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The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Articles

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

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

File types

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

Advertising

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

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

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

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see the last page.

In this issue...

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a cunning quiz

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Corsley

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Deadline

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

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

January

Saturday 4th

Corsley litter pick – 10.00, meet opposite the Royal Oak

Tuesday 7th

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

Wednesday 8th

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

Thursday 9th

Warminster mobile library (see page 35 for times)

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

Warminster Area Board – 7.00pm, Warminster Civic Centre

Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Saturday 11th

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

Thursday 16th

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

Wednesday 22nd

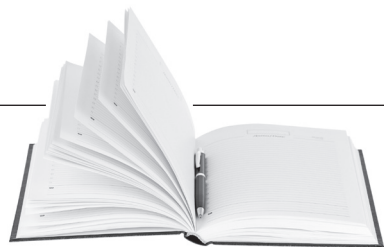
Lite Bites Bread and Soup Lunch – 12.30pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

Thursday 23rd

Warminster mobile library (see page 35 for times)

Thursday 30th

Corsley Tennis Club AGM – 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room



please note new time!

February

Thursday 6th

Warminster mobile library (see page 35 for times)

Saturday 8th

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

Thursday 13th

Corsley WI – 2.30pm, Corsley Reading Room – Keeping Hens in the Garden

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Wednesday 19th

Diary Dates

Parochial Church Council – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Thursday 20th

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

Warminster mobile library (see page 35 for times)

Wednesday 26th

Lite Bites Bread and Soup Lunch – 12.30pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

March

Thursday 6th

Warminster Area Board – 7.00pm, Warminster Civic Centre

Saturday 8th

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

Monday 10th

Corsley Annual Parish Meeting – Corsley Reading Room, time to be confirmed

Wednesday 12th

Parochial Church Council – 7.30pm, St Margaret's

Thursday 13th

Corsley WI – 2.30pm, Corsley Reading Room, Annual Meeting

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Thursday 20th

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

Wednesday 26th

Lite Bites Bread and Soup Lunch – 12.30pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

April

Wednesday 9th April

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 7.30pm, St Margaret's

Thursday 10th

Corsley WI – 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room, Open Meeting – Veterinary Practice

Chapmanslade Parish Council Annual Meeting – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

Saturday 12th

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

continued...

Thursday 17th

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

Wednesday 23rd

Lite Bites Bread and Soup Lunch – 12.30pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

May

Saturday 11th

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

Thursday 15th

Chapmanslade Parish Council Annual General Meeting – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

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

Saturday 17th

Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches May Fayre and Table Top Sale – 2.30pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Wednesday 28th May

Lite Bites Bread and Soup Lunch – 12.30pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

Litter pickers

Chapmanslade litter pickers

We will be meeting opposite the Three Horseshoes at noon on Saturday 11th January. We provide all the necessary equipment and spend about an hour or so collecting litter from the High Street and surrounding area.

Phil Jefferson
01373 832845

Corsley litter pickers

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

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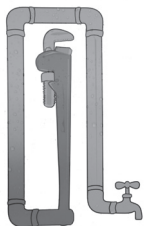
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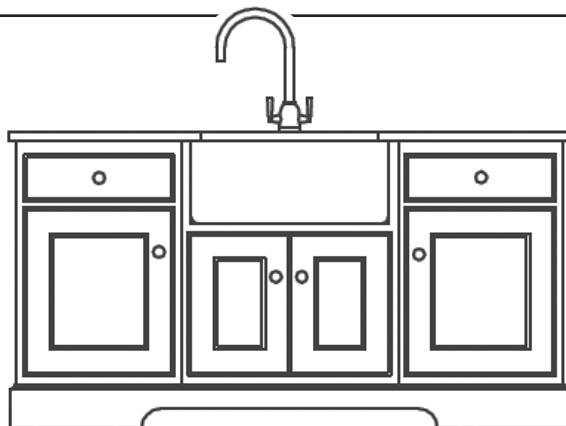
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Well done everyone, and...

Thank you!

Once again, the good folks of Corsley and Chapmanslade come up trumps in aid of good causes

Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to everyone who so generously gave shoe boxes full of gifts for the children in needy countries and to the people who knitted the hand puppets. On Sunday 24th November – Stir Up Sunday - we gathered all the shoe boxes together and blessed them before sending them on their way.

This year we took 42 shoeboxes to the Samaritans Purse depot in Melksham, where they are made ready for distribution, primarily to countries in Eastern Europe. Each box is checked to ensure that all items included are suitable, and any that are not are re-distributed to other charities. The boxes are then sealed and packed into large cartons which are stacked onto pallets before being loaded on to lorries. Each vehicle will transport between 10,000 and 13,000 boxes, which at this time of year, travel out almost weekly. In 2012, 977,880 shoe boxes were sent from UK and Ireland to 15 different countries.

