

HM Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022

At 6.30pm, on 8 September 2022, the world was forever altered with eight words from Buckingham Palace: "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon."

Here in Corsham we joined the rest of the country, the Commonwealth and the globe in mourning her loss. To mark Her Majesty's passing, the Union Jack was immediately flown with a 'mourning cravat'. (The flagpole at the Town Hall is at an angle, meaning the flag cannot be flown at half-mast, hence the cravat.) The Town Council's Chairman, Cllr Steve Abbott, released a statement. A Book of Condolence was available at the Town Hall - the Town Council's Chairman and Vice-Chairman also took a Book of Condolence to local care homes for residents to sign - and the War Memorial was designated as the site for floral tributes. The day after the State Funeral the flowers were collected in a simple ceremony to be composted and used on a future planting scheme, or tree, dedicated to The Queen.

The Proclamation of King Charles III

As happened in hundreds of other places across the country, the Proclamation of King Charles III was read in the town, taking place in front of the Town Hall on Sunday 11 September at 1.15pm. This

historic occasion was led by the Chairman in front of a small crowd of invited dignitaries, including Stephanie Millward MBE, Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire, and local residents.



Photo: Corsham Town Council

Chairman's Statement

At the tender age of 21, the then Princess Elizabeth promised the nation that her whole life, 'whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'.

All of us at Corsham Town Council are incredibly grateful that, as Queen Elizabeth II for over 70 years, she carried out her promise diligently and tirelessly.

She was the only monarch most of us have ever known, a steady presence throughout incredible changes.

*In times when nothing stood
But worsened, or grew strange,
There was one constant good;
She did not change.**

We remember her with great respect and affection, and we give thanks for Her Majesty's service, sense of duty and absolute dedication to the people of our country and the Commonwealth.

While we mourn the passing of our Queen, our thoughts are very much with His Majesty The King and the rest of the Royal Family who have lost a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother. We send our deepest condolences to them as they face the challenges of the next few difficult days and weeks.

It is the end of an extraordinary Elizabethan era.
God Save the King

**Written by Philip Larkin on the occasion of HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.*

The Proclamation

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of blessed and glorious memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George: We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her Late Majesty's Privy Council and Representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all Faith and Obedience with humble Affection; beseeching God by whom Kings and Queens do reign to bless His Majesty with long and happy Years to reign over us.

Given at St James's Palace this Tenth day of September in the Year of Our Lord Two thousand and twenty-two.

GOD SAVE THE KING





From the Chairman

A Moment in History

The death on 8 September of Queen Elizabeth II was a moment in history that I think we will look back on in years to come as a hugely significant event.

For me. The Queen showed by her words and actions that she cared about all her people, not just in the United Kingdom but also in all the countries of the Commonwealth. It seemed to me that she was devoted to improving the lives of all those people with no favourites singled out, but she did so without treading on the toes of governments who have the executive responsibility for improving people's lives. The Queen's example is a reminder for those of us in public service roles that we need to have understanding and respect for all people in the communities we serve.

On the subject of understanding, in our last newsletter we had a short piece talking about our four-year plan to 2026. Our high-level priorities are:

- Caring for the environment and taking action on climate change.

- Implementing a sustainable and safe transport plan.

- Ensuring a thriving town centre and supporting local businesses.

- Improving health and wellbeing in our community.

- Improving engagement with people and groups in our community.

Whilst we have set these priorities with input that included a survey of residents, for us to follow the example set by The Queen, we need to continuously improve our understanding of what people in our community want from the Town Council. We are always open to conversations with individuals or groups, so if you have a point you want to get across about our priorities, or yours, please get in touch.

In closing I would like to thank all the staff of the Town Council, and especially our Chief Executive, David Martin, for the excellence of their response to the workload that arose following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. I know that response was a mark of their respect for our late Queen.

**Steve Abbott, Chairman,
Corsham Town Council**
clrsabbott@corsham.gov.uk

Town Council Surgery

We have relaunched our Town Council Surgery sessions. If you have any issues, concerns or suggestions about where you live in Corsham, you can talk to a local Town Councillor at the Town Hall. Upcoming dates are 7 October, 11 November, 9 December and 6 January, from 1-1.30pm. No appointment necessary.

