

# The Bridge

June 2015

*monthly magazine for the villages  
of Corsley and Chapmanslade*



*perfect your pond, play at the Open Day, pray with your pet,  
frolic at the fete, walk in Wilts (& Somerset!)... there's lots to do in June!*

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

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

## File types

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

## Advertising

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

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

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

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

**Please note: no cash, no advert!**

## Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

## In this issue...

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a cunning quiz

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## Deadline

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

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

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## June



### Monday 1st

Corsley Parish Council - Quarterly Meeting – 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

### Tuesday 2nd

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

### Saturday 6th

Corsley litter pick – 10.00, meet opposite the Royal Oak

### Thursday 11th

Warminster mobile library (see page 44 for times)

Corsley WI – OPEN Meeting – ‘Aberdeen Angus and Waitrose’ - 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30pm, Chapmanslade School

### Sunday 14th

Horningsham Village Fayre – 12 - 5pm

### Wednesday 17th

Corsley Gardening Club - garden visit to the Lacey's garden – 2.30pm

### Thursday 18th

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

Corsley WI trip to Beaulieu – open to everyone

### Saturday 20th

Border Country Walk (Somerset & Wiltshire) – 10.30am, meet at the triangle, Friggle Street

### Thursday 25th

Warminster mobile library (see page 44 for times)

### Sunday 28th

Open Day – 2 - 5pm, Corsley Memorial Playing Field

Fete, BBQ and Fun Day – Chapmanslade Village Hall

## July

### Thursday 2nd

Loose Women visit to Borehill Biodigester OPEN TO ALL

Warminster Area Board – 7pm, Warminster Civic Centre

# Diary Dates

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## **Tuesday 7th**

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

## **Thursday 9th**

Warminster mobile library (see page 44 for times)

Corsley WI – OPEN Meeting – ‘The history and work of the RNLI’ - 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

## **Wednesday 15th**

Corsley Gardening Club - garden visit to the Old Rector garden, Limington – 2.30pm

## **Thursday 23rd**

Warminster mobile library (see page 44 for times)

## **August**

### **Saturday 1st**

‘The Three Musketeers’ (Elizabethan Evening) – Corsley Manor

### **Tuesday 4th**

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

### **Sunday 9th**

Chapmanslade Croquet, Boules and Cream Tea

### **Thursday 13th**

Corsley WI – Corsley WI Flower, Handicraft and Produce Show - 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

### **Monday 31st**

Corsley Show



## **September**

### **Monday 7th**

Corsley Parish Council - Quarterly Meeting – 7.30pm, Corsley Reading Room

## **October**

### **Saturday 17th**

Chapmanslade Gentle Jazz

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](http://www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk)  
Want something added? Just email the Editor with your request!

# May Fayre Romanian Micro Farm fundraising

Many thanks to all the people who bought a brick, pig, chicken or window to help towards my fund raising target of £400. The amount raised by me will be used along with the amounts raised by my other Kingdown School friends to fund the building of the next phase of the farm in Uncesti. We will be going out to Uncesti in the October half-term to get stuck in with the building work.

Thanks to your very generous support I raised £106 with the bricks poster and another £100 on the bric-a-brac stall. I still have a few 'bricks' left if you want to buy one, an absolute bargain at £1 each.

And remember we still have the special offer 'buy one polarimeter, get one free'! – and be the envy of everyone in Corsley and Chapmanslade. We believe they might have been used by Max Plancks' less intelligent brother, Thickasa.

Thank you

*Maddy Holley  
95 Lyes Green, Corsley  
(Next door to my Dad's unfinished  
extension – in which he keeps  
promising me my own bedroom)*

## Corsley litter pickers

We meet opposite the Royal Oak at 10am on the first Saturday of each month. Our next 'pick' is on Saturday 6th June – do come along and help keep our village beautiful.

*Cath Aylesbury and Sue Taylor*

## Thank you, Sue!

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee and the villagers, I would like to thank Sue Waterman for the time she has devoted to the smooth running of Chapmanslade Village Hall over many years (I even found notes she had written as Secretary in 1982!).

Sue has served the hall in many ways as secretary, organiser of events, preparing meals and barbecues, making curtains and, probably one of her greatest achievements, her involvement in planning the building of the beautiful new kitchen.

Sue has spent many hours at meetings, behind the scenes at events, and has also shown great enthusiasm for new projects – some of which she has instigated and helped to carry through. The hall is now in better condition than it has been for many years, and this is in no small part to the hard work and dedication that Sue has given.

I know we shall miss Sue at our monthly meetings, but look forward to her attendance at future events, where hopefully, she will be able to enjoy being 'front-of-house' for a change!

*Denise Page*





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St Margaret's Church, Corsley  
10.30am, June 21st



## Thank You!

The church's Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who supported last month's May Fayre and helped us raise the magnificent total of just over £1,200 for church funds.

On a glorious sunny day, and at the superb venue of Manor Farm's front lawn, a large crowd enjoyed a pleasant, relaxing afternoon.

Our thanks go to Claire and Chris da Costa for letting us take over their home for the day, to Chapmanslade School choir who entertained us so beautifully, to everyone who donated items for sale and baked cakes, to the stallholders and catering team, and to the army of backroom workers who set out and cleared away tables, chairs and gazebos. And, of course, to everyone who came along to the Fayre.

