The Bridge

January 2017

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Articles

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

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

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 auaranteed,

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

Please note: no cash, no advert! Trade advertisina

Please see information on the last page.

In this issue...

- **Bob's Bafflers** a cunning quiz
- Science biology: changing the world
- 7 6 Parisi. Corsley **Parish Council briefing**

Seven Open Doors news from the pews

Corsley WI news from the ladies

Parish Council briefing Chapmanslade

- **Countryside matters** views from over the hedge
- Corsley Reading Room vital village verve
- **Whitbourne Chapel** chapel colloguy

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

Tuesday 3rd

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



Warminster Area Board – 7 pm, Warminster Civic Centre

Saturday 7th

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

Monday 9th

Corsley Festival Choir rehearsals resume – 7.15 pm, St Margaret's Church, Corsley

Thursday 12th

Corsley WI - 'All in a Day's Work' - cookery demonstration – 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Chapmanslade Parish Council – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Chapmanslade Loose Women meal at the Three Horseshoes

Wednesday 18th

Corsley Gardening Club - slideshow by Gill Redman – 2.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 19th

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

Cinema Corsley – showing 'The Eagle Huntress' – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 25th

Lite Bites lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Tuesday 31st

Deadline for submission of bids for funding from Corsley Parish Council

February

Saturday 4th

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

Silent Auction - Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches – 7 for 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Tuesday 7th

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

Thursday 9th

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

Diary Dates

Wednesday 15th

Corsley Gardening Club - Gardeners' Question Time – 2.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 16th

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

Chapmanslade Parish Council. 7.30 pm Chapmanslade Village Hall

Cinema Corsley – showing 'Bridget Jones's Baby' – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Saturday 18th

Indoor 'car boot' sale – 10 am to 1 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 22nd

Lite Bites lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

March

Thursday 2nd

Warminster Area Board – 7 pm, venue to be confirmed

Saturday 4th

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

Tuesday 7th

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

Thursday 9th

Corsley WI - Annual Meeting and 'Jewellery Making' – 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room Chapmanslade Parish Council. 7.30 pm Chapmanslade Village Hall

Wednesday 15th

Corsley Gardening Club - visit to Kilver Court, Shepton Mallet – 2.30 pm

Thursday 16th

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

Cinema Corsley – showing 'Allied' – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 22nd

Lite Bites lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

April

Saturday 1st

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

The buzz from the Bee Hive

Welcome to the news feature from the 'Bee Hive' - Busy Bees Pre-School, Chapmanslade

Firstly, all the staff and children of Busy Bees would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

We held our AGM in November when existing committee members were re-elected and we were able to outline our work over the last twelve months and our future objectives. We were pleased to welcome Sarah Crocker onto the committee as a parent.

We ended the school term with our Carol Concert in Chapmanslade church and our Christmas party in the village hall. We were grateful to the short mat bowls team for giving up their regular Friday night session to allow us to hold it. The children particularly enjoyed seeing Father Christmas and receiving their presents. The children were invited to attend Chapmanslade school nativity play, helping us to further develop our links with the school. The children also enjoyed the Busy Bees' resident African

snails. These have the minor disadvantage that they bury themselves and are nocturnal, we frequently have to unearth them to check they are still alive!

During the Christmas break, the bathroom fittings were replaced and new flooring laid. We are on course to launch our new website at the start of the new year which will be a major improvement in promoting Busy Bees and its work and improving IT communication with our parents.

We look forward to welcoming Kelly back from maternity leave later in the year following the birth of baby Charlotte.

If anyone wants any further information on the setting or would like a taster session please contact Sammie Thorne on 07749257608.

> Sally Evans Chair, Busy Bees Pre-school 01373 832906

Corsley litter pickers

We meet opposite the Royal Oak at 10am on the first Saturday of each month. Our next 'pick' is on Saturday 7th January – do come along and help keep our village beautiful.

Cath Aylesbury and Sue Taylor

For up-to-date information such as occasional parish council meetings, church services, previous editions of The Bridge, local clubs and activities, business listings, and other useful information, please visit

www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk Want something added? Just email the Editor with your request!



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Hurry! Order your tickets without delay – they all sold out quickly last time! Offers of auction lots greatly appreciated. Please phone Dennis Barnard on 01373 832262

Corsley Gardening Club 2017

Wednesday 18th January

Slideshow by Gill Redman 2.30pm, Corsley Reading Room £2 to include tea

Wednesday 15th February

Gardners' Question Time 2.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room £2 to include a posh tea!

Wednesday 15th March

Visit to Kilver Court, Shepton Mallet 2.30 pm £5

Reminder about **Broadband** in **Corsley**

The latest information can be found at hdwebsites.wix.com/broadband

This will include an update as soon as we know the outcome of our submission to the Princes Trust (due by 23rd December).

Also, any changes/updates from BT Openreach about the fully funded parts of the project will be added there.

