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The End of Waiting

I've spent a lot of time waiting recently. I have had to take various children to appointments and interviews over the last few months and so there has been a fair bit of hanging about to do between taxi duties.

Sometimes waiting can be frustrating but I've discovered that it's often about perspective. If I think, "(sigh), I've got another day of hanging around waiting," it can seem long and boring. But if I think, "I've got another day hanging around waiting!" the exclamation mark makes all the difference. I've discovered a value in the space and in the opportunities for some thinking time and some reading time as well as perhaps (hopefully) a little more patience.

I'm sure many of us are waiting for winter to end and spring to begin. As I write we are in the middle of yet another wet and windy spell which has removed any feeling we may have had that spring was on its way. But as we approach Easter we discover the spring flowers are coming out, the days are getting lighter and we can sense that a new season is beginning to unfold.



For Christians, the celebration of Easter marks an end of waiting; waiting through the period of Lent and waiting in the days of Holy Week (the week before Easter Sunday) when we have thought about Jesus's last days leading up to his arrest and execution. Finally, on Easter Day, the waiting is over and Christians wake up to

celebrate the news that Jesus is alive. The end of this waiting signals a transformation and marks the beginning of new opportunities to choose to accept a new way of life by following the example of love and generosity and sacrifice that Jesus shows us.

The waiting of Easter reminds me that Christians believe in a God who waits. The entire human race is invited to join the new life that Jesus offers but we are not hurried into saying "Yes". God is always waiting for us and his love and his invitation are always open.

If you want to know more, come along to one of our local churches this Easter.

*Rev Rachael Wilson,
Highworth Methodist Church*

Cover: Interior of the Orthodox Church in Zadonsk, Lipetsk region, Russia. Image: Shutterstock

LINK magazine

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Contributions:

May be published in the magazine and/or the web. Make clear any limitations you have about what, how and when we may publish your contribution.

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

Make sure you are writing for a general audience, not just your own organisation. News stories should not

exceed 150 words. If it's too long we will ask you to cut it. Articles may be longer but get in touch first to save the annoyance of a rejection. Photographs and advertising artwork should be clear, with good contrast. JPEG electronic format is preferred but we can scan from good quality prints. Make sure any people in photos agree that the photo can be published in the magazine and web. Get parent's consent in the case of minors.

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: Rachel Uzzell

Having celebrated our own 50 years as a charity-run childcare provider, Highworth Pre-School then celebrated Mrs Rachel Uzzell's 20 years of service.

Rachel started at Highworth Pre-School, a place of work she calls her second family, as a parent helper and she now forms part of the management team. She is the driving force, taking steps to bring improvement for the pre-school and this has had a positive impact on thousands of children in the Highworth community.

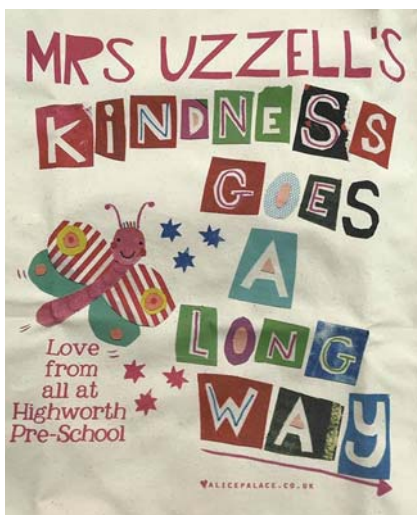
The rôle over the years has changed with limited support now from outside agencies, so as the Supervisor, Safeguarding and Special Education Needs Lead, she has become a counsellor, confidant, nurse, advisor and support to not only the children but the families. Whilst always remaining kind, caring and doing her utmost for the best outcomes for the children of Highworth Pre-School. Rachel even on her busiest day will always take time with the children in pre-school, to encourage and support them as well supporting the staff team.

Kelly Preston, Chair of Highworth Pre-School Committee said "Rachel is a truly amazing member of the team. To say that she goes above and beyond is a massive



understatement. She gives her absolute all to the children (past and present), to the parents, as well as to the rest of the staff. She has the biggest heart and she pushes herself to make sure that she is covering every angle required to support the children fully, especially those with special needs."

As a result of this hard work, she was nominated for the Early Years Excellence Award for "outstanding contribution to supporting children with SEN and Disabilities" and her work continues to be recognised by Swindon Borough Council Early Years.



A current parent, on hearing the celebration said, "Wow Mrs Uzzell! That's incredible. You really are a very special lady and have helped us as a family beyond anything you could even imagine. You work so hard for so many and without you and the preschool we'd be lost. Thank you".

Here's hoping that Highworth Pre-School children and families have the amazing Mrs Uzzell for another 20 years! Congratulations and well done. It's a job we certainly don't do for the

money, it's for the community and children.

Helen Simpson, Manager, Highworth Pre-School

LINK EVENTS LISTINGS

Just before we went to press, the Government announced new measures that would eliminate many gatherings. If you are planning a visit we advise you to contact the organisers first.

World Book Week

Here at Vorda we love books. Alongside daily story time and trips to our lovely local library and the usual dressing up fun that comes with World Book Week, the children at Vorda Pre-School celebrated by visiting Cobbett Court to enjoy stories with the residents. Both young and old loved the experience and it's one we hope to repeat.

At Vorda, we are currently in the process of redeveloping our book corner. We want to make it into a



magical area that's inviting, stimulates the children's imagination and inspires creativity. We'd love to see it packed full of brilliant books that promote early literacy, language development and a love of reading. Watch this space.

If your children are aged 2-4 and love books as much as we do, Vorda is the Preschool for you. Pop in anytime. We would be more than happy to show you around.

Lizzie Hares

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.

Whatever you are facing due to crisis, we believe in a God of kindness and miracles. We want to be praying specifically for you.

If you would like us to do this for you, simply email your first name and your prayer needs to:

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We will not email you back or save your information unless you specifically ask for further connection.

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Vorda's Dragon Dance

Children at Vorda Pre-school have been learning all about the festival of Chinese New Year, getting very creative and discovering new cultures.

This year is the Year of the Rat, an animal thought of as wise and intelligent in Chinese tradition. Albert Einstein once said "Play is the highest form of research" and here at Vorda Pre-School we think so too. As part of our celebrations the children got artistic making lanterns in the shape of rats. They also enjoyed making lucky Chinese envelopes complete with gold coins.

To round off the festivities, the children had great fun dressing up and performing a dragon dance.



Vorda Pre-school
Ages 2 – 4 yrs

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A Fliptastic Time at Eastrop

Children and staff at Eastrop Infant School got well and truly into the spirit of Shrove Tuesday with a fun-filled day making pancakes.

The pupils at Eastrop heard the story of Mr. Wolf's Pancakes to get them in the spirit. All the children had great fun weighing and mixing the ingredients, cooking the pancakes (a few even tried flipping them) and then finally eating the delicious product. There was lots of discussion about the best topping too.

"My favourite is Nutella and strawberries".

"I love blueberries on mine".





As well as making and eating delicious pancakes the children used their maths skills to work out pancake fractions and learnt about the tradition behind Shrove Tuesday.

Overall, everyone had a wonderful day enjoying pancakes and a delicious smell filled the school. It was a great start to the season of Lent and Eastrop are looking

forward to all the Easter activities: St. Michael's Easter story trail, making Easter gardens and, of course, going on an egg hunt. Spring has sprung at Eastrop!


Miss Vardy, Year 1 Teacher




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What does the 'Personal Tax Allowance' mean?
Every person who is resident in the UK is given a personal allowance each tax year. It operates as follows:
The personal allowance is the amount of income you can receive before paying tax – and it generally increases each tax year. For the 2019/20 tax year, it is £12,500. So, if you earn £20,000 in 2019/20, you will be subject to income tax on £7,500 of your earnings.
The personal allowance is reduced when your income exceeds £100,000 in a tax year (by £1 for every £2 your income exceeds £100,000) – so that if your taxable income reached £125,000 (in 2019/20), you no longer received a personal allowance.

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(6 to 18 y/o) - 1 Day
Tuesday 7th April 2020 - 10am to 4pm
Lead by West End Star of Lion King Mark Hindle

We will teach the students original choreography and material from the show. We discuss the characters and original staging, and the thought process behind each number. We run a Q&A session giving the students their chance to ask any questions they may have about the show, the characters, the workshop leader, life on-stage/backstage etc.

9-5 SERVICE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

For more information on our Summer Workshops visit our website.

Call James on 01367 240663

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Highworth RAF Air Cadets take a walk on the fire side

Just before Christmas, our cadets were invited to Swindon Fire Station for a taster evening run by the Swindon Fire Cadets.

The evening started with us changing into protective Fire Cadet uniform which was quite a challenge, especially on top of our normal uniform. We were even given helmets to wear which seemed to swamp some of our younger members.



Following this, we broke off into groups, each accompanied by members of the Fire Cadet scheme. There were three different activities for us to try including trying out some hoses, walking through a completely dark smokehouse and running up ladders, just like real firefighters do.

We were put to shame by the Fire Cadets, especially during the hose running tasks. They made it look so easy when it certainly wasn't. After running the hoses out and rolling them up again we were given a quick ride in the fire engine. I think everyone loved the thrill of the lights and sirens.

The smokehouse tested everyone but we all conquered a fear of some kind, whether that be confined spaces or the dark. Many of the younger cadets even led their teams through the darkness, staying calm in the process.

In the final activity of the night, we were taught how to safely raise, lower and climb a ladder. Even though it wasn't very high, it certainly felt

like it when we were up there.

Overall, the evening was a wonderful opportunity to meet the Fire Cadets and have a go at the kind of things they do every week.

After a very busy Christmas period, the Fire Cadets joined us at the squadron to take part in drill, fieldcraft (including starting fires rather than putting them out) and to trial our VR flight simulator. Although it wasn't as physically challenging as their activities they all enjoyed the night and hopefully learned a few things along the way.

Thank you to the staff at the Fire Cadets for allowing us to visit and to the cadets for giving us such a warm welcome!

Cadet Sgt 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.

**To advertise in The Highworth Link call Tony Brewster on
01793 861977
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Highworth Forget Me Not Café invites you

After a fantastic start to our Highworth Memory Café we'd like to invite you to our ongoing cafe sessions on the first Thursday of each month where we provide a safe and comfortable space for caregivers and their loved ones to socialise, listen to music, play games and enjoy other appropriate activities. It is an opportunity to provide mutual support and exchange information or simply enjoy the company of those with similar things in common.



February saw us launch in style with our lovely Mayor Julia Bishop and Alan and the Fabulous Arnels, Denise and Peter to entertain us with their wonderful songs and poems. Then in March, we brought Springtime to the Café with the children from Westrop School Choir and daffodils in many varieties from serviettes and crafts through to bunches to take home.

Coming up in our calendar are the following events and we invite you to please come along and Join us. You'll have a big welcome and be hosted by our fantastic team of volunteers for an afternoon of entertainment and laughter, support from our lovely local health professionals, crafts and games and don't forget of course the scrummy cake and a cuppa.

Easter Café: Thursday 2nd April: 2.30pm
Community Council Room, Gilbert's Lane. 'Music and Memories' with music and song from the great Brian Slade. Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs.

VE Day Café: Thursday 7th May: 2.30pm
St Michael's Church. Indoor street party-style café with our fantastic Highworth Silver Band. Come and join us for this musical extravaganza and have a Sing Along and wave your Flags to many favourite wartime songs. We would like to welcome any senior citizens of Highworth to come and join us for this memorable café session in our bigger venue this month. Teacups and cakes at the ready.

Let's Keep Working Towards a Dementia Friendly Town across our community.

For more information please contact Ruth & Kevin 07970 543423 or kevin_dfc@btinternet.com

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From the Lions Den

Highworth Lions were sad to say goodbye to one of our founder members Ken Poulton. He remained a member of the club he helped to form until the very end. Ken was involved in various events at the club having served as President more than once and also as Secretary. Our deepest sympathies go to his son and two daughters.

