

The Bridge

June 2021



monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Wash hands | Cover face | Make space

It's not long until we're released from all the lockdown measures!, go to the fabulous Corsley House Open Garden, join the Corsley Parish Council, go to the PC meetings, borrow a book from the mobile library, there's a little bit more 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** 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 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 (Barters 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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Chapmanslade

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news from the ladies

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chapel colloquy

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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**

Diary Dates

June

Wednesday 2nd

Wiltshire Mobile Library – 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm,
Chapmanslade School

Monday 7th

Corsley Parish Council Quarterly Meeting – 7.30 pm, either via Zoom

Thursday 12th

Corsley WI – Mothers' Ruin: the history of gin!

Saturday 12th

Open Garden and Refreshments – 10 am to 12 noon, Chestnut Cottage, Chapmanslade

Monday 14th

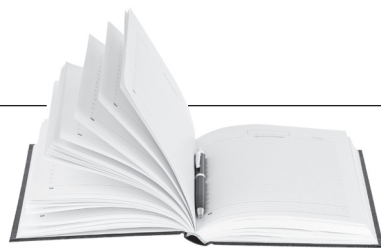
Deadline for receipt of applications to co-opt onto Corsley Parish Council

Wednesday 30th

Wiltshire Mobile Library – 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm, Chapmanslade School

Week commencing 28th

Corsley PC – Annual Parish Meeting – exact date to be confirmed



July

Wednesday 14th

Wiltshire Mobile Library – 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm,
Chapmanslade School

Sunday 18th

Corsley House Gardens Open Day – 11am to 4pm, garden open to the public (by timed ticket only)

Wednesday 28th

Wiltshire Mobile Library – 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm,
Chapmanslade School

August

Sunday 1st

Elizabethan Evening: HMS Pinafore – performances at 2 pm and 7 pm, Corsley Manor

Wednesday 11th

Wiltshire Mobile Library – 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm,
Chapmanslade School

Wednesday 25th

Wiltshire Mobile Library – 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm,

This is the correct date!

Corsley House Gardens

Open Day

Sunday 18th July 2021,

11am-4pm (timed bookings)

Teas, Coffees and Cakes

Rye Bakery Woodfired Pizzas and Pimm's Bar

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All proceeds to go to Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches



Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor John Lewis rounds up the PCs recent activities

Annual Parish Meeting (held virtually)

On 29th April, the Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish Meeting, summarising the activities of the last year. Formal reports were presented, which are all available on the village website. Topics covered included: planning, consultations, foot & cycle paths, parish steward, traffic & pavements, village hall and the Parish Plan.

Following the report summaries, Councillor John Lewis thanked the public for their attendance and their participation in the meeting. He recognised that there may be a need to consider ways in which the Annual Parish Meeting could be improved for the future, with the possibility of other groups reporting on their activities eg COVAG, Chicken Chasers, Brownies, Church, school, etc.

Parish Council meeting (held virtually)

Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, a Parish Council meeting was held, again chaired by John Lewis.

The following were discussed:

- The future of the village website and the important part it plays in our communication.
- Main Road resurfacing – a site visit with Wiltshire Highways to discuss the planned schedule for resurfacing the A3098 through the village is planned for June/July. The resurfacing is at present planned in two

phases with a start date for the first phase in October 2021.

- Four planning applications, 53 & 91 High Street and two for Thoulstone Farm were all discussed, and no objections were raised.
- Proposals for revising and updating the Parish Council website
- Discussion of the yearly audit process and documents to be completed took place and it was agreed that the council met the criteria for submission of the Certificate of Exemption and that the notice for the placing of the notice for public rights and the publishing of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is planned for 11th June.

Full draft minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council section of the village website www.chapmanslade.org.

John Lewis
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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Bob's bafflers

This month's theme is the TV series 'Dad's Army'

- 1 Which one in the platoon has the first name Charles?
- 2 What is Warden Hodges' nickname for Captain Mainwaring?
- 3 What is the name of Captain Mainwaring's wife (who we never see)?
- 4 Who is the only member of the cast to actually serve in the Home Guard?
- 5 According to the theme song for 'Dad's Army' sung by Bud Flanagan, what time does Mr Brown go off to town?
- 6 What is Chief ARP Warden Hodges' first name?
- 7 How far up the coast does the platoon patrol?
- 8 Why does Private Pike wear a claret and blue scarf?
- 9 What is the name of the Captain leading the Eastgate Home Guard, Mainwaring's platoon's arch rivals?
- 10 On the upper sleeve of the battle dress worn by the cast is a badge which shows the letters 'CP' over the figure '1,' supposedly representing a military formation... but it doesn't. What is the association with these letters?
- 11 What was the show originally intended to be called?
- 12 In the 1971 film of 'Dad's Army', which Bank is Captain Mainwaring the manager?

Answers on page 40

Urgent road closure

Wiltshire Council hereby give notice that on 1st June 2021, the following length of road shall be closed to all traffic in the interests of public safety to enable Wiltshire Council to carry out carriageway reactive patching and associated works: Whitbourne Springs, Corsley; from its junction with A362 to its junction with Longhedge. The alternative route will be via Longhedge - Temple - Sturford Lane - A362 and vice versa.

