The Bridge

January 2021



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The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Articles

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

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

File types

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

Advertising

Small ads are £1 for <u>each</u> item whether 'For Sale' or 'Wanted'.

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

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

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

In this issue...

Bob's Bafflers a cunning quiz

13 Science science: changing the world

Six Open Doors news from the pews

Parish Council briefing Chapmanslade 26

35 Whitbourne Chapel chapel colloquy

Countryside matters views from over the hedge

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

Lite Bites will be back!

Writing this at the beginning of December, I am thinking of the year that passed us by. We only had two soup lunches last year in January and February and, instead of preparing for our lovely Christmas lunch, we were greeting each other outdoors!

BUT Lite Bites will be back this year! We have missed seeing all our regular "customers" and I am sure the charities we have supported will have missed all your generous donations. We always supported

the Children's Society at Christmas time, so if you feel you could donate to their charity please go to their website

www.childrenssociety.org.uk and follow the link.

At the moment we cannot make any plans for our soup lunches to restart but rest assured we will be back as soon as we can! Wishing you all a happy and safe new year! Lite Bites Team

Do you have any old and unwanted wheelchairs/ crutches/Zimmer frames and the like?

The Rotary Club in Frome is collecting any unwanted, privately owned* mobility aids and exporting them to South Africa where they are repaired/recycled and distributed free of charge through Rotary in Southern Africa.

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for more details and to donate your wheelchairs, etc., or you can contact me.

*Please note: All equipment provided by the NHS $must\ be\ returned\ to\ them-we\ cannot\ collect\ any$ items belonging to them.

> Hugh Deed 01373 832897

Corsley Parish Council

There will be an occasional meeting of the PC on Monday 11 January at 7.30 pm. As before, the meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Joining instructions for the meeting will be made available closer to the date. If you would like to 'attend' the meeting, please contact the John Willcox, Parish Clerk, on either:

corsleypc_jdw@aol.co.uk, or 01373 832171

in good time to receive the Zoom joining instructions.

At this stage it is proposed that it will be a single item agenda meeting to discuss the Bay Tree Close development.

the cutlasses and away the boarding party, lade!

Sharpen the cutlasses and away the boarding party, lade!

With national with national areas to the cutlasses and away the boarding party, lade!

In 2021 the Elizabethan Evening will present to you...

Pinafore

By Messers Gilbert & Sullivan Performed by the Illyria Theatre Company

Saturday 7th August Manor Farm, Corsley

The committee's collective crystal balls have revealed very little as to what late summer 2021 will bring us in terms of the you-know-what pandemic, so to cover as many options as possible we will be staging two performances of HMS Pinafore on that Saturday with an afternoon performance followed by an evening performance. Times would be approximately 2pm and 7pm.

We won't be offering a sit-down supper but refreshments will be available from the Salty Swallow for all those thirsty seawomen and seamen. Should you wish to bring your own hardtack and salted pork to consume in the grounds, you're more than welcome.

So get your calendars out, jot down your COVID-19 vaccination date first, then the date for HMS Pinafore; that way you'll have the two most important dates covered for 2021

Here's looking forward to seeing you there!

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Wind in the Willows

Back in the dim and distant past (September last year!), the Elizabethan Evening put on two socially distanced performances of The Wind in the Willows.

To ensure the COVID-19 rules were followed, a measuring stick was used to keep people two metres apart and in their bubbles (hopefully no-one was injured by the liberal use of the stick!!).

The performances made a small, but vital profit and the committee were very pleased to have donated £250 to the Warminster Food Bank and £250 to the Frome Food Bank.

The committee would like to thank all those involved in putting on the performances in such trying times and to everyone who came to enjoy them.

Census 2021

The census is taking place in March 2021

It's a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It helps plan and fund public services, like transport, education and healthcare.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure you and your community get the services you need.

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

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk Office for National Statistics



Bob's bafflers

- Which two months are named after Roman Emperors?
- What is both a French wine region and a luxury American automobile?
- Which French king was called the Sun King?
- Which nuts are used in marzipan?
- In which US State did the Battle of the Little Bighorn take place?
- And....what is the Little Bighorn?
- Who composed the music to Land of Hope and Glory?
- In Greek Mythology, after being spurned by Narcissus, which heart-broken nymph pined away until only her voice remained?
- The moons Miranda, Umbriel, Titania and Oberon orbit which planet?
- 10 Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, is located in which country?
- 11 Confetti is the plural of which word?
- 12 Which beer was said to "work wonders"?

Answers on page 40

Vacancy

Notice of vacancy in office of Councillor **Corsley Parish Council**

Notice is hereby given that due to the resignation of John Fairgrieve, a vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for the Parish Council.

