The Bridge

June 2025



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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 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 f, 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 f, 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 dropoff 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.

In this issue...

- Bob's Bafflers a cunning quiz
- **Corsley Reading Room** 4 Corsiey Inable happenings at the hall
- **Corsley Tennis Club** from over the net

Parish Council briefing

Chapmanslade

Six Open Doors news from the pews

Corsley WI news from the ladies 24

- Parish Council briefing Corsley
- Whitbourne Chapel chapel colloquy
- 35 Countryside matters views from over the hedge

Deadline

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

Please note that no items will be accepted after this date

June

Wednesday 4th

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



Tuesday 10th

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

Wednesday 11th

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Thursday 12th

Corsley WI – Annual General Meeting and 'Bike Ride to Santiago', 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Thursday 19th

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

Wednesday 25th

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Monday 30th

Corsley Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting, 7 pm, Corsley Reading Room

July

Wednesday 2nd

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

Monday 7th

Corsley Parish Council meeting – 7 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Tuesday 8th

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

Thursday 17th

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

August

Sunday 3rd

Elizabethan Evening - Illyria presents the Merry Wives of Windsor – 5 pm, (gates open at 4 pm), Manor Farm, Corsley

Wednesday 6th

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

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th

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

Thursday 21st

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

Saturday 30th

Corsley Fayre - 12 noon to 4 pm, Showfield, Deep Lane

September

Monday 1st

Corsley Parish Council meeting – 7 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 3rd

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

Saturday 6th

Illyria presents HMS Pinafore – 5 pm (gates open at 3 pm), Heywood House, BA13 4NA

Tuesday 9th

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

Thursday 18th

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

Wednesday 24th

Lite Bite Soup Lunch – the start of a new season! 12.30 pm to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

October

Wednesday 1st

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

Tuesday 14th

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

Thursday 16th

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

Wiltshire Mobile Library

Chapmanslade School Arrives 1.45 pm, departs 2.30 pm

Wednesday 11th June

Wednesday 25th June

Wednesday 9th July

Wednesday 23rd July

Wednesday 6th August

Wednesday 20th August

Wednesday 3rd September

Wednesday 17th September

Wednesday 1st October

Wednesday 15th October

Wednesday 29th October

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

Liz Garrett secretary reports on the latest happenings at the Hall



Events

The coffee morning was run by the Lite Bites Team on the first Wednesday of the month as usual.

We must apologise for the disappearance of the remote for the projector which was a bit of a hiccup for the WI but resolved just in time by Alice and Liz being resourceful!

The hall was used as a polling station on 1st May.

Developments

We haven't needed the heating much this month!

A bit of history

Brian Redman's chronicle of the Reading Room records in 1960 'due to the number of requests to run Whist Drives it was decided

to restrict each organisation to one event per year'! Now there's an idea - anyone remember how to run a whist drive? We have the playing cards and score cards!

In that same year the Christmas Whist Drive had 42 tables occupied and made a profit of f,33 which the internet tells me would be more than £700 in today's money.

Dates for your diary

The Christmas Fair will be on 6th November. We also have a speaker lined up for 19th November.

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.

While we do not have a Chairman at the moment, emails to this address come to the secretary Liz Garrett chairman@ corsleyreadingroom.org.uk

See our website

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

Trustees

Chris de Groot, Claire Firman-Ford, Liz Garrett, Jackie Jasper, Mark Richards David Sharrocks Also on Committee Dee Crossland, Mary King

Would you like a map of Corsley & Chapmanslade showing all the Rights of Way?

Corsley & Chapmanslade A1-sized Rights of Way map available

Did you know that Corsley has 49 rights of way (byways, bridleways and footpaths) with Chapmanslade having 34?

At every Parish Council and Area Board meeting there's a discussion about work being done to Cory 20 or erosion of Chap 31, etc. and I never had a clue where these routs were.

There is an access to a map with routes on the web but its not much use on your phone.

So, after being the Chair of the Parish Council in Corsley for several years Wiltshire finally provided me with an A1-sized map showing all the routes. Given the difficulty getting a copy I expected it to be delivered by courier or by a chap with a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist. Sadly it just came in the post in a plain envelope!