Once again, a great community effort; thank you Corsley, Chapmanslade, Little Cuckoos Pre-School and Busy Bees Pre-School for giving not just the gifts but also your time and thought in putting the boxes together

Pat Ryan
St Margaret's Church

Lite Bites

Thank you to everyone who came to 'Light Bites' Christmas Lunch.

On 11th December, we held our second Christmas Lunch and 40 of you from Frome, Chapmanslade and Corsley came along to meet friends and enjoy a Christmas Lunch. We would like to thank all of the helpers from Chapmanslade and Corsley, they really helped to make things go with a 'Christmas swing'.

Your generous donations of about £200.00 from this lunch were sent to The Children's Society, though at the time of writing we do not have the final amount.

We hope you all had a happy Christmas and we would like to wish everyone a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Our **next Soup and Ploughman's Lunch** is on **Wednesday 22nd January** and we look forward to seeing you sometime in the New Year.

Dot, Laura and Pat

Bob's bafflers

- 1 What was the name of Admiral Nelson's flagship?
- 2 Who was the first British winner of the Eurovision Song Contest?
- 3 What is the maximum fine for not having a TV licence?
- 4 Who wrote of "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness"?
- 5 At what age are young people sent a National Insurance Number?
- 6 How many legs has a daddy long legs?
- 7 Approximately how far is it in miles from Land's End to John O'Groats by road?
- 8 What name was adopted by Don Diego de la Vega?
- 9 What country does Edam cheese originate from?
- 10 In which year did England win the Rugby World Cup?
- 11 What is hippophobia a fear of?
- 12 If you multiply the number of blackbirds baked in a pie by the number of bags of wool the black sheep has and add the number of days that pease porridge was in the pot, what number do you get?

Answers on page 44

Friends of Warminster Hospital

Our thanks go to all those who gave items for our Christmas Bazaar. Especially Jean Jones and Anne Carruthers who manned the Corsley WI stall so efficiently, raising **£145** – our best effort ever!

The final total for the Bazaar is not yet known as there is still money to come in, but it looks as though we will have raised nearly **£3,000** including the draw. Again many thanks to all those who gave goods and donations and came on the day to support us.

Pauline Scott

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the three horseshoes

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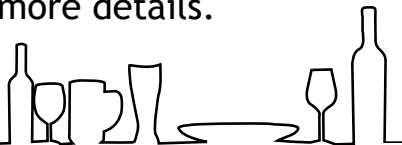
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Getting ready for August

Corsley Show 2014

Jenny's brief précis of the well-attended AGM



Thank you to the many people who attended our Annual General Meeting in November which meant we reached our quorum and achieved some minor constitutional changes.

We were able to make modest donations this year, as well as replenish our coffers after the drubbing they received as a result of dire weather in 2012.

We have given £200 to Little Cuckoos Pre-School towards the cost of a new computer; £75 to Chapmanslade Brownies towards their centenary party celebrations and £500 to Corsley & Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council who are planning a major redecoration of St Margaret's Church.

An advance Horticulture & Crafts schedule is available if you want to make an early start on creating works of art to display in 2014.

Changes have been made to the committee. After 28 years at the helm, Hedley Hares stood down as Chairman and tribute was paid to his great contribution over the decades. Michael Taylor, who has been a power in the Horticulture & Crafts marquee for 14 years, has also come off the main committee and after several years as our President, Val Sandoe, is also taking a break.

The 2014 Committee

Lady Silvy McQuiston..... President
Neil Britten..... Chairman
Oliver Hares Vice-Chairman
Hugh Deed Treasurer

Clare Bayman Horse Show Chairman
Clare Brown.....Horse Show Secretary
Colin Cary Gate Manager
Mike GreenWebmaster
Simon Jasper Health & Safety
 Co-Ordinator

David JonesSign Manager
Andy JoyntAssistant Field Manager
Wendy Miller.....Dog Show Chairman
Fraser Mills Horticulture & Crafts
 Chairman

Marion Moldon..... Membership Secretary
Jenny Rutty Secretary
Rob White..... Trade Stands Manager

Jenny Rutty
Corsley Show Secretary
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Cut out and keep: recycling, garden waste and household waste collection calendar

January – March

Remember to put them out by 7am on collection day. Ensure the lid is closed and do not leave any household waste next to the bin for collection.

Black bin

January

Saturday 11th
Friday 24th

February

Friday 7th
Friday 21st

March

Friday 7th
Friday 21st

Green bin

January

Saturday 11th
Friday 24th

February

Friday 7th
Friday 21st

March

Friday 7th
Friday 21st

Blue bin

January

Monday 6th
Friday 17th
Friday 31st

February

Friday 14th
Friday 28th

March

Friday 14th
Friday 28th

Black box

January

Friday 10th
Thursday 23rd

February

Thursday 6th
Thursday 20th

March

Thursday 6th
Thursday 20th

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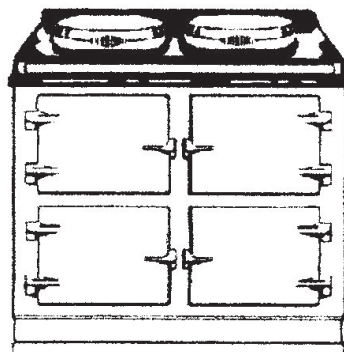


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Fun favour from Fudge

Playtrail pays off

After a year of fundraising and a generous donation from a local trust, Chapmanslade School PTFA have installed a new 32m long playtrail on the school playing field.

