The Bridge

November 2026

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade



Pay your respects on Armistice Day, get quizzing at two quiz nights, buy some fab gifts at the Makers Market, attend lots of AGMs and two PC meetings, have a sparkling Bonfire Night, there's lots to do in November...

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

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

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

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

Events/local organisation ads (churches, clubs, playgroups, etc) are £2.50 per month for a boxed advert.

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

If you are advertising, don't forget to take the fee – cash or cheque in a sealed envelope please, to either of the drop-off points (Barters Plant Centre or Acres Supply). We can also take BACS transfers – please email the Editor for all the info.

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising
Please see information on the last page.

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Deadline

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

Please note that no items will be accepted after this date

Diary *Dates*



November

Wednesday 4th
Coffee Morning (run by the Lite Bites team) – 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Corsley Memorial Playing Field AGM – 7 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 5th
Bonfire Night – don't forget to shut your pets indoors and house outdoor animals securely

Saturday 7th
Makers Market – 10 am to 4 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

More Bonfire Night events are inevitable – shut your pets indoors and house outdoor animals securely

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

Wednesday 11th
Armistice Day

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

Corsley Reading Room Annual General Meeting – 7.30 pm

Thursday 12th
Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Friday 13th
Quiz Night – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Monday 16th
Corsley Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 18th
Corsley Fayre Annual General Meeting – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

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

Wednesday 25th
Lite Bites Soup Lunches – 12.30 to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

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

Friday 27th
Friday Night Club – 6 to 8 pm, Corsley Memorial Playing Field

Saturday 28th
Fun Quiz with the 2 Bobs – 7 for 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

2026 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Armistice Day – Wednesday 11th November

Last year, thanks to your generous donations, Corsley and Chapmanslade raised £2290.41 during the Poppy Appeal.

This year our local collectors will be visiting as many houses in the villages as possible until Saturday 7th November. If you are out when they call, they will leave an envelope with a date of a return collection. Unfortunately we don't have enough volunteers to cover every house, however you can still source your poppies locally from Acres Supply or one of the pubs.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) believes everyone who has served in the British Armed Forces, and their dependants, deserve support for the rest of their lives.

Every year, tens of thousands of veterans, serving personnel, and their families, turn to the RBL for help. It could be with money or housing problems, physical and mental health challenges, help caring for a loved one, loneliness, or a family breakdown.

Whatever the need, whenever it's needed, the RBL will be there providing practical support and expert guidance. The RBL is completely reliant on the generous donations of the public to continue our vital work.

Wearing your poppy shows you care and lets the Armed Forces community know their service is recognised and their unique contribution will never be forgotten.

This will be my last year as the Poppy Appeal Coordinator for the two villages. I have really enjoyed being part of the RBL's Poppy Appeal and am so grateful to all the volunteers and to everyone who has given so generously over the years.

If anyone would be interested in taking over please contact me, details below.



Jackie Jasper
Poppy Appeal Coordinator
(Corsley and Chapmanlade)
07816 231442

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Wednesday 11th November

Wednesday 25th November

Wednesday 9th December

Wednesday 23rd December

2027

Wednesday 6th January

Wednesday 20th January

Wednesday 3rd February

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Village Hall News

Our survey to help us plan for the next ten years is well underway. Thank you to everyone who has responded so far. Your feedback is helping us build a picture of what you would like to see at the Village Hall and Memorial Ground. Make sure you have your say before the survey closes! Simply visit **www.chapmansladevillagehall.co.uk** and click on the big blue SURVEY button and tell your neighbours.

If computers aren't for you, please contact me on the number below and I'll arrange a printed copy of the survey.

In late September, we showed the film People's Emergency Briefing, followed by an interesting discussion. Although we had a good turnout, we were disappointed that relatively few younger people (under 50) attended. We really want to engage with everyone in our community and would be happy to arrange another showing, or even two! Please get in touch by text, WhatsApp, email or even pigeon post if you have any ideas about how we can involve everyone.

This month, we have the **Fun Quiz with the 2 Bobs** on **Saturday 28th November,** complete with a delicious supper, Christmas raffle and bar. Further details are on our website, and tickets can be booked online now.

And finally, a date for your diary **Natural Chapmanslade – Saturday 23rd January 2027**. It's already shaping up to be a packed and engaging evening, with talks from local enthusiasts and experts about **flower meadows** and how they connect with the wildlife and natural world around us. Naomi and Batman Adam will also share more fascinating insights into **bats and their habitats**. Add delicious food and a bar, and it promises to be a great evening out!