Since then, some councillors and many residents have expressed an interest in having a paper copy to enable them to get around the village without using the main roads and make sure they stay on designated routes.

Having spoken to the Ordnance Survey, they are happy for us to provide the community paper copies (providing I jump a few hurdles). Clearly the more we buy, the better value it will be so if you are interested in having a copy please let me know by email at neil@nmc2.co.uk

The cost will be £15, which pays for the copying, license, etc. Once I have pulled together all the orders, it should only take a few days to get them done.

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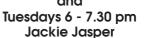
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Bob's bafflers

- How many Great Lakes are there in North America?
- A hexagon has how many sides?
- The song 'I Whistle a Happy Tune' appears in which musical?
- What was the first name of the famous 18th century British sailor and explorer, Captain Cook?
- Which is the largest castle in the UK that is still in use today?
- Which soap opera is set in the fictional town of Summer Bay?
- What association is responsible for the erection and maintenance of buoys and lighthouses?
- The adjective 'vulpine', pertains to which animal?
- In which South American country would you find the port of Fray Bentos?
- 10 What's the name of Sir Keir Starmer's wife?
- 11 Which bear teaches Mowgli 'The Bare Necessities of Life' in Disney's The Jungle Book?
- 12 What happened when you pushed 'button B' when using a public telephone during the 1940s and 1950s?

Answers on page 36

Spate of local burglaries

There has recently been a spate of burglaries in the Chapmanslade and Corsley areas. Residents are reminded to keep their property (including sheds and garages) secure to prevent opportunistic and planned theft. Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home

Give them nowhere to hide – keep bushes trimmed back, remove clutter in your garden and make sure the surroundings of your windows and doors are not hidden and are clearly visible.

Mark your property – got a valuable bike? Register it with accredited cycle registration

database Bike Register and make sure it is marked to advertise this.

Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using a police approved forensic marking solution only visible under Ultraviolet light. This can take the form of a special marker using ink or paint from an approved source i.e. www.securedbydesign.com. Put up the poster that will come with the markers – it can deter burglars.

Don't fall for 'distraction' burglaries e.g. someone wanting a glass of water, feigning illness, unsolicited workers (roofing, gardening, etc), whilst their accomplice gains entry to your property.

Keep your wits about you and stay safe!

Corsley Tennis Club News

We have continued to be blessed with the dry sunny weather this spring; not so good for farmers or gardeners unfortunately but for us tennis players the conditions have been perfect and a real antidote to many months of playing in more challenging conditions.

The Junior coaching sessions are well underway run by Callum and Imogen (a junior Level 1 coach) who is supporting the younger players initially. It is fantastic to see last year's children advancing their skills and the enthusiasm of the newest recruits. There are 27 children across the four age/ability categories; it's never too late to join in, see our website (https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ CorsleyTennisClub) for details!

Our adults coach Martin has also been busy running Mixed and Ladies coaching sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings respectively:

"The sessions are all based around playing doubles tennis, building the skills and techniques to improve our all-round game. We have a lot of fun with drills and skills and a friendly competition at the end to finish off – Queen or King of the Court! There is two-week break for holidays/half term and both groups will restart on 10th/11th June respectively. Please go to Corsley Tennis Clubspark to sign up."

Coach Martin

At the time of writing, three matches had been played so far in the Chippenham & District Mixed League season. We had a good start with a resounding 7:1 victory against Devizes E team, a narrow 3:5 defeat against Freshford B team and again, a narrow 3:5 defeat against Malmesbury, our toughest opponents yet. But.. the good news is that we are ratchetting up the number of games we are winning which all counts. Good luck to the team for the rest of the season!

Another beautiful day rounded off this month's news, with the first of the tournaments (Mixed Doubles) held on Sunday 18th May organised by Nicola and Kate. Doubles partners were picked out of a hat and each match was five games with each pair playing seven matches. We were particularly grateful to have a marquee this year, kindly loaned to us from the memorial playing field and erected by Neil Carpenter and his son. Everything ran smoothly and a fun convivial time was had by all. Congratulations to the winners Julie and Martin!

