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FIRST THOUGHTS

'Humankind'

Just a few days ago I finished reading this really amazing book called *Humankind*, a hopeful history, written by Dutch writer Rutger Bregman. I can only recommend this book because in a way it is different from so many other books going around at this time. "Humankind makes a new argument: that it is realistic, as well as revolutionary, to assume that people are good" and you know what? It does a great job at it!

The author is not simplistic, he doesn't ignore the wrong and the bad that is around in the world, but at the same time he searches, and finds, so much that is good and helpful and kind. In a way, I believe that the title of the book plays on that: HUMAN KIND. The author affirms that "thinking the worst of others not only affects how we regard other people, but our politics and economics, too". You have probably realised by now that I really support the premise of the book and, as a Christian, I am convinced it has a lot to teach us and also speaks words we should be speaking.

I will dedicate the space that follows to sum up the Epilogue in which he presents ten rules to live by. I wonder what you will think of this when you come to the end. I will say here what in other times I would have said at the end: I think this is really worth considering, talking about and sharing your thoughts with others. Why not give it a try?

I'll just provide the headings for the ten guidelines to live by that Bregman suggests. Some are so simple they speak for themselves, others would probably need a bit

of explaining, but I encourage you to take the time to discover their meaning.

1. When in doubt, assume the best.
2. Think in win-win scenarios.
3. Ask more questions.
4. Temper your empathy, train your compassion.
5. Try to understand the other, even if you don't get where they're coming from.
6. Love your own as others love their own.
7. Avoid the news (that generalises people and zooms in on the bad apples).
8. Don't punch Nazis (disorient them by discovering how to free themselves from hate)
9. Come out of the closet: don't be ashamed of doing good.
10. Be realistic, be courageous, be true to your nature and offer your trust.

It's time for a new realism, it's time for a new view of humankind.

There he ends the book. I would add that the view of new humankind is what Jesus calls the Kingdom so if you read the whole guidelines from the perspective of the values of the Kingdom, we are called to walk this new way, and develop the new humankind. What a challenge to be part of! Welcome to the discovery and the journey ahead.

Rev. Robert H Jordan

Cover: The south wing of St Michael's Church, floodlit for the Diamond Wedding of Julia and Alan Bishop. Photo: Sean Forde.

LINKmagazine

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We reserve the right to edit contributions and to not publish any contribution or advertisement that is either unsuitable for our format or is inconsistent with our editorial policy.

Deadlines:

1st of the month before publication – news, articles, advertising, what's on and letters.



Citizen of the Month for November: Millie Hamilton

7 year old Millie is our citizen of the month having raised £550 for MacMillan Cancer Support, with a bit of help from friends and family.

"I wanted to raise the money after I lost my dog Pepe and my Grandma to cancer," Millie said. "I really wanted to do something to help people and animals with cancer and I really like cakes so the coffee morning was perfect."

Millie delivered flyers to all her neighbours in Sevenfields, asking her potential customers to place the leaflet in their window if they wanted a cake delivery, and to spread the news of her coffee morning on Facebook. Her Mummy and Nanny helped create a selection of Millie's favourite cakes and biscuits which Millie then packaged into 40 boxes ready for delivery. "I really liked making up the boxes," Millie said. "We had a little conveyor belt: Daddy made up the boxes, I packed them and my sister put the stickers on. That part was fun. Having to wear a mask the whole time wasn't fun."

Each box contained a chocolate brownie, a rocky road, a cherry rock cake, a piece of shortbread, two ginger biscuits and a cup cake. The boxes were then loaded onto the family's trike; a strange three wheeler with a seat at the front and two seats at the back. "I was only able to fit eight boxes on the back seat with me." Millie said.



"It took a long time to deliver all the boxes as we kept having to go home to get more and I had to run around and try to spot my poster in my neighbour's windows. But it was worth it. We got loads of nice comments and one person even gave me a plant which I am looking after. There was also one older man who came out of his house to ask if he could have a box of cakes. He was really pleased to get them although he did say they were going to make him fat!"

In order to keep her customers safe, Millie left each box on the doorstep along with a donation box, which Millie collected after the person had gone back inside their house. "I've really learnt a lot," Millie concluded. "For example, I have learnt what to say to adults and how to work on a production line and make sales."



"Delivering the cakes made me feel happy and I am confident that the money I have raised will help. I would like to thank everyone who helped me and who bought the cakes. It means a lot to be able to raise so much for something I really care about."

If you would like to support Millie by adding a further donation for her coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support, please scan the QR code.



Messy Church returns

On Wednesday 23rd and Saturday 26th September, Highworth Methodist Church and St Leonard's Church gave out 60 messy church bags to families in Blunsdon and Highworth.

As COVID restrictions limited the opportunity for the regular messy Church groups to meet, the teams had to get creative and produced the bags with a team of volunteers. Each bag contained five crafts to do at home, two bags of sweets, and a QR code to a webpage created by the team with links to videos and songs about the story of Baby Moses.



Keep your eyes peeled for more of these bags just before half term and in the run up to Christmas.

Jon Lewis

Return to the Football League for Southfields

After a few years away, Southfield Junior School are excited to announce that they are re-entering the Swindon Schools Football League. They will be competing in the North Group and are looking forward to the challenge of competitive football against other schools.

Richard James have generously offered to sponsor the team in the form of a new kit and equipment to help the team get on their feet.

Coach Tom Davis said: "Richard James have been very supportive in helping the team get going. Their contribution is massive and gives a real boost to the children who are desperate to get playing. Thank you!"

For more information on the league please see <https://www.swindonpsfa.org/>.

Tom Davis, Southfield Junior School

Appeal for Paint

At Southfield we have a team of pupil ambassadors (PAWS) who look out for children feeling a little lonely or in need of a friend at break or lunch time.

We would like to liven up our PAWS area by

painting it with bright colours. If you have any left-over garden paint that you would be happy to donate, no matter how little or how bright, we could make good use of it. Please bring it to school and leave it outside the main entrance.

Mrs Williams, Head Teacher

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A busy start to the school year at Highworth Pre-School



Emma McSharry



Jess Mitchell



Nina Head



Sarah Coles



Mrs Michelle Gibbs

"Well done" to all the children of Highworth Pre-School settling well into new routines, rooms and making new friends in COVID times.

Thank you also to the staff team once again going above and beyond supporting the children, working with the new risk assessment to ensure we are keeping everyone as safe as possible and working together with our families with the ever-changing government guidance to keep our children, families and staff safe at this time.

Congratulations

In September we celebrated with our long-serving staff team.

Well done and thank you to:

Mrs Michele Gibbs an amazing 20 years.

Mrs Sarah Coles, Mrs Nina Head, Miss Jess Mitchell and Mrs Emma McSharry all celebrate 5 years at Highworth Pre-School.



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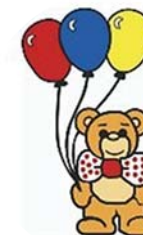
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Find the right offer for you with Government help with childcare costs for parents.

Explore your options and Highworth Pre-School will be able to support with any queries.

Highworth Pre-School is proud to deliver high-quality childcare and exceptional learning opportunities in exciting, nurturing environments, perfectly designed for children under 4.

As a charity community pre-school, we offer high levels of staff to children ratios of 1:4 in our



dedicated 2 year old room and staff to children ratios of 1:8 in our 3 & 4 year old rooms. Our experience staff team work closely with small groups of children for the best start in early years

We have places available in all rooms for flexible sessions and wrap-around care.

If you have any queries regarding childcare options available at Highworth Pre-School please call us on 01793 766646 or email hwpreschool@aol.com

For more information you can also visit our website www.highworthpreschool.co.uk

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Do you know you could be eligible for 15 hours per week for funded places?

- For families receiving some form of support
- With 2-year-old children
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- To be able to take up 15 hours of free childcare for your two-year-old you or your child must meet the eligibility criteria. Please visit GOV.UK for further info.

3-YEAR-OLD

Do you know all children are eligible for 15 hours from the term after their 3rd birthday?

- For ALL families
- With 3 and 4-year-old children
- 15 hours of free childcare

Childcare Choices

3-YEAR-OLD with WORKING Families

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- For working families
- With 3 and 4-year-old children
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Activities at RAF Fairford

You will have seen (and heard!) the B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft in the skies around the base over the past few weeks. What were they doing here?

Six U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft from the 5th Bomb Wing, based at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, arrived at RAF Fairford on 22nd August for a long-planned training mission. These training missions provide theatre familiarisation for the members of the aircrew as well as opportunities for USAF integration with NATO allies and partners. The bomber training missions enhance readiness and the ability to respond to any potential crisis or challenge across the globe.

On 27th August, two B-52's carried out training with French Air Force Mirage fighters and RAF Typhoon fighter jets during a tri-lateral training sortie.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jan K. Valle)

On 28th August, a single day mission demonstrated NATO solidarity and interoperability when six USAF B-52's flew over all 30 NATO nations in Europe and North America. The mission, titled Allied Sky, was conducted by two teams with four B-52's from RAF Fairford flying the European part of the mission, integrating throughout the day with several NATO nations' fighter aircraft and aerial refueling aircraft. Further west, two B-52's from the 5th Bomb Wing flew over the NATO nations of Canada and the United States.

On August 31st, three B-52's flew from RAF



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Eugene Oliver)

Fairford to the Baltic region for long-planned training with Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK. The B-52 bombers also integrated with Italian and German Eurofighters and Portuguese F-16's, for an overflight of Riga, Latvia.

On 2nd September, two B-52's conducted multi-domain training flights over international waters in the vicinity of the Norwegian Sea. During the flights, the aircraft integrated with Norwegian F-35 and F-16 fighter aircraft as well as Norwegian frigates.

Three B-52's flew from RAF Fairford on 14th September for training flights over international waters in the vicinity of the Black Sea. During the flights, the aircraft integrated with Ukrainian and Romanian fighter aircraft.

B-52 bombers took part in a multinational exercise involving military members from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Sweden. This exercise was an integrated air and missile defense exercise focused on conducting defense of key terrain and training involved a combination of flight operations and computer-assisted scenarios.

On 16th September, two B-52's flew over the Eastern Mediterranean Sea to train with the Hellenic Air Force, Italian Air Force, RAF Eurofighters, and US Navy P-8 aircraft.

On 23rd September, B-52's participated in a multi-domain mission in international airspace over the Black Sea. The flight included integrations with Canadian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Slovakian

and Ukrainian Air Forces.

On 25th September B-52's flew sorties in the Baltic Sea region for training with Denmark and Poland. The B-52's also integrated with Italian, German and Portuguese aircraft.

The B-52's departed RAF Fairford at the end of September and returned to Minot Air Base and back to their families. "During this past month we've flown over 50 sorties, alongside allies and partners from 30 countries, and integrated with 100 partner aircraft and even the U.S.S. Roosevelt, as we've flown missions in the North Sea, Baltic, Barents, Black Sea, East Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea regions," said Gen Jeff Harrigan, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa commander. "And as awesome as that sounds, it's still only a fraction of what we are capable of and really highlights the ability of a combined force to deter and defend."

