

# The Bridge

February 2025

*monthly magazine for the villages  
of Corsley and Chapmanslade*



*Two quizzes this month— one for Maridi and one for the RDA, Corsley WI, Chapmanslade PC meeting, Coffee Mornings, Corsley Film Club, Crafternoons in Chapmanslade, Wassailing in Corsley there's lots to do in February...*



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# The Bridge

monthly magazine for the villages of Corsley and Chapmanslade

## Articles

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

## In this issue...

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## Deadline

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

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

# Diary Dates

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## February

### Wednesday 5th

Coffee Morning (Lite Bites) – 10.30 to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Room

### Saturday 8th

Annual Quiz with Bob and Bob in support of our Maridi, South Sudan link – 7.30 pm, Conservative Club, Warminster. £12 to include a fish and chip supper. Contact Revd Gay Maynard on 01373 832490 for info

### Tuesday 11th

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

### Wednesday 12th

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

### Thursday 13th

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Corsley WI - Royal Farms – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Quiz Night – 7.45 pm, Conservative Club, Warminster (doors at 7 pm) raising funds for Riding for the Disabled

### Saturday 15th

Wassailing – 4 pm, Corsley Community Orchard, Corsley Old Shool

### Thursday 20th

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

### Monday 24th

Film Club – 7 for 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

### Wednesday 26th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch – 12.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

## March

### Monday 3rd

Corsley Parish Council meeting – 7 pm, Corsley Reading Room

### Wednesday 5th

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

### Tuesday 11th

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

### Friday 14th

Film Festival – 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm (doors at 2 pm and 7 pm), Corsley Reading Room

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Chapmanslade Players News

# Rapunzel

## Tickets now on sale!

Cast and crew have been working extremely hard in rehearsals and behind the scenes.

Tickets are now on sale – this year online via the Ticketsource website (Google search Ticketsource Chapmanslade Players) Seats will now be allocated on booking. If there's anyone who doesn't have access to this platform, please contact Lou on the number below and she will happily help you book.

Performances are Thursday 27th March 7.30pm, Friday 28th March 7.30pm, Saturday 29th March 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Follow our social media pages for up-to-date information.

We will be also looking for kitchen helpers over the performances, so if you would be willing to lend a hand, please let us know.

We also have few spaces available in our programme starting from £10 so please get in touch ASAP if you would like to advertise.

We look forward to welcoming you all at the show!

Lou Knight – 07806 486295

For up-to-date information such as occasional parish council meetings, church services, previous editions of The Bridge, local clubs and activities, business listings, and other useful information, please visit

[www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk](http://www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk)

Want something added? Just email the Editor with your request!

## Church and Community Coffee Mornings

Third Thursday of each month  
10am to 12pm  
The Three Horseshoes  
Chapmanslade



# Update on the new shared ownership homes at Maud Davies Close, Corsley



At the recent PC meeting, officers from Wiltshire Council presented an update on the development at Maud Davies Close

and answered questions from councillors and members of the public who were present.

The key points were:

- Availability would probably be in the spring (March)
- It was confirmed that with limited exceptions, Corsley residents would get priority when it came to allocation.
- The rent for the four two-bedroom houses would be £304 per month plus £11 per month for sewage management.
- The rent for the three-bedroom house would be £336 per month plus £11 for sewage management.
- The shared ownership would be based on a valuation of £230,000.
- As yet, the Council tax banding has not been set.

The Wiltshire Council officers encouraged anyone interested in renting or shared ownership to apply **promptly** as the time taken to process enrolment was 11 weeks.

It was proposed that an unveiling ceremony be held once the homes were handed over to the council. This was welcomed by the PC.

## Post-meeting clarifications:

### Corsley residents' eligibility assessment applications

When the prospective shared ownership residents have applied, please let Rachael Swann - Residential Development Project Officer know and she will speak with the Lettings team to see if there is any additional assistance that can be provided. Nothing can be promised but they will try to progress matters.

### Water meters

The homes will have water meters, and they will be charged at Wessex Water's standard rate.

### Property documentation

Home User Guides will be available in every home supplying required information about the property and important contacts. This will include information in respect of the solar panels.

### Council Tax

We have been informed that the bandings will be applied when the properties have been handed over to Wiltshire Council from the developer. Applicants will be advised as soon as the bandings are available.

### Help To Buy ISA

The independent financial advisor who assesses participants interested in shared ownership, has confirmed that the government savings account 'Help to Buy ISA' can be used towards the purchasing of shared ownership shares.

