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Introductions

I would like to formally introduce myself. I am Emily the relatively new curate at St Michael's Church. My husband Jamie and our two children moved here in May last year in order for me to begin work in the July. We have all settled in to Highworth life very well and are enjoying being part of this community. I hope I will get to meet most of the residents of Highworth during my time here.

I am preoccupied at the moment by the fires raging across

Australia. The images and stories of people losing homes, millions of animals killed and the huge amount of carbon being released is heartbreaking and hugely worrying.

Last year, I became overwhelmed by the enormity of the climate crisis. I didn't know what to do or how to pray. It is clear to me that this world that we have been given to treat carefully and look after is being abused by us, all of us.

The diocese of Bristol, of which St Michael's is a part, has declared a Climate Emergency and has committed to reach net carbon emissions of zero



by 2030. This decision has been driven by a love for our neighbour, love for our world and love for the God who created it.

Highworth as a town seems to be acting already to help our immediate environment. Pentylands Park is a wonderful area where wildlife and people can thrive. I have noticed a number of people who are concerned for the welfare of bees affected by pesticides used by local contractors and,

of course, we have the market and various outlets where we can buy local goods. All help us to reduce our collective carbon footprint.

As a Church, we at St Michael's are aware that we need to do more to help further make an impact and we are heading into this as part of our worship of our creator God. So far we have started by collecting crisp packets and bottle tops to recycle and are planning on doing much more. If you would like to be involved we would love to hear from you and join with you.

Emily Swinerd

Cover: Winter Sun by Jenny Fry

LINK magazine

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Opinions expressed or implied in any contributions are not necessarily those of the editor or management committee.

No responsibility can be accepted for any error of fact in the magazine or website. Please inform the editor of any errors so they can be rectified.

Contributions:

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

Email is preferred; otherwise deliver to The Lighthouse Bookshop.

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

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

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

Deadlines

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





SECOND THOUGHTS

Citizen of the month

Sue Buttery is that rarest of beings: a person who is able to stay positive and upbeat despite the difficult path her life has taken. As such she is a true inspiration to us all and fully deserves to be recognised as the Link's first Citizen of the Month.

Several years ago, Sue was in her back garden in Highworth when she was bitten by an insect on the back of her head. "I could feel something drain down my ear" Sue told me "but I didn't think anything of it at the time. Then I started to feel very unwell. I was admitted to hospital with

breathing difficulties and organ failure. They didn't think I would make it but after three weeks in an induced coma I woke up. However, my skin continued to deteriorate. Water leaked continuously out of my feet and my skin peeled off; the hospital had to hold it on with cellophane."

The insect had burrowed into Sue's bloodstream and was attacking her from the inside, causing widespread disintegration of her extremities.

"I was transferred to Bristol to have both legs and all the tops of my fingers amputated," Sue said. "I had an operation every two days to remove the necrosis, but it kept on creeping up my legs and they had to take away more and more flesh. In total I had to endure had about 60 operations before they were able to halt the disintegration.

"It was horrific, but I also felt grateful to be alive. There were two other cases in the country around the same time. There was a female who died after three days and a male who was paralysed from the neck down, so I do feel lucky as it could have been much worse.

Sue has had to slowly rebuild her life and relearn many of the everyday activities we take for granted. "My first challenge was learning how to walk again on the prosthetic limbs," she explained. "Then I had a lot of physiotherapy on my hands to desensitise my fingers. When you have your fingers shortened the brain has to be



retrained or it thinks the fingers are still complete and it's impossible to pick things up".

As well as physiotherapy, Sue also started attending weightwatchers and has lost an incredible 95lbs over 3.5 years. "Being in and out of hospital all that time and unable to walk meant that I gained a lot of weight. So once I was mobile again I was offered drugs or weightwatchers. I chose weightwatchers and, together with my twice weekly gym sessions, I have been able to make slow progress towards regaining my independence. I know I will

never get back to being able to do all the things I could before, but these are small triumphs and they keep me moving forward".

Sue's determination and singlemindedness now means that she is able to enjoy a full and active life. "I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, I pop into Swindon once a week to do the shopping and I play bowls at Cheney Manor as they have specialised equipment so I can play whilst seated. I still enjoy gardening and I have a new challenge to walk up the driveway. It's very steep and no easy task."

Sue is also a regular at the Swindon Limb User Group and is keen to appeal for new members. "There are loads of inspirational stories at the Association and it's a really good way to meet other amputees and talk though all the difficulties life throws at you that you may not have been aware of before. Getting dressed, using pubic transport and navigating round pedestrians all become so much harder when you have lost a limb and people just don't realise. So its nice to have others who understand and can suggest ways to overcome these challenges".

The Swindon Limb User Group meet on the second Tuesday of each month and go for a meal on the last Tuesday of each month. Transport is available and the programme is varied, including talks, raffle nights and trips out.

For more details please call 01793 346388 or E: bon.john@ntlworld.com.

Sporting and fundraising success for RAF Air Cadets

Sporting success

In recent months, sport at 878 (Highworth) Squadron has gone from strength to strength. At the end of September, a group of our cadets made the journey down to Tidworth to participate in this year's sports trials. The sports on offer included hockey. netball, football and rugby and cadets represented the Squadron in each of these. At the end of the day our cadets had performed wonderfully, with four of them being selected for the teams of their choice: Sqt Mikyla Bagley for

Netball, Cpl Nile Austin for Rugby and Cadets Sam Brown and Thomas Mobley for Football. Congratulations to all of 878's sporting stars.

Another cadet who made a splash at wing events this year was Cdt Henry Shortland. Henry was selected to represent Dorset and Wiltshire Wing at the Regional Swimming Trials in October where he obtained two Gold and one Silver medals. This is a huge achievement to be recognised as one of the best, not just in our Wing but in the whole of South West Region Air Cadets. Well done Henry!

Festive Fundraising

Around Christmas time, 878 Squadron becomes a hive of activity and last year was no different. Along with our usual Christmas themed fundraising evening, our cadets also went out



into the community. Packing bags at Asda on the final Saturday before Christmas doesn't exactly sound like everyone's idea of a holiday treat but, thanks to the generosity of the public, our cadets raised £1068.94 to be split between the Squadron and the RAF Benevolent Fund. On the same day we also handed over 20 boxes of food items to the Swindon Food Bank as part of the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' scheme.

A wonderful end to a fantastic year for 878.

Sgt Anna Talbert (16)

To find out what other activities cadets get up to, visit our various sites:

Web: http://rafac.highworth.org.uk,

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CHRISTMAS ROUND-UP



Lights Switch On

This year's Christmas was kicked off by James Arkell, who had the privilege of turning on the Lights. James Arkell runs our local brewery and comes from a very old Highworth family.

Highworth Silver band once more set the festive mood, playing a variety of Christmas tunes as mince pies were dispensed to the awaiting crowd. The evening was rounded off by the appearance of Father Christmas who handed out sweets to the children.

Happy Birthday Lunch Together

Lunch Together celebrated its first birthday, so we celebrated in style with a special lunch, games, cake and a revisit from the delightful Westrop choir who had been at our first meeting.

Two weeks later we had a Christmas party too, with a visit from Santa and presents for everyone, plus entertainment from a ukulele band.

We were delighted to have 30 guests at the Christmas Party. We started last year not knowing how things would develop, but this proved we were providing something which was needed in Highworth.

If you are interested in joining us for some company and a delicious meal, then please contact me for more details.

Mary Swaffield, T: 01793 861173





Civic and Carol Service at St Michael's

The Mayor of Highworth Cllr Mrs Julia Bishop would like to thank all of those who attended the Civic and Carol Service on the 15th December.

Special guests included Lt Col Joe Knothe and his wife Carolyn from USAF Fairford, Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire Helen Browning, Irene Watkins the Chief Executive of Prospect Hospice, Mayor of Swindon Cllr Kevin Parry and many other Mayors from across Wiltshire.

The Service began with the fantastic soloist Eloise Murby singing by candlelight. The whole evening was magical; full of joy and love. A collection was taken for the Hospice and raised over £431.



Thank you all for your continued support.
Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Julia Bishop, Mayor of Highworth

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much to all of you who helped and donated with the 'Shoe Box' campaign in 2019.

We were much busier than we anticipated during Collections Week as we were the only Collection Centre in the area. A lot of boxes were delivered to the Methodist Church, but we also collected boxes from all the drop-off points, as far afield as Malmesbury.

We have sent off 2760 boxes to be processed at the warehouse in Westbury. This included 101 boxes made up with all the fillers that were donated. We were also able to send 15 cartons of filler which were used at Westbury. We do not yet know which country these have been sent to. All those involved really

opening Christmas

enjoyed working together.

We will probably operate as a Collections Centre again this year. The campaign will be Monday 9th November to Monday November 16th. We hope to be able to collect as many boxes as in 2019, or even more.

Thank you all for your generosity.

Peter McAulev

Scouts Christmas Post Update

Many thanks to all of you who used the service. We sold 4,968 stamps which was a small increase on the previous year. We delivered 4,233 cards which was 8 down on 2018. The hard work by lots of people (thank you, all of you) means the group will have raised just over £1,200.

Of course, it would not be possible without the efforts of Malcolm and Val plus all the volunteers at the Lighthouse Bookshop. Thanks for helping us again.

12 Days of Christmas

The Silhouette Theatre Company returned for another year with a brand new show based around the Christmas comedies of Morecombe and Wise and The Two Ronnies.



St Michael's Church provided a stunning backdrop to the performance. The show was enjoyed by all, including the youngsters, many of whom experienced 1970s comedy for the first

CHRISTMAS ROUND-UP

time. For the rest it was wonderful to see the return of classic sketches such as Oliver Cromwell banning Christmas and the WWI Christmas Truce football match.

Thank you from Terry

Despite some awful weather many braved the elements to buy a Christmas Tree. This year's sale raised over a £1100.

The proceeds will be shared between ShelterBox and local charities. A big thank you to all of you who bought them from Swindon North Rotarian Terry Williams.



Merry Christmas from Angel's Orphanage

You will be pleased to know that 'Father Christmas' (otherwise known as Prakash, our good friend from the hotel) made his usual visit to the children on Christmas Day with a little gift bag for each of them made possible by all your support.

Christmas is a special time for them, and it is good they know your love is with them at that time.

Friends of Angel's Orphanage every little helps, every penny counts

Christian Aid Big Sing

A big thank you to all those who came along to St Michael's church for a good sing and a cup of coffee. We managed to raise just under £100 for Christian Aid.



Rod Davis at the cash & carry purchasing food for the Foodbank

A very Happy New Year to all from Highworth Lions

Christmas out with the sleigh saw lots of children come out to see Santa. The sleigh looked very festive in bright red, the paint kindly donated by Dulux Decorating Services at Stratton.

