

The Bridge

March 2026

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade

Don't forget to put your
clocks forward on 28th March

Join the WI for their 'Growing for Gold' talk, get crafty in the afternoon, coffee mornings galore, pop down to the Rural Police Community Drop-In, get inspired at the London Mountain Film Festival, there's lots to do in March...



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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 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.

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Deadline

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

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

March

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

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall
Corsley WI – ‘Growing for Gold’ – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Saturday 14th

Dorothy House Men’s Walk to Support – various start times, Dorothy House, Winsley, Bradford on Avon

Saturday 16th

Health and Wellbeing Fair – 10 am to 1 pm, Warminster Civic Centre

Thursday 19th

Community Church Coffee Morning – 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade
London Mountain Film Festival – 7.30 pm (doors at 7 pm), Corsley Reading Room

Saturday 21st

Brick Church – 10.30 am to 12 noon, St Philip & St James’ Church, Chapmanslade
Rural Police Community Drop-In – 2 to 4 pm, St Philip & St James’ Church, Chapmanslade
Maridi Link Quiz – 7.45 pm, Conservative Club, Warminster (£12 inc fish and chips)

Monday 23rd

Corsley Parish Council meeting – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Wednesday 25th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch – 12.30 pm to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room
Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

April

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



Diary Dates

Wednesday 22nd

Lite Bites Soup Lunch – 12.30 pm to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

May

Wednesday 6th

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

Tuesday 12th

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

Thursday 21st

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

Wednesday 27th

Lite Bites Soup Lunch – 12.30 pm to 2 pm, Corsley Reading Room

June

Wednesday 3rd

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

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Wednesday 18th March

Wednesday 1st April

Wednesday 15th April

Wednesday 29th April

Wednesday 13th May

Wednesday 27th May

Wednesday 10th June

Wednesday 24th June

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Bob's bafflers

- 1 What is the term for a word which reads the same backward as forward?
- 2 Wackford Squeers is the schoolmaster in which Dickens' novel?
- 3 In which city would you find Waverley Railway Station?
- 4 Which Bristol born politician and social reformer is best remembered for devising a means to ensure that ships were never overloaded?
- 5 What is the technical term for plants that complete their lifecycle in two growing seasons?
- 6 Which river runs through Budapest, dividing the city into Buda and Pest?
- 7 Who composed the Brandenburg Concertos?
- 8 Which film director is known for the films like "Psycho", "Vertigo" and "The Birds"?
- 9 Chinstrap and Humboldt are species of which bird?
- 10 Which treaty ended World War I?
- 11 What is the first book in the Harry Potter series?
- 12 If you only had one match and you had a fire, a candle and a cigarette to light, which would you light first?

Answers on page 40

Quiz supporting Maridi, South Sudan, and Lego

What do Lego bricks and a quiz for our friends in Maridi have in common? Well, not a lot really except they are both on 21st March.

Brick Church with lots of fun using Lego bricks to express the story, singing, making a prayer wall and sharing snacks begins at 10.30 am and finishes at midday in St Philip and St James' Church, Chapmanslade. Entry is FREE.



The quiz to support our Maridi Link with quizmasters extraordinaire, 'The Two Bobs', will be in the Warminster Conservative Club, starting at 7.45 - teams of up to 6 at £12 a head to include fish and chips – (alternative options for special dietary needs).

Tickets are on sale now at the Con Club and sell fast! Call 01985 217895

I look forward to seeing you
Rev'd Gay Maynard

Corsley Tennis Club News



Despite the incessant rain, the evenings are getting lighter and, no doubt, the rain will be less frequent and more conducive to tennis playing over the next few months! All courts were cleaned and treated for moss recently so they are in good condition, despite it being such a wet year. We have lots of keen tennis players who are desperate to get on court more often so... fingers crossed!