**Corsley WI**

# January news

Thursday 9th January saw the hills and lanes in and around Corsley covered in snow and ice. The countryside looked beautiful but it was not the weather to venture out on treacherous roads, after dark, in sub-zero temperatures.

Consequently, the WI meeting scheduled for that evening was cancelled but we look forward to welcoming our speaker, Robert Middlefell, a senior dentist advising the Care Quality Commission and teaching in Bristol, at a later date.

We now look forward to meeting again at 7.30 pm on Thursday 13th February in the Reading Room. At this meeting we will hear about Royal Farms – our speaker will be the farm manager of the Royal Livestock. Visitors are welcome to join us for the evening (£5) Weather permitting of course..!

If you would like more information about this, or other events planned in 2025, please contact Alice Helliar on 07989 339632 or [alicecambridge40@gmail.com](mailto:alicecambridge40@gmail.com),

*Patricia Sharrocks*

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# Bob's bafflers

- 1 "Every little helps" is a slogan for which supermarket?
- 2 The Anthony Gormley statue "The Angel of the North" overlooks which major road?
- 3 In which musical is the song "Old Man River" featured?
4. What name was given to the non-violent revolution in Czechoslovakia in 1989?
- 5 How many US States have only four letters in their names?
- 6 The term ursine refers to which group of animals?
- 7 In which Italian city would you find La Scala opera house?
- 8 Which county cricket club is based at Edgbaston?
- 9 Who was the Roman God of Wine?
- 10 How many humans were on Noah's Ark?
- 11 Which country was ruled from the Peacock Throne?
- 12 Who is the first person mentioned by name in the song "Widcombe Fair"?

*Answers on page 40*

## Wiltshire Best Kept Village Competition

In February, entries will be invited for the Best Kept Village Competition. Categories are Large, Medium and Small villages. There are 15 prizes of up to £200. It's a great way of getting villagers together to keep our villages looking good and to build on our community spirit. Entry is simple and must be received by CPRE Wiltshire (previously the Campaign to Protect Rural England) by Thursday 7th April. Can you help our parish council with this? Details are at <https://www.cprewiltshire.org.uk/category/awards/> or call 01380 722157 and leave a message if necessary.

## Weather Stats

Information for Corsley Heath in 2024 (supplied by Rupert Tolson)

- The hottest day of the year was Friday 6th September (30.6°C)
- The wettest day of the year was also in September at 44mm total (but at times 50mm/hour)
- The total rainfall for the year was 3.065m (it was 1.5m in 2023, so 2024 was more than double)
- The sunniest day was Sunday 30th June
- Highest gust was 43.4 mph on Sunday 20th October.

## Corsley Reading Room

# Your 'village hall'

Secretary, Liz Garrett, reports on the latest happenings at the hall

### Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch was just great! Thank you to Maureen and the Light Bites Team. I did hear people say it was the best they'd ever had and others that it was better than some very expensive local pubs/restaurants!

### Developments

We are hoping that the electricity supply to the hall will be upgraded during this month as a necessary forerunner to the installation of PV panels and battery. 'Thank you' to the Parish Council who have given us a grant to pay for the electricity upgrade. Having a power supply at the Reading Room which will not be affected by power outages elsewhere in the village is part of the village Emergency plan; you'll be hearing more about that from the Parish Council.

### Dates for your diary

#### Film events

See full page poster for the London Mountain Film Festival on Friday 14th March elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge. We'll have two sessions – 2.30 and 7.30 pm. The poster has details of how to get your tickets.

A few of us are busy trawling through the huge selection of films available and trying to select some we feel you will enjoy. We plan



to show a really varied selection of the best adventure films from around the world. We hope you will come along.

**Film Club** will be running on Monday 24th February and Monday 31st March. Members have been told what films will be showing. You can find out by emailing [films@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk](mailto:films@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk)

#### Booking the hall

Please use the website form or email [crrbookings@gmail.com](mailto:crrbookings@gmail.com). Corsley residents get a discount on our published prices! So please do use the hall – Jamie Owen is keen to help with your booking.

#### Contacting us

Whilst we do not have a Chairman at the moment, all emails to [chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk](mailto:chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk) come to the secretary Liz Garrett.

See website [www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk](http://www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk) for up-to-date information and more.