The Fudge Trust in Warminster very kindly donated £2,500 towards the trail which meant that it could be installed in September. The PTFA held fundraising events such as School Discos, Fêtes and Fayres, a Pub Night, Mother's and Father's Day Gift Shops and sold ice creams — the playtrail being the focus of their efforts.

"All the children are thrilled with our brand new playtrail and regularly enjoy the challenges and opportunities for creative play that the playtrail provides." said Mr Basinger-Adams, Chapmanslade School's

Headmaster. "It is wonderful to see the children at playtimes supporting each other with the challenges and developing their co-operation and social skills, whilst having great fun together."

The school PTFA would like to thank The Fudge Trust for adding to our funds — without their generosity the children would have been waiting a lot longer for their equipment.

*Katherine Brewer
Chair, Chapmanslade School PTFA*



Student Success!

The following pupils of Debbie Rickhuss have been successful in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Exams.

Silas Hamilton	Prep Test
Imber Nowlin	Grade 5
Ellie Chatwin	Grade 1 with merit
Pia Anderson	Grade 1
Elizabeth Lewis	Prep Test
Lydia Lewis	Prep Test
Edmund Burgess	Grade 3 Theory with merit

Many congratulations to all of you and a very happy Christmas to all of my students past and present.

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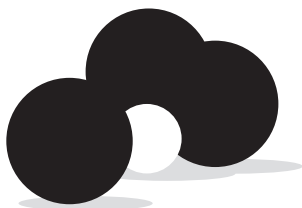
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Andy on 01373 471503

Corsley Tennis Club News

Club members are still enjoying tennis whenever the weather permits. Club sessions on Tuesday mornings are often well attended so that we can play doubles. This is a very social session – we play 6 games and then change partners and opponents – presenting an ideal opportunity to meet other club members. The same format applies to club sessions on Sunday mornings – again from 10.00am to 12pm. Players arrive and depart these sessions according to their other commitments. Gloves, scarves and woolly hats are much on display but the thermals are hidden!

Visitors can attend a club session for a fee of £2 on three occasions before they are asked to decide whether to join or not. Our

annual subscriptions are due in April but as an encouragement to get people to join during the winter months we ask that one twelfth of the annual fee be paid for each month until the next annual renewal date is due. If you would like to attend, just turn up and you'll be made to feel most welcome!

The Tennis Club's Annual General Meeting is at 7.30pm on 30th January at the Reading Rooms.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Healthy and Happy New Year.

Marlene Latchem



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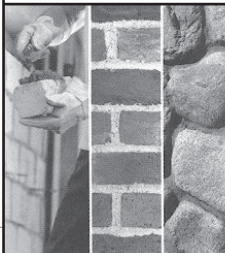
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Three Open Doors

A New Year Perspective

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 3:13-14)

As Christmas comes to an end we anxiously await the words “Happy New Year!” In the excitement and prospect of a new beginning we make our plans and resolutions to do things differently in the New Year. While some may look forward with anticipation to the new opportunities to begin again, for others this can be a daunting prospect.

Perhaps, before looking ahead, we should give ourselves time to look back and reflect on the year that has gone. The newspapers over the New Year bank holiday give us the lead in tracking the events of the past year both nationally and globally. Perhaps many of you, like my family, began to reflect on the past year when we come to compose the much loved ‘round robin, Christmas letter’, to share with family and friends. Through this exercise we remind ourselves of the good times, the bad times, the sad times, the frustrating times and the fun times, reflecting on what valuable lessons we have learned from our experiences, what God showed us and how He was faithful through all of it.

In doing this we have closure to one year and an opening to the next. It also gives us a fresh new outlook for the coming year enabling us to leave the past where it belongs, not that we forget the past but learn from it and move forward into the future with opened hearts and minds to receive whatever God has for us.; plans of new wisdom, insight and understanding that He wants to impart to us, if we will allow Him to.

In this time of ‘vacancy’ our Benefice has much to look forward to in 2014; a time of new beginnings as we piece together our Parish profiles, new plans as an advertisement is drawn up for a new incumbent, a new purpose as we look at where our churches stand within our communities and new growth as we press on to achieve the ‘goal’ that is set before as disciples in Christ.

As we go through new experiences and new adventures whether they are good or bad, we are encouraged “to keep our eyes fixed on Christ and he will give us rest and peace, because He is our peace and loves and cares for us deeply”.
(John 16:33)

So let us give thanks to the Lord for getting us through another year as we look forward to what he has for us ahead.

A happy and peaceful New Year to you all.

