

The Bridge

April 2026

*monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade*



Get the kids to have a go at tennis, join the Chapmanslade PC meeting, go to the Village Hall AGM, listen to the Dolce Singers, enjoy a Lite Bites Soup Lunch, win the Spring Quiz with The Two Bobs, there's lots to do in April...



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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.

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Deadline

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

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

Diary Dates



April

Wednesday 1st

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

Sunday 5th

Corsley Tennis Club - FREE Juniors Taster Session – 9 am to 10 am, at the Tennis Club

Wednesday 8th

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Thursday 9th

Corsley WI – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room (members only meeting)

Chapmanslade Parish Council - Annual Meeting (followed by a PC meeting) – 7 pm, at the 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

Chapmanslade Village Hall AGM – 7.45 pm, at the hall

Saturday 18th

Dolce Singers - Rutter, Haydn and Mendelssohn – 7.30 pm, St Margaret's Church, Corsley

Wednesday 22nd

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

Crafternoon – 3 to 5 pm, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Saturday 25th

Spring Quiz with The Two Bobs – 7 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Sunday 26th

Sunday Brunch – Circus – 10 am to 2 p m, Soisy Gardens, Westbury

May

Saturday 2nd

FREE Village Event – 2 to 5 pm, Memorial Playing Field

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

Chapmanslade

Village Hall News

Exciting updates brought to you by Adam Oakley

It was a busy winter behind the scenes for the team running Chapmanslade's Village Hall. Last month saw major changes taking place in the hall with the installation of solar panels and storage batteries as well as air conditioning heat recovery units and air drying units added to the toilet areas. These changes have involved a massive effort behind the scenes (particularly from our treasurer Tim) from securing funding from many sources, planning and executing the installation, to a successful integrated energy solution for the hall which will serve our community well into the future. We are going to let you know much more of the detail of this solution on **Saturday 16th May** when we will be holding a community event called **POWER in the Hall** to explain how we can all benefit from the changes we have made.

We are always seeking funds to run the village hall which is a charity. One way we do this is to run events; our next is the **Spring Quiz with The Two Bobs**, on **Saturday 25th April**. Tickets are on sale now at

www.chapmansladevillagehall.co.uk

Please book early to secure your supper. Later in the year we have the **Summer BBQ** on **Sunday 12th July** – mark the date in your



diary for lots of fun and games and, if you can help to organise, please let us know. If you would like to organise an event to raise money for the hall and maybe to share with another charity give us a call.

Each year we hold the **Chapmanslade Village Hall AGM** at the hall. This year it is at **7.45 pm on Thursday 16th April**.

Everyone is welcome and we do provide refreshments. You can find out more about what we have been doing to your hall, you can meet the committee and you can ask questions about what matters to you. We are always looking for help to run the hall, whether it's helping, fixing, organising, fundraising or even joining the management committee there is something for everyone to get involved. We are really in need of a secretary to join our committee and help us keep organised and efficient. If you can help let us know.

Adam Oakley
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www.bridgewebs.com/frome

Corsley Reading Room

Your 'village hall'

Jackie Jasper reports on the latest happenings at the hall



February and March was a busy time in the Reading Room with painting and repairs. We had the rear lobby, ladies loos, kitchen and bar area painted making a real difference. We've already had many compliments on how great it now looks. The next stage is to focus on renovating and painting the front lobby, men's and disabled loos. This was only made possible by everyone who attended our events last year and recently, as all the profits have gone towards the painting, so thank you.

We have also been lucky in employing a great new gardener who has made the front and the car park look so much tidier.

Our next event will have happened by the time this edition lands through your letterbox. We once again hosted the London

Mountain Film Festival, showing a selection of inspirational films about mountain and outdoor activities. As I write, we have almost sold out of tickets so, if you came, I hope you really enjoyed the evening.

We welcomed two new members to our committee: Jeremy Baker, who has offered to manage the building and help us to prioritise what repairs and improvements need to be made, and Kate Williams who will help Dee with bookings and take on marketing.

Summer will see the Reading Room looking spruced and ready to be used, so if you are thinking of organising an event, do email us via the details below.