The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works.

These works will commence on 1st June 2021 and are anticipated to be required for one night between the hours of 7pm and 6am. This Notice will have a maximum duration of 5 days.

For further information regarding these works please contact 01225 713376.

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Corsley Tennis Club News



So while we are all wondering who to hug first, at the tennis club the dilemma is when to put the net winder back. They have not sagged too much due to regular checking by the member who undertakes general maintenance, but getting back to winding up is another privilege to be relished.

As you read this, the club's tournament season is already underway. The cups and shields don't get given out until later in the year but you may hear some cheering or notice a happy victorious team or individual as you pass the courts. Of course it's not the winning that matters but the taking part, so I know those of us facing defeat will take it in good heart as ever.

The numbers of children attending Jon Dilena's Saturday coaching groups have grown and he now plans to start an additional group from Saturday 12th June at 10.30 - 11.30.

He's starting that group by taking some of the members aged 10-13 from groups he is already running and we hope that older teenagers will also want to join the group, giving it a wider age span. For more information contact Jon at jondilena@gmail.com.

We are proud to have a men's team taking part in the Wiltshire league this year. As a new team they have to start at the bottom of the league but Paul, their captain is pretty convinced that enthusiasm and hard work will pay off, as the team fight their way up through the divisions.

I'll report next month on our Open Day at the end of the month, but we are really hoping lots of people will come along to that to revive their interest in tennis or give it a go for the first time.

The single court has been refurbished and is looking very smart. The double court will get that treatment later in the year.

In the meantime, it seems that tournament participants must take a plate of food to share so it's time to interrupt practice and dig out the baking tins (or pop to the shop)...

*Liz Garrett club secretary
enquiries@corsley-tennis.uk*

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Wiltshire Mobile Library

Chapmanslade School
Arrives 1.45 pm, departs 2.30 pm

Wednesday 2 June

Wednesday 16 June

Wednesday 30 June

Wednesday 14 July

Wednesday 28 July

Wednesday 11 August

Wednesday 25 August

Wednesday 8 September

Wednesday 22 September

Wednesday 6 October

Wednesday 20 October



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Corsley WI

June news

Eve Tigwell rounds up the May meeting, and announces some forthcoming events



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Members and guests of Corsley WI enjoyed another Zoom meeting in May; Chris da Costa regaled us with the history and tales of 'Life at the Manor'. In the 12th Century, Henry II granted Corsley the status of 'manor'; hence Manor Farm. In the early 1500s, the house was owned by Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset whilst he was Lord Protector to his nephew, Edward VI. When Edward Seymour was beheaded, it was given to his Steward, Sir John Thynne. Besides Manor Farm, he also built Somerset House (London), and Longleat House. Manor Farm stayed within the Longleat estate until after the war, and the Thynne coat of arms (a lion rampant) can still be seen (faintly) above the gateway. The original house was recorded as having 44 windows; exactly the same number as today. On buying Manor Farm, Chris and Claire got to work restoring it from a working farm (with animals living inside the house!), to its present state, including the restoration of the parterre with 800 box trees and mop heads. Fireplaces were opened up, and replaced in their original positions, wood panelling and windows were restored, and the whole house decorated in keeping with its age.

The restoration work revealed many fascinating marks on the stonework and woodwork.

Stonemasons' marks are not uncommon, but witches' marks and tallow-burns (to keep the house and those in it safe from harm) rarely survive this long.