Di Britten

January Church Diary

Sunday 5th January: Second Sunday of Christmas

9.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley
Eucharist



Monday 6th January

10.30am at 5 Brimhill Rise, Chapmanslade
Time to Think Home Group



Tuesday 7th January

7.30pm at 93 Lyes Green, Corsley
After Alpha Home group



Wednesday 8th January

7.30pm at Chapmanslade School
Parochial Church Council



Sunday 12th January: First Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade
Family Eucharist

11am at St Mary's, Temple
Matins



Thursday 16th January

10am to 12pm at the Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade
Church and Community Coffee Morning

Sunday 19th January: Second Sunday of Epiphany
9.30am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade
Eucharist



Monday 20th January
10.30am Time to Think Home Group
Please contact Phil on 832845 for details



Tuesday 21st January
7.30pm at The Anchorage
After Alpha Home group – details Richard on 832594



Wednesday 22nd January
From 12.30pm to 1.30pm at Corsley Reading Rooms
Light Bites Bread and Soup Lunch



Sunday 26th January: Third Sunday of Epiphany
9am at St Mary's, Temple
Holy Communion 1662

10.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley
Family Parish Worship



Sunday 2nd February: Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
9.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley
Eucharist

Associate Priest	Rev Di Britten (day off is Friday)	01373 832515
Parish Office	Dick Collins (Cley Hill Villages Benefice)	01985 215460
Lay Pastoral Assistants	Richard Dean	01373 832594
	Barbara Hughes	01373 832273
	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
Churchwarden	Charles Thackway	01373 832048

Church Events for your diary

Planned Improvements in 2014

During 2014 we shall be starting two major projects. At St Margaret's we shall begin the first phase to re-decorate the interior of the church. This work was last undertaken in 1984 so there is much work to do.

At St Philip and St James' we have erected new fencing around the land designated for an extension to the churchyard. We are applying for planning permission to change the use and then we can begin the landscaping of the new churchyard. We would hope to be arranging for the churchyard to be consecrated in late 2014 or early 2015.

Diary dates in 2014

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th April at St Margaret's, Corsley.

The Spring Fayre and Table-top Sale will be held on Saturday 17th May at Chapmanslade Village Hall.

50/50 Club

As a method of raising much needed funds for maintaining our churches we run a 50/50 Club. You can join for a membership of £24 per year and you may have multiple membership if you wish. Twice a year we have prize draws and we return 50% of the membership fees to members. At present we distribute one prize of £200, two prizes of £100, three prizes of £50 and four prizes of £25 twice a year. The prize draws are usually held in May at the May Fayre and at the Christmas Coffee Morning in December. All prizes are in cash. The more members in the 50/50 Club the larger the prize pot! To join our 50/50 club and be in the running to win please contact Neil Britten on 832515 or e-mail Neil on neil.britten@btinternet.com.

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

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



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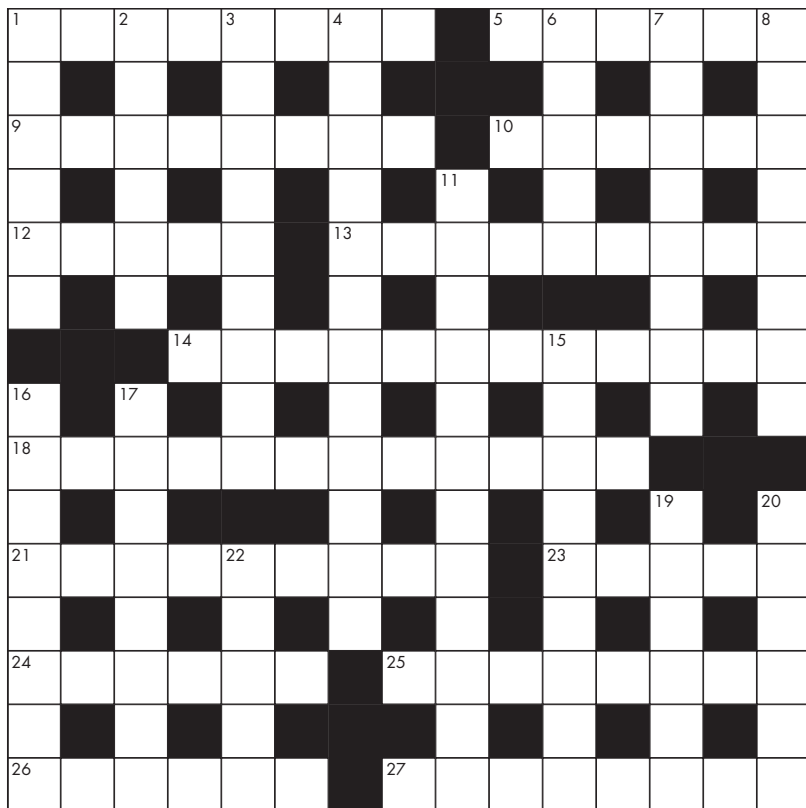
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Canopus



