

The Bridge

February 2022

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



*Join in the Crafternoon, tuck into a Lite Bites Lunch,
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trot along to some coffee mornings, 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 **paradisefound86@icloud.com** or by hand (legible handwriting please!) and take them to the drop-off locations at Barters Plant Centre, Chapmanslade, or Acres Supply Garden Centre, Corsley by the deadline.

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

File types

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

Advertising

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

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

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

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

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Deadline

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

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

Diary *Dates*



February

Tuesday 1st

Coffee Morning – from 10 am, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 9th

Crafternoon – 3 pm - 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade (in the gallery)

Thursday 17th

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

Wednesday 23rd

Light Bites Lunches – 12.30 pm to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 24th

Crafternoon – 3 pm - 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade (in the gallery)

‘Noble Ambitions’ - a talk by Adrian Tinniswood – 7 for 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Monday 28th

New ‘black bin’ collection dates begin across Wiltshire

March

Tuesday 1st

Coffee Morning – from 10 am, Corsley Reading Room

Corsley Life Photographic Competition – get your entries in between today and Saturday 12th March!

Friday 4th

Deadline for Bids/Grants from Corsley Parish Council (see page 28)

Saturday 5th

Fun Quiz Night – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Monday 7th

Corsley Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting – 7 pm, Corsley Reading Room (followed by bi-monthly PC meeting)

Wednesday 9th

Crafternoon – 3 pm - 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade (in the gallery)

Thursday 17th

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

Playing Field News

We hope you all had a great Christmas and are ready for a new year of Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We would ask you all to let us know what you would like us to do at the field? We were thinking of the Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June, with everyone bringing their own lunch either to share or for themselves (depending on COVID-19 regulations at the time). Also with additional activities to keep the whole family occupied. We also considered barbecue and pizza in the evening.

If you would like to be involved in the organisation of the Jubilee activities at the playing field, then please get in touch, as it is too big an event for our small committee alone, or if you have other ideas, also let us know.

We are expecting delivery of our new piece of play equipment, the flying carpet, in March, so hope to have it installed before the Jubilee.

On a completely different topic, at the Old School Field Orchard near St Margaret's Church, there is a big pile of wood chippings. Please feel free to collect some. You will need to take your own bag and shovel.

If you need to know anything about the field please contact:

Dr Neil Carpenter 07919 057997
neil@nmc2.co.uk

Marion Liquorice 07796 544 565
marion @nmc2.co.uk



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*Many thanks
Marion and Neil*

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Wednesday 9th February

Wednesday 23rd February

Wednesday 9th March

Wednesday 23rd March

Wednesday 6th April

Wednesday 20th April

Wednesday 4th May

Wednesday 18th May

Wednesday 1st June,

Wednesday 15th June

Wednesday 29th June

Panto update

Unfortunately, with the current COVID spike, we felt it the safest and most responsible decision to postpone Dick Whittington.

The new performance dates will be Thursday 31st March, Friday 1st April, Saturday 2nd April, at the same times.

We hope all our ticket holders will be able to join us on the new dates but refunds will be available for anyone that cannot.

There are tickets still available for Thursday and Friday evening.

To book or for any queries please contact Lou Knight on 07806 486295.

Michael R Taylor

1933 - 2021

A funeral service was conducted by Canon Tony Watts, for Michael Taylor at Saint George's church in Beckington on Wednesday 19th January. The church was filled with people, the organ played gently, the flowers were beautiful and there was an atmosphere of real love and respect for a man that we all held very dear. Donations in Michael's memory were to be offered to Warminster Food Bank and Sreepur Village (Bangladesh).

Michael and Sue moved to Corsley in 1996. Michael immediately immersed himself in the life of the village whilst also working as a volunteer advisor at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Warminster and, when that closed, Midsomer Norton. He became a trustee of St Mary's church at Temple where he skilfully restored the lychgate with his carpentry skills. He became Chairman of the Horticultural and Craft Committee for Corsley Show, which went from strength to strength under his guidance. After some ten years in this position, he handed over many of the jobs he was doing but stayed on as 'Quartermaster' keeping everyone together and ensuring things were run to the highest of standards. His ability to problem-solve, and the kindness and enthusiasm he threw into everything he did was pivotal to the success of the show tent. His sweet peas and vegetables were winners and his marmalade was legendary! His son Alan could always be called upon to lend a hand on show day and Sue was always beside

Michael with her support and love, as well as a healthy competitive element which amused us all. They were both appreciated by so many people, not just in Corsley, but beyond.

They moved to Beckington in 2017, quickly becoming a part of the community whilst retaining their strong links with Corsley. Michael always had something interesting to talk about, loved to cook for friends and family and we never heard him say an unkind word. He was supportive and encouraging to everyone.

Our thoughts are with Sue and all the family. Michael will be sorely missed by so many people whose lives he touched – we have lost a wonderful friend.