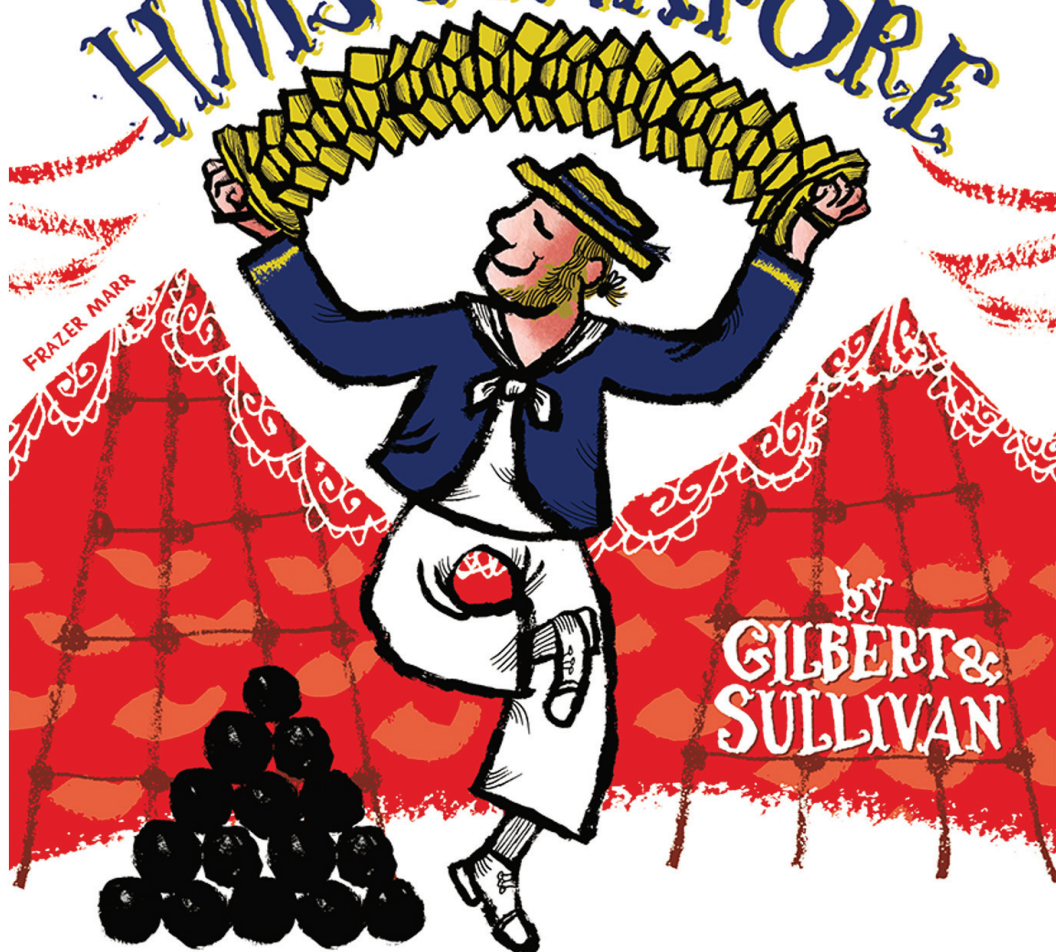
In 1580, Sir Carew Raleigh married Sir John Thynne's window and they lived in the house, entertaining many Elizabethan notables, including Sir Walter Raleigh, hence the Elizabethan evenings now held in the gardens, and the Shakespearean events in the barn. This year, the Illyria Theatre Company will be performing *Much Ado* about *Nothing* at Hayward House but the house will once again be the venue for Illyria Theatre Comany's *HMS Pinafore* on Sunday 1st August.

The next meeting is on Thursday 10th June when Milly, the Lady Historian will tell us all about Mothers' Ruin; the History of Gin!



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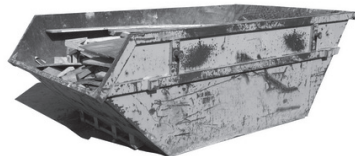
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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

I write on a day of unsettled weather where one minute the sun is shining and the next dark clouds have gathered and rain looks imminent. The blossom is still on the apple trees and I am praying that we do not get a sharp frost to scupper the promise of a bumper crop.

It is such a magical time of year and I am acutely conscious of how lucky I am to sit at my desk looking out at such glorious natural abundance; the unfolding leaves on the trees are just so joyous in their 'limey' green effervescence. And have you ever taken the time to look, really look, at a tree in blossom just before the light fades and darkness falls? One evening I stood looking out at the apple trees from my bedroom window, in the fading light looking down on the trees, the blossom stood out so beautifully like fairy lights in the gloom.

I'm doing an online course at the moment about how we interact with the natural world and how we can use mindfulness to deepen that experience and really appreciate the wonders that our creator has given us. The instructions for week two were: Walk mindfully – aware of what's around you. Engage senses: Noticing, listening, touching and smelling. Stop – when something catches your attention. Take in your subject with your senses, noticing any emotional response. Explore it: walk round it, get down to its level, get up close. Engage your senses.

I don't know about you but when I walk I usually do so at a good brisk pace, using the time to mull over problems or plan future events. I can honestly say that entering into the above process, walking very slowly and mindfully, really looking at my surroundings, getting down to the level of the bluebells, was a whole new experience, and I was filled with a deep appreciation of just how extraordinary the natural world is, and by association, how extraordinary our creator is.

John Muir writes: 'Everybody needs beauty, places to play in and pray in where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul'. In these uncertain times I would humbly suggest that we need that healing and strength more than ever. When we have too much to do or feel stressed and overwhelmed by the vagaries of life, it is easy to push away any thoughts of refreshment or quite contemplation, but time spent in this way is uniquely restorative.

I leave you with some words from John Clare, whose 'sauntering at a musing pace' fires his imagination to give us a sublime picture of the countryside that surrounds him (page 22).

With love and prayers,

Pauline

June Church Diary

This diary has been prepared on the basis that the Government's 'Road Map' is going to follow the original plan. Live services have resumed in both churches and St Margaret's Church will be connected on Zoom, for anyone not attending in person. All the necessary COVID-19 health protection measures are in place.

Sunday 6th June 1st Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion at Kingston Deverill

9.30am Eucharist at St Margaret's Corsley

10.30am Morning Worship at Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 13th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity

9.30 Family Communion at St Philip and St James Chapmanslade

10.30am Eucharist at Kingston Deverill



Thursday 17th June

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



Sunday 20th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Eucharist at Brixton Deverill

11am BCP Matins at St Margaret's Corsley



Sunday 27th June 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Eucharist at St Philip and St James Chapmanslade

10.30am Eucharist at Longbridge Deverill

Bird Competition

The Birds competition was won by Isabel Lewis. If anyone would like the answers, they can email me at suefearpcc@gmail.com.