### Trustees

Chris de Groot, Claire Firman-Ford, Liz Garrett, Jackie Jasper, Mary King, Mark Richards David Sharrocks, (Jamie and Charlie Owen look after bookings)



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# Lite Bites Christmas feast

Maureen Willcox reports on the scrumptious lunch enjoyed by all

Our Christmas lunch took place on Wednesday 18th December which meant it was too late to publish the report in the January edition of *The Bridge*. However, it is great to be able to report that the lunch was a success and enjoyed by all. The Reading Room looked very festive with decorations on the tables and around the room. There were festive crackers on the tables and some joined in the spirit of the occasion by wearing the paper hats!

On arrival, everyone was offered a glass of cider punch to sustain them while they attempted to complete the quiz which they found on their table.

Soon it was time for the main event – the Christmas lunch, comprising turkey, ham, stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes,

carrots, peas and red cabbage – not forgetting the all important gravy and cranberry sauce; a veritable feast! A pause was needed before dessert was served so there were further discussions about the quiz. Guests were then offered Christmas pudding or Dot's famous trifle followed by tea or coffee and home made mince pies. I think it is safe to say that no one went home hungry – most folks probably didn't want to eat for the rest of the day!!

Our generous guests allowed us to raise nearly £250 for our two charities; the Children's Hospice SW and Julia's House.

I would like to thank all of the Lite Bites team who not only donated items for the lunch but also dished up, served and washed up afterwards – without you all it would not



*Getting stuck into the quiz*

be possible to put on such a feast. Thank you all.

Our monthly Soup Lunches will run from January until April on the fourth Wednesday of the month and we would love to see some new faces to swell our numbers. During those

months we shall be supporting the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Age UK, a charity dealing with children's mental health and a cancer charity. We look forward to seeing everyone.

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

*Maureen Willcox*



*Tucking into the feast!*

# QUIZ NIGHT

raising funds for Warminster Group

**Riding for the Disabled Association**

**Thursday 13th February 2025**

The Conservative Club, Warminster

**Starting 7.45 pm (doors open 7 pm)**

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# Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

As we move into the second month of the year, we find ourselves already planning for Lent which begins on Wednesday 5th March. It is always a challenge for us to keep pace with the progress in the story of the life of Jesus from Christmas to Easter. February begins with the celebration of his presentation at the temple in Jerusalem, which was a duty for Jewish parents as he was their first born son. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon; he was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. There are many newer translations of his words, but this from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible provides a rich insight into Christ's future life of mission. As Simeon gathered Jesus up in his arms and blessed God he said "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel."

These words were nothing short of revolutionary, especially when spoken in the Temple. Simeon was predicting the breaking down of the barriers which surrounded the Jewish faith at that time and what would follow in the years from then until Jesus began his final journey to the cross. The month of February allows us time to remember all the amazing stories which describe how he brought God's message of love and peace to all, regardless of race, religion or gender.

During this month, both parishes in the Cley Hill Villages Benefice are continuing the journey towards finding a new Rector. An advertisement went out last month accompanied by a profile, which describes who we are looking for in our new priest and an insight into the life of the church in our villages. This profile can be found on the Salisbury Diocese website <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/vacancies/clergy-vacancies>. The job title is Rector and Village Church Missioner, which carries a message in itself, as we look towards a new chapter in our mission to breathe new life into our relationship with all in our community including the village parishes which surround Westbury, Warminster and Mere. Applications for the vacancy will be closing on 18th of this month and shortlisting will take place on 25th. Interviews will be taking place on 24th and 25th March. These will include representatives from both the Diocese and Parishes.

Please come along to Chapmanslade Church at 10 am on Sunday 9th February to hear more from Church Buildings Community Enabler, Toni Bush, who is helping us develop our churches as part of our overall mission effort. As we pray for a successful end to the search for our new priest, Simeon's words echo as we look forward to the arrival of a new team guide and adviser to help us reveal Christ's message of light, love and hope in both existing and new ways, which reflect what you, our diverse community demands in the 21st century.