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 us via chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk or see our website for up-to-date information and more...

www.corsleyreadingroom.org.uk

Trustees

Chris de Groot, Claire Firman-Ford, Liz Garrett, Jackie Jasper, David Sharrocks

Also on Committee

Dee Crossland, Mary King, Jeremy Baker and Kate Willilams

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Bob's bafflers

- 1 Norfolk and which other county borders "The Wash"?
- 2 The song "Oh, what a beautiful morning" originates from which musical?
- 3 Who was British Prime Minister when Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon in 1969?
- 4 Which opera by Gilbert and Sullivan is set in Venice?
- 5 Who, or what, is the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street?
- 6 Which Shakespeare play begins with the line "Now is the winter of our discontent"?
- 7 Which element is often referred to as "quicksilver"?
- 8 In Greek Mythology, what did Prometheus steal from Mount Olympus and give to mankind?
- 9 In Hugo Lofting's story of Doctor Dolittle, what is the name of the Doctor's parrot?
- 10 Who was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia?
- 11 Which two airlines combined in 1974 to form British Airways?
- 12 Which arm of Captain Hook contained the hook?

Answers on page 40

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Wednesday 15th April

Wednesday 29th April

Wednesday 13th May

Wednesday 27th May

Wednesday 10th June

Wednesday 24th June

Wednesday 8th July

Wednesday 22nd July

Wednesday 5th August

Wednesday 19th August

Corsley Tennis Club News

Spring is here and for tennis players that means longer days, milder temperatures and the perfect excuse to get back out on court. It also comes at a time when the professional game is heating up, with several major tournaments already delivering exciting storylines that can inspire players at every level. The recent Indian Wells Open saw some thrilling matches from our own Brit Jack Draper no less; watching his speed, precision, and creativity is always a reminder of why tennis is such a compelling sport to play and watch.

While most of us won't be hitting serves at 130mph like the pros, their matches can still be a great source of inspiration for adults and children alike. Grassroots tennis is vitally important and that is why we are so fortunate to have Imogen, our Junior Coach on board – see her profile below:



‘Imogen is a Level 2 coach and, despite her young age, already has several years of coaching experience assisting head coaches at several tennis venues. She has been playing and entering tournaments as a Junior since she was five years old, continues to enter tournaments and play as an adult and is currently ranked as one of the top 10 players for Somerset in her category in the LTA open female ranking table!

Imogen loves teaching all ages but is particularly passionate about creating Junior tennis coaching programmes to inspire and develop players of all abilities. She is a very popular member of the Junior tennis community and, aside from her coaching duties and playing her own age group matches, as a qualified court supervisor, she can also be found from time

to time running the order of play for younger players at tournaments in the region.

She aspires to be able to help others fall in love with tennis by running fun affordable tennis camps to complement the skills based coaching lessons, and eventually create a Junior Tennis Team to represent the club.’

A REMINDER FREE JUNIORS’ TASTER SESSION

(For ages 5-8 years)

Sunday 5th April, 9 am to 10 am

(Easter-themed)

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

You don't need to book this – just turn up!

Junior coaching sessions will start on **Sunday 12th April**, running for 10 weeks. To suit our different abilities and ages, there are 4 groups, each being coached for 1 hour.

Please book courses on the Corsley Tennis Club website to guarantee your place!
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/corsleytennisclub

Hopefully you will have all renewed your memberships by now but, if not, a gentle reminder they were due at the end of March. To anyone thinking about joining our friendly club this year, don't hesitate – it has many benefits including physical fitness, mental wellbeing and most importantly social connection.

See you on court!

Kate Jackson
Committee member



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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Phil Holihead reports on the activities of the PC in March

At its meeting on Thursday 12th March, the PC discussed the following:

Short Street entrance road plan

The plan drawn up as part of a request to the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) was discussed and agreed in outline. Councillors are yet to agree the costs involved, and will do so after requesting two additional signs warning motorists of pedestrians in the road crossing between Thoulstone Park and Short Street on footpaths Chapmanslade 17 and Upton Scudamore 5.

Resilience Plan

An update was given on the emerging self-help resilience plan in comparison to that already active in Corsley. More work is required to make this as user-friendly as possible.