Adam Oakley
07504 192656
chapmansladevillagehall@gmail.com

Corsley Fayre

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18th November
7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

The committee, having provisionally agreed to stage the Fayre on Saturday 23rd August, are cognisant of the need for sufficient volunteers to help run the event. The final decision on whether the Fayre goes ahead in 2027 will be made at this meeting. Whether you have ideas, suggestions, comments or concerns, we'd love to hear from you. Perhaps you could even spare a little time to help with the organisation. The future of the Fayre depends on local people getting involved. Come along, share your views and help us decide whether the Fayre can return in 2027. Everyone is welcome – your support could make all the difference!

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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Phil Holihead reports on the PC's last two meetings

This briefing covers the September and October meetings of Chapmanslade Parish Council. Both meetings were quorate and, as usual, had a very small attendance from members of the community.

September – key points

During the opening opportunity for members of the public to speak or raise questions, road safety featured prominently. Concerns were raised about vehicles speeding through the village, including a recent Speed Watch recording of a vehicle travelling at 51mph. The possibility of extending the 30mph restriction near Barters Farm towards Westbury was also raised.

Further concerns related to vehicles turning right across the A36 to access the slip road towards Hesdin Hall, together with other potentially unsafe crossing points for pedestrians and vehicles. Councillors were also informed of a recent incident in the centre of the village where a motorbike caught fire, leaving damage and debris on the road. The Chair agreed to report the issues raised.

A member of the public mentioned the Village Hall Trustees are developing a plan to guide developments over the next ten years, and a public consultation had very recently commenced.

Matters arising

Short Street

The new signs have now been installed following some initial delays. New road markings are still awaited. Concerns were also raised about the condition of the A3098 between Short Street and the Chalcot House entrance, particularly the potential hazards posed to cyclists and pedestrians by uneven road surfaces.

Parish Steward

A new Parish Steward has been appointed and will visited Chapmanslade on 24th September. A list of priority tasks had been prepared. Councillors also recorded their thanks to the previous Parish Steward for his hard work and valued support for the village.

Emergency and resilience planning

An update was provided following a volunteer training session hosted by Corsley Parish Council, which included discussion on flooding prevention and First Aid. Work continues to develop straightforward emergency information for Chapmanslade residents and to consider equipment and resources that could support community resilience.

Parish Plan

Councillors reviewed the Parish Plan and discussed future priorities for Chapmanslade. These included:

- Improving roads and pavements, litter picking and grass verge cutting
- Improving the accessibility of rural footpaths
- Exploring opportunities for children's play equipment and basketball posts on the Memorial Field
- Strengthening emergency and community

Please mention **The Bridge** when responding to adverts

resilience arrangements
- Preserving and archiving historical information about the village.

Councillors also discussed the potential development of a formal Neighbourhood Plan. Following consideration of the advantages and disadvantages, it was agreed not to progress this at the present time.

Finance and CIL funding

Councillors reviewed the latest financial position and approved a number of payments.

- A further formal request for CIL funding from the Church was considered. It was agreed to hold this request to provide an opportunity for other organisations to submit formal requests for consideration.
- An informal request for a bus shelter close to the Three Horseshoes was also discussed. Councillors noted that external funding for bus shelters is no longer available through the Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group and that other bus stops in the village could potentially require similar provision. It was therefore agreed that this was not something the PC could facilitate at the present time.

October – key points

Matters arising

30mph limit

Consultation with Wiltshire Council had advised that there were insufficient dwellings east of Barters Nursery to warrant an extension to the 30mph limit.

Hesdin Hall

The Hall had been approached and had welcomed the feedback and undertook to update their guest booklet to emphasise the dangers of turning across the A36.

Road between Short Street and Chalcot House

Wiltshire Council had looked at the issue regarding the road edges being hazardous to cyclists but found there were no grounds for any remedial action.

Mirror embedded in the road – High Street

This has been reported and the site will be repaired and the embedded mirror removed.

Parish Steward

The new Parish Steward had made his first visit and had made good progress on many of the jobs that had been identified. This is a welcome start, and if you see the Steward about his business, do please show your appreciation. Councillor Colin Bell is the point of contact for all Parish Steward business.

Planning applications

PL/2026/03093 and **PL/2026/05976** *Full and Listed applications for the upgrading of the solar panels at Huntenhull Farmhouse.*

There were no objections to these applications

PL/2026/05762 *Variation of Condition 2 to* ***PL/2023/05142*** *Design change to exterior of dwelling at Sienna's Valley Farm.*

After extensive discussion the decision was to further review the application after a clarification from the Planning Officer.