With very best wishes  
Ian Buick  
Church Warden

## February Church Diary

**Sunday 2nd February: Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

10 am Eucharist, Corsley

10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill



**Sunday 9th February: 4th Sunday before Lent**

10 am Praise and Worship, Chapmanslade

After which Toni Bush will be facilitating a session over tea, coffee and cake at around 11 am on how we might adapt our churches for the future (see article opposite)

10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill



**Sunday 16th February: 3rd Sunday Before Lent**

11 am Matins, Corsley

10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill



**Sunday 23rd February: 2nd Sunday before Lent**

10 am Eucharist, Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill



**Sunday 2nd March: Sunday next before Lent**

10 am Eucharist, Corsley

10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill

# Church and Community Events in February

## Corsley Coffee Morning

Wednesday 5th February, 10.30 am – 12 noon Corsley Reading Rooms

## Crafternoons

Wednesday 12th and Wednesday 26th February  
3 pm – 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

## Community Church Coffee Morning

Thursday 20th February, 10 am – 12 noon, Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade

## Quiz

Saturday 8th February, 7.45pm, Warminster Conservative Club  
Raising funds for Maridi South Sudan/Deanery Link

Our popular quiz, raising funds for our Maridi. Run by quizmasters Bob and Bob.

Cost is £12 a head including a fish and chip supper (alternatives are available) please book and pay directly with the club prior to the event on 01985 217895. Any problems please speak to Gay Maynard on 01373 832490

## Come and hear how we might adapt our Churches for the future

We are actively considering how the future use of our church buildings might evolve. They are an important part of our history and heritage, and we are seeking to safeguard their legacy for future generations. We are very fortunate to have Toni Bush, who works for Salisbury and Bristol Dioceses, supporting us in thinking how to adapt our churches – considering their potential future uses for faith-based as well as other community activities. Toni will be facilitating a session after the 10 am service in Chapmanslade on Sunday 9th February over tea, coffee and cake at around 11 am. This is the start of a consultation process and there will be further opportunities over the coming weeks to feed in suggestions and ideas.

## Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

First contact for anything related to Corsley and Chapmanslade please contact Sue Fear at [suefearpcc@gmail.com](mailto:suefearpcc@gmail.com)

Lay Pastoral Assistants	Claire Tanner	01985 218099
Pastoral Visitor	Barbara Hughes	01373 832273
Churchwardens: St Margaret's St Philip & St James	Vacant Ian Buick	01373 832318
Deputy Churchwardens: St Margaret's: Currently St Philip & St James':	Vacant Janet Aylesbury	07808565878
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
PCC Treasurer	Ian and Janet Buick	01373 832318
Tower Captain	Mike Attenborough	01373 832777
Electoral Roll	Di Britten	01373 832515
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	<a href="mailto:mjp.mikepalmer@gmail.com">mjp.mikepalmer@gmail.com</a>
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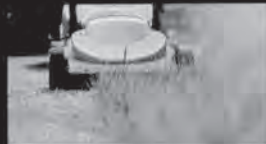
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**Corsley Parish Council**

# Parish Council Briefing

Round-up of the PC's activity in January

Herewith the main issues from the meeting held on the 13th January

In addition to the councillors present, there were a number of members of the public and officers from Wiltshire Council who gave a presentation on the development at Maud Davies Close.

## **PC response to Wiltshire consultation on the Local Transport Plan (LPT4)**

Following a detailed discussion it was agreed that Councillor should summarise the PC response and circulate for comment prior to submission by the deadline of 24th January.

The discussion also covered the letter received from parishioners regarding the speed limit at Lane End and it was agreed that our LPT4 response should cover Lane End as well as a number of other locations in the village to address this issue.

## **Planning**

Planning Application no Pl/2024/10606 - Permission In Principle (PIP) for a phased development of up to two self-build dwellings at land at Lane End, Corsley had been refused by the planning authority. (The PC had previously agreed they would have no objection to this application subject to certain conditions.) The application had been refused because:

- The proposed development, because of its location and proposed land use, would be located in an unsustainable location which would result in the future occupiers being reliant on private vehicles to access services

and facilities. The development therefore conflicts with the aims of the spatial strategy of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

- The Council's SFRA indicates that the site is at risk of high ground water levels and no site-specific FRA has been submitted which would mitigate the risk of groundwater flooding.

## **Finance – precept for 2025/2026**

Following discussion, the PC confirmed the decision made at the previous meeting that the precept should be increased by 5% on the 2024/2025 total

## **Streetscene**

A report had been circulated by Councillor Ball. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been damaged during the recent storms. Following discussion it was agreed that the PC should try to effect a repair before returning it to the supplier for them to repair. There was some discussion about getting a second SID.

It was reported that there are still a number of outstanding issues that the PC is trying to resolve; flooding at Sturford Lane and overgrown hedges.