"The opportunity for our bomber aircrews to deploy to Fairford and refine their skill set along with partner nations is an invaluable experience"



A four-ship formation of Greek Air Force F-16 aircraft fly beside a B-52H Stratofortress, Sep. 16, 2020. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Burt Traynor)

said Lt. Gen. Steven L. Basham, United States Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa deputy commander. "Our sustained forward presence increases our operational capability and shows our solidarity with NATO."

Jenny Collyer, Community Relations Adviser for RAF Fairford & RAF Welford




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Read all about it!

The newspapers local to Highworth did not start until the mid-1840's. Before that, local news was found in other papers, some a long distance away from the town.

The Caledonian Mercury – July 1727

'Highworth, Wiltshire. On Wednesday 19th inst. About 5am at Highworth and Hannington a violent shock of an earthquake which lasted 2 to 3 minutes. The houses shook very much and persons were tossed in their beds. Several of them ran out into the streets in a great fright thinking their houses were falling about their ears. The wind had been a strong north east ever since the Sunday before, and the atmosphere, together with the sun and the moon, from that time had made a different appearance.

The moon for a night or two appeared as red as blood, and then concealed behind a very dark cloud, as in a total eclipse. The evening before a shock was felt about 7 o'clock. The sun seemed to have a tremulous motion and quivered up and down.'

Royal Magazine – November 1763

'Mr Hughes, Attorney of Cheltenham has married Miss Eliza Bridges of Highworth. She has a fortune of £7000.'

The London Times, Canada West October 1848

'Eliza Hollick from Highworth, Wiltshire, England – with her two sons is desirous to obtain information concerning her husband and son Charles (by trade shoemakers) who came to this country about a year ago. They settled in the village of Simcoe, Talbot district, but afterwards left and their place of residence is now unknown. Any information will be thankfully received. Address c/o John Barnes, Simcoe.'

The Police Gazette – June 1880

This paper was circulated around the country giving details of people sought by the police. There were long lists of army deserters. The officer who apprehended one of these was paid between 5/- and £1.

George Roberts, born Westrop, Highworth 29th Brigade. 23 years old, 5 feet nine inches tall, light brown hair and grey eyes. Wearing a regimental coat and trousers. Deserted from Northampton on 23rd May.

(I managed to trace George eleven years later. He was married and a police constable in London.)

Now a couple of later ones from the local press.

'Bomb' in a Church – Amusing incident at Highworth' – May 1913

'What appeared at a glance to be a bomb with the inscription "Votes for Women" caused some sensation which afterwards turned to amusement among the members of the Congregational Church choir on Tuesday evening, when they met to practice. The article which was covered with red tape was placed under the communion table. Attention was attracted to it by a twisted cord which was attached to it and fastened to one of the gas brackets. The find was carefully handled and those who impetuously blamed the suffragettes were annoyed on finding that they were the victims of a practical joke.'

Among the articles that the Historical Society

holds is a bugle from the Scout Band. This was active for a few years around the time of WWI. Several older men told me that it had been disbanded due to a tragic event which took place near the Freke Arms. I looked in copies of the paper but no luck. Then a few weeks ago, while searching for something else, there it was.

'Drayman lost his life' – 28th March 1919

At Swanborough Corner at 3pm on Saturday drayman Webb was leading his horse when it was frightened by a bugle band played by passing Boy Scouts. The horse bolted and Webb tried to hold it back by means of the reins. He lost his footing and fell and the wheels of the dray passed over him. He was quickly moved to an adjoining house and the doctor was summoned from Highworth. He died shortly afterwards.

Next month we take a look at Christmas in the town in the 1860's.

Sorry for the delay with our calendars. They are now available in Lighthouse Bookshop and Visit Highworth. Thank you all for your support.

Christine Suter, Highworth Historical Society.

Swindon Libraries TOW01 1911



Back to normality... (ish)

After six months without any kind of face-to-face interactions, it might feel like the Air Cadets we once knew has disappeared. This is true in some capacity, as we will all need to adjust our activities going forwards. However, our cadets have achieved so much during the pandemic, from becoming volunteering heroes, to learning new skills and 'flying through' (excuse the pun!) their classification exams. It seems funny to say, but thanks to incredible online technology, we have collaborated with cadets and volunteers from the most far-reaching corners of the UK. Under normal circumstances, this would be completely impossible.

Nevertheless, there inevitably would come a time where the squadron could return, in some way, to face-to-face activities. Over the summer, Headquarters Air Cadets and our Interim Commandant were working hard to find a safe and efficient way to bring the Air Cadets back to life. The first wave of in-person assessments began again in late August, adhering to strict social distancing guidelines.



The importance of social activities, like cadets, must not be underestimated. Most young people during this pandemic have felt isolated and alone without their peers and extended family around them. This feeling obviously has not been limited to young people, but it is perhaps more shocking to those of us who have not had to spend so much time working alone at home before. For cadets, the weekly Virtual Parade Nights offered the chance to enjoy a little bit of normality, if that even exists anymore.

Thanks to the hard work of our incredible volunteers, the long-awaited announcement came at the end of the summer that we could start to look forward to opening our squadrons again. Things are starting to look up, even when life is still so uncertain!

Cadet Sergeant Anna Talbert, 17

To find out what other activities cadets get up to, search '878 Highworth Squadron RAF Air Cadets' on Facebook or visit '@878Highworth' on Twitter and '@878highworthsqn' on Instagram.

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Community shed – bring it on!

In February nearly 30 local residents came to a meeting to launch the idea of what we had advertised as a 'Men's Shed'. Then COVID-19 arrived and snapped the brakes on. The steering group is still keen to get moving but we've decided to defer the physical relaunch to the spring of 2021.

For now, we are working through what we need to do to constitute the 'shed', including affiliation with the UK Men's Shed Association. See www.ukmsa.org.uk to see what we mean by a shed. In essence it's about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge and, of course, a lot of laughter. But ours is not just for men, which is why it will be called the Highworth Community Shed.

In the meantime, we are working on fundraising, setting up an interim committee and constitution, looking for a suitable venue and exploring ways of engaging online with potential members. We'd also like to hear from anyone with tools and other equipment that might be useful for our shed or that we could sell to raise funds.

Interested? What can you do now?

Please join our mailing list at <http://eeepurl.com/gVvApr>. If you are a Facebook user, look up 'highworth community shed' to join our group page.

If you just want to know more, write to us at highworthcommunityshed@gmail.com, or phone 07966 504084.

We are not yet equipped to offer support to those affected by the consequences of COVID-19, but we recommend the Highworth COVID-19 Mutual Aid Group via covid19highworth@gmail.com.

Phone 07966 504084 if you don't have email or just want to know more about this volunteer-run group.

Bring on the spring!

Adrian Young

M.J.Sly Monumental Sculptor of Marlborough and Swindon

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Andy Belcher, 60 Queens Road, Hannington, Swindon SN6 7SX

Highworth Produce Show

Sadly the 2020 show was postponed until September 2021. But the Produce Show does have a Facebook page and is keen for Highworthians to like their page and post questions and creations, home-grown vegetables, photos, bakes and more.

Also, it's not too early to start thinking which classes you could enter next year. Full details of the show schedule for the forthcoming produce show are available at www.highworthproduceshow.com.

In the meantime, here are some of the best contributions:



Angie Thrush shot her giant cucumber plant, which is tall enough to rival Jack's beanstalk!



Sean Forde made a romantic gesture by taking a picture of his home-grown strawberries and framing it for his wife's birthday.

What a sweetie!



Andrea sent this wonderful photo of her wonky carrot, looking like it's crossing it's legs on a seat.

From the Lions Den

I am sure many of you will have noticed that someone decided to punch a hole in our Charity Shop window. It was insured, but it will obviously cost the Charity money to cover other expenses relating to it. The good news is that we are taking this opportunity to re-align the Shop doorway ready for when we can re-open.

The other good news is that Chris Wingfield has joined the Lions Club. Chris is fairly new to Highworth but is keen to become involved in the community. He is very computer-literate and is improving our presence on social media. We hope he is the first of many community-minded people who will come forward to help the Lions Club to provide support for many individuals and organisations in Highworth and the wider community and to take the Club forward into the future.

At the time of writing we are not ready to re-open the Charity Shop, but we are working to

get it ready to comply with restrictions imposed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and to safeguard our Volunteers and customers when the time is right.

The Lions Club continues to give financial assistance from our reserves.

Grants were made during September were:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Visit Highworth Ltd. | £250.00 |
| • Christians Against Poverty, Highworth | £100.00 |
| • Lions Clubs International, Lebanon Appeal | £250.00 |
| • Lions Clubs International, Gift For Living | £250.00 |

Rodney Davis, Secretary,
Highworth and District Lions Club



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Police Update

Since 2016 Wiltshire Police has been following a Community Policing Team (CPT) Model which was a one team approach to Policing. Since that date the model has been continuously evaluated and developed.

From December 2019, having reviewed the model, it was decided that the capacity for Neighbourhood Policing should be increased across Swindon and more officers allocated to specific areas in order to provide a response to community needs whilst still working alongside CPT teams who cover the 24/7 policing need.

This has been true for Highworth and the surrounding rural villages who now have PC Mandy Stevenson and Police Community Support Officer Jo Bennett aligned to cover the Highworth and rural areas with PS Penny Sprawson as their supervisor. In addition, by the end of the year there will be an additional PCSO, also covering the same locality.

These officers come under the North, East and Rural Neighbourhood team and are supported by Inspector Barry Reed, additional Police Sergeant PS James Rodrigues, three other Police Constables and a number of other PCSOs aligned to other specific areas.

PC Stevenson has been an officer with Wiltshire Police for just over 12 years. She worked as a frontline response officer before the CPT model began and then had time working in the intelligence department as well as intel for the drugs team. After returning from having her children, she returned to working as a frontline

officer for CPT based in Swindon. Prior to joining in 2008 she was in the sport and recreation industry.

Since PC Stevenson has started, she has tried to get a feel for the area and get out into Highworth and the surrounding villages as often as possible.

It was apparent very quickly that speeding was one of the big issues for the area and PC Stevenson has addressed this by increasing the speed checks conducted, as well as creating targeted patrol strategies for hotspot areas such as Shrivenham Road, Cricklade Road and Lechlade Road. This has been supported by CPT officers as well as traffic colleagues who are getting out to conduct additional checks and in addition, giving advice to concerned residents about getting a community speed watch group together for different locations. More information on this can be found on the Wiltshire Police website.

We would urge anyone with any concerns or information about the area to make use of the online reporting facility or via 101 which is now free to call.

Lastly, if you see any of our officers out and about please come and say hi and have a chat. Wiltshire Police wants to build a partnership working community. We look forward to seeing you.



Highworth Town Council presents special coin to schoolchildren

All children attending one of the schools in Highworth have received a special 75th Anniversary of VE Day Coin.

The coin was specially commissioned by Highworth Town Council. On the back, each coin is engraved with the message 'Highworth Remembers'. "It's a really nice thing to be given," one schoolchild commented. "I hope we get given one for the 100 year anniversary too!"