# Bob's bafflers

- 1 Which World War II operation was code named 'Dynamo'?
- 2 How many old pennies were there in a groat?
- 3 Who was the youngest ever American President?
- 4 The first railway track in England ran between which two places?
- 5 Whose compositions included "The Firebird" and "Petrushka"?
- 6 Who said "I think, therefore I am"?
- 7 In computing what is RAM short for?
- 8 Which girl's name is used to describe a female donkey?
- 9 What colour is the Northern Line on the London Underground map?
- 10 Which organ of the body produces insulin?
- 11 Who painted "The Laughing Cavalier"?
- 12 What would a tailor do with his hot plonker?

Answers on page 44

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**Biology: changing the world**

# GMOs – are they safe and is there a need for them??

Professor Nigel Brown, President of the Society for General Microbiology writes part two of a very controversial subject

Last month's article described what GMOs (genetically modified organisms) are. There has been a backlash against these in some EU countries, including the UK. Two issues of concern are safety of individuals and safety of the environment. GM products such as insulin have been used since 1982 with no direct problem and GM papaya has been grown commercially in Hawaii since 1998 without problem. However, the main concern was that a GMO may produce a new protein to which there was a widespread allergic reaction. In the US, where GMOs are better accepted than in Europe, and GM soya has been widely used, there is no evidence of such a reaction. The practice of the last 20 years suggests that current GMOs are safe for individuals. The tests that are applied to new products help ensure this.

There is concern that the release of GMOs into the environment may result in outbreeding of GM plants to native plants, or transfer of foreign DNA from

GM bacteria to other organisms. The rules about releasing GMOs into the environment depend on extensive testing of the GMO to

prevent such genetic transfer, and in the UK a Government advisory committee oversees the permission to release new organisms to the environment. The technology could be misused by a government or terrorist organisation, but knowledge and technology cannot be "undiscovered"; it can only be controlled.

Other objections include a desire to avoid 'unnatural' organisms or concerns about big companies generating a monopoly on a crop or a

drug. These are issues of personal belief and not of safety.

So, are GMOs necessary and desirable? Sometimes they lead the way and are then replaced. Vegetarian cheese was first produced using GM yeast containing a cattle gene to produce rennet. This has been used since 1990 to produce most UK hard cheeses, but some natural fungal rennets are now used. The Hawaiian GM papaya



Papaya tree

gave resistance to a virus that was infecting the trees; a resistant variety might be bred by traditional methods, but that would take many more years and the economically-important papaya industry would have collapsed.

Some GMOs allow completely new activity. Last month I mentioned rice which produces vitamin A. The latest figures from WHO indicate that half a million children would avoid blindness if this were in their diet. Scientists are working on producing cereals that can fix nitrogen in the same way that clover does, thus avoiding excessive use of fertiliser and the potential contamination of rivers by run-off and the production of greenhouse gases. Pesticide-resistant crops or herbicide-tolerant crops reduce the amount of spraying farmers need to do, thus

reducing environmental contamination and minimising damage to the soil.

I may be biased, but it is my belief that, given our increasing knowledge of the science and with the regulations in place, GMOs remain safe, and that many of the products of GM technology provide advances that will help feed a healthy world.

*Nigel Brown*

Nigel Brown is a retired Professor of Microbiology, now living in Chapmanslade. If there is a biological topic that you would like him to write about, or if you have questions about this article, please contact him at [nigelbrown48@gmail.com](mailto:nigelbrown48@gmail.com).

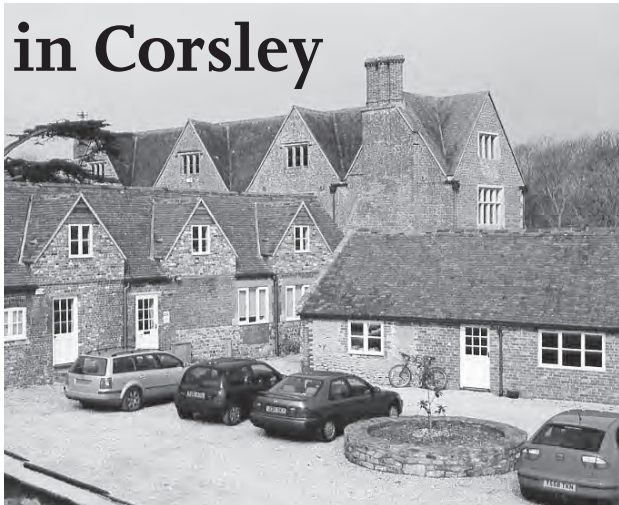
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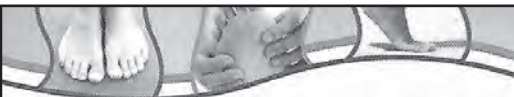
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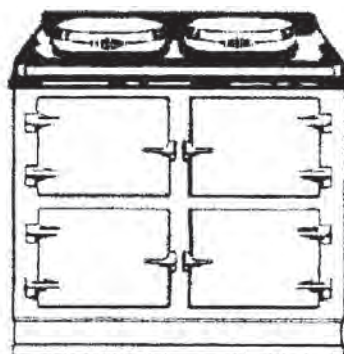


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Corsley Parish Council

# Parish Council Briefing

The Chairman presents his round-up of parish news

May has been another quiet month in the annals of Corsley Parish Council, with just one quarterly meeting, the Annual Parish Council meeting. The main purpose of this meeting is to elect the Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year and confirm the specific additional representational responsibilities of members of the PC. The meeting also discussed speed limits and other streetscene issues.