Village Hall

A comprehensive brief was given on the ongoing almost complete work to upgrade the electrics and installation of a solar PV system, air conditioning units and additional ventilation at the Village Hall using, in significant part, CIL funds granted by the PC. The PC was heartened to hear that the solar panels and storage systems were working and that the internal systems required some further work to optimise this. We hope that this work will make the Village Hall cosier and more sustainable in the future. Ironically, just as the briefing ended, all the lights went out which served, metaphorically at least, to lighten the mood of the meeting!

Weight limit

The work to reduce the weight limit on the A3098 from 18t to 7.5t is in its final phases and, by the time you are reading this, the public advertising campaign will have been completed. In the interim, the PC has put all the documents onto the PC website, advertised on the village Facebook page how parishioners can help influence the decision, and posted a flyer through peoples' post boxes to get as much support as possible for something the village has been working towards for over 20 years. Fingers crossed we are finally there!

Planning applications

PL/2026/01225 FUL – erection of link extension between plots 2 and 3 with a cantilevered plunge pool set on the roof. Hesdin Estate, Thoulstone.

The Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds that it was out of character in an historic agricultural setting, and that the additional vertical glass partitions involved would be contrary to the preservation of countryside light levels.

PL/2026/00971 – Discharge of Condition 5(CEMP) relating to application PL/2024/04800. Land south of 92 High Street, Chapmanslade BA13 4AN.

The Parish Council felt that there was insufficient detail in the Construction Plan to meet the requirements and rationale of Condition 5.

The next meeting is on Thursday 9th April and, as it is the Annual Meeting followed by a Parish Council Meeting, it will commence at

7pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Meeting is your chance to raise issues that concern you about Chapmanslade.

Contact details for the Parish Council:

Website

www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email

clerk@chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Dear Editor

I am sure most residents of Corsley are aware of the weight limit on the A362 through Corsley which is supposed to prevent large, articulated lorries driving through the village from the Picket Post (Longleat) roundabout down towards Frome.

One Tuesday I turned out onto the main road at the White Hart junction and followed an artic towards Frome. I was very cross but managed to read the number plate despite it being very dirty.

I contacted the local company concerned and was very pleased to be told that they take weight limits very seriously and would follow up my complaint to ensure the driver was made aware of his mistake so that it was not repeated.

I found this encouraging and would like to encourage residents to report any oversized vehicles they spot travelling through the village towards Frome.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Willcox

Lite Bites Mad March!

It was a strange beginning to the month of March as we'd had to postpone our February soup lunch due to the Reading Room being redecorated. It looks lovely and fresh now – do come and see for yourselves! We moved Lite Bites back a week which meant it fell on the same day as the Coffee Morning! This change obviously suited some but not others and we hope to see everyone next time.

We set the room up for coffee at one end and soup at the other so we could move from one event to the other. This seemed to work well and some people enjoyed coffee followed by soup, others went home and came back and some just came for one event.

This month we were raising money for the Frome charity WHY – We Hear You. It's a very worthwhile charity that arranges counselling for those having treatment for cancer. Unfortunately, it's under threat of closure so they need every donation – every little helps they say – and we raised £100 for them.

We had our usual four soups on offer and there was plenty for people to have two helpings. This month's choices were; Curried Parsnip and Apple, Minestrone, Mushroom, and Pea and Ham. There was little left of any of them! The recipe for our Minestrone soup is featured on page 17.

*Maureen Willcox
for the Lite Bites Team*

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Lite Bites

Minestrone Soup



Ingredients

25g butter

1 tablespoon olive oil

50g streaky bacon, finely chopped

1 medium onion, finely chopped

2 celery stalks, washed and finely chopped

175g carrots, washed and finely chopped

2 tomatoes, fresh or from a tin, chopped

1 clove garlic, crushed

Black pepper, if liked

1.5 litres home-made stock – our soup was made using the stock from a ham joint

1 and half tablespoons fresh, chopped basil or half a teaspoon dried

225g leeks, washed and finely chopped

175g green cabbage, washed and finely shredded

75g short-cut Macaroni

1 dessertspoon tomato purée

2 tablespoons chopped parsley

To serve

Lots of grated Parmesan cheese.