On a happier note we celebrated the retirement of volunteer Peter Hinton with a dinner at the Blunsdon House Hotel where we presented him with a certificate of appreciation and his wife Ann with a bouquet of flowers. Peter was one of our much-valued volunteers and drove our mini bus for over fifteen years, encompassing the time we provided a 'service bus' from Sevenhampton.

In later years he has mostly taken residents from Parsonage Court shopping every week and for outings in better weather. Peter was also reliable as cover when other drivers were not available.

He is also a member of Swindon North Rotary

Club and he will certainly be missed by the Lions. We would all like to say a huge "thankyou" for all he has done. Highworth Lions is so lucky to have such a great team of volunteers and we would like to thank each and every one of you for your support.

April should see our Easter Eggs at various venues throughout the town. I hope that you will be lucky. Also, look out for our race night posters. The date is yet to be set but do come along for a jockey supper and hopefully a few winners.



Volunteer Peter Hinton (left) receiving his certificate of Appreciation from Highworth Lions

The fly tippers have been seen again on the CCTV. This time they left a pushchair with a broken wheel and other rubbish. Later in the week there was an old broken deckchair. Even if these items had been in good condition the wind and rain would have rendered them useless and everyone knows we are not open at

6.30am. It costs the Lions time and money to dispose of these items so please stop leaving objects outside our shop.

Lion Rosemary

Lions donations made in February 2020:

• Visit Highworth Ltd.	£820.00
• Higworth Running Club	£350.00
• G.W.H. Brighter Futures (In Memorium)	£100.00
• L.C.I. Young Leaders In Service	£27.90
• Social Services Request	£750.00
• Highworth Artists Society School Project	£250.00

During 2019 a total of £26,970.43 was donated to local, national and International charities and good causes.

Highworth Job Club Update

During the past eleven years almost 200 people have attended Highworth Job Club for one or more sessions.

If you are out of work or seeking a new position, you are welcome to come along to Highworth library on a Tuesday morning between 10-11am for a chat and to write that letter of application or find help with your CV. We can show you the best way to do internet searches and offer advice on interview techniques.

We are not professionals; we are a self-help group that is there to share knowledge, skills and experience. We do not keep records of who has succeeded in getting a job but we do know we have helped many people by improving their self-confidence and honing their communication skills to ultimately get that elusive job.

Come along on a Tuesday and meet either Dennis, Kathryn, Keith or Sandra. We are there to help.

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Westrop Medical Practice Update

There have certainly been a lot of changes at Westrop Surgery recently. Years ago I wrote a monthly column in The Link and was always impressed at its ability to reach such a wide population. Now seems the ideal time to put pen to paper again, not to discuss medical conditions as before but instead to keep you updated with our latest developments.

Since 2017 the practice has increased in size from around 10,000 patients to 27,500. The original Highworth and Blunsdon branches have expanded to include Hermitage Surgery in Old Town, and most recently, Taw Hill Surgery which we took over on 1st October 2019. After a challenging few months under IMH leadership, we were keen to take over the reins and make changes to improve patient care and accessibility. To help us do this we were fortunate to recruit a number of new clinical and admin staff to complement the existing staff. In particular, we are excited to welcome a new partner, Dr Christine Anota, who has recently moved to Swindon from Kent and is working seven sessions a week exclusively at Taw Hill. Terry Walker, operations manager, has moved from Hermitage Surgery with Emma Bint taking over his rôle.

One concern that I sometimes hear from patients is that taking on these extra surgeries will mean loss of clinical time at Highworth. This is not the case and we have worked hard to recruit extra staff to man these services in addition to Highworth, not instead of. Perhaps these concerns come during periods where it takes longer than average to get a routine

appointment. Again, I can reassure you that every week we review, as a partnership, the current wait time for a routine appointment.

Our realistic aim is for this to be under two weeks. In addition, there are always urgent appointments that can be booked on the day when indicated. Demand of course is variable and sometimes difficult to predict, and on occasion the wait for appointments is longer than our target. If it is you can be sure that we are aware of it and are working hard to increase the availability. Also remember that we are now fortunate to have a massively expanded range of allied health care professionals that can be accessed. Physiotherapists, mental health nurses and pharmacists are all available and can be booked directly through our reception staff; you don't have to be referred by a GP.

One final word of note is for our hard-working and loyal patient participation groups. All three surgeries have their own and they provide an invaluable way of gaining patients' perspectives and feedback on different aspects of patient care. We always welcome new members either in our 'virtual group' which involves answering a questionnaire twice a year, or in the 'actual group' where a small number of us meet to discuss the results of the questionnaires and decide how changes should be implemented. If you are interested in joining you can find the details on our website or fill in a form at the surgery.

Simon Stacey, GP, Westrop Medical Practice





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Not just a pretty space

Hooray, it's spring! We all know our **GREEN SPACES AND TREES** are good for our health and wellbeing but stop to think what a major role green spaces play in reducing and offsetting our carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

We think there are three good things happening here as well-managed, green spaces help us to:

- **Reduce** carbon emissions, by enabling us to avoid, reduce and replace actions that emit CO₂
- **Offset** emissions, by absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere into plants
- **Mitigate** effects of climate change, by protecting and enhancing diverse habitats, thus supporting biodiversity and resilience of flora, fauna and ecosystems

This is part two in a series of articles about what individuals can do about climate change, comprising ideas from readers of *Ripples Community Magazine* for Fairford and Lechlade, and *Highworth Link Magazine*.

Actions for individuals

Our ARRO action model below shows it is always best to Avoid; Offset is the last resort.

Green spaces in private gardens and allotments

We can start with our own gardens if fortunate enough to have access to one. As climate change takes hold, it will become more difficult to sustain our manicured, suburban gardens. Take mowing for instance.

Perhaps we need to change our attitude to lawns?

What if, instead of spending time, money and energy fertilising, spiking, scarifying and killing the insects that live in our lawns, we could try to see the beauty of a lawn buzzing with bees feeding from patches of clover and daisies, and enjoy the spectacle of a gang of starlings feeding on the insects that live in it, a blackbird pulling at an earthworm, a green woodpecker having a go at the ants that live in the lawn, or a pair of bullfinches on tiptoe, feeding on dandelion clocks.

Our other suggestions include:

- Plant wildlife-friendly trees, shrubs, annuals.
- Buy peat-free compost, or make your own.
- Make a pond, ideally using captured rainwater.
- Create cover for bugs – ‘ecopiles’ using fallen logs, and make ‘bughotels’.
- On paved areas, plant containers with bee- and pollinator-friendly plants.
- Eliminate chemicals such as weedkillers, pesticides, fungicides and moss killer. Your garden can be a life-friendly haven, not a battlefield of chemical warfare!
- Avoid using power tools; they produce carbon emissions, both in manufacture and in use, and create noise pollution – your neighbours will be grateful if you go back to using a push mower and shears, even a sickle or scythe (but get training first!).
- In short, go organic, and let go of ‘tidy-itis’!

Actions	Examples using mowing (where petrol mowers emit CO ₂)
AVOID it (completely)	Leave lawns to grow as meadows, then cut once with hand tools in late summer,
REDUCE it (do it less)	Still mow your lawn, but less frequently
REPLACE it (find another way)	Replant the lawn with pollinator-friendly, ground-covering perennials
OFFSET it (find a way to absorb the CO ₂ that's emitted)	Offset it – plant trees

Green spaces in public areas of our neighbourhood, village or town

Here are some ways to work with neighbours and friends:

- Ask councils for permission to create wildflower areas on verges/mowed areas and encourage them to leave areas unmowed and unsprayed.
- Reconsider your attitude towards 'untidy' road verges. Larger areas can be left and managed as meadow, with just a border kept mown for traffic safety and 'neatness'. When the fresh growth of May and June goes over, they are then mowed once and cuttings raked up and left in an 'ecopile'. You will notice bees and butterflies feeding on the nectar and pollen of the 'weeds' as they flower, and birds too, feeding on the insects and seeds. Life, in other words!
- Lobby councils to go pesticide/herbicide-free.
- Ask your council to plant trees on public spaces and to create ponds in flood-prone areas.
- Encourage schools to adopt above measures.
- Urge your church to do the same. Think churchyard, think nature reserve.
- Volunteer with Cotswold Water Park

Green spaces in the national context

- Lobby large landowners, such as the Churches, Forestry Commission and Government agencies such as The Environment Agency, Highways England and Network Rail, about policies to respect and nurture their abundant green spaces.
- Join and influence charities that are already redeveloping their green spaces, such as The Woodland Trust, The National Trust and The Wildlife Trusts.
- Join and support pressure groups such as Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace.
- Ask your MP to prioritise these measures in national policies.

Where to get help and decisionmakers to influence

Depending on where you live:

Highworth Town Council: <http://bit.ly/2wNezBh>

Parks and open spaces in Swindon Borough:
<http://bit.ly/2W9MDlp>

Great Western Community Forest, a Swindon scheme to increase woodland and areas of

biodiversity extending north to the Thames:
Email: jwilshaw@swindon.gov.uk

Fairford Town Council: <http://bit.ly/2UdStQ3>

Lechlade on Thames Town Council:
<http://bit.ly/2TMEiTj>

Kempsford Parish Council: <http://bit.ly/2TLn8pi>

Cotswold District Council, environment:
<http://bit.ly/2TIOKLC>

Gloucestershire County Council, climate change:
<http://bit.ly/3cSNOF9>

Help Woodland Trust to manage and grow their woodlands: <http://bit.ly/33dzlAx>

Support National Trust's Woodlands Appeal:
<http://bit.ly/33bgxr4>

Reading:

Plantlife's Road Verge Campaign:
<http://bit.ly/2Qd9SYi>

Swansea's wildflowers: <http://bit.ly/381y95>

Pesticide Action Network UK: <http://bit.ly/2Q9FoGu>

'The Garden Jungle or Gardening To Save The Planet', by Dave Goulson

Monty Don's 'Around The World In 80 Gardens', the Cuba episode – growing food organically on urban public land: <https://bbc.in/3aPosNh>

Key points

Starting at home, choose pollinator-friendly plants for your garden and allotment, and trees and shrubs with berries for birds, and create mini-habitats of twigs and logs.

Get together with neighbours, friends and your local councils to rethink how you can enhance your neighbourhood, village or town.

Reconsider mowing green spaces because it creates unnecessary CO₂ emissions and noise and destroys meadow habitat.

Lobby owners of public green spaces to plant more trees, copses and orchards.

Have a go at these

Invest in a manual cylinder mower such as the Husqvarna 'Novocut', £115.

Try leaving a square metre or two of your lawn unmown, enjoy the beauty of grasses and 'weeds' in flower and observe the life that comes to visit.

Every Little Helps – Steps to a greener Highworth

There are dozens of lists of things we should all be doing to reduce our impact on our environment.

This can be very daunting (well, I find them daunting!) so I'd like to make a few practical suggestions which you might like to take up. Let's start small. The coloured lids from plastic milk containers make for high quality recycling. They are sorted by colour and reprocessed and the icing on the cake is that the recycling company pays for this raw material.

To be part of this, please wash the lids and deliver them to St Michael's (the cupboard in the corner on the left as you go into the Church is the ideal place). The lids get sent to the recycler and the money goes to Brimble Hill School.

Could you do that? Please?

Madeline Kirke



Hundreds of tonnes of food waste recycled in Swindon

Last September, Highworth and Swindon became the first place in Wiltshire to trial the weekly collection of food waste for recycling. Approximately 11,000 households have been receiving the service over the last 26 weeks which has allowed Swindon Borough Council to test collection and disposal methods.

So far more than 380 tonnes of food waste has been collected, equivalent to 380,000 bags of sugar. The food waste is processed in Wiltshire at an anaerobic digestion plant where it is recycled into environmentally friendly fertiliser and enough energy to power a home for 30 years or 30 houses for a year.