## Elections

There was one nomination for Chair, Neil Britten and one for Vice Chair, Judith Helliar. Both accepted their nomination and were unanimously elected.

Judith has taken over from Robin Chapman, who has been a stalwart of the PC for many years and has been a continuous source of wise counsel. The PC is very grateful for his long and valuable service in a variety of PC roles. Robin has also given notice that he will not be standing for re-election in the next PC elections in 2017.

## Representatives on other PC bodies

Parish Councillors agreed to continue to represent the PC:

Reading Rooms .....	Gill Parkinson
Rights of Way .....	Gill Parkinson
Thynne Trust .....	John White
Playing Field .....	Olly Hares

Parochial Church Charities .....	John White and Judith Helliar
Neighbourhood Watch .....	Mike Bird
Parish Steward/Roadscene .....	Simon Jasper
Old School Playing Field .....	Neil Britten and Mike Bird
Church .....	Judith Helliar
Corsley Show .....	Neil Britten and Olly Hares

## Old School Playing Field

The final licence payment from the Steiner School is in the bank and this ends our relationship with the Steiner School. The Corsley Memorial Playing Field Committee are taking on the Old School play equipment and moving it up to the Heath to replace worn out equipment along with the outdoor oven.

Routine maintenance is underway, with grass cutting already started and weedkiller will be applied round the base of the saplings to kill the grass. A missing part of the Parish-owned fence will be replaced. It is also evident that some of the saplings need to be moved, some to facilitate easier mowing and others to allow a better chance of thriving. This will done in the Autumn.

## Bus stop on Corsley Heath

For some time now the PC has felt concern for the safety of bus travellers who have to cross the A362 at Corsley Heath to go to

and from the eastbound bus stop. We have already investigated the possibility of getting a reduction in the speed limit on the A362, or a controlled crossing. Neither of these palliatives has proved to be possible.

A speed check was run by the Highways Department, but there was neither evidence of excessive speed nor a case for reducing the limit. As regards a controlled crossing, the Highways Department have strict criteria which unfortunately were not met for this location. The next move is to establish the process for formal consideration of the safety of the bus stop in question with a view to assessing safer alternatives. Potential alternatives were discussed at the meeting, but each brought their own issues. An enquiry has been lodged with Wiltshire Council and the issue will be discussed at a future PC meeting. No decision would be contemplated without public consultation.

## **Streetscene**

### **Speed limits**

Last month I reported the results of the C Class road speed limit review and the recommendation of the Highways Department. These have now been considered by the PC and the recommendations for 30 mph limits between the junction of the A362/Lane End and Pool Cottages (via Lyes Green) and between the junction of the A362/Heathway to the southern end of The Hollow were supported by the PC. The recommendations from the Highways consultants also include locations for the associated signage and the maps will be published on the Corsley website. Concerns were expressed at the efficacy of speed signs along the lanes and the prevalence of street furniture. A suggestion was made that the number of normal pole mounted signs could be reduced by marking the road surface with the new limit. This

suggestion will be taken forward at the next CATG meeting.

### **A362 drainage leak at Lane End**

After many years, Highways believe that they have now identified the cause of the leak – an unauthorised pipe connection and culvert collapse. The work is complete and we now await the next rainy season!

### **Stalls Farm road badgers**

Highways are awaiting permission from English Nature to place gabions to prevent the road being further undermined. They expect to be successful in their application as this is the second occurrence of badger setts undermining this stretch of road.

### **Court Lane flooding**

Work to carry the flow of water past the entrance to Court Lane's eastern entrance is under consideration. The Council Drainage Team are trying to establish contact with the farmer who owns the land adjacent to the bridal path where the floodwater originates. Can anyone help?

### **Sturford Lane mud**

There has been a ridge of mud at the eastern end of Sturford Lane for over a year, it extends for about 100m. The ticket to have this removed has been submitted again by the Streetscene Coordinator.

### **Road resurfacing**

Some has taken place, but only a small proportion of what was indicated six months ago, particularly to the north side of the A362.

### **Longleat Traffic**

At the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) Longleat undertook to involve the PC in their evolving long term planning for Longleat customer traffic. By the time this edition of The Bridge





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is published there will have been a meeting between Michael Birnie, Bob Montgomery and PC representatives to provide an update on progress in this area. I will report the outcome in the July briefing.

## Housing survey

We are awaiting reports on the various surveys which have been undertaken at Bay Tree and will report the results and the planned programme as soon as they are known. When this information has been received the PC will consider how best to consult with the Parish on moving forward. A public meeting has been offered by Wiltshire at a suitable point in the project to allow the Parish to discuss and contribute to the plans.

## Dates of 2015 meetings

### Quarterly Meetings

Monday 1st June

Monday 7th September

Monday 7th December

Occasional meetings, at short notice, will also be held to discuss planning applications and other urgent business. Please watch the village notice-boards and the Bridge web site for these.