Parish Plan

The Council felt that there had been sufficient changes since the last planning period that a new planning period should be undertaken. It was proposed to send questionnaires to establish the community's priorities after which a planning team would be established to bring together the findings. This can only be achieved with wider community engagement and input from those who want to have an impact on how Chapmanslade moves forward and help the Parish Council to prioritise how it spends your tax.

To give an idea of how much the plan drives the PC's business you only have to look at the work that has been done to fulfil Parish Plan top concerns regarding roads and footpaths in the last few years:

- High street resurfaced
- Safety zone established outside the school

- Weight limit reduction pushed forward after 20 years' delay
- New access gates procured to replace stiles on footpaths (ongoing work)

Remembrance Sunday
The Council agreed to donate £150 to the Earl Haig Fund and took delivery of this year's poppy wreath. Remembrance Sunday is on 8th November 2026. See you there.

Next Parish Council meeting
The next Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting will take place on **Thursday 12th November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**.

All members of the Chapmanslade community are warmly encouraged to attend. Your voice is important and very much valued, and your participation helps ensure the Parish Council continues to represent the needs and priorities of our village.

Further information, including meeting minutes and updates, can be found on the Parish Council website:
www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

For enquiries, please contact our excellent Parish Clerk at:
clerk@chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Did you know?

Your household waste must be disposed of correctly. If you're giving it to someone else, you must make sure that they're legally allowed to take it. You could be fined if you give your household waste to someone who is not legally allowed to take it.

Checks you need to do if you use a private waste company
What you need to do depends on if you're using someone else to get rid of your waste, for example, a skip company or house clearance service OR getting rid of your waste yourself.

If someone is getting rid of your waste for you
- If you use a private business that provides a waste collection service, you must check the company is on the register of waste carriers. You need to select 'upper tier'.
- If you're giving your waste to a scrap metal collector, you can also check that they're on the register of scrap metal dealers.
- If you arrange for a charity to collect items, you must check the charity is on the register of waste carriers. You need to select 'lower tier'.

If you're getting rid of your waste yourself
If you're taking your waste to a private waste site, you must check the site has either:
- an environmental permit for waste operations
- a registered waste exemption.

Ask the company that runs the site for their permit number or exemption registration number. Check the number against:
- the Environment Agency's register of environmental permits for waste operations
- the Environment Agency's register of waste exemptions
- or do a check through Wiltshire Council.

If you give your waste to someone who cannot legally take it and you did not do the necessary checks on them, you might have to pay a fixed penalty notice to Wiltshire Council. This could happen, for example, if something that has been fly-tipped (dumped illegally) is identified as yours.

Using a tradesperson
Your construction/renovation tradesperson is responsible for removing any waste and disposing of it correctly.


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Bob's bafflers

1 Where in London would you find Poet's Corner?

2 In food and drink, in what does a Sommelier specialise?

3 By what name is a Polygraph more commonly known?

4 The two tallest mountains in the World are part of which mountain range?

5 Who was US President at the outbreak of World War 2?

6 What is the name of the farm at the centre of radio's "The Archers"?

7 What is the literal meaning of the word Cenotaph?

8 The Tolkien novel "The Hobbit" follows the quest of which hobbit?

9 Who immediately preceded Margaret Thatcher as UK Pime Minister in 1979?

10 What is the girl gang called in the musical "Grease"?

11 In which US State is Mount Rushmore?

12 What number does X equal in this puzzle? HXY ZX MXY BARXT LXLY

Answers on page 44

Corsley War Memorial Playing Field autumn update

Firstly, let me address the news that many of you will have heard on the village grapevine.

At Corsley Cricket Club's annual last match against Southstoke on 27th September sadly Robert Hardman, who played for Southstoke, had a heart attack and, despite all the efforts of his team mate, Jon, Marion and the ambulance crews, he could not be saved.

Southstoke is always the last match of the season at Corsley and always held in great spirits with an excellent match tea spread, which they always enjoy.

This year was no different, Corsley batted first with a rain break, which we took an early tea at. Robert fielded very well and after tea batted excellently, almost through their entire innings. He was truly living his best life having just reached 20,000 runs for the club over his amazing 40-year career.

As some of you will know, there was a struggle to get the defibrillator released from the box at the Royal Oak. We have spoken to the folks who look after the defibrillators, who have undertaken a review of the causes for the delay in providing the code and are addressing the issues.

Nobody in the village should feel that there will be a struggle to get hold of the defibrillator if it is required in the future.

Robert's funeral was underway as I wrote this update with members of the Corsley team in attendance.

I have spoken to Robert's wife, she and the Southstoke team were extremely grateful for everything the Corsley team did to try and save him including those mentioned above as well as Chris, John and Thomas for their efforts.

