotics
- do not share your antibiotics with others
- if overseas, do not self-prescribe antibiotics you may be able to buy over the counter.

Although the last new class of antibiotics in common use was developed in the 1980s, some new antibiotics are in development and awaiting full clinical trials. The cost of development is huge, at about US\$70 million for each antibiotic, and many will not succeed in clinical trial. But this is small compared with the estimated annual cost to the global economy of up to US\$35 trillion.

One new class of antibiotic was announced in December 2020, which kills bacteria resistant to a wide range of existing antibiotics, and which also increases the immune response. This therefore attacks pathogens on two fronts – the antibiotic's direct effect on bacterial metabolism and the immune response to the pathogen. It is claimed that this may make it less likely to allow resistance to develop. Let us hope that this and other new antibiotics succeed in clinical trial.

Finally, let me briefly refer to the current COVID-19 pandemic. SARS-CoV-2 will not be the last virus acquired through animal-to-human infection, but one hopes that the lessons learned in 2020 and 2021 will allow better global management of human diseases originally acquired from animals. Similarly, we need to learn and apply the lessons of antibiotic resistance before this also gives rise to a global pandemic.

Nigel Brown

Thank you!

I would like to personally thank Nigel Brown for writing such interesting articles over the last six years and I, for one, will really miss them!

A few times he has written a whole new article at the last minute because he felt there was something currently more newsworthy to report on. He has the ability to write articles that everyone can understand and remain engaged in his subject!

Thank you so much Nigel for your input into our little magazine – it's been a privilege to publish your articles.

If anyone else would like to take up the mantle, please do get in touch – we'd love to read your articles!

Editor

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Having been left with a very small space to fill, this is the result:

- The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.
- After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

Don't blame me...



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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

I write on what has been yet another rather gloomy day! I think we don't function so well in these short days and dark winter months, which seem to be reflecting the general mood of the present time, due to the COVID restrictions. I don't think the third lockdown came as a great surprise to many of us, but there is little solace in that and once the Christmas lights and decorations have gone away for another year things can look rather bare for a while. It doesn't help does it? There has been the occasional sunny day, often following a cold and frosty start, and how welcome that light and warmth is and all the more noticeable for being infrequent. Our bodies and minds respond positively to that light and our spirits lift, it helps for a while but only while the sunlight lasts.

In the Church's calendar the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th to February 2nd, it is part of the wider season of light which begins in Advent and continues through Christmas. It may seem strange to call this time of year, a season of light but have you ever noticed how a light glows brighter in the dark? Jesus, who is Immanuel – God with us - was born into a world that needed the light of hope, much as our world does today and at Epiphany (which comes from the Greek word Epiphaneia meaning to reveal, manifest) we remember how God was revealed in a human baby to the whole world – represented by the coming of those from afar to adore him – enter Wise Men from the East! The prologue to The Gospel of John says of Jesus 'What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.' This light can be present within us, sustaining us in every situation at all times, touching us to very core of our beings as the Wise Men witnessed, they returned to their homes knowing that they had met and received the light of God in the Christ child.

The Psalmist in Psalm 121 asks 'From where will my help come?' the answer is in the next verse – 'My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.' We only have to look to the light of God in Jesus the Christ and receive it to know that help, Jesus can be the hope that sustains us, even though we may not see him we can through prayer in his name experience his presence through the power of love we call the Holy Spirit.

I looked in my garden for signs of snowdrops and things waking up, at present the grape vine and the fig tree look as though they will never waken again, but I always have hope – by the time you read this in February the days will be getting visibly lighter and longer. Snowdrops will start peeping through, I love that moment, the sign that Spring is on its way. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5: 'And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us'

With love and hope
Gay

February Church Diary

This diary has been prepared with an assumption that restrictions on movement will still be in force. Whilst Church services are still theoretically allowed, we took the decision to move back to online Sunday services, in order to protect everyone in our congregation.

All our other parish support facilities are still functioning, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with anyone on our contacts list if you need help or advice.