*Neil Britten*

*Chairman, Corsley Parish Council  
neil.britten@btinternet.com*

---

# Corsley Tennis Club News



The ladies 'A' team played Devizes 'B' at the Memorial Playing Field and achieved a draw. Alison Plummer's strong forehand complemented Jane Snedden's clever defence, while Jenny Bishop and Penny Plumb both hit crisp drives. Four sets each was a fair result.

The ladies 'B' team entertained Melksham 'B' at home and managed a four-four draw. Emma Fox and Rebecca Bennett showed astute shot selection, whereas Penny Plumb and Sue Newell competed keenly. Once again, a draw seem appropriate.

The Club held an American Tournament on a breezy afternoon at the Memorial Playing Field. Twenty players provided some absorbing sets, at the end of which Brian Young finished top of the blue group and Marge Judd prevailed in the red group. Brian's athleticism and Margo's competitiveness gave them an edge, while Alison Plummer and Ingrid Marsden filled the runner-up positions. The event was organised with characteristic efficiency by Sonia Glenn

*Cake Monster*

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# Three Open Doors

Dear Friends,

The wedding season is upon us! I have conducted three so far with more to come over the coming months. It is always a great privilege and joy to conduct a wedding; it's lovely getting to know the couples a little and hearing something of the story of their relationship. I also like seeing all the wonderful outfits and hats and particularly the wedding dress. Mind you, I feel a bit sorry for some of the ladies who come in very flimsy frocks; our churches are very rarely warm enough for bare arms and legs.

Ambient temperature aside, getting married in a church is particularly special, and as I watch the brides walking down the aisle towards me I often wonder about all those other brides over the years who have walked down that self same aisle. You can say what you like about the Church of England but I think providing the ritual to mark and celebrate important life changing moments of transition in human life is something we do very well. And it is made even more special by the fact that the buildings in which that ritual is enacted have witnessed centuries of such moments; the stones are seeped in human stories of love and joy and loss. Our church buildings are not just made up of stone, wood and glass, they are testament to the life of our communities, and they hold the story of our communities within their walls.

I would be the first person to contest the idea that God only shows up in church, when we ask him to, but I do think these buildings that have been prayed in for generations are 'thin' places, where the depth of ancient silence communicates a powerful sense of 'otherness', of being in the presence of something or someone timeless and beyond ourselves.

As T.S. Elliot writes:

You are not here to verify, Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity, Or carry report.  
You are here to kneel, Where prayer has been valid. And prayer is more; Than an order of words, the conscious occupation; Of the praying mind, or the sound of the voice praying; And what the dead had no speech for, when living; They can tell you, being dead: the communication; Of the dead is tongued with fire beyond the language of the living; Here, the intersection of the timeless moment; Is England and nowhere. Never and always.

So what I am trying to say is that our churches belong to the whole community, they tell our stories, they are witness to the fulfilment of our dreams and the sorrow of our greatest loss, they are important places for all of us, not just those who come to church regularly.

Do take the time over the summer months to come and sit a while in the peace and stillness of these lovely buildings, and may you be touched and blessed by God as you do.

Love and prayers

Pauline

# June Church Diary

## Monday 1st June

10.30am: Time to Think Home Group  
Details from Phil on 832845



## Tuesday 2nd June

7.30pm: After Alpha Home Group  
Details from Richard on 832594



## Sunday 7th June: First Sunday after Trinity

8am at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill: 1662 BCP Holy Communion  
9.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley: Eucharist  
11.15am at St Peter & St Paul, Longbridge Deverill: Morning Worship



## Sunday 14th June: Second Sunday after Trinity

9.30am St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade: Family Eucharist  
10.30am at St Mary the Virgin, Kingston Deverill: Eucharist  
11am at St Mary's, Temple: Matins  
12pm at Old Sarum: Magna Carta Pilgrimage to Salisbury Cathedral with  
afternoon tea



## Tuesday 16th June

7.30pm: After Alpha Home Group  
Details from Richard on 832594



## Thursday 18th June

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



## Sunday 21st June: Third Sunday after Trinity

9am at St Mary's, Temple: 1662 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley: Family Worship  
10.30am at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill: Eucharist

## **Sunday 28th June: Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

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

10.30am at St John the Baptist, Horningsham: Patronal Festival & Eucharist



## **Monday 29th June**

10.30am: Time to Think Home Group

Details from Phil on 832845



## **Tuesday 30th June**

7.30pm: After Alpha Home Group

Details from Richard on 832594



## **Sunday 5th July: Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

8am at St Michael the Archangel, Brixton Deverill: 1662 BCP Holy Communion

9.30am at St Margaret's, Corsley: Eucharist

11.15am at St Peter & St Paul, Longbridge Deverill: Morning Worship

---

### **Fundraising**

Our May Fayre at Manor Farm, Corsley took place in the most wonderful setting and we were blessed with excellent weather. The event was very well attended and we are pleased to be able to report that we raised £1,206.56 for our church funds. We used the event to launch the major appeal to overhaul the bells at St Margaret's and the estimate for the necessary work is £12,000. If you want to donate to our bells appeal please contact either Dick Collins on 832789 or Keith Muston on 832755. Our thanks to Chris and Claire da Costa for allowing us to hold the May Fayre at Manor Farm, and all the many people who made the event happen!!

