The Bridge

September 2026



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The Bridge

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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 September

Please note that no items will be accepted after this date

Diary *Dates*



September

Wednesday 2nd
Coffee Morning (run by the Lite Bites team) – 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Saturday 5th
Frome Bridge Club 'All About Bridge' day – 10 am to 2 pm, Frome Library

Tuesday 8th
Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Thursday 10th
Corsley WI – 'Children in the Sudan' – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Monday 14th
Corsley Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 17th
Community Church Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade
Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting –7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Wednesday 23rd
Lite Bites Soup Lunches – 12.30 to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 24th
Screening of The People's Emergency Briefing – 6.30pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Friday 25th
Friday Night Club – 6 to 8 pm (ish), Corsley Memorial Playing Field

October

Wednesday 7th
Coffee Morning (run by the Lite Bites team) – 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

Tuesday 13th
Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Temple, BA12 7QN

Thursday 15th
Community Church Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Saturday 17th
Wine Tasting evening – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 28th
Lite Bites Soup Lunches – 12.30 to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Friday 30th
Friday Night Club – 6 to 8 pm, Corsley Memorial Playing Field

The Soup is back!

It's raining and, thankfully, a little cooler! The weatherman has even mentioned the possibility of seeing a lesser-spotted puddle – quite a rarity after the summer we've had!

Perhaps the cooler weather has got you thinking about soup again. Or maybe you've already been enjoying soup as a meal during those hot days when eating anything substantial seemed like hard work! Whichever it is, we hope you've missed us!

We're back on **Wednesday 23rd September** at 12.30pm in the Reading Room, and we'd love to see you.

As always, we'll have four delicious soups to choose from, with something to suit all tastes and, where possible, dietary requirements. There's no charge for the soup – we simply ask that you make a donation to our chosen charity of the month.

September is also a particularly good month for a slice of cake! Our lunch falls during the Macmillan Coffee Morning season, so we'll be supporting Macmillan Cancer Support. There may even be cake to follow your soup, with your tea or coffee – and perhaps this month you can manage more than the usual biscuit!

Whether you're new to the village, recently retired and discovering that Wednesdays are now free, or one of our loyal regulars, come along and join us for some good food, good company and a good cause.

Wednesday 23rd September
12.30pm · Corsley Reading Room
Four soups • Tea & coffee • Maybe cake!
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We look forward to seeing you – and helping to raise money for
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Wednesday 2nd September
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Wednesday 30th September
Wednesday 14th October
Wednesday 28th October
Wednesday 11th November
Wednesday 25th November
Wednesday 9th December
Wednesday 23rd December

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Chapmanslade

Village Hall news

August has been another busy month at the hall, with plenty going on both inside the Hall and out on the recreation ground

Our new boules pitch was well used at the Family Fun Summer BBQ, the Croquet & Cream Tea and the Rounders Night, with players of all ages enjoying the game. The pitch is available for everyone to use throughout the year.

The Croquet & Cream Tea was a lovely, relaxing afternoon. Games of croquet were played in the bright summer sunshine, with plenty of welcome shade afterwards! We were also delighted to unveil a bench in memory of Frank Lake, in recognition of all that Frank did for the Village Hall over many years. His bench now sits alongside the boules pitch for everyone to enjoy.

Rounders Night was another great village evening. Despite the very dry conditions, there was a lively game of rounders, together with a BBQ and bar. We also officially opened our completed 400-metre Trim Track, with Colin Bell and Terry Rose doing the honours. Once opened, everyone was encouraged to take to the track, and plenty of 400-metre circuits were completed.

Looking ahead, on **Thursday 24th September** at 6.30pm, we will be hosting a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing. This 50-minute film brings together leading UK scientists and experts to look at what the climate and nature emergency could mean for everyday life, including extreme weather, food security, health and the cost of living. Recommended for ages 16+.

Tickets are free, but please make sure you secure yours at **www.chapmansladevillagehall.co.uk.**

Adam Oakley
07504 192656

Lite Bites are back!

Lite Bites Soup Lunches take place at Corsley Reading Room on the FOURTH Wednesday of each month from 12.30 to 2pm...