> Hugh Deed for Corsley Broadband Project Ltd

Bob's bafflers

- 1 Which country produces gruyère cheese?
- 2 Which is the UK's oldest Sunday newspaper?
- 3 What are auctioned at Tattersalls?
- 4 Which English town is famous for its crooked spire?
- 5 Which Dorset town shares its name with a city in New Zealand?
- 6 Which radio show featured Min and Henry Crun?
- What can be roller. Roman or Venetian?
- 8 Which English explorer had the middle name Falcon?
- 9 In Greek mythology, what was the name of the three headed dog guarding the entrance to the underworld?
- 10 Who was England's first Labour Prime Minister?
- 11 Which profession takes the Hippocratic Oath?
- 12 "Lies let's recount" is an appropriate anagram for what? (2 words)

Answers on page 44

Corsley Festival Choir

Looking for a new challenge for 2017? The choir is looking for more singers – no audition necessary

> Rehearsal sessions resume at 7.15pm, Monday 9th January, St Margaret's Church, Corsley Come and meet fellow choristers for wine and nibbles

> > May Concert

Sunday 14th May

Haydn – Te Deum Gabriel Faure - Requiem

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Biology: changing the world

Soil fungi - friend or foe?

If you managed to get into the garden during the late autumn, you may have seen a number of mushrooms or toadstools. These are the fruiting bodies of fungi in the soil. When you dig the soil, you can often see white threads – particularly around tree

roots. These threads are the fungal mycelium, from which the fruiting bodies develop. As the fruiting bodies are above the ground, they help spread the fungus to new locations by releasing spores into the wind or onto insects and other small animals on the soil.

Fungi are essential to good soil condition. The mycelium helps break down the organic material, such as dead leaves and other plant material. We are probably all familiar with soft rotten

wood, both in the garden and sometimes, unfortunately, in the house. Fungi are one of the few classes of organism that can break down the hard structural material of wood lignin. This recycling of the woody material. as well as soft plant material, is of great benefit, releasing nutrients to the soil to be used by new plants.

However, some fungi have a more active role in plant nutrition. If you have been

digging close to trees or shrubs, you may have seen the fibres of mycelium attached to the roots. These are often mycorrhizal fungi that help the plant obtain minerals, such as phosphorus, iron and nitrogen by releasing them from soil particles. In return,

the fungus obtains some nutrients from the roots. It is a mutually-beneficial arrangement known as symbiosis, and gardeners can buy mycorrhizal fungi to add to the roots of newly planted trees. Tests of whether this is a beneficial activity have had mixed results.

Sometimes the interaction is not beneficial to the plant, but parasitic. Many aardeners will have come across honey fungus (Armillaria solidipes) which can infect and kill trees and shrubs. In fact,

the largest known organism on the planet is not the blue whale, but a single colony of honey fungus in the Blue Mountains of Oregon, which covers 3.7 square miles and has killed dozens of fir trees!

A number of other fungi are pathogens of crops. Yellow rust infects bread wheat and some other cereals. In early 2015 a new variety of yellow rust was seen to become widespread in the UK and it infected the



main varieties of wheat. Heavy application of fungicides was required to control it and new varieties of wheat will be grown which have more resistance to the pathogen. However, the pathogen is likely to change again and there is a continuous evolutionary "arms race" between the pathogen and the wheat breeders. A similar situation exists between rice varieties and other fungal

pathogens. These are arms races that the plant scientists have to win!

Nigel Brown is a retired Professor of Microbiology, now living in Chapmanslade. He positively encourages comments, questions and suggestions for future articles by email to nigelbrown48@gmail.com.



Cross Keys News Corsley's very own community-owned pub

We'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! It was great to see so many of you supporting the pub over the festive season and there is plenty to entice you back including a new loyalty discount scheme. Throughout January and February come and eat with us and on your second visit get 10% discount on a main course or a starter and pudding. For subsequent visits in January and February you'll get 15% off (excluding events, theme meals and drinks).

On **5th January**, we are holding a **curry** evening; there will be a choice of delicious curries including a vegetarian option, naan

and chutney all for £11. This is the first of our theme evenings, a great chance to catch up with local friends and neighbours or bring family and friends to share a meal and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere.

Our second theme evening will be on 19th January, we are serving fish, chips and a glass of **Bucks Fizz** for £9. Pre-booking is advisable as these evenings will be popular.

Burns Night on January 28th has always been celebrated in style at The Cross Keys and this year is no exception, contact the pub on 01373 832406 to book a table, 3 courses for £14.50.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Dates for your diary

January

Curry night 5th

19th Fish, chips and bucks fizz

28th Burns night

February

Curry night 4th

11th Valentine's celebration

Check our website for updates www.crosskeyscorsley.co.uk

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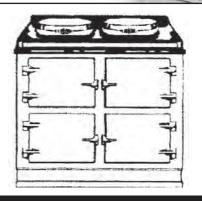
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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

This edition of the Bridge will drop on your doorsteps shortly after we have all enjoyed the Christmas festivities and the multitude of village and other events leading up to the Christmas celebrations. It is thus too late to wish you a happy Christmas and the PC events leading up to the deadline for the January Bridge will be last year's history by the time you read this. So, instead, I wish you all a Happy New Year and will try and give you a flavour of what the PC might bring to 2017 in Corsley. I would also like to record, publicly, my thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their contributions and turning out for meetings throughout the year, especially on the long dark, wet and cold nights of the winter.

Broadband

Looking back over the last 12 months this has figured in every month's brief, but next year we fully expect to see closure of this subject in the plans for Corsley. I'm sure that you have all seen the new fibre boxes at Lane End and the Heath and a location for the third in the government funded programme has now been decided. Its installation should follow early in the New Year, with commissioning shortly afterwards. Unfortunately, this last one will be accompanied by some interference to the A362 at the Deep Lane entrance to allow cables to be installed.

