

The Bridge

September 2025

*monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade*



*Lite Bites Soup Lunches are back! Enjoy some coffee mornings,
get crafty with Crafternoons, have your say at the
parish council meetings, there's lots to do in September...*



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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 £1 for each item whether 'For Sale' or 'Wanted'.

Events/local organisation ads

(churches, clubs, playgroups, etc) are £2.50 per month for a boxed advert.

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

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

Please note: no cash, no advert!

Trade advertising

Please see information on the last page.

In this issue...

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Deadline

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

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

Diary Dates

September

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

Wednesday 10th

Crafternoon – 3 - 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Thursday 11th

Chapmanslade Parish Council meeting – Village Hall, Chapmanslade

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

Crafternoon – 3 - 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

October

Wednesday 1st

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

Saturday 4th

Parish and Community Harvest Supper – 7 for 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

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

Saturday 18th

Heywood Literary Festival

Sunday 19th

Heywood Literary Festival

Wednesday 22nd

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



Lite Bites is back!

Wednesday 24th September, 12.30 pm

We will be serving our soup lunches every fourth Wednesday of the month (except December) at 12.30 pm in the Reading Room.

For those of you new to the village, our soup lunches raise money for a chosen charity each month and all we ask is that you donate whatever you can afford – we do not charge a set amount. During our last ‘season’, between September and April, we raised over £1100 for our chosen charities. At Christmas, the donations always go to support children’s charities. This year, our Christmas meal will be on **Wednesday 10th December** (a date for your diary **NOW!**)

We serve a choice of four soups and there is always at least one vegetarian option. The soup is accompanied by bread, butter and cheese and followed by tea or coffee and biscuits, allowing plenty of time for friendly chat. If you have not joined us before, please come along and give us a try! We look forward to seeing old and new faces and hearing about what you have been doing during our long, hot summer. For me it’s certainly not soup weather at the moment but who knows what the weather will be doing towards the end of the month!

We are always looking for people to join our friendly team of soup makers; if you enjoy making soup perhaps you could share your recipes with us and make some on two or three occasions between September and April. Please contact the number below or come along and talk to us on 24th September.

Soup Lunch dates until the New Year are:
24th September 26th November
22nd October 10th December (Xmas lunch)

Maureen Willcox 01373 832171

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning

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Wednesday 3rd September

Wednesday 17th September

Wednesday 1st October

Wednesday 15th October

Wednesday 29th October

Wednesday 12th November

Wednesday 26th November

Wednesday 10th December

Wednesday 24th December

Wednesday 7th January

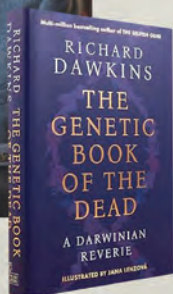
Wednesday 21st January

Wednesday 4th February

Heywood Literary Festival

18th & 19th October, 2025

SATURDAY



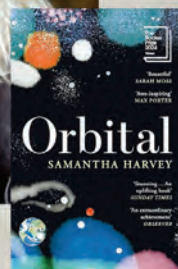
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Corsley Tennis Club News

The wonderful weather continues and I'm told the juniors had a great time at the summer camps running throughout August. Quite how our coaches manage to introduce water into the game I'm not sure but it certainly seemed to add to the fun.

The opportunity to try Pickleball through August was also been taken up by some. It's a shorter court, a smaller racket and a faster game which can increase your reaction times, I'm told. I'm not sure if that's a permanent effect though!

Tournaments are still stretching those who are competitive among us. Four ladies played in the singles tournament on Friday 1st August and the men's singles will be held on Monday 1st September. The American Switch was postponed and is now being held on Sunday 7th September.

If you want to book for junior coaching starting on 7th September you can find full details on the website:

**[https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/
CorsleyTennisClub/Membership/Join](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CorsleyTennisClub/Membership/Join)**

See you on court!

*Liz Garrett
Club Secretary*

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Buried Treasure!

The Chapel Centenary

The Chapel itself...