Method

1. Heat the butter and oil in a large saucepan then add the bacon and cook for 1-2 minutes.
2. Add the onion, celery, carrots and, lastly, the

tomatoes.

3. Stir in the crushed garlic and some black pepper, if liked.
4. Cover and cook very gently for 20 minutes to allow the vegetables to sweat. Stir occasionally to prevent the vegetables from sticking.
5. Pour in the stock along with the basil.
6. Simmer gently, covered, for about 1 hour.
7. Add the leeks, cabbage and macaroni and cook for 30 minutes.
8. Stir in the tomato puree and cook for a further 10 minutes.
9. Just before serving, stir in the parsley.
10. Serve sprinkled with Parmesan cheese.
11. Enjoy!

Volunteer wanted as Chapmanslade Bridge Delivery Coordinator

For nearly eight years, Patrick has coordinated deliveries of The Bridge for the residents of Chapmanslade – so now he's looking to pass on the baton...

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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

An eternal address

Living in two places at once, which most of us need to do at some point in our lives, can be a confusing business. Where should our post go? Where do we belong? To make dual residency of any kind work requires imagination as well as practical effort.

Christians are called to do this in a spiritual sense, for we believe Christ makes us, at the same time, citizens of earth and of heaven. At no season of the year is this most clearly evident than at Easter, when we celebrate God's new creation in the midst of the old. We are people who inhabit the spring, seeing in it signs of this new birth, but whose true hope is in resurrection.

The poet John Donne, musing upon life and death, wrote how Jesus makes 'one parish' of earth and heaven, which is a lovely image. He adds that 'Christ was not out of his diocese when he was upon the earth'! Nor (we might add), when he ascended to heaven.

The church, then, is a rehearsal space for the kingdom of heaven – and as such must allow for all the trial, error and excitement this involves. For Christ is risen, we have an eternal address and another country beckons.

Bishop Andrew

April Church Diary

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday

7 pm Agape Supper, St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade



Friday 3rd April Good Friday

2 pm Service for all ages, St Philip & St James', Corsley



Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday

10 am Eucharist, St Margaret's Corsley

10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill



Sunday 12th April Easter 2

10 am Praise and Worship, St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 19th April Easter 3

11 am Matins, St Margaret's Corsley

10am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill



Sunday 26th April

10 am Eucharist St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade, followed by our APCM

10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill

Pastoral Visiting

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

Church and Community Events in April

Corsley Coffee Morning

Wednesday 1st April – 10.30 am to 12 noon, Corsley Reading Rooms

Crafternoons

Wednesday 8th and Wednesday 22nd April – 3 to 5 pm, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 16th April – 10 am to 12 noon, The Three Horseshoes, Chapmanslade

Baptism

A warm welcome to Ivy Elisabeth Hobbs who was baptised on
14th March at St Philip & St James', Chapmanslade

A top-down photograph of a white ceramic coffee cup filled with a golden-brown beverage, likely coffee. The cup sits on a light blue-grey saucer. A silver spoon is placed horizontally behind the cup. The entire set is on a dark brown wooden surface with visible grain. The text 'Church and Community Coffee Mornings' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black drop shadow.

Church and Community Coffee Mornings

Third Thursday of each month
10am to 12pm
The 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 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
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Corsley WI

March news

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our March speaker was Richard Cripps, an expert gardener, horticultural judge and former lecturer at Lackham college who talked about 'Growing for Showing'.

Richard suggests that we should study the classes listed for the show and begin by growing to our strengths, choosing flowers, fruit or vegetables which we know grow well in our plot. Soil needs to be carefully prepared before seeds are sown. Timing produce to be at its best for the show may involve moving plants in and out of a greenhouse or garage to speed up or slow down development.

Judges are looking at the quality of the exhibit and many gardeners feed their plants, little and often, using things like nettle soup to produce good quality flowers, fruit and vegetables.

It is important to allow plenty of time for harvesting. Judges also look at the uniformity of the exhibit and it can be quite hard to gather say six apples of a uniform size: you are quite likely to have discounted many more before deciding on the chosen ones!

