

The Bridge

January 2024

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



*Happy New Year
to all our readers!*

*Get Crafty, learn about Natural Chapmanslade, join some
Coffee Mornings, enjoy a Lite Bites Lunch, learn about Art Restoration
with the Corsley WI, there's lots to do in January...*



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monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Articles

Please submit articles either by email to **paradisefound86@icloud.com** or by hand (legible handwriting please!) and take them to the drop-off locations at Barters Plant Centre, Chapmanslade, or Acres Supply Garden Centre, Corsley by the deadline – and with the fee!

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

File types

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

Advertising:

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

Events/local organisation ads

(churches, clubs, playgroups, etc) are £2.50 per month for a boxed advert.

Full page ads cost £8, are subject to space availability and cannot be guaranteed,

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

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Deadline

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

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

Diary Dates

January 2024

Tuesday 2nd

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

Tuesday 9th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Wednesday 10th

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Thursday 11th

Corsley WI – Art Restoration (our speaker is a specialist from the National Trust) – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room (guests welcome (£3))

Thursday 18th

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

Wednesday 24th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch, from 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Saturday 27th

Natural Chapmanslade – 5.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall (FREE event)

February

Tuesday 13th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Wednesday 28th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch, from 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Friday 23rd to Sunday 10th March

Corsley Film Festival – films to be announced in the February edition

March

Tuesday 12th

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Saturday 23rd

The Half Cut Theatre present 'The Canterbury Tales', St Margaret's Church, Corsley

Wednesday 27th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch, from 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room



Lite Bites

Soup lunch for ALL

We will be serving our sumptuous soups at 12.30 in the Reading Rooms on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 24th January**, supporting Wiltshire Air Ambulance
- **Wednesday 28th February**, supporting WHY (We Hear You)
- **Wednesday 27th March**, supporting Age UK
- **Wednesday 24th April**, supporting Dorothy House.

We always have a break for the summer months, so lunches will resume on 25th September.

We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

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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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Wednesday 3rd April

Wednesday 17th April

Wednesday 1st May

Wednesday 15th May

Wednesday 29th May

Wednesday 12th June

Wednesday 26th June

Corsley Tennis Club

Happy New Year!

Despite facing some challenging weather conditions, it's been inspiring to witness our dedicated members making the most of every break in the clouds on the court. Our tight-knit fun community stays connected through an active WhatsApp group, making it easy for members to arrange singles or doubles matches at any skill level.

Even in the winter months, our junior players have been having a blast, wearing their festive Christmas jumpers during lessons. Their progress throughout the year has been impressive and, who knows – we may be nurturing the next Wimbledon champion among them!

Adding a touch of holiday spirit, we tapped into our creative side by designing tennis balls to adorn our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. A special shout-out to Little Cuckoos Pre-School for clinching the top spot!

The festivities continued at The Three Horseshoes during our annual social and

celebration, where we swapped our tennis attire for more formal wear. Andrew kept us on our toes with a challenging quiz, adding a fun twist to the evening.

As we usher in the New Year, we extend a warm welcome to new members! If your New Year's resolution involves embracing a healthier, more active lifestyle, come join us. Coach Martin is ready to guide beginners and help you embark on your tennis journey or a 'rusty racket' session to help restart.

Stay updated on our upcoming events and coaching courses by checking our website (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CorsleyTennisClub>) and Facebook page. We eagerly anticipate the lengthening days, providing more opportunities to enjoy the sport we love.

Wishing you a fantastic and tennis-filled New Year from all of us at Corsley Tennis Club!

Joanne Rolliston

Police and Crime Commissioner seeks residents' views on investment required to improve policing services

Residents are being urged to use their voice and tell the Police and Crime Commissioner how they feel about policing in their communities, what Wiltshire Police should be prioritising and how the policing budget should be spent next year.

Respondents will be asked whether their household would be prepared to invest more in policing through the police precept part of their council tax.

Wiltshire Police's budget is set by the PCC, based upon the operational policing advice from the Chief Constable, and informed by

consultation with residents and stakeholders.

The budget is made up of centralised government funding from the Home Office and locally from the police precept part of your council tax. Wiltshire Police is one of the lowest-funded Forces nationally, per head of population, and the PCC continues to push for change and for review of the national funding formula.