Whitbourne Chapel began as a meeting in a private home; a Chapel did not appear until 1811, when the 'Church' was formed. The original building was smaller than the current one, as mentioned last month, but paying for it took most of the 42 years Richard Parsons was Pastor.

By the first centenary, the basic building was the one seen today. From a photo printed last month, it seems the main entrance to the Chapel was via double doors at the front; the porch we have now was added later. There was a second entrance to the Chapel, on the left side of the building; this is now blocked up. At each side of the front foyer, there is a curved staircase up to the organ loft and balconies, each of which has access to the back room beyond. In 1911, congregations of 200 people weren't unusual at the three Services each Sunday, so the balconies were essential, not decorative. Back then, the

organ was pumped by hand, to provide the air enabling the organist to produce a tune; the wooden handle used to pump the bellows is still there today. An electric pump was installed in 1960.

The Chapel has a homely, cosy feel to it, not imposing, as a larger, grander building could be. It lends itself to Christian services, and family gatherings, too, such as dedications, weddings and, of course, funerals. A coffin was moved into the building through the front doors and passed through a removeable hatch in the foyer wall. It would then slide along a special frame that had rollers, until it sat on the top of the back three pews. If you've lived in Corsley long enough to remember Sylvia Carpenter (originally Jelly), it was a relative of hers, then the village carpenter/blacksmith, who carved the wooden altar table before the 1911 centenary; it's still used today.

There aren't many memorials in the



Chapel, two large wooden ones with painted text and decoration, one high up each side of the pulpit. Pastor Richard Parsons' is on the right, and Mrs Elizabeth Eyres', who died in January 1841 is on the left, acknowledging her bequest of £500 to the chapel, less probate of £50. Below those, on the right there is a marble plaque to Emma Moore, 'devout worshipper and member and benefactor of the church' and, below that, another marble one to Beatrice Hannah Whitmarsh, volunteer



Russell Short, talking to the children and illustrating his talk by climbing up a step-ladder!

organist for over 60 years. On the left is one marble tablet, erected by public subscription and unveiled at the first centenary, to those men who served on the Diaconite and had 'entered into rest'. There are no stained-glass windows here; this was largely a working-class congregation.

At the Coffee Morning on Tuesday 8th July, the Chapel hosted an Art Exhibition and lent itself easily to such a role. Over 50 pieces of art were displayed on easels, window ledges and even pews, with plenty of room for visitors to access the exhibition and discuss the works they saw. If you've never been inside the Chapel, pop along to the next Coffee Morning (second Tuesday of each month, from 10-12) and explore; you'll be made very welcome!

Gill Redman



Bob's bafflers

- 1 What term is the study of researching one's family tree?
- 2 Who was the Roman God of the sea?
- 3 What is the official language of Brazil?
- 4 'Per ardua ad astra' is the motto of which of our armed forces?
- 5 Apart from Queen Elizabeth II, whose image featured on Britain's first plastic banknote?
- 6 Americans still call it kerosene, but how is it known in the UK?
- 7 On a UK desktop PC keyboard, which number shares a key with the percentage sign?
- 8 In what activities do members of the Sealed Knot Society participate?
- 9 Which hot pepper sauce is named after a Mexican province?
- 10 Which author created the character Billy Bunter?
- 11 According to the popular says, what speaks louder than words?
- 12 If you have one coin of each denomination in general UK circulation, how much money do you have?

Answers on page 40



Parish and Community Harvest Supper

Please come and join us on Saturday 4th October
7.00 for 7.30pm at Chapmanslade Village Hall
for an evening of good food and good company
to celebrate Harvest

Tickets £8 and £4 for children under 12
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Janet Buick 01373 832318
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Corsley Reading Room

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Liz Garret, Secretary, reports on some upcoming events at the hall



We've lots of events for you to note in your diary...

Reading Room committee members will be running the bar for the WI event on 11th September when the speaker is the Stand-Up Historian.