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Changes to refuse collections

From 28th February 2022, the non-recyclable waste (black bin) collection days will change for 94% of Wiltshire residents. Recycling and garden waste collections are not affected.

The council's waste collection contractors, Hills Municipal Collections Ltd (Hills), will be implementing new collection rounds.

Why are these changes to refuse collection days required?

- The redesigned rounds will be more efficient and result in significant financial savings to the council over the remaining term of waste collection contract and help reduce carbon emissions through the more efficient deployment of vehicle resources. Fewer collection vehicles will be needed.
- The total savings achieved from the reduction in vehicle fleet and associated operational costs are estimated to be around £0.4m each year over the remaining four full years of the contract.
- Under the contract, Hills is also required to ensure that the council is able to fulfil its annual tonnage target commitments for its Landfill Diversion Contracts, including the direct delivery of residual waste to the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility in Northacre, Westbury.
- The current rounds were not modelled to provide for the full direct delivery of residual waste to the Northacre MBT. The redesigned rounds will help avoid waste transfer costs of approximately £0.09m per year.
- Tonnages of non-recyclable waste collected at the kerbside increased substantially during the pandemic, with more people working from home or isolating for periods of time. While kerbside-collected tonnages have now begun to subside, the tonnages still remain higher than pre-COVID-19 levels.
- Several years of house building and changes

in depot locations mean that the current collection rounds are now unbalanced and inefficient. The new rounds will even out the daily workloads, while also providing sufficient capacity for future projected housebuilding up to the end of the current contract term.

- In early February, all Wiltshire households will receive an information letter effectively providing notice consistent with a full 10-day collection cycle of the current service, before the change is implemented from 28th February. In addition, bin hanger information tags will be fixed to the handles of waste containers on the last collection under the outgoing schedule, reminding residents of the impending change to collection days.
- Given the scale of the changes involved, some service disruption is expected during the first six weeks of implementation while the collection crews and residents familiarise themselves with the redesigned rounds and new collection dates. Reports of missed collections are expected to increase over this period, but numbers should return to normal levels after three complete collection cycles. The council and Hills are working together on contingency planning to recover any temporary reduction in service performance over the six-week implementation period.
- Currently 14,200 (7%) Wiltshire households have their residual waste and recycling collected on the same day in the same week. Under the remodelled rounds, this will increase to 23,400 (11%) households. While we are aware that some people find this arrangement convenient, it may be a concern for others. The council and Hills will proactively respond to any issues and will seek alternative arrangements where possible.

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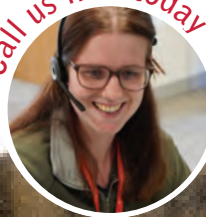
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Bob's bafflers

- 1 In which building was Thomas Becket murdered in 1170?
- 2 How much does an imperial gallon of water weigh in pounds?
- 3 Which was the most famous of the White Star passenger ships?
- 4 Garden, Willow, Sedge and Dartford are varieties of which small bird?
- 5 What is the more common name for the solid form of carbon dioxide?
- 6 Which Tolkien novel was first to feature Bilbo Baggins?
- 7 Which planet has moons called Europa, Io, Ganymede and Callisto?
- 8 In which American state would you find Fort Knox?
- 9 The hallux is the medical name for which part of the human body?
- 10 As at 2021, what is the UK's longest running sit-com?
- 11 Which US city is known as "The Big Easy"?
- 12 According the Bible, how many of each type of animal did Moses take on the Ark?

Answers on page 44

Corsley Fayre

It's ON! The Corsley Fayre is now officially a goer! The Fayre will be held on Saturday 3rd September 2022 and there'll be lots to do for all the family. The Horticulture and Crafts marquee will be a feature, so get those crafts on the go ready to show them off, or get planning your garden so you can exhibit some of your fabulous produce! We'll let you know what's happening on the day as we get closer to it, via The Bridge and we'll publish a Horticulture and Crafts schedule soon too. Please do consider giving even just a few hours to help deliver the Fayre – we really do need you!

The AGM will be at 7.30pm, Wednesday 16th February, at Corsley Reading Room. Society members are most welcome.

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I am writing from Age UK Wiltshire to let you know about the local Wiltshire Surviving Winter Grant (SWG), for which we are one of the partner organisations supporting older people to apply for the grant.

The scheme is aimed at older people at risk of fuel poverty and aims to support them by providing a one-off £200 grant alongside holistic advice to help ensure they are maximising their income and receiving support for any other issues they may have.

It has been running on an annual basis for a number of years and is organised and fundraised through Wiltshire Community Foundation. It is likely to remain open until around March 2022 (but may close sooner if all grants are distributed).

Please note that for working-age people, Wiltshire Warm & Safe (www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/) are the partner organisation supporting these clients to apply for the grant (the criteria for working age clients is slightly different).

*Kind regards
Rachel*

Rachel Clarke
Senior Project Worker
Information and Advice Team
Age UK Wiltshire
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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

The Parish Council (PC) met for its first meeting of 2022 in the Reading Rooms on 10th January. The meeting was attended by our County Councillor, Bill Parks.