We are now having a little rest before starting again to see what we can do that the residents of Highworth will enjoy, but our task would be much easier and more enjoyable if we could get a few new members as I am sure they could come up with new ideas. We are not getting any younger and do need the help.

Christmas is over now and perhaps some of you will have a little spare time, so please think about it and see how you could help.

In 2019 we gave £26,970.43 to requests and good causes and our mini bus was in constant use.

Rosemary Lion



Christmas Fun at Highworth Preschool

Children at Highworth Preschool had fun festive times, staging a Christmas Nativity and Singing with a visit from a special elf friend. They also held a very successful Christmas Fayre that

included a special visit from Santa.

Out and about with Westrop Choir



Westrop's choir has had a busy season, performing a variety of Christmas songs at Middi Haines Court and Newburgh House as well as entertaining parents at our Christmas Fayre and the guests at the Lunches Together Christmas party.

Pop-up Nativity

Highworth Methodist Church held a special pop-up nativity, encouraging members of the congregation to dress and assume various rôles as they collectively recreated the story of Jesus' birth.



Christmas Concert and Afternoon Tea at Warneford

The annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Concert and Afternoon Tea took place in the main hall at Highworth Warneford School on Wednesday afternoon, 18th December. The senior citizens of Highworth were entertained by Warneford's music department. Year 10 students enrolled in Food Tech classes assisted with setting up and serving. Besides afternoon tea, each place setting included a Christmas card with a wooden lasercut Christmas tree ornament and a jar of homemade piccalilli, along with a raffle ticket. The event was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Design Technology department staff members behind the scenes: Kim Airey, Sarah Green, Haley Bradford and Jess Kolkowska. This was the 28th Christmas Afternoon Tea that Kim Airey has planned (Kim is the Head of the DT Dept) and the tradition goes back more than thirty years!



Service of Confirmation

Eleven Candidates from Highworth and surrounding parishes confirmed



A Service of Confirmation was held at St Michael and All Angels on Sunday 24th November conducted by the Right Reverend Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon. Eleven Candidates from Highworth and the surrounding parishes were confirmed.

Each candidate was anointed by the Bishop with oil of Chrism and later were presented with a lighted candle. They each shared something of their journeys of faith. Refreshments were enjoyed after the service.

The candidates were as follows:

Heidi Lawrence

Dan Richardson St Michael's, Highworth Bethan Huband St Michael's, Highworth Leslie Lowton All Saints, Swindon Jamie Martin St Margaret's, Swindon Simon Campkin St Andrews, Wanborough Fileen Willis St Andrews, Wanborough David Aitkin St Andrews, Wanborough Tessa Lanstein St Andrews, Wanborough Hannah Silvester St Andrew, North Swindon Logan Kelly St Andrew, North Swindon

'Strike a Chord' Concert for Alzheimers Society

I am very pleased to announce that my guitar group 'Strike a Chord' raised £522.20 for the Alzheimers Society at their October concert at St Michael's.

We were honoured to be joined by international

guitarist Raymond Burley and we were treated to a wonderful afternoon of music, which was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank all those that attended and donated to our cause.

St John's, Parks & Walcot

Bob Jack



Vorda Pre-school

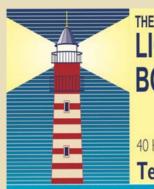


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Erasmus Project for Westrop



At the beginning of Term 2, three teachers from Westrop Primary school travelled to Cardiff to begin an Erasmus project with teachers from Finland, Spain, Italy and Wales.

Every three months, different teachers from Westrop will have the chance to visit the other countries and learn about their education system and how they ensure their pupils' wellbeing is looked after. Whilst the teachers were in Cardiff, they had the chance to visit classes, the Welsh National Assembly and Cardiff Castle.

They are looking forward to welcoming the teachers to Westrop in February 2021.



3-4 year olds

2/3 year olds

Contact Information: Telephone number:01793 762897 Email:nursery@westrop.swindon.sch.uk Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/westropnursery/

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Exciting Wild Flower Community Project for Pentylands Country Park

The Friends of Pentylands Country Park are looking to create a 1.5 hectare wildflower meadow in Part of The Butts (Field 1) The Hill Field.

This is a great and fun opportunity for the community to:

- Get involved in a worthwhile environmental project
- Provide a food source for pollinators
- Take a positive step towards saving the planet.
- Learn new skills
- Meet new people
- Reconnect with nature

Apart from being on a hill, The
Butts has a number of springs that rise along the
upper southern boundary and present problems
when using modern agricultural machinery. The
Friends feel that, rather than being a bar to
creating a meadow in the Butts, it is an
opportunity to go back to more traditional
methods where the whole community were
involved. Where possible, the much lighter
tractors, such a Trevor Patterson's vintage
Ferguson will be used and, if necessary, hand
tools such as scythes and rakes will be employed
(training will be given).

The Great Western Community Forest are on board and conversations are in progress that hopefully will allow us to link in with the



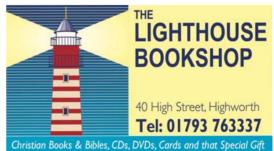
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust 2nd stage Magnificent Meadows Project. There is already a core stock of wildflowers in The Butts and we need to build on what we have. It is hoped that if wild flowering is successful we will be able to harvest some of the seed to create small meadows elsewhere in the park.

The Friends are looking for people who would like to be involved in this exciting project. If the concept excites you and you would like to be involved, email

pentylandscountrypark@gmail.com text 07576 740274 or ring 01793 763071

> Ken Saunders, Chair: The Friends of Pentylands Country Park





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You can also claim for repairs incurred in preparing the property for rental. Pre-letting expenses are treated as incurred on the first day of rental. Repairs incurred prior to the 'decision' to rent the property are not claimable. Since April 2016, you can claim for replacing furniture and white goods in a rented property – but not for the original furnishing of the property. Peter Bromiley ACA

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Swindon North Rotary Club Charity Swimathon and Draw 2020 takes place on Sunday 26th April

Swindon North Rotary Club Charity Swimathon and Draw 2020 wil take place on Sunday 26th April 2020 at the Link Centre, West Swindon, SN5 7DL 10am-3pm.

Our Charity SWIMATHON is a fun event organised to help local organisations raise the cash they need. Held on one day it gives a

team of swimmers the opportunity to gather sponsorship for an organisation, cause or charity they select. Team members can be friends,

school or work colleagues, family members in fact any group with a shared aim. Swindon North

Rotary Club organises and runs the event for you and there's absolutely no charge to enter it.

As well as raising money for the charity of your choice our Charity SWIMATHON will also raise funds for the Swindon Down's Syndrome Group. This Group is a parent-led charity

supporting people with Down's Syndrome, their families, carers and all those with an interest in Down's Syndrome in Swindon and the surrounding area. It is an independent charity, affiliated to the National Down's Syndrome Association.

It offers a broad range of services and support ranging from new parent support groups, speech and language therapy through to social activities like swimming sessions, family days out and drama projects. SDSG wouldn't be able to provide all the great activities, services and

support it does without help from fundraisers and the many events organised for it such as our Charity SWIMATHON. race. It's a FUN event and swimmers of any ability can enter. Swimmers aged from 8 to 80 plus can take part. No-one will

The SWIMATHON is not a marathon, nor is it a

be asked to complete a certain distance or to swim at a certain speed. The event involves team members swimming in relay for 55 minutes.

Organising your team: Ideally your team should have 4-8 members, people who are not only prepared to swim but

also willing to collect sponsorship on themselves. Give your team a name, decide who will be the

team captain and select the charity or organisation you want to raise money for. We suggest that each team member should endeavour to collect at least £25 sponsorship themselves. Obviously, the more the better! Sponsorship Forms can be downloaded online. We will organise everything on the day including giving every swimmer a medal and

a certificate to show their sponsors as proof of how many lengths they swam.

To enter: Go to the Swindon North Rotary Club's website at https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=786338&ClubID=616

Fund-raising with help: Anyone who has organised a fund-raising event, whether it's a fun run, a quiz night or a jumble sale, will know that such events are time-consuming and difficult to arrange. Enter a team in the Swindon North Rotary SWIMATHON and you will avoid all that hassle. Simply turn up on the day with your team

and any supporters, hand in your sponsorship forms and then enjoy swimming and cheering on your fellow team members.





Race to the Stones

My grandfather Mike Brown passed away in March 2018 and since that day my best friend Becky and I have been fundraising for causes close to our hearts to honour his memory and other loved ones.

We've taken on numerous 5km and 10km runs, donated hair for wigs, competed at a Rough Mudder event and hosted coffee mornings. This year

we plan to challenge ourselves further by competing in the Dixons Carphone 'Race to the Stones' challenge in July. What is that you ask? It's an ultramarathon covering 100km over two days; a step up from previous 5km events. The trail takes us along The Ridgeway past many other beautiful sites to cover the 100km route and finishes at the Avebury stones.

We are aiming to raise £425 each for our chosen charities which are Great Ormond Street Hospital and Help For Heroes; both very deserving of recognition



and close to our hearts. Becky and I have family in the Armed Forces, past and present, and also have daughters, nieces and nephews that we wish to support and honour by fundraising for our chosen charities. We really would appreciate any donation to keep us going on the 100km trail.

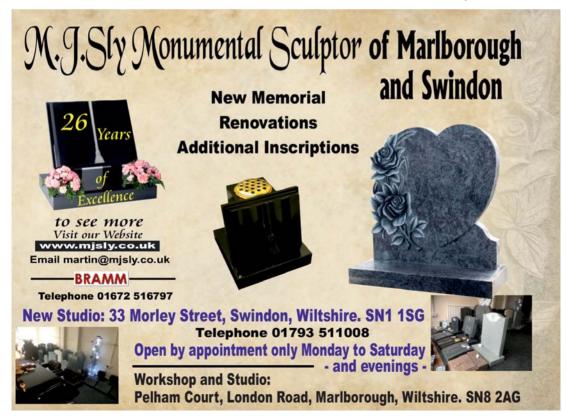
Becky will be leaving a fundraising pot in Bloomfields in the High Street and I

am fundraising online. Both of us have a JustGiving page and they can be found using the following links: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/roxanne-leroux-whitaker2 and

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rebeccabrown107.

We are so grateful to be a part of such a kind and supportive community. We want to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support.

Roxy Le Roux-Whitaker



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Break free from debt in 2020

Local charity says breaking free from debt is the best goal you can work towards in 2020.



The Highworth branch of national charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) runs a free debt help service in partnership with Highworth Churches Together.
Highworth's Debt Centre Manager

Centre Manager
Kathryn Ford said
"Financial problems
feel overwhelming
but there is free
help available to
deal with them. If
you are worrying
about how to deal
with money after



Christmas, do not delay, make the call today and we can deal with it together.

"Our lines have reopened to take on new clients and we have a freephone number (0800 328 0006) to make it as easy as possible to get in touch. The team are ready and waiting for your call so that at the beginning of 2020 you can start on the journey towards getting out of debt. They'll sort out an appointment for you with a local debt coach from Highworth who will come to visit you in the privacy of your home."

