

The Bridge

May 2026

monthly magazine for the villages
of Corsley and Chapmanslade



Join in the Volunteers' Day at the village hall, go to the Parish Councils' AGM and APM, enjoy the May Fayre at Chapmanslade School Field, have the last Lite Bites Soup Lunch before the summer break, there's lots to do in May...



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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 May**

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

Diary Dates



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

Sunday 10th

Volunteers' Day – 10 am to 3 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Monday 11th

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

Tuesday 12th

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

Wednesday 13th

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

Thursday 14th

Corsley WI meeting and AGM – 7.30 pm, Corsley Reading Room

Chapmanslade Parish Council Annual General Meeting – 7.30 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

Saturday 16th

May Fayre – 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Chapmanslade School Field

‘ENERGY in the HALL’ – 2 to 4 pm, Chapmanslade Village Hall

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

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

Sunday 31st

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

June

Wednesday 3rd

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

Tuesday 9th

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

Corsley Cricket Club

A century of community spirit

As we approach another season, it's time to promote one of Corsley's most cherished institutions: Corsley Cricket Club.

Founded over 100 years ago, Corsley Cricket Club has weathered the test of time, evolving and adapting to the changing landscape of the sport and the community. From humble beginnings, the club attracts players and supporters from all walks of life.

We are particularly honoured by the range of age, backgrounds and abilities represented. From eager youngsters, adults who have never played before – often “not since school” - to seasoned veterans with decades of experience, the club prides itself on being inclusive and welcoming to all.

We have experienced coaches, practice facilities and a supportive environment which gives us all the opportunity to develop skills, learn the values of teamwork and sportsmanship, and, most importantly, have fun – before, during and after a game.

Although we have touring sides who want to regularly play us from all over England we focus on playing other local Village sides, usually on a Sunday or midweek and play at a leisurely pace, while still benefiting from the camaraderie and competition that cricket provides. We practice on the Cricket Field midweek and most of our games are single innings each of around 30 overs. We have links to the higher level League sides and regularly provide players who are after a more challenging game.



In these challenging times, when many clubs are struggling with low support, poor facilities, disappearing grounds, and financial pressures, Corsley Cricket Club remains viable due to the hard work and dedication of our players, volunteers, families and supporters who ensure that the club continues to provide an outlet, support and enjoyment to many.

Whether you're a seasoned cricketer, a returner or a curious newcomer, Corsley Cricket would welcome you; even if you are only able to play occasionally. We invite you to come and watch a match, experience the spirit of our club or better yet, give it a go. Our friendly and supportive environment makes it the perfect place to learn and improve your skills, regardless of your age or ability. You don't have to live in Corsley or Chapmanslade.

For more information about Corsley Cricket Club and how to get involved, please contact our Chairman.

*Rupert Tolson, Chair, Corsley Cricket Club
07875 734 219*

Corsley Cricket Club (photo above), thought to be 1915. Ownership gratefully acknowledged. If anyone knows who these fine gentlemen were, and what became of them we would love to hear more.

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Contact:

John 01373 467508

Elaine 07809 163705

www.bridgewebs.com/frome

Soup Lunch

Maureen Willcox reports on the second Soup Lunch in March

The lunch was held on Wednesday 25th March (4th Wednesday of the month as usual!). This time we were collecting for Age UK and our kind soup lunchers donated £105 to this very worthy cause. The four soups we served were Mushroom, Mulligatawny, Lentil and Bacon and Watercress which was particularly popular. As we didn't have enough for everyone to try this soup, the recipe is here for those interested in making it for themselves.

Our last Soup Lunch before the summer break was on Wednesday 22nd April. By the time you read this we will hopefully have raised plenty of money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Although the Soup Lunches will take a rest until September, we shall endeavour to keep the Coffee Mornings going in the Reading Room on first Wednesday of every month. 10.30 to 12 noon. Do come along (sometimes there are home made biscuits!) and spend a relaxing hour or so chatting with other Corsley residents. You will also be able to see how clean and fresh the Reading Room looks after its coat of paint.

For those who will miss the Soup Lunches, please put the date of Wednesday 23rd September in your diaries NOW. Soup will be served once again!