In accordance with Section 89(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, where the vacancy occurs within six months before the day on which the councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have retired, an election shall not be held under Section 89(1) of the above Act, and the vacancy will be filled at the next ordinary election of councillors on Thursday 6th May.

The Council may choose to fill the vacancy by co-option for the period until that election. For further information, please contact the parish clerk:

Mr John Willcox

Little Orchard

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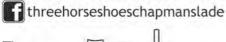
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Science: changing the world

What is epigenetics?

It is commonly known that you inherit half of your genes from each of your parents, but that is not all there is to genetic inheritance...

Except in some unusual cases, slightly more genetic material is inherited from mum. Boys have an X chromosome from mum and a smaller Y chromosome from dad, whereas girls receive an X chromosome from both parents. The remaining 22 pairs of genes are usually received equally from both parents. However, both receive genes in subcellular organelles, the mitochondria, only from mum.

So is your genetic make-up set for life, or can it change during your lifetime?

Changes in genetic make-up of individuals can be caused by mutations, which are permanent chemical changes to DNA, which may affect the properties of a gene encoded in the DNA. Without going into any details, DNA is made of a series of base pairs; A pairs with T and G pairs with C. Mutation means that A may change to G, or a C may change to a T, for example. The base pair is changed,

which may affect the expression of a gene.

Given that virtually all our cells contain the same chromosomes, mutation in a single cell is very unlikely to affect us, except in the case of some cancers and the germ cells. Once established, mutations are irreversible except by a second, highly-unlikely mutation. Mutation is the basis of natural evolution as permanent changes occurring in the egg or sperm cells will be passed on to the next generation.

However, there is another type of change which can occur during one's lifetime and is potentially reversible. This is where the overall sequence of bases in the DNA is not changed, but an individual base may be slightly modified. A methyl group may be added to an A base, for example. This may affect how a gene is recognised and can alter expression of that gene.



These changes to the genetic material are known as epigenetic changes and the study of these is epigenetics.

Such modification of the genetic material without altering its sequence, is usually only expressed in the individual and not passed on to the next generation as the modifications are erased when the sperm and egg combine – a process known as 'reprogramming', which occurs in the fertilised egg. However, it is now clear that some epigenetic changes may be passed on and 'epigenetic inheritance' can occur.

Environmental factors, such as smoking, obesity, diet and pollution may cause epigenetic changes. This has led some to believe that diet and health status prior to conception may affect the genetic make-up of the child, although this has not been proven.

In 1809 a French naturalist, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, proposed that characteristics acquired during a lifetime could be passed to one's offspring. For example, he proposed that the gradual elongation of the giraffe's neck

was due to their stretching upwards to eat leaves, whereas Darwin's evolutionary theory would propose that longer-necked giraffes were more likely to feed and survive and their progeny could inherit the longer neck.

Lamarck's Theory of Inheritance of Acquired Characteristics was dismissed by geneticists by the 1930s, although it was popular in Russia until the mid 20th century. However, it now appears that Lamarck's ideas do have a certain, very limited application through epigenetic inheritance.

Epigenetics has become of increasing importance in recent years as it is now known that some cancers and several other diseases are caused by epigenetic changes.

Nigel Brown is happy to receive comments, questions and, particularly, suggestions for future articles at nigelbrown48@gmail.com As always, this is a personal viewpoint





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Road Closure - Corsley

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

An alternative route will be clearly marked by traffic signs: via Out of County - A36 -A362 (unaffected length) and vice versa.

This Order will come into operation on 25th January and the closure will be required between the hours of 7 pm and 6 am until 3rd February. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works.

For further information, please contact Jon Moss (Atkins) on behalf of Wiltshire Council on 01225 730360.

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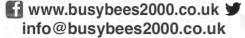
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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

What a year 2020 has been. I wonder what your thoughts are as you look back over these extraordinary twelve months, deeply challenging and painful months that none of us could have imagined. As usual I am writing this letter several weeks ahead of the new-year so I have to try to stretch my thinking beyond the here and now which is incredibly difficult at this present time of turbulent change.

I think one of the most difficult things to live with at the moment is the ever-present uncertainty of our day to day lives. Goodness knows where we will be as regards lockdown, tiers and restrictions by January 1st 2021; it is all very unnerving and difficult. Not that we haven't experienced some wonderful life giving moments too, but the calm day to day ticking along of human existence seems to have disappeared for now. Having written that statement I need to acknowledge that for many, many people in the world there has never been a quiet 'ticking along' anyway. But for most of us the context we live in usually provides us with stability and continuity and it's a bit of a shock to be faced with the fact that we in our privileged existence are not immune to the ravages of change of seismic proportions, over which we have very little control.