"Poverty affects the whole household," said Kathryn, adding that one in three (33%) CAP clients grew up in a home affected by debt and four in five (80%) say debt negatively affected their children.

Former client Carol said about working with CAP "For a start, I have a much better

relationship with my children now. When you're stressed and anxious you're very short tempered. I was so stressed I wasn't sleeping or eating properly, I wasn't looking after myself. When I think about it now, I felt so awful a person that I'd got into that situation where I couldn't feed my family."

Since starting in 1996, CAP has helped thousands of people deal with problem debt and has attracted trusted advocates like Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis. The majority of CAP's clients (66%) have waited more than a year before seeking help, revealing that people are suffering in the grip of poverty while help is a phone call away.

For free debt help call 0800 328 0006 or visit capuk.org or speak to Kathryn directly on T: 07885 579876, E: kathrynford@capuk.org.

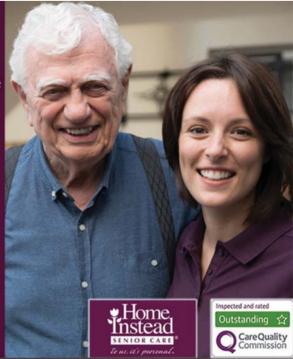
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*Terms and conditions: 1. Offer is only valid at Bupa Dental Care Highworth for the first 15 new patients to book and attend a consultation on 11th March 2020 at selected appointment time between 08.30 & 19.00. 2. Usual price for invisalign straightening £3299. 3. Home whitening kit usually £350 if bought separately. 4. Appointments subject to availability. 5. Patients must be 18 or over. 6. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. 7.No cash alternative to this offer is available. 8. Offer may be withdrawn or amended at any time.

 Free consultations are to discuss options and suitability for treatment. Subsequent clinical examinations and diagnostic tests required, and any associated costs will be discussed prior to treatment commencing. 2. Consultations subject to availability.

Bupa Dental Care is a trading name of Oasis Healthcare Limited. Registered in England and Wales No. 03257078.
Registered office: Bupa Dental Care, Vantage Office Park, Old Gloucester Road, Hambrook, Bristol, United Kingdom BS16 1GW

Sport Compiled by Jason Daniels

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



Highworth and Swindon Walking Club



Walkers at Quenington.
Photograph courtesy of Stephen Goodhew.

Highworth and Swindon are blessed to be surrounded by terrific countryside and history with the Cotswolds, the River Thames, Marlborough Downs, Avebury and the Iron-Age Forts to name just some. Our local thriving club takes advantage of these with walks all year, every Wednesday and Sunday. The club was formed 25 years ago following an article posted in The Link magazine asking if anyone would like to join the author, a local lady.

Originally a Highworth club, we joined forces with Swindon Walking Club in 2009 and now have around 100 members. With 100 walks a year there is plenty of choice and alternate Wednesdays see either a 'standard' walk of between 8-12 miles or a 'short' walk around 5-6 miles and usually with an optional pub lunch afterwards. Once a month, Sunday walkers venture to Wales for challenging walks of 8-12 miles in the Brecon Beacons. All walks are graded by length and terrain, ie: easy (flat walks), moderate (slightly more challenging), etc. so that members can plan ahead.

The club also organises walking holidays, often in September or October, of roughly four or five day duration with interesting led walks most days and accommodation costs included. We also provide one day coach trips to more distant good walks, for example the Wye Valley near Hereford

or the Malvern Hills, around Salisbury and Swanage, with opportunities to sample the cultural (and gastronomic!) offers from the town at the end. Key to these activities is our set of walk leaders who plan and lead these walks and trips. We're affiliated to the Ramblers' Association but are an independent organisation. We welcome new members and the subscription is an extremely modest £5 per year.

For more information contact our Communications Officer Mary Hewitt on 01793 780039 or via email at hewitttm64@gmail.com, and feel free to visit our website at www.highworthandswindon walkingclub.btck.co.uk

Robin Clegg. Chairman

Highworth Town Football Club



Boxing Day Battles with Larkhall Athletic

Highworth Town's First team reached eighth in the Division One South league table after an unbeaten November but defeats to unbeaten Thatcham in second place by a single goal and to fourth placed Paulton Rovers (1-3) either side of a goalless draw at Bideford saw a record of six wins, four draws and seven losses from seventeen matches by Christmas. At the same point in the season, the town's Reserves had maintained their 100% winning run positioning them second in their division after six games with the Development team fourth in their respective league by virtue of winning four and drawing

two from eight matches. All fixtures can be found at www.highworthtownfc.com as well as the club's events with the facilities bookable if interested so please do get in touch.

Derek Lloyd

Highworth Town Walking Football Club



Walking Football's Winning Wonders

Back in November we secured our second promotion of the season by winning the Championship at the Thames Valley League played at Bisham Abbey. With our first two games against Watford and Godalming ending goalless, the title was won with two games to spare and our unbeaten record at Bisham extended to 38 games. Sadly, this run was brought to an end in the 39th game with a loss to Milton Keynes but with the trophy in the bag no harm was done.

The Gloucestershire FA Walking Football league

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has held two rounds of games and both our Over-50's and Over-60's teams sit proudly on top of both leagues having played eight games each. December saw the second running of our own 'The Christmas Cup' tournament held at Supermarine's Swindome. With an expanded format that saw 18 teams from the south of England taking part, we were sadly unable to repeat our success of 2018 and Weston-Super-Mare beat Watford 1-0 in a tight final. However, the talented ladies of HTWFC baked wonderful cakes and savouries to help raise £504 for Prostate Cancer.

For more information please drop me an email or call into the Halo Rec at 11.15am on a Thursday morning for a friendly kick-about.

Kevin Turner

Email: highworthwfc@gmail.com

Highworth Running Club

The Eleventh Wickstead Wander was the wettest on record. The inaugural December staging of the event brought with it challenges previously not seen in November. The night before the unrelenting rain fell, and fell and fell. On the bright and sunny Sunday morning that followed, the rural course that traversed fields, ditches and woodland trails seemed almost impassable; and that was just attempting to set out the final course markings.

Over 100 expectant, clean and mostly fancy dressed souls lined up to receive their course briefing before setting off around the almost 6 mile circuit. As they disappeared over the hill the weather changed. Back were the biblical volumes of rain from the night before and this time the rain brought its friend 'horizontal wind'.

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Moist Morris Dancers at Midway

Needless to say the winning recorded in previous years came and went as flooded fields, ditches with burst banks and bogs where woodland trails were supposed to be thwarted the strongest of efforts. This said, Courtenay Chessell representing Swindon's Shin Splints club emerged as the day's winner having fallen twice around the course but still staying 29 seconds ahead of Royal Marine Andy Bryce.

Heroics of course were not confined to just the men as Swindon Strider Geri Taylor won the ladies race after pipping Highworth RC's Zoe Mayo to the spoils by just two seconds. As colourful but bedraggled costumes skated through the finish line it was Terry Genn's scarecrow costume that stole the show and won the 'best fancy dressed' award despite very creative challenges from runners dressed as bunches of grapes and a Butler-in-the-Buff.

The club would like to thank the land owners for their kind accommodation and all runners who took part and helped to raise money for charity. The club's next event will be held on the **Sunday 19th April** when the weather and course should be a little kinder.

Jason Daniels

Swindon Croquet Club

The SCC wishes to thank the 26 members and friends who took part in the recent Charity Shield Tournament. The two day event raised £400 which was donated to Wiltshire Air Ambulance. This donation was gratefully received as the Air Ambulance only recently resumed operation after inaction two Januarys ago due to technical problems.

The annual Charity Shield event comprised of a team from the Swindon Town Football Club's Community Foundation (Extra Time) and their friends competing against members of the SCC. For the record, the hosts won the first leg 11-7 then the Extra Time Team competed very strongly in the second leg losing narrowly 8-10, but of course charity fundraising was the big winner.

The competition was organised and managed by Diana Trott with the assistance of Linda Hunt and Terry Theobald. The club is already gearing up for lots of play this year. Last season, teams competed in both the Association Croquet and the Golf Croquet leagues, several tournaments were arranged and enjoyable social events held.

The most notable success of 2019 was retention by Clive Smith's golf croquet team of the North Eastern league championship, hence qualifying for the knock-out Champion of Champions competition. Having progressed to the semifinals, the team was drawn away against Weston-Super-Mare, a keenly contested match ensued with Swindon narrowly losing out on a 'sudden death' deciding doubles, after the match was tied at 10-10. Let's hope Clive's team can go one better in 2020!



Diana Trott (Left) handing the cheque to Pilot 'Elvis Costello'

We are a friendly club based on the playing fields at Moredon and are always keen to

welcome new members. If you would like to give the game a try, contact John Airey on 01793 873026 to arrange a free trial.

Beverly Briggs

Wrag Barn Golf Club

Club junior Ellie Webster has won England Golf's Hero's Handshake award for her inspiring golf posts on social media. Receiving the award in front of her friends and family at Wrag Barn, Ellie, a Girls Golf Rocks ambassador, was recognised for helping promote the sport to new and aspiring golfers by bringing positivity and encouragement via social media as well as a winning smile to the coaching sessions.

Ellie took to Instagram to chart her season both on and off the course, with even bad shots and

rounds discussed as 'par for the course'. Her honest and witty posts have struck chords not only nationally but internationally as she has attracted followers from the USA. Having played golf for half of her life, the 12 year-old inspiration already has a handicap of 21 and continues to impress everyone at the club with not only her golfing ability, but her enthusiastic and approachable support of others.

Having expressed a desire to have a career in golf we are sure this quiet and unassuming young lady will be an asset to any aspect of the sport she chooses to pursue.

Verity Manners



Ali Jodiyawalla presents on behalf of the Young Ambassadors Programme







Look after yourself this winter

As the dark nights draw in and winter really starts to bite, it's worth thinking about how we can all make sure we're looking after ourselves and staying well over the cold winter months.

The NHS recently launched its annual winter campaign 'Help Us Help You' which is here to help make it easier to understand the things you can do.

We all know hospitals and surgeries can be especially busy during the winter months and it can often be tricky to know the best place to go for help, so here's some handy tips to see you though until spring:

1. It's not too late to get your flu jab

The free flu vaccination is offered to those who are at increased risk from the effects of flu, including people aged 65 and over, pregnant women, those with underlying health conditions and children aged 2-10. If you've not had one yet, it's not too late.

2. Call 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk online

If you're unsure where to go and think you need urgent medical attention, but it's not

life-threatening, contacting NHS 111 can help you make sure you reach the most suitable NHS service for your needs.

3. Ask a pharmacist for advice before minor ailments or winter illnesses get worse

Community pharmacists are qualified healthcare professionals who can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines to safely manage things like coughs, colds and sore throats

It's quick and convenient to see a pharmacist; you don't need to book an appointment and can often be seen in a private consultation room.