Details of the Zoom services will be sent to all on our contacts list each week.

All these services are for everyone in the Benefice.

If normal services should return, we will advertise the change.

Sunday 7th February
10am online Morning Prayer
5pm online Evening Prayer



Sunday 14th February
10am online Morning Prayer
5pm online Evening Prayer



Sunday 21st February
11am online BCP Matins
5pm online Evening Prayer



Sunday 28th February
10am online Eucharist
5pm online Evening Prayer

A date for your diary

Corsley House garden open to the public
On Sunday 23rd May
11 am to 5 pm
Tickets will be available from 1st March
Raising money for our local churches

What is 'Thrive'?

'Thrive' is a learning community aimed at helping rural communities and churches to grow to be the best they can be. It has been organized by the Diocese and funded for a three year period by Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) in partnership with 'leadacademy' (better together) and The Arthur Rank Centre (Supporting Rural Communities and Churches). We have a small team of people from across the benefice including Pauline and myself, working alongside teams from other parishes from around the Wiltshire Deaneries. There are three teams from our own Deanery – Upper Wylde Valley, Westbury White Horse and us – Cley Hill Villages, it is good to be working alongside others from the locality. Originally, it was intended that we would be gathering physically for two days but as that hasn't been possible the course work has been edited to deliver digitally over Zoom.

We had our first gathering towards the end of last November under the heading of 'Journey'. We began and finished each meeting with prayer and covered such subjects as: - Our journey so far, our history and answering 'Why?' questions, Culture Change, Metaphors, Models and Leaders (how do we see ourselves, what is our model?) and Burning Issues where we had to identify what required attention to give us a better working model/practice. We also did a 'Merlin Exercise', which was really difficult to do! Merlin apparently lived backwards, so we were asked to think ourselves three years hence and describe where we had got to – I suppose you could say it was a way of prophesying the goals we would like to see happening in our situations.

We set out a working document which will help guide us through the learning period and keep a record of how we are progressing (or not!) We identified a number of burning issues which we will be tackling over the next two years. The most immediate one presently is to be better at communicating across the benefice, we are very spread out with Longleat sitting in the middle between our two parishes of the Deverills with Horningsham and Corsley and Chapmanslade, that make up the Benefice of Cley Hill Villages, we cover a vast area. One of the ways we can improve is to have a more efficient circulation list and one person to circulate news, hopefully we will be able to give more details about this soon.

The group also felt that prayer was foundational to our journey and so we are working on a Benefice prayer that will be circulated digitally and/or printed for those who cannot access a computer, so that we can be together in prayer wherever we are. Other initiatives will be worked out in time so 'watch this space!'

If anyone from the Deverills or Horningsham would like to join our 'Thrive' team we have a space for you! The team meet periodically to pray and check our progress, we do this with our allocated Rural Officer. The next community meeting will be in June when the topic will be 'Leadership' – how can we best support current leaders and grow new ones?

Until next time, every blessing

Reverend Gay

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Neil and Di Britten on their recent Golden Wedding anniversary, and to Jean and Graham White who both celebrated their 90th birthday, either side of the new year.

The 50/50 Club is recruiting new players

For only £24 a year or £2 per month, you can join the Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches 50/50 Club. Half of the payment is returned as prizes, with the other half supporting church funds. There is a £100 prize to be won each month! You can pay by cash, cheque or standing order: if you would like to take part, you can sign up with Neil Britten on 01373 832515 or see page 39 for our entry form.

Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

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

Copy for Six Open Doors should be sent to
Ian Buick at ibuickuk@gmail.com or by phone on 01373 832318.
Please contact Ian if you would like to receive
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Food served 12 noon to 3pm and
6pm to 9pm

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Food served 12 noon to 4pm

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Walking through lockdown

Back to the Imber Ranges!



What a disappointment! The New Year began with tighter controls on our movements, and different tiers causing tears for most of us, until we were given a total lockdown again. I'd intended to go further afield this month – no, not to Rome, though what a joy that would have been. My plan was to take you exploring the remains of the Somersetshire Coal Canal at Midford, a truly mind-blowing trek, BUT we'd better stay local instead.