So 2020 has been a year like no other and it's important I think to acknowledge the pain and suffering of so many people alongside our thankfulness for all the good and helpful things we have learnt in this time. But so often we skip over the painful bit with a 'stiff upper lip' attitude and focus exclusively on the good stuff, which isn't healthy at all; we need to learn to lament for all that is lost before we can move on.

In the Judeo Christian tradition the practice of communal lament is honoured and expressed, particularly in the psalms. In Psalm 44 the writer begins by acknowledging how God has looked after his people in the past, but now things are different:

In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever. But now you have rejected and humbled us; We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.

And ends with: Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.

It all sounds pretty miserable doesn't it, but actually, the key is in that reference to God's unfailing love. I've said it many times before and I'll say it again: I believe in a God who is not absent in our pain, nor seated on a golden throne in heaven oblivious to our suffering, but shares it with us, as he does the joys that sustain us; the love we share with family and friends, kindness, empathy for others, these are the things that many people now appreciate and cherish as hugely important in their lives.

As we begin this new year I pray that we can somehow find a way communally to express our sorrow for all that has been lost, and that we can continue to remember and be truly grateful for what is important and life giving in our lives.

Happy new year, Love and prayers, Pauline

January Church Diary

All these service details are subject to Government restrictions in force at the time. We will notify everyone if changes are necessary

**

Sunday 3rd January Epiphany 8am Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill 9.30am Eucharist at St Margaret's, Corsley 10.30am Morning Worship at St Peter and St Paul, Longbridge Deverill

**

Sunday 10th January Baptism of Christ 9.30am Family Eucharist at St Margaret's, Corsley 10.30am Eucharist at St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill

**

Sunday 17th January 2nd Sunday in Epiphany 10.30am Eucharist at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill 11am BCP Matins at St Margaret's, Corsley

*

Sunday 24th January 3rd Sunday in Epiphany 9.30am Eucharist at St Margaret's, Corsley 10.30am Eucharist at St Peter and St Paul, Longbridge Deverill

*

Sunday 31st January Candlemas
10.30am Benefice Eucharist at St Peter and St Paul, Longbridge Deverill

*

Some services at St Margaret's, Corsley are also being shown on Zoom, and details will be made available in the parish newsletter, or by email

Date for your diary

Corsley House Garden open to the public 11 am to 5 pm, Sunday May 23rd 2021

Raising money for our local churches Tickets will be available from 1st March

A huge Thank You!

Throughout the pandemic, our small team of fully trained Church Pastoral Care workers, have been quietly continuing their vital work with those in our community who needed help more than ever. Even though face to face visits have not always been possible, we are hugely proud of the work they have done. They really are our unsung heroes!

Our Villages Face Some Searching Questions

It is no exaggeration to say that the next year in our parish is going to be crucial if our two churches and their graveyards are going to survive. For reasons all will understand, 2020 has been a disaster for our finances. Being largely unable to fundraise, along with a lack of earnings from other normal outside activities like weddings, this has resulted in a huge shortfall in the order of £16,000. The Church of England overall is facing a massive challenge. Big cost cuts are taking place centrally, and all other parishes like ours have exactly the same funding shortfalls. If a rapidly reducing and ageing congregation is added into this, we are reaching a tipping point in our parish.

It is time for you all, as our community, to consider what sort of future you want from one of your village's most important resources. Both churches provide burial grounds where everybody who lives in the civil parishes of Corsley and Chapmanslade have an absolute right to be buried. The majority of our burials are for those who are not churchgoers. The two village parish councils provide some really essential support for their upkeep. It is incredibly important for this support to be maintained, and possibly increased. Quite a number of graves are prepared to have other family members added in the future, or placed alongside. The survival of this vital community service depends, not only on council support, but the willingness of all of you to provide financial backing.

If you would like to find out how you can help, please contact one of the churchwardens on the Parish contacts page.

QUIZ! It Grows in the Soil

Our quiz 'It Grows in the Soil' produced three entries with the same top score! We held a draw, and the winner was Jean White. Congratulations to her and a big thank you to Bob Maynard who prepared the questions and both Sue Fear and Judith Helliar, who made it all happen. A much needed total of £290 was raised for Church funds.

The 50/50 Club hands out £700 in Prizes!

Our December draw, saw seven lucky people win £100 each! For only £24 a year or £2 per month, you can join the Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches 50/50 Club. Half of the payment is returned as prizes, with the other half supporting church funds. There is a £100 prize to be won each month! It is possible to pay by cash, cheque or standing order. If you would like to take part, you can sign up with Neil Britten on 01373 832515.

Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

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

Copy for Six Open Doors should be sent to Ian Buick at ibuickuk@gmail.com or by phone on 01373 832318.

Please contact Ian if you would like to receive weekly news of Church events and activities

Little Cuckoo's Pre-School

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Walking through lockdown

The backward B walk!

This walk's shape is like a backward B; it begins at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust site at Langford Lakes, off the main Warminster to Salisbury road – and you'll need wellies for this one!

Leave the Trust site the way you entered (but on foot!) and cross the road to the pedestrian gate opposite. Once through that, you're on 'Langford Trust' land and using a permissive path. Go ahead, past the pond on the left and over the footbridge.

Keep to the muddy path and cross the field you're in. On your left is the Wylye river and on your right is Steeple Langford village. With leaves missing from the trees, you may get some good shots of the church, so have your camera (or mobile!) with you.

You'll reach a wooden kissing gate; go through it and you're on a tarmacked path. Go left, cross another bridge and you're now on a solid path, with the Wylye on your right and flat fields at your left. Follow the path until the track bends left. On your right now should be a wide dip into water. I always stop for a paddle here, but be careful; last time I stepped into the water, it lapped the top of my wellies - I can't help being so short I wear children's boots, not long adult ones!

Return to the path and head right, round that left bend. You'll cross several little foot bridges and come, soon, to an entrance off the path on your left, into a little Woodland Trust site. I follow this 'diversion', because I'm a member of the Woodland Trust, as well as Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. This mud track leads round the wood and back out onto the tarmacked path, near the village of Hanging Langford. I think a 'hanging' is another name for woodland that overhangs flat ground; it's a happier explanation than the obvious one, anyway.

Follow the path left and it takes you to the 'main' road through Hanging Langford, once the main Warminster to Salisbury road! Head for the 'Restricted Byway' opposite and start climbing uphill, crossing the railway by the 'Groveley (Wood) Road' bridge. Eventually, you'll find a track on your left, going back downhill. We're following that today, BUT ahead of you, the track uphill continues onto open downland. I think you can walk to Dinton on this track and make a circular tour back onto the track again, much further on. The views from the plateau are magnificent, but stay with the 'lowlands' this time, as the Dinton extension is 3-4 miles long.

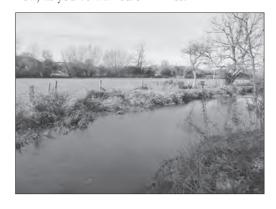




Take the track downhill left mentioned earlier, back to Hanging Langford, with a road junction away to your right. Follow that road, called Duck Street. It'll lead you over a bridge and the Wiltshire Trust car park is on your right. Don't return to your car yet, but continue along the road and over a second, major bridge; there's an 'Organic Wool' site on your right. Next is a footpath right, just as the road bends left. Take the footpath. Langford Lakes are on your right, then a children's play area and the bungalows and flats of Edgar's Close.

Walk ahead to the crossroads and 'Bell House 1880'. Turn left here and walk to the next 'crossroads'; turn left again and, on your right, you'll see a village notice board. Use the path the board's on and, ahead of you, is the church lych-gate. Walk through the churchyard, pausing to visit the church if it's open, or sit on a bench and admire the scenery, before moving on. Beyond the far church gate is a lane and a bridge over the Wylye. Don't cross it – but you may recognise it, as you crossed it early in the walk.

Go left on the path before the bridge, cross the long field and a river bridge at the end of the field and, just past the pond on your left, is the wooden gate onto the road, with the Woodland Trust Langford Lakes site opposite. If you need facilities and/or sustenance, walk through the car park and ahead you'll see the Langford Lakes main building. Toilets come first, but at the other end of the building is a wooden terrace and the Kingfisher café, usually open from Thursday to Sunday for drinks, cakes and biscuits. You deserve a treat now, as you've walked 3-4 miles!



Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Tim Humphreys reports on the PC's activities in December

Chapmanslade PC again met virtually, on 10th December, chaired by Councillor John Lewis. There was one member of the public present.

Planning applications 20/09172/LBC

The PC supported this application insofar relating to proposed alterations to a rear conservatory and replacement joinery to the front elevation of the grade II property (that requires listed building consent). Concern was expressed however for demolition of a rear 'car port' without careful consideration to an adjoining (3rd party) garage wall, necessitating Wiltshire Council building control scrutiny.

Solar Farm

The developers Wessex Solar Energy have sought the opinion of Mendip District Council on whether an environmental impact assessment (EIA) would be needed before their formal application is submitted for a proposed 50 acre solar park at Lodge Hill to the west of the village.

The PC has written to the Council strongly expressing the view that an EIA is essential given the scale of this proposed 14.4 megawatt (MW) generation facility.