Beans in Blossom

The south-west wind! how pleasant in the face
It breathes! while, sauntering in a musing pace,
I roam these new ploughed fields; or by the side
Of this old wood, where happy birds abide,
And the rich blackbird, through his golden bill,
Utters wild music when the rest are still.
Luscious the scent comes of the blossomed bean,
As o'er the path in rich disorder lean
Its stalks; when bees, in busy rows and toils,
Load home luxuriantly their yellow spoils.
The herd-cows toss the molehills in their play;
And often stand the stranger's steps at bay,
Mid clover blossoms red and tawny white,
Strong scented with the summer's warm delight.

John Clare

Dates for your diary

Church and Community Coffee Mornings restart

Continuing relaxation of the COVID-19 restrictions mean that we have decided to restart our very popular Church and Community Coffee Mornings. These are events where we gather at the Three Horseshoes Pub in Chapmanslade for coffee and a chat. Everyone in the community is welcome to come.

We plan to sit outside as long as the weather is OK. If it should be raining, and not enough covered seating is available, we may arrange to separate into groups of 6, to comply with inside dining regulations, which will be in place at least until 21st June.

Corsley House Garden Open to the public

All proceeds to go to Corsley and Chapmanslade Churches

There will be an Open Garden event at Corsley House on Sunday 18th July. This is a unique opportunity to see the amazing renovation and enhancements the owners have been undertaking. Entry to the event will be with a timed ticket.

11am-4pm (timed bookings)

To obtain a ticket please contact us either by
email – chogtickets2021@gmail.com or by phone on 01373 832 074

Tickets £5 (children free)

There will be guided tours of the kitchen garden and the historic outbuildings

Refreshments on offer – teas, coffees and cakes, Rye Bakery wood-fired pizzas and a Pimm's Bar.
There will also be a raffle, plant sale, Corsley House produce and entertainment for children with
Messy Church activities.

Don't miss the chance to view this superb garden!

Can you help?

We are in the process of looking at all we do in order to spread some of the workload out into smaller parts. These tasks cover the behind the scenes work, essential for us to be able to offer services, funerals, baptisms and weddings, along with all our work out in the community. If you feel you would like to volunteer some of your time to help with these vital functions, please contact any of the people mentioned in the parish contacts listed below.

Join the 50/50 Club!

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'	Ian Buick	01373 832318
St Margaret's	Currently vacant	01373 832803
Deputy Churchwardens		
St Margaret's	Currently vacant	
St Philip & St James'	Janet Aylesbury	01373 832752
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Ian and Janet Buick	01373 32318
Planned Giving Officer	Judith Helliard	01373 832803
Choir Leader	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
Tower Captain	Michael Attenborough	
50/50 Club	Neil Britten	01373 832515
After Alpha Home Group	Trudi Hopkinson	01373 832393
Time To Think Home Group	Renee Cole	01373 839008

Copy for Six Open Doors should be sent to Ian Buick at ibuickuk@gmail.com or by phone on 01373 832318. If you would like to receive weekly news of Church events and activities, please contact Ian

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6pm to 9pm

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No food

**Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday and Saturday**

12 noon to 3pm and 6pm to 11pm
Food served 12 noon to 3pm and
6pm to 9pm

Sunday

12 noon to 8.30pm
Food served 12 noon to 4pm

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Corsley Show 2021 and 2022

It was agreed a while back that it would not be possible to have the usual Corsley Show in 2021. The committee had been hoping to put on a small, village fête-style show this year in its place. Unfortunately, after much investigation, thought and debate, it has not proved possible for the committee to arrange a viable event this year.

It is hoped that the committee will be able to put on a 'proper' show in 2022 and it is anticipated that a meeting of all those interested will be held in September this year to establish the feasibility and rough format. The venue, time and date of that meeting will be advertised in The Bridge.

For the purposes of the AGM and any other votes required, those who were Corsley Show Society members in 2019 will have their membership extended for this year, as we extended it for 2020.

We would also like to express our thanks to Rob White who has left the committee, for his support to the show over 16 years in many capacities but especially for his many years being responsible for the trade stands and, more recently, as Vice Chairman.

Corsley Show Society/Ltd

Corsley Parish Council

Co-option to fill the PC vacancies

Corsley Parish Council is entitled to nine Parish Councillors. At the recent local government elections there were only seven nominations received and therefore these seven were automatically appointed to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has agreed that it would seek and fill the two vacancies by co-opting eligible candidates from the village.

Candidates should be registered electors in the Parish area, or if during the whole 12 months before co-option they have owned or been a tenant of any land or premises in the Parish, or if their principal or only place of work has been in the Parish, or if they have resided in the parish or within 4.8km of it. Candidates should also be over 18 at the time of co-option, should not be bankrupts and have not been in prison in the last 5 years.

Candidates who are interested in co-option should apply, by email or post, to the Parish Clerk, John Willcox. Candidates should attach a covering letter detailing relevant experience and some explanation of why they wish to join the Parish Council. The closing date for applications is 14 June 2021.