The trial has been extended until the end of August 2020 and council officers will now carry out further analysis of the results. The Council's Cabinet will also decide whether to roll out the food waste service to the rest of the borough.

Residents on the trial do not need to do anything differently and are encouraged to continue to use the service as they have been.

Since the start of the trial, there has also been a reduction in the amount of non-recyclable waste collected from across the borough. The environmental impact of diverting waste from the Council's Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) plant, or landfill, is significant.

Councillor Maureen Penny, Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment, said: "I am thrilled that so many residents have been taking part in the food waste trial. The amount of food waste we have collected has exceeded all of our expectations. We are continually looking at ways we can become more sustainable and reduce the amount of waste we are producing and we always encourage residents to do the same".



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Highworth Community Centre The Dormers, Highworth SN6 7PQ Contact Jo 07815 838944 Friday 9.30am	Highworth Recreation Centre The Elms, Highworth SN6 7DD Contact Louise 07717 681939 Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm
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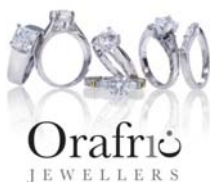
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Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

If you have a sport story email jcdsport12@gmail.com



Swindon Croquet Club

Highworth's closest Croquet Club, which is based on Moredon Playing Fields, is enthusiastically gearing up for the 2020 season. The Club always welcomes new members so if you would like to give croquet a try, please come along to the Open Day on **Sunday 17th May** anytime between 10am and 4pm. Equipment will be available and members will be on hand to serve refreshments and show guests how to play. For further information, please contact John Airey on 01793 873026.

The Club was recently awarded the prestigious 'Clubmark' which is the universally acknowledged cross-sport accreditation awarded by Sport England. Justin Tomlinson MP presented the award with David Renard, leader of Swindon Council also in attendance.

Beverly Briggs



Receiving the Coveted Clubmark Award

Girls Golf Rocking at Wrag Barn

Up to 200 clubs were chosen in February to be part of the expanded sessions this year. The chosen clubs will be tasked with staging two six-week coaching sessions for beginner girls predominantly, but not exclusively, in the 7-14 age bracket. The aim of each session is to encourage development of, and a love for, golf in a fun, friendly and non-competitive environment with the help of PGA-qualified professionals. For the first time, clubs from all 36 English counties were eligible to apply with

funding and resources available for those chosen.

The programme will run between May and October and regular updates on all Girls Golf Rocks activities can be found on England Golf's and Golf Foundation's Twitter,

Facebook and Instagram social media platforms. Over 5,000 girls have been introduced nationally to the game of golf via Girls Golf Rocks in the past five years. England Golf and the Golf Foundation are working together to grow the game and boost participation numbers among girls and the Girls Golf Rocks programme is a cornerstone of this.

If you'd like to be involved or are keen to discover more about Girls Golf Rocks sessions, you can register your email address with England Golf at girlsgolfrocks@englandgolf.org to sign up for updates nationally or contact me for information on the sessions we're running at Wrag Barn which start on the first weekend in June.

David Curl, PGA Golf Professional
Email: Davecurl72@hotmail.co.uk



Highworth Town Football Club

HTFC's 1st team remains comfortably in mid-table with 11 games left, having picked up decent points away at Winchester City, Bristol Manor Farm and AFC Totton with a home win against Basingstoke Town. A point should have been taken when hosting AFC Totton had it not been for a late missed penalty handing us a defeat. Player personnel changes continue as Messrs Fisher and Adams search for a way of turning draws into wins but the outlook is promising.



Floods 1 – Football 0

The reserves remain on target for promotion despite not playing regularly as the weather continues to cause havoc with our fixtures.

Derek Lloyd

Swindon & District Motor Cycle Club

Thanks to February's catalogue of storms, the Brian Freegard Trial held along the old Highworth to Hannington Railway line was a windswept, flooded and blustery affair. Most of the ten sections the riders negotiated fought the icy clutches of the swollen and rising brook with field sections simply bogs; the grass well and truly drowned. Just standing, spectators struggled to stay upright as they watched over 30 riders try to ascend, descend and bend their bodies and bikes round the tricky obstacles.

With penalties given for putting your foot down during a section, clean sheets should have been impossible but Mark Elms, riding in the the third tier 'B' Class, went the whole competitive day with his feet on the foot pegs to take victory.



David Brawn Riding to a Top Ten Finish

In the premier A Class and supporting AB Class it was Oliver Humphris and Steve Oram respectively who prevailed as did Jeremy Orchard and James Ovens jointly in the 'C' Class, both amazingly incurring only a solitary penalty point. In the junior competitions Bailey Tidbury won the Youth 'A' category with only 27 penalty points whilst Edwin Maslin took the Youth 'B' category with 36. To round off the competition that asked riders to attempt each section four times Graham Harris secured the Over 60's spoils with only four dabs to his day.

If you think bikes, balance, bumps and bogs are your bag then I'm sure the club would love to hear from you. Contacts can be found on the club's website www.sdmcc.org.uk

Jason Daniels

Photograph courtesy of Kelly Daniels

Phoenix Diving Club



L-R Amelia, Alice, John, Beatrice and Ella

The month of February turned into a winning one for the Highworth Pheonix Diving Club with medals from two competitions only six days apart. The first, in Southampton on Sunday 16th, saw Alice win Gold and Ella a 4th place medal. It was also the first competition for two of our young divers and both John and Beatrice found it challenging but inspiring.

The following Saturday, in a very hot and humid Cheltenham pool, Ella came away with Gold and Amelia a Silver medal. Alice, diving in a different level event, didn't manage a medal this time but it gave her an insight into what she needs to learn for the future. The next event is the British National Masters in Manchester at the beginning of this month when veteran diver Jose Adam will be hoping for good results as a lead-up for the World Masters in Budapest in May.

Irene Aldridge

WANTED:

Footballers in their Early 50's!



Talking Tactics at Training

The Highworth Walking Football Club's main season will start in March, with the first outing in the Thames Valley Football League. After winning consecutive promotions we start the year in the Premiership with 'the Big Boys'. But being successful has brought about its own challenges. We are thrilled to be playing in the Premiership of one of the best leagues in the country, but whilst we're currently thriving we need to be attracting younger players (who have just turned 50) to stay competitive. Because our sessions at the Highworth REC are on Thursday mornings they are mostly attended by older, retired guys so in order to address this we now also run a session at Grange Leisure in Stratton on Sunday mornings from 11am to 12pm and aspire to add an evening session or possibly a Saturday morning one held at the REC.

It seems we appeal to those aged 58 and above but not the younger ones. From my own experience it took around eight years of missing football before looking for its replacement and once I started I never looked back. The good thing about playing walking football is there's no upper age limit so no more retiring!

If you are interested in coming along to any of our sessions and giving us a try, please either drop me an email or feel free to give me a call. We are also looking to improve player safety and are campaigning for a pitch-side Defibrillator Unit. If you can help out in any way at all we'd welcome your support via the www.gofundme.com page (just search for our club).

Kevin Turner

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Time to spring clean your plumbing!



With spring upon us do you get that feeling to throw open your doors and windows to bring the freshness inside? And, after a long winter's use your plumbing could do with a little freshen up as well as the rest of your home.

Here's our checklist to spring clean your plumbing:

- ✓ Check under the kitchen sink for leaks and try the mains stop tap at the same time
- ✓ Check your pipes for signs of leaks or damage
- ✓ Check your toilet for any hidden leaks
- ✓ Clean limescale build up from your shower heads and taps
- ✓ Check your radiators for signs of rust, this could indicate a weep

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Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com



Highworth's Young Musicians' success

Students from Highworth Warneford School were very successful once again in the Swindon Young Musician of the Year competition organised by the Rotary Club of Swindon North at the Blunsdon House Hotel on Sunday 9th February.

In the Junior Section Warneford's Lily Cole and Jacob Parkinson were first and second placed vocalists and Sally Armstrong was judged the winner for the second consecutive year in the instrumentalist section playing Handel's Passacaglia on her Harp.

Warneford's success continued in the Senior Section with Tess Armstrong (Sally's sister) gaining second prize and Ellen Bailey third prize in the instrumentalists' section and Amber Joseph winning third prize in the vocalists.

Presenting the prizes, the Mayor of Swindon Councillor Kevin Parry said "In musical



Swindon Mayor Kevin Parry with Sally Armstrong

entertainment, Swindon punches way above its weight. Some of the young people we have heard tonight will go on to make a name for themselves"

Alan Fletcher, Rotary Club

Bellringers needed at St Michael's Church



St Michael's Church Bellringers are looking for a few new recruits who would like to take up bell ringing as a hobby.

Ringing is well within the capabilities of most

people, young and not so young. The initial teaching takes a few weeks, after which you will be able to ring with the rest of the band.

At Highworth we practice on a Thursday evening and then ring for Sunday service, for weddings and other special occasions such as the VE Day celebrations taking place in May.

We are a very sociable and friendly group who ring at other Churches in and around Swindon. We also have competitions and ringing outings to Churches outside of our area.

If you fancy having a go and would like to find out more, or maybe you are a lapsed ringer (you would be very welcome back), give Rob a call on 01793 762516 or email rob@highworthtower.co.uk.

Dear Editor...

Coffee with a purpose

Sometimes I want to support a charity, but I know that if I do I will possibly be inundated with emails from them and I already support several charities at home and abroad. But now I know the answer.

I can support Prospect by enjoying coffee at The United Reformed Church on a Thursday or I can support various charities by going along on a Saturday morning to the coffee mornings at The Methodist Church in Vicarage Lane (and get lovely homemade cakes and a game of table tennis). Or I can nip into the Church Hall behind St. Michael's Church which also supports local and nation charities or pop into The Bridge where I can get a coffee AND be on the receiving end of help and support myself.

Yes, I also support the other coffee shops in Highworth and I'm so glad they are there but occasionally it's also lovely to know that my coffee is making a difference elsewhere.

It's also good to know that The Methodist Church and St. Michael's are happy for you to use their premises on a Saturday morning to run your own coffee morning and raise money for your favourite charities.

L. A



Dear Highworth Link

I would very much like to thank all the people who attended my husband Mr Frederick Harman's funeral in the Church. I would also like to thank Alison for a lovely service and all the people who made donations to the British Heart Foundation.

It means a lot to me to feel so supported at this difficult time.

Mrs K. Harman

Dear Highworth Link

My mum Margaret Cheesley died on the 8th January. She had lived in Highworth since childhood and died here aged 80. She worked at Eastrop and Warneford school as a cleaner/caretaker.


She always read the Link and I would be grateful if you could let the community know.

Julie Jones

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Events

Whilst the majority of events have been cancelled there are still a few hoping to carry on. Please contact the organiser nearer the time in case they are cancelled.

Scarecrow Trail – Books of the Last 75 Years, 4th-19th April

It is time for the start of the Scarecrow Trail. Running from 4th-19th April over the school holidays as usual and raising funds for Scouting in Highworth. The theme is book titles of the last 75 years. These can be children's or adult books, factual or fiction.

The trail sheet costs £2.50, and is available from The Lighthouse Bookshop, Allen & Harris, Visit Highworth, The Goldfinger and The Saracen's Head from Wednesday 1st April.

On Easter Monday, refreshments are available at 4 Oak Drive where there will also be a scarecrow, as their garden is open as one of the Highworth Spring Open Gardens. There is at least one other open garden in Eastrop also with a scarecrow.

To contact us please email highworthscarecrows@talktalk.net or telephone 01793 764614. Jane and Miriam

Cats Protection Podium Sale, Saturday 18th April

There will be a good mix of items on sale on the podium on **Saturday 18th April**, 9am-2pm in aid of the Cats Protection League.

Lent Lunches Update:

Arranged by Highworth Churches Together at St Michael's Church.