By the time of publication of this edition of The Bridge we will know the final position for the 'unfunded' part of Corsley and there is quite likely to be some knocking on doors in January to raise money for any gap in the funding needed. All being well, a contract for provision will be placed early in the New Year, with completion sometime towards the end of 2017.

Bay Tree Close

The plans for the new development have been reported as completed with the planning application expected early in the New Year. All being well, building work will probably start in the second half of 2017. The overall scheme includes plans for a new right of way from the site to join the existing path across the Show Field and provide a safe pedestrian access to Corsley Heath and the War Memorial Playing Field. There will also be a new bus stop opposite the entrance to Bay Tree Close to improve safety for residents travelling to Frome and Warminster

Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place early in March at a date yet to be finalised. We very much hope that Longleat will be able to give us a presentation on their rapidly developing plans for both the existing and new attractions. They have some exciting projects in the pipeline which should come to fruition next year and CEO, Bob Montgomery, has agreed, in principle, to come and speak, along with his business development consultant, Geoffrey Wheating. It should noted that Longleat have adopted a very

open stance over the last 12 months, going to great lengths to keep PCs and villages adjoining the estate fully briefed on their plans and taking a sympathetic view towards their impact. It should also be noted that Longleat has also made a generous pledge towards the broadband gap funding.

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

Parish elections

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

Finance

We have had our annual budget and precept meeting and a notice seeking bids for this year's donations and grant allocation is elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge. If the total of the PC's pledge to the broadband funding is required, then there will be less than normal available for this purpose as indicated in the notice.

The precept bid for next year is 2% higher than last year, which represents about £0.70 for a band F property.

Old School Playing Field

Plans for maintenance, i.e. mowing, have not gone guite according to plan, through delays in getting the names of additional volunteer mowers on to the mower insurance, but the village should be grateful for the efforts of Neil Carpenter and Malcolm Holley who stepped into the breach. There are no plans for 2017 other than to try and keep the volunteer mowing cycle going. We thinned out and moved over 20 trees last year to make mowing easier, and to give the trees room to develop, which seemed to be relatively successful. We look forward in 2017 to seeing the fruits of the Little Cuckoos plans to develop their extended area into a garden and vegetable patch.

Streetscene

Simon Jasper has done an excellent job throughout the year, under difficult conditions, liaising with our new Parish Steward and getting Corsley's priorities on to the work lists. The relationship he has built up has achieved good results and next year we expect to see another of Corsley's streetscene bugbears, the Geys Hill passing place, finally come to fruition.

Future meetings

Annual Parish Meeting 6th March (TBC) Annual Parish Council Meeting 8th May, 7.30 pm (subject to election) 5th June, 7.30 pm Quarterly Meeting Quarterly Meeting 4th September, 7.30 pm Quarterly Meeting 4 December, 7.30 pm

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

> Neil BRITTEN Chairman 01373 832515/07810 764714 neil.britten@btinternet.com



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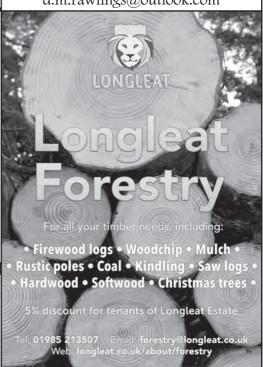
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Cinema Corsley

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

The Eagle Huntress (Certificate U) Thursday 19th January, at 7.30pm

We are really pleased to have secured this film which was only released mid-December 2016 and promises to be one to remember. It is already being described as the surprise hit film of 2016 and being favourably reviewed widely.

Set against the awe-inspiring beauty of the Mongolian steppe, this documentary film follows the extraordinary real story of Aisholpan, a 13 year old girl who wants to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter. A tradition that has been handed

down, father to son, for centuries. Despite the inherent dangers involved and the vehement opposition of the elders, her father believes that, if she's determined, a girl can do anything that a boy can. Stirring and bolstered by thrilling visuals, The Eagle Huntress uses its heart-warming message to tell this story of family, tradition and bravery set against the brutal landscape of a world where the Golden Eagle is still king. (Directed by Otto Bell)

Tickets will be on sale at Acres Supply from 9th December.

Future showings by Cinema Corsley to look forward to are:

February 16th 'Bridget Jones's Baby'



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April 27th 'A united Kingdom'





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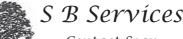


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Dear Friends,

I have to be honest and say I'm not mad keen on New Year. I always feel I should be out partying and having a great time or staying up until midnight at least. In reality I'm inevitably at home on the sofa in front of the fire, watching bad TV and I usually fall asleep way before Big Ben chimes. Our eldest son was born at on New Year's Day 1981 and I remember the nurses were placing bets on which baby would be delivered first; mine took a long time because it was my first and he was 9lb 8oz! Gosh, that was a while ago now. It's salutary though isn't it, to think about how the years roll by - there is no doubt that the start of a new one causes us to stop and reflect a while on the joys and sorrows we have encountered over the last twelve months.

As a priest I am in an immensely privileged position in that I am allowed to walk alongside individuals and families at some of the most challenging and conversely the most joyous occasions in their lives; I see great suffering but also great love. I come away from these encounters humbled and heartened by the dignity, courage and sheer selflessness of those I meet and I am so grateful that God has called me to serve him in this way. Over the years I have become acutely aware of the fragility of life; as the psalmist so eloquently puts it: 'For he (God) knows of what we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. Our days are but as grass; we flourish as a flower of the field; For as soon as the wind goes over it it is gone, and it's place shall know it no more.' Yep, our days are numbered. So, with that cheerful thought in our minds how should we approach this new-year?