For our new Imber Range walk, find the Army tank track first.

That means driving along Imber Road in Warminster, past the Army houses and camps, until you find a right turn (possibly Battlesbury



Road), then following that wide avenue till you reach a sort of army crossroads. The tank track is at your left and you'll always see other cars parked up there, anyway. Park tidily, as tanks rumble this way at regular intervals.

Among the parked cars, you'll see a wide 'crossing' of sorts; turn left here onto a narrow grass track leading towards the distant hill – that's Battlesbury Hill and it's where we're going. The climb is gradual, but pause now and then, to check the views behind you; they seem to change every few steps.

When you reach a kissing gate, go through and turn left onto another narrow grassy track. You'll now begin climbing a chalky path, which sticks to your wellies after a good downpour of rain. The views are better here and they change faster; if the sun's shining

and you have your camera or mobile phone, see how many different vistas you can record.

Eventually, the chalky track splits; for this walk I took the left-hand one to widen the scope of the walk for you, BUT if you like to cut corners, take the right-hand track and you're on Battlesbury Hill almost at once. Go left, though, just to see the extent of the full walk available. This way, you'll reach another kissing gate; go through and study the board there. It's faded, but the information's still readable. You're now in an enclosed field, but it's still army land and you can see walkers' trails through the grass, which encompass the whole field. If you like circular walking, just follow the track left and round, until you find yourself back at the notice board. Be careful to stay on the trails; on one occasion, I saw



a sign board among long grass and got close enough to take a photo – it said, ‘Keep out – live firing range’!

Back at the notice board, return through the kissing gate and take the track running between three bronze-age (2500BC to 500BC) burial mounds, up the steep slope to the hillfort’s top. If it’s sunny and the views have been good till now, they’re about to get much better! You’ll pass at least one structure, probably left from World War Two, and eventually find an OS marker on the hilltop, a trig point. From this viewpoint, I took the track going right, which takes you onto one of the hillfort banks; follow that, literally round the hill. Away to your left, eventually, you’ll see the lynchets of Middle Hill, while to the right, the Imber Ranges are laid out in their

distant (and unapproachable) glory!

The day I did this walk, I reached the wooden kissing gate overlooking Middle Hill, just as a young soldier – complete with gun cradled on one arm! – came my way. He was followed by a whole group of them at regular intervals, all with guns! Even if you don’t have such excitement, keep an eye (and ear) out for buzzards and red kites, seen regularly up here.

Go through the kissing gate and slither down the chalk slope (if it’s rained overnight!) and you’ll reach a crosstrack. Take the wide track downhill to your right. At the bottom of the hill, you’ll find you’re on the tank track itself; turn right again and retrace your steps to your car. You’ll have walked three miles, or more if you’ve digressed here and there.



Corsley WI

Latest news

Alice Helliar rounds up the activities over the past few months and announces some forthcoming events



Well, with Coronavirus restrictions, including various lockdowns, lots of our exciting plans have been thwarted. But, never to be defeated, the Corsley WI ladies have been 'Zooming'!

We had our first trial zoom in October where we just had a catch up on people's news from the previous seven months. 16 members joined in and it was so lovely to see friends again.

In November we had a more adventurous 'Zoom' when Jackie Jasper gave us a facial yoga session. We relaxed our eyes from too much screen time and roared like lions to control our breathing and unwind. A very informative and relaxing evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all 17 of us. Jackie very kindly donated her speakers fee to the Royal British Legion 'Poppy Appeal'.

We were encouraged to grab a tippie and a mince pie to enjoy the December meeting. Eve gave us a lovely talk about the birds, flowers, fruit and blossoms that you would find in your garden in the winter, which was accompanied by some amazing photos. Maggie then demonstrated how to make

beautiful festive angels from paperclip kits that she had compiled. We certainly had a few adorning our Christmas trees.