Lite Bites Watercress Soup



Serves 5 to 6

Ingredients

- 1 medium onion chopped
- 30gms butter
- 400gms potato peeled and chopped into 1cm cubes
- 3 x 80gms bags watercress washed, drained and chopped
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- Single cream – optional

Method

1. Melt the butter in a large lidded saucepan, add the onion and sweat it until it's opaque.
2. Add the potato and sweat for a further 5 minutes.
3. Add the stock, two bags of the cress and simmer for 10 minutes with the lid on.
4. Allow to cool.
5. Add the third bag of cress and blend until smooth.
6. Serve with a swirl of cream (optional)

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Bob's bafflers

- 1 On what date is Independence Day in the USA?
- 2 Which coin was first introduced in the UK on 21st April 1983?
- 3 What is the common name for rhinitis?
- 4 Frank Baum wrote which classic children's story?
- 5 What is the only mammal that can fly?
- 6 The Bessemer process was the first economical method of making which product?
- 7 What is the name of the mongoose in Kipling's "Jungle Book"?
- 8 What is the name of the peninsular between the River Mersey and the River Dee?
- 9 What is the name of the Scottish liqueur made from whisky and heather honey?
- 10 "In the town that I was born" is the first line of which Beatles' song?
- 11 Which is the largest island of Japan?
- 12 In which fictitious prison was the sitcom "Porridge" set?

Answers on page 40

Corsley & Chapmanslade Churches

May Fayre

Saturday 16th May

10.30 – 12.30pm

Chapmanslade School Field, BA13 4AN



Plant Sale

Messy Tent

Cake stall

Games

Refreshments



Corsley Tennis Club News



Message from our Junior Coach, Imogen:

"Our free Junior Easter session took place on Easter Day and was a massive success with a good turnout which was great to see. We played lots of fun Easter-themed games whilst incorporating the basic tennis fundamentals needed to start learning the game – making the session a teaching point as well as having fun is a priority alongside the tennis basics. As well as the children, it was lovely to see the parents getting involved in some of the games as well! It was Easter Day so, of course, we had some special Easter prizes at the end! Thank you for coming along!"

Some familiar faces showed up to the first coaching session on Sunday 12th April, a testament to the 'taster's' success! The 10-week course follows a structured lesson plan each week allowing the children to really focus in each lesson; these include a variety of drills allowing the children to learn the different shots of tennis, hopefully helping them out in the future. Of course, this would not be possible without all the help I have received from CTC as a whole, alongside the people who have been working closely with me – Martin, Mark, and all the fabulous tennis leaders. N.B there

are still coaching spaces

available so please book on ClubSpark."

ADULT TOURNAMENT DATES

Open to all adults and Juniors over the age of 16. They are competitive but will be great fun and all abilities are welcome.

Mixed Doubles	Sunday 31st May, 2pm
Men's Doubles	Sunday 14th June, 2pm
Over 70's	Thursday 2nd July, 10am
Ladies Doubles	Sunday 19th July, 2pm
Singles (M&L)	Saturday 1st or Sunday 2nd August, 2pm (dependent on interest)
60's v70's	Sunday 16th August 2pm (new tournament!)
American Switch	Sunday 6th September, 2pm

Please vote on the WhatsApp polls if you would like to take part or, if not on WhatsApp please email Nicola Player at nicolaplayer@gmail.com

*Kate Jackson
Committee member*





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Chapmanslade Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

Councillor Colin Bell reports on the key points from the April meeting

The Chapmanslade Parish Council (PC) met at Chapmanslade Village Hall on Thursday 9th April. Councillor (Cllr) Phil Holihead chaired the meeting, with four Parish Councillors present, along with Clerk Mrs M. House. Five members of the public attended and were warmly welcomed. Apologies were received from Unitary Councillor Bill Parks. As per protocol, councillors were invited to declare any conflicts of interest. None were recorded.

Key points from the meeting are as follows:

The meeting opened with an opportunity for members of the public to speak or raise questions. A resident asked about the availability of unallocated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for a small project. It was confirmed that only a limited amount of funding currently remains unallocated. Residents were also reminded that the Village Hall AGM will take place on 16th April 2026, with all welcome to attend.

Matters arising

- Short Street junction – No further updates were available regarding proposed changes to access and exit arrangements. Additional signage for pedestrian safety has been requested, particularly given increasing footfall along the route to Thoulstone Park.
- Emergency Planning – The next workshop will take place on 6th May 2026. Work is ongoing to produce a shorter, more accessible version of the emergency plan for residents.