Committee Member Julie and Martin

Kate Jackson



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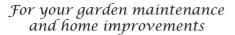
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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Phil Holihead reports on the Parish Council meeting of 15th May

As this was the first meeting of the new Parish Council since the elections and the Annual General Meeting, much of the agenda was taken up with initial administration and council policies.

Salient points from the meeting were: All councillors signed the Acceptance of Office forms in the presence of the Clerk.

Pavements

The council expressed its thanks to Marilyn Michalowicz, who had undertaken most of the pavement survey by walking and recording the village's pavements. Her report was accepted by councillors and has been summarised and forwarded to Wiltshire Council Highways Maintenance for action on issues like trip hazards around the school entrance and raised manhole covers, etc., outside peoples' houses.

Some issues such as replacing the sign to Corsley Church, etc., will be taken up later in the year to the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG).

Other issues such as overgrowing hedges, gravel spill from driveways, etc., can only be resolved on a self-help basis and this is a gentle reminder to householders to try to keep their gardens and drives from encroaching on and causing issues on the pavements especially where they are narrow.

Short Street junction with the A3098 The Highways Engineer has visited the site and met with councillors. The outcome is sadly not the reduced speed limit we had hoped for but some improved road markings and signs on the approaches to the Short Street junction and at the junction itself. As part of the work to further improve the safety on the stretch of road from Short Street into the village, the Highways Engineer also undertook to put additional road markings and signs around the approaches to the two junctions from the A36 at Dead Maids Crossroads. The addition of double white lines across that whole section will also be investigated. This is work undertaken as part of the LHFIG process and given an estimated overall cost of £4000 the Parish Council agreed to pay its 25% share of £,1000 in order to progress the work.

Lorry Weight Limits

Having gained agreement to have the weight limit reduced to 7.5t there has been some debate in County Hall as to how this will be achieved. It has been decided that the LHFIG process will take this as a project and the Highways Engineer has started work on costs and a plan for implementation. As it is LHFIG work the village will need to find 25% of the costs and the Parish Council has set aside £,5000 from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to cover this long-awaited improvement to our village infrastructure. It is hoped that the actual costs will be below this as in many cases existing signs can be

amended rather than providing brand new signs.

Communication

The Parish Council decided to follow latest guidelines and instructions and move to a gov.uk council email address with associated email addresses for councillors which are also available with the upgrade of the website domain. This is mainly for the improved security such a system will provide in comparison to the increasing issues on the more open email systems. The changeover will be completed in the next few weeks.

CIL Funding Request

A request was received for CIL funding for a feasibility study for a project aimed at improving some rights of way to make them more user friendly. The PC were in favour of the work, but the rules regarding CIL funding prevents money being allocated to a study. Thus, the council will investigate how best to get the work completed and which funds are appropriate.

Finance

Councillors approved the end of year accounts provided by the Clerk and the audit documents as required. The PC also agreed that it will comply with a requirement placed upon it by the external auditors and provide a Limited Assurance, Base Audit review for the year 2024/25, despite its expenditure being below the threshold level. The council felt that in addition to complying with auditors' requirements it was a good way to confirm our financial standing at the start of the new council. Updated policies and documents were also considered by councillors and approved.

The dates for Parish Council meetings for 2025/26 were agreed and are on the website. More details on these and other matters can be found on the website

www.chapmansladepc.org.uk

(We will let you know when that address changes).

Lite Bites

A report on our 'season'

Our Lite Bites Soup 'season' came to an end on St. George's Day - don't worry we'll be back in September! We had a great turn out of over 30 people who helped us raise £,185 for Macmillan Cancer. With so many guests it was fortunate that we had five soups on offer rather than the usual four! This meant there was something for everyone; spicy, veggie and a couple of perennial favourites; broccoli with stilton, and mushroom.

Our 'season' started last September and since then we have raised over f, 1,100 for the various charities we have supported. Our lunches have been attended by an average of 24 people and we ALWAYS have room for more!! This is without including our Christmas meal which is extremely well supported and this year raised nearly £250 for our two children's charities - Children's Hospice SW and Julia's House.

Half way through our season we were very lucky to have been given a grant by the Reading Room Committee which has covered the majority of our expenses. The new solar heating also means we do not have to constantly feed a meter AND we were warm even on the freezing days of January or February.