We did enjoy a variety of soups on the three weeks that lunches took place before Coronavirus put a stop to many activities and £521.60 was raised for Gloucester House. You will have to wait until next year for some more!

Thank you to all who came for your generosity

St Michael's Church Flower Festival, 18th-20th September

Highworth & District Floral Art Society are in the throes of preparing the 2020 Flower Festival in St Michael's Church. This will be the Flower Club's 13th Festival, which happens every four years.



Photo: Mair Hubbard

We are particularly looking forward to this year as, following all the alterations which have recently taken place in the Church, we will be able to utilise the wonderful light open spaces for our displays. Our theme this year is 'Authors' with many being related to Highworth and the title is "The Wonder of Words". So please make a note in your diary. We look forward to seeing you there.



Photo: Neil George. Highworth Sunset with Lights

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My name is Sarah, I am the creative Director and Makeup Artist in our studio – I have been working in the beauty and makeup industry for 13 years now. Working with some great brands such as Benefit, Estee Lauder, MAC, LVMH group and as a beauty manager in Harvey Nichols.

Since the early days, watching my mum apply her makeup in the mornings – I have always loved everything to do with makeup and beauty. My first love is helping people with their confidence. I have a vast treatment menu, which is expanding all the time, I've always made it my quest to keep my finger on the ever changing pulse of the beauty industry.

As a freelance makeup artist for 8 years now, I've worked with most briefs imaginable! It really does make my job the best thing in the world when a client is shown the results from a trip to our studio and loves what they see! Give me a call, drop me a message on Facebook or simply drop in! I'd love to see you.

Sarah x

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Coronavirus Update

We are living in unparalleled times and the situation is changing faster than can be reported. The details below were correct at the time of going to print, but they very well may have changed by the time the Link gets delivered and many of these actions are just being set up as I write. We live in a strong community and we will not let our community suffer during this time. So please don't isolate yourself fully. Reach out and connect with your neighbours and friends and the wider community. Email, phone, yell out of your window but stay in touch. Here are the things in place that I am so far aware of:

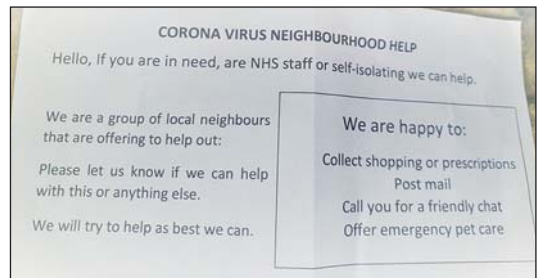
Information for Volunteers

With parts of the community self-isolating it has never been more important for neighbours to look out for one another. There are a number of neighbourhood groups forming at this time offering to run errands, collect groceries, medicine, takeaways etc.

Highworth Covid 19 Mutual Aid group - Covid Mutual Aid UK is a national group who offer support to local community groups organising mutual aid throughout the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK to help the most vulnerable during this outbreak. Highworth has its own dedicated group **Highworth Covid 19 Mutual Aid** with nearly 200 members. You can find and join their facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/207589316973214/ or contact organiser Claire by emailing claunchbury@orange.fr.

WhatsApp: WhatsApp is a free application that you download and use on your phone or desktop device. It allows you to send and receive free texts and calls from anywhere in the world and from any device. WhatsApp will use your contact list to automatically update your contacts who are also on WhatsApp, but they have some of the best security features out there and unlike Facebook your privacy is guaranteed. There are plenty of community groups on WhatsApp so talk to your neighbours to find out if your street has a dedicated WhatsApp group or start your own.

Leafleting: Many of the most vulnerable members of our community are not online so communication will need to be made via leafleting. To keep everyone safe there are some precautions that should be taken:



Printing: Wash your hands thoroughly before taking leaflets out of the printer and put the leaflets directly into a ziploc bag (a small pile up to about 40). Don't stockpile excess leaflets.

Distributing: Make sure you are well, even if symptoms are mild. Work on your own and distance yourself from others. Wash your hands well before you start and use hand sanitiser at regular intervals or wear gloves. Wash your hands again after you are finished.

Pre-printed 'help' cards are available for people to collect and use from various points across the town including the Bridge, the Visitors Centre, the library and the council offices.

You will need to take similar precautions if you are collecting and delivering items to homes.

Information for those Self-isolating: do not isolate yourself fully from the community. Make sure you are in daily contact with friends, family, neighbours, Churches etc via the telephone or internet and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Alert your Neighbours: Tie a tea towel to the front door handle or put a sign in your front window to alert your neighbours to the fact that you are isolating and may need help socialising, getting food/toilet paper etc. Your neighbours

can then leaflet you with their contact details to stay in touch.

Chronically Awesome

Chronically Awesome is an dedicated online community for people with incurable chronic illnesses. They have a fantastic FREE poster that you can print at home and display on your front window available with several different messages to warn and instruct others when delivering to your house. They offer to reword the posters for free should you require. (see *inside back cover*)



You can download and print the posters at home by visiting <https://chronicallyawesome.org.uk> or can call 01793 226337 and the Highworth Link will be happy to print off a version and deliver it to your house.

Be aware of Scammers: The people that should be reaching out to you should be your neighbours and hopefully they should be known to you already. Efforts are very much relying on people's good will and honesty and whilst the majority of people will be well intentioned there may be some that are not. Be alert and if you feel uncomfortable at any point call 101 or a Highworth Town Councillor, a Church leader or even the Highworth Link and we will try and assist you.

Highworth Helpline: Call Highworth Town Council T: 01793 762377.

Useful Contacts in Highworth:

Highworth Market: Highworth Market will continue every Saturday Morning until forcibly stopped.

Takeaways:

Ciao Eatalia (Italian) T: 01793 762888 Will deliver
Dolphin Fishbar (Fish & Chips) T: 01793 766346
Highworth Pizza T: 01793 766966. Free delivery

Kebab Grill T: 01793 765119

Kebria Tandoori (Indian) T: 01793 765239
Minimum spend £13 for delivery

Rafus (Indian) T: 01793 765320 Free delivery in Highworth (£1 outside Highworth)

Sammy's (Chinese) T: 01793 721032

Spice Kitchen (Indian) T: 01793 766886/764309
Free Delivery

Smart's Fish Bar (Fish & Chips) T: 01793 764579
Will delivery as long as it's quiet (before 5pm)

Tasty Garden (Chinese) T: 01793 766663

Cafés:

TT Linnet T: 07711 296515 May be able to provide boxes of essentials such as eggs and milk

Old Bakery T: 01793 764500 May be able to deliver if still open

Food Shopping:

Co-operative: are offering priority shopping hours for the over 70s, carers and the most vulnerable from 9.30-10.30am Monday-Friday

Budgens T: 01793 763594 May deliver provided staff are well

Bloomfields T: 01793 766399 May deliver

Andrew's Butchers T: 01793 762085 Will deliver

McColls T: 01793 766413 Happy to set up newspaper deliveries

Tesco Express T: 0345 026 9201

Food Bank: Please don't neglect the food bank at this critical time. Highworth's collection point is located in the Co-op.

Pharmacies:

McParland Pharmacy T: 01793 762220

Home Farm Pharmacy T: 01793 861392

Other:

The Bridge Centre phoneline will be manned for people to call if they need help with something. T: 01793 765060.

Highworth Library: open as we go to press but expecting to close in the near future. Extended hours also likely to end. T: 01793 463500

Highworth Churches

With the Churches all announcing a hold on public services until further notice as we went to press, we asked our local churches what their response to the crisis is. Their response is threefold:

1. Producing and making available a prayer service 'Hope for Highworth' where anyone can email their personal needs or concerns and the church will pray to churchispraying@gmail.com
2. To get behind local community support initiatives that are already running.
3. At 12 noon 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.

Highworth Methodist Church hope to open on Sundays at 10.30am for people to have a space to pray quietly, on the understanding that people only use every 3rd row and leave at least three seats between themselves and others.

St Michael's and All Angels Church will remain open every day for private prayer. People are also asked to socially distance themselves from others.

The Highworth Link fully intends to carry on as normal so please do continue to send articles, stories, letters etc updating us on any information you would like to share with the community to Sarah Gardiner, Editor T: 01793 226337, E: editorathighworthlinkg13@gmail.com, or post to 12 Coffin Close, Highworth, SN6 7HA.

Church Contacts:

St Michael 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

Highworth Community Church

Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712521046



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From the Registers

We remember those who love and miss

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Ken Poulton

John Jupp

Praying for the roads in the town:

05-Apr-20 Fitzgerald Avenue, Folly Close

12-Apr-20 Folly Crescent, Folly Drive

19-Apr-20 Folly Way, Gilberts Lane

26-Apr-20 Gilmore Court, Glebe Place

Highworth Churches Together

Members of the Churches in Highworth meet together regularly to pray for the people of Highworth and for the things that are going on in the town. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th April** at the United Reformed Church. Everyone is welcome to join the group who meet for an hour at 8pm.

Regular Events at St Michael's Church:

Friday Morning Blessing at St Michael's: Friday Blessings are held in the Church at 9.15am.

Saturdays @ St Michael's: Family Drop-in at St Michael's on the first Saturday of each month. Drop in any time from 10am-12noon. There will be tea, coffee, bacon sandwiches, newspapers, craft, children's toys. Come and meet up with others while the children are occupied. Our next one will be **Saturday 4th April**.

Tuesday morning Chat: in St Michael's Church Room on the first Tuesday in the month. The next date is on **Tuesday 7th April** from 10.45am-12.45pm. This is an opportunity to relax over coffee, tea, play Scrabble, bring knitting/sewing or just chat! Please come and bring anyone who you know would enjoy this time. Minibus transport is available.

Midweek Church: Midweek Church at St Michael's continues on the third Wednesday of each month. It is a spoken Communion service in the Church followed by a simple lunch. If you don't have time to stay for lunch you are still

welcome to join us for the service. The next one will be on **Wednesday 15th April** at 11am.

Regular events at Highworth

Methodist Church:

Jam Club: Babies and toddler group every Friday (term time) from 9.30-11.15am

Café Rendevous: charity coffee mornings every Saturday from 10.30-12noon

Sunday Club: For 3-13 year olds every Sunday from 10.30-11.30am

Bridge Club: Every Tuesday from 2-4pm

Board Games Night: 2nd Friday of each month from 7-8pm except in April when it will move to the **Friday 17th** to avoid Easter.

Messy Family Fun: The next Messy Family Fun will take place on **Sunday 26th April**. Join us for games and messy crafts for all the family. All welcome.

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stmichaelshighworth@gmail.com

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www.careforthefamily.org.uk/bereavementcare
or call (029) 2081 0800





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



- Mar 27-29 Syd Huband – in loving memory of Syd who passed away 10 years ago. Mair, Arfon, Ruth, Bethan, Abigail and Anne
- Apr 3-5 Highworth Action for Fairtrade (HAFFT). Supporting our Fairtrade town.
- Apr 12 Steve Pope, a good made. Pete and Denny
- Apr 21 Cyril Knight – Dad it's fifteen years since you have been gone. How did that happen? Miss you always. Love you. Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all of the kids xxxx
- Apr 25 Frank Dean – thinking of you every day but especially today on the 15th anniversary of your passing. Love and miss you so much. Jean, Beverley, Sharon and families xxxx

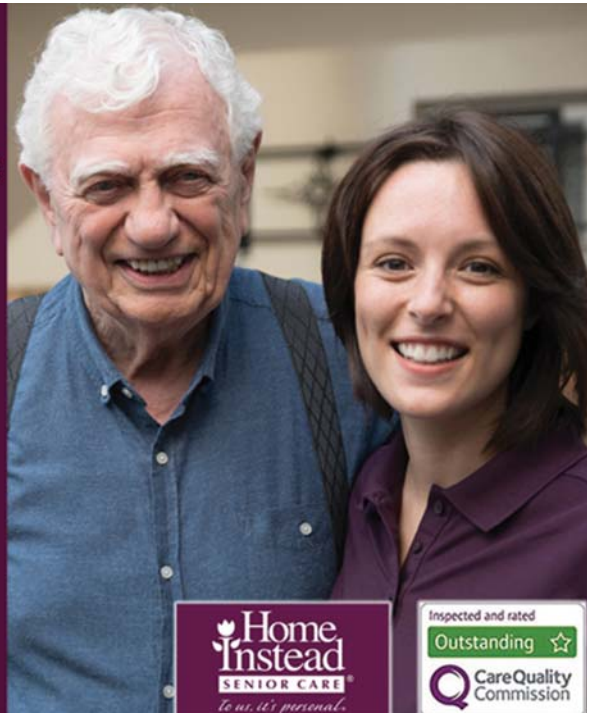
To sponsor the floodlighting, please collect a form from the Church or from the Lighthouse Bookshop, or fill in the electronic form at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk If your dedication misses the copy deadline it will always appear in a later edition.