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HEALTH

Have you had a conversation about organ donation with your loved ones?

More than 10,000 people in the UK currently need a transplant and of these, 1,000 (three a day) will die waiting as there are not enough organs available.

Last year at Great Western Hospital, seven people were able to save the lives of ten others through the gift of organ donation so GWH are asking people to join their #WordsSaveLives campaign and to start a conversation with your loved ones about their feelings and decisions on organ donation.

Natalie Jones, a nurse who previously worked in the Intensive Care Unit at Great Western Hospital, said: "I received a transplant after being diagnosed with a rare genetic disease. When placed on the transplant waiting list, I was given six months to live. I spent almost three months waiting for 'the' call. My life was on hold spending most of the wait in hospital. Without the donor and their family unselfishly consenting to donate, I would not be here today. Not a day goes by that I do not think about my young donor. I celebrate my transplant anniversary every year and it will be 17 years of life that I have gained by the amazing gift I have received.

"Since the transplant I have travelled, gone to university and qualified as a nurse. The dedication and care I received is what inspired me to do my training and become a nurse, which I have been for 11 years now. The gift my donor has given me is beyond words and I

shall forever be thankful."

To allow more people to save more lives, the law around organ donation in England changed to an 'Opt Out' system in May this year. This means that all adults in England are now assumed organ donors when they die, unless they have recorded a decision not to donate or are in an 'excluded group'.

These groups include:

- Anyone under the age of 18
- Anyone not living in England voluntarily or who has lived in England for less than 12 months
- Anyone considered not to have capacity to understand the law.

The new system also includes an option when you register as an organ donor, for you to choose for an NHS professional to speak to your family, and anyone else appropriate, about how organ donation can go ahead in line with your faith or belief system.

You can still choose whether or not you want to be an organ donor when you die by registering your decision and telling your family.

It only takes two minutes register your decision and share it with your family, but you could give someone another chance at life.



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www.highworthlink.co.uk

Are you looking after a friend or family member?

If so Swindon Carers Centre is here to support you.

Swindon Carers centre (SCC) is an independent charity established to support and provide help to carers in Swindon.

If you are looking after an ill, frail or disabled family member, partner or friend, then you are a carer. The person you look after may be elderly, have a physical or mental health condition, a learning disability or a drug or alcohol dependency (diagnosed or undiagnosed).

People often do not view themselves as carers and as a result can miss out on the various rights, benefits and support which may help them in their rôle.

SCC can support carers in a number of ways:

- Provide information
- Signpost to other relevant organisations
- Give one-to-one support, including assistance in accessing services
- Welfare and benefits advice
- Access to breaks and complementary therapies
- Training sessions and self-help groups
- Emergency card scheme

For more information or to discuss your caring role and initiate the registration process, here is how you can reach them: T: 01793 531133, E: carers@swindoncarers.org.uk.

If you prefer you can submit a referral form online by visiting the website www.swindoncarers.org.uk

Public advised to use national portal as new Swindon testing site opens

A third coronavirus testing centre opened in Swindon to boost testing capacity in the town.

The Local Testing Site (LTS) opened at Broadgreen Community Centre in September following a request to the Department for Health and Social Care from Swindon Borough Council's Public Health team. It comes after the Council requested consistent access to testing from the Government after being placed on the national COVID-19 watchlist.

The new LTS will provide indoor testing capacity in the run-up to the autumn and winter months and will be available alongside the Mobile Testing Unit at the Council's Civic Annexe in Beckhampton Street and the Regional Testing Site at the former Wroughton Park and Ride.

The Civic Annexe site is available as a 'drive-through' and 'walk-through' facility with the Broadgreen LTS solely a 'walk-through' site. Appointments should be booked in advance. The Wroughton Park and Ride site remains available to 'drive-through' visitors, again by booked appointment only.

Issues with the national online booking portal have caused problems for people trying to book appointments across the country. Swindon residents are advised to follow this important advice:

- The Council is not informed of when new booking slots are added to the NHS portal and, inevitably, these are quickly booked up due to demand. If there are no local test slots available when attempting to book on the NHS online portal or when calling NHS 119, keep trying as new slots and home testing kits are made available daily
- Only book a test if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- It is essential to book a test appointment – you will not be tested if you turn up at a testing site without one
- Do not call NHS 111 to book a COVID-19 test; you will not be able to do so and this phone line must be prioritised for people with other medical and health issues

Residents who experience a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste, must stay at home and book a test via the national online portal or by calling NHS 119.

At the height of the recent spate of cases, Swindon's infection rate before the beginning of August was 46.8 per 100,000 of the population according to figures from Public Health England. This fell to 16.7 per 100,000 of the local population in September, below the national average of 19.7.

NHS asks people to support loved ones leaving hospital

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has launched a campaign #HelpingYouToGetHome asking families, friends and carers to help ensure patients can leave hospital as soon as they are well enough.

At any one time, up to around 50 patients in the hospital are well enough to go home but are still awaiting discharge. Discharges can be delayed for a number of complex reasons, often in relation to further care the patient will need after they leave hospital.

Staff do all they can to ensure patients can leave hospital in a timely, well-planned and supported way and they also rely on support from local people to help.

Chief Nurse Julie Marshman said: "It's absolutely essential for patients to receive care in the best place for them, which will not always be a large acute hospital. As winter approaches, it's crucial that our beds are available for patients who need medical intervention and care in a hospital setting.

"We understand the importance of getting patients back to the comfort of their own homes and do not want to keep them in a large acute hospital any longer than is needed. This is because, however good the care is in hospital, many patients can deteriorate after a longer stay, particularly patients who are frail and have dementia.

As part of the campaign, the Trust has introduced a new information leaflet, which highlights what local people can do to help get their loved ones home, as well as what to expect from NHS staff. It is hoped the leaflet will prompt discussions and help health and social care staff plan the patient's on-going care earlier.

Dr Ruth Grabham, Medical Director, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical

Commissioning Group, said: "This year, like never before, people have gone out of their way to support the NHS but, as we head into what is expected to be a very busy winter, one of the most productive methods of helping the health service is to know the practical steps that can be taken to help a friend or relative leave hospital when ready to be discharged."

Families, friends and carers can help by:

- Being promptly available to take part in discussions around the patient's recovery and ongoing care needs, so that arrangements can be made early on
- Arranging help around the home for when the patient is discharged
- Working with social care where needed
- Collecting medicine or equipment the patient might need
- Proactively arranging transport for collection in the morning and ensuring the patient has a key to their home
- Bringing clothes and shoes to leave hospital in
- Making the home comfortable for the patient's return by putting the heating on and stocking the fridge
- Visiting the patient to make sure they have settled well when back at home.

The Trust is also reminding carers of the support available from local organisations to help patients returning home from hospital, including Carer Support Wiltshire and the Royal Voluntary Service's Home from Hospital Service which offers home visits for up to six weeks.

If you have a loved one in hospital, you can find more information on the 'Leaving hospital' section of the website - <https://www.gwh.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/leaving-hospital/>



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SPORT

Sport Compiled by Jason Daniels

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Highworth Town Football Club

HTFC have finally got their season underway. A 2-0 FA Cup Preliminary round win at Holmes Green was followed by an unfortunate defeat on penalties to Melksham FC in the next round having played well with chances to win created but not sadly taken in the 90 minutes. In the league (Southern League, Division One South), a 1-0 home win versus Willand Rovers was followed by a controversial last minute defeat (2-3) at Bristol Manor Farm (pictured), but after just two games confidence for the season remains high.



Down at The Farm. Photo courtesy of @manorfarmfc (Twitter)

To support visitors and members the club continues to implement social distancing requirements and must of course ask that those in attendance adhere to them.

Derek Lloyd. W: www.highworthtownfc.com

It's all in a Headline

Headlines can so often make more of an impact than the story itself. Who will forget the claim that funny man Freddie Starr ate a hamster? Whilst our sport locally is still getting back on its feet (pun firmly intended) I thought it might be timely to lament on some of the world's most memorable sporting headlines.

Whilst some write themselves with the meeting of two sporting names that combined create lewd but funny phrases (I'll let your mind fill in the blanks when sprinters Walter Dix and Tyson Gay were separated at the finish line by inches), there are plenty a little more imaginative.

When the England football team found itself drawn into a particularly easy group of the 2010 World Cup, the headline 'The Best English Group Since The Beatles' stole the day's murmurs.

Australian Tennis Ace's victory over Ivan Lendl spawned another great headline in 'Pat Cashed and the Czech Bounced' before the more recent World Cup victory of England's cricket team after a nail biting, penalty shoot-out equivalent filled the newspapers with 'Champagne Super Over' the next day.

But without doubt the one that became more famous than the result itself was written after minnows Inverness Caledonian Thistle inflicted a shock cup victory on Scottish giants Celtic and summed up their fans' reaction beautifully with 'Super Caley Go Ballistic, Celtic Are Atrocious'. I'm sure journalists are laying in waiting for the day a Bulgarian with a niece or nephew wins Wimbledon (think Wombles) or a horse called Shuttlecock wins Badminton but if they make you smile and remember them, then they've more than done their job.

Jason Daniels

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Despite Two 'Holes in One' at the Club Championships, it was Tony who had the Keyes to success. Held over the penultimate weekend in September with a prize fund of over £1000 thanks to the generosity of Badcock Golf Range Services and our club President Mike Bowes, 123

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New Club Champion, Tony Keyes

golfers stepped out on the first tee with clubs in their golf bags and hope in their hearts. Entries from all sections of the golf club including 13 Juniors enjoyed a strong breeze with the sun shining the whole weekend making the 36 hole marathon more pleasure than endurance.

Shooting an impressive 149 over the two days, Tony Keyes became the Champion Golfer this year with Daniel Harper claiming the net prize after he shot eight under his handicap on day two. Paul G Watts and Ivor Whinny however had other reasons to celebrate, both hitting a 'hole in one' prompting a rush to the bar, socially distanced of course.

Congratulations to not only the winners but to the marshals, green-keeping staff, club-house staff and committee members who gave up their time to run such an enjoyable competition.

Making the best of the declining and challenging weather before the seasonal changes really kicked in, our Ladies Captain Christine Eaton also arranged a brilliant rainbow-themed Ladies Captain's Day with £388 being raised, courtesy of a raffle, for the 'Versus Arthritis' charity. Victors on the day were myself, Margo Campbell, Karen



Golf at the end of the Rainbow

Gruar and Kate Trotter (Pictured L-R) with thanks and heart-felt appreciation to all those who played and made the day possible, particularly Tracey Lee and her team.

Verity Manners. W: www.wragbarn.com

Highworth Town Ladies Football Club



Safer with Six

Highworth continued their winning start to the season with a comprehensive win against a spirited Ashton Keynes side. The ladies got off to the worst possible start, conceding in the first minute to what looked suspiciously like an off-side goal. The Lions were soon back on level terms however, when skipper Tamzin Davis coolly slotted home a penalty after 'Player of the Month' Kate Edwards was brought down in the area. Highworth then went in front with a well-taken strike from Lauren Bulley before adding another before 'Tammo' converted another penalty that saw the ladies go in at half-time with a well-deserved 4-1 lead.