4. See your GP in the evening or weekend if you can't see them during the day

If you need to see a GP but find it hard to find the time during routine hours, appointments with a GP, nurse or other healthcare professional are often available in the evenings and at weekends through many local practices or other local NHS services.

For more information about services in your area visit: http://swindonccg.nhs.uk/



Upper Thames & Ridgeway National Trust Association Talk, Monday 10th February

Our next talk will be 'The Queen's Royal Forest of Dean Verderers Court' on Monday 10th February.

The Speaker is Maurice Bent. The talk will be held at the Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1YE at 2.30pm. £3 members, £4 visitors. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits will be served. For details email jandbozzy@gmail.com

Highworth & District Floral Art Society, Thursday 6th February

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Thursday 6th February when we welcome Pam Lewis with her demonstration entitled 'The World Awaits the Sound of Spring'. Visitors £5.

Our talk is entitled 'Trug making by a miserable old trugger'. Our speaker is Carl Sadler. Join us at 7.30pm in St Michael's Hall. For more info call Norman T: 01793 762805. For details contact Teresa Hill, Secretary, T: 01793 766478, E: hilltc@yahoo.co.uk

Highworth Historical Society, Monday 24th February

Our talk on Monday 24th February will be given by John Farrow on the history of the Wilts and Berks Canal. He will also include some of the restoration work now being done.

This talk is a change from the one listed on our original calendar of talks. Peter Williams will now be giving his 'Cold War Spy' talk at our September meeting.

As always we meet at the United Reformed Church in the High Street. The doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start, Visitors are always welcome, £3 on the door. For further details about this talk, or the society in general, phone Chris on 01793 764811. Or visit our website.

Royal Aeronautical Society, Wednesday 5th February

Our February talk will be on the Future Helicopter Force. Col Craig Sweeting will take a look at the Army Air Corps' new capability as it prepares to operate its new fleets of Apache AH64E and Wildcat Attack Helicopters.

The lecture starts at 7.30pm at Shrivenham Defence Academy. Before attending you must register via email at das@aerosociety.com or by phone 07740 136609. Membership is open to all and costs £20 per person for the lecture season. Young persons aged 16-18 are entitled to attend branch lectures free of charge. They must be accompanied by an adult who will also be entitled to attend free of charge.



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Memory Café Opening, Thursday 6th February

In the last Link magazine we mentioned that we were planning to start a Memory Café in Highworth. Following the tremendous success of the event to celebrate Highworth being accredited as Working Towards Dementia Friendly Status, we are excited to announce that we will be holding the Highworth Forget-me-Not Café on the first Thursday of each month. The cafés will be between 2.30-4pm at the Council Community Room in Gilberts Lane and will be launched on Thursday 6th February. This has been made possible by offers of support from some amazing local volunteers, and with financial support from some local organisations.

Our Memory Café will be a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones can socialise, listen to music, play games and enjoy other appropriate activities. They can provide mutual support and exchange information or simply enjoy the company of those with similar things in common.

Activities will be varied but will tend to focus on topics that are apt to cause one to reminisce about times gone by. Tea, coffee and (most importantly) cake will be available and you should be able to obtain valuable resources from local support organizations to help you in your caregiving experience.

The entertainment in the February event will be provided by Peter and Denise Arnel, who performed at the Celebration Event, and we are hoping to have one of the local school choirs for the March Café.

If you want to get involved in this fantastic event then please let us know by emailing kevin_dfc@btinternet.com or contacting us on Facebook at Dementia Friends Highworth.

Please join us at 2.30pm on **Thursday 6th February** to kick off this initiative in style.
Apologies to those who may have seen this announcement too late, but please put **Thursday 5th March** in your diaries now!

Do you enjoy playing board games? Friday 7th February

Did you know that Highworth Methodist Church hold a monthly board games evening on the second Friday of each month from 7-9pm? Young and old of every denomination (or none) are welcome to show up and take part. There is a variety of easy and complex games available to play or bring your own favourite along to enjoy.

Highworth Dementia Friends, Wednesday 26th February

Help make Highworth dementia friendly by learning about how dementia affects a person and about the small things we can all do to help the 170 people living with dementia in our town. We are running an awareness session on 26th February at 7.30pm at the Community Room in Gilberts Lane, just off the High Street. For more information contact Kevin at kevin dfc@btinternet.com.

Lent Lunches 2020, Wednesdays during Lent

During Lent it is the custom for the Churches of Highworth to provide a lunch of soup, bread, cheese, biscuits and tea/coffee every Wednesday from 12noon-1.30pm. We ask you to donate what you will in payment. This year, the big change is that it will take place in St Michael's Church. The charity being supported is to be Gloucester House, a very special place in Highworth.

Do come along and enjoy the good company, starting on **26th February** and continuing each Wednesday until **8th April**, the last one being for Christian Aid.

Highworth Cinema February film Presents 'A Private War', Friday 28th February

Celebrated war correspondent Marie Colvin is an utterly fearless and rebellious spirit brazenly staring down warlords and fleeing from gunfire. Driven by an enduring desire to bear witness and give voice to the voiceless, Colvin charges into danger, constantly testing the limits between bravery and bravado. Cert 15, 110mins.

On Friday 28th February at 7.45pm, doors open



7.15pm for tea/coffee and a biscuit, admission £5 on the door. At St Michael's Hall, Lechlade Road, Highworth. Enquiries: 01793 763907 or email: info@highworthfilms.org.uk.

Further details on our website: www.highworthfilms.org.uk

Do you like the idea of a Men's Shed in Highworth?

Men's Sheds (or Sheds) are similar to garden sheds: a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills

Men's Sheds

friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge and, of course, a lot of laughter.

It's early days and this is just our first step to see what support we have. It could be a while until we have a shed.

We would be affiliated with the UK Men's Shed Association who have more than 500 Men's Sheds open and an additional 100 or more in planning at any one time.

We'll start with a public meeting at Highworth Community Centre on Wednesday 26th February starting at 7.30pm

If you're coming to the meeting, it is best you read about Men's Sheds first at www.ukmsa.org.uk.

Interested but can't make the meeting? Please let us know your thoughts on 07966 504084 or adrian@brolga.co.uk.

Our shedders so far: Mike Cannar, Martin Wellsted, Adrian Young and Arend von Freeden

Highworth May Day Charter Market 2020, Saturday 2nd May, 10am-5pm

We are very proud to announce that our next May Day market will be themed 'Victory in Europe Day'.

Please note that May Day is on Saturday 2nd of May. Live music confirmed so far includes Shrivenham Military Wives Choir and vintage singer 'Delores'. We are also very excited as we have a full-size SPITFIRE joining us for the day.

Come along dressed to impress and enjoy the family entertainment, stalls, animals and don't forget the children's fancy dress competition and support your local in the pub challenge.

This is a free event run by a handful of volunteers and donations via one of our May Day buckets would be appreciated. Keep up to date, like and share our Facebook page. Further details from Sandra on 01793 762197 or sandra.rendall1@gmail.com.

Hold the Date:

Saturday 14th March: Please keep this date in your diary as Swindon Male Voice Choir will be performing in St Michael's Church, Highworth.

Saturday 14th & 21st March: HADS are busy rehearsing their next murder mystery dining show. Save the date now and more details to follow in next month's Link Magazine.

Monday 11th May: Swindon North Rotary Club will be hosting a classical music concert in St Michael's Church, when seven members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing some Beethoven and much, much, more. Please put the date in your diaries to avoid disappointment. More details to follow in next month's Link Magazine.

Saturday 23rd - Monday 25th May: The 6th Annual Lechlade Vintage Rally and Country Show will return bigger and better than ever this summer from the at Langley Farm, Langley Lane, Clanfield, OX18 2RZ. Keep your eyes open for more details nearer the time in the Villages section and don't miss this great day out.

18th - 20th September: Highworth Floral Artist's Society are planning to stage a Flower Festival in St. Michael's Church, Highworth. Plans are in the early stages so watch this space.

Guide Dogs Great British Classics Charity Night, Monday 9th March

The Crown Inn, Stratton are hosting a Great British Classics Charity Night on Monday 9th March 2020 which starts at 7pm. On the menu will be some British delights such as Fish & Chips, Bangers & Mash, Ham, Eggs & Chips



and Pie & Mash plus others.

The cost for a main course is £7.95 of which £5 will go to Swindon Guide Dogs. To book a table call The Crown on 01793 827530 or email thecrownstratton@gmail.com. This is a very popular event so best book early to avoid disappointment.



Trip to Germany

Are you interested in spending some time in our twin town of Wassenberg?

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Arts Section Compiled by Iain Barnwell

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Megson in Concert

Friday 6th March in The United Reformed Church, Highworth at 7.45pm

Fifteen years ago, a young duo performed as the warm up act for the renowned 'Show of Hands' on their Autumn Tour Stu and Debbie Hanna were taking their first steps on a career in music that began when they met as teenagers in a youth choir.



Radio Two Folk Awards. Perhaps 2020 will be their year? With their rich harmonies, original story lines and energetic playing, they certainly deserve to be winners.

Megson were amongst the star attractions at 'Live at the Tithe 2' in

Following

different paths, Stu took his guitar playing talent to London playing in progressive rock bands whilst Debbie studied classical music. On graduation, Stu and Debbie found that their shared enthusiasm for the songs and traditions of their native north east England gave them the most pleasure and they began performing under the name Megson. (You will have to ask Stu and Debbie where the name came from).

Megson quickly caught the attention of the folk world and to date they have been nominated three times for the best duo award in the BBC 2014. To date, the pair have produced nine albums and they have worked with many well-known bands in record production.

Megson should not be missed. They are a talented duo whose drive and authenticity outstrips that of most bands.

Tickets are £15 each and are available from Derrick Beer 01793 762070 or from The Lighthouse Bookshop and online through www.wegottickets.co.uk

Derrick Beer, White Horse Folk Club

Martin Simpson Concert:

Friday 17th April in the URC, Highworth

Internationally renowned folk musician, Martin Simpson will be playing at the URC in April thanks to generous sponsorship from The Highworth Hotel.

Tickets are £16 each and are available from Derrick Beer on 01793 762070 or online through www.wegottickets.co.uk



Success at the Camera Club

Towards the end of 2019, our camera club was invited to take part in 'The Calne CC Multi-Club Challenge'.

This is a competition between clubs in the area which are invited to submit ten photographs each with no more than three from a single club member. These are judged by a visiting judge at an evening hosted by Calne CC with the images being projected onto a large screen.

In 2018, eleven clubs entered and Highworth came 11th. We were determined to do better in 2019. Nine clubs entered from Calne, Corsham, Devizes,

Frome (Somerset), Highworth, Stratton, Swindon, Warminster and Royal Wootton Bassett. At the final showing, Highworth CC was placed second, narrowly beaten by Frome. Thus, out of all the Wiltshire clubs, we were the best. Watch this space for next year's result!