- HGV Weight Limit Consultation – The consultation has now closed, with strong support from residents for reducing the weight limit from 18 tonnes to 7.5 tonnes. A formal decision is awaited following officer review. Councillors expressed their thanks to residents who helped distribute consultation materials and to those who have supported the process. It was also noted that proposed housing development in Frome may increase traffic through the village in future.

Planning

No new planning applications had been received at the time of the meeting.

Finance

Councillors approved a number of payments, including CIL-funded works, website hosting and subscriptions, and membership of the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils.

The Council reviewed its financial position and noted that:

- Total expenditure for 2025/26 exceeded the original budget forecast
- No new CIL income had been received during the year
- A limited amount of CIL funding remains available for allocation.
- Councillors also noted that the Parish Council qualifies to submit a Certificate of Exemption from external audit, due to its financial position.

Correspondence and updates

- Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme –

Chapmanslade Brownies still need help!

Unfortunately we are still looking for leaders and without new people coming forward we will have to consider closing the unit later in the year.

Please be in touch for a chat about what is involved volunteering with the 7 to 10 year old girls.

Thank you.

Janet Mallard (aka Robin)
07714 485555

Councillors discussed the details of scheme, which were provided by Wiltshire County Council (WCC), but raised concerns about the level of responsibility it would place on councillors and volunteers. Further clarification will be sought from WCC.

- Service Devolution and Asset Transfer – Councillors considered proposals relating to the potential transfer of services from WCC to Parish Councils. Initial views suggested that such changes may place additional financial and operational burdens on smaller parish councils. Further review will take place ahead of the consultation deadline.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, which will take place on Thursday 14th May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Council report will be published on the website in advance.

All members of the Chapmanslade community are warmly encouraged to attend. Your voice is important and very much valued, and your participation helps ensure the Parish Council continues to represent the needs and priorities of the village.

Further information, including meeting minutes and updates, can be found on the Parish Council website:

www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please visit the website and follow the link below to review the Councillor Vacancy Notice and consider putting your name forward as a prospective Parish Councillor. www.chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/110/2025/10/Chapmanslade-Parish-Council-Councillor-vacancies-.pdf

Plus, for enquiries, please contact our excellent Parish Clerk at:

clerk@chapmansladeparishcouncil.gov.uk



Support Corsley Fayre August 29th 2026

We are looking for local businesses and individuals to support the local community by donating prizes for the Corsley Fayre Raffle and Silent Auction.

No donation is too big or too small – all will be gratefully received!
Every contribution helps towards putting on the Fayre.

If you can support us please contact **help@corsleyfayre.org.uk** with the details of your gift and if you would like to discuss how Corsley Fayre can further promote your business.

Many thanks for your generosity
Corsley Fayre Committee

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Chapmanslade

Village Hall News

Adam Oakley reports on some happenings at the hall and announces some upcoming events

We have just held our AGM and unfortunately there was some cake left over! It's unfortunate because although we had quite a number of village residents attend there were not enough. Chapmanslade Village Hall is your hall and we need to know what you want from your hall. We would also love some help maintaining and running the hall. On the plus side I got to take home the left over cake!

Your chance to get involved is just around the corner with our next event on **Sunday 10th May, a Volunteers Day**. It's that time where we work at all of the jobs that need doing to make us proud of our hall and have some more cake. Come and join us to lend a hand any time between 10 am and 3 pm. If there is a particular job you would like to do or a skill that you have, drop us a line before hand so that we can arrange it chapmansladevillagehall@gmail.com

It was very sad to hear that our long standing committee member Frank Lake passed away in early April. Our hall will be 52 years old this year. For at least 36 years Frank was a very active member of our committee and a Trustee; that's three quarters of the life of the hall! For more than 30 years Frank was our chairman steering the hall developments and operation. A truly outstanding achievement and a massive contribution to our hall and the Chapmanslade community. He will be greatly missed by us all and fondly remembered.

More events planned through the year, the first being **ENERGY in the Hall** on **Saturday 16th May at 2pm**. Everyone is welcome to come to a celebration tea party (more cake!) to mark the completion of our integrated energy project. Please join us to learn more about the solar panels, batteries, heat recovery and air conditioning we have had installed to make the hall a more efficient comfortable space for all to use.

Later in the year our **Summer BBQ** is planned for **Sunday 12th July**, loads of fun and games and a chance to enjoy both the hall and the outside space. At the peak of summer our popular **Croquet and Cream Teas** on **Sunday 9th August** is a time to relax in the shade between a gentle game or two of croquet. Entrance to these events is FREE and everyone is welcome. .

