

HighworthLINK

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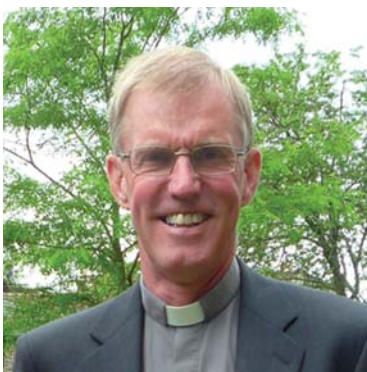
August 2020

The future

In the middle of March I had been blissfully unaware of the likely impacts of the virus until I received a picture of empty shelves of loo rolls in a Melbourne supermarket. It won't happen here I said to myself, and then of course it did; pasta, flour, yeast, we all wanted to get back control of our food supplies and of course, by implication, of our lives. We were not used to it; this was scary.

The Biblical book of Exodus tells how God rescued the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt only for them to land up in the Sinai desert. "Why rescue us if we are going to starve out here?" was their cry. We then read that God provided them with a bread substitute which was called manna and protein from quail. But crucially, the provision was for a day at a time and they were told that anything they collected for the day after would not last (the sell-by date was for the day of collection only).

Like many of us, I have been learning the real impact of Jesus' teaching not to worry about tomorrow, "because each day has enough



worries of its own". Perhaps for the first time many of us have realised we are unable to control our future. Just getting through today was the only way to cope with all the uncertainty and all the loss we have experienced.

On a particular occasion in our household some weeks after lockdown we found ourselves looking ahead, to jobs that were just not around and to

education that had been cruelly cut short. It was not a good place to go and we learned once again the wisdom of living in contentment for each day.

God did continue to provide for the people of Israel on their journey. My own experience at three particular points in my life, when the future seemed bleak as I looked ahead, was of God's faithfulness. It was provided naturally through God's timely care and foresight but also supernaturally in ways which were totally unexpected. My prayer is for each of us to experience that kind of care and provision as we face the future.

Rev. Geoff Sowden

Cover: Warneford artwork on a massive scale. A fabulous tribute to the NHS workers by Sophie in Mr Burt's tutor group.

LINK magazine

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Deadlines:

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



From the editor...

Home-schooling your own children is the hardest thing you can ever do.

I have never been so glad for the summer holidays. I trained to be a secondary school teacher 15 years ago and I have never had such a hard class to teach. The children are consistently late to class. They arrive hungry and are still in their PJ's. They question why they must tackle even the simplest of tasks and constantly show me that my maths is wrong (not because we get different answers, but because we use different solutions). The worst part is that I cannot speak to their parents or get them excluded from my class. Home-schooling has had to happen a day at a time. Some days it doesn't happen. Some days it is a battle. And then there is that odd day when they actually engage and enjoy the task set for them and I have an extra big glass of wine to celebrate.

Despite their complaints, not having to go to school is something that both kids have relished. But not being able to play and speak face-to-face

with another child has been the worst. They have both reached points where they haven't wanted to Zoom their friends anymore and so we would walk to a door where they could see and shout loudly at a friend from afar.

Home-schooling has certainly been an experience. I would like to say that I have relished having this time together, but I'm too exhausted. I would like to say it has brought us closer together, but I can't. If I could just teach or just do my work, it might be okay. Doing both together doesn't work.

I am glad that we are all safe and healthy; that we have a garden we can play in and a countryside to take walks in from our home. I am glad that we have enough food to eat, clean water to drink and enough internet for us all to watch TV in separate rooms. I am glad that lockdown saw some of the nicest weather this year. And I am glad that in September my kids will get to go back to school and hopefully will never ask to be home-schooled again.

Citizen of the Month for August: Sharon Willis

Sightings of Scooby-Doo began in early lockdown. Spotted out walking her dog, Scooby-Doo was quick to wave, smile and chat to every passer-by she encountered.

It is a brave and sometimes thankless task to act the fool and try to amuse. But during a dark and lonely lockdown, an injection of silliness in the world can make a difference to a person's day.

Sharon Willis is the person inside the suit. "I've had a mostly positive experience," she told me. "The costume was my husband's. We also have a Shaggy and Thelma at home. They were purchased for a fancy-dress rugby event. Dusting off the old costume and donning it to take the dog for a walk helped give me a focus each day and hopefully helped to cheer some people up. We had only just moved to Highworth when the pandemic hit and I've met some really lovely people on my travels. Highworthians tend to be really chatty so I've learnt a lot about Highworth and its history already."

Every week Sharon has also been making eight litres of soup which she donates for free to those in need. "I love cooking," she explained. "Once this is all over, my dream is to open a sandwich and soup shop. But for now, I am content to experiment with my recipes. I make a different soup everyday and you would be surprised how many different recipes there are out there! Butternut squash was been the best received so far."

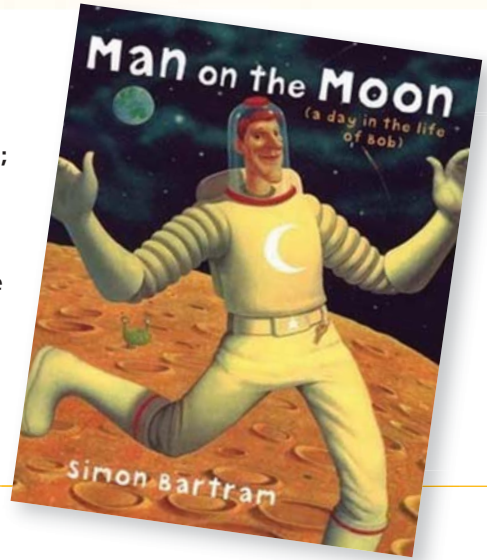


Moon adventures at Eastrop

Home Learning this week has been all about Bob, 'The Man on the Moon' which is one of my favourite books; it's great for all ages and the illustrations are so detailed.

There has been lots of amazing learning happening. Children have been designing space suits, writing space diaries, shooting rockets up into the air, looking at the solar system and much more!

Those pupils joining us in school have also been enjoying themselves, designing their own lunchboxes for a space picnic and creating new aliens.



Cosmic News from Southfields

Mrs Law and the Astro Pi Team are excited to announce that four teams from Southfield Junior School were among 6350 teams of children from 25 countries who entered the European Astro Pi Challenge in March.



The children had to write a simple computer program using Python Code, which was then run on the Astro Pi Computers onboard the International Space Station. Southfields' four teams were: The Cheese Ball Squad, The Galaxy Queens, The Space Os and The Mind Turtles.

Each team received a special certificate giving the coordinates and a picture of where the ISS was when their experiment was run. The Astro Pi Team said "The level of entries this year was outstanding and we really enjoyed reading through young people's messages to the astronauts on board the ISS and seeing their imaginative use of Astro Pi Ed's LED matrix. Please pass on our congratulations to your teams and we hope that they will join us again for the next Astro Pi challenge."



Home Badge Working

3rd Highworth Brownies and 4th Highworth Rainbows haven't been able to meet since March so instead, Brown Owl has been posting badges to work towards in a special What's App group.

Their latest Challenge badge 'This little guiding light of mine' was created by the Ribble Valley Girlguides and was inspired by the Covid-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

To achieve the badge, Brownies had to decorate a special poster and display it for others to see, show their family how to wash their hands properly, do a good turn and send a thank you card to a key worker.

There are also lots of optional activities to do such as helping around the house, learning to make soap, finding out about Covid-19 in other



**Odd jobs....
Cleaned super
muddy wellies!**



countries and calculating the amount of toilet paper they use in one day/week.

Alongside this badge, the Brownies have also been completing their 'Home Sweet Home' badge. They had to plan a VE Day party complete with decorations, food and invitations, learn how to do laundry, plan and make a healthy meal, upcycle or repair an item, find out about home and fire safety and help in the garden.

"These badges have certainly helped to keep my Brownie busy," one Mum said.

To find out more about Girl Guiding please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk or call Lyn T: 07926 855208.

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Huron Beavers Zoom Australia



Just because we're locked down doesn't mean we can't travel the world.

Bright and early one June morning, ten Beavers (plus two Cubs and a Rainbow) from 1st Highworth Scout Group held a Zoom meeting with a Joey Mob near Brisbane in Australia. Our group have exchanged letters with these Joeys

before so it was nice to finally meet and chat in person. Joeys get to return to face-to-face meetings next week but sadly Beavers won't be allowed back before September at the earliest. Here are the happy smiling faces.

Find out more about our Beaver colony at www.highworthscouts.org.uk/join/beaver-scouts

Visit Highworth Update

Visit Highworth reopened the Art and Craft centre in June. It was wonderful to welcome the people of Highworth back through the doors and to hear how lockdown has been for them.

Local Artists and Crafters have been busy, so exciting new stock has been received and is now out on display. As more people are looking at staycations, we looked forward to sharing our beautiful town of Highworth with visitors.

The museum was still closed when we submitted this article but we hope it will reopen soon. It has been quite a different beginning to the summer than we expected but it is good to be back on our lovely High Street once more!

Helen Lacey



Moving up and our dream Secondary School

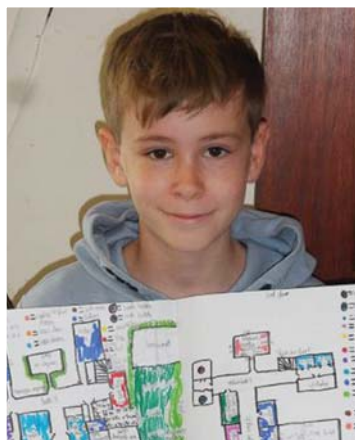
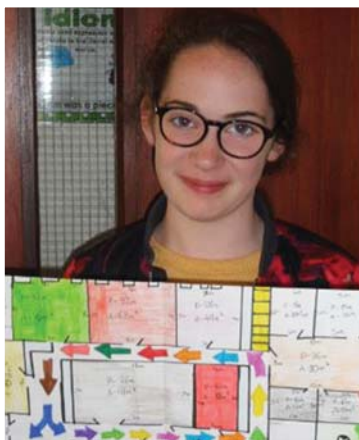
Year 6 pupils at Westrop have been preparing to transition to Secondary School.

We have talked about the similarities and differences the children will find between Primary and Secondary School. We looked at an aerial view of Warneford and then the children designed their own dream Secondary School. Following our discussion on all the subjects

taught at Secondary School, the children set their design into zones.

Since we have been revisiting area and perimeter during Maths, the children then thought about the size of classrooms required for specific numbers of pupils. The year 6 pupils produced some excellent designs.

Mr Akers



Get silly with the Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, young readers are being encouraged to join the Silly Squad; a colourful crew of fun-loving animals, and to discover the joy of reading.

To take part, children and their parents or guardians need to register online at www.summertimechallenge.org.uk where they can create their Silly Squad profile and set their own Summer Reading Challenge goal. Every time a young reader completes a book, they can add it to their online profile and leave a review. Once participants have reached their goal they will unlock a Silly Squad certificate. There will be lots of opportunities for young people to gain rewards, play games and earn badges on the website along the way.