Annual Awards 2019

Our customary Christmas Social and presentation evening took place at the December meeting.

Camera Club Trophy Stacy Woolhouse Memorial Trophy Stacy Woolhouse Digital Image (Facebook) Stacy Woolhouse



Winning trophies: Neil, Pauline and Christine

Members' Print of the Year Audio Visual Presentation Projected Image Barbara Thorpe Challenge Ashworth Trophy Holt Trophy Stacy Woolhouse Pauline Godwin Brian Kent Neil George Christine Dunste Pauline Godwin

Congratulations to all the winners; a very successful year. Look out for some images to be displayed in the High Street. Our thanks to the High Street businesses which have supported us throughout 2019; Highworth Physiotherapy Clinic, The Directors Cut and Highworth Flowers.

Highworth Snapper

Highworth Silver Band

After a busy and successful Christmas season playing carols in the local community, we look forward to a new year of Brass Banding. Our engagements have included a Christmas Concert, playing for the residents of both Newburgh House and Gloucester House and carolling at various venues. We would like to say a very big thank you for the response that we received at all events, the donations and the lovely and kind comments about our playing.

We started our practises with the Training Band

on Saturday 4th January and are very pleased to welcome some new learners. Weekly rehearsals on Thursdays at 7.30pm commenced on 9th January. New and former players are always welcome and we are also able to provide tuition and loan of brass instruments to beginners. Any enquiries can be made by attending the Band Hall on rehearsal days or by telephoning Mark Cooper, Musical Director on 07526 704914.

Mark Cooper, Musical Director

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Spring Afternoon Concert: Saturday 21st March

Highworth United Reformed Church

Look forward to the arrival of Spring with Classical guitar ensemble 'Strike a Chord' as they perform an afternoon concert of Spanish classical and flamenco music as well as arrangements of both classical and popular tunes. The concert starts at 2.30pm and includes an interval for refreshments. Tickets are £5 and are available from The Lighthouse Bookshop in Highworth. For further information phone Colin Curtis on 07756 642616.

The concert is in aid of 'Friends of Angel's Orphanage', a local charity set up to help support their sponsored 'family' of homeless children in Nepal. All proceeds from our events go directly to help finance the children's housing, educational and well-being needs.

The Hard Way with Louise Jordan: Tuesday 3rd March

United Reformed Church, High Street. Highworth, 7.30pm

The Hard Way tells the untold story of Hannah Mitchell, a working class woman born on a remote hilltop farm in the Derbyshire moorlands.

She was a self-taught, self-made woman who left home at 14 years old. She became a campaigner, speaker, writer, suffragette, councillor and, finally, a Manchester city magistrate.

Louise Jordan tells her moving and inspiring story with music, illustration and words.

Louise has been to Highworth before and the White Horse Folk Club and Highworth Historical Society are delighted to welcome her back again with this new show.

Tickets are £8 available from the Historical Society, The Lighthouse Bookshop or Derrick Beer 01793 762070 or wegottickets.co.uk



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LIBRARIES & LEARNING

What's on in Highworth Library in February

Rhymetime for under 3s: every Tuesday 10.30am **Storytime for under 5s:** every Thursday 10.30am

Job Club: every Tuesday 10-11am

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

Monthly Genealogy Group: Tuesday 11th February, 10am-12noon

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

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

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

Community Policing Surgery: PCSO Gemma

Lishman arranges regular surgeries in the Library for residents to discuss any concerns or issues with her. Please ask at Library desk for dates.

Staffed hours at the Library
Highworth Library will be staffed at the following times:

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

Extended Access to the Library during unstaffed hours 8am-8pm is available.

Please ask a member of staff for more details. **Highworth Library 01793 463500**

Book Review: White Light Red Fire by Robert Reid

The latest book to be published by a Highworthian is White Light Red Fire. This is an epic historical tale which could easily be mistaken for a work of non-fiction if it wasn't for the rôle played by sorcery.

Whilst the main characters struggle to regain their independence from a larger, more aggressive foreign neighbour, there is another battle being fought between the white power, which is inherited by a simple farmer, and the red fire that is harnessed by an old alchemist from an earlier, more technologically advanced age which ultimately reached too far and destroyed itself. The book's strengths are its well thought out storyline and its finely detailed and beautifully described battle scenes, which make you feel like you are in the thick of the battle yourself. One possible weakness is that it is too short. The story could have been more fully explored over two or three books allowing more space and time for the reader to get to know the characters and become more fully invested in their individual lives and stories.

I asked Bob Reid about the story behind the book and the journey it has taken him on:

1. Where did the inspiration for the book come from? I was born in Scotland and have long been interested in the Scottish Wars of Independence of the early 14th century. These wars inspired me to create my own fictional land called Bala which has to try to regain its

independence after it is invaded by a stronger neighbour. Like Scotland, Bala has a Clan system. One of my main characters is the Chief of Clan Cameron which is a real Scottish clan. Their motto is "let us unite" and this inspired one narrative thread that runs to the end of the story.

- 2. How long did it take to write? I wrote the first 15 pages back in 2000 but then I was just too busy with work and life, so those 15 pages stayed unfinished. I've always enjoyed writing and I have written plenty of other things over the past two decades, shorter things like songs and poems and I used to make up silly stories to entertain my kids when they were little. A couple of years ago my friend Alan self-published a book about his adventures cycling round Spain and when he heard I had a part-written story he told me to "get on with it". By then I had semi-retired so I finally had time to pick the story back up again.
- 3. How did you get the book published? I decided to self-publish, meaning I had to pay for it myself. I wasn't particularly interested in making any money from selling it, but it was important for me to hold the finished proof of my endeavour in my hands. I found a local publisher and they appointed an Editor and put me in touch with Chris Newton. I was a bit sceptical at first but actually having an Editor has been invaluable. Chris has taken my story and totally changed the structure, turning it into

clear chapters. The book then went through six or seven revisions which took nearly 9 months before it was finally ready to publish.

- 4. Who designed the front cover? Did you get any say? The front cover was designed by Ray Lipscombe who works with the publishers. I was able to give my input on what I wanted and I think Ray did a really good job. He was able to capture the power of the pure white light shining forth from a simple farmer, dispelling the evil and destructive red fire. Ray also took my rough drawings of the Island of Andore and turned them into a proper map of the lands in the story.
- 5. Has the process of writing the book taught you much about yourself? Do you know I thought I would never finish this book! The process has taught me that I can do it and to believe in myself a bit more. It has also taught me how enjoyable it can be to use your imagination. It is very different to my normal work where I could only use hard facts. In fiction I get to transport myself into, and get lost in, the story.
- **6.** Do you have advice for other would be authors? It's not cheap, but do hire an Editor as it is money well spent. Just make sure you find one that you like and can work with, as otherwise I can imagine it could a painful process. I really like the fact that my editor listens. He is always encouraging, he will send ideas, he will point out mistakes and he will highlight bits to develop and change. He will critique but never criticise.
- 7. Do you have any plans to write a second book? Yes and it's already close to a final first draft. I've been working on it for about eight months now. It's set in the same countries as White Light Red Fire but 200 years later. Chris is again working as my editor and he has critiqued the first 40,000 words. In some ways the first book was easier as I could just make history up, but now I have to keep looking back at the timeline from the first book and I can lose 2-3 hours trying to link things together without making contradictions.

I also have the titles of another couple of books but I haven't yet decided whether to set them further into the future or to travel back to when the Island of Andore was one nation.

8. Where can people buy the book? It's available on Amazon both as paperback and Kindle version and via the links below:

Amazon UK - https://amzn.to/2pCz7ZZ Waterstones - https://bit.ly/2reczil Google Books - https://bit.ly/2XxcH8L GoodReads - https://bit.ly/2O3xoGg

Watch the book trailer at https://bit.ly/2O5XjgM.

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

looking for a church in highworth?

Highworth United Reformed Church

High Street SN6 7AG

'We are a Christian church of faithful people, searching for God's guidance, trying to follow the way of Jesus. We are here for you.'

Meets Sundays, 10:45am

bryan@bryanelk.plus.com www.highworthurc.org.uk

Highworth Methodist Church

Vicarage Lane SN6 7DG

'We are a caring and welcoming church who love God and enjoy worshipping Him, encouraging everyone to find love, forgiveness and hope in the name of Jesus.'

Meets Sundays, 10:30am and 6pm

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

St Michael's Parish Church

Vicarage Lane SN6 7DG

'A vibrant Anglican church with a passion to help people on their faith journey.'

Meets Sundays, 8am and 10:15am

office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Highworth Community Church

Warneford School, Shrivenham Road SN6 7BZ

'We love to be together, laugh and learn together, and serve together. We are a church with a life full of God and a heart reaching out to people.'

Meets Sundays, 10:15am

admin@highworthchurch.co.uk www.highworthcommunitychurch.org

Amnesty International, writing again for Rights

The United Reformed Church is tucked away in Highworth High Street in that rather lovely garden, but its members try together to look out into the world and for many years have sent greetings at Christmas to prisoners of conscience and defenders of human rights brought to our attention by Amnesty International.

In Advent 2019 we wrote to some young native Canadian people fighting a mercury poisoning scandal; to the wife of a Chinese Uighar student kidnapped in Egypt and probably now in one of those notorious 're-education' camps; to an Iranian woman sentenced to 16 years for not wearing the hijab; to the defenders of a

community of 30,000 people suddenly evicted from their century old settlement in Lagos, Nigeria; to a young man in South Sudan sentenced to hang for an accidental killing when he was 15; to a native Maya Mexican 14 year-old beaten and tortured without cause by police and to a 17 year-old in Belarus given ten years for minor drug offences and forced to hard labour

We know that these letters, which sometimes accumulate to the 100,000's, bring hope when they get through and do command notice, so even our little voice can swell a shout and bring a change.

Keith Salway, URC Treasurer

From the Registers

We remember those who love and miss

Thelma Seagroatt Susan Joan Rees

Praying for the roads in the town:

02-Feb-20 Brewery Street, Brookfield 09-Feb-20 Bute Close, Bydemill Gardens 16-Feb-20 Cherry Orchard, Church View 23-Feb-20 Coffin Close, Copper Beeches

Highworth Churches Together

Members of the Churches in Highworth meet together regularly to pray for the people of Highworth and for the things that are going on in the town. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 4th February at the The Bridge Upper Room. Everyone is welcome to join the group who meet for an hour at 8pm.

Regular Events at St Michael's Church:

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

Saturday's @ at St Michael's: Family Drop-in at St Michael's on the first Saturday of each month. Drop in any time from 10am until 12pm. There will be tea, coffee, bacon sandwiches, newspapers, craft, children's toys. Come and meet up with others while the children are occupied. The next one will be Saturday 1st February.