In January Andrew Campbell educated us

in the determination and bravery of Mabel Strickland. Mabel became the editor of 'The Times of Malta' in 1935 and then progressed to Managing Director, steering the paper through the war years, and never missing an edition.

February will see Jo Trickett, a senior Nurse Practitioner in the Care Coordination Hub at Frome Medical Practice. It will be very interesting to hear how the practice has survived through these COVID-19 times, that have put unforeseen pressure on the NHS.

Over the past few months we have also written a book, 'Jam and Jerusalem Uncovered: 100 years of the Corsley WI'. This includes a 100 year history of the Corsley WI in the village, with some fantastic old photos of past members, as well as a selection of recipes from past and present members. We printed 100 copies and unbelievably all have been sold! We are considering another smaller print run, so if you are interested in the book please let me know (alicecambridge40@gmail.com).

We are currently compiling our 2021/22 programme and will publish this next month. We are hoping that we may be able to meet up in person later in the year to enjoy meetings in the Reading Rooms again.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Judith Helliar on 01373 832803.

Alice Helliar



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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Adam Oakley rounds up the January meeting of the PC

Chapmanslade Parish Council met virtually on 14th January with a full and busy agenda. Chaired by Councillor John Lewis there were six councillors present and 8 members of the public.

Barters Farm Development

Zak Simmonds from the developers Newland Homes presented details of the development in relation to the roads on the site. The PC will explore the options available for appropriate names and feedback preferences to Newland Homes and Wiltshire Council who make the final decisions.

The PC also asked Newland Homes for a construction method statement to be published as this was a major process for the local community to cope with.

Northacre Renewable Energy Ltd waste incineration permit

Several members of the public spoke about the Environment Agency consultation relating to the proposed waste incineration operation in Westbury and the impacts it may have on Chapmanslade and Short Street. The PC resolved to oppose the application for a permit to process waste.

Finance

St Philip and St James' Church

Ian Buick, the church warden, spoke in detail about the current financial challenges that the

church is facing. Ian also made the PC aware of how the church is involved in much of community life. Ian had prepared a detailed document for councillors prior to the meeting detailing the current essential maintenance required to the graveyard. The PC agreed to a £1,000 donation towards the costs of the graveyard maintenance.

A3098 Resurfacing

Information has been received by the PC that the long overdue resurfacing of the A3098 between Dead Maids and the Somerset border was now on a schedule most likely to be carried out during 2021. It is possible that this work will be scheduled in several stages and the PC has asked for priority to be given to the section between Dead Maids and the eastern end of the village.

Planning Applications

20/11539/FUL 99 High Street

The PC had no objection to this application.

20/10859/VAR 49 High Street

The PC had no objection to this application.

Next meeting

The next Chapmanslade parish council meeting will be on **11th February** at 7.30pm. It will be a virtual meeting and members of the public will be encouraged to attend by contacting the PC Clerk for joining information.

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A view through the hedge...

Old School Orchard

Neil Carpenter reports on the latest happenings at the orchard

Winter is the best time to work on trees and hedges as they are dormant and there are no birds nesting. This winter we are very busy making a start laying the hedge line around the far side of the orchard. The hedge has not been touched since the school closed and is very overgrown with lots of dead and damaged wood.

Hedge laying is a country skill that has been practised for centuries. Although a well-laid hedge looks beautiful, the original aim was to create a fence to stop sheep, cattle and other stock from straying. Styles of hedges vary across the country, but the

principles of hedge-laying remain the same. Laying a hedge not only creates a living fence but also encourages new growth, making it an excellent way of regenerating an old, overgrown hedge without replacing it. Once laid, a hedge simply needs regular trimming to keep it in good order for decades – far longer than a wooden fence and infinitely more beautiful.

A hedge is laid by cutting through the stem of trees enough to allow it to be bent over without snapping whilst still keeping enough of the bark/core intact for the sap to flow. The bent over stems are then pinned down to



ensure that they stay horizontal. In the spring the bent over stems shoot upwards creating the new hedge.