Our lunches take place in the Reading Room on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 12.30 until 2 pm and the next one will be on 24th September so please put the date in your diary NOW! We would love to see more people from the village on a regular basis - come along and give us a try.

Last, but by no means least, if there is anyone reading this who would like to help us raise money by making soup or helping serve it, please contact me or come along in September and see what we do.

> Maureen Willcox 01373 832171

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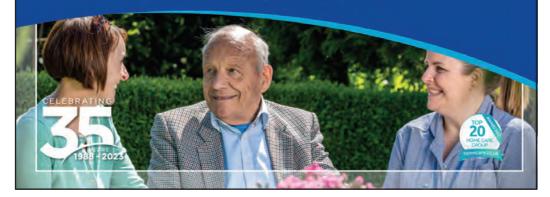
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Six Open Doors

Bishop Andrew's monthly letter

Jack Spratt's scrap heap clock

To St Andrew's, Wootton Rivers, and an invitation to place the first signature in their new visitor's book, after the sixty-year service of its predecessor.

These volumes are found in most village churches and remain a quiet record of the thousands who call into our places of worship, usually unseen, and leave their appreciation with a word or two and, often as not, a coin in the box or a tap on the e-reader!

In Wootton Rivers, they will find in the porch a beautiful board telling the story of local character Jack Spratt, who achieved fame by constructing a church clock entirely from local scrap to commemorate the coronation of George V in 1911. As a new installation was too costly, handyman Jack invited villagers to leave him their spare bits and bobs and proceeded to make a clock that ran (and still runs) with pin-point accuracy. Instead of numerals on its face, the tower clock reads 'Glory be to God'.

This eccentric and appealing project bears witness to the steady Anglican faith and resourcefulness vital for our churches to thrive and survive. Also, to the creator God whose spirit can work within us to make something wonderful from the scraps and times of our lives.

To him be the glory.

June Church Diary

Sunday 1st June 10 am Eucharist, Corsley 10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill

*

Sunday 8th June 10 am Praise and Worship, Chapmanslade 10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill

*

Sunday 15th June 11 am Matins, Corsley 10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill

Sunday 22nd June 10 am Eucharist, Chapmanslade 10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill

•

Sunday 29th June **Benefice Service** 10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill

*

Sunday 6th July 10 am Eucharist, Corsley 10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill

My apologies for putting the wrong time for the Matins service in the May edition of The Bridge. It will begin at 11 am each month unless stated otherwise. All other services will begin at 10 am unless stated otherwise. Di Britten

Church and Community Events in June

Corsley Coffee Morning

Wednesday 4th June, 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Rooms

Crafternoons

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

Church and Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 19th June, 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade



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 St Philip & St James	Vacant Ian Buick	01373 832318
Deputy Churchwardens: St Margaret's: Currently St Philip & St James':	Amy Holley 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	mjp.mikepalmer@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Sarah Humberstone	cleyhillbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

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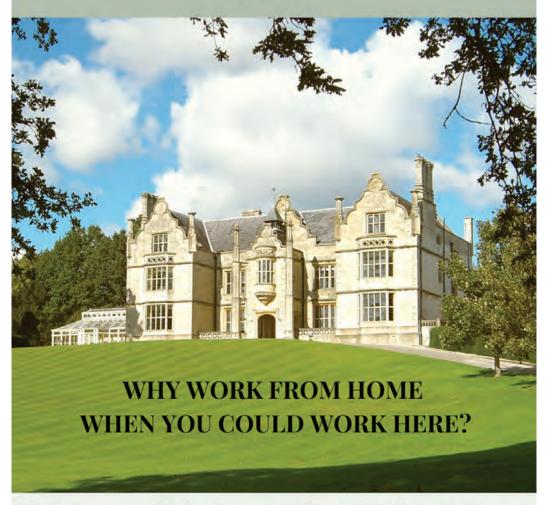






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May news

Alice Helliar rounds up the May meeting and announces some forthcoming events



Dental Health Matters

The National Women's Institute's annual Campaign has been 'Dental Health Matters'. The campaign aims to highlight the importance of dental health and the limitations and barriers to care in the NHS. Ultimately the WI lobby the government and the dental industry to try and fix the problems.