Making her competitive debut Lucy Settrington came on in the second half, one of several changes made during the break. Lucy quickly found her feet with a neat finish after good work from Cara Costello breaking out from defence. The ladies continued to dominate possession and created lot of chances, their persistence paying off with a late strike from Lucy after Hayley Shipp's strike came back off the cross bar creating the final and impressive score line of 6-1. A fine performance from the team with lots of possession and running of the ball. Well done ladies onto the next game.

Stephen Curtis, Manager. Photo: Molly Curtis

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† Source: LaingBuisson, Dentistry UK Market Report, 5th ed. If you require verification please email marketing@bupadentalcare.co.uk
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Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com



Featured Artist: Anthea Hilson



What made you start painting and drawing?

Anthea says that whilst teacher training from 1968 to 1972, she took up art as a second subject but before that she did art at 'O' level (now GCSE).

How long have you been doing it?

Anthea has subsequently been interested in art since school but it wasn't until three years after she completed her training and moved to Swindon, where she joined an evening class, that she rekindled her interest in painting.

When she became even more busy with her job, and eventually a headteacher, she says she didn't have the time to paint until she finally retired when she began use watercolours.

She has painted using pastels, oils and acrylics and since then has joined Swindon U3A in 2006 (where she ran the pastels group for a while) and Highworth Artists a few years ago.

Do you have a particular style or technique?

Anthea describes her style as "towards photo realism" but always tries to paint "loosely".

She enjoys playing with a variety of styles

including the use of largely acrylics to paint abstracts. She also has a fondness for silk painting but that is a whole other area she'd like to explore further and says "there are not enough days in the week".

Currently, she is "exploring digital painting using her iPad and a digital pencil".

What do you get out of it?

Anthea just loves painting and drawing and claims that it is "totally relaxing" and that it "feels almost meditative". She also says that

when she is focused on her painting and drawing, "nothing else intrudes".

Throughout this pandemic, she has been keeping herself busy with her painting and drawing, gardening, reading and sunbathing. She has also been involved with a Facebook Isolation Art Challenge, which she says is a "quick daily painting on a given theme" and has been doing portraits of family members which she feels is gradually improving.

She quips that this is "definitely to the detriment of housework and gardening" and that "dust and weeds will always be there".

What have you got planned for the future?

Anthea plans to continue painting and is eager to return to Highworth Artists' Society as she enjoys "seeing other people's talent and styles".

She hopes to participate in the Swindon Open



Studios again soon, "having done so twice in the past". She says that it's a "great event and an opportunity for people to visit her studio (garage & kitchen table)". It's also a chance for her to "sell a few paintings, silk scarves and cards".

She relishes the idea of being able to meet up with others again, and states that it is "such fun to be able to meet and talk to other artists, friends, neighbours" and locals who share her hobby.

For anyone interested in Anthea's work, visit her Instagram page at [antheahilson](https://www.instagram.com/antheahilson)

If you'd like to nominate someone as our Featured Artist, please contact me on HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com

Iain Barnwell



Glassy Art

Recently, I was contacted by a lady named Monica Jakubowicz regarding art in Highworth. Monica is both an artist and a Highworthian. Her art involves glass painting, some lovely

examples of which are featured below.

If you like what you see, you can find more on Facebook by searching for 'MJ Gallery'.



Highworth Artists Autumn Exhibition

The past few months of COVID restrictions have given most of us the time to use our creative skills to good effect. Sadly, our three planned exhibitions had to be cancelled and our work is now moving into the world of the internet.

Highworth Artists Society have promoted our activities and displayed members' work on websites for some years but our traditional Autumn show is now an Online Exhibition from **November 1st until 13th December** at www.highworthartistsociety.com

We hope to be painting and exhibiting in the Council Offices in Gilberts Lane before too long and to welcome you in person to our exhibitions to select your favourite picture or to share tea and cake with us!

Here is a small sample of work. Please Google us and enjoy what you see!



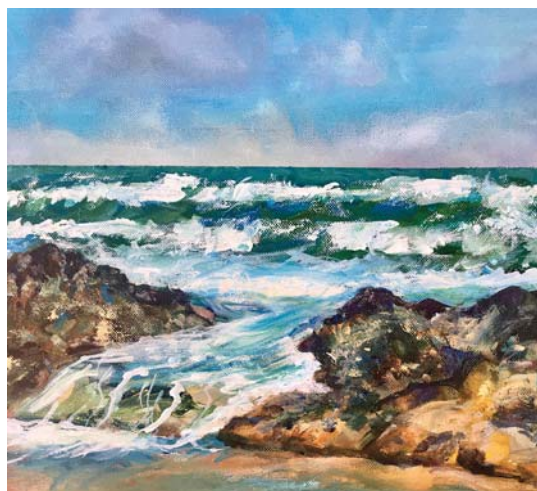
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Pray, Love, Remember...

Something different this year, Friday 30th October – Tuesday 3rd November

In normal times at St Michael's Church we would hold a special All Saints service 'In Loving Memory'. This is a chance to come together to grieve, remember, pray, and light a candle to give thanks for those we have lost; but also to find strength in God's faithful love.

But this year, of course, we are not in normal times! Unable to congregate together, we have not even been able to hold normal funerals, let alone Sunday services or anything else.

We still want to reach out to bereaved families. So from Friday 30th October to Tuesday 3rd November, there will be a dedicated prayer space in the Church where you can drop in on your own at any time to remember a loved one. There will be resources for prayer, candles to light and a commemoration book to sign.

This has been a hard time for everyone and we are all affected in some way by loss and disappointments. It has been especially hard to lose a loved one this year without the usual opportunities to mourn. But God is faithful; He is



near; He knows the depths of our hearts.

St Michael's Church is a peaceful sanctuary for our community in the turmoil of life which we hope you will take advantage of. The live-streamed All Saints service will take place service on **Sunday 1st November** at 10.15 am (via the church website). May God comfort us all with his faithful love.

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November

It is hoped this service will be live streamed from St Michael's Church with a congregation present. Invitations will be sent to the uniformed organisations, Town Council and Churches to nominate a small number of representatives who will be able to attend the service in St Michael's.

Please note: unless you receive an invitation please do not come to the Church or gather at the War Memorial, but watch the service at 10.15am online via St Michael's website www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk.

There will also be Remembrance Sunday services at:

10.30am: St John the Baptist Church, Hannington Remembrance Service

10.30am: St Leonard's Church, Blunsdon in the Cemetery

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Fireworks November 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 Crisis, Highworth Town Council will not be holding this year's Guy Fawkes celebration event in November.

It is hoped that the situation in November next year will allow the Council to re-commence holding this event.

Christmas Craft Fair at St Michael's Church, Friday 27th & Saturday 28th November

Come and join us in the beautiful setting of St Michael's Church to buy your Christmas gifts. The church will be open on Friday 27th November 6-8pm and Saturday 28th November 10am-2pm.

This event will be held within COVID Guidelines, social distancing will mean that you may have to queue as numbers inside the Church will be limited. Please remember your mask. Sanitiser stations will be available.

Christmas Trees for Sale, Saturday 5th, 12th & 19th December

Swindon North Rotarian Terry Williams will be selling his home-grown Christmas trees on the Podium in aid of local charities on Saturday 5th, 12th & 19th December from 9am-12noon.

There will be a choice of Norway Spruce and Nordman fir trees. If you wish to pre-order a tree you can contact Terry on 01793 762669 or email him terry.williams1@btinternet.com and you will be able to collect it from the Podium on one of the above dates. He looks forward to hearing from or seeing you.



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Highworth Advent Window Trail, 1st-24th December

Local residents, Elaine Graham and Lesley Muir, are organising an Advent Window Trail for the first time in Highworth.

For the trail, 24 houses or businesses throughout the town, with windows overlooking the road, volunteer to decorate and illuminate their front window in a seasonal way. The windows would light up consecutively each evening from 1st to 24th of December.



Once lit on their specific date, the windows then remain lit between the hours of 5-9pm each evening up to and including 24th December so, by Christmas Eve, there are 24 different windows to see and enjoy as you walk the trail; a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

If you would like to register your interest to decorate and illuminate an advent Window please email Elaine Graham by **Saturday 7th November 2020** at elaine_graham@hotmail.co.uk to receive further details and a Registration Form.

Operation Christmas Child (The Shoe Box Appeal), Monday 9th – Monday 16th November

The annual Shoe Box appeal for Operation Christmas Child is scheduled to still take place from Monday 9th November to Monday 16th November. We can confirm that the Methodist Church in Vicarage Lane will be used as a collection centre (COVID restrictions allowing).



The Collection Centre will be open from 9.30am to 1pm each day and you can come and drop your shoe box off during those times.

Please note that we will be adhering to all the COVID-19 regulations regarding masks, social distancing, etc.

If you are thinking about packing a shoe box, or producing crafts to go in one, then Operation Christmas Child have produced a set of quality crafting resources and they are available from their website: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ-quality-crafts/>

If you don't have access to the website, but would be interested, then please contact Peter on 01793 764385.

Scout Christmas Post

We very much regret that due to the present circumstances there will be no Scout Christmas Post this year. This applies to Highworth, Swindon and all the surrounding villages.

Let's hope that we will back up and running again for Christmas 2021.



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Job Vacancy: Editor of Highworth Link

The Highworth Link is looking to appoint a replacement editor from January 2021.

Applicants should have an interest in the locality, a sense of the newsworthy and good English and IT skills. The rôle will involve appraising and writing articles and updating the Facebook page and website.

Initially, the person appointed will work alongside the existing editor and dedicated team. This post carries an honorarium.

For further info or to submit your CV please contact: Matt Ford E: mandkford@gmail.com

Closing date: 30th November 2020

Can you help to deliver the Link?

The Highworth Link has always been incredibly lucky to have scores of volunteers to help deliver our little magazine to homes in Highworth and the surrounding area every month.

Many of these volunteers have delivered for over a decade. But whilst we at the Link are very grateful for their support we don't want our volunteers to put themselves at risk.

With winter approaching and the number of COVID-19 infections rising, we at the Highworth Link are hoping to put together a 'task force' of

deliverers who would be willing to pick up deliveries as and when needed at very short notice to ensure that magazines continue to reach homes over the last weekend of each month, come what may.

If you can spare time at the weekend and would be willing to deliver our magazine then please contact Clive Hall on 07801 365282 email: clive7045@btinternet.com or Peter Croton on 01793 762025.

HIGHWORTH & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS 2020

This year The Lions Club will again offer Christmas Vouchers to people in the Highworth Lions Club area. To receive a voucher you must be over 65. (One voucher per household).



CHRISTMAS VOUCHER APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return completed form to The Lions Charity Shop, Newburgh Place, before **Wednesday 11th November**

Dear Margaret Tuckwell

I have no idea how one can develop an apostrophe protection campaign, short of equipping ourselves with permanent markers.