Well, maybe with a greater appreciation of the fact that life is a gift? That we are hugely privileged in having a country to call our own, in having a roof over our heads, in having enough food to eat, in having medical care to call on when we need it? And perhaps with a deeper awareness of the responsibility that comes with privilege we might consider the question, 'what does it mean for us/me to live a good life? How might that be worked out in this coming year?' Obviously the answer to the question will be different for each person, but I think it does need asking. I can't be the only person with a significant birthday on the horizon who feels a slight sense of panic at the diminishing years I have left, coupled with the dawning realisation that I need to live that time in the best way possible with due attentiveness and love.

So, I leave you with a quote from my most favourite poet, T.S. Elliot, who eloquently expresses the deeper truths of human existence that we all must face:

'What we call the beginning I often the end/ And to make an end is to make a beginning/ The end is where we start from. ----- We shall not cease from our exploration/ And the end of all our exploring/ Will be to arrive where we started/ And know the place for the first time.

Happy New Year, love and prayers,

Pauline

January Church Diary

Sunday 1st January: Second Sunday of Christmas 10.30 am at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill: Benefice Eucharist

*

Sunday 8th January: Epiphany & Plough Sunday
9.30 am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade: Family Holy Communion
11 am at St Mary's, Temple, Corsley: Matins
11.15 am at St John the Baptist, Horningsham: Plough Sunday Service

*

Monday 9th January
Time to Think Home Group
10.30 am at 5 Brimhill Rise, Chapmanslade

•

Tuesday 10th January
Corsley & Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council
7.30 pm at 5 Brimhill Rise, Chapmanslade

*

Sunday 15th January: Second Sunday of Epiphany 9 am at St Mary's, Temple, Corsley: 1662 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 am at St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley: Family Morning Worship 10.30 am at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill: Eucharist

**

Tuesday 17th January
After Alpha Home Group
7.30 pm at The Anchorage, Lyes Green, Corsley

**

Thursday 19th January
Church & Community Coffee Morning
10 am to 12 noon at Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

**

Sunday 22nd January: Third Sunday of Epiphany 9.30 am at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade: Eucharist 10.30 am at St Peter & St Paul's, Longbridge Deverill: Eucharist

Monday 23rd January Time to Think Home Group 10.30 am at 9 Cleyhill Gardens, Chapmanslade

*

Wednesday 25th January
Church & Community Lite Bites Soup Lunch
12.30 pm to 1.30 pm at Corsley Reading Rooms
Donations in aid of the Children's Society

*

Sunday 29th January: Candlemas 10.30 am at St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley: Benefice Eucharist 3.30 pm at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade: Christingle

*

Monday 30th January
Time to Think Home Group
10.30 am at 5 Brimhill Rise, Chapmanslade

•

Tuesday 31st January
After Alpha Home Group
7.30 pm at 129d Forest Walk, Chapmanslade

**

Sunday 5th February: Fourth Sunday before Lent 8 am at St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill: 1662 BCP Holy Communion 9.30 am at St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley: Eucharist 10.30 am at St Peter & St Paul's, Longbridge Deverill: Candlemas

Family Communion Services and Christingle

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

Last January we celebrated both Candlemas and Christingle together for the first time. It was a wonderful celebration, with everyone making their own Christingles, and joining in a specially written service. Out of this has grown a number of family-based services which have brought together all ages in a welcoming way where everyone has been able to appreciate God's message to us.

The idea of Christingles came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747. The minister, John de Watteville, gave children at the service a lighted candle with a red ribbon around

it. This represented Jesus being the light of the world and the final prayer of that first service was "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts, that theirs like thine become". The custom went around the world with the church. Missionaries brought the Moravian Church to England in the 1700s. The word Christingle might be an 'English' version of the German 'Christkindl' (meaning little Christ child).

Christingles were made more generally popular here, by The Children's Society. The first Christingle service held in the Church of England was in 1968. People didn't think the service would work, as making the Christingles might be too complicated, but they were wrong! The custom spread very widely and is one of the most common and popular services from Advent to Candlemas, in the UK, especially among children.

Candlemas primarily focuses on Jesus' early life. Jesus' mother Mary presented him at the Temple in Jerusalem after observing the traditional forty-day period of purification (of mothers) following his birth. St Luke's gospel, describes a Jewish man named Simeon holding the baby in his arms and saying that he would be a light for the Gentiles (anyone not Jewish). It is for this reason that this event was called Candlemas.

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Time to Think Home Group

After Alpha Home Group Light Bites Lunches

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Corsley WI **December News**



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

The December 2016 meeting of Corsley WI took the form of a 'bring and share' Christmas Tea, with very minimal business. The Reading Room looked very festive with its Christmas decorations, kindly brought by Caroline Higham. The tables were decorated with piles of crackers at their centres and everyone enjoyed the wonderful spread of scrumptious sandwiches and cakes. Carol Seward had prepared a guiz, where the answers had to be matched with picture clues, which kept everyone busy for the first part of the afternoon. The guiz winners were Joyce Wightman and Eileen Hutchings, closely followed by Eve Tigwell, Hilary Vallis, Val Sandoe and Caroline Higham.