Reading Room Festive Fair

Thursday 6th November 2 to 7pm

This year's Christmas Fair, to be held in the Reading Room, has an earlier date of Thursday 6th November, therefore we are calling it a **Festive Fair**. There will be a good mixture of some of the popular stalls from last year, along with some new ones, so you'll have the opportunity to buy all your Christmas gifts nice and early; you'll just have to remember

where you've hidden them! We'll put some details of some of the stalls on the village Facebook page nearer the time. This year we will also have a lucky dip for children as well as teas, coffees, delicious cake and savoury treats. The bar will also be open. For now, make sure you put the date in your diary!

We have Ned Boulting, a prominent figure in British cycling, known for his work as a sports journalist, television presenter, and author, coming to speak at the Reading Room on **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 chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk go to the secretary, Liz Garrett.

See 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

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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Phil Holihead, rounds up the PC's meeting on 14th August

The key points discussed were:

Pavements

Wiltshire Council has agreed a maintenance schedule for a number of areas of our pavements. Some work will be patching to 'smooth out' some of the raised manhole covers whilst more intensive work will take place outside the school entrance and in front of the Three Horseshoes. This work is likely to be done during October half term. There will also be some sweeping work undertaken to remove loose grit and the Parish Steward will undertake some more minor filling-in as part of his monthly schedule. Issues such as overgrowing hedges are up to householders to address, and thanks must go to those that have responded positively and cut back to help with our narrow pavements.

Short Street junction with the A3098 and lorry weight limits

Both of these remain under consideration by Wiltshire Council which is doing assessment and costing work for the proposed updates.

CIL Funds

To date, some £24,000 has been committed by the Parish Council (PC) for projects at the Village Hall, the Church, and for the weight limit change. This means there remains a further £10,784 unallocated, although we believe there are a couple of proposals being worked on. There is a time limit on spending the money and the PC has sent recent reminders to the relevant projects that work needs to start soon. The route to getting CIL projects and money approved is via the

PC website where the application process is clearly laid out

www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/documents/

Planning

PL/2025/05897 – Siting of two caravans for holiday accommodation at Thoulstone Park Farm Nursery.

The PC had no objections to this application but made some comments regarding placing a time limit on occupancy.

PL/2025/06110 – Proposed extension and alterations at Well Cottage, 166a Short Street. *The PC had no objections to this application but made some comments about the lack of a Planning Statement and the opportunity to comply with Wiltshire Council's policy regarding sustainable construction and low carbon efficiency.*

PL/2025/05073 – Housing development at Mane Way, Westbury.

The PC noted that this application has been called in by the local councillor, and that NHS England had made a compelling case for a significant upgrade to the medical facilities at the White Horse medical centre. Chapmanslade's input was reiterated as being to voice concerns regarding a potential uplift of 10% in traffic on the A3098; to request that all construction traffic be routed away from Chapmanslade; and, that Chapmanslade be considered for any funding from the developer for upgrades to sustainable transport routes as we are within 5km of the development site.

Finance

The PC approved the latest finance report and discussed a number of items especially

The Clerk gave an update of the ongoing audit and councillors agreed that they welcomed the process including any comments, as it was an opportunity for the PC's accounts to be verified after such a long period without any external audit process.

The Village Hall Treasurer reported that he was in the process of making a number of grant funding bids primarily to address the heating, ventilation and damp issues at the Village Hall. The PC thanked him for this update and his and the Village Hall Committee's work and fully supports the proposals for these improvements which will add to the lifespan and usage of the Village Hall. Despite a current calendar conflict with a scheduled PC meeting, the Parish Council will make every effort to attend in support of this funding bid at the next Area Board meeting on 9th October.

Annual payments to the Village Hall and

Councillors also discussed the safety concern brought to their attention by visitors to Thoulstone Park, and the risk from high-speed traffic when exiting onto the A36, which is a National Highways responsibility. The PC would emphasize the need for driver patience/vigilance at the junction from Thoulstone Park and the A36 - and particularly if turning right towards Bath.

The Council will carry out a review of its GDPR Policy to ensure this remains appropriately fit-for-purpose.