Baytree Close Development

The meeting was joined remotely by Christine Brown, the Residential Development Project Manager for the further development of the Baytree site. She explained that the original planning application had been withdrawn following consultation and that it was hoped a fresh application would be submitted by the end of the month. The meeting was shown a revised plan for the site that showed that the dwellings planned had been more sympathetically placed within the site and a number of issues that the PC had commented on previously were being addressed e.g. hedging along the A362. The issue of drainage is still to be finalised, both foul water and rainfall runoff but the planners are well aware of this and will want to see a viable solution to this before they will approve it. The PC reiterated their desire that those with local connections are prioritised in the lettings and sale processes.

It is important that those who think they will be/are interested in either renting or the shared ownership properties (3 x two beds) should register with Homes4Wiltshire who are Wiltshire Councils agents in this area. Help is available to 'navigate' through this if applicants are in difficulty.

Co-option

Following the advertising of the vacancy on the PC, four applications for co-option had been received. The PC were pleased to invite John Phillips of Knapps Gate to join the council.

Planning Applications

A retrospective planning application had been received:

PL/2021/10981. Retention of conversion of former milking parlour to holiday let and rebuilding of outbuilding for entertainment room ancillary use to The Malthouse. At Malthouse, Court Lane.

The Parish Council commented that it does not condone development being undertaken that clearly requires Planning permission (and potentially Listed Building consent) and retrospective applications subsequently being submitted.

In considering the planning application on its merits, the Parish Council raised no objection subject to:

The holiday let being conditioned in an appropriate manner and, in accordance with Wiltshire's preferred wording, so that it can only be used as a holiday let.

That an additional condition is placed on the holiday let so that the building remains in the ownership of The Malthouse and ownership cannot be severed and the building sold as a separate entity (as has been placed on other similar developments in Corsley).

That the entertainment room is conditioned to be used for purposes incidental to The Malthouse main house and cannot be hired on a commercial basis.

That the planning officer confirms that Listed Building Consent is not also required for the development that has been undertaken.

The PC had become aware, via the applicant, that a planning application had been submitted by Wessex Solar Energy for

the installation of solar panels at Lodge Hill, Berkley. It was disappointing that the PC had not been included as consultees by Mendip DC given the proximity of the development to the parish boundary and the fact that it would be seen from parts of the parish. It was noted that a number of the comments on the website relating to the development were from Corsley residents.

Streetscene

David Ball, the PC rep for streetscene reported that the meeting of our MP with officers and members of Wiltshire Council, and representatives of Chapmanslade and Maiden Bradley parish councils and the Maiden Bradley Weight Watchers Group to discuss the concerns about HGV traffic through the villages had been cancelled due to COVID-19. To date, a new meeting date has not been agreed.

The discussions with Wiltshire Council regarding the speed limit review through the village are ongoing.

It was agreed that the estimates for Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), village gates and additional road safety signage that had been provided should be incorporated into the budget discussions.

Footpaths

Alice Helliar, the PC rep for footpaths had circulated a comprehensive report on the state of footpaths in the village and the state of the kissing gates, signs and stiles. The report included indicative costings for the replacement of gates and stiles and the options that the PC could adopt. The report highlighted the differences in costings of wooden versus metal replacements and the significant difference in the lifespan and maintenance of these. It was agreed that a sum would be set aside for the ongoing maintenance/renewal of the gates/stiles.

Finance

The PC reviewed the spending to date in the current financial year and considered

the likely expenditure for the remainder of the year, including the number of projects that had been identified and the impact this would have on setting a budget for the following year. It was agreed that, subject to Wiltshire Councils agreement on siting, that the installation of SIDs should be progressed in this year. The other significant project to be funded in this financial year is the rebuilding of the bus stop at the Heath. Provision is also made in this year for the grants/donations that the PC makes to village organisations. (See separate notification in this edition of The Bridge for details of how to apply and the timescales.)

It was agreed that the precept for 2022/2023 should include provision for the village gates and the start of a programme of maintenance/renewal of the kissing gates/ styles/field gate around the parish. It was agreed that to cover the ongoing expenditure, the planned ‘improvements’ to road safety and the environment and a one-off amount to assist in the funding of village based celebrations in aid of the Queens Platinum Jubilee, the precept should be set at £14,500.

Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Legally the APM should take place between 1st March and 1st June. Last year the impact of COVID-19 meant that the APM did not take place until September. On the assumption that there will be no further restrictions, it is proposed that the APM will be held on the 7 March. Villagers will know that it has been the practice in the past to invite guest speakers to this meeting. Suggestions are sought as to whom should be invited this year.