The competition for a teapot was won by Caroline Higham, Hilary Vallis came second, with Josie Thorne and Amanda Bain in joint third place.

After some humorous anecdotes and readings by various members, the meeting ended with the drawing of the raffle and gifts for everyone from Secret Santa.

The first meeting in the new year will be on Thursday 12th January 2017, beginning at 2 pm in the Reading Room at Corsley, when there will be a cookery demonstration by Val Vincent, entitled 'All in a Day's Work'. The competition is for an apron.

The Gardening Club will be meeting at 2.30 pm in the Reading Room on Wednesday 18th January 2017, when Gill Redman will give a slide show of her pictures of gardens and her visits to Italy and the area around Rome. We hope you will join us.

Why not come and join Corsley WI? We are a friendly group, so just come and visit us at any of our meetings, held on the second Thursday of the month, in the Reading Room at Corsley. The exact times are mentioned in this monthly WI meeting report and also in The Bridge Diary Dates or you can ring Carol Seward on 01373 832446. January is always a good time to join the Womens' Institute as it is the beginning of the new subscription year!

Everyone is very welcome to join us for the following activities:

Bridge Club First and third Tuesdays each month, 2-4pm, Corsley Reading Room Coffee Morning First Tuesday each month, 10-12noon, Corsley Reading Room

Gardening Club Third Wednesday each month, venues as per club programme

Lunch Club Last Tuesday of the month, 12.30pm, various venues

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

Corsley Parish Council

BIDS FOR DONATIONS AND GRANTS FOR 2016/17

Each year the Parish Council provides donation or grants to a variety of community and village organisations and projects. In recent years these have included:

Corsley Reading Rooms Memorial Playing Field Corsley and Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council Lane End telephone box project Village defibrillator project

This year, the Parish Council took a decision to pledge a significant sum to the Corsley Broadband Project with the result that there is likely to be less than normal funds available for those village organisations which have traditionally benefitted. Bids are, however, invited but organisations applying should appreciate that if the overall total sought exceeds available funds, they may not get the amount they are seeking.

Bids should be able to show that the money will be spent in this financial year and should be by application to our Parish Clerk (he can provide the relevant forms). Up-to-date financial accounts must accompany bids. Bids for grants towards defined projects are preferred, but this is not to the exclusion of donations to general running costs.

> Bids should reach John Willcox via post or email by Tuesday 31st January 2017 to

> > corsleypc jdw@aol.co.uk Telephone 01373 832171

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Frome Farmers' Market

Frome Farmers' Market takes place every month in the Cheese & Grain Hall in Frome and is a fantastic location to shop for locally produced food and drink from small, independent producers who live and work in and around Somerset and Wiltshire.

With around 20 stalls selling everything from the staples of vegetables and bread to meat, cheese, cordials, cakes, pies and much more besides. As the produce is made by small businesses, you can very often get to chat to the person who made what you're buying and find out where and how it was made.

There is also an excellent little café run by the Cheese & Grain Hall, a car park just outside, the shops in the centre of Frome are a short walk from the hall and the number 58 bus runs to Frome from Chapmanslade.

The market takes place every 2nd Saturday of the month all year round from 9 am-1 pm.



Do you have any unwanted tools or equipment?

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

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

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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Phil Jefferson reports on the parish council's activities in December and wishes a happy new year to everyone in the parish.

Thoulstone

A company called Natural Retreats, working in partnership with James Hughes-Hallett, owner of the site, is hoping to develop part of the old golf club to provide luxury leisure accommodation. I understand Natural Retreats has 34 sites world-wide providing what they describe as 'sustainable tourism using local businesses'. They tell us that their plans are at a very early stage of development and their aim in visiting us was to make first introductions to the parish council and to the wider community.

Planning

We considered an application from the owners of 16 Brimhill Rise, who wish to build a single storey extension to their property and modify their front porch. The reference number for the application is 16/11449/ FUL. The closing date for comment is 3rd January.

Safer roads

Keith Muston and Lattended a meeting of the Warminster Community Area Transport Group (CATG) earlier in the month, where we meet officers and councillors from Wiltshire Highways. We reported back to the parish council meeting. Wiltshire Council are willing to help us with schemes to improve road safety in the High Street. They are keen to explore new ideas and hopefully these

will come forward through the Chapcap2 project. They are also prepared to consider extending the 30 mph limit down Huntenhull Lane to Huntenhull Green and the old rectory, which was recently requested by a local resident.

Chapcap2

Adam Oakley briefed us on the progress being made – see his report on the next page. See also the notes of meetings held so far which are posted on the village website - www.chapmanslade.org.uk He also asked the parish council for feedback on the progress being made so far.

Budget 2017/8

Following our decision about next year's precept, we considered our spending priorities for next year.

And finally...

Are you interested in safeguarding the best interests of our community, its landscape, its services and its residents? If so, perhaps you could be one of our next parish councillors. Our period of office ends in April so now's the time to consider whether you would like to join us on the parish council. We've all enjoyed serving the parish over the past four years but some of us will be standing down this year, so there will be some vacancies to fill.

Our next scheduled parish council meeting is due to be held in the village hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12th January. David Reeves. Chairman of the Avenue Surgery Patient Group in Warminster, will join us. He tells me he "aims to surprise us with facts about the Avenue Surgery, explain some of the issues current with GP practices, take a brief look at the new website, and talk about the Patient Group. Finally, this is not all one way! As a Patient Group we are there to listen as well as talk so there is an opportunity to feed back views to the Practice." He adds that the presentation should be of interest to all who use a GP practice. Lunderstand over 100 Chapmanslade residents are registered with the Avenue practice so we look forward to a good attendance.