Tuesday morning Chat: in St Michael's Church Room on the first Tuesday in the month. The next date is on Tuesday 4th February from 10.45am-12.45pm. This is an opportunity to relax over coffee, tea, play Scrabble, bring knitting/sewing or just chat! Please come and bring anyone who you know would enjoy this time. Minibus transport is available.

Midweek Church: Midweek Church at St Michael's continues on the third Wednesday of each month. It is a spoken Communion service in the Church followed by a simple lunch. If you don't have time to stay for lunch you are still welcome to join us for the service. The next one will be on Wednesday 19th February at 11am.

Regular events at Highworth Methodist Church:

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

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

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

Bridge Club: Every Tuesday from 2-4pm

Board Games Night: 2nd Friday of each month from 7-8pm

Messy Family Fun: The next Messy Family Fun will take place on Sunday 23rd February. Join us for games and messy crafts for all the family. All welcome.



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



Nov 15	Dear Jane. We miss you every day. All our love Richard, Emma, Mitch, Max and Oliver xx
Dec 10	In loving memory of Rose Jones on 2nd anniversary. Brian
Dec 13	In loving memory of Roy and Sheila Johnson
Dec 13-15	Always thinking of you – Freya and Matthew – all our love Nan and Grandad
Dec 15	Dan, happy birthday. Lots of love Sarah and Esme
Dec 25	Remembering our lovely Mum and Dad – Tim and Joan Peapell. We love and miss you very much. Special love from your family
Dec 25	Alan Sharps. Miss you every day. Love you with all our hearts. Bev and June xxx
Dec 25	Cyril and Barbara Knight – another Christmas. We all still miss you so much. Love you both. Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all their families xxxx
Jan 03-05	For family lost but not forgotten
Jan 06	Cyril Knight – Dad, sending you big hugs for your birthday. Miss you so much. Love you. Lyn, Ruth, Patrick and all the family xxxx
Jan 31	David Cox – remembering a dearly loved husband and father. From Shirley, Nicola and Neil
Feb 04	In loving memory of Jim Prew. Sadly missed. From all the family
Feb 07-09	In loving memory of Clive Angood on his birthday. Still missed so much. Christine and family
Feb 14	Mona Horn – God bless Mum, with much love. Marie, Steph and Kate

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

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

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Email: office@stmichaelshighworth.co.uk Website: www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk

Vicar: Rev Geoff Sowden T: 01793 765554

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS. HIGHWORTH

Sunday Services:

8am: Holy Communion 1st (CW)

and 3rd (BCP) Sundays

10.15am: Morning service with children's groups (includes Holy Communion

on 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Midweek Church:

11am: Holy Communion and lunch

3rd Wednesdays monthly

10am: Midweek Holy Communion

4th Thursdays monthly

ST JAMES, SEVENHAMPTON

8.45am: Holy Communion, 4th Sundays only, alt CW & BCP. Festival services as advertised

ST JOHN, HANNINGTON

Festivals Services only, as advertised. Times and dates are on the church notice board.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Priest: Fr Michael McAndrew

T: 01793 535089 St Marv's Church

www.saintmarvsswindon.co.uk

6pm Saturday: Mass in St Mary's 8.30am & 10.30am Sunday: Mass

METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Keith Osborn. T: 01793 764544 (office)

www.highworth.upperthamescircuit.org.uk

10.30am: Morning Worship **Evening Worship** 6pm:

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Minister: Rev Robert Jordan

T: 01793 513039

or email robert.jordan1@btinternet.com

www.highworthurc.org.uk 10.45am: Morning Worship

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Leader: Matt Ford T: 07712 521046 Office at The Bridge T: 01793 765060 www.highworthcommunitychurch.org

10.15am: Morning Worship at Warneford School

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

Thank you raffle

Eight Highworth businesses banded together this Christmas to thank their loyal customers by organising a special raffle.

Throughout
December, every
time a customer
purchased
something from
Andrews butchers,
Bloomfields,
Highworth
Emporium,
Karoliina Saunders,
TT Linnets, Visit
Highworth,

TT Linnets, Visit
Highworth,
McParland Pharmacies or Highworth Flowers
they were rewarded with a free raffle ticket.
Each business contributed vouchers/goods from
their business and some additionally provided

the finance for the top cash prizes of £250 and £150.

The Raffle was started in 2018 by Aga Gabrysiak from Highworth Emporium. "Last Christmas Visa ran an



1st Prize winners Teresa and Roger

advert featuring a selection of shopkeepers singing along to 'All they want for Christmas is you". It was their attempt to celebrate independent businesses and encourage people to visit their local High Street in the run up to Christmas. It made me think about what I could do to thank all my loyal customers and the raffle seemed a nice gesture. But when I



Local business owners gather ready to start the 'Thank you raffle'

went down the High Street to buy raffle prizes, many of the other businesses donated prizes for free, so it seemed to make sense to open the raffle up to other businesses this year. We are so lucky in Highworth to have such a great community and to bring businesses together in this way to thank our customers is a great celebration of this".

Visa ran a similar campaign this year, asking independent businesses to submit their own versions of their Christmas ad which this year was set to the Queen song 'Somebody to Love'. The staff of Highworth Emporium recorded their own

version which made it into the top 50 entrants.

The prize draw took place at 4pm on Saturday 21st December. 1st prize was won by Teresa and Roger and 2nd prize went to Paulette.



2nd Prize Winner Paulette

Congratulations Highworth Recreation Centre!

At the annual Halo Staff awards in December, Highworth Recreation Centre beat 21 other leisure centres to win the coveted 'Centre of the Year 2019'.

Halo said that the reasons for this decision were based on the fact that "customers are greeted with a smile and their first name, giving a real community feel to the place and placing the centre amongst the top of Halo's customer service rankings. With every aspect of operations



from front of house, swimming lessons, gym workouts, group exercise classes, health and safety, housekeeping to maintenance being carried



Rec Trustees Richard, Ian and Nick with Halo CEO Scott Rolfe

out to the highest standards, it is no surprise that Highworth is the 2019 centre of the year. Keep up the great work".

The award was accepted by Rec trustees Richard Williams, Ian Tomkins and Nick Gardiner.

Meet W P Gardens & Landscapes

W P Gardens & Landscapes is a friendly, local family business that undertakes a range of garden-related projects. Our purpose is to create beautiful gardens that work for your needs. From low maintenance contemporary themes and high traffic play zones to traditional English cottage gardens, share your design inspiration with us and we will work to make it real.

One customer recently stated "I am exceedingly happy with the work done and look forward to spending many happy hours in my garden". Our aim is to provide you with a space you will love, whether you already have a detailed plan in mind or need some assistance creating a design. A garden shouldn't be a burden, it should make you happy.

We also offer a range of services to keep your garden in fantastic condition. Everything from fixing a fence panel to mowing the lawn. Like the interior of your home, a garden needs diligent attention to remain both useful and beautiful. Check out our maintenance service for more details.

Another client left this feedback "Thanks ever so much for re-laying our patio. We are very pleased with the result. It looks great. We were impressed by the way you approached the job and by your attention to detail. We would be happy to recommend you to anyone looking for a landscaping professional".

Types of jobs include gardening tasks such as Planting, Pruning, Weeding, Turf laying, Lawn care, Leaf clearing, Hedge trimming (or removal), Tree care or Landscaping, Patio Decking, Fences, Sheds, Pergola, Trellis, Decorative Gravel, Pressure washing, Border edging, Sleepers, Retaining walls, Artificial grass, etc.

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Contact us on T: 07783 643319 or E: info@wpgardens.co.uk. Or take a look at our website www.wpgardens.co.uk for more information and pictures of recent projects.

Highworth Business Breakfast Group

The November Highworth Business Breakfast Group meeting was held at Wrag Barn, with the December meeting held at The Highworth.

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

In November, we also had one-to-ones where everyone had three 10 minute one-to-ones. It gave everyone a chance to get to know other members and their businesses better and to explain more about themselves.

The November Star of the Month was Lauren Reynolds (pictured) from Honest Marketing for her Zombie-themed 60 seconds. Lauren and Honest Marketing provide marketing support, assist with marketing plans, create content and



provide social media management. They take the time to understand their clients' businesses and provide honest marketing.

The December meeting saw the return of the Christmas Quiz (and some Christmas jumpers). As challenging as ever, lots of fun was had by all, especially the quiz master.

The winner of the Star of the Month and the Christmas Quiz

was lan Postlethwaite from Not Just Travel. Ian won the award because he won the quiz, however, he would have won anyway for his brilliant music inspired 60 seconds. Ian and Not Just Travel help clients all over the UK find their perfect holiday.

The Highworth Business Breakfast Group meeting is held monthly and the meetings alternate between Wrag Barn, The Highworth and The Old Bakery. For more information, contact a.douglass@grosvenorconsultancy.co.uk.



Ian Postlethwaite from Not Just Travel



Lauren Reynolds of Honest Marketing

Visit Highworth

Look out for our kid's craft sessions in February, based around frogs to mark the leap year. You can keep up to date with our Art and Craft workshops and exhibitions for all ages at the Visitor Centre throughout the year via FaceBook Visit Highworth



Sticking to Your New Year's Resolutions?

January is the month when gym memberships soar and it's also when people start diets, join dating websites and take up new hobbies and classes.

According to Kantar Research, 17% of UK adults were going to take part in an alcohol-free 'Dry January' in 2019, 15% aimed to go to the gym more and 13% intended to give up chocolate. If you are one of the many who started January with a health kick or resolved to eat more healthily, how are you getting on? If you are struggling, then it might be worth changing your approach.

Here are a couple of pointers to get you started:

- Make a new habit irresistible: quite simply, tell yourself you want to do it rather than you need to do it.
- Give yourself a visual cue: hoping you will simply remember to cultivate a new habit is usually a recipe for failure. Therefore, a visual stimulus is important, e.g. pack your gym bag when you first get up. Put a fruitbowl in view.
- Avoid procrastinating: we often know

something will be good for us (future) but our current self will be looking for immediate gratification which is why we procrastinate. Remember the thought of doing something is often worse than the action itself.

- Be consistent: a habit, good or bad, is something we do consistently. Therefore, it makes sense that to form a new habit you must make it something you do with regularity.
- Swap a bad habit for a good one: e.g. a bag of crisps for a piece of fruit.
- Visualise yourself succeeding: what will the new you look like? How will you feel?

Remember, that whatever happens, don't beat yourself up over a mistake, plan for it. We all have a wobble from time to time but it's those who get back on track quickly who will succeed.

If you would like more information about one-toone sessions, diet and insight reports or have any other questions, please email me or give me a call.