Doodle pad

solution page 43

Clues across

- 1 Returning drunkard sees several more (8)
- 5 Chap captures knight with queen – that's how Arab may move? (6)
- 9 Worry oneself about a feature of some bats (4-4)
- 10 Causes alarm and anxiety on board (6)
- 12 Build sports ground in abandoned encampment (5)
- 13 Good man consumes small dinner perhaps – like some biscuits (9)
- 14 Try comic line to start to soothe raving road user (5-7)
- 18 Not easily wound up, happening to lose one's rag about politician sacking son (4-8)
- 21 Some bad fielding leads to defeat (9)
- 23 Island institute gets rid of Academician (5)
- 24 Clergyman's wife dismisses first couple to show affection (6)
- 25 After short trip, detective has extremely communicable disease (8)
- 26 Noisily knocked back a delicious drink (6)
- 27 The majority should be kept in the warm – it stops bleeding (as American has it) (8)

Clues down

- 1 Insectivore that's often recognisable? Not entirely (6)
- 2 Most strict, keeping one's woman in order (6)
- 3 Craft shop's closing and left a bit too untidy (5-4)
- 4 With yours truly absent, teaches class about mounting special electrical items (12)
- 6 Necktie accepted by Hamish? (5)
- 7 Spice sexual excitement up with married man (8)
- 8 Determined to rule out taking pills (8)
- 11 We had a celeb dancing outside hotel, maybe right on the Strand? (7,5)
- 15 Cut short street party that's getting noisier (9)
- 16 One cuts corners, sloppily producing chemical used in dyeing (8)
- 17 Satisfied by interpretation of Eroica except the last bit, which is very fast (8)
- 19 Refuse to take exam again around start of semester (6)
- 20 Fresh money to support soldiers (6)
- 22 Opera for La Scala at heart? (5)

Corsley WI

December News



Carol Seward rounds off 2013 and announces some forthcoming events

On Thursday 12th December, members met for a Christmas Dinner at The Royal Oak in Corsley in place of our normal meeting. A good meal, a picture quiz, a general knowledge quiz and some lighthearted readings by the committee resulted in a very enjoyable evening.

The Wiltshire Federation has given us some information about the various trips and events being organized for 2014. These include walking tours of either Bradford-on-Avon or Malmesbury, another chance to visit the Biogas Digester at Warminster, a Literary Evening with Rosie Thomas, a talk about Rachmaninov and his music and a workshop on Pressed Flowers. Full details will be available to members at our January meeting.

Being a WI member brings enormous opportunities, fun and friendship and also a chance to learn new skills at Denman, the WI Training College near Oxford. Corsley WI holds a draw each year for one lucky member to win a bursary covering

the cost of a weekend course at Denman. The Wiltshire Federation arrange talks and visits and even holidays, including a Mystery Tour holiday in March and a holiday to Killarney and the Ring of Kerry in October. WI members can also enjoy the benefit of special discounted cruises with SAGA.

If you would like to join our WI and take part in any of these activities, you would be made very welcome. The subscription fee compares very favourably to many other organisations and we are in the process of arranging some fantastic speakers covering a wide range of subjects to give us talks in 2014/15. The lowest age limit is 18 and we hope that our meetings are enjoyable for members of all ages.

We will be back in the Reading Room at Corsley for our next meeting, at 2.30pm on **9th January**, when Wafaa Powell will demonstrate Lebanese Cookery, which we hope to sample afterwards! The competition is for a pretty plate.

The following activities are open to anyone over 18, so why not join us in the Reading Room in Corsley?

Coffee Morning	First Tuesday each month, 10-12noon
Gardening Club	Third Wednesday each month, 2.30pm
Bridge Club	First and third Tuesdays each month, 2-4pm

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

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From the classroom

The importance of being eco-friendly

Chapmanslade School student Anna Kline writes earnestly about us all doing 'our bit' for the planet.

The health of the planet is a cause of distress for many. Over the last century, the planet has slowly been getting worse and worse, and it's not fair to people around us. You wouldn't like it if someone trashed your bedroom, would you? Well, people are trashing our planet. And we've got to stop it.

Firstly, when people drive around in cars, they release gases into the atmosphere which trap sunlight and slowly heat up the world. And there is a hole in the protective ozone layer, which protects the world from harmful rays. These rays can poison people and give them skin cancer. We need to stop it! So, if it is possible, walk or cycle somewhere instead of going in the car.

Secondly, the polar ice caps are melting because of global warming. The worst thing is, when the ice melts it releases bacteria which speed up global warming! A terrible thing about all the melting ice is the polar bears. If the ice melts, and cracks, the polar bears will drown and so will their cubs. Also when the freshwater ice melts, and then freezes again, animals have to go further to find their food, which lives in salt water. If this continues, polar bears, and other species, cannot remain in the world.

However! All is not lost. There are plenty of things we can do to make this world a better place. First of all, surely you've heard of recycling!? You can get a green bin, and you can take all sorts of old, broken things to a special rubbish tip where they are crushed and made into new things. Then you can conserve energy, by turning off lights when you leave a room, and if you are cold why not try putting on an extra jumper instead of turning up the heating? And, make sure taps are completely off!