Ripeness is also important, as is freedom from blemishes; vegetables like parsnip can suffer from canker and carrots often have green shoulders - which we were told can be avoided by covering the seed drills. Exhibits should also be free from pests, the judges may

give them a little shake to 'see if' anyone is at home'!

Richard's tips included giving beans lots of water, keeping only a couple of trusses on tomato plants and if growing things in pots using clay pots which allow the plant to breathe. Damaged leaves should be removed and flowers should be protected from rain splashes. Any cut flowers for show should be gathered in the morning or evening when it is cool. House plants can get quite dusty so if you're showing them – well, dust them first!

Judges aim to give helpful encouragement to exhibitors but it is important to read the schedule carefully, checking the number of fruits or vegetables required. As well as first, second and third places, judges may leave a NAS label – Not As Schedule. If exhibiting is followed by disappointment we were advised to try to be sporting and complain discreetly!

As spring arrives, members can now get gardening and look forward to the Corsley Fayre on Saturday 29th August.

Our next meeting will be in the Reading Room on Thursday 9th April at 7.30 pm when we will be making spring flowers using the traditional felting technique. This meeting is for members only but if you would like to know more about Corsley WI please contact Alice Helliard on 07893 39632.





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News and appeal from the Heytesbury/Maridi Link Support Group

Most of us, if not all, are aware of the challenges the people of Sudan and South Sudan are living with on a daily basis but the link that Heytesbury Deanery (Warminster & Westbury CofE churches) has with Maridi Diocese in SW South Sudan has been amongst the quieter areas since the cessation of 2011 - when Sudan became two nations.

Sadly, though, a few weeks ago we received a distressed message from Bishop Moses of Maridi Diocese (whom some of you have met when he has visited us) reporting that Chaima Christian Institute, where we support adult education, had suffered a break-in. Cash held in the administration centre was taken and much damage was done to the building. It has left the students and staff feeling very vulnerable to attack and the possibility of further theft, the IT equipment and solar panels also are attractive to thieves. In a climate of increasing inflation, making it harder to afford market prices just for everyday living, some turn to criminal activity to ease the burden.

Sadly, the need for better security for the college has become necessary and so we are

appealing for help in the raising of funds to aid our friends in Maridi in erecting a security fence and gate, provide solar lighting, employ a guard to patrol the area and make the building itself harder to break into.

The amount of funds we normally raise in a year to support the education programme is insufficient to meet the £15,000 (approx.) required to complete this project. If you are able and feel you would like to contribute to this appeal, please send to:

South Sudan Maridi Link

Sort code: 30-99-50

A/C no: 8049 2568

Ref: Security Fence.

If you'd prefer, cheques may be made payable to South Sudan Maridi Link and sent to the Parish Office, Minster Church of St Denys, Church Street, Warminster. BA12 8PQ for the attention of Mr D Prior. 'Security Fence'.

We would also ask for your prayers for our friends in Maridi.

With much appreciation

*Revd Gay Maynard on behalf of the
Heytesbury/Maridi Link Support Group.*



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Whitbourne Chapel

"The Lord has risen indeed..!"
Luke 24: verse 34

Breaking News

'Breaking news' is usually to report that something important has happened, but not all the details have filtered through. It was like that on the first Easter Sunday.

Two disciples walking from Jerusalem that day were feeling very sad about all that happened when Jesus of Nazareth, whom they hoped would redeem Israel, had been condemned and crucified.

But just like the spring sunshine dispels the dark gloomy days of winter, so, too, their sadness was to be dispelled by a stranger who joined them. They shared with Him what had happened and how, earlier that day, some women had visited the tomb where Jesus had been placed and how they returned with their 'breaking news'. They had seen a vision of angels who said that Jesus was alive.

The stranger then began to show them, from all the Old Testament, the things concerning Himself. Yes, this 'stranger' was the Risen Christ, but their eyes were kept from recognising Him until they stopped for a meal. As He shared that meal with them their

eyes were opened, and then He vanished.

They couldn't keep their news to themselves and returned to the other disciples in Jerusalem, who were also excited about their own 'breaking news'. They were saying:

'The Lord has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon!' Simon was Simon Peter, that disciple who had denied Christ three times.