Dates of next meetings

APM	Monday 7th March
Bi-monthly meeting	following the APM
Annual Parish Council meeting	Monday 9th May

Meetings to be held in the Lower Room at Corsley Reading Room and will begin at 7 pm)



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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

I write on a perishing cold grey old day. It's that time of year isn't it, when it can feel unbearably cold and miserable and spring seems a long way off, especially this year when most of are feeling somewhat weary and worn down and hope is sometimes hard to sustain. But, (I suspect that I write about this every February - but never mind, I do it because it's so special) those miraculous, achingly beautiful little plants, the snowdrops, are beginning to brave the cold and push their delicate stems through the cold earth into the light. 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 George 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 6, 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 is 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

(COVID-19 Regulations Permitting)

February 6th Accession of the Queen

8am Holy Communion Kingston

9.30am Eucharist St Margaret's

10.30am Morning Worship Longbridge



Wednesday 9th February

3 - 5pm Church and Community Crafternoons

Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade



February 13th 3rd before Lent

9.30am Eucharist Chapmanslade

10.30am Eucharist Kingston



Thursday 17th February

10am – 12 noon Church and Community Coffee Morning

Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade



February 20th 2nd before Lent

11am Matins St Margaret's

10.30am Eucharist Brixton



Thursday 24th February

3-5pm Church and Community Crafternoons

Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade



February 27th Sunday Next before Lent

9.30am Eucharist Chapmanslade

10.30am Eucharist Longbridge



March 2nd Ash Wednesday

10.30am Eucharist Chapmanslade

10.30am Eucharist Longbridge



March 6th First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion Kingston

9.30am Eucharist St Margaret's

10.30am Morning Worship Longbridge

Important Public Notice

Creation of development groups for our two churches in Corsley and Chapmanslade

The Corsley and Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council are creating development groups for each of our two parish churches, to begin a process of public discussion and decision making into their future use and to secure their survival. These groups will begin their work on 1st April this year.

The decisions made should have a positive impact on our communities as a whole in both villages, so all interested parties are invited to play a part in deciding how changes to the churches could provide additional facilities with benefits to all.

It is expected that the terms of reference for each group will include:

1. Plans to bring the churches up to good condition.
2. Ideas for changes of use to include wider community activities
3. A plan for building development to meet item 2.
4. Financial planning and grant applications to permit building and ongoing running costs.
5. Undertake public and statutory consultation to meet local authority planning, Historic England, interested party and church regulation requirements.

Detailed terms of reference will be the first task of each group.

Discussions were held with all village organisations during January, and these will be encouraged to be represented in the development process.

If you are interested in having an influence in these fundamental changes to the way our church buildings operate and the effects on our communities, please contact one of the following:

Rector – Rev Pauline Reid
revpauline@btinternet.com 01985 841290

PCC Secretary – Sue Fear
suefearpcc@gmail.com 01373 832074

PCC Joint Treasurer – Ian Buick
ibuickuk@gmail.com 01373 832318

Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

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

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

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Friday and Saturday**

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Food served 12 noon to 3pm and
6pm to 9pm

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Church news

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01373 832074

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Traditional Mole Catcher

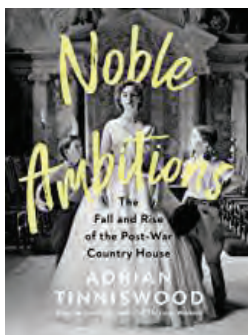


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Noble Ambitions

a talk by Adrian Tinniswood (leading historian
and author, University of Buckingham)



Thursday 24th February
7 for 7.30 pm
Corsley Reading Room

The book opens with a description of Henry Thynne, 6th Marquess of Bath judging entries at the 1946 Corsley Show then going on to inform the villagers that he would be selling off many properties in the village to meet a huge tax bill imposed by the Attlee Government.

Excellent reviews of this book include; *“Tinniswood’s rollicking study perfectly captures the combination of decadence, pathos and brazen cheek that kept the English country house alive when it faced disaster”* Sunday Times

To ensure social distancing, numbers will be restricted to 50 and booking is essential.

Tickets will cost £5 and can be bought via the Reading Room website at corsleyreadingroom.org.uk

Adrian will have copies of the book for sale on the evening and will be signing copies.

Corsley Parish Council

BIDS FOR DONATIONS AND GRANTS FOR 2021/22

Each year the Parish Council provides donation or grants to a variety of community and village organisations.

In recent years these have included:

Corsley Reading Rooms
War Memorial Playing Field
Corsley and Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council
The Lane End telephone box project
Corsley Show
Little Cuckoos
The Village Defibrillator Project
The Village Broadband Project
Corsley Tennis Club

The Parish Council budgets on spending a total of around £4,000 from your taxes, in areas such as community groups, sports and recreation, open spaces, entertainment and local issues.

Donations and grants will be made on the basis of bids to help us spend this (your) money in appropriate areas. These should be by application to our Parish Clerk (he can provide the relevant forms) and include financial accounts where appropriate.

Bids for defined projects are preferred,
but this is not to the exclusion of others.