## **Rights of Way**

Councillor Helliar gave a verbal report. Improvements have been made to CORY 3. CORY 8 and 10 would be improved over the next six months. A few landowners are being chased for stile and gate repairs. The CORY 7 diversion is still awaiting another bridge survey from Somerset Council.

## AOB

The Chair reported that the mobile Police van would be at the Royal Oak on the 17th January.

The Chair also reported that he had cut down one of the birch trees on the Birchwood Close island for safety reasons. It is probable that the remainder of the birch trees will have to be cut down for similar reasons in time as the trees are at the end of their normal life span. It was suggested that the residents of Birchwood Close be advised of this and be consulted on what trees should replace them.

## Date of Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 3rd March. Feel free to join us. (Assuming that there is no change because of central government decisions regarding re-organisation this will probably be the last meeting of the current Parish Council before the elections in May.)

*John Willcox  
PC Clerk*

*Please note that the update on the Maud Davies Close housing development by officers from Wiltshire Council can be found elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge*

## Wiltshire Mobile Library

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Wednesday 5th February

Wednesday 19th February

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## church news

### Diocese of Salisbury

# Notice of preparation of new Electoral Roll 2023

Parish of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on to the new Electoral Roll, whether it is entered on the present roll or not, is requested to apply for enrolment between Thursday 6th February and Friday 11th April 2025.

If you are on the current electoral roll, new forms will be delivered or emailed to your home address between Sunday 6th April and Friday 11th April 2025.

Any parishioner wishing to have their names added to the new Electoral Roll for the first time, should contact the Electoral Roll Officer for an application form between the above dates in order to vote at the Annual Parish Church Meeting.

For further information please contact Rev. Diana Britten Electoral Roll Officer on either 01373 832515 or [dianabritten69@gmail.com](mailto:dianabritten69@gmail.com)

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 [opendoorwarminster.org](http://opendoorwarminster.org)

  [@thechatcafewarminster](https://www.instagram.com/thechatcafewarminster)



# Corsley Wassailing

4 pm, Saturday 15th February

Corsley Community Orchard, Corsley Old School

**Bring a pan and wooden spoon and  
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**First rendition of new wassailing song  
and other merriment**



Please come and join us to rid our orchard of bad spirits,  
whilst pleasing the spirits of the orchard, to ensure a  
good harvest this season

To thank you, the orchard team will be providing a range of  
traditional wassailing beverages, including warmed spiced cider  
made with our own apples, apple cake and pork and apple sausage  
rolls and be rewarded by the orchard's grateful owner with  
some form of warm, spiced alcoholic drink from a communal  
wassail bowl or cup

*Advent, a time of fasting, was observed from the 1st to the 24th of December. Christmas would then last 12 days, ending with feasting and revels on the 5th of January – the eve of Epiphany in the Christian calendar – with wassailing a key part of the celebrations.*

*Courtesy of the National Trust*

Wiltshire Council

# Additional £22m investment in our roads

As your Wiltshire Councillor I am most often asked about our roads – so I thought it might be helpful to write about Wiltshire Council’s investment in our roads, and how it prioritises spending.

Wiltshire Council is focused on efficient and effective financial management – with prevention and early intervention in all service areas from adults and children’s services to roads. An extra £22m has been invested into Wiltshire’s highways - on top of the £20.7m received from the Government - and it is making a difference on the county’s roads, with more resurfacing, more repairs and fewer potholes.

Highways expenditure and performance is scrutinised intensely – including by the Environment Select Committee at its meeting on 14 January. All Highways investment follows an evidence-led, risk-based approach – i.e. the inspection regime determines the risk to motorists and residents. Residents may be interested to read more at Agenda - Democratic Services - Wiltshire Council Item 7.

The Inspection Manual and the planned Highways Maintenance Programme by Area Board are on the Wiltshire Council website at Highways maintenance - Wiltshire Council. I’m pleased that the Warminster Area Board maintenance plan includes Chapmanslade – Thoulstone A36 on/off slips and Huntenhull Green (2025/6)

Smaller target sites most prone to potholes are repaired through a package of road resurfacing and localised repairs using new machines called Bobcats. These remove and replace large patches of road in a matter of minutes, before moving straight on to the next job. Areas are identified through analysis of customer reports, pothole repairs and local knowledge of areas of concern from the Local Highways Area Engineers. Special consideration will be given to C road and Unclassified roads so please do use the My Wilts app to report any local issues.