Finance

Donation request - Village Hall

Representatives from the Hall Committee (management trustees) spoke of the continuing projects in hand to further enhance

both the external and internal facilities this community venue offers. A formal application had been submitted in advance to the PC for consideration, and which was well received. The PC agreed to a £2,500 donation towards proposed playing field improvements - with a theme of fitness and wellbeing and noted the Hall Committee had already pledged match funding to an awarded grant midyear from the Warminster Area Board of £4,000 for other projects across the memorial playground.

Precept for 2021

The precept for 2021 was discussed and agreed.

Meeting with our MP (Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murrison)

Further to points reported in the last PC briefing, Wiltshire Council Highways Dept has just advised their intention to resurface the A3098 High Street between the county boundary and the A36 bridge at Dead Maids. The work would be carried out piecemeal to spread the cost across several years for budget management and may commence late 2021 or early 2022 starting with the badly damaged surface towards the A36.

Village Voice and Parish Plan (PP)

The Steering Group (that reports into the PC) are in the process of bringing both the PP and project action status up to date, reflecting the excellent progress achieved in the past 12 to 18 months and to refresh priorities going

forward. Since the PP was formulated, there have been a number of focussed sub-groups established and this serves to eloquently demonstrate the enthusiasm and commitment within our community. The PC is very supportive of the PP initiative and was pleased for the PP Steering Group to continue, reporting into the PC. Coordination between sub-groups is crucial, as are any matters (such as traffic issues) for which the PC will be best placed to manage. The purpose and prospective advantage of developing the PP into a full Neighbourhood Plan was discussed and is being evaluated currently by the Steering Group.

> Tim Humphreys Parish Councillor

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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Hello! Are you self-isolating? We can help!

The Chapmanslade COVID-19 Action Group would like to help you with your self-isolating needs. We can provide support to the residents of Chapmanslade with basic food supplies, prescription collection, dog walking, posting mail or just a friendly phone call.

Simply text or call one of the contact numbers below and give detail of your requirements (name, address, how we can help and when you need the service).

Main contact

Charlene Ridler 07964 880841

Alternative contacts

Ian Buick 07967 639306 Louise Bell 07773 431213

We will do our best to ensure no one in our community is left to face COVID-19 isolation alone.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/groups/ Chapmansladevillage

Save our rural landscape from being industrialised

You will probably know of the proposal to build a solar park outside Chapmanslade. As you drive from Chapmanslade to Frome, the proposed site is on the left of the road as you descend Lodge Hill, stretching from the A3098 south to the Rodden Brook, and covering a vast area of some 52 acres.

Like us, many of you warmly support renewable energy and the move to a low carbon economy, but will have grave reservations about the location of this proposal from Wessex Solar Energy (WSE), a company based in Northumberland. It is likely that WSE will submit a full planning application in the next few weeks and, because of the current pandemic, may well avoid the normal scrutiny that comes with public consultations and open council meetings, so we feel it is right to voice our concerns.

Here are the reasons we object to this proposal:

- 1. This would turn a peaceful area of beautiful countryside, enjoyed by walkers and wildlife alike, into a large industrial site. To put it into context, 52 acres is the equivalent of nearly forty football pitches.
- 2. All of the land is currently farmed and some is Grade 3 – good quality agricultural land currently used for cereal crops. This is not where a solar park should be sited when large-scale brownfield sites, busy roadside locations and industrial roofing/barns are available elsewhere.

- 3. The proposals should not be supported by Mendip District Council as they would not have a siting and design compatible with the "open rolling green landform" that in their assessment characterises the local landscape and they would clearly degrade its quality.
- 4. The solar panels will be 11ft 6in (3.5m) above ground level and will be accompanied by eight ancillary buildings up to 13 ft high and surrounded by high security fencing and will involve the rerouting of a popular footpath. This will be easily visible from Cley Hill, a scheduled Ancient Monument situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, from where countless walkers currently enjoy timeless views of unspoilt landscape. Even with screening, the panels at twice the height of an adult, would tower above the 5ft hedgerow as you drive from Chapmanslade to Frome, particularly in autumn and winter.
- 5. The views from the hamlets of Lyes Green and Corsley Heath, situated in the Corsley to Chapmanslade Greensand Ridge Special Landscape Area will be adversely affected for the duration of the intended lifespan of the solar park of 40 years. Corsley Parish Council must have input over this development!
- 6. The present field margins, hedgerows and trees provide a tranquil habitat for wildlife including bats, lapwings, owls, water voles,

newts and otters, which could be damaged forever by the construction work and follow-up maintenance.