Roy (Ped) and Nigel have been doing a great job laying the blackthorn and hazel and removing lots of the dead and damaged branches from the other trees in the hedge.

Despite the fact it is only mid January as I write this, some of the trees already have rising sap so the hedge will not be finished this year. We will see a good contrast between the old and new.

Laying the hedge should create about an extra 10m of land down the side of the orchard. This will be used to plant more trees including both pear and apple trees that have been grafted at Barters Plant Centre from Corsley trees that have been growing here for over 100 years.

This week we have also sprayed all the fruit trees with Winter Wash which gets stops insects laying eggs and infesting the trees as well as cleaning off dust and other detritus and

therefore improving photosynthesis when the buds break in spring.

During lockdown being able to stroll around the orchard is very relaxing as we have created a path around the outside to use and put a bench in the orchard to rest on. Soon we will be able to start to see blossom on the trees for the bees to pollinate. We hope that you will take the time to take a stroll and enjoy it.

Finally, it is now traditionally Wassailing time of year. Wassailing has been practiced since Saxon times. Wassailing is when people go into orchards to make loud noises and sing songs to scare off any evil spirits and wake the trees up to encourage a good crop. We were also fortunate to have the orchard blessed when we planted it.

This year, sadly, we will not be able to invite the village along but you could always Wassail by yourselves when you go down there. It would feel good to shout and sing at the trees in these times! We hope to see you there next year.

Neil Carpenter

Hello! Can we help?

The Chapmanslade COVID-19 Action Group would like to help you with your needs. We can provide support to the residents of Chapmanslade with basic food supplies, prescription collection, dog walking, posting mail or just a friendly phone call. Simply call, email or text one of the contact numbers below and give some details of your requirements – name, address, how we can help and when you need the service.

Main contact: Charlene Ridler 07964 880841

Alternative contacts: Ian Buick 07967 639306

Louise Bell 07773 431213

Email: covag.help@cleyhillchurches.org

We will do our best to ensure no-one in our community is left to face COVID-19 isolation alone. For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/groups/chapmansladevillage/ or visit the village website <http://chapmanslade.org.uk/coronavirus/>

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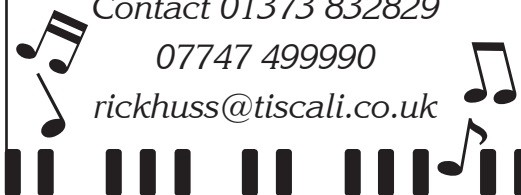
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Whitbourne Chapel

"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

The Good Samaritan

One picture stands out in my mind from the last twelve months, the one of a very strong man carrying a wounded man to a place of safety after he'd been injured at a demonstration. The men were obviously from different backgrounds and possibly complete strangers.

It reminded me of a story the Lord Jesus told; it's recorded in Luke 10 verses 25-37, of a man mugged by thieves and left half dead. Nothing new there; it could be a street in our country. Two people, who saw the aftermath, passed by on the other side of the road, till along comes a stranger, possibly despised by the Jews, for he was a Samaritan. He tends to the man's wounds and sets him on his own donkey and takes him to an Inn.

The next day he asks the owner to take care of the man, giving him a payment and promising to reimburse the owner for any extra money that he has to spend when he passes that way again.

The Lord Jesus possibly told this story indoors, as when a Lawyer wanted to tempt Jesus, he stood up to ask a question. 'Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' That's a question we all need to ask.

Jesus asks him what is written in the Law, and reels off a summary of the 10 Commandments, which can be divided into two parts - love to God, and love to our neighbours.

The Lawyer asks, 'Who is my neighbour?' You notice he isn't interested in the first part of the Law apparently. That's much the same as the days in which we live. There's a philosophy of Good Works (there is nothing wrong in that) but the good works are used to justify ourselves as being good, too!

We don't live in awe of a Holy Righteous God who sent his Son to be our Saviour from sin. The Lord Jesus put it this way in John 3 verse 17: 'God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved'.