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

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Highworth Churches Together are four churches united through friendship, faith and a desire to support and bless our community.

Looking for a church in Highworth?

Highworth United Reformed Church

High Street SN6 7AG

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bryanelk90@gmail.com
www.highworthurc.org.uk

Highworth Methodist Church

Vicarage Lane SN6 7DG

'Our mission is to love, worship and serve God, whilst individually we aim to know Him and make Him known.'

Meets Sundays, 10:30am and 6pm

highworthmethodistchurch@gmail.com
www.highworthmethodistchurch.org.uk

St Michael's Parish Church

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Meets Sundays, 8am and 10:15am

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Highworth Community Church

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Could your business sponsor Supermarine RFC U'13's?



Supermarine RFC Under 13's boy's rugby team is excited about its upcoming season. In the past year, the team has grown in both size and confidence and has a new coach helping the boys to achieve great results on and off the pitch.

As has been proven in many different disciplines, sport can be a game changer and there are countless examples of the ability for sport to transform lives. I know from my own experience that rugby has greatly improved my son's discipline and respect at home, as well as improving his performance at school.

With the appointment of a new coach, the team is growing in numbers, fixtures are being organised and games are being won (and lost). There is fantastic commitment from the boys as well as a great sense of team work, discipline, respect and sportsmanship. These are fantastic life skills for the boys and are skills that are still

highly valued in the workplace.

The Under 13's are hugely excited to announce their 20/21 season campaign for sponsorship. Amongst the many fundraising activities the boys themselves are undertaking (supermarket till collections, car washing, cake sales, fair stalls, sponsored park runs and much more), the team are searching for local sponsors who would display their logo on match kit. In addition, sponsors will be listed on the main Supermarine RFC website. There is an active community within the Supermarine club with hundreds of members across the 19 different groups plus visiting teams and spectators. The U13 team also travels widely across Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.

If you think you may be able to help sponsor our team please feel free to call me on 07754 607935 or via zoeprice01@gmail.com. The sponsorship challenge is being launched in March 2020, and will close by May 2020, so it would be great to talk as soon as is convenient.

Zoe Price on behalf of the Supermarine Under 13's Rugby Team



The February Highworth Business Breakfast Group meeting was held at Wrag Barn.

As always, the attendees enjoyed a lovely breakfast and open Networking as well as the 60 second introduction round where everyone has the chance to introduce themselves and their business and explain who they are looking to be introduced to.

We had a very informative presentation on Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) from Robert Curtis from Smarter Media Digital Marketing Agency. Rob told us how to make our websites findable by optimising the pages and using various tools including Google My Business. All attendees went away with a wealth of information and actions to optimise their websites.

The Star of the Month was Mark Darling

(pictured) from Mark Darling Home Tutor. I think this may have been the third time Mark has won the star for his very witty 60 second introduction; this time talking about 'mansplaining'. Mark has been involved in education, both full and part-time, since 1987. Since 2003 he has been concentrating on one-to-one tutoring. He covers Mathematics and Science as well as 'How to learn' helping pupils from year 7 up to undergraduates.



The Highworth Business Breakfast Group meeting is held monthly, on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15-8.45am. The meetings alternate between Wrag Barn, The Highworth and The Old Bakery. For more information, contact a.douglass@grosvenorconsultancy.co.uk

The Uzzells Return to The Plough

Last August the Plough acquired a new landlord. Dan Uzzell is well-known to many in our town and when the Plough's tenancy fell vacant, he was keen to snap it up.

"My Grandad ran The Plough from the early '80s to 1996," Dan told me, "so it's nice to be able to continue his legacy".

Over the past six months, Dan has worked hard to put his own stamp on the pub, adding a juke box and TV to screen sports matches, replacing the pool table for more seats and buying new furniture to give it a lift.

"I really want to create a warm and welcoming family atmosphere," Dan added. "A home away from home if you like. I have the fire in winter



and I'm working on creating a BBQ area outside for the summer. We have seven darts teams at present as well as the regular events such as live music and a pub quiz every Sunday night. But I also like to keep my customers on their toes and I will spontaneously organise spot quizzes sometimes on random subjects.

"It's hard work running a pub," Dan explained. "But actually, I don't mind the long hours. I have a good core of regular customers and seeing the smiles on their faces makes

it all worthwhile. I have plenty of plans for the future such as providing real pub food and reinvigorating the garden area. I couldn't imagine doing any other job."



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From our MP

In recent months there have been a number of new speculative developments proposed around Blunsdon and Highworth.

Whilst we support the need for new homes, it is vital that development is delivered in a co-ordinated manner. The key for any new development is that it has to be linked to improved local infrastructure, services and facilities and that they are delivered either at the same time or before.

The Government allows local communities to control development through their own Local Plan. This is where the Local Authority allocates land for development, setting the timings and, crucially, the delivery of the improved local infrastructure, services and facilities. If a developer seeks to build outside of the agreed areas, then the Local Authority can reject those applications for any reason. However, the Local Plan is only in place if the proposed houses are delivered. In the case of Swindon, the delays to the houses proposed in the Eastern Development Area and Wichlestone have seen the Local Plan fall. This has allowed Developers to put in applications for development outside the areas designated in the Local Plan and they can then only be blocked on strict planning rules.

To restore the Local Plan, Swindon Borough Council has consulted on some new appropriate sites to bring up the proposed number of houses being built and the Government has provided significant funding to help unlock the Eastern Development Area and Wichlestone developments. This includes the £21m for the White Hart Roundabout upgrades with works now beginning; crucial for the Eastern Development Area.

Whilst this work continues, we have remained vulnerable to the speculative developments. However, as explained, this isn't a carte blanche free-for-all for the developers, as any application must still meet strict planning conditions. The key concern is whether existing roads can handle additional capacity for which there are strict rules that are determined and Highways England have the power to step in.

Therefore, myself and Cllr Maureen Penny (Lead



Meeting with Highways England

Member for Highways) met with Highways England to discuss concerns around the Blunsdon Cold Harbour junction capacity issues and the wider challenges of development in Highworth.

1. They are working on proposals for future improvements on both sides of the A419 to address the Cold Harbour junction capacity issues and they are looking at the impact of developments in Highworth. Cllr Maureen Penny and I both fully support this work.
2. They share our concerns about the various speculative developments proposed for Blunsdon and Highworth. They agree that these should be paused until works to increase capacity at the junction are addressed. Highways England have been formally registering this on the various applications. This could allow any developments to be paused until the road infrastructure issues are addressed.

Cllr Maureen Penny and I were greatly encouraged that they were taking these issues seriously and are already actively working on potential (and much needed) improvements.

MPs Office, First Floor, Customer Service Hub,
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Extracts from the minutes of a meeting of Highworth Town Council on 18th February 2020

81. MATTERS ARISING Minute 73a. Swindon Borough Council (SBC) has been notified that the bin outside the Golf Shop is again overflowing. Minute 76a. Councillor P Newton-Smith has offered to investigate the licence for the dyslexia-friendly font once he is provided with the name of it. Minute 76e. It was reported that the property in the High Street appears better presented since a letter was sent to the Conservation Officer.

84. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES b. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) – Cllr Gardiner reported that proposed projects for 2020 include a Christmas Lunch for lonely residents, a Memory Garden opposite the Rose & Crown, and the 'Men's Shed' idea. A letter is to be written to the Clerk asking to make the garden a more usable and genteel space and potentially to lock it. c. Highworth Action for Fair Trade (HAFFT) – Cllr Smith reported that in order to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Fair Trade it is looking to pay for the floodlights on the Church. There is also to be a celebration at the Co-operative store.

85. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS a. Cllr Wolfensohn - Although there is an opinion that the Town Garden at the Green would benefit from having lower walls to make it more visible, the Conservation Officer was adamant that they remain at the current height. b. Cllr Saunders - The Swindon Cycle Campaign is to meet at the Community Centre on Monday 2 March at 7.30pm. Cllr Penny to be in attendance. c. Cllr Williams - Cllr Newton-Smith advised that the Church has already been approached with the request to floodlight the tower downwards rather than from the ground upwards. Because of the construction of the building, it is not possible to do so. d. Cllr Evans - After a meeting with the Church 'Tommy 2' is to be sited near the War Memorial. e. Cllr Gardiner - The new draft lease for the Lower Rec has been agreed by HTC and returned to SBC to produce the final document for signing. It is not possible to give a forecast of when this will happen as the process is firmly in the hands of SBC.

The complete minutes from the Highworth Town Council meetings can be viewed online at www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk/full-councilmisc/

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

EVENTS LISTINGS

Just before we went to press, the Government announced new measures that would eliminate many gatherings. If you are planning a visit we advise you to contact the organisers first.

BLUNSDON

**Blunsdon Village Fête,
Saturday 9th
May 2020, 12-
4pm**

When VE Day dawns on 8th May it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the Second World War in Europe. The 75th

Anniversary will provide an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of the people who fought for this Country during WWII. To commemorate this day, the Parish Council has agreed to follow the national celebrations and at 3pm a Piper and Drummer will play 'The Battle's O'er', followed by a bugler playing 'The Last Post' at the War Memorial to honour the Fallen. Later at 7pm the bells of St Leonard's Church will perform 'Ringing out for Peace'.

On the Saturday 9th May the Fête will be a fundraising event for SSAFA, the armed forces Charity, who are holding many events over the weekend to commemorate and celebrate VE75 Day.

We are planning a traditional village fête at the Recreation ground in Blunsdon which we hope will be a fun-filled event and will include maypole dancing, beer tent and food stalls and a raffle with some amazing prizes. There will be many stalls including face painting, several tombolas, crafts, games and a fancy dress competition for children and live entertainment, vintage military vehicles and so much more.



The Blunsdon Fête Planning Committee

parking will be at either the Cold Harbour Pub or Blunsdon House Hotel with a treasure hunt from there to the Fête. There will be an entry fee of £1 for adults and 50p for children.

We look forward to seeing everyone joining in and making this event a success. If you want to help or take part please contact us on blunsdonvillagefete@gmail.com

BUSCOT

**Buscot Village NT Easter Egg Hunt:
Friday 10th, Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th
and Monday 13th April from 11am-3pm.**

Join us on our nature-themed Easter trail around the River Thames at Buscot village. £3 per trail, no booking required.

COLESHILL

National Trust Events:

**Coleshill Mill and Replica Bunker open
afternoon: Sunday 12th April, 2pm-5pm:**

Ever wondered how grain is turned into flour? Visit our restored mill at Coleshill and find out

Over the Bank Holiday weekend (8th-10th May) there will be a 'Scarecrow Trail' featuring 'The Best of British.'

We are hoping to make this a successful fundraising event for the VE Day and the SSAFA Charity so please come along and join in the fun. Main

more. You can also explore our replica Second World War Operational Base which will be open this afternoon. Admission charges apply.