The survey runs until Monday 29th January and can be accessed on the PCC's website or at **surveymonkey.com/PolicingPrioritiesAndPounds**



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Bob's bafflers

- 1 What is the sum of 60 multiplied by 3, plus a gross?
- 2 In the nursery rhyme "The Death and Burial of Cock Robin", who killed Cock Robin?
- 3 What is the most southerly point of mainland Britain?
- 4 How many finger holes does a ten-pin bowling ball have?
- 5 In which country are the headquarters of Interpol?
- 6 About which pastime is Oscar Wilde reputed to have said: "The unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable"?
- 7 Which acid occurs in stinging ants and stinging nettles?
- 8 What do the initials MI stand for, as in MI5 and MI6?
- 9 When we want something "quid pro quo", what do we want?
- 10 Which five-letter word can mean to shoot at, to criticise or as a noun for a species of wading bird with a long straight bill?
- 11 The dollar (\$) and Euro (€) symbols both appear on which top-row key on a British keyboard?
- 12 If two's company and three's a crowd, what are four and five?

Answers on page 36

Chapmanslade PC Briefing January 2024

The Parish Council wishes all villagers in Chapmanslade a Happy New Year and looks forward to working on your behalf throughout the forthcoming 12 months.

We would like to thank all the bodies and individuals that make Chapmanslade the great place it is to live including (in no particular order):

- The Village Hall Committee
- The Three Horseshoes Team for supporting a variety of activities including the monthly coffee morning
- Community Speed Watch Team
- St Philip & St James' Church Community
- The History Group
- The Bridge Magazine Deliverers
- Chapmanslade School
- Busy Bees
- The 'Secret' Stiling Team
- Panto organisers
- And all the other good people working in the background to improve life here in Chapmanslade.

Corsley Parish Council

Baytree Development

Latest update from Wiltshire Council

I have recently taken over from Christine Brown as the Project Manager for the Council house building programme next to Baytree Close, Corsley Heath.

I am writing to update the Parish Council regarding progress on site. As you may have seen, a section of the hedge on the main road has been cut back in preparation for forming the vehicle entrance. Some security fencing has also been delivered.

We were hoping that work would have started now to clear the site, however, there is an electrical cable which runs across the proposed entrance which will need to be relocated before work can start. Our groundworks contractors, Fisher and Dean, have asked SSE to reroute the cable. SSE will attend on site in early January and the ground works will start on site in earnest thereafter.

Our contractors will aim to keep disruption to a minimum. However, there may be some traffic disruption whilst the new entrance is being formed. Temporary traffic lights may be in place for a time to allow the operatives to work safely. The contractors may also need to use the gated entrance in Baytree close for a short period, to allow a limited number of vehicles to get onto the site whilst work is taking place on the new entrance. Please get in touch if you have any further questions.

Michael Kalvis

Residential Development Project Manager

Residential Development Team

Assets Directorate

07423 583543

Michael.kalvis@wiltshire.gov.uk

www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Road Closure Notice

**Temporary Closure of C274 (Part),
Chapmanslade (Ref: TTRO 9155)**

Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic: C274 (Part), Chapmanslade; from its junction with Drivers Bridge Road for a distance of approximately 100m in a north westerly direction, to enable Wessex Water to carry out permanent reinstatement and associated works.

Alternative route: via C274 (unaffected length) – A3098 – A362 – C275 – C274 (unaffected length) and vice versa.

The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs and will come into operation on 22nd January between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm for 2 days. 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 info please contact Wessex Water on 0345 6004600.



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Corsley Film Festival 2024

23rd February - 10th March



Film Shows are back at the Reading Room

We will be showing a selection of short films over the festival

(This is part of the London Mountain Film Festival*)

The bar will be open serving wine, beer and tea/coffee

We will publish more information – dates, times, etc.,
on our website in January and in the February edition of The Bridge

Online booking will open in January

The intention is for these to be social occasions as well as film showings

We look forward to seeing you at the films!

www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk



*LMFF supports filmmakers in bringing their work to those who have an interest in the many ways in which we interact with our planet including adventure sports, societal issues, and environmentalism.



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Six Open Doors

To the dear residents of Chapmanslade and Corsley,

Allow me to introduce myself, I am Revd Caroline Husband, currently Team Vicar with the White Horse Team Ministry, based in Dilton Marsh with Brokerswood. I am also the Rural Dean for Heytesbury.

Part of the role of Rural Dean is to support parishes that are in vacancy, this support takes many forms often unseen in the public eye. However, it is to my delight that I have been invited to make a more visible presence in Chapmanslade and Corsley. Covering services and providing pastoral support for communities often falls to retired clergy, associate clergy, pastoral assistants and church wardens, all of this will continue but I hope to join in and support this vital work with my feet on the ground. I have already taken a service of BCP Matins and attended a PCC meeting; I will continue to support the PCC as they seek to prepare the parish for a new incumbent and create a profile for prospective candidates.