I suppose one benefit of Covid masks is that they give us suitable anonymity as we prowls the streets looking for missing punctuation marks.

Best wishes, Hugh Williams

An open letter to the people of Highworth

We are writing to you collectively as three of your Highworth Town Councillors, Nick Gardiner, Julie Murphy and Gerry Evans. Back in May 2019, we were gratefully elected/re-elected to serve as your town councillors.

When we stood, we were all members of the Conservative party. Over a period of time it became apparent that the views of the other Conservative members conflicted with ours. It was with a heavy heart that we stepped back from the group and more recently left the party. Our number one priority is to keep the best interests of Highworth at the forefront of everything we do.

Looking ahead, we're determined to continue supporting the people of Highworth to the best of our abilities. While we are technically now Independent councillors, you may view us still as Conservatively minded as we continue to support our MP, Justin Tomlinson.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of us as we'd be happy to talk with you. Our contact details can be found in the Link and on the HTC website.

Best regards, Nick Gardiner, Julie Murphy, Gerry Evans

Dear Highworth Link

I would like to highlight that both women and men can be the victims of domestic abuse and violence. There is no mention of this in your article. I would like reference made to this in the next issue. Here's a link to my own story:

<https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/12905900.jailed-churchgoing-woman-teacher-who-hit-20-stone-husband-with-hairdrier-and-cat-bowl/>

Here's also a link to the Mankind website for male victims: <https://www.mankind.org.uk>

I'm sure you'll agree that it's important to get the balance right and represent everyone.

Yours faithfully Paul Chivers

Dear Editor

I was amused by Margaret Tuckwell's letter concerning the correct use of apostrophes, especially as I am a bit of a pedant in that respect, but should the reference to Hugh Williams in her final paragraph have read "Hugh Williams", rather than "Hugh William's"?

Yours sincerely, Peter Falding

Thanks for your letter Peter – I think that particular mistake was made by us at the Link. We may need to go back to school! Apologies to Margaret Tuckwell.

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FUNDRAISING

Donating for Dogs in Need

Before lockdown was announced back in March, Hen Mitchell and Ridge Cooke (both age 8) decided to start saving their tuck money at school to help dogs in need.

After lockdown was implemented they kept in touch and Hen decided she would enrol more friends into the 'Donate for Dogs' club by writing and hand delivering letters whilst out on walks with her mum and their own dog Ralph. Update letters followed and the overall response was good with a handful of friends quite excited to join in, namely Ben Kivlin, Daisy Atkinson, India Edmonds, Jenson Hicks and Rosie Lewis.

Pocket money was saved and extra chores were undertaken and the collection pot began to grow. Hen rallied family members too who were more than keen to chip in a few pounds. The total grew and grew, resulting in an astonishing end total of £170.



Hen and Ridge were in agreement that the chosen charity was going to be Bristol DAWG Greyhound and Lurcher Rescue after hearing a story of a poor greyhound called Hope who'd been rescued from awful conditions. Now called Flo, she now has a new home with some very loving owners and the trustees of Bristol DAWG very kindly arranged to meet with Hen and Ridge on a sunny weekend in September with Flo and her new owners.

The children handed over a cheque and were given certificates and treats as a great big thank you from the charity. They got to meet and have cuddles with Flo plus two other greyhounds who

came along for the social. Special thanks to all involved for making this lockdown project a resounding success.

Lisa Mitchell

Swindon Community Lottery: can you spare £1 per week to support us!

Play today to win and support Highworth Pre-School at the same time.

As we are not able to do any fundraising events at this time. This is a great way to support the Highworth Pre-School

fundraising account and you can also be a winner!

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<https://www.swindonlottery.co.uk/support/highworth-pre-school>



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Heart for Philippines latest project

SAKADAB (Samahan ng may iba't ibang Kakayahan sa Dabaw) is an association of people with disabilities in Davao City, Mindanao Island, Philippines. Even with current restrictions, they have honed their skills and come together to improve the quality of their living.

With the lack of social welfare support for the disabled in the Philippines, SAKADAB worked all throughout the pandemic to support themselves. They currently make washable and reusable face masks and collectively they have also baked, created amazing woodcraft and handicrafts and have even done welding. This pandemic has posed great challenges to everyone's daily lives but for SAKADAB, creativity and innovation is their means of coping with the current crisis.

SAKADAB was part of our [#LoveInTheMidstOfTheCovidStorm](#) campaign in April. They received family food packs as they do such great work for those in need. In honour of the strength of our PWD (People with Disability) brothers and sisters who maximise their potential, we have supported our ongoing initiative by purchasing their washable face



masks. SAKADAB have then distributed these face masks to front-line workers in the city of Davao, such as public transport drivers, teachers, street vendors and other key workers.

SAKADAB members are an inspiration. Their skills, creativity and service have incredibly marked its reputation of craftsmanship and kindness and should be celebrated.

We need your love and support to continue to broaden our reach and provide more jobs and help serve communities like this. Thank you for all those who have supported us and continue to support us, you really are what makes this possible.

Please visit our website for further information on how to donate <http://heartforphilippines.org/>



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Staff can also pick out books for you if you don't know what to read or you can book a 15-minute browsing session. You will be called once your books are ready to collect and others can collect the books if you are shielding. Previous books can be returned during collection.

The Library has a one in one out system and masks should be worn. Books will be issued for six weeks. There is no access to toilets. Computers can now be booked for use, but there is no printing or scanning available at this time. Slots are limited to 45 minutes, starting on the hour. Call Highworth Library on 01793 463500 to book.

Our new opening times are:

Monday 10am-2pm, Tuesday 1pm-5pm,
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'Can we be free'

by John Williams

Can we be free

There is power but no equality

*They call 'hungry' in the towns and cities
of the rich*

They all call 'freedom' in their chains

Redemption to ease the load

Who will be instigated

Over the people in the world

Is freedom masked as power

When hunger, greed, prevails.

Race along

Race along, race along

Surge, dip sing a song

Forward, forward pick a spot

To aim in the race of life.

Move forward in adversity

Rise when you falter

Keeping pace in the race

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Journey nearly done

The quiet end beckons

The long sleep enfolds

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Book Review: 'A Just Rebellion' by Douglas Jacobs

Imagine a world where the victims get to decide the punishments and where people are held to account for their actions. This is the premise of Highworthian author Douglas Jacobs in his new book 'A Just Rebellion', in which his hero Ade Dunphy gives power back to the people.

"The story emerged from a 'what if' thought," author Douglas Jacobs said. "I wondered what it would be like to be out walking one day and to suddenly find a cache of weapons. What would I do? What would the consequences of my actions be? It's not very likely to find guns in England, which is why I set my story in Northern Ireland in the 1970s."

The book is not only well-written, with strong characters and dialogue, but it also creates a world you would like to live in. One where people can work together to accomplish extraordinary things. One where you are in charge of your future and the future of your country. One where there is justice, where corrupt politicians and those who harm others are made accountable for their actions and have to face the consequences.

However, this is not a book for the faint of heart. There are violent scenes between the mob and the townsfolk who take them on, but many of the worst descriptions of torture feel entirely justifiable given the circumstances. "As a kid I remember how much the unfairness of things rankled," Douglas explained. "I believe that the punishment should fit the crime, but all too often it is the victims of crime who are the ones to suffer without any form of support. There was a news article recently about a stalker having been released early, despite having been found with a loaded crossbow in the back of his car and the seats of the car covered in plastic, as though

to prevent blood stains. He was dealt with as one who was no ongoing threat to his stalkee whereas the stalkee seemed to be regarded as though he was an inconvenience rather than someone subject to an ongoing threat. The stalkee only found out about the premature

release because the press told him so I was keen to focus on what is wrong with our justice system and to put things right in my book."

The book was first published online but thanks to Bob Reid's book review in a previous Link issue, Douglas has now gone a step further and published physical copies of the book. "Nothing worthwhile is easy," Douglas concluded. "Whether it is taking on the mob or getting a book published. Both can be an uphill struggle. But it is very satisfying to hold your own words in your hands and know that you have achieved something that will outlive you".

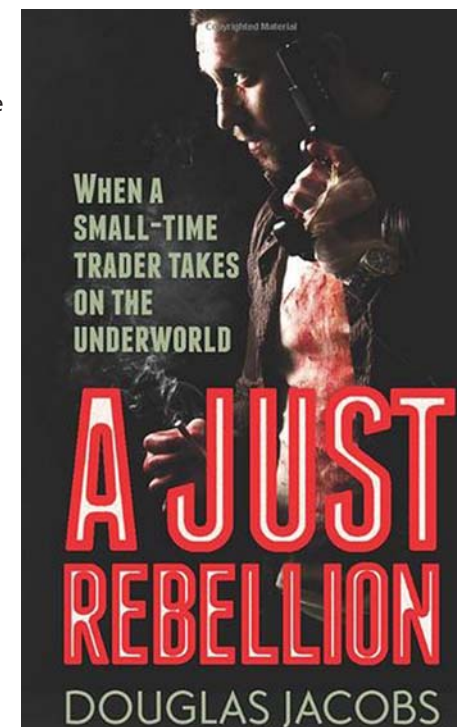
Douglas's book is on display at Visit Highworth and can

be bought online at Amazon, <https://amzn.to/3inKtGv>.

Douglas is now in the final stages of publishing a second book based on another 'what if' thought. What would happen if a former Japanese prisoner of war came across his former tormentor who is not remotely sorry for what he did. What would you do? This book has been entered into the 'Richard and Judy's Search for a Bestseller 2020' competition and other publishing options will be pursued too.

Sarah Gardiner

If you would like help self-publishing a book, contact the editor Editor@highworthlink.co.uk for advice.



Highworth Methodist Church remembers its reopening

October saw the 28th Anniversary of the Church's Extension and Reordering.

It was an enormous project for the HMC family, totalling about 100 people, to undertake in late 1991.

The church was too small for the then congregation but the vision was a very big one and the cost turned out to be £280,000, a large amount of money indeed 30 years ago. By Friday 9th October 1992 the work had been completed, the invitations sent out far and wide, and folk came and joined with us in celebrating the faithfulness of our God and His amazing and awesome provision. The privilege of opening the door was given to the oldest member and the newest one.

It was an exciting time. By very kind invitation of the URC we shared their services each Sunday and watched with great joy



the total change of our building as the tiny old foyer was knocked down and a larger one built, the worship area turned through 90 degrees and extended to include the church hall, removing its stage, a disabled toilet and new larger back foyer and porch, stairs and a 2nd floor for a vestry. A huge transformation but God was 'in on the project' all the way through and by the opening date all bills were paid.

A large banner made for the opening still hangs in the church saying "I am the Lord; I do not change", a verse from the Old Testament Malachi 3 verse 6. And we remember this truth with

great gratitude, thankfulness and joy.

Gwen Metcalfe

A Total Body Workout!

Several years ago, I came across a poster that advertised 'Total Body Workout!' Intrigued, I decided to find out more but, I was disappointed that it only focused on keeping the physical body fit. In my mind "Total Body" means body, mind and spirit.