Get Set for StoryTown

Our celebration of stories and story-telling for everyone, whatever your age, is back on 15 and 16 October. Whether you're a would-be writer, a busy bookworm, a hopeless romantic, a stargazer, or just a lover of words and the magic they can create, you'll find something to enjoy.

The printed programme is out now, at various locations around town, including the Town Hall, Corsham Library, The Corsham Bookshop and The Pound, or you can download a copy, and find lots more information, at corsham.gov.uk or at corshamstorytown.co.uk, or

follow Corsham's Storytown on Facebook.

PLUS Watch out for the fairy doorways appearing around the town centre – and their fairies courtesy of Corsham Knitting and Crochet Club!



We Will Remember Them

Acts of Remembrance will seem even more poignant this year following the death of The Queen. On Friday 11 November, at 11am, members of the Royal British Legion will lead a two-minute silence in the Martingate Centre.

Then, on Sunday 13 November, Corsham will come together to remember the town's fallen, and all those who have lost their lives in conflict. There will be a service at St Bartholomew's at 10am,

after which the parade will form up outside the church and march along the High Street and Lacock Road to the War Memorial.

The service there will begin at approximately 10.50am and will include the two-minute silence at 11 o'clock, followed by the laying of wreaths. (Please note that there will be road closures in place and possible delays around town from approximately 10.30-11.45am.)





Christmas is Coming!

This year's Christmas Lights Switch On - our traditional, family-friendly event - will take place on Friday 2 December with the Christmas Market, live music, fairground fun for little ones, a visit from Father Christmas and lots more, with the lights going on at 6pm.

Plus, this year, the Wishing Tree returns. Come and make a wish to hang on the High Street Christmas tree on Saturday 26 November, from 10am-1pm. Watch out for more details on both events over the next few weeks.



Preparing for Emergencies

Cold and wet weather can bring challenges, so the Town Council has set up a Flood Warden Scheme to improve our community's preparedness for emergencies.

The Wardens will play an important role, acting as "eyes and ears" in areas affected by flooding and providing (non-emergency) assistance to vulnerable members of the community. We are especially keen to recruit people in the Byde Mill Brook area. If you are interested, contact Caro Clark, cclark@corsham.gov.uk. Training will be provided.

Advice for home-owners about preparing for floods, cold weather and other emergencies can be found at wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk

Making a Difference

The Town Council's grants scheme is available to support community organisations in their work to improve the lives of Corsham's residents.

That might be through working with older people, sports activities, music and the Arts or wellbeing projects. To find out more go to corsham.gov.uk or give us a call on 01249 702130. Here, two recipients of Town Council grants give an update on their work.

Corsham Windband

Sonia Blandford, Musical Director, writes: Corsham Windband Association (CWA) has created music opportunities for over 3,000 children and young people during 40 years of music-making in Wiltshire, the UK and Europe. The aims of CWA are to promote and foster the enjoyment of playing with friends, and we have a current membership of around 150 young musicians, from ages 5-24, playing across three bands: the Training Band, for novice musicians; the intermediate Spectrum Band and the Youth Concert Band. We are always looking for new members, aged 5-18, to join us (woodwind, brass and percussion) at our sessions at the Pound Arts Centre featuring free lessons and instruments: Beginners, Fridays 6-6.45pm; Grade 2 and above, Fridays 7-7.45pm, and Beginners to Grade 2, Saturdays 9.15-10.15am.



CWA is also seeking support and patronage from local businesses, charities and past members and do contact us if you would like CWA to play at your event. For more information, visit corshamwindband.org.



Souper Friday

Paul Garcia, from the Souper Friday team writes: Souper Friday runs at the Baptist Church in Priory Street. Started prior to lockdown, this was originally a project to provide a café serving a free hot drink, soup and a roll, as well as a place to meet people and find a listening ear. During lockdown, the concept was expanded to include practical help to families and singles finding it hard to make ends meet by delivering to those people surplus supermarket groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, plus frozen meats, all for free. This project continued after lockdown, though people are

now encouraged to come to collect food at our 'market' and stay on for the drink and soup in the café, which is a great place to forge friendships. We still make no charge for anything.

The café and market are open every Friday from 9am, closing around lunchtime. If you or someone you know could use the service, then please contact us on 07774 295174, or visit our Facebook page: [souperfridaycorsham](https://www.facebook.com/souperfridaycorsham).