Our speaker for May was one of the country's leading dentists who advises the Care Quality Commission and, ultimately, the government, on dental health issues. This is in addition to running his own dental practices and teaching at the Bristol Dental School.

So, why is it important to see a dentist? As well as wanting our teeth to stay healthy, free from decay and gum disease, so that we can eat our food and look attractive on photos (for those that care) our mouths are seen as a 'window' to lots of other issues. Believe it or not a dentist can spot various conditions such as cancer, anaemia, diabetes and dementia! This all reinforces the fact that regular dental check ups are important as is brushing your teeth for at least two minutes, twice a day, and eating a good healthy diet.

Access to good dentistry on the NHS has become a bit of a postcode lottery with many people not being able to register with an NHS dentist. This has been especially the case for women, as the usual main carers, who often prioritise others' care before their own.

The problem appears to be twofold. Firstly, that the government allocates less money

per person to dental care than other forms of healthcare. Secondly, that the way it is allocated, on a unit basis, means that dentists only have a limited time to see NHS patients and a limited ability to treat them. As a result, lots of dentists prefer to work privately, allowing them to provide people with a better level of care.

Dentaid, the British dental charity are extremely busy doing increasing numbers of 'drop in' appointments across the country including in many areas of Wiltshire. The speaker very kindly donated his fee to this charity.

So, what can we do to change things? The labour manifesto was full of pledges to sort the problem so it is on the government agenda. The Corsley WI will write to our MP with our concerns and see what happens.

The next Corsley WI meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th June and is the annual AGM with a talk on the fun and challenges along the way of a 'Bike ride to Santiago'.

Alice Helliar

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

Councillor Bill Parks

Thank you!

Bill expresses thanks and gives some info on the Warminster Area Board



Thank you to everyone who voted for me on Thursday 1st May. I am delighted to have been returned as your Wiltshire Councillor and I will

do my very best over the next four years to stand up, and speak out, for residents across Warminster North and Rural, and to deliver for you, and your Parish Councils.

Thank you to those who have agreed to serve as Parish Councillors and to everyone who helps to make every community such a brilliant place to live.

I will continue to attend Parish Council meetings and to work closely with your Parish Councillors, including your Parish Clerks who are all incredibly efficient and knowledgeable about local issues. For Highways and other matters please always report on the My Wilts app or Wiltshire Council website – it is always helpful to drop your Parish Clerk an email too. Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help with local issues.

I should like to remind everyone about Wiltshire Council's Area Board Grants. Many local groups have benefited from the significant funding which is available for community organisations to ensure that our local communities are well supported. Area Board grants are split into three main funding schemes:

- Community grants capital funding to help provide facilities and equipment for projects that are important to the local community.
- Youth grants revenue funding for projects that provide positive leisure-time activities for young people aged 13-19 or up to 25 vears old with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Older and vulnerable adult grants revenue funding to support projects that benefit and improve older and vulnerable residents' health and wellbeing.

More information can be found here:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6145/ **Area-Board-Grants**

The next Warminster Area Board meeting is on Thursday 10th July and applications must be received at least four weeks before an Area Board meeting – which take place four times per year.

I hope that many local organisations will seek a grant over the coming years – please do get in touch with me or Liam Cripps, our Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager at liam.cripps@wiltshire.gov.uk if you would like to discuss a grant application.

Best wishes

Bill Parks Wiltshire Councillor - Warminster North and Rural 07712 490075 bill.parks@wiltshire.co.uk



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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

A round-up of the PC's activity in May

The main issues from the meeting held in May were:

Following the council elections held earlier in May this was the first meeting of the 'new' Parish Council and also the Annual General Meeting.

The first substantive item of business was the election of the Chair and Vice Chair and Messrs John Phillips and Chris Brown were elected as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

Corsley is entitled to nine councillors, only seveb people were nominated at the election and these seven automatically became parish councillors. The councillors decided that they would co-opt to try and fill the two vacancies. In line with established procedure, this decision would be advertised in The Bridge and interested parties invited to apply.