Imogen, our Junior Coach, looks forward to welcoming old and/or new Junior Coaching participants starting with a:

FREE JUNIORS TASTER SESSION

(Age 5 to 8 years)

Sunday 5th April

9am -10 am

Easter Theme

This will be an Easter fun-filled hour so do encourage your children to come along and join in.

Our Junior Coaching sessions will start on **Sunday 12th April** running for 10 weeks. To suit our different abilities and ages, we have four groups, each being coached for one hour. Please book courses on the Corsley Tennis Club website to guarantee your place! (see next column for groups, ages and times)

Beginner – red: (5-8y) 9 to 10am

Improver – orange: (5-8y) 10 to 11pm

Older juniors – green: (8-13y) 11 to 12pm

Rally + Juniors – yellow: (13-16y) 12 to 1pm

NB A reminder to all parents/guardians of our junior coaching participants that, for just £10 per year, you are able to book courts to play with your children under 11 years old. On our website select 'non-playing membership'.

Membership

It'll soon be that time of year (end of March) when memberships will be up for renewal. It was recommended by the Treasurer at our AGM that there should be a nominal increase in fees which was agreed. The subscriptions are still very good value for money with three fantastic courts to play on, an excellent Junior Coach, beautiful surroundings and, most importantly, being able to be part of such a friendly inclusive club! Please see details on our website and look out for the forthcoming renewal email.

Next month's news will include our tournament dates which are always popular so, in the meantime, let's hope we can start getting lots more regular practise in!

Kate Jackson, Committee member



www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/corsleytennisclub



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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Ian Curtis reports on the PC meeting of 12th February

Planning application

The meeting considered one planning application:

PL/2025/09974 Barbers Farm Nurseries Ltd, High Street, Chapmanslade.

Full Erection of two prefabricated office and staff welfare units, prefabricated staff WC block and two polytunnels ancillary to established horticultural use (part retrospective).

The Chair requested clarification about public access to the WC facilities. Barbers Farm Nurseries confirmed that this was their intention. The PC had no objection.

The PC also considered one license application:

Application for a New Premises Licence - Raquet Garden, Thoulstone Park, Chapmanslade.

The PC noted the positive contribution that the Padel Courts are making alongside other activities now on offer at Thoulstone Park. This application was for an alcohol license between 12 – 11 pm daily. The PC had no objection.

LHFIG

Local Highway Footpath Improvement Group meeting – the Chair reported back on the meeting held on the 14th January:

- Reduction of weight limit along A3098 through Chapmanslade from 18 to 7.5 tonnes.

This is now been approved to proceed to formal notice by the end of March 2026.

- Short Street Junction with A3098, and slip roads from Dead Maids onto the A36. *Draft plans for improving the safety of the Short Street junction are being reviewed. Final designs will be sent to the Chair of the PC before the next LHFIG meeting to review and finalise.*
- Road markings at Dead Maids and the slip roads onto the A36 are also now included. *This is likely to be a lengthy process since it involves National Highways. The Chair will therefore seek to separate the Short Street component from the Dead Maids proposals.*

Flooding concerns at Huntenhull Lane

Following concerns raised by a resident regarding flooding in Huntenhull Green and potential damage to property, the Chair had been able to speak with the owner and involve Wiltshire Council in an on-site visit. It has been agreed that resurfacing the road, including a pothole, with a camber may resolve the problem. Wessex Water has also carried out some work to unblock drains in the adjoining field to help evacuate the drainage water.

Emergency Planning – Next Steps

The locally-based Safe House Pro are providing some pro bono support to local communities. This is focused on preparing for and responding to major emergencies. They have confirmed that the planned Table Top Exercise to brainstorm a particular scenario will be a joint meeting in April with Corsley PC – date to be confirmed. Councillor Curtis

will attend a separate meeting on Planning and Preparedness Guides.

Chapmanslade Village Hall Integrated Energy Solution

The purpose of this project is to future-proof the energy supply to the village hall – including air source heat pumps and a solar system, as well as improving the air conditioning and low-level background heating. Councillor Humphreys reported the work will be completed before the end of March. The hall will be closed from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th March to enable access for the contractors. The work includes a contribution from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. The Councillors approved direct payment from CIL funds against the deposit invoice received in respect of the ventilation equipment. This is to allow recovery of the VAT element.