Swindon Libraries are supporting this year's digital challenge with live story times with Anish every Tuesday at 11am over on the Swindon Libraries Facebook page. The Libraries Team will also be providing craft ideas, a competition, quizzes and online stories. There is a brand new

range of E-comics and plenty of E-audiobooks and E-magazines to help readers achieve their Summer Reading Challenge goals. Keep up to date with all the latest from Swindon Libraries on their blog www.srcswindon.wordpress.com and through their Facebook page.

The Summer Reading Challenge will finish on **Sunday, 6th September 2020.**

Highworth Library Update

Highworth Library reopened on Monday 27th July for a Click, Call and Collect service.

Books can be reserved online or by calling 01793 463500. Library staff will pick the books you've selected and contact you when they are ready to be picked up from Highworth Library.

When collecting or returning books, you will not be able to access the building's other services such as toilets, computers or study areas. All books and other items returned to us will be quarantined for 72 hours.



Temperatures (still) rising

Six months ago when Brexit and Donald Trump faded briefly from our news, there was a flurry of ever more alarming warnings from climate scientists. They're worried that unrelenting CO₂ emissions are raising global temperatures. And we've had dire predictions about the consequences – shortages of food and water, mass migration and international disputes, to name a few. With our economy still reeling from the global financial crisis of 2012, surely we already had enough to contend with?

Then along came the Coronavirus emergency of 2020 that kicked 'climate change' firmly into the long grass. And there it might remain while the world adjusts to another economic and public health disaster. While scientists and politicians debate how we can safely emerge from lockdown and rescue the economy at the risk of losing more lives.

So what has changed in lockdown?

Miraculously, lockdown had the welcomed side effect of cutting air pollution. While skies over Delhi turned a rare shade of blue, air pollution measurements in Britain plummeted and, coincidentally, we enjoyed a record-breaking warm spring. Many parents enjoyed happy times with children while balancing demands of home schooling and working from home. Also on the plus side, we spent much less time and money on travel, learned new cooking skills and vowed to make the best of a bad situation. Notwithstanding the mountain of economic and social disruption now, can we dare to hope for a better future for our planet?

Not according to this *National Geographic* magazine report: 'An extended heat wave that has been baking the Russian Arctic for months drove the temperature in Verkhoyansk, Russia – north of the Arctic Circle – to 38°C on 20th June. In May, (western Siberian) air temperatures hovered some 10°C above the normal May average of 1°C – something that would be likely to occur only once

in 100,000 years, if human-caused climate change hadn't thrown a wrench in the climate system's plumbing.'

The momentum of decades of excessive CO₂ emissions was unstoppable, even by three months of lockdown. Nevertheless, lockdown has shown that radical shift in favour of our planet is possible, something many previously believed inconceivable. And we should take some solace from our recent experiences ... the impossible now seems achievable, but not if we just revert to business as usual.

Six 'green' habits we could cultivate after lockdown

- *Get outdoors more:* increased walking and cycling to get around and lots of us appreciating the soothing effect of being in and around nature.
- *Staycations:* Make the most of enjoying the lovely place we live in – no airports, no hassle, no hurry, no stress!
- *Shop locally:* veg boxes, milk delivery, refill and reuse, and local shops. A message about consuming less while sustaining local businesses.
- *Waste less food:* getting into good habits and ensuring we make the most of the food we have in our house.
- *Use our gardens more and make our gardens and public spaces wildlife friendly:* lots of us have encouraged birds and insects into our gardens and are spending more time in our gardens too. Growing vegetables links back to keep it local
- *Focus on what is important:* we have reduced our spend on consumer goods. Do we really need so much more 'stuff', much of it imported at a great environmental cost?

Next edition: *Consumption and waste – how individual actions can make a difference*

Adrian Young



Fred Larcombe (1916-2020)

In May, Frederick James Larcombe (Fred) died peacefully in his bed at the age of 104. His family held a private memorial service in June at Kingsdown Crematorium where

family friend and Warrant Office Brendan Walker read the Eulogy.

Fred was born in 1916, half-way through the First World War. He was brought up on a smallholding in the village of Whitchurch Canonorum, Dorset, the youngest of 13 brothers and sisters, and no doubt had lots of attention as a child.

On leaving school at 14, Fred worked as a painter and decorator. It was on one of these jobs at a Manor House that he met Lucy who was in working as a Nanny. Not long after they married, war broke out and Fred was called up for Army Service. He joined the 94th Field Dorset Regiment and was posted to France. Whilst driving his Commander around, he stopped to fill up a water bottle when a bomb landed, killing the Commander and severely injuring him. Fearing that his back was broken, the army flew Fred home to Britain, patched him up and shipped him back to his regiment in Germany. His was the first regiment to reach the Bergen-Belsen Concentration camp, a highly traumatic experience. The soldiers discovered nearly 60,000 prisoners, most of whom were half-starved and seriously ill, as well as 13,000 corpses.

By the time Fred returned home, his son Rodney, whom he had only seen a handful of times, was already 7 years old. They moved to Barford St Martin, near Salisbury. Four years later they were invited to live with Fred's family in Guernsey where Fred worked as a lorry driver. Part of his job involved emptying the slurry pits and on one occasion he tripped over the hose and fell into the pit!

After five happy years, Fred and his family moved to Highworth, close to Lucy's family. Fred returned to painting and decorating for Chicks of Highworth. Fred went on to work for the British Road Service in Swindon before becoming a

Security and Fireman Officer at Vickers Armstrong where he worked a 12 hour day.

Fred was finally forced into early retirement in 1974 after a heart attack. Fred and Lucy moved to their bungalow in Turnpike Road where they had many happy years together before Lucy sadly passed away in 1994.

Fred was a very sociable person. He was part of a skittles team and a member of the Highworth Lions for many years and enjoyed their monthly meals and annual coach trip to the beach. He was very close to his child, grandchildren and great-grandchild and enjoyed going out for lunches with them at The Saracens where he was well-known. As he got less mobile, the family enjoyed staying in to play games such as sticky darts and keeping the balloon off the floor. Fred had a sharp mind and a good punch! But inevitably, the years caught up with him and his sight and hearing became increasingly poor and towards the end he could hardly stand.

Fred survived and overcame so much: a World War, three heart attacks and colon cancer. He even snapped both Achilles tendons. He was a truly inspiration person who never complained and who always thought of others. He was outspoken and could be a grumpy git, but he had a great sense of humour and was incredibly kind, gentle, generous and always willing to help. He always believed in an afterlife and was convinced that he would be reunited with his beloved wife Lucy and grandson Paul. He was a good husband, a kind and supportive grandfather and great grandfather and we already miss his voice and his good advice.

We would like to say a particular thank you to Dr Bestwick and all the doctors and nurses at Westrop Surgery who were always willing to come and see him immediately when he needed them. Thanks must also go to Bill who always popped over to cut his hair and Debbie Smith, his daily carer, whom he thought the world of, and to all those who waved at Fred as they passed his window. Finally, the biggest thanks must go to Brendan, his friend and neighbour, who went out of his way to care for him. It is thanks to Brendan that Fred was able to retain his dignity and die in his own bed, as he wished.

Rodney and Glenice

World Scout Jamboree 2019

Due to the current Coronavirus situation, all activities in Scouting have stopped. We are not meeting and international events (some as far as 2022) have been rescheduled. Whilst life is slowly returning to a new 'normal', we don't know how long it will be until we can fully return.

During this time, I've had some time to look back through pictures of last summer when a group of five

Highworth Scouts and one leader went to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA. The Jamboree is a trip of a lifetime which allows you to try new experiences and to meet new people. The Jamboree happens every four years and is attended by more than 40,000 participants from 152 countries.

Our trip started with a day in New York with the temperate being 40 degrees; what a way to start the experience! Whilst we couldn't see everything we wanted in the 24 hours we were there, we did get to ride on a yellow school bus and visit places like Times Square and the Empire State Building.

When we arrived at the Jamboree site, it was tipping down, so the first job was to put up the tents. Luckily, a group of friendly Americans came over, introduced themselves and helped us get set up. In our area we were camping near Scouts from Belgium, the USA and Japan but there were many more nationalities within a 15-minute walk.

During the two weeks we were there, we were able to participate in activities such as mountain biking, scuba diving and white-water rafting. A lot of the activities on site were focused around adventure but there were also some important learning activities including showing us how the



whole site was built to be sustainable and also an area where organisations could show us what they do. Two examples were UNICEF and WHO.

There was a day set aside to allow us to visit other cultures. We tried pasta from some Italians, played games from Denmark and tried on traditional Ecuadorean clothes. This day ended with a show being put on for us which closed with performances from Disney on Broadway.

Speaking about the Jamboree, Elliot (16) said: "It has introduced me to a wide range of skills that have pushed me out of my comfort zone and which will help me in everyday life. Especially to have the confidence to speak to new people no matter where they are from."

Thank you to everyone from Highworth and the surrounding areas who helped us with our fundraising. This year the Jamboree cost us £4,000 each to attend (some of which subsidises developing countries) and we couldn't have raised this without your support.

Now, we have been left thinking what would have happened if the Jamboree had fallen this year? You couldn't have 40,000 people all living together in the current environment. Rescheduling an event of this size covering this many countries would be an impossible task. We would have had young people miss out on the

adventure of a lifetime, miss out on learning skills for life and most importantly, miss out on an incredible summer experience.

There are lots of international experiences in Scouting, but none of them are quite like a World Scout Jamboree!

You can see more of what we got up to and find a few details about the next highly recommended (Jamboree) by visiting our website: <https://bit.ly/31OSccb>

Matt Mollart



Not Open Gardens 2020



It was with great regret that we weren't able to hold the 'Open Gardens this year. Instead we are pleased to share some photos of what you missed out on. It remains our hope to move the whole thing to next year and that we will have lots of people in the gardens along with the all-important tea and cakes.

Ken Hooper

Red Arrows, Royal Marines and Royal Navy Careers...

Like all other youth groups, the Royal Air Force Air Cadets have been forced to adapt to a new way of working during what is usually our busiest time of the year.

However, this has allowed cadets from all over the country to meet up virtually and take part in a wealth of incredible talks and courses.

Early in the lockdown period, 633 (West Swindon) Squadron arranged for a career presentation from a current Royal Navy Pilot, Lieutenant Oliver Mendham. This kind of talk is incredibly interesting for cadets and gives them a chance to hear a little bit about life within other branches of the Armed Forces.

At the beginning of June, the South West Region was treated to a presentation from ex-Red Arrows, turned airline pilot, Sqn Ldr Couston. Over 100 cadets tuned in to hear about his life as a fast jet pilot with one of the world's best aerobatic teams. We were given the opportunity to ask our burning questions, to learn about some of his scariest moments in the cockpit, including a treacherous bird strike which smashed the glass of his canopy.