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

Secretary, Liz Garrett, reports on upcoming events at the hall

As I write, the Reading Room stands ready for the wine tasting evening. (October 17th); tables laid and glasses polished. I'm sure we are in for a tasty and sociable evening!

On Wednesday **11th November it's our AGM, 7 for 7.30 pm**. We are always looking for help with the running and maintenance of the Reading Room or with the events that help us to bring people together and raise funds. Do come along if you would like to become a committee member, trustee or just want to find out more.



Then on Friday 13th November its Quiz Night – somewhere in the village the questions are being prepared! Tickets £5 – bring a team or join with others on the night. Details on how to book on poster elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge or on our website https://corsleyrr.wixsite.com/corsleyrr

Hope to see you at one or both of those events. Your support helps us keep the Reading Room running.

Thank you

Booking the hall

Please use the website form or email crrbookings@gmail.com. Corsley residents get a discount on our published prices! So please do use the hall; Dee Crossland is keen to help with your booking.

Other queries can be directed to chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk

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

Trustees

Jeremy Baker, Chris de Groot, Clara Firman-Ford, Liz Garrett, Jackie Jasper, David Sharrocks

Also on Committee

Dee Crossland, Mary King and Jill Westgate

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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Clerk, John Wilcox, rounds up the PC's recent activities

At the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 23rd September the Chair welcomed the two councillors who had recently been co-opted onto the council – Steve Williams and Mike Butler. The council now has a full complement again.

It was agreed that Councillor Williams would take the lead on Rights of Way matters and will liaise with the relevant local authority officers, volunteers and land owners in carrying on the good work already done.

Planning

Four planning applications were considered:

PL/2026/05034 *Variation of Conditions 2 of PL/2025/063919 Approved Plans) to allow a number of minor amendments to the approved scheme at Water Farm.*

PL/2026/04654 *Creation of temporary winter festival and enabling works at Longleat Estate.*

PL/2026/04659 *Listed Building consent. Undertake structural repairs and undertake essential maintenance at High House Farm, Dertford.*

PL/2026/05988 *Conversion of the existing detached garage and first floor bedroom into a self-contained annex at 59 Dertford, Corsley*

Following detailed discussions, the PC agreed they would have no objections to these applications.

Streetscene and emergency planning

Reports had been circulated and Councillors Brown and Travers spoke of these, amplifying and clarifying where necessary.

The local authority has agreed to fund £1500 worth of signage at agreed locations in the village – Whitbourne Moor, Dertford and the Stalls.

The local authority has new procedures in place regarding the upgrading/rebuilding of bus stops. Wiltshire Council have been notified that the bus stops at either end of the village were originally installed by the local authority at the time. As a result they have confirmed that works will be scheduled – unfortunately because of the volume this will probably not be until 2027.

We have a new Parish Steward, who started in September – villagers may well have seen the photographs on Facebook of the work he has been doing.

Villagers may be aware that recently there have been a number of road traffic accidents on Deep Lane. Deep Lane is one of many lanes in the village where bizarrely the speed limit deemed appropriate is the single carriageways national speed limit – 60 mph.

Villagers will know, from the ongoing saga with the A362, that getting speed limits changed is a tortuous process (see the end of this report the main criteria for setting speed limits.) The PC is more than aware of the concern about speed limits in the village and is in contact with the relevant highways personnel on a regular basis.

A Volunteer Training Event was held in September which included attendees from Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN), Wiltshire Council, Wessex Water,

Chapmanslade and Corsley. Attendees saw the emergency equipment that was currently available and demonstrations of equipment that was being considered. Reference material was also distributed.

It was confirmed that the joint application to SSEN, with Horningsham, Chapmanslade and Upton Scudamore which had been made for a grant had been successful. Discussion with the representatives of the partners in the bid will be taking place to agree the most effective way of using it.

Finance

Following the previous agreement to continue its practice of making grants available to eligible village bodies, a number of applications had been received.

It was agreed that:

- £2,100 be granted to Corsley Reading Room as a contribution towards their fixed costs.
- £700 be granted to Little Cuckoos as a contribution towards the ongoing development of the field.
- £1,800 be granted to the Corsley War Memorial Playing Field as a contribution to insurance costs.
- £770 be granted to the Corsley Reading Room as a contribution to the cost of Stage 1 redecoration.
- The PC also agreed a donation of £125 to the Royal British Legion in respect of the provision of wreaths.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on **Monday 16th November, at 7.30 pm in the Corsley Reading Room.** All are welcome.