Line of sight at Wood Lane

An issue was raised by residents on the limited line of sight when exiting Wood Lane onto the High Street.

Residents of Wood Lane had submitted a request for the installation of a mirror on the opposite side of the road to give better visibility – notably when parked cars and, particularly, vans are parked close to the junction. The PC consulted Wiltshire Highways Department. They confirmed that for safety reasons mirrors are no longer supported by the authority and are removed if on Wiltshire Highways land. The PC will follow up with Wood Lane residents, and also seek to encourage those parking vans in the road to consider the impact on visibility.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th March in the Village Hall

Community members are very welcome to attend. All details of meetings and upcoming dates are on the PC's website:

www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk



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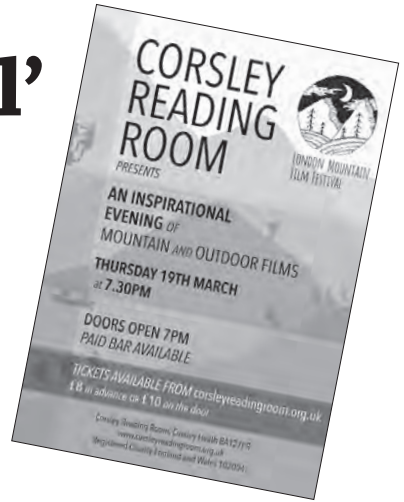
Liz Garrett, Secretary, reports on upcoming events at the hall



It's still raining. Thank goodness we had the roof repaired!

Films

Don't forget we are again joining with the London Mountain Film Festival to show a selection of inspirational films about mountain and outdoor activities. Keep the date and get your tickets in good time – 7.30 pm, Thursday 19th March. Tickets are £8 in advance from corsleyreadingroom.org.uk (see full page ad on page 5 of this edition of The Bridge). It's £10 on the door if tickets are still available. It's great value either way for an evening to raise your spirits and take you to the great outdoors!



Internal works

Some electrical work and lots of painting is going on to freshen the inside of the building. Activities/events are going on around the works so if you need to book for a meeting, an activity or a celebration, please do contact our bookings secretary.

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.

Contact via chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk.

See website

www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk
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Six Open Doors

Extract from an address given by Sarah Mullaly, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, as she took up her new role...

"It is a humbling privilege to be called to serve in this role. It brings with it huge weight of responsibility, at a time when people love to remind me that the church faces significant challenges.

But when the wind and the waves are rocking the boat, I am reminded that what I need to do is to focus on Christ, who calms the waters and stills the wind. With your help and with God's grace, I pray that I am able to approach this ministry with calm, consistency and compassion – as we seek to be what the Church has for so long been: a stable presence in an unstable world.

I have been overwhelmed by the encouragement, the prayers and support that I have received from countless people, both at home and across the Anglican Communion, the sense of being upheld by the prayers of so many is very precious and gives me hope.

I do not carry my new responsibilities alone. We serve God's church together, lay and ordained; uniquely reflecting God's image into one another; offering our richly varied gifts and perspectives; aspiring to treat one another with love, dignity and respect; setting our faces towards Christ and remembering his prayer that we should be one in our love for God and of one another.

Through every challenge, our hope in Christ remains – and our confidence in the Gospel, as good news for our nation and for God's world, is not shaken.

I see God's Kingdom, the pearl of great price, revealed in countless places across the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. The Church of England is a Christian presence in every community. In parishes and chaplaincies across the country, day in and day out, faithful clergy and congregations worship God and love their neighbours. With every Eucharist that is offered, with every prayer said; with every child helped to flourish in our schools; with every family cared for in times of celebration and of sorrow; with every night shelter and food bank; with each worship service, youth group and community lunch; with every effort to work for justice, dignity and fairness in our nation and our world – with all of this and so much more, we live out our calling to share the love of God with those around us.