Prospective candidates are welcome to contact the Clerk or Neil Britten or Judith Helliar, both recent ex members of the Parish Council for an informal discussion about the responsibilities and time commitments involved.

Contact details

John Willcox corsleypc_jdw@aol.com
01373 832171

Little Orchard, Court Lane, Lyes Green

Neil Britten 01373 832515

Judith Helliar 01373 832803

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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

PC Clerk, John Willcox, rounds up the PC's activity in May

The first meeting of the 'new' Parish Council took place on Monday 17 May at St Margaret's Church. This was the first meeting since the local government elections on the 6th May. The meeting was chaired by the previous Vice Chair, Mike Butler, who opened the meeting by welcoming those councillors who were new to the Parish Council; David Ball, Judith Selman and Alice Helliard.

The first item of business was the election of the Chair of the Parish Council and we are grateful that Mike Butler agreed to take the chair. Neil Carpenter was elected Vice Chair. For the Parish Council to operate in the most effective manner it has been customary for named councillors to take the lead in specific areas. The following roles were agreed:

Planning	Olly Hares/Alice Helliard
Streetscene	David Ball
Footpaths	Alice Helliard
OSPF	Judith Selman

Further roles are likely to evolve as the needs of the parish are identified.

Planning application

PL/2021/03436 Proposed first floor extension/alteration to existing roof line and roof finish at 52 Dertford, Corsley, BA12 7NP

No objection was raised to this application

Co-option to the Parish Council

Following the elections, the Parish Council has two vacancies. It was agreed that the Parish

Council would seek and fill the two vacancies by co-option. The current Parish Councillors are keen to encourage parishioners to apply with a view to contributing to the governance and progress of the parish. The vacancies will be advertised widely in the village along with the procedure to be followed by prospective co-optees. The notice will go up on the village notice boards, on the village Facebook page, The Bridge website and on page 24 of this edition of The Bridge. Applications are to be received by 14th June with applications considered at an occasional meeting of the PC to take place on the evening of and immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting

Audit

The payments and receipts statement for 2020/2021 had been approved at the meeting of 26 April. The audit has been arranged.

Replacement of the Corsley Heath bus shelter

Readers will know that this has featured a number of times in Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council make no apology for this. The bus shelter is in a prominent place in the 'centre' of the village and the council feel that any shelter should be in keeping and at the same time provide value for money. It was agreed that there should be further discussions on the materials to be used in its construction.

Annual Parish Meeting

It is hoped that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the week beginning 28th June. It is proposed to invite our new County

Councillor, Bill Parkes, and a representative of the Reading Room committee as the guest speakers. This is the opportunity for the village to hear what the PC has done on their behalf in the previous year and to voice any concerns and issues they may have. Details of the date and venue will be circulated when these have been finalised. IF the current government roadmap for getting back to some sort of normality remains then it will probably be in the Reading Room, if the existing rules remain then an alternative venue will be explored.

The Chair concluded the meeting with a tribute to those councillors who had stood down at the election. Their energy,

commitment and professionalism were much appreciated and contributed significantly to the life of the village.

Dates of next meetings

(as currently planned)

Annual Parish Meeting w/c 28th June (tbc)

Quarterly Meeting 6th September (pending)

Quarterly Meeting 6th December

Meetings to be held in the Lower Room at Corsley Reading Room and will begin at 7.30pm)

John Willcox

Parish Clerk

corsleypc_jdw@aol.co.uk

01373 832171

Much Ado About Nothing

Why not take advantage of the better weather and the easing of guidelines by attending an outdoor performance of the Shakespeare classic, Much Ado About Nothing, by internationally acclaimed theatre group, Illyria, in the picturesque grounds of Heywood House in Westbury.

In previous years, this event would have been held at Manor Farm, Corsley, but in order to lift restrictions on numbers, as well as removing any COVID-19 concerns, the show moves from the indoor playhouse at Corsley to the outdoor Coach Pit at Heywood House this year.

Heywood House is a classic country estate, transformed into dedicated offices and co-working space for the business community. The estate is situated in 30 acres of glorious grounds and parklands and benefits from stunning views of the Westbury White Horse and beyond.

Heywood House has a fascinating history of over 400 years, from its founder, Sir James Ley to an auxiliary war hospital, to The National Trust's Finance Director. With links to Shakespeare himself, one of

the previous owners, Sir Henry Danvers, is thought to have been the inspiration behind some of Shakespeare's greatest plays, due to a local dispute between two feuding families becoming an international fiasco and resulting in the Danvers brothers being exiled to France!

This will be a Gala Performance to celebrate the opening of a specially designed theatre, to the east of the mansion, situated behind the stunning walled garden, converted from a pit where previous owner, Baron Ludlow, once had his coach and horses washed after a long journey.

Come enjoy the show, stroll around the grounds, enjoy a cream tea, soak up the history, and sip on a prosecco in the interval whilst hearing more about the story and the link between historic Heywood House and William Shakespeare. The gates open at 2pm, with the performance beginning at 3pm, please bring along your own chair or picnic rug to sit on.