So, when you are grown up, what will the world be like? Will it be a ghastly, terrible, dreadful, smoky, choked, appalling world, or a lush, luxurious, green, fresh, pleasing world? It's up to us, all we have to do is our little bit. If everyone did all this and more, it would be simplicity in itself to save the planet! We surely can't be so selfish as to ruin the world for our descendants? At the moment it seems like the answer may just be yes. But it is still possible to change it for the better! We can do this. Remember, just a little bit goes a long way.

*Anna Kline, aged 10
Chapmanslade Primary School*

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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

The final quarterly meeting of 2013 was held on 9th December, with a very full agenda and some important decisions made for 2014.

Planning

One planning application had been received in the week before the meeting, for removal of some overhanging branches on listed trees on the Memorial Playing Field boundary, but this was returned as it was incomplete.

Finance

The major purpose of the December quarterly meeting each year is to finalise the expenditure plans for the ‘in year’ spend and construct the budget supporting the bid for the Precept for the next year, i.e. the amount the PC wishes to add to the next year’s council tax bill. Details of this year’s budget and the precept bid for FY 2014/15 can be found on the website (www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk) and a summary is presented below.

The Parish precept represents approximately 1% of your annual council tax bill. In real terms that’s £5,000 for the financial year 2013/14 and, in addition to this sum, we have received rental from the Steiner School (SAF) for the Licence to use the Old School Playing Field (OSPF) and car park, plus a donation from the Elizabethan Evening Committee to help towards the maintenance of the OSPF. The detailed breakdown of this year’s budget is on the website and main elements of expenditure are:

Administration	33%
Grants to village organisations	26%
OSPF Lease payment (4th of 5).....	22%
Maintenance.....	11%
Training	8%

As regards the precept bid for 2014/15, the general shape is the same as this year, but with two significant differences. First, SAF should vacate the Old School site at the end of the summer term 2014 and that source of income disappears; second, the PC has agreed to bring the Clerk’s salary up to national guidelines, after 11 years of stagnation, and to reflect better the actual minimum number of hours that the job requires. To cover these two changes, it estimated that the contribution from Council tax will rise to about 1.5% in 2014/15. However, It should also be noted that, over the last 13 years, the average increase in precept has lagged about 70% behind the rate of inflation.

Annual Parish Meeting and Community Rights

Two other linked issues were discussed, the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and the new Community Rights enshrined in the 2011 Localism Act. The APM (not to be confused with the Parish Annual General

Meeting) is a legal requirement on Parish Councils. It has a very flexible format, but is intended to provide a forum where the village, through their organisations, can hear and talk about what they have done, their plans, controversial issues affecting us all, etc. What the PC has tended to do in the past has been to engage a suitable, ideally prominent and interesting, speaker to enlighten us on the issues of the moment; last year we had David Bradley, late CEO of Longleat, and Lord Weymouth who told us all about the intended transformation to a combination of Fort Knox and Legoland. This year the PC proposes something different for the APM.

I am sure that you are all aware of the general thrust of the government's well trumpeted plans to devolve new powers to Communities which has resulted, through the Localism Act, in the definition three 'Community Rights':

Challenge – the right to take over local services

Bid - the right to list local assets for potential future purchase by the Community

Build – the right to develop Neighbourhood Plans which can then lead to communities being able to decide what and where they build through an accelerated planning process.

The degree to which these 'rights' can actually be enacted appears to be significantly circumscribed by the need to conform to national and local plans and other legislation, as well as placing local authorities in the driving seat to accept or reject Community proposals to exercise these rights.

The PC decided that the Community Rights was just the right topic for the APM. None of the 'rights' summarised above is compulsory, but neither can they be taken up without Community involvement and agreement at various stages in the associated processes. This briefing is by way of advance notice that the APM, currently scheduled for Monday 10th March, will be framed around an expert professional briefing on the topic and a chance for you to air views on the new rights. The PC has delegated a sub-committee to investigate the details more thoroughly and the February and March editions of The Bridge magazines will carry more publicity on the topic and APM plans. In the meantime, the presentation slides used at the 9th December PC meeting on this topic are on the website.

Other items discussed included the OSPF maintenance, the potential for involvement in WW1 commemorative events and Longleat traffic.

Old School Playing Field

The plan agreed for the OSPF maintenance is to cut down the so-called 'hedge' on the northern boundary of the field, as this has been allowed to run wild and in no way functions as, or looks like, a hedge. The mature trees in front of the 'hedge' will then be drastically thinned out and the lower branches of those remaining taken off. The jubilee plantation trees, now that they are beginning to establish themselves, will be slightly thinned out to reduce overcrowding and to allow the grass in between to be cut at the same time as the routine mowing of the main playing field.

WW1 centenary

As far as the WW1 centenary is concerned,

there has been no response to the PC from the village and there is no feeling amongst the PC in favour of commemoration of the beginning of the war. The decision is that there will be no further action taken by the PC.