Coleshill Critters: Tuesdays from **21st April-19th May**, 10.30am-11.30am: Our pre-school toddler group Coleshill Critters is all about inspirational play, muddy puddles and a deep-rooted connection to the natural world. Each week we will explore the seasonal changes in the natural world through story, song, creative play and sensory exploration. £25 for 5 sessions.

Coleshill History tea talk: Thursday 23rd April, 2-4.30pm. Join us for our first afternoon tea talk about the history of the Coleshill House and the surrounding Coleshill village. Hear about the story of an architectural masterpiece and its surrounding working estate. Including a hot drink and cake. £12.

Using hot limes course: For builders and specifiers, **Monday 27th April** 9am-4.30pm: Brush up on your conservation skills and learn more about how you can use hot lime mortar on our one-day course this spring. This course is aimed at a building professional or a homeowner with a passion for the conservation of listed and historical buildings. Either way, you'll already have a basic knowledge of lime and its applications, but you'd like to learn more about hot mixing and application to add to your collection of skills. £110.

Booking essential. For more info or to book any of the above T: 03442 491895, or online www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-buscot-and-coleshill-estates

CRICKLADE

A Musical in a day - JERUSALEM JOY

A team from CMM will be coming to Cricklade United Church on **Saturday 4th April** to run a scratch musical in a day. The musical will be Jerusalem Joy and the team will provide the conductor and the musicians. Singers and participants are needed to come along and join in. Jerusalem Joy books and music will be available. CMM will also be running a bookstall with their publications and CD/DVD releases including copies of Jerusalem Joy if people would prefer to purchase their own. This is a fun event, suitable for all ages and all levels of musical ability and none.

The day will start with coffee available from 10am and workshops will commence at 11.15am and will culminate with a performance of Jerusalem Joy at 6pm in the early evening. Further information is available from Mary 01793 751020, Ray 01793 750712 or Phillipa 01793 750556.

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee refreshments will be available all day. £5 participants charge to help defray expenses - free for under 18's.

Jerusalem Joy is a musical telling the Easter story from Palm Sunday to the resurrection. It comprises 13 songs and lasts approximately 45 minutes with narration. The Soloists provided by CMM are Jesus (main rôle), Pilate, Caiaphas, Herod, Judas, plus other small solos and the accompanying choir.

For more info visit www.cmm.org.uk or Facebook: [Christian Music Ministries](#)

Cat Show

There will be a Championship Cat Show at Cricklade Town Hall, High St., Cricklade, on **Saturday 18th April**. The hall will be open from 12.30-4pm. There will be pedigree and non-pedigree cats, good food/refreshments, an auction (not cats!), lots of very varied stalls and a raffle. There really is something for everyone, not just for cat-lovers. Don't miss this show. It's fun. Adults £2, concessions £1. Enquiries T: 01945 780027.

FAIRFORD

Choral Summer Concert

Fairford and District Choral Society's summer concert is at 7.30pm on **Saturday 9th May** at St Mary's Church, Fairford. Along with professional soloists, the choir will be performing Faure's Requiem and Gounod's Messe Solennelle St Cecilia. The musical director is Marysia Gorska-Saj. Tickets cost £15 and are available from Fairford Opticians from 1st April.

FARINGDON

Faringdon Folly Tower and Woodland

This unique 100ft tower is Faringdon's icon and the last major folly to be built in England. It sits on Folly Hill, within a charming woodland of splendid Scots Pine, some more than 200 years

old. It offers fantastic views over five counties (Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire).

Visit the site and find out about the history of Folly Hill, Henry James Pye, Oliver Cromwell and the very eccentric Lord Berners (the creator of the tower), seek out 24 black birds, Cromwell's cannon, the fairly useless bridge, a giraffe and the many birds and animal sculptures lurking among the trees.

The Folly Tower is open from April to October on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, 11am-5pm. Adults £3, 11-16 years £1, under 11s free. The woodland is always open and entry is free. The Tower is also available for private bookings.



The Tower and Woodland are privately owned by the Faringdon Folly Tower Trust. Charity No. 284795. It is not public land but we allow the general public to have permissive access. The best place for access is a footpath from the Stanford Road (the nearest post code is SN78EP). It is a 10 minute walk from Faringdon's historic market place where refreshments are available, and 2 hours free parking.

For info visit www.faringdonfolly.org.uk,
[facebook.com/FaringdonFolly](https://www.facebook.com/FaringdonFolly),
 E: enquiries@faringdonfolly.org.uk,
 T: 0845 475 8386

Faringdon Regent Cinema

Faringdon Regent Cinema is pleased to announce it will be showing the following films in April:

Weds 1st April: The Good Liar

Consummate con man Roy Courtney has set his sights on his latest mark: the recently widowed Betty McLeish, worth millions. But this time, what should have been a simple swindle escalates into a cat-and-mouse game with the ultimate stakes



Film duration: 1 hour 49 mins (no interval)

Matinee Club: Doors open 12.30pm, film starts at 1pm. Free tea/coffee and a biscuit. Tickets in advance £4/£5 on the door. Matinee Club Membership £24 for 12 films (inc half price pre-booked Blockbuster evening cinema tickets)

Wednesday 15th April: Frozen 2 (U)

Anna, Elsa, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven leave Arendelle to travel to an ancient, autumn-bound forest of an enchanted land. They set out to find the origin of Elsa's powers in order to save their kingdom.



Stars: Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad

Film duration: 1hr 43 min (plus 15 min interval)

Kids Cinema: Doors open 1.30pm, films starts 2pm. Tickets in advance £3 U18s, £4 Adult, £10 Family / Tickets on door £4 U18s, £5 Adult, £11 Family

Friday 24th April: Knives Out (12A)

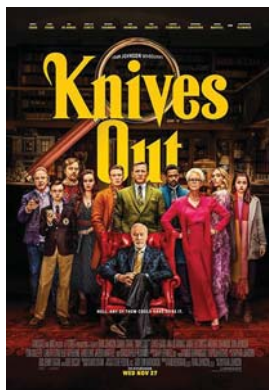
A detective investigates the death of a patriarch of an eccentric, combative family

Film duration: 2hrs 11 mins plus 15 min interval

Blockbuster: Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm Tickets in advance £3 U18s, £4 Adult, £10 Family / Tickets on door £4 U18s, £5 Adult, £11 Family

For more info or to join the mailing list, visit www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/regent-cinema-2. Tickets can

be bought in advance from Faringdon Information Centre, 5 Market Square, Faringdon SN7 7HL



Faringdon and District U3A, Thursday 9th April

The April session will start with the Annual General Meeting at 2.30pm which will be short, sharp and to the point. It will be followed by a talk by Bernard Purrier who will talk about 'Whales and Dolphins – A Look into their World'. Bernard will provide lots of fascinating facts, provide a look at their evolution, their behaviours linked to their advanced intelligence, the ways in which they have adapted to their environment and the increasing threats to their habitats which threaten their ultimate survival. After this, refreshments will follow with tea and cakes which are available to everyone. All members are welcome but visitors are required to contribute £1.50. Further details can be found at <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/> or by contacting chairman Margaret Brown on 01367 615385.

LECHLADE

Lechlade Community Library

Firstly it is with sadness that we report the passing of Gill Coupe who was a Volunteer Librarian and an excellent team player in this dynamic team. We send our condolences to her family. She will be sadly missed.

Our volunteers have been undergoing training on a new Library system being introduced throughout the Gloucestershire Libraries which will replace our current systems. This has been challenging but the volunteers, as usual, have risen to the change. This does mean that new

books have not been added to the shelves for the month of March.

Lastly, it has been decided to close Lechlade Community Library from 1pm Tuesday 17/3/2020 to protect our staff and customers during the Corona virus epidemic. The decision has not been taken lightly and we have been monitoring the advice of the Government, Chief Medical and Scientific Officers as well as local concern. We know it will cause some inconvenience but we have to be community aware and consider everyone's welfare.

If you have books or videos out and they come to the end of their loan you can do one of two things.

1. Drop them through the door. They will be recorded as returned.
2. Renew them online through the Gloucestershire Libraries website.

If you have no books but wish to read something during this enforced period why not get the 'rb digital' app which is free and will give you access to e books, magazines and much more. Recommend it to your friends. It is not the same as having a book in your hand but needs must.

If you have posters for an event that is still going on put them through the door and we will endeavour to display them. If you have a poster on display and the event is now cancelled please put a note through the door to that effect.

If you have booked the window for a future event we will endeavour to honour that booking. If you are cancelling your request please put a note through the door.

From all the Directors we hope you all keep well and look forward to normality in the future.

Lechlade Community Directors 17/3/2020

Songs, Sketches & Socks!

Last October, Lechlade Memorial Hall welcomed The Foundry Theatre Group for a performance of 'Those Magnificent Men'. A packed hall was treated to a fun, creative and entertaining evening. In fact it was so good we're putting on another show, again working in conjunction with Arts in Rural Gloucestershire (Air in G).

This time a production entitled, Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppets do Shakespeare, will be amusing us



with a show described by them as 'songs, sketches, socks and violence taking on the Bard of Avon!' To be or not to be... a sock. The Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre has been a fixture at the Edinburgh Fringe for years and the joke's not worn out yet.

A review in The Scotsman suggests that we are in for some fun. It describes two singing socks ready to don a ruff at a moment's notice in order to make up for Shakespeare's lack of laughs in his plays. Whether they're laugh-out-loud or groanworthy, the gags are studiously silly! It's a common claim that, were William Shakespeare alive today, he'd be writing for EastEnders but he wouldn't be, he'd be heading for an evening out watching this show.

This show is most suitable for those aged over twelve years and comes highly recommended, so put the date in your diary now. You can watch it on **Saturday 18th April** in Lechlade Memorial Hall. Doors open 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm. There will be a cash bar and hot drinks on sale. Tickets are £10 (price set by AIR in G). Look out for details of where you can buy them nearer the time around Lechlade and on facebook.

Marian Winckles

Lechlade Gardening Club

For our meeting on **Wednesday 8th April** our speaker will be Jim Teague, an experienced grower, nurseryman and plant buyer, who will give a practical talk on new and unusual plants from the Garden Centre. His talk is called 'What's in Store, current season, and what to buy, old and new.' He will bring plants for sale.

Our usual meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the New Memorial Hall Lechlade. Membership is £5 per person per annum, after which it is £2 to attend each meeting, or £3 for Visitors who are always

most welcome. Membership entitles you to 50% off Suttons seeds and 15% on other items. Also 10% off plants at Burford and Bampton Garden Centres if plants are not already discounted. Current membership cards must be shown at the checkouts.

For info contact 01367 253309 or 252286 or any member of the committee.

Success for Lechlade eco-friendly business

The Fairford and Lechlade Business Club Business of the year winner was Lechlade's 'Fabulous Partyware'.

The business was started just five years ago by Hayley Bryon who was delighted with this award. She explained that in the beginning she just had an on-line presence but needed premises so recently opened a shop in Lechlade. She says that 85% of her business is still from the Internet. She quotes her internet site saying that her aim is to create fabulous parties with balloons, party favours (e.g. personalised sweet cones), banners, etc. but at the same time being kind to the environment.



Hayley proudly displays her award outside her shop

As with 21st century life, the shop appears to be full of bright colours and dazzling decorations but Hayley is very conscious of the push for responsible use of plastic and foil by re-using and recycling. Fabulous Partyware uses ALL recyclable packaging for the online orders such as cardboard bubble wrap and Kraft tape. In addition to this, the latex balloons she supplies are also biodegradable. She has even managed to source biodegradable glitter for the Lechlade Festival.

Margaret Hing

Lechlade Community Cinema

Lechlade Community Cinema are proud to present 'Knives Out' (Cert 12A) on **Sunday 19th April**.

When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey dies just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc arrives at his estate to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Thrombey's untimely demise.