I have come to understand from talking with different people, that there is a desire for an all age, inclusive service at St Philip and St James where people of all ages might come together. We will be trialing this for the next few months on the second Sunday each month. It will be called praise and worship at 10 o'clock. Please do come along and let us know what you think, if this type of service is new to you, please give it a go, if you would like to participate in the leading and have some ideas, speak to Ian Buick (church warden) or myself.

We would love for families to come; we would love you to bring your neighbours and your friends.

I know that some individuals will miss the opportunity to share in the Eucharist, you are most welcome to attend one of the services across the Deverills as part of the team, or to attend Holy Trinity Church in Dilton Marsh where the service begins at 9.30am.

Ian recently gave a talk on new beginnings, as we look forward to 2024 let us look forward to this new beginning with hope, joy and expectation of all that God has planned for us and welcome the new beginning that Christ offers us through his birth, life and resurrection.

With every blessing, Revd Caroline
01373 596104

January Church Diary

Sunday 7th January

1st Sunday of Epiphany: Baptism of Christ

10 am Eucharist, Corsley

10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 14th January

2nd of Epiphany

10 am Praise and Worship, Chapmanslade

10 am Plough Service, Horningsham



Sunday 21st January

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

10 am Matins, Corsley

10 am Eucharist, Brixton



Sunday 28th January

4th Sunday of Epiphany

10 am Eucharist, Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 4th February

2nd Sunday before Lent

8 am BCP Holy Communion

10 am Eucharist, Corsley

10 am Morning Worship

Church and Community Events in January 2024

Crafternoons

Wednesday 10th & Wednesday 24th January
3 pm – 5 pm, Thee Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Community Church Coffee Morning

Thursday 18th January 10 am – 12 noon, Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade

Lite Bites Soup Lunch

Wednesday 24th January, from 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Rooms

Advance Notice

Lent Course 2024

This year at Dilton Marsh we will be studying a course called Life Attitudes by Robert Warren and Sue Mayfield. This course will help us to unlock the mysteries behind Jesus's sermon on the mount. The beatitudes are often talked about as being the *raison d'être* for Jesus' presence on earth, others have called it his manifesto -a very modern term! Some people think these are really tricky statements, others find them inspirational, yet others find them baffling. Come and share your thoughts as we seek to unpack some of the deeper meaning behind Jesus' words as we seek to embody them in our daily walk with Christ.

We will be sharing times and venues to offer both daytime and evening sessions. You are welcome to choose the venue and or time which you find most convenient. The course will run daytime in Chapmanslade beginning with coffee at 10.30 am, and at Dilton Marsh beginning with supper at 6 pm. To book your place please register your interest (and dietary needs) with Sally – DiltonMarshPCCSecretary@Whtministry.org.uk

Dates for your Diary:

Ash Wednesday – 14th February.

Course Dates – 21st and 28th February, 6th, 13th and 20th March.

Church and Community Coffee Mornings

Third Thursday of each month

10 am to 12 noon

The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

Rural Dean

Rev Caroline Husband
teamvicar@whtministry.org.uk

First contact for anything related to Corsley and Chapmanslade please contact Sue Fear at suefear@gmail.com

Lay Pastoral Assistants	Barbara Hughes Claire Tanner	01373 832273 01985 218099
Pastoral Visitor	Barbara Hughes	01373 832273
Churchwardens St Margaret's	Shane MacKean	01373 832506 07763 915620
St Philip & St James'	Ian Buick	01373 832318
Deputy Churchwardens St Margaret's St Philip & St James'	Vacancy Janet Aylesbury	01373 832752
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Ian and Janet Buick	01373 832318
Benefice Administrator	Vacancy	
Tower Captain	Michael Attenborough	01373 832777
Electoral Roll	Di 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 Di Britten at dianabritten69@gmail.com
Please contact Di if you would like to receive weekly news of Church events and activities

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Lite Bites Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 6th December the Lite Bites team welcomed nearly 50 Corsley residents and friends to their annual Christmas lunch in the Reading Room. The hall had been beautifully decorated and each table also had its own central decoration. The guests were welcomed with a glass of warm spiced punch to whet their appetites and they were asked to test their memories with a quiz which involved naming old nursery rhymes!