Much of the additional investment would not be possible without the Council’s careful financial management to free up additional funds for these priorities, and of course significant hard work by Highways Officers to manage the programmes and contractors.

But there is much more to be done, as we continue to invest significant sums into filling and preventing potholes, replacing and extending the life of our road surfaces, preventing flooding, replacing road signs and reinstating and painting new road markings.

I will continue to keep you updated on the Highways Investment plans and programmes as more becomes available.

*Bill Parks*

*Wiltshire Councillor for Warminster North and Rural.*

*t. 07712 490075*

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# Whitbourne Chapel

“Speak, for your servant is listening.”

1 Samuel, 3:9

## We need to listen!

Are you a good listener? Have you ever considered that there is a real difference between hearing and listening? Most of us do the former, but maybe not so much the latter. Certainly, as a man of a certain age, I find that I am accused regularly of hearing but not listening. I am told research has found that we hear between 20,000 and 30,000 words a day. You could argue, therefore, that it's not unreasonable that we don't listen to all of them; although I find that argument doesn't wash most of the time!

It's important, isn't it, that we do listen, to take in information that's being passed onto us?

The Dictionary defines listening as “to hear something with thoughtful attention”

In the Bible, there are many accounts of people listening to God speaking and obeying. One was the boy Samuel, who was sleeping in the Temple and heard a voice speaking. He initially thought it was the old priest Eli, but then understood that it was God. Samuel says “Speak, for your servant is listening”. God reveals His plan to Samuel. Later we are told that “The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up”, and none of his words were ever wasted.

You know God still speaks today, but we need to listen. He speaks to us through His

Creation, the changing seasons all around us. He speaks through His servants, as they preach in churches up and down our land. You could go and hear one on a Sunday at a Chapel like Whitbourne, maybe. Many churches now share these messages online (if you aren't sure where to go, search for churches that are affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance or the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches and you will find plenty to listen to). It's important that we both hear and listen to what God has to say to us.

Jesus said “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned” (John 5 v24).  
Let us be listeners too.

*Chris Andrews*

*Occasional preacher at Whitbourne*



## Just a thought!

Is it modern life that makes us less able to see and hear, not only God, but our family, neighbours and friends? Life should be a doddle now, with the ‘time-saving’ aids available, but no. We stop and talk, listen and think less than our grandparents did. Let's all try to pause, regularly, to hear and see each other – and to hear God and see all his wonderful gifts to us, every day.

### Please remember:

If you need help or simply someone to talk to, ring 07980 013685 and we'll do our best to help you. Otherwise, visit our website [www.whitbournechapel.org.uk](http://www.whitbournechapel.org.uk) or google 'Whitbourne Baptist Chapel'.



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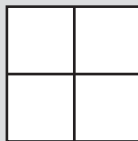
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# Chat Café Warminster

## Friday 7th February

We welcome Andrea,  
MacMillan Welfare Advisor

Find out about the benefits and grants  
available to people affected by cancer

## Friday 21st February

We welcome Dave,  
MacMillan Occupational Therapist from  
Royal United Hospital, Bath

Dave will be available to talk about the  
services offered to patients at the RUH



Join us  
for coffee



### CANCER SUPPORT FOR YOU

The cancer support group meets every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month  
between 10 - 12pm At the Athenaeum

 [opendoorwarminster.org](http://opendoorwarminster.org)

  [@thechatcafewarminster](https://www.facebook.com/thechatcafewarminster)

A view from over the hedge...

# Countryside Matters

Judith rounds up an eventful January

Mid January brought a week of snow and ice and -2/-4 degrees daytime temperatures. This brought extra challenges on the farm, with field and building pipes freezing up and the road from the farm to the main road needing clearing of snow and then gritting so the milk tanker could get in and out from the farm for the daily collections. This cold spell of weather was unusual in that it came from the south and was very localised.

I was fortunate to see the sheep being given their daily supplements early one morning when a hard frost was still on the ground. The shepherd and his trusty border collie had moved them into a field near the house as their lambing days are getting closer and their final injection before their lambing day is due. The picture

I saw was the quad bike making an ever increasing circle with a bag of sheep nuts slowly emptying and the sheep quickly eating the food on the white frosty ground, leaving a trail of wheel marks and small footprints in a beautiful circle.

Sadly, the crisp dry days were replaced by cold damp days and the forecast for the end of January was for extremely high winds so, once again, we had to 'batten down the hatches'.