An ex-Air Cadet, Royal Marines Cpl Amy Phillips, kindly offered to join a Virtual Parade Night to share stories about her life as a Royal Marines Musician. Starting her musical life in the Royal Air Force Air Cadets Band, this was a wonderful opportunity for the cadets to see where their interests can take them. The event was so fascinating that Cpl Phillips returned (virtually) a few weeks later to talk to the whole of the South West Region.



The opportunities did not stop there. Central and East Yorkshire Wing's music section rolled out nationwide music training that would usually only be available to cadets in their area. Furthermore, in the next couple of

months, we can look forward to sessions with Formula 1 engineers, virtual fieldcraft lessons, and a former Chief of the Air Staff.

These amazing events would not be possible without our visitors giving up their time to talk to us, balancing this on top of their own work commitments. Our own staff have also offered much of their time to support and organise these extraordinary presentations, that would have been impossible otherwise.

Looking back...

Lockdown has given us a chance to consider some of our favourite events, past and present.

Kicking us off is our Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Nick Goddard. "Prior to the pandemic, the event I enjoyed the most was assisting at the WRDEUP Music Festival in Highworth each summer. The cadets and staff put in a lot of effort, helping with essential tasks



Cdt Lucy Osborne up in the air

like car parking and litter picking. Supporting events in our local community is something close to my heart, and the bonus is that it raises our profile with local people and showcases the value we have in society.

"Since we have moved to 'Virtual' events online, the one I have enjoyed the most was the presentation from Sgt Kimi Stewart from RAF Brize Norton. It was insightful to hear about her experiences as an RAF Armourer. It is also worth highlighting the fact that this kind of opportunity would have been far more difficult to arrange in the 'old world'. Working virtually is already showing how it can be more flexible and accessible for everyone!"

Cadet Lucy Osborne has chosen to write about her favourite activity as a cadet, which is flying. "In air cadets you have many opportunities. In my opinion, one of the most rewarding and exciting activities that you can do is flying. Flying is a great opportunity to see how coordination, communication and training are used when flying an aircraft. You get many fun and educational opportunities when flying like doing cool aerobics and taking control."

One of our more senior cadets, Cadet Alex Tilling, has chosen his favourite cadet experience – a flight in a Boeing C-17 Globemaster. "The C-17 is one of three RAF Heavy Lift Aircraft, the other two being the Lockheed C130J



Cadet Alex Tilling aboard the Boeing C-17 Globemaster

Hercules and the Airbus A400M Atlas. We flew from RAF Brize Norton to RAF Mildenhall which is currently in use with the USAF operating their Heavy Lift and Tanker rôle aircraft within the UK. We did circuits and approaches at RAF Mildenhall and cadets had the opportunity to go up to the flight deck and sit behind the pilot for an approach.

"Afterwards we flew back to RAF Brize Norton where we continued flying circuits and approaches followed by a high-performance landing where the aircraft stops after only using 3000 feet of runway. This capability allows the

C-17 to operate out of small airfields in combat zones, giving it a tactical capability that not many aircraft of its size can boast."

In my opinion, the way virtual training has united different units and wings even more than before is wonderful. We all must work together to stay connected and I know that our cadets will have learned something because of it. Obviously, the circumstances are uncertain, but the RAF Air Cadets have proved that we can always work together as a team, no matter what.

Cadet Sergeant Anna Talbert, 17



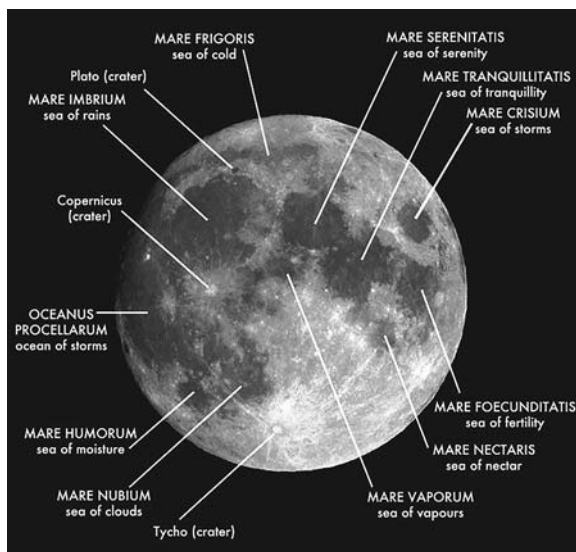
To find out what other activities cadets get up to, search '878 Highworth Squadron RAF Air Cadets' on Facebook or visit '@878Highworth' on Twitter and '@878highworthsqn' on Instagram.

The Moon from Highworth

Since I was a small boy, the Moon has always fascinated me. I spent hours learning my way around the night sky, peering through my small telescope at Orion and the beautiful Pleiades, but it was always the Moon that drew me back. Of course, the Moon is the same now as it was then except for a few footprints and a lot of dumped scientific hardware.

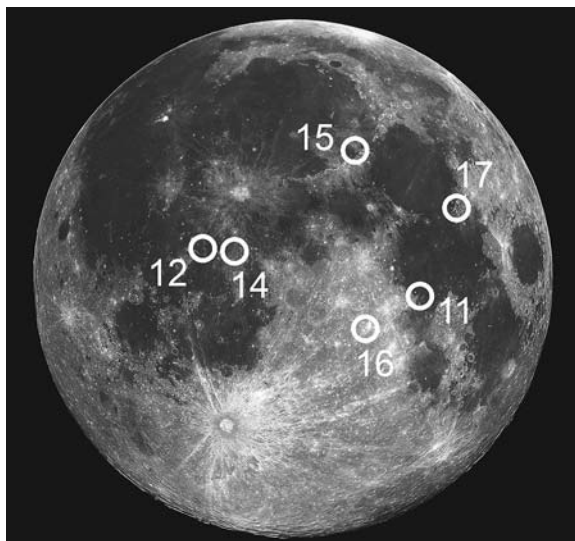
When you look up at the Moon, what do you see? Certainly you will notice the dark coloured surface features which no doubt are quite familiar to you since we always see the same face of the Moon turned towards us. This is because the Moon spins once on its axis in the same time it takes to complete one orbit, an effect known as 'synchronous rotation'. Although the same side of the Moon faces Earth all the time, the Moon's phase hides some of it from view, with the exception of course at full Moon.

Although these dark areas are called seas, they're actually large regions of dark, solidified lava and they contrast well with the bright surface between them; regions referred to as the lunar highlands. They are less reflective than these highlands as a result of their iron-rich composition and so appear darker to the



Lunar Seas

has footprints on it left by the 12 men who have walked on the Moon. The first was Neil Armstrong, who became the first person to step onto the lunar surface six hours 39 minutes after landing in the Apollo 11 lunar module Eagle on



Apollo Landing Sites

naked eye. The reason we call them seas is because early astronomers really believed these dark areas were actual seas. The lunar seas have Latin names, most being prefixed with the word 'mare' which is Latin for 'sea', but I have included the English translations to make things easier. Check out the photograph and look up to see how many you can identify.

As mentioned above, the lunar surface now has footprints on it left by the 12 men who have walked on the Moon. The first was Neil Armstrong, who became the first person to step onto the lunar surface six hours 39 minutes after landing in the Apollo 11 lunar module Eagle on July 21st 1969 at 02:56 GMT. So when you look up at the Moon have you, like me, ever wondered where the astronauts of Apollos 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 actually landed? If so, have a look at the photograph of the Moon showing the various landing sites. Unfortunately, we cannot see them from Earth even with our largest Earth-based telescopes, but we can sit back and wonder what it must have been like to walk on the Moon.

Happy Moon viewing, Paul Newton-Smith

Virtual Highworth

Highworth is a very talented place and its residents have been very busy during lockdown making some superb videos. Here are the best we have spotted online:

News on Films asked the Highworth facebook community for their photos and videos, which they then combined into a movie capturing Highworth in the time of Covid-19. The result is truly inspiring. You can watch it here: <https://bit.ly/31DLEgq>

Warneford student **Leonie Claridge** has recorded a tour of her art work from the last two years. See her progress at <https://bit.ly/2Bn8Qot>

Walk around Pentylands with Andrew Cooper, recorded 12th May 2020 at <https://bit.ly/38jzJpj>

Suzanne Wigmore Massage Therapist's facebook page has a number of great videos on massage techniques you can try at home. Our favourite is the foot massage and the self-care video for those suffering with headaches. Visit <https://bit.ly/3dQ3Plq>

Rev Rachel Wilson from Highworth Methodist Church videoed a brilliant reflection comparing the film 'Warm Bodies' about a love relationship between a human and a zombie with Pentecost. Watch on Youtube at: <https://bit.ly/3eU9MPo>

For fans of greyhound racing, **The Campbell Brothers** have developed their own online betting game via Zoom. The idea is that you create a race night meet on Zoom, invite your mates, place bets and watch whose dogs make them the most cash (although the cash isn't real so don't expect to win big!). Full details can be found at www.race-night.uk.

Keith Davidson has videoed foxes. You can see their antics at: <https://bit.ly/3eUfD7g>

Local band 'Splat the Rat' have recorded a cover version of Richard Thompson's 'Beeswing'. See it

on their facebook page at www.facebook.com/pg/splattherat/videos

Have you been wondering what the **Warneford Teachers** have been getting up to since the school closed? This Youtube video reveals all: <https://youtu.be/JHnJCvzKI>

Highworth Preschool made this video long before lockdown, but we love how much fun the children seem to have making it. Check it out at <https://bit.ly/2VC9J38>

Eastrop Teachers sent their pupils thoughtful messages via this video: <https://vimeo.com/412104800>

Westrop have been missing their pupils so much they created a paper aeroplane challenge. You can see their efforts at <https://youtu.be/a0dy23vwTEA>

The **HTJFC Under 11 Girls** undertook the Keepie-Up Challenge in preparation for the new season. Check out how they got on here: <https://bit.ly/38iwONY>

Highworth Silver Band have moved their rehearsals online and have set up a YouTube channel to show their latest efforts here: <https://bit.ly/2YRZIXh>

Highworth Emporium staff sent Easter greetings to their customers at <https://bit.ly/2YRZIXh>

Roves Farm have loads of animal videos on their facebook page. My kid's favourite at Roves has always been the sheep races, so this video reminds me of the good times: <https://bit.ly/3igDKPl>

And finally, the **Cotswold Wildlife Park**. I realised they are not in Highworth, but who can resist a rhino being called into its house: <https://bit.ly/31DaexG>. They also have lots of educational videos about penguins, tapirs, binturongs and more on their Facebook page.

To advertise in The Highworth Link
call 01793 861977

deb.hodgson@tiscali.co.uk

Westrop Surgery Update

Anyone contacting the surgery in the last few months will have noticed significant changes in how the service is run.