Bids should reach John Willcox, Parish Clerk, on paper or email by
Friday 4th March 2022, to
corsleypc_jdw@aol.co.uk
01373 832171

Removal of hedges on agricultural land

Keith Collins questions the removal of valuable hedges

I was very interested to read Judith Helliard's comments, in January's "Countryside Matters", on reasons for maintaining hedges in gardens and on agricultural land. She quite rightly referred to their importance to all kinds of wildlife, and the removal of hedges, whether farm or garden, means the loss of natural habitat for so many creatures. Organisations including CPRE, Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, Countryside Alliance, Woodland Trust, etc., all regard hedges as being vitally important to the wellbeing of nature and the environment.

My wife and I have lived in Chapmanslade for nearly 35 years and have been saddened to see the huge decline in the numbers and species of birds, butterflies and other insects, over that time. It is caused by a number of factors, but one of the most important is loss of habitat. If we do not preserve, maintain, and enhance natural habitat now, it will be lost for ever. Chapmanslade is a "bee friendly" village, the new housing in the village is called "Honey Glade", but for how much longer will there be bees?

So, in mid-December, whilst walking along Mill Lane, towards Corsley Mill, I was shocked to see that approximately 200m of mature, overgrown but healthy hedgerow had been cut down to ground level. This was a boundary hedge to a field on the north west side of the lane and, judging by the variety

of species of trees and shrubs growing in it, could be regarded as an ancient hedgerow.

If the hedge needed to be maintained, surely it would have been much better to top and thin it and carry out some small-scale cutting back. It would then still have been a sanctuary for wild life – birds, mammals and insects. As it stands now, if this is regarded as coppicing and it is allowed to regenerate, how long will it take to be of any benefit to nature? 10 years, 15 years or more? We do not have that time! I assume the arisings from the hedge removal will be burnt, and this will produce a huge amount of CO₂ and other toxic emissions.

I would be very interested and grateful if anyone can give me, and other concerned villagers, good reasons why this hedge had to be removed.

Keith Collins

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!

Lite Bites

Looking out of my window as I write this, the garden is very white with frost. What better way to warm you up on a day like today than a large bowl of soup? Lite Bites soup lunches take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Reading Room from 12.30 – 2pm. When you read this our January lunch will be in the past and I hope you will have joined us. The next date is 23rd February, followed by 23rd March and 27th April. We always have a choice of four different soups and you are not limited to one bowl! If there is a soup you would particularly like us to make, you only have to ask!!

Each month we support a different charity to which we give the donations for the soup. So far this 'season' we have supported the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, the RNLI and the British Legion. In January we supported the Alzheimer's Society and in February we will be giving the donations to Dorothy House, our local hospice in Bradford on Avon.

Please come along and join us for sumptuous soup and convivial conversation.

Maureen Willcox

COVID-19 issue

A LETTER to a British newspaper is food for thought...

"I have just watched the BBC's Jenny Hill reporting on COVID-19 precautions being taken by football teams in Germany, and she said the Eintracht Frankfurt will be disinfecting their balls at half-time. No wonder the rate in the UK is so high; we are only told to wash our hands."

Adrian Martin, Glasgow

Crafternoons in Chapmanslade

It is just about two years since we were able to have our Crafternoon meetings and we are pleased to be starting again, meeting twice monthly every second Wednesday and every fourth Thursday of the month from 3 - 5pm in the Three Horseshoes up in the gallery. Thank you Ben for the space! Our next meeting is Wednesday 9th February; we look forward to any who can join us then and on future dates - come as often as you are able, bring your own projects with you and enjoy a couple of hours with others.

We also plan to have some games to join in and have a jigsaw on the go, so even if you are not a crafter but would like to share in a sociable afternoon come along from wherever you are.

Come and join us - everyone is welcome!

Gay Maynard

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Corsley Parish Council

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The UK will celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 70th anniversary as monarch with a blockbuster weekend of celebrations

The May Bank Holiday Weekend has been moved to Thursday 2nd June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone.

The Parish Council would like the village to join in with these celebrations and have put aside a budget to support this.

We do not plan to organise this ourselves but would like to request volunteers to come forward with ideas around how the village could celebrate on the Sunday (which is the suggested day for street parties, picnics, etc.)

If you are interested in helping please let the Clerk to the Parish Council, John Willcox, know: 01373 832171, corsleypc_jdw@aol.com

To remind those who attended the Diamond Jubilee celebrations 10 years ago, we had the most amazing village party and our first Bridge Trophy Cricket Match against Chapmanslade.

In addition to the village party on the Sunday, our very own Sir Malcolm of the

Flaming Beacon has already contacted Her Maj's Beacon Master, Sir Bruno of the Beacons (his actual name and title), to confirm Corsley will be joining in with a beacon on top of Cley Hill on Friday 3rd June.

On the 60th Jubilee, Malcolm was joined by seventy or more hardy souls who tramped up to the Beacon site and were treated to a glorious sunset which was followed by a strange pink moonrise. Once more the Gods of fine weather were appeased by the hedonistic cavorting earlier on and so had looked favourably upon their favoured flock in Corsley.