- 23rd September
- 28th October
- 25th November
- 9th December – Christmas Lunch
- 27th January
- 24th February
- 24th March
- 28th April

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1 Who wrote the children's story "James and the Giant Peach"?
2 The British Eurostar terminus is at which London station?
3 Which coastal village in Cornwall has the ruins of a castle reputed to be that of the court of King Arthur?
4 What is the main ingredient in hummus?
5 Which word meaning "rebirth" describes the period in European history which began in the 14th Century?
6 Which disease was deliberately allowed to spread in the UK during the 1950s to control the rabbit population?
7 Who played the very first Detective Inspector in BBC's "Death in Paradise"? (2011)
8 What is the official language of Brazil?
9 According to the saying, what speaks louder than words?
10 What instrument was played by jazz musician Louis Armstrong?
11 What was Disney's first full animated feature film?
12 Which Queen, executed by her cousin Elizabeth I, was the mother of King James I of England (James VI of Scotland)?

Answers on page 40

Westbury Fold Dance Club celebrates 50 years of dance

The club recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, welcoming dancers and friends from near and far to enjoy a celebratory dance with a well-known caller from Cornwall. A beautifully decorated cake was provided by Sue Warder in memory of her parents, Eileen and Clarence Dredge, who were founding members of the Club.

The Club is now looking forward to the start of next year's programme beginning on 10th September and would be delighted to welcome new members. The Club Chairman, Ann Polden, says that, given most of us are retired, it would probably suit those who are retired or perhaps empty-nesters. Folk dancing is based on the country dancing that many may remember from school days. You do not need a partner or any experience. Dancing is a wonderful way to get some gentle exercise to maintain mental and physical fitness and to make new friends, probably more fun and certainly cheaper than going to the gym!

The Club meets on Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm in Westbury Leigh Church Hall during term times. Please take a look at the website (westburyfdc.org) or contact Ann Polden on 01225 776766 or Anne Cole on 01373 832334 for more information.

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

A report on the latest happenings at the hall



Wine Tasting With a Difference
Saturday 17th October

Let us take you on two French River Cruises – drifting first along the Loire, then gliding through the Rhône. This is not just a tasting… it's a journey.

Enjoy a curated selection of French wines as you follow the visual route, exploring photos of the regions, vineyards and landscapes that shape each bottle. From sun-soaked Rhône valleys to the elegant châteaux of the Loire, each wine is paired with its place — letting you taste the story behind it.

Let your imagination wander, your senses awaken, and your evening unfold as you immerse yourself in the heart of France's most celebrated wine regions.

A relaxed, atmospheric night of discovery awaits.

Tickets are in demand so please book early if you would like to join us on Saturday 17th October. Tickets (£15) available from

www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk

Doors open 7pm

Jackie Jasper

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.

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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Tim Humphreys reports on the PC's August meeting

The Parish Council met at the Village Hall on 13th August with four councillors present and four members of the public.

Matters arising

Short Street junction

Timing to implement the signage and white line changes agreed by LHFIG is still to be confirmed.

A3098 weight limit

The changes are scheduled for late autumn, actual date to be confirmed. The Chair thanked those within the community for their steadfast support over many years and in particular Terry Rose. One member of the public wished to acknowledge this success by the Parish Council.

Noticeboard

A Parish notice board is under consideration adjacent to the bus stop outside the Three Horseshoes.

Planning applications

Discussed in closed session by the Councillors present were:

PL/2026/04295 Removal/Variation of approved condition 2 for PL/2025/06110. As with the previous application, Councillors did not object however drew attention to the continued absence of energy efficiency measures within the proposal, a point raised by WC Planning against their approval.

PL/2026/0392 Various landscaping and ecological changes at Hesdin Estate together with ponds, SuDs, padel courts and a new storage/service building.

As with previous planning applications on site, this is another complex submission that incorporates many elements. Councillors objected to the application and expressed significant reservations on the following grounds:

- Planning for a service building had been refused previously under PL/2021/06842 and the intended inclusion of a commercial kitchen adds a trade waste discharge to site with no detail given for compliance to the prevailing Food Safety Act 1990.
- The proposed wider landscaping and planting was considered as development encroaching into the open countryside that could set a dangerous precedent for future planning applications.
- Questions were also raised concerning the technical detail of the proposed drainage system together with a real concern over the provisions for sewage treatment given the final capacity of the site for holiday let and estate staff on development completion in 2027.