As Covid-19 struck we followed NHS England advice and stopped routine appointments and chronic disease monitoring, instead focussing on how we could manage the potential impact of Covid-19 in the community. Where patients did need to be seen, we used new technologies to do this remotely. Video consultations via a webcam or mobile phone have proven useful and effective. We can also now text patients, sending links to information and attaching files for things such as sick notes and patient leaflets. Patients can also text back photos; useful for assessing skin rashes amongst other things.

The aim of this was simple; to continue to provide essential medical care safely, minimising the need to bring patients out of their home and in turn reducing their risk of exposure, as well as protecting the clinicians.

At the time of writing, whilst still very much with us, I'm please to say the prevalence of Covid-19 is reducing and with it the risk of leaving your home to come to the surgery. So presumably it is time to go back to business as usual, face-to-face appointments and all the routine services?

Well, yes and no. The whole of the NHS has been very aware of reducing 'collateral damage' during the pandemic. We understand that patients with non-Covid related problems still exist, new cancer cases continue to present and chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension still need monitoring. For this reason we have tried to be proactive in turning pre-existing non-urgent services back on. We are now carrying out chronic disease blood tests and reviews (the reviews being done remotely). Routine and urgent GP appointments are available and can be prebooked, initially to speak to a GP who can then arrange a face-to-face assessment where needed. A few services remain unavailable such as ear syringing and lung function tests, but overall we are fully functioning.

What isn't going to change for the time being is managing patients away from the surgery where possible. This is for a number of reasons. One is safety. Whilst we take all possible precautions to

minimise risk (spacing out chairs in the waiting room, staggering appointments to minimise numbers of patients at any one time, regular cleaning, wearing PPE, etc), it is still safest to avoid coming to the surgery and for clinicians not to have direct contact with patients where possible. This is particularly the case when you consider the large number of very poorly/vulnerable patients we serve and the amount of close contact clinicians have during consultations. Once we are in a world where Covid-19 is at very low levels this may change, but sadly this is unlikely to be the case for the foreseeable future. The other reason not to revert back to the old way of doing things is that the new technology actually works very well. Both patients and clinicians seem happy using it. It's convenient for the patients, especially those that work, and as the majority of patients don't need a physical examination most things can be managed away from the consulting room just as well as if they had come into the surgery. As I write, availability of appointments is good, far better than before the pandemic. I must stress however that we are seeing patients in the surgery where needed, and if you are unable to use the technology this certainly won't provide a barrier for getting the care you need.

Although we have seen a significant increase in patient contacts over the last few weeks, there is still some concern that patients may be staying away due to fears of an overburdened service. I must stress that we are very much open and want to see patients for all routine and urgent problems. If you think you need to speak to us about a health problem, and prior to the pandemic would have phoned us, then please don't hesitate to get in touch. We do have the time and capacity to help.

On a final word, we would all like to thank our patients for how incredibly patient and understanding they have been during this period of massive change. As always we are keen for patient feedback to help us evaluate our service going forward, and there is no better way of providing this than joining our PPG (patient participation group), the details of which can be found on our website.

Dr Stacey

Sport *Compiled by Jason Daniels*

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



Swindon Croquet Club



Socially Distanced Masked Malletteers

Swindon Croquet Club's lawns reopened on 6th July for members only until further notice due to the virus. Strict rules were put in place which include social distancing, a booking system for one hour periods on the lawns, no 'half' lawns or double banking and frequent antibacterial cleaning of the hoops and balls, etc.

It is hoped that, as the situation regarding the virus improves, some competitive/tournament play will be possible towards the end of the croquet season. Adhering to the rules, members enthusiastically dusted down their mallets and have been enjoying resumption of play.

Beverly Briggs

Highworth Town Football Club

Hopefully the HTTC club will have re-opened in early July, albeit initially for members only with social distancing measures in place.

Much work has been undertaken during the recent weeks with the changing rooms being redecorated together with the stands and the pitch surrounds receiving attention as well. Members have built additional outside furniture to allow any distancing measures to be managed.

The club would like to thank the numerous organisations that have provided financial grants, our great sponsors and the local councils who have worked with us during the period we

have had no income. We have yet to learn when we can start playing again although training has resumed in line with the Government guidelines and our Management team are working hard to recruit players for the new season whenever it starts.

Derek Lloyd

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Wrag Barn is once again in full swing! Since 13th May golf has enjoyed a period of new found popularity. A combination of furlough, home-schooling, working from home and new members has meant that a large number of people have been able to take advantage of this spell of brilliant weather.

Thank you to the green-keeping team, the Pro Shop staff and General Manager Tracey for overseeing the return to golf with the implementation of new processes and procedures to keep everyone as safe as possible. We have had a wonderful team of Marshals on the 1st tee explaining the adaptations and making sure that everyone keeps their distance.



Driving Safely

So what now? From the 4th July people were able to enjoy a pint after their golf, but there are a few rules. Firstly, we ask that no one even contemplates coming to the course or clubhouse if they are showing any signs of having the virus or have been with anyone that has. Secondly, we will be operating a one-way system through the bar and clubhouse and ask that this is adhered

to. It goes without saying that everyone should use the sanitisers and wash their hands regularly. A limited bar snack menu will be available to go with that pint and we'll make sure there's a good supply of peanuts!

All at the club are looking forward to the umbrellas going up for some safe socialising this summer. Anyone interested in finding out more about us can check out our new website www.wragbarn.com

Verity Manners

Photograph: Jade O'Shea Photography

Highworth Tennis Club

Despite the lockdown, there is reason to cheer at Highworth Tennis Club. Back in March, 'pre-lockdown', the club completed an ambitious programme to replace the existing halogen floodlights with more environmentally-friendly and cost-effective LED lighting. The club now boasts five fully floodlit hard courts, allowing members and pay-as-you-go players to play all year round. The project was made possible with the support and £20,000 of funding from Sport England coupled with significant local fundraising efforts.

With the easing of lockdown, it has been heartening recently to hear the resonant sound of tennis balls being hit whilst we make the gradual adjustment to our new normal. A

naturally socially-distanced sport, now couldn't be a better time to give the game a try. HTC welcomes people of all ages and abilities; whether you're new to the game, a rusty returner, a future Wimbledon champion or simply want to improve your fitness levels in the fresh air whilst having fun, the club has something to offer everyone.

Full adult membership is available for less than most people spend on a mobile phone contract at just £10 per month. There are also tennis programmes for our junior members, so if the kids have been driving you mad during lockdown, it could be a good time to put them on a positive path to physical and mental well-being through tennis. Whilst the club has had to postpone any official celebration to turn on the lights, the club and its members will be able to enjoy the benefits of the new floodlights long into the winter months.

A special thank you goes to Charlotte Bell, the outgoing Chairperson at HTC who was a real driving force pushing through the changes for the benefit of everyone. Courts are available for private hire for non-members at £6 per court and bookable via our website. We hope to see you all at the club soon.

Emma Manning

E: membership@highworthtennis.com

W: www.highworthtennis.com

Coaching Contact: Simon Hennell 07834 088038



Set for floodlit fun this winter

Highworth Town Walking Football Club

Following lengthy discussions with other clubs in the county and with considerable support, help and encouragement from the Wiltshire FA, we are now working hard to make a Wiltshire County



Walking Football League a reality. Teams from across the county including Amesbury, Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, Highworth, Salisbury, Swindon and Trowbridge have come together to form the county league and will play in Over 50s and Over 60s divisions.

As elected league secretary, I'm happy to report that this venture has been a long time in the making and will at last allow us to play league football within our own county against fellow Wiltshire clubs. The walking football scene in the county has been developing for several years but until now we have had to go to Gloucestershire and Berkshire to get competitive league football.

The Wiltshire FA have to be congratulated in allowing us the freedom to define a structure specific to our rules of the game.

It is hoped league fixtures will be played at the Wiltshire FA's new headquarters recently opened in Devizes. We know from our own experience how having a healthy competition base has helped encourage more players back into the game. The recreational sessions played at venues like the Highworth Rec are a brilliant way for the Over 50s to maintain fitness and enjoy a simple game with like-minded individuals.

If you are interested in playing in Highworth on a Thursday morning or would like to try us out at

Grange Leisure in Stratton on Sunday mornings (11am to 12pm) please do get in touch.



Kevin Turner T: 07748 366979

E: highworthwfc@gmail.com

LETTERS

Dear Highworth Link

May I thank the kind (and I imagine anonymous) person who has added the apostrophe to the St Michael's Avenue sign just north of the traffic lights?

I had written to Swindon Borough Council at the end of last year to ask for this to be added (the sign on the opposite side has an apostrophe) but nothing has happened. And so, lacking the courage to attend to this personally, I bow in praise as well as in gratitude to the person who has taken this much-needed initiative.

I imagine the apostrophe will soon weather away; maybe we should start a group of like-minded apostrophe protectors to make sure that this punctuation mark remains on display? Would the group have to meet in secret, I wonder, like the Sealed Knot in the 17th Century, or dare we be open about our campaign to restore neglected apostrophes?

Yours faithfully, Hugh Williams

Thank you, Mrs Spreadbury

We would like to say a big thankyou to Mrs Spreadbury who has been delivering the Highworth Link for around 20 years to Islay Crescent. We really appreciate and depend deliverers like you to get our magazines into the community. You have done a sterling job and we hope your house move goes smoothly.

The Link Team

Re-arranged May Day

Since May Day could not take place in May, we were very much hoping to reschedule for 22nd August.

But given the preparation that goes into running such an event, the committee were keen to discuss options to proceed. We felt, as a small team of volunteers and after having spoken with the necessary authorities, that managing social distancing and health and safety at such a well-attended event could be problematic. We are incredibly sad to announce that we have decided to cancel this event as the safety of our community, visitors, entertainers, stall holders and volunteers must take priority over having a good time. We trust you understand.

We are now planning to go ahead as normal with our annual May Day event on **Saturday 1st May 2021**, when we can all get together and party. We will retain the theme of VE Day.

If you fancy getting involved with the team, no qualifications are needed, just a sense of fun and getting stuck in.

Get in touch at sandra.rendall1@gmail.com.



venue due to the Café's popularity and that will be reinforced by a need to socially distance. We are very aware that we have potentially vulnerable people in our audience, and whatever we end up doing we will of course be bearing your wellbeing uppermost in our minds.

For those on Facebook, we will post updates on the Highworth Forget-me-not Café group and page, as soon as we have anything to communicate. Once we have a date for re-opening you can expect to hear from us there and will again get to see our posters up and down the High Street and throughout the town.

Thank you again to all our customers, supporters and our amazing volunteers for your support so far and we look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we can. Please know you are not forgotten in these usual times that we find ourselves in. Keep smiling, keep active, keep caring and keep enjoying tea and cake wherever you are.

The monthly Dementia Friends awareness sessions that used to be run in the Community Room are now being held online. If anyone would like to join a session and learn more about how we can all support those living with dementia in our community, please go to dementiafriends.org and click on 'Become a Dementia Friend' and find your information session.