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OUR REPRESENTATIVES

From our MP

Thank you to everyone who voted for me in the recent General Election. It was a very rare, winter General Election campaign during which I walked over 1 million steps, delivered thousands of leaflets and knocked on many doors. I was very grateful for all the residents who took the time to speak to me personally, it was very much appreciated. I have always believed you have to earn the right to represent your local community, so I write all my own literature, focusing solely on what I have done and crucially what I would like to do. You are either good enough to win, or you don't deserve to, so I will always keep my campaigns positive. I am very proud to have the opportunity to continue to represent my fellow local residents in Parliament.

Now that Parliament has returned, I have been fortunate enough to be given a new office in Westminster. However, what I have gained in space is matched by the increase in mice! Apparently, we are not allowed to borrow Larry, Number 10's resident cat!

Locally in the coming months, there are a number of key issues I will be focusing on:

Local Health Services: Robert Buckland MP and I were thrilled to have helped secure the £30m to expand the A&E at the GWH and £15m for the proposed Radiotherapy Centre. We will be working with the GWH to bring forward both projects as quickly as possible, which will be a real boost for local patients. Rightly, funding for the NHS is increasing and we will continue to push for Swindon's share, vital not just for the GWH but for increasing the number of GPs and appointments in our local GP Surgeries.

Local Economy: The news of Honda's planned closure will not just impact the Honda factory but also the supply chain so the Honda Taskforce is a real priority for everyone involved. Swindon has faced similar challenges in the past with the closure of the railway works and the ups and downs with the car factories, but each time we have been able to attract new investment. Since 2010 alone, over 11,000 new jobs have been created in Swindon. With our diverse and skilled workforce, excellent transport links and the Honda site in a prime location, we remain confident of attracting new employers to

Swindon and realise that this has never been more important.

Development: Swindon continues to grow with new housing. It is crucial we work with developers to control the speed, location and quality of development. I have been successful in securing significant infrastructure funding to make sure local roads, services and facilities are upgraded before, not after, major development. For example, with the support of Cllr Maureen Penny, I am pressing Highways England to address the Cold Harbour junction and, until it is, adjacent development should not be allowed to proceed.

Town Centre/High Street: With the onslaught of online shopping hitting town centres all over the country, we very much welcome the announcement to cut business rates for small businesses. I also remain supportive of wider Business Rates reform away from traditional bricks and mortar to online businesses. High Streets are vital, providing 11% of jobs in the economy, and we must support the retail sector to adapt to the changing habits.

Sport: We have seen a strong finish to 2019 for Swindon Robins, Swindon Town, Swindon Supermarine and Swindon Wildcats; 2020 has the potential to be very exciting for all fellow supporters! I will also continue to champion School sport, especially after school and during the holidays, such as the fantastic Draycott Sports Camp and Highworth Town Jnrs who help keep children active all year round.



MPs Office, First Floor, Customer Service Hub, Orbital Shopping Park, Swindon SN25 4AN T: 01793 533393

www.justintomlinson.com
E: Justin.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk
Facebook.com/justintomlinsonofficial
Twitter @JustinTomlinson

Extracts from the minutes of a meeting of Highworth Town Council on 19th November 2019

60. BUSINESS AND ECONOMY MANAGER (SBC) Mrs J Stuckey gave a presentation to about Business Development (BD) and the 'Switch-On to Swindon' initiative, which encourages businesses to move to or to setup in Swindon Borough and supports the retention and expansion of existing businesses. It concentrates on four key-sectors: Industry 4.0/Digitisation, Cyber Resilience, MedTech and Bioscience. Swindon is affordable to move to, so the team also highlighted opportunities in digital technology where the National Trust, Nationwide and Intel all have recruitment requirements. She also explained that SBC is working with over 100 partners to co-ordinate support for those affected by the phased closure of Honda. The team is seeking to find market opportunities for businesses, so Highworth is not specifically marketed - that job lies with the Property Agents who actively market units on Blackworth Industrial Estate. 'Visit Swindon' website is under review and Highworth will feature on it in the future. She asked that Councillors let the team know if they are aware of businesses with a propensity to grow so that support can be offered to help them.

63. CORRESPONDENCE: HTFC request to change the weekend of its Football Tournament to 6 and 7 June 2020 due to an England International fixture was agreed by Councillors with the usual reminder regarding noise and parking issues.

65. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES a. HTA Cllr Williams reported that the Bavarian evening held on Saturday was well attended, it featured a Drag Artist and Les Bicyclettes. b. HCPG Cllr Gardiner reported that the AGM was relatively well attended. The previous year's work was reported including support for vulnerable people, the two Women's Institute groups, tourism (Visitor Centre is now open and note was given to Mrs S Rendall who played a large part in achieving this). The Fox Roundabout has been delivered after 10 years. They were unsuccessful in the Great British High Street Awards, but did submit an entry. Other groups that have been helped are the Credit Union, May Day Market, Job Club, Highworth Action for Fair Trade, the Safe Places Scheme and Gloucester House - which has been very supportive of HCPG. The HCPG website is to be updated soon and the Minutes added to it. Cllr Smith advised that the town now has two Visitor Information Centres as the Lighthouse Bookshop continues to provide this service. c.Highworth Action for Fair Trade(HAFFT)-Cllr Smith reported that work is being undertaken writing the documents to renew the Fair Trade status of the Town for the coming five years.

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

HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCILLORS

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If you have a story please email editorathighworthlinkg13@gmail.com

FAIRFORD

Fairford Concert Review December 2019

Fairford and District Choral Society welcomed a full church to the Christmas season one Saturday with a delightful concert featuring, Poulenc's 'Gloria,' Vaughan William's 'Fantasia on a Theme of Christmas Carols' and other Advent and Christmas



Conductor, Jessi Pywell

The 'Gloria' was an apt and interesting choice as the central work of the evening. Originally written for chorus, orchestra and soprano soloist, this Mass clearly demonstrates Poulenc's deep religious beliefs, his dramatic and eclectic influences and his sense of humour. The choir conveyed the solemn words of the Mass with a lightness of tone and clarity of diction and the devout piety of the choral music was effectively juxtaposed and commented on by the bright tonal colours produced by organist Sam Bayliss.

The music was in turns dignified, lyrical, jazzy and playful and the warm tones of soprano Lucy Mellors added serenity to the occasion. The final 'Amen' drifted ethereally towards heaven, a sincere achievement by the assembled forces, ably led by guest conductor Jessi Pywell.

After an interval with wine, the audience experienced 'surround sound' as the choir moved into the body of the Church, enfolding us in harmony and counterpoint in 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree'. After four well-chosen carols, we moved into Vaughan Williams 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols', ably led by Baritone Jack Bowtell who steered this folk-song inspired work forward with precision and clarity of diction. It was good also to hear the sonorous tones of young cellist and musician Evie Perfect, adding to the majesty and mystery of the opening bars of the work. Mystical and, at times, sumptuous, these simple and direct folk-songs seem to arise

from the mist of English countryside, created by the subtle sounds of the choir, often singing on pure vowels rather than words.

A most enjoyable evening, well-balanced between choir and soloists, giving all present a real flavour of Christmas.

Janice V Thompson

FARINGDON

Wearing White Poppies with pride

Many people question why some of us wear White Poppies.

On 11th November 2019, alongside those acknowledging Armistice Remembrance, the women of Faringdon Peace Group held a silent vigil in the Market Square in honour of all those who have died in wars. The men distributed leaflets explaining the Peace Group's presence and the importance of the White Poppy.

In 1933 a group of women in the Women's Cooperative Guild introduced the White Poppy as a deeper acknowledgement of the wish by the majority for long-term peace. Before WWII and since, many voices have stood against going into conflict, believing and deeply desiring that peace can be brought about through understanding and negotiation.

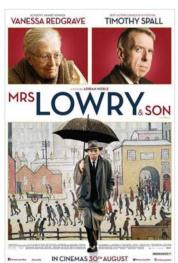


White Poppies symbolise a pledge that war must not happen again. It is a challenge for all of us to create peace and work for a world where conflict is resolved without violence and with justice. Former armed forces personnel are some who wear white poppies in remembrance of all those killed in wars and the British Legion states they do not condone criticism of those who wish to wear them.

Peace Groups throughout the country have taken the White Poppy to represent their belief that the ultimate wish for peace is worked towards by not only Governments, but by us all in our daily lives when we strive for community cohesion and awareness of others' needs balancing our own. To represent that wish, the White Poppy is set beside the Red at the London Cenotaph and throughout the country. It is important that we all play our part in working towards peace in the world and that we do not 'break faith' with those who died

Faringdon Peace Group, www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

Faringdon Regent Cinema



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

Wednesday 5th February: Mrs Lowry and Son (PG)

A portrait of the artist L.S. Lowry and the relationship with his mother, who tries to dissuade him

from pursuing his passion. (1.5hrs with no interval).

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

Wednesday 19th February: Abominable (U)

Three teenagers must help a Yeti return to his family while avoiding a wealthy man and a zoologist who want it for their own needs. (1.5hrs plus 15 min interval).

Kids Cinema: Doors open 1.30pm, film starts at

2pm. Tickets in advance £3 U18s, £4 Adult, £10 Family. Tickets on door £4 U18s, £5 Adult, £11 Family

Friday 28th February: Downton Abbey (PG)

The continuing story of the Crawley family, wealthy owners of a large estate in the English countryside in



the early twentieth century (2hrs plus 15min interval).

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



For more info or to join the mailing list, please visit our website www.faringdon towncouncil.gov .uk/regentcinema-2

Tickets can be bought in advance from Faringdon Information Centre, 5 Market Square, Faringdon SN7

Faringdon & District U3A

Howard Robinson, a volunteer guide at Worcester Cathedral, will speak about Eleanor of Aquitaine in the Faringdon Corn Exchange at 2.30pm on Thursday 13th February.

Eleanor was the wife of Henry II and mother of

VILLAGES

King John. Henry and his wife Eleanor often stopped with the royal court at Worcester Cathedral. Eleanor was one of the most powerful and influential figures in the Middle



Ages. She would eventually become queen of France, queen of England and lead a crusade to the Holy Land.

Refreshments will be available after the talk. All members are welcome but visitors are required to pay £1.50. Further information is available on line at https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/ or from the chairman Margaret Brown on 01367 615385.

LECHLADE

'Those Magnificent Men'



And they truly were when they performed at The Memorial Hall in Lechlade at the end of October.

The hall trustees worked with Arts in Rural Gloucestershire (AIR in G) to bring The Foundry Group performers to the hall with their production of 'Those Magnificent Men'. Brian Mitchell and David Mounfield seamlessly acted their way through a whole cast of characters to tell the story of the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic by Alcock and Brown.

There were plenty of laughs but they also made serious points about what had been achieved and the trials and tribulations they coped with to achieve their goal. For me the most mesmerising part was when the two performers set about fitting tables, poles and bits of material together on the stage during the performance. Initially we wondered what they were up to but then, as realisation finally hit us all (at much the same time), there was an audible whisper of "Wow, they've built the plane!" Before us was a very passable front view of a Vickers Vimy built using the sort of bits I used to use as a child to build a 'den' indoors on a wet afternoon. Incredible!