We also hope to be joined by some of the young people from our village who will give us their views on how they would like to see Chapmanslade become an even better place to live. So, do come along to the meeting if you can, to speak or maybe iust to listen.

> Phil Jefferson 01373 832845 phil.jefferson@virgin.net

Chapcap2 **Chapmanslade Plan** update

The New Chapmanslade Plan is gathering momentum as we continue work to involve as many residents as possible. Terry has been busy recording our work on the village website www.chapmanslade.org.uk under the menu 'New Village Plan'. You can explore this area and feed back any comments to the email or number below. We also have created a Facebook page 'Chapmanslade Village Community Group' which is growing quickly and already proving really useful.

We realise that not everyone has a computer so please call me on the number below if you would like to explore more of the plan and we will make sure you can.

Later in the year we will distribute a questionnaire based around all of the suggestions we are gathering. We have had more than 250 inputs already and we still have several businesses and groups to contact in the village. The steering group will be hard at work over the next month or so putting together the questionnaire that will then give us the priorities and a direction for the Plan.

We would really like a logo for the New Village Plan so would appeal to any graphic designers, artists or just inspired individuals to contact us if you can help.

Already some individuals have come forward to explore new initiatives or to get involved in existing projects. If you would like to help or get involved in any way, or you have any suggestions or comments for the plan questionnaire, then please email or call us.

Thank you to everyone who has helped so far.

Adam Oakley plan@chapmanslade.org.uk 01373 832437

A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Writing this on the 9th of December, it is hard to visualise what January is likely to bring to the Wiltshire countryside, but here goes...

There are a number of important days throughout the year that are thought to influence the weather and which can aid forecasting; some of them are linked to days in the church calendar

The second Sunday in January is Rogation Sunday when the plough and those involved in farming attend church to receive a blessing for the work on the land during the coming year. The service will be held in Horningsham Church on the 8th of January 2017 at 11.15 am. There will be Morris Men in attendance and a warming drink after the service – everyone is very welcome.

January 13th is the Feast of St Hilary, often considered to be the coldest day of the year.

St Paul's Day is on January 25th – if the weather is fair and fine there will be a good harvest.

Candlemas Day, on February 2nd, is halfway through the winter; livestock farmers will ensure they still have half their feed still in store to get them through till spring.

As January draws to an end we find the daylight hours get longer making the farm work that little bit easier. Spring lambs to be marketed at Easter will be born in January, so shepherds will be facing busy days and nights during this month and although they are usually born indoors they will soon be outside in the fields. Do please do take care whilst walking your dog as ewes can either be heavily pregnant or protective of their young lambs.

> Happy New Year from all the Helliar family farming in Corsley

> > Judith Helliar

INDOOR 'CAR BOOT' SALE

10 am - 1 pm, Saturday 18th February

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Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

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

Before Christmas we all enjoyed the Cinema Corsley showing of Absolutely Fabulous accompanied by some festive bubbly and cheer on December 8th.

Details of the January movie showing are elsewhere in this edition. It is the highly rated "Eagle Huntress"; book early to avoid disappointment.

Look out as well for the advert for one of the new initiatives for 2017: the "indoor boot sale" on February 18th.

Last month I reported that we were looking at the options for installing a handrail along the fence side by the back entrance to the hall. We are pleased to say that this work has now been agreed and a rail will be installed along the passage from the rear doors to the car park. This came about because it was raised as a suggestion and we welcome such input on any aspect of the Reading Room.

Our new sign has gone up making clear that the Reading Room is a Village Hall and that it is for hire.

It is very important that the hall be regarded as an integral part of the village life. While the committee has certain responsibilities, it may be that in your opinion we could offer more or try and arrange more.

So we thought it would be a good idea to ask you what you would like to see happening. Jill Westgate, who recently ioined the committee, would love to hear from all age groups and we can then hopefully come up with some new ideas to run alongside those existing. Therefore if you would like to email Jill Westgate at jillianbrunning@hotmail.com or ring her on 01373 832125 and she will bring your consolidated thoughts to our next meeting. This is your opportunity to influence the thinking and get the hall buzzing. We want to see it used more.

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

Committee 2017 Members include:, Vanessa Hyde, Jackie Jasper, Sue Kerfoot, Gill Parkinson, Jenny Rutty, Jill Westgate, David Carruthers.

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

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Whitbourne Chapel

A peaceful and prosperous New Year to all our readers!

Goodbye 2016, hello 2017!

A New Year begins and we look forward with plans and dreams. Looking forward is good, hoping for better things to come.

For me, the big news of 2016 was becoming a Great-Grandma. I kept saying, "I'm not old enough!" But as 2017 begins, I'm celebrating seventy years of life on earth; how old is old enough?!

I asked members and visitors of Whitbourne for their New Year hopes for 2017, both personally and for the wider world. Do their thoughts echo yours?

For most people at Chapel, good health is a principal hope for 2017. One lady would like better mobility than last year; another hopes for a year with less tragedy and better health among family members, as well as for herself. One Chapel member moved house six times in six weeks in 2016: needless to say, he and his wife hope they're now settled in their new home for years to comel

Our fourteen-year-old member is hoping for a good year of study, for his GCSE exams in 2018 – but he also hopes for less homework! I'm not sure he can have that both ways! His mum feels her family's been very fortunate; 2016 was a good year for them. Another mum said she'd like to see an end to loneliness in the world for 2017; I'll join her in that prayer.