All minutes and details from the meeting are available on the PC website:

www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

The date of the next meeting is Thursday
11th September in the Village Hall.

The Bridge **September 2025** | 17

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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

September is always a month of endings, as well as new beginnings. As the bright colours of summer fade into the oranges and browns of autumn, shiny new school shoes make an appearance, along with fresh notebooks as we head back to our desks after a break over August. We start again, carrying with us the feeling of a new year beginning.

September then, is always a month of change and, because of this, it can be unsettling. We reflect on, or maybe grieve for, that which is drawing to a close and can feel a mixture of anticipation about what is new or next. It is likely that we feel this even more acutely this September, living in a world which feels increasingly insecure from the perspective of fast-changing global politics and conflicts around the world that show no sign of abating. All is changing; all feels very fragile and deeply uncertain.

One of this country's much-loved hymns is 'Abide with Me', famous for being sung at every FA Cup Final since 1927. The words are based on Luke 24: 29 and were written by the Reverend Henry Francis Lyte, with one of the stories about this suggesting that he wrote them in September 1847 – just after he had conducted his final church service and when very ill with tuberculosis. He died two months later.

Putting aside questions of when Lyte wrote these words, the fact remains that they capture the constancy of God's presence and love, even as the seasons change, our lives change, our world changes; in life and in death:

Change and decay in all around I see

O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

This then is a beautiful reminder that even though we, and indeed our world, pass through times of change and can feel unsettled as a result, God goes with us. God in Christ abides with us, his presence and love unchanging in our ever-changing world:

"Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. (Luke 24: 29)

Stephen Lake
Bishop of Salisbury

September Church Diary

Sunday 7th September

10 am Eucharist, Corsley

10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 14th September

10 am Praise and Worship, Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill



Sunday 21st September

11 am Matins, Corsley

10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill



Sunday 28th September

10 am Eucharist, Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 5th October

Harvest Festival Service

10 am Eucharist, Corsley

Pastoral Visiting

If anyone would like to receive a visit or Home Communion. Please contact either Rev Di Britten 01373 832 515, or Rev Gay Maynard 01373 832 490

Church and Community Events in September

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 3rd September, 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Rooms

Crafternoons

Wednesdays 10th and 24th September, 3 to 5 pm, Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Church and Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 18th September, 10 am to 12 noon, Three Horseshoes Chapmanslade

Parish and Community Harvest Supper

Saturday 4th October, 7pm for 7.30pm

See the separate advert in this edition of The Bridge for details

Corsley and Chapmanslade Parish 50/50 Club

Why not think about joining the 50/50 club for a chance to get one of the monthly £100 prizes! Each member pays £24 per year in one go or spread over the year, half of the money raised is paid out in prizes, with extra payouts in December. You can have as many £24 goes as you want! The other 50% of membership funds is used to help towards the running costs of the parish.

To get an entry form, please contact Sue Fear on 01373 832074 or suefearpcc@gmail.com

A top-down photograph of a white ceramic coffee cup filled with a golden-brown beverage, topped with a dusting of brown powder. The cup sits on a light blue-grey saucer with a silver spoon resting on its left side. The entire set is placed on a dark, textured wooden surface.

Church and Community Coffee Mornings

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

Parish Contacts for Corsley and Chapmanslade

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	07808 565878
PCC Secretary	Sue Fear	01373 832074
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You can also book by calling Customer Support at **01225 712900**

- 3. Meet your driver.** Check out the app to find out exactly where to meet the vehicle. It may be a short walk from where you are, but it makes the journey faster. Home pick ups are available for passengers with poor mobility or live in an isolated location.

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Getting to the bottom of it...

Heathway sewage meeting

Neil Carpenter reports on the meeting with Selwood Housing on 1st August

As many villagers know, Glyn Spurr was trying to get to the bottom of the sewage charges and repeated emptying of the system by Selwood Housing before his sad passing. We have not given up on this and on the 1st August Bill Parks (Wiltshire Councillor), residents, and I met with Verena Buchanan, Selwood's Group Operations Director, to discuss and better understand the ongoing issues. Also attending were Mayowa Ademuyewo the Project Manager for the systems upgrades and Stewart Matthews from Pipefix; the contractor tasked with delivering the new sewage system(s).