PL/2026/04040 Modification of Planning Obligation Discharge of S106 Agreement July 1993 at Thoulstone Park Cottage/ Nursery associated with planning application W/93/00252/FUL.

The Councillors objected to this application as the application hadn't demonstrated the

lack of a requirement for an agricultural dwelling in the vicinity notwithstanding the nursery business itself is advised as no longer active. Revoking an agricultural tie relating to an agricultural dwelling not a business should be very carefully considered and was felt unnecessary in this instance.

Finance

- Councillors formally agreed to make a payment of £4,500 from CIL funds as the Parish contribution towards the weight limit implementation cost.
- The updated Budget Plan was circulated by the Clerk.
- The prepared Certification of Exemption has been approved by the Auditors.

CIL funding

Work has now commenced at the Church in respect of drainage and moving the font. A grant of £15,000 has been previously agreed for allocation to Church development as an additional community space.

There have been no further expressions of interest received but a small sum circa £2,000 currently remains for application within the Parish. Interested groups should contact Cllr Ian Curtiss at cllriancurtis@chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk to discuss their project.

Other

The review by the PC for priorities arising from the Parish Plan was deferred until the September meeting.

Having written to express concern over prospective plans for shutting a number of county fire stations, Wiltshire Council appears to have bowed to the broad county criticism with a stay of execution.

With little interest expressed amongst villagers for the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, the PC has decided not to pursue this initiative.

A priority work list for the temporary Parish Steward has been identified pending engagement of a new recruit.

Councillors agreed not to voluntarily respond to Wiltshire Council's request for communities to assist their review, as part of consultation to inform drafting of a revised Local Plan, to advise on undeveloped or previously unused land suitable for development.

People's Emergency Briefing

On Thursday 24th September there will be a showing of the "Climate and Nature Crisis" film in the village hall at 6.30pm. Entry is available for over 16's and free, but please book your ticket on the Village Hall website or via www.chapmansladevillagehall.co.uk/event-details/peoples-emergency-briefing

Whilst being facilitated by the PC, being non-political the council expresses no view on the content. There will refreshments available and an opportunity to discuss the film afterwards.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm at the village hall on Thursday 17th September

Minutes

Minutes of all PC meetings can be found on the Parish Council website

www.chapmansladepc.org.uk

Tim Humphreys
Parish Councillor

For up-to-date information such as occasional parish council meetings, church services, previous editions of The Bridge, local clubs and activities, business listings, and other useful information, please visit **www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk**
Want something added? Just email the Editor with your request!

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Corsley Tennis Club News



We've had a busy few months at CTC…

Despite the unprecedented hot weather during July and the majority of August, League matches were concluded, more tournaments were played and Junior Camps took place.

Firstly, a mention must go to our fabulous Mixed League team this year who played in Division 5 of the Chippenham and District Tennis League. 10 matches were played from April through to August with some of the away matches being quite a distance to travel. All matches are now complete and out of six teams Corsley came fourth – not bad for a small club! A massive thank you to all players for their commitment and tenacity throughout the season.

For our more Junior players, Imogen, our fabulous coach, held 'Skills and Fun in the Sun' Tennis Camps during the summer holidays. These included fun games, drills, improving skills and match play. All abilities were welcome and it was a great way to make new friends and learn or improve tennis. Keep an eye out for the Junior Autumn Coaching starting on Sunday 13th September and running for six weeks. For more details go to Corsley Tennis Clubspark.

Now onto more tournament results…

A healthy turnout for the Ladies Doubles which took place on Sunday 19th July; six pairs played five games over five rounds with a quick deuce. A convivial afternoon of friendly competitive tennis ensued and congratulations go to the winners Nicola Player and Kate Jackson.

A few weeks later, the Ladies Singles was held on Thursday 6th August, with four players playing the best of seven games against each other in perfect weather conditions. Congratulations to the well-deserved (excellent consistent play) winner Chantelle Knight, who received our brand-new Ladies Singles Trophy!