Preacher Chris Andrews and his wife Kate look forward to their eldest son's wedding in October 2017 and hope the couple enjoy a long and happy marriage. They'd also like to see a turning back to God in our nation and pray for our national and church leaders.

For the wider world, most people's hopes for 2017 may be summed up in one word - PEACE. Thoughts concentrated on conflict in the Middle East, though one person mentioned the refugee crisis and, especially, the struggle for refugee children; the same lady hopes for more tolerance, worldwide, of other peoples' beliefs and nationality. One couple saw these hopes being achieved by Jesus' return in 2017, while another member wrote that we're told in the Bible to look to the future and the blessed hope we have in Jesus, of an eternity spent with him. Her note to me ended, 'May we all seek and find this hope...'

In October 2017, we'll have the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg. Visiting preacher John Hobson hopes the Christian Church will return to the principles outlined then: Salvation is through Christ alone, by Faith, by Grace and by Scripture.

Ants - new year resolution (Proverbs 6.6) Go to the ant, thou sluggard; Consider her ways and be wise. Don't kill 'em with ant powder this year; it will give them a pleasant surprise.

> Gill Redman 01985 215062 email: paradiselost@btinternet.com

Regular times

Services every Sunday morning at 11.00 for about an hour (coffee served at 10.45) Chapel Prayer meeting every Sunday morning from 10.20 - 10.40 Communion on the first Sunday of each month at 12 noon for 15 minutes

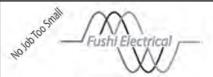


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Corsley and its part in the great events of the 20th century

The time Gaddafi came to stay and the poitrine d'or

As the winter months approach it's a time when the older generation retire to the comfy chair in front of the fire and start to recount adventures of their youthful days. One such encounter happened the other day whilst I was sharing the toasting fork with "Young" Bill. The older one becomes the younger becomes the epithet.

This story, Bill reminds me, is about his earlier years as a close protection operative for HMG. This being modern speak for a bodyquard or minder. Bill has not always been a Corsley resident, but was rather 'forced' to become one after a series of unplanned and misfortunate events surrounding the visit of one Muammar Gaddafi (MG) to Corsley and its environs.

Although now known as a particularly nasty example of despotism, at one point the youthful MG was seen as one of the West's best chums - so much so that he was trained in leadership and military awareness, and correct trouser pressing skills at Sandhurst.

Sandhurst had many diversions but Gaddafi was soon sorely missing his desert home and the simple life of living in his Bedouin tent, dates, camels and sweet tea. Word got back to Whitehall that MG was unhappy and restless, however as his training was incomplete we could not afford for him to drop out of the course nor become disgruntled with HMG or the West. So what to do to keep him on-board? Enter stage left, the second undersecretary for the Ministry of Works and Batty Ideas (MoWBi). "Recreate his home environment and Bedouin encampment "he piped up, "and where and how pray, you idiot, are we going to do that in Britain" snorted No1. "Somewhere with sand and camels?" opined No 2. And so the hunt was on for a locale offering camels, sand and privacy. Sand and privacy were easily ticked off but locating camels proved a bit more of a challenge. London Zoo had a couple, but the wrong sort – one hump too many. Eventually the spotlight landed upon our quiet corner of England and the even quieter village of Corsley.

It ticked all the right boxes; sand, privacy and a surfeit of singularly humped camels to boot, curtesy of the Thynnes at the big house nearby.

So negotiations with Whitehall and Corsley concluded, and with the promise of a mighty chest, full to brimming with golden shekels the villagers were persuaded to accept and accommodate this son of the desert and his entourage for a week. And so in the passing of time, 1000's of tons of sand from nearby quarries were deposited on the playing field, tents set up and Longleat's camels placed on standby.

Come the day, the entourage of blackedout limo's and Range Rovers swept into the village to take up quarters in their Bedouin

encampment. MG was accompanied as usual by his personal body guard of rather attractive, but deadly dusky maidens.

Unbeknownst to the planners of this event in Whitehall, a sudden outbreak of camel flu had abruptly laid low the ungulates of Longleat. The villagers, fearing the loss of vast quantities of filthy golden lucres hatched a cunning plan to mislead the Mandarins and Oranges of Whitehall and more importantly MG himself - and so wheels were set in motion that would ultimately lead to Bill's downfall.

Every square yard of yellow fake fur fabric was procured from haberdashers far and wide and villagers pounded their sewing machine treadles late into the night, concocting costumes to fit both man and beast to pose as these surrogate ships of the desert.

History now notes that camel hunting was not then commonly known about in the West and it came as a surprise to England in general, and more pointedly to those cows and commoners who had donned the fake garb of the desert grazers to keep MG entertained. For no sooner had Gaddaffi's party seen the camels then a hail of lead and buckshot was loosed at them from a myriad of firearms.

This came as a great surprise to those wearing the fake camel's costumes and the cows they were leading. For in as many shots, three cow-camels hit the deck never to breathe again, young Bernie and his charge sustained nasty flesh wounds to their derrieres and before the fourth shot rent the air the cow-camels and their leaders beat a very hasty retreat across the fields of Lane End towards Mad Doctors.