### **Magna Carta Pilgrimage**

On Sunday 14th June there will be a Pilgrimage from Old Sarum to Salisbury Cathedral. The event begins at 12 noon with live music and entertainment at Old Sarum. At 1.30pm there will be a short service. At 2pm the pilgrims move off on the short route to the cathedral. At the cathedral there will be a short service followed by afternoon tea. Transport wise parking is available at Old Sarum and buses will get you back to your car at Old Sarum after the event finishes. If you are not able to do the walk you are most welcome to join in the celebrations in the Cathedral Close.

If you can join us would you please let Marion Muston know (01373 839026 or cleyhilladmin@gmail.com) so that we can advise the Cathedral to assist their catering plans, and also so that we can make arrangements for transport from the Benefice to Salisbury.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to James Oates and Sally Leete who were married at St Margaret's on 22nd May.

## Young People

### Messy Church

Four or five times a year we hold a 'Messy Church' at Chapmanslade. These sessions last about two hours and begin with activities, a short worship, and finish with light refreshments. Our next Messy Church will be on June 28th when we shall be at the Chapmanslade BBQ on the village hall playing field.

### Open the Book

Several times a year a team from our churches go into Chapmanslade School and present a dramatised version of Bible stories. These occasions are much enjoyed by the youngsters and gives us the opportunity to spread the message in a simple and direct way.

### Children's Library

On September 19th we will be launching our children's library at St Margaret's. The library will work on an exchange and borrow basis. If you have any books in good condition suitable for children and young people we would be pleased to receive them.

### Church Services

We hold a Family Eucharist at Chapmanslade on the second Sunday each month and a Family Worship without Eucharist at St Margaret's on the third Sunday each month. We particularly welcome young people to these services. Please do not be put off by anxiety about little ones making a noise or wandering around.

### Confirmation

Preparation for confirmation is normally for young people in early teens and if you are seeking confirmation please contact any member of the clergy.

### Choir

Our little choir would be delighted to welcome any young person with a good singing voice. If you would like to join our choir please contact Marion Muston or Claire Tanner.

### Bell-ringing

For young people in early teens this is the ideal time to learn bell-ringing, a skill which you use for the rest of your life! Why not come along on a Friday evening and have a go!

### Serving

For a young person who attends church on a regular basis it is often a welcome move to get them involved in the service. One possibility is to learn how to serve. Young people often wish to have a job when they come to church!





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# Corsley WI May News



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

Cath Fricker explained the proposed campaign resolution to be put forward at the National AGM in June, which is 'This meeting calls on HM Government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and well-being'. The issue concerns the uneven, unfair and inconsistent access to NHS Continuing Care, which is provided free by the NHS for over 18s who are not in hospital, but who have complex ongoing health care needs requiring full-time care. Individuals assessed as having Social Care as opposed to Nursing Care, may have to pay for their care, as part of local authority social care and support. Social Care is both means-tested and needs-based and many older people with care needs are denied care or cannot access care because of over-subscription. After much discussion and hearing about members and their relatives' experiences of the system, a vote was taken and all members present were in favour of the resolution.

With no speaker at the meeting, after refreshments members enjoyed a game

of Hoy, with prizes for the winners. The competition for a sea shell was won by Charlotte Beswick, with Rosemary Collins second and Jean White, third.

The skittles team unfortunately lost their quarter-finals match in the league – they were not on top form on the night! However our scrabble team is ever-hopeful of a win in their league finals in June.

New events organized by the Wiltshire Federation are a Stone Curlew Safari, a summer flower workshop and the Micron Theatre production of 'Raising Agents' at Salisbury. Full details are available at our meetings. For those coming on the outing to Beaulieu on Thursday 18th June, please note that payment is now due. This trip is open to everyone and there are a few seats left on the coach. Please contact Carol on 01373 832446 if you would like to come.

The next meeting is on **Thursday 11th June** at 7.30pm in Corsley Reading Room, when Paul Jeenes, a local farmer, will give a talk about Aberdeen Angus and Waitrose. The competition is for a picture of a cow.

## 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	



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**Kaylee's top five**

# Tips to keep your pond thriving this summer

With those hanging baskets complete and looking bright and colourful, you're probably looking for something to be busy doing in your garden. Over the last few weeks I've begun to notice my dad going back and forth to our pond, I'm not sure what he's been up to so I thought I'd better get clued up on what makes a healthy pond and share with you what I have learned.

**1** If there's one thing most people can't stand when it comes to a pond is the presence of algae and blanket weed. I'm currently at school and for my GCSE biology one thing I do know is that light is good when it comes to the rate of photosynthesis. In simple terms, this means that the light enables the plant to undergo the processes that allow it to grow and remain healthy. However, what I now know is, when it comes to ponds, light isn't necessarily your pond's best friend. As the light levels increase, so does the algae. So the simplest solution is to create shade over your pond. The easiest and most attractive way to achieve this is by the use of pond plants.

**2** Targeting that pesky algae again, I have an alternative solution that will wave goodbye to green slime - live Daphnia. This live food has one simple task and that's to eat away at the algae, therefore maintaining a clear pond. It's a natural control and, even better, it's cheap!

**3** My last tip on algae is introducing snails into your pond. For example, snails such as 'Trap door' and 'Ramshorn'. These snails will act as your own little army and defend your pond from algae.