Finally, our inaugural 60s versus 70s tournament was held on Sunday 16th August. Another great social afternoon of fun tennis and delicious food, with fabulous support from spectators and our President Val Sandoe. 16 players (four pairs in each team) played championship tie breaks in four rounds. A VERY close match indeed; in the 16 games that were played, the 60s team just clinched the 154 to 142 win! Again, a new trophy was presented to the 60s Team Captain, Nicola Player.

We still have our final charity 'American Switch" tournament of the year to play on Sunday 6th September (£5 entry fee for Alzheimer's Society) so another result to follow.

As we look ahead to the new season, there has never been a better time to get involved at the Club. From social club sessions and friendly competitions to coaching and club events or volunteering, there are plenty of opportunities to improve your game, make new friends and enjoy being part of our tennis community.

Kate Jackson
Committee Member


Corsley Tennis Club





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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

A Time of Turning

September always brings a change of rhythm. Children and young people head back to school or off to college for the first time. Holidays end, routines return, and the light begins, almost imperceptibly, to soften and shorten.

It can be a season of mixed feelings. For some, there is real hope: new classrooms, new opportunities, new beginnings. For others, there is nervousness — a new school, a new job, a step into the unknown. Some of us mourn the passing of long summer evenings and find the turning of the year quietly sorrowful. Other's long for the crispness of autumn, the cooler days and fresher nights.

Both responses are honest, and both are welcome. Change can be exciting, full of promise. It can also be disorientating, even painful, carrying its own small grief.

The sixteenth-century saint Ignatius of Loyola encouraged Christians to seek "God in all things" — not just in church or in prayer, but in the ordinary texture of daily life. Noticing God, for Ignatius, was less about looking for the extraordinary and more about paying attention: to what stirs us, what unsettles us, what draws us closer to life and love.

That practice of attention feels well suited to September. The changing of the seasons, in nature and in our lives, can be a place to notice God. In the dimming evening light and the turning leaves, in anticipation and hope, and equally in anxiety and loss, God is present. The Psalms are full of this same honesty — praise and lament sitting side by side, often in the very same breath.

So perhaps this September, whatever this new season holds for you, it's worth pausing each day to ask, as Ignatius might: where do I see God breaking through today?

Whatever changes around us, we hold to this promise: seasons turn, circumstances shift, but God does not change — and God does not leave us to face the turning alone. This is the heart of the ancient Celtic tradition of prayer, echoed in the ancient breastplate prayer attributed to St Patrick, which speaks of Christ beside us, before us, behind us, beneath us and above us, in every direction and in every moment. Whatever this September holds for you — hope or hesitation, excitement or grief — may you know that same presence: God with you, in all things, every step of the way.

Archdeacon Louise

September Church Diary

Sunday 6th September Trinity 14
10 am Eucharist, St Margaret's, Corsley
8 am BCP, Kingston Deverill
10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill

❖

Sunday 13th September Trinity 15
10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill
3 pm Licensing Service for Rev Mark Windsor, Longbridge Deverill

❖

Sunday 20th September Trinity 16
9 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill
11.15 am Rev Mark Windsor's first service at St Margaret's followed by a Bring & Share Lunch

❖

Sunday 27th September Trinity 17
10 am Eucharist, St Philip & St James Chapmanslade
10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill

Pastoral Visiting
If anyone would like to receive a visit or Home Communion, please contact Rev Gay Maynard 01373 832490, or Rev Marian Curtis 07761 853000

Church and Community Events in September

Corsley Coffee Morning

Wednesday 2nd September – 10 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Rooms

Crafternoon

Wednesday 9th and Wednesday 23rd September – 3 to 5 pm,
The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 17th August – 10am to 12 noon, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

The Licensing Service for Rev Mark Windsor is on
Sunday 13th September, 3pm at Longbridge Deverill Church
All welcome to attend

Rev Mark Windsor's first service in our parish will be on
20th September at St Margaret's at 11.15 am.