At 10.15 precisely (our designated lighting time) a burning brand was thrust deep into the wooden pyre, shortly followed by another one as the first went out and then a third was tried, all the time the assembled multitude offering 70 different ways of starting a fire.

Three cheers for Her Maj was followed by rousing patriotic songs and more quaffing of falling down water. Far into the night continued the quaffing, chatting and merry making with the last hardy souls making their unsteady way down the hill long after midnight, and some arriving home even longer after sunrise as befuddled brains made for muddled paths in the dark.



Memories of Corsley School

All the world's a stage

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

Corsley School in the late 80's had three classrooms. One was a mobile classroom which stood alone on the playground with teacher Boo Hardy and her Classroom Assistant June Snelgrove plus the Reception and Year One Infants.

In the main school building there were another two classrooms the smaller of which held the Year Two Infants and Year Three juniors with their teacher Marg Leach. The largest classroom at the front of the building was the Headteachers Class which held all the Year Four, Five and Six Junior children – linked to the Old School House it was the first room visitors would enter and closest to the telephone if the Head was needed.

This classroom also doubled as the School Hall and at the end of each day, in a well practiced routine, the junior children moved all the tables and chairs to one side and all three classes came together for a whole school assembly. It was a very large rectangular room with a small cubby hole off the far corner which served as Mave Stocking, the school secretary's, office and at the other end a very large, solidly built wooden stage which was used for Christmas Nativity plays, occasional



special assemblies and special events eg. Visiting theatre groups, performances by the children, etc. It took up nearly a third of the space and was the very first thing visitors to the school saw when they entered the building.

At that time

PE was generally a warm weather activity at Corsley School, as it had to take place outside. I did run a Gym Club for the junior children, but this involved a car journey after school in parents cars to New Close School in Warminster, where we could make use of their large hall and especially their PE apparatus (Wall Bars, Climbing Frames and Ropes) and small equipment and mats.

One day Jenny Lewin (the Chair of Governors) and I were in the large classroom, discussing the best use of the space in the school (as the numbers on roll were growing) and we decided that if the stage was removed – which stood unused for most of the time – there would be a lot of space released, all the staff agreed and thought it was a great idea. Fired with enthusiasm the stage was demolished the following weekend. It was extremely well made and took several hours to demolish, but the extra space it released was

well worth the effort we thought.

The following Monday afternoon, after school, I had a visitor, Keith Snelgrove. Keith was a parent at the school, Vice-Chair of Governors and a member of the PTA. "I've come to have a look at your classroom now the stage has gone" he said. I took him in and showed him all the extra space, enthused about how we would be able to fix a climbing frame and ropes on the wall, open a doorway into the Old School House, use a portable new stage stored in the outbuildings for special events and have much more space for whole school daily assemblies and special events, etc. Keith did not seem quite as enthusiastic. "Who took down the old stage?" he asked. "I did" I said, "I don't know who built it, but it was very solid and well built, a real craftsman's work – took me hours to take it all apart". "I'm glad to hear you say that," said Keith, "I'm the one who built it!"

Chapmanslade Village Hall

Fun Quiz

7.30 pm, Saturday 5th March

*Tickets £10
to include a hot supper*

*Tickets must be purchased in
advance*

*Contact either
Carol 832875 or
Frank 832678*

Chapmanslade Village Hall News

Since we last wrote, more work has been carried out. The hall is now warmer thanks to the electrical work continuing – the overhead heaters are now in full working order and new convection heaters have been installed.

Out on the field there are two benches near the play area, the table tennis table has seen much activity by all ages and the exercise equipment is now fully operational – grateful thanks to the volunteers involved in this. Also to those who carry out the regular inspections of the play area and other equipment – the VH committee are very grateful to you all.

The hall is once again being used much more, with any relevant COVID-19 regulations being adhered to. The pantomime has been postponed, but rehearsals are due to resume early this month.

The Fun Quiz returns next month – see advert on this page. Entry will be by pre-purchased tickets only.

We're thinking of a village event at the hall to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, possibly a big picnic/Chapmanslade street party!! Any ideas and offers of help to arrange this will be gratefully accepted!

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Walking through lockdown

A muddy town walk



Although this is a 2-3 mile town walk, wellies are a good idea, as mud is likely in many places. Your starting point is Warminster Civic Centre, in the car park off Sambourne Road. Walk alongside the building and pass the side of the Factory Shop, to the High Street. Use the crossing there and climb the steps through 'The Close' archway and keep walking ahead. You'll pass 'The Old Fire Station' on your left and emerge eventually onto Portway. Across to your left should be Portway House, while the War Memorial should be at your right. Cross this busy road and walk alongside the Portway House railings.

This is now private apartments, but it was built for a clothier in 1722 and was the town's library when I moved to Corsley in 1979. There's a brick 'gazebo' on the corner wall here, but it and the red-brick building next door are derelict. You'll come to a turning left into Portway Lane next; use that and cross the

road to the pavement opposite, walking left.