The feedback from the audience was very positive; everyone had enjoyed their evening and there was a happy buzz as they left the hall. Also the event raised money to continue the work of fitting out the hall. An all-round success!

So you will be wanting to put Friday 28th February in your diaries now as that is when The Flat Packed Theatre brings 'Hyde and Seek' to the Memorial Hall. This is another collaboration with AIR in G. A one man show that will make you laugh, cry and jump out of your seat with fear, it is described in the publicity as "A vaudevillian ghost story with puppets, song, technical wizardry and of course ... danger!" See you there!

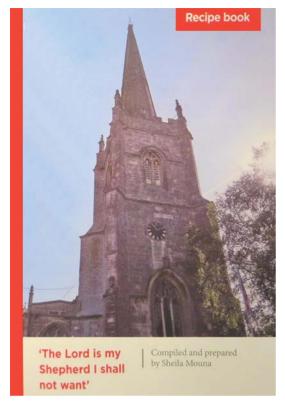
Marian Winckles

Sheila's Recipe Book

The warmth of the room, courtesy of a large patio heater, and the welcome banished all thoughts of the howling gale outside when we gathered at The Trout on the evening of Tuesday 29th October to help launch Sheila Mouna's Recipe Book.

Sheila is passionate about the provision of toilet facilities within St Lawrence church as part of the restoration and reordering project. Such is her level of commitment that she has, almost single handedly, organised the compilation and production of a recipe book to raise funds. She is extremely grateful to her supporters who have contributed their own recipes and money towards production costs. Children at St Lawrence Primary School wrote graces and offered recipes as well.

On the launch evening, Lynn Bateman opened the proceedings with a beautiful rendition of "Amazing Grace", accompanied by Ian Marsh; Jay Matthews and Ian Andrews led the TATT band and Lechlade Voices with music and songs chosen by Sheila, including 'Together Again' a



favourite of her late husband Neville; Julie Sharp made table decorations and Sheila's family offered delicious refreshments.

I've had a quick look through my copy of the book and there are several recipes I can't wait to try out. How do pineapple loaf, salmon & spinach roulade or Tony Cutler's own Spaghetti Bolognese sound? I would recommend treating yourself, if you haven't got one already, and considering them for presents. Contact Sheila on 01367 252569 or s.mouna@btinternet.com to buy yours.

Marian Winckles

Lechlade Gardening Club

Our meeting this month is on Wednesday 12th February, when Richard Baldwin will be giving a talk entitled 'Vegetable Growing in a Small Garden'. This will be just right for all those who are planning their veg plot for the coming year.

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

Membership also entitles you to 50% off Suttons seeds and 10% off plants at Burford and Bampton Garden Centres. For further information please contact 01367 253309 or 252286 or any member of the committee.

Lechlade Art Society

On Tuesday 11th February, from 2-4pm our demonstrator will be Graham Cox 'Land and Seascape Painting in Pastel - Demonstration'. Refreshments are available and the admission is £4 for non-members. We will meet at the new Community Centre and the new extended car park will be open! Visit www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk for more info.

Lechlade History Society

On **Monday 17th February** our talk will be 'The History of Policing in Gloucestershire'. The speaker is Dr Tim Brain. Doors open 7.15pm for 7.30pm start in the Memorial Hall. Guests welcome £4. Contact Marian Winckles, T: 01367 252851, www.lechladehistory.co.uk. Please note early start time.

SOUTH MARSTON

South Marston Gardening Club

We don't have a February meeting. Our schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

Monday 2nd March: AGM (followed by a

Speaker tbc)

Monday 6th April: Herbalist

Monday 4th May: The Florists Flowers

Monday 1st June: Plant Sale

Saturday 22nd August: Annual Flower

and Produce Show

Monday 7th September: Foraging

Monday 5th October: Speaker tbc

Monday 2nd November: Workshop

Monday 7th December: Christmas Social

and Quiz

We meet at South Marston Village Hall, 7.30-9.30pm. Parking is available on Old Vicarage Lane, next to the school. Cost: £3 entry fee on

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the door or £12 full membership. A warm welcome awaits you along with tea and cake as well as an optional raffle. For more information please visit https://southmarston.org.uk/clubsactivities/gardening-club/ or contact Angela Newton, T: 01793 832034, M: 07789 068340, E: angelanewton01@gmail.com

SHRIVENHAM

Shrivenham Golf Club

Christmas events were well supported and now Shrivenham golf club looks forward to welcoming both golfers and social members to a New Year of golfing activities. Ladies day is mainly on Thursdays when we meet in the club at about 9am to begin playing at 9.30am. Beginners are welcome and clubs are available to hire. Social putting will begin in March. Look out for posters in and around the area.

We will be holding our first coffee morning on Saturday 29th February, 10am-12noon, £2 per person. We are hoping to start a book stall and are looking for donations of all types of books. These can be left at the club and the books will be available to buy on the day for a small donation, Carole T: 01793 783853.

STANTON FITZWARREN

Services at St Leonard's Church

Rev. Phil Ashby has agreed to act as 'interim priest-in-charge' and will work with our curate Mark Tidey. They both have other responsibilities, so we are very pleased to have them until a permanent appointment is made.

Sunday 2nd February: 9.30 am Morning Worship

Sunday 9th February: 11am Family Service 'Moses and the plagues'

Sunday 16th February: 11am Team Service at Coleview

Sunday 23rd February: 11am Holy Communion

The church building is open every Wednesday in school term time 10am-4pm. You are welcome for private reflection or to explore a beautiful historic building. Visits at other times can be arranged. For updates please check our websitewww.stantonchurch.info

Every week you are invited to leave contributions of non-perishable food in the plastic box just

inside the building on a Wednesday. for the Swindon food collective to help others.

Every Cloud Arts & Crafts

Why not visit Stanton Park this month for a lovely walk in the fields and woods or around the lake, then pop into the Farmhouse Tea room for a hot drink and cake, or warm mulled fruit cordial and toasted fruit bread. The Tea-room is open every Sunday 10am-3pm throughout February, the only exception being if we have a deep snowfall!

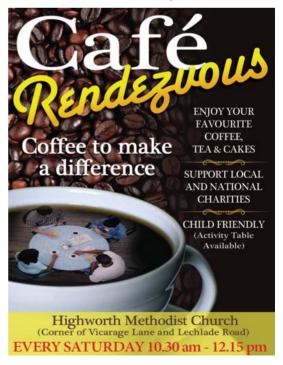
We are pleased to report to visitors to the park that the terribly potholed drive into the park will be repaired properly by the council when the weather is less cold and wet, but in the meantime Every Cloud is hoping to organise temporary repairs to mitigate the worst of the potholes at our own cost. If you would like to 'sponsor a pothole' for £5 please pop into the Farmhouse on Sundays or join us on 'Pothole Saturday' 8th February, 10am-12noon if you want to lend a hand.

For more information contact Every Cloud on 07796 530560 or go to our website www.everycloudartscrafts.com or visit our Facebook page.





Every Cloud at Stanton Park



WHAT'S ON

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

To have your group entered in 'What's On Weekly' please use the diary at the library, email:

advertising@highworthlink.co.uk or contact us via our website at www.highworthlink.co.uk

MARKETS AND EVENTS

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

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

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

Highworth Market Sat 9am-2pm

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS AND RECREATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fitsteps Tue 7.30pm - Great fun, great way to exercise, dance yourself fit! First session FREE. Come and try it out

at Lechlade Pavilion - Experience not necessary - info Sharon Wilson 07769 229084

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

Highworth & Swindon Walking Club - Wed & Sun - for full programme visit our website

http://highworthandswindonwalkingclub.btck.co.uk/ or contact the Communication Officer, Mary Hewitt on 01793 780039

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

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

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

Walking Netball 50+ Thur 9.30-10.30am at the Rec. £2 per session. Although aimed at the 50+, ladies of all ages are welcome. It's a fun and gentle way to get some exercise and make new friends. No previous netball experience is necessary. Info. elainelloyd40@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE ARTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Highworth Amateur Dramatic Society Thur 8.15-10pm - (Rehearsals) - at Highworth Community Centre - info Shaun Smith 764337 shaunsmith1984@hotmail.com

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

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

WHAT'S ON

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

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

SOCIAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.highworthhistoricalsociety.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bingo Wed 8pm at 'The Goldfinger'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL CONTACTS Police, Fire, Ambulance **Emergency** 999 **Police** Non-Emergency 101 NHS 111 Non-Emergency 0800 111999 Gas **Emergency** 105 Electricity **Emergency** Water **Emergency** 0800 3169 800 **Lost Property County Dry Cleaners** 01793 766006 DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS SCHOOLS 01793 521415 Highworth Surgery Eastrop Infants 01793 763772 Stagecoach Swindon 01793 762218 Thamesdown Transport 01793 428400 Elm Tree Surgery, Southfield Junior 01793 762210 Dial-a-Ride 01793 616050 (Shrivenham) 01793 782207 Westrop Primary 01793 762897 Community Transport 01793 617828 Great Western Hospital 01793 604020 Highworth Warneford 01793 762426 Traveline 0871 200 2233 LIBRARY TAXIS COLLEGES Highworth Library 01793 463500 V Cars 01793 701701 Cirencester College 01285 640994 New College 0808 172 4445 RECREATION TRAINS Swindon College 01793 491591 Highworth Rec 01793 762602 **National Rail Enquiries** 03457 484950 LAW & ORDER Great Western Railways 03457 000125 PHARMACIES 0800 555111 Crimestoppers Disabled and assisted travel 08001 971329 Highworth Pharmacy 01793 762220 Victim Supportline 0808 16 89 111 Home Farm Pharmacy 01793 861392 Action Fraud 0300 123 2030 OTHER SERVICES Jones Graham Pharmacy (Shrivenham) 01793 783336 Citizens Advice Bureau 08444 994114 COUNCILS Trading Standards (business) 0207 830 6000 Highworth Town Council 01793 762377 **PRESCHOOLS** Trading Standards (consumers) 03454 04 05 06 Swindon Boro, Council 01793 463000 Highworth Pre-school 01793 766646 Alcohol and Drug Service 01793 695405 Streetsmart 01793 445501 Vorda Pre-School 01793 763668 Pest Control 08000 988652 FIRE SAFETY Samaritans Westgate Nursery 01793 537373 Home fire safety check 0800 389 7849 School & Crêche 01793 861268 Women's Refuge 01793 610610

PRAYERPLACE

The churches of Highworth believe that prayer works both on a national and individual level. If you would like us to

pray for something or for you please complete this form and drop it into The Bridge, 8 Sheep Street, Highworth or the church or church office of your choice. Photocopies are acceptable.

I would like to be known as:

I would like you to pray for:

(Optional) Name

Address

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

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