This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.
I will be coordinating the lunch, so please let me know
what you are bringing. 07504 404478 or suefearppc@gmail.com



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 Assistants	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
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

August news

Patricia Sharrocks rounds up the August meeting

The title of our August meeting was 'From Tree to Chair' and the speaker was Hannah Maggs, a third generation farmer from Wooscombe Fields Farm. The farm focuses on sheep and woodland, producing wool, sheepskin rugs, meat, wood and honey. In the 1990's Hannah's parents planted a huge area of woodland, mostly Ash trees.

Hannah spoke about ash dieback disease. This is a fungus which came to the UK through imported saplings. It is carried by the wind which is the main reason it has spread so much. Ash bark beetles feed and live on the diseased trees. They do not kill healthy trees but along with the disease weaken the trees.

Wooscombe Fields now has about 28,000 trees and offers educational courses on greenwood working, giving participants the opportunity to make a stool or a chair over the course of 4-5 days.



Green wood working uses wood which has just been felled, it is felled on a Sunday evening for use on Monday. Hannah talked us through the stages and processes needed to make a chair. To begin with the log is cleaved, it splits with the grain. The wood is shaped by placing it in a shave horse to hold it firm and using a draw knife to create the shape of the chair





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components. Each component of the chair or stool is made in this way and they are then dried in a hot box. They start off quite rough but can be smoothed using the draw knife or Abronet (fancy sandpaper!)

Next we heard about 'steam bending' which is how the legs of the chair are shaped. Nothing too high tech; they are placed in a pipe wrapped in bubble wrap then the heat from a wallpaper stripper is used in the pipe to soften the wood before it is bent into shape. Finally we learnt about 'squeezing' - fitting the parts tightly together. Hannah brought along some lovely examples of the finished work, stools, chairs and a rocking chair, all hand-made using these processes.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th September at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room. Our speakers will be Maggie and Charlie Thackway talking about 'Children in the Sudan'. Visitors are welcome to join us, £6 to include refreshments.

WI visit to Barters Farm Nurseries

Members of Corsley WI had an extra opportunity to meet in July when they crossed the bridge for a visit to Barters Farm Nurseries in Chapmanslade.

They were given a lovely two hour tour by Ann Evans. They were shown around the whole site, in particular the nursery site where shrubs, herbs and other plants are grown and nurtured for large organisations like the National Trust and The Newt as well as plants for the general public. Members saw the potting machinery in action where pots are taken and filled with soil ready for plug plants to be potted up.

There are also a number of beehives which are cared for by Leith Henderson; the jars of honey which he produces can be bought at the nursery. Ann talked about the importance of different plants for pollinators and explained that different kinds of bee have different length tongues which affects their ability to reach the pollen and nectar, some even bite petals to access it.

As well as talking about plants and bees, Ann gave a potted history of the site! A previous owner had created the first polytunnel using equipment left on Salisbury Plain by the Americans after the war when it was sold off as commercial scrap. He got arches and plastic to form a polytunnel and acquired old fishing nets to hold the plastic down. He didn't patent the polytunnel idea but gave it to the world as a way of creating good gardening conditions. Old billycans left after the war were also put to good use; holes were drilled in the bottom so that they could be used as flower pots as people increasingly started to grow plants that way rather than sowing straight into the ground.

Time passed very quickly on the tour, which members thoroughly enjoyed. The group then rounded off the morning in quite a traditional way with coffee and cake, a lovely way to spend a summer morning.

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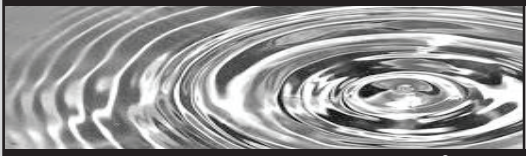
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The Friday Nighters have a...

Fundraising barbeque to end the month

First a brief history. Many villagers missed the Cross Keys when it closed and wanted to replace it with a regular village social. With the support of the Memorial Playing Field (MPF) Trustees it was decided to arrange a social get-together, 6 to 8pm ish on the last Friday of the month at the Playing Fields. This has proved to be very enjoyable for all.