The food was served at one o'clock and the room fell quiet as everyone sampled this year's turkey with all the trimmings. We would like to give particular thanks to Jack from the Cross Keys, Corsley, who not only contributed towards the turkey but also cooked and carved it for us! A wonderful gesture.

Once the plates were cleared from the first course, guests were offered a choice of Christmas pudding or Dot's famous trifle. I can report that there was little of either left after the meal was over! To round off



the lunch, coffee and tea were served with delicious home made mince pies (thanks Anne).

However the lunch could not be over until the answers to the quiz had been given and I'll give you one guess as to who won the prize. Yes, Bob from Bob's Bafflers!! We should have banned him from taking part but he very generously shared his chocolates around.

It was then time to clear everything away and it was very sad to see the room looking

bare again. However, there was VERY good news – we raised £330 for the two charities we were supporting; Children's Hospice SW and Julia's House. That was more than we have ever raised and we would like to say a VERY BIG THANK YOU to all those who

came and gave so generously.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Wednesday January 24th which is the date of our first soup lunch of 2024!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Maureen Willcox



community news

A fun evening for all ages!

Natural Chapmanslade

Embracing the world around us

We are holding an evening in Chapmanslade Village Hall open to everyone where hopefully we can all learn a little bit about the natural world around us. It is set to be a fun evening for all ages with plenty of hands-on things to do.

Our own ecologist is revealing some of the secrets of the bats of Chapmanslade. Our local experts are looking at the oldest living residents – ancient and veteran trees and why they are so important to us. We are exploring the possibility of a community tree nursery and the Woodland Officer from Wiltshire

Council will be showing us how to prune an apple tree and take cuttings.

The evening will start early at 5.30pm and we will have a local pizza man in attendance for anyone who wants to purchase some delicious food. The bar will be open for drinks and we hope to finish the evening with some wassailing if we can locate an apple tree close to the hall.

A definite date for your diary Saturday 27th January and, best of all, it's FREE!

Any questions, ask Adam Oakley on 07504 192656.

Corsley WI

December news

Patricia Sharrocks rounds up the December meeting



Corsley WI joined in the village Christmas celebrations, providing cakes for the Christmas Fair and taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Margaret's Church. Members loaned homemade decorations to adorn the tree and it was lovely to see it twinkling with all the other trees in the church.

Members then looked forward to a break in their own Christmas preparations as they met for a delicious Christmas meal at The Cross Keys. A lovely end to a busy programme of meetings we have enjoyed in 2023. Amongst other things, we've learnt about medical dogs and their work, we've sampled Spanish cooking and painted our own ceramic masterpieces, we've played skittles and tennis – just for fun. The meetings have often been thought provoking and always enjoyable. There has been a lot of laughter; a lot of tea and coffee drunk, accompanied by the odd



slice of cake, and even the occasional glass of wine!

If you have been thinking about joining the WI why not make 2024 the year to find

out more? It is a great way to meet people and deepen friendships. You don't need to be 'crafty' or a 'Star Baker'! We try to make sure our programme of events and speakers have a wide appeal, with something for everyone, and are always open to new ideas of things to do, places to go and people to hear.

Guests are welcome to join our meetings. We know that the first step can be daunting but you can be sure of a very warm welcome; so do choose a topic that interests you, come along and see what we are like. Definitely Not all 'Jam and Jerusalem'!

Our next meeting is in the Reading Room on January 11th at 7:30. A National Trust specialist will talk about Art

Restoration and guests are welcome (£3). This will be followed, as usual, by coffee and cake. We hope to see you there!

For more details of the events planned in 2024, please contact Alice on 07989 339632 or email alicecambridge40@gmail.com

New beginnings in the Church Parish

December saw the Church year begin with Advent and 2024 has now arrived starting another calendar new year. This time round, there is more than usual for the parish to think about as a result of the retirement of the Cley Hill Churches Rector, Pauline, in October, in addition to the progression of ongoing plans for regeneration in our community and both churches. It's all about sowing seeds for the future.

So what are these new beginnings?

Firstly, there is the ongoing work by a dedicated team with fresh plans to reach out to younger generations in different ways. This involves looking at ways to bring God's message to everyone. The beginning of December saw the first Messy Church directly after school, with families avoiding having to make a special trip out, and providing an activity involving both parents and children. Pizzas cooked in the school kitchen by the Head Teacher helped make it a great occasion. Chapmanslade Church School, brilliantly led, continues doing a great job with our children, helped by parish volunteers leading assemblies and providing dramatic Bible stories with what is called Open the Book. Foundation Governors provided by the parish are supporting the Christian message in the school, working together with the rest of the Board of Governors and staff, as they manage the school's present and future.