As we entered lockdown back in March, I was very aware that I needed to focus on having a "Total Body" workout if I was going to keep sane. Having a 15-month-old Lurcher dog meant that I would be getting my daily physical exercise walking her. As a family, we play quite a lot of boardgames and enjoy crosswords and I've always got a book on the go so my mind was going to be kept active. But as a Christian I was concerned about my spirit because it soon became evident that we were not going to be able to meet for worship as a church family. I have always believed that my faith is not for just one day

a week and needs to be lived out day-by-day but I knew this season was not going to be easy.

A friend recommended to me a free app called Lectio 365, and I want to suggest it to anyone else who feels that their spirit needs feeding. Lectio 365 offers a 10-minute daily devotion which is reflective, thought-provoking and easy to follow. This has proved to be so inspiring and keeps me close to God; something invaluable in these difficult days.

Therefore, through the pages of The Link, can I encourage others to look after not just their physical bodies and their minds but also their spirits during this time. It would be interesting to know what other Christians, in and around Highworth, have found to be useful as a spiritual devotional exercise during this time.

Look after your 'total' self, Lou Ashford

Highworth Churches Information

Hope for Highworth: Email your personal needs or concerns to churchispraying@gmail.com and the church will pray for you.

Saturday Prayers: At 12noon every Saturday until the end of the crisis we will all pray together for the town and the nation. Everyone who is a part of the Highworth Churches will do this wherever they are, many outside, and anyone is free to join in where they are as we consistently pray for hope, wisdom, healing and an end to the troubles.

Services in St Michael's Church:

Sunday 1st November: 9am Holy Communion Service

Wednesday 18th November: 11am Midweek Church Holy Communion Service

In accordance with current Government guidelines face coverings must be worn in Church. Hygiene and social distancing guidelines must be adhered to. Hand sanitizer is located in the South Porch for use on entering and exiting the Church.

Virtual Church services:

St Michael's Church Services:

The 10.15am Sunday Service can be watched live at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or by clicking on the service link on the Church website at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk. Service sheets, summaries, prayers and blessings can all be found on the Church website.

The 6pm Evening Prayer Service every Wednesday takes the form of the liturgical service from Common Worship with readings and will last about 25 minutes.

Roman Catholic Church:

You can watch a daily Mass live from Clifton Cathedral at 9.30am using this link <https://www.churchservices.tv/cliftoncathedral/embed#tab-player>

Highworth Methodist Church:

Rev David is posting a new service every Sunday at 10.30am on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_1ef-68tycPGT3Q? There are links in the info to songs fitting in with what is happening in the service with guidance as to where they fit in.

Midweek service on Zoom takes place on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. It lasts about 45 minutes and it is an opportunity to worship God and also have a little chat with your Church Friends. Please email hmcbulletin@gmail.com or call Peter (764385) to get the log in details.

United Reform Church:

There is a full list of URC churches offering live and recorded services at <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3385-coronavirus-worshipping-digitally>

Highworth Community Church:

We are publishing daily encouragement on our HCC YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG1MXSAzhvU0aWk3tYEzyUw>

Our children's, youth and families work is still active through various media. Contact Jon to see what's happening: 07701 303760 or email jon@highworthchurch.co.uk

You can also access the Hope for Highworth YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpu76C97aCmAUe_8hfqCXOg

Highworth Church contacts

St Michael's and All Angels Vicar: Rev Geoff Sowden T: 01793 765554

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church Priest: Fr Michael McAndrew T: 01793 535089

Highworth Methodist Church Minister: Rev Rachael Wilson T: 01793 764330

United Reformed Church Minister: Rev Robert Jordan T: 01793 513039

Community Church Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712 521046



With thanks to all those who have sponsored the floodlighting of St Michael's Church



- Nov 03 A year has passed. We miss you every day Mum xx Lindsay, Mark, Ben, Lucy, Helen, Alex and Ross xx
- Nov 15-16 16 Nov – Happy Birthday Lesley. With our love Mum and Dad
- Nov 26 Joyce Ryder: Remembering a dearly loved Mum and Nan on her 92nd birthday. Loved and missed every day by Janice and Pas, Louisa and Chris, Pep and Amy xxxx
- Nov 26 Maureen Trollope: Treasured memories of Maureen – missed every hour of every day. Forever in our hearts ... John, Sara, Paul, Danny, Becky and grandchildren x

To sponsor the floodlighting, please collect a form from the Church or from the Lighthouse Bookshop, or fill in the electronic form at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk If your dedication misses the copy deadline it will always appear in a later edition.

Please send all church lighting requests to St Michael's church office, Vicarage Lane.

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Church to help jobless get work-ready

New free job clubs launch in Highworth to help people in our community get back into work.

Members of Highworth Churches Together in Highworth wanted to help equip their local community to find employment in tough economic times so underwent specialised training from UK charity Christians Against Poverty.

From November they will be offering free weekly workshops to boost the job-hunting process for unemployed people by equipping them with the tools, skills and confidence to find work.

Job Club Manager Kathryn Ford, who will be leading the workshops, said: "With more people facing long-term unemployment, there is a real need for a personal service which provides practical and emotional support for people to find work again. CAP Job Clubs is designed to do just this."

Highworth Churches Together is one of more than 160 churches of different Christian traditions across the UK who will be running a CAP Job Club as they work together to positively

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impact the communities around them.

CAP Job Clubs will be a weekly course that combines one-to-one consultations, group support and practical sessions that cover topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing and interview techniques.

She added: "We hope that we can help people to gain the confidence and skills they need to find employment, particularly for those who may have been out of work for a long period of time."

To find out more about CAP Job Clubs or to book your place visit capjobclubs.org or call Kathryn on 07885 579876 to book a place.



'CAP Job clubs are brilliant - there's something for everybody that is out of work. I got a job within the first month - it's absolutely fantastic'

Stuart - Job Club member

Visit Highworth

Pop into the Visit Highworth Centre to view our new crafts and Christmas gifts. Not sure what to buy for someone? Gift vouchers are now available.

We are also happy to announce that we will be holding a few Workshops. Keep an eye on our Facebook page 'Visit Highworth' for dates and full details.

Please remember to support your High Street this Christmas. We look forward to seeing you.

Helen



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As a practicing counsellor, I can offer you a confidential Counselling Service and can offer support with a range of issues including: stress, anxiety, depression, self-esteem, relationships and grief. My background working as a family support worker and a Cruse bereavement volunteer has helped me to develop a deep understanding and empathy of many life situations that affect us all. It was through this work that I developed a real passion to become a counsellor.

I practice both counselling and hypnotherapy and these often dovetail together to help you move forward and allow you work out the next step you want to take. I can offer opportunities to take part in face-to-face, online and telephone support.

For lots of people starting a conversation and being able to explain how you are feeling is tough. I believe that a lot of these barriers will be overcome if you are walking side-by-side with me in an outside environment. With this in mind, I am happy to book 'walk and talk' sessions.

To ensure you feel safe, comfortable and fully informed, I provide a free, 30 minute initial consultation. Please contact me by email or phone if you would like to find out more.



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Highworth Emporium are Winners again

For the third year running Highworth Emporium have been announced winners at the Greats Gift Retailer Awards.

Highworth Emporium reached the final five in the National competition for Best Gift Shop, Best Window Display and Best Retail Initiative.

The Awards Ceremony is normally a grand occasion with lunch at a top hotel, but thanks to COVID the award ceremony moved online. "It was a shame not to attend the awards this year," Aga said. "But it was also nice to watch the ceremony with the whole team. We all got dressed up and hired the room at the Highworth Hotel. The award ceremony was livestreamed so we were able to enjoy a meal together then watch as the winners were announced. It was very tense and our emotions ran high throughout. Luckily, because it was online, it was only 30mins long or I don't think we could have stood the pressure. When our name was read out as the winners of the Best Retail Initiative we were all over the moon and celebrated with champagne.

"Reaching the national finals in three categories was unbelievable. This is the fourth time we have reached the finals of these prestigious awards. Last year we were South West winners and we will definitely enter the Awards again next year. I would really like to win 'Best Window Display' one day, but it is a hard award to win because we are up against big players like John Lewis or big garden centres who have more resources and space than us."

The 'Best Retail Initiative' was awarded for their 'Shop Local' ad and raffle which Aga has organised for the past two years. "The idea was to encourage more locals to use their High Street," Aga explained. "And to reward loyal customers by giving them a free raffle ticket every time they made a purchase from one of the participating



businesses. Last Christmas those businesses were Andrews Butchers, Bloomfields, Highworth Emporium, Karoliina Saunders, TT Linnets, Visit Highworth, McParland Pharmacies and Highworth Flowers. So the award for 'Best Retail Initiative' should really go to the whole of Highworth since it

required businesses and customers to come together.

"We have had loads of congratulations and other personal messages from our customers; so many in fact that it has taken four days for me to reply to them all! So I really do want to say a big thank you to the other local businesses and to all of our collective customers for making the Shop Local scheme a success. Hopefully we will be able to organise something similar this year."

The award has helped to lift spirits after a year of hard work. "It has been tough," Aga said. "Having to close at Easter hit the business hard and deliveries are still taking much longer to arrive than they did before the pandemic. But we managed to get our website up and running in May and that side of the business is slowly growing. We now deliver to the whole of UK and as far afield as Germany and the Netherlands and we can take orders over the phone and deliver to the local area if people need to shield.

Aga is now busy planning her yearly Christmas Open Evening. "It's normally a grand affair with food and mulled wine and special offers. This year we will have to do something a bit different to comply with the COVID-19 precautions but our plan is still to run the event in the second week of November. I hope our customers will look out for full details on our Facebook page nearer the time.

The Churches of Highworth want to pray for you.

These are challenging times for us all, not only in regard to health, but also in relation to employment, finance, education, and many other areas.

Jesus cares, and we care too.

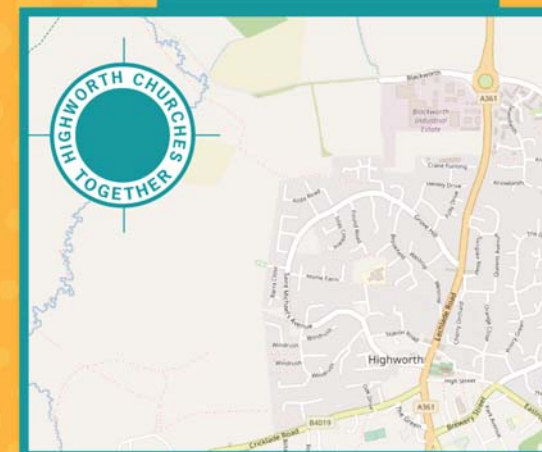
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How our energy decisions can affect climate change

This is the 6th part of a series of articles about what we can do as individuals about climate change. These articles have been written by readers of *Ripples Community Magazine for Fairford and Lechlade and Highworth Link* magazine. This article focusses on ways we can save energy in order to reduce our carbon footprint and save us money.

How important is energy efficiency? As you can see from the table below, some of the top options for reducing our carbon footprint are related to energy efficiency and moving to renewables.