Planning applications

Unusually, there were no planning applications to consider. The decisions made by the planning authority on three recent applications considered were reported:

PL/2025/01562 Conversion of existing garaging and garden room to holiday let at Moor Cottage, 50 Whitbourne Moor, Corsley. This was approved with conditions.

PL/2025/02669 Single storey rear extension. at 52 Dertford, Corsley. This was approved with conditions.

PL/2025/02190 Single storey side extension to the annex at The Annex, Gloworm Cottage, Heath Close, Corsley. This was approved with conditions.

The PC had no objection to any of these applications.

Rights of Way

It was reported that a number of new gates have been received to be installed on previously identified Rights of Way and additional ones are on order. The PC are grateful to The Longleat Estates for a significant contribution towards the cost of the new gates and for their ongoing co-operation and commitment to the maintenance of the footpath network in the parish. Thanks are also due to Acres Supply for their offer to provide material to resurface CORY40/41, pending the agreement of the landowner that this is in order.

Parish Steward

Councillor Chris Brown reported that the Parish Steward was going to be in the parish on 19th and 23rd June.

Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG)

The next LFHIG meeting is on the 11th June. It was confirmed that the applications previously agreed should be submitted to this meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting – the meeting at which the PC gives an account of what it has been doing the previous year, will take place on **Monday 30th June**. Following the formal report, the meeting will be open to any member of the public who has a question, a concern, a suggestion, a comment. See page opposite

for full info. If you have a topic you want discussed and can advise of this beforehand it may be possible to get somebody on the night to illuminate/explain. Contact the Clerk - John Willcox on either 01373 832171 or corsleypc_jdw@aol.com.

There will be a PC meeting on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting.

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Corsley Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

will be held on 30th June at 7 pm **Corsley Reading Room** This YOUR meeting

This is the annual occasion when you have a chance to discuss the issues which you believe most affect the village.

The PC Chairman's Annual Report

followed by ANY questions, comments, concerns, suggestions

(If some notice can be given of the topics that you want raised, we will do our best to provide a knowledgeable and useful response.)

All Parish Councils in England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting each year. The meeting allows the Council and local community organisations to explain what they have been doing over the last year and electors can have their say on anything which they consider is important to the people of the parish. Note that It is not a Parish Council meeting although it will be chaired by the PC

Corsley Fayre **Update**

12 noon to 4 pm Saturday 30th August

Planning for the Corsley Fayre is continuing apace. A number of attractions and stalls have been confirmed and more are in the pipeline. The schedule for the Horticulture and Craft competitions is being compiled and the layout has been discussed. There's still no charge for entry to pedestrians, but cars will be £8.

This year entries to the H&C competition can be made on paper and dropped off at either Acres Supply or Barters Plant Centre. Forms will be published in The Bridge and in the schedule.

We're hoping that an after-Fayre event fundraising for the RUH Cancer Unit will be taking place but we can't confirm that yet!

Anybody wanting to get involved by volunteering is more than welcome to contact any of the following;

John Willcox

corsleyshowsec.jdw@gmail.com

Sandy Parrish

sandyparrish@hotmail.co.uk

Alan Hutton

adhutton@btinternet.com

Chris de Groot

chrisgreen56@hotmail.com

Viv Thomas

paradisefound86@icloud.com

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning

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

www.corsleyandthebridge.co.uk Want something added? Just email the Editor with your request!

Village Coffee Morning

(organised by members of the Lite Bites team)

Every 1st Wednesday of the month 10.30 am - 12 noonCorsley Reading Rooms

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Whitbourne Chapel

'Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.' Psalm 100, verse 1

Worship the Lord with gladness!

Somerset Gospel Outreach, based in Street, is celebrating thirty years in the Lord's service this year and the organisers, Evangelist Chris Gadd and his wife Linda, visited us for the first Sunday Service in May. The Outreach works with Evangelical Churches and reaches people by home visitation, open air preaching and by literature distribution.

Our eleven o'clock service became a fourcourse 'meal', with local preacher and home visitor, Richard Wilson, leading, with Chris taking over to give us the sermon - on Psalm 100 - before giving us a report on recent visits and events regarding Somerset Gospel Outreach. Richard took over again for the celebration of Communion, which we usually do on the first Sunday of each month.