Secondly, there is a fresh discussion within the Heytesbury Deanery. This is the group of parishes centred around Westbury and Warminster, where around half of the

parishes are in the process of looking for new priests. This is with a view to enabling parishes to operate more smoothly, and allow parish priests to be more effective. Talks may involve discussion around parish grouping adjustments and the shortage of priests nationally will be a factor. Rural parishes like Corsley and Chapmanslade will feature in this, so Sue Fear, the PCC Secretary, has newly joined the deanery meetings and will be representing local interests.

Thirdly, the PCC are looking at ways to bring the church buildings back into everyone's focus. The recent Christmas Tree Festival is a good example where those who might not have been in one of our churches had a great opportunity to see what is going on. While the Chapmanslade Church development project has been in preparation for some time, St Margaret's is also newly in focus with volunteers across Corsley taking a look at how it can serve the community better.

Finally, there are possibilities for some adjustments to our regular services to make them more appealing. Rural Dean Caroline Husband has written a letter of introduction, which appears in the centre pages, as well as providing details of a fresh type of service. It's very informative, so please have a look after reading this.

As these new beginnings develop in all areas, articles like this in The Bridge and other communication outlets will continue to keep everyone informed.

*Ian Buick
PCC Joint Treasurer and Church Warden*

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Old and New!



I hope you enjoyed the Venice ‘Dream Walk’ last month and your festive season, too! Let’s begin the 2024 walking season by looking at Trowbridge’s past, because the weekly wait for buses there gives me time to visit the FREE Museum (it’s closed Mondays, but is beside Specsavers, in The Shires). Did you know that one baron forcing King John to sign the Magna Carta, held the Manor of Trowbridge? There’s a fetching statue of Baron Henry de Bohun in the museum.

Trowbridge headed the local mechanised weaving industry in Georgian and Victorian times and the cloth produced here was so specialised, it made the town very wealthy. I’ve looked for different signs of that wealth on this walk, so park in The Shires car

park, go through there and out onto Castle Street. Turn left and pass the Town Hall redevelopment, into Silver Street. Cross to the old closed Post Office and, where Silver Street becomes Roundstone Street, there’s an impressive stone-built edifice, a solicitors’ business. This is Rodney House, built 1790 for a clothier – and described as ‘noble’ by Sir Nicholas Pevsner, in his ‘Buildings of England’ series. Look back over your shoulder, though, and there’s another amazing sight behind you, a blank wall painted to resemble a house, with windows and people looking out of them! This was done for the 25th anniversary of Trowbridge Civic Society in October 2003.

Pass Rodney House and the junction with Polebarn Road is next. Opposite is Polebarn

Painted wall – 25th anniversary of Trowbridge Civic Society



House (the word 'HOTEL' is high on the frontage). This was built in 1789 for John Clark, a Church Minister and clothier. The grounds here were magnificent and, originally, there was a belvedere on the house roof. Cross Polebarn Road and continue a bit along

Roundstone Street, to find another clothier's home opposite, Lovemead House, though Pevsner moaned about the quality of stonework here. Sorry, but retrace your steps a bit now, back to turn right into Church Street and then left, bringing you out into Fore Street. There are three banks here; the HSBC was built in 1730, for a local man who made his money in Portugal, before returning home. Further left is the Nat West, built as a bank in 1851, with Lloyds Bank next door, built in

the early 1700s and reminding Pevsner of Genoa; it's generally considered to be the finest clothier's house in Wiltshire.

Continue ahead, into Wicker Hill and you'll pass the houses of The Parade, built for the Houlton family and including central Parade House (around 1730); these dwellings were described by Pevsner as 'palaces'. Stop outside Parade House and look down; you're standing on cobbles, known locally as a 'pitched pavement' and possibly the longest one in the country. Further down Wicker Hill is the 'blind house' or lock-up, possibly built when the Town Bridge was, in 1777. Cross the bridge, looking left at the strange building for sale on a further bridge along; it's a Handle House, the only certain one in the West Country. Teasels were dried out here, after

being used to lift the nap on new cloth. The used teasels needed removing, cleaning and drying before being used again; the Museum has a Teasel Gig on display. Across the river, outstanding red-brick Studley Mills was built in 1860; ignore the carbuncle on the



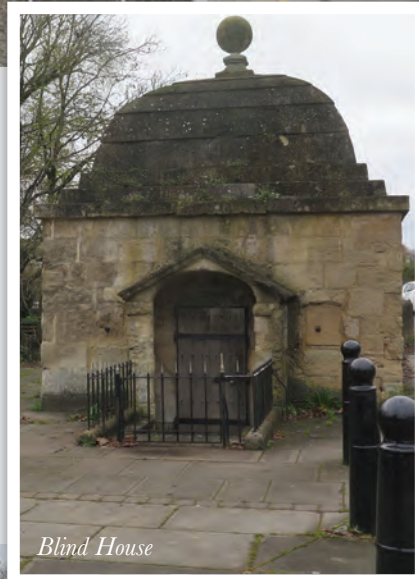


roof!