For more information and to book tickets, visit www.theelizabethanplayhouse.com

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Tickets: £16 Adults, £12 Children (9-15)



Memories of Corsley School

Working parties

David Ball recalls his tenure as Headteacher at Corsley School...

Easter 1986 and the school had only 39 children on roll. This number would be lower in September, with more Year 6 children leaving than Infants joining. As a result school staffing was being reduced from three teachers to two, meaning one class for all juniors and one for all infants. A far from ideal scenario



for teachers, parents and children. Boo(our excellent infant teacher) and I thought improving the school interior might impress prospective parents, the interior state of the school certainly needed some attention. The classrooms all needed re-decoration, plaster was crumbling in the entrance lobby, there weren't enough display boards to showcase children's work and re-organisation of furniture was going to be necessary when three classes became two. There were two choices open to us, wait several years to get these non-urgent repairs or do it ourselves.

We appealed in the weekly school

Newsletter for volunteers to come in on Saturday morning and form a 'working party' to help Boo and myself re-decorate the classrooms and carry out minor repairs. We used some cash from the School Fund to buy paint and brushes, plaster, etc and crossed our fingers! I got to school early on Saturday morning and wrote a list of jobs on a blackboard and hoped that enough parents would 'sign up' for these tasks – otherwise it could take several weeks to get everything done. I need not have worried, almost every family in the school was represented by at least one parent and we got the whole list of jobs done by lunchtime. It was a fantastic



community effort and showed me just what a great bunch of supportive, caring parents we had.

That's not to say everything went completely smoothly of course, about an hour or so into the morning a worried mum came

to me and said “You ought to go and check on the two men working in the entrance lobby, they seem to be arguing”. As I walked over to the entrance lobby I could hear some raised voices and there appeared to be a heated discussion about the best way to carry out the removal and replacement of the flaking plaster on the lobby walls. One voice was Keith Snelgrove and the others was Mike Taylor, both parents of children in my class and both builders! As I knew Keith was a school Governor and had in fact been on the interview panel that appointed me, I thought to myself ‘I need to be a bit diplomatic here’ What I didn’t discover for five or ten minutes was that both men were a) practical jokers, b) great friends and c) just ‘winding me up’. There was of course no problem with the replastering work, they just thought they would test out the new Head!

One working party led to several others over the years. Just before my arrival the top junior children had designed a low brick ‘zig-zag’ wall separating the school playground from the grassed area of the school garden, as part of a Design Technology task with my predecessor Sue Jackson. We decided to build it using a ‘Working Party’, we actually needed two Saturday mornings and an evening to get the job done, but it was great fun! Another lengthy enterprise was building an ‘Adventure Playground’ just beyond the newly completed zig-zag wall. We saved thousands of pounds building it ourselves with the help of so many talented and enthusiastic parents and the children loved it.

The school was indeed so fortunate to have so many caring and willing families who regularly turned up for working parties and fund raising - the Taylors, Snelgroves, Knights, Horsfalls, Whites, Richards, Forwards, Selmans, Deverills, Rutty's, Lewins, Princes, Pearces, Allums and all those my hazy memory cannot recall – abject apologies and thank you all!

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Carer Support Hospital Liaison Service

If a patient on a hospital ward has a family member or friend looking after them, the carer can be referred to the new Carer Support Hospital Liaison Service. The service has been set up to relieve the pressure on hospital staff – so please do use it!

**Carers hotline
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csw.admin@nhs.net**

This service can:

- act as a point of contact for carers alongside the ward nurse
- provide information about support and resources for carers
- signpost carers to other sources of information and support
- provide training and support to help with discharge.

This service applies to all carers, including young carers (5-18) and young adult carers (18-25). You can refer a carer, with their permission, or give the carer the hotline number to call themselves. Carers can also contact the Hospital Liaison Team by email, or online:

**HospitalTeam@
CarerSupportWiltshire.co.uk
or
www.CarerSupportWiltshire.
co.uk/hospital**

Walking through lockdown

The Kennet and Avon Canal



Let's try a walk at Bradford-on-Avon this month. If there's been recent rain, have wellies with you and, if it's a hot day, bottled water will be useful, as there aren't any outlets once you join the canal towpath. If you have children with you, try taking a picnic for when they're hungry! And there aren't any toilets available, so stop at the Sainsbury's store first!

Enter Bradford-on-Avon from the Wingfield direction and park up on Moulton Drive, checking carefully that you aren't on a double-yellow-line stretch before you leave your car; the lines aren't always easy to see. The canal is behind the grass and trees, while the other side of the road is all housing.

Join the canal towpath and turn left, away from the town. Soon you'll pass under a canal bridge; study the towpath and you'll find metalwork embedded in it; this means there was originally a lock here, with a gate at each end of the bridge.

After the bridge and across the canal itself,

you'll see a boatyard and, not long after that, there are steps down from the towpath to your left; you'll be using those on your return.

Watch out for cycle traffic, ahead and behind. This is a busy path, so not one I'd recommend for weekend walking, but the walkers and cyclists reduce in number the further from town you go.