Both Sonia Blandford and the Souper Friday team have been nominated for very well-deserved BBC Radio Wiltshire Make a Difference Awards. This newsletter went to press before the awards were announced so we will let you know how they got on next time.



As you know, the Town Council made the decision to cancel the Street Fair, due to take place on 10 September, on hearing the news that Her Majesty The Queen had passed away.

We are very aware that many people were disappointed by the cancellation, but equally that many people would think we had shown a lack of respect if the event had gone ahead at the time.

The Street Fair will now take place on Saturday 8 October, 12-4pm. Details at corsham.gov.uk

Town Councillors

Corsham Gastard Ward	Ruth Williams 01249 701586
Tina Ellis 07751 437825	Vacant
Corsham Neston Ward	Corsham Pickwick Ward
Jeremy Brook 01225 810059	Helen Belcher* 07967 466909
Nicholas Brakspear 07842 125835	Alan Crookford 07839 014034
Vacant	Mervyn Jackson 01249 715121
Corsham Ladbrook Ward	George McCaffery 07903 415655
Steve Abbott 07795 421933	Jane Robertson 07929 996729
Alan Brown 01249 715818	Gareth Ward 07740 348595
Tanvir Bush 07780 874594	Anthes White 01249 713827
Neville Farmer 07966 150444	Vacant
Ruth Hopkinson* 01249 713216	
Dave Jarman 07787 532650	

*Cllrs Helen Belcher and Ruth Hopkinson are also Wiltshire Councillors

Corsham Station Update

A widely promoted online survey about the station was carried out from 15 July to 5 August resulting in 1,511 responses. Thank you to all who took part.

The key findings were that 39.58% of respondents would use the station more than once per week, with 41.23% using it once per week or less, but over 12 times per year; the most frequent journeys would be leisure trips (41.89%) followed by commuting (33.55%) and by far the most popular places to travel to/from Corsham Station were Bristol or Bath at 65.59%, with Reading, London and South East England in second

place at 17.27%. Only 1.26% of participants said they would be unlikely to use Corsham Station.

The information from the survey will be used as part of the Strategic Outline Business Case, which is due to be submitted to the Department for Transport later this year. If the project passes this stage, then things such as design, planning, access and operational feasibility will be looked at in more detail.

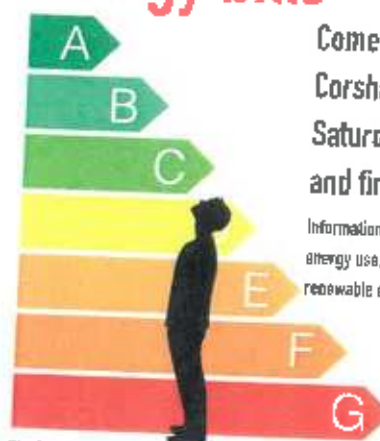
For the most up-to-date information on the Corsham Station plans, visit corshamrailwaystation.org.

Want to Cut Your Energy Bills?

Come along to Corsham Town Hall, from 10am-3pm, on Saturday 22 October and find out how.

Corsham Climate Action, our local environmental group, is working with the Town Council to run an event featuring lots of information to help. There will be stalls, demos and advice about how to use less energy, improve energy efficiency in your home or business, save money with renewable energy, and more. Exhibitors include Warm and Safe Wiltshire, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bath and West Community Energy, and architects and suppliers specialising in energy efficiency appliances and upgrades to your home. There will be a Fairtrade café for refreshments too.

Want to cut your energy bills



Come along to
Corsham Town Hall
Saturday 22 October, 10-3
and find out how!

Information, talks and displays on cutting your energy use, insulating your home, switching to renewable energy, and much more.

Find out about:
insulation, heat pumps, solar panels, energy saving tips
and much more. Fairtrade café as well!

Exhibitors include: Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bath and West Community Energy, Warm and Safe Wiltshire, Heat Pump Federation, renewable energy suppliers, architects specialising in making housing energy efficient and others.



Comments – have your say

Are there any other local concerns on which you would like to comment?

Let us know your views in the space provided below and return to:

David Martin, Chief Executive, Corsham Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 0EZ, email: towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk or visit our website at: www.corsham.gov.uk, or you can call us on 01249 702130. You can also send us comments via our Facebook page. You can also contact your local Councillor (details above) or attend a Town Council Surgery (see page 2).

Signed..... Print.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....