We aren't told what the Lord Jesus said to Simon, but one thing I believe we can be sure of, is that the Lord forgave this impetuous, self-confident disciple who had fallen so badly.

And because Jesus has died on that cross for our sins and risen again on the third day, showing that He is indeed God, then He can forgive all those who turn to Him. Jesus said: whoever comes to me I will never cast out (John chapter 6 verse 37).

That is the best 'breaking news' ever, something we can tell everyone about.

This account is in Luke's Gospel, chapter 24 verses 13 to 35.

John Hobson
Visiting preacher at Whitbourne Chapel



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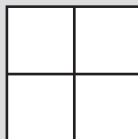
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Countryside Matters

Judith's down on the farm reporting on the latest spring activities

As I write, on the 18th, we have experienced the warmest March day of 19° since September 2025. How our weather pattern is altering – farmers are having to alter their farming methods with the changes in the climate.

The milder, wet winter meant that the grass continued to slowly grow since the last cut of silage last September. Although the cows are out grazing day and night, they are not able to keep up with the growing grass so we're currently six weeks ahead of our normal silage-making time; we cut the grass today and, if the forecast is correct, we have two days ahead for drying to make the first cut of silage in 2026. The food values may not be very good but, with plenty of slurry applied, we should have a good crop of grass ready for the second cut in mid May.

After so many weeks of rain, the sheep that have recently lambed are now out in the fields. You may notice that the lambs already have a clip attached to one of their ears; this tag has the lamb's flock number and its personal number which can be traced throughout its life (a 'passport'). This is part of the food safety chain that British farmers are so proud of.

Lambs will also have a number sprayed on their sides which will complement the number sprayed on the mother within hours of birthing. Although the mother will always know its young by its smell, it helps the shepherd match up their young if they

lose one another. Lambs are adept at getting through hedges and pig-netting leaving the flock behind, then, when they're hungry or cold they panic – they can't find the same escape hole they used earlier and, sadly, between the lack of food (milk), the cold and the dark may die within hours. Shepherds also have to be alert to illness in their ewes such as mastitis which can be dangerous for the ewe and life-threatening for their lamb as they're no longer making milk, leaving a very hungry and starving lamb.

This winter we have planted about 100 trees in the hedgerows on the farm and continued planting new hedges with another 200 yards added; all part of the grant-funded regenerative systems for encouraging more wildlife.

The countryside is blooming with blossom, the trees are greening up, the bees and birds are busy and spring has finally arrived – thank goodness!

Enjoy your country walks and if you're heading for the coast over Easter do enjoy some of the newly-opened 200 miles of The King's Coastal Path.

Judith Helliar

Erratum

Keith Collins has pointed out an error in the February edition of Countryside Matters – that hedge cutting should be completed by 1st March, not 30th April.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH

Help shape the future of health and care in your neighbourhood

The NHS and local partners are working together on new plans to make health and care services easier, faster and more joined-up for everyone in our communities.

We want to bring more care closer to where you live, so that:

- You can get help earlier
- Services work together – no more repeating your story
- Support is available locally, not only in hospital
- Health, care, council and charity teams can work as one team around you

But before we make any changes, we want to hear from you.

Do these ideas feel helpful? Would they improve your experience of using health or care services? What really needs to change to make things work better for you, your family and your community?

Your voice will directly shape our Neighbourhood Health plans so please take a few minutes to fill in our short survey and share your views.

<https://forms.office.com/e/aMi61zsFgC>





Explore

Do something more for less with a **£3** maximum bus fare

All single bus fares in Wiltshire are £3 or less
www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/bus

Funded by
UK Government

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!



S B Services



Contact Sean
07828 671566

*For your garden maintenance
and home improvements*

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 Lincolnshire
- 2 Oklahoma
- 3 Harold Wilson
- 4 The Gondoliers
- 5 The Bank of England
- 6 Richard III
- 7 Mercury
- 8 Fire
- 9 Polynesia
- 10 Amy Johnston in 1930
- 11 BEA and BOAC
- 12 Left arm

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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