With the support of Dr Andrew Morrison MP, Glyn had remained focused on getting the answers to three simple questions:

1. **Unfair billing** – significant discrepancies in charges between households, with no single occupancy discount.
2. **System performance** – increased frequency of tank emptying from six-monthly to five-weekly post-“repair” for the system serving numbers 2 to 6 Heathway.
3. **High management fees** – a 50% charge on top of service costs.

The meeting was opened with a presentation that Verena had prepared, which gave some background to the scale of maintaining and operating sewerage treatment plants that Selwood Housing retain responsibility for. This included a figure for

maintenance and tankering costs of £407,500 whilst stating their income from households was £255,000. It was clearly stated this did not include overheads. I asked about this as Glyn had received a letter which claimed 50% overheads but was assumed that the full cost of running the service was not covered by their charges. The presentation also gave some background on plants already upgraded.

It was stated that Corsley is confirmed to be the next upgrade priority, and the contractor Pipefix, had started to design works for the four plants. It should be noted that throughout the presentation and meeting three tanks were mentioned; post the meeting, Stewart and Mayowa confirmed they were working on the four tanks in the village. These plans, once agreed, will be submitted to the Environment Agency for approval. It was expected that the upgrade would be concluded by the end 2026 provided the Environmental Agency approve the design in a timely fashion. It is not clear if there will be any input from the residents on the design. Selwood Housing provided assurances at the meeting that residents will be kept fully informed about the plans and the costs as they have done on other schemes. I have already had a walk around with Stewart and Mayowa to look at the tanks.

It should be noted that when the housing stock was transferred from West Wiltshire District Council to Selwood Housing, a legal clause stated that Wiltshire Council would

cover the tenants' costs of rural treatment upgrade work if completed by 2030. Beyond this date costs will be paid by Selwood Housing, so it is clearly in their interests to carry out this work by 2030. This agreement did not include private owners.

Their written contract required private homeowners to pay the amount demanded by Selwood Housing as their share of the maintenance and upgrade costs. I raised the point that letters sent to customers in March 2009 stated that the system(s) were being upgraded and that the expected cost for each home was around £5,000. With the passage of 16 years you would expect inflation to have increased this figure to £8,000. Selwood Housing have stated that they will work with private residents to apply flexible payment terms when the actual figure is calculated. It is not clear whether the demand would be for the new system at their homes or whether the cost of upgrading all four systems will be lumped together and split across each home. They have agreed inform residents as soon as any decision has been made.

Moving back and covering Glyn's concerns

The disparity in charging residents' different amount was stated, as it has been in correspondence with Glyn, as a legacy issue from the transfer of housing stock which has been compounded by inflation over the years. From the figures Glyn collected from households, on average, smaller (band B - lower rateable value homes) are paying more than larger band C homes. In some cases double. It was clear that Selwood Housing had known about this disparity but had chosen not to address it, as one of the residents described in the meeting, "kicked the can down the road" allowing the unfairness to increase over time.

It was pointed out in addressing this matter that whilst some bills may go down some would go up (and everyone's bill will go up if

the alleged figures for tankering costs provided by Selwood Housing were recovered in full from residents).

Verena did agree to look further into the problem and Selwood Housing would consider options that might be available and show the impact on individual accounts. This included trying to get accurate figures from their Finance team.

In terms of the single person discount that was available to Wessex Water customers where they were unable to fit a water meter (which appears to be the case at Heathway). Whilst Selwood Housing do provide the sewerage services to their customers, it was clear that they have no ability to measure whether a family of four create more sewage than a single person, however self-evident it may appear and despite Wessex Water recognising the reduced usage in their input bills. Their reasons for not providing a single person discount primarily centred on Selwood Housing's claims that their charges did not cover the full cost of the services as it was.