The buildings along the right side of this road aren't exciting, but residents do have green space opposite to enjoy. Walk the pavement until the blocks of flats run out and you'll see the grass opposite has run out, too. Cross the junction on to Glovers Lane, a footpath, and walk beside the lake fencing there. Stay on the footpath, with its markings for bikers and walkers, and you'll arrive at Furnax Lane Industrial Estate, passing a compound of stone blocks on your right, while ahead of you are signs for the Travis Perkins compound.

As you near that, you'll see a sign for the



Howdens compound ahead and left – go that way. When you reach the road sign ‘Newopaul Way’ at your left, cross the road and keep to the left side of the new one. You’ll pass Screwfix on the right and reach another junction.

Ahead of you now should be the Council Recycling Facility (exciting, eh?!). Go left here and eventually pass Dent’s Factory Shop frontage and car park; the main Bath Road should be visible ahead; go that way. Walking past industrial buildings may not seem enjoyable, but these are roads you’d probably never see on foot!

Turn left onto Bath Road and there are red-brick terraced homes on your left, with cream bungalows after and a cream-coloured house on the right, ahead. When you’re very near the house, cross this busy road very carefully and you’ll see a car-width public footpath runs past the house and garden. Use that, passing a private gateway to a rugby pitch, on your right. When you reach a second (unmarked) rugby pitch gate, walk the muddy narrow lane going left nearby and go into the field, using the grass trail going ahead. Away left now should be Warminster School playing fields, while the trail takes you to a stone bridge across a stream. This will be very muddy if we’ve had lots of rain; I’ve left



wellies behind when stepping across the mud at the end of this bridge!

Climb the slope away from the bridge and you’re in an open area, with a muddy track going right or left. Ahead of you is a bush and tree-filled swamp – there’s no other word for it, if we’ve had lots of rain! If you feel like exploring, go right here and wander through different fields, but beware; this area’s true marshland!

Otherwise, turn left onto the muddy track after the bridge and follow it round the swamp to reach houses and roads; there should be a big puddly parking area to your right. Turn



left here onto the pavement of Grovelands Way and climb to the mini-roundabout, with Wakefield’s vehicle repair facility across the road. Go left again and descend Vicarage Street, passing Wren House on the left (built for another clothier circa 1720) and Warminster School buildings on both side of the road. Cross the road at the lights outside The Courtyard Nursery, to Warminster Prep School and walk into Emwell Street left, passing The Minster School and the Weymouth Arms on your right. When you emerge onto Sambourne Road, use the zebra crossing and take the side road to your left, into the main car park. If you need facilities and sustenance, walk a few more yards into town and take your pick of places!

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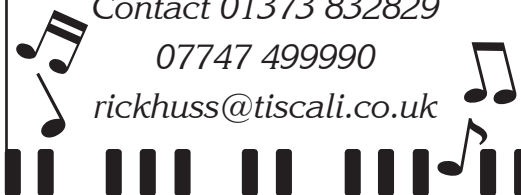
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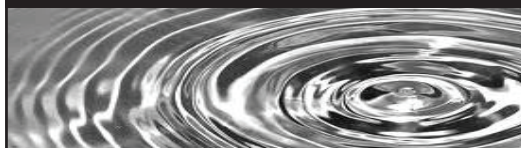
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Whitbourne Chapel

'I press toward the goal for the prize...'
Philippians 3, v12

Preachers for February

- 6th Russell Short from Clink Evangelical Church
13th John Hobson, a regular writer for this page
20th Paul Stinchcombe of the Open Air Mission
27th Colin Chapman from Melksham Ebenezer Chapel

Encouraged to Go for Gold

All being well this month, we should be witnessing the Winter Olympic games from China. We hope all the British competitors do well, and some bring home the gold.

The apostle Paul was used to seeing the ancient Greek Isthmian Games and describes the Christian life in terms of athlete metaphors. His goal was to win the race of the Christian life, not to lose it, "...I press toward the goal for the prize..." (Philippians 3 v12-14); "Do you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it..." (1 Corinthians 9 v24-27): Unlike the modern Olympic Games where medals are awarded to the first three places, in the ancient games only the winner received the crown - winning was everything! Paul encouraged believers in Corinth to run the race of the Christian life to

obtain the prize and he died winning the race.

When my wife's grandmother died, some years ago, we found her Bible and Bible reading notes opened on Paul's second letter to Timothy, read in the days before her passing. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness..." (2 Timothy 4 v6-8). Peggy is with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in Heaven.

If you're reading this and know you aren't a believer, please let me encourage you to start on the Christian path and run the race. The message Paul preached was that the Lord Jesus died for all the sins of fallen humanity and rose again from the dead on the third day to prove that sin had been paid for. The Lord offers eternal life, a home in heaven and forgiveness of sins to all who put their trust in Him alone for their salvation.