It runs from spring to autumn (weather permitting) and open to everyone regardless of age. There are a wide range of games available which would suit the whole family. You can bring your own bottle and snacks or contribute nibbles, sausage rolls, pizza, cheese sticks, etc., to share.

Drinks are available to buy on the night at the Cricket Pavilion and most people leave a couple of quid in the donations box for the Playing Field as we are using their site.

July's event was also a BBQ to raise funds to provide new equipment for the MPF and we would like to say thanks to everyone who came along and helped to make this such a success.

Thanks goes to the MPF Committee for advertising and setting up the event, to Richard for demonstrating his skills on the Braai and James, the BBQ King, for his mastery of the grill. Also thanks everyone who brought salads and quiches which complemented the food on offer, especially Louis's sautéed potatoes in garlic and herbs. We also don't forget all the washer-uppers and those who packed up the site afterwards. It was a great effort by all.

It was a perfect summer's evening. Over 50 people joined us for supper and £250 was raised for the maintenance and improvement of the MPF.

The next Friday Nighter events is Friday 25th September. If you're interested in keeping up to date with developments and



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future Friday evenings please leave your email and name with me: attenboroughmichael@gmail.com *(all emails are sent BCC)*.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Mike







A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Just for the record, on Tuesday 18th August as I write this we have had no measurable rain for two months and we've now ended the 5th period of drought. Will there be more? Today, Wessex Water has imposed a ban on the use of hose pipes from midnight after 50 years of supplying water without restrictions to households.

It became noticeable in the last week of July that the trees were already shutting down their supply of water to the leaves and fruit just to save energy and ensure their survival. The countryside now resembles the parched lands of Africa.

Farm animals that are still in the fields are finding little or no grass and so feedstuffs are being ferried out to the fields instead of crops being harvested and brought in for the coming winter.

Last weekend every mobile phone received a national notification from the government regarding the number of fires throughout the country causing homes to be lost and many acres of crops, woodland and nature reserves to be irretrievably damaged. We were asked to refrain from lighting fires or BBQs and to take care in disposing of cigarettes and any inflammable materials.

In some areas the army have been called in to support the firefighters, creating firebreaks, and dousing the fires from the air.

An added problem for farmers is that due to the hot weather there is an influx of midges carrying a disease known as bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3), a viral disease killing sheep, cattle, goats and deer. Thankfully, if the animals are injected early enough they will be OK and it does not affect humans or our food safety. It's just yet another job for farmers to now gather and hold animals so that injection can be carried out in this excessively hot weather, plus the extra cost of the injection.

Unfortunately, vegetables have either scorched or just died off, unless irrigated from on-farm reservoirs and our rivers are running extremely low causing problems for fish and other river wildlife.

Fruit grown commercially like apples, pears, plums and cherries are suffering and will produce much lighter crops. Soft fruit is ripening early and the growing season has been much shorter, producing smaller berries.

My usual standby for this time of the year are our wonderful wild blackberries but, due to the dry conditions of the fields and verges, they are too dusty to pick.

Our birds have been particularly quiet due to the heat; searching for food and water is proving difficult with so few aphids and insects whilst the worms and slugs have gone deeper underground. I'm hoping the hedgehog in my garden is finding some food somewhere, unless his fresh water has evaporated overnight,he/she is still around.

I'm sure holiday makers will have appreciated this sunny weather and children will remember this as they get older as a real summer, but let us not forget those who are working day and night to provide the food for your table.

Let's hope we have good, steady rains soon.

Judith Helliar

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'The Lord is upright; He is my Rock.'
Psalm 92:15

Doing Great Things for God!

Have you heard of the "Wrestling Nana's"? No, not those who in the 1970s used to watch wrestling on the TV on a Saturday afternoon, but four ladies who are friends from Cardiff, aged in their mid-seventies to eighty years old. On a trip to the USA, they met and were befriended by a professional wrestler, De Reiss Gordon. They got on well and he invited them to an event in which he was appearing, in LA. They went and had a short conversation with him before leaving, thinking nothing more of it. Back home they were amazed to find, via one of their daughters, that Gordon had reached out to them on social media. They met again, when he was in the UK and their friendship continues. There is even talk of a film re-telling their story on the big screen!