That said, Selwood Housing would ask the Finance team to model the effect of what a single person discount might look like and how this would affect all Heathway users of the sewerage system.

Selwood confirmed that for numbers 2 to 6 Heathway, the tank is now emptied once every five weeks. The contractor confirmed that the system schedule has nothing to do with additional rainfall as it has continued despite it being the driest year on record. This schedule is carried out whatever the weather as the cost of emergency emptying (after heavy rain for example) is much more expensive. The increase from six months to five weeks was confirmed as being because the system is at end of life. It should be noted that the system mixes brown and rain water which is why heavy rainfall can fill the tanks quicker. It was suggested that providing residents with water butts would significantly reduce the rainwater

in the tanks.

The question of the repairs and the apparent cost of £14k was discussed and it was confirmed that the costs had not been passed onto residents. A new limestone soak-away had been installed but the condition of the connecting pipe had not been investigated or any repairs to the pipe undertaken and hence the increase in emptying frequency as minimal liquid was getting to the new soak-away.

Verena confirmed that as far as she understood there was no management charge of 50% additional to service charges. However, there is still significant opacity with regard to Selwood Housing's costing and Verena has promised to provide a full disclosure of costs.

Moving forward, Bill Parks and I felt the meeting to be helpful and although customers had first been informed about the upgrading work more than fifteen years ago,

the Heathway systems have now reached a priority and design has commenced (if only to meet the deadline where Selwood Housing does not have to contribute).

Verena has given an assurance that customers will be updated, and communications will be improved. Selwood Housing do understand that sewerage costs for individual households are a concern and that there are questions about the service and charges are being looked into. More information will be shared with customers as soon as possible.

Residents believe the maintenance of the system has been poor and agree that upgrading the sewerage provision is a complex undertaking. We are now expecting Selwood Housing to work with residents in Heathway and keep us informed of progress.

We thanked all those attending.

*Neil Carpenter
Parish Councillor*

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If you've ever thought about learning how to play Bridge or returning to the game after years away from it, Frome Bridge Club's forthcoming teaching programme could be what you're looking for.

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No card game experience is required and the lessons – including play practice – are an opportunity to meet new people whilst acquiring a skill that provides a good workout for the brain.

Frome Bridge Club is affiliated to the English Bridge Union and those delivering the lessons are all experienced bridge players. Each week, some 50+ beginners and more experienced players travel from 20-plus miles around Frome to join the lessons for what is a very social, as well as educational, occasion. Coffee, tea and biscuits are provided.

The lessons take place in the Wesley Methodist Church, Wesley Slope, Frome, BA11 1HA. For more information, please contact: John Perry on 01373 467508 / jp007g9418@blueyonder.co.uk or Elaine Rutland on 07809 163705 and/or visit: www.bridgewebs.com/frome



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Whitbourne Chapel

'What is man that You are mindful of him?'

Psalm 8, verse 4

So, who is in charge?

The psalmist asked the question, 'What is man that You are mindful of him?'

Our heavenly Father said, when he created all the creatures, that man was over them. I cannot see anywhere in the Bible that we are in charge of the world itself. It is God who keeps it spinning, so that the sun comes up in the morning and sets at nightfall. He is in charge of the moon and the stars.

I'm not a big fan of scientific theories surrounding climate change; we do sometimes have hot summers and cold winters. Having lived over half of the last century and a quarter of this one, I've seen some extremes.

I was 19 in 1963 and we were used sometimes to having a bit of snow, but not blizzards and freezing temperatures that went on for months. I remember walking to the top of Bath Street, Frome, in a snowstorm and not being able to see far in front of me. We would be picked up by the firm's van and taken to Bath Station. When we arrived at Temple Meads we would be taken to Ashley Down College for our day release.

In 1976, I was an Evangelist with the Open-Air Mission. Most of the school holidays would be spent doing Beach Missions. The

August one was at Worthing, in a park on the seafront; the sun had been shining since June. I'd ask the children, 'Can we go in the shade?' and they'd reply, 'No! We want to sit in the sun.' Back in Somerset, the fields were brown and farmers were feeding the grass they'd harvested, earlier in the year, to their animals!