We are all lucky enough to live in a beautiful rural area, and we don't believe that this is an appropriate location for what is in effect a change of use from agriculture to an industrial sized solar park. If you feel the same, please let your local parish councillor know and

contact the Beckington and Selwood Ward Councillor, Shannon Brooke

... and lastly, here is the link to the initial planning application: https://tinyurl.com/ yadqqlrt

PLEASE comment on the Mendip planning portal when the full application is lodged. Watch this space for further details!

> Thank you Michael and Julia Parker

Andy Joynt Memorial



Following Andy's funeral service last month, several villagers mentioned to Neil and I that they would like to contribute towards a memorial bench to be sited at the Corsley War Memorial Playing Field. Andy had been a valued committee member for ten years and supported the field for many years. He would often be seen tending the plants or helping and advising with any of the grounds maintenance chores that needed doing.

We are already over half way to the amount needed to get a bench for Andy, so please feel free to donate. The playing field can claim Gift Aid on any donations received, so if you would like to make a contribution, please contact Neil or I and we can send you details:

Marion Liquorice

07796 544565 marion@nmc2.co.uk

Neil Carpenter

07919 057997 neil@nmc2.co.uk

> Many thanks Marion and Neil



Dear Resident.

Proposed Lodge Hill Solar Park

We are writing to inform you of proposals for a solar energy park on land a little to the south of Adams Hill Farm (see maps later in this leaflet).

No planning application has yet been lodged for the project and in more normal times we would hold a public drop-in session to allow residents to talk through our project proposals with us.

Sadly coronavirus restrictions make that challenging. We have therefore done our best to present information in this document to help inform residents about key aspects of the project.

If after reading our information leaflet you still have guestions or comments to share with us, then contact details, including an email address and a stamped addressed envelope / feedback form are provided.

Yours,

Wessex Solar Energy

WESSEX SOLAR ENERGY

Wessex Solar Energy are a UK based development company working exclusively in the solar energy sector.

In total, our company has so far developed 19 Solar Parks, which collectively provide enough power to supply 33,000 UK homes with clean renewable electricity.

Wessex Solar Energy draws on the expertise of a group of dedicated engineers, environmental scientists and financiers, who have many years of experience working with renewable energy and conventional power generation projects.

Our company is committed to developing projects in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

NFFD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

In spring 2019 the UK Government declared a Climate Emergency, recognising the significant risks of continuing the emission of large amounts of greenhouse gases to the future wellbeing of our planet.

Successive governments have supported the uptake of renewable energy projects such as the proposed solar park as a means of combatting the release of greenhouse gases, as they can displace fossil fuel generating power plant.

The adoption of renewable energy power generation as a significant part of our country's "energy mix" has also been driven by the decline of the UK's indigenous energy supplies such as coal and gas.

The construction and operation of renewable energy projects, such as the proposed solar park, will add to the diversity of the UK electricity generation sector, helping to maintain the reliability of supplies.

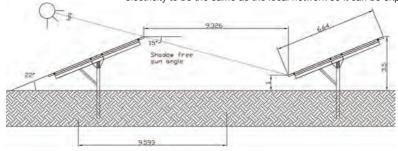
Solar energy is inexhaustible and is not subject to the instability of the international fuel markets. Solar energy developments eliminate the emissions of the acidic gases and local air quality pollutants associated with the operation of existing fossil fuelled electricity generating plant.

SOLAR PARKS

A typical solar park comprises a large number of solar panels. They also include one small electrical cabin for every 2 megawatt (MW) of onsite capacity to house inverters and one control building to house electrical equipment to prepare electricity for export to the local electricity network.

Panels are placed on top of steel frames which are piled into the ground in a similar fashion to a fencepost. The panel 'tables' are positioned at an angle of between 20 ° and 35° from the ground have a height of no more than 3.5 metres (m) from the ground to the top of the panel table (see below).

Inverters in the electrical cabins convert the DC electricity produced by the panels to AC electricity that can be exported to the local electricity network. Transformers located within the same cabins then change the voltage of this electricity to be the same as the local network so it can be export for use.



THE PROJECT SITE

The proposed solar park site (outlined in red on the map below) is located on land south and west of Adams Hill Farm, about 1.4 km east of Frome. The A3098 runs to the north of the site

The site covers about 21 hectares (52 acres) comprising parts of 3 fields. The land falls about 15m from north to south with the lower parts being relatively flat. An attempt has been made in selecting the land to reduce views of the site from nearby properties.

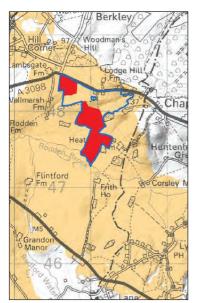
The site, whilst located in the countryside is not located within any Internationally, European or Nationally designated ecological or landscape sites. It is crossed by two public footpaths which will be retained as part of the proposed solar park designs.