Perhaps you already know Jesus as your Saviour. Please let me encourage you to continue and complete the race, to run to win the prize. The challenge is to remember: we are not running for a crown of laurel leaves, nor for gold medals, but for eternal crowns.

Andrew Coxhead
Occasional preacher at Whitbourne



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, visit our website www.whitbournechapel.org.uk or google 'Whitbourne Baptist Chapel'.

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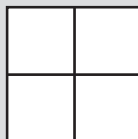
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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

After the mildest recorded temperature for New Year, January has been blessed with high pressure bringing frosty or grey misty days

I must thank my local rainfall recorders for their recordings of rainfall for 2021.

Lane End, Corsley 33.89 inches
(44.60 inches in 2020)

Friggle Steet, Frome 30 inches

Both recorders noted that July and October were our wettest months with over 4 inches of rain in each of those months.

Already our days are a longer by a few minutes every day, but records will tell us that February, although the shortest month in days, can be our real month for proper winter weather.

February fill dyke

Regardless of rain or snow, the ditches will usually fill in February. We usually think of dykes in low lying moorland or reclaimed land from the sea. Ditches usually border properties or land; along hedges where there are two ownerships, the hedge is the responsibility of the owner the ditch is maintained by the neighbour.

Ditch clearing, hedge trimming and hedge laying are often carried out by contractors who are employed to do spring and harvest work the rest of the year, giving employment to tractor drivers on a regular basis all through the year, maintaining well-drained land and hedgerows.

At this time of year, the footpaths and bridlepaths can become heavily trodden and muddy from regular use by walkers,

cyclists horses, tractors or cattle; for your own pleasure and safety, do use maintained paths and lanes where possible, ensuring you are visible by other road users. Walkers wearing dark-coloured clothing on dark mornings and evenings are an accident waiting to happen and it is often the dog or horse that comes off worst.

Our birdlife is suffering greatly with avian influenza (bird flu), especially swans and geese, causing the culling of thousands of poultry birds kept outside and indoors.

It is carried by migrating birds and accelerated by the mild temperatures we are experiencing at the moment. At present it is a virus rarely transferred to humans, but the scientists are keeping a keen eye on this.

Looking on the brighter side of country living, I saw my first lamb this week and the first of the snowdrops are showing through. The lovely sunrises and sunsets on brighter days have been breathtaking!

Keep safe and well and enjoy the countryside when you can.

Judith Helliar

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

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

The February Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 1st so, unless you have your copy of The Bridge delivered beforehand, you have probably missed it!

Make a note now for the next Coffee Morning on Tuesday 1st March!!

We are considering if the Coffee Morning would be better supported if it was moved to the second Tuesday of the month, or even another day of the week. Please let any committee member know your thoughts. Without more users/participants it is at risk of closing.

A talk you won't want to miss:

Bookings are now open via our website for this event on Thursday 24th February, 7 for 7.30 pm. Adrian Tinniswood, historian and writer is coming to talk about his new book, "Noble Ambitions: The Fall and Rise of the Post War Country House."

The bar will be open and tea/coffee available.

See the advert for more details on why this is not to be missed, booking is essential.

The Reading Room is for hire but NOT To Let!!

The observant amongst you will have noticed a "To Let" sign erected by Allen and Harris on the RR land. They were asked by us to remove it. It is illegal to put such signs anywhere other than in/on the land of the property being sold/rented. One might have expected them or their agent to know that!

Photographers

The details of the competition to have pictures of Corsley life on display in the Reading Room are available on the website. Entries to be submitted between 1st March and 12th March. So look though recent pictures and perhaps get 'snapping' throughout February.

Do check regularly with the RR website for any changes, especially COVID-19 related issues.

See www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk for more details about the Reading Room. To hire, see the website or call Gill Parkinson (01373 832322) to discuss.

Hugh Deed

Chairman of Management Committee

Chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk

01373 832897

Committee Members

David Carruthers, Hugh Deed, Claire Firman-Ford, Liz Garrett,
Vanessa Hyde, Jackie Jasper, Gill Parkinson, Mark Richards

Small ads

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Canterbury Cathedral
- 2 Ten pounds (a pint of water weighs a pound and a quarter!)
- 3 The Titanic
- 4 They are all warblers
- 5 Dry ice
- 6 The Hobbit
- 7 Jupiter (they are the largest of 80 known moons)
- 8 Kentucky (The United States Bullion Depository, often known as Fort Knox, is a fortified vault building adjacent to the Fort Knox Army Post.)
- 9 Big toe
- 10 Last of the Summer Wine
- 11 New Orleans (also known as Crescent City or the City that care forgot. The Big Easy is possibly a reference by early 20th century musicians regarding relative ease of finding work there.
- 12 None – Noah took the animals!

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!

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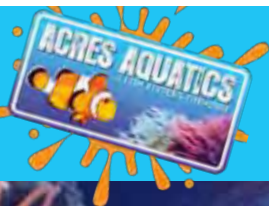
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