**4** Tip number four focuses on protecting the fish in your pond. There's one simple and easy solution other than a net which will do so - a decoy heron. Having a decoy heron will ensure that real herons pass on by; they are very territorial creatures, so when they spot the decoy they won't even consider stopping. You must remember to keep moving your heron; you can only outsmart the real thing for so long before it realises that your decoy heron is nothing to be afraid of. It doesn't have to be moved far, just a little distance every few days and it'll do its job just fine.

**5** Tip five is about pond pumps. If you do have a pump, it needs to stay clean. I know it's a job none of us like doing, but it's worth it to achieve the supply of oxygen needed to keep your pond healthy. Solar powered pumps are a great idea, using the sun's energy is a sustainable power source and helps you save money.

Maintenance and hard work done, it's time to sit back, relax and enjoy the natural wildlife your pond has to offer!

*Kaylee Evans  
Acres Supply Garden Centre, Corsley*



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## Chapmanslade Parish Council

# Parish Council Briefing

Phil Jefferson reports on the parish council's activities in May

Our May meeting, which was attended by around 30 residents, was our Annual General Meeting, at which our officers were elected for the next twelve months:-

Chairman	Phil Jefferson phil.jefferson@virgin.net	832845
Vice-Chairman	Dennis Barnard dennisandgwen@btinternet.com	832262
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator	vacancy	
Community Speedwatch Coordinator	vacancy	
Highways Liaison	Keith Muston themustons@btinternet.com	832755
Footpaths Liaison	Adam Oakley adam@oakleyfrome.co.uk	832437
Village Hall Representative	Adam Oakley	
Defibrillator guardians	John Lewis john.lewis@durnfield.co.uk	832875
Mains Gas contact	John Lewis	

Jill Willmot (832464 jillwillmot@hotmail.com) and Francis Morland complete our team of parish councillors and Minnie House (Julian\_house@o2.co.uk) is our Clerk.

Jill informed us at the meeting that she and Ian will shortly be moving to Warminster and that she is standing down as Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speedwatch Coordinator. In due course she will resign from the parish council, too. Jill and Ian have contributed a great deal towards improving our village over many years, not just through speedwatch and neighbourhood watch, but also as members

of the Chapcap environment group which pioneered litter picking, kerbside recycling and a number of other initiatives. Ian has also been a member of the unheralded team of residents who deliver the Bridge magazine to our homes on a regular basis. We'll be sorry to lose both of them from our village and we thanked them most warmly for all they have done.

This does, of course mean that we now have vacancies for speedwatch and neighbourhood watch coordinators. We do hope that someone will come forward to fill these very important roles as soon as possible.

## **Annual Report**

The parish council reported on the activities of the past year. It had been another busy year, dominated by the wind turbine issue, the Barbers Farm proposals, plans for the development of Thoulstone Park, plus a number of other planning applications (a total of 14), notably issues concerning Sienna's Valley in Huntenhull Lane. It had been a year in which the community had come together to share views and concerns about all these issues. You can read the Annual Report in full by visiting the village website – [www.chapmanslade.org.uk](http://www.chapmanslade.org.uk)

## **Barbers Farm proposals**

Hugo Haig and Jamie Adam from Lochailort Investments were present to give a progress report following concerns expressed by residents at last month's meeting. They told us that they had met each of these residents and that the plans had been altered accordingly, hopefully addressing neighbours' concerns.

37 properties are now planned, 80% of them 2 or 3 bedroomed and 11 would be in the 'affordable' category (i.e. available to rent or equity share). We were assured that the architectural style chosen is in keeping with the vernacular style for our village. You can check out the current plans on the village website.

We also highlighted the traffic survey which Lochailort had commissioned and agreed that a working group of residents, parish councillors and hopefully school representatives should work with the traffic consultants to explore possible solutions to our village's traffic issues. Again, the report is available on our website and if you would like to join this group, or possibly take part in a preliminary discussion, please contact Minnie House at [Julian\\_house@o2.co.uk](mailto:Julian_house@o2.co.uk).

## **Weight Restriction, A3098**

Wiltshire Council has stated that it proposes to make an order introducing an 18 tonne weight restriction through the village. At first sight this may look good news for us as the current 17 tonne limit is unenforceable. However, the parish council has decided to object to the proposal as, some years ago, Wiltshire made an order introducing a 7.5 tonne limit through the village, which we would have found much more acceptable, but which was never implemented. Wiltshire's explanation for this was that the 7.5 tonne limit was dependant on road improvements at the junction of the A350 and A303 being implemented. Our view is that it should be perfectly possible for our section of road to have the 7.5 tonne limit without linking it to proposals for other roads in west and south Wiltshire. If you would like to let Wiltshire have your views on this issue please contact the Sustainable Transport Group at County Hall either by letter or by their website quoting reference LJB/TRO/CHAP, before June 15th.

## **Sienna's Valley**

We reported that the owner's appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission to

[www.chapmanslade.org.uk](http://www.chapmanslade.org.uk)

extend the barn on the site had been turned down by the Planning Inspectorate. We are seriously concerned, however, about the delay in dealing with the retrospective planning application to site a static caravan at Sienna's Valley. The caravan has been there since last August and Wiltshire Planning Committee met in December to consider the application.