Our search for a committee secretary continues and we are flexible in our approach to how much or how little anyone would like to take on the role. If you would like to join us or help out in any way please get in touch. chapmansladevillagehall@gmail.com

Adam Oakley
07504 192656

Corsley Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

**will be held on 11th May
at 7 pm**

Corsley Reading Room

This YOUR meeting

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

The PC Chairman's Annual Report

followed by

ANY questions, comments, concerns, suggestions

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

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

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



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Six Open Doors

Dear Friends,

The elusive hare

One of the many blessings of the spring is the reappearance of that most mysterious of countryside creatures, the hare. Part of their appeal lies, I think, in elusiveness and movement: barrelling along a lane at night, ahead of us as we drive, or veering across the hillside. We were walking this weekend through an ocean of woodland bluebells, when Effie, our dog, startled a hare (almost the size of a muntjac) mere yards away and off it tore, confounding all attempts at pursuit. Always on the move, they are an Easter marvel.

I was reminded of the hare's dynamism when reading St Mark's account of the resurrection, which that evangelist conveys not as a fact to be proved, or puzzle to be solved, but as a mysterious kind of movement. "He has been raised; he is not here", declares the angel to the women at the tomb. "He is going ahead of you to Galilee". At which their first response, not unreasonably, is terrified flight, before doing as the angel bade them and relating this to the apostles.

Faith, in this light, is our pursuit of the Christ who goes before us. Rejoicing whenever we encounter him, walking his way and hoping earnestly to see him again.

Bishop Andrew

May Church Diary

Sunday 3rd May: Easter 5

10 am Eucharist, St Margaret's, Corsley

8 am BCP, Kingston Deverill

10 am Morning Worship, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 10th May: Rogation Sunday

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

10 am Eucharist, Kingston Deverill



Sunday 17th May: Easter 7

11 am Matins, St Margaret's, Corsley

10 am Eucharist, Brixton Deverill



Sunday 24th May: Pentecost

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

10 am Eucharist, Longbridge Deverill



Sunday 31st May: Trinity Sunday

10 am Benefice Eucharist, Horningsham

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 May

Corsley Coffee Morning

Wednesday 6th May – 10 am to 12 noon. Corsley Reading Rooms

Crafternoon

Wednesday 13th and Wednesday 27th May – 3 to 5 pm, The Three Horseshoes

Community Coffee Morning

Thursday 21st May – 10am to 12 noon The Three Horseshoes

May Fair

Saturday 16th May – 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Chapmanslade School Field,
see advert for more details



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
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Benefice Webmaster	Mike Palmer	mjp.mikepalmer@gmail.com
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Corsley WI

April news

Helen Roberts rounds up the April meeting



We had a very enjoyable time at our April meeting making felted spring flowers. Members were introduced to this traditional felting technique by Amy who lives in the north of the county and runs workshops in a range of craft activities (Craft with Amy). All her workshops are designed to improve mental well-being, by focusing on the process of being creative: the skills this requires and chatting with others enables participants to shut off from worries, stresses and the to-do lists of everyday life. Amy was assisted by Sarah to set up a wide range of resources and answer any of our questions.

To create a felted spring flower we used a sharp barbed felting needle, sheep wool and a soft sponge. The wool fibres are joined together to turn it into felt through the process of stabbing the needle up and down through the



wool on top of a sponge. The sponge is used to stop the needle from breaking and to protect the table. Slowly multiple layers of wool fibres are felted together and with careful shaping and wool colour choice a spring flower emerges. The flowers could be embellished with beads, mounted on card or made into a small wreath.

We often hold a competition at our meetings and this month it was to find the best felted spring flower. This brought out the competitiveness in some members, for others they were just very pleased to learn a new skill and be proud of their achievements.

Our next meeting will be in the Reading Room on Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm when we shall hold our AGM as well as play several games of

bingo. If you would like to know more about Corsley WI please contact Alice Helliard on 07989 339632.

Corsley Reading Room

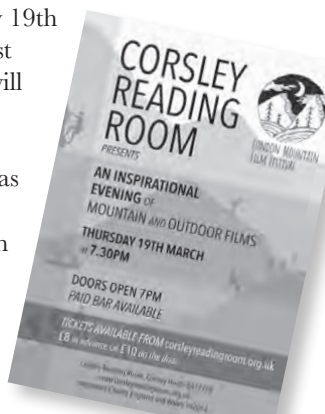
Your 'village hall'

A report on the latest happenings at the hall



Our first stage of redecorating has been completed as has the construction of a corner cupboard in the main hall to house all the electrics and solar panel batteries.