Longleat caravan site

One more meeting has been held with Longleat, Wiltshire Community and Highways staff. Highways have agreed to change the sign at Lane End to make clearer the routes to be taken by Caravan site and Longleat traffic, but no progress was made on achieving one way caravan traffic through Lane End. The Caravan Club have been invited to the next meeting, which will probably be early in the New Year, It will attempt to identify alternative routes and their cost/benefit. One positive outcome of

the last meeting was that it is very likely that a new passing place will be constructed at the bottom of Gey's Hill.

And finally...

Before signing off I have been asked to publish an all important telephone number, for those like me, who can never remember, or who have lost their timetable, what day which colour bin should be put out in Corsley. The number is **0300 456 0102**.

Happy New Year to one and all and safe driving on our wonderfully refurbished A362.

Neil Britten
Chairman, Corsley Parish Council
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New advertising rates

Trade advertising

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

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

All other advertisements

There are no changes to the fees for other adverts.

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The mobile library service visits next on:

Thursday 9th January

10:10 - 10:30

Corsley, by the Royal Oak pub

10:45 - 11:00

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11:05 - 12:00

Chapmanslade, by the school

Future dates for this round are:

23rd January, 6th & 20th February

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Whitbourne Chapel

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January preachers:

5th	Mr J Coxhead, retired builder
12th	Mr R Hopwood, retired school teacher
19th	Mr C Andrews, who works in Bath
26th	Mr R Short, Frome businessman

New home needed!

Family and friends are concerned I'm showing no interest in finding a new home. To stop them worrying, I signed up with a letting agency in November and, as I gave my details, I quipped, "If I don't get organised soon, I'll be needing a room at the inn." The young man's answer? "We don't do rooms; we just do flats." I wonder what he thought Christmas was all about?

At least I'm not struggling with Mary and Joseph's situation. Their child was born in the stable of an overcrowded inn, to start with. Sometime after that, an angel told Joseph, in a dream, to pack up and run – to Egypt, avoiding King Herod's murderous intentions. If you had a dream in which you were told, 'Run or your child will die', how would you respond? Would you believe the warning was real, to begin with?

It's like going on holiday with the family and, while you're away, being told in a dream, to run or your children will be killed. Would you believe it? Fortunately for us, Joseph did; he fled to Egypt with Mary and Jesus, remaining there until Herod was dead.

That wasn't the end of their problems. Returning to Judea, they learned that Archelaus ruled in Herod's place and, because he was no better than his predecessor, the family settled in Nazareth of Galilee instead. Let us thank God for this couple's faith and resilience, which kept our infant Saviour safe.

Descriptions of Jesus

Light of the world 'Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." '

John 8:12

It's good to be reminded of those words at this dark time of the year.

Wise words

"Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow – only today of its strength."

Rev Charles H Spurgeon

*Gill Redman 01373 832573
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Regular times

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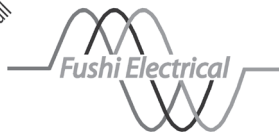
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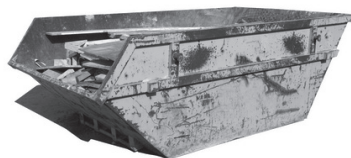
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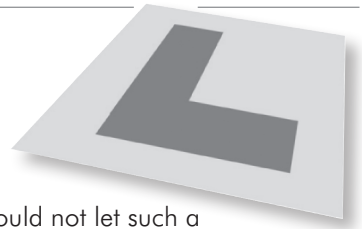
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Tales from the passenger seat



How long does it take a pupil to learn to drive? That's a question I get asked many times and, whilst I can give a generalisation of how many lessons the majority of pupils need, (80% need between 15 and 30 lessons), perhaps 10% find learning very easy and can do it in under 15, the other 10% find it incredibly hard and will need more than 30.

The variation in ability and aptitude I meet on a daily basis is truly incredible. There are some pupils who can do after 15 minutes what some pupils cannot do after 15 hours. Some people are naturally hard wired for driving, have good co-ordination, spatial awareness, good memory and judgement, and can 'read' the road. There are some who have none of these attributes. My job is to be able to teach not just those who find it easy, but also those that find it very hard, either physically or emotionally.

Mrs P immediately comes to mind. She had been learning to drive with various instructors on a regular basis for 23 years –yes, I do mean 23 years. Now, even if a pupil has not been taught very well, you would expect that after all those years she would at least be able control the car, i.e. steer, change gear, do hill-starts and basically drive along in a reasonable manner.

After all the usual wagging of the gear lever and checking over the right shoulder a million times before moving off, she would signal, clutch up and shoot backwards ten feet – even if the road was flat...

Normally I would not let such a situation develop, but after years of her learning to drive with other instructors, my job was to get her to identify her own faults, learn to take the initiative and help her get personally responsible for what happens, rather than being treated like a robot 'do this, now do that' kind of instruction.