Criteria for setting speed limits

The main criteria for setting speed limits

- *Road type and layout – whether it is a major road, a rural lane, a residential street or a village road; the width, bends, visibility and junctions all matter.*
- *Accident history – the number, severity and pattern of collisions, particularly those involving pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.*
- *Pedestrians and vulnerable road users – whether people walk along the road, cross it, cycle on it or use mobility aids.*
- *Homes and community facilities – the presence of houses, schools, shops, village halls, bus stops and other places that generate pedestrian activity.*
- *Traffic volume and speed – how many vehicles use the road and the speeds at which they actually travel.*
- *Road environment – whether the road passes through a built-up area, a village centre, open countryside or an area with limited visibility.*
- *Enforcement and compliance – whether a proposed limit is realistic and likely to be observed, and whether physical measures or enforcement may be needed.*

A council should consider the overall evidence rather than rely on one factor alone. A history of collisions is relevant, but a road does not necessarily have to have a record of accidents before a lower limit can be justified.



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Six Open Doors

Letter from Rev Mark Windsor

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Words of Jesus in Matthew 11v28-30)

Notice who Jesus addresses: the weary, the burdened, those carrying too much. He does not call first to the successful, the spiritually confident, or the morally perfect. He calls to ordinary people who are tired. That matters, because many people carry heavy burdens in life and in faith. Some carry anxiety, grief, or loneliness. Some carry impossible expectations. Some carry wounds through difficult experiences.

This feels like a very relevant invitation from Jesus to each one of us.

Many people are feeling weary. Are you?

If not, then I am sure you will know people that are right now.

In the past few years, we have been enduring the strain, stress and upheaval of the COVID pandemic. Wars in Ukraine and other parts of the world underline the fragility of international relations and peace. There is uncertainty around the scale of the consequences of the Climate Crisis and fears that we are responding woefully inadequately and without sufficient urgency. Many are struggling with the cost of living at this time. It is not wrong if you are feeling weary; neither should it come as a surprise!

Jesus bids us rest in him. Not in the form of complete inactivity but he offers us an easy yoke to bear. God is in the business of lightening burdens. He has good works that are tailored for us to do and he calls us to learn from him.

Jesus never suggests that discipleship is effortless or passive. But he is contrasting his way with systems that crush people under guilt, legalism, or endless striving; his work will not overwhelm you. Grace is not something we earn through exhaustion. God's love is not reserved for those who have everything together or who do the hardest work.

The Christian faith is not primarily a 'to do' or 'to do not' list. It is at heart an invitation to come to the one in whom all our deepest needs are met; the one in whom we will find true rest for our souls.

Rev Mark Windsor

November Church Diary

Sunday 1st November
10 am Eucharist, St Margaret's, Corsley
10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill

❖

Sunday 8th November
10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill
10.50 am Remembrance Sunday service, St Philip & St James, Chapmanslade
10.50 am Remembrance Sunday service, St Margaret's, Corsley

❖

Sunday 15th November
9 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill

❖

Sunday 22nd November
10 am Eucharist, St Philip & St James, Chapmanslade
10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill

❖

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday
10 am Benefice Eucharist, Horningsham

Pastoral Visiting
If anyone would like to receive a visit or Home Communion, please contact
Rev Gay Maynard 01373 832490
Rev Marian Curtis 07761 853000
Claire Tanner 07889 199403 (Lay Pastoral Assistant)

Church and Community Events in November

Corsley Coffee Morning

10 am to 12 noon, Wednesday 4th November, Corsley Reading Rooms

Crafternoon

3 to 5 pm, Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 25th November, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Community Coffee Morning

10 am to 12 noon, Thursday 19th November, The Three Horseshoes

The Crafternoon group has a table at the Maker's Market in Chapmanslade Village Hall 10 am to 4 pm on 7th November – funds will be split 50/50 between the Village Hall and our South Sudan Maridi Link fund. Please come and support us.



Christmas Tree Festival 2026

St Margaret's Church, Corsley BA12 7QE

Friday 11th December – 3.15pm to 5pm
(with Carol singing – all welcome)

Saturday 12th December – 10.00 am to Noon
(with Christmas Coffee Morning)

Sunday 13th December – 10.00 am to Noon

Plus new for this year

Monday 14th December – 3.15pm to 5pm.