We held the London Mountain Film Festival on Thursday 19th March and raised just under £500 which will go towards stage two of our redecoration plan. The evening was completely sold out beforehand, although we managed to squeeze a few more people in on the night. It was such a



lovely evening and thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the films with us.

We are planning some more events to take place later in the year, so keep an eye open for news about them.

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, details below.

Jackie Jasper

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.

Other queries can be directed to chairman@corsleyreadingroom.org.uk

See website

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

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Corsley Parish Council

Parish Council Briefing

John Willcox, Parish Clerk, rounds up the PC's activity in March

At its meeting on the 23rd March the PC discussed the following:

Planning application

Unusually, only one planning application had been received...

PL/2026/00786 *Temporary permission to retain the existing buildings for pre-school use and ancillary office building at Little Cuckoos pre school. This was a renewal of a previous application – PL/21/01064 .*
The PC had no objection to this application.

Rights of Way

It was reported that Wiltshire Council had confirmed that the previous agreement that the PC should order 15 gates to replace existing styles and gates on the footpath network and that the County would contribute 75% (£2644) was still in place. Once the specification and exact location of the gates is confirmed an order will be placed.

Streetscene

A report had been circulated. The results of the metro count that took place on Geys Hill is still awaited.

Concern had been expressed by many parishioners that the rebuilding of the fence at the Lyes Green junction with the A362 severely impedes the visibility of traffic coming from the east. The Highways Authority were consulted as to whether there was a planning breach. The PC have been advised that the siting of the fence appears to be 'legal'. That said, there is no doubt that it impedes the visibility of traffic coming from

the east to the point where most vehicles wanting to turn right have to advance beyond the white line to check oncoming traffic with the consequent risks this entails. The PC believe that this is a very real hazard and will be monitoring the situation with a view to urging the Highways Authority to take restorative action.

The PC have made a request to the newly instituted Bus Strategy team to look into the refurbishment of the bus shelters at either end of the village on the A362.

It was reported that all the Parish Stewards have been repurposed to carry out pothole repairs. Any emergency works required should be requested through the MyWilts app.

Emergency Planning

A report by had been circulated. Councillor Travers spoke to the report and gave an update.

Thanks were expressed to The Bridge delivery network who had done a sterling job in delivering a copy of the Emergency Plan to every household throughout the village.

Good feedback had been received and the plan will be updated to reflect this. Further meetings were planned with relevant agencies including SSN to discuss future funding/co-operation.

A desktop exercise is planned which will include members from Chapmanslade PC.

Parish Council vacancy

The Clerk reported that there had been no

response to the notice in The Bridge seeking applicants to fill the vacancy on the PC. Following discussion on the options available it was agreed to defer any decision until the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

Monday 11th May – all are welcome.

Meetings to be held in the Lower Room at Corsley Reading Room and will begin at 7.30 pm).

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Whitbourne Chapel

*God cannot be mocked...
Galatians, 6:7*

Life by the Spirit

March 2026 is a distant memory now, but we had two consecutive Sundays that month when booked preachers couldn't visit. In-house preacher, Richard Wilson, opened our 8th March Service with prayers, before we sang a children's chorus, 'Father Abraham'. It's a simple song: 'Father Abraham had many sons, many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them, and so are you, so let's just praise the Lord...' At that point, the Chapel youngsters were up and doing the actions: Right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, chin up, turn around, SIT DOWN! We grown-ups joined in, but I can't tell right from left under pressure! By the time I worked out which was my right arm, the chorus was half over and I was lost! Three-year-old Esther kept telling guitarist James Wicks, "I did it, Daddy." Sadly, I didn't! James spoke about the profound words we'd sung; anyone can join Abraham's family. By faith, we can all have that connection to Jesus. Our other guitarist, Adrian Henson, read from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians, on 'Life by the Spirit', ending with 'God cannot be mocked. A man will reap what he sows.' We'll all do that one day – we'll reap whatever we sowed in life, be it good or bad. What are we sowing and what

do we honestly desire? If we sow the Spirit, we'll reap eternal life.