Doors open 7pm for refreshments, film starts 7.30pm in Lechlade Memorial Hall. Tickets cost £3.50 which includes a 50p voluntary donation to the charity which is responsible for Lechlade Memorial Hall.

Lechlade Art Society

Graham Cox gave a fascinating and very professional demonstration to members of the Lechlade Art Society in February. He produced two finished pictures in less than two hours. He began by explaining that quality materials are important, he would be using Canson grey paper, Caran D'ache pastel pencils, Rembrandt soft pastels (selecting just 14 colours out of a box of 96), acid free tissue paper (useful as a palm rest for intricate work) and a good set of blender tools.

The result was a moody image with accurate colouring but also some sharp detail in the foreground. This expert demonstration enthralled a very quiet audience of 35 members and guests with many tips and innovative techniques for the use of pastels and making it all look very easy, which of course it is not.

The Society will next welcome Bill Mather who



will demonstrate 'Landscapes in Three Colours (Acrylic)' on **Tuesday 21st April**, 2-4pm. Ours is a thriving group with an active membership. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Margaret Hing

Lechlade History Society

On **Monday 20th April** our talk will be 'A Journey to Barbados and Back in 1803'. The speaker is Peter Covey-Crump. Doors open 7.15pm for 7.30pm start in the Memorial Hall. Guests welcome £4. Contact Marian Winckles, T: 01367 252851, www.lechladehistory.co.uk. Please note early start time.

Ballroom and Latin American dancing

Learn to dance with friendly, experienced teachers whose aim is to make dancing fun. Classes in Burford (Warwick Hall) on Tuesday evenings, Lechlade Memorial Hall on Wednesday evenings, Wanborough on Thursday evenings and Cricklade on Sunday afternoons. Private lessons also available. Contact Simon Paul for more details. 01367 253633 or go to www.thameschoolofdancing.co.uk

SOUTH MARSTON

South Marston Gardening Club

On **Monday 6th April** Lyn Blythe will give a talk entitled 'Herbal Remedies from your Garden'. Come along and learn about the medicinal uses for the plants in your garden. Many well-known plants just outside your back door have been used for generations as remedies for a multitude of ailments. They have been used to aid memory, settle an upset stomach, fight infection, heal wounds, calm nerves, help a headache, promote sleep and much more. There will be time for

questions too.

We meet at South Marston Village Hall, 7.30-9.30pm. Parking available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school. Cost £3 on the door or £12 full membership. A warm welcome awaits you along with tea and coffee. For more info visit <https://southmarston.org.uk/clubs-activities/gardening-club/> or contact Angela Newton, M: 07789 068340.

Shrivenham Golf Club

At the end of March, the captain for the men's section and the lady captain drove into office at Shrivenham Park and we wish them well for this year and at the same time thank the retiring captains for all that they have done and brought to the club during this past year.

Social Putting has begun on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month between 2-4pm. Everyone is welcome to come to the Putting Green wearing flat-soled shoes and have a putting session of 9 or 18 holes on the Putting Green for £2 including a hot drink. You can even come and take in the wonderful scenery and watch others if you don't wish to take part. All necessary equipment will be available.

An Easter tea will take place on Easter Saturday from 2-4pm at £3 per person and a book stall and putting will be on offer. Donations of books would be gratefully received as will donations for the books that you wish to purchase.

Both the men's and ladies' Daily Mail pairs were given a bye in the first round of the Daily Mail competition. Results of this and other competitions will be given next month.

Carole

STANTON FITZWARREN

Every Cloud Arts & Crafts at Stanton Country Park

If you love looking at art, want to relax over a cup of tea, or feel the joy of being creative yourself, you will receive a warm welcome at Every Cloud this April.

The tea-room will be open Thursdays 10am-12noon, Saturdays 10am-1pm and Sundays 10am-2pm. We will also be running the following sessions:

Saturday 4th April: family workshop for ages 8-

80 to come together to the Farmhouse between 2-4pm to create flowers and butterflies using wire, tissue and fabric. £5pp. Please book your place on 07796 530560 or via our Facebook page.



Easter

Sunday: Family nature trail with a chocolate treat for finding all the clues. The trail can be collected from the Farmhouse between 10-11.30am. This event is free.

Easter Sunday: Tools for Self- Reliance is hosting its annual refurbished Tool Sale in the Courtyard between 10am-3pm. Come along and find the gardening or DIY tool you have always wanted for a small donation. The proceeds of the day are used to help meet the shipping cost of tool kits and training to where they have been requested by rural communities across Africa.

Saturday 25th April: Unleash your creative side in a new workshop for adults 'Playing with Paint' using watercolours, acrylics and ink. Have fun in a relaxed and sociable environment. £25pp.

Sunday 3rd May: Free Family May Day event between 10am-12.30pm which will include children's theatre, craft activities and a fairy trail. This event was been sponsored by the National Lottery in celebration of 25 years.

For further information please visit our facebook page or website or T: 07796 530560.

UFFINGTON

White Horse Hill NT Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April from 11am-3pm.

Join us on our nature themed Easter egg hunt around White Horse Hill. £3 per trail, no booking required.

What's on in Highworth Library in April

Rhymetime for under 3s: every Tuesday 10.30am

Storytime for under 5s: every Thursday 10.30am

Job Club: every Tuesday 10-11am

Highworth Credit Union: every Tuesday
10am-12noon and Saturday 10-11am

Monthly Genealogy Group: Tuesday 14th April,
10am-12noon

Reading Groups: monthly adult reading groups
meet on Tuesday morning and afternoon, and
Friday evenings. Ask at the Library desk for
details.

CAP: free debt counselling. Drop-in sessions. Every
other Tuesday. Please ask at Library desk for details.

Lego Club: Fridays 4.30-5.30pm. For children aged 6
years and older. Ask at the Library desk for dates
and to book a space.

Wiltshire Sight: sight loss advisor in the library 3rd
Thursday of every month 10am-12noon. Just drop
in or call 01380 723 682, or email
louise.kutzner@wiltshiresight.org for more
information. The next session is on 16th April.

Introducing Solid Food Workshops: 3rd Tuesday of
every month 1-2pm. You do need to book for these
by phoning your health visiting team on 01793
465050. Next session is on 21st April.

Community Policing Surgery: PCSO Jocasta Bennett
arranges surgeries in the Library for residents to
discuss any concerns or issues with her. Please ask at
Library desk for dates.

Staffed hours at the Library

The Library will be staffed at the following times:

Monday	10am-4pm
Tuesday	10am-6pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	9am-4pm
Friday	12noon-6pm
Saturday	10am-1pm
Sunday	CLOSED

**Extended Access to the Library during unstaffed
hours 8am-8pm is available.** Please ask a member
of staff for more details.

Highworth Library 01793 463500

HIGHWORTH RECREATION GROUND
GATES OPEN 2PM - 10.30PM

WRDE UP

HIGHWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

11 JULY 2020

THE ONE LOVE ORCHESTRA

FT CUTFY WILLIAMS, PAY HOMAGE TO BOB MARLEY

BANDS • SILENT DISCO • KIDS ZONE • FUNFAIR • BAR & FOOD

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
HIGHWORTH EMPORIUM OR ON OUR WEBSITE

EARLY BIRD - £14 ON THE DAY - £20
ADVANCE - £17 UNDER 18 - FREE

WWW.WRDEUP.ORG.UK

PLUS: A TOUCH OF LITTLE MIX

Deadline for contribution is 1st day of each month except July and December.

To have your group entered in 'What's On Weekly' please use the diary at the library, email: advertising@highworthlink.co.uk or contact us via our website at www.highworthlink.co.uk

MARKETS AND EVENTS

Highworth Coffee Morning for Prospect Hospice Thur 10.30-11.30am at United Reformed Church

Coffee Morning Every Sat 10am-12noon in St Michael's Church Room - serving Fairtrade Coffee and Tea - raising funds for specific charities. There is also, on the 1st Sat of the month, a Family Drop-In serving bacon rolls as well as the usual coffee and tea with fun and games and a get together for families. All are very welcome - info Church Office 762702

Lunch Together meets fortnightly on the first Wednesday every month at the Methodist Church and the third Wednesday at the Community Centre, Northview. Transport available. Please phone to book a place. Mary Swaffield 861173

Cats Protection Podium Sale Sat 18th April - 9am-2pm. A good mix of items on sale

Highworth Market Sat 9am-2pm

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Toddler Trampolining Mon 10am at The Rec - Call 762602 to book a space

Breastmates Mon 9.30-11.30am at the Methodist Church info 762341

878 (Highworth) Squadron ATC Mon 7.30-9.30pm - We parade at The Squadron in Newburgh Place - all aged 13-17 are welcome - info oc.878@aircadets.org

Rhyme Time for under 3s Tue 10.30am - Highworth Library 463500

Nursery Rhymes Wed 11am-11.30am at The Bridge (for under 5's accompanied by a parent/carer) - for more info contact Jon Hares 07701 303760

Tots'n'Toddlers Wed (In term time) 9-11am - South Marston Village Hall - Rachel Case 832719

Storytime and Rhymetime Pre-school sing-a-long Wed 11.30-12noon. Info. Lechlade Library - 01367 252631

Junior Trampolining Wed 3.30pm at The Rec - Call 762602 to book a space

878 (Highworth) Squadron ATC Wed 7.30-9.30pm - We parade at The Squadron in Newburgh Place - all aged from 12-17 are welcome - info oc.878@aircadets.org

Little Treasures Toddler Group Thur (term time) 9.45-11.15am Room 12, Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers. Follow on Little Treasures Facebook page or contact Lesley 07881 208528 or The Bridge 01793 765060

Storytime for under 5s Thur 10.30am - Highworth Library 01793 463500

Shake Rattle & Roll Tue 9.30-11am (Term time only) - Fun singing and play group for pre-schoolers. In room 1 at the Highworth Community Centre - info 07779 505077 or follow on Facebook Carole Farmer's Groups for Families with Young Children

Monday Fun Time 9.30-11am (term time only) Play group for children under 5. In the main hall, Highworth Community Centre - info 07779 505077 or follow on Facebook Carole Farmer's Groups for Families with Young Children

Toddler Splash Thur 11.15am at The Rec - Call 762602 to book a space

Tiny Tots Football Thur 1pm at The Rec - contact STFC. Tel. 07919 112982 to book a space

Highworth and Blunsdon Mothers' Union - Fourth Thursday of month (not Dec and Aug), 10am - St Michael's Church Room - Madeleine 766088

Jam Club Fri 9.30-11.15am Baby & Toddler Group - Methodist Church - info 763359

Family Drop-in First Sat of Month 9.30am-11.30am at St Michael's Church - bacon sandwiches - newspapers and coffee - games and craft for children - info. Church Office 762702

Messy Family Fun 4th Sun 3.30-5.30pm at Highworth Methodist Church

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Buscot Park Archers Buscot Park Archery Range -info www.buscotparkarchers.org.uk

Highworth Town Junior Football club Sat mornings at the Lower Rec Fields - Ages 4+ - call Mark 763160 www.highworthtownjuniorssc.co.uk

Pilates Mon 1.30-2.30pm or 2.30-3.30pm. Highworth Community Centre - admission £5 - info Lisa 07814 264562

Physiotherapy-led exercise for the over-60s every Tuesday 11.15am-12.15pm, Shrivenham Memorial Hall, contact Emma 07789 595754 for more information. All exercises sitting and standing

Table Tennis Saturday 10.30-12noon at The Methodist Church. Refreshments. All welcome.