I rejoice in every example I see of this – the pearl of great price – glimpsed in faithful, local, sensitive, intelligent ministry which embodies and speaks of the Kingdom.

I was also told that I am expected to be an evangelist, a pastor, a prayerful, penitent and resilient disciple, and a teacher. I am also to be faithful, prophetic, a sign of unity, trust and accountability and provide Christ-centred moral leadership, loving the church in all its breadth and diversity, and encouraging others to love her. I was told to work collegially and enabling the gifts of others to flourish. Well, I will try!"

Sarah Mullaly asks us to continue to pray for her, in her very demanding role, in the months and years to come.

March Church Diary

Sunday 1st March: Lent 2

10 am Eucharist, St Margaret's, Corsley
8 am BCP, Kingston Deverill
10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 8th March: Lent 3

11 am Matins, St Margaret's, Corsley
10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill



Sunday 15th March: Mothering Sunday

10 am Praise & Worship, St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade
10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill



Sunday 22nd March

10 am Eucharist, St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade
10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday

10 am Benefice Eucharist, St Margaret's, Corsley

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 March

Corsley Coffee Morning

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

Crafternoons

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

Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 19th March – 10 am to 12 noon,
The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Brick Church

Saturday 21st March – 10.30 am to 12 noon,
St Philip & St James' Church, 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 St Philip & St James'	Amy Holley Janet Aylesbury	01373 832212 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

February news

Patricia Sharrocks rounds up the February meeting



We were joined at our February meeting by members of the Warminster Toad Patrol for a lively and interesting talk about the problems faced by wildlife, particularly toads, in the Smallbrook Meadows area of Warminster.

The evening began with a talk by Dexter, an ambassador for Toad Patrol, who explained how to tell the difference between toads and frogs: toads have a dry, warty skin and short, stubby legs unlike smoother skinned, more athletic looking frogs! Toads move using their front feet first in a rather stately fashion whilst frogs move their back legs first and are quicker.

Toads are pest and disease controllers, consuming large quantities of slugs and beetles, and they are highly sensitive to pollution. In the last 40 years the common toad population has become much less common and has declined by 41% in the U.K. As they are amphibians, dependent on both land and water, their decline is a reflection of the quality of their environment and the

loss of ponds and wetlands.

Toads hibernate in winter, returning to the ponds where they were born in the spring. Toads mature and start to breed when they are four years old. The toad spawn is laid in

long single or double strands and looks like a necklace in the water. The tadpoles hatch and develop in the water, leaving the pond as toadlets after 16 weeks.

The nocturnal migration to return to their ancestral ponds is a dangerous one. Toads hibernate on higher ground and migrate down to the pond or wetland. As well as the possibility of attack by mammals – otters, foxes, cats – there are hazards like drains, the vents are difficult to cross and toads fall in. Roads are, of course, a major hazard and the reason why Toad Patrols were set up.

Toad Patrol volunteers rescue toads, frogs and newts which cross Smallbrook Road at night. They are armed with buckets and torches and help to transport the toads safely across the



road to their breeding grounds. They record all the toads they find, living and dead, noting the size and where on the road they were found.

To help save the toads, Smallbrook Road is closed to traffic from 5pm to 5am from 1st February to 30th April during the toad breeding season. The Toad Patrol is part of Sustainable Warminster and is one of over 200 across the country. They have recently featured on radio, in The Guardian newspaper – and now in The Bridge!

A number of visitors joined us for this meeting and we hope to welcome more guests next month. We will meet in the Reading Room on Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm when we will be finding out how to show fruit and veg in a horticultural show, 'Growing for Gold' !

Non members £6, including tea/coffee and cake.

For more information please contact Alice Helliar on 07989 339632.

Community Messaging needs your vision

If you have CCTV outside your home you could help Wiltshire Police by signing up for a free subscription to Community Messaging.