At the December planning committee meeting the parish council and residents living in the immediate area challenged the planning officer's recommendation that permission should be granted. The committee deferred a decision so that our objections could be given further consideration. Nearly six months have subsequently passed by and despite numerous requests for an explanation for this delay we have received no satisfactory answer.

## Thoulstone Park

We understand the application to house three residential caravans on the site has been withdrawn.

## Highways

**Clearwood View** Some months ago we asked Wiltshire Highways to repair the road surface beside Clearwood View. Balfour Beatty, their contractors, made a poor job of this and were told to come back and mend it again. The latest news from Wiltshire is that they are still waiting for Balfour Beatty to carry out the work. To quote our local highways officer, "I am really sorry this has taken so long to date – but unfortunately we in local highways are unable to influence the contractor's programming of works. The nature of the defect remains highly unsightly and delivers obvious poor riding qualities, but is shallow and within the 30mph limit

and therefore not hazardous." I'm not sure if cyclists would agree that it's not hazardous! We'll continue to press for this work to be done.

## Litter Picking

I announced a couple of months ago that after eleven years we were ending our monthly litter picks in the High Street. After that amount of effort and showing everyone, motorists particularly, that we do care about our environment it's now time for a different approach. Accordingly I'm delighted to be able to say that five volunteers have come forward, each of them offering to take responsibility for part of the village. They will do their litter picks in their own time. I do know that there are other residents who quietly pick up litter from outside their own homes and surely this is the best way forward. We can lend you the equipment if you would like to do your bit for our village.

Our next scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday 11th June**. There will be plenty to discuss so do come along, either to speak or to listen.

Phil Jefferson  
832845

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# Whitbourne Chapel

*Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6.6)*

Ron Stone knows the truth of the statement above. He and I are sitting on the sun terrace of a local farm shop waiting for our coffees to arrive. Ron is 95 and he's Whitbourne Chapel's oldest member and preacher; we're meeting to talk about his life and his faith.

I hand him some photos, shots taken recently along the river at Vallis Vale; we've taken to walking there on Wednesday afternoons, after visiting Coleford Day Club. As we sip our coffee and eat toasted teacakes with butter and jam, Ron tells me about his experiences with 44 Royal Marine Commandos, serving in Burma from 1943 to 1946.

The ship taking Ron and his fellow soldiers abroad came under air attack near Malta. Ron dived into one of the 'heads' on the ship, because that gave him access to a porthole should he need to escape. In his jacket pocket was a small Bible and there, in that cramped space, Ron held the Word of God and prayed. His Bible fell open at Isaiah, chapter 43:

*Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee...*

His ship wasn't hit and the troops arrived in Alexandria safely. However, the submarine 'Stonehenge', travelling with the convoy, was hit and sank.

Ron was a survivor of 'Hill 170' in the Arakan, a range of Burmese mountains.

Hill 170 was a battle involving hand-to-hand combat, not just guns, and Ron lost many of the friends he'd made in X Troop.

Throughout his time abroad, when Ron was in dugouts, listening to the rage of war around him, his thoughts turned to Vallis Vale. Before the war, he'd spent many happy hours walking along the river from the Vale to Mells and back. He often says he fought to preserve the way of life he'd known before he was called up. (to be continued...)



## Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary!

We were thrilled recently to have a visit from Fred and Sylvia Carpenter, who were members of Whitbourne Chapel for many years before moving to France a few years ago. They were back in England to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

It was lovely to be part of such a happy celebration. We sang the hymn 'Love Divine', which was one of the hymns Fred and Sylvia had at their wedding and the Chapel was decorated with daffodils, making the morning service a truly golden occasion.

Gill Redman  
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# Tales from the passenger seat



When I get a new pupil one of the questions they want an answer to is “How did I do?” I always like to give a pupil an idea of whether they are likely to be within my ‘normal’ bandwidth of how many lessons they’ll need. People vary of course: if everyone did as they were taught, they would all pass in the same amount of lessons.

I can usually tell in the very first lesson whether a person is going to be fine, crack on with it and not require a lot of lessons. It’s a mixture of how they are emotionally as well as physically. Generally though, even if a person is nervous, it is their physical ability that gives me an indication of their likely progress. Many people will be nervous initially, but once they have had a go, and realise they are actually not too bad at it, the nerves tend to disappear.

If a pupil is completely uncoordinated, incredibly nervous and displaying all the signs of probably needing more lessons than the average then, although I am at pains to point out they will still learn in as few lessons as possible, it is likely to be more than their friend or relative who I taught. If, however, a person is just generally nervous, a bit wobbly and not doing too well on their first lesson, then I tend to reserve judgement until the second lesson. This is because I often find that he or she may well be insecure the first time out, but during the second lesson as they become more at ease with controlling the car and are better able to take on

board what I am teaching them, then their confidence increases with their improved competence.

If someone wants to learn in a shorter time, then one of my condensed courses, or semi-condensed courses is a good idea. For many, these courses fit their circumstances, finances and desires perfectly. They are not paying more, simply learning in a shorter time. For others, having one lesson a week is emotionally the maximum frequency they can cope with.