The best options for reducing our carbon footprint

(average reduction per person per year in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent)

Live car free	2.04
Battery electric car	1.94
One less long-haul flight per year	1.68
Renewable energy	1.6
Refurbishment/renovation	0.895
Vegan diet	0.8
Renewable-based heating	0.64

Source: Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (via the BBC)

Switch to 'green' energy

- Green energy is electricity generated by natural, renewable sources such as the wind, the sun or tides – as opposed to fossil fuels.
- There are several ways to reduce your carbon footprint with green energy. You can opt to buy your gas and electricity from a specialist green energy company, or you can ask your current supplier to increase the amount of energy from green sources your household uses.
- Green energy suppliers include the likes of **Green Star Energy, Ecotricity, Green Energy,**

Bulb and Octopus. Some green suppliers produce 100% of their electricity from zero-carbon sources.

- Mainstream suppliers also offer green energy tariffs, which guarantee that some, most or even all of your energy comes from ecologically-friendly sources. You can check how much renewable energy a supplier produces by looking at its 'fuel mix' information. This shows how much of the power they sell has come from coal, gas, nuclear, renewable and other sources so you can see how green they really are
- There is lots of advice around switching supplier at Citizens Advice and it is easy to compare and switch using websites such as Money Supermarket.
- Green energy tariffs are now extremely competitive as the technology improves and more people ask for renewable energy. This trend will only continue. What's clear is that nowadays you won't be paying a premium to go green.

Smart Meters

- Smart meters are the next generation of gas and electricity meters. Together with their accompanying in-home displays, smart meters help to keep track of your energy use. Every home in the UK will be offered smart meters for electricity and gas by the end of 2024 and some providers may respond to requests for a smart meter too.
- A smart meter with in-home display can help us save energy by increasing awareness of our energy use. Government estimates that a display or monitor could typically help reduce a household's electricity use by 2.8% and gas by 2%. More information on smart meters is available via Citizens Advice or from your energy supplier.

Make your home more energy-efficient

- You could cut your bills by installing insulation, glazing or a more efficient heating system in your home. However, this will cost money up front. If you're on a low income you may be eligible for help with these costs. The Government recently announced the 'Green Homes Grant' and Which?

has lots of information about this and other grants available (and eligibility). You can also use the Government's energy grants calculator.

Solar Panels

- Solar electricity is green renewable energy and doesn't release any CO₂ or other pollutants. Sunlight is free, so once you've paid for the initial installation, your electricity costs will be reduced. The Energy Saving Trust has lots of helpful information on solar, and says that:

The average domestic solar PV system is 3.5kWp and costs around £4,800 (including VAT at 5%). In the south of England it can generate around 3,700 kilowatt hours of electricity a year, saving around 1 tonne of carbon dioxide.

There will be times when the electricity you generate is more than you can use or store, so the surplus will be exported to the grid. The feed-in tariff has now closed but the Smart Export Guarantee has been introduced.

10 'quick win' ways to reduce our carbon footprint (and save £s)

No cost

- Dishwashers:** turn the machine off and open the door just before it enters its drying setting. Air drying like this saves significant amounts of energy. In addition, wait until the machine is full before you use it, as the 'half load' setting uses more than half the amount of water and energy.
- Freezers:** fill any empty spaces. Use empty cardboard boxes to minimise the airflow and save energy that would otherwise be spent fanning the air.
- Fridges:** Defrost things overnight in the fridge. The cooler temperature of the frozen food will allow the fridge to use less energy. Keeping the condenser coils at the back clean (and not too close to the wall) will also save energy.
- Heating:** Lowering the thermostat by just 1°C can save up to 10 per cent on heating bills. Homes should not need to be heated over 19°C.
- Not using a light?** Switch it off! If you switch a light off for just a few seconds, you will save more energy than it takes for the light to start up again, regardless of the type of light. This should save you around £15 a year on your annual energy bills.

Low cost

- Replace all bulbs with LEDs.** You can get light-emitting diode (LED) spotlights that are bright enough to replace halogens, as well as regular energy saving bulbs – compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and fittings. If the average household replaced all their bulbs with LEDs, it would cost about £100 and save about £40 a year on bills.
- Fit a water efficient shower head.** A water efficient shower head could save a four-person household as much as £38 a year on gas for water heating and a further £53 a year on water bills if they have a water meter.
- Draught-proof doors and windows.** Unless your home is very new, you will lose heat through draughts around doors and windows, or gaps around the floor. Professional draught-proofing of windows doors and blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards can cost around £200 but can save around £25 a year on energy bills. DIY draught-proofing will of course be cheaper.
- Install a chimney draught excluder.** This could save around £19 a year as well.
- Use smart heating controls.** Smart heating controls help you control your heating and understand your energy use. They allow you to control your heating remotely via a mobile app, meaning that you can manage the temperature of your home from wherever you are, at whatever time of day.

Sources:

A Good Life: The Guide to Ethical Living by Leo Hickman (ISBN 978-1903919897)

Citizens Advice: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Government energy grants: www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency.

Money Supermarket: www.moneysupermarket.com/gas-and-electricity/green-energy

The Energy Saving Trust: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Thanks to Clare Muir for researching and writing this article.

Next edition: How the cars we drive affect climate change

From our MP

The main focus on my inbox and meetings continues to be related to COVID. Events continue to move fast, though we all hope that we can return to normality as quickly as possible.

Over the last few years, I have been working with BT Openreach to increase superfast fibre broadband availability in Swindon. I have held several meetings with BT Openreach and have pressed for more areas in Swindon to be upgraded to superfast broadband. So far 97% of Swindon has access to superfast broadband and I continue to push for the rollout to extend even further across Swindon.

Earlier this month, I was delighted to hear that BT Openreach have confirmed a significant broadband upgrade across Highworth, with work beginning in November and expected to last for 12 months. The work will see broadband upgraded to the newest generation fibre broadband, which will increase the speeds to between 100Mbps to 900Mbps. This is fantastic news and will transform broadband speed across Highworth. I will continue to push BT Openreach to continue this rollout across the surrounding villages.

Many people in Highworth and the surrounding area will be aware of the fantastic work of both The Bridge and Gloucester House. Both charities provide vital support for members of the community experiencing difficulties including those in housing crisis. Last month the Government published its findings from the review of the Homelessness Reduction Act. The Act, introduced in 2018, was the most ambitious reform to homelessness legislation in a decade and set out to improve how we tackle homelessness. I have been heavily involved in this work in Parliament.

Prior to the Act, we had a ridiculous situation whereby someone at risk of being homeless couldn't access support until their tenancy had expired so families and local authorities often had to find emergency accommodation at very short notice, all too often late on a Friday afternoon as offices were closing up. One of the biggest changes brought in by the Act was to introduce statutory rules which required local authorities to support those who were at risk of being homeless in the following six months and help them secure accommodation before they are at serious risk of becoming homeless.

Since the Act was introduced, backed by an additional £1.2bn of funding, 365,000 single households, including 28,000 with a history of rough sleeping and 15,000 people sleeping rough at the time of assessment, have been directly helped to relieve their homelessness. With the uncertainties around COVID and the impact on the economy, this work will be a vital additional level of support.

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Extracts of the Minutes of Full Town Council, 22nd September

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: An email from a member of the public was read to the Council. 'I received an email from The Clerk on behalf of HTC regarding the tables and chairs that we have put outside TT Linnet asking for them to be removed due to complaints from residents. We have had the tables and chairs outside for more than a year and a half and have not had any problems, so it is really confusing why suddenly we are being asked this. When I called Highways dept at SBC, I was told that as long as there is a 5ft clearance on the pavement, then it is alright to have something for a customer to sit on. In actual fact when my husband and I purchased the building we were told that we owned part of the pavement as there were box windows there when it used to be a greengrocers many years ago. Our customers enjoy sitting outside the coffee shop and I would like to keep them there. I would like to ask if I could place a bench on the Podium with a TT Linnet logo on the back of the seat. We would like to leave it on the Podium, perhaps chained to a pole? Please can you consider this as some of our customers would also like to have an option to sit there?' Cllrs unanimously agreed for this to be discussed at a future meeting once the Policy Committee has finalised a Policy on the 'Use of the Podium and Market Square'. The Chairman is to discuss the content of the letter sent to TT Linnet with the Town Clerk on his return from annual leave.

18. CONSIDERATION TO RE-INTRODUCE A COMMITTEE STRUCTURE TO THE COUNCIL: Councillors debated the Committee structure of HTC. Councillors agreed to continue with the current structure.

19. LEASE: It was reported that the Lease for the Lower Rec from SBC has been completed.

20. CAR PARKING ISSUES: Resolved that a Working Party be set up to re-investigate the parking issues in Highworth including revisiting the work previously carried out by the office and Cllr Penny. Previous research concluded that if people are required to pay for parking within the Town the parking issues will extend onto side streets and residential areas. HTC has no powers of enforcement. Two parking attendants would have to be employed via SBC and was deemed too costly. The Working Party consists of Cllr Williams, Cllr Vardy, Cllr Gardiner and Cllr A Bishop and a meeting is to be arranged.

21. CORRESPONDENCE: A letter has been received from Danter Brothers Fun Fair to inform Highworth Town Council they will not be bringing the Annual Fun Fair scheduled for October due to COVID-19. Although safety measures for the rides can be achieved, they are concerned for the Social Distancing of the spectators.

22. MEMBERS BUSINESS: a. Cllr Penny: The Chairman of a Meeting may invite a guest speaker to attend that Council Meeting, Cllrs can also request that an invitation to attend a Meeting can be issued to an individual or representative that they wish to hear from. b. Cllr Saunders: Blue Disability parking badges must be renewed directly with SBC. Cllr Penny advised that the info provided at the Meeting was incorrect and asked that the Minutes reflect the correct procedure. c. Cllr Weisinger: The Agenda item 'Correspondence' is to be moved in future to an earlier position, soon after Declaration of Interests. Voting is not required.

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If you have a story please email editorathighworthlink13@gmail.com

BLUNSDON

Virtual Senior Games at Park View

Park View was one of six Nursing Homes in the Swindon area to hold a virtual Senior Games.

Swindon Sports Forum, in conjunction with Swindon Borough Council and WASP (Wiltshire and Swindon Sport) had plans to conduct a Senior Games for Care Homes in Swindon during this autumn. However, the current situation wouldn't allow this. So instead the games were hosted online.

Every resident who wanted to participate was able to and medals and a trophy were awarded for the best performances. Each care home recorded and submitted the six best performances during four events. These were the Javelin (using a foam javelin), Putting, Tin Can Alley and Target Mat. The best attempts were judged by the Sports Forum Coordinator Chris Baker.

MP Justin Tomlinson produced a video message for the launch and Professor Dawn Skelton, Professor of Ageing and Health at Glasgow Caledonian University, addressed the competitors.

Ian Jankinson, Chairman, Swindon Sports Forum

FARINGDON

Faringdon & District U3A, Thursday 12th November

Our speaker will be Debi Evans, a local author of children's books, who comes highly recommended; she speaks at festivals and to many groups. Her talk is entitled 'Dragons and Rescue Dogs – My Inspiration to Write Books'.