Keep Safe All, Ruth & Kevin

Highworth & District Floral Art Society

We may have postponed this September's flower festival, but we are hoping to hold our Annual General Meeting as planned on **Thursday 3rd September 2020** in Warneford School Hall at 7.30pm. However, please check our website nearer the time to confirm as currently we do not know if the school hall will be available to us and what the rules will be by then regarding numbers of people convening in one room.

Keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to all meet up again very soon.

*Teresa Hill, Secretary HADFAS,
07884 073727*



Highworth Forget-me-not Memory Café – Not Forgotten!

One of the many activities around the town that have had to be put on hold due to the current pandemic, was unfortunately our wonderful Forget-me-not Café. Thanks to your support we had such a great start and our tables were full of laughter, singing, tea and, of course, cake.

As of yet, we don't know when we will be able to restart the Café. It might not restart this year but be assured that we are thinking about it. We had already thought about needing a larger

Arts Section *Compiled by Iain Barnwell*

Contact: HighworthLinkArts@gmail.com



Featured Artist: Neil George, Photographer



What made you start doing photography?

Neil thinks he started when he aimed to just take pictures whilst on his holidays and of his children growing up. He soon realised that he had developed an interest in capturing

other subjects. He had "developed a passion for nature and wanted a way to record that and share it with others" and was fascinated by abstract art which encouraged him to experiment with his camera more.

How long have you been doing photography?

About 40 years ago, Neil began using a camera but says he's "been taking it seriously for at least 25 years" and has a "small trophy from Highworth Camera Club dated 1994". Due to his career he had to stop attending, but after retirement he is now back at the club.

Do you have a particular style or technique?

He believes his most successful pictures "capture a mood" and "have a painterly feel". He uses many multiple-exposures and intentional camera movements (ICM) to achieve this. This involves moving the camera around as several successive pictures are taken which are then blended together.

For wildlife, Neil aims

to photograph both the environment and the subject in a way that hopefully "captures something of the atmosphere of the day, not just a record of the bird or animal".

What subjects do you enjoy and what inspires you?

Nature fascinates him with the countryside being his main inspiration as well as his love for butterflies. Aside from those, Neil also loves bird watching, taking the time to capture their activities in their natural habitat, and he has a new passion for insects.

Although he says he does not like taking pictures that are "staged or of animals that are not fully wild", he has no problem with people doing so "if it is what they enjoy".

He also enjoys abstract photography.

What do you get out of it?

Neil quips that he often "takes photographs because he cannot paint" and "that is why he



likes it so much when people think his photos are paintings”.

He says “with digital cameras and the opportunity to process images on the computer there is huge scope for creativity” so “photography is a way for (him) to be creative”.



“It is lovely”, Neil says, when an image finally appears on the screen just as he wants after having worked on it, “even better seeing it printed in a picture mount”, and “best of all seeing it framed and hanging on a wall”.

What have you got planned for the future?

He also says that he tries to avoid adding or subtracting from the image but if something absolutely needs removing, he will do that and that he doesn’t mind “experimenting with images to get an artistic effect”.

From a technical standpoint Neil explains that anyone “who uses a digital camera and takes the image their camera provides has allowed the camera to make a lot of decisions about things like contrast, shadows, saturation, colour temperature, etc.” and that he “prefer(s) to make those decisions” for each image because it gives him the “opportunity to do a lot more or a lot less than the camera would have done” for “far more creative results”.

2½ years ago, upon retirement, Neil had the idea of setting up a small business for his photography. Now, the business is in profit. He plans to develop it further and focus on “the beauty of nature, both wildlife and scenery” and also “develop (his) more abstract photography”. The latter, he says “probably has a more limited appeal but it is something (he is) very keen on and will continue to do”.

For anyone interested in Neil’s work, visit neilgeorgephotography.co.uk, or on a few occasions, the display at Visit Highworth.

If you’d like to nominate someone for Featured Artist, please contact me on the email above.

Iain Barnwell

Highworth Ukulele Club Update

The Highworth Ukulele Club has been running for a year and is going strong.

Since the lockdown we have organised two Zoom meetings a week and we have a core of about 15 members who regularly log on. Unfortunately, because of the technology, we can’t all play together and have had to change how we run meetings. When we were altogether very few wanted to stand up and lead a song, now even our newest beginners are prepared to have a go and sing solo.



The time has come now though, when like lots of clubs, we just can’t wait until it’s safe to get back together.

For a bit of fun, we produced a Highworth Ukulele Club Lockdown Singalong which can be viewed on youtube at <https://bit.ly/2ZF6rNO>.

If there are any players out there who would like to join us contact me.

Sandie Kendall,
E: highworthukuleleclub@gmail.com

Instagram lovattmiss

Warneford students have been busy creating and sharing some amazing artwork on Instagram account 'loveattmiss'. Here we present a small selection:



Lauren S in Year 10 has been experimenting with different watercolour materials. These beautiful, vibrant flowers were created using watercolour pens finished with gold details.

This drawing was created by Sophie Nash in Year 11. She used coloured pencils to create this eye study complete with all the tiny details of the eye and reflections.

Sophie is an exceptional artist and you can follow her [@draw.with.sophie](https://www.instagram.com/draw.with.sophie)



*made an amazing start with
this image of a honey jar.*



Another project set for Y
inspired by the artist Rak
created insects and butte
This wonderful butterfly



Holly S in Year 11 has designed and drawn this beautiful self-portrait. I love how the flowing lines echo the water. Beautiful.



A beautiful wave study in acrylic by Leonie in Year 10. Wonderful texture created.



Another Year 9 GCSE Micrography Portrait creating pictures with Jasmine S has created completely of Harriet

[illegible]

It's so good to see that those talented Year 11s are still creating and producing beautiful artwork. Tess has drawn this coloured pencil Eve study with such vibrant colours.

A superb pencil portrait here from Rajan J in year 7. Brilliant drawing and shading. It's of KSI, (I'll admit I had to Google him). Well done Rajan.



Year 9s starting GCSE photography were given the task 'New Growth' and lots of them have enjoyed getting out and about with their cameras. This collage by Lucy O was inspired by the photography of Karl Blossfeldt. Look at those creepy crawlies!



How beautiful is this kingfisher? You might think this is one of our fabulous Year 11s, but no, this is by Sally in Year 8. She used Prismacolor coloured pencils for this vividly brilliant study.

A little bit of a DT Textiles cross-over here with a fabulously colourful cross-stitch picture by Amy G in Year 7. Amy completed this during half term.



This brilliant steampunk artwork of a mechanical grasshopper was inspired by Vladimir Gvozdev. Well done Maisie-Bo in Year 9 for this very careful drawing.

Governors Needed

Southfield Junior School and Eastrop Infant School are part of a multi-academy trust: Grove Learning Trust.

The Joint Academy Committee (JAC) is made up of Parents, Staff and Co-opted Governors. Co-opted Governors are members of the community. Our Governors may come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences. They are volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school and are the link between the school and the community it serves.

We are currently looking for new Co-opted Governors and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- A keen interest in the performance of the schools
- A desire to contribute to and represent the community
- An open and enquiring mind
- The ability to look at issues objectively
- The confidence to ask questions
- A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- The ability to work well with others

If you are interested please contact:

clerk@grovelearningtrust.co.uk



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:

churchispraying@gmail.com

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

There is HOPE!



HOPE

for Highworth

Round The World Against Poverty

Calling everyone. Please help CAP fight poverty in our area by joining in our attempt to travel 'round the world'. That's 25,000 miles!

Between Saturday 22nd – Saturday 29th August we are setting Highworth the challenge to see how far collectively we can all walk, run or cycle. Whether you are young or old, can do 2 miles or 200 miles, we need you!

We would love you to join us in raising funds and awareness for our Highworth CAP centre where we give free, confidential, professional debt advice to anyone plus run courses on Life Skills, Money Management and Jobs.

Perhaps you'd like to set yourself a personal distance challenge and invite others to sponsor you to achieve that?

If you have young children perhaps you would like one of our special kid's packs to help you keep them occupied, engage with exercise and be proud of helping others?

Perhaps you would like to 'log' your usual walking/running/cycling miles with us (for that week) as part of our overall target of 25,000 miles? We will be approaching groups and businesses for sponsorship.

We will be doing daily social media updates through the week so videos/photos will be welcome.

You can walk, run or cycle alone or safely with a friend/family member. Simply log your miles, take photos, remind friends/family of your challenge and help us achieve the target.

Contact CAPHighworth@gmail.com or Kathryn Ford, T: 07885 579876 to register and/or get more information (including kid's packs and sponsor forms).

Through our local Highworth CAP centre, since we opened 6 years ago, we have helped 147 client families and already seen 50 of them go debt free. In addition, over 30 people have worked through our Life Skills course and this year we are launching CAP Job Club.

We know, following the crisis we have been in as a nation, that the need for CAPs free debt advice service will only increase. If you are struggling with unmanageable debt please call 0800 328 0006 and ask for a free appointment or call Kathryn on 07885 579876 for a chat.



Help us help our community when they need it!

Kathryn Ford

Highworth Recreation Centre starts to reopen

Highworth Rec reopened on Saturday 25th July for the Gym and group exercise classes.

To ensure maximum safety for our staff and customers, the gym equipment is spaced out to give customers more space and all activities need to be pre-booked before you arrive at the centre. You will need to register online or download the Halo mobile app to book activities. You may also need your Halo membership number when you book online. If you can't remember it please contact the

Halo Team on 01432 842075.

It is hoped that the swimming pool will be able to reopen from **Saturday 29th August** for lane swimming. Swimming, gymnastics and trampolining lessons will restart at a later date. If your child has lessons we will be in touch to discuss your options.

For the full list of new measures we have in place for our re-opening, please head over to our website www.haloleisure.org.uk/welcome-back-info.

Steps Challenge for Christian Aid

A massive thank you to everyone who supported us to raise money for Christian Aid.

We set ourselves a challenge to walk 300,000 steps in the month of May. Oscar decided to set himself a bigger challenge and aim for 400,000. To date we have raised £585 (including cash donations put through the door at the Lighthouse Bookshop in our name). A special thank you to Cynthia Fitchett who knitted some bears in face masks and sold them on our behalf.

It was quite tiring but we did it! Our total step count for myself was 350,618 and for Oscar was 412,366. We thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the challenge. It gave us lots of opportunity for long family walks and we found so many places in Highworth we hadn't been before. We definitely appreciate where we live a lot more for it.

Nicola Winter



Operation Christmas Child Update

Though many things we were looking forward to in 2020 have been cancelled, from the Olympics to school graduation celebrations, Christmas is still going ahead.

Children around the world, especially those in contexts of poverty, have struggled with the isolation and not being with their friends. But Christmas isn't cancelled and together we can bring fresh joy and hope of new life to children through shoebox gifts.

At the moment, it is intended that Operation Christmas Child will continue to collect shoebox gifts during the National Collection Week, which is **9th-16th November 2020**. It is still anticipated that the Collection Centre will operate at the Highworth Methodist Church, provided it is safe to do so. If you are thinking about packing a shoe box, or producing crafts to go in one, then Operation Christmas Child have produced a set of quality crafting resources and they are available from their website: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ-quality-crafts/>. If you don't have access to the website, but would still be interested, then please contact Peter. T: 01793 764385.