Cross Stallard Road at the traffic lights, go right and cross the two-lane road, heading left for Trowbridge railway station. Walk through the car park and use the overbridge. I did this and a train appeared, BUT the overbridge has sides so tall, I couldn't get a photo. A young couple asked if I was all right, so I explained and the man said, "I'll do it," before rushing off with my camera! When he reappeared, he'd taken several photos, asked if I could cross the overbridge all right, listened to my thanks and early Christmas wishes and disappeared with his lady! Once over the



bridge, find the station exit back onto Stallard Street, passing the small red-brick and stone building (original ticket office?), climb Wicker Hill and go left into Conigre Square. The stone façade of one building away to your right belongs to Conigre Parsonage, built around 1700 for the Minister of Conigre Chapel, while the brick building next door is Westcroft House, built in 1784. Retrace your steps again, from The Conigre into Manvers Street and Fore Street. Find WH Smith's near HSBC, because the alley next door passes Leykers café, where I had yummy cheesy chips for lunch..!



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Whitbourne Chapel

*God's compassions never fail, they are new every morning.
Lamentations 3:22*

New Year, new things!

The 1st January makes us consider new things. In my family we have had a number of new things this past year; personally, I retired from full-time employment at the end of March (& haven't stopped since!), in September two of our grandchildren started new schools and to close the year we've had a new kitchen fitted at home. It's been a very busy year. Some of us though don't adapt well to new things, do we? Whether it be a change in lifestyle as a result of an events such as retirement, or buying a new car or electronic product which we are trying to learn to use with instructions we cannot understand, or, as is more likely in our modern world, they are online and we struggle to access them.

The Bible speaks a lot about new things. It starts with the account of Creation where, as He creates the lands, seas, trees and creatures, God looks at what He has made and we are told "And God saw that it was good". Later the prophet Jeremiah exclaims "God's compassions never fail, they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness". The Lord Jesus taught his followers about the New Covenant, under which all who come confessing they are sinners in need of the Saviour and put their trust in God, receive new life and are "born again". Lastly in Revelation, John sees "a new heaven and

a new earth". A place where God dwells forever with all who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus.

So, as we face this new year let's look forward, facing head-on those new challenges and opportunities that come our way and remembering God, who is eternal and yet has promised, if we put our faith in Him, that He will never leave us.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by Morning new mercies I see! All I have needed Thy hand has provided – Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Chris Andrews

Occasional Preacher at Whitbourne

The Reason for the Season Tools With A Mission

At this time of giving, it is good to think the donations people gave us are on their way, to be given to people whose lives will be changed forever.

Just like the person who realises Christmas is not about how much alcohol they can drink or food they can eat. But that it was God, fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament, in sending the Saviour who has the power to forgive their sin (drunkenness and gluttony are sin, says the Bible), change their lives and give them Eternal Life.

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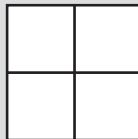
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Phone box Christmas illuminations

The phone box was lit up again this Christmas; the decorations were made at the Christmas Fair.

Corsley Film Festival is GO!

We have signed up as part of the London Mountain Film Festival – 23rd February to 10th March. We hope these film showings will be opportunities for people to socialise as well as watch some interesting movies.

See the advert in this edition of The Bridge for more details or go to our website. Online booking opens early January.



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See website www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk for up-to-date information and more.

Hugh Deed

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Committee Members

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Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 324
- 2 The Sparrow (I, said the Sparrow, with my bow and arrow)
- 3 Lizard Point
- 4 Three
- 5 France (General Secretariat headquarters are in Lyon)
- 6 Fox hunting
- 7 Formic acid
- 8 Military Intelligence
- 9 Something for something (translation 'this for that' - give and take, tit-for-tat, etc., an exchange of goods or services, in which one transfer is contingent upon the other)
- 10 Snipe
- 11 4
- 12 Nine!!

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