What struck me was that, in the reporting of this story, one of the ladies speaks about getting older, and looking back regretting she hadn't taken an opportunity when it came along. This chance came from a willingness to start a conversation with a stranger, to find out about his life and his story.

The Bible includes accounts of a number of older people doing great things for God. Abram (who became Abraham) was 75 when he started the journey God commanded him to take. Moses was 80 when God sent him to speak to Pharoah, King of Egypt. In the Promised Land Caleb goes to battle and wins at the age of 85. Other accounts record how Simeon and Anna saw the Lord Jesus in their old age and a grandmother, Lois, taught her grandson, Timothy, about Jesus.

These remind us that we all, no matter what our age, can trust in God through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ said that He had come "That they may have life, and have it to the full". We all have opportunities to try new things that come our way, no matter our age, and we are to take them. There is nothing new in the saying that old age "doesn't come alone". The Apostle Paul writes "We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed every day". The Psalmist writes "They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming "The Lord is upright; He is my Rock".

Let's be those who continue to bear good fruit no matter what our age, taking an interest in others, and continually living our lives to the full in obedience to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chris Andrews
Occasional Preacher at Whitbourne

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- **Roof Moss Removal + Biocide Treatment** — Clear it now, prevent it coming back



✓ FULLY INSURED

✓ LOCAL, TRUSTED SERVICE

Corsley Memorial Playing Field

Hazel Woodworking Day

Neil Carpenter drills down on a fun day!

Hazel carving and woodworking day at Corsley Memorial Playing Field, sponsored by Wiltshire Wildlife Fund

Coppicing hazel has been carried out in Britain for more than 4,000 years. The coppiced hazel both green (freshly cut) and seasoned (left to dry) was used to make a variety of everyday and useful implements.

The hazel we used on the woodworking day came from the Corsley Orchard and Playing Field, all at no cost (like it used to be 4,000 years ago).

Over 30 people aged between 8 weeks and 80 years old came together at the playing field to learn those ancient skills and make a variety of wonderful wooden implements.

With the support of Adam Oakley on stools, Roy 'Ped' Pearce on walking sticks, Jon De Groot on spoons and myself on mallets, everyone had a marvellous time. Young and old all worked together learning new skills, and we enjoyed sharing that knowledge, and knowing the things that were made today will be treasured.

A lovely ploughman's lunch went down very well after a hard morning's chopping, scraping and whittling as did the fruit, banana bread and Marion's always amazing flapjacks.

For me, the highlight of the day was seeing parents, who had come along with their kids, prepared for the odd meltdown, having a wonderful time in the sunshine working together to craft those natural materials. I didn't see one child or adult on their mobile; mine only came out when I was reminded to take some pictures!

Finally, sure there were a few plasters needed (on adults) and some notes in the safety book, but considering the razor sharp implements being wielded, the day went brilliantly with everyone super keen to come along to another day.




BLACK&DECKER PLUS
Workmate 2





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 Roald Dahl
2 St Pancras (since 2007)
3 Tintagel
4 Chickpeas
5 Renaissance
6 Myxomatosis
7 Ben Miller played the part of Det Inspector Richard Poole
8 Portuguese
9 Actions
10 Trumpet
11 Snow White and the seven Dwarfs
12 Mary Queen of Scots

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

Annual trade advertisements (12 issues, when space is available

1 space	(69mm wide x 33mm high)	£24
2 spaces	(69mm wide x 66mm high)	£47
3 spaces	(quarter page - 69mm wide x 100mm high)	£68
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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cloud homecare

Quality care and support in Warminster and the surrounding villages

We are a small, Corsley based care provider

We provide care to people who need support to remain living in their own home

Please telephone or email us, or visit our website for further details

Tel. 01373 832 597 enquiries@cloudhomecare.co.uk
www.cloudhomecare.co.uk



5% discount on firewood for tenants of Longleat Estate

Pick your own kiln-dried logs ready to burn

or have standard hardwood logs for storage delivered to your door.

Monday to Friday: 8am to 5pm
Saturday: 8am to 2pm (Sept to March)

01985 213507 longleat.co.uk/forestry

LONGLEAT FORESTRY