Refreshments will be available

Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

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

Lay Pastoral Assistant	Claire Tanner	07889 199403
Pastoral Visitor	Barbara Hughes	01373 832273
Churchwardens:		
St Margaret's	Vacant	
St Philip & St James	Ian Buick	01373 832318
Deputy Churchwardens:		
St Margaret's	Amy Holley	01373 832212
St Philip & St James'	Janet Aylesbury	07808 565878
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Ian and Janet Buick	01373 832318
Tower Captain	Mike Attenborough	01373 832777
Electoral Roll	Vacant	
50/50 Club	Sue Fear	01373 832074
Time to Think	Trudi Hopkinson	01373 832393
Lite Bites Lunches	Maureen Willcox	01373 832171
Benefice Administrator	Vacant	
Benefice Webmaster	Mike Palmer	mjp.mikepalmer@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Sarah Humberstone	cleyhillbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

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Corsley WI

October news

Patricia Sharrocks rounds up the October meeting



Anyone who reads these reports regularly will know that the one unchanging feature of our WI meetings is the coffee and cake. Well, the October meeting very nearly didn't feature coffee and cake at all!

The meeting was held in the Reading Room as usual and was a 'skills evening'. On these occasions instead of a speaker we invite a guest to teach us a new skill or craft. In October we were joined by Catherine Firth who came to teach us how to paint. Fair to say that most members considered themselves a blank canvas, with no idea what to expect!

Catherine began by guiding everyone through several different ways of using watercolours and using them with oil pastels and ethanol. We each tried these techniques, doodling with our paintbrushes and experimenting with colour, filling our paper with random patterns. Then Catherine asked us to draw the shape of a container, a vase or a jug around or through our patterns. These were then cut out and stuck to a fresh sheet of paper; we filled in any gaps to complete the first part of our painting.

Guided by Catherine, and with jam jars of flowers on each table as a focus, we added flowers and foliage to our paintings, not attempting real life images but using the shapes and colours for inspiration. Time passed very quickly, with members becoming absorbed in what they were doing. Time for the usual coffee break passed, we carried on painting. We were grateful to the members who paused their painting to go round and serve refreshments to the rest of us, ensuring that we didn't miss the coffee and cake!

It was a most enjoyable evening; many of us did indeed learn new skills and we had fun practising and experimenting to produce some lovely art work.

Please mention **The Bridge** when responding to adverts

We meet again on **12th November at 7:30** in the Reading Room when **Casey Lalonde will give a talk on 'Girls who Grind Coffee'**. Guests are very welcome to join us at this meeting, £6 – to include coffee and cake of course!



Whitbourne Baptist Chapel

Carols by Candlelight



5 to 6 pm,
Sunday 20th December
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If you need transport,
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www.whitbournechapel.org

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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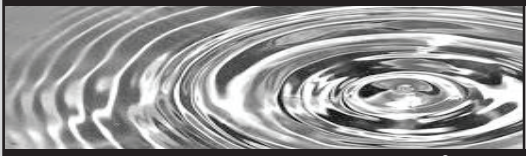
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Corsley Tennis Club News

Our Club, our future…

Due to the kind autumn weather, lots of tennis play had continued since the summer. In particular, the Juniors have enjoyed an amazing six-week block of Sunday coaching sessions with our fabulous coach Imogen and her able helpers (Ruby, Gabie, Mimi, Zach, Frank and Darcey) culminating with a fun spooky halloween session (see photos). The coaching has been very successful – many thanks to all involved.

Now it's time to look ahead and think about how we can continue to make our club a welcoming, friendly and enjoyable place for everyone.







Dates for your diary

We have our forthcoming annual **Social Presentation Evening on Thursday 26th November, 6.30pm at the Full Moon Inn, Rudge** (details to follow). This is always a great opportunity for members to meet up socially away from the tennis court, celebrate our tournament

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winners as well as recognise the efforts of the coaching team.

Our **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) takes place on **Wednesday 16th December, 7 for 7.30 pm at the Reading Room** – all members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The AGM is an opportunity to hear about the year's activities, share ideas for the future and have your say in how our club is run. After all, our club is only as strong as the people who make it what it is…

One important position still to be filled by the end of the year is that of Club Secretary. This is a valuable role that helps keep everything ticking along behind the scenes, from organising meetings and communicating with members to helping the committee keep things running smoothly. We know everyone is busy, but a little time and enthusiasm can make a real difference. If you've ever thought about getting more involved, or would like to find out more about the Secretary role, please email Liz at lizi.garrett@btinternet.com or Kate at katefjackson@hotmail.co.uk or speak to any committee member – we need you!

Let's work together to keep our club thriving, both on and off the court.

Kate Jackson
Committee member



Corsley Fayre 2026

A big 'thank you' to all the hardy souls who turned out to support Corsley Fayre this year. We hope you enjoyed yourselves, despite the truly atrocious weather!

Our thanks also go to all the volunteers who helped put the Fayre together, both in the weeks leading up to it and on the day itself. Your time and effort are essential to making the event happen, and are hugely appreciated.