Debi writes as if she is her Jack Russell and her books include lots of history woven into the adventure stories in which Rolo (the dog) takes



part in the events. Debi will be talking online but there is a possibility to purchase books in time for Christmas presents for the grandchildren.

The talk will take place at 2.30pm on **Thursday 12th November** on Zoom. Details can be found online at <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/>

Put the talk in your diary now.

LECHLADE

Jams for Cancer Support



For many years a lovely lady called Philippa Hunter has raised large sums of money for Macmillan Cancer Support by selling delicious home-made jams, marmalade and chutneys. Most of this was sold at the Trout Inn near Lechlade, until sales had to stop due to coronavirus.

Keen to continue with her fundraising, Philippa is now selling her produce from her home and still has lots of goodies on offer.

The 'jam shop' is at Middle Cottage, Fairford Road, Lechlade, GL7 3DL. (From Highworth, at the traffic light junction in the centre of Lechlade turn left onto High Street and continue onto Fairford Road). Middle Cottage is a modern house, about 300/400 metres from the junction, just beyond the layby on the left-hand side of the road. There is a Union Jack hanging near the front door of her house.



Janet Worman

Lechlade Community Library Children's Writing Competition

Over lockdown, Lechlade Community Library ran a children's writing competition to support children and their families through home tuition and encourage budding young writers. There were story and poetry classes for younger and older children.

The judges Barbara McNaught, Ashley Gaunt and Marian Winckles were very impressed with the standard of the entries. There were some very lively and creative ideas which were a pleasure to read. Here are the winners:

Story

Up to Yr 6 - Joint 1st prize:
Ashwin Sandhu & Niamh Crossman

Yrs 7-9 - 1st prize: Heather Kent

Poetry

Up to Yr 6 - 1st prize: Zachary Cinnamond

Joint 2nd prize:
Poppy Whittingham & Oliver Harbridge

Photo: Simon Winckles



On Saturday 26th September all the winners, together with their proud families, gathered outside the library for the presentation of prizes by Ashley Gaunt, Lechlade's Mayor, supported by the other two judges.

Marian Winckles

Are you SUP ready? The latest way to make ripples

SUP is stand up paddle boarding, the latest must-try sport. It's a mix of surfing, punting and canoeing and you stand on a board on the water using a single oar to propel yourself along. The



First paddle

original boards were oversized surfboards, but today they are inflatable stand-up paddle boards. It looks deceptively easy but needs a good sense of balance and stamina. Lechlade's florist turned singer Delores (Laura Thornton) decided that it was time to try it out and took to the water on a calm sunny morning. The picture shows her first go at walking on water which is pretty impressive. She said "I've lived in Lechlade for 18 years now and have never really utilised its biggest asset, the river. When there's no wind and the river is like a mill pool, there's nothing quite like it."

She says she hasn't fallen in yet but the hardest part was actually finding a paddleboard in the first place. They are out of stock in the shops so it had to be a secondhand one. She said she missed out on 14 boards and finally tracked one down in Weston-super-Mare. Is this going to be a regular sport? The answer was "Yes – if there's no wind and maybe not during the winter!"

Story and photo: Margaret Hing

FARINGDON

Faringdon Library

Faringdon Library reopened on Tuesday 29th September. It will be open temporarily on Tuesdays 10am-1pm, 2-5pm and Fridays 10am-1pm, 2-5pm.

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Park Golf Club

October always brings the leaves off the trees, a nightmare for the green keeping staff but maybe

not so hard this year as we have invested in some extra machinery to gather the leaves. Please be patient with the green staff if you are visiting us during this season.

The course remains open but due to the ongoing changes from the Government, refreshments and the method they are supplied may be different and limited, if available at all. This is beyond our control as we seek to obey the guidelines. Please tolerate this situation and adapt as we aim to please.

Results (under COVID rules):

The ladies have played their semi-finals of the ladies singles knock-out and Amelia beat Debbie and Tracy beat Molly so the final will be between our junior Amelia and Tracy. We hope they will have a great game.

The senior men were treated to a return match against the ladies and the ladies continued in their victorious way winning 2½ to 1½. The ladies have therefore won both matches against the seniors this year.

The Daily Mail competition is back up and running. The second round is to be played between now and Feb 2021. Our men have a home match against Wragbarn and the Ladies are away to Marlborough.

The winners of the new Brian Bird memorial trophy were David Youngs and Molly Garrett.

From November 2nd all golfers throughout the world will be playing from the World Wide Handicap System. It will be interesting to see how this changes our handicaps. We can only hope for the best results.

Carole, E: cleefairways57@yahoo.co.uk

Shrivenham Cricket Club

Well, what can one say in such strange times? Clearly, we are still in the market for new players who wish to play *next year, 2021*. This sounds silly I know, to be trying to recruit new players to the Club when there has been no cricket at all allowed for most of the 2020 season but hopefully things may be a little more like normal next year.

This year we did manage an internal Club day where we had 18 wishing to play, within the current regulations, and an enjoyable afternoon

was held. Since then we have managed two friendly matches with the desire to keep our players interested in the sport after such a long 'lay-off'. The first game was to be a home fixture against a Swindon team on Saturday 5th September but in the end, circumstances dictated that we should play the match at Swindon CC. As per usual, the indication was that, whilst many wished to participate, when the actual day arrives, we end up with too few players. This day was no exception and we arrived at Swindon's ground with only nine players. This was fortuitous for Swindon as they had a surplus who wanted to play and so they kindly lent us two of their players. Swindon batted first, by common consent, and posted a total of 230 for 5 in the allotted 35 overs with all of our players, except the wicket keeper, having a bowl. In reply we managed 170 for 4 in a most friendly atmosphere which was a good incentive for club cricket.

Our second game was away to Faringdon on Saturday 12th September. We were able to field eleven players on this occasion and yet again the match was played in good spirit and the friendly atmosphere was another positive for club cricket. Faringdon won the toss and chose to bat first and proceeded to post a competitive total of 202 for the loss of 8 wickets. (Tom Dawes 2 for 43; Richard Deacon 2 for 35 & Manoj Perera 2 for 25). An exciting finish ensued with us scoring the winning runs in the very last over losing 6 wickets on route. Our stand-out batsman was Michael Haywood with a very good 50 runs and Manoj Perera also scored 50. This is to be our last game of the 2020 season so now it is time to work on the square in readiness (we hope!) for the 2021 season.

A further problem for all the cricket clubs in Oxfordshire is the amalgamation of the Cherwell Leagues and the Oxford Cricket Association Leagues which seems certain to happen but we will worry about that at a later date as the main thing is that we want to play cricket. Added to this is the obvious postponement of the new Sports Pavilion for Shrivenham. We await circumstances that will make this development possible.

Owing to regulations, our Christmas Bingo is cancelled along with our Club Draw. As for the AGM, we shall have to wait for the current regulations before we can decide.

STANTON FITZWARREN

St Leonard's Church

Our new vicar, Rev. Elveen Mead, is keen to get to know as many of us as possible. She intends to come to our village for an informal walkabout every other week so if you see someone about wearing a dog collar it could be her. Her phone no is 07446 163688 and her email is rev.elveen@gmail.com if you would like to contact her directly (her day off is Friday).

We look forward to working with her in these strange and difficult times and because of the circumstances it is not possible to be sure of all service times and details in advance, but it is planned to hold these services in the church building with all the recommended precautions and social distancing :-

Sunday 1st November:
9.30am Morning worship

Sunday 8th November:
11am
Remembrance
Sunday. There will be a short act of remembrance outside at the war memorial. Everyone is welcome including children. This will be followed by a quiet reflective service in the church building for those who wish to join us. No family service in November but back in December on Zoom.

Sunday 15th November: 9.30am Morning worship]

Sunday 22nd November:
9.30am Morning worship

Please visit www.stantonchurch.info to check for any changes as there will be something happening most weeks. The church building can be used for private prayer or quiet

contemplation by arrangement with Liz and Roger Hillman T: 01793 762935 to organise a time when it is safe for the building to be left open for your visit.

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride

Thanks to all who sponsored our four cyclists who raised £640 between them to support all the historic church buildings including St Leonard's.



Every Cloud at Stanton Park

A festive shopping experience: Why not kickstart that festive feeling with a visit to Every Cloud's Christmas Shop in the Barn at Stanton Country Park to discover beautiful, exclusive but

affordable, hand-made gifts for family and friends.

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We will keep you safe throughout your visit by following COVID-19 rules governing

shopping. For more information contact us by email: info@everycloudartscrafts.com or via our facebook page or text 07796 530 560.

Every Cloud Arts & Crafts is a non-profit making 'makers' co-operative Registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Registered office: 284 Marlborough Road, Swindon SN3 1NR



LOCAL CONTACTS

Police, Fire, Ambulance	Emergency	999
Police	Non-Emergency	101
NHS	Non-Emergency	111
COVID-19 Test Line	Non-Emergency	119
Gas	Emergency	0800 111999
Electricity	Emergency	105
Water	Emergency	0800 3169 800
Pest Control	Non-Emergency	07789 781151

BUSES		DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS		SCHOOLS	
Stagecoach Swindon	01793 521415	Highworth Surgery	01793 762218	Eastrop Infants	01793 763772
Thamesdown Transport	01793 428400	Elm Tree Surgery, (Shrivenham)	01793 782207	Southfield Junior	01793 762210
Dial-a-Ride	01793 616050	Great Western Hospital	01793 604020	Westrop Primary	01793 762897
Community Transport	01793 617828			Highworth Warneford	01793 762426
Traveline	0871 200 2233				
COLLEGES		LIBRARY		TAXIS	
Cirencester College	01285 640994	Highworth Library	01793 463500	V Cars	01793 701701
New College	0808 172 4445				
Swindon College	01793 491591	RECREATION		TRAINS	
		Highworth Rec	01793 762602	National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
LAW & ORDER		PHARMACIES		Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Crimestoppers	0800 555111	Highworth Pharmacy	01793 762220	Disabled and assisted travel	08001 971329
Victim Supportline	0808 16 89 111	Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392		
Action Fraud	0300 123 2030	Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336	OTHER SERVICES	
COUNCILS		PRESCHOOLS		Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Highworth Town Council	01793 762377	Highworth Pre-school	01793 766646	Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Swindon Boro. Council	01793 463000	Vorda Pre-School	01793 763668	Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Streetsmart	01793 445501	Westgate Nursery		Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
FIRE SAFETY		School & Crèche	01793 861268	Pest Control	08000 988652
Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849			Samaritans	01793 537373
				Women's Refuge	01793 610610

PRAYER PLACE

The churches of Highworth believe that prayer works both on a national and individual level. If you would like us to pray for something or for you please complete this form and drop it into The Bridge, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth or the church or church office of your choice. Photocopies are acceptable.

I would like to be known as: _____

I would like you to pray for: _____

(Optional) Name _____

Address _____

I would like someone to call on me ☐ (Tick if applicable)

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