After a mile-and-a-half (my estimate!) you'll see a sign at your left for Widbrook Woods, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust site. The view from the towpath is inviting, of open grass and the River Avon in the distance. If you're aren't ready for turning back to town yet, DON'T! Walk on, as far as you want; I think the towpath goes to Hilperton Marina, or to Trowbridge, eventually. Simply return to this point, Widbrook Woods, when you want to return to the car.

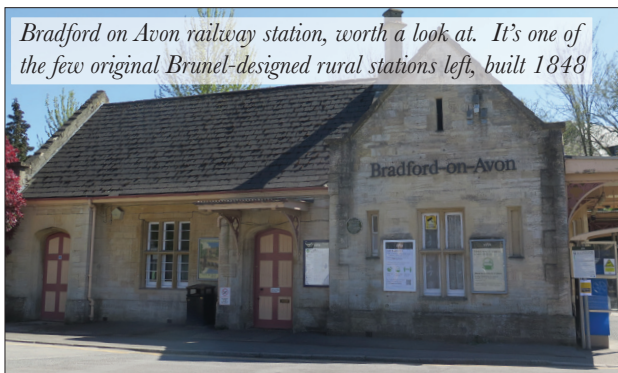
Enter the Trust site through the gate and rest, if needed, on the bench. Enjoy your picnic here, if you brought one with you.

The beauty of this area is the tree-cover; there's very little shade on the towpath. When you're ready, wander down the slope ahead and explore. There's an oasis here, with trees in and around a pond (unless it's dried up, of course). Walk the various tracks and you should finish up alongside the Avon river. This is a truly beautiful spot.

To get back to your car, return first to the foot of the grassy slope you came down and take the mud path on your right; be sure it's the path at the foot of the slope, as I'm not sure where the others go!

You're now walking in shade, with the canal up the bank on your left. The mud track widens and you'll pass metal 5-bar gates now and then. At one point, there's a stream on the left, with water running into it from the right. Follow this leafy trail quite a distance, perhaps a mile or more, before you come upon two wooden 5-bar gates with 'Private' signs on them. To your left, now, should be a few steps up to a wooden kissing gate, with the canal beyond. Turn right here and the boatyard's across the far side of the canal. Walk under the canal bridge and keep going; every now and then, you'll see steps on the right, they

Bradford on Avon railway station, worth a look at. It's one of the few original Brunel-designed rural stations left, built 1848



take you up to the grassy area beside the road, where you parked your car. In distance, this walk's about three miles.

If you're hungry and thirsty, but still have energy, stay with the towpath and it'll take you to the edge of town, where you'll find a café doing food and drinks; there are also public facilities nearby, if they're open. The barge Barbara McLellen is beside the café, with details of the trips available, if you'd like to try that.

If you need more than a snack, drive into Bradford-on-Avon itself, turning left into the Station Car Park (cash is needed for parking). Harlees fish and chip shop (yummy!) is there as you turn in; if you like curry sauce with your chips, try theirs!



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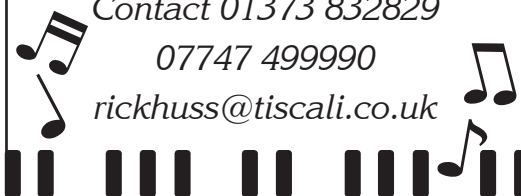
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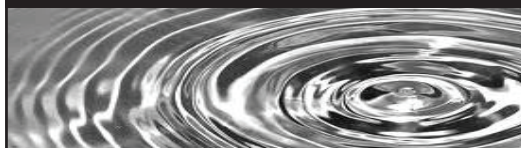
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Whitbourne Chapel

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Psalm 34:8

Preachers for June:

- 6th Chris Gadd, Somerset Gospel Outreach
- 13th Russell Short from Clink Evangelical Chapel
- 20th John Hobson, writer of this month's article
- 27th Jim Short, from Good News (formerly Gideon's)

How is your taste?

Recently, I was enjoying the freedom of having a coffee outside the restaurant at the Lakeside Garden Centre, Crockerton.

As well as the taste and aroma of coffee, my senses were delighted by the signs of spring such as the flowers in bloom, the warmth of sunshine, and even hiding among the bags of compost a baby rabbit having its safe place invaded by the return of human beings.

One of the effects of COVID-19 (long COVID?) is the loss of taste and smell. A friend of my wife and I, who has had COVID, still has no sense of taste and smell. He's unable to enjoy a plate of steak and chips or even tell when food has gone off. I wonder, how often do we stop and give thanks to God for our senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch – and think of those who have lost the use of one or more of those senses?

The psalmist in Psalm 34 likens our sense of taste to having a living relationship with God.

He says "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man [or woman] who takes refuge in him!" (v. 8, ESV). The psalm speaks of the many benefits for the person who has taken refuge in the Lord, such as being delivered from our fears and troubles (vv. 6, 19), having God's eyes toward us (v. 15), His ears open to our cries (v. 17), and His nearness to the broken hearted (v. 18), and that He redeems us (v. 22).