Heart for Philippines



Jamie and Zobel Milano Starritt are two Highworthians on a mission. Having witnessed the poverty in her birthland, Zobel and her family have been keen to reach out and provide help to those most in need.

"Filipinos are a proud and happy people", Zobel explained. "They don't like to ask for handouts but some of them have nothing. One of my contacts recent discovered a lady living on a remote island. She had been praying for someone to find her and her one wish was to be able to work again. She had lost her eyesight and was having to crawl to the nearest stream every day to get water. We found a community willing to support her and the Barangay Captain (an elected official) give her a plot of land. We found materials and helped her to build a house and now we are trying

to organise an operation to restore her sight. She is just one person out of many who needs a bit of help”.

The Philippines is a collection of 7500 islands in the Pacific Ocean. There was a big volcanic eruption near the capital city back in January and many people are still living in evacuation centres. “We held a bake sale at GWH and Royal Mail and used the proceeds to send food parcels and drinking water,” Jamie and Zobel continued. “But now coronavirus has hit, and these people still have nowhere to go. Health care is very basic and most people live in crowded conditions. There isn’t any social help, so if Filipinos don’t work, they don’t eat. Transport has also been a major problem, with workers unable to return to their families during this time and farmers unable to ship their crops to places where it is needed. We have been finding ways to get food to communities living hand to mouth, as well as sending relief packages to an orphanage and a care home for the abandoned elderly and drinking water to the stranded workers”.

Jamie and Zobel’s efforts haven’t been confined purely to abroad. “When the Clap for Our Careers first began, the thanks and free services were directed towards hospital staff. Swindon has a sizable Filipino community, most of whom work in care homes. We started to think about what a vital and amazing job they were doing during this pandemic and it made me want to do something to honour and thank them”.

The pair organised food collections for GWH and



12 care homes in Swindon, including Highworth’s Grove Hill and Middi Haynes Court. “The care homes would tell us what they needed and we would get it to them. The SFA (Swindon Filipino Association) rallied to help provide the hot meals, fresh fruit and cakes requested at their own expense.

“Special thanks must also go to Ashbury Village Shop, Mini Siam Oriental Foods Ltd., 4Si Health Ltd, MM Catering Services (a Filipino owned catering company) and Argante Care, (a local Filipino owned healthcare company) for all their donations and support

during this time, and TLB Direct in Highworth who let us store the donations.”

‘Heart for Philippines’ has a committee and is now in the process of applying for charitable status. “We have built up a good network of contacts in the Philippines to keep us updated on the changing situation,” Zobel said. “Our friends

have been helping us with bits of fundraising and we are looking into other long-term solutions to help fund our work. We recently found a co-operative that make brooms which we are helping to sell. It gives the workers money during lockdown and we are using the profits to purchase credit for students to spend in internet cafés so they can access their courses remotely. Once our charitable status is approved, we hope to be able to do a lot more.”

You can find out more about Heart for Philippines and the projects they are

involved in at www.heartforphilippines.org or follow them on Facebook.





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



- Jul 4-5 Dad, 13 years have passed. We miss you every day. Lindsay, Helen and family xxxx
- Jul 18 Barbara Knight – sending birthday wishes to you Mum. Miss you every day. Love you, Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all the family xxxx
- Aug 27 Barbara Knight – it's ten years since you have been gone. We miss you every day. Can't believe it's 10 years. Love you, Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all the 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.

Highworth Church contacts

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

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

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

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

Community Church Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712 521046

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:

churchispraying@gmail.com

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

There is HOPE!



HOPE

for Highworth

From the Registers

We remember those who love and miss:

Mary 'June' Burr,
Ron Johnson,
Grania Evans,
Gwen Bucknall,
David Wood,
Margaret Newman,
Lesley Chambers,
Dolly James,
Ken Vardy,
Graham Arrondelle.

St Michael's Update

The Church opened for private prayer in June and is open for most of the day as usual. We have included some boards with prayer ideas for addressing grief, silence and hope to God, as well as specific ideas for prayer.

The future of opening for services has not been

decided, so meanwhile we continue to stream on the website and we will continue to stream even when we open for services for all those who would be unable to get to church for the present time.

We are also open for weddings (there are two going ahead this month) and for funerals. We will update the community on future changes as decisions are made.

Highworth Churches Info:-

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

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

Virtual Church Services

St Michael's Church Services:

The 10.15am Sunday Service and 6pm Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (lasting 25 minutes) can be watched live at www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth or by clicking on the service link on the Church website at www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk. The Chat window will be active during the service. You need to have signed up with an account on the Twitch website if you want to add a comment to the chat. Service sheets, summaries, prayers and blessings can all be found on the Church website. If you are not able to catch the service live you will be able to catch up with it later. All available videos can be viewed at <https://www.twitch.tv/stmichaelshighworth/videos>

Roman Catholic Church

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

Highworth Methodist Church

Rev David is posting a new service every Sunday at 10.30am on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZpw6oX_1

[ef-68tycPGT3Q?](#) There are links in the info to songs fitting in with what is happening in the service with guidance as to where they fit in.

NEW Midweek service on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Please email hmbulletin@gmail.com to be invited to the next one.

United Reform Church

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

Highworth Community Church

We are publishing daily encouragement on our HCC YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG1MXSAzh uV0aWk3tYEzyUw>

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

You can also access the Hope for Highworth YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpu76C97aC mAUe_8hfqCXOg

If you have a business story email: Sarah Gardiner, editor@highworthlink.co.uk

Highworth Businesses in the time of Coronavirus

Some businesses managed to adapt and carry on during lockdown. Others had to close and wait for better times. We asked a couple of businesses around town to tell us about their experiences.

HIGHWORTH HARDWARE

We were lucky to be one of the shops that was able to stay open. It has been hard because I've been on my own, working 15 hours a day, sometimes seven days a week. We have



had lots of new customers and it's been very busy. I have a laser to point customers to where items are and I wash the money to keep safe. There have been a few stock issues. It's very hard to get hold of compost and it's the first time in 15 years that I haven't sold plants. I'm still waiting for coloured fence paint. But I love working and I feel lucky that we were able to remain open and also a bit guilty as lots of businesses will close.

lan

ANDREW'S BUTCHERS



Four of us formed a bubble at the start of lockdown because otherwise it would be impossible to continue and maintain social distancing at all times.

It has been hard. We have seen a 50% increase in sales with a 25% reduction in staffing. We said

goodbye to two staff members; one retired, the other is studying. We have had to close early at 3pm to allow us time to prepare stock for the next day. We have had long queues and would like to thank our customers for their patience. To help manage this we have set up three servicing points; one inside the shop, one at the door, and one at the black side doors and this has helped to manage the queues better.

We haven't had any stocking issues. We are lucky enough to have our own small abattoir near Royal Wootton Bassett. But we have noticed a change in our work over the period. During lockdown we had a lot of deliveries and we would be out doing those until gone 8pm every night. Once lockdown ended people started collecting their orders more. Just recently as customers have returned to work, sales have started to fall as people aren't cooking as much but with pubs and restaurants reopening their orders are increasing. The team is exhausted though. Jo and I have just returned from two weeks off. We did nothing but sleep and rest. It was needed!

Andrew

BLOOMFIELDS

We have been open six days a week. It's been quite non-stop as we have been busy delivering orders as well as manning the shop. We really struggled to get hold of flour and eggs at the beginning but other than that it's been fine. All the staff have stayed well and we are hoping to reopen the café when we feel safe to do so.



The Bloomfields Team

THE LIGHTHOUSE BOOKSHOP

We have really missed being in the shop. We made sure we got out for a daily walk, but it has



been hard being stuck at home. We have had a few online and phone orders to sort out; a school ordered a set of bibles. But closing before Easter hit us hard as it is one of the

main times people buy from us. Swindon Borough Council have been brilliant and sorted out our business funding really quickly so we can continue. We are really happy to be back open again.

Malcolm and Val

HIGHWORTH TRAVEL

The travel industry has been severely affected. Since before lockdown all we were doing at Highworth Travel was cancelling holidays or re-booking them for later in the



year or for next year. Once lockdown was upon us we closed our doors and moved to working from home, something that was very alien to us. Those months were spent liaising with Tour operators, airlines and customers battling to get money back. This has been trying and very time consuming but slowly we are getting there; some airlines in particular are taking far longer than others. Thankfully our customers, on the whole, have been very patient and understanding, and we have had some amazing thank you cards.

We returned to the office in July, working 10am-4pm, operating a closed door policy and we will re-open to customers on an appointment only basis from **Monday 3rd August**, restricted to one set of customers at any one time. Customers can handle brochures and take them away to recycle at home but we are not accepting any new

enquiries to travel abroad during July and August as there are still too many restrictions in place and this just creates too much work. Hopefully it won't be too long before travel becomes a bit more easy.

Claire

THE EMPORIUM

Lockdown gave us time to finish the work we had just started on our website. Easter was quite busy. We had a lot of orders over the phone and through social media so there was always someone



in the shop even though our doors were closed. May and June were quiet but reopening in July was amazing. We have had customers pop their heads in to say how much they have missed us, one customer even bought us flowers. Father's Day was very busy and face coverings have been very popular: we have sold over 500 so far.

We are only taking card payments and we have tried to make the shop as safe as we can. We are still taking quite a few orders online and many people still prefer to collect but customers are starting to get braver about coming in the shop to browse. We would really like to say a big thank you to all our customers for their support and for making us feel so loved.

Aga

AUTODOCS



We stayed open throughout the lockdown and although it was a bit quieter than normal, the work was steady. Our holiday was cancelled, but it gave me

chance to work on my model railway (search Facebook for Hoggies model railways to find out more). We haven't had any problems getting parts but they have taken longer to arrive. Since lockdown ended we have been fully booked a week ahead and with the MOT exemption ending on 31st July, we expect to get even busier. So if people leave their MOT's until the last minute they might get caught out as even if they get an MOT appointment, if their car fails then there won't be a spare slot in which to fix the problems.

Andy and Karen

THE GOLDFINGER



Lockdown was horrible! The Goldfinger has a fence around the garden and I felt like a caged animal! My two sons were with me and after two weeks we decided to start doing food, just

to stop us going crazy. So we offered a Sunday roast and a mid-week meal and put the food outside for people to collect. We are still delivering meals to those in the community who are shielding, at a reduced rate to cover costs. It was lovely as a lot of the people we visit are the parents or grandparents of people we went to school with. Keeping busy has definitely kept us sane. I was terrified of reopening, but actually it's been okay.

We had a 45 page document we had to read through and write explanations of how we would keep our customers safe and I did wonder if it was worth reopening. But all of our customers have been really good and it is a pleasure to see them again. They have been socially distancing, following the one-way system and have endured having their temperature taken when they enter. All customer details are stored in the safe and will be destroyed after 21 days.