In view of the thirty years' anniversary, Chris's choice of Psalm 100 was very appropriate, as seen in the first verse of this joy-filled psalm (see main heading above). Chris told us that visitors to the Temple at Jerusalem were encouraged to shout and sing to God; we heard that, when our hearts are filled with the Lord Jesus, our lips long to sing His praise. Psalm 100 is only five verses long, but inspirational in content; as its title says, it is 'a psalm for giving thanks'.

In Chris's report on the continuing work of Somerset Gospel Outreach, we had news of different places visited, people met and materials handed out, such as tracts and Gospels. Chris regularly visits towns like Weston-Super-Mare, Glastonbury and Bridgwater; each community is different, as are the people met and spoken with. Some are seriously seeking Jesus, while those recently-bereaved are seeking comfort and answers to questions about their

> future. Those who aren't sure what being a Christian means

receive guidance and encouragement, while those involved with cults, and other movements, often want explanations regarding Jesus and the Bible. Usually, people are keen to take literature and occasionally they're also looking for local Churches and services.

If you recognise yourself in any of the above situations, why not come to Whitbourne Chapel one Sunday morning and listen to God's Word? Our services begin at 11 am, with tea, coffee and biscuits available beforehand. You'll be made very welcome! If you can't make it to a service, try one of our Coffee Mornings with home-made food, held on the second Tuesday of each month, from 10 am till noon.

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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Well, halfway through 2025 and lots of weather records have been broken - it was the hottest May ever recorded!

Rainfall

January to April 2025 (inclusive) 245.1 mm January to April 2024 (inclusive) 400 mm

These are supposedly some of our wetter months, but they were followed by only 5.2mm of rain up until 19th of May.

Like all you gardeners, the high temperatures by day, with colder nights, light frosts and strong winds at times, the weather is certainly dominating farmers' thoughts and plans for the crops in the fields.

The first cut of silage was at least a week to 10 days early for us, but the second growth following silage-making or grazing is slower than normal.

Some winter crops sown last winter are looking very patchy in the fields, but I've seen the sprayers with fertilisers and the crop sprayers out late into the evenings when the winds have dropped, when they are most effective.

The cattle are enjoying the sunshine but, like humans, they need more water to maintain a normal body temperature and to produce milk; cattle would normally drink 70 litres a day and up to 100 litres in very hot weather.

Reservoirs of clean water on farms collected from rainfall and run-off from farm buildings can be used for irrigation on crops such as potatoes; slurry (water collected from the cleaning of yards and stored in slurry lagoons) is also spread to encourage grass growth.

In some areas, boreholes and natural spring water is captured for farm use, as metered water is so expensive

If the grass is mature and dry enough, June and July will bring the farmers out with their traditional hay-making equipment to mow, turn twice, rewed (two rows into one) and then baled. This process takes about five days - without rain and not too much dew. Few farmers have the patience or the time to make hay, especially in our typical British weather when it rains so regularly!

Whilst out seeing the lovely bluebells in Longleat Forest, I heard the cuckoo calling on 8th May - it really lifted my spirits to think these special birds are still finding their old breeding grounds.

The cuckoo comes in April He sings his song in May In June she lays her eggs in other birds nests July he flies away

Cuckoos don't build their own nest but lay their eggs in the nest of dunnocks, reed warblers, meadow pipits and even crows, expecting these foster birds to hatch the chicks and feed them until fully grown and independent - sometimes to the detriment of their own chicks which will be pushed out of the nest (the cuckoo being somewhat larger).

The elderflowers are looking really good this year, so do try to gather some, it makes lovely 'champagne' and cordial and is a good medicinal drink when the flowers are dried.

Enjoy all that the countryside provides both the sunshine and the rain!

Judith Helliar

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

- 5 Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior
- The King and I
- James
- Windsor
- Home and Away
- Trinity House 'The Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Guild, Fraternity or Brotherhood of the most glorious and undivided Trinity and of St Clement in the Parish of Deptford Strond.'
- Fox (derives from vulpes, the Latin word for fox)
- Uruguay
- 10 Victoria (no points for Mrs/Lady Starmer!)
- 12 You got your money returned if you were lucky!! ('button A' connected the call)

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!

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