Mind you, even the most coordinated pupil has to be able to ‘read the road’ and to apply rational anticipation. I recall a pupil who believed that it was a legal requirement to drive at exactly the speed limit, regardless of road conditions or hazards ahead. Another was very happy to tell me that they were able to judge the width of parked cars by studying the shadow it cast on the road and, so long as they avoided the shadow, they knew they were clear of the car. The angle of the sun clearly had no bearing on their calculation and heaven only knows what would happen if it was a cloudy day!

*Steve Dayman-Johns*

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# Countryside Matters

Helliar's happy happenings in hearty Herefordshire

As I am staying on my son-in-law's family farm in Pembridge, North Herefordshire for a few days, I thought it would be interesting to note the differences and similarities with Corsley and Chapmanslade.

The village is similar in size, has a church school, a thriving village shop and a farm shop. The River Arrow runs through the farm and village and great efforts are made by local volunteers to keep the river and its banks free of rubbish. Every year during February and March, a team come in to pollard the alder and willow trees up and down the river, helping the wildlife and preventing too many trees collapsing in the water, jamming up the bridges. Although the area is described as a flood plain this regular maintenance helps to avoid the devastation that we have seen on the Somerset Levels.

The crops of winter planted wheat and barley are looking good, the newly sown maize has suffered from the cold temperatures and look slightly yellow, but should be "knee high by the 4th of July" (an American saying that we have borrowed!). The area is well known for its apple and pear orchards which look wonderful at the moment as they full of blossom. Later in the year there is much activity with tractors and trailers transporting the apples and pears to the cider mills. There's also cherry farm here in the village, quite a rare sight these days –

here's hoping that there will be no late frosts to ruin the blossom.

There are a number of sheep farms in the area and some of the herds are kept in the fruit orchards until the fruit ripens, keeping the grass short around the trees. Soon all the adult sheep will be shorn to keep them cool in the warmer weather. Potatoes are another local crop grown commercially – they always look so tidy growing in long straight rows, bouted up to keep them weed-free and to protect the new shoots from late frosts.

Being in Herefordshire you will not be too surprised to hear that as well as a large dairy herd established in 1973, Barbara Norman is still managing a pure Hereford herd of cattle established on the same farm in 1780 (yes 235 years ago). Sadly, the Norman family no longer farms organically as the financial rewards became negative – even after 15 years of hard work. With the recent reduction in the price of milk to 19p per litre, it is obvious why so many dairy farmers are selling up.

I hope you have found my ramblings interesting, I feel very lucky to be able to share my time between the two lovely villages in Herefordshire and Wiltshire and the beautiful journey through the Wye Valley between them.

*Judith Helliar*



# The sea, the sea

**Caroline Le Vine, Counsellor in Corsley**

I don't get to the coast that often but, when I do and I catch that first glimpse of the water, it's always magical.

And I'd be surprised if it doesn't affect most of us in the same way. It's such a powerful response, I started to wonder why.

Most obviously, the seaside is for many a place of happy childhood memories: we remember relaxed fun-filled holidays; sunshine, laughter, treats. And as adults, we try to recreate that carefree feeling by returning.

It's also a place of possibility - we can see an empty horizon and we feel that beyond it lies adventure and excitement; other worlds, places to explore in reality or in our mind's eye. We have our backs to the routine of our lives as we face out to sea, craning towards the new, the exotic. And it doesn't just take us to another world; it is another world. We know more about the surface of the moon than we do about the bottom of the sea. The sea itself is mysterious.

Let's not forget that it is also deadly, though; capable of indiscriminate violence beyond all human proportion. It is far bigger and more forceful than we are. It commands respect and we can do almost nothing to control it. No wonder we feel simultaneously drawn to and awed by it. There is perhaps some comfort in accepting the idea that we are not the ultimate power on the planet; that we are at the mercy of nature just like the other creatures we share it with.

Dreams of the sea were said by Carl Jung to be connected with the subconscious, allowing us access to the very deepest and most hidden parts of ourselves if only we will dive in! Who knows what we may find there? Like the sea, our own potential is vast and unknown; both powerful and very beautiful.

Maybe standing on the shore somehow connects us all with as yet untapped possibilities. Enjoy!

*I practise at St Margaret's Church  
Deep Lane, Corsley  
le\_vine@sky.com  
07817 192008*

*[www.carolinelevine.co.uk](http://www.carolinelevine.co.uk) or find me on  
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## **Corsley Show 2015**

# **Tickets/membership for local residents**

This year we will be writing in early June to all those who bought tickets for the 2013 or 2014 show with full details and an application form.

Any local residents not getting a letter will be able to download an application form by going to this web address: [hdwebsites.wix.com/cssapp2015](http://hdwebsites.wix.com/cssapp2015) or can contact any committee member or Maz Moldon on 01373 832672.

A further reminder will be published in the July Bridge.

*Corsley Show Committee*



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10:45 - 11:00

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11:05 - 12:00

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Future dates for this round are:

**Thursdays 25th June,  
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### Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Evacuation of Dunkirk
- 2 Four
- 3 Theodore Roosevelt (42)
- 4 Stockton to Darlington
- 5 Igor Stravinsky
- 6 Rene Descartes
- 7 Random Access Memory
- 8 Jenny
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- 10 Pancreas (in the Islets of Langerhans)
- 11 Franz Hals
- 12 Iron cloth

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## Local organisation adverts

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