







## From the Chairman

### Thinking positive in difficult times.

The world we live in feels very complicated and unsettled at the moment – with the war in Ukraine continuing, and it is not just the UK economy that is affected by price rises and trading difficulties. There is not much that any of us can do to change all that, so I would like to concentrate on the positive things that keep us going in difficult times.

The life of our community ticks along and, in many areas, it is thanks to people

who give their time as volunteers, organising events and activities or supporting others who need help in all sorts of different ways. One of the best parts of my role is meeting the people who do the volunteering and, at the end of April, we held our Community Awards event to celebrate their contributions to our community. Nine people were nominated and all were congratulated for their inspiring work.

Four Community Awards were made to: Peter Harper - for his environmental work in our community through Corsham Climate Action; Judith Hible - for her tireless work as Footpath Secretary for the North West Wiltshire Ramblers Group; Nikki Kenna - for establishing and maintaining Fairtrade Town status for Corsham, and Lynda Ormandy - for her exceptional work in women's and junior cricket at Corsham Cricket Club.

We also gave a Chairman's Award for the first time. This went to Hilary Light - for his longstanding commitment and dedication to Corsham Link's car service for people who

need to get to medical appointments. Hilary has been Chair of Link for over 10 years and has decided, at the ripe young age of 85, that he should give someone else a go at running the organisation!

I also get to hear of the great events and activities that happen in our community - and there are many. Since our last newsletter: Corsham Running Club's 10K and 2k runs saw 1,000 adult and 200 junior runners taking part; Corsham Climate Action have begun construction of a community garden at The Pound Arts Centre; Corsham Recycling Hub has helped to recycle 716 large bags of waste, thus raising £1,000 for charity; Corsham Walking Festival Committee held their annual event with around 300 walkers and 20 walks; Royal British Legion Corsham Branch have enjoyed their 100-year anniversary celebrations; Corsham Amateur Swimming Club held their Open Swimming Meet at Springfield Campus for 140 young swimmers, and Corsham Cricket Club has been celebrating its 175-year anniversary.

The common factor in all of these is that they wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for the volunteers! We all know that volunteering is good for the soul - it gets us out and about and meeting with people who share a common interest. Volunteering is also often good for a CV for those still in the job market.

There are always opportunities for volunteering - Corsham Link, for instance, is looking for coordinators and drivers - and most come through getting involved with an activity that grabs your interest or you enjoy, so keep an eye out for your next venture.

In closing, I'd like to pass on a message from one of our most important volunteer-led organisations. The Corsham Churches Food Bank is very grateful to you, the members of our community for all the donations that continue to come in. Well done Corsham, and thank you to all the volunteers out there!

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

## Taste of Corsham

The weather could have been a little kinder, it's true, but nobody's spirits were dampened too much, and eating, drinking, music-listening pleasure, and fun and games still took place!

We enjoyed the return of Taste of Corsham on 18 June

enormously and hope you did too. Thank you to everybody who came along, our stallholders, our musicians, Pound Arts, our local businesses, Digital Mansion Corsham and everyone involved in a tasty day in town. We'll be doing it all again next year! (And reporting back on this year's Summer Fete in the next issue as we went to press with the newsletter just before it was due to take place on that glorious, sunny July day - fingers crossed.)



## Community Wellbeing Update: Young People

Following the pandemic, the Town Council wanted to help support the health and wellbeing of our community and set up its Community Wellbeing Working Group.

The Group now supports, promotes and funds various projects for older and vulnerable people and families and, most recently, has been working on initiatives for younger people.

Youth workers from The Rise Trust, in their bright pink uniforms, are now in town on two evenings a week, talking to the young people they meet, offering a listening ear, advice and guidance and information on other organisations that might be of interest or help.

This work, co-funded by the Town Council and the Corsham Area Board, helps with anti-social behaviour, as well as safeguarding issues and informing us, the local police, schools and others about how we can better support young people in our town.

The Town Council also helps to fund Corsham Youth Zone, a Friday night youth club for 11-18-year-olds. CYZ is open every Friday evening, 6-8pm, at Springfield Campus, offering activities, indoors and out. You can find out more via Facebook: @CorshamYouthZone. The group is always looking for volunteers too, so do get in touch if you can help.



# Environment Update

Here is the latest news on just some of the environmental projects the Town Council is working on or supporting. To find out more, or to get involved, contact Beth Searle ([bsearle@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:bsearle@corsham.gov.uk)) at the Town Hall.



## Eco Fair

On 2 April, we held our first ever Eco Fair in the town, in partnership with Corsham Climate Action. The aim was to showcase the eco-friendly businesses and organisations operating in town, as well as highlighting the small, every day, changes we can all do to make a big difference to the planet. There were stalls in the High Street and at Springfield, as well as activities at The Pound where, in the evening, seven speakers gave insightful talks on the work and research they were carrying out locally.

The Town Council has decided to add the Eco Fair to its diary of events so it will be back, bigger and better, in 2023.



## Go Wild in Corsham!

On 9 April, the Town Council held a children's nature activity day at Beechfield Nature Area. With the help of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, children aged 5-11 took part in pond-dipping, a scavenger hunt and building bug hotels. The idea for the event, aimed at getting children outside and learning about local wildlife, came from Corsham's Paralympic gold-medalist, Stephanie Millward MBE. We are planning to hold another event, at another of our sites, soon.

# Meet Your Councillors

Our three newest Town Councillors introduce themselves.

1. What brought you to Corsham?
2. What do you like best about Corsham?
3. What made you decide to become a Town Councillor?
4. What do you hope to achieve during your time on the Council?