The following week, it was Mothering Sunday with no preacher, so we had another 'in-house' Service! Our readings were all about mothers, from the Book of Genesis through to the Apostle Paul's final letter to Timothy. Half the congregation were readers, all working together as a united Church. However, centre stage was taken by Hudson Mead (4) and Esther Wicks (3), who delivered bunches of flowers to all the ladies present. Chapel Secretary, Ray Mead, talked about the history of Mothering Sunday, when young girls finished school and worked in the local 'Big House' as maids or similar. These girls were allowed home on Mothering Sunday, walking home and picking wild flowers on the way, as gifts. Before the youngsters left for Sunday School, we sang Father Abraham again and I'd been practicing all week – yes, really! I did all the actions in the right order, through to the words, SIT DOWN! When Esther called out, "I did it, Daddy," I wanted to say, "So did I!" At the end of another truly inspiring Service, the words, 'Be a praying mother, a praying grandmother and a praying great-grandmother,' came up on the screen...

Gill Redman



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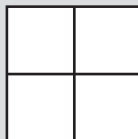
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March	32.0mm

Spring has certainly come early this year – the hedges are in their full, fine greenery and the blossom is already blowing away with fruit and berries already forming (I do hope the frosts we have had will not affect our trees and hedges as these fruits will be the winter feed for wild birds and mammals).

Already the verges are swaying with cow parsley, the elder is laden with elder flower and for the cooks among us the wild garlic leaves are ready for picking.

Blackbirds are singing their hearts out, robins, sparrows and thrushes are now welcoming the swifts, housemartins and swallows.

I have yet to hear the cuckoo who would normally be heard calling for a mate as it settles in our local woodland or flies further north.

As the early lambs are getting more independent of their mothers, we welcome back the travelling shearers from New Zealand in time to remove the flock's winter woolly coats. Once again, farmers have been given very belated permission by the government to employ these travelling experts; they travel from Cornwall to Scotland shearing thousands of sheep as the weather conditions improve as they move ever further northwards. It's an essential job which the shepherds would be unable to complete due

to lack of time, training and expertise before the sheep would suffer serious health problems i.e. overheating and fly trike. When will the government listen to the farmers who are struggling against the odds to keep high food and animal care standards and supermarket shelves full of home-produced food.

Most of last years silage and hay has been consumed, so it's essential the first cut of silage is harvested. Sadly the lack of rain in the last two months may mean lighter grass crops will be harvested during May.

This year, many more acres of oil seed rape can be seen brightening up the countryside. Due to much-improved land and crop management and knowledge of the beetle that devastated the crop just a few years ago, Britain will again be able to provide much more home produced cooking and salad oils.

With ever-changing weather conditions, farmers are grasping at new and sometimes traditional methods to care for animals and countryside, so please help to support them as you shop for British-produced food.

Our lives are changing daily, with world leadership creating turmoil. Once again we look to home-produced food, power and industries to maintain the high standard of living we have enjoyed for many years.

Enjoy the beauty of our countryside in May: although it is the workplace for our farmers and growers, it is still available for everyone to walk and ride the footpaths, bridleways and woodlands and appreciate the changes month-by-month.

Judith Helliar



To enter please send photographic evidence of the height/size of your sunflower to info@acressupply.com by 28th August 2026. Please include your name and address with all entries.

Participants need to be residents of Corsley.

It would be great if you could bring your sunflowers along to the Corsley Fayre for all to see!

Participants need to be residents of Corsley.

Come and join us doing those jobs in the hall and around the memorial field

Volunteers' Day

Painting, weeding, cleaning, digging, grouting, chopping, tidying, clipping, fixing

**Sunday 10th May
10 am to 3 pm**

CHAPMANSLADE
VILLAGE HALL

Whitbourne Chapel Coffee Morning

**Free cakes, coffee
and chat**



**Every 2nd Tuesday of each month
from 10 am to 12 noon
Temple, Corsley, BA12 7QN**

If you need transport,
call Adrian on 07977 935755

www.whitbournechapel.org

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 4th July
- 2 The £1 coin
- 3 Hay fever
- 4 The Wizard of Oz
- 5 Bat
- 6 Steel
- 7 Rikki Tikki Tavi
- 8 The Wirral
- 9 Drambuie
- 10 Yellow Submarine
- 11 Honshu
- 12 Slade

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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Pick your own kiln-dried logs ready to burn

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Saturday: 7.30am to 12.30pm (Sept - Feb)
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