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Lite Bites

Pumpkin, Pepper and Parsnip Soup



Serves 8

Ingredients

- 1 small butternut squash (peeled and cut into chunks)
- 3 or 4 medium parsnips (peeled and cut into chunks)
- 3 peppers (red, yellow or orange) (cored and cut into chunks)
- 3 or 4 cloves of garlic
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 1 teaspoon cumin OR 1 teaspoon chilli flakes
- 1 litre chicken or vegetable stock

Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C
2. Place the butternut squash, parsnips, peppers and garlic onto a large baking tray. Add 2 tablespoons of oil and season with salt and pepper. Make sure everything is coated in the oil, then roast for 40 minutes, turning the vegetables over halfway through.
3. Now heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large saucepan, add the chopped onion and cook over a low to medium heat for about 10 minutes or until it is soft and golden. Then add the spice (cumin or chilli flakes) and cook for one minute.

4. After about 40 minutes, when the vegetables are soft and almost caramelised at the edges, take the garlic from the roasting tray, carefully remove the skin and add the soft garlic to the saucepan (if there are any hard bits just discard them), stir the garlic into the onion spice mix.
5. Now add the roasted squash, parsnips and stock to the saucepan. Season with a little sea salt and ground black pepper, stir and simmer for 10 minutes.
6. Using a hand-held blender, whizz until smooth.
7. Enjoy!

Lite Bites is back!

We held our first soup lunch of the New Year on Wednesday 28th January and apologies over the confusion around the date. Lite Bites is always on fourth Wednesday of the month, except in December and we will notify you of that date nearer the time.

It was very pleasing to see so many of our regular “customers” along with some new faces and you all donated generously to raise £131 for Dorothy House. As usual we had four soups on offer and we hope you all enjoyed it so much you will come again next month on **Wednesday 25th March (12.30 to 2 pm)**. To whet your appetite, and remind those who came and tasted it, you will find opposite the recipe for one of January’s soups – Pumpkin, Pepper and Parsnip.

If you have a favourite soup you would like us to make, come along and tell us and we will try to have it available the following month. We look forward to seeing you!!!

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Household Preparedness Guide

All Corsley parishioners should now have received the Parish Council's Household Preparedness Guide. The guide provides practical, sensible advice to help households prepare for and respond to some of the risks we may face in everyday life – from severe weather and power cuts to wider disruptions. Many thanks to the Corsley Bridge delivery team for taking on the extra task of delivering the Guide to all Corsley households with The Bridge last month. Thanks also to the many residents who have already provided thoughtful and constructive feedback which is now reflected in the updated version. For those who would prefer an electronic version, the guide can be downloaded using this QR code:



Countywide effort to tackle rising pothole numbers

As heavy rain continues to fall across the county, Wiltshire Council and its contractors are working around the clock to repair potholes across the road network.

Alongside its regular highway maintenance crews, the council has directed all 18 Parish Stewards to concentrate exclusively on repairing potholes that meet the council's defect criteria over the next few weeks, helping to tackle the growing number of issues.

Councillor Martin Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "We have now had persistent and heavy rain nearly every day so far this year, and it's taking a toll on our highways network. We have seen a rise in potholes on some Wiltshire roads and we're working hard to address these issues as quickly as we can. So far this year we have repaired more than 2,700 potholes, and we are continuing to repair many more each day.

We were making progress on potholes - reports in 2025 fell by 28% compared to 2024 and we were also rated in the top 16 councils by the Department for Transport (DfT) for having good local road conditions. The recent adverse weather has obviously highlighted that there is a lot more to do.

We are ploughing an extra £5m into preventative road maintenance, for the next three years over and above the grant that the Department for Transport gives us. This is the only way we can make our roads more resilient to the weather. I'd encourage anyone who spots a pothole to report it to us using MyWilts."

The M4, A303 and A36 are managed by National Highways. Any problems on these roads should be reported directly to them, not to Wiltshire Council.