As we look for snowdrops and the newness of life that comes at Springtime, may we know the newness of life the Lord Jesus can give us if we trust Him to forgive our sins.

Do you know the Hymn
'Loved with everlasting love'?
'Heaven above is softer blue.

Earth around is sweeter green.

Something lives in every hue, Christless eyes have never seen.'

Prayer:

The Lord bless you, and keep you:
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you:
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
and give you His peace.

(Numbers chapter 6 verses 24-6)



Please remember

If you need help or simply someone to talk to, ring 01373 464244 or 07980 013685 and we'll do our best to help you. Otherwise, log in to our website www.whitbournechapel.org.uk or google 'Whitbourne Baptist Chapel'

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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

With the COVID-19 virus still frighteningly virulent, our lives continue with work and education at home with just the daily outdoor walk for exercise.

Of course there are those whose work is considered essential and therefore we must be grateful to those working in the food industry from farms, processors, haulage and outlets big and small for keeping food available.

Our two villages generously supported the food banks in Frome and Warminster especially over Christmas, which I know was much appreciated.

How fortunate we are to live here in the countryside where our weather has little extremes. Thanks to David Carruthers' record keeping in Corsley we had 40.11" rainfall in 2020 with the wettest months being February and December. Eve Tigwell in Friggle Street recorded 34.48" with October the wettest month.

Work on the farms continues with cleaning out barns and cubicle houses of farm yard manures which are hauled to the edges of fields where the vehicles will make the least impact to be spread on the fields in a few months' time before being ploughed in.

Dirty water, collected in slurry lagoons, is also pumped onto grass fields when the ground conditions allow, by a very clever machine that cuts slits in the ground allowing the slurry to go into to the soil without leaving too much of a smell.

Winter still has quite a way to go, but the snowdrops can be seen brightening up our verges and the catkins of elder and alder are now dangling from the trees (alder have the purple catkins).



I was saddened to see the damage that the squirrels are doing to the young ash and oak trees on a local riverside footpath, planted just 20 years ago: sadly, the grey squirrel has few, if any, natural predators.

A recent visitor to my garden was a male great spotted woodpecker (the male has a red marking on his head). The thrushes and blackbirds are enjoying the apples that have fallen or have not kept so well in store this winter; the ivy berries in the hedgerows are bountiful and a good source of food for all kinds of birds.

You may well see early lambs out in the fields this month so do make sure that dogs are on leads as you walk footpaths. Young lambs tend to seek shelter hiding under hedges and banks away from driving rain and wind.

Do contact me if you see anything of interest on your walks in the countryside, I can try to answer queries and if I don't know the answer I can always find someone who might be able to help!

Do keep safe, enjoy your garden and the countryside around us.

Judith Helliar
01373 832803



Corsley and Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council

50/50 Club

Supporting your local churches

Why not take part in our 50/50 Club draw? It only costs £24 per year for each entry and 50% of the money raised is paid back out in prizes each year, so the chances of winning one of the £100 monthly draws is very good!

You can pay either £2 per month, £6 every three months, £12 every six months, or the whole amount in one go.

If you would like to take part, please complete the form below, cut it out and sent it to:

Neil Britten
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To the Manager of Bank/Building Society

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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

Traditional mahogany dining furniture:

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Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Doncaster
- 2 William Wallace
- 3 Jamboree
- 4 Milan
- 5 'Allo 'Allo
- 6 Universal Serial Bus
- 7 Toto
- 8 Eureka – Introduced in the 5th Oz book, she is described as being a kitten which was originally a stray. She was found by Dorothy Gale's Uncle Henry who told Dorothy that the name means "I have found it!"
- 9 D
- 10 Wave
- 11 Davy Jones
- 12 As Captain of the Titanic

Local organisation adverts

£2 per month for a small boxed advert or £7.50 for a full page. Full page adverts are allocated depending on space available and cannot be guaranteed. All monies must be at one of the two drop-off locations (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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