'Why might we be moving backwards Mrs P?'

'I don't know Steve'

'When you bring the clutch up, we move backwards'

'Yes Steve'

'Why might that happen, since we are on the flat and it is not rolling back. It only moves back when you bring the clutch up.'

I don't know Steve'

'You keep selecting reverse gear instead of first'

'No! Is that why it kept jumping backwards?'

Fairly early on I did try to persuade her to learn in an automatic, as it was obvious that gears and clutch were extra functions she found distracting, but she was having none of that. 'I want to learn in a geared car Steve'. So we would have some hairy scary lessons and I would try persuading again... after maybe 6 months she finally agreed to give it a go. Following nearly two years of learning with a colleague who teaches in automatics, she passed her test.

I have to admire such determination, but I think if she had hired a chauffeur for all those years it would have been much cheaper for her.

Steve Dayman-Johns

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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Having written my January Countryside Matters on my iPad (given to me by my despairing children) all about the problems farmers have had in the last two years, I managed to press the wrong button and so it all disappeared! Was that an omen?

I have now decided to write in freehand and ask an unpaid scribe to email it to The Bridge. Rather than starting the New Year with moaning, let's try to be positive!

Autumn was really positive. Crops were all harvested eventually and on the whole the barns were filled, so very unlike 2012. So we know now that next the few months, although the hardest physically, will be without last year's worry of "where has all the feed gone" long before turning-out time.

December 21st has the shortest daylight hours, so by mid-January we shall see longer days for working, which definitely helps.

The cattle will nearly all be 'housed' except for those grazing root crops and munching silage. These will be put out on the lightest land where they can do little damage to the soil with their hooves, and the silage bags can be stored around the edges of the fields.

Much care is put into keeping the cattle comfortable when lying down. They must have beds of clean and fresh straw or sand. Plastic windbreaks are put up around the building allowing fresh air to filter through: this keeps the temperature at a healthy level so that bugs causing illness such as pneumonia don't occur.

The sheep near to lambing are housed so their condition can be monitored 24 hours a day. For those looking after hoggets (last year's late lambs), moving them, weighing them and marketing them correctly are all important.

Many sheep from the uplands will graze on local dairy farms where their safety is more assured, with less risk of snow and bad weather. They will be returned to their home farms on Exmoor, in Wales and even Northern England to lamb in April and/or May.

The next month or so will see the end of the shooting season; those lovely pheasants, ducks and partridges will strut around knowing that only road traffic and occasional foxes are their enemies.

Take a walk through the woods and countryside when you have time. Look out for all those animal and bird prints in the mud and snow. Enjoy those bright, crisp days when the leaves crackle underfoot and the sunshine lifts your spirits.

Look forward to 2014!

Judith Helliard



Asking for what you need

Caroline Le Vine, Counsellor in Corsley

"But surely, the people who love me know what I need without

me having to spell it out! And if they don't, well then they simply don't love me enough, or even at all. Oh, no – I am unloved and unhappy."

Familiar? I've been there. Maybe you have too. In fact, I'm betting we all have at some time in our lives. Why are we so resistant to asking for what we need from other people? Well, it's a risk – we might get the answer we don't want and, in so doing, we'll have revealed ourselves and have made ourselves vulnerable. And still we might be unsatisfied. But at least then we know where we stand and, as Carl Rogers – a prominent writer and thinker in the counselling field – said, "All the facts are friendly." When we're clear about what others can or can't offer, we can decide what we want to do: look elsewhere for what we need or maybe even to compromise and accept what is on offer. We might feel a bit wobbly taking this approach for the first time but it seems to me that this is the powerful thing to do as we regain control over ourselves.

No-one else can know what you really need all the time. They can guess, based on their knowledge of you or of themselves and what they might need if they were you. But they're not you and a guess isn't as good as a checked-out, clearly stated and negotiated request.

So, if others aren't giving you what you need, either they can't, they won't or they

don't know what that is. By communicating your needs, you take a risk, yes, but the rewards can be rich. Only those who can really 'see' you as you are can really love you.

It's up to you to let them.

If you feel unable to ask for what you need or if you have something else you'd like to discuss in confidence and without judgement, come and see me: I practice at St Margaret's Church, Deep Lane, Corsley. A first half hour meeting with me is free of charge.

www.carolinelevine.co.uk

07817 192008

le_vine@sky.com

Canopus

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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)

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Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 HMS Victory
- 2 Sandie Shaw in 1967 with Puppet on a String (UK had finished 2nd five times previously)
- 3 £1000 – that got you checking!
- 4 John Keats ("To Autumn")
- 5 16
- 6 Six
- 7 870 miles (although no doubt a couple of new roundabouts and by-passes have gone in since I set the question!)
- 8 Zorro
- 9 Holland – and it's Made backwards!
- 10 2003
- 11 Horses
- 12 $24 \times 3 + 9 = 81$

Local organisation adverts

£2.00 per month for a small boxed advert. All monies must be at one of the two drop-off locations (Barbers 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
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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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