Have you tasted and seen that the Lord is good? His goodness towards us begins with repentance – turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it (v. 14) – and in putting our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who died to save us from that greatest of trouble – the judgment of God against our sin.

When you do so, you will find your senses are renewed, as George Wade Robinson puts it in his hymn, 'Love with

Everlasting Love':

*Heaven above is softer blue,
earth around is sweeter green;
something lives in every hue
Christless eyes have never seen:
birds with gladder songs o'erflow,
flowers with deeper beauties shine,
since I know, as now I know,
I am His and He is mine.*

John Hobson

Visiting preacher at Whitbourne Chapel

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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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Looking back to spring 2020 when we were thrown into a completely new world...

A worldwide COVID-19 pandemic

- “Stay home, stay safe” became the new buzz words
- Little or no contact with family and friends
- The traffic noise diminished as people worked from home and only food and medical needs were a reason for anyone to leave their home
- The sky became empty of all but essential air traffic
- Children were all home-schooled
- Business communications were suddenly having to use Zoom rather than flying all over the world for conferences.

Let's hope that as life returns to some normality we all learn to look after our world and our environment a bit better.

Many changes can be seen locally with farmers and land owners diversifying:

- Farm buildings are being converted into offices, storage units, holiday lets and homes
- Retailing milk and milk products direct to the public
- The craft of building shepherd's huts commercially from scratch which would not have been done for well over a century.

We must appreciate the necessity for these changes of use of our countryside, but remember that the land and the buildings are there to produce our food as well, otherwise the carbon footprint for food will only increase.

The weather, as usual, has dictated activity on the farm, the cold nights of April stopped the grass growing for both grazing and harvesting. The heavy showers in May delayed silage-making by at least seven to ten days; the sun and wind is needed to dry up the ground to stop compaction of the soil as the farm vehicles cut and collect the grass for silage – the sun also improves the natural sugars in the grass silage.

The wildlife in the countryside has also been affected by the cold wet weather, with the first hatchings of birds suffering from lack of insects. Although the swallows, house martins and swifts are back with us, their battle to cross the Sahara, avoid the shot of the Mediterranean sportsmen and then to arrive in cold wet weather has meant they have a shorter breeding season.

An early riser reported the cuckoo calling on 10th May, do listen out for its welcome call for the next few months. The adult cuckoos will head back south by the end of July/early August leaving its young to be cared for by foster birds.

Do look out for young hares and deer as they nestle in long grass close to where they are born and try not to disturb them; their parents know where they are.

Mid-summer's day will soon be with us and hopefully some lovely long sunny days to enjoy outdoors.

Judith Helliar

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

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

Re-opening/hiring charges

Booking now, for events after 21st June. We will refund any payments if COVID-19 restrictions return and mean the event cannot be held. Events until 21st June are limited to those allowed under the COVID-19 restrictions, please see our website for details.

To support our regular users in returning and to encourage local residents we are pleased to be able to reduce our hire fees to 50% until 1st January 2022. We are able to do this due to grants received as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FREE Coffee Morning

If all goes to plan with the removal of restrictions from 21st June, then we will restart the monthly coffee mornings on Tuesday 6th July at 10am with FREE coffee/tea and biscuits for all! Come and meet forgotten village members!

Reading Room survey/village hall project

Thank you to everyone who completed the Reading Room survey by the 15th May. Especially those who also added comments; it is much appreciated. It is impossible to be precise, but it seems 20 - 25% of households took part. The numerical results were published on the Reading Room website on 17th May and remain available. If you still want to express your view then the survey remains open and such responses will be kept separate.



The Reading Room Management Committee met on 20th May and discussed the results. It is clear that people value having a village hall of some sort and that they would like to see it be based on the existing building, ideally with additional land acquired to address the issues raised, most notably parking.

The Trustees will now proceed on the basis that the village will want to support improving the Reading Room for the foreseeable future.

If the Annual Parish Meeting goes ahead as planned on 28th June, the matter will be presented there. (See the Reading Room website for confirmation nearer the date)

See website www.corsleyreadingroom.org for more details on all the above and more. To hire, see the website or call Gill Parkinson (01373 832322) to discuss.

Hugh Deed

Chairman of Management Committee

Chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org

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

Electric bike – foldaway electric bike has had little use and is in good order. Comes with battery charger and cable, bag on back rack, small lights, stand and bag to put it in. Five gears, four power settings and 20” wheels– **£325 ono**

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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!

Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Private Godfrey
- 2 Napoleon
- 3 Elizabeth
- 4 John Laurie/Fraser
- 5 8.21
- 6 William
- 7 As far as the novelty rock emporium
- 8 Ian Lavender, who played him, is an Aston Villa fan
- 9 Captain Square
- 10 What this badge actually represents are the initials of the writers' surnames, Croft and Perry
- 11 The Fighting Tigers
- 12 Martins – in the TV series he was sometimes shown as the manager of the fictitious Swallow Bank

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 (Barbers Plant Centre or Acres Supply Garden Centre) by **4pm** on the **19th** of the month. Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Annual trade advertisements (12 issues, when space is available)

1 space	(69mm wide x 33mm high)	£22.00
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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