THE PROPOSED SOLAR PARK



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



Given that they make little noise and create no pollution the principle impact of any solar park tends to be its appearance. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is therefore being undertaken for the site.

Computer modelling will be used to identify areas which may have views of the site based on the topography of the surrounding area and existing vegetation / buildings. Based on this model and site visits numerous viewpoint locations will be identified for detailed assessment.

The potential impact on the character of the landscape of the surrounding area is also be assessed. The findings of these studies will be included within any planning application documentation.

The below map shows places where the project, or some part of it, might be visible taking into consideration the topography but not including areas that would be shielded by vegetation, i.e. the site will be far less visible than indicated below.

FNVIRONMENTAL **STUDIFS**

There are a series of studies that will need to be completed as part of our planning application for the project. These will be reported in detail in an Environmental Report. These studies are discussed below, with Landscape and visual impacts discussed on the next page.

Ecology

The ecology on site has been reviewed by qualified ecologists who have examined the potential for the site to support:

- Invertebrates
- Badgers
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Door Mice
- Water voles and otters
- Rirds

The site has not been found to be ecologically sensitive to the proposed development. Findings along with ecological mitigation recommendations will be included in our reports in due course.

Noise

Solar parks are inherently guiet during operation and the only potential for any noise disturbance therefore is during their construction.

Noise studies have been undertaken, in particular to assess the potential for any impacts at nearby properties arising from the use of construction equipment. The impact of construction noise is not predicted to be significant.

Traffic and infrastructure

Construction of the solar park would require the delivery of items of plant and equipment to the site, in addition to the deliveries of aggregate and concrete for the construction of access tracks and foundations for the electrical cabins. The operational phase of the project would require infrequent visits to site by maintenance staff (approximately two visits every month).

As currently proposed access would be through an old field gate that would be re-opened on to the A3098 however this is being discussed with the local highway authority.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Depending upon any issues raised by consultees to the planning process and members of the public it is expected that a planning application for the project will be submitted in the coming months.

The Planning Application would be accompanied by an Environmental Report that will present the full results of the various environmental assessments and studies. The District Council will then consider the application over a number of months.

If and when we have lodged our application we will write to residents again to confirm this and provide details of the application reference number along with further details of the final project design.

We hope that this document has helped to answer any questions that you have. However, we are happy to receive comments and questions by email or post. We have included a stamped addressed envelope and a feedback form should you wish to complete this. The form includes an option for a telephone call by Wessex Solar Energy should you wish to discuss the project in that way.

Our contact details are

info@wessexsolarenergy.co.uk

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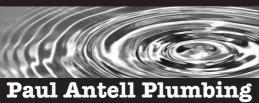


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Whitbourne Chapel

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come 2 Corinthians 5, v17

An injection of hope

At the time of writing, a lorry load of vaccines is being delivered to the UK. This vaccine and others being developed offer hope for 2021, for bringing Coronavirus under control and our lives returning to some 'normality'.

While I do thank God for the skills He has given to people, to be able to develop vaccines to treat disease, there is one disease that no vaccine on earth will be able to treat. I am thinking of the disease the Bible calls sin – a disease that has infected all of us.

The Apostle Paul, in the first three chapters of his letter to the Romans, sets out the hopeless plight of mankind. As he develops his argument, he shows us there is no-one - Jew or Gentile - who can make themselves righteous in God's sight and that we are all guilty before God (Romans 3 v. 19).

Then in v. 21 of Romans chapter 3 we have a "But now". Whenever there is a "but now" in Paul's writings, it is a turning point.

There is a way we can be made right with God and be reconciled to Him and have hope for the future. That other way, as Paul goes on to show, is through the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ - through His death for our sins and through the gift of Christ's righteousness. Paul also says: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5 v. 17 ESV).

One hymnwriter put it like this: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

> John Hobson Visiting preacher to Whitbourne Chapel

Being grateful

Have you found it hard to be grateful this past year? Yet, in all the drama and uncertainty, there have been times of hope and good things have happened – it's just so hard to recognise them, when all

around us has been chaos. Let's try in 2021 to be consciously thankful to God for small

joys, for good things that can be lost among the not-so-good ones.

A Happy New Year to all our readers!

Please remember

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

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Email: iain@fushi-electrical.co.uk www.fushi-electrical.co.uk









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01985 988308 07982 831082 A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

It's a New Year! Let's hope it's a safe and healthy one...