We are also grateful to the Hares Partnership for the use of the field and for their help in cutting the grass and shifting the barriers.

As you can imagine, the weather had a severe impact on this year's Fayre. A number of stallholders and attractions withdrew, and attendance was significantly down on previous years. Inevitably, the result was a financial loss, which will have to be met from our reserves. Full accounts will be presented at the **Annual General Meeting** on the **18th November at 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room**.

At the first committee meeting after the Fayre, and following some vigorous debate, it was agreed to try to stage the event again in 2027 – provisionally, Saturday 23 August 2027. After all, surely it can't rain for a third year running – can it?

However, this decision comes with a number of important provisos. Much will depend on whether existing committee members are willing to continue, whether the venue will be available, and whether sufficient volunteers can be found to help organise and run the event. The proposal to hold the Fayre in 2027 will therefore need to be confirmed at the AGM.

If you have any comments, suggestions, ideas or complaints, or would like to help with next year's Fayre, please do get in touch. Better still, come along to the AGM and make your views heard. The future of the Fayre depends on people being willing to get involved.

John Willcox
Secretary, Corsley Fayre
corsleyshowsec.jdw@gmail.com

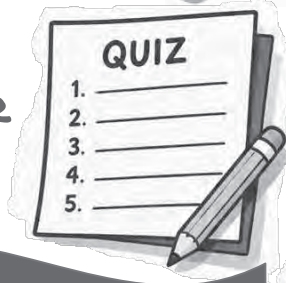
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Lite Bites Soup Lunches

Soup and cake – really?

Maureen Wilcox shares the highlights of the September lunch

Our first Lite Bites Soup lunch of the new season took place on Wednesday 23rd September, and we decided to do something a little different! To mark Macmillan Coffee Morning week, we served soup followed by cake. It might sound an unusual combination, but it worked a treat!

As usual, there was a varied choice of soups, served with bread and cheese, followed by tea or coffee and, of course, cake.

Our efforts were rewarded with a record turnout of nearly 40 people, who enjoyed six different soups and generously donated a fantastic £300.13 to Macmillan Cancer Support. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such a success.

We hoped our newcomers enjoyed themselves so much that they would join us again on Wednesday 28th October.

Supporting our farming community

Our October lunch was in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), the national charity supporting farming people and their families. With harvest time upon us, it seemed particularly appropriate to remember our farming community, both locally and nationally. Farmers face many challenges, from changing weather patterns to the ever-rising cost of living and running a farm, and RABI provides valuable support to those in need. We hope you were there!

So, please come along to our November lunch, enjoy a warming bowl of soup and help us support a worthwhile cause.

Our November lunch is on **Wednesday 25th November, 12.30 to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room** although, be warned, cake is not a regular feature!





A date for your diary: our **Christmas lunch** will take place on **Wednesday 9th December.** More details to follow!



Please mention **The Bridge** when responding to adverts



** Christmas Tree Festival 2026 **

St Margaret's Church, Corsley

Friday, 11th December, 3.15 pm – 5.00 pm
(With carols – All Welcome!)

Saturday, 12th December, 10.00 am – Noon
(With Christmas Coffee Morning)

Sunday, 13th December, 10.00 am – Noon

Monday, 14th December, 3.15 pm – 5.00 pm

Programme £1
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Whitbourne Chapel

"Sow for yourselves righteousness..."
Hosea 10 v12

Time to Seek the Lord

It's November already and maybe you've asked, "Where has this year gone?". In our home we often have the conversation in early September, that goes along the lines of: "Well it's almost the Last Night of the Proms, then it will be Harvest Festival followed by Firework Night, Remembrance Sunday and soon it will be Christmas".

And, of course for some weeks now, if you walk into any large store, you will see the various boxes of sweets and other goodies for Christmas on display already.

It's been well said that time seems to go faster as you get older. What's important, though, is how we use our time. Because although we say we always seem to be busy, we must also ask ourselves, "How are we using our time?" Are we doing so in the best way that we can, or are we wasting time, by simply letting the days pass, without achieving anything that will be of help to ourselves or others?



The most important thing we can do is to remember the words of the prophet Hosea in the Bible. He writes "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love… for it is time to seek the Lord until he comes and showers righteousness on you". (Hosea 10 v12).

Now is the time to seek and to trust in the Lord Jesus. He came to die for us so that we can, by faith, ask Him to forgive us and then live a fruitful life following and obeying Him. Why do we need to do this? Because the Bible also reminds us that Jesus will return one day. The times in which we live, where we have the opportunity to commit to God, will end. For all of us, our days on earth are short and we will all die; there is no escaping that one fact, so we must use our time in the right way.