The sudden appearance and equally sudden disappearance of the camels didn't put the hunting party off one jot. In vain several hours more of stalking passed, but by now the word has gotten around to

the other citizen surrogates and cows and costumes had been ditched rapidly with the extraordinary sight of many villager still wearing what looked like baggy yellow and fury over-trouser held up by braces displaying some remarkable camel toe.

So, with no further sign of camels, MG and the lethal ladies retired to the Cross Keys for a post-hunt celebration and there the final stages of Bill's downfall duly commenced.

A certain Walter, one of the regulars of the Keys, used to propping up the bar from sunup to long after sundown, had a reputation as a drinker extraordinaire – equipped not only with hollow legs, but an equally hollow head: that hollow head now lead to a challenge never equalled or repeated in the annals of Anglo-North African relations.

The challenge was called by Walter and the daughters of the desert replied with a call-out to a belly-dance challenge – what we now call a dance-off.

Far too many pints of the local brew had been consumed post-hunt by the hunters and hunted, and far from being abstemious followers of the Prophet, the bodyquards were quite capable of drinking any man and his camel under the table.

So Walters's plans for a technical win enabled by inebriated opponents was doomed to fail even before he uttered the words of the challenge. However, at the start of the evening, Walter was unaware of this fact and spouted off confidently that winning would be a walk-over once he had got these fair maidens one or two over-the-eight.

So, dressed in a pair of baggy shorts, one of his wife's 48FF bras with tinsel highlights and a bit of old net curtain covering his visage, Walter went to it and went to it with great gusto. Wild gyrations of hips, stomach and faux chest started. Two grapefruits, ensconced within the 48FF cups to keep it shapely, were now in peril of becoming

deadly projectiles. No sooner has this dread thought entered Walter's mind and, in the midst of a particularly fine chest thrust, they did indeed part company with their Broderie Anglaise containment. Out shot these two articles of yellow peril and projectiles of doom they became. The first mammary missile felled the lead bodyguard stone cold dead. The second arced high into the air and, with the unerring accuracy that follows bad luck, it was heading towards the cranium of the only hope of the free world in the East

It is at this point that Bill, seeing his career and pension prospects evaporating before his very eyes, took decisive action: or should we say that fate and a 48FF cup intervened. The ballistic breast of doom had near reached its mark when Bill's almost timely intervention took place. Stumbling over the now flaccid but gargantuan cups of Walter's chest piece and with more luck than skill, the surrogate boob was deflected from its ultimate goal by one of Bill's flailing arms and fell harmlessly to the floor: a boobbomb nipped in the bud and spent of its glory.

Between times, a hushed silence had befallen the Cross Keys regulars once the mammaries were seen departing Walter's chest. Now, as if one, the Amazonian bodyguards leapt forward and Walter found himself staring down the barrels of multiple pistols, as far from handing in their weapons on entry to the UK, these ladies of personal protection had been keeping more than one surprise tucked up warm within their suspenders. It was this second, less welcoming suspender-clad offering that now heralded the imminent demise of Walter.

The bodyguards looked back to MG for the signal to end poor Walter's days – centuries of silence passed, or so it seemed to Walter and the assembled throng, and the face of MG made no outward sign.

But then his visage cracked, first with

a smile and then a loud guffaw and he bade his female protectors to re-sheath their pistols. This return of armaments to suspender-clad warmth was in itself cause of more than one near fatal heart attack and choking on dentures as, in doing so, more than one pub regular got a sneak peek at some glorious desert flowers. The rest of the week passed without further incidents of note, or should we say, they're not necessary to recount in this particular exchange.

With much bonhomie and promises to set up the Corsley–Libya twinning association (lapsed in recent years), the proto-despot and his entourage of lethal ladies eventually set off to return to Sandhurst, refreshed and ready to take up his studies once again.

Well almost all returned, one of the lethal ladies remained, a particularly striking example of Bedouin beauty, so taken by the brave deeds of Bill that she stayed behind and became Mrs William (official redaction). And in later years her skills at pistol concealment and recollections of the secret of the harem became a regular hit with members of the Corsley WI and beyond.

Bill was duly summoned to London to explain the damage to life, limb and some prize Fresians. In the best traditions of public service, the report was buried, only to be released after 100 years. Bill retired (on a full pension, in return for his silence) to the site of his downfall and to his faithful Fatima.

And what became of the poitrine d'or that MG presented to the village that commemorated the skirmish of Lane End, the heroic cattle that gave their lives and Bill's devotion to duty?

Who knows? It lies somewhere in a hedge to this day. Probably.

Prof. Doris Dores Chair, Corsley Historical institute and Keeper of the Queens Piece

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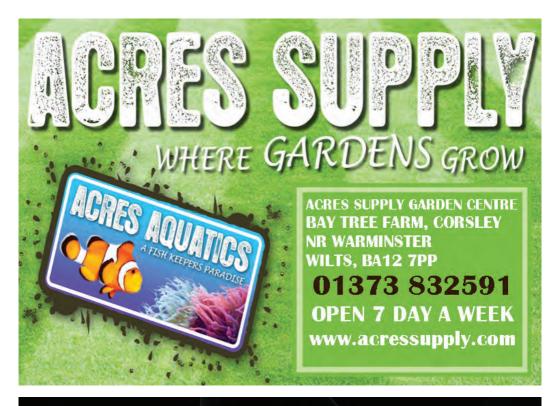


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