At least February is our shortest month with just 28 days, with the daylight hours slowly lengthening.



Our winter birds are still foraging where they can, the crows have already cleared a field of late autumn-sown grass of all the young shoots; you may even see redwings in your local supermarket car park eating the rowan berries while the bright lights are on.

Dusk is the best time to see hundreds, if not thousands, of starlings moving like clouds (murmurations) before they land on their safe cover for the night. If

you are willing to travel, the best local area to see these nightly murmurations are at the RSPB nature reserve at Ham Wall on the Somerset Levels.

Although spring is still quite a way off, the tawny owls are nesting – the female calls 'twit'



and the male responds with 'twoo'. You might also hear the spring call of the thrush and our native blackbird. An early call at this time of year is that of the fox, a call that is not a bark or a sound you could mistake for any other animal, even if you live near Longleat!

Sadly, a day- and night-time sport enjoyed by some ne'er-do-wells, is hare coursing; greyhounds and lurchers are trained to chase and kill hares which is an illegal activity. Sadly, these people have no respect for the law and often appear to be kind owners of retired racing greyhounds. Do report anyone you see allowing a dog to chase hares, or any other animal, to the police - these people have little or no respect for animals, humans or the law.

As the arable crops start to appear, you may be fortunate to see the hares 'boxing'; this usually occurs when a male is being too persistent with a female, chasing her across fields in an attempt to mate. When she's had enough, she'll turn around and try to fend him off in a fierce boxing match! This behaviour can go on for weeks.

Enjoy your walks in the countryside when you can – there's plenty to see and hear but, for your own safety, please do wear clothing that can be seen by drivers, especially early morning or dusk and even in dull and wet weather.

*Judith Helliar*

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# Playing Field Update

Neil Carpenter reports on the recent happenings at the field

We are now in the depths of winter but there is still much to do at the Playing Field.

Following on from my request before Christmas, there was enough support for a New Years Eve gathering around a fire pit enjoyed by all, despite the increasing wind speed. We hope to have a bigger event next year including some food and drink.

We have also been cutting back and replacing some of the old dead hedge behind the pavilion. We will be planting it with wildlife-friendly hedging in the next month.

We also wanted to congratulate the hardy table tennis boys for only missing one or two Sundays of table tennis despite the weather and wind often making it super tricky to play. We also wanted to thank them for their donation. As you know the Playing Field is a charity and can only be kept going thanks to support from volunteers, donations from the community and grants. The same with the tennis club members who were out playing despite the fog this week!

I wanted to give advance notice that we have applied for a number of grants which, if we get them, will allow us to run free events every month of the year based around the local environment and trees.

Thanks to Warminster Area Board, we also plan to run a number of events in the summer holidays for children and families with the help of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

More news on both of these in the coming months so you can get dates in the diary and support the efforts of the Trustees in applying for and organising these events, which is not a small task.

Finally, I wanted to thank the local badger, who seeing the snow on the bike ramps and jumps the night before our visit from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, decided to take a turn around the course leaving footprints across the middle of the ramps! There is no news as to whether they are planning on getting a badger bike (and appropriate safety pads and helmet) to use the equipment more this year...

# 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!**

## Open Door

We run four regular chat cafés:

- 2nd and 4th Monday of each month 7 to 8.30 pm for those affected by **prostate cancer**. Family and friends welcome.
- Every Thursday 10 am to 12 noon for anyone **feeling lonely or affected by social isolation**.
- 1st and 3rd Friday of each month 10 am to 12 noon support group for **anyone affected by cancer**. Family and friends welcome.
- 2nd and 4th Friday of each month 10 am to 12 noon support group for anyone **bereaved, affected by grief for any reason**. Families and friends welcome.

All groups, which are held at the fully accessible Athenaeum Centre, 18-20 High Street, Warminster, BA12 9AE. They are **drop-in and completely free**. Full details available on The Chat Open Door Warminster website <https://opendoorwarminster.org/>

## Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Tesco
- 2 A1
- 3 Showboat
- 4 The Velvet Revolution
- 5 3 – Iowa, Ohio and Utah
- 6 Bears
- 7 Milan
- 8 Warwickshire
- 9 Bacchus
- 10 8 – Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives
- 11 Persia/Iran (prior to 1979)
- 12 Tom Pearce

## 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 (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)	£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](mailto:thebridge832@gmail.com) or 01373 832443.



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