**Nicholas Brakepear**  
Corsham Neston Ward

1. I have lived in Corsham most of my life and when I wasn't here, my heart was. When I was away I realised how lovely the places I'd taken for granted really were.
2. I love the local architecture. I also love knowing so many people in the local community, even if I can't remember their names.
3. It was high time! My parents were parish, district and church Councillors and it struck me as a crashing bore. Then I realised most people I respect are Councillors of one sort or another, and most are younger than me, so I decided to join them.
4. As Corsham and its infrastructure grows, I would like to contribute by preserving the things people really care about.



**George McCaffery**  
Corsham Pickwick Ward

1. I met my wife who was a dentist in Swindon whilst working at Yeovilton. Finding somewhere in Wiltshire was essential and Corsham was ideal.
2. I love the variety of entertainment, opportunities and the friendliness everyone, especially when walking our Guide Dog puppies – we're Puppy Raisers for the charity. I also appreciate how easy it is to access other areas.
3. I had encouragement from my wife and some available time. I'm also a firm believer that you should not complain until you have volunteered.
4. I want to make a difference to as many people as possible, ensuring that everyone in Corsham has the same positive experience of living here as I do.



**Ruth Williams**  
Corsham Ladbroke Ward

1. I came to live in Corsham in 2005. I had taken early retirement from my job in London and moved to be nearer my mother in Bath. I was house-hunting and was struck by the view of picnickers amongst Corsham Court's grazing sheep so near to the High Street.
2. I think it is the combination of town and country that makes the place very special. It is small enough to be walkable and large enough to meet the needs of most and furnish a wide range of potential friends and acquaintances.
3. I had some time on my hands, had seen there were vacancies and I thought I might be able to contribute. I hope to represent the community and help make sure that the town continues to thrive.
4. My background is clinical psychology, and working with individuals, but it interests me to look at the potential of the whole community for influencing people's wellbeing and quality of life.



## Town Council Carbon Footprint

To monitor our progress towards reaching net zero emissions by 2030, we have had our baseline carbon footprint calculated. Using the 2019/20 financial year, so before the pandemic made a difference, our baseline figure was 38.75 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. We are now

in the process of calculating our carbon footprint for 2021/22. We are working with Carbon Footprint Ltd, who have set out a list of recommendations which we are now following. We are committed to reporting our carbon footprint calculation annually and would like to encourage all Corsham businesses and organisations to do the same.



CO<sub>2</sub>e  
Assessed  
Organisation

## New Town Council Website

We have launched our new website, still at [www.corsham.gov.uk](http://www.corsham.gov.uk), which we hope is easier to use and full of all the information you need. Please bear with us – and let us know – if you find any broken links. We have updated our Visit Corsham site, at [www.visitcorsham.co.uk](http://www.visitcorsham.co.uk), too.



**Corsham Gastard Ward**

Tina Ellis 07751 437825

**Corsham Neston Ward**

Jeremy Brook 01225 810059

Nicholas Brakspear 07842 125835

Vacant

**Corsham Ladbrook Ward**

Steve Abbott 07795 421933

Alan Brown 01249 715818

Tanvir Bush 07780 874594

Neville Farmer 07965 150444

Ruth Hopkinson 01249 713216

Dave Jarman 07787 532650

Ann Morris 01249 713181

Ruth Williams 01249 701586

**Corsham Pickwick Ward**

Helen Belcher 07967 466909

Alun Crookford 07939 014034

Mervyn Jackson 01249 716121

George McCaffery 07803 415655

Jane Robertson 07929 996729

Tracy Smith 07482 522684

Gareth Ward 07740 348595

Arthaa White 01249 713827

\*Cllrs Helen Belcher and Ruth Hopkinson are also Wiltshire Councillors

**In the Wild**

As many of you will have spotted, Corsham Town Council has been working to establish wildflower margins in some of the open spaces it manages.

As well as Beechfield Nature Area the Town Council is working to establish new wildflower areas at Coppershell, Neston Rec and to extend the current wildflower strip at Springfield Rec along the Valley Road margin.

These areas will be left to grow through the summer and will receive a late hay cut – normally in August. The Town Council hopes to join with volunteers to rake the cuttings and remove them

from the site (wildflowers do better in nutrient poor soil and removing the cuttings ensure the soil's not fed). As a result, could we please ask dog owners to ensure that their pets do not foul the wildflower areas as this could present a health hazard to anyone working there.

If you are interested in helping in the management/ maintenance of a wildflower area near you, do let us know by emailing James, our Head of Technical Services: [jwhittleton@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:jwhittleton@corsham.gov.uk).



**Corsham Walking Festival 2022**

"Well, what a weekend of fantastic walking," writes Corsham Walking Festival Chairman Barry Cox.

"Perfect weather, stunning views and good company are all the main ingredients of a walking festival and this year, our eighth,

we believe we got it just right, with 255 walkers taking part in the guided walk programme and 44 families enjoying Saturday's Children's Treasure Hunt in and around Corsham. Our walkers completed a grand total of 2290 miles, which is twice the distance from Land's End to John O'Groats and then over halfway back. We also saw walkers join us from as far afield as Cumbria, Ipswich, London, and Warrington.

businesses, for which we are most grateful. Many thanks also to the Committee and the many volunteers and supporters without whom none of this would happen."

The Town Council would like to add its thanks to Barry, the Festival Committee and everyone involved for all their hard work in putting Corsham on the walking map.



"The festival is self-supporting but relies upon the sponsorship and support we receive from Corsham Area Board, Corsham Town Council and local



**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](mailto:towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk) or visit our website at: [www.corsham.gov.uk](http://www.corsham.gov.uk), or you can call us on 01249 702130. You can also send us comments via our Facebook page.

At the moment, our monthly Town Council Surgeries are cancelled but please do get in touch with us via any of the ways listed here, or contact your local Councillor.

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