Do you know Exmouth? It was known for its sand dunes along a stretch of the beach; our October holiday would be spent sheltering in them on a sunny day. They were great for 'hide and seek'!

The Council decided they needed to protect the dunes and planted grasses and erected fences. Sadly, a storm in 2014 completely obliterated them. Most of the sand finished up at Orcombe Point, where the sea was now ankle deep at high tide and the rock pools played in during summer holidays no longer existed.

We're not in charge of much, really. We also need to realise that God is in charge of our Salvation. He sent Jesus to die on the cross, to pay the penalty for our sin. John 3:16 states: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have Eternal Life.'

Ray Mead, Chapel Secretary



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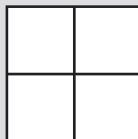
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Countryside Matters

September is a month of many changes; schools will be welcoming new pupils after the best school holiday weather I can remember! Young adults move on to college, university or apprenticeships finding pastures new – some of them will be leaving empty nests; it's a lovely expression originating from country sayings.

Like so many farms, we have a farm student on a practical placement for a year learning the ropes and living away from home and friends – all good experience for a future in agriculture.

Michaelmas Day, on the 29th September, is not only a religious celebration, but a date when, traditionally, farm staff were employed and tenant farmers paid their half-yearly rent and it is the official first day of autumn.

Sadly, the signs of autumn we have been accustomed to started much earlier this year – harvesting of some of the cereal crops was at least three weeks early.

There was too much rain last autumn so many crops did not germinate, then a lack of rain during the growing season meant yields were low, with straw having shorter stems. The knock-on effect of this is that straw used for feed and bedding for cattle this coming winter will be in great demand and expensive.

Grass (as we all know from the state of our gardens) has not grown for many weeks, resulting in no second or third cut silage used for winter feed.

The autumn calving cows are now starting to calf so everyone is on alert 24 hours a day to help with the birth, first feed of colostrum

and ear tagging which will be their passport for life – the start of another busy time on the farm.

An evening walk in the shade of the trees is a joy this time of year, with an opportunity to see the deer and their young grazing for any grass or herbage they can find. This is also the time of year to see young poults of pheasant and partridge seeking out seeds. Please take care of accidentally starting fires with discarded bottles, cans and even barbecue remnants. Fires can very easily get out of control when everything is so dry, causing damage to crops, hedges and trees, extending, in some cases to telegraph and electricity wires and even homes.

There are many pleasures in living in the countryside but we are all responsible for keeping it safe.

Enjoy the countryside for all the free gifts it offers – fresh air, lovely walks, edible fruit and nuts and, when the rains come, look out for field mushrooms, which make a lovely breakfast after a early morning walk; **JUST TAKE CARE THAT YOU ONLY EAT EDIBLE MUSHROOMS.**

A big 'thank you' to all those who took part in the Scarecrow Competition – they brightened up practically every corner of our village and one of them even slowed the traffic down!

Also thanks to the organisers of our village events – Open Gardens, the Fayre and the EE Outside Theatre Performance – all of which were enjoyed by so many.

Judith Helliar



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Nigel Charteris BSc (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering, MIET

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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!

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Bosch 4-ring ceramic hob – as new – **£100**

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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!

Answers to Bob's Bafflers

- 1 Genealogy
- 2 Neptune (Poseidon was the Greek god of the sea)
- 3 Portuguese
- 4 Royal Air Force (Per ardua ad astra is a Latin phrase meaning "through adversity to the stars" or "through struggle to the stars")
- 5 Sir Winston Churchill
- 6 Paraffin
- 7 Five
- 8 They re-enact historical scenes from the English Civil War
- 9 Tabasco - the state name is believed to mean "place where the soil is humid" or "place of the coral or oyster shell"
- 10 Frank Richards
- 11 Actions
- 12 £3.88

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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