We have reached capacity a few times and it is definitely worth booking a table in advance for evenings and Sundays. The play area and pool

table are closed because they have to be cleaned every 30 minutes and I miss having drinkers at the bar. But we've survived and are taking each day as it comes.

Sharon

Highworth Saturday Market

THE SWEET STALL

It is lovely for the market to be back after a two-month absence. Our stock has a long shelf life so we haven't lost as much compared to other traders, but it has still been a hit for the business. Traders can put in a small claim from the government but there is no big payout and no furlough. The early morning start is a bit of a shock, but I'm really happy to be back in business.



Frankie and Richard

THE CHEESE STALL



We were able to keep going over lockdown as half of our markets stayed open. It has been difficult to get some cheeses though. Very little continental cheese is making it into

the country at the moment and some of the northern cheeses (Yorkshire, Cheshire, etc) are hard as deliveries are only going to supermarkets and not to small guys like us. The 80% government grant is only a small amount and doesn't even cover the costs for the fridge or cutting unit we rent. We are starting to break even but it has been a scary time and our costs have gone up. We are really glad to be back in Highworth again and it has been lovely to hear

our customers say they have missed us. We are based in Westbury so coming here is a long day but it never feels like it.

Mark and Jackie

THE BUTCHER'S DOG SAUSAGE CO.

We were lucky enough to be able to carry on doing about half our markets and the market managers have gone out of their way to ensure the safety of traders and customers. We have also had lots of home deliveries which have kept us going and sales to the pubs and restaurants are starting to pick up again.

We have seen quite a few new faces recently. I think people have realised that market traders sell better quality food than supermarkets and they appreciate that we will turn up rain or shine. It is really good to be back here again. People in Highworth are so friendly and nice.

Gerry and Gemma

BAKING BEE



We managed to carry on during lockdown and started offering home deliveries. Our biggest loss has been the cancellation of all the weekend events. Normally we would be very busy over the

summer and I'm not eligible for government support because I only started the business last year. We have also had problems with our suppliers. I like to buy as local as possible.

The milk and butter come from the organic farm in Wroughton. I use Beechwood Farm Eggs. My

flour normally comes from Wessex Mill but during early lockdown they shut their website and would put it back up for 15 minutes a day! There was never any warning so it was impossible to buy their flour before it sold out without sitting at the computer constantly! So I had to source new flour and I don't think it was as good. I also couldn't get hold of Marmite. It's a byproduct of the brewing industry but with breweries shut it disappeared as well.

I'm really glad to be back in Highworth and to hear customers saying they have missed my scones.

Clare

THE OLIVE MAN

It has been quite difficult. I had to throw away about 50% of my stock at the start. I have managed to continue doing two markets which has brought in some money.

My children have been at home as well and my wife has been homeschooling them.



When lockdown first started it was Ramadam and being at home made it easier as we weren't rushing around as much. It's getting better now. We have lots of regular customers and the traders all look out for each other.

Ali

HABERDASHERY



We had to stop the markets as we are non-essential but our online sales have been okay. We sold out of elastic and struggled to get more. People have also been keen to buy face

masks and wool. We've been delivering to local customers and it has kept us busy, but it's much nicer to be back at the market again.

Jackie

FESTIVAL TRADER

I had a lung collapse a few years ago so I'm classed as at risk and have been in isolation with my dog. Lockdown has given me time to clean and the house and to cook. I

started full of enthusiasm but by the second week I lost all my motivation. I have been selling stock on ebay; I would spend my mornings going to the post office and would walk the dogs in the afternoon. I haven't had any supply issues, in fact there are more second hand sellers now than before! But the prices for the new records has gone up.

I have missed Highworth Market and am glad to be back. I need to be around people and I have never seen as good a community as you have here in Highworth.

Frederico

FRUIT AND VEG



When lockdown began we sold all our stock and shielded ourselves as I'm classed as high risk. I've been busy in the garden and lost a stone in weight. The doctors were worried I had cancer so I had to have a few tests, but I don't. I'm fine.

The prices of some stock has really increased, like cooking apples are now four times as expensive. But there is no shortage of fruit and veg. We've

been doing this now for 35-40 years and have been in Highworth for most of that time. We were the last trader to return to Highworth Market and it's fun to be back.

Chris

CARDS AND STATIONERY

Lockdown came at a good time for me. I was hospitalised with a burst abcess and have had to take it easy, so I wouldn't have been able to be at the market anyway. I'm really thankful to be alive and to be working again.



Darren

HIGHWORTH COUNTRY MARKET



Hardly any of the country markets have been able to reopen as many of the village and town halls are refusing to open for just one group. So we are really glad that Richard offered

us a spot on the Saturday Market until the Council Community Room reopens.

It's been boring having to stay at home, although it was very hard to get up so early this morning! Brenda has been making jams and marmalade and has been baking cakes for Blunsdon Village Shop. Chris has been busy with the plants but has been unable to sell them. He's been planting them in his garden and has a patio full of potted plants.

We haven't been selling cakes or pies on the stall yet but we are taking orders for the future via the phone; you can call Jill on 01793 740620 or Brenda on 07919 400059.

Intimate weddings back at Wrag Barn

With weddings once again allowed to take place, we thought we would provide some inspiration for your intimate wedding with a stunning botanical styled shoot at Wrag Barn.

This intimate outdoor wedding ceremony was set up by Sandra from Fabulous Functions UK for just eight wedding guests, with solid wood cross-back chairs from Hospitality Services. The gorgeous floral arch makes the perfect ceremony backdrop and the addition of the floral columns frames the wedding ceremony area perfectly. The ceremony set-up is finished off with a pure white aisle carpet that contrasts beautifully against the greenery.

The wedding breakfast table setting is perfect for celebrating with close family or support bubble. The stunning floral canopy brings the outside in with its abundance of greenery. The hanging glass tea light holders finish it off perfectly and it's easy to imagine how beautiful the scene would look at sunset with all the candles lit. The rustic, solid wood table from Linda's Vintage Hire looks beautiful draped with a delicate cream runner.

The table centrepiece is simple, yet stunning; cleverly made up of four-square mirrored cubes with white floral arrangements in each. The staggered white candles in between create added interest and, once lit, a soft, warm light.

The sleek place settings consist of crystal-clear tableware and glassware, which are all Wrag Barn's own, with silver-rimmed glass plate chargers and vintage-feel silver cutlery.

All these photographs were captured by Steffen Milsom photography and are full of inspiration for celebrating with friends and family this summer

Verity Manners,
www.wragbarn.com



Mayor's Report 2019/2020

I attended 41 fantastic functions, as far south as Wilton and Salisbury and many of our wonderful historical towns throughout Wiltshire.

Special Events in Highworth

I have been proud to attend the following events in Highworth as Mayor:

- Highworth Emporium (Our small victory)
- The Lions 45th Anniversary Dinner at Wrag Barn
- Westrop Primary School and Nursery 50th Birthday Celebrations
- Highworth Produce Show at Warneford School
- Friends of Gloucester House Dinner and Dance at Wrag Barn
- The Mayor's Charity Cotswold Voices Choir in St Michael's Church (very special)
- Friends of Dementia presentation in the Council Community Room
- Mayor's charity Floral Art Society Christmas Celebrations
- Highworth W.I. Carol Service in the Methodist Church
- Highworth Choral Society Christmas Concert
- Inglesham Carol Service in Inglesham Church
- Lions presentation evening in the Council Community Room
- Opening of Forget me not Café in the Council Community Room
- Visit and lunch with the High Sheriff of Wiltshire

Events in Wiltshire

There was a reception with High Sheriff of Wiltshire at his home, Nursteed House in Devizes. The amazing Armed Forces Day in Salisbury; the town is still recovering from the poisoning. We met many residents and they were deeply affected. The drama on BBC1 'The Salisbury Poisoning' exactly reflected how the Town felt. We also visited Chippenham, Marlborough,

Malmesbury, Calne and Wilton and Royal Wootton Bassett for their civic occasions. We were also honoured to attend the Field of Remembrance at Lydiard Park, Swindon, the M&S Ball at the Marriot, Swindon and the Rule of Law Service in Devizes.

Highlights

The Highworth Remembrance Service at St Michael's in a very packed church was very emotional. Thank you to the Royal British Legion for their involvement and for hosting the reception that followed.

The R.A.F. Air Show Fairford must be the best in the world and the our Christmas Lighting ceremony was fantastic on a perfect night, with the Silver Band and Father Christmas and hundreds of people packed into the Market Square and beyond.

The Festival of Light at the Prospect Hospice, Wroughton took place outside on the coldest night of the year, yet it was so full of love and hope.

My Civic and Carol Service at St Michael's in the beautiful re-ordered church was lit by candlelight and a 12ft Christmas Tree. The service began with a stunning solo by Eliseo Murby. I was joined by my family, grandchildren, friends, the High Sheriff, Lt Colonel Joe Knothe (commander of RAF Fairford) and Mayors from across the county. We ended the service with punch and mince pies. Alan and I will never forget the beauty and joy of that December evening.

I was very sorry to have to cancel four more charity events for Prospect Hospice due to Covid-19. Alan and I are hoping to hold an event in the spring of 2021 to compensate for this loss and I will announce the total raised early next year.

I would like to thank Alan for his constant support. I would also like to thank David Lane, Mary, Dee, Ellen and especially Jacqui for all their help and support. I will always have special memories from the last couple of years. It has been an honour to serve our community and I wish our new Mayor a happy and successful year.

Julia Bishop

Extract of the minutes of the full Town Council (Planning) meeting on 16th June 2020

128. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Letter received from a member of the public regarding the Outline Planning Application for 250 houses in Shrivenham Road. Councillors confirmed, even should the applicant reduce the number of houses proposed for the site, that this would not deter them from opposing the application.

130. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. The Town Clerk has received numerous items of correspondence regarding Cycle Paths. They will be on the agenda on 18 August. b. Email received from Custom Land advising a consultation leaflet is to be posted to the properties within the vicinity of the land on 12 June 2020 with a view of developing 75-85 houses on a site adjacent to the newly constructed houses at Wrag View. Due to the Covid-19 crisis a public exhibition to enquire the views of residents is not possible. Councillors unanimously agreed any development in Shrivenham Road goes against the Neighbourhood Plan and Highworth's status as a Hill-Top Town. A formal response is to be submitted once an application has been submitted to SBC. c. Email from a resident asking HTC to request SBC Planning Department to consider all applications for major developments collectively when considering their impact on infrastructure and transport in the Town. Councillors agreed to put this to the Planning Department.

135. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

a. Cllr Williams: Apologised for the misunderstanding on Social Media and thanked the Councillors for their help with re-opening the Market.

b. Cllr Wolfensohn: Assurance from SBC is to be sought on the number of additional houses required to fulfil the 5-year housing land supply set out by the Government.

c. Cllr Smith: A General Purpose & Finance Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 30 June at 7pm.

d. Cllr Barber: The Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Working Party is to be circulated to all Councillors.

e. Councillor Penny: It was previously reported the traffic lights are to be replaced. This was a misunderstanding, the pedestrian lights along Lechlade Road are to be renewed and amendments are to be made to the sequencing of the traffic lights. A right arrow for vehicles turning into Lechlade Road is planned to be painted on the road. (Standing Orders were Suspended) The Clerk is to write to the three cafés and the three public houses in the High Street to extend an offer for seating on the Podium for use of their take-away customers.

The offer comes with conditions: businesses supply the tables and be responsible for their security, be responsible for clearing the litter caused by their customers and that the offer is confined to non-alcoholic beverages and food. Cllr Penny has agreed to assist HTC in obtaining the necessary license. Highworth Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed in line with the SBC Local Plan.

f. Cllr Gardiner: An agenda item is to be put on the next General Purpose & Finance Meeting 30 June 2020 to debate a Facebook page for HTC.

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deb.hodgson@tiscali.co.uk

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

SBC hopes to improve rural and suburban bus services

Swindon Borough Council has made two separate bids of £1.05m each to the Department for Transport's Rural Mobility Fund to improve transport provision in rural and suburban parts of the Borough giving people access to key amenities in the Swindon area.

The new services would also reduce people's dependence on their cars, reducing the number of vehicles on local roads and improving air quality. The funding bids would allow the Council to set up an entirely new demand-responsive transport service or create a feed-in service to an existing bus route. Demand-response transport services are a flexible form of public transport, which focus on passenger needs rather than a fixed route or timetable. Vehicles used to provide the service can include a bus, minibus or a form of taxi. The service would benefit the villages of Castle Eaton, Hannington, Inglesham, Chiseldon, Liddington and Wanborough.

At present, there are few frequent, reliable registered local bus services that rural residents can rely on in order to attend work, hospital appointments, social and leisure activities. By delivering these new transport links the Council would make it easier for people to get to the Orbital Retail Park, Great Western Hospital, Swindon Railway Station and the Town Centre. Links would also be made with Stratton and Gablecross in the east and the Blagrove and Windmill Hill industrial estates in the west.

Councillor Maureen Penny, Swindon Borough



Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services, said: "If we are serious about improving air quality and the environment it is absolutely crucial that we do as much as we possibly can to encourage people out of their cars and onto public transport. This government funding pot fits in perfectly with our climate change agenda and is why we have submitted two bids in order to improve the provision of public transport for our rural and suburban communities. Our plans to create a new bus interchange and cycle facilities at the Fleming Way Bus Boulevard are examples of our commitment to promoting sustainable travel, not to mention the considerable investment we have made in our cycle network. We will be keeping our fingers crossed our bids make it through to the next round of the funding process."

COLESHILL

Players needed for football team

Colehill United FC is in danger of folding unless it can find new players. A very wet winter which flooded the pitch followed by the lockdown has cut off the club's income stream, whilst the outgoing costs still need to be covered. This finance disparity could mean the end for the Club which has been running for over 50 years.

If you have been looking for a Sunday team then please contact the chairperson Mr Stonham, T: 01367 241673, E: cufc@btopenworld.com and help keep this club running.

FARINGDON

The Mustard Seed is Open

Mustard Seed is committed to selling Fair Trade products and Christian Literature. We are now reopen 9am-1pm Monday-Saturday. Do call in to see what you've been missing all these weeks. Only one customer at a time in the shop and we kindly ask that you wear a mask or face covering to protect the stock and our volunteers. Many thanks to all who have supported the shop during the closure. It made a big difference. I will continue to take orders and deliver to anyone who is not able to get out. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything.

Karen, T: 01367 241707, karen@vogt.org.uk

Faringdon Information Centre re-opens: 9/7/20

The Information Centre has reopened. To keep staff and customers safe we will be following a closed-door policy. Please ring the doorbell for assistance and wear a face covering when entering the centre. We will only be able to accept contactless payment.

The Information Centre will be open mornings only from Monday to Friday 9am-12.30pm, Saturday 9.30am-1pm. For Town Council enquiries please phone 01367 204281.



Faringdon Viral Kindness

With relaxation measures in place, Faringdon Viral Kindness will ramp down its operations over the coming weeks. Before this announcement, everyone who we have helped

throughout June has been contacted and understands our position. Therefore, unless the Government imposes further restrictions, FVK will close down operations on **Monday 31st August 2020**.

Our volunteer group is so proud of what we've achieved over the last 19 weeks. We've handled well over 960 requests and continue to work with a smaller number of residents to ensure they have the ongoing support they will need in the coming months.

We will continue to supply further information on what long term support services they will be. But also do understand that, should things change, we've got a bucket full of ready and willing volunteers should our need arise again. Our call handlers are still operating 9am-5pm five days a week if you have any questions or concerns.

Lucy Edwards

Faringdon and District U3A

Faringdon and District U3A still exists but at present we cannot hold any meetings in the Corn Exchange. Committee meetings are being held by Zoom.

We are greatly sorry that we have had to cancel the summer lunch which is traditionally held in the Braithwaite's garden due to the need for social distancing. We have failed to work out how to manage the party and, considering the ages of many of our members, we feel that this year it is impossible. Let's hope that we can manage it next year.

Thursday 13th August will be our first attempt to hold a talk over Zoom at 2.30pm. The speaker is Danielle Mills talking about Medical Detection Dogs. This organisation trains dogs to detect the odour of human disease. It is at the forefront of the research into the fight against cancer and also helps people with other life-threatening diseases.

All Zoom meetings are for members only. Details for accessing the meetings can be found on the U3A website: <https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/> or by contacting Margaret Brown, the chairman on 01367 615385.

Alison

Faringdon Saturday Market

The market reopened at the beginning of July

and continues to take place on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10am-1pm. The stalls will be displaying a range of produce from the local area in the Town centre, surrounded by a variety of independent cafés, pubs, and local shops and the historical Old Town Hall. We always welcome applications from new local traders in support of these event. Our markets help make Faringdon a great day out, so why not come and experience it?

To apply for a stall go to
<https://www.faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/saturday-market-4th-july/>

LECHLADE

Lechlade Community Library

The Directors of Lechlade Community Library are delighted to announce the opening of Lechlade Community Library on **Saturday 1st August**. The Library was closed on 12th March following the Covid 19 lockdown. We will not be able to offer, at present, the six day service we once had but are hoping to offer three days a week. Many of our highly committed volunteers, due to Covid-19 and concerns about interacting with the public, have seen fit to retire or delay returning while there exists uncertainty about the pandemic but the Directors have worked extremely hard to ensure the safety of both staff and customers. We have been helped by Friends of Fairford and Lechlade, LR Engineering of Fairford and the Lechlade and District Lions in this endeavour and we are most grateful for their contribution.

The reduction of Volunteers means we are looking to those in Lechlade and area to offer help. A recent Facebook post was answered by six persons willing to give it a go. If you can offer three hours every fortnight, are generally computer literate and willing to be taught the rudimentaries of running a Library and Information centre we would love to hear from you. Please contact Anne Goymer, Director for volunteers, on email annegoymer@hotmail.com.

We are opening from **1st August** as follows:

Monday	10.00 - 13.00
Wednesday	13.00 - 16.00
Saturday	10.00 - 13.00

We will require customers to comply with the following;

- Sanitise hands on entry and exit. Please wear a mask if possible.
- Two people only in the Adult section at one time and only two People's computers in use. Computing will be restricted to 1 hour.
- Only two people or one family at a time in the Children's section at any one time.

Money for fines or rentals will be handled safely and we also now have a card reader for contactless payment over £1. Fines incurred from 12/3 to 1/8 will be deleted. Fines incurred before will still have to be paid.

We hope you will not find these precautions too onerous but, if all goes well, it will be lovely to have this facility for the community open once again.

*Tim Yeoman on behalf
of Lechlade Community Library Directors.*

Jumble Trail, Saturday 1st August

Browse your way around our beautiful town, picking up some bargains along the way! Homes across Lechlade are participating in our first town-wide Jumble sale on Saturday 1st August from 11am-3pm. More details will be posted on the Lechlade-on-Thames Facebook page.

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Golf Course

Shrivenham Park continues to welcome pay and play people and has an online booking system and telephone booking on 01793 783853. Please do book and come and enjoy our course which always looks at its best in the summer days when all the different trees are in full beauty.

The Senior men invited the ladies to a match which was a single player format and we are pleased to report that the ladies won a close contest of 3 & 1/2 to 2 & 1/2. Well played the ladies. This was thought to be a new venture, greatly enjoyed and expected to be repeated later in the season when the ladies section will organise it.

The ladies decided that competitions wouldn't be played this year. This seems to be the accepted way for many clubs at the moment. It is great just to be playing and walking the fairways and having freedom. However the ladies are now playing the Ladies Singles knockout which carries

the title Angela Bassett trophy. The junior girls encouraged a new girl member, Rachael, to put in her cards and gain a 49 handicap and the two girls have also been rewarded by putting in cards and reducing their own handicaps. Amelia has reduced from 32 to 22 in the space of three weeks and Lillie Chownes has reduced her handicap to 39. Congratulations to these girls who are being supported by the club and county girls junior organiser. I look forward to reporting more next time.

Carole

SOUTH MARSTON

Please help us to replace the Gazebo in St. Julian's Woodland

The gazebo in St. Julian's Woodland, that many residents and others have enjoyed for the past four years, was destroyed by arson on 11th June.

There have been many messages of anger at its loss and offers of funding, and even rebuilding, that have prompted us to set up this fundraiser. Funds raised will only be used for a replacement or other activities in St. Julian's Woodland. Our

appeal is directly linked to WWT so that Gift Aid and banking are all properly managed and easily accessible for use. We hope to re-build in a material that will not be so easily destroyed by vandals so that we can continue to use it for village events and social gatherings.

If you or someone you know would prefer to donate by cash or cheque please call Robbie on 823757 or Barry on 826697 and we will be there to help you or them. To donate online go to:

www.wiltshirewildlife.org/st-julians

STANTON FITZWARREN

St Leonard's Church

Services are re-starting but are not yet planned in detail. We are hoping to have an outdoor family service on **Sunday 9th August** at 11am in the churchyard. There will be other services details on the web site www.stantonchurch.info

The church is also open for private individual prayer. Please contact Roger and Liz Hillman on 01793 762935.



Come together to replace our Gazebo!

**It was
our
space
for:**



**Carol singing,
nature events
and woodland
crafts**



**Halloween, Easter
Egg hunt and picnics**



**Sheltering from
rain or shade on
hot sunny days**

The official Wiltshire Wildlife Trust/South Marston Parish fund-raising campaign is now open for donations. All funds guaranteed to go towards a new events space in St. Julian's Woodland

www.wiltshirewildlife.org/st-julians OR phone Robbie on 823757 or Barry on 826697

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
Pest Control	Non-Emergency	07789 781151

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)