As the Bible also reminds us, "When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly… God demonstrates his own love for us. While we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5 v6-8). Now is the Right Time!

Chris Andrews
Occasional Preacher at Whitbourne

Christmas is coming!

Before all your December days get filled with different things, why not set aside the afternoon of **Sunday 20th December for Whitbourne Chapel's Annual Carol Service, at 5pm**? It's a jolly, family affair, simply readings from Scripture, interspersed with Christmas carols and a short talk by preacher Scott Williamson. Afterwards, there'll be mince pies and tea and coffee to enjoy (or soft drinks for children), before we all go home!

Please remember:
If you need help, please google 'Whitbourne Baptist Chapel' or log in to our website, www.whitbournechapel.org.uk

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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

After a beautiful sunny day in mid-October, I have just seen the most magnificent sunset, but I know that this sunset precedes a cold, clear and maybe a frosty night.

Our beautiful autumn is coming into its very best with colour everywhere, from the sky to the forest floor. As the sun goes down, the sky is alive with bird sounds. The robins are now protecting their own territory, normally in the evergreen hedge for warmth and shelter, warning any others to stay away. The blackbird saying goodnight to everyone as dusk descends and appearing again so early in the morning with his lovely song. The starlings are swarming in great numbers creating cloud-like murmurations, before they suddenly drop into reeds for overnight safety.

The geese we see in the daytime are feeding on the grain dropped by the combine harvesters and on fresh grass near the local lakes, then flying back to their private pools following the leats and streams, their wings beating and the leader calling as they return to safety. Rooks and crows return from foraging to their high nesting trees with much noise and chattering until they are settled.

As darkness comes, it is time for the bats to come out of their hiding places in old farm buildings, deserted industrial buildings and church roofs which are their favourite haunts. Although not liked by many, especially those who have to keep our churches clean, bats eat mostly insects – all types of flies, midges, mosquitoes, spiders and moths. The common pipistrelle is considered Britain's smallest bat, measuring only about 3.5 cm in body length and weighing around 5 grammes. This tiny bat can eat up to 3,000 insects in a single night, helping farmers and gardeners by removing many insects that would have to be sprayed to help crops survive and thrive.

Hedgehogs will have eaten their fill by now and will mostly be settled into their hibernation. Badgers don't hibernate but enter a state of torpor during very cold weather, becoming less active but still occasionally foraging for food.

Foxes will be out searching for chickens, pheasants, partridge, rabbits, hares and any food rubbish left by humans. During the autumn months, the male or dog fox will be looking for a mate, his call is quite blood curdling – there's no need to buy all those expensive Halloween items, just take a walk in the woods on a full moon and a windy night!!!

Just a reminder that Thursday 5th November is Guy Fawkes Night (Bonfire Night), this year falls mid week, so if you plan to let off any kind of fireworks, please warn your neighbours, dog, cat and horse owners as to when you are likely to be doing this so that they have plenty of notice to keep their animals indoors and even sedate them if necessary.

Large, community firework displays are much safer and more enjoyable.

Also, please do check your bonfire before burning up those prunings and leaves, your garden friend the hedgehog may have already hibernated in the pile.

Enjoy the darker night's, light those fires and plan for the months ahead and consider the changes in our climate.

Judith Helliar

Please mention **The Bridge** when responding to adverts

Dolce Singers

Williams - Fantasia on Christmas Carols
Rutter - Feel The Spirit

Organist - Stephen Power | Mezzo Soprano - Lucy Hancock

Musical Director - Daniel Robert Cushing



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St Margaret's Church, Corsley

making music

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dolcesingers.co.uk

Dolce Singers

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!

Answers to Bob's Bafflers

1 In the south transept of Westminster Abbey

2 Wine

3 Lie detector

4 Himalayas

5 Franklin D Roosevelt

6 Brookfield

7 Empty tomb

8 Bilbo Baggins (with a company of dwarves)

9 James Callaghan (April 76 – May 79)

10 The Pink Ladies

11 South Dakota

12 One (Honey, Zone, Money, Baronet, Lonely)

Local organisation adverts

£2.50 per month for a small boxed advert or £8 for a full page. Full page adverts are allocated depending on space available and cannot be guaranteed. All monies must be at one of the two drop-off locations (Barters Plant Centre or Acres Supply Garden Centre) by **4pm** on the **19th** of the month. Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

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1 space	(69mm wide x 33mm high)	£24
2 spaces	(69mm wide x 66mm high)	£47
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4 spaces	(138mm wide x 66mm high)	£85
6 spaces	(half page - 138mm wide x 100mm high)	£120

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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