Zumba Gold Tue 1-1.45pm (Slower paced low impact) - Highworth Community Ctr - info. Lorna 07582 612778

Highworth Amateur Swimming Club Tue 7-8pm & Thur 6-8.30pm membership@highworthasc.co.uk

Fitsteps Tue 7.30pm - Great fun, great way to exercise, dance yourself fit! First session FREE. Come and try it out at Lechlade Pavilion - Experience not necessary - info Sharon Wilson 07769 229084

Shrivenham Bowls Club Tue throughout the winter months, eyes down at 7.45pm for cash bingo in the clubhouse - info Roy Dixon 01793 782005

Highworth & Swindon Walking Club - Wed & Sun - for full programme visit our website <http://highworthandswindonwalkingclub.btck.co.uk/> or contact the Communication Officer, Mary Hewitt on 01793 780039

Fitsteps Wed 10am - Great fun, great way to exercise, dance yourself fit! First session FREE. Come and try it out at Lechlade Pavilion - Experience not necessary - info Sharon Wilson 07769 229084

Walking Football 50+ Thur 11am-12noon at The Rec - £2 a session - just turn up

Walking Football 50+ Mon 12.30am at The Rec £2 a session - just turn up

Walking Netball 50+ Thur 10-11am at the Rec. £2 per session. Although aimed at the 50+, ladies of all ages are welcome. It's a fun and gentle way to get some exercise and make new friends. No previous netball experience is necessary. Info. elainelloyd40@gmail.com

Highworth Running Club Wed 6pm (Beginners) and 7pm, meet outside Vorda Playgroup, Brewery Street

Scottish Country Dancing Club Thur (term time) 7.30pm - Lechlade New Memorial Hall (from September 13th) - Margaret Godfrey 01367 252581

Pilates Classes Thur 6pm - Lechlade Methodist Hall - Stott Instructor - 07773 080125

Gymnastics (4+) & Trampolining (8+) Fri 3.30pm at The Rec - call 762602 to book a space

Leisure Badminton Thurs 8-9.30pm at Highworth Warneford School. £5. All levels, all ages. Focus on fitness and fun. Just turn up or for more details call Graham Seeley on 07769 703702

Highworth DA Badminton Club Tues & Fri 8-10pm - at Warneford School Sports Hall - Social & League Badminton - first visit is free of charge - info racketbag72@gmail.com

Highworth Tennis Courts Fri 9.30-11am - Adult 'Drills & Skills' - pay as you go - improve your basic and team play with an LTA coach! - members/non members - <http://www.htc.org.uk/Coaching.html>

Junior Golf Fri 9.30am-12.30pm - Blunsdon House Hotel - Marc 07876 684645

Tea Dance Fri 1.30-3.30pm - Highworth Recreation Centre - No partner required - from £3.15 - Swindon Card Concession 1 - 762602

Highworth Tennis Courts Fri 7-9pm - Club Social Session - Members/non-members - three free visits before we talk membership - 07834 088038

Highworth Tennis Courts Sat 10am-12pm, Junior Coaching - info 07834 088038
<http://www.htc.org.uk/Coaching.html>

THE ARTS

Highworth Amateur Dramatics Society Mon 7.30-9.30pm (Rehearsals) - at Highworth Community Centre - info. hadshighworth@gmail.com

Highworth Choral Society Mon 7.30-9.30pm - rehearsals - Methodist Church - Tel: Brenda - 725928

Methodist Church Craft Group Third Tuesday of month, 10am-2pm - at Highworth Methodist Hall - Trisha 763453 or Val 07932 437416

TATT (Tunes at The Trout) Second Tuesday of Month, 8pm at The Trout Inn Lechlade. Fun Folk Music - Come and join in or listen - Free Admission - info Ian Andrews pesthouse@btinternet.com

The Regent Cinema - (Matinee Club) First Wednesday of month. Doors open 12noon - The Corn Exchange Faringdon - for details call information centre 01367 242191 www.visitfaringdon.info/cinema email tic@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Community Choir Faringdon Wed (In term time) 7-8.30pm - Ferndale School Hall Bromsgrove - £2.50 per session. Wide range of music led by Louise Woodgate - info genewebb@rocketmail.com or 01367 242222

White Horse Folk Club First and Third Wednesday of month, 8pm at St Michael's Church Room Highworth - Info Derrick 01793 762070 or Geoff 01793 706753

Community Voices Second and fourth Wednesday of month 7-8pm at Lechlade Baptist Church £2 - Why not come and join us? Contact Moira Cima on 01285 821935

Highworth Songsters Thur 10.30am-12.30pm - at Methodist Church - enquiries to Eira 762786 or Marjorie 762536

Kingsdown Woodcarvers Thur 7-9pm at Kingsdown School - from beginners to very clever people - tools and advice available - info Wayne 533720 or Nikki King 07525 245219

Highworth Silver Band Thur 7.30-9.30pm - Rehearsals at the Band Hall, Lechlade Road - Mark 07526 704914 email Highworth.SB@gmail.com
www.http://highworthsilverband.org

Highworth Floral Art Society First Thursday of month except Jan and Aug, 7.30pm - Barbara 762697 or Michelle 827545

The Regent Cinema - Last Friday of month. Doors open 7pm - The Corn Exchange, Faringdon - info 01367 242191 www.visitfaringdon.info/cinema email tic@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk

River Folk Acoustic Second and last Friday of month, 8pm - £2 at the Trout Inn - jaymathews124@mac.com or 01367 860869

Shades of Silver - Jazz 8.30pm. 1 Westrop (The Highworth) every 2nd Monday of month - Free entry

SOCIAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Highworth Ukulele Club - We meet in the afternoon on every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. If you can play or want to play, come and join us. For more details email highworthukuleleclub@gmail.com or contact 01793 764522

Oxfordshire Grandparents Support Group Second Tue of month, for grandparents estranged from their grandchildren. Meetings over coffee and cake are held in Faringdon - 10.30-12.30pm. Contact Diana Dunk 01367 244636 or visit oxfordshiregsg@gmail.com

The Rotary Club of Swindon North Mon (other than the 5th Monday in each month) 6.15pm - Blunsdon House Hotel - call Terry on 762669 or Alan on 762914 or www.rotaryswindonnorth.org.uk

Fitness Classes all week starting at 9am at The Rec - for full weekly programme call 762602 or www.highworthrec.co.uk

Slimming World Highworth Thurs start times 5.30pm and 7.30pm at Highworth Recreation Centre SN6 7DD - Louise Preece 07717 681939. Fri 9.30am at Highworth Community Centre - contact Jo 07815 838944

FL – Exercise classes Wed 9.45-11.15am in St Michael's Church Hall – Classes graded to suit all abilities but particularly for the more mature lady looking to improve her fitness and make new friends - for more info contact Kathy Kirk 01993 882350 or Kathy.kirk@live.com

Highworth Historical Society Last Monday of Month except December and June - August incl, 7.30pm - United Reformed Church - Guests welcome £3. Contact Christine on 764811 or visit www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk

The Royal British Legion First Monday of Month, 7.30pm - The King and Queen

Highworth & District Lions Second Monday of Month, 7.30pm - Blunsdon House Hotel - Rosemary 0845 8339831

Highworth Gardening Club Third Monday of Month, 7.30pm - St Michael's Hall - for full programme call Norman Jeffery 762805

Lechlade History Society 3rd Monday of month, 7.15 for 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Guests welcome £4. Contact Alan Garnell 01367 253087 or visit www.lechladehistory.co.uk

Highworth United Charities - meet usually on Second Tuesday of Month to consider applications for funding

Highworth and District Probus Club Alternate Tuesday mornings, at The Cold Harbour - Blunsdon - new members welcome - info Clive 01793 721595

Family History Group Second Tuesday of Month, 10am - Highworth Library 463500

Highworth Methodist Church Bridge Club Tuesday, 2-4pm. All are welcome. Call 764350 for info

Highworth Camera Club Second Tuesday of Month, 7.30pm - Highworth Community Centre - Info. Facebook Highworth Camera Club www.highworthcameracub.com

Shrivenham & District Gardening Club First Tuesday of Month, 7.30pm - The Vic Day Hall - Shrivenham Memorial Hall - visitors welcome - 01793 782162

Highworth Wine & Beer Circle Third Tuesday of month, 8pm - at Highworth Council Room - for more info contact D. Holden 766093

Highworth Expert Patient Programme Second Thursdays - 10.30am, meet at The Bridge, Sheep Street - email: rjmorris49@gmail.com

Highworth Afternoon Women's Institute First Wednesday of month, 2.15pm. From April we will meet at The Highworth Council Offices. For full programme call Gill Pagan 762056

Bingo Wed 8pm at 'The Goldfinger'

Defence Academy & Swindon Branch Royal Aeronautical Society First Wednesday of month, at 7pm. Information on 07740 136609 or raeswindon@gmail.com

Highworth Community Partnership Group First Wednesday of month, 7pm - call Sandra Rendall on 762197 for venue

Highworth Evening Women's Institute Second Wednesday of month, 7.30pm at Warneford School. Contact Mary Swaffield on 861173

Highworth Job Club Tuesday 10-11am - Highworth Library 463500

Swindon Carers Centre (Highworth) Group Second Thursday of month, 10.30am-12noon at Westrop Surgery

Shrivenham Women's Institute Third Thursday of Month, 7pm for 8pm start - Memorial Hall Shrivenham - Mary Hewitt 780039

Tea & Cake Afternoon for Prospect Hospice - second Wed of month - 2-4pm in St Michael's Church Room

Western Front Association 1914-18 First Sunday of Month Sept-May, 2pm Highworth venue - Contact Paul 01367 253100

Meet Jo Mitchell, your Community Funeral Director

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please email: jo.mitchell2@midcounties.coop

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(Incorporating A. E. Baker & Son)

Cardinal House, Brewery St, Highworth SN6 7AJ
T: 01793 764664
E: highworth.funeral@midcounties.coop



LOCAL CONTACTS

Police, Fire, Ambulance	Emergency	999
Police	Non-Emergency	101
NHS	Non-Emergency	111
Gas	Emergency	0800 111999
Electricity	Emergency	105
Water	Emergency	0800 3169 800
Lost Property	County Dry Cleaners	01793 766006

BUSES

Stagecoach Swindon	01793 521415
Thamesdown Transport	01793 428400
Dial-a-Ride	01793 616050
Community Transport	01793 617828
Traveline	0871 200 2233

COLLEGES

Cirencester College	01285 640994
New College	0808 172 4445
Swindon College	01793 491591

LAW & ORDER

Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Victim Supportline	0808 16 89 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2030

COUNCILS

Highworth Town Council	01793 762377
Swindon Boro. Council	01793 463000
Streetsmart	01793 445501

FIRE SAFETY

Home fire safety check	0800 389 7849
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DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS

Highworth Surgery	01793 762218
Elm Tree Surgery, (Shrivenham)	01793 782207
Great Western Hospital	01793 604020

LIBRARY

Highworth Library	01793 463500
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RECREATION

Highworth Rec	01793 762602
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PHARMACIES

Highworth Pharmacy	01793 762220
Home Farm Pharmacy	01793 861392
Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham)	01793 783336

PRESCHOOLS

Highworth Pre-school	01793 766646
Vorda Pre-School	01793 763668
Westgate Nursery	
School & Crèche	01793 861268

SCHOOLS

Eastrop Infants	01793 763772
Southfield Junior	01793 762210
Westrop Primary	01793 762897
Highworth Warneford	01793 762426

TAXIS

V Cars	01793 701701
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TRAINS

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
Great Western Railways	03457 000125
Disabled and assisted travel	08001 971329

OTHER SERVICES

Citizens Advice Bureau	08444 994114
Trading Standards (business)	0207 830 6000
Trading Standards (consumers)	03454 04 05 06
Alcohol and Drug Service	01793 695405
Pest Control	08000 988652
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)

SOMEONE IN THIS HOUSE HAS A WEAK IMMUNE SYSTEM

People with weak immune systems are more likely to catch coronavirus (COVID-19), and more likely to suffer life-threatening complications if they become ill with it.

Because of this we are self-isolating and/or practicing social distancing as a preventative measure.

**IF YOU FEEL AT ALL UNWELL OR
WE DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR,**

PLEASE LEAVE DELIVERIES



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