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Health and Wellbeing Warminster are pleased to announce their Health And Wellbeing Fair on Saturday 16th May from 10 am to 1pm.

As with the popular 2023 Health Fair, there will be a great mix of over 40 exhibitors – over half of whom have not featured previously – and entry is FREE for exhibitors and public attendees alike. There will also be a free healthy raffle for public attendees, and hopefully some local celebrities with a health and wellbeing slant.

All attendees will receive an updated version of the very popular Health and Wellbeing booklet of which over 1100 have been

distributed across the community in the last three years. This free booklet includes health tips, exhibitor details and contact details for over 180 groups – so there's something for everyone!

There's no need to book in advance – just turn up to find out the huge variety of opportunities available in Warminster and the surrounding area.

Visit the Health and Wellbeing Warminster website for more details and the list of exhibitors -

https://healthwellbeingwarminster.org.uk/hw_fair_2026/

or call David Reeves 0772 4159713 for info.

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Whitbourne Chapel

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life..."
John 3:16

Running the Christian Race

The Bible writers use the metaphor of running a race to illustrate that we need to persevere and sometimes endure the path, as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12:1: 'Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our Faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of God.'

The Christian life was not promised to be an easy life. There have been many martyrs over the years. But there is nothing which can happen to us, one of His followers, that He does not fully understand. We know from Pilgrim's Progress that the pilgrim's journey was not always an easy one and it was all too easy to step on to By-Path Meadow!

These days, it is easy to be confused over 'What is truth?' There are many running races with differing religions, philosophies and other thinkings including science, which all claim to have the answer. What is truth?

There is a story in 2 Samuel 18 concerning two runners, in this case messengers. King David's son Absalom was warring against his Father and, unfortunately, Absalom died.

There were two men who could run to tell the King the news. The first one, Cushai, had seen how Absalom died. The other one knew that David's army had defeated Absalom's. Joab said that only Cushai should go, as he had the message the King was waiting for – news of his son, as he had said that he should be spared. But the other man was determined to tell the King his enemies had been defeated, outran Cushai, got to the King first and told him, 'All is well'.

When Cushai arrived, the King thought he would bring good tidings that his son was safe. Sadly, he had to tell him the truth, that Absalom was dead.

With all the differing paths being offered today, are they only offering partial truth or, indeed, no truth at all? They may well be racing on the wrong track even.

Jesus said, 'Straight is the gate and narrow is the path that leads to life. Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction.'

Here are more words of the Lord Jesus: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man comes to the father but by me'. John 3:16

Ray Mead
Chapel Secretary



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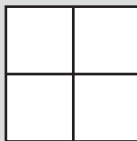
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A view from over the hedge...

Countryside Matters

Although the snowdrops and daffodils are doing their best to brighten our village, the rain and grey days remind us that winter is sadly still here.

The rainfall in January was 172 mm and in February, up until the 18th, it was 100mm.

Lambs are currently being born in the barns. Sadly there aren't as many as usual as the conception rate was not as good due to the lack of condition of the ewes and the shortage of grass last autumn. It is not possible to keep the ewes and lambs in too long after birth as they can pick up infections – some farmers are having to try out lamb raincoats! The raincoats will keep the lambs dry for up to a week. Unfortunately, lambs that are cold or sickly will quickly fall prey to hungry foxes, buzzards or kites. Even badgers, who are omnivores, will occasionally enjoy a meal of lamb.

The weather in March can be quite unpredictable – snow showers, driving rain, wind, frost and sunshine, sometimes all in one day! If we have a few dry days, the milking herd will enjoy a few hours out on the greensand pasture so they can kick their heels and enjoy the change of air. As much as they enjoy this time out, they are always pleased to get back to their stalls which will have been cleaned in their absence and either fresh sand or straw put down for their comfort.

Sadly, the ground conditions are really poor for any tractor work, with root crops for animal feed and human consumption and vegetables being nigh-on impossible to harvest.