Some of the older residents of our villages were grateful to have had their COVID-19 jab just before Christmas; a Christmas gift in itself and a great relief to family and friends to know that these very precious members of our community are now well on the way to avoiding the distress of suffering from this awful virus.

Christmas celebrations and New Year were somewhat limited this year, but nature carries on, even in this time of pandemic!

Sadly, the heavy rainfall leading up to Christmas caused flooding in some parts of the country, but it was the high winds that caused damage around us with outdoor Christmas light and decorations taking a buffeting

On the farm we must now check for standby electric power in the form of tractor driven pumps to generate electricity to milk the cows

and keep automatic feeders in the parlour working.

Come storms, frosts, snow and COVID-19, the animals must be fed, watered and kept comfortable on straw or clean rubber matting all through the winter months; we also have to be prepared for any eventuality over the next three months.

We are already seeing a lengthening of daylight hours (about 3 minutes every day which started on the 22nd

of December – the shortest day being the 21st December).

One of the first celebrations of the Christian year is the Plough Sunday service. Traditionally, the plough was carried around the village and the countrymen shouted, clapped their hands and banged sticks to frighten the evil spirits away.

The Christians followed on by blessing the plough in the church and inviting the Morris Men into the church where they dance and clap sticks - rounding off the proceedings with a ploughman's lunch and cider!

Sadly, like so many activities in the church since COVID-19 hit us nearly a year ago, this service has been cancelled. Our hopes are that by the summer our plans for all our church and village activities will be back up and running – with even more enthusiasm.

2020 saw few country sports taking place –



thankfully fishing has continued, but hunting and shooting has been allowed infrequently and many grouse, pheasant and partridge were not needed.

Some guns will be out in the countryside until the end of the month, so do listen out for the beaters and their dogs and of course the guns when out on your walks.

I have missed seeing the occasional pheasant and partridge in my garden this winter along with the winter migrating birds who usually eat all my holly berries before Christmas!

I understand that the migrating birds such as red wings are still enjoying life at home in Scandinavia as their winters are not as cold as they used to be.

Have you noticed the red kites courting? Small groups of three or four birds are flying around the village looking for a suitable mate. The young rooks are looking for nesting areas and do keep your eye out for the murmurations of starlings as nightfall comes as they seek out safe nesting areas for the night.

Our countryside has so much to offer – do get outside and enjoy the fresh air, the public footpaths and the lovely views on the good days during our winter months.

Keep safe, look after the environment and look forward to the coming year.

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community news

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

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

At the time of writing, we do not know what we will or will not be allowed to do in January.

In the expectation that many of the normal uses of the Reading Room remain impossible due to the rules, we are happy to discuss any specific requests to hire which are allowed within the law and within our COVID-19 secure building restrictions.

The rules and guidance will be regularly updated on our website based on the latest guidance to village halls. I regularly participate in Wiltshire Council run meetings along with trustees of other village halls and the like on these matters.

The committee have recently started to discuss options again, with the Parish Council, about refurbishment of the existing building or the possibility of a new-build. The support of the village, as a whole, will be sought before any decisions are taken. The default is that we continue to maintain the existing building to the extent possible within funding that can be found.

See our website:

www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk for more details about the COVID-19 restrictions and hiring.

> Hugh Deed Chairman of Management Committee Chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk 01373 832897

Small ads

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

FOR SALE

Wicker conservatory furniture -

Glass top table. Four chairs with large cushion. Immaculate condition – f,120.

01373 832530 or 07720 673698

Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 July and August
- 2 Cadillac
- 3 Louis XIV
- 4 Almonds
- 5 Montana
- 6 138 mile long river
- 7 Edward Elgar (lyrics by A C Benson)
- 8 Echo
- 9 Uranus (which has 27 moons; 24 are named after Shakespeare characters and 3 from The Rape of the Lock, a poem by Alexander Pope)
- 10 Venezuela
- 11 Confetto
- 12 A Double Diamond allegedly Prince Philip's favourite beer!

Local organisation adverts

£2 per month for a small boxed advert or £7.50 for a full page. Full page adverts are allocated depending on space available and cannot be guaranteed. All monies must be at one of the two drop-off locations (Barters Plant Centre or Acres Supply Garden Centre) by **4pm** on the **19th** of the month. Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Annual trade advertisements (12 issues, when space is available $\,$

1 space	(69mm wide x 33mm high)	£22.00
2 spaces	(69mm wide x 66mm high)	£42.00
3 spaces	(quarter page - 69mm wide x 100mm high)	£60.00
4 spaces	(138mm wide x 66mm high)	£75.00
6 spaces	(half page - 138mm wide x 100mm high)	€,104.00

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

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

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Choosing new soft furnishings has never been simpler!

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