March is the month when there is lots of mole activity as they work closer to the surface, eating worms, grubs and looking for a mate. The moles' tunnelling is good as it aerates the soil but their heaps create a problem when the grass is cut for silage or hay, so the fields are harrowed leaving lovely straight lines! Grass fields are rarely rolled nowadays as it is thought to bruise the grass.

Carion birds, buzzards and kites are busy nesting and vying for voles and field mice; there's so much activity in the skies, even at night with barn owls screeching and the tawny owls emitting their comforting 'tu- whit'.

Although we're still in winter (British Summer Time starts on 29th March, astronomical summer starts on 21st June), the dawn chorus will start in early March, so if you wake up early and daylight is just appearing, open your bedroom window and just listen out for the lovely birds' tunes.

Another sign of spring is seeing frogspawn multiplying in ponds and puddles and, if you're lucky, you may see toads making their way to their traditional spawning grounds. Whatever your thoughts on these rather ugly cold creatures, they are a great addition to our natural ladder of predators – they devour many of our garden slugs and grubs .

While out on an early morning walk look out across the wheat stubble you may see hare, deer and pheasants. Enjoy the pollen flying from the hazel catkins and the blackthorn in flower. Marvel at all the natural things around you in our lovely countryside.

Judith Helliar

Bath City Football Club

Locker Room Chat

Opening up vital conversations about men's mental health and grief

According to the Office for National Statistics, men are three times more likely to commit suicide than women.

In partnership with Bath City FC and the Bath City FC Foundation, Dorothy House has produced a new Locker Room Chat, to destigmatise men's mental health and encourage others to come together and talk openly about grief and loss at their **Men's Walk to Support on 14th March**.

The Men's Walk to Support Locker Room Chat covers topics such as expectations upon men who are struggling, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, ways of coping with grief and the benefits of nature for positive wellbeing.

Creating space for men to talk

As a follow up to their 2024 Locker Room chat at Bath Rugby, this year, set within the surroundings of Bath City football club's home team changing room, the 2026 Chat builds on a growing movement to break the silence around men's emotional wellbeing, recognising that many men find it difficult to speak about their experiences of grief, bereavement and vulnerability.

"By bringing these conversations into trusted, everyday spaces, the initiative aims to make talking feel more natural, accessible and stigma-free. These discussions acknowledge the pressures often placed on men to 'stay strong', while encouraging openness, connection and understanding."

Dominic Denny, Dorothy House, Community Bereavement Support Coordinator



Sign up to the 2026 Men's Walk to Support

- **When:** Saturday 14 March
- **Where:** 25 mile route or 8 mile route to the Bath Pavilion to watch two Six Nations games
- **What's included:** Men's Walk T-shirt & free meal by SoulFlava
- **Sign up here:** www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events/mens-walk-to-support/

A new bereavement partnership with Bath City FC Foundation

The 2026 Men's Walk to Support Locker Room Chat forms part of a wider Hospice commitment to open up conversations around grief, bereavement and help more people access support when they need it.

From 5th March, a new collaboration between the two charities, Bath City FC Foundation and Dorothy House brings a new National Lottery funded Bereavement Help Point (BHP) to Twerton and Whiteway, Bath. Open every Thursday from 5.30 to 7.30pm, at Twerton Park football ground, the new BHP will offer free activities and board games in a safe space for anyone seeking support with grief and loss. This BHP is an extension of the nine open access Bereavement Help Points currently facilitated by Dorothy House and its community partners. It is intentionally aimed at anyone in the local community in search of support and connection after work or early evening.

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 Palindrome
- 2 Nicholas Nickleby
- 3 Edinburgh
- 4 Samuel Plimsoll
- 5 Biennials
- 6 The Danube
- 7 J S Bach
- 8 Alfred Hitchcock
- 9 Penguin
- 10 Treaty of Versailles (signed on 28th June 1919, exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand which started the war. It ended the war between Germany and most of the allied powers)
- 11 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (or Sorcerer's Stone in the US)
- 12 The match of course!

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 (Barter's 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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